

Cycling Europe

THE WESTERN LOIRE VALLEY AMONG VINEYARDS, CHATEAUX & CAVE DWELLINGS

SAUMUR - FONTEVRAUD - CHINON- AZAY LE RIDEAU - VILLANDRY

2020 Self-Guided Cycling Tour - 8 days/7 nights



Explore the most peaceful part of the Loire Valley with its secret treasures, and see an abundance of cave dwellings dug into the slopes and rock faces. Experience the magical sights from your bike over majestic chateaux surrounded by vineyards. Enjoy the local way of life where time runs slowly along the Loire River and get a taste of the superb local wine and cuisine that the region has to offer.



ITINERARY: Day 1: Arrive in Saumur Discover the pleasant town of Saumur with its 14th century château. Saumur is well known for its famous National Riding School and its sparkling white wine.



Chateau de Saumur

Day 2: Saumur – Fontevraud - 44 kms

Today you will ride through the Saumur Champigny vineyards which are known for producing very elegant red wines. You will make a stop at Château de Brézé, well known for its impressive underground cellars. Continue cycling until Fontevraud and visit its royal abbey: an outstanding example of Romanesque art founded in 1099, and considered as the most important monastic city of Europe.



Chateau de Breze



Fontevraud Abbey

Day 3: Excursion to Montreuil Bellay – 50 kms

Today you can enjoy the swimming pool at your hotel or visit the Fontevraud Abbey which houses the tombs of the Plantagenets Eleanor of Aquitaine and Richard the Lionheart. Carry on with a pleasant excursion via the fortified village of Montreuil-Bellay and its château.

Day 4 : Fontevraud – Chinon - 50 kms

After cycling through the Fontevraud forest discover the famous Chinon vineyards that produce excellent red wine. After a stop at the Château du Rivau which offers wonderful middle-age stories and legends, you reach the medieval town of Chinon, built on the Vienne river banks.

Day 5 : Chinon – Azay le Rideau – 44 kms

Today you explore cave dwellings (cave dwellers are also known as troglodytes), wine cellars and vineyards en route to the village of Crissay sur Manse, listed among the most beautiful villages of France. Continue along the countryside roads until Azay le Rideau with its romantic Renaissance château, elegantly surrounded by water and vegetation.

Chateaux Azay le Rideau



Day 6: Excursion to Villandry & Langeais – 37 kms

Ride towards Villandry and its famous French-style Renaissance gardens, which are made up of three tiers. Then follow the Loire river along its cycling paths until the Château de Langeais - a typical medieval fortified castle.

Day 7: Azay le Rideau - Saumur - 58 kms

Cycle to the village of Candes-Saint-Martin where you can visit the magnificent 12th and 13th century collegiate church. Then proceed to the beautiful village of Montsoreau dominated by its chateau built over the Loire river. Continue along past troglodyte sites before reaching Saumur and your hotel.

Day 8: Tour ends in Saumur (after breakfast)

GRADE: Moderate, some hilly stages, approx. 50km per day

2020 SCHEDULE:

Start any day March –October

2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO:

	Standard 2*/3*	Superior 3*	Deluxe 3*/4*
Category Hotels			
Double or twin room:	€ 860	€980	€1315
Single room supplement:	€ 280	€375	€ 530
Solo Supplement	€105		
Bike hire	€ 95		
Electric bike	€ 200		
Helmet: Request at time of booking	no charge		
Extra night in Saumur (with breakfast)			
Double or Twin room	€ 62	€ 72	€ 122
Single room supplement	€ 35	€ 56	€ 84

CHATEAUX PACKAGE – Skip the Line - € 55 per adult (includes entrance fees to Fontevraud Abbey, Chateau of Azay-le-Rideau, Gardens of Villandry, Chinon Fortress and Chateau de Breze)

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 7 night's accommodation in category of your choice
- Breakfast daily
- Luggage transfer
- Maps, detailed route directions, tourist information – 1 set per room
- City taxes

- 7 Day service help line

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Entrance fees or tours to Chateaux
- Drinks, lunches, dinners

BIKE & HELMET

21 speed men's and ladies' bike, equipped with two saddlebags, an anti-theft device, a map holder, a helmet and a repair kit.

GETTING TO SAUMUR:

Saumur is located 70km east of Angers, and 80kms west of Tours.

By train: Saumur is easily accessible from **Paris Montparnasse** (via Tours) on the **TGV**, and then connecting with the SNCF regional train to Saumur. (2 – 3 hour journey)

Nearest airports:

Tours (connect with regional SNCF train to 'Saumur Rive Droit', 45min)

Angers (connect with regional SNCF train to 'Saumur Rive Droit', 25 min)



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