

Châteaux of the Loire

4 Night Tour - Bed & Breakfast

Your itinerary

The following pages contain general information about your car or motorcycle tour and the locations where you will stay. The order in which they appear may not be the order your hotels have been confirmed for you - for your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.



Château d'Azay le Rideau

11/2021



Advance planning

To decide on places to see and plan your route it's useful to refer to tourist office and travel websites such as Google maps, viamichelin.com (which will also show motorway tolls if applicable) or theaa.co.uk.

Hotel directions

With your travel documents is an information sheet for each hotel we have booked for you giving directions together with some further details.

Arrival

Unless stated, you will be expected to arrive at each of the hotels pre-booked for you by 6pm each day. This should allow time for a fairly leisurely drive between hotel stops but if you find you will be arriving later than this please ring the hotel so that your room is held for you.

This tour is on a bed and breakfast basis.

We've designed the itinerary to take in some of the Loire Valley's finest châteaux in this very charming region of France. Here we give some ideas of places to see in and around each of your overnight stops with an approximate distance and journey time, although please note these are just a rough guide based on fairly direct routes without any diversions or detours.



Hotel le Cheval Blanc, Bléré

Bléré

This small town is in an excellent position for visits to some of the most famous châteaux. Le Cheval Blanc has a fine reputation. **Château de Chenonceau** - (8k) is one of the most visited of the Loire châteaux and a



Château de Chenonceau

definite must-see. It spans the Cher river in a fabulous setting. **Amboise** - (12k) has a château overlooking the Loire - only a portion of the original building remains but it's still impressive. A walk through the town takes you to Leonardo da Vinci's home, **Château du Clos Lucé**. **Blois** - around 40 minutes from Bléré, this town has a picturesque old quarter, medieval alleys linked by flights of steps plus a modern pedestrian area. Its château has a magnificent external staircase.



Best WesternPlus Hôtel de La Cité Royale, Loches

Loches

Approx 30 mins from Bléré.
16 miles/26k

Loches has an impressive citadel with some stunning Renaissance architecture surrounded by 2 kilometres of rampart walls. You can also see the home of the landscape painter Emmanuel Lansyer. The town itself is full of art and history and has a beautifully preserved medieval quarter where you can wander around the narrow pedestrianised streets that are lined by charming old buildings. There is also a delightful park by the Indre river with well-kept gardens to admire and don't miss the colourful markets held on Wednesday and Saturday. **Chinon** - (62k) is surrounded by vineyards and has a beautiful, recently restored château, a fine tapestry collection and picturesque cobbled streets. It's also known for its fine red wine. **Tours** - (43k) is the largest city in the region, known for its wines as well as reputedly where the most perfect French is spoken. One of the best places to head for is Place Plumereau in the old quarter. This lovely old square has pavement cafés, half timbered houses, cobbled streets and the Gothic cathedral and Basilica are not far away.



Loches



Hostellerie la Croix Blanche, Fontevraud

Fontevraud l'Abbaye

Approx 1¼ hours from Loches. 50 miles/80k

Fontevraud l'Abbaye - as the name suggests has an abbey (dating back 900 years) and is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. Full of history and the resting place of 3 French monarchs, the recently restored abbey is on a huge scale and makes a fascinating visit.



Montsoreau

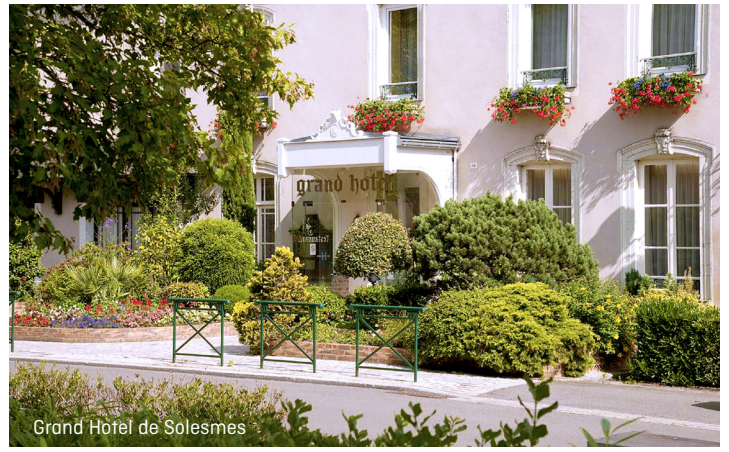
Montsoreau - (4k) this village has been awarded one of the 'most beautiful in France' awards, with a castle in a superb setting overlooking the confluence of the Loire and Vienne rivers.

Saumur - (15k) is the home of the French Cavalry and the beautifully turned out black horses may often be seen here - an annual display of the world famous Cadre Noir takes place in July. Saumur's elegant turreted château (open to visitors) is in a picturesque site above the Loire and overlooks the historic old town. This is also a great centre for high quality sparkling wines so a visit to one of the producers where you can taste and buy is interesting and enjoyable.

Angers - on the way to Solesmes we recommend a detour to visit to Angers (80k), a city which has some wonderful architecture including a château housing the famous Apocalypse Tapestry and there are lots of lovely parks and gardens to discover.



Château de Fougères



Grand Hotel de Solesmes

Solesmes

Approx 1½ hours from Fontevraud. 60 miles/100k

Solesmes is an attractive small town with pleasant river views from its bridge. Its main attraction however is the Benedictine abbey which is opposite your overnight hotel where you can attend a service and hear some beautiful Gregorian chants - a moving and unforgettable experience that's not to be missed.



Vitré

If you are heading back to our ports of St Malo or Roscoff you may want to stop and visit the picturesque town of **Vitré** (100k) followed by the lively city of **Rennes** (143k) which has a wealth of art and culture plus a charming old quarter to stroll around. If it's a Normandy port you are departing from, why not take a break at **Le Mans** (58k) and learn all about the famous 24 hour endurance car race. Or perhaps explore **Falaise** (170k), the birthplace of William the Conqueror, with its medieval castle and interesting World War II memorial museum (open from April 2024).