



Gourmet Delights of South West France Tour

7 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. For your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.

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 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.

■ Day 1 | Tours

Tours in the Loire Valley is rich in Roman history and famous for its amphitheatre ruins in the centre. Today, it is a modern and lively city with a thriving university, amazing architecture and it celebrates its heritage in the many museums. There are excellent restaurants where you can enjoy rustic, local specialities including rillettes (a pâté style dish made from pork), andouillettes (tripe sausage) and coq-au-vin all accompanied with local Touraine wine - whether it's red, rosé or white is your choice! If you visit Château d'Azay le Rideau (25km) whilst staying here present your Brittany Ferries ticket on arrival and receive a reduction on the entry price.

Overnight stay in the modern Hotel l'Artiste close to the old town in Tours



■ Day 2 | Tours > Libourne (319km – 3h40)

After leaving Tours, we recommend you head towards Libourne via Angoulême. This city is well-known for its rich architectural heritage, painted walls and International Comic Strip Festival. Don't miss visiting the Halles (covered market) where you will find a wide variety of fresh products and regional specialties. Enjoy lunch at Chez Paul which is more than a pleasant and modern brasserie - it's an unexpected place in the centre of town with a cosy atmosphere and a secret garden!

Overnight stay in the riverside Hotel Mercure, Libourne

■ Day 3 | Bordeaux or Médoc region

Discover Bordeaux's captivating history and its must-see monuments. Travel through time and continents to learn all about the world of wine at La Cité du Vin. Or head up the estuary to Pauillac to visit the first cooperative winery founded in Aquitaine and discover the cycle of the vine over the seasons, from pruning to harvesting as well as the wine making process. Whilst staying in Libourne If you visit the Pair non Pair Cave in Prignac et Marcamps (29km) or the Sauve Majeur Abbey in La Sauve (22km) present your Brittany Ferries ticket on arrival and receive a reduction on the entry prices.

2nd overnight stay in Libourne

■ Day 4 | Libourne > Saintes (115km – 1h25)

Why not stop at Cognac to take a wander around the Musée des Arts and in the afternoon visit the Noyeraie des Borderies - this family business produces and processes the tasty walnuts of the region. At night, visit a brandy house and enjoy a cocktail on its terrace while admiring the most stunning views. Or eat at a fabulous Michelin starred restaurant for a memorable gourmet experience in the town centre.

Overnight stay in the countryside themed Relais du Bois St Georges, Saintes



■ Day 5 | Saintes > Ile de Ré (100km – 1h15)

Before taking the toll bridge to the Ile de Ré stop and visit the lovely harbour of La Rochelle for some welcome fresh air! Walk along the old port or perhaps do some shopping in the boutiques and street markets. Enjoy a meal of delicious seafood and local products in good restaurants - maybe sit outside in summer and watch the street entertainers. Visit the medieval towers - present your Brittany Ferries ticket on arrival to receive a reduction on the entry price.

Overnight stay in the chic Hotel la Marée, Rivedoux Plage, Ile de Ré

■ Day 6 | Ile de Ré

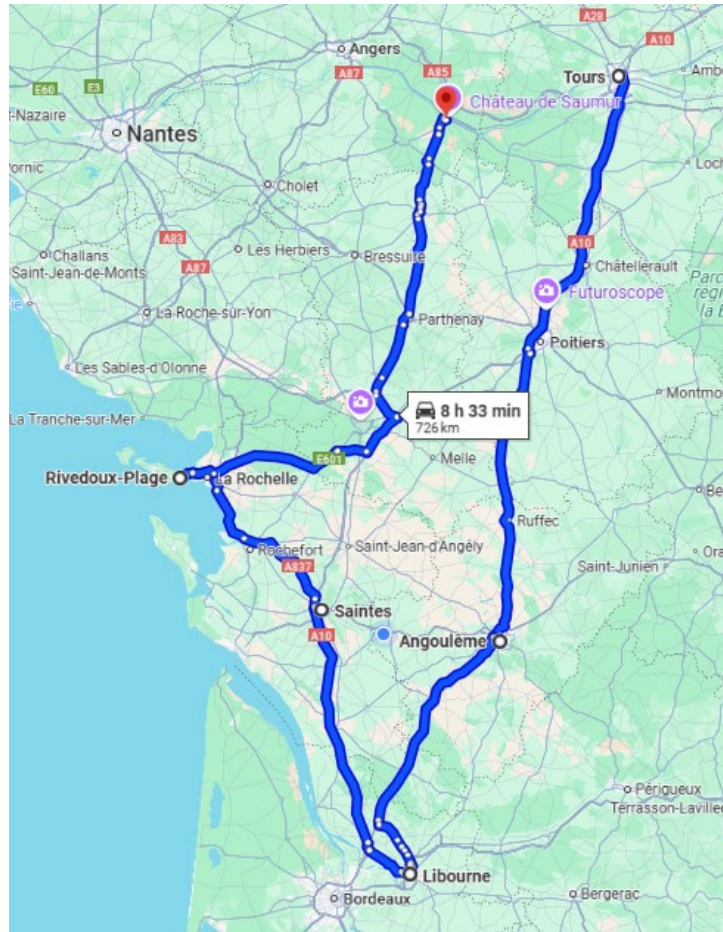
The best way to discover the treasures of this beautiful island is by leaving your car at the hotel and hiring a bike. Take a break for wine tasting in La Couarde or sample the island's home grown potatoes and eclade (a delicious mussel dish) for lunch. Don't forget to try the oysters and learn about their breeding during a visit to a farm in St Clément. On your way back to Rivedoux, stop and buy some Fleur du Sel at the cooperative in Ars. And then why not enjoy an ice cream at the popular parlour in St Martin de Ré - you'll be spoilt for choice of flavours!

2nd overnight stay in Rivedoux Plage

■ Day 7 | Ile de Ré > Saumur (205km – 2h50)

Come and discover the wines of the Pays de la Loire by visiting Saumur and its surroundings, explore the vineyards with a tour guide and learn about different grape varieties before finally tasting the produce. Wander around the castle which dominates the town or live an unforgettable moment dedicated to French equitation by visiting the famous Cadre Noir de Saumur.

Overnight stay in the elegant Hotel Adagio, Saumur



Tour driving distance is approximately 726km (451 miles 8h33)

Please note that the time given covers the distance between overnight stops.

This itinerary may suggest some recommended visits that are not included in the price of the tour so must be paid direct.