



★★★★★ (17)

# *Castles on River Loire*

## LA ROUTE ROYALE

There are no limits to the romance of the Loire Valley. The cycle tour starts in Tours, a pretty town between the Cher and Loire rivers. Cultural wealth, rural charm and romantic architecture: these three terms best describe a tour on two wheels through France.

In between all the famous castles of the Loire you cycle through the charming landscape from city to city. Always taking centre stage: the culture! Kings, feudal lords and court ladies once enjoyed a noble life here. Today you can explore the historical residences and be transported back in time. Would you like an extra helping of history? Then come with us on a cycle tour over La Route Royale!

## *Route Royale details*

The castles Langeais, Ussé, Villandry, Azay-le-Rideau – to name but a few – form the dream route 'La Route Royale'. The first-class mix of unmistakable architecture and impressive landscapes make the cycle tour to the castles of the Loire an unforgettable experience. We'll tell you now which highlights are waiting for you!

## *The highlights of the Loire Castles*

- Villandry & Ussé Castles: The first magnificent castle on your trip is Villandry Castle. Its unique terrace gardens, the flower-covered arbours and the numerous fountains invite you to dream. On the way to Chinon, Ussé Castle stands on the edge of the forest. The sleeping beauty castle sparks the imagination about the famous fairy tale from Brothers Grimm. You will love it!
- Azay-le-Rideau: On the cycle path through old vineyards and villages you will reach Crissay. With its buildings and houses from the 15th Century, the village is one of the most beautiful in France. The Azay-le-Rideau castle there is brimming with splendour. In other words: a magical Renaissance castle of a special quality!

## Useful information about the Route Royale

Attention culture vultures! Within eight days you will experience much culture, architecture and nature. You cycle along low-traffic side streets through the gently curving Loire Valley. The programme includes between 40 and 75 kilometres a day.

Any questions about La Route Royale? The experts of the Eurobike team will be happy to provide you with further information about the tour. Contact us now!

- Get all information and more tour tips along the [Loire Cycle Path](#).

### Medium



8 Days / 7 Nights



Self-guided Tour

### To the online version



# Itinerary

DAY  
1

## *Arrival in Tours*

Already discover the historic centre Touraine today, the highly-praised 'Garden of France'.

Sample hotel category A and B: [Ibis Styles Centre](#)

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DAY  
2

## *Tours – Chinon* | approx. 55 km

The river Cher leads you directly to the castle Villandry with its terraced gardens. Certainly, you should not miss paying a visit to this famous installation. Every visitor will be amazed by the shadowy footpaths, the flower-bedecked bowers, the fountains and the artistically laid out vegetable gardens. Some kilometres further on you will exchange the bank of the Cher for the bank of the famous Loire. And again you will be tempted by the next castle – Langeais. From the top of the fortified tower (this castle exclusively served for military purposes) you will see the river and its whole surroundings lying in front of you. On the verge of the dark and mysterious forest of Chinon rises the castle of Ussé, the castle of the Sleeping Beauty. Via small villages and on side roads you will reach today's destination – Chinon.

Sample hotel category A: [Diderot](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Rive Sud](#)

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DAY  
3

## *Excursion Fontevraud l'Abbaye – Chinon* | approx. 55 km

The Vienne escorts you first in the small village Candès-St-Martin. A grandiose and romantic church was built at the place of death of the holy St. Martin. In Montsoreau conflate the Vienne with the powerful Loire – a impressing natural spectacle. These 'cave gardens' are approx. 800 km long. Your cyclist calves take you first to Fontevraud l'Abbaye. Nowhere else in this world, you will find a medieval monastery that is so entirely preserved like the one in Fontevraud. You pass the birth house of Francois Rabelais, the famous author and also through the valley, where his story line of the book "Gargantua" takes place.

Sample hotel category A: [Diderot](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Rive Sud](#)

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DAY  
4*Chinon – Azay-le-Rideau* | approx. 40 km

You leave Chinon with its medieval alleys, which crowd between the river and the rocks, towards the north. The tour leads you through vineyards and lonely villages. Like Crissay, once entirely deserted – it is now resettled by artists and people who always know how to make the best of things. But don't be afraid – there will also be a castle for admiration today: to be precise, one of extremely high quality – Azay-le-Rideau. Balzac wrote about it "a diamond with thousand facets, set by the Indre". What could we add to this? You will spend the night in town and have, therefore, the chance to enjoy the magic of the castle with its cultural events.

Sample hotel category A: [de Biencourt](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Val de Loire](#)

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DAY  
5*Azay-le-Rideau – Chenonceaux* | approx. 60 km

There is another highlight in store: this time concerning nature. Through the romantic river landscape, steadily following the Indre, you will reach Montbazou. A short ascent awaits you. By pedalling really hard over a mountain ridge you reach the Cher Valley. On meadow paths and along the Cher you go to Bléré, a small market town. For many visitors the Castle of Chenonceaux is the topping on the cake. A magnificent, double floored bridge gallery goes over the river. But before the lovely palace garden will enthuse your eyes. But see and discover on your own.

Sample hotel category A: [La Roseraie](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Logis Le Relais](#)

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DAY  
6*Chenonceaux – Blois* | approx. 50/80 km

Today you have to choose between two tour variants: the shorter stage takes you through the lovely landscape of the Touraine to the Castle Chaumont, and then on romantic paths along the Loire to Blois. After moving into your hotel room you will go out on reconnaissance! The Castle Blois with its galleries, projected balconies and bay windows could be your destination.

Or there is the second, longer variant for all lovers of the Loire Castles: via Montrichard, Cheverny, Villesavine to the Castle Chambord. As far as the eye can see the 'Domaine de Chambord' stretches here. Already from a distance, you can see the walls of the biggest and most magnificent residence on the Loire shimmering through the trees. It is the immortal legacy of a disloyal king. You are spoilt for choice!

Sample hotel category A: [Anne de Bretagne](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Le Monarque](#)

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DAY  
7*Blois – Tours*

approx. 75 km

The river flows between the gold shimmering sandbanks in a leisurely manner. Typical of this area are the rock housings, which are directly built into the soft lime stones. Sometimes, only the rising smoke reveals their existence. You cross the Loire in order to appreciate the most royal of all the Loire Castles: Castle Ambois. It accommodated five kings and a Roman emperor. In addition, a genius of the 16th century attracts your attention – Leonardo da Vinci, who spent his last years in Ambois. On the Loire Cycle Path you keep cycling on to Tours. Alternatively take the train (independently) from Amboise and hence cut the stage short by about 30 km.

Sample hotel category A und B: Ibis Styles Centre

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DAY  
8*Departure or extension*

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# *Tour character*

Mainly flat on cycle paths and low traffic secondary roads with almost consistently very good signposting. The terrain in the vineyards is somewhat more hilly and there are also a few short ascents to tackle.

# Prices and events

Place of arrival: Tours

	Season 1 01.04.2023 - 14.04.2023   30.09.2023 - 07.10.2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 2 15.04.2023 - 12.05.2023   09.09.2023 - 29.09.2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 3 13.05.2023 - 08.09.2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday
Castles on River Loire, 8 days, cat. A, FR-LORTT-08A			
Base price	979.00	1,039.00	1,099.00
Surcharge single room	349.00	349.00	349.00
Castles on River Loire, 8 days, cat. B, FR-LORTT-08B			
Base price	859.00	929.00	979.00
Surcharge single room	349.00	349.00	349.00

Category A: 3\*\*\* hotels (French classification)  
Category B: 2\*\* and 3\*\*\* hotels (French classification)

# Additional nights

Place of arrival: Tours

	Season 1 Apr 1, 2023 - Apr 14, 2023   Sep 30, 2023 - Oct 7, 2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 2 Apr 15, 2023 - May 12, 2023   Sep 9, 2023 - Sep 29, 2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 3 May 13, 2023 - Sep 8, 2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday
Tours			
Double room p. P. cat. A	65.00	65.00	65.00
Surcharge single room	45.00	45.00	45.00
Tours			
Double room p. P. cat. B	65.00	65.00	65.00

	<b>Season 1</b> Apr 1, 2023 - Apr 14, 2023   Sep 30, 2023 - Oct 7, 2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday	<b>Season 2</b> Apr 15, 2023 - May 12, 2023   Sep 9, 2023 - Sep 29, 2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday	<b>Season 3</b> May 13, 2023 - Sep 8, 2023   Arrival Saturday and Thursday
Surcharge single room	45.00	45.00	45.00

# Our rental bikes

	<i>Filter</i>
21-gear unisex incl. rental bike insurance	99.00
21-gear gents incl. rental bike insurance	99.00
rental bike PLUS incl. rental bike insurance	159.00
Electric bike incl. rental bike insurance	239.00

Prices per person in EUR



# Services and infos

## Services

### Included

- Accommodation in your selected category
- Breakfast
- Luggage transfer
- EUROBIKE developed route
- Detailed travel documents 1x per room (German, English)
- App for Navigation and GPS-data available
- Service hotline

### Optional extras

- Bike rental, including rental bike insurance

## Infos

### Arrival / Parking / Departure

- Tours Train station
- Paris airport
- Car park costs EUR 50 per week, no reservation possible/necessary.

### Things to note

- For this trip, high quality rental bikes are provided by our local partner.
- Tourist tax, if due, is not included in the price!
- Further important information according to the package travel law can be found [here!](#)

# Contact & booking

Do you still have questions about the tour? We are happy to help and look forward to your inquiry.



**Julia Bann, Team leader Eurobike**



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**Book now**

