

# Loire Gastronomic Cycling

Hotel-to-hotel lower  independent cycling

- Easy, flat cycling and short distances - perfect if you've not been on a bike for years!
- Shady riverside cycling paths, lush forest trails, wonderfully quiet country lanes
- Superb hotels – swimming pools at most - including a bijou waterfront inn and a luxurious ★★★★★ château
- France's finest châteaux - Amboise, Chambord, Cheverny, Chenonceau - all within easy cycling
- Truly outstanding local cuisine; world-famous wines – tasting opportunities galore!



This gentle and unhurried gastronomic cycling holiday follows a triangular route through the heart of the great Loire Valley. En-route highlights include the majestic châteaux of Amboise and Chambord, and the rich Renaissance splendour of Chenonceau. You'll come across many hidden-away delights too and make lots of personal discoveries as you pedal gently along pretty riverbanks and out through open countryside abundant with wildlife.

On each cycling day, you'll have the opportunity to taste dozens of different wines – stopping at big wineries or village vineyards as the mood takes you – in a wine region more varied and diverse than any other in the world.

The places you stay in are pretty special too and all offer extensive gardens and fine dining. Regional menus are refined and delicate, relying largely on freshwater fish from the rivers, and game – supplemented with rich wine and cream sauces – from the great hunting forests. There are lovely swimming pools at Chissay and St Ouen-les-Vignes.

*"It was an excellent holiday."*

*Mr JA McKechnie*



Book now on **1-800-567-6286** or visit [www.breakaway-adventures.com](http://www.breakaway-adventures.com) for more information

## LOIRE GASTRONOMIC CYCLING | DAY BY DAY



### Day 1 Arrive at Chissay

We meet you at Blois station and take you (35 mins) to Chissay where your fabulous château hotel awaits. Time for a swim before dinner.

### Day 2 Chissay to St Ouen-les-Vignes 27km/17mi

Gentle pedalling along the banks of the Cher will bring you first to the superb Château de Chenonceau with its famous arches majestically spanning the river. Described by Flaubert as floating "on air and water", it's arguably the most beautiful of all the Loire landmarks. Lunch here perhaps on the terrace of the Orangerie restaurant before heading off through the shady Amboise forest and on to Amboise – don't worry if you don't have time to explore properly as you can easily come back tomorrow. Your final stretch leads to the elegant village of St Ouen-les-Vignes and Jacques and Odile Arayet's bijou hotel beside the river. Odile is a professional sommelier, and Jacques artistic *chef de cuisine*, so you're in for some treats here!

### Day 3 At St Ouen-les-Vignes

It's just a 5km/3mi cycle south to the narrow bustling streets of Amboise. Visit the flamboyant royal palace and the elegant Clos Lucé, a C15 manor house where Leonardo da Vinci lived and worked for the last few years of his life. His workshops house 40 giant models of some of his most spectacular creations - the first plane, helicopter and tank - and the beautifully landscaped gardens bring life to his botanical drawings and geographical designs. Alternatively it's an easy 15km/9mi round trip cycle along the river Cisse to wine capital, Vouvray. Masses of tasting possibilities and option to visit Château de Valmer where King Charles VII once stayed.

### Day 4 St Ouen-les-Vignes to Chitenay 37km/23mi or 43km/27mi

Lovely peaceful cycling today with a choice of routes depending on how energetic you're feeling! The shorter option takes you via the sleepy village of Limeray (lovely white church with impressive collection of statues) or you can head north through open countryside to Autreche – lots of wildlife so keep the binoculars handy! All cyclists then go on to Chaumont – the château here once belonged to Catherine de Medici and is quite spectacular. Between May and October, it hosts the International Garden Festival with a different theme each year. A final shady riverside stretch takes you via the pretty villages of Les Montils and Seur and on to Chitenay where you'll spend the next two nights.

### Day 5 At Chitenay

The C17 château at nearby Cheverny, with its wonderful white stone facade, is a popular day trip. The richness of its furnishings and antiques is incredible, and the gardens are superb. This château was used as a model for Moulinsart by the author of Tintin and a permanent exhibition is open for viewing. Alternatively keen cyclists can head for the magnificent château de Chambord - it's a 50km/31mi round trip! Set in the heart of the huge Forêt de Boulogne, this C16 masterpiece appears straight from a fairytale, and reflects the lavish tastes of its original owner, King François I. Today, the surrounding park has been declared a national nature reserve, protecting all sorts of wildlife including deer, boar and eagles.

### Day 6 Chitenay to Chissay 31km/19mi

Head south past well-tended vines and sleepy hamlets surrounded by fields of sunflowers. Lunch perhaps on the terrace beside the fortified château of Fougères-sur-Bievre, before a downhill whizz takes you to the River Cher where the charming old quarter of medieval Montrichard is huddled beneath the 11C keep. Lots of open air cafés and splendid half-timbered houses. A final flat cycle follows the Cher back to Château du Chissay for a well earned dip in the pool!

### Day 7 Return home

We take you to Blois station after breakfast.



*"Well organized, well thought out, great food, new bikes excellent."*

*Mrs Keery*

### Dates and Prices

**Departs every two days** **Tour Only**

#### 2012 departures

May 11-25, Sep 12-20	\$2,920
May 27-31, Jun 8-12	\$2,976
Sep 2-10	\$2,920
Jun 2-6, Jun 14-Jul 8	\$3,050
Aug 29-31	\$3,086
Jul 10-Aug 27	\$3,086
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,865

**Singles:** Add \$85 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

**Child:** Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

**Room upgrade:** Prices from \$26 per person, per night based on 2 sharing.

**Holiday type:** Independent cycling, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

**Departs:** Every two days from May 11 to Sep 20.

**Duration:** 7 days (6 nights). This holiday may be adapted into a 4 night version – just deduct \$452 per adult and \$260 per child from the prices above.

**Meals:** Continental breakfast and gastronomic evening meals.

**Other details:** For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

### Tailor-made travel choices

#### Nearest Arrival Airport: Paris CDG Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

**The above prices include our standard transfers:** Blois train station at 17:27, (transfer to hotel, 35 mins, provided).

**Return:** Rail Blois train station by 09:48 (transfer provided).

**Rail options:** Paris Austerlitz to Blois 15:39/17:27.. Return: Rail Blois to Paris Austerlitz 09:48/11:44.

**Second Class French Rail:** Add \$97 per person, round trip.

**First Class French Rail:** Add \$147 per person, round trip.

**Tour only:** Transfers included from Blois train station at 17:27 and back to Blois train station departing hotel at 09:00.

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## LOIRE GASTRONOMIC CYCLING | WHERE YOU STAY



**Château de Chissay**  
★★★★  
Chissay  
Days 1+6



**Hotel l'Aubiniere**  
★★★  
St Ouen-les-Vignes  
Days 2+3



**Auberge du Centre**  
★★★  
Chitenay  
Days 4+5

For extra nights we recommend Chissay, and city add-ons can be arranged in Paris.