



Make time in Amboise for Leonardo da Vinci's futuristic gadgetry at Le Clos Luce then head out on your first days cycling along the banks of the Loire and Cher. The first taste of the magnificent architecture is at Chateau de la Bordaisiere, followed by the exquisite Chateau de Chenonceau, built on a bridge spanning the River Cher. There is plenty of time to visit Chenonceau before a half-day ride over the low hills of the watershed leading to the River Indre where our hotel nestles below the chateau of Loches. An easy ride through the peaceful scenery of the Indre valley passes the ruined abbey at Cormery and ends at Montbazou where your destination is Port-Moulin in the grounds

of the Chateau d'Artigny, now converted to a hotel. The ride to Azay le Rideau presents an opportunity to visit the house of the novelist Balzac (in the small chateau at Sache), includes the celebrated gardens at Villandry and passes the confluence of the Rivers Cher and Loire. In Azay-le-Rideau, the famous chateau, built on an island, is illuminated by night (mid May to mid September) for a son-et-lumiere show. From Azay-le-Rideau you can visit the Chateau d' Usse used by the fairytale writer Perrault as a model for 'Sleeping Beauty', before continuing on to Chinon the centre of a well known wine growing region. Your final day's cycling takes you via the Foret de Fontevraud and the celebrated Abbey to Saumur, dominated by its gothic chateau.



Accommodation

7 nights/8 days - The tour starts on the bank of the Loire at Amboise, our hotel is a fine provincial wood beamed 2* Logis de France with a restaurant well known for its Loire fish dishes. Our 2* Logis de France accommodation has a magnificent fire place and exposed beams in Chenoucaux. At Loches we stay in a 2* hotel which overlooks the historic town. Our next night is spent in Montbazou by the Indre, at a riverside annex (formerly a watermill) of the luxurious Chateau d'Artigny, one of the famous Relais et Chateaux chain. At Azay-le-Rideau our 2* hotel is situated in a semi pedestrian street in the heart of this charming village and just 50 meters from the elegant chateau. Our next night is spent in a 2* hotel in Chinon, with the charm

of an authentic dwelling located a few hundred meters from the town centre. In Saumur, our final stop, our 2* hotel is in a quiet square near the centre.

An upgrade to a rather special 3* hotel is possible in Chenoucaux at a supplement, (see price list). This hotel is 150m from the Chateau and has been patronised by the rich and the great; Churchill, Rockefeller and Eleanor Roosevelt to name just a few. Facilities include a swimming pool, a peaceful garden and a superb restaurant.

Terrain

Long rides are achievable due to the gently rolling terrain making cycling very easy and enjoyable.



Cycling Past Vineyards and Magnificent Architecture

- *Great Wines of Chinon and Saumur*
- *Biking Through History in France*
- *Riding by the Rivers Loire, Cher, Indre and Vienne*
- *Renaissance Gardens and Architecture*

The Loire is the largest river in France flowing from the Massif Central to the Atlantic Ocean. Along the rivers lower reaches and tributaries are the ornate chateaux built by the French noblemen in the 300 years before the French Revolution. In the same area are the vineyards that collectively produce the Vins de Touraine, many of which can be tasted along the way.

Our tour starts at Amboise and ends at Saumur, providing an opportunity to visit many of the chateaux: Amboise, Chenonceau, Azay-le-Rideau, Usse, Chinon, and Saumur as well as Le Clos Luce (Leonardo da Vinci's home at Amboise), Balzac's house at Sache, the Abbey of Fontevraud and the superb classical gardens of Villandry. We can explore the vineyards of Chinon and Saumur, and follow the banks of the Rivers Cher, Indre and Vienne as well as of those of the Loire itself.

Inn to Inn 8 days

TOUR CODE CLV

Grade Easy **Day Stages** Min 37km, max 45km.

Bike Hire

21 speed hybrid bicycles equipped with saddlebags, tool kit and water bottle. Helmets are included and we recommend you take your own.

Accommodation and Meals

Is on a bed and breakfast basis with 5 evening meals included. Hotels normally with ensuite shower and WC.

Start and End of Tour

Nearest airport is Paris. Then train from Paris to Amboise. On return, train from Saumur to Paris for return flight.

Self-Guided Dates and Prices

Any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday March - Late October. (Other days on request)

For prices please see insert.

► For more details request dossier CLV

