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**Valid for departures:** From January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019



# Chaumont to Amboise Self-Guided Walk Trip Notes

-  **Ways to Travel:** Self-Guided
-  **Destinations:** Adventure Holidays in France
-  **Programmes:** Walking & Trekking

Trip Code:  
**W07LR**



**8 Days** Flight Inclusive  
**8 Days** Land only  
**Min age:** 8

## Trip Overview

The Loire is famous for its chateaux with over 300 in total to discover. This easy paced, gentle walking holiday balances peaceful, off-the-beaten-track discoveries, with the splendour and opulence of some of the finest Renaissance chateaux in France. There's no tough climbing; the highest point is at just 150m but you're still rewarded with beautifully unspoilt landscapes and enchanting views at every turn.

## At a Glance

- 7 nights in 3 and 4-star accommodation
- 3 days walking; averaging 4 hours per day
- Low altitude and well-marked paths
- Self-guided holiday
- Countries visited: Adventure Holidays in France

## Trip Highlights

- Gentle, off-the-beaten-track walking on relaxing flat routes beside the rivers Loire and Cher, through poppy fields and pretty parkland
- France's finest chateaux: Amboise, Chenonceau and Chaumont-sur-Loire
- Quality hotels offering masses of local character, great regional cuisine and outstanding wines

- Serene Amboise with its boutique-lined streets and esplanades enjoying excellent views over the Loire River
- Based on our popular 6 night, Rivers and Chateaux of the Loire Walk

## Is This Trip for You?

### **Activity Level: 2 (Leisurely/Moderate)**

You follow a circular route from Chaumont-sur-Loire along peaceful riverside tracks, passing quiet hamlets, before continuing alongside the River Cher through Montrichard, Chenonceaux and Montlouis. On your return you'll enjoy wonderful walks through open fields and sprawling vineyards - with opportunities for wine-tasting - and on to Leonardo da Vinci's bustling town of Amboise, before returning to Chaumont-sur-Loire. Along the way you'll take in some of France's most impressive chateaux: Chenonceau mesmerises with its iconic arches over the River Cher (be sure to taste the chateau's wine and enjoy a scenic riverside walk); the majestic Chateau d'Amboise is a former royal residence and also houses the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci; while Chateau de Chaumont is set in beautifully tended gardens which host the annual Festival des Jardins.

This trip is on the easier end of leisurely/moderate as there are only 3 days walking.

As this is a self-guided holiday there is no group and no leader. We have suggested that 8yrs is the minimum age for this trip, but as it is self-guided and you will be leading your own family we will ultimately leave this decision up to you. There may be others on the same departure date as you, but you will not be organised together. You are provided with route notes for each day, which begin with an overview of the walk and advice on lunch, followed by detailed instructions. The route notes contain a 24 hour emergency assistance telephone number should you need it and in emergencies, the local representative is normally able to dispatch a taxi or pick you up themselves. They may wish to charge for this service.

## Group

As this is a self-guided holiday there is no group and no leader. A local representative is on hand to assist you and will meet you at the beginning of the week to go through the route notes and point out particular places of interest. Your luggage is transferred and route notes and maps are provided. Please note: the walking and luggage transfers included in this tour are subject to a minimum of 2 people (in total) booked on the departure. A supplement (payable in advance) to cover these transfers and sole occupancy of a room will apply if only 1 person travelling on a departure date.

**Adult min age:** 12

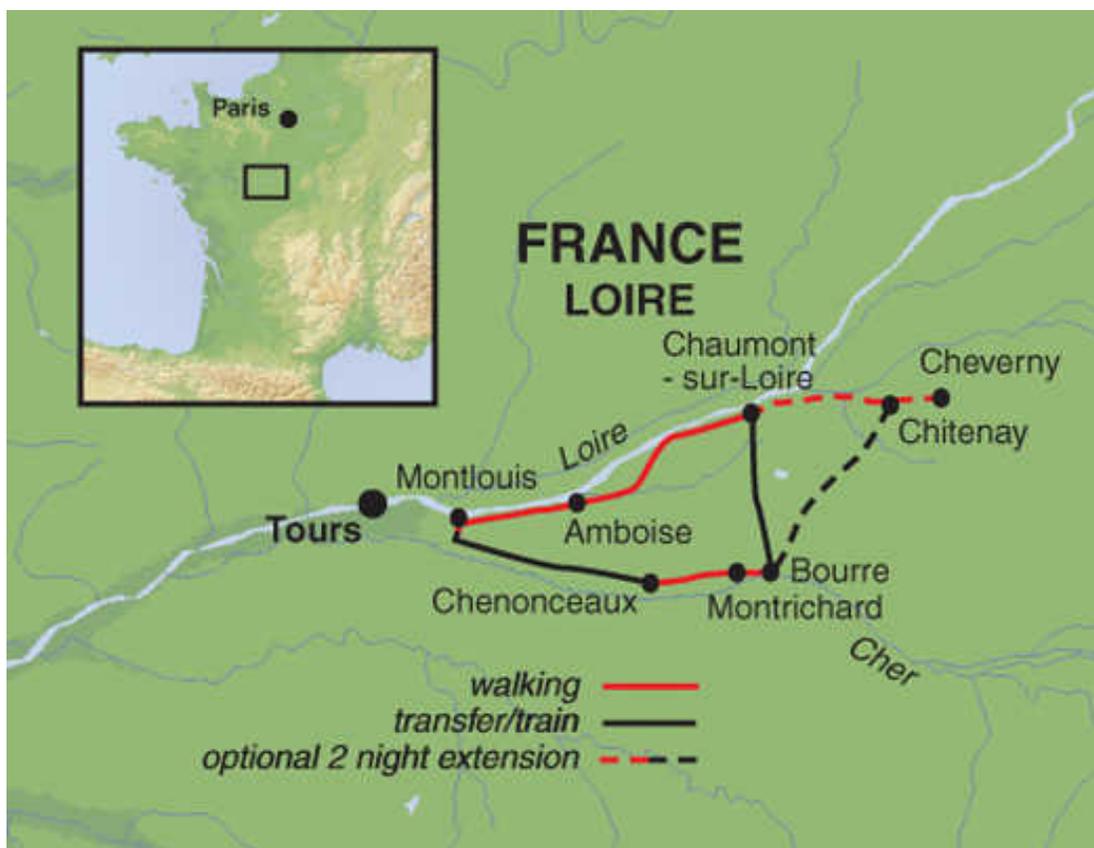
Child min age: 8

**Child max age:** 11

**Min group size:** 1

**Max group size:** 6

## Itinerary



## Land Only

**Start City:** Chaumont-sur-Loire

**End City:** Chaumont-sur-Loire

## Land Only Itinerary

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### Day 1

#### Arrive at Chaumont-sur-Loire

Arrive at your riverside hotel in Chaumont-sur-Loire where there's a lovely pool if you fancy a dip. **Staying at Hostellerie du Chateau.**

**Meals included:** Dinner

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### Day 2

#### At Chaumont

Discover Catherine de Medici's impressive chateau at Chaumont and the superb themed Garden Festival (May to Oct). **Staying at Hostellerie du Chateau.**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 3

### Chaumont-sur-Loire to Chenonceaux

Today a 20-minute transfer takes you to Bourre, before walking alongside the River Cher. En route you have the opportunity to visit the Caves des Roches, an underground town previously sculpted in a limestone quarry, and La Magnanerie de Bourre, a troglodyte site and silk-worm farm in a lovely hillside setting. The route continues alongside the Cher to Montrichard, a bustling market town which has kept its French traditions, a perfect place to have lunch. The final section of the route takes you along the GR41 through Chissay-en-Touraine to Chenonceaux with its iconic chateau. **Staying at Hotel La Roseraie.**

#### Comfortable Hotel

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Distance covered:** 15 km / 9.5 miles

**Activity (hours):** 3

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## Day 4

### At Chenonceaux

Explore the superb Chateau de Chenonceau with its famous arches spanning across the river. It's the most romantic and beautiful of all the Renaissance chateaux and is associated with some famous names - rivals Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de' Medici (respectively mistress and widow of Henry II) and Mary, Queen of Scots who stayed here as the child bride of Francis II. After you visit you can taste the chateau's wines, hire a rowing boat (July-August), or take a pleasant riverside walk. Why not take the train to explore the lively city of Tours before coming back to relax with a swim in the hotel pool? **Staying at Hotel La Roseraie.**

#### Comfortable Hotel

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 5

### Chenonceaux to Amboise

You begin today with a train journey from Chenonceaux to Veretz-Montlouis. The route then takes you along the quiet back roads of the GR3, running parallel with the Loire. Leaving Montlouis you walk through the open fields and vineyards of the Loire region, with the opportunity to stop for wine tastings and perhaps take advantage of our wine-carrying service. The final stretch takes you beside the Loire River into the fascinating town of Amboise, providing you with numerous options for your rest day.

**Staying at Hotel le Pavillon des Lys.**

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Distance covered:** 17.5 km / 11 miles

**Activity (hours):** 4

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## Day 6

### At Amboise

Amboise is filled with interest. It's well known for its Son et Lumiere display based at the massive chateau, which was turned by Charles VIII into a luxurious palace in the late 15th century. The town has bustling narrow streets, some excellent restaurants and attractive buildings. Leonardo da Vinci spent the last four years of his life at Clos Luce, now a museum with displays of models constructed from his original plans. there's a striking fountain (made in 1968 by Max Ernst) and fascinating stained glass, paintings and sculptures in the 12th century church of St-Denis. **Staying at Hotel Le Pavillon des Lys.**

**Meals included:** Breakfast

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## Day 7

### Amboise to Chaumont-sur-Loire

Today's walk leads you out of Amboise heading south east along the GR3 trail towards the charming village of Souvigny-de-Touraine. The paths then flow through the fields and wineries of the Loire region (your last opportunity for a tasting or to purchase a few bottles). The final stretch follows part of the Camino de Santiago trail back to Chaumont-sur-Loire beside the river, with its impressive 15th century chateau. **Staying at Hostellerie du Chateau.**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Distance covered:** 21 km / 13.5 miles

**Activity (hours):** 4

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## Day 8

### Leave Chaumont-sur-Loire

If you have pre-booked a transfer we take you to Tours St Pierre des Corps station in time for the train to Paris.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

All ascents, descents and distances listed above have been measured by our local partners or tour leaders. Please note that different GPS measuring devices can give differing results dependent on the barometric pressures at the time. Measurements stated throughout these trips notes are given to help you understand the types of terrain and distances you will encounter.

## Accommodation

### Hotels



All accommodation is 3 and 4-star. The places you'll stay in have been hand-picked for their superb locations, atmospheric charm, excellent cuisine and warm, friendly owners.

All prices are based on 2 persons sharing, so if there is an odd number of people travelling in your party or you are travelling alone, there will be a compulsory supplement for a single room for the tour duration. For a solo traveller there is an additional charge to cover transfer costs.

*Where a single supplement is available, paying for a single only guarantees a room for single use. It does not always mean a twin or double room will be provided for sole occupancy.*

Single supplement from \$434.00 USD

## **Food & Transport**

### **Eating & Drinking**

All breakfasts and 4 dinners

The Loire prides itself on its delicious local cuisine and wine and we've included evening meals everywhere except in Amboise - given the fantastic variety of restaurants on your doorstep, we thought you'd appreciate us leaving the choice to you

### **Transportation**

Your luggage will be transported between the hotels by taxi or minibus. The local representative is often able to dispatch a taxi should you need it in an emergency, but may wish to charge you for this service.

## **Weather & Seasonality**

### **Weather Information**

The Loire valley is blessed with fantastic weather for walking. The spring and autumn seasons experience mild climates with temperatures averaging 16-20 degrees Celcius. The summers are generally warmer with temperatures reaching the high 20s. There is always the chance of rain so it is best to be prepared for this with a waterproof layer, it is also good to have a warmer layer for the early mornings and evenings.

## Weather Charts

## Joining Instructions

Your trip normally starts at the hotel on the afternoon of Day 1 of the itinerary. Hotel check-in times are normally from around 4pm.

We can book your flights and train travel, with connecting transfers as required, based on the following arrangements:

British Airways Heathrow to Paris CDG 07:15/09:35 then rail Paris Charles de Gaulle to Tours St Pierre des Corps 11:19/12:58 and transfer to hotel 35 minutes. Return: Transfer to station 35 minutes then rail Tours St Pierre des Corps to Paris Charles de Gaulle 11:02/12:42 then British Airways Paris CDG to Heathrow 16:35/16:55.

These can change throughout the season so it is best that you contact our sales team for more information and prices.

If you arrive independently there is one transfer every two days from St Pierre des Corps station to the start hotel which you are welcome to join if your arrival and departure times coincide. We will need your travel times to arrange this so please contact us with these. If these transfers do not suit you we can organise a non-standard transfer at an additional cost or you can make your own way to and from the start hotel.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

**Location start:** Chaumont-sur-Loire

**Location end:** Chaumont-sur-Loire

## What to Take

### Essential Equipment

Walking boots

Water bottle

Daypack

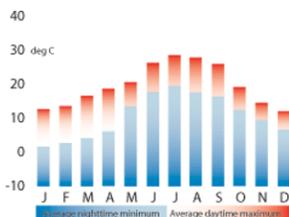
Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses

Warm jumper

Waterproofs

### Optional Equipment

Walking poles





## **Practical Information**

### **Passport**

#### **Adventure Holidays in France**

Most nationalities, including British, require a full passport that must be valid beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information below is primarily for UK passport holders, and other nationalities should check with their travel agent or the relevant embassies. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

### **Visa**

#### **Adventure Holidays in France**

No visa required for British passport holders.

For further Brexit travel advice please visit <https://www.abta.com/tips-and-advice/brexit-advice-for-travellers>

Visa regulations can change without notice: please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

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### **Vaccination**

#### **Adventure Holidays in France**

There are no specific health risks.

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information. Please note: vaccinations that are routinely recommended to residents of the UK, North America or Australasia are not considered to form part of the travel health advice, and you should ensure these are kept up to date where necessary.

For additional information please visit: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>

### **Insurance - are you adequately covered?**

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be fully insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). On arrival in destination for your trip, you will be asked to present details to your leader or local representative of your policy.

If you are resident in the UK we strongly recommend the Exodus travel insurance policy, this is specifically designed to cover all activities on your trip. If arranging your own policy please ensure that you are covered for all activities that are part of the trip, optional activities that you intend to take part in and/or on high altitude itineraries, that you are covered up to the maximum altitude of the trip.

## **Local Time**

**Adventure Holidays in France's Timezone:** Europe/Paris CEST (GMT +02:00)

## **Electricity**

**Adventure Holidays in France's Electricity:** European plug - 2 round pins. 230 Volts AC.

230 Volts AC, standard European adapter required.

## **Money**

### **Adventure Holidays in France's Currency**

The national currency of France is the Euro (EUR), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (October 2017) of approximately 1.1 to the GBP, 0.84 to the USD, 0.67 to the CAD, 0.66 to the AUD and 0.59 to the NZD.

### **ATM Availability**

ATMs are widely available, but we recommend taking some Euros cash with you in case you can't get to a bank at the start of the trip.

### **Extra Expenses & Spending Money**

You will only need money for lunches, 2 dinners, snacks and drinks and any sites you wish to go to. Lunches can be inexpensive if you buy produce from local markets or shops and make up a picnic. However, if you stop at a café you can easily spend €15. We would recommend budgeting for €5-15 for lunches and allow an additional €10 a day for any extras.



## Responsible Tourism

At Exodus we believe in the power of Responsible Travel.

Every time we travel, we are part of a global movement that creates jobs, builds more sustainable societies, encourages cultural understanding and safeguards common natural and cultural heritage. To learn more about what Responsible Travel means to Exodus click [here](#)...

## Exodus Community

### Join the Exodus online community

Don't forget to visit the Community area on our website. You can view the range of Exodus videos and podcasts, read trip write-ups which have featured in the national media and take advantage of some special deals on travel gear and equipment.

In the Community Travel Forum you'll find the Departure Lounge where you can discuss your trip with fellow travellers before you depart. When you get back from your holiday remember to upload your images to the relevant trip page on our website. This helps other people see what our holidays are really like and you'll be entered automatically into our monthly photo competition.

To make full use of the Community you'll need to join My Exodus. It's free, registration is simple and easy, so what are you waiting for?

## Important Information

### On all guided trips

Although our leaders are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorise them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.

Although rarely enforced, by booking this trip you agree to section 14 of our Booking Conditions which clearly states that our leaders have the authority to do this. In these circumstances we will ensure anyone sitting out is safely provided for and offered alternative options where possible. Refunds will not be provided for activities missed and customers may be liable for additional costs incurred.

### On all trips

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call the Exodus office and ask to speak to one of the experts on this itinerary.

In an emergency, please contact our 24 hour out of hours service on +44 (0) 844 326 7041.

Every time that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure or website, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure and website. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary. Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

As fuel prices, airport taxes and exchange rates fluctuate, and airlines manage their rates to match demand, it is proving harder than ever to guarantee our Flight Inclusive prices. Although we endeavour to keep our website as accurate as possible, daily fluctuations mean that our Flight Inclusive price may be out of date. For accurate prices we recommend that you contact one of our Travel Experts, or your Travel Agent.

#### **TRAVEL AWARE -STAY SAFE & HEALTHY ABROAD**

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the NHS have up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad. For more on security, local laws, plus passport and visa information, see <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/>

Keep informed of current travel health news by visiting <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>

Advice can change so check regularly for updates.

For all latest travel information about your holiday, please visit our Travel Safety Advice page.



## **How to Book**

Ready to book? Please contact your travel agent

Version 1