

#### ROYAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE LOIRE VALLEY BY BIKE

The romantic châteaux, castles, churches, monasteries and gardens in the Loire Valley are the centerpieces and charm of this unique region. The combination of architecture and nature is an unforgettable experience. The many anecdotes and historical traditions provide an ideal backdrop for a cycle tour, during which you cycle along many sections of France's longest river and its unspoiled banks. The two tributaries Indre and Cher, which provide an ideal habitat for birds and wildlife, are also included. Of course, you will stay in the castle!

LEVEL

KM 227 DURATION 7 Days 6 Nights

TRAVEL DATES 11.05 - 17.05.2025

### Day 1

Arrival near Tours and welcome at the romantic castle. Check-in and the first French dinner is ready to be served.



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The trip with Philippe and Christiane was one of my best. The organization and support as well as dinners in such great restaurants. We will definitely be traveling with them again next year!

Rose Schäfer



## Day 2 Blois - Chambord 55 km

After breakfast, the transfer takes you to Blois. Stop in front of the Château de Blois and gain an insight into the castle's eventful history. From here, we cycle along the Loire to our next destination: Château de Chambord. Unique in its size and splendor, Chambord has had a magnificent new Jardin à la Française since 2017. Ride slowly towards it and visit this highly interesting castle with its impressive architecture and garden composition. Return by bike close to the Loire to Blois.

## Day 3 Montlouis - Amboise - Chenonceaux 36 km

Short transfer to Montlouis. The gardens of Château Bourdaisière are on the program. Tour of a small part of the 55-hectare park with remarkable trees such as cedars, redwood chestnuts and oaks.

Then a guided tour of the vegetable garden with a unique collection of up to 650 tomato varieties, a garden of medicinal plants, the fairy garden with 240 rare flower varieties - in short, a Garden of Eden. Picturesque cycle tour above the Loire to Amboise. Then we cycle on to one of the most beautiful Loire castles with its magnificent gardens: Château Chenonceaux. The magnificent gardens of Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medicis, the orangery, the labyrinth, nothing is missing and is just waiting to be visited.





## Day 4 Chinon - Fontevraud - Saumur 44 km

Transfer to Chinon, the former seat of the French kings in the 15th century. Influenced by Joan of Arc, this important medieval town has retained its historical character. The memorable meeting between Joan of Arc and Charles VII took place in 1429 in the mighty castle that towers above it. From here, you will reach one of the largest monasteries in France, the Abbey of Fontevraud, in the morning. Numerous members of the Plantagenêts royal family found their final resting place here, including Eleanor of Aquitaine and Richard the Lionheart.

Continue through the vineyards of Saumur to the town of the same name and stop off in the rock labyrinth of a large crémant production site. Visit and crémant tasting.



# Day 5 Ussé - Langeais - Villandry

Once again, countless impressions await you. You drive past the Sleeping Beauty castle of Ussé, which stands out with its white façade against the dark background of the forest behind it. From here, you cycle along the embankment road and enjoy the view of the sandbanks and the picturesque banks of the Loire. At 1200 km, the Loire is France's longest river. A few photo stops are unavoidable on this embankment road and every now and then you catch a glimpse of the gray herons, which wait patiently for their breakfast in the river.



Picnic by the river and a well-fed stop at the Château de Langeais for a tour of the castle. After a few kilometers, the Loire gives way to one of its largest tributaries, the Cher. The route continues along the picturesque riverbed until you reach a dense avenue that leads to the next point of interest: Château de Villandry. A visit to the Renaissance gardens with their colorful vegetable beds, the garden of love and music is unique and unforgettable.

### Day 6 Vouvray - Vouvray 46 km

From the hotel, we cycle to the impressive rock villages near Vouvray. Visit a troglodyte dwelling. From here it is not far to the Vouvray white wine growing area. The journey continues along beautiful little roads through the vineyards to Château Valmer. The individual terraces, which are separated from each other by low walls, brick parapets and steps, are named after their shape and decoration. A very interesting tour of the gardens, which, like the château itself, are private property. Return journey parallel to the Loire back to the hotel.

After a final breakfast, it's "Au revoir et à bientôt, goodbye and see you again soon!".

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

