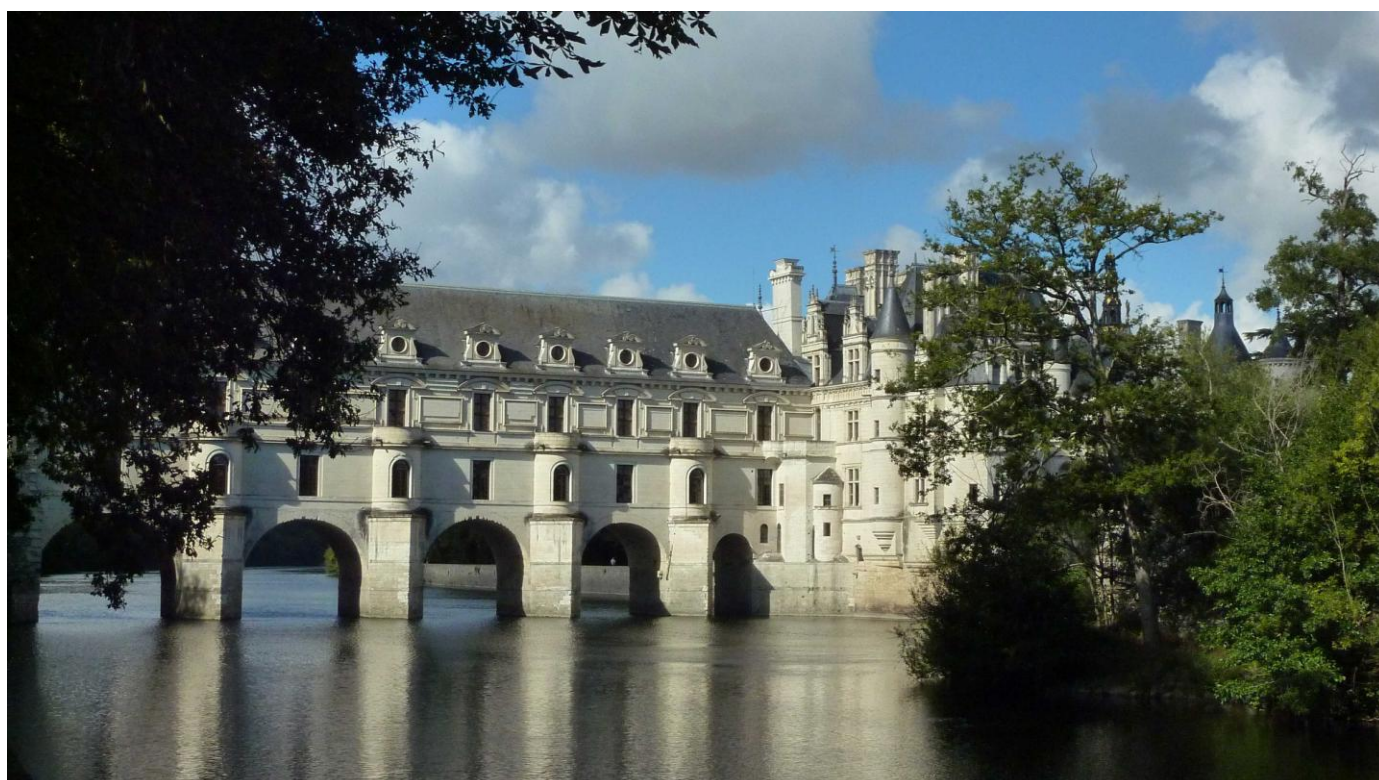




# Your bike vacation in France

## Art de vivre in France : a lifetime experience through the vineyards and the most beautiful castles of Loire Valley and Burgundy

Difficulty level	2 bikes
Duration	7 days (8 nights)
Location	Loire Valley and Burgundy



We have created a tailored once in a lifetime experience in two symbolic regions of France's "dolce vita" for you. First you will discover the Loire Valley. The changing colors of the Loire River, UNESCO world heritage site are only interrupted by the breathtaking fairy castles. Bicycle leisurely through this beautiful countryside and visit the castle, enjoy a wine tasting or take the morning off to swim in front of the charming châteaux or hotels we selected for you. Day after day, your **cycle tour** reveals the wonders of this enchanting area: the vineyards, the castles of Blois, Chambord, Amboise or Chenonceau and the medieval town of Amboise. The trip leads you then into the Burgundy, where you will taste the wonderful and world-famous wines, admire the magnificent and rich medieval city of Beaune and live out life like a 18<sup>th</sup> French aristocrat.

### **Day 1 : Blois**

Transfer by bus from Paris

You spent the rest of the afternoon discovering Blois old town, its old paved streets and all small stairs. At nightfall you will enjoy the château de Blois light and sound show (English on Wednesdays).

Night in a castle near Cheverny



# Your vacation in the Loire Valley

## **Day 2 : Blois – Cheverny 40 km**

Transfer to Blois.

Start your trip in Blois, visit the open air market and buy there fresh food for your pic-nic. Then bike through chateau de Chambord's magnificent forest and take a peek at the sculpted salamanders engraved on the walls of Loire's most extravagant castle. Enjoy the shade of the hundred years old trees and pic-nic in front of the chateau de Chambord. You stop for a biscuit tasting at the Biscuiterie de Chambord. Heirs of an ancient tradition, the bakers of Chambord located close to the Chateau de Chambord are true artisans of taste and invites you into a world of tasty sensations. You ride then along the Cosson creek to the Cheverny and the château de Cheverny. This should bring up some memories, if you ever read Tintin: it was the inspiration for Moulinsart castle. On your way, you will stop for a wine tasting at the property.

## **Day 3 : Cheverny – Amboise 39 km**

Ride through vineyards before arriving in front of the drawbridge of Fougères-sur-Bièvre stronghold. Follow the toues (traditional boats) along the Loire to the village of Chaumont-sur-Loire. Before wandering in the incredible International Garden Festival you taste the cuisine of the Chef of the Grand Velum. A restaurant created to enchant the theme of every year's Garden Festival. They serve only organic food and experiment with rare plants. You wander in the Gardens and stroll inside the beautiful fairy-tale like castle.

Transfer from Chaumont-sur-Loire to Amboise by bus.

## **Day 4 : Amboise**

Take your time to fully discover the medieval little streets of Amboise, rest in your beautiful little castle, enjoy their garden and the swimming pool. Francis I, a mecene had Leonardo da Vinci come and work in Amboise. You can still discover his mansion where he worked on his last masterpieces and where he died. You enjoy a Renaissance gourmet lunch to fully immerge yourself in the atmosphere. In the afternoon after the visit of the Clos Lucé, you visit the different heritage skills, which made Amboise such a rich city.

## **Day 5 : Amboise - Chissay 22 km**

You start the day with a nice ride in the forest only to reach on the Loire castle's pearl: the château de Chenonceau, gracefully over bridging the river Cher. This castle is a history book in itself and saw a lot of French history. No wonder it has become the second most visited castle of France. Ride down in canoe the river to appreciate differently the Loire Valley and pass under the castle of Chenonceau. A whole new perspective! You reach the chateau de Chissay in time for a delicious gourmet dinner.

## **Day 6 : Chissay – Chagny 10 km**

Visit this amazing underground mushroom farm producing now only for the most world-famous restaurants.

Transfer to Chagny, Burgundy after lunch time. End of the day is spent relaxing in the garden of your castle-hotel or at the pool.

## **Day 7 : Chagny - Beaune 25 km**

You ride along the amazing and world-famous vineyards of the Bourgogne. Small vineyards allees lead you to the castle Chateau de Citeaux, where you enjoy a visit of the vineyards and a wine-tasting pic-nic on the terrasse, enjoying the view on the vineyards.

You continue your discovery of the wines by passing the most celebrate vineyards : Meursault, Pommard, Chassagne-Montrachet etc. until you reach the charming city of Beaune.

Gourmet-dinner in one of the best restaurants of the region.

Option : Art de vivre class. Meeting at 7pm in one of the living room of the Hotel Le Cep. Introduction to the History of the table with a Kir Royal. At 8pm we go over to the restaurant to enjoy a gourmet-dinner. The class will be articulated in 3 workshops : French rules of table manners, the art of hospitality and the art of wine pairings.

## **Day 8 : Beaune-Paris**

You enjoy in the morning a guided tour of the world-known Hospices de Beaune. Free time.

Departure for Paris in the afternoon.





# Your bike vacation in France

## Main features

### Guided tour

You will be accompanied all day long by a French guide, speaking perfectly English and knowing all the secrets and stories of the region Loire Valley and Burgundy.

A bus will be following you and transporting the luggage.

**Difficulty level: easy to moderate.** The route is flat along the Loire River but has a few slopes as long as it goes away from the river. It goes on cycling paths or small country roads.

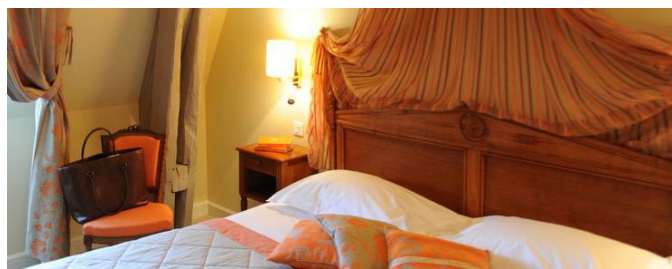
## Accommodation

You are accommodated in castles or hotels, selected for their flair, charm and warmly welcome and not simply for their number of stars. They each have a particularity which make them unique, the elegance of a typical 18<sup>th</sup> century bourgeois house or castles former belonging to the local noblemen.

### Night 1 and 2: Château de Breuil, Cheverny

Middle in the forest, this castle, an elegant mixture of 17<sup>th</sup> century and 18<sup>th</sup> century style, awaits you for welcoming stay in the midst of the Loire Valley castles.

*[http:// www.chateau-hotel-du-breuil.com](http://www.chateau-hotel-du-breuil.com)*





## Your vacation in the Loire Valley

### Night 3, 4: Château de Pray, Amboise

Château de Pray is a place full of charm and character. The magnificent 13<sup>th</sup> century castle overlooks the Loire and is surrounded by 5 hectares of wood and land with amazing gardens.

<http://www.chateaudepray.fr>



### Night 5: Château de Chissay, Chissay

This former royal residence in the shadow of Chenonceau castle is the ideal place to discover the wonderful Loire Valley. The individual and elegant rooms overlook the park, the swimming pool or the renaissance courtyard.

<http://www.chateaudechissay.com>







## Your bike vacation in France

### Night 6: Château de Bellecroix, Chagny

The Château de Bellecroix, a castle of the 17th and 18th century, was formerly a Commandery of the Knights of Malta. In the middle of the famous vineyards of the Burgundy, it welcomes you for a nice rest.

<http://www.chateaudebeaulieu37.com>



### Night 7: Hôtel Le Cep, Beaune

Ideally located in the heart of the medieval town of BEAUNE, Wine Capital of BURGUNDY, just a couple of steps from the famous Hotel Dieu des Hospices and Notre-Dame Basilica, Le Cep\*\*\*\* Hotel is a veritable institution, affiliated to the prestigious "Small Luxury Hotels of the World" brand.

<http://www.hotel-cep-beaune.com>





# Your vacation in the Loire Valley

## Bikes

On the day you arrive, we provide you with:

- a **bike** that fits your size
- **equipped**: front rack pack with an integrated file compartment, rear pack, helmet, reflective vest, tool kit with rim tapes, etc... .

Electric bikes are also available in the Loire Valley.

## Price

	Net price
<b>Castles &amp; Manors</b>  <i>Double roomfare</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 nights</li> <li>- 7 breakfasts</li> <li>- 7 diners</li> <li>- 7 lunches (with 1 Renaissance Lunch and 1 gourmet lunch in the garden of Chaumont-sur-Loire)</li> <li>- 8-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (packs, helmets, locks...)</li> <li>- Guide</li> <li>- Bus transfers from/to Paris</li> <li>- Visits :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Wine tasting near Cheverny</li> <li>o Night show in Blois</li> <li>o Biscuit tasting in Amboise</li> <li>o Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire (castle + International Garden Festival)</li> <li>o 1,5-2h of canoeing</li> <li>o Château de Chenonceau</li> <li>o Underground mushroom fabric (guided)</li> <li>o Wine tasting and winery visit at Château de Citeaux</li> <li>o Hospices de Beaune (guided)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- local visitors' taxes</li> <li>- 24h/24 hotline</li> </ul>	4495 €/pers
Electric bike	+100 €/pers
Option : Art de Vivre class	+319€/pers

Prices don't include :

- Personal expenses
- Drinks
- Extra visits not included in the program