



Loire Valley

Listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the Loire Valley is home to world renowned chateaux and the residences of Kings, as well as to countless fascinating treasures. The Loire a Velo trail makes the perfect spot to cycle along between friends or with your family.



Access:

- Eurostar from London to Paris or Lille and frequent train connecting services to the main cities.
- London to Tours (all year round) and Dublin to Tours.
- Ferries to Le Havre, Dieppe, Cherbourg, Caen and a 4 hour drive from the coastline.

Main cities: Blois, Bourges, Chartres, Orléans, Tours

5 reasons to visit Loire Valley

- **UNESCO:** The Loire Valley is the largest site in France to be listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The French Kings were cast under the spell of this exceptional land. As you follow the course of the river, you can't fail to be amazed by their fairytale chateaux.
- **Chateaux:** From medieval fortresses to Renaissance castles, the Loire Chateaux invite you to step into a spectacular world. Put yourself in the shoes of a King and listen to the fascinating story of these unique architectural masterpieces.
- **Loire a Velo:** The Loire a Velo trail is part of a European project connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Black Sea. It includes 800 km of sign posted cycle routes along the Loire River passing through chateaux, vineyards and gardens.
- **Gardens:** Well maintained and manicured outdoor spaces inspired by generations of talented gardeners, gardens are everywhere in the Loire Valley. Whether at the chateaux, designed as landscaped parks for the kings to wander, or private houses, they symbolise both traditional and contemporary artistic visions and illustrate the French way of life.
- **Wine:** The Loire Valley is one of the biggest wine-growing regions. Chinon, Sancerre and Vouvray are just a few of the Loire AOC quality certified wines. Thanks to its fertile soil, the region offers a great variety of flavours to please even the most demanding connoisseurs.

Loire Valley Tourist Board
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www.loirevalleytourism.com


Région Centre
Loire Valley

ROMANCE

Tell only your best friends about this address!

Cosy, charming, romantic... there are countless adjectives to describe the Chateau de la Verrerie. Its owner Bruno has spent years buying antiques to decorate it. This boutique hotel chateau set in a beautiful park is the perfect choice if you want to celebrate a special occasion with the one you love. www.chateaudelaverrerie.fr

CULTURAL

A fairytale chateau

The Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire combines heritage, contemporary art and nature with its fairytale chateau overlooking the Loire River, a world renowned International Gardens Festival and a series of exhibitions. The 2010 theme for the gardens festival will be "body & soul" and the visitors will be able to sense the creativity of the artists everywhere on the estate. www.domaine-chaumont.fr

ITINERARIES

The Loire a Velo

The Loire a Velo trail is ideal for cycle holidays with the whole family, as it is very safe and great for beginners. The Tours to Langeais section is perfect for family adventures in the gardens of Villandry or in the chateau de Langeais where children will have great fun thanks to many outdoor games. www.loireavelo.fr

ACCOMMODATION

A brand new accommodation concept

Carre d'Etoiles is a brand new accommodation concept that invites you to experience the mystery of the stars. In Touraine, in a three-hectare estate, stay in one of these eco-friendly cube-shaped structures featuring the latest design equipment with a transparent dome. In every Carre d'Etoile, you will find a telescope to observe the stars. www.lagrangee.com

GASTRONOMY

The secrets of Loire wines

L'Ange Vins Cave is one of Orleans' best kept secrets. Sabine L., one of the first women to be sommelier at the famous Tour d'Argent restaurant in Paris, will share her passion for Loire wines with you. www.langevinscave.com.
If you fancy a gourmet lunch with a stunning view, try the Lift restaurant furnished with pieces by Philippe Stark. www.restaurant-le-lift.com

WELLBEING

Eco-friendly pure linen based cosmetics

"Be By Monarque" is the newly opened spa located only a stone's throw from Chartres' world renowned cathedral. Designed with materials such as wood, stone and linen, "Be By Monarque" offers a full range of treatments using eco-friendly pure linen based cosmetics created in Chartres, also known as the cosmetic valley. www.bw-grand-monarque.com

ECO-FRIENDLY

The "Renaissance" gardens of Villandry, which are among the most famous of the Loire Valley, are now fully organic. A first for a garden of this size, eight hectares in total! Here, hoeing and the introduction of insects have replaced chemical products. This is a major step towards better organic protection for this garden that attracts 300,000 visitors every year. www.chateauvillandry.com

SHORT BREAKS

Tours, the French "art de vivre"

There are countless chateaux to discover along the Loire River. Simply fly into Tours from Stansted airport for a lovely short-break. The city really symbolizes the French art de vivre and is bustling with activities and cultural events. Get yourself a chateaux pass at the Tours tourist office that will enable you to visit several chateaux at a discount price. www.ligeris.com

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

The secrets of the "Chateaux"

Big adventures await young visitors to the Loire Valley. The chateaux and other sites invite little ones to discover their secrets. In the royal chateau of Amboise, discover how the kings and queens grew up. Find the mystery word visiting the chateau de Cheverny. All these audio guides, games and booklets are available in English.

HIGH LIFE

Stays made-to-measure

Riverloire has been created for those who want to treat themselves and experience the finest of the Loire Valley. From a visit to a private chateau out of hours, to wine tasting with an oenologist in a private cellar, exclusive visits to antique shops or gourmet picnics in the vineyards, every stay is unique and made-to-measure. www.riverloire.com