



Our cycling tours enable you to follow the River Loire between Saumur and Villandry (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), visit famous Chateaux and experience towns synonymous with some of the Loire's best wines such as Saumur & Bourgueil.

Using our extensive knowledge of the area and experience, we have created flexible tours that give you the time to take in the sights and soak up the atmosphere.



Our Location

Day 1 "Lakes & Chateaux"

After breakfast, you receive your bicycle, helmet and other equipment and receive an orientation on the bikes, the area and the week's tours.

The first tour follows cycle paths and passes two privately owned chateaux at Breil and Gizeux. Well off the beaten track, these chateaux will give you a unique insight into the sheer number of and variety of chateaux to be found in the Loire Valley and provide an interesting comparison with the far more famous chateaux you see later in the week. The tour also enables you to cycle around the lake-land nature reserve at Rillé. All this cycling is punctuated by a light lunch back with us at Gue de Ray.

Day 2 "Vines, Wines & Markets"

A morning riding through forests and rolling vineyards to the wine town of Bourgueil, where it's the weekly outdoor market.

Opportunities aplenty here for some market shopping and lunch from one of the stalls or restaurants in this town made wealthy by the local wines.

Then there is the thousand year old abbey to explore and a choice to extend your cycle tour through the vineyards to the river Loire – its optional and only for those wanting to clock up the miles!

All the routes back enable you to stop and sample the local wines and experience the wine museum at the Cave du Pays de Bourgueil.



Bourgueil's vineyards

Day 3 "The Loire Chateaux"

What makes the Loire so famous. Today's tour takes you through hunting forest, tree covered river valleys and small hamlets to the ancient town of Langeais with its impressive 11th Century fortress guarding the crossing of the river Loire.



The Loire Valley cycle-path

In the afternoon you can choose from a selection of routes and cycle to the chateaux of Villandry, Ussé or Azay-le-Rideau, or all three depending on your thirst for cycling!

All the afternoon routes return you back to Langeais for a pick-up, which takes you and your bicycle back to Gue de Ray by minibus.

Day 4 "Rural Anjou"

A day of cycling, away from the famous tourist attractions of the previous day.

The cycling takes in a country trail through an un-spoilt rural landscape, pretty hamlets, small manor houses, old water mills and still more hidden chateaux!

At the halfway point we have found you a great restaurant in the small town of Mouliherme, to partake in the lunchtime 'Menu Ouvrier'.



Azay-le-Rideau

Day 5 "Saumur"

A morning heading south before crossing La Loire west of Saumur, just beyond the artist town of Candès St Martin and the Chateau Montsoreau.

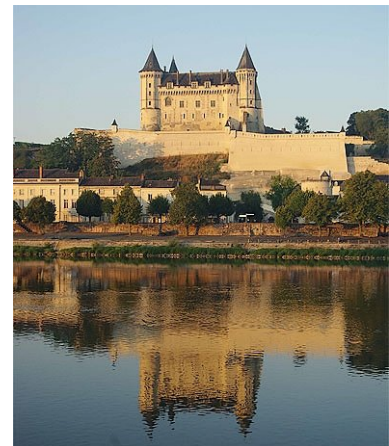
In the afternoon you have the flexibility to choose from two routes to Saumur.

The first route takes you directly to Saumur via the 'Loire a Velo' cycleway, past mushroom caves and Troglodyte dwellings, through vineyards and leaving ample time to explore Saumur itself, visiting Combière's distillery, the sparkling wine houses, the citadel or just enjoying the town's lively atmosphere.

The second route enables you to cycle via Montsoreau and Candès St Martin to the Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud, where English kings of the Middle Ages are entombed.

From the Abbaye it is a route through the vineyards of Saumur Champigny back to Saumur.

At the end of the day we again provide a pickup from Saumur back to base at Gue de Ray.



The Chateau at Saumur