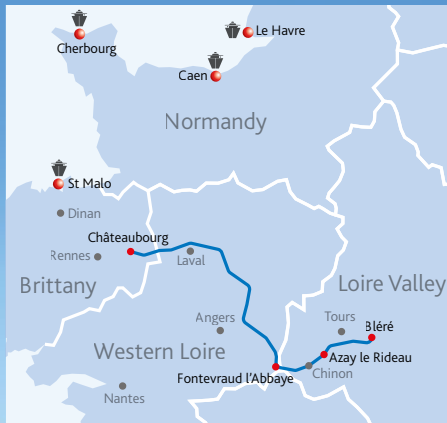


Châteaux of the Loire

4 night tour - half board

Your itinerary

The following pages contain general information about your car or motorcycle tour and the locations where you will stay. The order in which they appear on these pages may not be the order your hotels have been confirmed for you - for your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.





Maps and guide books Included with your travel documents you will find an excellent map of France to help you plan your journeys. For route planning you may wish to go to one of the travel websites such as

Google maps, viamichelin.com or www.theaa.co.uk.

Hotel directions With your travel documents you will find an information sheet for each hotel which has been booked for you giving directions together with some further details.

Arrival Unless stated, you will be expected to arrive at each of the hotels pre-booked for you by 6pm each day. This should allow you time to have a fairly leisurely drive between hotel stops but if you find you will be arriving later than this please ring and advise the hotelier so that your room is held for you.

Extra charges Details of which meals are included at your hotels are shown on your travel documentation and on these pages. This tour includes a 3 course set menu dinner plus breakfast. All additional meals, drinks, phone calls etc must be paid for prior to departure from the hotel.

We've designed this tour to enable you to take in some of the Loire Valley's finest châteaux in this very charming region of France. There is also the opportunity to see Rennes and Fougères in Brittany during your stay in Châteaubourg.

Here we give some ideas of places to see in and around each of your overnight stops with an approximate distance and journey time, although please note these are just a rough guide based on fairly direct routes without any diversions or detours.



Hotel le Cheval Blanc, Bléré

Bléré

This small town is in an excellent position for visits to some of the most famous châteaux. Le Cheval Blanc has a fine reputation - **choose from the 'Menu 3 Plats' for your 3-course dinner.**

Château de Chenonceau - (8k) is one of the most

visited of the Loire châteaux and a definite must-see. It spans the Cher river in a fabulous setting.

Amboise - (12k) has a château overlooking the Loire - only a portion of the original building remains but it's still impressive. A walk through the town takes you to Leonardo da Vinci's home, **Château du Clos Lucé.**



Chenonceau

Loches - (25k) has an impressive citadel with some stunning Renaissance architecture surrounded by 2 kilometres of rampart walls. You can also see the home of the landscape painter Emmanuel Lansyer.

Blois - around 40 minutes from Bléré, this town has a picturesque old quarter, medieval alleys linked by flights of steps plus a modern pedestrian area. Its château has a magnificent external staircase.

Azay le Rideau

Approximately 30 minutes from Bléré. 29 miles/47k

Azay le Rideau - this village has a beautiful château which stands on an island on the river Indre. A tour of the château is recommended and also its portrait gallery with many paintings of 16thC royalty. From May to Sept the building comes to life with the son et lumière show, Les Imaginaires.

Langeais - (10k, just across the Loire) has yet another château, this one is particularly well restored with a fully working drawbridge, immaculately kept gardens and is floodlit at night.

Tours - (25k) is the largest city in the region, known for its wines as well as reputedly where the most perfect French is spoken. One of the best places to head for is Place Plumereau in the old quarter. This lovely old square has pavement cafés, half timbered houses, cobbled streets and the Gothic cathedral and Basilica are not far away.



Hotel des Châteaux, Azay le Rideau

Choose from the 3-course Menu 3 Plats at Hotel des Châteaux



Azay le Rideau

Fontevraud l'Abbaye

Approximately 40 minutes from Azay le Rideau. 27 miles/43k



Fontevraud l'Abbaye - as the name suggests has an abbey (dating back 900 years) and is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. Full of history and the resting place of 3 French monarchs, the recently restored abbey is on a huge scale and makes a fascinating visit.

Montsoreau - (4k) this village has been awarded one of the 'most beautiful in France' awards, with a castle in a superb

Choose from the 3-course Menu du Chef at Hostellerie la Croix Blanche

setting overlooking the confluence of the Loire and Vienne rivers.

Chinon - (21k) is surrounded by vineyards and has a beautiful, recently restored château, a fine tapestry collection and picturesque cobbled streets. It's also known for its fine red wine.

Saumur - (15k) is the home of the French Cavalry and the beautifully turned out black horses may often be seen here - an annual display of the world famous Cadre Noir takes place in July. Saumur's elegant turreted château (open to visitors) is in a picturesque site above the



Loire and overlooks the historic old town. This is also a great centre for high quality sparkling wines so a visit to one of the producers where you can taste and buy is interesting and enjoyable.

In and around Châteaubourg

Approximately 2½ hours from Fontevraud. 127 miles/205k

Your Logis hotel, the Ar Milin, is on the edge of a superb 5-hectare woodland park crossed by the river Vilaine, with a multitude of wildlife including birds, butterflies and fish - a place to relax after some busy days visiting châteaux!

Choose from the Menu de Saison for your 3 course dinner.

Vitré - (15k) is very attractive with its walled town, some fantastic timbered buildings and a fairytale turreted castle. Once a town of great importance, during the 13thC this was where the Breton government occasionally assembled while Rennes was ravaged by plague.

Rennes - (21k) a university city and the capital of Brittany with an old town of charming half timbered buildings as well as a wealth of art and culture. There's also an excellent market held 5 days a week.

Fougères - (37k) has an impressive 11thC castle which is one of the oldest in Europe. The town itself which sits on the border of Brittany and Normandy has a lovely medieval quarter to visit.



Hotel Ar Milin, Châteaubourg



Vitré

Approximate driving distances and times to/from ports

Bléré

St Malo - 223 miles/358k. 3 hours 20

Roscoff - 311 miles/501k. 4 hours 40

Cherbourg - 260 miles/418k. 3 hours 48

Caen - 192 miles/309k. 2 hours 47

Le Havre - 214 miles/344k. 3 hours 25

Châteaubourg

St Malo - 57 miles/92k. 1 hour 6

Roscoff - 144 miles/232k. 2 hours 26

Cherbourg - 140 miles/226k. 2 hours 21

Caen - 118 miles/191k. 1 hour 56

Le Havre - 167 miles/269k. 2 hours 40



St Malo