



FRANCE

WALKING HOLIDAY - LOIRE VALLEY (TOUR CODE: 11702)

STARTS AND ENDS

Blois to
Chenonceaux

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Mar 2023 - 31 Oct 2023

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Walk & Hike

TRAVEL STYLE

Active Holiday Packages

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site: the Loire Valley offers so many chateaux that a visitor can't possibly see them all in one trip!

Highlights

- **Hike at your own pace** (Self-guided), stopping when you see something truly remarkable or if you simply want to rest and recharge.
- A **detailed Road Book** allows you to travel freely with all the information you need for your trip! It boasts colour maps, highlighted routes, touristic information, orientation points to reach hotels, and easy to follow step by step directions!
- Explore the town of **Blois**, built on a hill overlooking the Loire River and its **Royal Chateau de Blois**
- Discover the famous **Royal Chateau of Chambord** boasting a double-helix open staircase that is the centerpiece of the castle!
- **The Chateau of Cheverny**, which was built in the first part of the 17th Century, is a prime example of classical style, distinguished by an extraordinarily symmetrical architecture!
- **Try some chocolate** at *Chocolaterie Marc Vauché*, in the village of **Bracieux**, and you can also visit the museum.
- Wine tasting at **Les Caves Duhard** in Amboise

On this walking tour starting from Blois, you will travel past the picturesque city of Amboise. Visit numerous castles and historical sites including the famous chateaux de Blois, Chambord, Chaumont, Amboise and Chenonceau! On your way you will walk along the Loire River and through many beautiful villages of the Loire Valley. The level of this hiking tour is quite casual so you can enjoy the beauty of the Valley while walking.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

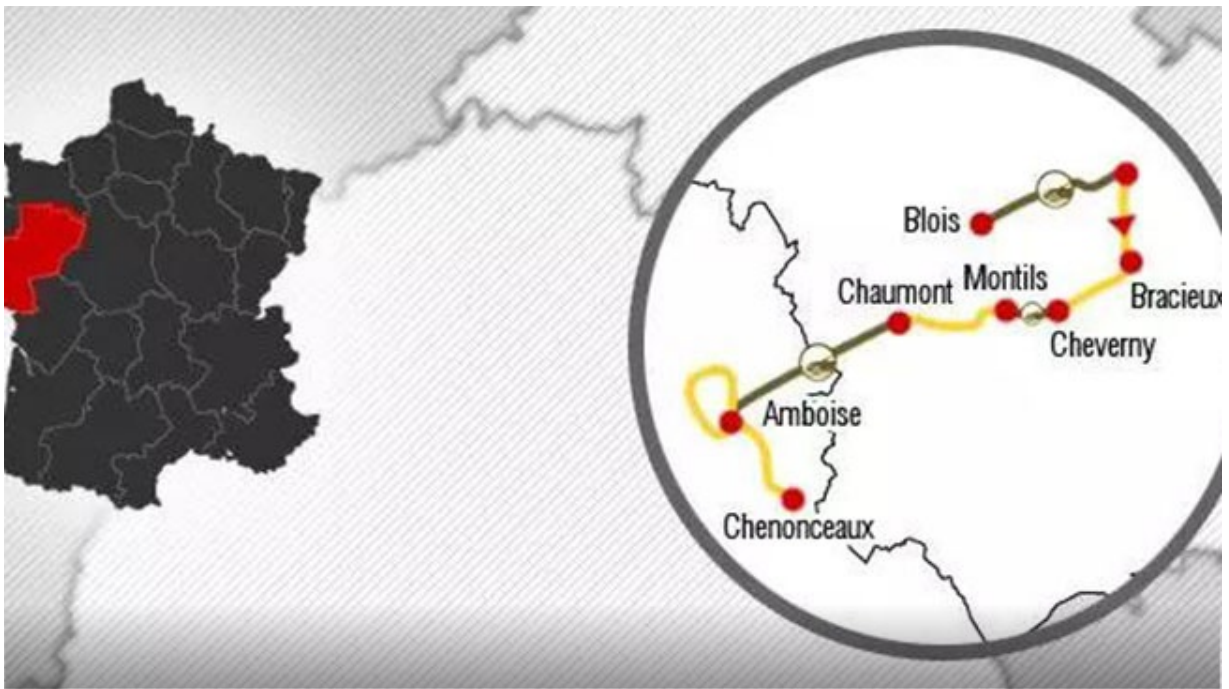
- 1 night in Blois at Hotel Mercure Blois Centre - 4*
- 1 night in Bracieux at Hotel de la Bonneheure - 2*
- 1 night in Ouchamps at Le Relais des Landes - 4*
- 2 nights in Amboise - Le Clos D'Amboise - 4*
- 1 night in Chenonceaux at Le Bon Laboureur - 4*
- 9 meals included - 6 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Wine tasting at Les Caves Ambacia (Duhard)
- Orientation in person with local guide
- Detailed ROAD BOOK, including details maps, touristic information, step by step itinerary and cue sheets
- 1 GPS for every 1-3 people
- All luggage transfers
- Comprehensive trip literature
- Technical and emergency support available at all times

ITINERARY

Map Loire Valley Walking Tour

Average / Day Distance : 10.50 Km

Elevation gain : 81.00 Metres



Day 1

Blois

Arrive in Blois

Arrival in Blois, famous for its Royal Renaissance Chateau. Blois is a short train ride from Paris and has plenty to offer for your first night: pedestrian streets, 18th century stone bridge, Saint Louis Cathedral, shopping and restaurants. Since you are spending the night in Blois, do not forget to check if there is a Light and Sound show tonight at the Chateau (provided in English on Wednesdays!).

Overnight in Blois at **Mercure Blois Centre**



BLOIS CASTLE

Day 2

Blois The Royal Château of Chambord Village of Bracieux

Distance 1 : 9 Km

Elevation gain 1 : 54 Metres

This morning, your local guide will meet you at your hotel where you will have your orientation meeting. Then we will transfer you to one of the most recognizable Chateaux in France: **Chateau de Chambord**. You can visit the Chateau, walk around the park, and then start your hike from Chambord to Bracieux through the forest. Stay in a charming hotel in Bracieux.

Chateau de Chambord: is one of the most recognizable castles in the world because of its very distinct French Renaissance architecture that blends traditional medieval forms with classical Italian structures. One of the architectural highlights is the spectacular double-helix open staircase that is the centrepiece of the castle. The two helices ascend the three floors without ever meeting, illuminated from above by a sort of light house at the highest point of the castle. There are suggestions that Leonardo da Vinci may have designed the staircase, but this has not been confirmed.

Overnight in Bracieux at **Hotel de la Bonneheure**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **3**

Village of Bracieux The Château de Cheverny Ouchamps

Distance 1 : 14 Km

Elevation gain 1 : 85 Metres

This hike will take you to Cheverny, another famous town because of its Chateau. **The Chateau de Cheverny** is an original jewel among the more famous monuments that stretch along the Loire Valley. The Renaissance style did not find its place in Cheverny, which is built in the purest Louis XIII style, distinguished by an extraordinarily symmetrical architecture.

Cheverny is primarily known for being an inspiration to Hergé, cartoonist and author of Tintin, who drew the castle in his comics as the Chateau de Moulinsart, home to Captain Haddock.

We transfer you at 3pm to your hotel in Ouchamps.

Overnight in Ouchamps at **Hotel Le Relais des Landes**.

Breakfast, Dinner



CHÂTEAU DE CHEVERNY

Day 4

Ouchamps Chaumont sur Loire Amboise

Distance 1 : 9 Km

Elevation gain 1 : 35 Metres

In the morning, start your hike from the hotel and cross Chaumont sur Loire village, rich in history and a perfect place for walking along the riverbanks. Each year the International Garden Festival is held in the castle park. Chaumont sur Loire is also known for its feudal castle dominating the valley.

After your visit of Chaumont, we will transfer you to Amboise, where you will stay tonight. Amboise has a lot to offer and plenty to visit: The Royal Castle, which introduced Italian-style architecture in the 15th and 16th centuries; Clos Luce: last residence of Leonardo Da Vinci, where you can see some of his many projects in different fields.

Overnight in Amboise at **Hotel Clos d'Amboise**.

Breakfast



LOIRE VALLEY AND AMBOISE

Amboise

Option 1 : 6 Km Option 2 : 10 Km

You have 2 hiking possibilities today to discover Amboise in details. Amboise has a lot to offer and plenty to visit: The Royal Castle, which introduced Italian-style architecture in the 15th and 16th centuries; Clos Luce: last residence of Leonardo Da Vinci, where you can see some of his many projects in different fields.

CAVES DUHARD - AMBOISE WINE TASTING- (INCLUDED)

This evening a wine tasting is included in Amboise with a local wine maker. He keeps some aged bottles of wine; you might find your birthday bottle there! The wine tasting comes with local cheese.

Overnight in Amboise at **Hotel Clos d'Amboise**.

Breakfast



Amboise Chateau of Chenonceau Chenonceaux

Distance 1 : 15 Km

Elevation gain 1 : 150 Metres

Start walking in the forest of Amboise and through farm villages. Then continue your walk to the Cher River and the famous **Chateau of Chenonceau**, built by Henry II in the 16th century over the Cher River; and then improved by Catherine de Medicis.

A gourmet dinner awaits you at your hotel tonight!

Overnight in Chenonceaux at **Auberge du Bon Laboureur**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **7**

Chenonceau

Departure from Chenonceau.

You can take your time getting started in the morning to have breakfast and depart at your leisure. Transfer back to Tours TGV station on your own.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

LOCAL CURRENCY

EUR

Our hotels or B&B provide amenities that are ideal for active vacations, located in easy walking distance to downtowns, restaurants and sightseeing. We prioritise family-owned, authentic accommodations over large chains. If the hotel advertised on our website is full, we will book you in another hotel similar in category.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package