



FRANCE

ESSENTIAL LOIRE VALLEY (TOUR CODE: 11961)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Tours

TRAVEL PERIODS

18 Apr 23 - 25 Oct 23

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Discover the famous Loire Valley including Renaissance Castles, Historical Towns, & Stunning Landscapes.

Highlights

- Take a Guided Tour of **Chateau Clos Lucé**, where **Leonardo Da Vinci** spent the last three years of his life and visit his Invention Room, where his most spectacular machine models are on display
- Experience a **wine tasting in a Cellar Cave** from the XVth Century, three generations of connoisseurs carefully selected and aged local wines, aiming to give a true expression of the "**Terroir**"
- Discover the "**Old Tours**", with charming pedestrian-only streets and numerous 15th- and 16th-Century timber-framed houses, the famous *Place Plumereau*, *Charlemagne Tower*, *Saint-Martin Collegiate Church*, and the new *Saint-Martin Basilica*.

With this journey through the Loire Valley you will not only visit the most gorgeous Chateaux of the area such as Chateau de Chambord, Cheverny & Chenonceau but also experience some wine tastings at an organic winery of the Loire Valley.



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

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Tours at Hotel de l'Univers - 4*
- Breakfast included on day 2 - 3
- Full day Small Group Tour (max 8 pax) to Chateaux of Blois, Cheverny & Chambord, Wine tasting
- Full day Small Group Tour (max 8 pax) to Chateaux of Chenonceau, Amboise & Clos Luce, Wine tasting

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Tours Blois Cheverny Chambord Tours

Meet your English speaking driver guide at 9.00am at Tours Tourism Office and start your full day small group **tour to Chateaux of Blois, Cheverny & Chambord** with a wine tasting session in Cheverny.

First stop is at **Chateau of Blois for a guided tour**. The chateau of Blois is unique by its combination of 4 styles: Medieval, Gothic, Renaissance and Classical. Home of Kings Louis XII and François I, it keeps the memory of a tragic historical event.

Then, proceed to a wine tasting at a local winery. The "Cheverny" appellation produces elegant red wines from pinot noir and gamay as well as fruity white wines from chardonnay and sauvignon. You will enjoy this moment to taste a wine for real connoisseurs: the "Cour Cheverny Appellation", a stunning white wine made from a grape called Romorantin, imported by King François I into the Loire Valley.

Free time for Lunch (own expenses).

After lunch, continue with a **guided tour of the Chateau of Cheverny**. It has been owned by the same family since the XIIIth century. Thanks to one of the most beautiful furniture in the Loire Valley, The Marquis Hurault de Vibraye, that succeeded in giving warmth and life to his chateau. The chateau, which led to the creation of Moulinsart in the famous comic book Tintin, is also famous for the tradition of the horse-back hunt and its impressive pack of 100 dogs. You may have a chance to witness the spectacular daily event of "the dogs' soup".

Drive to the Estate of Chambord, a national game reserve as large as the town of Paris. **The Château de Chambord** is a unique monument by its architecture and proportions. Leonardo da Vinci probably took part in the conception of the project. With more than 400 rooms and its double spiral staircase, Chambord is a highlight of the Loire Valley. After the visit, your guide will drive you back to Tours to drop you off and that will be the end of services.

Overnight stay in Tours at **Hotel de l'Univers** or similar.

Breakfast



Day 2

Tours Amboise Tours

After breakfast, meet your English speaking driver guide at your hotel, and start your full day small group **tour to Chateaux of Chenonceau, Amboise & Clos Luce, Wine tasting.**

Arriving in the Loire Valley, you'll start your day tour touring the **Château de Chenonceau**. The "Chateau des Dames", bridge built across the Cher is famous for the prominent women who lived in it (Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de Medicis...) and for the beauty of its Renaissance Gardens. Enjoy a **tour and Wine Tasting in a Cellar Cave** from the XVIth Century, three generations of connoisseurs carefully selected and aged local wines for long periods, aiming to give a true expression of the Terroir. Situated in front of the Loire River, picturesque site is in the middle of the Loire By Bike route.

Lunch at leisure in Amboise (own expenses).

After lunch, you will tour **the Royal Castle of Amboise**, residence of Charles the 8th and young François d'Angoulême, (the future Francois the 1st). Here you will discover perfect examples of the transition from Gothic to Renaissance styling, as well as the Saint Hubert Chapel which shelters the final resting place of Leonardo da Vinci.

The tour would not be complete without taking you to meet The Genius in his **Chateau du Clos Lucé**, only a few short steps away from the Royal Castle. This is where da Vinci spent the last three years of his life and passed there in 1519. After touring his bedroom, office, reception room and kitchen, stand in awe at the Invention Room, where models of Leonardo's most spectacular machines are on display.

Drop off in Tours at the end of the day.

Overnight stay in Tours at **Hotel de l'Univers** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **3**

Tours

After breakfast, check out of your hotel. End of the service.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

LOCAL CURRENCY

EUR

- Adult tour only, no children accepted under the age of 18.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

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