



Chateau de Chaumont

Great Taste of Loire hiking

Four-day immersion in UNESCO'S Loire Valley

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Explore the finest section of France's largest river.
- ☞ High-level of comfort - three and four-star hotels
- ☞ Visit four chateaux and the home of Leonardo da Vinci.
- ☞ Marvel at the ornate gardens of Chenonceau and Chaumont
- ☞ Immerse yourself in the 'Garden of France' and a renowned wine-growing region - let us be your guide!

Fact File

- ✓ 4-night, self-guided, inn-to-inn walking tour in the central Loire Valley.
- ✓ Graded as a light challenge, averaging 9 miles or 15 kms per day.
- ✓ Convenient access and departure by train.
- ✓ Tour starts in Blois and finishes in Chenonceau.
- ✓ Start any day from 15th April to 8th October.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout, plus two morning transfers to shorten the day's walking.



Theme

Taste of Loire hiking comprises a short, total immersion into life along the much-lauded Loire Valley in north-western France. France's longest river, you enjoy light walking through UNESCO'S 'Garden of France' whilst marvelling at some of the Hexagon's finest architectural treasures.



Taste of Loire hiking commences in Blois and finishes in Chenonceau. You also spend a night in Chaumont and Amboise. In four days you get to visit four Renaissance chateaux plus the home of Leonardo da Vinci. Enjoy The Loire's unique and multi-faceted heritage - ornate gardens, classic Renaissance architecture and a resplendent viticulture.



Chateau de Chenonceau

You enjoy half-day walks that enable you to spend plenty of time visiting the castles and other manifestations of cultural heritage in your overnight resting place. Your day-time activities are complemented by the very best of accommodation at every step of the way. That means three, fine 3-star hotels and a fabulous 4-star. We include three evening meals and allow you to choose your own restaurant in the historic centre of Amboise, where options abound.

Your first two days walking from Blois to Amboise are along the former GR3 trail largely associated with the left (or southern) bank of La Loire. Waymarked in red and white flecks, and indicated intermittently as the GR655, this demarcates the Via Turonensis (or the Tours / Paris route), one of the four northern pilgrimage routes to Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle in France. The most serene and oldest route, it was historically the most frequented.

Your third day's walking, from Amboise to Chenonceau, sees you following a Petite Randonnée trail between the Loire and the Cher rivers. You get the chance to follow some of the legendary allées or historic linear trails along which the locals have walked since time immemorial.

Taste of Loire hiking empowers you to experiencing the unique heritage of the Loire Valley as very few others get to enjoy it - on foot, without a car or bike. Guaranteed to please, we then look forward to welcoming you back to Part Two of the Loire experience - Tours to Saumur.



Taste of Loire hiking: four-night tour itinerary

[All distances, times and elevation figures are approximate] ¹

Day 1 Arrive in Blois by train.

Early arrival recommended so as to maximize time in the Chateau Royal and enjoy a walk around the adjacent gardens - followed by a saunter around town and your first look at The Loire river.

Night in Blois and dinner in your hotel.

Day 2 Blois to Chaumont-sur-Loire.

[10½ miles-17 kms, 4½ hrs].

You are collected from your hotel and transferred a short distance out of town for your first hike along The GR655 as it wends its way along the left bank of the Loire to Chaumont via the Beuvron tributary - not to mention your first experience of Loire Valley wood-walking.

Night in Chaumont and dinner in your hotel.

Day 3 Chaumont to Amboise.

[10½ miles-17 kms, 4½ hrs].

A short transfer out of town and we climb to the giddy heights of 112 ms and enter the department of Indre-et-Loire before descending to l'Amasse, a small Loire tributary at Souvigny. Then its a mix of copse, wood and lost hamlets before arrival in Amboise. As well as the Chateau Royal and the Chapelle St Hubert, you can visit Le Clos Lucé - home of Leonardo da Vinci.

Night in Amboise and dinner in a restaurant of your own choosing - options abound.



How the French 'other half' live

Day 4 Amboise to Chenonceau.
[8 miles-13 kms, 4 hours]

A charming, bucolic hike through the Amboise forest en route to arguably the quaintest chateau and gardens of the whole week - with access secured via walking a series of the symmetrical allées, so common in these walking-oriented parts.

Night in Chenonceau and dinner in your hotel.

Day 5 End of Taste of Loire hiking tour.

Breakfast followed by check out and onward journey by train. Bonne continuation and we hope to see you next year

**What's
Included**

- ✓ 4 nights' superior hotel accommodation, incl. local taxes.
- ✓ 4 breakfasts and 3 evening meals
- ✓ Hiking Insight Notes that empower & make orientation easy plus 1: 50,000 maps. The paths are very well way marked and we consider this scale map as entirely adequate for this uncomplicated trail.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout plus two morning transfers²
- ✓ Comprehensive and themed dossier, featuring the chateaux and wines of La Loire.
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 Native English support from 8 'till late.

Not included

- ⊗ Remaining meals and all drinks and extras - lunch and dinner options are listed in your dossier and walking notes.
- ⊗ 1: 25,000 scale maps: three of these would be required to cover the tour, which we are happy to supply at a supplement. Please enquire.
- ⊗ Personal expenses
- ⊗ Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues, incl. the chateaux, home of Leonardo de Vinci and any wine-related visits.
- ⊗ Hiking, personal and travel insurances
- ⊗ Single rooms - unless booked at the single-person rate
- ⊗ Travel to and from the tour start and finish points.



Superior hotels

“Carefully-selected accommodation based on knowing our partners well.”

We have visited and/or stayed in all the accommodation along the trail in order to select and offer you the best accommodation that this Loire holiday can offer at every step of the way.

Your **superior hotel accommodation** allows you to experience the trail by day whilst focussing the evenings on you, your family or friends. You set the social agenda in the welcoming environment of your hotel bar, restaurant or room.

Hotels are on the trail, the average standard is 3-star and they offer high levels of comfort indeed. Amboise has a variety of welcoming accommodation and we have chosen a centrally-located four-star hotel du charme for your delectation.

This is a very popular tourist area, attracting visitors from all over the world and throughout the season. Early booking is thus advised.



Access & Departure

How to get to Blois

Arrival:

- By rail: 1½ to 2 hrs journey from Paris and 5 hrs from Lyon.

How to leave Chenonceau

- By rail: approx. 2½ hrs from Paris and 5 hrs from Lyon. Option to depart from Amboise SNCF if preferred. Requires a supplementary taxi transfer on departure morning from Chenonceau. Ask for details. Please also see: <https://www.sncf.com/en> or <https://www.rome2rio.com/>



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- ❼ 7/7 telephone support in native English and from 8 till 8
- ❽ We transport your luggage from hotel to hotel - you are 'enlightened' in more ways than one!
- ❾ Peace of mind: your money is safe when booking with us - all passengers are fully insured for the initial deposit and balance, irrespective of the means of payment, in the unlikely event of insolvency.
- ❿ Anglo-French family business that tries harder!



The Chateau de Blois



La Loire at Amboise

2024 prices:

Per person rate in double or twin-bedded room#:

Taste of Loire hiking [superior hotels]

£735.00 Pounds Sterling or €895.00 Euros

- **Extra nights: On Request**

Booking

Email, phone or Skype us and we will email you everything you need to reserve your tour. And we are available to LiveChat on our website!

Notes

¹ We reserve the right to alter parts of the above programme for the benefit of safety and the quality of the overall experience.

² This covers one piece of luggage per person up to 20 kgs in weight. Supplements apply for overweight luggage and we accept no responsibility for lost valuables. We advise you not to bring computers and business-related equipment.

Tour prices do not include entrance fees to chateaux, Gardens or other cultural visits

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