

LOIRE CASTLES DAY (FROM PARIS)



Only 1 hour and a half away from Paris, The Loire Valley is known as the Garden of France and the Cradle of the French Language. It is also noteworthy for the quality of its architectural heritage, in its historic towns such as Amboise or Blois but in particular for its world-famous castles, such as the Chateau de Blois, Cheverny and Chenonceau. Your drive will be made of an outstanding cultural landscape of great beauty, containing historic towns and villages, great architectural monuments, its chateaux and fine wines.

DESCRIPTION



CHAMBORD

Chambord is the largest of the Loire Valley castles, located at the heart of a 5440 hectare park, this castle was used by the gentry of the period for hunting. Its moat, surrounding walls and central Keep with four towers, expresses the strength of French architecture.... Ordered in 1519 by François I, who named it «my home», the castle wasn't completed until 5 years after the death of the King.



WHAT TO SEE IN CHAMBORD

- . A boat ride on the canal around Chambord
- . Bicycle rides in the Chambord park
- . Half-day horse riding tours of the park may be reserved

CITY AND CASTLE OF BLOIS

Built like an amphitheatre on the right bank of the Loire, dominated by the silhouettes of the castle, the Cathedral, the Basilique and the spires of St. Nicolas, Blois is a representative of Ligerienne cities moulded by the Renaissance. Blois has a dynamic culture and important history involving the kings and queens of France (Jeanne d'Arc set out from Blois to mount a successful campaign against the English at Orléans).

WHAT TO SEE IN BLOIS

- . This prestigious site is known as one of the "Most beautiful villages in France" and is home to the Cathédrale d'Images (Cathedral of Images). In 2009, a show at the Cathedral pays wonderful tribute to the artist.

CHENONCEAU

Built over the river Cher, with its unique beauty reflected in the water, the castle of Chenonceau is one of the jewels of the Loire Valley. During over 400 years of its history, various famous ladies have resided in the castle and have been a major influence present-day charm of Chenonceau (Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de Médicis...).

WHAT TO SEE IN CHENONCEAU

- . Magnificent gardens of Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Médicis

CHEVERNY

Renaissance style did not find its place in Cheverny, which is built in the purest Louis XIII classical style, distinguished by an extraordinarily symmetrical architecture. Cheverny, which was built in the first part of the 17th Century, is a prime example of this style. Its delicate features also stand out through the perfect whiteness of the stones, from the Bourré quarries in the Cher Valley.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GASTRONOMIC RESTAURANT

Le Médicis in Blois

Fresh flowers, pink tissues, big glazed terrace with a view of the François Ier avenue, "cuisine" of Quality and a warm welcome are some of the Priorities of "Le Médicis".

GASTRONOMIC RESTAURANT

Le Relais de Bracieux

Bernard Robin has chosen to showcase his culinary creations in this picturesque residence. The cellar is a treasure trove of local vintages, the service is impeccable and the hospitality unparalleled.

SUGGESTION

CAVES DE MONMOUSSEAU

The most beautiful cellars of "vinification" a lover can imagine. Settled in an ancient Tuffeau's stone quarry, long of fifteen kilometres, at Montrichard, from few kilometres of Château de Chenonceaux. Monmousseau's family is settled since 1886. Ideal conditions of conservation allow a slow evolution of great sparkling wines, pride of Monmousseau House. Her wine quality is regularly rewarded.

