

2008



# La Loire à Vélo®

*Loire Valley*



Comité Régional du Tourisme



Région



Centre

# ALONGSIDE THE LOIRE RIVER



The 'Loire à Vélo' trail now stretches over more than 600 kilometres and will soon be offering 800 kilometres of secure, signposted tracks alongside the Loire River and its tributaries.

By bike and at your own pace, discover the Loire Valley, France's largest UNESCO-listed site.

With the 'Loire à Vélo', you will enjoy an exceptional trip through 2,000 years of the history of France:

Chambord, Chenonceau, Chaumont-sur-Loire, Villandry... but also Orléans, Blois and Tours – all prestigious towns and sites offering offbeat encounters in the Loire Valley region!

On the European level the 'Loire à Vélo' trail is part of the future Euro cycle river route ('Eurovélo 6') which will run from Nantes to Budapest over almost 2,400 kilometres.



## IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

**You are in the heart of the Loire Valley!**

Whether you love **NATURE** or **CHATEAUX** and whether you are an enthusiast of good food or sports, the Loire Valley is brimming over with holiday ideas. As you draw up your schedule, give in to the temptation of the thousand and one attractions in our region! Make your trip a **GOURMET** one by tasting our prestigious wines and delicious local produce; or get **ACTIVE IN THE HEART OF NATURE** – on the water, in the air, on foot or by bike – with the **LOIRE** as your companion, that river with its ever so distinctive character.



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# THE TEMPTATIONS of the Loire Valley



## Surprises in store at not-to-be-missed sites

Follow the river and discover the famous Loire Châteaux: Renaissance castles, medieval fortresses, and an architectural heritage listed as World Heritage by UNESCO.

Daydream as you gaze at the fairytale setting of Chambord, the purity of Chenonceau, the proud silhouette of Château d'Amboise overlooking the Loire, or the inventiveness of the gardens at the Festival of Chaumont-sur-Loire.

Discover the royal river by taking a stroll across the famous Briare canal-bridge that straddles the Loire.



## In search of the real countryside...

Which Loire is for you? The "untamed" Loire included on the UNESCO World Heritage list for its cultural landscapes, or the Loire with its dreamlike quality of light which has inspired painters, poets and writers over the centuries?

Have you ever bivouacked on an island just two hours away from Paris? Do you know what a "toue" is?

Have you ever searched for a chequered lily?

The whole region with its river and tributaries will reveal exciting discoveries to look at, listen to and smell.



## And man-made masterpieces

In the parks and gardens of the area all your senses will be awakened. You are guided by aromas: the heady scent of roses, the odour of the box-trees which form the outline of our Renaissance gardens, or the smell of the herbs found in our medieval gardens. All this diversity awaits you in the world-famous gardens of

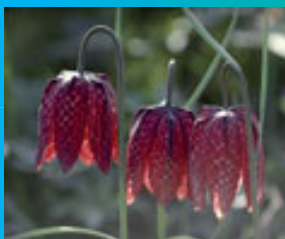
Villandry, the La Source Floral Park in Orléans where the Loiret, a tributary of the Loire, has its source, or in Meung-sur-Loire where the gardens of Roquelin are a riot of roses bearing enchanting names. These little corners of nature tamed by several generations of enthusiasts will bring you a sense of peace with their balance between space and colour and with the gentle lapping of water in their fountains and streams.



## Make the most of the moment

Renowned wines, famous local specialities, exceptional crafts, towns and villages of character, charming accommodation: the Loire Valley region is brimming over with those things that make life more pleasant and journeys more interesting.

If you enjoy your food and are curious by nature – in other words an epicurean – the Loire Valley will offer you a pure concentrate of delights!





# 'Accueil Vélo' ACCOMMODATION

'La Loire à Vélo' offers specific accommodation with services adapted to cyclists:

**A network of accommodation sites with the 'Accueil Vélo' accreditation**


Grouped together to comply with a specific quality standard, a number of owners and managers of accommodation units have adapted their establishments to the particular requirements of cycle tourism.

These sites (hotels, campsites, guest houses etc) are all located close to the 'Loire à Vélo' itinerary or other complementary cycling tracks such as 'Pays des Châteaux à Vélo'.

**Undertakings of the 'Accueil Vélo' accommodation sites:**

- Documentation and advice for you to enjoy your holiday to the full,
- Weather information,
- Transfer of your baggage to the next accommodation site (booking required),
- Suitable solutions to wash and dry your clothing (washing machine or sink and tumble drier or aired room),
- Hire of bikes on-site or from local hire or repair firms (booking required in some cases),
- Hire of bike accessories on-site or nearby,
- Locked, secure bike park,
- Repair kit for minor incidents,
- Solutions for cleaning bikes (water jet, brush),
- Breakfasts adapted to physical effort, and lunch hampers provided (booking required).

## Hire of bikes



Professional hire and repair firms are also to be found along the 'Loire à Vélo' itinerary. These cycling professionals welcome you and undertake to offer you a special service and provisions adapted to your needs:

- High-quality bikes,
- Repairs and provision of accessories (helmets, anti-theft devices, puncture aerosol, etc),
- Documentation and advice for the organisation of your trip,
- Suitable opening times,
- Weather forecasts,
- etc...

*find  
all these  
professionnals*

*on [www.loire-a-velo.fr](http://www.loire-a-velo.fr)*

Remember you can travel light, since many of them also offer the transport of bikes as well as baggage transfers.



# DOCUMENTATION

There are several documents at your disposal to help you organise your cycling excursion or holiday

**GUIDEBOOKS** presenting a 'Loire à Vélo' itinerary in detail from Orléans to the Atlantic, as well as tourist variants (Chambord, Chenonceau, Azay-le-Rideau...). On sale in bookshops, supermarkets and the usual circuits, these guidebooks give suggestions for specific cycling services and facilities along the itineraries, as well as all the practical and tourist information you will need to organise your cycling trips.



FREE LOCAL-SCALE itinerary maps that you can ask for or download on [www.loire-a-velo.fr](http://www.loire-a-velo.fr)



## TURNKEY PACKAGES

Several incoming agencies and local 'Loisirs Accueil' departments can offer turnkey breaks allowing you to cycle your way along the banks of the Loire free of any constraints.

If you want to travel light and leave the rest to an experienced firm, give in to the temptation of a package trip: accommodation, baggage transport, bike hire, maps and itineraries will all be proposed by these cycle tourism professionals.

You can find them on their websites

Itineraries

In Loir-et-Cher: [www.randovelo.fr](http://www.randovelo.fr)

In Loiret: [www.reservation-loiret.com](http://www.reservation-loiret.com)

In Cher: [www.loisirs-accueil-cher.com](http://www.loisirs-accueil-cher.com)

In Touraine: [www.welcometouraine.com](http://www.welcometouraine.com)

## useful contacts

### LOCAL TOURIST BOARDS

#### ◎ CHER

Maison Départementale du  
Tourisme  
5 rue de Séraucourt  
18000 BOURGES  
Tél. (0033)2 48 48 00 10  
[www.berrylecher.com](http://www.berrylecher.com)

#### ◎ LOIR-ET-CHER

5 rue de la Voûte du Château  
BP 149  
41005 BLOIS CEDEX  
Tél. (0033)2 54 57 00 41  
[www.coeur-val-de-loire.com](http://www.coeur-val-de-loire.com)

#### ◎ TOURAINE

30 rue de la Préfecture  
BP 3217  
37032 TOURS CEDEX  
Tél. (0033)02 47 31 47 48  
[www.tourism-touraine.com](http://www.tourism-touraine.com)

#### ◎ LOIRET

8 rue d'Escures  
45000 ORLEANS  
Tél. (0033)2 38 78 04 04  
[www.tourismeloiret.com](http://www.tourismeloiret.com)

### TOURIST OFFICES

#### ◎ Sancerre (18300)

Rue de la Croix de Bois  
Tél. (0033)2 48 54 08 21  
[www.ville-sancerre.fr](http://www.ville-sancerre.fr)

#### ◎ Amboise (37402)

Quai du Général de Gaulle – BP 233  
Tél. (0033)2 47 57 09 28  
[www.amboise-valdeleire.com](http://www.amboise-valdeleire.com)

#### ◎ Briare (45250)

1 place Charles de Gaulle  
Tél. (0033)2 38 31 24 51  
[www.briare-le-canal.com](http://www.briare-le-canal.com)

#### ◎ Tours (37042)

78/82 rue Bernard Palissy  
BP 4201  
Tél. (0033)2 47 70 37 37  
[www.ligeris.com](http://www.ligeris.com)

#### ◎ Châteauneuf-sur-Loire (45110)

3 place Aristide Briand  
Tél. (0033)2 38 58 44 79  
[www.chateauneuf-sur-loire.com](http://www.chateauneuf-sur-loire.com)

#### ◎ Villandry (37510)

OT de la Confluence – Le Potager  
Tél. (0033)2 47 50 12 66  
[www.tourisme-en-confluence.com](http://www.tourisme-en-confluence.com)

#### ◎ Orléans (45056)

2 Place de l'Etape - BP 95632  
Tél. (0033)2 38 24 05 05  
[www.tourisme-orleans.com](http://www.tourisme-orleans.com)

#### ◎ Azay-le-Rideau (37190)

4 rue du Château  
BP 5  
Tél. (0033)2 47 45 44 40  
[www.ot-paysazaylerideau.com](http://www.ot-paysazaylerideau.com)

#### ◎ Meung-sur-Loire (45130)

Moulin Massot  
7 rue des Mauves  
Tél. (0033)2 38 44 32 28  
[www.meung-sur-loire.com](http://www.meung-sur-loire.com)

#### ◎ Langeais Castelvallier (37130)

Place du 14 juillet – BP 47  
Tél. (0033)2 47 96 58 22  
[www.tourisme-langeais.com](http://www.tourisme-langeais.com)

#### ◎ Beaugency (45190)

3 place du Docteur Hyvernaud  
BP 44  
Tél. (0033)2 38 44 54 42  
[www.beaugency.fr](http://www.beaugency.fr)

#### ◎ Chinon (37501)

Place Hofheim – BP 141  
Tél. (0033)2 47 93 17 85  
[www.chinon.com](http://www.chinon.com)

#### ◎ Blois – Pays de Chambord (41006)

23 place du Château – BP 199  
Tél. (0033)2 54 90 41 41  
[www.bloispaysdechambord.com](http://www.bloispaysdechambord.com)