**Self-Guided Bicycle Tours in France: Cycling the Loire Valley of France**

**Tour Facts Sheet**

Rich in agriculture and close to Paris, the Loire Valley has long been the playground of the aristocracy of France. The legacy of castles and fine chateaux has developed since the 16th century and today attracts a large number of touring cyclists. Pedal from historic town to historic town, visiting architectural masterpieces all along the way. This legacy of castles, combined with quiet country roads and gentle terrain make for perfect cycling. This is the perfect bicycle tour for avid or recreational cyclists, families, photographers, painters, and wine lovers!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlights</th>
<th>Villandry and Usse, castles of Blois, Chambord, Chaumont, &amp; Chenonceau, vineyards of Vouvay, Tours, Clos-Luce in Amboise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Price**  | **March, April, October:**
|            | 1 690€ per person in a double room  
|            | single room supplement: 380€  
|            | Solo traveler: 2 430€  
|            | **from May to September:**
|            | 1 730€ per person in a double room  
|            | single room supplement: 460€  
|            | Solo traveler: 2 480€  |
| **Includes** | 7-night lodging, 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners; use of a quality hybrid bicycle; detailed route descriptions with cultural information; suggestions for dinners and lunches; luggage transfers; use of a GPS device (one every 2/3 people) |
| **Countries** | France |
| **Begin/End** | Tours/Blois |
| **Arrive/Depart** | Paris: Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) or Orly Airport (ORY) |
| **Total Distance** | 251-325 km (156-202 miles) |
| **Daily Distance** | 0 - 68 km (0 - 42 miles) |
| **What to Expect** | Easy rides, generally, with a few short, steep climbs out of the river valleys |
| **Rating** | 1 – [View Tour Rating Descriptions](#) |
| **Note** | You can make this a 5-day tour. Ask for details |
| **Terms** | [Terms & Conditions](#) |

Visit our website for tour dates, price and full itinerary description at [Cycleeurope.com](http://cycleeurope.com).

Do you need more information? Read our Self Guided Tour FAQ Sheet [here](#).
### Self-Guided Bicycle Tours in France:

**Cycling the Loire Valley of France**

#### Tour’s Dates:

The tour can start every day of the week.

#### Self-guided tours Collections Program:

This tour is part of our Self-Guided Collections program

Great cycling experiences abound throughout Europe! Since we cannot directly operate self-guided tours everywhere, we have used our vast experience and network in the continent to curate and offer self-guided tours on our website that are operated by select partners that we know and trust. These tours are similar in quality to those we operate directly in many ways – for example, the tour begins with an in-person briefing (in English); bicycles are provided in optimal condition, and each customer goes through a personal bike fitting at the tour start; the roadbook and step-by-step navigation instructions, as well as lodging/accommodations are of similar quality. If you have any question regarding this type of tours, please feel free to ask us!

#### Your Itinerary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1: Arrive in Saint Pierre des Corps, Tours</th>
<th>Day 2: Ride from Tours to Azay-le-Rideau</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highlights:</strong> Fit bikes and enjoy a test ride or visit Tours</td>
<td><strong>Highlights:</strong> Cycling along the Loire, Villandry and Azay-le-Rideau, the castle of Langeais</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arrive today in Saint Pierre des Corps-Tours, located only 1 hour from Paris by train and check in at your hotel, a beautiful manor house just outside Tours. Take time to rest or explore this town on the Loire River and its famous cathedral. Meet our representative for an orientation talk and bike fitting this evening at the hotel. Dinner is included tonight.

Pedal along River Cher and Loire today on your way to the famous castle of Villandry, where you will be able to explore its beautifully manicured gardens. You will then continue to the Chateau Azay-le-Rideau where you can spend some time visiting this Renaissance castle and enjoy its magical setting alongside the Indre River. Dinner is included tonight.

**Short option:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mileage options:</th>
<th>36 km or 48km (23 or 30 miles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Accommodation:**

- [Château de Beaulieu](#) Hôtel Restaurant Spa
- [Le Grand Monarque](#)

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### Day 3: Pedal from Azay-le-Rideau to Luynes

**Highlights:** Easy cycling along the Loire River, castles of Usée, Roman aqueduct

Today you'll take another wonderful journey through the magical castles of Loir Valley. Your first stop is the castle of Ussé, the inspiration for the famous story, "Sleeping Beauty." Then, you will continue on to Langeais to visit the charming village and its medieval castle. Complete your ride at Luynes, site of a wonderful castle and Roman aqueduct, across the river from the castle of Villandry. Dinner is included tonight.

**Accommodation:**
- **Domaine de Beauvois**

**Mileage:**
- 34 km or 46 km (21 or 28 miles)

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### Day 4: Cycle from Luynes to Amboise

**Highlights:** Vouvray vineyards, Amboise & Clos-Lucé

A flat ride today brings you to the town of Tours, perfect site for a morning stroll in the pedestrian area of the historical center. Continue your ride through the famous Appellation d’origine controlee vineyards of Vouvray, home to one of the most enjoyed wines of the Anjou-Saumur-Touraine region. Arrive in Amboise this afternoon to explore its castle, and to the Clos-Lucé, the nearby manor house where Leonardo da Vinci spent the last three years of his life as the guest of Francois I.

**Accommodation:**
- **Clos d’Amboise**

**Mileage:**
- 46km (28 miles)
Leonardo is presumed to have completed his Mona Lisa during this time. Dinner is included tonight.

**Day 5: Amboise loop ride to Chenonceau**

*Highlights: Castle of Chenonceau, Amboise*

A short and moderately flat ride takes you through the forests and valleys of the Amboise countryside to the enchanting castle of Chenonceau. Along the ride you’ll pass by the Parc Mini Chateaux, an amusement park great for kids. Chenonceau sits astride the Cher River, a tributary to the Loire. A flour mill occupied this site in the 15th century; the first castle was built at the beginning of the 16th, and then improved throughout the centuries especially by Catherine de Medicis. Chenonceau was a favorite of mistresses and wives of the Kings of France. Of all the Loire chateaux, it is one of the most charming. Dinner is on your own tonight.

**Short option:**

**Long option:**

**Day 6: Bicycle from Amboise to Blois**

*Highlights: Chateau of Chaumont, Fougeres and Beauregard*

Leave Amboise today for a pleasant ride through many charming tiny villages. Plan to arrive to Chateau of Chaumont for a picnic lunch and a visit of the property. Built at the turn of the 16th century on the site of two earlier castles, Chaumont commands an imposing view north across the Loire. You can then choose to ride a short option to Blois through quiet country roads or choose the longer ride option through sunflower fields and deep countryside of the area to visit other magnificent castles.

**Mileage:**

- Short option: 30km or 50km (18 or 31 miles)
- Long option: 44km or 68km (27 or 42 miles)

**Accommodation:**

- Short option: Clos d’Amboise
- Long option: Hotel Mercure Blois Centre
such as Fougeres and Beauregard on the way. Your route continues on to the historic town of Blois. Plan a visit to its castle, with its famous spiral staircase. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Short option:

Day 7: Loop ride to Chambord
Highlights: Chateau de Chambord, Chateaux of Cheverny, Troussay, and Beauregard

Today you have two ride options. A short ride takes you to the famous village and Chateau de Chambord, where you can enjoy its magnificent architecture and unique features. We suggest taking your time to visit Chambord, the creation of French king, Francois I, and the largest of all the Loire castles. Enjoy a chocolate tasting in a chocolate factory in a nearby charming village before heading back to Blois with a stop at the Chateau de Villesavin on the way. On the longer option, after Chambord you will continue south to the Chateaux of Cheverny, Troussay, and Beauregard. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Short option:

Long option:
Day 8: End of the tour

Highlights

After breakfast your cycling experience in the Loire ends. We hope you have enjoyed cycling with us! Blois is conveniently located on the main rail line to Paris.

NOTE: This hotel itinerary is subjected to changes according to availability. City taxes are not included.

LODGING UPGRADE: Room upgrades are possible in some hotels. Ask for availability.
Starting point:
Château de Beaulieu Hôtel Restaurant, 67 Rue de Beaulieu, JOUE LES TOURS
You can fly into Paris and reach Saint Pierre des Corps-Tours TGV station by Train. From here take a taxi to your hotel.

Ending point:
Hotel Mercure Blois Centre, 28 quai Saint Jean, Blois
You can fly out from Paris. You can take a train from Blois to Roissy/Charles de Gaulle (CDG) Airport.

Once you book the tour we will send you detailed information and different options on how to get to the starting point and away from the ending point of the tour.

Luggage Transfers
Luggage transfer is included in your package. Normally, the luggage is collected from 09.00 at the reception of the hotel and is delivered at the following hotel by 17.00.
Every piece of luggage must be marked with a visible luggage tag. Please make sure yours have correct tags.

If your luggage is not ready by the time the driver comes to collect it, you may need to have to pay directly a local taxi for the service.

Please consider that the luggage is not insured during the transport. You need to have your own insurance. Do not leave valuables or fragile items in your luggage.

Normally you cannot use the luggage transport service to skip the stage. In case you need help to skip the stage, please contact our emergency number.

Services available at an additional cost (ask for availability)
Road bikes or Electric bikes available for an additional fee of €145.
Hybrids SCOTT SUB Sport 20

Frame: SUB Sport 6061 Tig welding
Fork: SF14 NEX DS HLO PM 700C
Shifters: Shimano Deore SLM 590
Chain ring & crank arms: Shimano FC-T3010 Black 48x38x26
Cassette: Shimano CS-HG200-9 11-34 T Black
Brakes: Tektro Disc Brake SCH-F15
Stem: JD-ST103A
Saddle: Syncros Urban Commuter 2.5
Seatpost: HL SP-56
Rims/Spokes: X12 Disc, 32h / Pillar Steel 14G
Tires: Continental City Ride II or Schwalbe Spicer or Marathon
Weight: 17 kg / 37.48 lbs
Hybrids SCOTT SUB Sport 20

Frame: SUB Sport 6061 Tig welding
Fork: Sub Evo Alu Rigid Forged
Shifters: Shimano SL-M310
Chain ring & crank arms: Shimano FC-TX801 Black 48x36x26 T
Cassette: Shimano CS-HG31-8 11-32 T
Brakes: Tektro Disc Brake SCH-F15
Stem: JD-ST103A
Saddle: Syncros Urban Solution 2.5
Seatpost: JD JD-SP68T.1.
Rims/Spokes: X12 Disc, 32h / Pillar Steel 14G
Tires: Continental City Ride II or Schwalbe Spicer or Marathon
Weight: 15.5 kg / 34.17lbs

Our SCOTT hybrid bikes come with:

- Helmet
- Computer
- Pump
- 1 new bottle
- Lock
- 1 Handlebar bag with rain cover
- Tire levers, Spare tube, Patch kit, Multi-tool,
- 1 Rear pannier, with a rain protection.
- Both bags are easy to use and carry
- Pedals are included, flat by default or toe cages without straps on request

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**Scott Addict 20 Road Bike** (available for an additional fee of €145)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frame</th>
<th>Addict MF Carbon technology Endurance geometry / Replaceable Dropout</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fork</td>
<td>Addict MF 1 1/8&quot; - 1 1/4&quot; Carbon steerer Alloy Dropout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headset</td>
<td>Syncros Integrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranckset</td>
<td>Shimano 105 compact; 50/34 or 36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassette:</td>
<td>Shimano 105 CS-5800 11 Speed 11-30 or 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brakes</td>
<td>Shimano 105 BR-5800 Super SLR Dual pivot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheels</td>
<td>Syncros RP2.0 18 Front / 24 Rear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires</td>
<td>Schwalbe Durano FOLD 700 x 25 or 28C ou équivalent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Included with road bike rental:
## Scott E-SUB TOUR
(available for an additional fee of €145)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engine motor</strong></td>
<td>Bosch Active Plus 250w System w/ 400 or 500wh battery pack / Purion display / 2A charger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frame</strong></td>
<td>SCOTT E-SUB Alloy Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fork</strong></td>
<td>Suntour NEX-E25, 63mm Fork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headset</strong></td>
<td>GW semi integrated</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>crank arms</strong></td>
<td>Miranda Classic 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cassette</strong></td>
<td>Shimano CS-HG50-10 11-36 T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brakes</strong></td>
<td>Shimano BR-M315 Disc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H’Stem</strong></td>
<td>Syncros UC3.0 adjustable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saddle</strong></td>
<td>Syncros Urban Commuter 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rims</strong></td>
<td>Rodi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tires</strong></td>
<td>Schwalbe Energizer Plus 700x50c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weight</strong></td>
<td>25 kg / 55lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cannondale MAVATO ACTIVE 1 (available for an additional fee of €145)

Engine motor: Bosch Active Plus 250w System w/ 400 or 500wh battery pack / Purion display / 2A charger
Frame: Cannondale Mavaro SI City W/Integrated Rack
Fork: Headshock Fatty OPI DL50 XL
Headset: Cannondale Headshok
Crank arms: FSA METROPOLIS CK-632/IS 172.5
Cassette: Shimano HG50-10, 36-11
Brakes: Magura MT4 180/160 mm
H’Stem: Cannondale Adjustable Headshok
Saddle: SELLE ROYAL ARIEL
Rims: Cannondale C2
Tires: Schwalbe Little Big Ben 40-622
Weight: 20.10 kg / 48.72 lbs
Lapierre Tandem (available for an additional fee of €50 per person)

Frame: MTB TANDEM SUPERLITE ALLOY DISC 27.5" THRU AXLE 12x142
Fork: ROCKSHOX YARI RC 27.5" 160mm THRU AXLE 15mm
Breaks: FORMULA CURA
Wheels: FORMULA DC51 32H - SHIMANO FHM8010E 32H Centerlock - MAVIC XM424 27.5x24C DISC
Cassette: SHIMANO CSHG400 9s 11-34T
Tires: Marathon
Weight: 19.2 kg
Size: One size
Racks and bags: rear rack and handle bar bag.