FRENCH BIKE TOURS

FRENCH BIKE TOURS - EMAIL: INFO@FRENCH-BIKETOURS.COM - TELEPHONE +33 (0)553242210 - WWW.FRENCH-BIKETOURS.COM



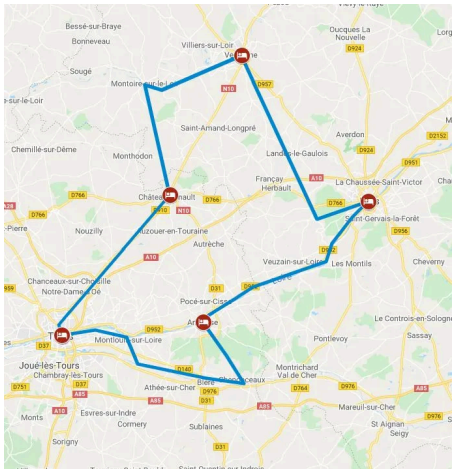
WINE , RIVERSIDE , NATURE , CITY

type :	Classic Cycle Routes of France Electric bike option Self-guided Round trips Easy cycling
hybrid :	●●○○○
e-bike :	●◐○○○
duration :	7 days
comfort :	●●●○○
period:	Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	FRSB435

Cycling castles and vineyards of 3 valleys : Loir, Loire and Cher

7 days, *€ 850*

Introduction



You will discover 3 different cycle routes :

- The "**Saint-Jacques à Vélo**" cycle route follows as closely as possible the centuries-old paths taken by pilgrims heading through western France to Spain's Santiago de Compostela. Using cycle paths and small country roads along the Loir river, enjoy an epic historic, cultural and sporty route!

- The "**Cher à Vélo**", alternating cycle paths and quiet roads traveling from heritage to discovery along the Cher river. This is what awaits you along the « Coeur de France à Vélo », you will travel through pretty villages, with the opportunity to visit troglodyte houses and other beautiful sites.

- The famous "**Loire à Vélo**" route through the world famous Pays des Châteaux', the most splendid cultural part of the Loire Valley. 'Along magnificent/grand castles : Blois, Amboise,Chenonceau,.... and beautiful wild river landscapes, nice stops during the day to taste one/some of the excellent wines of the region

Highlights :

- Cycle along 3 majestic rivers : Loir, Cher and Loire
- Explore the beautiful natural surroundings
- Taste the lovely local wines from the area
- Discover the delicious French gastronomy

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Tours**

You travel independently to Tours. Check in at your hotel. If you have arrived early, take a stroll through the town centre of the friendly capital of what is called the Garden of France.

Day 2 **Tours - Château-Renault**

This Saint-Jacques à Vélo stage alternates between quiet country roads and greenways, running beside waterways lined by fields and pastures. Starting by crossing what the French describe as the last great wild river in Europe, the Loire awaits you with a lovely cycle path along the north bank. Cross the Pays du Vouvray, where Touraine's famed vineyards yield a fine array of white wines. Halfway, you enter the Pays Gâtine Tourangelle to end your day in the peaceful town of Château-Renault.

Challenge : 42 km, 308m ascent, 239m descent

Day 3 **Château-Renault - Vendôme**

Today, start in the countryside, through the cultivated valleys of Castelrenaudais, between the Loir and Loire valleys. Continue on to the North, where the route winds along a tributary of the Loir for a few kilometers. Change banks at Lavardin, "Most beautiful villages in France" nestled at the foot of the ruins of its castle, and reach Montoire-sur-le-Loir, a town with a medieval heritage and old residences bordering the river. Further on, your route passes through the nautical base of Villiers-sur-Loir, it is a great opportunity to cool off before cutting through the Vendôme countryside. End of the stage in Vendôme, a city with a rich heritage, ideal for a historic, cultural and gourmet break!

Challenge : 53.5 km, 299m ascent, 312m descent

Day 4 **Vendôme - Blois**

Today you will discover the landscapes of South Vendômois and North Blaisois, between the Cisse valley and Petite Beauce. From village to village, crossing fields and woods, through the Grand Pierre et Vitain Nature Reserve, admire the wealth of small local heritage, which will take you on a journey from Prehistory to the Middle Ages. When you arrive in Blois, take a walk around the town which is known for its pale-coloured stone facades and slate roofs, its pedestrian streets gracefully preserving the flavour of lost centuries and its serene atmosphere. Also worth a visit is the Royal Chateau de Blois, the residence of several French kings.

Challenge : 50.9 km, 198m ascent, 209m descent

Day 5 **Blois - Amboise**

From Blois you follow the southern bank of the Loire. Between rolling hills with vineyards, you cycle to Candé-sur-Beuvron. Cycle back along the Beuvron to the majestic Loire. High on the bank is the elegant castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire surrounded by beautiful gardens. You are in the historic region Touraine. Visit a wine grower and taste a local 'sauvignon blanc'. Enjoy the grandeur of the Château Amboise and Clos-Lucé where Leonardo da Vinci once stayed.

Challenge : 42.5 km, 204m ascent, 209m descent

Day 6 **Amboise - Chenonceaux - Tours**

Leave the medieval atmosphere of Amboise behind you and cycle to the famous "Château de Chenonceau" which straddles the Cher River with its five distinctive arches. It was this chateau which was given by King Henri II to his mistress Diane de Poitiers and later recovered, after his death, by his widow Queen Catherine de Médicis. Continue your cycling day to the region of the prestigious Montlouis' wines. The ideal microclimate, close to where the Loire and Cher unite, produces grapes of a unique quality. Discover this for yourself during a visit to a wine cellar or a lunchbreak. A fine track brings you back to Tours. Here great experiences are awaiting you like the magnificent cathedral and basilica, the famous Place Plumereau, Olivier Debré Art Centre, Botanical Garden, flavors of the markets.

Challenge : 55.4 km, 212m ascent, 226m descent

Day 7 **Departure from Tours**
End of your trip after breakfast. We advise you to extend your stay in order to take the time to visit the beautiful city of Tours.

Prices, Data, Booking

Practical Info


6 Nights included


2/3 Star Hotels


Breakfast included, Halfboard optional on request


Maps and tourist information on all the places of interest


24/7 Bilingual Emergency hotline


Luggage transport to your next accommodations. Luggage accepted per person: 1 suitcase or travel bag (20 kg maximum)


For time tables and further information check the **website of SNCF** or **rome2rio** for all French National trains (SNCF).
We strongly advise you to **download the sncf mobile app** prior to departure.
If you want to travel on a train with your bike, you can find more information **via this link**.


Parking informations on request

We will supply the directions of this trip with a personalized code which gives you access to our travel App.