FRENCH BIKE TOURS

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



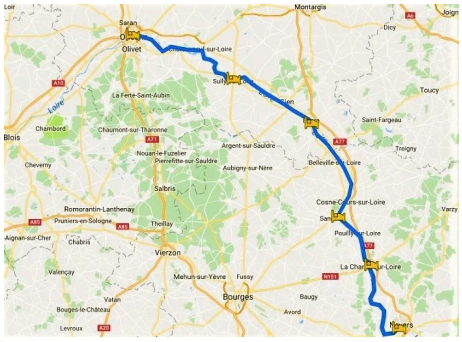
WINE , RIVERSIDE , NATURE , GASTRONOMY , CULTURE

type :	Linear cycle routes Family Cycling Easy cycling Classic Cycle Routes of France Electric bike option Self-guided
hybrid :	●○○○○
e-bike :	◐○○○○
duration :	7 days
comfort :	●●◐○○
period:	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	FRSB450

Loire Valley - From Nevers to Orléans

7 days, *€ 1025*

Introduction



The upper course of the Loire still shows what the Loire has always been: a natural, untamable river/stream. Cycle along past the sandbanks, old river curves and islands. Pass age old bridges and medieval castles. Admire the technical ingenuity of the canal bridge in Briare. And enjoy: 'Chavignol up to Sancerre'!

The total '**Loire à Vélo'** route runs from **Nevers** to 'l'Océan', let's say from 'source' to mouth. The route can be divided into 3 various stages which can also be booked separately. You can add additional detours during this trip. This excellently marked first stage varies from flat to slightly sloping.

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Nevers**

You travel independently to Nevers. Check in at your hotel and take a walk through the charming town centre. Visit the potters, known for their faience pottery, a skill introduced by Italian craftsmen in the 16th century. Palais Ducal with its renaissance façade is also worth a visit. It's one of the first castles that was built along the Loire. Nevers is a stop on the well known pilgrims' route to Santiago de Compostella.

Day 2 **Nevers - La-Charité-sur-Loire**

You leave the Burgundian town Nevers and you go on your way to the village of Cuffy, the place where the Loire and the Allier unite. This is the official start of the long 'Loire a Vélo' route, 800 km in total, ending after 13 stages at the Atlantic Ocean. You travel on to the monastery town Charité-sur-Loire where you approach the magnificent Roman church 'Notre Dame' via the oldest bridge (16th cent) across the Loire. This monastery church, included in Unesco's heritage, is certainly worth a visit.

Challenge: 45km, 20m ascent, 48m descent

Day 3 **La-Charité-sur-Loire - Sancerre**

Cycle through the beautiful natural reserve 'Loire Valley' through vast, undulating vineyards. Admire the lovely bell tower/belfry of the church in Pouilly-sur-Loire. You go on through the woods and fields to the famous Sancerre wine region. Take a break on the way to taste a local wine grower's (white) 'Sauvignon Blanc', of course this should be accompanied by a Chavignol goat's cheese. Enjoy the magnificent view of the Loire Valley from Sancerre situated somewhat higher and dominated by its 15th cent donjon.

Challenge: 27.9km, 253m ascent, 110m descent

Day 4 **Sancerre - Briare**

Leave Sancerre via the tow path along the 'Canal Latéral' and go via Bannay to the flower-bedecked town Cosne-Cours-sur-Loire, beautifully situated on the right bank. Then go to Belleville-sur-Loire, Beaulieu-sur-Loire and finally the small town Briare. Admire the metal canal bridge, a monumental piece of hydraulic engineering, realized at the end of 19th cent. It crosses the Loire river and connects the 2 adjacent canals. With its 72 lampposts and decorated pilasters a beauty of traditional engineering/construction.

Challenge: 51.2km, 65m ascent, 215m descent

Day 5 **Briare - Sully-sur-Loire**

Cross the Loire river via the canal bridge, the 'Pont Canal de Briare', and cycle to Saint-Brisson-sur-Loire with its medieval castle, which specialized in catapults and cannons!!! This is followed by the lively town of Gien with its panoramic views. Here too is situated the castle of Anne de Beaujeu, built about 1500, and the beautiful 18th century bridge with its 12 pillars. Your destination is Sully-sur-Loire with again a remarkable medieval castle, completely surrounded by canals/moats and with a gorgeous view of the river.

Challenge: 41.7km, 152m ascent, 168m descent

Day 6 **Sully-sur-Loire - Orléans**

Today you continue your route to Orléans. Enjoy the grand views on the way to Saint-Benoit. Once there visit the 11th-13th cent abbey that belongs to one of the most remarkable Roman churches in France. Then go on to Chateauneuf-sur-Loire, one of the important ports of the Loire in the 18th cent. You then get the first sight of your destination: Orléans, the town of 'art and history', liberated from the English (rule) by Jeanne d'Arc. Be sure to take a walk through the beautiful, historic centre.

Challenge: 51.1km, 73m ascent, 85m descent

Day 7 **Departure from Orléans**

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 Orléans. Once it was the capital in the early French Middle Ages, but nowadays it's a lively, modern town where there's a lot to be seen.

Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Daily from April 01 till October 31

Of course you can also book extra night(s) during the trip. We can give you these prices on request. Please mention where you would like to add extra night(s).

Practical Info

6 Nights included

2/3 Star Hotels or 3/4 Star Hotels (supplement applied)

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 possibilities at the first accommodation in Nevers (5 €/day)

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