

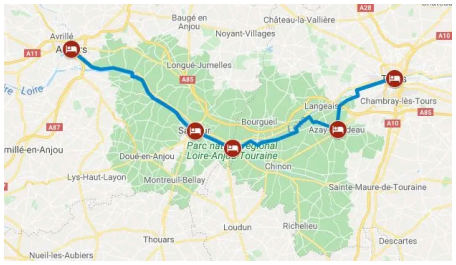
WINE , RIVERSIDE , NATURE , GASTRONOMY

type :	Linear cycle routes Family Cycling Easy cycling Classic Cycle Routes of France Electric bike option Self-guided
hybrid :	●○○○○
e-bike :	◐○○○○
duration :	6 days
comfort :	●●◐○○
period:	Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	FRSB420

Loire Valley 'relaxed' - from Tours to Angers

6 days, ***€ 650***

Introduction



You follow the well-marked route of **'La Loire à Vélo'** on cycle paths and quiet roads along the last wild river in Europe. A **self-guided cycling trip** through nature: deserted beaches, immense sandbanks and inlets. It is the home of terns, grebes, ospreys, blue herons, beavers ... a world with exceptional fauna and flora. But it is not only nature that fascinates here. You will also arrive in an exceptionally valuable cultural-historical area, which is classified by UNESCO's World Heritage List as a 'living cultural landscape'.

The cycling route passes characteristic Loire villages and leads you to the front door of the most beautiful castles.

Highlights :

- Cycle from historic town to town with their prestigious castles
- Discover treasures of Touraine & Anjou region
- Enjoy most beautiful towns along the Loire: **Tours**, **Saumur**, **Angers**
- Discover natural sites : troglodyte houses, mushroom-growing caves, gardens
- Evolve in a natural setting : sandbanks, wild birds and vineyards
- Alternate between well-known sites and more private places

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 second stage varies from flat, slightly sloping to an occasional small climb.

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Tours**

You travel independently to Tours, the capital of the Touraine. Check-in at your hotel. The charming city of Tours is a perfect gateway to discover the region, known as 'the Garden of France'.

Day 2 **Tours - Villandry - Azay-le-Rideau**

Todays route first takes you along the south bank of the romantic Cher river to the picturesque village of Savonnières, known for its caves and underground lake. A few kilometers later you arrive at Villandry. Visit the palatial castle of the same name with its world-famous gardens and refined interior which gives a good impression of the French 'art de vivre' in the 18th century. After this visit you still have 13 km to ride, including a few hills, to your final destination, Azay-le-Rideau, on the river Indre, a tributary of the Loire. Where you can also visit the chateau.

Challenge : 41.1 km, 134 m ascent, 137 m descent

Day 3 **Azay-le-Rideau - Montsoreau**

One of the most beautiful stages, through an area of unspoilt nature, where the Indre flows into the Loire. You ride first to the fairytale Château of Ussé, from the high river banks you have a beautiful view over the islands where different species of water birds live, then travelling west, you arrive in the beautiful village of Candes-St-Martin, labeled one of the most beautiful villages in France, where the Vienne and Loire meet. You finish your day in Montsoreau, also labeled one of the most beautiful villages.

Challenge : 49.7 km, 182 m ascent, 152 m descent

Day 4 **Montsoreau - Saumur**

You are now in the Anjou region, known for its good wines and impressive troglodyte houses. A wonderful, short route today with lots to see on the way. Choose the bike path close to the Loire or follow the higher, more strenuous route through the vineyards. Both end in the beautiful city of Saumur. Take the time to visit the equestrian town of Saumur, the home base of the prestigious riding academy the Cadre Noir where the elite of French horsemen are trained. Enjoy the beautiful houses with their white tuffeau stone facades in the town centre and admire the proud castle and the many other beautiful classified monuments.

Challenge : 15.9 km, 117 m ascent, 125 m descent

Day 5 **Saumur - Angers**

Departure turning right along the south bank of the river. Admire the monuments built of local white tuffeau stone, such as the church of Cunault and the St-Maur abbey. Once in Saint-Mathurin-sur-Loire you have the choice to either take the train to your final destination Angers, or cycle 25 km extra to reach this city, following the north bank of the Loire through a former marsh area that was drained in the Middle Ages, past traces of the old slate quarries of Trélazé. Then, taking a small ferry, you cross the Authion river. Faraway your destination Angers, situated on both sides of the river Maine, attracts your attention.

Challenge : 58.5 km, 407 m ascent, 392 m descent

Day 6 **Departure from Angers**

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 Angers. You can travel back to Tours (or onwards to a different city) by train.

Prices, Data, Booking

Included

- 5 Nights in selected 2*/3* hotels
- 5 Breakfasts
- Luggage transfers
- Detailed information pack, route notes and maps
- 24/7 Bilingual Emergency hotline

Not included

- Travel insurance
- Transport to first and from last accommodation
- Trains, busses or any transport wherever necessary
- Other Lunches & Dinners
- Personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, additional transfers, etc
- Hybrid or E-bike rental

Extras

- Single Room Supplement
- Solo Traveller Supplement
- Upgrade Supplement hotels 3*/4*
- Additional nights
- Transfer from the train station to your hotel
- Transfer back from your last accommodation
- Hybrid bike rental (105 €)
- E-bike supplement (170 €)

Practical Info



5 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 hotels

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.