



Tourism & Business Events Loire Valley - Western France

2- Chateaux with lunch and wine



Welcome to the Loire Valley!

In the beautiful region of Western France, the Loire river runs through one of France's richest regions. Known as the Garden of France, the Loire Valley boasts many important sites and historical châteaux, royal hunting grounds for the Kings of France.

Producing original, varied and exquisite wines, the region is divided into smaller appellations (such as Anjou, Bourgueil, Saumur, and Touraine, to name but a few) spread over 1000 for kms; with 54 appellations, there is a wine for every taste and every occasion.

This region is also well-known for its many historical figures, from Joan of Arc to Richard the Lionheart and Leonardo Da Vinci.

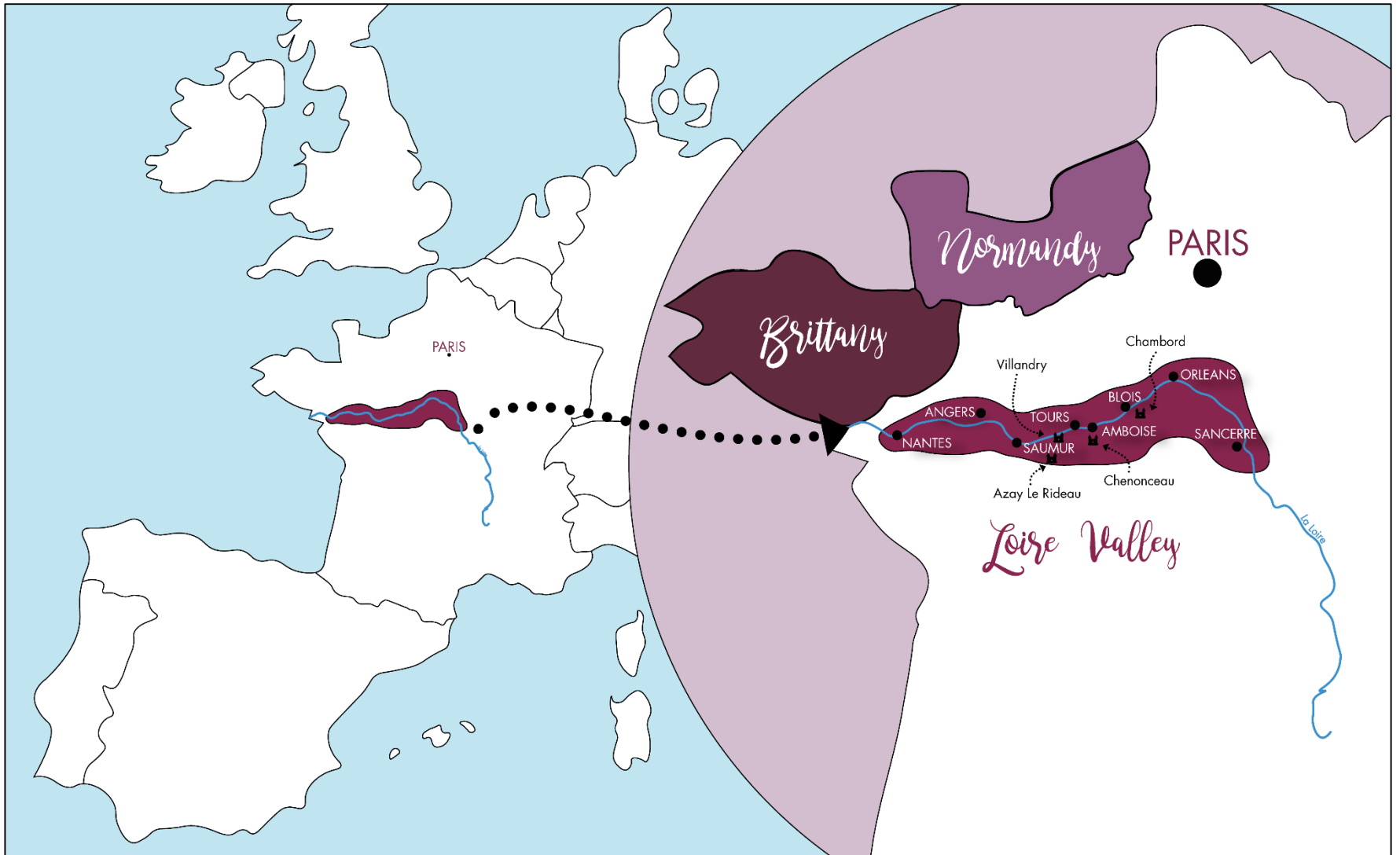
In 2000, the Val de Loire was awarded the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of the exceptional cultural value of its landscapes and the quality of its architectural heritage.

Why travel with Loire Secrets?

We are a small local organisation, born and bred in the Loire Valley, we know our région, we are passionate about it and we want to share this passion with you. Being locals, we have an inside knowledge of the very best places to go, people to meet and ways of getting around. Our main aim is to provide you with an unforgettable experience, an experience adapted to your unique needs and special wishes.

How do we do this? What do we offer?

Private and exclusive tours with your own English– Spanish– Portuguese– German- speaking driver guides. These private guides will accompany you everywhere, will adapt to your every wish and generally take care of you from the start of your trip to the very end.



Enjoy a private guided tour of **2 major Loire Valley historic castles.**

Pick-up & drop-off can be made from Saint Pierre des Corps train station or Hotels in Tours or Amboise area. For other locations and or transfer from Paris, please ask us for a quote.

Your day starts with the visit of:

Château de Chenonceau.

The magnificent Chenonceau Castle, spanning the Cher river is probably the most romantic castle in Loire Valley.

An exceptional site not only because of its original design, the richness of its collections, its furniture and its decorations, but also because of its destiny, since it was loved, administrated and protected by women, who were all extraordinary and who, for the most part have marked history.

A unique visit in the **"Ladies Castles"**

Option: 30 minutes meeting:

Meeting with Chenonceau castle florist in the garden or in the flower workshop. Or, meeting with the botanic director (Nicholas Tomlan, who has studied at Longwood gardens, Philadelphie, USA)

Flower workshop: 1 hour.

Meet with the floral designer of the castle, Master Craftsman of France, demonstration and creation of compositions from flowers, cultivated specially in the flowers garden of the castle

Your tour continue with a stop in an **authentic winery** in Chenonceau AOC.

You will **discover the vines** and **tour the cellar** and get to know more about the **large variety of Loire valley wines**. The visit will be followed by a **gourmet picnic accompanied with wine** from the estate.

In the afternoon, you will get the chance to visit a 2nd Loire Valley Castle.

Chambord castle.

The castle of Chambord is a Renaissance masterpiece. You will discover the Beast's **castle** in Beauty and the Beast!

The royal apartments of Francis I, constructed in 1519, were later restored by Louis XIV. The double-spiral staircase forms the centerpiece of the décor.

You will be impressed by the size of this cultural treasure with its 426 rooms, 77 staircases and 282 chimneys!

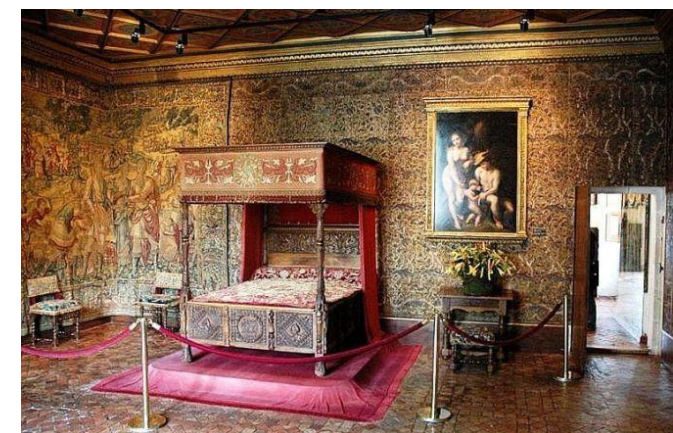
Explore this historical chateau, from its view of the Grand Canal to the wealth of its local flora and fauna.

This royal hunting lodge is today one of the most recognized chateaus in the world featured on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Option:

To complete the experience, **you can enjoy a 1h30 private tour in a 4x4** car with a ranger to explore the large royal parc & forest and to discover the wildlife living there!

A spectacular place not to be missed!



Chenonceau Chateau





You will meet the makers of exquisite wines and lunch in the vineyard





Chambord Chateau



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Your day starts with the visit of:

Villandry Château & gardens

The last of the great Renaissance castles built on the banks of the Loire, Villandry owes its renown, beyond the shadow of a doubt, to the unrivaled combination of a perfect harmony between architecture and nature. The garden, the only one of its kind in Europe, is composed of three levels: a first level centered around an extensive lake, a flower garden also planted with box and yew trees, and an ornamental kitchen garden where a wide range of plant varieties produce, in the sunny season, astonishing mosaics of color. Yet the interior itself, renovated in the 18th century in the grand neoclassical style, is equally worthy of admiration.

Your tour continues with a stop in a winery in the Bourgueil wine region for a short visit and a wine tasting.

You will enjoy a good lunch in a local restaurant where they'll make you feel at home! Literally 2 minutes away.

You will be welcomed by the Chef, Vincent. The place is a unique **country restaurant** in a beautiful setting surrounded by vines. A stunning old farmhouse set in its own grounds welcoming only 10 to 12 people per sitting.

Almost all ingredients and meats are produced directly in the farm.

A tour of the vegetable garden is a nice way to end your gourmet experience there!

In the afternoon, you will get the chance to visit a 2nd Loire Valley Castle.

Azay le Rideau Chateau.

Azay le Rideau is a very pretty castle standing in the calm waters of the Indre river whose water reflects its fine façade. Surrounded by parkland and open woodland, this masterpiece of Renaissance architecture features all the refinement, elegance and grace expected of a Loire château. Balzac romantically described it as 'a faceted diamond set in the Indre.'

A spectacular place not to be missed!



Villandry Chateau and gardens





Vincent, cuisinier de campagne





Azay Le Rideau Chateau





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Member of Wine Tour In France: www.winetourinfrance.com