



Touraine

Loire Valley

Here, living is an art

PRESS KIT





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9 spots, 9 atmospheres, all rich in facets and personalities inviting visitors to enjoy an ever-varied trip.

WWW.TOURAINELOIREVALLEY.CO.UK

THE HIDDEN FACE OF TOURAINE

AND OVER 50 WAYS to (re)visit it differently!

Touraine is said to be blessed by the gods, cherished by kings, favoured by writers and pampered by Mother Nature. It really is the birthplace of the French way of life, in a setting listed as part of World Heritage by UNESCO.

But Touraine isn't just about châteaux and tuffeau stone! Like a treat cone, **it takes curious visitors by surprise as they step through the doors** and dare to leave the beaten track!

This original and atypical region is reinvented each day and innovates with off-the-wall or giant-scale experiences to make each moment of your stay unique!

A quick tour of a region that really is the crème de la crème



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New IN 2025



JANUARY

CHÂTEAU DE TOURS

EXHIBITION

Letizia Battaglia

Until 18 May 2025

The Jeu de Paume pays homage to the Italian photographer and activist Letizia Battaglia (1935-2022) in a major retrospective at the Château de Tours. With 200 original and modern prints, the exhibition follows the photographer's dazzling career from her beginnings in 1970s Milan until her death in her native city in 2022.

APRIL

CHÂTEAU DU RIVAU

EXHIBITION

Surprises at Rivau

1 April to 12 November 2025

The château's contemporary art collection, brought together over the past 40 years by Patricia Laigneau, combines humour and a sense of wonder. In 2025, this new exhibition explores historic themes in a presentation inspired by cabinets of curiosities. A remarkable visit where contemporary art constantly interacts with history.

OLIVIER DEBRÉ CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY CREATION

EXHIBITION

Painting on stage

4 April to 2 November 2025

Painting on Stage presents the different steps involved in creating 4 stage curtains designed by Olivier Debré: the Comédie Française Theatre (1987), the Hong Kong Opera House (1989), the Abbesses Theatre (1996) and the Shanghai Opera House (1998). There are no sketches among the preparatory studies for the various stage curtains created by Olivier Debré, but what he calls the "models" in his archives.

BALZAC MUSEUM - CHÂTEAU DE SACHÉ

EXHIBITION-INVESTIGATION

VAUTRIN VERSUS BALZAC

The novel put to the test by real-life crime.

5 April to 5 October 2025

This "exhibition-investigation" is a deep dive into the true stories and individuals linked to the world of crime that inspired Balzac. With Vautrin as guide, the visit is an opportunity to explore several Balzacian criminal cases, with period documents and objects to help solve the crime!

MAY

ROYAL FORTRESS OF CHINON

EXHIBITION

Treasures

24 May - 2 November 2025

Regalia, tableware, goldsmiths' work, tapestries, religious works and coats-of-arms: «Treasures» is a chance to discover different expressions of royal luxury through the arts and crafts from the late Middle Ages to the French Revolution. All in all, the 50 works are a unique immersion in the lavish world of the royal court.

LANSYER MUSEUM

ROYAL CITY OF LOCHES

From Loches to Angkor: Louis

Delaporte, a life's adventure

22 May to 21 September 2025

In 1842, Loches saw the birth of Louis Delaporte, who introduced the French to the Cambodian landmark of Angkor. On the 100th anniversary of his death, the exhibition, through an exceptional partnership with the Guimet Museum, looks at the wide-ranging work of the explorer and draughtsman.

JUNE

HÔTEL GOUIN

EXHIBITION

OFFARD WORKSHOP

18 June to 31 August 2025

Wallpaper is a universal medium for dialogue and a material of the future, at the intersection of art and sustainable development. At the Offard Workshop, led by François-Xavier Richard, it conveys history and memory. This exhibition highlights exceptional craftsmanship, with block-printed wallpapers made by the major firms of the 18th and 19th centuries via its history, contemporary creations and innovations.

ROYAL CHÂTEAU OF AMBOISE

BIVOUAC

A night in the garden

27 June 2025

With the help of Jean-François Souchart, a professional nature guide and photographer from the Loire region, a bivouac will be organised in the château gardens for the first time. Dinner around a brazier, an introduction to night-time photography, skygazing and a look at the abundant life in the château gardens: everything you need for a truly royal bivouac!

JULY - AUGUST

ROYAL CHÂTEAU OF AMBOISE

Garden awakenings

July and August 2025

To enjoy breakfast in the cool early morning, head for the Royal Château of Amboise! All summer long, from 8 am, the Garden Awakenings are a chance for visitors to savour a coffee and croissant in the serene atmosphere of the garden at dawn.

CHÂTEAU DE L'ISLETTE

Spectacle beneath the stars

Wednesday 9, 16, 23 and 30/07 and 6, 13, 20/08 from 6 to 11 pm

L'Islette, the scene of the passionate love affair between Camille Claudel and Auguste Rodin, is organising 7 evening concerts in the château park. This is a great opportunity to picnic on the banks of the River Indre and (re)discover the château and garden at dusk in the light of 1,000 candles. Each evening event features a concert from 9 pm. New in 2025: musical theatre concerts (Grease, La La Land, etc.), covers of Disney songs and French classics to sing all together.

CHÂTEAU DE VILLANDRY

EVENT

Nights of a Thousand Fires

1 & 2 August 2025

Every year the Villandry gardens are transformed, lit up by more than 2,000 candles, brought to life by light shows and fantasy characters, and adorned with a unique atmosphere.

SEPTEMBER

LOIRE VALLEY

EVENT

Escapades in Loire

September 2025

Each year, the "Escapades in Loire" event brings visitors a range of winethemed hikes in Touraine in the wine regions of Chinon, Vouvray and Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil. These friendly hikes in the company of winemakers take participants across the wine region, to the heart of the vineyards and in the wine cellars.

OCTOBER

CHÂTEAU DU RIVAU

EVENT

Pumpkin and Autumn Festival

11 & 12 October 2025

Butternut squash, red kuri squash, crookneck pumpkin, Hungarian blue pumpkins, spaghetti squash... The wonderful collection of gourds at Rivau comes in 52 different varieties. Each year, pumpkins are the theme of a festive weekend with a whole host of tasty, artistic and gardening activities.

NOVEMBER

CHINON

EVENT

Elementary Food Festival

October and November 2025

The annual free and friendly (Elementary Food) Festival in Chinon applies an idea from the work of François Rabelais in a varied and contemporary style. Artists, philosophers, writers, historians and winemakers all get together for conferences, tastings-readings, roundtables and dinner-shows.

DECEMBER

The 9th "Christmas in the Land of the Châteaux"

29 November 2025 to 4 January 2026

A unique travelling event linking seven of the greatest Loire châteaux – Chenonceau, Amboise, Azay-Le-Rideau, Villandry, Langeais, the Royal Fortress of Chinon and the Royal City of Loches – around exceptional, original and creative staging. Christmas in the Land of the Châteaux® owes its success to different artistic staging each year, with the help of designers, artists, craftsmen and women, decorators and major brands symbolising French excellence.

500th anniversary OF THE CHÂTEAU *d'Azay-le-Rideau*

In 2025, the Renaissance icon celebrates its 500th anniversary. All through the year the anniversary will feature a rich programme of events and festivities.

HIDDEN PORTRAITS

Volker Hermes

June to October 2025

An unconventional encounter between the past and contemporary art, with a mischievous nod to the collection of portraits of the Marquesses of Biencourt, the château's 19th century owners. Hermes Volker's work is based on portraits of historic characters wearing his added masks.



AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

The Azay conspiracy

16 July to 23 August

The show is performed by the actors of the Minuits Theatre and inhabitants from the town of Azay-Le-Rideau, immersing visitors in the festivities organised on 27 June 1619. On that day, the Marquise Françoise de Lansac threw a party. While everyone was busy, from the kitchens to the granaries, the scheming Duke of Épermon tried to take the young Louis' life!

NIGHT-TIME STROLL

Glass light

16 July to 23 August

Featuring monumental and immersive staging with glass light; visitors will stroll along the park's avenues lit by torches and lanterns, to the sound of Baroque and Renaissance music.

IN TOURAINE VERITAS

A GREAT WINE REGION, A LAND OF PLENTY FOR LOVERS OF THE GRAPE, TOURAINE CAN BOAST SOME **TEN TOP WINE NAMES**, INCLUDING VOUVRAY, CHINON, SAINT-NICOLAS-DE-BOURGUEIL AND AROUND ONE HUNDRED WINE CELLARS OPEN TO VISITORS! THE TOURAINE WINE REGION IS RICH IN HISTORY AND OWES ITS EXPANSION TO THE FAMOUS BISHOP OF TOURS: SAINT MARTIN. OVER 1,700 YEARS LATER, IT IS STILL PROVIDING VERY VARIED WINES IN LANDSCAPES SHAPED BY THE VINEYARDS, AS WELL AS ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES FOR WINE VISITORS!



ESCAPE GAME

in an organic winery in Azay-Le-Rideau

The Domaine Paget in Rivarennes has 15 hectares of vineyards producing Touraine, Touraine / Azay-le-Rideau and Chinon wines. To expand their range of activities for wine lovers, **they have organised an escape game in a natural setting.**

A 1.2 km quest through the vineyards, with codes to find, measurements to take, invisible ink to decipher and enigmas involving Rabelais. The adventure is filled with clues and a friendly atmosphere, and is rounded off with a tasting!

PICNIC

in the Vouvray wine region

Original outings with a tasting, winemaking workshops, tours: "A Trip to the Vineyards" is the chance to discover a family winery at the heart of the **Vouvray wine** region in a friendly atmosphere. After each activity, groups can get together for a giant picnic. A table and chairs in the shade of a tree, a wonderful view over the vineyards and a few bottles of Loire wines to serve with regional dishes (fouée bread, Touraine quiche, Loire fish rillettes, etc.): the perfect countryside atmosphere.

A HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDE

in the Bourgueil vineyards

Right at the heart of the Bourgueil wine region, in the Benais area, **La Noiraie wine** estate was founded in the 1850s. Here the Delanoue family grew grapes, green beans, tobacco and cereals. The wine estate now provides **an original experience with a 2-hour ride in a horse-drawn carriage** through 40 hectares of vineyards and views over the well-preserved landscapes of Chinon, Saumur and Tours. The ride is followed by a tasting of Bourgueil wines made on the estate.





TASTING

on the River Loire, in the pure tradition of Rabelais

For an unforgettable experience, head for the **Château Gaudrelle**. Here, the magic of the Chenin Blanc grape takes effect on board La Rabouilleuse, an iconic boat on the River Loire. What's on the programme? A chance to see the fauna and flora in Europe's last untamed river, **listed as part of World Heritage by UNESCO**, while tasting Château Gaudrelle wines, along with regional specialities.



Enjoy yourself

WITH BACCHUS!

In Touraine, there are major events for wine lovers all the year round. They include **Escapades in Loire** (15 hikes in the Loire vineyards in early September), **VitiLoire** (the big Loire Valley wine festival in early June in Tours), **7 Wines 7 Châteaux 7 Places** (from July to October), plus **the Bourgueil wine festival** (end of March) and **Bourgueil at the Dining Table** (dinners from April to July jointly created by chefs and winemakers).

Wines and cycling

A DUO ON THE MOVE

To explore Touraine, its wine cellars and wines on a bike, cycling trails cross the Touraine-Amboise, Bourgueil, Chinon and Vouvray wine regions.

Wine tourism

WITH A CAPITAL W

Touraine can boast almost **100 hundred wine cellars** open to visitors. Launched by the Loire Valley trade association, 28 wineries stand out thanks to their top-level welcome for visitors, based on the high quality of tours on offer and a wide range of winery visits.

Vitiloire, the festival of Loire wines.

IN TOURS

May 2025

Vitiloire attracts almost **150 exhibitors**, winemakers and food craftsmen. It is the number one event in the Centre-Val de Loire region for Loire Valley wines. The programme features winemakers and producers of local specialities, workshops and big, friendly dining-tables in open-air café style for a snack or a quick drink.

LA TOURAINE LIFE-SIZE!

THE WONDERFUL LOIRE WAY OF LIFE IS NO LEGEND: TOURAINE HAS BEEN **KNOWN AS THE GARDEN OF FRANCE** SINCE THE RENAISSANCE AND IS TOTALLY «GREEN» BY NATURE! FROM THE LOIRE-ANJOU-TOURAINE REGIONAL NATURE PARK TO GARDENS VIA ACCOMMODATION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES: THIS IS THE PERFECT DESTINATION FOR MICRO-ADVENTURES!

The Loire-Anjou-Touraine Regional Nature Park, **A DESTINATION IN ITS OWN RIGHT**

Hills covered with vines, troglodyte caves, plains, forest and woodlands: very diverse landscapes are a hallmark of the **277,000 hectares in the Loire-Anjou-Touraine regional nature park**. The park covers one-third of Touraine, with the Loire, its natural and cultural symbol, running through it, and a mosaic of spectacular landscapes. Along with an outstanding natural heritage, the Park also developed around recognised historic heritage, from the most famous to the most confidential sites and no fewer than **500 historic monuments** (169 listed and 338 registered).

ACTIVITIES OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

combining nature, heritage and craftsmanship

A bird reserve, a visit to a wicker workshop, sky-gazing, creative workshops, a fishing trip in a boat or an excursion to meet some beavers: the Loire-Anjou-Touraine regional nature park is teeming with **activities to take you to the heart of nature with local enthusiasts**. You can visit a truffle farm in Puys du Chinonais or take a course in wickerwork on a wicker farm.

PLACES TO STAY

in the countryside

A night in a cabin, in a troglodyte cave, at the waterside or in the vineyards... A stay in the Loire-Anjou-Touraine regional nature park is the guarantee of sleeping in an enchanting or untamed setting!

In Langeais, **the Domaine du Val Sauvage** is a discreet and untamed spot nestling in 24 hectares of forests, fields and flower gardens.

Something extra: 4 bed & breakfast rooms in Bohemian and Scandinavian style.

For a chic countryside experience, **Le Détour** in Channay-sur-Lathan is a converted barn now transformed into a spacious bed & breakfast. At the heart of nature, it combines the charm of traditional stone with modern comfort.

Something extra: the countryside spa, a wood-stove-heated pool.

The Auberge Pom Poire is located on Touraine's fruit plateau between the hills of Azay-le-Rideau and Vallères. It offers 6 rooms and 3 cabins in a unique contemporary style.

Something extra: total immersion in nature, with orchards and flower gardens

THE FAVOURITE SPOT

for entomologists and naturalists!

The Loire-Anjou-Touraine regional nature park is on a major migratory route, with no fewer than **329 butterfly species, 52 species of dragonfly and over 200 species of birds**. They include the Arctic tern which parade on the white sandbanks of the Loire in early summer. To see them, excursions **are organised by the Bird Protection League (LPO)**. The flooded forests and their diversity are a real heaven for naturalists, with a whole host of animals: dragonflies, deer, stag beetles, black kite, black woodpecker, Eurasian beaver. To see them, just follow in the footsteps of a nature guide in Rigny Ussé! Lastly, interpretation trails take you inside the world of rich forests to explore the science of forestry and a wide range of tree species.

Gardens

THE LIFE OF PLANTS

Touraine is a maze of flamboyant colours to be savoured in fine weather. It is the home of exceptional **French- and English-style gardens with Italian influences, plus geometric or untamed, monastic or fairytale gardens.** A quick look at what's new!

Les Jardins Haute Couture

A BIG PLANT PARADE!

The gardens are located between the River Indre and the big Chinon national forest, in Huismes, in the locality called «La Couture». Dedicated to biodiversity, they were created from scratch some 15 years ago by Coral Miles. Topiary, honey plants, medicinal perennials, flowers, as well as pools, fruit trees and an organic vegetable garden based on permaculture: the gardens are a delicate setting of greenery and fragrances around a delightful residence. **The house once belonged to Gilles Chauvelin**, an illustrious stonemason in Indre-et-Loire and a great friend of Max Ernst. It is today a botanical bar, tea room, gastronomic restaurant and a bed & breakfast – a good excuse to enjoy a delicious break combining British style and floral poetry.

The Rivau Gardens

ART AND ELEGANCE!

The Château du Rivau was built in medieval and Renaissance times. It stands in the green setting of a six-hectare park, listed as a Remarkable Garden since 2003, with a spirit of wonder blowing through the five themed gardens. In 2023, two new works were added to the fairytale gardens at Rivau: **The Cabin**, designed by the artist Julien Des Montiers, and **The Kiss**, created by the artist Laurent Pernot. The first is a refuge for the imagination and our winged friends, while the second, of course, evokes love. The Château du Rivau is also committed to ecological transition and **organises experiential visits to discover new forms of gardening.** Save on water, reduce the carbon footprint and enrich the garden: the Keyhole Garden and the Phoenix Garden, based on the principle of permaculture, are a chance to learn good gardening manners.



PRIVATE GARDENS

a whole host of spots to gather nectar!

Every summer, a great many private gardens open to the public with exceptional visits and tastings of local specialities. This is true of **the garden at the Manoir des Basses Rivières**, an 18th century folly, of **Bourgueil Abbey** with its artistic and historic trail, the poetic **Viantaises Garden** in Beaulieu-lès-Loches and the **Mireille Garden** in Touraine Angevine with plants inspired by travel.

W ACTIVE TOURAINE

ON HORSEBACK, ON FOOT OR BY BIKE, TOURAINE HAS HUNDREDS OF MILES OF RELATIVELY FLAT LANDSCAPES FOR A HIKE ALONE OR WITH A GUIDE. AN IDEAL REGION FOR A BREAK OR A RELAXING STAY ON THE MOVE, IT PROVIDES ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES OF CULTURE, SPORT AND NATURE. GR TRAILS OR CIRCUITS, THEMED VISITS OR GUIDED TOURS: **3 ECOLOGICAL WAYS TO SEE TOURAINE!**

Touraine

ON HORSEBACK

"Rides in the land of Chinon", "In the saddle for Montrésor", "The châteaux circuit" and the "Big South Touraine Ride": a whole host of horse-riding trails are a chance to see the region and the landscapes on the banks of the Loire, in the vineyards or at the foot of some of the Loire châteaux for unforgettable stays... There are also horse-riding centres all over the region with packages adapted to everyone, from a one-hour horse ride to trips lasting several days. The guarantee of spending a great night and totally disconnecting, Touraine Cheval provides original accommodation in an Inuit tent with horses roaming freely all around.



Touraine ON FOOT

6,800 kilometres of hiking trails, including 1,000 kilometres of GR footpaths. For short family-friendly walks or trips lasting several days, Touraine has something for everyone. The GR®3 is the promise of a royal journey in Touraine, running nearby the Châteaux of Chinon, L'Islette, Azay-le-Rideau, Villandry, Amboise and Clos-Lucé. On the GR®365, there are several routes along **the Way of St James** running for 20 kilometres or so. Nature outings and naturalist courses are organised by the small travel agency Val de Loire Ecotourisme, a chance to set off on an adventure in Touraine with an ecologist guide. **If you are setting out on your own**, the local authorities have listed some 40 trails referred to as "Label Balade" trails, between 3 and 15 kilometres long.





Touraine BY BIKE

With around 50 circuits (from 8 to 45 km), **4 major cycling trails** (La Loire à Vélo, Coeur de France à Vélo, Saint-Jacques à Vélo and L'Indre à Vélo) and zero mountains, Touraine is the perfect destination to get on a bike! **"Vélo Street Art" in the city of Tours** is a real cultural and artistic experience in the company of a guide. The trail lasts for 2 hours and covers 12 km with no hills, alternating historic districts and spots for connoisseurs of urban art. The more traditional **"Tours à Vélo"** is a guided cycling tour lasting 1 hour 30 minutes (5.4 km). It explores the most beautiful and essential sights in Tours. **In Amboise**, a guided 5 km excursion is a chance to ride through the heart of the royal city, **the kingdom's capital during the reign of Charles VIII.**

4 ideas for short stays

ON YOUR OWN:

AMBOISE - TOURS

25 km

A quick tour on the "Loire à Vélo" cycling trail, including the great châteaux of Amboise, Tours and the Montlouis-sur-Loire wine region.

LANGEAIS - CHINON

28 km

A journey through history, again on the "Loire à Vélo" cycling trail, with the Château de Langeais, Château d'Ussé and Royal Fortress of Chinon.

TOURS - CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU

35 km

A trip along the "Cher à Vélo" cycling trail, the perfect way to vary the fun next to the water or in a boat!

AZAY-LE-RIDEAU - LOCHES

46 km

Just like the Loire and the Cher, you can also explore the River Indre by bike, leaving from the Châteaux d'Azay and L'Islette before heading for the Royal City of Loches.





TOURAINE AT THE WATERSIDE!

THE INDRE, CHER, VIENNE AND LOIRE: IN A BOAT OR A CANOE, OUTDOORS OR ON ONE OF THE ISLANDS OR AT THE QUAYSIDE, TOURAINE AT THE WATERSIDE IS A GREAT LABORATORY OF EXPERIENCES, BRINGING YOU COUNTLESS WAYS TO DISCOVER THE REGION. FESTIVE OR SILENT, WILD OR DELICIOUS, ENTERTAINING OR RELAXING: **HERE ARE 6 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY ON THE WATER!**

APÉROBOAT on the Vienne

Private excursions, drinks, tastings of local specialities and Chinon wines: the **"Compagnie de Navigation Vienne Loire"** organises a range of cruises and trips by boat with mooring just opposite the royal fortress. On La Chinonaise, a big toue (cabin boat), or Le Tonnant, a gabare (scow), the atmosphere is friendly and easy-going!





FISHING, COOKERY LESSONS AND TASTING of Loire fish

In Bréhémont, **Les Pêcheries Ligériennes** arrive in the morning to check the nets, then organise a visit to the processing workshop followed by a tasting. Carp, asp, river herrings, barb, catfish or mullet: Loire fish are delicious **in rillettes or enjoyed on the water during a picnic tour with a guide.**

A TRIP ON THE LOIRE with La Rabouilleuse

La Rabouilleuse pays homage to the fiction of Honoré de Balzac. In Touraine it means a person who stirs up the water when fishing for crayfish. **The "École de Loire" provides an immersion at the heart of the last untamed river with traditional excursions, trips at dawn or dusk, as well as bivouacking.**

La Poule d'O,

AN OPEN-AIR CAFE ON THE RIVER INDRE

Alongside Touraine's rivers, the many guinguettes (open-air cafés) are a chance to enjoy simple pleasures in a natural, authentic and retro setting. **Want to get even closer to the water?** La Poule d'O is nestled in a small spot of green countryside, near the iconic Azay-le-Rideau windmill. **It overlooks the River Indre** and turns into an open-air café (guinguette) from June to September. From the aperitif to dinner, the food is based on local produce, the fouée bread and platters are made on the premises or grilled on the barbecue and served on the small barrels used as dining tables.



La Fabrique de Parcius, ECOLOGICAL GITE WITH A NATURAL SWIMMING POOL

Insulation with wood wool, home-made cleaning products, a vegetable garden based on permaculture and local produce: in Parçay-sur-Vienne, the ecological gîte shares its green approach in a big gîte for up to 14 people.

Something extra? The natural 14-metre pool for a quick swim before breakfast!

A NIGHT ON THE LOIRE with the Batelière sur Loire

In La Chapelle-aux-Naux, **a former fishing village, La Batelière sur Loire**, in the Loire-Anjou-Touraine regional nature park, manages the traditional **"toute" boats anchored** at the heart of nature on the banks of the Loire. These adorable vessels for 2 or 4 people are a chance to fall asleep to the sound of the lapping water or to sunbathe and enjoy breakfast on the wide foredeck.



DELICIOUS TOURAINES CHEFS/SPECIALITIES ultra-creative tandems!

TOURAINES IS HEIR TO THE GREAT TRADITION OF TASTY FOOD PROMOTED BY RABELAIS. THE REGION CELEBRATES THE GOOD LIFE WITH THE HELP OF RILLETTES, OF COURSE, BUT ALSO GOAT'S CHEESES, GARDEN VEGETABLES, LOIRE FISH AND POULTRY RAISED ON THE FINEST GRAIN. NEW DISCOVERIES ON THE MENU: **FIVE TOURAINES CHEFS SUPPORTING ULTRA-SHORT FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS** AND THEIR STAR SUPPLIERS.

AMBROISE VOREUX

and the fish of the Loire

La Cabane à Matelot restaurant is owned by the professional Loire fisherman Romain Gadais. Your taste buds will be hooked thanks to **the chef Ambroise Voreux**, a real globe-cooker who travels the world in search of new flavours and techniques. Along with 40 varieties of vegetables and aromatic plants grown in their own garden, **the duo mainly get supplies from the Loire, where the carp and the mullet** are lovingly prepared in Japanese style with an apple jelly, plus Matcha green tea ice cream, crayfish butter and rhubarb pickles!

The restaurant and vegetable garden at the **CHÂTEAU DU RIVAU**

A dream-like experience for the senses, **the "Jardin Secret" restaurant** is a transparent bubble transformed into a gastronomic cocoon for dinner in the garden. This cosy restaurant for up to **20 diners amidst the roses** is a journey into inventive and local cuisine. The dishes mainly feature heirloom vegetables and edible wild plants from the château garden, along with meat from neighbouring farms.





JONATHAN BRISSEAU and Touraine saffron

A real Chinon native, **Jonathan Brisseau is at the helm at Au Local**, a very fine gastropub-style restaurant, locavore and generous, with a breathtaking view over the vineyards and the Royal Fortress of Chinon. The restaurant is well named: **here everything really is local and supplied within a range of 10 km!** A pinch of spices is added to the local ingredients in memory of a year the chef spent travelling around the world. And what is his favourite spice? **Touraine saffron**, which has been grown since the Middle Ages in the Loire Valley and is pampered today by Valérie Raineau, a saffron farmer in La Tour-Saint-Gelin.



Kevin Gardien AND TOURAINE POULTRY BY GABRIEL SIMON

Saché is a pilgrimage site for Balzac fans. **In L'Auberge du XII^e siècle it is hiding one of the region's top restaurants.** The dishes are served in a dining room listed as a «heritage site» and bring out all the riches of Touraine and its winemaking patrimony. The ingredients have a focus on **short-supply food chains**, as seen in a locavore menu with vegetables from Villaines-les-Rochers, flour from Rouziers-en-Touraine, apples and pears from Thilouze, herbs and microgreens from Veigné... plus poultry from Gabriel Simon, a young farmer in Ingrandes-de-Touraine. White duckling, vineyard chicken, Touraine rabbit, Ingrandes goose or mulard duck are transformed into signature dishes alongside tender ravioli and melt-in-the-mouth pork pie.



CLÉMENT DUMONT and La Cabane à Plantes

Clément Dumont won his first Michelin star in 2023. He is the owner of **the Arbore & Sens restaurant in Loches**. The chef gives a big role to plants with dishes composed like a work of art. Edible flowers and herbs are not just there to look good: they also bring out and enhance the tastes... straight from **the Cabane à Plantes in Sennevières**. Mauritania wild mallow, bergamot mint, lavender, basil, cinnamon, fennel, hyssop, thyme, sage, nasturtium...: Juliette, the owner turns them into poetic herbal teas or original aromatics to enhance the chef's creations!



THE CHÂTEAUX DIFFERENTLY original experiences!

LAVISH, EXTRAVAGANT OR INTIMATE, TOURAINE IS TEEMING WITH CHÂTEAUX. LIKE SILHOUETTES RISING IN THE LANDSCAPE TO TELL THE HISTORY OF FRANCE, FROM THE STORMY MIDDLE AGES TO THE POMP OF THE RENAISSANCE, THE CHATEAUX ARE WORTH VISITING FROM EVERY ANGLE. IN A CANOE, BY CANDLELIGHT, ON A PADDLEBOARD, IN A HOT-AIR BALLOON, DURING A GIANT CLUEDO OR FOR A QUICK NAP: **7 WAYS TO VISIT THE CHÂTEAUX DIFFERENTLY!**

THE CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU

by canoe

Chenonceau is the 3rd most visited chateau in France, after Versailles and Chambord. It enjoys an exceptional poetic aura with the arches majestically spanning the River Cher. An ideal spot for romantics, **the Canoë Company** organises excursions on several different routes, including a trip below the Château de Chenonceau during a 2-hour tour covering 7 km.

THE ROYAL CHÂTEAU OF AMBOISE

by candlelight

The Royal Château of Amboise is the perfect expression of luxury and the French lifestyle. It was the first to introduce Italian tastes to the Loire valley. For a confidential visit in dolce vita style, **the evening candlelit tour** is a chance to (re)discover the rooms of the royal residence in a new light with hundreds of candles. A non-guided, dream-like tour **with musical accompaniment in some rooms.**

THE CHÂTEAU DE MONTPOUPON

A GIANT CLUEDO

A deliciously retro atmosphere, atypical collections and a story to make teatime eternal: Touraine's Downton Abbey is the perfect spot for a giant game of Cluedo. The "Murder at the Château" evening events are a chance to investigate the mysterious murder of Marie de Montpoupon. Your goal? To gather clues from the victim's family and staff and unmask the murderer!



THE CHÂTEAU DE VILLANDRY

by candlelight!

The Château de Villandry is much appreciated for its wonderful gardens. The ideal time to visit is during the **"Night of a Thousand Fires", two dream-like evenings** when the gardens **are lit up by 2,000 candles with a spectacular fireworks display** to round it all off. The exceptional evening opening is a chance to stroll along the paths illuminated by a fine golden light. The site is totally transformed and brought to life by the play of light and fantasy characters, taking on a unique atmosphere filled with rare beauty and poetry.

PADDLEBOARDING

at the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau

What could be more original than **standup paddleboarding** to visit the jewel of the Renaissance, the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau? With the help of "Paule & Mike", this multi-faceted diamond set in **the River Indre is just a few paddle strokes away**. A peaceful spot of exercise on the River Indre, an original day out taking you to the foot of the chateau with a chance to see the birds in their "royal" habitat! The way back is unusual – in a semi-rigid boat! For lovers of good food and drink, **"aperitif" paddleboarding sessions are also on offer**.

MUSEUM THERAPY

at the Château de Saché

For a Balzac-style siesta, head for the Château de Saché! Like its illustrious guest, who came here in search of quiet and inspiration, **the Balzac Museum looks towards museum-therapy with a programme focusing on wellness**. Concerts lying the grass, literary trails and model-making workshops are on offer to explore the life and work of Balzac differently. **In 2025, sophrology-forest therapy** workshops hosted by a sophrologist, are a chance to reconnect with your senses!



The châteaux

SEEN FROM ABOVE!

A hot-air balloon trip in Touraine is an adventure in the elements, with a unique view over the Châteaux de Chenonceau, Amboise, etc. Several different companies organise flights, especially in Tours, starting from La Gloriette Park. The flight lasts between 20 and 25 minutes and gives you a unique panorama over the city of Tours.

TOURAINÉ

IN SUMMER

the best spots for a quick drink!

ON THE ROOF OF A MUSEUM, IN A CHÂTEAU OR ON A BOAT, ON A FAMOUS TOWN SQUARE OR IN AN OPEN-AIR CAFE: BECAUSE THE GENTLE LOIRE LIFESTYLE AND THE BANKS OF THE LOIRE ARE PERFECTLY ADAPTED TO THE RELAXATION, TOURAINÉ IS TEEMING WITH «LIFESTYLE» SPOTS TO ENJOY DEEP CONVERSATION AND LOCAL WINES. A LIVELY OR PEACEFUL SPOT, IN TOWN OR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, ON YOUR OWN, WITH YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS: **A QUICK LOOK AT THE BEST PLACES TO ENJOY A QUICK DRINK IN TOURAINÉ!**

An original drink

ON THE ROOF TERRACE OF THE OLIVIER DEBRÉ CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY CREATION (CCCOD)

The CCCOD is an exceptional cultural venue right at the historic centre of Tours. It stands out due to its simple, original architecture and hosts works donated by Olivier Debré, a great traveller and a painter of abstract lyricism and of the Loire, and whose studios were in Touraine! From June to September, 2 Saturdays a month, the museum organises **guided tours followed by a friendly drink at the "Le café de Paula" restaurant** on the roof terrace of the art centre.



A pre-dinner drink on Place Plum' **IN TOURS**

Place Plumereau, known to locals as Place Plum', is filled with cafés and bars. It is the beating heart of the city, attracting local residents, students and tourists. The square is located in the old town centre and is fully pedestrianised. All around are 15th century half-timbered houses, listed as historic monuments. To enjoy a drink, have dinner or a dance, some **60 bars and restaurants** in the district are a guarantee of memorable moments.



THE VALMER APERITIF

at the Château de Valmer

The Domaine de Valmer has been a "little" gem for a long line of enthusiastic owners and today acts as **a real botanical conservatory with a vegetable garden, a collection of Loire valley grape varieties** and a flourishing greenhouse vineyard. To combine a glass of wine from the estate, a platter of local specialities, friends and the sunset over the wonderful gardens, the château organises **the «Valmerapero»**, a friendly and ultra-relaxing aperitif.



WINE CRUISE in Chenonceaux

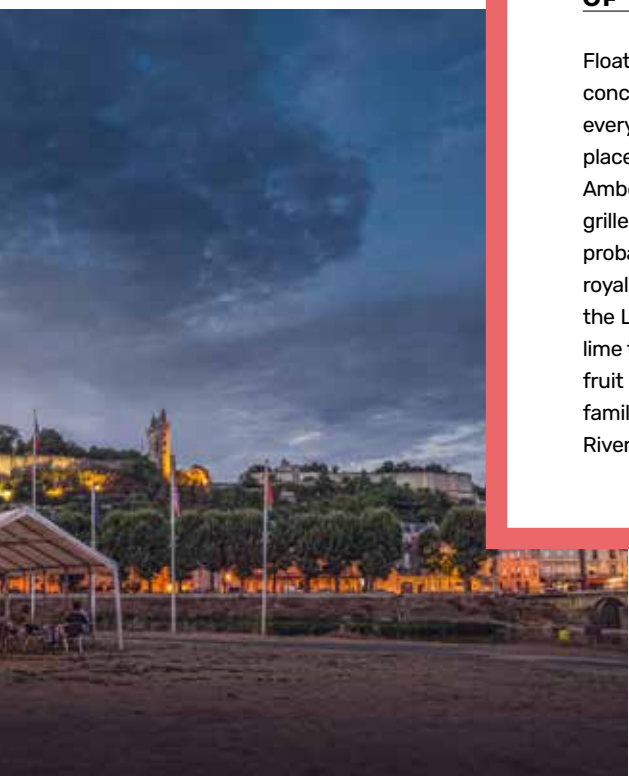
This cruise on the River Cher on a Gabare boat is an original experience with the chance to get up very close the Château de Chenonceau and even sail below the arches. The programme includes a tasting of Touraine-Chenonceaux wines in the company of a professional oenologist and a winemaker, plus a serving of local specialities.

LES APÉ'RIVAU at the Château du Rivau

At the heart of summer, the Château du Rivau with its fairytale gardens opens to visitors in the evening on several exceptional dates. In an ultra-pastoral atmosphere, **you can enjoy a picnic** under the fruit trees in the orchard before a swing, jazz, pop or funk concert!

The open-air cafés **OF TOURAINE**

Floating paper lanterns, garlands of coloured light bulbs, rock and roll dancing, concerts, a bar, open-air cinema, street food, workshops, activities for children: every summer, the Guinguette de **Tours sur Loire**, right below Pont Wilson, is the place to be for a party and to share the little trays of local dishes with friends. In Amboise, **at the Chez Oscar & Suzette** open-air café you can enjoy delicious grilled dishes close by the royal river. In Chinon, **La Guinguette Rabelaisienne** probably has the best view, with only the River Vienne separating it from the royal fortress. In Savonnières, **La Soupette de Mémère** is moored right next to the Loire à Vélo cycling trail. An off-the-wall atmosphere, deck chairs under the lime trees: here they make soups with fresh vegetables, pancakes with jam from fruit from the garden and savoury pancakes with Touraine buckwheat. A real family-friendly spot open until evening, when the sun sets beautifully above the River Cher.



TOURAINES

9 SPOTS

9 ATMOSPHERES

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE FRENCH WAY OF LIFE, HOME TO THE MOST SIMPLE PLEASURES AND A SYMBOL OF GOOD TASTE AND EASY LIVING: TOURAINES HAS A HOST OF DIFFERENT FACETS THAT HAVE SHAPED ITS PERSONALITY! FROM TOURS TO MONT LOUIS-VOUVRAY, AROUND CHENONCEAUX AND VAL D'AMBOISE, FROM NATURAL TOURAINES TO CASTELRENAUDAIS AND ALL THE WAY SOUTH, IN AZAY-CHINON, THE LOIRE VALLEY OR LOCHES: EACH AREA IS AN INVITATION TO EXPERIENCE A DIFFERENT JOURNEY.

MONTLOUIS-VOUVRAY

In praise of slowness in the vineyards

This is a 100% mineral region nestling between Tours and Amboise, and bathed by the River Loire and the Cher. All aboard for **an extraordinary trip in the shelter of the hillside wine villages**. Troglodyte caves and accommodation, Loire wines, listed gardens, leisurely trails (Loire à Vélo, Coeur de France à Vélo®, St Jacques à Vélo, plus river buses), on the water or underground, at the heart of the tuffeau stone or on a fustereau boat: here you can take your time, enjoy a stroll and relax.

Tours

EFFERVESCENCE AT THE WATERSIDE!

Combining urban excitement and a peaceful river, Tours has all the ingredients for a perfect city break. The former capital of the kingdom of France is very **contemporary** (the Olivier Debré Centre of Contemporary Creation and the tram, with 15 km of travel in Daniel Buren's biggest urban work), **delicious** (with the UNESCO "City of Gastronomy" label since 2013), **natural** (500 km of signposted trails) as well as festive (Place Plum' and the guinguette cafés). It provides eclectic food for body and soul.



NATURAL TOURAINE

chic countryside and folie des grandeurs

The densely wooded region, filled with history, is at the heart of a Natura 2000 site "Lake Rillé, forest neighbouring Anjou and Touraine" and the Loire-Anjou-Touraine regional nature park. It rolls out emerald green nature enhanced by white tuffeau stone. **From Langeais to Bourgueil via Gizeux, Champchevrier or Rillé:** here family châteaux, divine bottles of wine, bucolic spots and medieval gems elegantly pass by. The Loire, vineyards, forests and lakes: with many large natural areas, the Touraine Angevine region has a serene and gentle atmosphere.

NORTHERN TOURAINE

Gâtine-Racan, a pastoral world between the Loire and the Loir

Gâtine-Racan combines secret heritage and preserved nature. Several rivers flow across Touraine, as well as 480 km of official hiking trails. The region is filled with small valleys, the home to countryside villages. **The Cistercian abbey of Clarté-Dieu, Bueil collegiate church, the Vaudésir mansion, the Les Rouchoux Sensitive Nature Area,** plus charming bed & breakfasts and big family gîtes are an invitation for a quiet stay in an authentic setting.





VAL D'AMBOISE

a Franco-Italian personality

The historic capital of the Loire Châteaux, the birthplace of King Francis I, home to Leonardo da Vinci: Val d'Amboise can boast some of the finest examples of the Renaissance. In 1495, King Charles VIII, inspired by the wonders he had seen in Italy, decided to overturn the architectural landscape of Val d'Amboise with the help of a ten-man team of Italian architects, gardeners and artists. Even today, **the little touch of dolce vita has made Val d'Amboise** the epitome of the French lifestyle with its colourful vineyards, small farms, tuffeau-stone villages, centuries-old forests and banks of the royal river.



CASTELRENAUDAIS

a rich heritage set in green!

For a journey in search of meaning, Castel Renaudais, known as the Green Touraine, is the right place to go. No fewer than **16 picturesque villages**, green nature and a rich and well-preserved historic heritage describe this destination, which is also a stage on the Way of Saint James. **The "Cité du Cuir" leather museum, the Museum of Africa, the Vasrole windmill, the Petite Loiterie Arboretum and the Orangerie de Beauregard**, a campsite with a very British style: the region is unusual and surprising, and ideal for a welcome break, far removed from mass tourism!



Loches

THE BOHEMIAN PEARL OF SOUTHERN TOURAINE

Fields as far as the eye can see, little country villages, a royal village and an ultra-pastoral atmosphere: **southern Touraine** has all the assets to ease the pace for a while. At the meeting point of Brenne and Poitou, the Loches region is also filled with secret châteaux and a rich heritage. Visitors love to stroll in **Montrésor**, one of France's most beautiful villages, and in **Chédigny**, the first French village to be given the prestigious Remarkable Garden label. With the **River Indre and the Creuse** flowing gently and creating a shaded landscape, the secret and discreet landscape is ideal for getting around on foot, by bike, on horseback...or in a canoe!





Around Chenonceaux

PASTORAL & ROYAL STYLE!

The region developed around the River Cher and will carry you away with its **vineyards, rivers and historic monuments**. The area around Chenonceaux is rich in small-scale heritage, combining churches, washing places, vineyard huts, windmills, troglodyte sites and fine residences that never fail to arouse curiosity. The Château de Chenonceau is an iconic jewel of the Renaissance and of the region, spanning the Cher, a canalised river where visitors can sail or swim. But to see the region, there is nothing like the Coeur de France à Vélo® cycling trail, which follows numerous tow paths between Chenonceaux and Tours!



AZAY-CHINON LOIRE VALLEY

encounter with the good
life

A muse for writers, a hiding place for secret love affairs, a rich setting for ogres and giants, a strategic crossroads for kings and queens: **the Chinon region** is a land of plenty, an ideal holiday destination for lovers of life and good food. Here, **the Loire, the Indre and the Vienne flow and shape the landscape**, while some twenty châteaux, remarkable gardens and rare craftsmanship provide a portrait of a region to explore without limits!





Touraine

Loire Valley

Here, living is an art



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