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The Berry, the South of Touraine and its riches

6 days/7 nights – Southern part of the Loire Valley



In the South of Touraine, you'll enjoy traditional landscapes that have retained their character. Here, more secluded castles and romanesque churches dot a rolling wooded scenery. The Indrois and Cher river valleys are genuinely beautiful, with many places of historic interest. The city of Loches, deep in the Indre valley, built on a rocky butte, is a historic artistic town; it teems with surprising riches, it is an exceptional medieval city in the heart of the Chateaux de la Loire area. The Valençay castle is a majestic Renaissance classical building. This area also offers specialties such as the Selles sur Cher and Valençay cheeses, which you'll enjoy with Touraine or Valençay wine.

Program: *Arrival at the SNCF railway station of Montrichard. We'll welcome you at around 6.30, or directly at the hotel.*



Day 1: Breakfast at 8. You'll be introduced to your horse. Departure on horseback around 10. We'll ride through the troglodytic village of Bourré before reaching the Cher valley. We'll head southward and ride close to the Aigues Vives Abbey, then we'll go through forests, meadows and brooks to reach a beautiful site: the Montpoupon castle and its side buildings. We'll have picnic there and visit the castle afterwards. In the afternoon, we'll go southward on plateau land to go the village of Genillé on canter- friendly roads. Stop with the horses at Genillé. Night in the "Chartreuse du Liget" .

Day 2: Breakfast at 8. 9.30: departure on horseback. We'll leave Genillé and cross the Loches national forest. This former royal forest is 4000 hectares large. It sports a wide variety of trees. We'll ride through it to reach the medieval city of Loches. We'll picnic near the city, then we'll step back in time to discover one of the most beautiful walled cities of France; we'll visit the keep and the royal apartments. In the afternoon we'll ride through the national forest again. We'll reach our night stop, the "Chartreuse du Liget". Night on the site or at a bed and breakfast.





Day 3 : Breakfast at 8. 10 o'clock: departure on horseback. we'll get to the Indrois valley and on our way we'll view the Chemillé sur Indrois lake. We'll ride along the river on a nice shady road and reach the village of Montrésor. It's a real surprise, a jewel on the banks of the Indrois. This charming place sits below its castle, it is one of France's most beautiful villages. We'll visit the village (limestone troglodytic dwellings) and the castle before a picnic close to the village. A long ride in the afternoon through a verdant busy

agricultural land to the village of Luçay le Mâle. Night in a hotel or in a bed and breakfast.

Day 4 : Breakfast at 8. Departure on horseback at 10. A morning in the Bery landscape, we'll get gradually close to the Valençay castle. We'll see it from a distance, commanding, elegant. This castle presents a lofty architectural harmony between classical and Renaissance styles. We'll picnic near the castle and then visit it. In the afternoon, we'll ride on some Valençay forest lanes and reach the town of Selles sur Cher. This name is also the label of a French specialty cheese which affects a round and cone-shaped appearance. It is raw goat milk cheese from ancient times. We'll have some at dinner. Night in a hotel.



Day 5 : Breakfast at 8. We'll then visit goat farm, producer of goat cheese farmer. Departure with the horses around 10.30. In the morning we'll ride along the Cher valley to reach the village of Couffy. Then we'll go on slopes where the landscape is rolling with woods and vineyards. Picnic at the Chateauvieux village. In the afternoon, lanes and paths will take us to the Mareuil castle, our night accomodation on the Cher banks. Night in the hotel in the village of Saint Aignan.

Day 6 : Breakfast at 8. Departure at 10. We'll carry on following the Cher valley, we'll cross the river at Thésée. We'll ride close to the Gué Péan castle. Picnic at Bourré. We'll visit the mushroom nursery cave and the underground city or the silkworm rearing farm, according to visiting times. A short afternoon (one hour) on horseback to reach Vallagon castle at the end of the afternoon. Night in the castle or at a hotel.

Day 7 : After breakfast, time to say "goodbye" and departure for the Montrichard train station around 9:00 am.



PRICE: room for two (6 days/7 nights), single with supplement. This price does not include visits or beverages in hotels and restaurants. Please note that this program is for information only. Changes due to weather, security, technical criterias and other imponderables may occur.