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THE LOIRE CASTLES

6 days /7 nights

Exceptional stay in a three-star hotel



This journey across the Loire landscapes and its forest areas is a leap into history of the Middle Ages but mostly the Renaissance. At the time, the royal house of Valois-Orléans-Angoulême had enough power and means to build fancy castles instead of fortresses. The Loire Valley offers a mild climate, fertile soils and biodiversity as well as monasteries, cathedrals, and of course, castles.

Program

Arrivals : riders with their own vehicle are welcome to arrive in the afternoon at the hotel “Relais des Landes” in Ouchamps. For the others, late afternoon arrival at Montrichard train station.

Day 1



After the presentation and distribution of the horses, we leave to reach Fougères sur Bièvre. We have lunch at the restaurant. It offers the ideal image of a small castle of the end of the 15th century with a curtain wall, a dungeon, gunboats, a walkway and machicolations. In the late afternoon, we resume our journey to our hotel Le Relais des Landes. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Dinner and overnight in a B&B or at a hotel.

Day 2

We ride along the Loire to Chaumont-sur-Loire. A charming village and UNESCO World Heritage site, Chaumont is also well-known for its feudal castle (late 15th cent) overlooking the valley and the village. Lunch at the restaurant and enjoy a visit of the castle in the afternoon. Not to be missed, its stables built in the 19th cent, are considered as the most luxurious in Europe at the time. After the visit of the castle, we join on horseback our hotel Le Relais des Landes.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Day 3

Day without riding



After breakfast, we go by bus to the castle of Chenonceau built on the Cher. Thus, we head to the magnificent castle of Chenonceau built on the Cher. Named "Château des Dames" for the history of France, built in 1513 by Katherine Briçonnet, embellished



successively by Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Médicis, Chenonceau was saved from the rigors of the Revolution by Madame Dupin. It is the flagship of the Loire Valley. We have lunch on the site and we visit the castle. We then go to Amboise to visit his castle of the fifteenth century and for a moment shopping in the city.

Dinner and overnight at the Relais des Landes hotel.

Day 4



We ride through the forest to have our daily picnic at Beauregard castle. Built under François 1^{er}, this former hunting farm of Chambord has always been famous thanks to its gallery of 327 portraits of well-known characters and other remarkable qualities. After the visit of the castle, we leave with our horses for the castle of Villesavin. Transfer by minibus to the hotel Le Relais des Landes. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 5



In the morning, we ride to Chambord where we have a picnic. Chambord is the largest castle of the Loire area. Its architectural achievement is unmatched, a wonder of elegance in the heart of an extensive natural forest reserve (13,850 acres). We visit the castle after lunch and then keep riding to the Villesavin castle (16th century), which was mostly kept in a perfect integrity through the centuries. Transfer by minibus to the hotel Le Relais des Landes.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 6



This morning, the beautifully furnished Cheverny Castle welcomes us for the visit.. The Cheverny castle, beautifully furnished, also welcomes us for a visit. This property is owned by the same family for more than 6 centuries. There you'll discover a fantastic heritage, authentic and still vibrant. Lunch at the restaurant. In the afternoon we join our base Le Relais des Landes.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 7 Transfer to Montrichard train station.

PRICE : room for two (6days/7nights), 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.

ACCOMMODATIONS

One accommodation for this exceptional horseriding

Le Relais des Landes www.relaisdeslandes.com

In the heart of the Loire Valley, Le Relais des Landes offers an ideal stopover to visit the favorite region of the Kings and Queens of France, its castles and vineyards. Dating back to the 17th century, this manor house located in the middle of a 14 hectare flower and planted park will allow you to appreciate the charm of a real mansion, complete with an indoor heated swimming pool on the edge of the forest.

