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THE LOIRE CASTLES

6 days /7 nights



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 in Pontlevoy. 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 foot of this castle. 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. At the end of the afternoon, 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.

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

Day 2

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.

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



Day 3



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. Visit of the castle before riding to Candé-dur-Beuvron.

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

Day 4

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. We have a picnic next to the castle and enjoy a visit 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. We then cross the Sudais Forest to reach our night stop. Dinner and overnight in a B&B or at a hotel.



Day 5

Departure at 10 am on horseback. To reach Amboise, we go back over the hillside and discover some areas of vineyards and cereal crops to arrive in Amboise for the picnic and visit the castle. The fifteenth century is the prosperous period of



Amboise that the Kings Louis XI, Charles VIII, and François I^o enlarged and embellished. In the afternoon, we cross the forest of Amboise to reach Saint Martin le Beau where the family Guestault, which manages the hotel and the family restaurant, receives us to taste their wines of Touraine and Montlouis. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 6



After breakfast, we go down into the Cher Valley, a river that we run along for long gallops. 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. In the early afternoon, we leave the banks of the Cher to arrive the evening stage in the town of Pontlevoy. 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 *(depending on availability)*

-Nights 1 & 7



Hotel Restaurant "l'Auberge de l'Ecole" in Pontlevoy

www.hotel-restaurant-de-lecole.com

or

Hotel Restaurant « L'Hostellerie du Château » in Chaumont sur Loire

www.hostellerie-du-chateau.com

- Nights 2



Hotel- Restaurant «l'Agriculture » in Tour de Sologne www.hotelrestaurant-agriculture-41.com

- Night 3



Hôtel du Cygne à Bracieux www.hotelducygne.com

- Nights 4 and 5



Hotel Restaurant « L'Hostellerie du Château » in Chaumont sur Loire www.hostellerie-du-chateau.com

-Night 6



Hotel Restaurant « le Pigeonnier » in Saint Martin le Beau www.le-pigeonnier-de-fombeche.eu