



## **From the Cher valley to the Loire valley Saumur , French National Riding School Land of the Renaissance : castles and gardens**

6 days /7 nights



**Come with us on this amazing journey and walk through the Villandry gardens, admire the Azay-le-Rideau castle but also the Fontevraud abbey with its medieval architecture. More impressive yet, the royal fortress of Chinon which overlooks the city, which is classified as a City of Art and History. Stroll about Montsoreau, one of the most beautiful villages of France and at the heart of the Natural Parc Loire-Anjou-Touraine, learn and taste various wines from the area with Sainte-Maure-de-Touraine's delicious goat cheese. Last but not least is a very special visit to, Saumur, the city of the French National Riding School named the « Cadre Noir » where we will watch at a riding demonstration.**

### **Program**

*Arrival : riders with their own vehicle are welcome to arrive in the afternoon at the B&B in Saint-Georges-sur-Cher. For the others, late afternoon arrival at Chenonceaux train station.*

#### **Day 1**

After introductions and assignment of the horses, we leave the "Pierres d'Aurèle" to ride to Montpoupon Castle, where we have our picnic. We enjoy the visit of this fortress from the Middle Ages and its hunting museum, a testimony gentlemen's way of life before getting back on the road to Reignac-sur-Indre,. Overnight stop for the horses .

Dinner and night at Le Manoir de Chaix in Truyes.



time to  
of the

#### **Day 2**



Leaving Reignac-sur-Indre, we ride across the valley of the Indre River to reach our picnic spot in Cormery, a carolingian city with its famous abbey founded by ITHIER, abbot of Saint-Martin de Tours. We enjoy a visit of the abbey after lunch before heading on , going through villages and typical landscapes of the area to finally stop in Truyes.

Dinner and night at Le Manoir de Chaix in Truyes.

### Day 3

***Relocation of riders and horses in the morning. Visit of the Villandry castle before lunch.***



The Villandry castle, completed in 1536, is one of the last castles built during the Renaissance in the Loire Valley. The last owners rehabilitated the grounds as they were originally and therefore the magnificent gardens are really a must-see. After the picnic, we leave Villandry to ride across forests and vineyards to get to Azay-le-Rideau. Built on an island in the middle of the Indre during the reign of François 1<sup>er</sup> (between 1518 and 1528), it

still has a remarkable unity of style.

Dinner and night at the Hôtel des Chateaux in Azay-le-Rideau.



### Day 4

***Visit of Azay-le-Rideau Castle in the morning***



Leaving Azay-le-Rideau behind us, we ride in the middle of the Natural Parc of Loire-Anjou-Touraine to reach our picnic spot in St-Benoit-La-Forêt. After lunch, we head towards Chinon, a city overlooked by its medieval castle which is an approved City of Art and History with its beautifully preserved historical center.

Dinner and night at the Hôtel Le Plantagenet in Chinon.

### Day 5

***In the morning, visit and presentation of the Cadre Noir in Saumur: discovery of the work of the young jumping horses and the young horses of Manège, the training with the obstacles and the long reins, and the principles of academic riding. Lunch on the spot.***



As the starting point for the Saint Jacob of Compostella pilgrimage, the Touraine has many impressive religious buildings. Riding along the Vienne, we stop and visit at Fontevraud Royal Abbey. From the 12th to the 18th cent, 36 prioresses looked after this fabulous monument, where many Plantagenet funeral tombs are being kept. Dinner and night at the hotel La Croix Blanche in Fontevraud-L'Abbaye.

### Day 6



After breakfast, enjoy a visit of the Abbey. Then, we ride to Montsoreau, labeled the most beautiful village of France and a UNESCO world heritage site. There we'll enjoy its castle, wines, mills, caves or even a mushroom farm. We then go to Turquant, village with colourful alleys in a typical valley of the Saumuroise coast. We enjoy the banks of the Loire for long gallops.

Dinner and night at the hotel La Croix Blanche in Fontevraud -l'Abbaye.

### Day 7

Transfer to Saumur train station after breakfast.

**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.

## LIST OF ACCOMMODATIONS AND RESTAURANTS

ACCOMMODATIONS (depending on availability)

### - Night 1



**Les Pierres d'Aurèle B&B** in Saint-Georges-sur-Cher [www.lespierresdaurele.com](http://www.lespierresdaurele.com)

Located in the heart of the Loire Valley, a cultural region classified as World Heritage by UNESCO, the area "Pierres d'Aurèle" was completely renovated in 2010 to accommodate 5 charming guest rooms.

The guest rooms, spacious and quiet, also offer a relaxing view of the vineyards of the area.

### - Nights 2 and 3



**Le Manoir de Chaix** in Truyes B&B [www.manoir-de-chaix.com](http://www.manoir-de-chaix.com)

On the plateau of Champeigne Tourangelle, isolated far from the road, the Manor house of Chaix, building of the XVIth century will welcome you in a very quiet setting in the middle of wood.

### - Night 4



**Hôtel des Châteaux** in Azay-le-Rideau [www.hoteldeschateaux.com](http://www.hoteldeschateaux.com)

In a green setting, l'hôtel des Châteaux shelters 27 welcoming and quiet rooms with a view of the park and the greater part of the valley of Chinon

### - Night 5



**Hôtel Le Plantagenet** in Chinon [www.hotel-plantagenet.com](http://www.hotel-plantagenet.com)

The beautiful house from Tours of the XIXth invites you into the relaxed rhythm of life. Stage left or stage right, the small happiness becomes big.

### - Nights 6 and 7



**Hostellerie La Croix Blanche** in Fontevraud-l'Abbaye  
[www.hotel-croixblanche.com](http://www.hotel-croixblanche.com)

The Hostelry la Croix Blanche is situated at the heart of the Loire Valley belonging to the UNESCO world heritage, within 15 minutes of Saumur and Chinon. The establishment includes two restaurants and an outside swimming pool.