

Trip Start Date	Destination	# of Nights	Included Meals	Price Per Person	Single Supplement	Est. Tips
4/17/10	Chateaux of the Loire Valley	5	5B 3D	\$995	\$349	\$30

Day 1

Your tour starts this evening with a welcome dinner at your Paris hotel with your Tour Escort and fellow travelers.
Overnight Paris (D)

Day 2

This morning we leave Paris and head south to the verdant Loire Valley where, during the 15th and 16th centuries, the Kings of France and their courtiers had their holiday palaces. Our first stop is the magnificent Chateau de Chambord. This enormous chateau was created by Louis XIV as a hunting lodge for the grounds which consisted of over 5,000 wooded hectares. Lunchtime today is at leisure in Blois, a lovely old town with narrow cobbled streets. After lunch is a visit to Chateau Royal De Blois. This afternoon we continue on to Tours, your base for the next four nights. Tours has a wonderful historic centre with medieval streets, squares and half timbered houses.

Overnight Tours (B)

Day 3

This morning is at leisure in Tours, a prosperous city with handsomely restored Renaissance buildings and half timbered facades, not least in the Place Plumereau. The St. Julian district is packed with antique shops and several museums. After lunch at leisure in Tours, the afternoon is spent at leisure in Saumur, a beautiful town with an elegant chateau overlooking the river Loire. Dinner this evening is at your hotel.

Overnight Tours (BD)

Day 4

This morning a visit to perhaps one of the loveliest chateaux of the Loire, Chenonceau, where you enjoy both the interior and also the stunning gardens. Possibly one of the most photographed of the Loire chateaux, this former home of Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medicis straddles the lazy river Cher on a series of arches. This afternoon we visit the small market town of Amboise for some time at leisure. The town was once home to the French Royal court and still retains the picturesque Chateau d'Amboise. You may wish to explore the chateau (entrance not included) or stroll around the quaint streets and beautiful churches. No trip to the Loire is complete without sampling the local wine, so also included today is a visit to a local cave such as Cave des Producteurs de Vouvray on the outskirts of Tours.

Overnight Tours (B)

Day 5

After a leisurely start this morning, you visit the town of Chinon. The charming centre has cobbled streets lined with houses, shops and restaurants in beautiful old buildings dating back to the fifteenth century. Lunchtime is spent in the village of Azay le Rideau which sits on the lakeside by its graceful chateau. We then visit the Chateau Villandry, which owes its fame to the magnificent gardens which surround it. Inspired by the classic gardens of the 16th and 18th century, different levels of the gardens include ponds, topiary, ornamental hedges and an extraordinary kitchen garden covering 12,500 square meters. This evening to celebrate the success of your tour, enjoy a farewell dinner together at your hotel.

Overnight Tours (BD)

Day 6

Sadly your tour has come to end as you transfer back to Paris. There will be one central drop off point and also a drop at CDG airport.

(B)