



loire valley cycle



trip highlights

Cycling through the heart of the Loire Valley

Exploring the many grand Chateaux

Experiencing the market places and rural delights of the region

Enjoying the culinary specialties

Sampling some of the many excellent wines in local 'caves'



Trip Duration 6 days

Grade introductory to moderate

Activities SELF GUIDED CYCLE

Accommodation HOTELS

Kia Ora from Adventure South

Thank you for your interest in our Loire Valley Cycle package. It's a superb trip and we hope you'd like to come along. Adventure South has been operating active holidays throughout New Zealand since 1992. From our years of experience in New Zealand we have made a number of business partners along the way. One of our partners in France have a range of self guided cycle itineraries that are just too good to pass by. Their self guided cycle packages take you beyond the more popular and busy trails to provide you with a truly unique experience.

The itineraries aim to explore these delicate environments in a sustainable manner to ensure we leave as little impact as possible from our visit. We'd be honoured to introduce you to these awesome adventures. Go forth, go north - join us on this amazing value packed adventure!

why travel with Adventure South?

"Small Groups, Great Guides, Superb Holidays."

This comment encapsulates an Adventure South active holiday in New Zealand. The phrase was not born from a long and tortuous strategic planning process, it came from a client review! We could not have said it any better. Our client feedback also confirms that what helps make our holidays different are our quality itineraries. They have been developed with years of personal experience to ensure that you have a great vacation and the right degree of personal challenge. We have now teamed up with our partners in France to be able to offer you the best self guided cycle packages around! You don't have to worry about any of the logistics just the great cycling and delicious food. Best of all, they start on virtually any day of the week, so you can combine any tour to create exactly the holiday you want. Compare the price and you will see that we offer great value active programmes that are virtually all-inclusive, giving you more time to enjoy the wonders you've come to experience.

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trip dates

Daily departures from Mar to Oct

trip cost

Joining Blois from: \$1590

options & supplements

Single Supplement - 2 star hotels: \$290

Mainly 3 star hotel upgrade supplement: \$300

Single Person - 2 star hotels: \$410

Single Supplement - 3 star hotels: \$670

Single Person - 3 star hotels: \$790

fast facts

Countries Visited:

France

Visas:

Visas are not required for citizens of Australia, Britain, Canada, USA and New Zealand for stays of up to 90 days. For all other nationalities and longer stays please contact the relevant embassy.

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

This journey is unescorted

*Ask our staff for more information.

the trip

The Loire River was once the highway between the Atlantic and the heart of France. Its valley was known as the 'playground of kings' - a neighbourhood of impressive châteaux and vast fortune. Travelling by bicycle is a great way to experience this world famous Valley. While pedalling at a relaxed pace, you'll discover the best this region has to offer, keeping away from the main tourist route to explore the lesser-known gems of the Loire. We take time to soak up the medieval charm of Blois and discover picturesque Amboise overlooked by its impressive fortified chateau. We cycle through countryside crisscrossed with vineyards, duck farms and orchards and the remnants of feudal hunting forests. Our route proves the Loire Valley lives up to its reputation as the 'garden of France'

at a glance

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN BLOIS

DAY 2 CYCLE TO AMBOISE (44KM)

DAY 3 CYCLE THROUGH THE CHER VALLEY TO MONTRICHARD (40KM)

DAY 4 PASS THROUGH VINEYARDS TO CHITENAY (40KM)

DAY 5 CYCLE TO BLOIS VIA THE FAMOUS CHÂTEAU OF CHEVERNY (49KM)

DAY 6 TRIP CONCLUDES BLOIS

what's included

- 5 breakfasts, 5 dinners (does not include drinks) – breakfasts are continental style and consist of croissants, breads, jams, cheese, yoghurt, coffee, tea and juices. Dinner will consist of 3 to 4 courses which include some regional specialties.
- 5 nights accommodation in a 2 star hotel on a twinshare basis (2 star is comparable to a 3-4 star NZ hotel). All rooms have private facilities.(option to upgrade to 3 star hotels 3 out of 5 nights – supplement applies)
- 21 speed bike equipped with luggage carrier, helmet, 2 rear pannier bags, pump, anti-theft device and repair kit
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Detailed route instructions and maps
- Tourist information pack

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Arrival in Blois

On your arrival in Blois, make your way to the hotel. Depending on when you arrive, we recommend you take a walk around the town which is known for its light facades and blue roofs, its pedestrian streets gracefully preserving the flavor of lost centuries and its serene atmosphere.

meals: D

DAY 2 Cycle to Amboise (44km)

The cycle route follows a quiet road through the forest and vineyards of the Mesland appellation until you reach the Chateau of Chaumont sur Loire that proudly overlooks the Loire River. It is worthwhile stopping here, and the grounds are usually open to the public. The Chateau itself is famous for its luxurious stables, and there is often free wine tasting at the base of the driveway. The cycle continues through the countryside, admiring some beautiful vineyards and past a duck farm, before arriving at the picturesque town of Amboise on the south bank of the Loire River, where you will stay overnight in a small hotel in the centre.

meals: B,D

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DAY 3 Cycle through the Cher Valley to Montrichard (40km)

The cycle route takes you to the famous “Château de Chenonceau” which straddles the Cher River in five distinctive arches. It was this chateau which was promised by King Henri II to his mistress Diane de Poitiers, but following his death the Queen, Catherine de Médicis made her swap it for Chateau Chaumont. The charming town of Montrichard is a little further down the river and makes a great base for the evening.

meals: B,D

DAY 4 Pass through vineyards to Chitenay (40km)

You leave behind the Cher Valley and enter the Touraine area via the chateau of Gué Péan and the medieval chateau of Fougère sur Bièvre, a perfect example of traditional 15th Century architecture. Your night's accommodation is at a charming rural hotel with a lovely garden, complete with Badminton court.

meals: B,D

DAY 5 Cycle to Blois via the famous Château of Cheverny (49km)

During this last stage of the cycle, you have the opportunity to discover the famous sumptuously furnished Château of Cheverny before reaching the prestigious Château de Chambord with its 440 rooms, built during the reign of Francis the 1st. We return to our original hotel in Blois.

meals: B,D

DAY 6 Trip concludes Blois

Trip arrangements conclude after breakfast.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

The Loire Valley region technically does not exist, yet from a touristic perspective it appears in travel brochures and French guidebooks around the world, due to its classic French countryside and an abundance of Chateaux and quaint villages. The valley is now a listed UNESCO World Heritage site between Maine and Sully-sur-Loire on the Loire River. The grand Chateaux that dot the valley are a living reminder of the Renaissance and the Age of Enlightenment that swept through western Europe, whereby private and royal estates on a grand scale were built in the area. Many of the great Chateaux were destroyed and ransacked during the French Revolution and treasures were stolen, yet today more than 300 remain and many are open to the public. Their style ranges from castles of the 10th Century to the royal chateaux of the 15th Century. Although King Francois I returned the power base to Paris in the middle of the 16th Century, the Royals preferred to spend much of their time in the Loire Valley until King Louis XIV built the Palace of Versailles in the 17th Century. To this day, the valley continues to be known as the ‘playground of the kings’, the ‘garden of France’ and even ‘the cradle of the French Language’. Encompassing the official regions of Loiret, Loir-et-Cher, Indre-et-Loire and Maine-et-Loire, the valley is logically centred on the Loire River, Europe’s last untamed river. The many interesting towns in the region are rich with art and history in addition to overflowing with gastronomical delights and fine wines.

climate

The trip runs between March to October during the European spring, summer and autumn/fall. The months of June – August are busy times with temperatures ranging between 20 - 25 degree Celsius and sometimes higher.



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joining instructions

On confirmation of your booking you will receive details of the hotel and joining instructions. On check in you will receive all the necessary documentation for your tour. This will include:

Hotel vouchers

equipment required

Cycle helmet, wet weather gear, sunscreen, sandals and sun hat. (A comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking).

non exclusive trips

Please note that this trip isn't Adventure South exclusive and is run by our partners in France. We've been working with them for a while and are confident to say its an awesome package.

what's not included

- Travel to and from Blois
- Lunch and drinks
- Items of a personal nature
- Entrance fees
- Tour guide – this is a self guided cycling trip
- Transfers
- Travel insurance

responsible travel

We all have a responsibility to minimise the impact we have on the environment and communities we visit when we travel. Since our beginnings this has been a cornerstone of our company. The New Zealand travel industry has become a world leader in developing an external audit process to identify quality, and that process has been extended to now include a 3 level Enviro Mark based on company processes. We're very proud that we've received a Gold rating, the highest category; each year since this initiative began.

Being responsible when we travel isn't about a single process or project but rather a way of thinking and then doing. We started this journey many years ago, and acknowledge we still have a lot to learn. We invite you to join us!

trip grading

INTRODUCTORY to MODERATE – GRADE 2

Daily cycles are between 26 and 49 kms on flat to undulating terrain. The cycling is on a combination of dedicated cycle paths and low traffic side roads. The accent is on keeping a relaxed pace to take in all of the attractions, with time to stop and take photos. You will need a reasonable level of fitness to participate fully in this adventure. It is considered suitable for beginners and children (children's bikes and trailers available on request).

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with one of our staff.



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important note

THESE TRIP NOTES REPRESENT THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THIS ITINERARY, AND SUPERSEDE ANY INFORMATION DETAILED IN THE CURRENT BROCHURE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ITINERARY AND PRICE.

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point. Planning and providing special group departures is something we do exceptionally well. Over the past 18 years we have developed some exceptional itineraries, from cycling to hiking or combination multi-adventure trips. School groups, charities, work colleagues and cycling buddies have all been part of our experience. Our team can assist you with all aspects of your private group to ensure the trip is tailored just right for your group. Contact our team today.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

To keep up to date with the new and exciting trip releases, special offers plus more please subscribe to our free e-newsletter at www.advsouth.com

Or why not view past travellers images and join in on the conversation at <http://www.facebook.com/AdventureSouthNZ>

trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability as we operate strictly small group adventures. Many of our adventures require us to secure services on your behalf; such as permits, hotels and flights to name but a few. The demand for these services is increasing each year making it difficult to join a trip last minute. To ensure we can assist you onto your adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book an Adventure South holiday, you can book directly online (<http://www.advsouth.com/booking.aspx>) or you will need to complete a booking form (found at the back of our brochure). You can also download a copy from www.advsouth.com . On completion, please fax or post the form to Adventure South. If you're unsure what would be the best option for you call us NZ free phone 0800 00 11 66, AUS free phone 1800 10 70 60, USA free phone 1866 479 9827 anywhere else +64 3 942 1222 or email us on guide@advsouth.co.nz