

South America



Cycle the Loire Valley: France (7 days - 6 nights)

Day 1: Tours

Bonjour! Welcome to Tours – the gateway to the Loire Valley beautifully situated between the Cher and Loire rivers. With no activities planned today, you are free to arrive at any time, but ensure you can make an important 6 pm welcome meeting with your group leader and fellow cyclists. Before then, Tours is free for you to explore. Why not head to the St-Gatien Cathedral, or the Hotel Gouin Museum, one of the rare renaissance buildings that stood the test of time, which houses a collection that traces the history of the region all the way to the Enlightenment Age.

Day 2: Blois

This morning, you'll transfer by vehicle or train (depending on group size) to hillside Blois – the beginning of your cycling adventure through the Loire Valley. Once arrived, complete a bicycle fitting, then take a leisurely ride along the banks of the serene Loire River on a dedicated bike-only path to the small riverside town of Saint-Dye-sur-Loire. Then, veer away from the river and ride along narrow roads to the palatial Chateau de Chambord. This beautiful palace, commissioned by Francois I and whose design was influenced by Leonardo da Vinci, is a sight to behold, with a central structure adorned with multiple chimneys and sculpted capitals on its terraces. After you've explored the palace and its manicured gardens, cycle back on quiet roads and past flat pasture and return to Blois for the evening.

Cycling distance: approx. 40km / 25 miles, mostly flat then undulating away from the river, with approx. 220m / 720ft of elevation gain.

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Day 3: Amboise

This morning, consider the option of visiting another grand building: Chateau de Cheverny. If you would like to take a visit inside, please let your group leader know the day before, as earlier travel arrangements are necessary to take this optional visit.

Your cycling begins by riding along the plateau and down to the Cher River, where you'll arrive at Chateau de Chenonceau, and this one's pretty special. The chateau is set over water, spanning the Cher River, with its gardens to one side of the banks. You will have included entry to explore this beautiful building, admiring the perfect gardens, classic features and stunning views of the surrounding countryside. It's true fairy tale stuff. After your visit, cycle through the Amboise Forest, re-joining the Loire River at your stop for the evening: the delightful riverside town of Amboise. If you want to see some more chateaux, why not head to Chateau du Clos Luce, the place where Leonardo de Vinci spent the last three years of his life. It is currently a small museum, with grounds that show some working models of his designs and is within walking (or cycling) distance of the main town.

Cycling distance: approx. 53km / 33 miles, mostly flat with a couple of small downhill sections, with approx. 350m / 1150ft of elevation gain.

Day 4: Villandry

Continue to hug the Loire River as it gently makes its way downstream to the Vouvray vineyards. This wine region is almost exclusively dedicated to chenin blanc, and with its naturally high acidity, the wines produced here age very well. Stop in for a vineyard visit, then continue cycling on to Tours, cutting across the river on your way to the Chateau de Villandry – arguably the Loire Valley's most famous chateau. Wander through the vast gardens of perfectly curated gardens and the beautiful U-shaped castle. With time to explore, be sure to stop and smell the roses in these beautiful surroundings.

Cycling distance: approx. 48km / 30 miles, mostly flat, with approx. 270m / 880ft of elevation gain.

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Day 5: Saumur

Be ready for a longer - but not overly challenging - day of cycling (approximately 60 kilometres). Begin your ride from Villandry along the banks of Loire River to the final included chateau visit – the Château d'Ussé that Charles Perrault took as inspiration for his castle in the tale of Sleeping Beauty.

Afterwards, continue cycling downstream through two beautifully classic French villages – Candé-Saint-Martin and Montsoreau – both perched on the riverside. Finish the cycle today in Saumur, where you can explore the cobblestoned streets, visit a sparkling wine cellar, or try out one of the fine-dining options in the medieval centre. Today's ride is mostly flat, but be sure to enjoy a restful evening before another cycling day tomorrow.

Cycling distance: approx. 60km / 37 miles, mostly flat, with approx. 280m / 900ft of elevation gain.

Day 6: Angers

Continue your ride down France's longest river – the Loire. Ride from Saumur alongside the river for around 20 kilometres, then head inland to Brissac-Quince, home to the tallest chateau in all of France. From here, descend gently towards the Loire River and to tonight's destination: the beautiful and historically significant city of Angers. This evening, perhaps gather your cycling group together for dinner – tonight is definitely cause for celebration.

Cycling distance: approx. 55km / 34 miles, mostly flat with a couple of small inclines, with approx. 430m / 1400ft of elevation gain.

Day 7: Angers

With no activities planned for today, you are free to leave at any time. However, if you wish to spend more time in Angers, we'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability).

Cycling distance: No included riding today

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Accommodations:

- Hotel (6 nights)

Inclusion :

- All Transfers, Sightseeing and intercity travel using A/c Vehicle as per the itinerary.*
- All expenses related to driver and the vehicle i.e. Fuel, DA, Tolls, Parking charges, Vehicle permits and Taxes, etc.
- All must-see sightseeing as per the itinerary specified

Exclusion :

- Any Train/ Air/ Bus fares, Travel Insurance, Visa (if required), etc.
- All monument entry fees, guide charges, tips, camera fees, Joy rides, etc.
- Tips and Porterage
- Any services not mentioned in the inclusion list

Our Scope of Services:

We are holiday organizers only. We inspect and select the services to be provided to you. However, we do not own, operate or control any airline, shipping company, coach or coach company, hotel, transport, restaurant, kitchen caravan or any other facility or provider etc. that is engaged to provide you services during the course of your tour. Therefore, please carefully note that:

- you will need to adhere to the conditions, rules and regulations of each service provider. For instance, you will need to check the baggage rules of the airline, you will need to check the hotel rules to check what the mealtimes are, at which you should make yourself available. The company is not responsible / liable for the consequences if you breach such rules and regulations.
- If you cause any injury or damage affecting the service provider, then you may be liable to the service provider and if the service provider recovers any monies from us for such injury or damages, we shall separately charge you for the same.
- We cannot be held responsible / liable for any delay, deficiency, injury, death, loss or damage etc. occasioned due to act or default of such service providers, their employees or agents.

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Payment Policy:

- Reservation amount has to be paid upfront for us to start confirming your package.
- Full flight amount (if flights included) and any non-refundable hotel amount has to be paid within 3 days of booking.
- Balance payment (if any) needs to be completed 21 days prior to travel.
- For travel in less than 21 days from booking, complete payment must be received within 24 hours of booking.
- You can pay using credit cards, debit cards, net banking, PayPal, NEFT, IMPS, RTGS, SWIFT or deposit cash Rs 1,99,000/- in adherence to Income Tax ACT.
- We charge non-refundable **financing fees for overdue amounts**:
 - Financing charges: 1% per day of pending amount, compounding per day
 - Processing charges for financing: 5% per week of pending amount or INR 10,000 per week, whichever is lower; from 2nd week.
- We reserve the right to cancel your trip without notice after due date. Any cancellation costs will be borne by you.
- If the above-mentioned payment terms are not followed Ayush Tours & Travels will not be held responsible for any change made in the package itinerary due to non-availability of flights, Hotels, Ferry etc.
- There might be an increase in total package cost offered at the time of bookings in case the payments are not received by Ayush Tours & Travels as per the terms mentioned and the extra cost need to be borne by the guest.

Airline Cancellation Policy:

- Cancellation will be as per the airlines cancellation policy
- Refund will be done within 30 Working days post deduction of cancellation charges by airlines (as per airline cancellation policy) and service charge of 25% on total value by Ayush Tours & Travels.

Hotel Cancellation Policy:

- Date of booking to 31 days before travel the cancellation charges will be 25% of the tour cost
- 30 to 16 days before travel - cancellation charges will be 50% of the tour cost
- 15 to 8 days before travel - cancellation charges will be 75% of the tour cost
- 0 to 7 days before travel - cancellation charges will be 100% of the tour cost. No refund shall be given
- **Please Note:** Cancellation policy is subject to change. It depends on the hotel policy.
- In peak season (example: long weekends, festival season, summer vacation etc.) most of the hotels charge 100% cancellation.
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Useful Tips before Booking:

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- If your flights involve a combination of different airlines, you may have to collect your luggage on arrival at the connecting hub and register it again while checking in for the return journey to your origin.
- For queries regarding cancellations and refunds, please refer to our Cancellation Policy.
- Disputes, if any, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in Jaipur.
- We reserve the right to issue a full refund in case we believe that we are unable to fulfil the services for any technical reasons.

Terms And Conditions:

- All rates are valid on departure dates mentioned. Ayush Tours & Travels reserves the right to change departure dates given the airline seat availability changes.
- The rates are valid for minimum 02 adults travelling together at all times. A Single room booking can be processed if accompanied with another Single room booking and/or a Twin room booking.
- The Foreign Exchange rate is volatile / dynamic and the same may fluctuate at the time of final payment
- As per RBI guidelines, the Foreign exchange component of your tour towards your land portion can only be processed 120 days prior to your travel.
- The rates are not valid on block out dates.
- Surcharges as and when applicable will be advised and passengers would be requested to pay the same
- Surcharges could be over and above the total package price quoted to the passengers at the time of booking.
- Some flights depart from India on a previous date and arrive at the destination the next day of departure and likewise for the return flight to India.
- Guests are requested to check with sales staff before booking their onwards/ connecting flights.
- The rates are subject to availability of hotel accommodation and sightseeing tours at the time of booking. We reserve the right to use an alternate hotel accommodation of an equal or higher standard. If we source a more expensive alternative, we reserve the right to re-quote based on the higher rates.
- Prices are not valid during Trade Fair periods.
- Rates are valid for Indian Passport holders only.
- International Check in time is 1400 hours / Check out time is 1100 hours, early check in and checkout is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed.
- Transfers wherever included are without night surcharges.
- No refunds either in part or in full will be made for any unutilized service.
- All the sightseeing tours and excursions are organized by local companies. The timings and days of operation are subject to alteration. Changes if any will be intimated at the time of booking.
- Sightseeing's tours are strictly based on whether conditions and also local service providers have rights to cancel the sightseeing tours without prior notice.
- While Ayush Tours & Tarvels takes extreme care to ensure all your sightseeing and excursions are not on holidays / closed dates but due to the itinerary / sudden changes it sometimes becomes unavoidable. Ayush Tours & Travels will make every possible attempt to arrange for alternate sightseeing and excursions on such days. However, no refund will be provided as such events are beyond our control
- Rates subject to change without prior notice and also for clients travelling during weekends.
- Offer if any can be withdrawn at any point without prior notice.
- Bookings once confirmed are subject to cancellation charges which shall be advised at that time. • Services of Tour Manager are not included in this package.

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- Ayush Tours & Travels is not responsible for any change in the price due to factors not in the control of the organization.
- As a practice all international hotels charge a security deposit via credit card or cash, at the time of checkin for each room. The amount will vary according to the hotel and is refunded back to the clients upon check-out. Debit cards should not be offered as it will be charged immediately and refunded only after 2-3 weeks. If any additional services or mini bar or any other service is utilized at the hotel, the hotel reserves the right to charge the same on this security deposit provided by the client. Ayush Tours & Travels would not be responsible for these transactions and these are solely between the hotels and the clients.