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TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING LEVEL 1

Europe / France / Loire

Loire Valley Family Bike + Adventure Tour

Magic for All Ages in the Land of Enchantment

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour the 16th-century Château de Cheverny, the model for Marlinspike Hall in the beloved French comic *The Adventures of Tintin*
- Peruse Leonardo da Vinci's sketches, letters, and war machine replicas at Château du Clos Lucé, where he spent the final years of his life
- Paddle down the gentle Cher River in a canoe
- Hone your culinary skillset by preparing a zero-waste meal and participating in a cheesemaking demonstration









ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

Arrival Details

- **Airport City**: Paris, France
- **Pick-Up Location**: Tours Train Station
- **Pick-Up Time**: 11:00 am

Departure Details

- **Airport City**: Paris, France
- **Drop-Off Location**: Tours Train Station
- **Drop-Off Time**: 12:00 pm

NOTE: DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or **emergency@duvine.com**.

Younger Travelers

- This itinerary is designed for children ages 7–12+. The itinerary can be customized for your family's needs. For safety reasons, children must be at least 7 years old to ride their own bike.
- E-bikes are only available to ages 14 and older
- Trailers and tag-along bikes are available for younger children
- Safety triangles are provided to all children on tour
- Please note, children must be age 6 and older to participate in kayaking

TOUR ITINERARY

Tour By Day

DAY 1

Welcome to the Loire Valley

Our guides will meet you at the Saint-Pierre-des-Corps train station and bring you to nearby Château Villandry. After a light lunch on the castle grounds, take a moment to wander the maze-like gardens, paths, and water features. For dessert, we'll taste innovative ice cream flavors inspired by the fragrant herbs and aromatic flowers that grow here. After a bike fitting and safety talk, begin a gentle ride along the Cher River. You'll start to see why this region is known as the breadbasket of France—endless wheat fields and farms point the way to our hotel, a quintessential Loire Valley château. Tonight's dinner is prepared by the château's own chef and served with a side of sprawling valley views.

Meals: Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Château de Villandry, Savonnières, Veigné
Accomplished: 20 miles / 32 km, elevation gain: 639 feet / 195 meters
Accommodations: **Domaine de la Tortinière**

DAY 2

Château d'Azay-le-Rideau and Langeais

Start the day at a fairytale castle in Azay-le-Rideau, where French tradition meets Italian design overlooking the Indre River. Our morning ride through the countryside brings us to Langeais with its imposing medieval castle. After lunch at a crêperie, kids of all ages can conjure their inner knight on the castle's working drawbridge and ramparts. For the best view of the fortress's promenades and gardens, climb to the highest perch of the tree house entwined with a towering cedar on the grounds. Later, opt for an extra ride on a peaceful bike path to Villandry and visit a farm to learn how tasty French cheese is made. Once we shuttle back to the hotel, we'll dine at a local restaurant that was converted from a water mill.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Villandry, Savonnières, Montbazon
Accomplished: 12 miles / 19 km, elevation gain: 413 feet / 126 meters
Longer Option: 26 miles / 42 km, elevation gain: 886 feet / 270 meters
Accommodations: **Domaine de la Tortinière**

DAY 3 Back to the Renaissance at Chenonceau

This morning, set off on a short ride through the Amboise forest, which once served as a prized hunting ground for French nobility. At the Château de Chenonceau, we'll trade our bikes for canoes and paddle down the Cher River, floating by waterfront scenery and even passing beneath the Château's stunning arched bridge. After a vibrant picnic lunch prepared by your guides, its time to explore the world that lies within the castle. The Château de Chenonceau houses an enormous collection of Renaissance furniture to inspire your kids' daydreams about the royal lives of lords and ladies. Get lost in the dizzying garden labyrinth or lie back on the lawns beneath the sun. Return to the bikes and ride to our hotel in Amboise. This evening you are free to shop and stroll in this charming riverside town as you find the perfect restaurant for your family's dinner.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch
Destinations: Chenonceaux, Amboise
Accomplished: 9 miles / 14 km, elevation gain: 433 feet / 132 meters
Accommodations: **Le Clos d'Amboise**

DAY 4 Château de Cheverney

Wake to a leisurely breakfast in our sophisticated manor-turned-hotel. Today we're headed to the magnificent 16th-century Château de Cheverny, the setting that inspired cartoonist Hergé's *The Adventures of Tintin.* An interactive visit to Tintin's world appeals to all generations—including the Château's kennel that's sure to delight animal lovers with the presence of 100 well-trained hunting dogs. We then transfer to a quaint village and La Grange, where we tie on our aprons and learn to prepare a beautiful zero-waste meal with herbs and vegetables from the garden. Back on our bikes after lunch, we'll cycle on small roads enjoying a panorama of rich farmland en route back to our hotel. Should some family members prefer to spend some more time relaxing at the hotel before dinner, the van will be there to shuttle you home. Cool off with a dip in the pool before we gather for tonight's meal in the town center.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch
Destinations: Cheverney, Amboise
Optional Ride: 11 miles / 18 km, elevation gain: 538 feet / 164 meters
Accommodations: **Le Clos d'Amboise**

DAY 5

Au Revoir

Enjoy a final breakfast at the château with enough time to take one last Loire Valley walk through the grounds and gardens. Guides see you off safely at the Tours train station.

Meals: Breakfast
