



ESSENTIAL OF LOIRE VALLEY AND BORDEAUX

SHARED PACKAGE - 8 DAYS / 7NIGHTS

Small group tours from Paris to Loire Valley and Bordeaux, TGV (fast train) tickets, Transportation, Registered guide, Entry fees and guided tours for the Chateaux of Chenonceau, Amboise, Clos Lucé, Blois, Chambord, Cheverny, Azay Le Rideau, Langeais and Villandry gardens, Visits and tastings at cellar caves (Vouvray, Cheverny, Chinon or Bourgueil), Entry fees, visits and wine tastings at six different wineries, A walking guided tour of the city of Saint-Emilion, Sightseeing of the Chateau road, four nights at a 4* hotel in Tours and three nights in a 4* hotel in Bordeaux - with breakfasts.

ITINERARY

TRANSFER PARIS TO TOURS TGV TRAIN

Welcome to the Loire Valley!

Indeed, the Loire Valley has the undisputed reputation of containing the most beautiful of the French castles - such as Chenonceau, Chambord or Azay le Rideau. You are encouraged to take some time to discover the "terroir" of the Loire Valley with its wines (Vouvray or Chinon), and cheeses (Sainte Maure de Touraine or Selles sur Cher).

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL TRANSFER IN TOURS

Pick up in Tours or Saint Pierre des Corps Train Station. Transfer to your centrally located hotel in Tours or Amboise and check in. Night at your hotel.

DAY 2 – BLOIS, CHEVERNY, CHAMBORD CASTLES

Pick-up is at your hotel at 8:45 AM.

Guided tour of the Chateau of Blois

The chateau of Blois is unique in its combination of four styles: Medieval, Gothic, Renaissance and Classical. Home of Kings Louis XII and François I, it is where Joan of Arc received her blessings before setting out on her famous journeys and is followed by some notable tragedies over the following centuries.



Enjoy an exclusive and convivial tasting of Cheverny and Cour-Cheverny wines, (King François the 1st 's favourite!) at a local winery, then some other great wines of the domain along with additional terroir specialities.



Lunch at your leisure.

Guided tour of the Chateau of Cheverny

Owned by the same family since the 13th Century, the Marquis Hurault de Vibraye originally succeeded in giving warmth and life to his chateau thanks to some of the most beautiful furniture in the Loire Valley. The chateau, which led to the creation of Moulinsart in the famous comic book Tintin, is also famous for the tradition of the horse-back hunt and its impressive pack of a hundred dogs. You may have the luck to witness this spectacular daily event of “the dogs’ soup”.



Guided tour of the Chateau of Chambord.

Drive to the Estate of Chambord, whose national game reserve as large as the city of Paris! The Chateau de Chambord (guided tour) is a unique monument as defined by its architecture and proportions. Leonardo da Vinci likely took part in its conception. With more than 400 rooms and the double-spiral staircase, Chambord is a highlight of the Loire Valley.



Drop-off is at your hotel at 5:40 PM

DAY 3 – CHENONCEAU, AMBOISE, CLOS DE LUCE

Get picked-up at your hotel at 8:45 AM.

Guided tour of the Chateau of Chenonceau

Arriving in the Loire Valley, you'll start your day tour touring the Château de Chenonceau. The "Chateau des Dames", bridge built across the Cher is famous for the prominent women who lived in it (Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de Medicis...) and for the beauty of its Renaissance Gardens.

Tour and wine tasting with a Specialist in matured Loire Valley vintages.

Pascal and his team welcome you to his caves, the ancient tuff-stone quarries, for a tour followed by a tasting of three local wines.

Lunch at your leisure.

Guided tour of the Royal Chateau of Amboise

After lunch, you will tour the Royal Castle of Amboise, residence of Charles the 8th and young François d'Angoulême, (the future Francois the 1st). Here you will discover perfect examples of the transition from Gothic to Renaissance styling, as well as the Saint Hubert Chapel which shelters the final resting place of Leonardo da Vinci.



Guided tour of the Chateau of the Clos Lucé

The tour would not be complete without taking you to meet The Genius in his Chateau du Clos Lucé, only a few short steps away from the Royal Castle.

This is where da Vinci spent the last three years of his life and passed there in 1519. After touring his bedroom, office, reception room and kitchen, stand in awe at the Invention Room, where models of Leonardo's most spectacular machines are on display.



Drop-off is at 5:40 PM at your hotel.

DAY 4 – AZAY-LE-RIDEAU, LANGEAIS & VILLANDRY

Pick up at your hotel at 9:40 AM.

Guided tour of the chateau of Azay le Rideau

This is one of the purest gems of Renaissance Architecture in the Loire Valley where financier Gilles Berthelot delicately placed his chateau on an island on the Indre river. It still shines today thanks to the lightness and balance of its mullions, pepper pots, dormers and above all its graceful staircase.

We'll be sure to let you admire the Chateau under every angle with a stroll around the English-style garden, a jewel-case of greenness in what is now considered one of the most beautiful stone diamonds in the Touraine.



Wine tasting at an organic local domain

The vines of this estate are ideally spread out over the entire "terroir" covered by the appellation, from the gravel shores along the Loire River to the clay, limestone and sandy soils of the hills overlooking the valley. The red and rosé wines produced in the domain are presented under the appellation "Bourgueil" AOC. They stem 100% from the "Cabernet Franc" grape introduced by the monks of the Abbey in the 11th century.



Lunch at your leisure.

Guided tour of Chateau of Langeais.

The Royal Castle of Langeais is the best representation of everyday life in the Middle Ages. Built under King Louis the 11th, it was the scene of the marriage of King Charles the 8th and Ann of Brittany. Discover amazing sets of original furniture and tapestries in the spectacular Banquet and Wedding Halls.



Guided tour of one of the most spectacular gardens of Touraine: Villandry.

By its diversity and originality (the Love Garden, Kitchen Garden, Aromatic and Medicine Plant Garden, Water Garden and the brand new Sun Garden) and by its sheer size (15 acres featuring 1150 linden trees), Villandry is THE Loire Valley garden not to be missed. Your guide will soon have you speaking the language of the Medieval and Renaissance garden, deepening your understanding of the healing powers of thyme and basil.



Drop-off is at 5:40 PM at your hotel.

DAY 5 – TRANSFER TO BORDEAUX

Check-out after the delicious breakfast.
TGV (high-speed) train from Tours to Bordeaux.

Private transport to your Hotel****.

Welcome to Bordeaux!

Bordeaux, a city renowned for so many good things: listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it's described as “an outstanding urban and architectural ensemble”. It is also classified as a “City of Art and History”, and finally, the Wine Capitol of the World!



Check in at the Hotel Majestic**** in Bordeaux for three nights - with breakfasts.

Day at leisure to enjoy Bordeaux.

We suggest you visit Place de la Bourse, Cathedral Saint-André, La Cité du vin, Museum of Aquitaine... You'll love it!



DAY 6: MEDOC, PAULLIAC, VISIT AND WINE TASTING 3 WINERIES

Pick up is at 9:20 AM at the Bordeaux Tourist Office.

Sightseeing along the Chateau Road, tour and wine tasting at a winery

You'll start your day at a winery located along the Castle Road. Enjoy a visit of the property and discover the impeccably maintained mechanical installations to understand more of the whole wine making process. After that visit, it'll be time to experience your first commented wine tasting session. This will be a chance to gain an excellent understanding of the wines produced right there, whether as an introduction to wines in general or to expand on your existing knowledge.



Lunch at your leisure in Pauillac.

Tour & Wine Tasting in 2 Wineries

After lunch, we return to Bordeaux. We'll stop in at two different carefully selected wineries along the way so that your full-day wine tour from Bordeaux to the Medoc is complete. Several different appellations are included in this.



Sightseeing and picture-taking stops

Left Bank Bordeaux wines include the most renowned Châteaux, as Châteaux Margaux and Palmer. As time allows, we'll attempt to make stops in front of all of these renowned houses (Palmer, Margaux, Rauzan Segla, Cantenac Brown) for the all-important photo op!

Then your drop-off will be at 6:00 PM at the Bordeaux Tourist Office.

DAY 7: SAINT EMILION AND POMEROL – VISIT AND WINE TASTING AT THREE WINERIES

Check out after breakfast.

Pick-up is at 9:20 AM at the Bordeaux Tourist Office.

As it takes about an hour to travel to Saint-Emilion and Pomerol, this will be a good opportunity to hear more about Bordeaux's Wines while admiring the magnificent passing landscape known as the Right Bank of the Bordeaux region.

Visit and wine tasting in a famous Classified Growth Château of the Pomerol or Saint Emilion appellation. We start with the best of what Saint-Émilion and Pomerol region wines have to offer! Most of the great Saint-Emilion and Pomerol wine comes from the chateaus located on the côtes and the plateau. The côtes are the limestone hillsides surrounding the picturesque village of St. Emilion, and the plateau's soils are full of limestone, clay, gravel, sand and iron deposits. The majority of the best Saint Emilion wine comes from estates located on this plateau and these côtes, and is why St. Emilion produces wines of such distinct richness, exotic texture and minerality.



On to another visit of a Classified Growth Chateau in the Village
That visit will be followed by a commented tasting that takes place in the village and will include wines from the surrounding appellations such as Pomerol, Cotes de Castillon, Lussac, Montagne or Saint Georges Saint Emilion.

A short walking tour of the village of Saint Emilion

A protected Unesco World Heritage Site, we'll help you discover a portion of the village on foot and then you'll have free time to enjoy some personal exploration before we go to lunch.

The village takes its name from a local Benedictine Monk who went by the name of Emilian, responsible for the creation of the uniquely designed limestone church at the heart of the village. Today, Saint-Emilion is also famous for its fascinating romanesque churches and ruins that appear all along the steep and narrow streets punctuated by cafés and boutiques of the terroir.



Lunch will be at your leisure.

Afternoon visit and wine tasting

Continuing with your experience of discovery, a third and in-depth visit and tasting session takes place at a local winery of the Pomerol or Saint Emilion wine producing region. Here you'll meet independent and passionate wine makers who offer hands-on learning about the living cultural heritage of Bordeaux's wine: from grape varieties of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, to the geology of the soil, the climate, and most importantly, the art of the wine making itself in this wholly unique appellation.

Drop-off is at 5:30 PM at the Bordeaux Tourist Office.

DAY 8: CHECK OUT AND DEPARTURE

Check-out after your breakfast.

Accommodations

Loire Valley: The Four-Star Hotel l'Univers in Tours for four nights.

The Hotel l'Univers (****) is set in a fashionable shopping area one kilometre (a half-mile) from Old Town. This hotel has the most prestigious address in Tours since 1846 as many notables of Europe and the New World have stayed here. The fascinating portrait gallery underlines its rich and historic past while continuing to offer all the comfort of a grand hotel established in the best traditions of hospitality and elegance "à la Française".



Bordeaux: The Four-Star Hotel Majestic for three nights

The Hotel Majestic welcomes you inside an 18th-century building situated between the Grand Theatre and the Place des Quinconces.



This package includes

(Please note that this package is based on a double occupancy room)

Four nights in a 4* hotel in Tours - with breakfasts

Three nights in a 4* hotel in Bordeaux - with breakfasts

TGV (fast train) tickets - as mentioned

Private transportation - as mentioned

Other Transportation

An expert guide

Entry fees and guided tours of the Chateaus of Chenonceau, Amboise, Clos Lucé, Blois, Chambord, Cheverny, Azay Le Rideau, Langeais and the Villandry Gardens

Visits and tastings at cellar caves (Vouvray, Cheverny, Chinon or Bourgueil)

Entry fees, visits and wine tastings at six wineries

A walking guided-tour of the city of Saint-Emilion

Sightseeing on the Chateaux Road

This package does not include

Extra meals and drinks

Personal expenses

Other visits not listed

Guide appreciation gratuities

Additional information

Providers are subject to change according to their availability at the time of the reservation. In this unlikely event, we will offer you a parallel alternative at the same high standard.