



LOIRE IN LUXURY

TOUR ITINERARY



CYCLING
for **SOFTIES**



LOIRE IN LUXURY OVERVIEW

In the heart of fairy-tale France lies the Loire Valley, an enchanting region of elegant châteaux and blooming gardens. On this luxurious tour you'll have the chance to visit these fabulous sights as you cycle from castle to café to boutique hotel. Pedal to some of the region's most indulgent places, where royal intrigue and fascinating tales await. The wine here is truly delicious, so be sure to visit one of the many vineyards for a tasting. On this tour, you'll visit the Château du Rivau, Château de Saumur, the spectacular Chinon, Château d'Azay-le-Rideau as well as many charming towns. Staying in indulgent chateau hotels, this is the Loire in luxury.

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"One of the most luxurious regions in France, the Loire was

the playground of royals for hundreds of years. With elegant châteaux and indulgent restaurants everywhere you cycle, this region is a firm favourite."

GEORGE, CYCLE EXPERT



FRANCE

ITINERARY

DURATION: 7 DAYS

EASE: 

A predominantly flat route with a few small ascents each day, using cycle paths and low-traffic roads where possible



DAY 1

Arrive at Tours or Poitiers

Head to your hotel in Rivau where you can relax on the castle grounds. Sample a glass of local wine before you enjoy a delicious dinner.

We love

Learning about the fascinating visitors to this castle, including kings and even Joan of Arc.



Château du Rivau



Chinon

DAY 2

Optional Round Trip:

Chinon & Cravant-les-Côteaux

Distance 27 miles (43km)

The cycling starts today with an easy round trip into nearby Chinon and its surrounding vineyards. One of our favourite spots, the medieval fortress overlooks the beautiful town. After a long, leisurely lunch in the traditional town square, the route returns you to the hotel via a charming, quaint hamlet hidden amongst the vineyards.

We love

Cycling past the sunflower fields that surround the beautiful church in Cravant-les-Côteaux.

DAY 3

Rivau to Fontevraud

Distance 28 miles (44km)

Riding through peaceful countryside on the banks of the Vienne river, you'll reach the ancient river-port towns of Montsoreau and Candès-St-Marin. After a break for lunch here and an exploration of the antique shops and wine caves, it's a short ride to the historic abbey of Fontevraud to finish the day.

We love

Visiting the famous resting place of King Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine at Fontevraud.



Fontevraud Royal Abbey



Château de Saumur

DAY 4

Optional Round Trip: Saumur & Turquant

Distance 25 miles (40km)

Travelling westwards along the Loire River, enjoy peaceful country roads leading to the spectacular Saumur. There's a plethora of activities to enjoy here including wine tasting, a visit to the castle, and even an underground mushroom farm. The route today has fantastic views of the Loire Valley, making it one of our favourites on the tour.

We love

Exploring the fascinating military history of the town, famous for its WWII battles and defence.

DAY 5

Optional Round Trip: Fontevraud to Mountbazon

Distance 45 miles (73km)

Descending from the abbey, cross over the Loire River before reaching the breathtaking Château d'Ussé which served as the inspiration for the tale of Sleeping Beauty. The route then passes by the spectacular Château d'Azay-le-Rideau.

We love

Taking a stroll amongst the orange trees of Château d'Ussé in the summer.



Loire Cycling



Tours Market

DAY 6

Optional Round Trip:

Tours & Montlouis-sur-Loire

Distance 35 miles (57km)

Today can either be a relaxing time at the hotel or an adventure to the city of Tours and the wine village of Montlouis-sur-Loire. Soak up the wonders of the city and the delicious wine of the village before heading back through pristine countryside lanes.

We love

People watching at lunch on the Grand Avenue du Grammont.

DAY 6

Montbazon to Rivau

Distance 41 miles (66km)

The last leg of cycling takes you through the cheesemaking heartland of the Loire. Sainte-Maure-de-Touraine is famous for its delicious goat's cheese, with many a fromagerie for you to explore.

We love

Enjoying the Sainte-Maure-de-Touraine goat's cheese, paired perfectly with Sauvignon Blanc.



Riverside Cycling



DAY 8

We say au revoir today as you head home.



Domaine De La Tortinière

OUR FAVOURITE HOTELS ON THE ROUTE

DOMAINE DE LA TORTINIÈRE

This gorgeous chateau hotel combines elegance and charm perfectly. The rooms feature contemporary modern designs, fit for a prince's comfort, as well as offering magnificent views of the beautiful valley below. Exploring the beautiful grounds reveals a rich and fascinating history you'll love learning all about.



Fontevraud l'Hotel

FONTEVRAUD L'HOTEL

A wonderful, modern 4 star hotel set in the grounds of the famous 12th century abbey. One of the finest hotels in the region and home to some excellent dining options.



Château du Rivau

CHÂTEAU DU RIVAU

A small hotel set in the stunning Château du Rivau. The castle is open to the public during the day, with many visitors coming to explore the beautiful gardens, but once the doors close in the evening guests at the hotel have the place to themselves. Enjoy the food in the on-site restaurant, consisting of lots of fresh ingredients from the gardens.



Château de Rochecotte

CHÂTEAU DE ROCHECOTTE

The grand building is host to a range of classically elegant rooms, all of which are large and air-conditioned. The in-house dining is of a high standard and wine is served from the hotel's own vineyards in the Bourgueil appellation.

OUR CLIENTS ONTOUR

Here's what some of our Softies clients had to say about their cycling holidays with us - as well as a few happy memories captured on camera...

"Perfect cycling holiday for those who are not "head down and cycle fast" cyclists. A beautiful way to enjoy such stunning scenery."

KELVIN, REVIEWED JULY

"The châteaux visits, the countryside and the varied restaurants. All of it was excellent. Great variation."

CHRISTOPHER, REVIEWED JUNE

"Fantastic trip, brilliantly organised tour treating us to the stunning scenery of the Loire, visiting breathtaking châteaux and sampling delicious French cuisine. Savouring the memories!"

RUTH, REVIEWED OCTOBER

"A blend of cycling and culture. We loved the variety making each day different."

HEATHER, REVIEWED JULY

"The rejuvenating feeling of freedom that cycling through the countryside brings, we loved the continually changing scenery and the confidence that wherever we cycled, stayed or ate, it was all thoughtfully chosen and of a high standard"

JACKIE, REVIEWED AUGUST

Rob



Ruth



Sandra



WHY SOFTIES?

Our luxurious cycling holidays aren't about clocking up the miles, they're about the time in between. Welcome to life in the easy lane...

With a warm summer breeze on your skin and beautiful views in every direction, is there any better way to explore some of Europe's most beautiful countryside than by bicycle? We don't think so. Because there is so much to see and do along the way, our luxury cycling holidays are all about taking it nice and slow. Stop and explore, eat glorious meals, stay in delightful hotels, and relax knowing everything else has been taken care of.

CYCLE LIKE A SOFTIE, SLEEP LIKE A KING

Whether you take it exceptionally easy in the saddle every day or decide to push yourself a bit, everyone deserves a little luxury in the evening, including fabulous cuisine and wonderful wines. We've hand-picked only the loveliest places to stay across some of the most beautiful regions in France, Italy and the UK. From rustic country inns full of charm to elegant townhouses and deluxe château hotels, you'll enjoy a warm welcome and indulgent food and drink wherever you go.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tailor-made as standard
- Freedom to cycle at your own pace
- Delicious evening meals (as per quote)
- Bed & breakfast in almost exclusively three, four and five star hotels
- Expert on-the-spot support
- Your luggage carried to the next hotel
- Itinerary with maps and notes (including GPS navigation on selected tours), suggested routes and places to see
- Fully serviced touring bikes with water bottles, panniers and puncture repair kits
- E-bikes also available for booking, as well as children's tag-alongs
- Flights, trains and transfers on request



WE'RE KEEPING IT GREEN

SUSTAINABILITY

Cycling for Softies has been committed to providing eco-friendly and sustainable cycling holidays for over 35 years. We keep this environmentally friendly activity at the heart of what we do, offering advice and resources for our clients to ensure a sustainable future for travel.

Where possible, we encourage our guests to travel via train instead of flying, with over 30% choosing to do so. Many tours are easily accessed via rail or even car.



Working with Mossy Earth, we are committed to offsetting all staff travel through planting trees. Every little helps and you can do your bit by planting a tree at one of Mossy Earth's current projects in either Ireland or Romania. They only plant native trees and always in a rewilding or conservation project.



We have partnered with World Bicycle Relief to help provide bikes to farmers, entrepreneurs, healthcare workers and children in developing countries. More than 400,000 specially designed and durable Buffalo bikes have already been delivered, which creates an efficient mode of transport in rural areas. With every Cycling for Softies holiday booking, we donate £5 on your behalf.



**READY
TO MAKE
IT HAPPEN?
GET IN
TOUCH
TODAY TO
SPEAK TO
A CYCLING
EXPERT...**



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