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La Vie de château in the Loire Valley (Castle Life in the Loire Valley)



Day 1 Arrival Paris: US – Paris – Loire Valley

Arrival at Paris-CDG airport.

Upon arrival, meet your Private English-speaking professional local guide in the customs area. They will assist you with customs, and escort you through the airport to baggage claim. Once there you will meet your private English-speaking driver/guide who will assist you with your luggage and give you a Private transfer to your Hotel, chateau de Marçay, in the Loire Valley. (approximately 2 ½ hours).

Your Driver/Guide will point out interesting sites along the way and answer questions that you may have regarding the area.

Upon arrival at your hotel, you will Check-in and enjoy time at leisure at the property. You may take advantage of the swimming pool, the tennis court or walk in the park surrounding the chateau before cocktails.

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Cocktail and dinner at the Michelin starred restaurant of the hotel.

Overnight at the chateau de Marçay.



Day 2 Loire Valley France: Chinon – Fontevraud



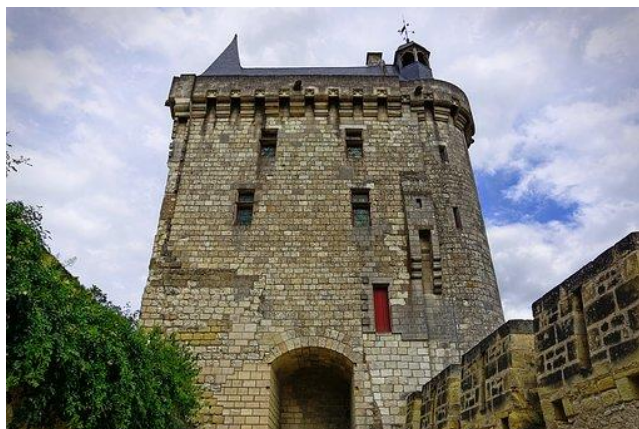
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Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your Private English-speaking driver and Professional local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for your morning tour.

Enjoy a morning drive to Chinon, taking in the sites by car along the way. Your guide will point out sites of interest or relay information about the area as you traverse to Chinon.



In Chinon, you will enjoy a walking tour of the town. You will admire a beautiful panorama of the city and Vienne River Valley, then you will walk down towards the medieval city along the "Rue Jeanne d'Arc", up to the "Grand Carroi", crossroad of the two main axes of the medieval town.

You will Discover the "rue Voltaire", lined with remarkable timber framed houses with, in particular, the "Maison Rouge" (XIVth and XVth centuries); the States General house where Charles VII gathered the Kingdom's leaders in 1428 to decide of a war against the English; a little bit further, the "rue Haute Saint-Maurice" with lovely private mansions including the Governor's residence showing a beautiful double stairway; the "Bailliage palace", and the "Saint-Maurice" church with a Romanesque chancel.



Return to the "place Victoire" along the "rue Voltaire", to evoke the famous "Caves Painctes" so dear to Rabelais' heart.

Continue to a private vineyard located in a very picturesque site facing Chinon.

After a visit and wine-tasting enjoy lunch at the vineyard.

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In the afternoon, drive to Fontevraud to visit the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud which is one of the largest monastic cities of Western Christendom. The city was founded in 1101, the earliest patrons of the abbey were the counts of Anjou, followed by their descendants, the Plantagenets, later to become kings of England. Brothers, priests and nuns lived in separate priories.



Return to the château-hotel at the end of the afternoon.

Buffet dinner at the restaurant of the hotel.

Overnight at the chateau de Marçay.

Day 3 Loire Valley France: Chinon

Golfing & Ballooning (B/L/D)

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Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your Private English-speaking driver and Professional local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for your morning tour.

Today, enjoy a short drive to a 18-holes golf court in a 120 ha park between Saumur and Chinon.

This golf was designed by Hubert Chesneau in 1985 with watercourse, forest, pond, completed by a mini golf In the heart of Loire Valley, not far from the castles and historical places such as Abbey of Fontevraud, Saumur castle, Monsoreau castle or Brézé castle.

You will discover a wonderful round of golf on 120ha in a natural and preserve landscape.

You will enjoy lunch at the restaurant du Golf with refined and inventive cuisine in a historical atmosphere.

After Lunch, you will be returned to the Chateau.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax or explore on your own.

At the end of the afternoon, depart from the chateau de Marçay for a hot air balloon ride over the Loire Valley chateaux.

Return for dinner to the Chateau: “Terroir” dinner at the restaurant of the hotel.

Overnight at the chateau de Marçay.

Day 4 Loire Valley France: Chenonceau – Amboise

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Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your Private English-speaking driver and Professional local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for your morning tour.



Morning drive to the chateau de Chenonceau (1h30min drive) The Château de Chenonceau: built on the banks of the Cher river, with the unique beauty of its renaissance architecture reflected by the water, the Château de Chenonceau is the masterpiece of the Val de Loire.

Today you will enjoy a private tour of the chateau and see the beauty of this castle. You will have time to wander the grounds and visit the gardens and other interesting spots on the property.

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Lunch: Continue to Amboise for lunch at l’Auberge du Prieuré: a gastronomic journey from the time of Leonardo de Vinci. On the fixed menu, Sieur Sausin will introduce you to renaissance cuisine. He begins his dinners with Hippocras wine, and there follows food which is rich in the mouth and hearty for the stomach: “Eel quenelles with herbs”, “Tredura (hashed leeks) with good lard”,

“Casserole of fat chicken with honey and lemon”, or “Hot apple turnover with cinnamon”. The dishes and the dialogue will overwhelm your noble palate.

Come in, and let yourselves be guided by the Master Chef – he will explain cooking with spices in the mediaeval period, and the variety of flavors during the Renaissance and at the time of Catherine de Medici.



While in Amboise, you will visit the Royal Chateau of Amboise. You will have a short tour and find out all about this castle. The royal Château at Amboise is a château located in Amboise, in the Indre-et-Loire département of the Loire Valley in France. Confiscated by the monarchy in the 15th century, it became a favored royal residence and was extensively rebuilt.

At the dawn of the Renaissance, the powerful medieval fortress of Amboise gives way to a royal residence under the reigns of the

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Kings of France Charles VIII and Francis I. The Court, many scholars and European artists stay there at the invitation of the sovereigns like **Leonardo da Vinci who rests in the Castle Chapel.**

This high place of the History of France has an exceptional collection of Gothic and Renaissance furniture that testifies to the artistic refinement of the first French Renaissance. the visit of the royal lodgings and towering towers, the walk continues in beautiful panoramic gardens overlooking the Loire.

- Afternoon visit to the Manoir du Clos Lucé where Leonard Da Vinci spent the last three years of his life. Visit the Leonardo da Vinci apartments and see the models of the marvellous machines that he invented inside the manor house as well as in the big park surrounding the Manoir.
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- Dinner at a restaurant in Tours before returning to the hotel.
- Overnight at the chateau de Marcay.

Day 5 Loire Valley France: Chateau de Marcay

Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, you are at leisure this morning to enjoy the property or just relax in the chateau.

Picnic lunch in the park of the chateau.



Afternoon Petanque championship.

Pétanque is extremely simple, just like horseshoes. There's a target ball, and you have to throw yours as close to the target as possible.

What makes it so appealing, is that you can be winning one minute and losing the next, or vice versa. The game isn't over until the last player plays his very last ball. If he or she moves the target ball or knocks an opponent's ball out of the way, his score, and yours, can change dramatically.

After learning the rules of petanque and some practice. You will participate to a local contest.

- **Gourmet dinner at the restaurant of the hotel.**
- Overnight at the chateau de Marcay.

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Day 6 Loire Valley France: Saumur



Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for a tour of the castle in Saumur.

- Morning visit to Saumur to visit the château which rises like a fairy tale above the Loire, King René considered it as “the Château of love”. Built in the 14th century, it became a Protestant stronghold in the 17th century. Today, the château features a collection

of decorative arts and a horse museum devoted to harness-making throughout the world from antiquity to the present day.

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- **Lunch at a local restaurant in Saumur.**
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- **After lunch**, you will visit a local vineyard for a tour of the property and a private Wine tasting near Saumur.

After the tour you will be returned to your hotel, where you are at leisure this afternoon.

- **Farewell dinner** either in a private chateau or in the restaurant of the hotel with authentic local entertainment (details to be confirmed later).

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- Overnight at the chateau de Marçay.

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- **Day 7 Loire Valley France: Chambord - Paris**

Breakfast in the hotel.

- **After breakfast**, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver & Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Paris with a stop or two along the way.



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Drive towards Paris and stop for a visit to the chateau de Chambord, the largest and most dramatic chateau of the Loire valley. Take the twin, spiralling staircases, which are intertwined, double-helix style. People ascending do not encounter those descending.

The **Château de Chambord** at Chambord, Loir-et-Cher, France, is one of the most recognisable châteaux in the world because of its very distinctive French Renaissance architecture which blends traditional French medieval forms with classical Renaissance structures. The building, which was never completed, was constructed by King Francis I of France. Enjoy a private tour of the castle.

Chambord is the largest château in the Loire Valley; it was built to serve as a hunting lodge for Francis I, who maintained his royal residences at the Château de Blois and Amboise. The original design of the Château de Chambord is attributed, though with some doubt, to Domenico da Cortona; Leonardo da Vinci may also have been involved.

- **Lunch at a gourmet restaurant near the chateau.**
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- **After lunch**, Your Transfer Drive to Paris will continue. You will arrive there in the late afternoon and check into your hotel (TBD).
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- **Dinner at a Paris restaurant (TBD).**
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- Overnight in Paris.

Day 8 Loire Valley France: Paris – US & Home



Breakfast in the hotel.

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport to meet your flight for the US and Home.

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End of Services.



Extend Your Stay:

To enjoy more time in France it is recommended to add a 3-5 day extension in Paris, either at the beginning of your journey or following the itinerary at the end of your visit to France. You can also split the time and spend a few additional days in Paris at the beginning of the trip and a few more at the conclusion of your visit to the Loire Valley.

We have many itinerary options for Paris itineraries. All of these can be customized to fit your schedule or itinerary desires.

If you prefer only a few days in Paris but more time in other areas of France, please see some of the other itineraries we offer or contact us for a [Creative Planning Session](#) to customize a memorable journey just for you.

End of Services.

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Paris Gallery



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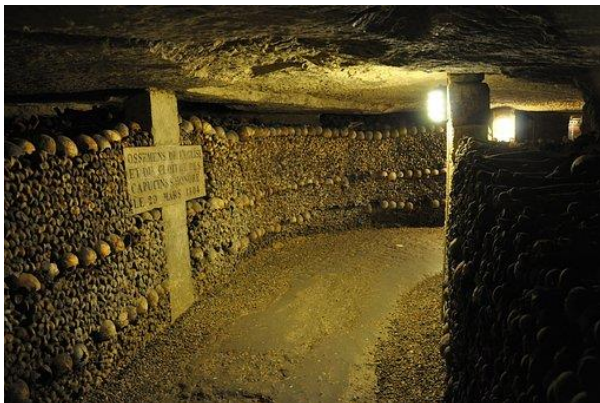
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