

LOIRE VALLEY CASTLES

THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL GUIDE



BY **VINCENT.VOYAGE** TRAVEL BLOG

OVER **70** PAGES OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT
THE LOIRE VALLEY



CHAMBORD
CHENONCEAU
AZAY LE RIDEAU
AMBOISE
CHAUMONT
...AND 25 MORE!



THE MUST-SEES
ITINERARIES
TRANSPORT
ACCOMMODATION
TICKETS
OTHER ACTIVITIES



LOIRE VALLEY CASTLES

LINKS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

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14 ESSENTIAL CASTLES

[Complete article on the most beautiful castles](#)

CHENONCEAU, THE MOST ROMANTIC

One of the most emblematic castles of the Loire Valley but also of French History. Each of its illustrious occupants took care to improve it and in particular Catherine de Medicis, the Florentine, who added the gallery which crosses the Cher and gives it this unique side with a little air of Ponte Vecchio.

Chenonceau is nicknamed the Château des Dames because it was the site of numerous intrigues, notably between Catherine de Medicis, wife of King Henry II and Diane de Poitiers, his mistress, to whom the king gave the castle (but which Catherine de Medicis then got back).

You definitely have to stroll around the castle, along the river.

- **Hours** : VERY variable hours depending on the day, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (in high season)
- **Price** : €17 / €14 (7-18 years old / students) / free (-7 years old, disabled)
- **Reservation**: [Book your skip-the-line ticket here](#) .
- **Parking** : free parking a little before the checkouts
- **Coming by train** : Chenonceaux station, 25 minutes from Tours
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : AUBERGE [DU BON LABOUREUR](#) in Chenonceaux, a few minutes walk from the castle
- **Article** : find out more about Chenonceau [in this article \(still in French\)](#)



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CHAMBORD, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL

Inspired by the genius Leonardo da Vinci, Chambord is a Renaissance masterpiece, undeniably one of the most beautiful castles in existence. Wanted by François I after his victorious Italian campaign, Chambord had to be in the image of his grandeur/ego. Well, it must be successful. Even if the monarch hardly stayed there and the castle took a little long to be built, it is obviously a major castle in the history of the country and the region. And with the most elaborate architecture, in my opinion.

You absolutely must visit the terraces at roof level, play with the double staircase. Even if the interior can be a bit more austere than others, it is absolutely worth visiting.

- **Hours** : 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (March 25 to the end of October + Christmas) / 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the rest of the year
- **Price** : €16 / free (-18 years old / 18-25 EU, etc.)
- **Reservation** : [Book your skip-the-line ticket here](#) .
- **Parking** : paid, from 4 to 6€/day. P2 recommended, cheaper and better view
- **Coming by train** : Blois/Chambord station. Then bus from Blois
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : a magical night in front of the Château, at the [RELAIS DE CHAMBORD](#)
- **Article** : find out more about Chambord [in this article](#)



AZAY LE RIDEAU

Another simply magnificent castle. Azay le Rideau is a masterpiece of Italian Renaissance inspiration desired by François 1er (him again). Balzac described it, in *Le Lys dans la Vallée*, as "a faceted cut diamond set by the Indre mounted on piles masked with flowers" and puts it in the spotlight in several other of his works.

And he is right, because Azay le Rideau is on its island surrounded by the Indre river, with magnificent gardens around it. Which gives superb views and a very pleasant walk.

But the interior of the castle is not left out. Very fine work, nicely decorated, displays with automatons, all this will make your visit very pleasant.

- **Hours** : 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (April, May, June, September), 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. (July, August), 10 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. the rest of the year
- **Price** : €13 / free (-18 years old / 18-25 EU, disability, unemployment, etc.)
- **Reservation** : [Book your skip-the-line ticket here](#) .
- **Parking** : plenty of free parking outside and in the small town
- **Coming by train** : Azay le Rideau station, 2km from the castle, Tours-Chinon line
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : one night in a troglodyte house at the [TROGLODODO hotel](#)
- **Article** : find out more about Azay le Rideau [in this article \(still in French\)](#)



LE CLOS LUCE

It is the most interesting place in the Loire Valley. Indeed, it is not a castle, although very pleasant it does not have flamboyant architecture. It is a very beautiful residence which is, neither more nor less, than the last residence of the genius Leonardo da Vinci.

After his conquests in Italy, Francis I, a big fan of the man, asked him to come with him to give free rein to his art. Unfashionable among the Medicis who preferred Michelangelo, he accepted and arrived with the Mona Lisa in his suitcases. Not bad ! He will therefore live in Amboise the last years of his life, the time to create automatons, make plans for his inventions, and work on the plans for Chambord in particular.

Don't miss the reproductions of his inventions, made from his plans. Inside there are miniatures and in the park some in real size. It's really fascinating!

- **Hours** : 9 a.m.-8 p.m. (July/August), 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (February to June, September, October), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (January), 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (November, December)
- **Price** : €19, €13.5 (children), reduction for families
- **Reservation** : [Book your ticket here](#) .
- **Parking** : Free street parking or a 2-minute walk away
- **Coming by train** : Amboise station, 2km from Clos Lucé, Tours-Chinon station
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the very pretty [Manoir du Parc](#) in the center of Amboise
- **Article** : find out more about Clos Lucé [in this article](#)
- **Tip**: Pass Clos Lucé + Chambord + Amboise [to discover here](#)



THE ROYAL CHATEAU OF AMBOISE

Amboise Castle is THE royal residence. Charles VIII and especially Francis I (whose favorite castle it was) lived there for a long time. Although the originally huge castle has been partly razed, there is still a good, super interesting piece of it. As it was the place where kings lived, I recommend using the Histopad to immerse yourself in the history of the castle and therefore the history of France.

The architecture of the castle, which overlooks the Loire, is magnificent and you will also enjoy visiting the French gardens. But Amboise is also a very pretty little town where it is very pleasant to walk around. A super cute city center, you drink and eat very well there!

- **Hours** : VERY variable, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (January) to 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (July-August)
- **Price** : €16,40 / €13,70 (student) / €10.50 (7-18 years old)
- **Reservation** : [Book your skip-the-line ticket here](#)
- **Parking** : paid parking around and in the city center. Free parking 5 minutes south
- **Coming by train** : Amboise train station on the Blois Tours line, sometimes trains from Paris Austerlitz
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the beautiful [CHATEAU DE PRAY](#) in the center of Amboise to treat yourself or this [beautiful apartment](#) at the foot of the castle!
- **Article** : find out more about Amboise [in this article](#)



CHAUMONT SUR LOIRE

This one was a wonderful surprise. He had been eyeing me for a long time. I love fortified castles, so him with his big towers obviously couldn't help but please me. During my visit I was more than pleasantly surprised. Aesthetically obviously, halfway between medieval and renaissance, but also for its gardens and especially the festival dedicated to them! Surprising creations and also a small tropical greenhouse.

The visit to the castle is also very pleasant, nicely decorated. While outside we will appreciate the different styles of architecture, the slate roofs.

Finally, it has a funny story because we still find Catherine de Medicis and Diane de Poitiers. On the death of Henry II, the first (his wife) gave the castle of Chaumont to the second (his mistress) to recover that of Chenonceau. Some trade Pokemon cards, others castles.

- **Hours** : 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (April-October) 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (November-March)
- **Price** : €14 (November-April) / €20 (May-October due to garden festival)
- **Reservation** : [Book your skip-the-line ticket here](#)
- **Parking** : free parking below the castle and in the village
- **Coming by train** : Chaumont train station, 20 minutes from Tours
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the pretty [LES DEUX ÂNES gîte](#) a few kilometers away



CHEVERNY

Normally, this castle tells you something without even having visited it. And for good reason, it is the castle of Moulinsart in Tintin, the castle of Captain Haddock. There is also a permanent exhibition on the work of Hergé, "the Secrets of Moulinsart".

Cheverny is considered to be the "best furnished" castle. I admit that it's not bad at all, the decoration is magnificent. We therefore have a beautiful stroll both inside and outside, with its totally different architecture, "French style" which was established from the 17th century.

Finally, there are kennels in Cheverny for more than a hundred hunting dogs, which can be visited. Oh and important thing, there are some great winegrowers right next door, I particularly like the Clos Cheverny white wine.

- **Hours** : 9:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. (April-September) / 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (October-March)
- **Price** : €14,50 (€18.5 + exhibition) / €10 (students, unemployment, etc.)
- **Reservation** : purchase only on site
- **Parking** : 3 free parking lots next door
- **Coming by train** : Blois-Chambord train station then bus from the station (€6 return)
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the pretty gîte [AU COEURS DES CHÂTEAUX](#) in Cheverny



ANGERS

To the far west, Angers Castle is the last of the Loire castles. And far from being the worst! It is also totally surprising. A very well preserved medieval fortress but recognizable by its black layers, which are due to the use of slates during construction.

But that's not all, as the castle features the *Apocalypse Tapestry*, the largest medieval tapestry in the world. Just that. And it is super well preserved!

Finally, don't miss a short visit to the historic center of Angers, truly beautiful and very pleasant. You can easily stay in Angers for a short weekend to enjoy the city.

- **Hours** : 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (May-August) / 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (September-April)
- **Price** : €11 / free (-18, 18-25 EU, unemployment, etc.)
- **Reservation** : [Book your skip-the-line ticket here](#)
- **Parking** : the area is pedestrianized, you have to walk 10 minutes from the parking areas
- **Coming by train** : Angers train station, easily served from Tours, Paris, Nantes
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the magnificent !' [OISELLERIE gîte](#) , a historic house in the heart of the town



VILLANDRY – THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDENS IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

Truly the most beautiful gardens in the region. It's their trademark, the Château de Villandry is renowned for it, and rightly so. There are French gardens, 16th century Renaissance style gardens, flowers absolutely everywhere and a large vegetable garden! Gardeners work miracles here because every season there is something to see. Everything is beautifully carved and you can have a beautiful overview from the Belvedere.

The castle itself is very beautiful, magnificent architecture, but the interior is less interesting than its counterparts, in my opinion. However, there is a rich history including the signature of England's defeat against France and therefore the return of land to French territory. This is mainly due to the fact that the castle was abandoned for a while before being taken over at the beginning of the 20th century.

- **Opening hours** : castle closed in January and February/ gardens open all year round. VERY variable hours, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and 9 a.m.
- **Price** : €13 (gardens €8)
- **Reservation** : [book your ticket here](#)
- **Parking** : 2 large free parking lots opposite
- **Coming by train** : the closest station is Tours, far
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the [CHEVAL ROUGE hotel](#), practical and inexpensive right next to the castle



THE ROYAL CITY OF LOCHES

A very nice surprise! We thought we were coming to Loches for a castle (royal, please), but ultimately, we decided to visit the small medieval town which surrounds the remains of the castle. Surrounded by ramparts, it includes superb little streets full of charm.

The castle is made up of 2 very distinct parts. The keep, remains of an 11th century fortified castle, still very well preserved. And the house, royal residence of Anne of Brittany, in the Renaissance style. The stories are well presented inside with small representations, notably about Joan of Arc. Interesting!

- **Hours** : 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (November to February), 6 p.m. (March, April, September, October), 7 p.m. (May to August)
- **Price** : normal: €10.50 / reduced: €8.50 / free under conditions
- **Reservation** : [book your ticket here](#)
- **Parking** : several small free car parks at the bottom of the citadel
- **Coming by train** : on the Tours - Châteauroux line, 50 minutes from Tours
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : [BEST WESTERN](#) to treat yourself, [LE GEORGES](#) at low price



LANGEAIS

The medieval touch of the Loire Valley. The Château de Langeais is very pretty, a smaller version of Chaumont in my opinion. It has a nice history because it was in this castle that the marriage of King Charles VIII and Anne of Brittany took place, which brought the Duchy of Brittany, until now independent, into the fold of the Kingdom of France . But that's not all because originally Anne of Brittany was already married by proxy to the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian, which hardly delighted Charles VIII, seeing himself surrounded on both sides by his Teutonic enemy.

The castle can be visited quite quickly, but we are treated to a nice representation of this part of French History by Stéphane Bern.

- **Hours** : 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (July, August), 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (April-June, Sept-Nov 13), 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Nov 14-January), 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Feb, March)
- **Price** : normal: €11.50 / €8.5 (18-25) / €5.80 (10-17)
- **Reservation** : [book your ticket here](#)
- **Parking** : parking lots 5 minutes away next to the town hall
- **Coming by train** : on the Tours - Saumur line, near Tours
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the very pleasant [Clos Rabelais](#) in the heart of Langeais



THE CHATEAU OF RIVAU

Much less known than its counterparts, the Château de Rivau is different. It is not a royal castle, its history is less flashy than the previous ones, although Joan of Arc came there to prepare the siege of Orléans. But Rivau Castle is a superb surprise.

First of all, he's really handsome. A beautiful architecture halfway between the medieval fortress and the Renaissance style. The interior can be visited quickly but gives pride of place to contemporary art. And frankly, although it's not my cup of tea, it's something successful.

But above all we will come to Rivau for its gardens, superbly decorated, several atmospheres, with lots of surprising decorations, works of art as well, and several not shy peacocks that you can easily come across during the visit. You can easily stay there for a few hours, it's super pleasant.

- **Hours** : 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (May-September) / 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (October, November, April). Closed from mid-November to March.
- **Price** : €12.50, lots of options for children (treasure hunt, etc.)
- **Reservation** : [Book your ticket here](#)
- **Parking** : a large free car park just before the entrance
- **Coming by train** : no station nearby (Tours, 1 hour away)
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the fabulous [RELAIS SAINT MAURICE](#) in Chinon, 10km further. Or simply in the [Château de Rivau](#), it's possible!



USSE – THE CASTLE OF SLEEPING BEAUTY

Another very pretty castle! It is said that the castle of Ussé is the castle of Sleeping Beauty because it was while sleeping there that Charles Perrault would have had the idea of writing his famous tale, and was inspired by the enchanting setting of the castle. Thus the visit to the castle takes place through scenes linked to the tale. For great romantics, including the prince's kiss to wake Ariane.

But the castle is also very beautiful, a very beautiful architecture mixing medieval Gothic and Renaissance, which gives it its unique appearance, with its very pretty towers and its very elaborate interior courtyard.

We will also have a small chapel but which is rarely open.

- **Hours** : 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (April-September) / 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (October-March)
- **Price** : 14,5€
- **Reservation** : no online reservation possible
- **Parking** : free parking at the foot of the castle
- **Coming by train** : no train station nearby
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : [CLOS D'USSE](#), a very good inn at the foot of the castle



BLOIS

We tend to forget it (me first, I confess) but Blois is the first big castle on the east side of the Loire Valley. And frankly, it is also very beautiful, and surprising. Its masterpiece is its half-spiral staircase outside the castle.

But we will also find 4 different architectures in Blois, very differentiated because each wing of the castle was built at a different time. A medieval wing, a Gothic wing, a Renaissance wing and a classical wing, the most recent (17th century).

The Château of Blois also has the particularity of offering a sound and light show in the evening, on its history and the history of France. Honestly a very interesting experience, for young and old!

- **Hours** : 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (July-August) / 9-6:30 p.m. (April-June, September, October) / 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (November-March)
- **Price** : €14 / €10.5 (students, unemployment, etc.) / €7 (6-17 years old)
- **Reservation** : [Book your ticket here](#)
- **Parking** : free parking in town 10 minutes away, 2 paid parking lots nearby
- **Coming by train** : Blois-Chambord train station
- **Recommended accommodation nearby** : the [IBIS](#) hotel_very practical at the foot of the castle



ITINERARIES IN THE CASTLES

[Full article here](#)

Here is a suggested 3-day itinerary offering the most beautiful castles, without having to drive too much. The idea is to group the castles by area, not to do too much to avoid overdose, and therefore to distribute them well to avoid crowds.

We will visit a large castle in the morning, ideally arriving early to avoid the crowds, and a lesser known castle, a little different, in the afternoon to also have fewer people. These castles are close to each other so as not to spend too much time in transport

You can get all the tickets for the castles [on this site](#)

PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR 3 DAYS

- **DAY 1**

- **Morning** : Château de Chenonceau

The castle of Chenonceau (located in the town of... Chenonceaux with an x) is one of the best known in the region, especially for its very emblematic shape: it spans the Cher, strongly resembling the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, where Catherine de Medicis, who carried out the work, spent part of her childhood.

The history of this castle, nicknamed the Château des Dames, is mainly due to the hatred that Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medici had for each other and it's quite funny.

You have to take advantage of the surroundings of the castle, on one side or the other, to have a nice view and possibly the reflection of the castle in the Cher.

- [Information and reservations on Chenonceau](#)



- **Afternoon : Clos Lucé**

Beyond the building itself, this castle has a truly beautiful history. Royal residence, François 1st spent his childhood there. But above all it hosted a prestigious guest: Leonardo da Vinci, who spent the last 3 years of his life there, at the request of François I, from 1516 to 1519.

Now a museum, its final resting place is entirely devoted to genius and his work, with models and life-size reproductions of his inventions, based on the original plans.

Even if you're not a fan of museums, like me, the world and creations of Da Vinci are very well transcribed and it's really interesting. Especially seeing all the inventions, everything he thought of, how far he was ahead of the engineering of the time.

- [Information and reservations on Clos Lucé](#)

- **Evening : city tour and dinner in Amboise**

Le Clos-Lucé being located in the town of Amboise, the opportunity is ideal to spend the evening there. Amboise is a very beautiful little historic town, with a paved and rather pedestrian center. Its royal castle, in Gothic style, is famous in particular for having hosted François 1st.

Before, Amboise was really dead, an inactive city center, no real life in the evening. In the 7 years since my last visit, things have really changed and quite a few restaurants have appeared. At Bistrot l'Atelier, they have good wine and great platters of local products.

Don't forget to cross the Loire to see the castle from the front at night. If there is no wind, there can be a beautiful reflection.

And if you ever finish Clos Lucé early, you can take the opportunity to visit Château d'Amboise at the end of the day!

- [Information and reservations on the Château d'Amboise](#)

- **Alternatives : Château d'Amboise, Château Gaillard, Chaumont, Loches**



- **DAY 2**

- **Morning** : Château d'Azay le Rideau

Although it is truly magnificent, Azay-le-Rideau is not a royal castle. For me, it is easily one of the most beautiful, very emblematic of the French Renaissance. Not as original as Chenonceau, not as extravagant as Chambord, it has incredible charm on its small island in the middle of the Indre river. Which also gives great photos with the reflection of the castle in the water.

The interior is a little tacky with wax statues, but the visit is interesting. Less intrigue than in Chenonceau however.

- [Information and reservations on the castle of Azay le Rideau](#)



- **Afternoon** : Château de Chaumont

This one was a wonderful surprise. He had been eyeing me for a long time. I love fortified castles, so him with his big towers obviously couldn't help but please me. During my visit I was more than pleasantly surprised. Aesthetically obviously, halfway between medieval and renaissance, but also for its gardens and especially the festival dedicated to them! Surprising creations and also a small tropical greenhouse.

- [. Information and reservations for the Château de Chaumont](#)



- **Evening** : visit to the historic center of Tours

I was surprised by Tours. The city is an ancient royal city and has a castle, a beautiful basilica, towers (normal, in Tours... 😊), a cathedral, the remains of other religious buildings. Old Tours is medieval, super pleasant. Of course the classic is to go through Place Plumereau, but all the surrounding areas are super nice.

I recommend spending the evening there because the old town and the historic buildings are superbly lit.

- **Alternatives** : Ussé, Langeais, Villandry, Rivau, Chinon

- **DAY 3**

- **Morning** : Château de Chambord

Along with Versailles, perhaps the most famous castle in the world. It must be said that it is damn beautiful, imposing, very elaborate. In short, the photogenic castle par excellence 😊

Legend has it that Leonardo da Vinci was the architect following his last years in the area, but there are no documents to prove this, so it remains a hypothesis.

But Chambord also and above all owes its flamboyance to François I. After the heavy victory of Marignano (the famous 1515), the king wanted a castle to match this success. And since it was no joke at that time, it gave rise to this magnificent castle. Well, on the other hand, he will only remain there for 42 days out of his 32-year reign. Not very profitable, but we don't care a bit about that now 😊

- [Information and reservations on Chambord](#)



○ **Afternoon : Château de Cheverny**

Comic book fans will inevitably wince when they see Cheverny. This castle was the inspiration for Moulinsart Castle, where Captain Haddock lives, and the scene of several albums such as the Secret of the Unicorn or the Treasure of Rackham the Red.

But Cheverny is a castle that surprises in the Loire Valley. Lots of charm, of course, but totally different architecture. Much more classic, far from the Italian Renaissance style that can be seen in several places.

A hunting location, there is also a large pack of dogs and you can watch their lunch.

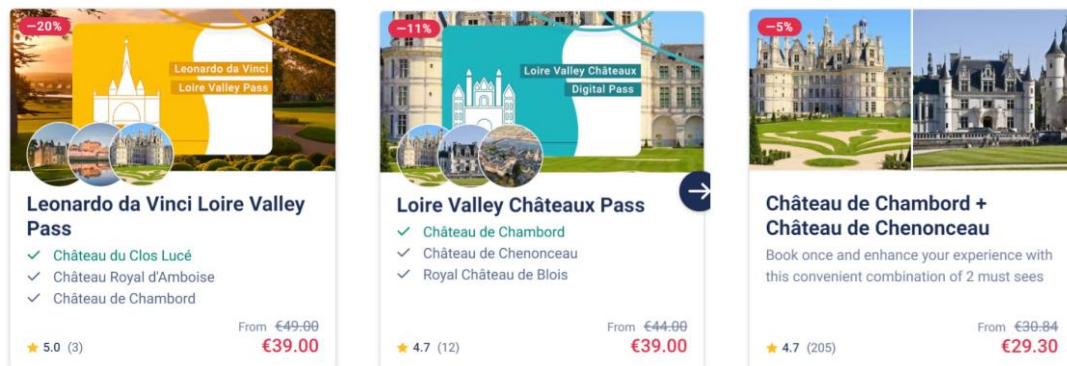
○ **Evening : Blois and its sound and light show**

Very close to the castles of Chambord and Cheverny, Blois is particularly famous for its pretty castle (and its famous staircase). But it is also a pleasant little town to spend the evening, particularly thanks to the banks of the Loire (and the pretty view opposite). It's not the equivalent of Tours, Orléans or Amboise, but it's still a nice place without having to drive too much.

The Château de Blois regularly offers a sound and light show retracing the history of the region

- [Information and reservations for the sound and light show at the Château de Blois](#)

○ **Alternatives : Château de Blois during the day, Valençay**















WHERE TO SLEEP FOR THIS ITINERARY

The ideal for this route is to sleep **between Tours and Amboise**. We will find great accommodation, small castles, boutique hotels, troglodyte houses like:

- The [Château de la Bourdaisière](#), in Montlouis sur Loire
- The [Château de Perreux](#), in Amboise
- The magnificent [Domaine de la Tortinière](#), in Montbazon
- [Loire Sauvage](#) troglodyte house near Tours

Find a larger selection of accommodation [in this article](#)

<p><u>La Bourdaisière</u> <i>Montlouis sur Loire</i></p> <p>From: € 139 8.6 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Château de Perreux</u> <i>Amboise</i></p> <p>From: € 109 9.9 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Domaine la Tortinière</u> <i>Montbazon</i></p> <p>From: € 170 8.7 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Trogl Loire Sauvage</u> <i>Rochecorbon</i></p> <p>From: € 535 9.9 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Château des Arpentis</u> <i>Amboise</i></p> <p>From: € 210 9.0 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Relais de Chambord</u> <i>Chambord</i></p> <p>From: 193 8.6 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>

♥ Favorite ♥

The beautiful **Château de Pray**

- A real small castle of the 12th century, a perfect setting to be in the bath of the Loire castles!
- A gastronomic restaurant
- Located in Amboise (perfect)
- Price from 140€








DISCOVER THIS BEAUTIFUL CASTLE !

PROPOSED ITINERARY OVER 5 DAYS

For this route I suggest going from east to west, from Blois to Chinon. Like the previous itinerary, we will try not to travel too far between the castles and to vary the pleasures within the same day..

You can get **all the tickets** for the castles [on this site](#)













- **DAY 1**
 - *Morning* : Château de **Chambord**
 - *Afternoon* : Château de **Cheverny**
 - *Evening* : **Blois**, dinner in town and show at the castle
- **DAY 2**
 - *Morning* : Royal Castle of **Amboise**
 - *Afternoon* : **Clos Lucé** + Château Gaillard
 - *Evening* : dinner in the center city of **Amboise**
- **DAY 3**
 - *Morning* : Château de **Chenonceau**
 - *Afternoon* : Château de **Chaumont**
 - *Evening* : Royal city of **Loches**
- **DAY 4**
 - *Morning* : **Azay le Rideau** castle
 - *Afternoon* : Château **d'Ussé**
 - *Evening* : dinner in the center of **Tours**
- **DAY 5**
 - *Morning* : **Villandry** and his gardens
 - *Afternoon* : Chinon fortress
 - *Evening* : dinner in **Chinon**

 <p>CHAMBORD • BESTSELLER Château de Chambord: Billet d'entrée Visitez le Château de Chambord, un chef-d'œuvre architectural...</p> <p>★ 4,7 (1847) À partir de 16,00 €</p>	 <p>VILLANDRY Château de Villandry: Billet d'entrée Visitez l'un des plus beaux châteaux français et ses...</p> <p>★ 4,8 (399) À partir de 13,00 €</p>	 <p>CHENONCEAUX Château de Chenonceau: Billet d'entrée Visitez le Château de Chenonceau & découvrez son histoire marqué...</p> <p>★ 4,6 (1214) À partir de 17,00 €</p>	 <p>AZAY-LE-RIDEAU Château d'Azay-le-Rideau: Billet d'entrée Explorez un château de style Renaissance sur une île au milieu...</p> <p>★ 4,7 (270) À partir de 13,00 €</p>	 <p>AMBOISE Château d'Amboise: Billet coupe-file Explorez un château de style Renaissance sur une île au milieu... Découvrez une résidence royale de la Renaissance, lieu de sépulture...</p> <p>★ 4,7 (477) À partir de 16,40 € 14,51 €</p>
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WHERE TO STAY FOR THIS ITINERARY

In the previous section I told you about some accommodation around Amboise and Tours. On a 5 day itinerary, this can be interesting to have 2 accommodations ; one to the east of Tours and one to the west, here is a few other suggestions:

- Sleep in a boat or in the trees at [la Batelière](#), near Langeais
- The fabulous [Relais Saint Maurice](#) in Chinon
- The [Prieuré d'Orchaise](#) and its exceptional setting
- Finally, real castle life at [Château de Brissac](#). Simply fabulous

<p><u>La Batelière</u> <i>Langeais</i></p> <p>From : € 210 9.0 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Relais Saint Maurice</u> <i>Chinon</i></p> <p>From : € 109 9.9 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Prieuré d'Orchaise</u> <i>Orchaise</i></p> <p>From : € 170 9.9 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Brissac Castle</u> <i>Brissac</i></p> <p>From : € 535 9.9 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Castel de Bréhémont</u> <i>Bréhémont</i></p> <p>From : € 109 9.1 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Clos Mademoiselle</u> <i>Loches</i></p> <p>From : 90 9.1 on booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>

THE CASTLES WITHOUT A CAR

[Full article here](#)

WHICH CASTLES ARE ACCESSIBLE BY TRAIN OR BUS

Almost ALL castles are accessible by train or bus. They are on 4 main train lines, making it easy to get from one to the other. If you want to visit several castles by train over several days, then I advise visiting castles on the same line for the same day, so as not to have to make changes which can take a long time.

Let's see all that.

ORLEANS – TOURS LINE (1h30)

- **Meung sur Loire**
 - Same name station, 30 minutes from Orléans, 1h15 from Tours
- **Beangency**
 - be careful, regularly closed, 40 minutes from Orléans, 1h10 from Tours
- **Blois**
 - Same name station, 1 hour from Orléans, 50 minutes from Tours
- **Chambord**
 - accessible from Blois station, you have to take a bus from the station, very easy
- **Chaumont**
 - Onzain station, 1 hour 10 minutes from Orléans, 45 minutes from Tours
- **[Amboise](#)**
 - Same name station, on the other side of the Loire, 1h20 minutes from Orléans, 35min from Tours
- **[Clos Lucé](#)**
 - from Amboise station, a short half - hour walk
- **Château-Gaillard**
 - from Amboise station, a big half hour walk

TOURS – CHINON LINE

Originally this little line went further, until Thouars and even Les Sables d'Olonne, until the end of its operation for individuals, but they have kept the portion until Chinon, fortunately. Because we find there :

- [Azay le Rideau](#)
 - train station 20 minutes walk, 30 minutes from Tours
- **Château de l'Islette**
 - Azay le Rideau station, 15 minutes walk
- Royal fortress of **Chinon**
 - Chinon station, 50 minutes from Tours, 20 minutes from Azay le Rideau

TOURS – ANGERS LINE (1h)

On this line Tours - Angers, we are going also find several very interesting castles:

- Château de **Tours** (obviously)
 - and its neighbor of Plessis-lez-Tours
- **Langeais**
 - Langeais Station, 22 minutes from Tours, 55 minutes from Angers
- **Saumur**
 - Saumur station, 45 minutes from Tours, 25 minutes from Angers
- **Montreuil-Bellay**, accessible from Saumur (line which goes towards Thouars and Sables d'Olonne)
 - Same name station, 15 minutes from Saumur
- **Angers** of course

TOURS – BOURGES LINE (1h45)

So Bourges this is not next door, but on this line (sometimes it only goes to Vierzon), we can see:

- [Chenonceau](#)
 - at Chenonceaux station, 25 minutes from Tours
- **Montrichard**
 - Same name station, 30 minutes from Tours
- **Valencay**
 - Same name station, change at Gièvres, approximately 1h30 from Tours
- **Bourges**, which notably has the Palais Jacques Coeur and a stunning cathedral
 - Same name station, 1h45 from Tours

OTHER ACCESSIBLE CASTLES A LITTLE FAR AWAY

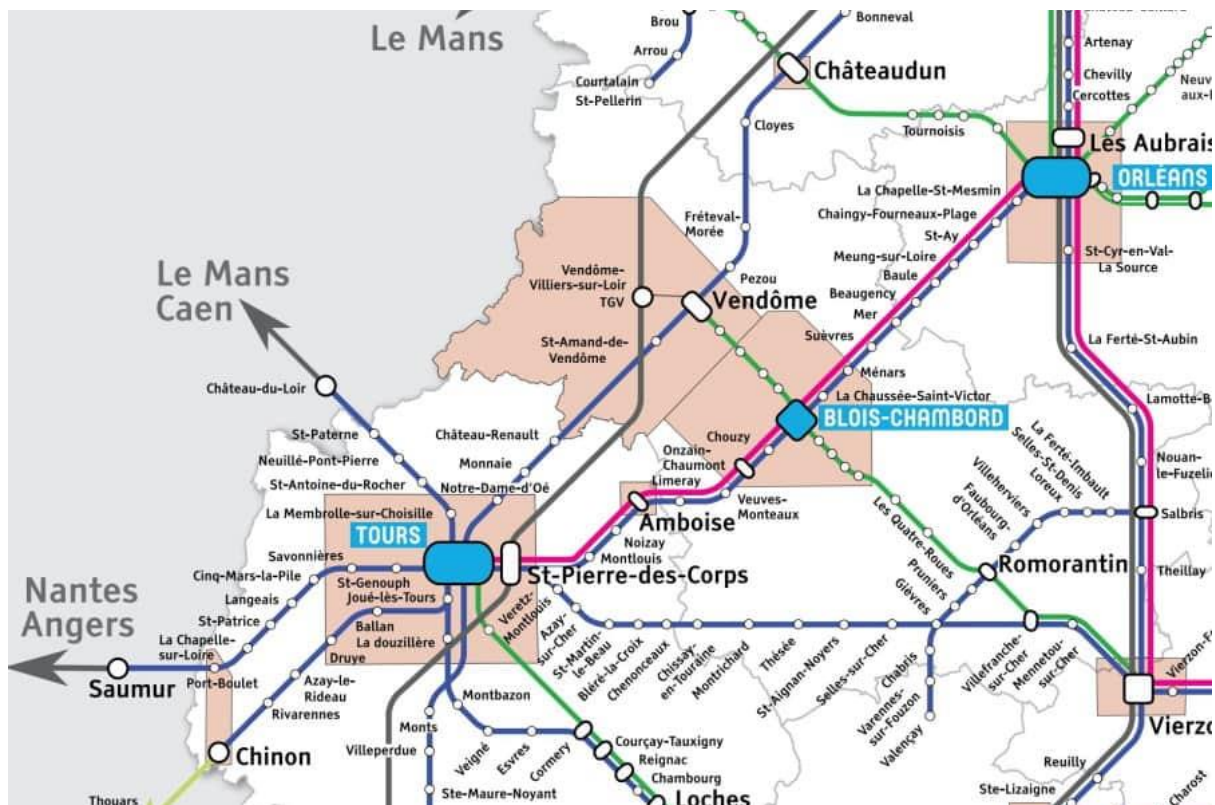
- **Loches**, from Tours, 1 hour and no change, on the line Joué les Tours - Chateauroux
- **Vendôme**, from Tours, 1 hour without change
- **Chateaudun**, from Tours, 1h45 without change. But it's also the first castle accessible from Paris, 1h40 from station of Austerlitz .

LIST OF CASTLES NOT ACCESSIBLE BY BUS OR TRAIN

There are some. Little, but it will be impossible to access without a car, or SO in bike, to the following castles :

- Ussé
- Rivau
- Villandry (hmm in fact, there is the bus 32 from Tours)

So that okay, only 3 among the majors, that remains very reasonable 😊



COME BY TRAIN TO THE CHATEAUX DE LA LOIRE

The advantage is that there are large stations which allow to access the châteaux of the Loire Valley from afar:

- Orleans
- Towers
- Angers

These stations have high-speed trains or TER trains coming from Paris or Nantes for example. Super practical. Look at [OUIGO](#) for trips that generally arrive in Angers or Tours

ARRIVING IN ORLEANS

- Paris: 1 hour, €11
- Lille: 2h50, €38
- Nantes: 2h50, €32
- Bordeaux: 3 hours, €31
- Lyon: 3h30, €37
- Marseille: 5h15, €40
- Toulouse: 5h50, €15

ARRIVING IN TOURS

- Paris: 1 hour, €10 (Ouigo)
- Lille: 3 hours, €10 (Ouigo)
- Nantes: 1h50, €13
- Bordeaux: 1h50, €10 (Ouigo)
- Lyon: 4h15, €56
- Marseille: 5h40, €50
- Toulouse: 5 hours, €38

ARRIVING IN ANGERS

- Paris: 1h35, €10 (Ouigo)
- Lille: 3h30, €45 (or take two Ouigo tickets, Lille-Paris + Paris-Angers at €20)
- Nantes: 38min, €8
- Bordeaux: 3h40, €21
- Lyon: 3h45, €21
- Marseille: 6 hours, €57
- Toulouse: 6 hours, €57



**FIND THE BEST TRAIN TO VISIT THE LOIRE
VALLEY CASTLES**

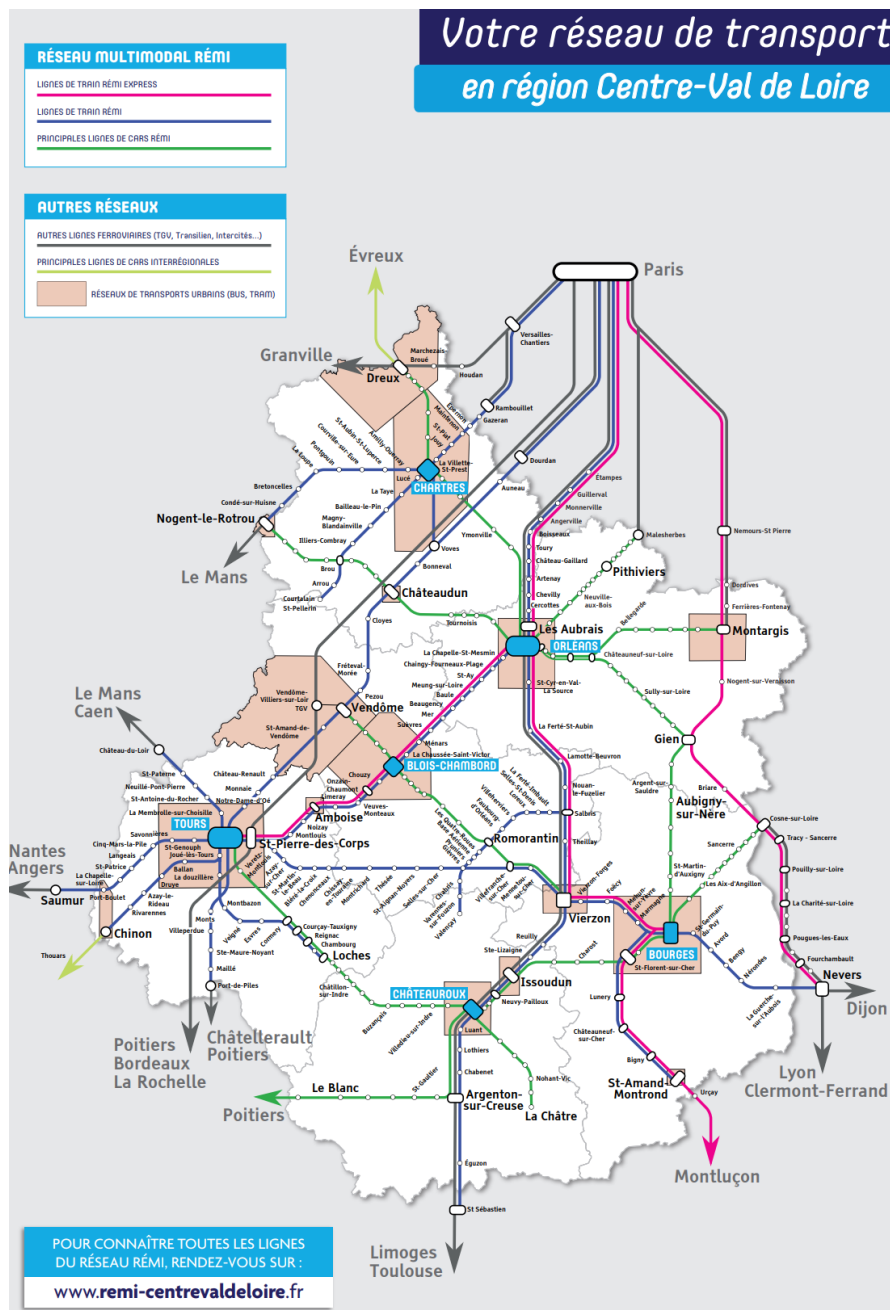
BUS TRIPS

THE REMI NETWORK TO VISIT THE CASTLES BY BUS

The Remi network is not only regional trains, but also a large, very complete bus network. We will find roughly the same stops, the same castles and at the same price. Trips start at €3 and increase in increments of €3 depending on the distance, but it remains very reasonable.

On [their site](#), you can find all the routes, all timetables and interactive maps, it's practical and well put together.

There are passes for several people and over several days which give unlimited access to the network, depending on what you plan to do, but if you are more than 2 people, it becomes really interesting. Especially since we can have access to Parisian stations. [More details on this page](#).



THE BLOIS-CHAMBORD-CHEVERNY-BEAUREGARD SHUTTLE

That's not bad at all! As some very nice castles are quite far from train stations and poorly served, the region has set up a shuttle to access them.

With this shuttle, you can do the loop: Blois, Chambord, Cheverny, Villesavin and Beaugard.

It costs €3 per trip (so if we do Blois Chambord, Chambord Cheverny and Cheverny Blois, that's €9), which remains very reasonable for a day of transport.

On the other hand, the hours are quite short, you can find a lot more information on [this site](#).

ALL THE BEST ACTIVITIES

Because there are not only castles in the region! We will also find other great places to visit and activities to do.

ROYAL ABBEY OF FONTEVRAUD

A few steps from the town of Saumur hides a gem. The royal abbey of Fontevraud, founded in 1101, is the largest monastic city in Europe, just that. For its architecture, its condition, its history, it is also classified as a UNESCO world heritage site in the same way as the castles.

We will find a unique set of churches, cloisters and dormitories, all magnificently restored. But also, above all in fact, the coffins of Henry II Plantagenet (king of England), Alienor of Aquitaine and Richard the Lionheart. It is therefore a high place in the History of France and England.

- **Hours** : 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (July, August) / 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (April-June, Sept, Oct, Christmas) / 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Jan – Mar, Nov, Dec)
- **Price** : €12 / €7.5 (unemployment) / free (-18 years old)
- **Reservation** : [Info and reservation](#)
- **Parking** : free parking everywhere in the village
- **Come by train** : Saumur TER station, 15 minutes' drive
- **Accommodation recommended nearby** : **sleep** in the [heart of the ABBEY](#) ! a magnificent setting, the entrance is included in the price



THE PREHISTORY MUSEUM

Between Tours and Châtellerault, in Grand Pressigny, we can find a museum in a pretty castle that we would not necessarily expect here. A museum of prehistory. The museum specializes in archeology and features collections of prehistoric artifacts found in the surrounding area.

A wide variety of prehistoric objects can be discovered there, such as flint tools and pottery dating from the Neolithic period, objects made of bone, ivory, bronze and iron, as well as jewelry and sculptures. But also many fossils!

The museum also offers temporary exhibitions on topics related to archeology and prehistoric history. For children, we will have workshops and demonstrations. Interesting!

- **Hours** : Very variable depending on the season. [More information here](#)
- **Price** : 6€ / 5€
- **Reservation** : You can book on the [official website](#)
- **Parking** : free parking at the museum entrance
- **Come by bus** : take the REMI bus from Tours (station road) direction PreUILly sur Claise
- **Accommodation recommended nearby** : the pretty gite Le [Moulin du Châtelier](#), a few kilometers



TROGLODYTE HOUSES AND A SILK FACTORY

That was surprising! in the region and particularly between Amboise and Tours or towards Montrichard, there are many troglodyte houses, these houses dug into the stone.

A bit (ok, totally) by chance I found in Bourré (it means “totally drunk” in french) a house that you can visit, but it's also one of the last places where the silkworm is cultivated: la Magnanerie.

The visit is interesting, the guide/owner super friendly, we will learn everything about life in a troglodyte as well as the cultivation of silkworms.

- **Hours** : Variable, several guided tours per day, discover it on [the official website](#)
- **Price** : €9 / €7 (13-17) / €5 (6-12)
- **Reservation** : no reservation possible, you buy on site
- **Parking** : parking free on the main road
- **Come by bus** : 30 minutes walk from the center of Montrichard
- **Accommodation recommended nearby** : sleep in a [troglodyte house](#) in Bourré !



BEAUVAL ZOO

It's impossible not to talk about the Beauval Zoo, one of the most beautiful zoological parks in the world, one of the most respectful of animals and innovative. They have just opened a huge aviary in South America.

35,000 animals, 44 hectares, it's immense and it's magnificent. Obviously the park is known for housing two pandas, but above all we find lots of different environments such as the equatorial dome, the African savannah, the elephant plain... there are too many to mention!

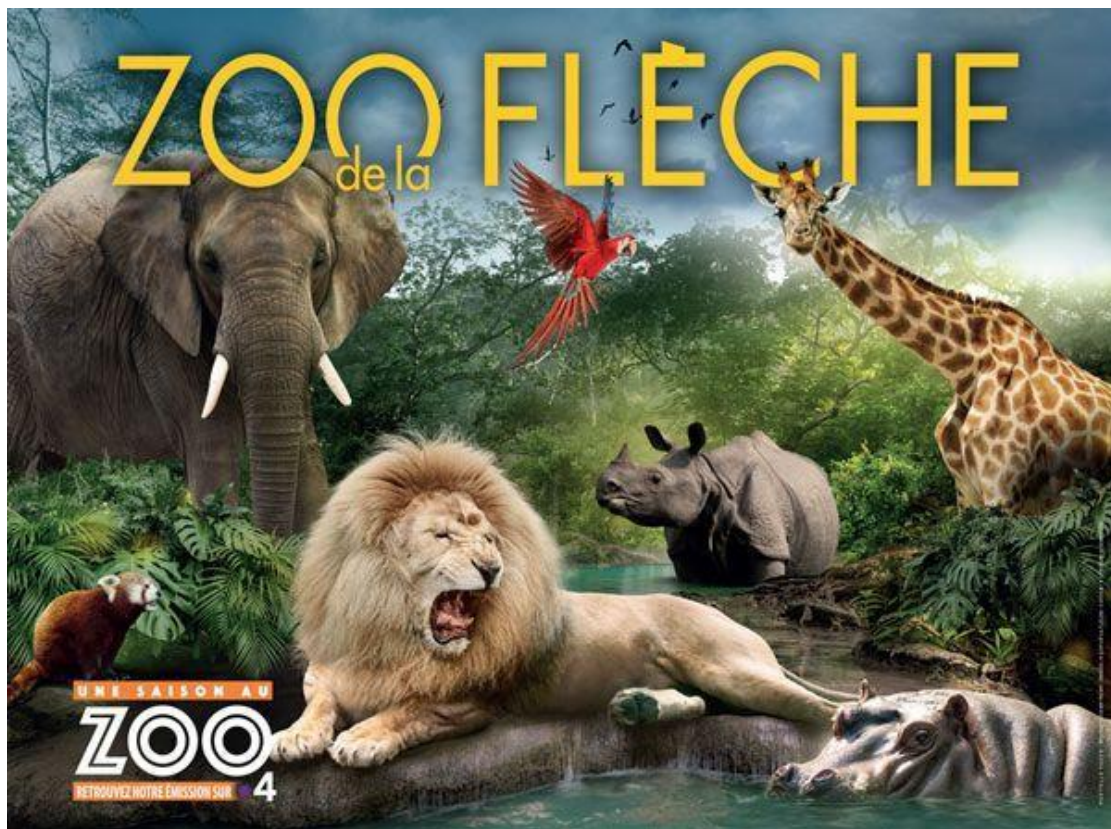
Beauval is so big that they installed a cable car to get around there. And so, we especially recommend staying there for 2 days. To avoid racing, enjoy it more!

- **Hours** : 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (some biotopes close earlier)
- **Price** : from 35€ (28€ for children)
- **Reservation** : absolutely necessary to book in advance
 - **Information and reservation**
- **Parking** : parking lots are free !
- **Come by bus** : 50 minutes from Blois station
- **Accommodation recommended nearby** : the hotel inspiration Chinese [THE PAGODAS OF BEAUVAL](#), 2 steps from the zoo!



OTHER WILDLIFE PARKS IN THE REGION

- The large **aquarium of Touraine**, located near Amboise
 - [Information and reservation](#)
- The **Doué la Fontaine Bioparc**, a very famous zoo
 - [Information and reservation](#)
- The **Flèche zoo**, a very good zoological park in Sarthe
 - [Information and reservation](#)



FLY OVER THE CASTLES IN A HOT AIR BALLOON

That is a great activity! And probably the most impressive.

You have the opportunity to fly over the Loire castles from of a hot air balloon. For more than a hour, fly over the most beautiful castles like Chenonceau, Amboise, Villandry.

Do it at sunrise or sunset to have a magnificent light! Well, on the other hand this is not cheap, from 200€.

[Information and reservation for your hot air balloon flight](#)



THE PRETTY TOWNS IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

In the Loire Valley, in general the villages are super pretty. Here are some recommendations!

AMBOISE

GENERAL PRESENTATION

The town of Amboise is old and its center is typical of the Loire Valley, pretty, with small streets, around the massive castle perched on its hill. Magnificent architecture. And what's also nice are the beautiful storefronts and the brands. Plus, you eat well and cheaply. Moving a little further away we will also see troglodyte houses.



WHAT TO SEE

- The **royal castle of Amboise**, of course. The most important castle for many kings, notably François 1er
 - [Information and reservation](#)
- Le **Clos Lucé**, the last home of Leonardo da Vinci, with reproductions of his inventions
 - [Information and reservation](#)
- The historic **city center** with its narrow streets, the clock tower, the quays of the Loire. You can also see the castle on the other side of the river, very beautiful view
- **Château Gaillard**, the 3rd castle in the city
 - [Information and reservation](#)
- The **Chanteloup Pagoda**, a surprising monument in the heart of a very pretty park
- The **mini castle park**, ideal for children



WHERE TO EAT / DRINK

The good thing, in the region we eat and drink really well! And Amboise is no exception. Some recommendations:

- L'épicerie
- Chez Bruno
- Bistrot l'Atelier just in front of the castle
- Les Arpents, considered as one of the best restaurants in the region

WHERE TO SLEEP IN AMBOISE

There's a huge choice! Small châteaux, superb residences, low prices, there's something for everyone.

Here are a few recommendations:

Château des Arpentis

From 200€

[Info & booking](#)



Château de Perreux

From 190€

[Info & booking](#)



Manoir du Parc

From 100€

[Info & booking](#)



Château de Pintray

From 100€

[Info & booking](#)



Best Western

From 100€

[Info & booking](#)



Ibis Budget

From 70€

[Info & booking](#)



- [Find all the best accommodation in Amboise here](#)

www.vincent.voyage – Travel blog specialized in Nordic Countries, northern lights and French heritage
To support the blog and the free content: <https://buymeacoffee.com/vincentvoyage>
contact@vincent.voyage

CHINON

GENERAL PRESENTATION

Located in the Loire Valley region of France, Chinon is a charming little medieval town that offers visitors a wealth of things to see and do. Nestling on the banks of the River Vienne, the town is best known for its magnificent château, which overlooks the town and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding region. The château was built in the 15th century and is one of the finest examples of medieval architecture in the region.

As well as its castle, Chinon is also famous for its red wine, produced locally in the surrounding vineyards. A variety of local wines can also be tasted on cellar tours of the region.

WHAT TO SEE

- The **royal fortress** of Chinon, the masterpiece medieval city
 - [Information and reservation](#)
- The **center historical** and medieval
 - Rue Haute Sainte Maurice, a cobbled street lined with houses medieval
 - Rue Voltaire with half- timbered houses
 - Gal de Gaulle beach and surrounding streets like rue Rabelais



WHERE TO EAT / DRINK

We eat really well, but it 's worth better book because the good tables are quickly full, especially on weekends:

- L'Entreptes
 - L'ardoise
 - Au Local
 - L'océanic
 - Le chapeau rouge
 - Les années 30
 - Un air d'antan
- ***And what about Wine Tasting in Chinon vineyards?***



Chinon, Loire Valley

Picnic in the Vines - A Unique Loire Wine Experience

★★★★★ 129

☑ Free Cancellation

from €76.39

[Book Now](#)

WHERE TO SLEEP IN CHINON

Relais Saint Maurice

From 100€

[Infos & booking](#)



Domaine du Héron

From 90€

[Infos & booking](#)



Hotel Rive Sud

From 75 €

[Infos & booking](#)



LOCHES

GENERAL PRESENTATION

It was a very nice surprise. Without really knowing what to expect, we came to visit a castle, and ultimately we spent much more time getting lost in the small streets of the medieval city. Because in Loches, we find an old and large keep, and a royal residence. Both are interesting, but there is much more than that.

Because all that is located at the top of a small hill and we reach it by visiting the royal city, surrounded by ramparts. This old city is very well maintained, very pretty old houses, cobbled streets narrow. It is really very pleasant.

The very good thing is that Loches is not a touristic city. Yet it's super cute and between the castle and the town, we can easily spend half a day there. Plus, we eat quite well there.

WHAT TO SEE

- The 11th century **dungeon**
- The **royal residence**, ancient residence of the kings of France
 - [Information and booking](#)
- The **medieval center**
 - Saint-Ours Collegiate Church
 - Rue Balzac
 - Rue Quintefol



WHERE TO EAT / DRINK

The food is excellent, but you'd better make a reservation as the good restaurants fill up quickly, especially at weekends:

- Arbore & Sens, a reference in the region
- Le Ptit restau
- L'entracte
- Les racines dans l'assiette (we had lunch there, very good)

WHERE TO SLEEP IN LOCHES

The big advantage of the city is that it's not particularly expensive. It's a tad remote, but it's a good option with some great accommodation.

L'ancien pigeonnier

From 80€
8.9 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



Troglos de Beaulieu

From 68€
9.1 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



Best Western Loches

From 110€
8.8 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



Hôtel le George

From 65€
8.4 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



Clos Mademoiselle

From 95€
9.1 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



La Little Maison

From 87€
9.6 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



TOURS

GENERAL PRESENTATION

I regret not having devoted more time to this very pretty city. First, Tours is ideally located in the Loire Valley, and we can say that it is an excellent base for visiting the surrounding castles. And as it's central, there's a lot of it. But Tours is Also a very nice city to spend time in. Superb architecture, a city center among the most beautiful in France with numerous half- timbered houses.

In the end, I only spent half a day and an evening. This allows to have a glimpse but unfortunately the monuments of the city were closed, I was not able to visit them. This gives me one more reason to come back ! 😊

WHAT TO SEE

- The city center, obviously. It's wide but you have to get lost in the streets
- Place Plumereau, one of the most beautiful squares in France, ideal for an aperitif !
- Saint Gatien Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic art
- Saint Martin's Basilica
- Le Palais des Archevêques
- The castle of Tours, less impressive than the Loire castles
- Hotel Gouin

WHERE TO EAT / DRINK

Tours is a lively, student city, so there are plenty of good places to drink. Just like good restaurants. And Place Plumereau is a very lively center and well suited for a drink and dinner.

- Chez Madie, the best restaurant on Place Plumereau
- Le vieux mûrier, not bad at all
- Les frérots
- Les gens heureux
- L'accalmie
- La bonne assiette

WHERE TO SLEEP IN TOURS

Tours is probably the most central city for visiting the Loire castles. With Amboise, for me, these are the two best options, especially since in Tours we have life and a lot of possibilities for visiting and eating. So we can easily consider making this city your base to wander around

Château Belmont

From 110€
8.5 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



Hilton Garden Inn

From € 105
8.6 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



La Maison Jules

From € 172
9.6 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



Les Trésorières

From € 290
9.1 / 10

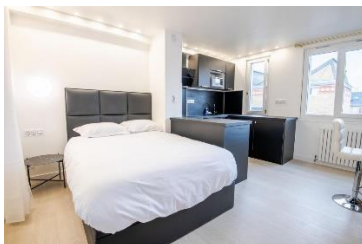
[Info & booking](#)



Best Experience

From €50
9.1 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



Central Parc

From € 165
9.2 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



ANGERS

GENERAL PRESENTATION

I discovered Angers during a weekend thanks to [ouigo](#) promotions (cheap and quick from Paris). I didn't really know what to expect other than a castle, and in the end a really nice surprise!

Angers is a small town with a magnificent, old, super well-maintained historic center. It's a little trip back in time. On top of that, the castle is totally different from what you might find. A massive castle (normal for a castle, I know) with 17 towers all in black and white colors. Surprising!

Finally, there are the incredible tapestries of the Apocalypse. Probably the largest hanging in the world, and which is also 100m long. Just that.



WHAT TO SEE

- The city center, mandatory
- The medieval castle and the streets just in front
- The Apocalypse tapestry, in the castle
- Cathedral Gothic Saint Maurice
- The view of the castle from the other shore
- Terra Botanica Park

WHERE TO EAT / DRINK

Obviously, given the region, the food is good there 😊 And honestly, when I went there I ate on the go so I can't recommend anything that I was able to taste. On the other hand, by searching and cross-checking the information, here are the good tables that emerge:

- Bistrot des ducs
- La Cour
- Les Petits Prés
- Au Ptit Resto
- La Gogane
- Reste au 51

WHERE TO SLEEP IN ANGERS

Angers is at the westernmost point of the Loire Châteaux. So it's not a good base if you're only visiting Chambord and Chenonceau, and you're sticking to Amboise, for example. On the other hand, if you head further west, past Chinon and Saumur, there are fewer châteaux, but this is a good opportunity to stop off in Angers. And it's a city where you have a lot of great options for accommodation, which is just as well!

Above all, you have one of the most beautiful lodgings in the region, [l'Oisellerie](#), one of the oldest and most beautiful houses in Angers.

[L'Oisellerie](#)

From 107€
9.5 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



[Ibis Château](#)

From 70€
8.0 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



[La Petite Charnasserie](#)

From 80€
9.3 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



[Château des Forges](#)

From 95€
9.0 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



[Hotel Continental](#)

From 78€
8.3 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



[Center studio](#)

From 75€
8.5 / 10

[Info & booking](#)



TASTE AND BUY WINE

GOOD CELLARS IN THE REGION

We drink really good wines in the region. I'm not going to be super specific, not being an oenologist at all, but I enjoy it every time I go there. And even every time I open a local bottle because each visit is also an opportunity to tour the cellars and fill the trunk. Just yesterday with a bottle of “white stones” 2020 from Plou et fils.

In short, both white and red wines and obviously including sparkling wines, if you like to drink a little glass from time to time, you will enjoy it 😊 Here are some tested and approved cellars!

- Vouvray: Cathelineau Cellars
- Plou and son
- Troglodyte cellar Durand Family
- Domaine de la paleine
- Domaine de la Noblaie

ORGANIZED CELLAR VISITS

It is possible to have guided tours of several cellars and in addition to taste some. Here are some examples in the region:

- Visit to the [Ambacia troglodyte cellars](#) of the house Duhard and tasting
- Discovery of [2 vineyards of Vouvray](#) from Tours
- Loire Valley wine tour in [Vouvray and Montlouis](#)



1 DAY TO THE CASTLES FROM PARIS

If you wish to discover the Loire Valley Castles from Paris in a day, you can do this very easily with a guided tour.

It's super practical if you don't want to organize it by yourself (meaning booking train, tickets, guide)

It's an all-inclusive day :

- Transport by bus from Paris (return)
- Entrance tickets
- Visit to the castles of Chambord, Chenonceau and Blois
- Wine tasting in Chenonceau







































DISCOVER THE LOIRE CASTLES WITH A DAY
TOUR FROM PARIS!




















ALL THE CASTLES TO SEE



















Here are all the châteaux of the Loire Valley that can be visited (or at least a very large part, maybe I have forgotten one or two 😊), with the information in short and one recommendation for accommodation next door.

<p><u>Chambord</u></p> <p>Adult price : €16 Summer hours: 9am – 6pm Stay : Relais de Chambord</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p><u>Chenonceau</u></p> <p>Adult price : €17 Summer hours: 9:30am – 7pm Stay : Auberge du bon laboureur</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p><u>Azay le Rideau</u></p> <p>Adult price : €13 Summer hours: 9:30am – 7pm Stay : Logis Troglododo</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p><u>Clos Lucé</u></p> <p>Adult price : €19 Summer hours: 9am – 8pm Stay : Manoir du Parc</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p><u>Amboise</u></p> <p>Adult price : €16.40 Summer hours: 9am – 7pm Stay : Manoir les Minimes</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p><u>Blois</u></p> <p>Adult price : €14 Summer hours: 9am – 7pm Staying : Ibis Château Blois</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p><u>Chaumont sur Loire</u></p> <p>Adult price : €20 Summer hours: 10am – 8pm Stay: The fisherman's house</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p><u>Cheverny</u></p> <p>Adult price : €14.50 Summer hours: 9:15am – 6:30pm Stay : Hôtel Saint Hubert</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p><u>city of Loches</u></p> <p>Adult price : €10.50 Summer hours: 9:30am – 7pm Stay : Hôtel de la ville royale</p>  <p> INFO AND BOOKING</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ussé</u></p> <p>Adult price: 14,50€ Summer hours été : 10am – 7pm Stay: Le Clos d'Ussé</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chinon</u></p> <p>Adult price: 10,50€ Summer hours: 9:30am – 6pm Stay: Relais Saint Maurice</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saumur</u></p> <p>Adult price: 9€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Hôtel Anne d'Anjou</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Langeais</u></p> <p>Adult price: 11,50€ Summer hours: 9am – 7pm Stay: La Batelière sur Loire</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Nantes</u></p> <p>Adult price: 9€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Okko Hôtel</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Jacques Cœur Bourges</u></p> <p>Adult price: 9€ Summer hours : 10am – 6:15pm Stay: BW Hôtel d'Angleterre</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sully Sur Loire</u></p> <p>Adult price: 8€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: Hôtel Burgevin</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Valençay</u></p> <p>Adult price: 14,50€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: Les Charmes</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Villandry</u></p> <p>Adult price: 13€ Summer hours: 9am – 7pm Stay: Le Haut des Lys</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Angers</u></p> <p>Adult price: 11€ Summer hours: 10am – 6:30pm Stay: L'Oisellerie</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rivau</u></p> <p>Adult price: 12,50€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Moulin de Reigner</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Meung sur Loire</u></p> <p>Adult price: 12€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Le Relais Louis XI</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Château Gaillard</u></p> <p>Adult price: 16€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: Château de Perreux</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>L'Islette</u></p> <p>Adult price: 11€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Loft Ptite Pomme</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chateaudun</u></p> <p>Adult price: 7€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: Gite chez Sylvie</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Beauregard</u></p> <p>Adult price: 14€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Fleur de Loire</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gien</u></p> <p>Adult price: 8€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: La Grange</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Meillant</u></p> <p>Adult price: 9€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: Château de Preuil</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Brissac</u></p> <p>Adult price: 11€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: Château de Brissac</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gué-Pean</u></p> <p>Adult price: 12€ Summer hours: 10:30am – 6pm Stay: La Varenne</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Montsoreau</u></p> <p>Adult price: 10,70€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Le Prieuré</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pagode de Chanteloup</u></p> <p>Adult price: 12€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Château des Arpentis</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tours</u></p> <p>Adult price: 4,50€ Summer hours: 2pm – 6pm Stay: Château Belmont</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Plessis les Tours</u></p> <p>Adult price: 5€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: La Bulle Détente</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Brézé</u></p> <p>Adult price: 12,90€ Summer hours: 10am – 6pm Stay: Manoir d'Orbé</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lude</u></p> <p>Adult price: 12€ Summer hours: 11am – 6pm Stay: le Lude Land Musée</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Montrichard</u></p> <p>Adult price: 5€ Summer hours: 2pm – 6:30pm Stay: le Clos de la Source</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>



















<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Montpoupon</u></p> <p>Adult price: 11€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: B&B Sans Souci</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Montrésor</u></p> <p>Adult price: 10€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Château La Corroirie</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Bouges</u></p> <p>Adult price: 9€ Summer hours: 11am – 5:15pm Stay: Le Petit Château</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saché-Musée Balzac</u></p> <p>Adult price: 6€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Moulin de la Chevrière</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Serrant</u></p> <p>Adult price: 10€ Summer hours: 9:45am–5:15pm Stay: Loge & Broc</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gizeux</u></p> <p>Adult price: 11€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Château de Gizeux</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Baugé</u></p> <p>Adult price: 9,50€ Summer hours: 10am – 6:30pm Stay: Grands Moulins de Baugé</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Villesavin</u></p> <p>Adult price: 10€ Summer hours: 10am – 7pm Stay: Relais Trois Châteaux</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Palais Ducal Nevers</u></p> <p>Adult price: 10€ Summer hours: 9am – 6:30pm Stay: Appart de charme</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> INFO AND BOOKING</p>

WHERE TO STAY IN THE LOIRE VALLEY CASTLES



















SLEEPING IN A CASTLE

<p><u>La Bourdaisière</u> <i>Montlouis sur Loire</i></p> <p>From: 139€ 8.6 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Château de Perreux</u> <i>Amboise</i></p> <p>From: 109€ 9.9 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Domaine la Tortinière</u> <i>Montbazou</i></p> <p>From: 170€ 8.7 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Château de Gizeux</u> <i>Gizeux</i></p> <p>From: 173€ 9.0 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Château des Arpentis</u> <i>Amboise</i></p> <p>From: 210€ 9.0 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Relais de Chambord</u> <i>Chambord</i></p> <p>From: 193 8.6 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Château la Corroirie</u> <i>Montrésor</i></p> <p>From: 109€ 8.8 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Château de Brissac</u> <i>Brissac - Quincé</i></p> <p>From: 535€ 9.9 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Château de Preuil</u> <i>Chambord</i></p> <p>From: 193 8.6 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>



















BOUTIQUE HOTELS

<p><u>B&B Sans souci</u> <i>Luzillé</i></p> <p>From: 202€ 9.8 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Le Petit Château</u> <i>Bouges le Château</i></p> <p>From: 129€ 9.3 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>L'Oisellerie</u> <i>Angers</i></p> <p>From: 107€ 9.5 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Château Belmont</u> <i>Tours</i></p> <p>From: 110€ 8.5 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Relais Saint Maurice</u> <i>Chinon</i></p> <p>From: 109€ 9.9 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>BW Cité Royale</u> <i>Loches</i></p> <p>From: 110 8.8 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Manoir des Minimes</u> <i>Amboise</i></p> <p>From: 180€ 9.0 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Auberge BonLaboureur</u> <i>Chenonceaux</i></p> <p>From: 168€ 8.8 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Manoir du Parc</u> <i>Amboise</i></p> <p>From: 199 8.4 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>

UNUSUAL PLACES TO STAY

<p><u>Troglô Loire Sauvage</u> <i>Rochecorbon</i></p> <p>From: 158€ 9.4 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Troglô La Tufolière</u> <i>Rochecorbon</i></p> <p>From: 137€ 9.1 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Trog'Love Balneo</u> <i>Tours</i></p> <p>From: 180€ 9.3 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Logis de la Vignole</u> <i>Turquant</i></p> <p>From: 115€ 9.1 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Clos des Epinettes</u> <i>Angé</i></p> <p>From: 86€ 8.9 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>La Batelière sur Loire</u> <i>La Chapelle aux Naux</i></p> <p>From: 140 9.0 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>La Buissonnière</u> <i>Chisseaux</i></p> <p>From: 120€ 8.8 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Ecolodge de Loire</u> <i>Gennes</i></p> <p>From: 140€ 8.7 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Gîte Chais de Catherine</u> <i>Amboise</i></p> <p>From: 160 9.3 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>

BUDGET PLACES TO STAY

<p><u>Hôtel Saint Hubert</u> <i>Cour Cheverny</i></p> <p>From: 75€ 8.2 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Gustave et Compagnie</u> <i>Choussy</i></p> <p>From: 80€ 9.3 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Mister Bed</u> <i>Chambray les Tours</i></p> <p>From: 35€ 7.1 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Kyriad Tours</u> <i>Tours Sud</i></p> <p>From: 80€ 8.9 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Best Western Central</u> <i>Tours</i></p> <p>From: 80€ 8.2 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Le Georges</u> <i>Loches</i></p> <p>From: 60 8.4 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>
<p><u>Studio Centre Amboise</u> <i>Amboise</i></p> <p>From: 70€ 9.1 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Gîte Cozy</u> <i>Vernou sur Brenne</i></p> <p>From: 60€ 9.2 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>	<p><u>Domaine les Acacias</u> <i>La Ville aux Dames</i></p> <p>From: 58 8.5 on Booking</p>  <p> DISCOVER</p>

GENERAL INFORMATIONS

[Full article here](#)

MAP OF THE LOIRE CASTLES

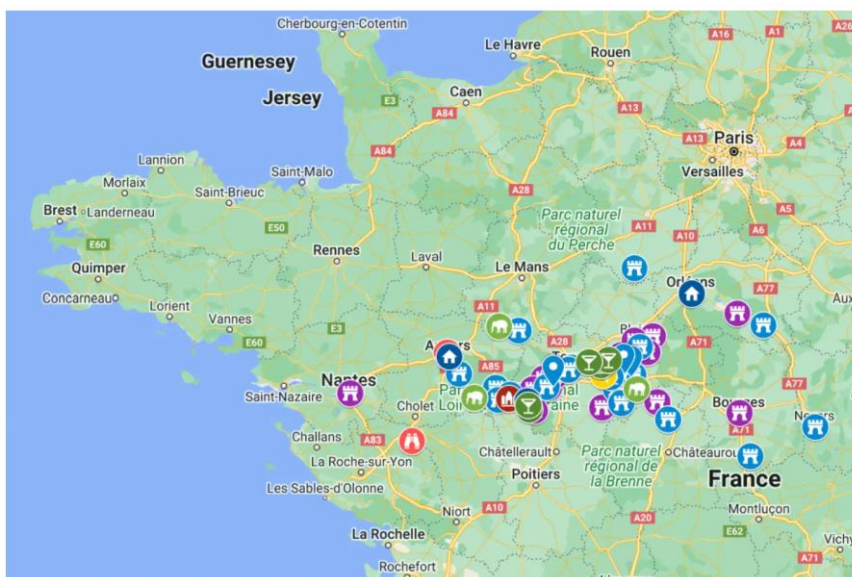
Below I created for you a [ultra practical map](#) of the Loire castles, including :

- ALL the Loire castles that can be visited
- The most beautiful, the essentials
- The most practical hotels, lodgings
- The restaurants
- Zoos
- Wine cellars
- Other activities in the region (visit a troglodyte house, the mini castles park, for example)

Knowing that for each element, each hotel or castle, I give you :

- The costs
- Rating
- The best deals

★ [Click here to access the map of the Châteaux de la Loire!](#)



THE LOIRE VALLEY CASTLES FOR CHILDREN

So this is a question I'm being asked more and more regularly. Will children enjoy the châteaux of the Loire Valley, which ones to choose and why?

- **Le Clos Lucé**, because it's Leonardo da Vinci's workshop, and they've put up plans of his works, miniature reproductions and especially some to scale, notably in the large garden. So you can see his inventions, and it's really interesting. [Info and reservation](#)
- **Chenonceau** obviously, for its impressive arches which span the Cher. There are 2/3 short walks to take along the banks of the river and the gardens are nice. [Info and reservation](#)
- **Villandry** for its gardens, I was there a few months ago and the gardens are still magical. [Info and reservation](#)
- **Ussé** is a pretty castle and there's a whole stage set around the tale of Sleeping Beauty, which is said to have inspired Perrault. [Info and reservation](#)
- **Azay le Rideau** is great, with its beautiful, classy architecture, surrounding water and automatons that reproduce scenes from the era, particularly meals. [Info and reservation](#)
- **Chambord** to a certain extent and especially for its staircase, which will really interest the kids! And when the season's right, you can go on to the stag's roar! [Info and reservation](#)
- **Cheverny** if your children are fans of Tintin, because it is this castle which served as a model for Moulinsart. In addition, there is a beautiful permanent exhibition. There is also a huge kennel with more than one hundred purebred dogs that we can see during the visit. [Info and reservation](#)
- **Chaumont** can be nice for two reasons. First of all, its massive side with large towers which is totally different from what you can find. Then for its garden festival and its tropical greenhouse. It is surprising! [Info and reservation](#)



Leonardo da Vinci Loire Valley Pass

✓ Château du Clos Lucé
✓ Château Royal d'Amboise
✓ Château de Chambord

From €49.00
€39.00

★ 5.0 (3)



Loire Valley Châteaux Digital Pass

✓ Château de Chambord
✓ Château de Chenonceau
✓ Royal Château de Blois

From €44.00
€39.00

★ 4.7 (12)



Château de Chambord + Château de Chenonceau

Book once and enhance your experience with this convenient combination of 2 must sees

From €30.04
€29.30

★ 4.7 (205)

COME SEE THE CASTLES OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

COME BY PLANE

To come see the castles of the Loire, the plane is not necessarily the best option. Well, it depends from where you come from, of course. But you'll only be able to get there directly at Tours airport, which is served from Marseille (or a few foreign cities like London).

Otherwise you have to arrive 2 hours away, in Nantes and Paris.

Airports main and easy access :

- Tours, via Ryanair but uniquely from Marseille in France
- Paris Orly
- Paris Roissy Charles de Gaulle
- Nantes
- You have to **compare**, I use notably [Kayak](#)

COME BY TRAIN

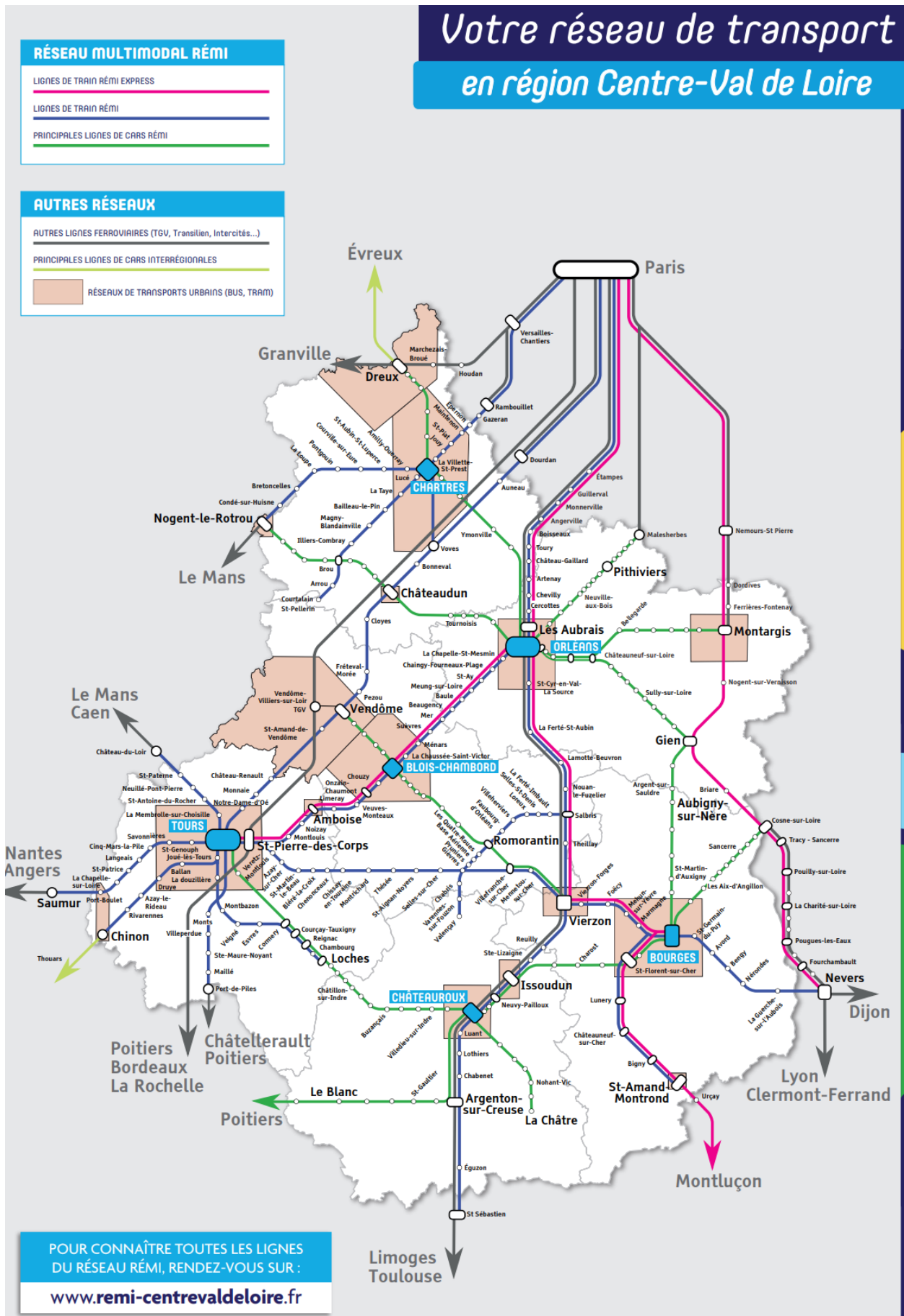
As we previously saw, in the section dedicated to the Loire castles without a car, it is easy to come by train. We have the main stations like Tours, Angers, Orleans, and even Nantes, which are linked to large cities. But all the towns on the banks of the Loire have also their train station like Amboise for example.

Take a look at [OUIGO](#) because it serves the various stations in the surrounding area (Angers, Tours, etc.).

Coming by train from Paris is very very easy. There are many trains per day, this is not expensive, mostly if you book in advance.



FIND THE BEST TRAIN TO VISIT THE LOIRE
VALLEY CASTLES



COME BY BUS

Good news, we can access the Loire castles by bus with direct access to Tours and Orléans, Angers in particular, via Flixbus and Blablacar Bus. It's around 3h (from Paris) and from €8:

- Discover offers with [Flixbus](#)
- Discover the offers with [Blablacar Bus](#)

BUSBUD is a very useful website to search and compare bus trips. [Click here](#) to plan your journey by bus !

The screenshot shows the Busbud search interface. The search criteria are: Origin: Paris, Ile-de-France, France; Destination: Tours, Centre-Val de Loire, France; Date: Sun, May 5; Return Date: Optional; Passengers: 1 passenger. The search results are sorted by 'Earliest' and show 26 results. The first three results are:

Mode of Transportation	Company	Departure	Arrival	Price	Duration
BlaBlaCar Bus	BlaBlaCar Bus	7:20am Bercy Seine PARIS	10:15am Tours Peupliers TOURS	€12	2h 55m
FlixBus	FlixBus	8:00am Bercy Seine PARIS	11:00am Gare Routière de TOURS	€55	3h
FlixBus	FlixBus	9:00am Bercy Seine PARIS	12:30pm Gare Routière de TOURS	€8	3h 30m

On the left side of the search results, there are filters for Modes of transportation (All modes, €8, 2h 45m; €36, 1h 4m), Quick filters (E-ticket only (26), Direct only (23), Award-winners only (0)), and Departure time (Nighttime (0) Before 6am, Early (5) 6am - 11am, Midday (14) 11am - 5pm).

COME BY CAR

It's the simplest, really. To access the main cities, yes and no because the train and bus are efficient and fast, especially if you come from Paris. But to move between castles, to sleep in places a little outside, the car is really the best.

From Paris, it's 2 hours to go to Chambord for example. And around 2h30 to go to Tours.

Tolls cost €25, petrol about the same. So the trip costs around €50.

RENT A CAR

If you want to rent a car from your hometown to come to the Loire Valley or rent once you arrive there (by train or bus), you have two options:

- Rent a car through a traditional agency. For this, you really have to compare. For my part, I use [Kayak](#) and [Discover Cars](#).
- Go through a private rental with **Getaround** (you can also get €15 off your first rental [by clicking here](#)). It's reliable, I use it regularly.

15€
offerts pour votre
première location

Weekends, déménagements, rendez-vous professionnels...
C'est facile en louant sur Getaround!

J'en profite !




Voici la nouvelle manière de louer une voiture

COMING ON AN ORGANIZED TOUR FROM PARIS

As I told you previously, if you don't want to take the hassle, you can come in a group with an agency that takes care of organizing everything. Transport, tickets, visit. Here are some examples :

- [Visit to Chambord, Chenonceau, with wine tasting](#)
- [Château d'Amboise, Chambord, Chenonceau and wine tasting](#)
- [Cheverny, Chenonceau and Chambord by minibus](#)
- [Visit to Chambord, Chenonceau and lunch in a private castle](#)



Forte demande

Paris, Île-de-France


Excursion d'une journée dans les châteaux de la Loire au départ de Paris avec dégustation de vins

★★★★☆ 1628

☑ Annulation gratuite

à partir de 149,00 €

Réservez maintenant



Forte demande


Paris, Île-de-France

Châteaux de la Loire : Chenonceau, Cheverny, Chambord Visite guidée de Paris en minibus

★★★★☆ 18

à partir de 189,00 €

Réservez maintenant



Tours, Vallée de la Loire


Excursion à la journée Chambord, Chenonceau et déjeuner dans un château privé

★★★★☆ 248

☑ Annulation gratuite

à partir de 229,00 €

Réservez maintenant



Paris, Île-de-France

Excursion d'une journée en petit groupe dans les trois châteaux de la Loire avec dégustation de vins

★★★★☆ 351

☑ Annulation gratuite

à partir de 235,00 €

Réservez maintenant

WHAT IS THE BEST SEASON

- **GENERAL**
 - The castles can be visited all year long
 - From June to the beginning of September there is a lot of people in the main castles
 - School holidays (Easter, All Saints' Day) are also very touristy

- **SUMMER**
 - Lots of people all summer
 - Schedules expanded
 - You really need to plan tickets and accommodation in advance
 - Gardens in bloom

- **OTHER RECOMMENDED PERIOD**
 - April, May, September, October, great periods with good temperatures, gardens in bloom, much fewer people, especially foreigners

- **LOW SEASON**
 - From October to March
 - Not great if you want to visit castles with gardens like Villandry
 - Very few people in general, except during the holidays
 - Pay attention to the winter schedules which are in generally well reduced
 - Some small castles are closed

TICKET RESERVATIONS

WHY BOOK YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE?

- To save time and **avoid queuing**. For some castles, especially the bigger ones, you have to queue for a long time, which means you lose time for your visit, especially when it's busy.
- To avoid arriving and **running out of tickets**. There are a certain number of tickets on sale each day. In busy periods, this is quite significant. I've been known to arrive and see the "sold out" sign.

WHERE TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS?

- On the castle sites directly for some of among them
- On ticket sales sites like [Tigets](#), [Getyourguide](#), [Viator](#) (all trusted, and no more expensive). These sites offer in general free cancellation, validity period of tickets. To be checked during the purchase.
- Ticket **booking links for the** following castles:
 - [Chambord](#)
 - [Chenonceau](#)
 - [Azay the Curtain](#)
 - [Clos Lucé](#)
 - [Amboise](#)
 - [Angers](#)
 - [Blois](#)
 - [Chaumont](#)
 - [Chateau Gaillard](#)
 - [City of Loches](#)
 - [Villandry](#)
 - [Chinon Fortress](#)
 - [Jacques Coeur Palace](#)

It exists some passes which combine tickets for certain castles and allow you to save money :

- [Leonardo Pass](#) : Clos Lucé, Amboise, Chambord
- [Loire Castles Pass](#) : Chambord, Chenonceau, Blois
- [Pass Chenonceau + Chambord](#)



CHAMBORD

Château de Chambord

Le Château de Chambord est l'une de plus célèbres merveilles architecturales de la Renaissance française ...

★ 4,7 (1875)

À partir de
16,00 €

CHENONCEAUX

Château de Chenonceau

Le Château de Chenonceau est un magnifique château français avec une histoire assez singulière avec toute...

★ 4,6 (1239)

À partir de
17,00 €

AMBOISE

Château d'Amboise

Le château d'Amboise est une résidence royale entièrement restaurée qui a souffert de siècles...

★ 4,7 (480)

À partir de
14,51 €

AMBOISE

Château du Clos Lucé

Le château du Clos Lucé est un vaste château situé en plein cœur d'Amboise, dans la vallée de la Loire...

★ 4,7 (638)

À partir de
19,00 €

BLOIS

Le Château Royal de Blois

Le Château Royal de Blois date du 13e siècle et se situe au coeur de Blois, en France. Avec plus de 500 pièces...

★ 4,6 (401)

À partir de
11,50 €

AZAY-LE-RIDEAU

Château d'Azay-le-Rideau

Le Château d'Azay-le-Rideau est l'un des tout premiers châteaux de la Loire construits dans le style...

★ 4,7 (270)

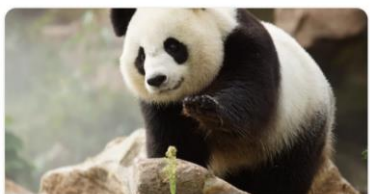
À partir de
13,00 €

VILLANDRY

Château de Villandry

Le Château de Villandry est l'un des châteaux les plus visités de France, connu principalement pour ses...

★ 4,8 (401)

À partir de
13,00 €

SAINT-AIGNAN

ZooParc de Beauval

Le ZooParc de Beauval est le zoo n°1 en France, ainsi que l'un des plus beaux zoos au monde ! Ses 30...

★ 4,8 (1995)

À partir de
40,00 €

CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Le Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire est situé près de Blois, à Chaumont-sur-Loire, dans le Loir-et-Cher.

★ 4,7 (315)

À partir de
15,00 €**Leonardo da Vinci Loire Valley Pass**

- ✓ Château du Clos Lucé
- ✓ Château Royal d'Amboise
- ✓ Château de Chambord

★ 5.0 (3)

From ~~€49.00~~
€39.00**Loire Valley Châteaux Pass**

- ✓ Château de Chambord
- ✓ Château de Chenonceau
- ✓ Royal Château de Blois

★ 4.7 (12)

From ~~€44.00~~
€39.00**Château de Chambord +
Château de Chenonceau**

Book once and enhance your experience with this convenient combination of 2 must sees

★ 4.7 (205)

From ~~€30.84~~
€29.30

WHO AM I

Well I'm Vincent, from the [Vincent Voyage blog](#) (super original isn't it !)

I've been a lover of Norway and the Nordic countries for many years, and now spend several months up there enjoying the peace and quiet of the region, its fantastic landscapes, and of course the Northern Lights, which I photograph as often as I can.

I am also travel blogger, specialized in [Norway](#) and the [northern lights](#) but not only ! I appreciate Iceland and [Loire Valley Castles](#). I have a passion for Burma and [Peru](#) and dream of returning in New Zealand .

My blog and the various guides are mainly there to show that it's simpler than it looks. Travelling is simple and I'm trying to answer all the questions I've asked myself. Because you're not the first to ask the questions you've been asking, so I'm going to try to make travelling easier for you 😊

Before embarking on **this travel book to the châteaux of the Loire**, I wrote a first **travel book about Norway**, [which you can find](#) here .

Some travel books will come next, always free, about Iceland, Finnish Lapland, Peru. It's going to take a little time, but it's in the pipeline!

SOCIAL MEDIA

I am present on several social media :

- [Instagram](#): publication of photos and videos mainly about Norway and the Northern Lights
- [Account: Vincentvoyage](#)



- [Facebook page](#) : publication of photos and videos but not just that! presentation of my work and the work of others, easy to chat to the community. It's a great place to exchange ideas and I often ask for people's opinions on different subjects.
- Account: [Vincentvoyage](#).



I am also present on:

- [Twitter](#)
- [Threads](#)

You can contact me at contact@vincent.voyage

HOW TO SUPPORT THE BLOG AND FREE CONTENT

Contrary to what some might think, blogging and photography are not my job. It's a passion taken in my free time. The advantage is that I don't want it to become a full time job, so as not to lose this freedom and this passion (plus I love my "real" work, which I don't want to stop).

I try to make the blog make some money while trying to be as transparent as possible for readers.

I don't work with tourist offices, I don't do any advertising, all you see here in this guide, if I tested it, is that I paid for it and I enjoyed it. So you will have no problem with the veracity of my opinions 😊

If I haven't tested it, it's because I checked that the reviews were good and that the quality was really there.

For the monetization part of the blog and the guide, sometimes there are affiliate links. That is to say, and this is completely transparent for you, that if you use some of my links to book with Booking or Getyourguide for example, you will not pay more and I receive a small percentage. I insist that you will not pay more.

I refuse to work with certain partners who inflate prices in exchange for higher remuneration. So EVERYTHING I offer here is checked to see what the lowest price is for you with a trusted partner. In general I make sure you have free cancellation so you don't get stuck.

So, to support the blog and ensure that it is self-financing, you can use the links provided in the guide.

But you can also, if you travel elsewhere, use these generic links (next page) to make your reservations, it will still not be more expensive for you and I will have this small commission. And keep them as favorites for your next uses. Thanks in advance ! 😊

If you enjoy this free guide, you can also leave a little something on [Buy Me a Coffee](#), a creator support site



Buy me a coffee

ALL ARTICLES ON THE LOIRE VALLEY CASTLES

- **GENERAL**

- [a perfect tinerary](#) in the Loire castles
- [All of the information](#) useful for castles
- [The 15 most beautiful](#) castles of the Loire Valley
- [Where to stay](#) in the Loire Valley
- [The Loire castles without a car](#)
- [The castles of the Loire Valley with a dog](#)
- [What to do in Indre et Loire](#) area
- [The ultimate map](#) to discover the castles of the Loire

- **CASTLE INTRODUCTION**

- [Chambord](#)
- [Chenonceau](#)
- [Clos Lucé](#)
- [Azay le Rideau](#)

- **CITY DISCOVERY**

- [Amboise and its castle](#)

That's it! Thank you for this long read, I hope you found the answers you were looking for, and not too much of a headache :D

And above all, if you have any questions, you can ask me by email: contact@vincent.voyage