



PRESS KIT

EXPERIENCE THE LOIRE VALLEY

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LOIRE VALLEY
FRANCE



Document édité par le Comité Régional du Tourisme Centre-Val de Loire avec le concours des Agences Départementales de Tourisme. Carte des appellations réalisée sur la base des appellations « Inter-loire-BIVC ». Tous droits des cartes, textes et illustrations réservés. Création graphique : 13301-MEP agencescoopcommunication



NATURE, CULTURE AND ART DE VIVRE, AN EXCEPTIONAL BLEND

The Loire Valley offers countless leisure options for lovers of nature, heritage and gastronomy.

To get here, nothing could be simpler:

- from Paris: TGV train to Tours (1hr), regional trains to Chartres (1hr), Orléans (1hr), Bourges (2hrs), Châteauroux (2hrs)
- from Roissy-CDG airport: direct TGV to Tours (2hrs)

Listed as **UNESCO World Heritage** since 2000, the Loire Valley is the heart of the surrounding region. Nicknamed the Valley of the Kings, it is home to countless **châteaux** including **fifteen** which are listed as “**Great Sites of the Loire Valley**”, like the Château of Chambord and the Château of Chenonceau. Indeed, before Versailles, it was in the Loire Valley that the Kings of France had their residences!

The Loire Valley is also known as the “**Garden of France**” because of its fertile ground and variety of soil types that are ideal for growing fruit and vegetable and making a wide range of wines. Red, white, rosé, sparkling, dry or tannic... there something for every taste!

There's no better way to discover this region while still preserving its natural beauty than by cycling along **La Loire à Vélo**, a cycle route that follows the Loire, its vineyards and châteaux over 900km!

To the south of the Loire Valley lies Berry, a little-known countryside region dotted with countless gems including **small private châteaux** such as the Château of Ainay-le-Vieil, **secrets gardens** such as the flower park in Apremont-sur-Allier, internationally known vineyards such as those in Sancerre, lively towns such as **Bourges or Châteauroux** and nature reserves such as the **Regional Nature Park of Brenne**. This countryside area is a holiday destination in its own right and with treasures to discover.

To the north, there is a different ambiance. Enjoy a city break in **Chartres** with its cathedral listed as UNESCO World Heritage or discover the authentic but still little-known **Eure valley** with villages such as **Maintenon**, known for its château and unfinished aqueduct that was the fruit of a wild idea of Louis XIV.

**NEW REGIONAL WEBSITE:
WWW.LOIREVALLEY-FRANCE.CO.UK**



HERITAGE



LÉO, AN ANIMATED FILM ABOUT LEONARDO DA VINCI

8 January to 20 April:
www.chateau-amboise.com/en

3 February to 12 May:
<https://vinci-closluce.com/en>

The Loire Valley is home to incredible historic heritage, all of it closely connected to the world of art, creativity and the art of living. The Renaissance was a long period of great change, the crucible of a huge expansion in creativity, as testified by the Châteaux and gardens of the Loire.

At the **Royal Château of Amboise**, ten original models are on display from the sets of the **animated movie, Léo**, which depicts Leonardo da Vinci's last years at Amboise. And the **Château of Le Clos Lucé**, the final residence of the Italian genius, features a large number of the sets as well as the characters used to make the film. In these exhibitions, visitors can go **behind-the-scenes of the making of a stop-motion movie**, showcasing the talents of animation studio Foliascope. The craftsmanship, techniques and environment of this film evoke the bustling activity of a Renaissance bottega (workshop), giving us a glimpse into the spirit of Leonardo.

i For the reopening of the Saint-Hubert Chapel at the Royal Château of Amboise, the city's iconic Bigot chocolate shop is bringing out a new chocolate shaped like the famous chapel, home to the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci.

June 2024: <https://maisonbigot.fr>



CHÂTEAU OF CHENONCEAU, CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

In the mid-18th century, the **Château of Chenonceau** received the Enlightenment philosopher **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**. Then aged 35, he was engaged as a tutor in the service of the Dupin family. Rousseau and Dupin de Francueil studied astronomy, mechanics and optics. In 2024, the “Ladies’ Château” is shining the spotlight on its **Cabinet of Scientific Curiosities**.

Opening in 2024:
www.chenonceau.com/en

BACK TO CHILDHOOD AT THE CHÂTEAU OF BLOIS AND CHÂTEAU OF LANGEAIS

The **Royal Château of Blois**, which is known for its mix of styles, is paying tribute to architecture through a fun exhibition in partnership with **Kapla®**. The most iconic monuments in the world will be reproduced in the State Room. For the first time, a model of the Royal Château of Blois will be created before visitors’ eyes in this exhibit. And at the **Château of Langeais**, Playmobil will be in the spotlight. In the attics, which have been opened to the public for the occasion, an exhibition will pay tribute to **major dates in the Château’s history**, such as the construction of the keep around the year 1000 and the secret marriage of Charles VIII and Anne of Brittany.

6 April to 25 August: en.chateaublois.fr
10 February to 26 May:
<https://chateau-de-langeais.com/en/>



THOUSAND-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRYPT AND REOPENING OF THE SAINT-PIAT CHAPEL

Chartres Cathedral has been listed as a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site since 1979. Discover the cathedral, from its underground spaces to its attic, through **two unique tours**: a candlelit visit of the crypt at night and a visit of the attic to admire its **unusual structure**, which is not made of wood but of metal. In 2024, the cathedral crypt is **celebrating its thousand-year anniversary**. To celebrate the occasion, **Saint-Piat Chapel** is reopening its doors after seven years of works.

www.cathedrale-chartres.org/en/

CHÂTEAU OF VALENÇAY, THE FRENCH ART OF LIVING

The **Château of Valençay** was built during the Renaissance. It was the residence of Charles-Maurice Talleyrand-Périgord, the famous diplomat and Napoleon’s minister. Talleyrand made Valençay a temple to the culinary arts. As an expert in diplomacy and politics, he knew the virtues of a well-laden table! This delicate art of living can still be felt in the history and atmosphere of the Château of Valençay. The Château’s 2024 programme is family-focused, featuring: **“The Apartment of the Little Princes”**, a space dedicated to children; a daily **horse show**, the reopening of the **great imperial labyrinth**, and a **new tour route** with an audioguide (multiple languages available).

New events planned for the summer:
www.chateau-valencay.fr/en/





ART



FESTIVAL
AR(t)CHIPEL
CENTRE-VAL DE LOIRE

The Loire Valley region has signed a **brand-new partnership** with the national modern art museum Centre Pompidou, which includes the **loan of a number of works** during its period of closure. These works will be presented at a major event, the AR(t)CHIPEL Festival. This event will continue to grow until 2026, the year marking the anniversary of the death of two renowned artists who loved and often stayed in the Loire Valley, Alexander Calder and Max Ernst.

Until end of January 2024:
<https://cccod.fr/exposition/la-figuration-a-l-envers/>

FINE ARTS MUSEUMS

Of course, the **Fine Arts Museums of Orléans** and Tours have registered their programmes in this festival. From Orléans, the works of two artists, Jesus Rafael Soto and Ettore Sottsass, were selected, including Sottsass' spectacular Tempio Azzurro totem (1969) and Soto's Volume suspendu.

Sottsass until 3 March and Soto until 16 June:
www.orleans-metropole.fr/culture/musees-expositions/le-musee-des-beaux-arts

At the **Fine Arts Museum of Tours**, works by Julio Gonzales, Brassai, Serge Mouille and Valérie Belin are exhibited.

<https://mba.tours.fr/>

CCCOD

The **Olivier Debré Contemporary Art Centre** is partnering with the Centre Pompidou for a **monographic exhibition on Olivier Debré**, combining the works from their respective collections. This painter was a key representative of lyrical abstraction. He set up a workshop in Touraine, where he spent his childhood since 1978.

Until end of January 2024:
<https://cccod.fr/>



REGIONAL DOMAIN OF CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE, ARTS AND NATURE CENTRE

The **Domain of Chaumont-sur-Loire** was acquired by the Centre-Val de Loire Region in 2007, and has become an iconic site for art and gardens. Its triple identity - heritage, art and gardens - makes it a unique place among the various Loire châteaux. Each year, **the Arts and Nature Center** invites ten renowned artists, sculptors and photographers to create work on the theme of nature. The domain's collection grows each cultural season, with works from major artists now visible on a permanent basis, including Sarkis, Jannis Kounellis, Gabriel Orozco, Sheila Hicks and Giuseppe Penone.

Chaumont-Photo-sur-Loire will present personal exhibitions from nature photographers, from 16 November 2024 to 2 March 2025

<https://domaine-chaumont.fr/en/home>



CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS CENTRE OF LA BORNE

Between Bourges and Sancerre, the **Contemporary Ceramics Center** is located in La Borne, a village of 250 residents including 40 potters and ceramicists. This pottery tradition was born in the 13th century and continues to this day, with around a hundred ceramicists and potters of 12 different nationalities throughout the surrounding area. The La Borne Centre of Contemporary Ceramics is a **permanent exhibition site**, open since 2010. Don't miss: Les Grands Feux, in October of each year, with demonstrations, tours, workshops, and more...

www.laborne.org/en



THE VALLEY OF PAINTERS

Nearly 400 artists have set up their easel on the banks of the Creuse, fascinated by the wild landscapes and stunning contrasts! This valley was the destination of choice for Impressionist painters, who immortalised these landscapes for nearly 100 years, since the 19th century! **Argenton-sur-Creuse**, the little Venice of Berry, is the first stage in this itinerary. Then comes **Gargilèsse**, city of artists and not to mention, one of the "Most Beautiful Villages of France", where **George Sand** lived. From the **Ceaumont Church**, make sure you don't miss the panoramic views of the Pin loop track, and the **Menoux Church** features modern frescoes by Bolivian artist Jorge Carrasco. Finish with **Eguzon and the Museum of the Creuse Valley**, which offers three temporary exhibitions from March to November each season. In 2024, the work of Christian Sorg will be showcased.

www.musee-vallee-de-la-creuse.fr/fr

The 13th of December, **Bourges** has been named European Capital of Culture 2028. Featuring sites such as the UNESCO-listed Cathedral and Jacques Coeur Palace, the historic medieval city centre and museums, the beautiful marshlands at the foot of the city and the famous pop/rock festival "Printemps de Bourges", the city had every chance to be awarded the title!





GARDENS & CHÂTEAUX



RONSARD POETRY IN THE GARDEN

Ronsard and the arts – From the 16th century to today - Exhibition from 22 June to 22 September 2024:
www.prieure-ronsard.fr/en



For the **500th anniversary** of the birth of Pierre de Ronsard, a number of events will be organised between June and September.

Ronsard was born in **Manoir de la Possonnière**, in Couture-sur-Loir near Vendôme, and drew inspiration from a number of sites in the region, such as the **Château of Talcy** and **Bourgueil Abbey**.

The Saint-Cosme Priory is also known as the residence of Ronsard, as he was the prior there for 20 years (1565-1585). It will be home to a brand-new exhibition on the connection between the “Prince of Poets” and other artists of the time, through rare works (sheet music, instruments, paintings, original editions of books, portraits of the poet, etc.). Take the opportunity to discover lesser-known sites, filled with poetry.



LA BUSSIÈRE: NEW GUEST ROOMS (FROM APRIL)

At La Bussière, you'll find a vegetable garden next to a beautiful little chateau from the late 16th century. During the season, visitors can **pick their own berries in the garden** - kids will love it! The **"Garden Game" and sylvotherapy tour** offer a fun approach to visiting the park and garden, one in which you can discover the 18th-century botanical spaces and the other to connect with the trees in the park. From April, La Bussière will offer an **experience unlike any other** - the chance to stay in the chateau's guestrooms!

www.chateau-de-la-bussiere.com



THE PARC FLORAL D'APREMONT-SUR-ALLIER

This park is located in the heart of a medieval village listed as one of the **"Most Beautiful Villages of France"**. With a collection of **1,500 plant species**, visitors can take a journey from China to the Ottoman Empire, via Russia, England and Italy. In 2024, the park will feature a **new interactive and fun space**, the "Grand Départ", which will tell the story of how Eugène Schneider from Le Creusot and his wife left to go to the 1900 World Exhibition. The bonus: a gîte for four to five people in the center of the Parc Floral. Guests can enjoy strolling around the five hectares of gardens before visitors arrive or after they leave.

www.apremont-sur-allier.com/en/garden/



CHÂTEAU OF MAINTENON

This building would probably have remained unknown if it hadn't been home to a famous woman, **Madame de Maintenon** - the mistress, then wife of King Louis XIV. It features French gardens designed by **Le Nôtre** and an unbeatable view of the Eure Valley. In summer, you can rent a canoe from Chartres and travel the twenty or so kilometres to the chateau on the Eure, passing via the **Vauban Aqueduct**, an unfinished structure that was meant to connect Maintenon to Versailles.

www.musee-vallee-de-la-creuse.fr/en



5,200 KM OF CYCLE ROUTES

THE LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE'S LEADING CYCLING DESTINATION

www.loirebybike.co.uk



LÉGENDE :

- - - Scandibérique
- La Loire à Vélo
- Véloscénie
- - - Vallée du Loir à Vélo
- Saint-Jacques à Vélo via Tours
- - - Saint-Jacques à Vélo via Vézelay
- Indre à Vélo
- - - Coeur de France à vélo
- La Loire

i NEW : Le Passeport La Loire à Vélo
www.loirebybike.co.uk/your-loire-a-velo-passport



The Loire Valley is traversed by **6 national cycle itineraries and 2 EuroVelo routes** (EV3 and EV6), including the oldest cycle route in France, **the Loire by Bike**. The **900-km** itinerary is easy to ride. It follows the Loire, crossing through UNESCO World Heritage-listed territory. The **Orléans-Tours-Nantes-Le Croisic train line** follows the route, with **50 to 83 spots for bikes** from June to September, to facilitate access and mobility in the region. For even greater comfort, there are over **1,000 professionals with the “Accueil Vélo” label** along the entire route (accommodation, rentals, tourism sites, etc.), located maximum 5 km from the itinerary. They offer services adapted to cycle tourists: secure parking, repair kit, etc.

La Loire à Vélo is also connected to other national routes and around ten networks of bike circuits, offering different ways to discover the region, such as **La Scandibérique (EV3), L'Indre à Vélo, La Vallée du Loir, St Jacques à Vélo via Tours, St Jacques à Vélo via Vézelay, la Véloscénie and Coeur de France à Vélo**.
www.loirebybike.co.uk



TOURS: SPOILED FOR CHOICE



2 hours from Paris-Montparnasse or Paris-Austerlitz

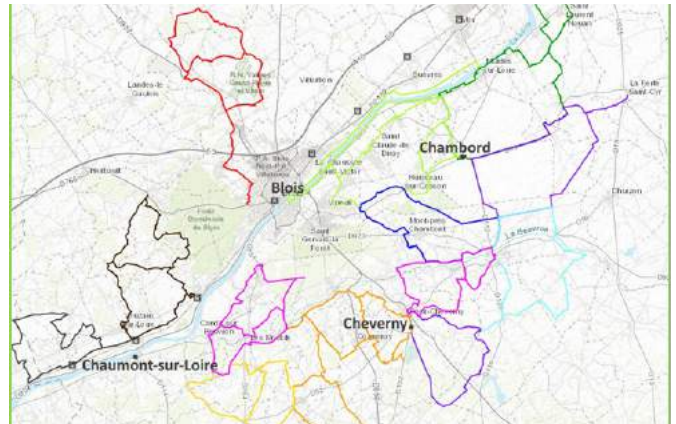
Tours is **the intersection between many regional routes**. Between La Loire à Vélo, La Scandibérique, L'Indre à Vélo, St Jacques à Vélo and Cœur de France à Vélo, there are a million ways to get away by bike and discover the region in a new way, with its heritage, rural landscapes and vineyards.

Here's a suggested itinerary for a few days in Touraine:

D1: Tours - Veigné - Loches: 50 km of country trails, to discover regional heritage.

D2: Loches - Chenonceau - Amboise: 50 km between three major sites of the Loire Valley, via the flower-filled village of Chédigny.

D3: Amboise - Tours: 30 km through the vineyards of Touraine, mainly along greenways.



EXCURSIONS FROM CHÂTEAU TO CHÂTEAU FROM BLOIS



2 hours from Paris-Montparnasse or Paris-Austerlitz

Les Châteaux à Vélo is not one **but multiple itineraries connected to La Loire à Vélo**. Along the 500 km of bike paths, **15 circuits of 10-45 km** offer the opportunity to immerse yourself in spectacular settings around the **greatest Loire Châteaux, such as Chambord, Cheverny, Blois and Chaumont-sur-Loire**. Some loops also give you the chance to discover lesser-known estates, such as **Beauregard, Villesavin and the smallest Loire Château, Troussay**. Pedal alongside these sumptuous châteaux and experience the forests of Sologne, the vineyards of the Loire and the most beautiful villages of the Loire Valley. You're guaranteed to be blown away!

In 2024, the Tour de France will include a stage between Orleans and Saint-Amand-Montrond! 

➔ *For more information on the region's cycle routes*
www.loirevalley-france.co.uk

COUNTRYSIDE WEEKEND AROUND CHARTRES



1 hour from Paris Montparnasse to Maintenon or Chartres

La Véloscénie is the perfect cycle route for beginners. Enjoy a weekend in nature that's accessible to all, near Paris.

Here's a suggested itinerary for this route:

D1: From Maintenon to Chartres: 20 km along the Eure Valley, from the Château of Maintenon to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Chartres Cathedral - not to be missed!

D2: From Chartres to Illiers-Combray: 33 km in the footsteps of Marcel Proust, famous French writer.

www.veloscenie.com





OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



The Loire Valley is home to **exceptional flora and fauna**, and it's also a stopover site for migratory birds. Discover unparalleled nature!

Visit the **Loire-Anjou-Touraine Regional Nature Park**, 277,000 hectares at the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Loire Valley and nestled along many tributaries. In Candes-Saint-Martin, you can admire the **spectacle of the Loire and the Vienne coming together**. Keep your eyes peeled and you might see a beaver at work! Right next to the Loire Valley, in the north of the region, **the Perche Regional Nature Park** offers lovely countryside

with rolling hills, woods and small valleys. In the south, in the **"land of a thousand lakes"**, you'll find the **Brenne Regional Nature Park**, which actually has over three thousand! There, you can see the Park's **iconic European pond turtles**, as well as many colonies of birds.

The Loire Valley is also home to **huge forest estates**, including the Orléans Forest, the biggest in France, and Sologne. At the beginning of autumn, when it's **mating season**, you can hear the deafening sound of the king of the forest - the stag!



GALLOPING THROUGH NATURE

Brenne Park is the perfect place for a **horseback ride**, to see the **flora and fauna next to the lakes**. A number of accommodation options offer horse treks where guests leave from and return to the accommodation directly, and two equestrian centres offer guided horse treks in nature: Ferme du Bois Retrait and Centre Équestre de l'Épineau.

www.parc-naturel-brenne.fr/en

In **Perche Park**, there are many horse treks available and you can even take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage, thanks to the symbol of this region, **Percheron horses!**

www.parc-naturel-perche.fr

Last but not least, for a slow tourism experience, there's nothing better than **walking alongside a donkey**, to take your time discovering the landscapes and Loire Château in a different way, at their pace!

www.valdeloire-france.com/activites/les-anes-de-madame-balades-et-randonnees-pedestres-avec-un-ane/



FOLLOW THE WIND!

There's nothing like **getting out on the water to feel fully connected to the Loire**, its tributaries and flora and fauna!

For those who like a bit of physical activity, there's nothing better than **canoeing, boat cruise or paddleboarding** along the Loire, on the various waterways or **Eguzon Lake, around the châteaux** like Azay-le-Rideau or Chenonceau, or in the **middle of cities** like Chartres, Bourges or Châteauroux, which will be hosting events as part of the 2024 Olympics.

www.valdeloire-france.com/de-couvrir/autour-eau/

If you're curious, you can take a ride on **a traditional flat-bottomed boat** steered by a boatman, to experience the **history of the Loire**, which was once France's main trade route. After the boat ride, why not visit the **Loire Observatory in Blois** or one of the various **Maisons de la Loire**, to learn about the history of the Loire navy and the flora and fauna surrounding Europe's wildest river, all while having fun!

www.loirevalley-france.co.uk



AT YOUR OWN PACE!

Immerse yourself in Loire Valley nature, with **3,400 km of GR trails** (long-distance hiking) and **3,000 km of GR de Pays trails** (long-distance country hike) available to all.

This includes the **iconic GR3 trail**, path of the Loire, which connects Mount Gerbier de Jonc to the Atlantic Ocean along nearly 1,300 km. On this trail, all facets of the Loire Valley are represented: iconic cities, local flora and fauna, Loire châteaux, vineyards and troglodyte dwellings.

<https://centre-val-de-loire.ffrandonnee.fr/html/1597/les-sentiers-de-grande-randonnee>

As for the **GR de Pays trails**, these are **loop circuits** where you can discover a natural or cultural region over a number of days. <https://centre-val-de-loire.ffrandonnee.fr/html/2177/les-sentiers-de-grande-randonnee-de-pays>

*A new GR trail will be opened in 2024: **GR 100**, following the **Hundred Years' War**. This route, located in Berry changed hands between the French and the English multiple times. Many battles took place in the area, which is home to a significant number of sites from the Middle Ages (châteaux and fortresses) and historical villages, surrounded by extremely diverse landscapes that hikers will love.*



ART OF LIVING



THE MICHELIN GUIDE CEREMONY IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

On 18 March 2024, the Michelin Guide Ceremony will take place in the historic city of Tours, in the Loire Valley. The **“City of Gastronomy”** will host this highly anticipated event, which will announce the restaurants across all of France that have received Michelin Stars in the 2024 France Michelin Guide. With a gastronomic event of such renown coming to the Loire Valley, attended by all the chefs from restaurants that have earned Michelin Stars and Green Stars, the Ceremony will also help showcase the extraordinary diversity of the region’s culinary products, local specialities and most prestigious chefs.

COOKING CLASSES

The Loire Valley is the cradle of the French art of living: the region is full of fine products that are also good for you - fruit, vegetables, fish, and more - showcased by restaurant chefs. Tours was the birthplace of the **“gastronomic meal of the French”**, which is now listed as UNESCO World Heritage. The region’s chefs, whether they have received the Maitre Restaurateur label (over 170), a Michelin Star (21 in 2023), or both, are happy to share their know-how. Here is a whole range of cooking classes, so you can develop your culinary skills:

Every Friday morning, Chef **Stéphane Bureau from La Botte d’Asperges in Contres** (awarded a Bib Gourmand in the Michelin Guide) offers a cooking workshop. It starts with a short tour of the Contres

market to select the best local products, followed by some time in the kitchen and finishes with attendees tasting the dishes they create.

Every Saturday, Chef **Christophe Hay**, awarded two Michelin stars, invites the public to cook with him in the kitchen of his **“Fleur de Loire” restaurant in Blois**. Each cooking class has a different theme: heirloom vegetables, Loire fish, or, as the holiday season approaches, foie gras, cookies and Yule logs. Classes in mixology, oenology and food & wine pairings are also available.

La Botte d’Asperges :
www.labottedasperges.com

Fleur de Loire :
<https://fleurdeloire.secretbox.fr/cours-de-cuisine.html>



TWO GOURMET ANNIVERSARIES:

- 20 YEARS OF PDO VALENÇAY
- 10 YEARS OF AOC CHENONCEAU-TOURAINÉ

In the Loire Valley, goat's cheese is king! There are no fewer than 5 cheeses with PDO status (out of the 15 in France) and 550 producers that make them. Valençay, with its typical shortened pyramid shape, will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its PDO status in 2024. This goat's cheese made with raw milk can be enjoyed soft or firm, accompanied with a glass of white wine from the same PDO. That's right, Valençay is a double winner, with **two different products under the same protected designation of origin – the only one of its kind in France!** As for AOC Touraine-Chenonceaux, it's celebrating its 10th birthday. The event known as "Tasting Under the Stars" will mark this anniversary with a special edition on 20 July.

You can discover the farming and production of dairy products at two places: **The Cabri au Lait educational farm (Sepmes) and the Ferme du Futur (near Chinon)**, with a yoghurt bar that will open in spring.

www.fromage-aop-valencay.com
www.levazereau.fr
www.cabriaulait.fr



MAISON DES SAVOIR-FAIRE IN VILLAINES-LES-ROCHERS

The commune of Villaines-les-Rochers was chosen for the **first Maison des Savoir-Faire**, created by stylist Agnès b. Its aim is to centralise communication initiatives, in order to showcase **artistic craftsmanship**. Visitors can discover this expertise at the **"living" Wicker Cultural Space**, with demonstrations from a number of artisans.

www.touraineloirevalley.com/osier-vannerie-villaines-les-rochers



MAISON MÉDARD

Le Chef Julien Médard (1 Michelin star) and his wife Delphine established their restaurant, Maison Médard, in Boulleret in the Sancerre region. His total commitment to the environment can be seen in the restaurant's close relationship with local farmers, winemakers and bakeries, as well as a **"zero-waste" approach in the kitchen**. Chef Médard is also passionate about wines and vines, carefully selecting the wine list to accompany his Berry cuisine. And Maison Médard recently received international recognition, awarded the **prize for the 4th best restaurant in the world last May by Tripadvisor**.

<https://maisonmedard.com>

New open-air cafés are popping up each year on the banks of the Loire, for a fun and friendly break! 
www.loirevalley-france.co.uk



NEW ACCOMODATION



CHÂTEAU LIFE IN TOURAINÉ!

In Ballan-Miré, Touraine, the **Domaine of La Commanderie de Ballan** is a four-star chateau/hotel, featuring a number of accommodation options on a single site: two rooms and two suites in the chateau, as well as houses for rent, perfect for family reunions. You're guaranteed to unwind at this estate, only ten or so kilometres from Tours! If you want to discover chateau life, the **Château of Champchevrier** is opening a gîte in April 2024. And at the **Domain of Le Val Sauvage**, a Touraine guest house in Langeais from 1823, the forest is their entire identity. To get to their room, guests walk along a little forest trail, interspersed with aromatic and medicinal plants, then across a footbridge attached to the house's gable - an amazing experience at such heights! Discover four guestrooms with bohemian décor and a swimming pool, next to an authentic Touraine troglodyte cave.

<https://domaine-commanderie-ballan.com/en/>
<https://champchevrier.fr>
www.domaineduvalsauvage.com



FAMILY SPIRIT IN LOIR-ET-CHER!

In Candé-sur-Beuvron, not far from Chaumont-sur-Loire, Cheverny and Chambord, **the Auberge de la Caillère** has just been renovated in the **spirit of a contemporary inn**. 30 cosy rooms and two restaurants – bistro-style and gastronomic – are available for guests, who will be welcomed like family!

www.auberge-de-la-caillere.com/en/



THE LOIRE, ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE!

Le CabochÉR has recently joined the fleet of traditional boats on the banks of the Loire in Orléans. Corinne Charles and Régis Barrault set themselves a challenge: to build a traditional Loire boat for river cruises and an unusual accommodation option, **while ensuring that people with reduced mobility and disabilities could come aboard** (Tourism & Disability label). "Let's Spend With Solidarity and Share the Loire!" is their motto: all services offered by Le CabochÉR are accessible to everyone and a portion of the ticket cost for passengers is used to offer a reduced price for people with disabilities. Bonus: an escape game will be offered in spring 2024, on the theme of the Loire! !

<https://caboche.fr>



A RELAXED WEEKEND GUARANTEED IN ORLÉANS!

The new **"Novotel Centre-Gare"** hotel has just opened with 72 rooms, a sauna and heated pool in the middle of the city. It's the perfect place from which to explore the city of Joan of Arc on foot and discover the Loire Valley. In Olivet, near Orléans, the **Château of Rondon** offers guestrooms with 17th-century furnishings and an unbeatable, peaceful view over the banks of the Loire..

<https://chateaudurondon.fr>



AGENDA



HERITAGE

- 30 and 31 March, 6 April to 22 September and 19 October to 2 November: The Royal Château of Blois, Sound & Light Show
- From 13 April to 6 January: Chartres en Lumières light show
- From May to September: Bourges- les Nuits des Lumière
- From 1 April to 3 November: The Château of Le Rivau: Effervescence exhibition
- 24 April to 3 November: The Regional Domain of Chaumont-sur-Loire: International Garden Festival - "Gardens as a Source of Life" theme
- 1 June: Reopening of the Chapel at the Royal Château of Amboise
- 8 May to 15 September: Leonardo da Vinci and Perfumes of the Renaissance at Le Clos Lucé



- 2 and 3 August: Château and Gardens of Villandry, the "Nuit des Mille Feux" event

- 30 November to 5 January: Loire Châteaux at Christmas



ART

- 25 May to 15 September: Julien Des Monstier Exhibition at Château of Chambord
- 22 May to 22 September: Ronsard and the Arts Exhibition at Priory Saint-Cosme:
- 20 October to 3 November: Ar(t)chipel Festival



SPORT

- 27 May Châteauroux - 7 July Chartres - 9 July Blois - 10 July Orléans: The Olympic Torch Relay



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• 9 July: Tour de France Stage between Orléans and Saint-Amand-Montrond

• 27 July to 5 August: The Olympic Games - Châteauroux



NATURE & GARDENS

• 25 and 26 May: Chédigny Rose Festival

• Mid-September to mid-October 2024: Stag bellow outings

• Late October to early November 2024: Crane-watching in Brenne



ART OF LIVING

• 18 March: Michelin Ceremony in Tours

• Summer: It's wine time



• 20 July: Tasting Under the Stars at the Chateau of Chenonceau

• 7 and 8 September: Tomato Festival at the Chateau of La Bourdaisière



MUSIC

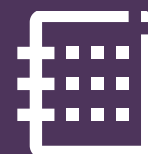
• 23 to 28 April 2024: Printemps de Bourges festival

• 6 to 20 July 2024: Festival of Chambord

• Summer: Chopin Festival in Nohant-Vic

• 12 to 14 July 2024: Terres du Son Festival at the Domain of Candé

• 12 to 14 July 2024: Cocorico Electro at Chateau of La Ferté-St-Aubin



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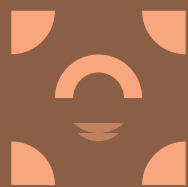


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