

Discover the Loire

13 days / 12 nights

Contact your travel agent for prices and more information

Travel on your own boat !

River Cruise – No permit or experience needed

Unwind and delight in the scenic valleys of Nivernais & Loire.

Stately châteaux, colourful gardens, flourishing vineyards, medieval villages and larger Roman towns create an idyllic landscape for boating in the Nivernais & Loire Valleys. Let yourself meander through beautiful valleys, take the bikes for a spin and enjoy some of the world-class wines these regions are famous for.

Day 1 : Arrival in Paris

After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, your private transfer will be waiting in the arrivals area to provide your transfer to the hotel in Paris.



The rest of the day is at leisure for you to explore this fabulous city. It is known for its glorious food, stylish shopping and historical treasures. Spend time exploring the cloud-piercing, wrought-iron Eiffel Tower, broad Arc de Triomphe guarding the glamorous avenue des Champs-Élysées, flying buttressed Notre Dame cathedral, lamplit bridges spanning the Seine and art nouveau cafes' wicker-chair-lined terraces are enduring Parisian emblems.

For dinner, whether you choose a cozy neighbourhood bistro or a triple-Michelin starred restaurant – the food will not disappoint.

Overnight: Hotel du Midi Paris Montparnasse



Discover the Loire - 13 days / 12 nights



Day 2 : Paris

After breakfast this morning continue to explore the city but perhaps this time you may be interested in doing some shopping at the designer boutiques or flagship "haute couture" houses. Or perhaps you are more interested in the artistic treasures to be found at the Louvre, there is the Musee d'Orsay with their exception impressionist collection and the Center Pompidou with its cache of modern and contemporary art. The choices are endless.

Overnight: Hotel du Midi Paris Montparnasse

Day 3 : Paris - Tours

Today, pick-up your rental car and begin your 2 ½ hour journey to what is considered to be the gateway city to the Loire Valley – the City of Tours.

You can sample the old Tours (Vieux Tours) by visiting the popular Place Plumereau with its carefully restored half-timbered townhouses. The area is packed with cafes/bars and restaurants of every kind and everything from aperitif to late night coffee is catered for. It is a good place to people-watch over a glass of beer, wine or a coffee.



There are many opportunities for shopping in Tours with modern centres such as Galeries Lafayette on Rue Nationale and Printemps on Boulevard Heurteloup but to find the more interesting shops you have to head up to the old quarter and the streets around Rue du Commerce and Rue Colbert.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Tours or similar

Day 4 : Tours

Today is a day at leisure in this lovely city.

Tours has a well-preserved cultural heritage which rests easily against its modern, vibrant and dynamic image of today. It has been a seat of learning since the middle ages and carries on this fine tradition through its university today. The city has much to offer the first-time visitor and although small enough to walk its modern tramway transport system allows for easy and inexpensive access to many of its landmarks and tourist sites.

For those who wish to seek out the culture of the city there are many fine monuments and museums. The Cathedrale St-Gatien with its flamboyant Gothic facade is an imposing piece of architecture both by day and by night. Musee des Beaux-arts is a fine provincial museum in the Palais des Archeveques and is worth a visit to view its rooms, furnished to suit the dates of the paintings on display, alone. There are works by Rembrandt, Degas and Houdon to be savoured.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Tours or similar

Discover the Loire - 13 days / 12 nights



Day 5 : Tours - Orleans

After breakfast this morning, drive to Orleans which is just one hour from Paris. It is attractive and charming in every sense of the word. Featuring whitewashed, perfectly-preserved facades, a bustling town centre that never feels too busy and a lively waterfront bordering the Loire River, the city is a popular stop for those visiting the Loire Valley.

Best known for its links to Joan of Arc (which is hard to forget given there are statues, dedications and even an annual celebration dedicated to the saint), it also has a proud maritime heritage thanks to its coveted spot on the waterway.

On arrival in Orleans, you will need to return your car to the rental depot and explore on foot.

Overnight: Hotel d'Orleans or similar

Day 6 : Orleans – Chatillion sur Loire

A private transfer has been arranged for you for the drive to Le Boat Base at Chatillion Sur Loire. However, there is time in the morning to take a last look around since it is only just over an hour to Le Boat Base and boat pick-up time is not until 4pm.

At Le Boat office you will need to complete some forms but once all relevant paperwork has been completed,



you will be taken to your boat where you will be shown how everything on the boat works from the heating, hot water to the gas oven and kitchen appliances. You will also be given a boat handling demonstration so that you and the other guests are able to take the boat out on the water and practice steering and manoeuvring under the guidance and supervision of one of Le Boat team.



Day 7 to 12 : Cruising

As you can see by the map (later in the document), there are many different areas that you can cruise to depending on where your interests – whether it is wine tasting, history and culture or the beauty of nature.

Take a tour of the Chablis wine district in the Nivernais or the famous Sancerre vineyards of the Loire! Particular viticultural highlights include the vineyards of Tannay, the Domaine Bernaert wine cellars in Accolay and the Maison des Sancerre which provides a full breakdown on the 300 vineyards in the area.

Discover the Loire - 13 days / 12 nights



History & Heritage

The Nivernais & Loire region is famous for its ancient cathedral cities and medieval villages. See the Cathedral of St. Etienne in Sens and the Basilique du Sacre Coeur in Paray-le-Monial! The gardens of the Château du Pont Chevron in Ouzouer-sur-Trezee are also beautiful.

In the Nivernais & Loire, you'll find unspoilt countryside rich in wildlife. Colourful flowers grow wild on the banks. More than 180 species of birds call the waters home. Grey herons, kingfishers, wagtails and kites are amongst them. Trek in beautiful Vaudeurs, a bird-watchers heaven.

So long as you return your boat to your end base by the date you have booked – you are free to enjoy your cruise however you like. For a comfortable pace, allowing you time to regularly stop and explore, we would recommend an average of 2 - 4 hours cruising each day.



Day 13 : Chatillion sur Loire – Paris

After you've returned your boat to Le Boat staff at 9am, your private transfer will take you to Paris Airport for your flight. Depending on your flight time an extra night at the airport might be required (not included).



Discover the Loire - 13 days / 12 nights



The package includes:

- Private transfers from Charles de Gaulle Airport to hotel
- 2 night's stay in the 3* Hotel due Midi Paris Montparnasse or similar
- 3-night car rental including unlimited mileage and collision damage coverage
- 2 night's stay at the 3* Grand Hotel Tours or similar
- 1 night's stay at the 3* Hotel D'Orleans or similar
- Private transfer from D'Orleans to the Chatillon Sur Loire Boat Base
- 7-night boat rental as chosen
- Silver Bundle package (30 hours boat fuel/wear and tear time, CDW Insurance reduction amount)
- End of boat rental cleaning fees
- Bike Rental – maximum 2 adults
- Private transfers from Chatillon Sur Loire Boat Base to Charles de Gaulle Airport

The package does not include:

- Mooring fees
- Tips
- Meals unless mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Fuel deposit of EUR 275 required by Le Boat*
- CDW Excess of EUR 250 held against your credit card* (*Refundable upon return of the boat without damages)



Quebec License # 703430