



TOUR ITINERARY

Europe / France / Loire

## Loire Valley Bike Tour

Return to the Renaissance: Vouvray to da Vinci



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Cycle through the vineyards of Vouvray and sample Chenin-based wines to single out your preferred style: *sec*, *demi-sec*, *moelleux*, or sparkling
- Peruse Leonardo da Vinci's sketches, letters, and war machine replicas at Château du Clos Lucé, where he spent the final years of his life
- Let the castles of the Loire fill you with wonder, including the sumptuous Château Chambord, over-water gallery of Château de Chenonceau, pristine architecture of Château d'Azay-le-Rideau, and whimsical gardens of Château de Villandry
- Enjoy a Michelin-starred meal at the exquisite Les Hautes de Loire hotel
- Learn to prepare classic French desserts as well as healthy, no-waste dishes with seasonal ingredients at a local chef's culinary garden and workspace



## ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

### Arrival Details

- ➔ **Airport City:** Paris, France
- 📍 **Pick-Up Location:** St. Pierre des Corps Train Station
- 🕒 **Pick-Up Time:** 10:15 am

### Departure Details

- ➔ **Airport City:** Paris, France
- 📍 **Drop-Off Location:** Blois Train Station
- 🕒 **Drop-Off Time:** 11:30 am

**NOTE:** DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

### Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or [emergency@duvine.com](mailto:emergency@duvine.com).



## TOUR ITINERARY

### Tour By Day

DAY  
1

#### Bienvenue to Loire

Your guides will greet you at the Saint-Pierre-des-Corps train station for a transfer to nearby Château Villandry. Our first order of business is a light lunch (and a celebratory glass of local sparkling wine) at the château: erected around 1536, it's the last of the Loire Valley's large Renaissance castles. Wander its extraordinary mazes and elegant water garden, stroll the aromatic herb gardens, and finish your visit with an ice cream tasting inspired by the garden's unique flavors. Then, we begin a warmup ride along the Loire and Cher Rivers. Pause in the town of Azay-le-Rideau to visit another iconic château built on an island of the Indre River, then continue pedaling through the countryside to our first luxurious hotel. Tonight, the château's own chef prepares our first lovely dinner.

**Meals:** Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Tours, Château de Villandry, Azay-le-Rideau, Artannes-sur-Indre, Veigné

**Accomplished:** 22 miles / 37 km, elevation gain: 803 feet / 245 meters

**Accommodations:** [Domaine de la Tortinière](#)

DAY  
2

#### Back to the Renaissance at Chenonceau

Start the day with a gently rolling ride along the Cher River and past the wheat and barley fields that earned this region its nickname as the breadbasket of France. After lunch near Château de Chenonceau, we'll tour the expansive grounds and dueling gardens designed by Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medici. There's much to inspire the senses: Chenonceau is home to an unmatched collection of Renaissance furniture, 16th- and 17th-century tapestries, and priceless artwork. After our visit, hop back on the bike and head to our next hotel—a 12th-century manor house in the historic center of Amboise. Spend the afternoon settling in, then regroup for a journey through 500 years of Loire Valley winemaking in cellars dating back to 1463, where you'll enjoy Vouvray whites much as kings once did. Afterwards, we'll head to our friend's restaurant for a delightful dinner prepared in harmony with the seasons.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Cormery, Bléré, Chenonceaux, Amboise

**Accomplished:** 36 miles / 59 km, elevation gain: 1,296 feet / 395 meters

**Accommodations:** [Le Manor Saint Thomas](#)

## TOUR ITINERARY

DAY  
3

### Vouvray Loop

Today we set out from a sea of Chenin Blanc vineyards in the Vouvray appellation and continue cycling until we reach Montlouis-sur-Loire for a coffee break by the Loire River. A few gentle rolling hills stand between us and lunch at our friend Louisa's winery: a passionate winemaker herself, Louisa has paired our meal with some of her favorite Château de Montdomaine wines. From there, it's a short ride back to our hotel, where we'll have time to relax before our illuminating visit to Le Clos Lucé, the one-time home of Leonardo da Vinci—it's rumored that the artist arrived holding the Mona Lisa and spent the final years of his life at this whimsical estate. The evening is yours to spend as you wish: wander the charming medieval streets of Amboise and choose your preferred restaurant for dinner on your own. Your guides are happy to suggest a few of their favorite places.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch

**Destinations:** Montlouis-sur-Loire, Vouvray, Chançay, Amboise

**Accomplished:** 27 miles / 44 km, elevation gain: 928 feet / 283 meters

**Accommodations:** [Le Manor Saint Thomas](#)

DAY  
4

### Cooking in the Countryside

This morning, we leave Amboise behind, cycling along quiet country roads that meander through forest and farmland. Following the river, we soon reach the village of Chaumont-sur-Loire, where we'll pause to admire its namesake 15th-century château before continuing to La Grange. There, we'll tie on our aprons and learn to prepare a beautiful zero-waste meal with herbs and vegetables from the garden. Back on our bikes, we pedal through a pastoral panorama en route to our final hotel. Regroup this evening to savor regional cuisine at our hotel's inviting bistro.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Saint-Règle, Vallières-les-Grandes, Chaumont-sur-Loire, Onzain

**Accomplished:** 22 miles / 36 km, elevation gain: 1,020 feet / 311 meters

**Longer Option:** 42 miles / 32 km, elevation gain: 1,902 feet / 269 meters

**Accommodations:** [Les Hautes de Loire](#)

DAY  
5

### Castles and Chocolate

After breakfast, pedal scenic roads all the way to the Château Chambord—a grand castle built in the 16th century that once served as a hunting lodge for Francois I. The brainchild of Leonardo da Vinci and a prime example of French Renaissance architecture, this château is now protected as a UNESCO-listed monument. Climb the famous double-helix staircase or stroll the manicured gardens, then enjoy a special picnic lunch prepared by your guides. Be sure to leave room for a dessert—our ride continues to a local chocolate boutique where we'll learn (and of course taste) how the chocolate is made in this region. From there, it's a short spin back to our luxurious hotel. Spend the afternoon at the spa or relax by the pool. Tonight, we'll gather for a final and unforgettable Michelin-starred dinner at our hotel. *Bon appétit!*

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Chambord, Bracieux, Cheverny

**Accomplished:** 37 miles / 60 km, elevation gain: 1,194 feet / 404 meters

**Shorter Option:** 31 miles / 50 km, elevation gain: 971 feet / 296 meters

**Accommodations:** [Les Hautes de Loire](#)

DAY  
6

### Au Revoir

Enjoy a peaceful breakfast at the château and perhaps a stroll through the grounds, saying goodbye to the Loire Valley however you see fit. Your guides see you off at the Blois train station.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Destinations:** Cheverny

**Accomplished:** 11 miles / 18 km, elevation gain: 354 feet / 108 meters

## YOUR TOUR DETAILS

### Preparing for Your Tour

#### Travel Services

DuVine can assist with extended reservations at the first and final hotels on your scheduled itinerary, or with private transfers to and from your bike tour. DuVine's travel advisor partners are happy to assist with flight reservations. If you are not already working with an agent, please request a referral from your **Tour Coordinator**.

#### Travel Protection

DuVine offers a **Travel Protection Plan** to help protect your travel investment, your belongings, and most importantly, you. The offered Travel Protection Plan is non-refundable, but it is strongly recommended in the unfortunate event that you have to cancel or leave your trip.

NOTE: Plan benefits, limits, and provisions may vary by state or jurisdiction. In order to receive full benefits, Travel Protection must be purchased within 21 days of initial tour deposit. This plan is available to citizens of the U.S. and Canada only.

#### Gratuity

Gratuities are much appreciated to thank DuVine guides for exceptional service, support, and expertise. The industry standard is for each guest to tip 10-15% (U.S. tours and Cycle + Sail tours) or 7.5-10% (all other tours) of their trip price. The recommended per-traveler amount is an appropriate gratuity for your guide team as a whole. (It is not necessary to tip this amount *per* guide.) Tips are customary at the end of your tour, and local currency is always preferred. We recommend bringing extra cash or visiting the ATM at the beginning of your trip.



#### Share Your Experience

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 [@duvine](https://www.instagram.com/@duvine)

 [#DuVine #DuVineStyle](#)



## YOUR TOUR DETAILS

### Bikes

DuVine's top-of-the-line bikes are tuned to perfection and fit specifically to you. Our performance bikes from premier manufacturers feature light frames, smooth-rolling tires, comfortable seats, and wide gear ranges for the best ride possible. Please [see our website](#) for the exact bike models offered on tour. E-bikes are available in most destinations on a first-come, first-served basis. Electric assist provides an extra boost to your own pedal power, so you can ride longer distances, tackle tougher climbs, and maintain a faster pace. Contact your Tour Coordinator if you are interested.

### Electrical Overseas

If you're traveling abroad, you will most likely need an [adapter](#), which allows your device's plug to fit into foreign outlets. North American devices run on 110/125V electricity while the majority of the world runs on 220/240V. Converters and transformers change the voltage of electricity to match your device.

### Training

First and foremost, get out on your bike and start logging some miles. Experience with the elements and terrain will help with your comfort level (balance, unexpected conditions, etc.) on tour. Nothing compares to the real thing, but if you can't cycle outside, consider spin classes. Always remember, training is a gradual process—don't try to overdo it or push yourself when you aren't ready. However, the most important part of training is to enjoy your ride! [Download a training guide](#) based on your Tour Level.

### Travel Sustainably

DuVine is committed to sustainable travel and has been a 100% carbon neutral company since 2022. While cycling is an inherently eco-conscious mode of travel, we continuously seek ways to lessen our footprint, whether it be biodegradable water bottles or compostable gear mailers.

[Read more](#) about sustainability at DuVine.



# YOUR PACKING LIST

## On The Bike

Cycling jerseys or athletic shirts  
Cycling shorts  
Cycling shoes (if you bring your own pedals)  
Sneakers (if you don't bring your own pedals)  
Cycling sunglasses  
Athletic socks  
Arm/leg warmers  
Lightweight, waterproof, wind-resistant jacket or vest  
Bike gloves  
Bike saddle/cover (if you prefer your own)

## Off The Bike

Walking shoes  
Hiking shoes (if required)  
Long + short-sleeved shirts  
Sweater/jacket for evenings  
Dinner attire (dressy casual) + dress shoes  
Swimsuit

## Travel Items\*

Travel confirmations + tickets for air, rail, etc.  
Passport, including photocopy  
Local currency  
DuVine Tour Itinerary (with meeting + departing info)  
Health insurance information  
Medications  
Cycling gear (+ pedals) if riding on Day 1

\*We recommend keeping these items in your carry-on

## Additional Items

Cell phone + charger  
Photography gear + charger  
Power/plug adapter  
Toiletries  
Sunscreen, hat, + other sun protection gear  
Insect repellent

## What We Provide

- Bike saddle
- GPS (where available)
- Flat pedals
- DuVine t-shirt and jersey
- Helmet
- Water bottle
- Snacks/nutrition
- Drawstring bag

## Order DuVine Gear

Want DuVine bike shorts to match your complimentary jersey? To order, contact [tourcoordinators@duvine.com](mailto:tourcoordinators@duvine.com). Gear is shipped free of charge to DuVine guests in the U.S. and Canada. For expedited shipping and guests outside of the U.S. and Canada, additional shipping fees will apply.

## Do I need to bring special gear?

- Cycling shorts are designed to provide extra padding when spending the whole day in the saddle. Don't forget the chamois cream!
- If you bring your own cycling shoes, you must bring your own pedals. If you've never used clip-in pedals before, we don't recommend using them on tour.
- Arm and leg warmers are essential for cooler weather. Wear them with your short-sleeve jersey and shorts for lightweight, easy-to pack, and effective warmth.
- Bike gloves are a preference, but are recommended for Level 3 and 4 tours. The padding in gloves can ease arm, shoulder, and joint fatigue.

## Dressing for the Weather

- The location and time of year of your tour can bring all kinds of weather, from extreme heat to relentless rain. Check extended forecasts before your trip and pack accordingly.

## Before You Go

- Ensure your passport is valid for 3-6 months after return date.
- Call your bank/credit cards to notify them of upcoming travel.
- Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on.

## BIKE SAFETY

We strongly suggest you read these simple safety instructions and watch our [brief safety video](#). They will help you bike safely before and during your tour!

- Wear a helmet—this is mandatory on tour!
- Familiarize yourself with traffic laws and obey them. Bikes do not have the right of way, but most drivers are respectful to cyclists on the road. Always ride in the direction of traffic.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Knowing what is in front of and behind you may help prevent an accident.
- Alert other riders around you by announcing the presence of traffic ("car up") or pot holes ("pot hole").
- When riding as a group, maintain distance between yourself and other cyclists
- Learn the hand signals to indicate when you are stopping or turning.
- Operate your bike consistently and predictably—avoiding erratic movements.
- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.
- Primarily use your rear brake.
- Always be aware of weather and road conditions and how they may affect your ability to brake.
- Never wear headphones or use speakers during rides.
- Always listen to additional instructions from your guides on tour.

If you have chosen an e-bike, be aware that it is slightly heavier, faster, and more powerful than a non-electric bike. Therefore, you should anticipate a different reaction when riding downhill, braking, or dismounting from an e-bike. Your guides can offer further instruction during your bike fitting and safety review.

