



## Loire Valley - From Chambord to Chenonceau

### PARIS - THE LOIRE VALLEY

Embark on a journey through the scenic **Loire Valley**, where Renaissance splendour meets the beauty of the French countryside. Ride through lush forests and vineyards to explore iconic chateaux including **Chambord**, **Cheverny**, and **Chenonceau**. Immerse yourself in the rich history and charm of the region. After each day of adventure, unwind in **elegant 4-star hotels**, blending historic character with comfort, for a truly enchanting experience.

<b>Trail Riding</b>	<b>7 days (5 on horseback)</b>	<b>From £3,074</b>	
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### ITINERARY

## Highlights

- Superior accommodation through the trail
- Enjoy the 3-course meals in selected restaurants and hotels
- An excellent selection of horses, most of them born and trained at the farm.
- A very competent guide, several times medallist in the World TREC Championship.
- The opportunity to visit the Loire Valley Castles (Chambord, Chenonceau, Le Close Lucé...) and learn about the history of France
- Guided tours on selected castles provide you deeper insights on the Renaissance period

## Day 1 — 1 : EUROPE - BLOIS CHAMBORD - HOTEL

Relais de Chambord

Fly to Paris, then take a train to Blois-Chambord train station from Austerlitz station (c. 1h30). From the station you will be taken to the hotel where you will meet the local team and fellow riders for a briefing.

Please note transportation to Blois is not included - transfers from Blois can be arranged at a supplement (see dates and prices).

If you choose to drive yourself, you are welcome to arrive as early as 3pm. Please note that the briefing with the guide (mandatory) starts at 7pm.

Dinner and overnight in Relais de Chambord (or Chateau de la Borde).

## Day 2 — 2: CHATEAU AND PARK OF CHAMBORD - 3 hours riding + walking tour

Relais de Chambord

Today you will ride along the "Grand Canal" with its spectacular view of the Chateau. You will enjoy the sand paths of the Boulogne and Chambord forest


and return to the Chambord in time for lunch.

In the afternoon, you will visit the Chambord. This castle was ordered by Francis the 1st and completed in 1519.

Gourmet dinner and overnight in Relais de Chambord (or Chateau de la Borde).

## Day 3 — 3: CHATEAUX OF BEAUREGARD & CHEVERNY - 3 hours riding

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 Hôtel Relais des Landes

After breakfast, you will set off towards the Beaugard through the Boulogne forest. Upon arrival, you will have the privilege to enter through the front gate of the castle – an unforgettable experience!

In the afternoon, you will leave this chateau behind and ride through the countryside and vineyards towards Cheverny. Visit the chateau de Cheverny before enjoying a lovely dinner at your overnight accommodation - Relais des Landes.

## Day 4 — 4: CHATEAU OF FOUGERES & CHAUMONT SUR LOIRE - 3 hours riding

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 Le Domaine des Thomeaux

Today you will start the day with a visit to the well-preserved chateau of Fougères sur Bievre. This smaller castle is one of the few left in the Loire Valley that shows medieval traces. After the visit, you will set off on horseback through the countryside towards the Beuvron river. Lunch will be held in a nearby restaurant.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy a short ride towards chateau of Chaumont sur Loire, via Touraine. Visit the castle grounds, including its famous international garden festival.

Dinner and overnight in the charming Domaine des Thomeaux (SPA available).

## Day 5 — 5: LOIRE'S BANKS - CHATEAU OF AMBOISE - 3 hours riding

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 Chateau de Noizay

Today, you will start in the Loire Banks, just under the castle. The ride will take you along the river where you will be able to witness the biodiversity – classified as UNESCO World Inheritance.


You will stop for lunch in a local restaurant in Mosnes or Charge, two charming villages.

In the afternoon, you will head towards chateau d'Amboise. You will have a special arrival to the castle riding by “La porte des Lions”, the medieval king's gate.

Gourmet dinner and overnight in chateau de Noizay.

## Day 6 — 6: CHATEAU OF CLOS LUCÉ & CHENONCEAU - 2h riding

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 Chateau de Noizay

You will start the day off with a lovely ride on the Cher banks with its amazing view of the Chenonceau and its famous arches. Following the ride, you will visit the castle, followed by lunch in l'Orangerie of the chateau.

In the afternoon, you will have some time to visit the lovely chateau of Clos Luce - the last home of Leonardo daVinci. Alternatively, you may visit Amboise old town and its lovely shops.

Gourmet dinner and overnight in Chateau de Noizay.

## Day 7 — 7: AMBOISE - HOME

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After breakfast, you will be transferred to Amboise train station (not included in the rate).

### DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE

RETURN

PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS

STATUS

04/05/2025	10/05/2025	£3,074	Full
11/05/2025	17/05/2025	£3,074	Guaranteed departure
22/06/2025	28/06/2025	£3,074	Full
13/07/2025	19/07/2025	£3,074	Full
03/08/2025	09/08/2025	£3,074	Full
07/09/2025	13/09/2025	£3,074	Full
14/09/2025	20/09/2025	£3,074	Full
12/10/2025	18/10/2025	£3,074	Full
19/10/2025	25/10/2025	£3,074	Full

## Price details

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M- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) are not included but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin room during the ride.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 riders and a maximum of 9 international riders, plus guides.

- If you sign up to the ride as a solo rider and there are no other riders likely to share your room, you will be charged a single room supplement of approx. €790/£670/\$870. You will then be reimbursed if a sharer is found for you at a later date.

- Transfers are from Blois train station on the first day and to Amboise on the last day are not included in the price. This can be arranged in advance (€150 per car, paid locally). If you rented a car and need to go back to the first hotel to collect it, a different transfer will be arranged (€180 per car, paid locally)

- Accompanied minors are welcome from 12 yo, provided they match the riding requirements.

- Discounts:

- Non-riders are welcomed on this trail and will benefit from a special rate: €2510/£2115/\$2735 (bike/e-bike rental is not included).

- There is a rider weight limit of 14.2 stone / 200 lbs / 90kg on this ride.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

## Price includes

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### SUPPORT TEAM

1 English-speaking horse guide

### LOGISTICS

1 cook

1 support vehicle

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

### ACCOMMODATION

Shared room (twin/double) in 4\* hotels

### MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8.

Most lunches/dinners are 3-course and include 2 glasses of wine.

### **ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT**

Saddle bags

### **EXTRAS**

Entry fees to the castles

Guided tours at Chambord, Amboise and Chenonceau

## Price doesn't include

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### **MEALS**

Personal extras

### **TRANSPORT**

International flights and transportation to the meeting point

### **INSURANCE**

Visas and personal purchase

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

## Optional

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### **ACCOMMODATION**

Single room supplement

### **TRANSPORT**

Transfers from the train station

## EQUESTRIAN INFO

## Horses

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A small herd of horses used to living outside. They are calm and patient and compete at TREC events at a high level.

## Guide & local team

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Ken has been working with the equestrian centre for over 15 years. He knows the area extremely well and will be happy to share his knowledge with his guests. He is an excellent horseman and guide and has participated in several World TREC Championships, with gold medals in both the individual and team categories.

## Minimum riding ability

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### **MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY**

You need to be at least an intermediate rider, capable of riding a sensible horse at all paces in the outdoors. There are more spirited horses available for experienced riders.

There is a rider weight limit of 14.2 stone / 200 lbs / 90kgs.

### **PACE**

The pace is varied to include trots and canters. Some of the canters can be long and across varied terrain so you need to be secure in the saddle.

### **TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

The team will look after the horses and tack them each day for you.

## TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You should have experience riding outdoors on trails and be confident riding in open spaces. You need to be fit enough for some long canter.

## EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Comfortable trail saddles.

The saddlepads have pockets to store small items.

Helmets are mandatory. We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

## TRAVEL INFO

### COMFORT

You will stay in carefully selected accommodations. Most of the hotels are older castles and manors which have been converted into comfortable 4\* hotels.

Some of the hotels have a heated pool and SPA facilities.

WiFi is available throughout the ride.

### MEALS

Most meals will be held at either the hotels or local restaurants. The 3-course meals are prepared with fresh and refined products.

The picnic lunch on day 3 will be elevated with French specialities like foie gras and famous local wines.

Each meal includes 2 glasses of wine.

Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice.

### CLIMATE

The Sologne region has a continental climate that can be wet and cold in the winter, with warm, dry summers. Expect temperatures up to 25°C in the summer.

### TIPS

In France, it is customary to tip at coffees and restaurants - usually this is by rounding up the price and not mandatory. You may wish to leave a tip with the guide who can split it amongst all members of the team - this is not obligatory and is entirely at your discretion.

### PACKING LIST

#### Head

- A riding helmet is compulsory and we recommend that you take your own to ensure a correct fit. Helmet makers (GPA, HKM, LAS Helmets, Lamicell, Troxel...) now offer horse-riding helmets that are ventilated, strong, light and comfortable.

- Sunhat for when not riding

- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding

- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the sun, wind or rain

- Warm hat for cold evenings/days

#### Upper body

- Thermals in case of cold weather

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun or extra warmth

- T-shirts

- Lightweight fleece or jumper

- Waterproof jacket (made from Goretex or equivalent) and/ or (depending on the season) a waterproof vest that covers you thighs.

#### Legs

- 2 pairs of lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub

- Waterproof over trousers (made from Goretex or equivalent), especially if you don't have a long waterproof coat

- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)

#### Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, wind or rain whilst riding

#### Other useful items

- Swimsuit (some of the hotels have pools)
- Water bottle (1.5 litres or 2 equivalent)
- Small torch for moving around at night
- Toiletries
- Protein or cereal bars for the longer stretches of riding
- Small plastic bags for your rubbish
- Ear plugs (may be useful)
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery

#### Medical kit

Make sure any allergies (to medication or otherwise) and clearly stated in your medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Painkillers
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhea medication
- Vitamin C tablets
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Eye drops
- Hydrating/ soothing cream
- Plasters
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc..
- 10cm wide bandage
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

#### Other recommendations:

- In your hand luggage: Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant over 100 ml and all bottles can be decanted into small, clear, plastic Ziplock bags. We recommend biodegradable washing products where possible.
- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- In your hand luggage carry any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lip balm etc). Saddlepads have pockets for small items too.
- A soothing cream may be useful to treat areas irritated by long hours in the saddle
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!