

# CASTLES OF THE LOIRE VALLEY TOUR



Driving along the meandering River Loire, be amazed by Amboise, Chambord and Chenonceau castle at the back of your limousine chauffeur driven car. Every visit will be done with your private guided tour followed by a gastronomic restaurant to enjoy history and gastronomy. Woods and nature are omnipresent and still resound to the sound of hunting and the flight of game. Let yourself be driven by your bilingual, knowledgeable driver through Cheverny, Angers, Chinon and Saumur historical cities.



## CASTLES/CITIES DESCRIPTION



### CASTLE OF AMBOISE

The Amboise Castle was Once the seat of the court of the Valois kings, this superb building with its eclectic architecture underwent restoration on several occasions in the 19th and 20th centuries and regained its lustre: it is now one of the most gripping testimonies to the magnificence of the French Renaissance that you will discover with your private guide as your chauffeur will wait for you. Saint Hubert's chapel, with its Gothic architecture, is the burial place of Leonardo de Vinci.

### CASTLE OF CHAMBORD

Chambord, the largest of the Loire castles, stands in the heart of a game-filled forest estate. Built for Francis the First, this fairytale palace has 440 rooms and 365 towers and chimneys that you will discover with your local private guide. Extravagant from both a construction and cost standpoint, the castle echoes to the sound of kings and famous people, and Deluxe Drivers goal is that you feel exactly the same with your driver at your disposal. More than a marvel of architecture, the castle of Chambord symbolises the start of an era of art and magnificence and heralded the forthcoming power of the Absolute Monarchy.

### ANGERS

The City of the Dukes of Anjou, Angers has carefully conserved its historical heritage dating back several centuries (Saint-Maurice's cathedral, the ancient St-Aubin's Abbey, Adam house. The most remarkable element that your experienced guide will show you is still the 13th century fortified castle on the banks of the River Maine. Its feudal architecture, imposing walls and towers give it an entrancing appearance. Inside the building are the Hanging of the Passion and Apocalypse tapestries, late 14th century masterpieces tracing the writings of St. John.

### CASTLE OF CHEVERNY

Built by Count Hurault in the 17th century, the castle of Cheverny is still owned by his descendants. A vast residence in a refined style, set in an English park and surrounding forest, it inspired Hergé, the Tintin cartoonist, who used it as the basis for his drawing of Moulinsart castle. Inside, with your bilingual guide explore the splendour of this Chateau de la Loire: period furniture and paintings ornament every room, a sumptuous Italian-style ceiling in the "King's Chamber" and an amazing collection of arms and superb Gobelin's tapestry in the armoury.

### CASTLE OF CHENONCEAU

Built overlooking the River Cher, Chenonceau is the Loire castle where women have most left an impression. Catherine Briçonnet, Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medicis each brought a personal touch to this dreamlike castle. Apart from its enchanting formal gardens, the castle contains an impressive art collection that you will discover with your bilingual local guide booked by your driver that will wait for you cleaning your luxurious car.

### CHINON/SAUMUR

Set in 2,000 hectares of vineyards, Chinon possesses the vestiges of a glorious past with Charles VII, Joan of Arc and Rabelais among the central players. The historical town centre has superb 16 and 17th century buildings. The castle, once the stronghold of the Richelieu, was restored by Prosper Mérimée in the 19th century, marking the start of France's interest in its historical heritage. It's definitely worthwhile to have a stop with a licensed guide to enjoy totally this french history.

## DELUXE DRIVERS SUGGESTIONS

### RESTAURANTS

*Auberge des Templiers*  
*Domaine des Hauts de Loire*  
*Domaine des Hautes Roches*

### HOTELS

*Château de Noizay*  
*Château de Noirieux*  
*Château de Marcay*

