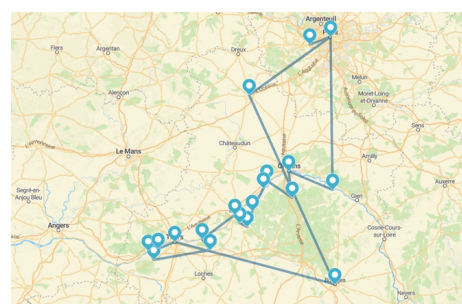




France, 6 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route around the Royal Châteaux of the Loire Valley

Just a couple of hours from the city of Paris lies one of the most emblematic and stunning historical landscapes of France. The Loire Valley was the spot chosen by the French royalty and aristocracy to relax and enjoy the pleasures of life in legendary châteaux, sumptuous palaces and stunning gardens that still continue to amaze the world today. Take a few days of to feel like a bona fide member of royalty surrounded by an idyllic, luxurious and romantic atmosphere. Stroll leisurely through the magnificent palaces that rose up in the Renaissance heyday and discover a world of royal intrigue, boundless luxury, party nights and grand banquets. You'll walk on lands once frequented by kings and queens that mapped out the course of France and prominent figures like Joan of Arc or Leonardo da Vinci that inspired Europe with their works and actions. The "Châteaux of the Loire Valley" tour stops at the most emblematic castles of the Loire located in Chambord, Cheverny, Blois, Amboise, Chenonceau, Azay-le-Rideau, Langeais and Villandry. It also includes cities as interesting as Paris, Chartres, Orléans and Tours. Discover this route peppered with dreamlike landscapes, culinary delights and highly recommended local wines grown on these lands for millennia. You can choose from 24 denominations of origin, perfect for pairing with the area's famed goat cheeses. And for those who'd like to enjoy the route from above, during the itinerary there's also the chance to go on a hot air balloon ride (not included) and observe these architectural treasures in all their magnitude.



CULTURAL

FAMILIES

**Departure date:** Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Dublin

### Travel details

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## DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - PARIS

Flight departure from the city of origin to Paris and rental car pick-up. Paris is the starting point of your journey on French soil before you embark on your adventure in the Loire Valley!

One of the most visited destinations in the world, the "city of light" will surprise even the most experienced traveller. Venue of several universal exhibitions and considered one of the worldwide epicentres of art, design and good taste, the French capital embraces the traveller in a magical atmosphere. Feel the "bon vivant" spirit and enjoy the simple pleasures of life, sat at the table of its charming cafes, typical bistros, or chic world-renowned restaurants...

Paris has a lot to offer. With 137 museums, 8,000 pavement cafes and 300 kilometres of catacombs, the city bowls travellers over with a vast cultural and leisure agenda that suits all tastes and budgets. Head up the Eiffel Tower and pinch the sky with your hands! And at nightfall, discover why it's known worldwide as the "City of Love". Overnight stay in Paris.

## DAY 2 · PARIS - VERSAILLES - PARIS

In the morning, we'll head to one of the city's charmingly decorated cafés to savour some freshly ground coffee accompanied by delicious croissants and fresh baguettes. Full day at your leisure to explore the tremendous city of Paris and its surroundings.

The French capital is home to hundreds of hidden corners full of history and legends waiting to be discovered at a leisurely pace. Must-visits include museums like the Louvre, the Orsay or the Pompidou; neighbourhoods such as Montmartre, where you can have your caricature painted on the bustling and creative Place du Tertre; temples of extraordinary beauty such as the Notre Dame, Sainte Chapelle or the Royal Basilica of Saint Denis; urban parks such as Bois de Vincennes or the Jardin des Tuileries\*\*; and hidden treasures like its catacombs or cemeteries such as the Père-Lachaise, the resting place of historical figures such as Molière, Chopin and Balzac.

We recommend a trip out to Versailles to discover its grandiose Palace, where for a moment you'll dream of being a courtier in the reign of Marie Antoinette. At the end of the day, soak up the city's vibrant nightlife. Overnight stay in Paris.

## DAY 3 · PARIS - SULLY-SUR-LOIRE – ORLEANS – LA FERTÉ SAINT-AUBIN – MEUNG-SUR-LOIRE – BEAUGENCY – CHAMBORD – CHEVERNY – BEAUREGARD – BLOIS

If you choose not to take the most direct route from Paris to Orléans, you can stop at the Château de Sully-sur-Loire (45 minutes from Orléans). Departure to Orleans, the charming medieval refuge of Joan of Arc, where every corner pays homage to the valiant patron saint of France. There are many remains that still recall how the "Maid of Orleans" liberated the city from English persecution in the Hundred Years' War. And then we'll head deep into the beautiful Loire Valley! At our own pace, we'll discover the luxurious universe of the French Renaissance, the era in which the aristocratic elite constructed majestic palaces and mansions that are still admired around the world today. Departing from Orléans, you can visit one or more of these 3 châteaux, all located within a 35-minute radius, before arriving at Château de Chambord. The Château de La Ferté Saint-Aubin (south bank of the Loire), the Château de Meung-sur-Loire (north bank of the Loire) and the Château de Beaugency (north bank of the Loire). We proceed to the Château de Chambord, one of the crown jewels. The stone-built dream of King François I, its 440 rooms, 365 fireplaces and 84 staircases make it one of the most beautiful examples of Renaissance architecture you'll find on the route. Onward journey for 20 minutes to Cheverny, where we'll find one of the most elegant palaces of the valley, thanks to its seventeenth-century furniture and manicured gardens crisscrossed by canals and decorated with cedars. Known worldwide as "Tintin's castle", its façade was the inspiration for "Moulinsart", Captain Haddock's residence. Between Cheverny and Blois, you can take a detour to the Château de Beaugency (15 minutes from Blois). Today's leg ends in Blois, a place truly designed for daydreaming. Its medieval old town and its steep streets flanked by small palaces lead the way to its magnificent royal castle. Several French kings left their mark here. Its four wings offer visitors an in-depth view of the architectural styles that abound in this photogenic valley. Opposite the castle is La Maison de la Magie, an interesting museum that lets you delve into the history of magic. Have a go at performing some tricks! From 3 April to 30 September and during All Saints' Day, you can enjoy the sound and light show "Ainsi Blois vous est conté" in Blois. Overnight stay in Blois.

#### ● DAY 4 · BLOIS - AMBOISE - LE CLOS LUCÉ - CHENONCEAU - AZAY-LE-RIDEAU - LANGEAIS - VILLANDRY - TOURS

Another day touring the breathtaking Loire Valley! Today's leg traces an attractive route from Blois to Tours. At the wheel, following the course of the famous River Loire, you'll discover beautiful landscapes, royal intrigues, magnificent châteaux surrounded by dreamlike gardens, lush forests, flower beds full of colours that change with the seasons... Off we go! This is the land of fine wine and exquisite cuisine where architecture and nature mark out one of the most beautiful regions of Europe. We're going to recommend a packed itinerary, so you can choose the stops that best suit your tastes. The first one is the magnificent Royal Castle of Amboise. Located on the south bank of the Loire, for centuries it was the resting place of royalty. Nearby is the Château du Clos Lucé, an elegant country house whose illustrious guests included the genius Leonardo da Vinci, who spent the last three years of his life in there. Today it is a museum devoted to the painter, engineer and inventor, exhibiting drawings and models of artefacts that he designed and which spearheaded contemporary engineering. Next destination is Chenonceau, where we'll discover the town's beautiful château, also known as the Ladies' Castle because of the six prominent women who inhabited it over the course of five centuries. Its genuine structure, refined finishes and exquisite gardens make it a really intriguing place. Continuing on our route, between Chenonceau and Azay-le-Rideau (20 minutes from Chenonceau castle and 45 minutes from Azay-le-Rideau castle), you can take a detour to Montpoupon castle. After a pleasant drive we reach the village of Azay-le-Rideau, with its charming mill on the bridge and romantic castle. Onward to further discover the beauty of this land dotted with opulence and history. Our next stop is the Château de Langeais, an elegant setting where the historic union of France and Britain was sealed thanks to the royal wedding of Charles VIII and Anne of Brittany. About 15 minutes away is Villandry, where its fabulous castle stands in some of the most emblematic gardens of the valley. Before going to Villandry, you can make a detour to the Champchevrier castle (20 minutes north of Langeais and Villandry). In the afternoon, we'll continue along the banks of the Loire for around thirty minutes until reaching the city of Tours, famous for its medieval streets, bourgeois mansions and 'maisons à colombages' (timber-framed houses). Make sure you stop off at the Halles where you can sample and buy top quality products and specialities of the city. On the lively terraces of the Plaza Plumereau, you can taste the excellent wines produced in the Touraine area, savour the famous Rillons and Rillettes (charcuterie) or the typical tarte Tatin, and enjoy a typical medieval atmosphere. Overnight stay in Tours.

#### ● DAY 5 · TOURS - BOURGES - CHARTRES - PARIS

On the way back to Paris, you have two options: one of them would be to stop in Bourges, which is both a vibrant and relaxing city. Bourges is an extremely cultural city to be discovered through its incredible architectural heritage. The second option would be to make a stop in the city of Chartres, where we recommend a visit to its imposing Cathedral (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), considered one of the best examples of a classical Gothic cathedral in the world. The gigantic temple, one of the largest in Christendom, is famous for its stained glass windows, portals and the chapel guarding the Voile de la Vierge (Our Lady's Veil). And in Paris we say adieu to this unforgettable journey by soaking up one of the liveliest nightlife scenes in Europe. Overnight stay in Paris.

#### ● DAY 6 · PARIS - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Paris.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Paris.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Blois.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Blois.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tours.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tours.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

✗ Accommodation taxes in France direct payment in facility.

✗ Possible toll charges.

✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

Paris



Versailles



Sully-sur-Loire



Orléans



La Ferte-Saint-Aubin



Meung-sur-Loire



Beaugency



Chambord



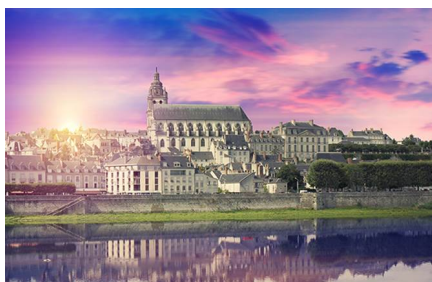
Cheverny



Cellettes



Blois



Amboise



Chenonceau



Azay Le Rideau



Langeais



Villandry





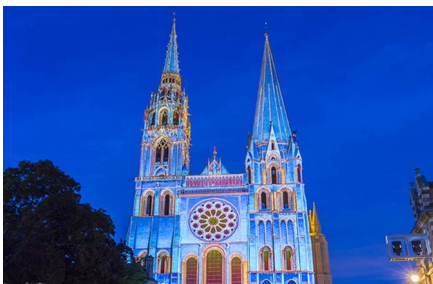
Tours



Bourges



Chartres



## Important remarks

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- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- This itinerary has been developed in collaboration with Atout France, Tourism Development Agency of France, the Loire Castles and Val de Loire through the regional tourism organisations of Pays de la Loire and Center-Val de Loire.