

Loire Valley Castles & Culinary Tour

BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

** THE ITNERARY SHORT VERSION **

6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS : CHATEAU DES TERTRES

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #1

4:00 PM - Off the Beaten Path (OTBP) Loire Valley Tour Guides meet guests at the St. Pierre des Corps TGV rail station and group transfers to the hotel in Onzain- Loire Valley countryside.

5:15 PM - Approximate arrival time to the hotel in Onzain.

DINNER: Welcome cocktail hour and dinner. Group meets in the hotel garden for cocktails. Dress is casual. Our cocktail hour and welcome dinner is a wonderful time to get to know fellow travel guests. Your Tour Guide will provide an introduction to the tour.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

<http://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

EMAIL: contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com

Telephone: 1.877.846.2831

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #2

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **BLOIS MARKET.** Spend the morning perusing and shopping at the weekly market in the town. Guided tour of the market before setting off individually to explore and shop. From local artisan products to French linens, fresh cut flowers, paintings, clothes, food, artwork and locally made jewelry, the market has something for everyone. Lunch recommendations will be provided by your guide. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join your guide for lunch in the old town.

FOLLOWING THE MARKET & LUNCH - Group meets for a guided tour of **BLOIS CASTLE.** After our tour, enjoy time to explore the castle and visit the Beaux Art Museum in the Louis XII wing. Today's visit includes stories of royal marriages, more stories of some of France's most important historical events, an assassination, as well as royal love affairs and the death of France's favorite Queen. After our tour, enjoy time to explore the castle and visit the Beaux Art Museum in the Louis XII wing. Mid-afternoon departure from Blois to return to the hotel before going to cooking class.

LATE AFTERNOON - COOKING CLASS -- Early Evening and **DINNER** includes a hands-on cooking class and culinary demonstration with our friend, Master & Michelin-star Chef Damien. This cooking class is both hands-on and a demonstration of recipes. We will also partake in a "Tour de France" of **WINE & CHEESE TASTING.** The focus is on discovering favorite recipes of this beautiful region, indulging in the French wine and cheese tasting and learning more about French cheeses with our Chef. This activity is designed for all interest levels. No experience is necessary.

DINNER: A gourmet dinner of recipes prepared together in class accompanied by select regional wines.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the market, exploring the town and visiting the castle. We will depart directly to the cooking class following our guided tour at Blois Castle, so please bring everything you will need for the entire day with you when we leave in the morning, i.e. small day pack, camera, personal items, light sweater for the evening, money for any souvenir and market shopping you may wish to do in town. Water will be provided, but you will need your day pack to carry it. There are ATM's, pharmacies and a post office available in Blois. Today's cooking class takes place in a professional, working kitchen. Please dress casual for the day, and if you'd like to bring something to change into at cooking class, private changing rooms are available at cooking class.

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #3

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **AMBOISE MARKET** – This morning time to explore Amboise’s weekly open market. The market brings an unparalleled livelihood to the village, and offers a wonderful opportunity to experience local culture at its’ busiest time of the week. Time to explore and shop independently at the market before our castle tour.

MORNING - AMBOISE ROYAL CASTLE – Guided tour after the market followed by time to explore at **LEISURE**. Today’s visit includes stories of royal accidents, more stories of some of France’s most important historical events, an attempted kidnapping, as well as royal love affairs and the death of royal guest, Leonardo da Vinci.

LUNCH: Independently in Amboise Village. Your guide will make suggestions. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join your guide for lunch in the historic village.

AFTERNOON: CHENONCEAU CASTLE Tour of the Castle and Gardens of Chenonceau, a castle shaped by women --this castle represents the greatest accomplishments of royal women during the Middle Ages and French Renaissance.

EVENING & DINNER: COOKING CLASS – Early Evening and **DINNER** - participate in a fun, hands-on culinary class at home with friends. Tonight we cook with two of France’s highest rated Master Chefs, a husband and wife team, Christophe and Angelique at their home. Both have received top awards from and along with Paul Bocuse, Alain Ducasse and Joel Robuchon. Christophe is currently featured on gourmet television in France, as one of the Loire Valley’s most highly recognized and talented Chefs. **COCKTAILS WITH OUR CHEFS** prior to our gourmet dinner of the recipes we prepare in class. This activity is designed for all interest levels. No experience is necessary.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for walking at the market, in the village and at both castles. We will return to the hotel for a mid-afternoon break to freshen up and enjoy some “down-time” before our cooking class evening. Please bring only what you will need for the market and our castle visits with you when we leave in the morning, i.e. small day pack to carry camera, pen/pencil, personal items, etc. Water will be provided. For cooking class - please dress casual. We are guests at our friends’ home, and they would like everyone to feel as comfortable and at home as possible.

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #4

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **VILLANDRY CASTLE** and its' Renaissance Gardens. This morning we make our way to the southern Touraine for 2 castle visits. Villandry represents the best example of pure Renaissance gardens, as originally designed during the reign of Francis I.

LUNCH: Independently in Azay-le-Rideau village. Your Guide will make lunch recommendations. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join your guide for lunch in the historic village.

AFTERNOON - AZAY-LE-RIDEAU CASTLE – A spectacular masterpiece - this chateau was built during the early years of Francis I's reign. It reflects all of the refinements of Renaissance architecture and epitomizes the qualities of a traditional French chateau.

EVENING - HOT AIR BALLOONING – Sunset hot air ballooning excursion, a lighter fare French style picnic dinner is provided. During this excursion guests set off into the sunset on a beautiful hot air balloon with our friend, professionally licensed pilot, Charles and his professional flight crew.

DINNER: Gourmet French picnic either prior to or just after hot air ballooning (this depends on what time the pilot assigns take-off).

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for walking at both castles and in the villages. We will spend the entire day in the southern Touraine for these 2 castle visits, so please bring everything you will need for the entire day, i.e. small day pack, camera, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, personal items, money for souvenirs, etc. We will return to the hotel for a mid-afternoon break to freshen up and enjoy some “down-time” before our hot air ballooning excursion. Water will be provided. There are ATM's, pharmacies and a post office available in Azay-le-Rideau.

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #5

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **MORNING AT LEISURE.** Enjoy a walk into the local village or borrow a bike to peruse the local countryside. Relax on the terrace at the hotel with a beverage and write postcards, surf the internet or read.

NOON - CHAMBORD CASTLE – Chambord is thought to have been the architectural masterpiece of Leonardo da Vinci, yet has never been proven. We share stories about two of France’s most influential Kings, Francis I and Louis XIV, their royal lifestyles and personal guests at the castle, as well as stories of Louis XIII’s brother, Gaston d’Orleans.

LUNCH: Independently at Chambord. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join your guide for lunch.

LATE AFTERNOON - STOP IN BLOIS FOR LAST MINUTE SOUVENIR SHOPPING BEFORE OUR ARRIVAL TO COOKING CLASS.

EVENING & DINNER: COOKING CLASS and **DINNER** – A hands-on cooking class and culinary demonstration with our friend, Michelin-star Chef, Christophe C. Christophe has had the great pleasure of working with the late Bernard Loiseau and ever talented Christian Willer before venturing out into the culinary world on his own, and opening his gem of a restaurant in the late 1990’s. This activity is designed for all interest levels. No experience is necessary.

DINNER: Gourmet dinner of recipes prepared in class preceded by a cocktail hour to celebrate a wonderful week in the Loire Valley.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for walking at Chambord castle. We will depart just before NOON to spend the afternoon at Chambord and then go directly to cooking class afterwards, so please bring everything you will need for our chambord visit and cooking class when we leave, i.e. small day pack, camera, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, personal items, money for shopping/souvenirs, etc. Water will be provided. There is an ATM available at Chambord. **If you don’t plan to depart with the group tomorrow morning for the 10 am arrival to the St. Pierre des Corps TGV rail station, please inform your guide at dinner this evening.

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #6

7:30 AM - **BREAKFAST.**

8:30 AM - Please have all bags downstairs for loading.

9:00 AM DEPARTURE - We arrive at 10:00 AM at the St. Pierre des Corps TGV Rail Station. If you have made your own departure arrangements and are not departing with the group, please be sure to inform your guide in advance.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

- Off the Beaten Path, LLC is an American owned and operated company licensed and bonded to protect your vacation investment.
- Off the Beaten Path, LLC holds a website identity assurance warranty of \$100,000. Travelers are insured for up to \$100,000 per tour reservation booking when relying on the information provided by GeoTrust IdAuthority (Equifax Secure Certificate Authority) on our website.

Off the Beaten Path, LLC

EMAIL: contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com

Telephone: 1.877.846.2831

Fax: 1.800.514.7219 * 1.603.218.7028

Address: Claremont Dr., Seven Valleys, PA 17360 USA

Loire Valley Tour PRICE INCLUDES:

- Full-time services of professional Off the Beaten Path Expert Guides who are culinary, wine and history professionals and serve as guests liaison during this fully escorted Loire Valley tour program.
- 5 nights, HOME BASED, deluxe castle accommodations (**NO Hotel Hopping**) at The Chateau des Tertres.
- **10 MEALS:** 5 Buffet Breakfasts, 4 Gourmet Dinners + 1 French picnic.
- All pre-dinner cocktails and regional classified wines included at all group meals.
- All fees for tours and entry at the Castles of Chambord, Blois, Amboise, Chenonceau, Villandry and Azay-le-Rideau
- All fees for 3 cooking classes, corresponding dinners and wines/beverages at cooking classes.
- All fees for hot air ballooning excursion.
- All local taxes and gratuities at hotel and restaurants.
- Ground transportation during the tour by comfortable mini-vans.
- Roundtrip transfers between Tours Saint Pierre des Corps TGV rail station and hotel on tour start/conclusion day at designated times.
- **This exclusive Loire Valley Tour is limited to 8-12 guests per tour date.**

Loire Valley Tour PRICE EXCLUDES:

- International roundtrip airfare to/from France
- Train fare to/from St. Pierre des Corps TGV station
- lunches
- Guide and driver gratuities
- Personal purchases.

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small  *Group Travel in France*

2012 - LOIRE VALLEY TOUR DATES AND PRICES

TOUR PRICE - \$3,498 PER PERSON LAND ONLY, DOUBLE/TWIN OCCUPANCY (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS)

****SOLO TRAVELERS ADD SINGLE SUPPLEMENT OF US\$462**

****Only dates with space available are listed below****

- July 3-8 - 3 Spaces Left
- September 18-23 - 2 Spaces Left
- October 2-7 - 4 Spaces Left

*** ONCE YOU BOOK YOUR TOUR, YOUR PRICE IS GUARANTEED AND WILL NOT INCREASE.**

FRANCE

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2013 - LOIRE VALLEY TOUR DATES AND PRICES

RESERVE A 2013 TOUR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2012 AND **SAVE \$1,000 PER PERSON OFF THE TOUR PRICE!**

CONSULT OUR WEBSITE FOR ONGOING DISCOUNTS & SAVINGS PROMOTIONS: [HTTPS://WWW.TRAVELOFFTHEBEATENPATH.COM/RESERVATIONFORM.HTML](https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com/reservationform.html)

TOUR PRICE - \$3,998 PER PERSON LAND ONLY, DOUBLE/TWIN OCCUPANCY (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS)

****SOLO TRAVELERS ADD SINGLE SUPPLEMENT OF US\$462**

****Only dates with space available are listed below****

- May 2-7
- June 6-11
- June 12-17
- June 19-24
- September 5-10
- September 11-16
- September 18-23
- September 25-30
- October 2-7

*** ONCE YOU BOOK YOUR TOUR, YOUR PRICE IS GUARANTEED AND WILL NOT INCREASE.**

Hotel Chateau DES TERTRES

Hotel Chateau des Tertres is located in the heart of the Touraine, known best as the Loire Valley, amidst the calm and beautiful countryside. The owners of the chateau were born and raised in the Loire Valley, are close friends of the owner of Off the Beaten Path, and welcome guests, as distinguished friends' to their chateau hotel.

Each of these elegantly appointed and spacious rooms is decorated in it's own unique style that reflects the history of the region. As this is a castle, no two rooms are exactly alike. Each room includes private en-suite bathroom with all modern amenities (shower/tub, toilet, toiletries, hair dryer, etc.) and view overlooking the gardens. Hotel rooms are also equipped with telephone and WIFI access. The hotel features 5 acres of quiet and colorful gardens to enjoy and complimentary use of bicycles with trail maps. All rooms for our Guests are located in the chateau.

ROOMS FOR OUR GUESTS ARE SPACIOUS AND EACH UNIQUELY
& HISTORICALLY DECORATED AND LOCATED INSIDE THE CHATEAU

ACTIVITY RATING: 90% Easy, 10% Moderate.

TOUR BEGINS: Group pick-up at 4 pm at Saint Pierre des Corps TGV Station, Tours, France - (station is located just outside of the city)

TOUR ENDS: Group drop-off at 10 am at Saint Pierre des Corps TGV Station, Tours, France - (station is located just outside of the city)

Walking Ratings FOR LOIRE VALLEY TOURS

Always enjoyable walking on Off the Beaten Path Tours - Nomatter which of our active, small group tours you join, you can expect to know, in advance, the level of difficulty of the walks scheduled during each tour. We also provide flexible options daily for non-walkers.

EVERY OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOUR VACATION IS DESIGNED TO MEET A WIDE VARIETY OF GUEST FITNESS LEVELS.
EACH WALK IS CATEGORIZED USING THE SYSTEM BELOW.

EASY: Relatively flat terrain. Well-kept paths. Fine for even occasional walkers.

- Average walk distance: 2–5 miles
- Average walking time: Up to 3 hours

EASY TO MODERATE: Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Footing may be a variety of surfaces --mostly vineyard and country trails. No extended ascents or descents.

- Average walk distance: 4–6 miles
- Average walking time: Up to 4 hours

MODERATE: Suitable for experienced walkers who are comfortable with ascents and descents (but no scrambling!). Uneven terrain possible. Vineyard, country and gravel trails.

- Average daily distance: 5-8 miles
- Average walking time: up to 4-5 hours

LOIRE VALLEY TOURS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

- This tour involves only daily leisure walking which is suitable for all travelers.
- This trip is not suitable for travelers with severe or impairing knee or back problems.
- Travelers need to be able to walk up steps - sometimes several flights of steps.
- Travelers need to be able to stand for extended periods of time during castle tours, as seating is not always available.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ENSURING INSPIRING ITINERARIES, EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY AND EXCELLENT VALUE!!

- OTBP itineraries are designed to share the very BEST of each region --Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux wine country, Champagne and Dordogne-- including luxurious accommodations that reflect the heart & soul of each region and offer complete modern amenities, spectacular theme walks, both Michelin-star gourmet and bistrot style dining at the best restaurants of each region, cooking classes at the homes and/or private workshops of Michelin-star and Master Chefs who are Christy's personal friends and who welcome OTBP guests to their homes and professional kitchens as a group of friends, visits to local artisan workshops, shopping at the finest craft markets, hot air ballooning and much more.
- All OTBP tours are run by OTBP. The company does NOT subcontract any of its' tours. Many OTBP tours are owner led and those that aren't owner led are led by guides who work exclusively for OTBP and who have been hand-picked by Christy based on her very strict criteria.
- Since all OTBP tour guides are Americans who reside in France, we do NOT have to incorporate any international transportation and lodging costs for tour guides into tour prices, meaning even greater savings to you, because we can ensure our OTBP luxurious quality tour experiences at even more competitive prices.
- All pre-dinner cocktails, classified wines and non-alcoholic beverages are included at all group meals.
- OTBP group lunches and dinners are comprised of a combination of set menus exclusively elaborated for our groups that reflect the cuisine of the region, ordering off the menu and indulging in select gourmet menus that feature a Chef's local and/or seasonal specialties. We are constantly told that our restaurant selections are one of many highlights of our tours! We are also happy to accommodate vegetarians and other special dietary requests.
- OTBP has established, proprietary relationships with all wineries, chefs, restaurants, service providers and bistros on each tour based on both its' exclusive and privileged network of contacts and French friends, and its' outstanding reputation throughout France. All chefs, restaurants and bistros selected for OTBP tours are Michelin-star and/or have been featured/recommended by top "foodie" magazines and/or fellow Michelin-star Chefs. OTBP tours feature dining in both gourmet restaurants and favorite hide-a-ways.
- OTBP has negotiated the best rates with its' French partners to ensure the best luxury experience again at the best value tour prices.
- OTBP has the LOWEST single supplements in the France tour industry thanks to established relationships with partner hotels. Our single supplement fees cover exact hotel single occupancy fees charged. We do NOT charge a single supplement for profit, NEVER.
- OTBP small group tours feature TRUE SMALL GROUP travel. The maximum group size on OTBP tours is 8-16 guests per tour date. Limiting group sizes creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know other guests, yet still maintain their independence. OTBP also limits its' groups to a maximum of 8-16 guests per tour date in order to preserve each guest's personalized experience, and ensure its' famous quality customer service.
- *ALL 2012 and 2013 Tour dates are guaranteed departures!*
- Book your tour today to lock-in and guarantee your tour price. Once your tour is booked, your tour price is guaranteed and will NOT increase. Otherwise, prices are subject to change.

Off the Beaten Path TOUR RESERVATION BOOKING FORM

In order to confirm your participation on this or any other of our small group Tours, please complete all sections below, sign and return this booking form to our reservation office using one of the following fax numbers:

USA/Canada (Toll Free): 1.800.514.7219 or USA/Canada/All other countries: 1.603.218.7028

or you may also scan your completed reservation booking form into an Adobe pdf file or jpeg file and email it to our office at reservations@traveloffthebeatenpath.com . We also offer secure online reservation booking at the following page of our website, <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com/reservationform.html> . **Online reservation booking features the option to pay by Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express credit card with immediate confirmation of your booking submission. Payment by American Express is only available by booking your tour using our online booking form** <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com/reservationform.html>

Once our office receives your completed form, your payment will be processed within 7 business days after which a deposit payment receipt will be emailed to you. Approximately 2 weeks prior to your Tour's final payment due date, we will email you the final payment forms to complete and return.

PART I. TRAVELER INFORMATION.

YOUR COMPLETE NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE(POSTAL CODE): _____

COUNTRY: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ANY KNOWN ALLERGIES? IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY. _____

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL OCCASION WHILE ON THE TOUR? IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY. _____

PART II. TOUR SELECTION AND ACCOMMODATIONS.

1. NAME OF TOUR (CIRCLE ONE): LOIRE VALLEY PROVENCE BORDEAUX CHAMPAGNE

2. TOUR DATES: _____

3. TOUR PRICE: _____

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (APPLIES TO SOLO TRAVELERS ONLY) -

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (CIRCLE ONE): PROVENCE - \$540 LOIRE VALLEY - \$462 BORDEAUX - \$1360 CHAMPAGNE - \$487

Accommodations (indicate the number of rooms needed next to type of room needed):

____ DOUBLE ROOM: 1 KING/QUEEN BED FOR 2 PERSONS

____ TWIN ROOM: 2 TWIN BEDS FOR 2 PERSONS

____ SINGLE ROOM: 1 KING/QUEEN/DOUBLE BED FOR 1 PERSON

PART III. PAYMENT INFORMATION.

Deposit Payment may be made by any of the following methods (circle one) - (American Express ONLY accepted when booking online):

Visa

Mastercard

Discover

I authorize Off the Beaten Path, LLC to charge/debit my credit card for the tour deposit equal to _____ (number of persons in your travel group) X US\$500 per person deposit for a total deposit payment in the amount of US\$ _____. (For example, if 2 people traveling together, deposit payment would be "2 persons X \$500 per person" for a total deposit payment of US\$1,000).

CREDIT CARD HOLDER NAME (EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON CARD): _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____

CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION DATE: _____

CREDIT CARD SECURITY VERIFICATION NUMBER (3 DIGIT NUMBER ON SIGNATURE SIDE OF CREDIT CARD): _____

CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS: _____

CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE: _____

ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPT TERMS AND CONDITIONS, CARD HOLDER INITIALS: _____

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC FINE PRINT...

TOUR DEPOSIT & PAYMENTS:

- Initial deposit to confirm tour participation is US\$500 per person per tour.
- Final payment is due 90 days prior to the 1st day of the tour.
- After booking your tour, we email you an invoice that reflects -- (1) the tour balance due, less the tour deposit paid at time of reservation booking and (2) any early booking discounts applied.
- Payment is in US Dollars by credit card, cashier check or personal check from a US Bank or by Bank Wire Transfer to the company's Corporate Account.
- We also offer a monthly payment plan to make planning and paying the balance due on your tour easy.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

91+ days (from the first day of the trip): \$500 per person Tour deposit.

****AN ALTERNATIVE TO CANCELLATION**** - Transfer of Deposit: Guest may transfer from one trip to another up to 91 days before trip departure without penalty (excludes custom designed-private tours) after which time the cancellation policy applies. When transferring to a different date or trip, if the trip costs more than Guest's original trip, Guest must pay the difference. This credit can only be rolled over once and Guest incurs no other penalty.

61-90 days: 25% of the total Tour price

31-60 days: 50% of the total Tour price

0-30 days: 100% of the total Tour price

Though it's not required to participate in FOTBP tours, it is highly recommend that travelers purchase trip insurance to cover the unexpected. We recommend **TRAVEL GUARD** to cover all your travel insurance needs.