



FROM NEVERS TO LA BAULE

Eight stages, countless discoveries

A palace beside the river, stone villages, castles, then the ocean. Follow this journey at your own pace, wherever the water and your curiosity lead.



STAGE 01 / NEVERS → GIEN

The Loire sets the scene

Stone towns, vineyards and the first promise of an escape.

THE STORY

In Nevers, the journey begins near the bridge, with the cathedral and Ducal Palace in the background. Wander uphill through the old centre, then return to the water: the Loire is already setting the pace.

La Charité-sur-Loire deserves a proper stop. Its priory and old streets invite you to linger. Take a detour to Sancerre and the view changes completely: from the hilltop, vineyards slope towards the river and the panorama seems to announce the stages ahead.

Before Gien, pause at the Briare canal bridge. On arrival, the château watches over the town, while its famous faience tells the story of a local craft.

ALONG THE WAY

- Nevers • Ducal Palace and cathedral
- La Charité-sur-Loire • Priory
- Briare • Canal bridge
- Gien • Château and faience

A LITTLE DETOUR

Sancerre: climb to the village for views over the vines and Loire.

THE INSOLITE LOIRE IDEA

Start gently: a walk at each stop is enough to feel the journey begin.



Orléans · Photo supplied

STAGE 02 / GIEN → ORLÉANS

The Loire gathers pace

A fortress in the landscape, then a city best explored on foot.

THE STORY

Leaving Gien, the Château de Sully-sur-Loire makes an almost theatrical stop. Its towers, moat and reflections are reason enough to slow down before reaching the city.

In Orléans, begin at the riverfront. From there, wander into the old centre, guided by the towers of Sainte-Croix Cathedral. The squares and paved streets recall Joan of Arc, while Place du Martroi gives the walk a lively heart.

Return to the Loire before setting off again. Between the monuments and the river, Orléans has a lovely way of moving from history to open air in just a few streets.

ALONG THE WAY

- Sully-sur-Loire · Château
- Orléans · Sainte-Croix Cathedral
- Orléans · Place du Martroi
- Orléans · Loire riverfront

A LITTLE DETOUR

Cross the river to see Orléans from the opposite bank.

THE INSOLITE LOIRE IDEA

This stage is made for a leisurely city walk, with no need to rush between monuments.



Blois • Illustrative artwork

STAGE 03 / ORLÉANS → BLOIS

A journey through castles

Royal landmarks make even the detours memorable.

THE STORY

On the way to Blois, Chambord is worth leaving the direct Loire route for. Its many towers and chimneys create an unmistakable silhouette. Walk around the château: the architectural details shift with every viewpoint.

In Blois, everything feels closer together. From the quays, old streets and stairways climb towards the Royal Château. Admire the façades, step onto Place du Château and discover the House of Magic just across the square.

Finally, cross Jacques-Gabriel Bridge. From the far bank, the rooftops rise above the river in layers. It is the kind of view that makes you stay a little longer.

ALONG THE WAY

- Chambord • Château and estate
- Blois • Royal Château
- Blois • House of Magic
- Blois • Jacques-Gabriel Bridge

A LITTLE DETOUR

Chambord: allow time to enjoy the estate, as well as the château.

THE INSOLITE LOIRE IDEA

Blois is lovely to explore on foot, though its streets climb: take your time.



Tours, Place Plumereau - Photo supplied

STAGE 04 / BLOIS → TOURS

Hillsides and café terraces

Castles, river views and the pleasure of wandering.

THE STORY

Between Blois and Tours, it is tempting to stop often. Chaumont-sur-Loire rises above the river; Amboise invites you to move from its château to the quays and then linger in its streets.

Arriving in Tours changes the rhythm. Place Plumereau, its timber-framed houses and café terraces make you want to sit down and forget the time. Wander through the old town towards Saint-Martin Basilica or, farther on, Saint-Gatien Cathedral.

End on the Loire quays. After the great châteaux, Tours reminds us that travel memories can also begin with a lively square and a walk without a plan.

ALONG THE WAY

- Chaumont-sur-Loire • Château
- Amboise • Château and old town
- Tours • Place Plumereau
- Tours • Saint-Gatien Cathedral

A LITTLE DETOUR

Leave time for Amboise: the town deserves more than a quick photo stop.

THE INSOLITE LOIRE IDEA

In Tours, choose one neighbourhood to explore on foot instead of trying to see everything.



Saumur · Photo supplied

STAGE 05 / TOURS → SAUMUR

Gardens and Loire villages

Slow down among gardens, pale stone and quiet riverbanks.

THE STORY

West of Tours, Villandry makes a delightful detour. In its gardens, paths and carefully framed views invite you to notice the details and prolong the walk.

Farther on, Candes-Saint-Martin and Montsoreau are best discovered at a gentler pace: a lane, a pale-stone façade, a glimpse of the Loire. In Montsoreau, the château feels part of the river scenery. These are places to explore without watching the clock.

Then the Château de Saumur appears above the rooftops. From the quays, the town and the Loire come together in one sweeping view. Saumur has another story to tell, too: its equestrian heritage, embodied by the Cadre Noir.

ALONG THE WAY

- Villandry · Gardens
- Candes-Saint-Martin · Village
- Montsoreau · Château and river
- Saumur · Château and Cadre Noir

A LITTLE DETOUR

Villandry: plan its gardens as a full stop on the way from Tours.

THE INSOLITE LOIRE IDEA

A pause beside the river in Montsoreau or Saumur lets the scenery speak for itself.



STAGE 06 / SAUMUR → ANGERS

Discover the heart of Anjou

A great medieval fortress and a river that opens up the city.

THE STORY

The journey retains its Loire Valley feel as far as Angers, where another river enters the story: the Maine. Above its banks, the towers of the Château d'Angers form a powerful skyline. Inside, the Apocalypse Tapestry gives you another reason to pass through the fortress gates.

Walk on to the old Cité quarter and Saint-Maurice Cathedral. Much of the pleasure lies between the landmarks: an old street, a historic house, then a view opening towards the river.

Across the Maine, the Doutre district offers a fresh perspective on Angers. Stay for this walk after visiting the château: the city is as rewarding from its riverbanks as from its monuments.

ALONG THE WAY

- Angers • Château and ramparts
- Angers • Apocalypse Tapestry
- Angers • Saint-Maurice Cathedral
- Angers • Doutre and the Maine

A LITTLE DETOUR

Cross the Maine for another view of the château and old Cité.

THE INSOLITE LOIRE IDEA

In Angers, it is the Maine that flows below the château; the Loire runs farther south.



Nantes, Passage Pommeraye - Photo supplied

STAGE 07 / ANGERS → NANTES

The Loire has surprises in store

Open landscapes lead to a city where history meets invention.

THE STORY

After Angers, the riverside towns encourage an unhurried journey. Near Ancenis, pause to watch the Loire, stroll through a town and set off again when you feel ready.

In Nantes, three visits reveal three sides of the city. The Château des ducs de Bretagne introduces its history. Passage Pommeraye draws your gaze up to its galleries and grand staircase. On the Île de Nantes, Les Machines de l'île give the trip an inventive, playful twist.

Explore these places on foot, then return to the branches of the Loire. Nantes brings eras and ideas together with an energy all its own.

ALONG THE WAY

- Ancenis • Riverside stop
- Nantes • Château des ducs
- Nantes • Passage Pommeraye
- Nantes • Les Machines de l'île

A LITTLE DETOUR

On the Île de Nantes, keep walking beside the branches of the Loire.

THE INSOLITE LOIRE IDEA

Passage Pommeraye is pictured above: pause on the stairs to take in the whole arcade.



La Baule · Photo supplied

STAGE 08 / NANTES → LA BAULE

From the Loire to the Atlantic

After riverside towns and castles, the horizon opens onto the sea.

THE STORY

West of Nantes, the estuary landscapes announce the ocean. Saint-Nazaire tells the story of this meeting between the Loire and the Atlantic through its port and the great ocean liners built here.

The Guérande peninsula is worth a detour among its salt marshes. The landscape changes colour and shape before you arrive at La Baule and its wide bay. A beach walk can lead towards the Benoît district and Le Pouliguen.

Save a little time for the streets behind the seafront: the villas tell the story of the resort. For one final, quieter stroll, the pines of Escoublac Forest offer another way to end the journey.

ALONG THE WAY

- Saint-Nazaire · Port and estuary
- Guérande · Salt marshes
- La Baule · Bay and villas
- Escoublac · Pine forest

A LITTLE DETOUR

Guérande: leave the direct route to explore the salt-marsh landscape.

THE INSOLITE LOIRE IDEA

For the last stop, walk down to the water, turn around, then simply enjoy the horizon.