

1. Chambord to Cheverny, France

Accommodation

Accommodation is elegant small hotels, often converted from châteaux and other ancestral homes. Sometimes you will stay in guest rooms in the grounds, rather than in the main château itself.



Pic: Relais de Chambord

On this ride you spend two nights at Relais de Chambord **** and one night at Coté Loire.

Relais de Chambord has around 55 guest rooms, some of which have views of the Château de Chambord which is only a 4-minute walk away. The dining room overlooks the château and is tastefully furnished. In the morning the dining room is often flooded with light, making it a super place to enjoy a delicious breakfast. There is a spa at the hotel with a steam room, sauna and outdoor Jacuzzi.

Coté Loire is a charming guesthouse close to the River Loire. Each guest room has an en-suite shower room. The food is prepared in-house, and ingredients will vary with the season.



Pic: One of the guest rooms at Coté Loire.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive at Relais de Chambord, where you will overnight for 2 nights.

The nearest train station is Blois. A taxi will be pre-booked to take you to Relais de Chambord (payable locally). The journey is approximately 19km and you should aim to arrive between 4pm and 7pm.



Pic: Typical guest room at Relais de Chambord

On arrival, be shown to your room. Later there will be dinner and ride briefing.

Overnight at Relais de Chambord.

<https://relaisdechambord.com/>.

The following is the planned itinerary, which should be used as a guideline. Weather and other unforeseen circumstances can sometimes cause the itinerary to change, but always with your best interests in mind.

Day 2

After breakfast, meet your horses and ride for approximately 3 hours from Chambord along the 'Grand Canal' with spectacular views of the château. www.chambord.org and www.ecuries-chambord.com. Continue the ride through beautiful countryside and the historic Boulogne Forest before returning to Château de Chambord.



Pic: View of Château de Chambord from the air

Lunch will be in Chambord. Afterwards, have the chance to explore the chateau. Chambord is one of the most extravagant of the chateaux. It was the ultimate hunting lodge with stabling for 1,200 horses in the 17th century. It is also well known for its double helix staircase where you can see who is coming up when you are going down, but you never meet them.

Dinner and overnight at Relais de Chambord.

Day 3

After breakfast you ride for about three hours from Chambord to Château de Beauregard along the large paths of the Boulogne Forest before entering the grounds of the chateau by the front path. Dismount the horses for a guided tour of Château de Beauregard.

www.beauregard-loire.com



Pic: Arriving at Château de Beauregard on horseback

Picnic lunch at Château de Beauregard. This afternoon you journey on horseback through the countryside and pass by the Cheverny vineyards (c. 1.5 hours riding). Visit Château de Cheverny. www.Chateau-cheverny.fr



Pic: Château de Cheverny



Pic: The lavish interiors of Château de Cheverny

Later, transfer to Blois for a gourmet dinner. Tonight's accommodation is Côté Loire. www.coteloire.com

This evening you may have the chance to attend the light show at Château de Blois.



Pic: Breakfast at Côté Loire

Day 4

After your final breakfast, depart from Côté Loire.

If travelling by train, a taxi will be pre-booked to take you to Blois station.