

### 3. Chambord to Amboise (6 nights), France

---

This is the detailed itinerary for the ride from Chambord to Amboise. For general information on our Cheval & Châteaux rides please see the main information sheet.

Starting in the favourite hunting forests of the renaissance French kings, you ride along the banks of the river Cher and finish amongst the chestnut trees of the Amboise forest.

On this itinerary you visit some of the most famous castles of the Loire including Chambord, Beauregard, Cheverny, Blois, Chenonceau and Amboise. These wonderful renaissance castles bring us into the heart of French History.

A real highlight is the Grand Château de Chambord constructed like many others in the distinct French Renaissance style that blended traditional medieval and classical Italian forms.

#### 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.



Relais de Chambord \*\*\*\*

Spend two nights at Relais de Chambord \*\*\*\*, one night at Coté Loire, two nights at Château de l'isle and one night at Château de Pray.

Relais de Chambord \*\*\*\* has around 55 guest rooms, some of which have views of the Chateau de Chambord which is only a 4 minute walk away. The dining room overlooks the Chateau 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.



One of the guest rooms at Coté Loire.

Château de l'isle is an 18<sup>th</sup> century family manor house. The chateau is set in 14 hectares of woodland and parkland and is very close to the River Cher.



Château de l'isle

There are about guest 12 rooms and a spacious lounge area.



One of the bedrooms at Château de l'isle

Chateau de Pray lies in the heart of the Loire, about a mile from the centre of Amboise. Inside the chateau you will find antlers, hunting trophies and a panelled drawing room with a fireplace and a collection of antique oil paintings. There are 19 guest rooms, each with their own en-suite bathroom.



Château de Pray

## Itinerary

### Day 1

Arrive at Relais de Chambord \*\*\*\*, where you will stay 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. Or you may prefer to make your own way by car.

On arrival at Relais de Chambord \*\*\*\*, be shown to your room. Later there will be dinner and ride briefing.

Overnight at Relais de Chambord.  
<https://relaisdechambord.com/>



Typical guest room at Relais de Chambord \*\*\*\*.

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 Château de Chambord. [www.chambord.org](http://www.chambord.org) and [www.ecuries-chambord.com](http://www.ecuries-chambord.com). Continue the ride through beautiful countryside and the historic Boulogne Forest before returning to Château de Chambord.



View of Château de Chambord from the air

Lunch will be in Chambord. Afterwards, have the chance to explore the Château. Chambord is one of the most extravagant of the Châteaux. It was the ultimate hunting lodge with stabling for 1,200 horses in the 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.beauregard-loire.com)



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.Château-cheverny.fr](http://www.Château-cheverny.fr)



Château de Cheverny



The lavish interiors of Château de Cheverny

Later, transfer to Blois for a gourmet dinner. Tonight's accommodation is Coté Loire. [www.coteloire.com](http://www.coteloire.com)

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



Breakfast at Coté Loire.

#### Day 4

After breakfast, spend the day exploring Blois. Re-visit the castle or wander around the shops – there is a good selection. Later you are transferred to Château de l'isle near Chenonceau where you stay for the next two nights.



Dinner setting at Château de l'isle

Dinner and overnight at Château de l'isle.  
[www.chateau-delisle.com](http://www.chateau-delisle.com)

### Day 5

This morning you ride for about one hour in the direction of Château de Chenonceau.  
[www.chenonceau.com](http://www.chenonceau.com)



Approaching Château de Chenonceau on horseback



Château de Chenonceau



The formal gardens at Chenonceau



The maze at Château de Chenonceau

Visit the Château and gardens on arrival. After lunch, set off on horseback to Château de Nitray, riding for about three hours. En route you ride along the Cher River. Later, visit the outsides of the Château, caves, and enjoy some wine tasting. [www.visit-Chateau.com](http://www.visit-Chateau.com)

Dinner and overnight at Château de l'isle.

### Day 6

Ride for approximately two hours in the direction of Pagode de Chanteloup. This oriental inspired seven storey folly is all that remains of the original Château.  
[www.pagode-chanteloup.com](http://www.pagode-chanteloup.com)



The Pagode de Chanteloup

Ride through vineyards and into Amboise forest. Enjoy a beautiful picnic in the gardens of the Pagode.

This afternoon ride for about one hour to Château d'Amboise via the old town of Amboise. It is a special experience to arrive at the château on horseback through "le porte des Lions".

Later, have a guided visit of Château d'Amboise where Leonardo da Vinci is buried. [www.Chateau-amboise.com](http://www.Chateau-amboise.com)



Château d'Amboise overlooking the River Loire

Dinner and overnight at Château de Pray in Amboise.



Château de Chenonceau at Night

### **Day 7**

Final breakfast at Château de Pray.

If travelling by train, a pre-arranged taxi (payable locally) will take you to the station. Depart between 8 and 11am.