

#### LOCA CYCLES

2 bis rue I-I. Rousseau 37400 AMBOISE Tél. 02 47 57 00 28 www.locacvcle.free.fr

#### LOIRE VÉLO NATURE

3 avenue du 11 Novembre 37130 BRÉHÉMONT Tél. 06 03 89 23 14 www.loirevelonature.fr

#### AZAY-LE-RIDEAU CYCLES

13 rue Carnot 37190 Azav-le-Rideau Tél. 02 47 45 40 94 www.azaylerideaucycles.com

#### CHINON LOISIRS ACTIVITÉS NATURE

Quai Danton - 37500 CHINON Tél. 06 23 82 96 33 www.loisirs-nature.fr

#### DÉTOURS DE LOIRE

35 rue Charles Gille 37000 TOURS (annexe à Amboise) Tél. 02 47 61 22 23 www.locationdevelos.com

#### **CANOE COMPANY**

3 rue de l'Écluse 37150 Civray-de-Touraine Tél. 06 37 018 992 www.canoe-company.fr

## Information center Tours Val de Loire Antenne de Villandry

«Le Potager» - 37510 VILLANDRY Tél. 02 47 50 12 66

www.tours-tourisme.fr



## Azay-Chinon Val de Loire Tourism

#### Bureau d'accueil d'Azay-le-Rideau

4 rue du Château - 37190 AZAY-LE-RIDEAU Tél: 02 47 45 44 40



#### Bureau d'accueil de Chinon

1 rue Rabelais - 37501 CHINON Tél: 02 47 93 17 85

www.azay-chinon-valdeloire.com



### Informations

#### www.touraineloirevalley.com/loireavelo www.marandoavelo.fr

If you encounter any problem during the progress of your walk, please inform us at suric@te







## Ronsard's residence, La Riche [==]

Since its foundation in 1092 until the 18th century, the community of canons living in the priory of Saint Cosme welcomed pilgrims on their way to St-James of Compostela. The history of the place is still marked by the presence of Pierre de Ronsard, who became prior in 1565. One can see the prior's residence erected in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, as well as vestiges of the Romanesque church including the chevet, the monks'refectory and the hostelry. A contemporary touch on the site is found in the refectory with the creation of stained glass windows especially designed by Zao Wou Ki.

## Château and Gardens of Villandry





The château is remarkable for the harmony of its architecture and gardens. It was the latest of the great Loire Valley châteaux to be built during the Renaissance time. The site owes its renown to its outstanding display of gardens that encircle the château. They are arranged in three terraces: the 18th century water garden with its large reflecting pool, the ornamental flower garden outlined with box and yew trees, and the ornamental kitchen garden, in which colours alternate to give the illusion of a multicoloured checkerboard. To complete your visit, discover the oriental inspired "Jardin du Soleil", a haven of peace and meditation, the green maze and the children's play area. The inside of the château, converted in the 18th century style, can also be visited. This conversion contributed to create a cheerful and lively atmosphere.

# Château of Langeais

The oldest Romanesque keep, dating from the 10th century, and the 15th century fortress of great architectural homogeneity, make up one of the most important châteaux in the west of France. From the outside, it looks like a feudal fortress with its high walls, towers, a crenellated and machicolated sentry walk and a drawbridge over the former moat. The inner façade is more suggestive of a residential house. It contains outstanding furniture and tapestries. The waxworks museum presents the marriage of Charles VIII and Anne of Brittany in 1491. The first millennium park with medieval style scaffolding the keep and a tree house in the park's largest cedar tree delights children.

# Châtean of Azay-le-Ridean [ ] = 3

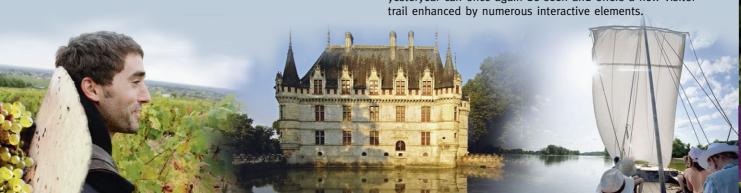
Built in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century on a small island in the Indre river, the château was constructed on an L-plan. It is one of the most elegant creations of the early French Renaissance period and the grand staircase, within the main part of the mansion, is a masterpiece. The furniture and tapestries are from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The landscaped garden affords visitors a fine view of the château from all sides, not forgetting its reflection in the pretty little pond. The Indre river winds through the park and gives off a calm, melancholy atmosphere.

## Royal Fortress of Chinon





The fortress occupies an exceptional site on a blocked spur dominating the Vienne river and the threshold of Aniou and Poitou. Its remarkable fortifications extend over more than 500 metres, and are composed of three stoneworks separated by a moat: to the east, the St Georges fort, to the west the Coudray fort and in the middle the "Château du Milieu" containing the royal apartments. Thanks to six years' reconstruction work, the defensive aspect of the fortress of yesteryear can once again be seen and offers a new visitor







Val de Loire ICI, VIVRE EST UN ART

# La Loire à vélo Tours - Candes-St-Martin



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