



the
TRAVEL
GALLERY

presents

Cycling in France
Discovering the Loire Valley
September 18 - 26, 2008



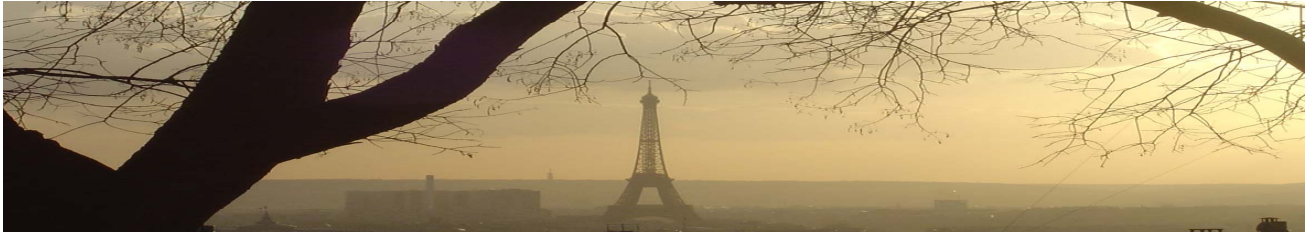
Including 3 nights in enchanting Paris

Where do you want to be in September 2008?



THE DESTINATION:

Paris, France



Paris intrigues, astonishes, provokes and overwhelms. The City of Light is the apex of architectural beauty, artistic expression, and culinary delight, and it knows it. As proud as the Arc de Triomphe, as quaint as a corner bistro, it seduces newcomers and frequent visitors alike.

Paris is a city of vast open spaces, quiet, tucked-away squares, noble monuments and ample beauty. This combination of the over the top and the private is one of the secrets of its appeal. Another is its size. Paris is relatively small as capitals go, with distances between many of its major sights and museums invariably walkable.

No matter your interest, any trip through Paris will be a voyage of discovery. For the first-timer, there will always be several musts at the top of the list – the Louvre, Notre-Dame, and the Eiffel Tower among them – but it is the *quartiers*, or neighbourhoods; each with its own personality that enchant visitors to the capital.

Loire Valley, France



The Loire Valley is synonymous with opulent castles, sun splashed countryside and the decadence of French royalty.

It's an area rich with history and brimming with tales of passion and intrigue, worthy of the latest bestselling novel. Love, murder, greed, jealousy and power all played a hand in the creation and destruction of these immense castles.

Here you'll bike along peaceful rural roads accompanied by the sound of the wind rustling the trees, eager to catch your first glimpse of one of these fabled castles. Add sumptuous accommodations, meticulously landscaped grounds and Michelin-starred cuisine, and you'll be living like royalty in no time.

THE EXPERIENCE:

“The purpose of life, after all is to live it, to taste, experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experiences.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

PARIS:

The Adventure begins in the City of Light, Paris. Following your arrival you will transfer to your hotel and relax before setting off on a walking tour of this enchanting city. Wander along the Champs Elysees, peer in the windows, or sit in a sidewalk café and enjoy the French art of people watching. While in Paris you will want to see all the sights, the Louvre, Versailles, Arch de Triomph, Notre Dame and of course the Eiffel Tower (to name a few). It will be a grand beginning to your French holiday.

LOIRE SIGHTS & HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ Château de Chinon - Where Joan of Arc and Charles VII met in a legendary encounter. This historic town is also famous for its vineyards, considered to be some of Loire's best.
- ❖ Château d'Ussé - The 15th century fairy-tale castle that inspired Charles Perrault's classic *Sleeping Beauty*.
- ❖ Château d'Azay-le-Rideau - Considered one of the most magnificent in France.
- ❖ The stunning gardens of the Chateau Villandry
- ❖ Château de Saché, where Honoré de Balzac stayed while he wrote his dramatic love story *Le Lys dans la Vallée*.
- ❖ Wine reception, wine tasting and gourmet lunch at Chateau de Nitray, wine tasting and tour at Daniel Jarry's Wine Cave
- ❖ Château de Chenonceau, the most famous of Loire Valley castles.
- ❖ Clos Lucé - The house where Leonardo da Vinci spent the final years of his life. Its museum contains designs and models of the machines conceived by da Vinci.
- ❖ Dinner at Le Choiseul's Michelin-starred restaurant.

CYCLING:

This trip has been designed to appeal to a wide variety of cycling levels. Your pace may vary from one day to the next, as might the pace of your travelling companions, so each day you will have a range of mileage options and you can decide how much you would like to do. You will also have access to a shuttle van that serves as a support vehicle as well as a refreshment centre.

There are three basic levels of rides:

Easy - Must be able to ride without training wheels while balancing a glass of wine.

Moderate - You are ready to tackle the road but you still may want that glass of wine.

Difficult - You are tough and ready for a challenge. You may, however, be doing this one by yourself.

ACCOMMODATION:

PARIS:

Accommodation in Paris will be in the 4-star Novotel Eiffel Tower (hotel may be changed depending on availability at time of booking).

LOIRE VALLEY:

Château de Marçay



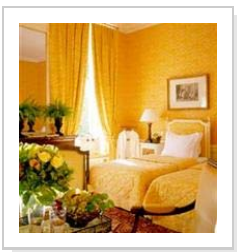
Turrets and secret passageways attest to the medieval origins of this Relais & Château member hotel, which features a restaurant, wine cellar, a swimming pool and tennis courts.

Château d'Artigny



A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the world, this former home of perfume magnate Francois Coty is elegant from staircases to spa. Among the many features are a sauna, a hot tub, an outdoor heated swimming pool, tennis courts and a putting green.

Le Choiseul



This 18th century manor house, a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, has a Michelin-starred restaurant and an outdoor swimming pool.

THE PACKAGE:

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS – PARIS:

- ❖ Group transfer from Charles de Gaulle Airport to the hotel;
- ❖ 3 nights accommodation at the 4-star Novotel Eiffel Tower in Paris (or comparable), based on availability at time of booking;
- ❖ Porterage;
- ❖ A two-day hop on/hop off bus pass allowing you to travel to some of the city's most famous sites;
- ❖ Group transfer from the hotel to Montparnasse train station, and
- ❖ Train tickets to/from Paris and Tours;

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS – LOIRE VALLEY

- ❖ 6-day Cycling tour in the Loire Valley;
- ❖ 5-nights accommodation;
- ❖ Bicycles (sized to each participant) and choice of handlebars (upright or drop) and pedals (standard flat or toe cage and strap);
- ❖ Helmet, two water bottles, handlebar bag or trunk bag and map case, safety triangle, lock and cable, rear rack and strap, wide-range gears, tube and patch kit;
- ❖ Vehicle support and shuttle throughout cycling portions;
- ❖ All meals, while in the Loire, except one dinner and one lunch;
- ❖ Wine reception, wine tasting and gourmet lunch at Chateau de Nitray, wine tasting and tour at Daniel Jarry's Wine Cave;
- ❖ Visit of Château d'Ussé , Azay-le-Rideau, Château de Villandry, Château de Saché, Private tour of Château de Chenonceau, visit Clos Lucé;
- ❖ Gratuities at restaurants and hotels, and
- ❖ Tour hosted by Rita Milenkovic, President of The Travel Gallery.

Not Included:

- ❖ Flights to/from departure city and Paris
- ❖ Individual transfers outside of group arrangements
- ❖ Transfer from the Montparnasse Station in Paris following the cycling trip (due to possibility of extensions in Europe)
- ❖ Travel Insurance
- ❖ Taxes
- ❖ Cycling guide gratuities
- ❖ Additional nights accommodation outside package itinerary

Non-Refundable Deposit: \$800 per person due by November 23, 2007

Final Payment Due: May 1, 2008

Minimum group size: 16

Please note: Deposit is refundable if minimum group size of 16 is not achieved by November 23, 2007.

Package Price: \$5,950 + taxes & surcharges (\$184.06) Canadian per person, based on double occupancy.
Single pricing available upon request

Please note: Package prices are based on current exchange rates and are subject to change with currency fluctuations.

It is highly recommended that you never leave home without insurance coverage. We strongly recommend trip protection, for cancellation/interruption and medical coverage to protect yourself and your investment.

This package is 100% non-refundable.

THE ITINERARY:

(Subject to change)

Thursday, September 18

- ❖ Arrival into Paris
- ❖ Transfer from Charles de Gaulle Airport to hotel
- ❖ Walking tour of Paris (includes major shopping district)

Friday, September 19

- ❖ Hop on/Hop off tour of Paris sights

Saturday, September 20

- ❖ Hop on/Hop off tour of Paris sights

Sunday, September 21

- ❖ Transfer to Montparnasse Train Station for travel to Tours
- ❖ Shuttle to Marçay for orientation and lunch
- ❖ Cycling excursion to Chinon
- ❖ Group dinner and wine reception at your hotel, Château de Marçay

Monday, September 22

- ❖ Cycling excursion to the Château d'Ussé, Azey-le-Rideau and Montbazon
- ❖ Lunch on your own
- ❖ Group dinner at your hotel, Château d'Artigny

Tuesday, September 23

- ❖ Cycling excursion to Villandry and Château Saché
- ❖ Gourmet picnic lunch
- ❖ Group dinner at your hotel, Château d'Artigny

Wednesday, September 24

- ❖ Cycling excursion to Cormery
- ❖ Wine tasting and catered lunch at Château de Nitray
- ❖ Private tour of Château de Chenonceau
- ❖ Arrive at Lodging: Le Choiseul. Dinner on your own

Thursday, September 25

- ❖ Cycling excursion to Clos Lucé, wine tasting and tour at Daniel Jarry's Wine Cave
- ❖ Gourmet picnic lunch
- ❖ Group dinner at Le Choiseul's Michelin-starred restaurant.

Friday, September 26

- ❖ Transfer back to Tours to catch train back to Paris
- ❖ End of tour, return home or visit other parts of Europe