

Candes-St-Martin / Saumur

La Loire à Vélo - Loire Valley by bike

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Départ
Candes-St-Martin

Arrivée
Saumur

Durée
1 h 12 min

Distance
17,39 Km

Niveau
I begin / Family

Thématique
Canals & intimate
rivers, Castles &
Monuments

This Loire à Vélo stage from Candes-St-Martin to Saumur takes you from Touraine into the famous neighbouring county of Anjou, offering a wealth of discoveries, alternating between wine and subterranean (or troglodyte) sights. Either stick to greenways down by the Loire, or choose the higher, more demanding route on small country roads, through vine-covered slopes, ending with a dramatic arrival at Saumur Castle.

Route

At Montsoreau, families are advised to take the option that sticks mostly to the side of the Loire. Note though that even on this route there are some fairly substantial slopes, between Turquant and Parnay, in an area famed for its troglodyte sights.

Alternatives and Links

You can take the alternative route through vine-covered slopes to arrive in Saumur via the heights above the Loire, beside the Château de Saumur. At Montsoreau, there's a 6 km link via quiet country roads to reach the famed Abbey of Fontevraud.

Railway station - SNCF

Saumur train station: 2 trains per day, on average, allowing bikes, either going west to Angers and Nantes, or east to Tours and Orléans.

Don't miss

Montsoreau: with its Renaissance château perched right above the Loire, with tours and events; the subterranean mushroom farm of Le Saut aux Loups
Fontevraud royal abbey : 6 km from Candes-St-Martin, an exceptionally extensive and well-preserved religious ensemble, its main church the resting place of several Anglo-French Plantagenet royals, including King Henry II, Eleanor of Aquitaine and Richard the Lionheart; major exhibitions and events held year-round; a must-see sight on the Loire à Vélo route.

Turquant: the troglodyte sights of La Grande Vignolle and of Les Pommes Tapées (making traditional dried apples); artistic mosaic-maker; Musée du Casse-tête (on brain-teasing puzzles); La Herpinière windmill; plus a stopping place especially geared to cyclists

Saumur: one of the most remarkable historic towns along the Loire Valley; its château dominating the Loire; splendid old churches and houses; glorious horse-riding traditions; magnificent wine houses; numerous exhibitions and events year-round.

Markets

- **Montsoreau :** Sunday morning
- **Fontevraud-l'Abbaye :** Wednesday morning
- **Turquant :** Sunday morning
- **Saumur :** Saturday

Tourist Information Centre

- **Montsoreau :** +33(0)2 41 51 70 22
- **Fontevraud-l'Abbaye :** +33(0)2 41 51 79 45
- **Saumur :** +33(0)2 41 40 20 60

