

Tours / Villandry

La Loire à Vélo - Loire Valley by bike

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Départ Tours		Arrivée Villandry	
Durée 1 h 27 min		Distance 21,82 Km	
Niveau I begin / Family		Thématique Canals & intimate rivers, Castles & Monuments	

Touraine is known as 'le Jardin de la France' (The Garden of France) and Tours is a perfect central gateway for exploring it. This Loire à Vélo stage leads you along the south bank of the Cher River to the Château de Villandry, a major stop, with its world-famous gardens, before rejoining the Loire. Either side of Villandry are picturesque cycle paths leading to the great river. This stage proves extremely enjoyable.

Route

The city of Tours is criss-crossed by many marked cycle lanes. Be careful though taking the side-road along the major Avenue de Grammont leading from Loire to Cher, as it has many intersections. Then the way west alternates between quiet country roads and greenways up to the Cher's confluence with the Loire.

Alternative route

At Villandry, an alternative route leads to the lovely small town of Azay-le-Rideau, boasting another famous château.

Railway station - SNCF

Tours central train station: six trains per day, on average, allow bikes, either going west to Angers and Nantes, or east to Orléans. From Tours's major eastern station of St-Pierre-des-Corps you can catch direct high-speed TGV trains northeast to Paris or southwest to Poitiers, La Rochelle and beyond. There are regular train links between Tours central train station and St-Pierre-des-Corps.

Don't miss

Tours: once capital of medieval France; with remarkable historic quarters, monuments and houses around the cathedral and Place Plumereau square; many fine museums; major events year-round, including beside the Loire.

Savonnières: an enchanting mariners' village on the Cher, still will traditional Loire Valley boats on display; famed crystallizing caves; a beautiful church with Romanesque entrance; a perfect spot to stop for lunch

Villandry: a charming historic village; the beautiful Renaissance château, world-famous for its exceptional terraced gardens, is a must-see sight.

Markets

- **Tours :** Tuesday to Sunday
- **Savonnières :** Saturday and Sunday morning

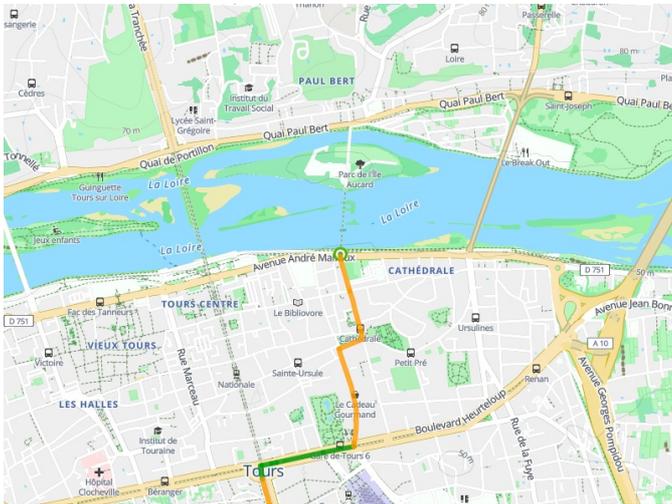
Tourist Information centre

- **Tours :** +33(0)2 47 70 37 37
- **Villandry :** +33(0)2 47 50 12 66

- Voie cyclable
- Liaisons
- Route partagée
- - - Alternatives
- Parcours VTT
- Parcours provisoire



Départ Tours



Arrivée Villandry

