

Tours / Villandry

La Loire à Vélo - Loire Valley by bike

□

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

-
- The map illustrates the Loire river valley in the Centre region, focusing on the Natura 2000 site 'de la Loire de Candes Saint Martin à Mosnes'. The river is shown flowing through various towns and natural spaces. Key locations include Bel-Air, Maulnay, Saint-Étienne-de-Chigny, Andigny, Berthenay, Le Port, Villandry, Boucault, Miré, La Gare, L'Aubraye, La Touche, Vaugarny, Isernay, Joué-lès-Tours, Candes Saint Martin, and Mosnes. The map also shows the Parc naturel régional Loire-Anjou-Touraine and the Espace naturel sensible du Val de Choissille.

The map shows a section of the Cher river flowing from the northwest towards the southeast. To the north of the river, the area is mostly green, indicating forested land, with some brown contour lines showing elevations of 40m and 50m. A road labeled 'Fosse Saint-Anne' runs parallel to the river. A small settlement, 'La Boire aux Bœufs', is located near the river. To the south of the river, the terrain is more developed with various roads and buildings. The road network includes N16, N10, N7, D16, D10, D9, and D1. Several villages and hamlets are labeled, including 'Le Port', 'Le Chat Courant', 'Les Hucaudières', 'La Maison Rouge', 'ChanteLouze', 'Les Barrières', 'La Haute Bergerie', 'Les Malcouronnes', and 'Journ d'Eau'. A 'Parc naturel régional Anjou-Touraine' is marked with a green line. A 'Boudoir Souvenir' is located near 'Journ d'Eau'. A red circle with a green dot is placed on the riverbank near 'Les Hucaudières'. The map also shows 'Le Cher' river flowing through the area.