



Édition 2022

Loches

Touraine - Châteaux de la Loire

Brochure for groups

GUIDED TOURS

EXCURSIONS

SHORT BREAKS



Loches

Touraine - Châteaux de la Loire

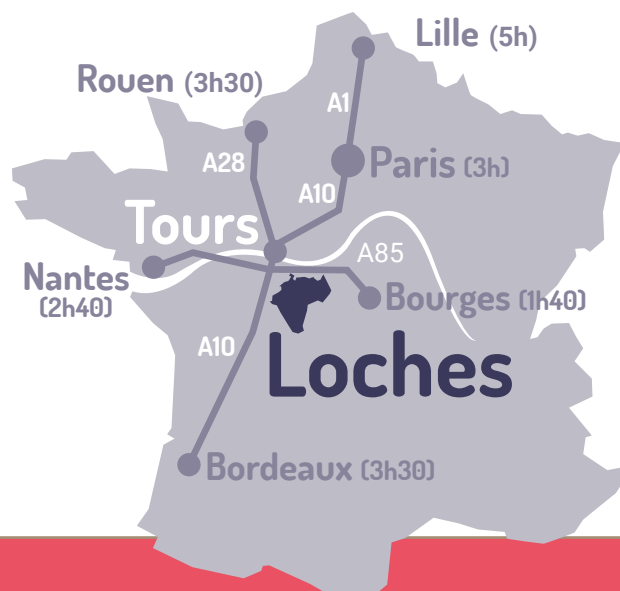


Welcome to Loches Touraine Chateaux de la Loire !

In the Loire Valley, close to Amboise & Chenonceau, an unspoilt **Touraine** awaits you. **Loches, city of 'Art & History'** immerses the visitor in a journey to the heart of 1000 years of history.

The villages of **Montrésor** - labelled «Most Beautiful Villages in France» - and **Chédigny** - the only village in France to be awarded the «Remarkable Garden» label by the Ministry of Culture – will share their secrets with you....

Further south, the Creuse and Claise valleys, with their numerous beautiful villages, have an air of the Perigord set in the Loire Valley, including **foie-gras production** and a **Prehistory museum** !



This brochure contains our suggestions for excursions and short breaks specially designed for groups, which can be tailored according to your wishes. We have preselected quality partners for you in order to facilitate the organisation of your clients' stays and stopovers on our territory.



**YOUR
GROUP
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Top visits for groups



Montrésor castle - p. 7



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Royal city of Loches - p. 4 & 5



Floral walk in Chedigny - p. 8



Exhibition 2022 in the Royal lodge:
Agnès Sorel the influencer

Visits around Loches



2H



45 max

GUIDED TOUR OF THE TOWN OF LOCHES:
«A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY».



2H



25 max

«THE MEDIEVAL FORTRESS» GUIDED
THEMATIC TOUR



2H



20 max

«LOCHES IN ALL SENSES»

Loches, **an exceptional historical town**, offers you a life-size panorama through the eras from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Commented by your personal tour guide, the visit takes you beneath the historic gateways of this Renaissance town, and through narrow cobble streets up to the ridge of the medieval fortress.

Overlooking the town, **the medieval fortress of Loches** is one of the best preserved in Europe. With the tour guide, you will visit the fortified ramparts and discover the monuments that have been part of the fortress for over a thousand years. You will also enjoy privileged access to **the terrace of the Royal Gate**.

Discover a monument blindfolded, play with the facades, walk with **your head in the clouds...**

Come and touch, smell, look at and enjoy heritage in a playful and quirky way! Whether with family, friends or colleagues, **awaken your senses** during a sensory visit. More than just a simple visit, it is an unforgettable experience and a completely different way to discover Loches.

Map of Loches





ROYAL CITY OF LOCHES - SELF GUIDED (visit with a histopad [1] -p.11) or GUIDED TOUR

Travel back in time and discover one of the most beautiful fortified cities in France and Europe! **The Keep**, which is approximately 36 metres high, is one of the most imposing of its time, and one of the best preserved. Discover this unique medieval monument, which was a residential and defensive fortress and then, at the end of the Middle Ages, a state prison. You will be astonished by the underground passages and the discovery of King Louis XI's prisoners' cage.

The Royal Lodge, a renowned landmark in the history of France, was a favourite residence of the Valois dynasty. It was also home to Joan of Arc, Agnès Sorel and Anne of Brittany.



COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SAINT-OURS

The Collegiate Church of Saint-Ours has a commanding position overlooking the medieval town of Loches and is a superb example of Romanesque architecture. Founded in the 10th century it is characterized by two outstanding features: **a multi-coloured portal, sculpted** with characters and fantastical creatures, which is considered to be the best preserved in Touraine, and **two octagonal pyramids called «dubes»**, which are unique in France. **It is here that Agnès Sorel**, favourite of Charles VII is laid to rest; her tomb has recently been restored.



SAINT-ANTOINE CHURCH AND GALLERY

An authentic church-museum, **Saint-Antoine's church** has been completely restored including the works of art it houses. The adjoining gallery, which bears the same name, beautifully completes this ensemble thanks to its two paintings known as «**Les Caravaggio de Philippe de Béthune**» (bought from Caravaggio, a 17th century Italian artist, by Philippe de Béthune), as well as the remarkable 15th century triptych by Jean Poyer and variety of ecclesiastical objects.



LANSYER HOUSE MUSEUM : STEP INTO THE HOME OF THE LANDSCAPE PAINTER

A pupil of Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, Gustave Courbet and then Henri Harpignies, Lansyer is regarded by his contemporaries as **one of the best landscape painters**. He is a true testament to his time. His modern approach, **similar to those of the Impressionists**, led him to paint natural or architectural landscapes with great finesse.



Loches and the Royal City's monuments

ADD A MONUMENT TO YOUR VISIT !

Loches and its tableaux

Visit the Lansyer House Museum and Saint-Antoine's Church Art Gallery during your visit to Loches.

Visits around Beaulieu-lès-Loches



2H30



20 max

BEAULIEU-ON-THE-WATER

Water is omnipresent in Beaulieu, due to its canal created around 1500. Discover the importance of this resource during the period when Beaulieu was **a powerful monastic town**. No fewer than 5 mills were in operation on the Indre during that era. The tour continues with a visit to one of them: the «Moulin des Mécaniciens» (Mechanics' Mill) which, after having served as a tanning mill from the 16th century, was transformed at the beginning of the 20th century to take on a new function (see below visit to the Mill).



2H

FROM STONE TO ABBEY

Pushing the door to the Abbey open you will discover **the recently restored bell tower, which reaches a height of 64 meters**. This is also where the tomb of the greatest military builder of the time, **Foulques Nerra**, is supposedly located. The legend around this dark character will astonish you. The visit continues in the park where part of the ruins of the Romanesque choir can still be seen. Your guide Marie-Claire will also take you to the Grandes Caves so that you can appreciate where the stones that were used to build this monument were extracted from.



NEW!



2H



20 max

VISIT TO THE MECHANICS' MILL

The Mechanics' Mill is a hidden treasure, which will delight and surprise you at the same time. Take a walk through the atypical Viantaises garden before changing universe, as you open the metal door, to discover **Beaulieu's canal**. It is in this charming setting that the Mechanics' Mill was established in the early 20th century. Today this magical site is run by passionate volunteers who through the tapping sounds of the machines and the wheel, help you relive the experience of life gone by.



NEW!



2H

BEAULIEU-LÈS-LOCHES : SMALL CITY, LOTS OF CHARACTER

Be transported back in time as you discover **Beaulieu, the capital of Southern Touraine** some 10 centuries ago. Explore the architectural heritage of the town, including the Abbey, which is a real eye-catcher and clearly visible from Loches, as well as beautiful properties, **the Templars' house, Agnès Sorel's house, the leprosarium and Saint-Laurent's Church** – exterior visit.

Visits around Montrésor



1H

MONTRESOR CASTLE – SELF-GUIDED VISIT OR GUIDED TOUR

An essential landmark of this characterful village is **the castle of Montrésor**, with its double facets: the imposing remains of the 11th century fortress founded by Fulk III Nerra and the Renaissance castle itself. This privately owned and inhabited castle, surrounded by a romantic park, houses **an exceptional collection of early Italian paintings**. It has been owned by a Polish family since 1849 and its interior is an authentic testimony to the French Second Empire enhanced by a **Slavic influence**.



1H30



35 max

VISIT THE VILLAGE OF MONTRESOR LABELLED «ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN FRANCE»

Discover **the legend of Montrésor**, the history of the village and the prominent figures who have influenced the area. Your experience will be enhanced by visiting the Halle des Cardeux Hall (former wool market) and its Gemmail Museum (2 - p.11), the Chancellor's residence, Branicki Street with its old houses and the Saint-Jean-Baptiste collegiate church. Finish your visit with a stroll along **the Balcons de l'Indrois** where you will enjoy a panoramic view of the castle..



1H

THEMED VISIT OF MONTRESOR

Montrésor invites you to relive its history... Let your costumed guide take you on a timeless and burlesque stroll through **one of France's most beautiful villages**.

Optional: Dress up as a lord, princess, monk or a peasant and join the tour in character! Costumes available at the **'Salle des Costumes'**. For visits in a foreign language an interpreter will be needed.



2H



40 max

A LIGHT AND SOUND TRAIL (SELF-GUIDED FREE VISIT)

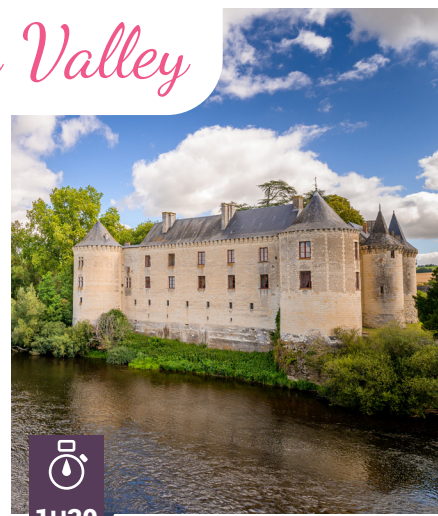
Enhance your experience with an evening stroll during the month of July or August when the village has a completely different atmosphere thanks to the **«Nuits Solaires à Montrésor» (Solar Nights in Montrésor)**. A light and sound trail along the banks of the Indrois river from the 1st July - 31st August.



1H30

GRAND-PRESSIGNY PREHISTORY MUSEUM - SELF-GUIDED VISIT OR GUIDED TOUR (no extra charge)

Visit this exceptional **Prehistory museum** which houses rich archaeological collections from the Palaeolithic period to the Bronze Age: the real jewels are the «livres de beurre», which translates as 'pound of butter' because of the similarity to a slab of butter, and the exceptional long flint blades from the 3rd millennium BC.



1H30

LA GUERCHE CASTLE (MID-JUNE TO MID-SEPTEMBER) - GUIDED TOUR

A private property, this castle, standing on the banks of the river Creuse is a remarkable example of 14th century architecture. The guided tour includes the vaulted cellars, the prison, salons and the courtyard. **A beautiful historical excursion** on the border between Touraine and Poitou.

Creuse and Claise Valley

Indre and Indrois valley



0H45

CHARTREUSE DU LIGET - SELF-GUIDED VISIT OR GUIDED TOUR (recommended)

This is one of the very first 12th century European **Carthusian monasteries**. Built in 1180 by Henry II Plantagenet, King of England, it is the only representation of the Carthusian order in Touraine.



1H



45 max

THE CORROIRIE CHATEAU-MONASTERY

Discover the daily life of the **Carthusian brothers** who chose to share their life between prayer and work for the benefit of the community. The buildings are reminders of those activities: **the church, cellar, mills and hemp kiln** are still visible. A wealth of history to discover!

Chédigny, Indre and Indrois valley



2H

FLORAL WALK IN CHÉDIGNY (GUIDED TOUR [3] - p.11)

Accompanied by Alain Biard, a passionate botanist, you will discover the only village in France to have been awarded the «**Jardin Remarquable**» ("Remarkable Garden") label by the Ministry of Culture. During a picturesque stroll, you will learn about the history of the village and appreciate the precious advice shared by the gardener. **An absolute highlight for garden lovers:** 1000 rose bushes and more than 4000 perennials are planted throughout the village. For visits in a foreign language an interpreter will be needed.



1H30



50 max

CORMERY ABBEY

The Abbey of Cormery is situated between Tours and Loches and was built between the 11th and 12th centuries. It still has **its belfry porch, beautiful vaulted rooms in the former cellar, gatehouse, monks' refectory** (one of the largest and best preserved in France), and also in the Virgin Chapel. The visit ends in the heart of the rose garden adorning the important remains of the cloister, which have recently been restored.

Gourmet themed visits



1H 40 max

THE ORIGINAL MACAROONS FROM CORMERY ABBEY

Taste the delicacy elaborated in the 8th century by the monks: **The «Macaroons of Cormery» which are the oldest-known macaroons in France.** Many legends have been written about the origin of the creation of this biscuit, because of its round shape and the hole in the centre. **Pascal Debaud will tell you the fascinating story of this delicacy which is now being exported as far as Japan.**

Demonstration and tasting.



1H30 40 max

REVIVAL OF THE VINEYARDS AT THE DOMAINE DE LA GRENAIÈRE

Experience Montrésor's unique vineyard, the Domaine de la Grenadière. The vines had disappeared from Montrésor's landscape but they are now reappearing in the village. Replanted in 2014, they produced their first harvest in 2018. The winemaker and maker, Thierry Touratier, will share his adventure with you: the revival of Montrésor wine. At the vineyard you will be able **to taste his first wine production accompanied by other local specialities.** Tour of about 1.5 km.



1H ? max

LES FOLIES DOUCES AT THE CHARTREUSE

Alison Clément from the Domaine des Folies Douces proposes a unique wine tasting experience **in the historical setting of the Chartreuse du Liget.** This young winemaker, located a stone's throw from the monument, in the former Clos des Chartreux, will present 4 to 6 of her organic wines.



1H30 35 max

CADEAU ET CHOCOLAT CHOCOLATE SHOP IN MANTHELAN (17 KM FROM LOCHES)

From the origins of chocolate to his work in the laboratory at Mantelhan, **Frédéric Renard, master chocolatier,** shares his knowledge about this essential product, accompanied by tastings and live demonstrations.



1H30 30 max

VISIT A GOAT FARM IN BEAULIEU LÈS LOCHES

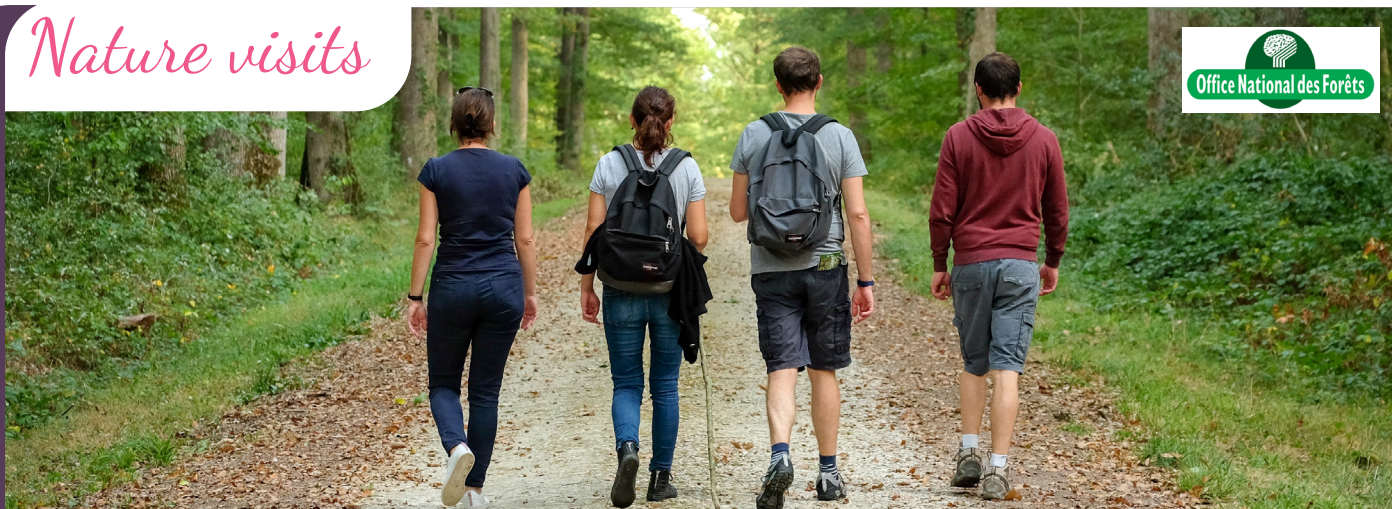
Discover a farm specializing in **goat breeding.** **A tasting of goat's cheese,** including the famous Sainte-Maure-de-Touraine, will follow the guided tour.



1H30 45 max

VISIT - HALLARD CONFECTIONERY

Jérémy Couton, an artisan confectioner, welcomes you and **reveals his secrets.** A demonstration of how to make lollipops and berlingots followed by a tasting session awaits you.



SECRETS AND LEGENDS IN THE NATIONAL FOREST OF LOCHES (GUIDED VISIT)

Considered to be one of the most beautiful oak forests in France, **the National Forest of Loches** has many surprises in store for you. Your ONF (National Forestry Office) guide will not only explain the way this area is managed, but also share stories and legends that make this forest unique..

*For visits in a foreign language an interpreter will be needed.
Accessibility for people with reduced mobility: please contact us*



NATURE IN THE SOUTH TOURAINE

In addition to its rich architectural heritage, **nature is also in abundance in the South Touraine**. The perfect 'playground' for both **ramblers and cyclists** to explore. From the majestic alleys of the national forest of Loches to **classified and protected sites** (Espaces Naturels Sensibles), and not forgetting numerous wetlands with their dense fauna, a wealth of nature awaits you.

Whatever the season, on your own or with a professional guide, come and discover the naturel beauty of the South Touraine





1- (page 5) Histopad: this concept, allows the visitor to be immersed in the heart of history. The visitor scans a terminal equipped with a visual recognition system and then simply turns the tablet in different directions to discover the location reconstructed in 360°. An icon, resembling a magnifying glass, may appear on the screen to highlight various points of interest, accompanied by an explanatory text. Available in FR + EN + DE + NL + ES + IT + RU

2- (page 7) Gemmail: it is an art form that was conceived in the 20th century, close to stained glass, using the superimposition of glass fragments where the shape is determined by the artist's hand, and where, thanks to the transparency, the light penetrates the colour.

3- (page 8) You may visit the village free of charge at any time, the flowering period is from the end of April to the beginning of October.

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 Christophe Raimbault / Conseil départemental d'Indre-et-Loire - Les Conteurs - Gillard et Vincent / CRT Centre-Val de Loire - Isabelle Bardiau - J-C Coutand
 Léonard De Serre - Loïc Lagarde - Olivier Châble - ZooParc de Beauval



Royal City of Loches



Montrésor Castle



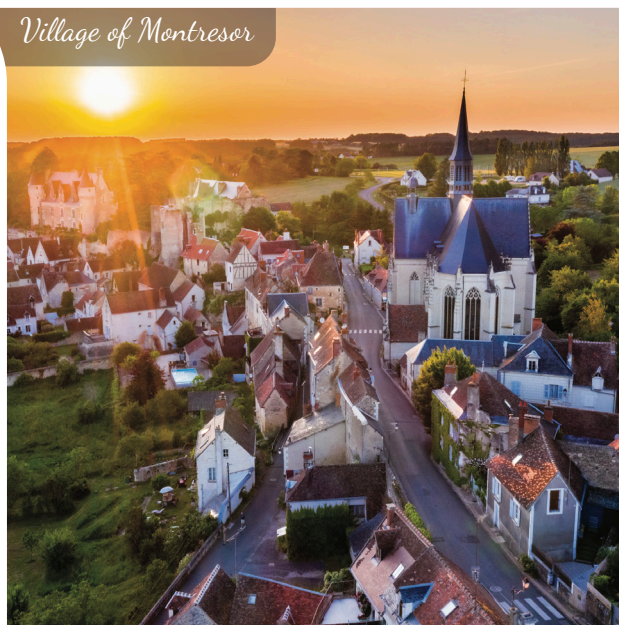
Chédigny village a 'Remarkable Garden'



Corroirie Château-monastery



Loches Keep



Village of Montrésor

Terms and conditions

OFFICE DE TOURISME COMMUNAUTAIRE LOCHES SUD TOURAINE – Place de la Marne – 37600 Loches
Public limited company with a board of directors entered in the Tours Trade & Companies Register under number : IM 037170004
SIRET : 491 062 782 00017 – Code APE : 7990Z As guarantor for carrying out its activity, it has APST and, as insurer SMACE n°011413F
(SMACE, avenue Salvador Allende, 79 031 Niort Cedex 9 France)

In the framework of the law of 13 July 1992, article R 211-12, authorized Tourist Offices can book and sell all types of services, leisure activities and accommodation of general interest as part of their services :

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

Article 1 - Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office provides booking and sales assistance for all types of services relating to travel and stays, in the general interest of the tourist and in relation to their area of activity. It facilitates contact and enhances the enjoyment of the tourists' stay.

Article 2 - Responsibility: Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office is responsible under the terms of the article L.211-16 of the Tourism Code which stipulates: «Any individual or legal entity that engages in the operations mentioned in Article L.211-1 shall automatically be liable to the buyer for the proper performance of the obligations arising from the contract, whether or not the contract has been concluded at a distance and whether or not these obligations are to be performed by themselves or by other service providers, without prejudice to their right of recourse against the latter and within the limit of the compensation provided for by international conventions. However, the individual may be exempt from all or part of its liability by proving that the non-execution or poor execution of the contract is attributable either to the purchaser or to the unforeseeable and insurmountable fact of a third party not involved in the supply of the services provided for in the contract, or in a case of unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

Article 3 - Duration of the service: After the concluded date mentioned in the signed contract, the client shall not under any circumstances remain on the premises once the service has been completed accordingly.

Article 4 - Reservation: The reservation of a service becomes binding when a deposit of 30% of the total price together with a signed copy of the contract, mentioning that it has been read and understood by the client, has been received by Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office prior to the deadline indicated on the booking contract. Telephone or written correspondence shall only be deemed as an expression of interest in a service proposed by Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office. In order for reservations to be confirmed the booking contract must be returned duly signed by the client.

Article 5 - Payment of the balance: The client shall undertake to pay an agreed amount upfront upon presentation of the invoice by the Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office accordingly, the remaining balance, for pre-agreed services, shall be paid one month before the start of the first booked service. Any client who has not paid the balance by the agreed date shall be considered to have cancelled their stay. Consequently, the service shall henceforth be made available for sale again and no refund shall be issued.

Article 6 - Invoicing: Once their services have been completed, Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office shall issue an invoice to the client accordingly.

Article 7 - Last minute bookings: In the event of reservations being made less than 30 days before the start of the service, payment in full should be made at the time of booking.

Article 8 - Vouchers: Upon receipt of full payment for the services purchased, Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office shall send the customer one or more vouchers to be given to each service provider on arrival accordingly.

Article 9 - Arrival: The client must attend on the day and time mentioned on each voucher. In the event of impossibility, the client shall undertake to notify Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office. In the event of a late arrival or last-minute unavoidable problem, the client must notify the service provider whose address and telephone number appear on the voucher.

Article 10 - Cancellation by the client: Any cancellation must be notified by means of a registered and recorded letter to the Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office. In this case, the amount retained by the tourist office shall be the following and shall in no case be less than 50 €:

- Cancellation more than 30 days before the beginning of the service: 10% of the total amount of the payment will be retained;
- Cancellation between the 21st and 30th day inclusive: 25 % of the total amount of the payment will be retained;
- cancellation between the 8th and the 20th day inclusive: 50 % of the total amount of the payment will be retained;
- cancellation between the 2nd and 7th day inclusive: 75 % of the total amount of the payment will be retained;
- Cancellation less than 2 days before the beginning of the service: 100% of the total amount of the payment will be retained.

In the case of non-presentation of one or more participant, at the time and date predefined, no refund will be made, unless the provider decides otherwise. In the event of a reduction in the number of participants before the final balance is settled, a subsequent review of the cost of the trip may be considered (if the number of participants is less than the number indicated on the booking contract).

Article 11 - Cancellation Insurance: Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office can offer the client the possibility of subscribing to an insurance policy covering unforeseen eventualities resulting in a cancellation.

Article 12 - Cancellation of the service: In the event of a cancellation of the service by the client, no refund will be

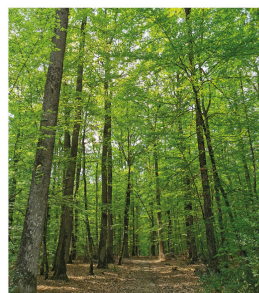
made unless the reason for the cancellation is covered by the client's cancellation insurance policy.

Article 13 - Number of persons: The contract drawn up by Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist Office mentions a specific number of people. If the final number of persons exceeds the capacity stated by a proposed service provider, that provider may refuse any additional customers, terminate the contract (in the latter case, the cost of the service shall remain the same as the original price given by Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office) or an alternative service may be proposed for the additional persons, which may incur extra costs to the client.

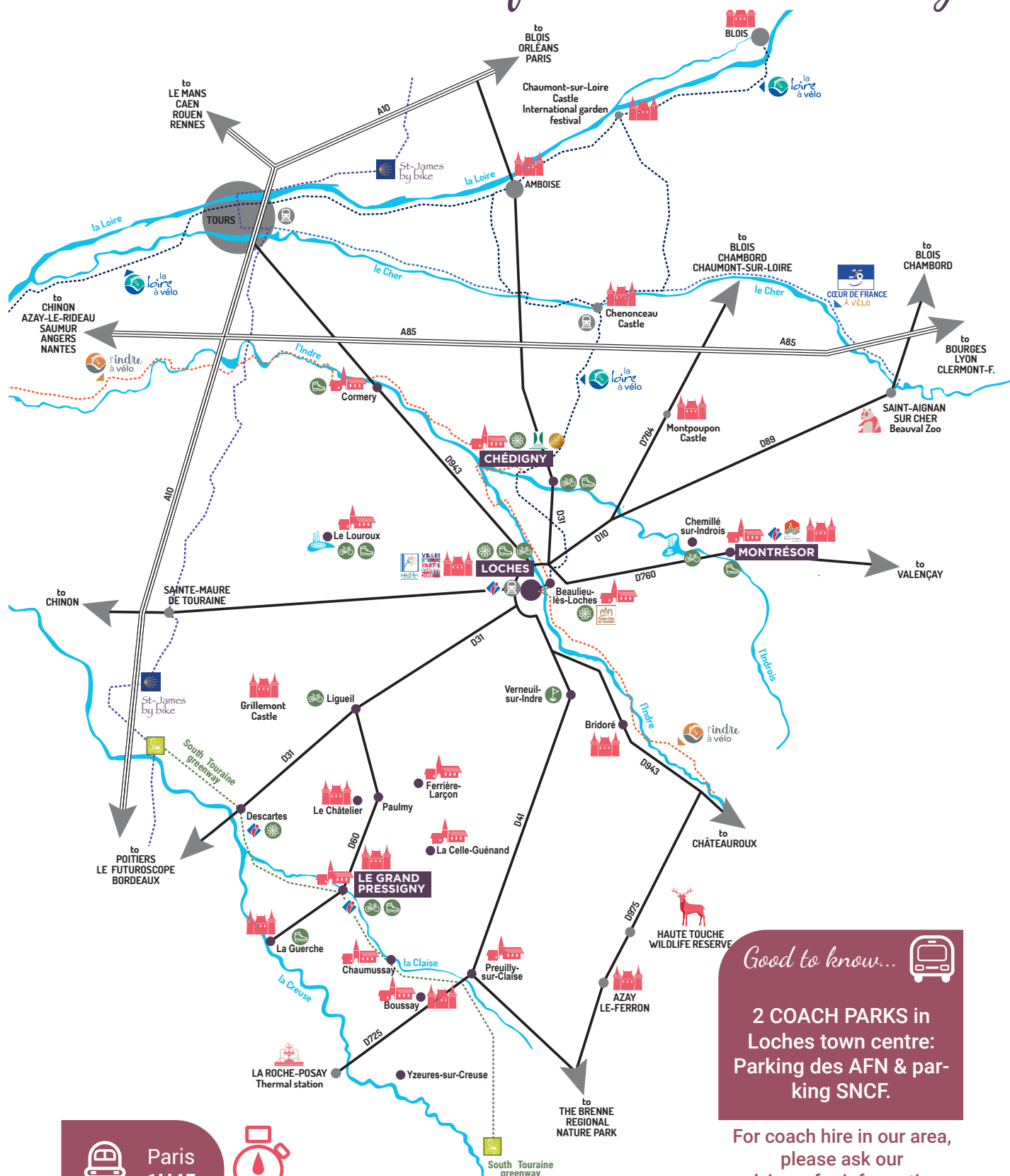
Article 14 - Hotels: Prices are based on two people sharing a room in a bed and breakfast, half board or full board basis. Unless otherwise stated, they do not include drinks. When a sole guest occupies a double room, a single room occupancy supplement shall apply accordingly. On the day of departure, the room must be vacated by midday. The local visitor's tax is included in the price for each reservation.

Article 15 - Complaints: Any complaint relating to a service provider must be sent, as promptly as possible by post, to the Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office, who has sole discretion to make a decision accordingly.

Article 16 - Applicable law: The specific and general conditions of sale are subject to French law. Any dispute relating to their interpretation and/or execution is subject to the French courts, in this case Tours Court of Law.



Secret treasures of the Loire Valley



Good to know...



2 COACH PARKS in
Loches town centre:
Parking des AFN & par-
king SNCF.

For coach hire in our area,
please ask our
advisers for information.



Paris
1H45



Tours
50min

Châteauroux
1H

Poitiers
1H30

Le Mans
2H

Orléans
2H

Nantes
2H30

Paris
3H

Bordeaux
3H30

Loches
Touraine - Châteaux de la Loire

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www.loches-valdeloire.com

#artdeflaner

