Edition 2021

Loches Touraine - Châteaux de la Loire

# Brochure for groups

GUIDED TOURS EXCURSIONS SHORT BREAKS

eaux de la Loir

al de loire

Welcome to Loches Touraine Chateaux de la Loire!

In the Loire Valley, close to Amboise & Chenonceau, an authentic preserved **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.



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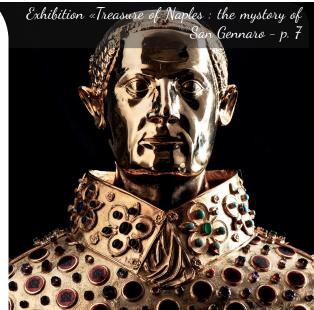
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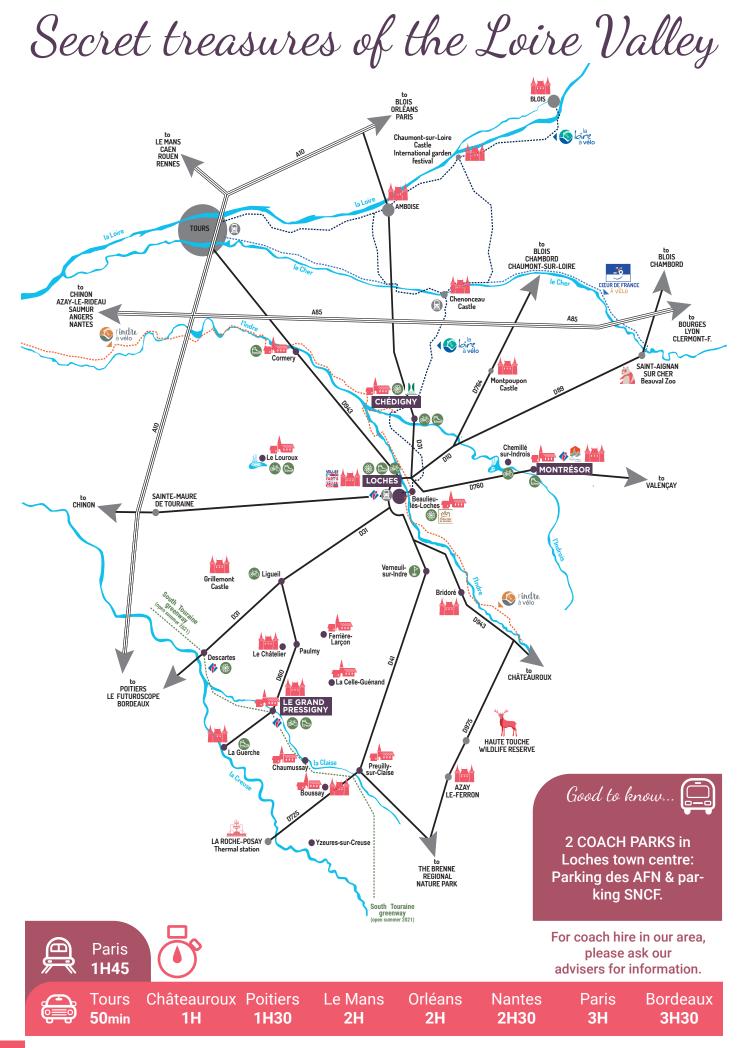
#### Guided tour of Loches - p. 5











## Loches & Beaulieu visits



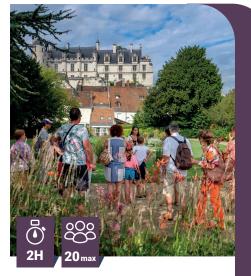
GUIDED TOUR OF THE TOWN OF LOCHES: «A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY».

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 cobbled streets upto the ridge of the medieval fortress.



«THE MEDIEVAL FORTRESS» GUIDED THEMATIC TOUR

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**.

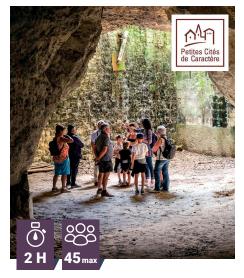


«LOCHES IN ALL SENSES»

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.

Prices: please consult us



TROGLODYTIC-WALK BEAULIEU-LÈS-LOCHES (GUIDED TOUR)

At the entrance to Loches, experience a promenade between hills and troglodytic sites. Explore an **unusual underground heritage** dug by man. Please bring a lamp.



ROYAL CITY OF LOCHES - SELF GUIDED (visit with a histopad [1] -p.12) 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.

Prices: please consult us





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

Enter the home of the landscape painter Emmanuel Lansyer (1835-1893). 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**. A renowned artist, tireless traveller and outstanding collector, 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.

**Free access to**: Sensory devices and explanations in each room (accessible to everyone). At the end of the visit, a «discovery room» enables the young and old to better understand the works, techniques and life of the artist in a fun and entertaining way.



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.



ANIMALIS EXHIBITION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2021 - SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Some medieval animals have been let loose inside the royal city's walls! Whether royal or magical, real or imaginary, rediscover the creatures of the Middle Ages as you would never have imagined them!

The exhibition - trail features **representations of all the animal emblems of the kings of France**. Symbols of power, such as lions, unicorns and other animals, were incorporated into the coats of arms of Middle Age monarchs for their virtues and merits, whether real or imaginary.



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS IN THE LAND OF CASTLES

During the festive season, enjoy the magical Advent atmosphere of this exceptional location.

Every winter, a popular Christmas tale is honoured and a different side of the Royal City is revealed...

## The treasures of Loches à la carte



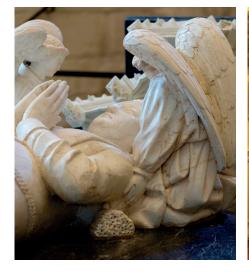


#### TEMPORARY EXHIBITION: TREASURE OF NAPLES, THE SAN GENNARO MYSTERY

From 20th May to 1st October 2021, Loches has the honour of hosting a part of the Treasure of St. Januarius of Naples. Built up over a period of seven centuries and including 21,000 pieces of gold and silverware, jewels, and gold and silver statues that have been given to the patron saint of Naples, **this collection of treasure is one of the richest in the world**, even more so than England's Crown Jewels and those of the Russian Tsars. This extraordinary ensemble rarely leaves its chapel in Naples. Exceptionally, **Loches will present 15 of the most important pieces from this fabulous treasure**, for your enjoyment! A beautiful tribute to the connection that has united Loches and Italy for many centuries.

DISCOVER THE EXCEPTIONAL EXHIBITION «TREASURE OF NAPLES: THE MYSTERY OF SAN GENNARO»

A 1 HOUR VISIT, TO BE COMBINED WITH A VISIT TO ONE OF THE OTHER ARTISTIC TREASURES HOUSED IN LOCHES:



**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.



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.



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.

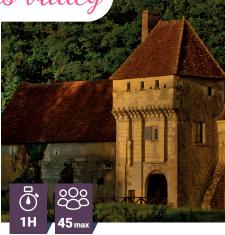


## Indre and Indrois valley



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

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



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!



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.



**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.



GUIDED TOUR OF THE INDROIS VALLEY (VISIT RECCOMMENDED BY BUS [2] - p.12)

Depart from Loches accompanied by your tour guide. Along the way, you will discover **the National Forest of Loches** (the Chartreux Pyramid & the Corroirie du Liget) and visit **the Chartreuse du Liget**, a former monastery founded by Henry II Plantagenet, King of England in the 12th century. The visit continues to Montrésor, one of the «Plus Beaux Villages de France» (Most Beautiful Villages in France). Nestled on the banks of the Indrois river, a rich heritage is waiting to be discovered....





VISIT THE VILLAGE OF MONTRÉSOR 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 (3 p.12), 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 ..



#### 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.

FLORAL WALK IN CHÉDIGNY (GUIDED TOUR [4] - p.12)

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 pictu-resque 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 3000 perennials are plan-ted throughout the village. For visits in a foreign language an interpreter will be needed.



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

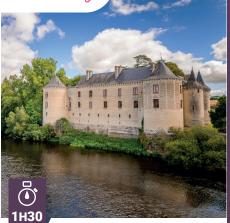
Enhance your experience with an evening stroll during the month of July or August when the village has a completly different atmosphere thanks to the «Nuits Solaires à Montrésor» (Solar Nights in Montrésor). A light and sound trail along the banks of the Indrois river with additional entertainment on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

Creuse and Claise Valley



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

Visit this which museum houses butter' because of the similarity to a Poitou. slab of butter, and the exceptional long flint blades from the 3rd millennium BC.



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

A private property, this castle, standing exceptional Prehistory on the banks of the river Creuse is a rich remarkable example of 14th century archaeological collections from the architecture. The guided tour includes the Palaeolithic period to the Bronze vaulted cellars, the prison, salons and the Age: the real jewels are the «livres de courtyard. A beautiful historical excursion beurre», which translates as 'pound of on the border between Touraine and

 $\bigotimes_{i \neq i}$ GROUP VISITS NOT TO BE MISSED



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.

Gourmet themed visits



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.



REVIVAL OF THE VINEYARDS AT THE DOMAINE DE LA GRENADIÈRE

**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 winegrower 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.



**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.



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

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



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.



AURORE'S BREWERY IN TAUXIGNY

You will discover and taste a 100% local artisanal beer, called Turone, which won an award at the «Concours Général Agricole de Paris».

The creation of these traditional French beers came from a desire to bring together traditional craftsmanship and innovation in subtle combinations: blending wheat and barley malts from the Beauce region, and then adding hops, honey and spices.

#### MEDIEVAL-THEMED LUNCH

Take advantage of a unique setting close to the Logis Royal while enjoying a **medieval inspired culinary experience**. Service in costume!



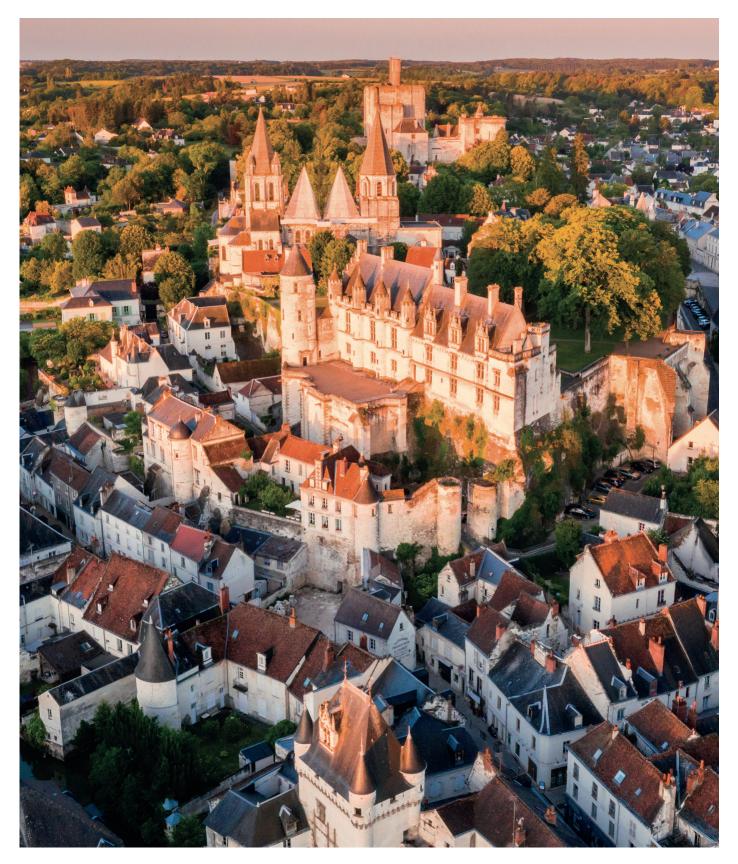
Accessibilty for people with reduced mobility: please contact us TAILOR-MADE PROPOSAL Contact us +44 (0)2 47 91 82 88

Loches



#### DAY OUT AT BEAUVAL ZOO

Visit **Beauval Zoo** and experience an unforgettable day exploring global biodiversity. The breathtaking complex with more than 800 species will inspire you to want to travel! Your trip around the world will take you across the equator, into the tropical jungle of the Equatorial Dome.



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 R + EN + DE + NL + ES + IT + RU

2- (page 8) For coach hire in our area, please ask our advisers for information.

3- (page 9) 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.

4- (page 9) 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.



Specific conditions of sale

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 OF SALE

rticle 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.

cle 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 ope-rations 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 them-selves 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.

4 - Reservation: The reservation of a servi comes 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

be deemed as an expression of interest in a service pro-posed 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 office. In this case, the amount retained by the tourist of the invoice by the Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire office shall be the following and shall in no case be less tourist office accordingly, the remaining balance, for preagreed services, shall be paid one month before the start - Cancellati of the first booked service. Any client who has not paid the service: the balance by the agreed date shall be considered to be retained; the balance by the agreed date shall be considered to conclusive. have cancelled their stay. Consequently, the service shall henceforth be made available for sale again and no refund the balance by the total amount of the payment will be retained; - cancellation between the 8th and the 20th day inclusive: To a state of the total amount of the payment will be retained; - cancellation between the 8th and the 20th day inclusive: - cancellation between the 8th and the 20th day inclusive: - cancellation between the 7th day inclusive: - cancellation between the 8th and the 20th day inclusive: -

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

7 - Last minute bookings: In the event of reservations being made less than 30 days before the start of In the case of non-presentation of one or more participant. 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

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 than 50 €:

- Cancellation more than 30 days before the beginning of the service: 10% of the total amount of the payment will

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. 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).

11 - Cancellation Insurance: Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office can offer the client the Article 9 - Arrival: The client must attend on the day and possibility of subscribing to an insurance policy covering time mentioned on each voucher. In the event of impossi- unforeseen eventualities resulting in a cancellation.

been received by Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire bility, the client shall undertake to notify Loches Touraine Article 12 - Cancellation of the service: In the event of a tourist office *f*) to the deadline indicated on the booking Châteaux de la Loire tourist office. In the event of a late cancellation of the service by the client, no refund will be contract. Telephone or written correspondence shall only arrival or last-minute unavoidable problem, the client must 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 men-tions 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 cus-tomers, 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 of-fice) or an alternative service may be proceed for the fice) or an alternative service may be proposed for the ad-ditional persons, which may incur extra costs to the client.

> Article 14 - Hotels: Prices are based on two people sha ring 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 re servation.

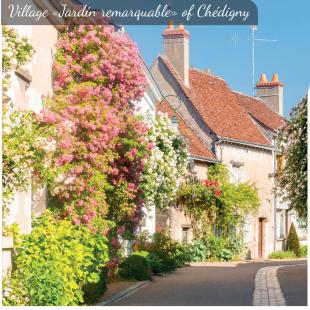
> Article 15 - Complaints: Any complaint relating to a service provider must be sent, as promptly as possible by post, to the Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire tourist office. who has sole discretion to make a decision accordingly

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





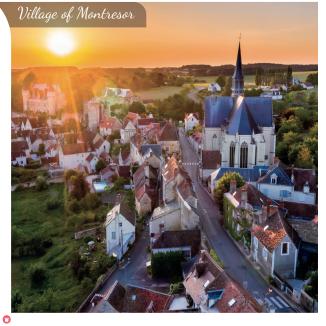






Keep of Loches





# Map of Loches



# Map of Montrésor



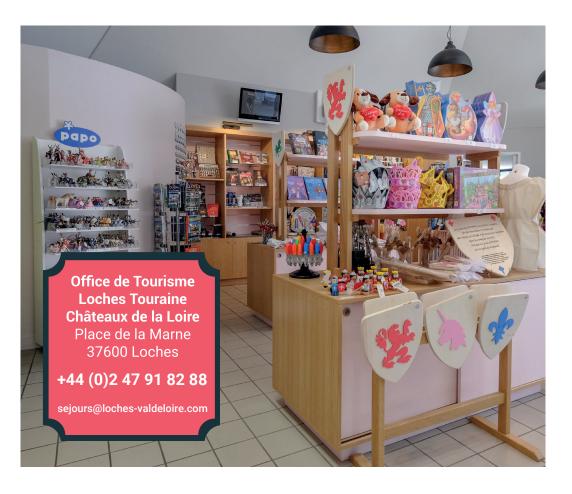
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#### WISH TO TAKE A SOUVENIR OF YOUR VISIT HOME?

4 boutiques to purchase gifts: Loches, Montrésor, Le Grand-Pressigny & Descartes



## www.loches-valdeloire.com

#artdeflaner f 🔿 YouTube

