

To see, to discover

Touraine Nature

If you want your outing to last a little longer on foot, by bike or on horseback, Touraine Nature has 700 km of signposted routes to soak up the fantastic unspoilt nature among forest hills, vineyards, the Loire's banks, lakes, meadows, rivers and more.

Château de Vaujours

It was the seat of La Vallière duchy-peerage and the ruins of this romantic château built between the 12th and the 15th century will take you back in time from Jean de Bueil, nicknamed the « plague of the English », to Louis XIV.

Monument open to the general public.

Cycling loops

Put your best pedal forward with family or friends and hit the countless bike loops and paths to cycle around the Touraine countryside and visit the many landmarks and attractions be they big or small.

Technical information

GPS COORDINATES N 47°54793 - E 0°31952

ELEVATION + 60 m

Accommodation / Catering

Holidays rental, bed and breakfast, campsite

All shops available

Car park place du champ de foire

Swimming and leisure area

Picnic area

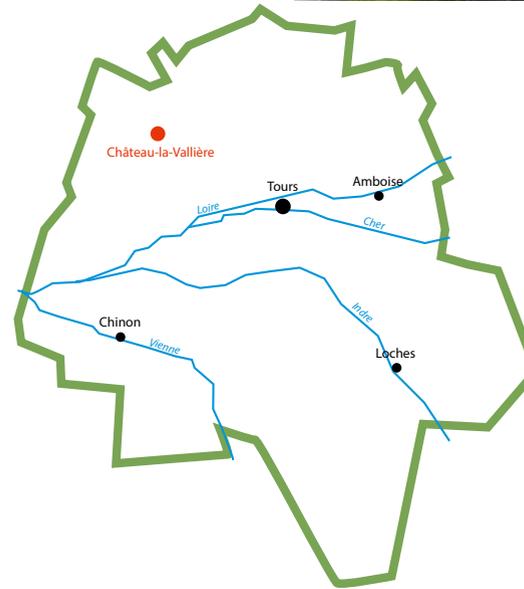
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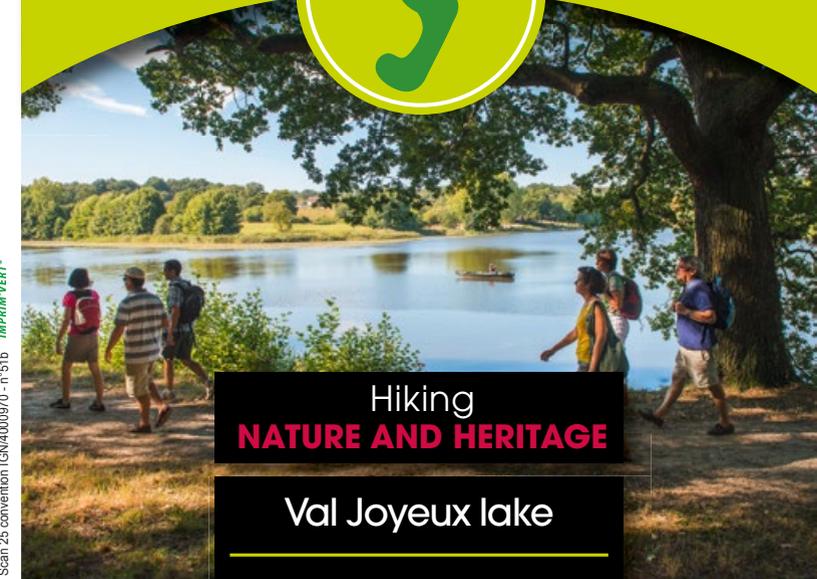


Walking charter

Cherish and respect nature. Listen to it, do not spoil it and do not harm it. Stay on the trail and be discreet. Do not damage plants or undergrowth. Do not smoke in the forest or do not light fires. Do not scare animals. Do not neglect human contact. Respect and get to know this rural world that welcomes you.

This material is funded by the Indre-et-Loire Council as part of the Footpath and Hiking Trail Regional Plan.

If you encounter any problem during the process of your walk, please inform us at sentinellesportsdenature.fr



Hiking
NATURE AND HERITAGE

Val Joyeux lake

**Château-
la-Vallière**

1 h 45 - 6,5 km - easy

TO FIND YOUR WAY

- STRAIGHT ON 
- CHANGE OF DIRECTION 
- WRONG WAY 



-  Picnic area
-  Car park
-  Swimming and leisure
-  Campsite
-  Curiosity
-  Shops
-  Accommodation
-  Meals available
-  Water supply

Château-la-Vallière is a town named after Louis XIV's mistress, Louise de Vallière, whose natural setting is perfect for a walk exploring its once industrial heritage, lake and surrounding countryside.

- 1 Place du Champ de Foire**
The yellow route starts on Place du Champ de Foire. There's a buzzing market here every Monday all year round. Go on the street of the same name on the left and go straight on along Rue des Portes de Fer. Within the borders of Anjou and Touraine, there was already a fortress overlooking the **Fare** River below in the Middle Ages.
- 2 Forges district**
Turn left onto a little lane to reach the **Val Joyeux** banks that you follow on the right. You're walking by the former **forge district**. The establishment made over 150 tons of iron

- per year in the mid-18th century. The forge was replaced by bark and fuller's mills (cloth cleaning) then a tannery and saw mill.
- 3 Beach**
Pass the dyke to reach the beach. This newly updated leisure area is very popular among tourists and locals in summer. The swimming area has lifeguards in July and August with children's games, pedalos, a picnic area, beach volleyball, boules, tennis, bar and more.
- 4 Lake's left bank**
Continue on the lake's edge. You'll reach the only boat launch site. Combustion engines are not allowed here. The site is ideal for fishing carnivorous fish: pike, zander, wels catfish etc. The large building on the other side of the lake used to be a hospital founded by Louise de la Vallière in 1675 and is now a retirement home.

- 5 Undergrowth**
Leave the banks and go into the undergrowth in the shade of the oak, beech and chestnut trees then go along a grassy path lined with Touraine's signature hedgerows known as «bouchures». Don't be surprised to see markers along the trail. An orientation course has recently been designed here.
- 6 Stone Menhir**
The **Stone Menhir** stands before you in the middle of a clearing. This puddingstone (conglomerate of pebbles surrounded by natural cement) is 3.7m high but the underground section is almost 3m deep. It's the tallest menhir in the region. The meadow around you is home to beautiful **burnt-tip orchids** in spring.
- 7 Fare Bridge**
Go to the end of the lake and onto the little bridge over the Fare. The source of the trout-packed river is a few kilometres away and is listed as a category 1 waterway. Turn left and continue your walk by woods made up of willows, hornbeams and oaks.
- 8 Château-la-Vallière forest**
You're on the edge of Château-la-Vallière forest. The forest area covers over half of the communal territory, mainly around Château de Vaujours. The wood was used in ovens to heat forges and glassmakers.
- 9 Lake's right bank**
Stroll along the path winding along the banks and natural escarpment of the Fare Valley. The tour of the 36 hectare lake is at an end. Turn right onto the former Rue de l'Abreuvoir then right again onto Rue Basse Bretagne.
- 10 Notre-Dame Church**
Go onto Rue de la Citadelle and by **Notre-Dame Church**. It was rebuilt in the 19th century and still has its Roman doorway and oculus from the 11th century. Turn left onto Rue Lezay Marnesia and go past the large house surrounded by an English-country garden that's open to the public. Feel free to have a stroll. This 18th century building has been home to the **Town Hall** since 1991.
- 11 Rue Monconseil**
Before returning to the start point on Rue Monconseil, have a walk around the town centre which is now free of heavy traffic following the recent deviation.