

Season

From end of March to middle of November.

We recommend you to book this tour 3 or 4 months before the departure date if you plan to walk it in summer time. Great demand and few rooms!



Difficulty: grade 2

This tour presents no major difficulty. You walk along the river most of the time and you leave it for undulating terrain. There are no prolonged ascents and descents and no steep gradients. One stage is 20 km along the river and the terrain is flat. It's easy to follow the path running along the river and the other paths are well waymarked.

Itinerary

8-day and 7-night self-guided walking holidays

Day 1 : Arrival at SELLES SUR CHER, a beautiful small medieval city that expanded around a monastery long since razed. The church has been rebuilt in Romanesque style but was defaced by restorations made in 19th C. Selles holds a chateau built on the bank of the Cher river on the remains of a feudal fortress dating back to 10th C.

Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel (all facilities in the room)

Day 2 : SELLES - SAINT AIGNAN SUR CHER (16 km). After visiting the château and abbey, you will follow along the canal du Berry (Berry canal), pass at the foot of Chatillon-sur-Cher village, and cross through the hamlets of Les Martinières and Noyers-sur-Cher. You will see the ancient Saint Lazare Chapel before crossing the Cher to arrive at St Aignan where is the hotel. Don't miss visiting Saint Aignan Church and the château dominating the valley. Take off through the city in discovery of these old streets which hold beautiful gothic and half-timbered houses

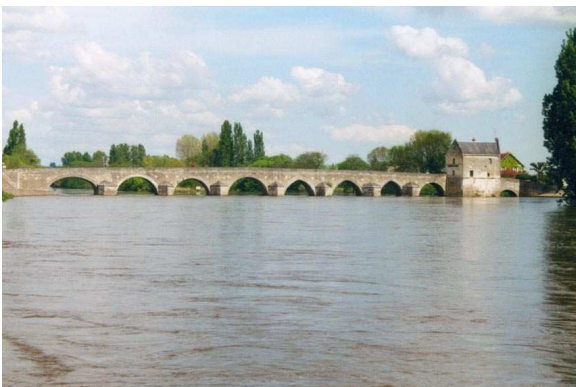
Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel (all facilities in the room)



Day 3: SAINT AIGNAN - THESEE LA ROMAINE (16 km) After crossing Saint Aignan, you will walk through the countryside to Mareuil-sur-Cher. You will continue on, discovering several typical hamlets along the route before arriving at the Cher and Thésée-La-Romaine, an old city built on the river banks.

Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel (all facilities in the room).

Day 4 : THESEE LA ROMAINE – MONTRICHARD (16 km). The day will start with the visit of the Roman ruins. Thésée (once called Tascacia) was, at first, a large warehouse along the river and a famous center for pottery. You will next



pass through the village of Monthou to visit Le Gué Pan Château, sitting peacefully in a quiet little valley. You will continue on through prairies, forest and vineyards to descend to the village of Bourré, where you will catch up with the tow-path along the Cher which will lead you to Montrichard. You will visit the city, its keep, the Sainte Croix Church and the ancient homes - Half-board accommodation in a one-star hotel (all conveniences in the room)

Day 5 : MONTRICHARD – CHENONCEAUX (17 km). In the morning you will walk along the river to reach Chissay en Touraine where you cross the river to Saint Georges-sur-Cher and Franceuil villages, walking some paths running through the country. You will then head to the Chenonceau château and its vast domain. You will

again cross the river to reach the beautiful village of Chenonceaux. You will spend the afternoon visiting this lovely chateau and the surrounding gardens - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 6 : CHENONCEAUX – ST MARTIN LE BEAU (19 km). You will walk along the Cher river, heading to Bléré, charming small town with its central square at the foot of the church. You will see a beautiful chapel located in the North of the city. You continue on, walking the tow path to St Martin Le Beau on the other bank. Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 7 : Walk around St MARTIN (20km) From St Martin village, once time again you will return to the Cher bank and walk the towpath to Veretz. You will cross the river and returning to your hotel by the other bank. In this stroll you will admire some beautiful chateaus and the well restored watermill of Nitray - Half-board accommodation in the same two-star hotel.



Access to and from

Outward journey

By train : Direct links with Tours or Saint Pierre des Corps from the Paris Montparnasse train station by TGV. Connection at Tours for Selles sur Cher

By car : Take the A10 motorway to Blois. Skirt around the town, cross the Loire River and take the D956 road to Selles sur Cher,

Where to park : free unguarded car parks in Selles

Inward journey

By train : To return, several links between St Martin and Tours or Saint Pierre des Corps, then to Paris by TGV.

Getting back your car : train from St Martin to Selles

Accommodation

7 nights with accommodation in 1 or 2-star hotels on half-board basis

Accommodation is normally in large bed or twin-bedded rooms, with en-suite facilities (at least shower, washbasin and toilet) when available, which is 95% of the time. However, you can stay in remote spots or small villages where there is little or no choice of accommodations and where facilities may be limited. In this case, you will share a bathroom or shower room and toilets with some other people on the same storey.

Picnic lunches are not included in the tour but are available from the hotel on request the previous evening, alternatively picnic materials can be bought at the stop village or at each of the towns and villages along the route. We indicate in the route notes where there are suitable restaurants or cafés for lunch stops. We recommend you to carry food and drinks if there are none convenient to the trail.

Included

- o Twin share accommodation with private facilities
- o Baggage transfer between hotels (except for STD option)
- o Route notes and maps
- o 7 dinners
- o Emergency phone number (8:00am to 7:00pm every day)

Not included

- o Visa fees, transportation fees to and from the walk area
- o Insurance (strongly recommended on all trips)
- o Transfers except those mentioned above
- o Drinks
- o Additional meals
- o Spending of personal nature e.g. laundry, souvenirs, phone calls...

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