



LES ABRONS, *Voyages à cheval*

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FRANCE

A Royal Weekend

3 days/2 nights – The South of the Val de Loire



In the South of the Touraine area, you'll ride through an authentic countryside with a rich variety. Here, lesser renowned castles and romanesque churches are scattered in a wooded rolling landscape. Outdoor pursuits mingle with cultural wealth, in these grounds full of traditions going back to Roman times. The village of Montrésor is a real jewel high above the Indrois river. The castle towers above this charming place. The Indrois valley is famous for its beautiful walking paths and its landmarks. Loches... deep in the heart of the Indre valley on the top of a rocky bluff, is a city of art and history. Its astonishing treasures make it an exceptional medieval town in the heart of the Châteaux de la Loire valley.



You may arrive at the Montrichard railway station on the day before departure. We'll take you at 6.30 to the Vallagon castle.

Day 1:

Breakfast at 8. You will meet and get acquainted with your horse. Departure around 10. We'll ride through the small semi troglodytic village of Bourré before reaching the Cher valley. We'll then head South and ride close to the Aigues Vives Abbey, then through a wooded landscape with meadows and streams we'll get to an outstanding place: the Monpoupon castles and houses. We'll picnic there and visit the castle. In the afternoon, we'll go over flatlands to reach the village of Montrésor along beautiful cantering alleys. Montrésor (one of the most beautiful villages of France) is sitting on the banks of the Indrois river in which the remains of the double walls of this ancient fortress and its Renaissance castle are reflected. In the village, the walls of the houses are made of white tufa stone or half timbered and are sometimes semi troglodytic. Our guest house is on the banks of the Indrois river; it's a former watermill. We'll visit the village of Montrésor in the evening.

Day 2:

Breakfast at 8. Departure around 9.30. We'll leave the village of Montrésor and ride along the Indrois river on a shaded lane, pass by the gallo-roman aqueduct, then the Chemillé ponds, and we'll get to the beautiful Loches forest. Rightaway we'll arrive in front of the Chartreuse du Ligé, we'll look at this site from the horses and proceed through the forest.

We'll picnic in Loches and go back in time to admire one of the most beautiful walled cities of France; we'll visit the keep and the royal house. A short afternoon leg in the forest before reaching our stop at the edge of the woods.

Day 3:

Breakfast at 8. Departure around 9.30. We'll leave the Loches forest to cross the Indrois valley and reach the small village of Luzillé on flatland. Picnic in the village. We'll follow the Luzillé valley upstream on a small path to the village of Francueil where we'll be among vineyards and the banks of the Cher river. We'll go through the typical Port de Chissey and ride across the city of Montrichard before reaching our departure place, Chateau de Vallagon.

You may stay an extra night at the castle and leave in the morning. We'll take you to the station at 9 o'clock.

