



TOURIST INFORMATION GUIDE

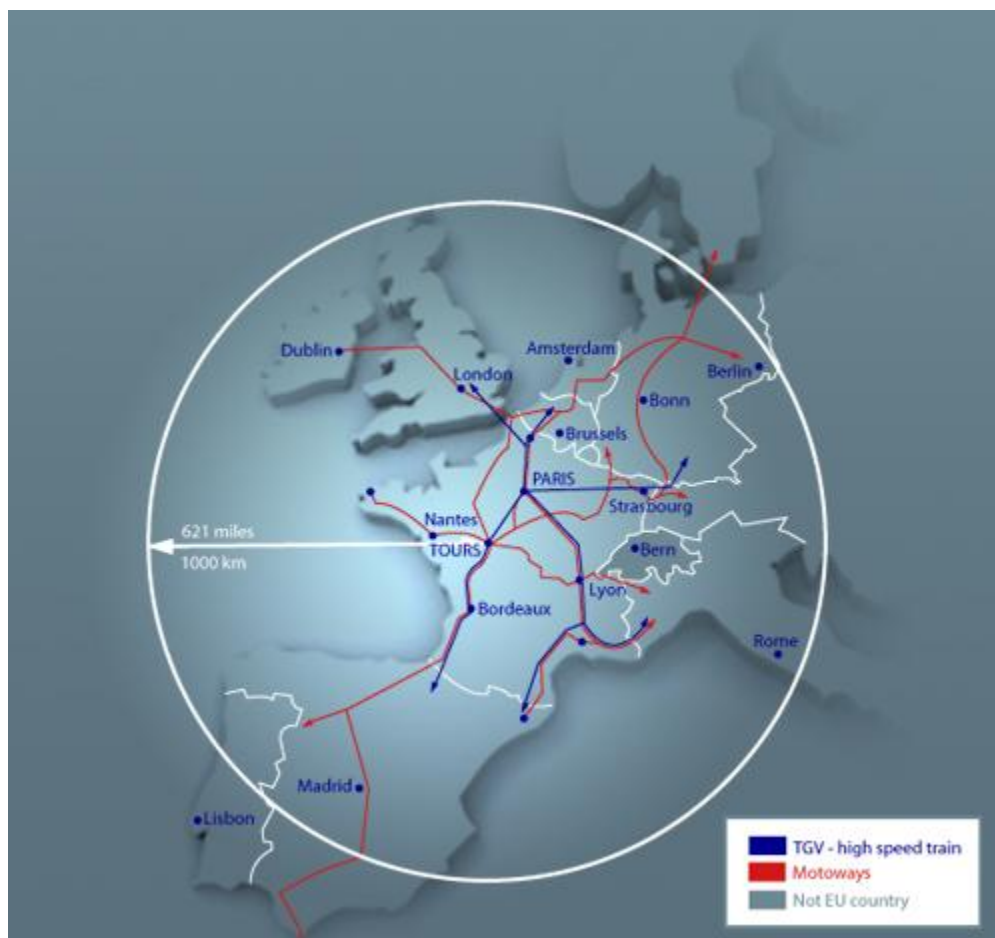
TOURS
2012



TOURS in EUROPE

An important crossroads in the centre of France, situated at the heart of a European communication network, Tours is one of the major centers of France. Tours is at only 55 minutes from the centre of Paris by high-speed train, and directly connected by train to all the major airports.

Modern motorway networks link Tours to other major centers of France



From TOURS :

Paris : 240km

Motorway : 2 H 10

Train : 55 mn

Bordeaux : 330km

Motorway : 3 H 15

Train : 2 H 30

Nantes : 196km

Motorway : 1 H 45

Train : 1 H 30

Lyon : 432km

Motorway : 4 H 00

Train : 3 H 30

By Plane:

LYON: 1 H 55

LONDON: 1 H 15

CITY CENTER MAP



A BIT OF HISTORY....



The entrance of Tours in the eighteenth century from the north

Tours is a city with a unique historical past, several times in history it was the main city of France. Since the **Roman Empire** it was recognized as the capital of the Third Lyonnaise, it was an attractive place for pilgrims in the **Middle Ages** and was the residence of the kings during the **Renaissance**. The city subsequently lost its importance when the kings and their court returned to Paris. However, it is in Tours that governments have taken refuge in difficult times, either during the **War of 1870** or at the beginning of **World War II**.

This historical position explains the presence of numerous **castles** in **Touraine**: they were built by kings of France or by their Ministers. The best known are **Amboise**, **Chenonceau**, **Loches**, **Villandry**, **Azay le Rideau**, **Luynes**, **Langeais** and **Ussé**. Beyond Touraine, the entire region along the Loire and its tributaries hosts many other castles such as **Chambord**, **Blois**, **Chaumont**, **Cheverny**, etc...

... SCIENCE...

At the heart of the Val de Loire, the World Heritage sites of humanity, Amboise and Chambord, offer a destination rich in History. Three monuments, symbols of the Renaissance, the Royal Château of Amboise, the Château of Clos Lucé and the Château of Chambord, enable us to follow in the footsteps of **Leonardo da Vinci** invited to stay in France by François I.

In Amboise, at the Château of Clos Lucé, we can visit his final residence and his inventions put on show in the park of the château. Three hundred metres from here is the Royal Château, headquarters for the Court of France, which during the Renaissance welcomed numerous artists, among whom was Leonardo da Vinci, buried here in Saint-Hubert's chapel.

At the Château of Chambord, it is the expression of Royal power which we find in the style of architecture ordered by King François I, with the inspiration of the Italian master in terms of symmetry and technical innovations such as the "double spiral staircase".

... AND FORESTRY...

Tours administratively depends on Centre region, one of the 22 regions of metropolitan France. This region is moderately wooded (almost one million hectares, i.e. a forest cover of approx. $\frac{1}{4}$). Its forest is mainly private (86% of its surface) and deciduous (84% of its surface).

Oak is the main species in the region as it is in the rest of France. In Centre region oak produces its best wood and regenerates the most easily. It is present under both pedunculate form (*Quercus pedunculata* Ehrh.) and sessile form (*Quercus sessiliflora* Salisb. or *Quercus petraea* Matt.) whose ecological needs are quite different (the first one is the most threatened by climate change). Other present species are chestnut tree, hornbeam and pines.

Beyond silviculture, hunting takes a large place in the region, in particular stag hunting with hounds.

Roundwood volumes harvested every year amount to approx. three million cubic meters, from the lowest quality (fire wood) to the best one (veneer logs). They represent only a part of what could be potentially removed. Forest sector employs almost 20,000 people in silviculture, forest operations, sawmills, barrel production, panel production, furniture, carpentry, joinery, packaging, etc...

MUSEUMS

Musée des Beaux Arts (Fine Arts Museum)



18 Place F. Sicard -
02.47.05.68.73
Hours: 9.00-12.45 am
and 2.00-6.00 pm
Open all year every
day except Tuesday
Closed on 1st January,
1st May, 14 July,
1st and 11 november,
25 december

Formerly the Archbishop's Palace (17th and 18th c.). Fine pieces of furniture and considerable collection of French and foreign paintings from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Mantegna (15th c.) (photo J), Rubens, Rembrandt (17th c.), Boucher (18th c.), Delacroix, Degas (19th c.).

Hotel Gouin (Formerly Hotel Gardette, 16th c.)



Touraine
Archeological
Museum
25 rue du
Commerce -
02.47.66.22.32
Hours:
Closed
The museum is being
renovated.

Touraine Archeological Society collection: prehistory, Gallo-Roman and medieval archeology, medieval, Renaissance, 17th and 18th century arts. The most beautiful example of Renaissance domestic architecture in Tours.

History of Tours Workshop



Château Royal de
Tours

Ancienne résidence
des rois de France

25 Avenue André
Malraux -

02.47.64.90.52

Wednesday and
Saturday: 2.00-6.00 pm

Open from 1st January
to 31 december

Permanent display of the history of the city and temporary exhibitions - Cycle "to live in TOURS", all year round, on request for teachers, students and groups. The organization of guided visits for exhibitions is possible.

Musée du Compagnonnage



8, Rue Nationale - 02
47 21 62 20

16.06-15.09: 9.00-12.30
am et 2.00-6.00 pm

16.09-15.06: until
12.00, closed on
Tuesday

Closed on 1st
January, 1st May, 14
July,

1st and 11 november,
25 december

This museum is unique in the world. It contains the masterpieces, tools, illustrated and written records of the Tour de France journeymen since 1840. Last visitors admitted 30 minutes before closing time.

Touraine Wine Museum



16 Rue Nationale -
02.47.61.07.93.

Hours: 9.00-12.00 am
et 2.00-6.00 pm

Open everyday
except Tuesday

Closed on 1st
January, 1st May, 14
July,

1st and 11
november, 25
december

History, guilds, feasts, cenology, wine-growing and making, wine producers, related activities. Last visitors admitted 30 minutes before closing time.

Natural History Museum



3 rue du Président
Merville -

02.47.64.13.31

Tues, Fri: 10.00-12.00
am and 2.00-6.00 pm

Saturday and
Sunday: 2.00-7.00 pm

Closed on 1st
January, 1st May,
14 July and 25
december

Formerly the Tours bailiff's tribunal, 18th century. Museum present the natural history of Touraine. Temporary exhibitions.

Musée du Gemmail



Hôtel Raimbault -
Vieux-Tours

7 rue du Mûrier -
02.47.61.01.19

Hours: 2.00-6.30 pm
everydays

From Easter to
October 15th except
Monday

Low season : by
reservation for groups

Enamel gem museum and its 12th-century underground chapel. Museum : Exhibition of 70 "Art of Light" gems made by 20th-century glass artists. Visits for groups on appointment all year round.

St Martin Museum



3 rue Rapin -
02.47.64.48.87

Hours: 9.30-12.30 am
et 2.00-5.30 pm

Open everydays
except Monday,
Tuesday

Closed on 1st May ,
14 July, and 25 Dec
and from mid-
November to mid-
March

The main events in the life of St Martin. History of the site and the various buildings erected here since the first tomb was laid.

Military Service Corps Museum



Rue du Plat d'Etain -
02.47.77.33.07

Hours: 2.00-5.30 pm

Open Monday to
Friday

from September 1st to
July 31st

Closed on 1st January
and 25 December

Remains of the Abbey of Beaumont; collections of arms, pennants, uniforms, insignia illustrating the history of the Service Corps since its was formed till our days.

GUIDED TOURS



Lecturers of "Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire" suggest some tours of the city.
Spot the letter (between brackets) of each tour to identify it in the guided tours timetable.

[Download](#) the guided tours timetable (Pdf)

VISIT OF TOURS (G)

Duration : 2H - Adult : 5,60 € - Child : 4,60 €
A pedestrian tour in the heart of this protected area

DISCOVERY VISITS

The Compagnonnage (trade guild journeymen) museum (O)

Duration: 2H - Adult: 8,60 € - Child: 7,60 €

Tours is one of the essential stopovers for the young craftsmen seeking to acquire expertise.

Renaissance Tours (R)

Duration: 2H - Adult: 8,60 € - Child: 7,60 €

While fighting for the kingdom of Naples, Louis XII discovered Renaissance Art.

Tours by night – (O)

Duration: 1H30 - Adult: 9,00 € - Child: 7,00 €

Discover the illuminations of the monuments at Tours.

THEMATIC VISITS

Antique Tours (A)

Duration: 2H - Adult: 5,60 € - Child: 4,60 €

Tours was founded in the 1st century by the Romans.

Introduction to the Fine Art Museum of Tours (B)

Duration 1H30 – Adult: 5,60 € - Child: 4,60 €

In the heart of a superb garden in French style, crowned with a magnificent cedar, the former Archbishop's palace guards the famous collections of the Fine Arts Museum.

Victor Laloux (L)

Duration: 2H – Adult: 5,50 € - Child: 4,50 €

Visit of three monuments: the railway station, the Town Hall and the St. Martin Basilica.

Saint-Martin (M)

Duration: 2H - Adult: 5,60 € - Child: 4,60 €

Ever since the Middle Ages, all around the Chateauneuf area a rich quarter of craftsmen and shopkeepers has flourished in the shadow of this important site of Pilgrimage, the tomb of Saint Martin of Tours.

Historical Gardens (P)

Duration: 1H30 – Adult: 5,60 € - Child: 4,60 €

Under the Second Empire, landscaped gardens made their appearance in the major cities of France.

Saint-Gatien cathedral (C)

Duration: 1H30 – Adult: 5,60 € - Child: 4,60 €

Discover the magnificent cathedral, built from the XII to the XVI centuries.



The City Hall

***Trips by minibus in the Loire Valley
(Click on the links for more details)***

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ ACCO-DISPO | High Season |
| ■ ALIENOR | High season |
| ■ QUART DE TOURS | High season |
| ■ SAINT ELOI EXCURSIONS | High season |
| ■ TOURAINE EVASION | High season |

Loire Valley Castles

Click on the links for more information on each site

[ABBAYE ROYALE DE FONTEVRAUD](#)

[CHATEAU D'AMBOISE](#)

[CHATEAU D'ANGERS](#)

[CHATEAU D'AZAY LE FERRON](#)

[CHATEAU D'AZAY LE RIDEAU](#)

[CHATEAU DE BEAUREGARD](#)

[CHATEAU DE BLOIS](#)

[CHATEAU DE LA BOURDAISIÈRE](#)

[CHATEAU DE BREZE](#)

[CHATEAU DE BRISSAC](#)

[CHATEAU DE LA BUSSIÈRE](#)

[CHATEAU DE CANDE](#)

[CHATEAU DE CHAMBORD](#)

[CHATEAU DE CHAMPCHEVRIER](#)

[CHATEAU DE CHATEAUDUN](#)

[CHATEAU DE LA CHATONNIÈRE](#)

[CHATEAU DE CHAUMONT SUR LOIRE](#)

[CHATEAU DE CHENONCEAU](#)

[CHATEAU DE CHEVERNY](#)

[CHATEAU DE CHINON](#)

[CHATEAU DE LA FARINIÈRE](#)

[CHATEAU DE FOUGERES SUR BIEVRE](#)

[CHATEAU DE GIZEUX](#)

[CHATEAU DU GRAND PRESSIGNY](#)

[CHATEAU DE L'ISLETTE](#)

[CHATEAU DE JALLANGES](#)

[CHATEAU DE LANGEAIS](#)

[LOGIS ROYAL DE LOCHES](#)

[CHATEAU DU LUDE](#)

[CHATEAU DE MEUNG SUR LOIRE](#)

[CHATEAU DE MONTPOUPON](#)

[CHATEAU DE MONTREUIL-BELLAY](#)

[CHATEAU DE MONTSOREAU](#)

[CHATEAU DE NITRAY](#)

[CHATEAU DU PLESSIS-BOURRE](#)



Amboise



Azay Le
Rideau



Blois



Chambord



Chaumont
Sur Loire



Chenonceau



Langeais

[CHATEAU DE RIGNY-USSE](#)

[CHATEAU DU RIVAU](#)

[CHATEAU DE SACHE](#)

[CHATEAU DE SAUMUR](#)

[CHATEAU DE TALCY](#)

[CHATEAU DE TROUSSAY](#)

[CHATEAU DE VALENCAY](#)

[CHATEAU DE VALMER](#)

[CHATEAU DE VILLANDRY](#)

Rigny-Ussé



Villandry

