

Sites not to be missed in Southern Touraine



- Loches Touraine Châteaux de la Loire Tourist Offices
- Main roads
- Cycle route N°49 - Indre by bike
- Euro Cycle route N°6 - Loire by bike
- Cycle route - St James by bike
- South Touraine Greenway
- Remarkable Garden mark
- Golden Flower award for towns and villages in bloom
- Most Beautiful Villages in France mark
- Small City of Character
- City of Art and History
- Most Beautiful Detours in France
- Station Verte - ecotourism mark
- Train station



South Touraine Greenway FROM DESCARTES TO TOURNON-SAINT-PIERRE

In the heart of the Creuse and Claise valleys, the South Touraine's Greenway provides an access to a lush and inviting natural environment, ideal for getting away from it all. Hidden treasures are revealed along the way: beautiful villages, castles, mills and even English-style gardens... Stretching 26 miles the secure route is perfect for all, whether on foot, bicycle or in a 'Rosalie' (covered quadricycle).

Off for a leisurely stroll!

The 26 miles of former railway line crosses the villages, Descartes, Abilly, Grand-Pressigny, Chaumussay, Boussay, Preuilly-sur-Claise, Bossay-sur-Claise and Tournon-Saint-Pierre. This is a route that can be enjoyed without much effort, as the gradients do not go over 3%.



A variety of links

The greenway connects to a large number of short rambling circuits and signposted cycle loops that enable you to explore the unspoilt countryside and rich local heritage.



Boussay

The hidden pearl of the South Touraine! Situated in an area of rolling green countryside, Boussay offers a bucolic stroll between beautiful houses with their distinctive roofs and a pleasant promenade in the grounds of the very attractive castle, which are accessible all year round.



Ferrière-Larçon

One of the most unusual villages in Southern Touraine! Nestled in the heart of beautiful natural surroundings, the village is full of charm and history, with numerous cave dwellings, as well as its architectural heritage. The St-Mandé-St-Jean church is one of the most interesting in Touraine.



Chaumussay

This pretty village, set between the winding banks of the Claise, is an excellent place to unwind. Enjoy the gentle ripples of the weir and St-Marc fountain. The Romanesque church has a perfectly preserved apse. There is also a beautiful picnic area, which is partly covered and offers a refreshing stopover on the river bank.



6 beautiful villages TO SEE



Le Louroux

An atmosphere of serenity surrounds this authentic village where an impressive fortified priory dominates. The tithe barn, the prior's lodge, the dovecote and the mill are certain to enchant you!



Preuilly-sur-Claise

A village steeped in history, which still retains a medieval feel and where the elegant silhouette of the Saint-Pierre abbey church with its glazed tile roofs can be admired. Numerous listed buildings bear witness to the remarkable heritage of this village.



Cormery

Located between Loches and Tours, Cormery has an ancient Benedictine abbey founded in 791 among its key monuments. Bordered by the Indre River, the town has preserved some of its 15th century buildings and has a rich cultural heritage. Their unique macarons are also worth checking out.

Chédigny AND ITS 'GOLDEN FLOWER'

Chédigny is the only village in France to be awarded the «Remarkable Garden» mark and the Golden Flower award for the highest distinction for towns and villages in bloom. Over the years, the villagers have transformed this peaceful village into a lush garden where 1,000 rose bushes and more than 4,000 perennials flourish. Also worth a visit: the Pastor's Garden and its vegetable garden, and the wetland meadow trail.



The Rose Festival

In May the village hosts an annual Rose Festival, which attracts many visitors who flock to admire the remarkable collection of roses in full bloom and to buy plants from carefully chosen exhibitors.

The Presbytery Garden

Within the walls of the presbytery, you will find hundreds of rare perennial and annual plants, fruit trees, a magnificent tree, medicinal plants growing in the apothecary square and in the 'carré bouquetier' a vegetable garden featuring ancient or forgotten vegetables.



Montrésor A VILLAGE PERFECT FOR A STROLL

Classified as one of the «Most Beautiful Villages in France», Montrésor has a unique charm combining a wealth of heritage with that of the Indrois valley. With its 19th century covered market, which houses a small but remarkable Gemmail museum under its roof, castle, collegiate church, picturesque houses and riverside stroll, Montrésor is a very special destination.

The castle

Founded in the 11th century by Foulques Nerra, redesigned during the Renaissance by Imbert de Bastarnay, a trusted friend to four kings of France, the Polish Count Branicki acquired the castle in 1849 and restored it in the Napoleon III style. A benefactor and great traveller, he endowed his castle with numerous works of art by great masters.



The Balcons de l'Indrois

A bucolic walk along the river with a view of the village, the fortress and the castle. Every evening during July and August, as night falls, the same promenade becomes the setting for the **Nuits Solaires**® (free).



Beaulieu-lès-Loches A LITTLE TOWN WITH CHARACTER

A wander around Beaulieu-lès-Loches will enable you to discover the abbey, St Laurent's church, which is now a cultural space, the remains of the former abbey, beautiful period houses, poetic gardens and mills on the banks of the canal. Designated as a «Petite Cité de Caractère», the village also boasts a wide range of cultural activities: contemporary art festival, a music scene, summer guinguette, festivals...

The Holy Trinity Abbey

This grandiose monument, built in white limestone, dominates the valley with its 64-metre high spire. Founded by Foulques Nerra in the 11th century, it has suffered damage over time and during wars, but has managed to survive the centuries. The ancient abbey buildings are now home to the town hall.



The Prairies du Roy and the Beaux Lieux exhibition

The Prairies, an ecotourism site spans 240 hectares between Loches and Beaulieu, providing a wealth of flora and fauna as well as an art trail entitled «Les Beaux Lieux» (Beautiful Places). Nature workshops for all ages animate the site. Art exhibits can be admired by visitors in the side streets of Beaulieu.



Loches AND ITS HISTORICAL CENTRE

As a town dedicated to Art and History, Loches gives you an insight into a 1000 years of history. Stroll through cobbled streets and discover the town's Renaissance buildings, magnificent Royal City and beautiful gardens. The town owes part of its rich heritage to the ancient trade route linking France with Spain. The commercial heritage is still very much alive today with a lively bustling town centre.



The keep and the ramparts

Built by Foulques Nerra in the 11th century it has dominated the Indre valley ever since. Coveted by Richard the Lionheart and Philippe Auguste, it was the object of bitter fighting. It remains one of the finest examples of European medieval defensive architecture. A visit with a Histopad® immerses you in its history.

The Royal Logis

The Royal Logis of Loches, constructed from the 13th century onwards, is a magnificent example of medieval architecture. It was within the confines of the Logis Royal that Joan of Arc persuaded Charles VII to be crowned King in Reims. The palace's destiny was also shaped by the presence of both Agnès Sorel and Anne of Brittany.



Saint-Ours collegiate church

The church was constructed in the 12th century and is topped with two octagonal pyramids, which make its silhouette unique in France. It boasts one of the most beautiful polychrome Romanesque porches in Touraine, as well as the beautiful alabaster recumbent statue of Agnès Sorel, a masterpiece of finesse.



The historic centre

Loches is a thriving commercial town that has a wealth of magnificent architectural treasures and is situated on the ancient road that linked Paris with Spain. The heritage, whether medieval or Renaissance, is best explored by simply strolling through the town and gazing up. The most remarkable streets are the Grande Rue, the Rue du Château and the Rue Picois. Exhibitions in the Chancellery and the Saint Antoine Gallery are free.

The Lansyer Museum

Emmanuel Lansyer who studied under Viollet-le-Duc and Courbet is considered one of the best landscape painters of his time. The museum presents his work and life. There is also an outstanding view of the city from the romantic garden and the Royal Gate terrace.



Loches

Touraine - Châteaux de la Loire

the art of strolling

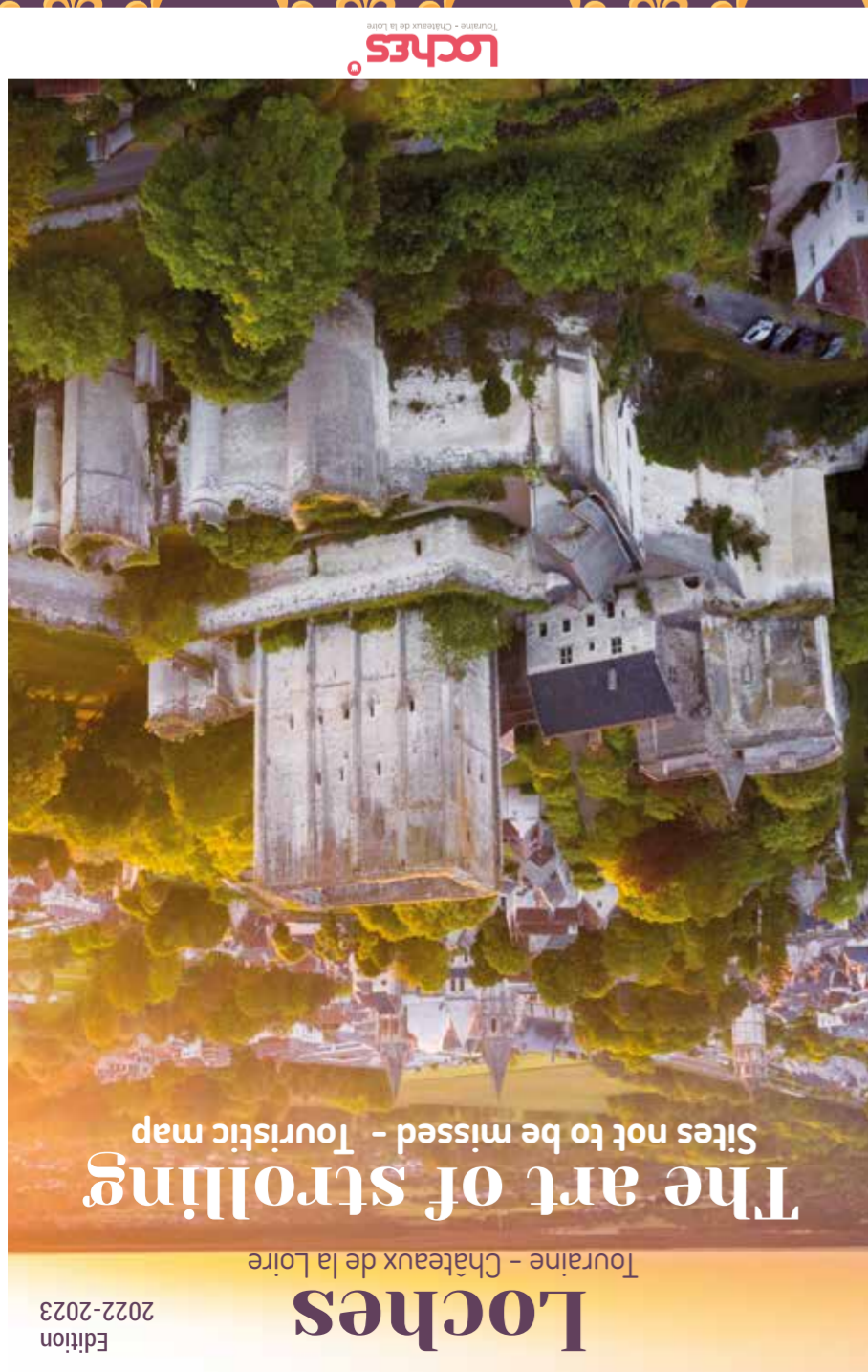
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There is evidence of human existence stretching back thousands of years in the Claise valley. The Grand Pressigny castle-museum offers visitors the opportunity to discover a complete overview of prehistory thanks to its rich collections. Visitors will be delighted by the old stonework of the communal oven, narrow streets and the medieval church in the village.

The Prehistory Museum

Dedicated to the life of humans in the Touraine region between 100,000 and 1,000 years BC. The flint blades are at the heart of this collection, and were exported to a large part of Europe during this period. During the school holidays, there are workshops on how to light a fire, make pottery or create prehistoric jewellery to enable visitors to learn more about our ancestors.



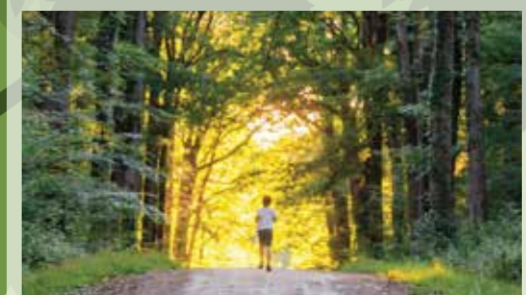
The Village

Enjoy the panoramic view of the Claise valley from the castle's terrace, which overlooks the village. The village, nestled at the foot of the monument, is also worth a visit for its rich heritage, arts and crafts and restaurants.



South Touraine UNSPOILT NATURE

Southern Touraine also offers vast areas of unspoilt natural beauty where you can enjoy the fresh air, and observe the flora and fauna during outdoor activities, on foot, by bike or in a canoe.



Loches National Forest

One of the most beautiful oak forests in France. Its wide alleys are an invitation to stroll on foot or by bike. Various circuits allow you to discover its 3,600 hectares.

Le Louroux Protected natural area

This vast wetland area is home to a high biodiversity. A favoured nesting place for birds. Workshops led by the LPO (Bird Protection League) help the public to learn about our feathered friends.



Chemillé-sur-Indrois lake

During the summer months, the location is a very popular leisure spot for swimming, boating and relaxing. For adrenaline seekers, there is also a tree top adventure course and a giant zip line suspended over the lake!

