

Chateaux

The Loire Valley has an amazing collection of Chateaux and Castles to explore, including –

- Château d'Amboise
- Château d'Azay-le-Rideau
- Château de Brézé
- Château de Chambord
- Château de Chenonceau
- Château Chinon
- Château de Saumur
- Château de Villandry
- Château d'Ussé

Please click each Chateaux above to be taken to their website.

The list shows a collection of our favourite's, but there are many more to explore in the area.

Museums

Pierre et Lumière, Saumur

This is one of the most beautiful “troglodyte” sites in Saumur, with an underground miniature park showcasing around twenty sculptures representing the most beautiful monuments of the Loire Valley carved out of tuffeau stone.

Le Musée du Champignon, Saumur

One minute down the road from Pierre et Lumière is the mushroom caves – a world of wild and cultivated mushrooms. Within the troglodyte cave, you can discover the secrets of growing mushrooms. 10 tonnes of mushrooms are harvested here a year, with over 250 species of wild mushrooms – you can try them in the restaurant La Cave aux Moines as listed in the Eating Out section below.

Le Cadre Noir, Saumur

Visit a unique school where the instructors are none other than the celebrated horse-riding masters of the Cadre Noir. Visits through the great indoor arena, the stables and the tack room will take you on a voyage of discovery of the history of the Cadre Noir since its creation in 1815. The public performances allow you to watch them at work giving an appreciation of the work involved in training the horse, jumping and classical riding.

Musée des blindés, Saumur

The museum of armoured vehicles retraces their birth, their history and their technical evolution throughout the world. The collection of tanks and vehicles of the museum now includes 1917 gear and the most significant armoured equipment from the main industrial countries.

Museum of the 24 hours of Le Mans, Le Mans

Using 140 vehicles, this museum tells the epic motor racing story of Le Mans and the success of the international event. Bentley, Ferrari, Jaguar, Ford, Porsche, Matra, Audi and more are represented with their legendary models. 350 sqm of exhibitions complete the thematic exhibition, after which you can visit the famous circuit of the 24 Hours of Le Mans race.

Please click each museum heading to be taken to their website.

Gardens

Terra Botanica, Angers

A plant-themed amusement park – Terra Botanica reveals the secrets of six centuries of history. Gaze upon the riches of Anjou, the plant capital and the ancestral homeland of multiple cultures and discover the world through 275,000 plant species. From giant greenhouses to lush gardens, fields to marshes, Mediterranean scenery to Oriental lands. It is also a fabulous playground full of games and entertainment, 4D film screenings, rides and boat rides and the first theme park in Europe devoted to plant life.

Château de Villandry

Although the Château at Villandry is beautiful, it is most famous for its gardens! They cover 9 hectares and include a water garden filled with small ponds and fountains, an ornamental garden, a large vegetable garden (which is also the most popular) and the Sun Garden. They are all laid out on different terraces and create layers of beauty across the property.

Please click each garden heading to be taken to their website.