

## Towns and Cities

There are many lovely towns and cities which we would recommend visiting, all within around a 30 minute to 1-hour drive.

### **Tours**

The capital of the Loire Valley. Beautiful, vibrant and lively, Tours is a pretty stopping point on the route of the Loire Valley Châteaux. Wander round its historic quarters with their half-timbered houses, Saint-Gatien Cathedral and the bustling Place Plumereau, as well as the Olivier Debré Contemporary Art Centre. The city has much to offer the first-time visitor and although small enough to walk its modern tramway transport system allows for easy and inexpensive access to many of its landmarks and tourist sites. You can park free of charge at the 'Park & Ride' stations outside of the city and then get the tram into the centre.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Angers**

Perfect for strolling around, with its castle with seventeen towers and lively town centre. The city abounds with lakes, rivers, landscaped parks, museums and galleries as well as an excellent choice of gastronomic restaurants. A walk down its cobbled streets that wind through the renaissance and gothic neighbourhoods on their way to the marketplace is a walk-through time where you begin to get a feel of the charm of the place. The contrast between modern and medieval within the city are one of the things that make it such a special place, full of contradictions.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Chinon**

The convivial winemaking town with its towering fortress, it is a town steeped in history and rich with culture. The winding streets up to the castle are lined with small shops, inns, and cafes. The cobbles and timber houses dating back to the fifteenth century give you a feel of its history.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Amboise**

The town still retains its medieval feel and has plenty of good restaurants and cafes to relax in and sample the local wines and produce of the area. *Amboise* is incredibly charming but also a bit 'touristy' because of its popularity with visitors to the Loire Valley but what that means is that it also provides most of what is demanded of a popular destination.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Langeais**

From its imposing bridge crossing the river Loire to its mighty town centre chateau it will quickly charm you. This pretty little town provides a great backdrop for a pleasant day out. Although the chateau is probably the main attraction the church shouldn't be missed, plus simply strolling around the medieval streets crossing over the little canal fed from the Loire river is worth the visit alone.

There is also a weekly market here on a Sunday morning.

[Click here](#) for more information.

**Bourgueil**

The pretty village of Bourgueil is today probably best known for its quality red wines and this is what draws the tourists here and to the nearby village of St Nicolas de Bourgueil. There is also a weekly market here on a Tuesday morning.

[Click here](#) for more information.

**Saumur**

Whatever way you choose to enter the town it is the graceful chateau you will appreciate first because of its dominant position overlooking the Loire. You cannot fail to be impressed when walking along the riverside with the chateau overlooking you on one side and the river on the other. The town itself is one that immediately gives you a welcoming feeling and a desire to stop and rest a while! There are several restored older town houses and around Place St-Pierre you will find several inexpensive restaurants with menus to suit most pockets.

[Click here](#) for more information.

**Le Mans**

It has a network of medieval cobbled streets and half-timbered houses. It is best known for the 24 Hours of Le Mans motor race, and for motor enthusiasts the museum of the 24 hours of Le Mans is a must.

[Click here](#) for more information.

**Markets**

The French culture is to eat fresh locally produced meats, fruit and vegetables and many treat the weekly visit to the market to have social get together and for the British visitor provides a fascinating insight in the culture of the region. Below is a list of the local markets by the day and location.

<b>Sunday</b>	<i>Montsoreau, Amboise, Langeais</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>Baugé, Doué-la-Fontaine</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Blois, Bourgueil</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Angers</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Blois,</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Amboise</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Angers, Saumur, Baugé, Tours</i>

Our personal favourite's are Bourgueil on a Tuesday and Langeais on a Sunday – don't forget to twin it with a coffee and patisserie! In Bourgueil, we would recommend Pâtisserie Brémaud, and in Langeais - La Maison de Rabelais.