



Along the Mayenne towpath

FOR FAMILY-CYCLING LOVERS

☀️ 4 DAYS 📍🚲 130 KM

10

# DISCOVER SWEET FRANCE WITH LA VÉLO FRANCETTE

## Highlights of the trip:

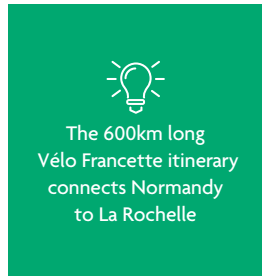
- Cycling at a slow pace
- Passing by lock-keepers' houses
- Laval's historic centre
- Angers and its medieval district, the Apocalypse tapestry in the chateau





## Day 1

🚲 35 KM



### Morning | Mayenne

**Arrive at Laval TGV train station.** Arrange your arrival in Mayenne city with Bip Bip Voyages, who will handle luggage transfer.

**Discover the 10<sup>th</sup>-century Château de Mayenne**, overlooking the river and Mayenne city. Mayenne is the name of the city, as well as the river and the “county”: don't get confused.

**Lunch - Enjoy your picnic along the towpath.**

### Afternoon | Laval

**Cycle at your own pace to the charming city of Laval** where you can explore its:

- Naïve Art museum
- Historic centre

**Dinner at the gastronomic restaurant “l'Epicurien”** in Laval.

> *Alternative: l'Antiquaire Laval*

**Night at 3\* Best Western Hôtel de Paris** in Laval.

> *Alternative: 4\* Perier du Bignon Hotel in Laval*

## Day 2

🚲 35 KM



### Morning | Laval to Origné

**Continue your visit of Laval**, labeled “city of art and history”.

Discover its:

- local Market
- world's largest Dairy Museum - La Cité du Lait.

**Enjoy fine views of Laval and its two chateaux.**

Don't miss the footbridge open to cyclists on the nine-arched railway viaduct.

**Lunch at the Belyel restaurant** in Origné.

### Afternoon | Origné to Château-Gontier

**Cycle slowly along the riverside towpath**, passing by lock-keepers' houses and old chateaux to Château-Gontier.

**Dinner at l'Aquarelle restaurant** in Château-Gontier.

**Night at the 3\* Parc Hotel in Château-Gontier**, a charming place nestling in a large, shaded park.

> *Alternative : Hotel du Cerf in Château-Gontier*

## Day 3

🚲 35 KM



Despite its name, there is no longer a chateau in Château-Gontier, but the city features other cultural riches.



## Day 4

🚲 25 KM



In Angers, don't miss the timber-framed house Maison d'Adam Landmark



### Morning | Château-Gontier to La Jaille-Yvon

**Explore Château-Gontier and its heritage** : manors, churches, chapels and mills. Don't miss the local market on Thursdays.

When leaving Château-Gontier, **you can stop and visit the refuge de l'Arche** : this 45 year-old sanctuary, run by an NGO, takes care of 1,000+ animals of 120 different species including birds, raccoons, monkeys, reptiles, felines, bears and herbivores.

**Stop for a lunch break at Anjou Sport Nature**, a recreation centre where you can rent canoe, pedal boat and paddle boats in La Jaille-Yvon.

### Afternoon | La Jaille-Yvon to Grez-Neuville

Before reaching Grez-Neuville, head to Le Lion-d'Angers to **discover l'Isle Briand**, with its chateau and national stud farm.

**Dinner and night at Lodge Hammam Côté Rivière and Spa** in Grez-Neuville.

> *Alternative : gîte d'étapes Mara Rivière in La Jaille-Yvon*

### Morning | Grez-Neuville to Port Albert

**Discover Grez-Neuville**, its river port, large mill and lake.

**Lunch in Port Albert, in one of the traditional guinguettes.**

### Afternoon | Port Albert to Angers

**Cycle down to Angers and discover the chateau and its famous Apocalypse Tapestry**, its medieval architecture museum and cobbled streets. Don't forget its Loire valley wines and famous Cointreau liqueur.

**Dinner in a typical restaurant in Angers.**

**Night at 3\* Hotel de France in Angers**, facing the TGV train station.

Depart from Angers TGV train station.



## CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

### 3\* Best Western Hôtel de Paris, Laval

info@hotel-laval.fr

### 3\* Parc Hotel, Château-Gontier

contact@parchotel.fr

### Lodge Hammam Côté Rivière & Spa, Grez-Neuville

contact@cote-riviere.com

### 3\* Hotel de France, Angers

commercial@hotelfrance-angers.com

These selected accommodations bear the "Accueil Vélo" logo



# INTERESTED IN CYCLING TOURISM?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

#### • The Accueil Vélo logo

690 places bear the Accueil Vélo logo in Atlantic Loire Valley. Located within 5 km of a cycle route, they provide visiting cyclists with facilities such as secure bike shelters and repair kits, etc. and they offer practical advice and service along with a warm welcome. Services include cycling circuits, weather info, luggage transfer, laundry services (washing and drying), bike and accessory hire, bike wash, etc.



#### • Specialised incoming agencies – DMCs

A Bicyclette Voyage:

[www.abicyclette-voyages.com](http://www.abicyclette-voyages.com)

Safran Tours

[www.safrantours.com](http://www.safrantours.com)

#### • On the Vélo Francette cycle route, stay in an old lock-keeper's house

In Les Refuges du Halage, on the banks of the River Mayenne, you will be welcomed by Laëtitia. She will offer you an organic 'cyclist' breakfast made of local produce. 3 cottages for max. 15 people.

#### • Two Vintage events to celebrate old bicycles

Every year, celebrate the bicycles of yesteryear in a vintage guinguette atmosphere: in Laval for the Laval Vélo Agglo retro early June or early July in Saumur for the Anjou Vélo Vintage Festival.

#### • Nature is bike – The Gravel festival

Every year, at the end of June, Angers hosts the Gravel Festival, an event entirely dedicated to Gravel, this new trendy cycling practice. This 3-day event includes a Gravel of Legend cycling competition, linking the D-Day beaches to Angers, a tradeshow dedicated to gravel and adventure cycling and the Gravel night sport challenge.

#### • The Loir\* Valley by Bike

The Loir Valley by Bike - V47 is a 320 km-long itinerary, following the Loir River. It ends in Angers, where it connects to the famous Loire by Bike itinerary and Vélo Francette. The Loir Valley is a land of picturesque villages, vineyards and orchards, and troglodytic houses carved out of the tufa rock. It is a discreet paradise located only 40 km north of the Loire River.

*\*The Loir river with no "e" is an affluent of the well-known Loire river.*

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For more details: [b2b@solutions-eco.fr](mailto:b2b@solutions-eco.fr)