

Dijon, Chenonceaux & Châteaux

Loire & Burgundy Cultural Walking Adventure



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“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

—Travel + Leisure

The Authentic Heart of France

On our wonderful (and slightly decadent) journey to the French heartlands, you'll live the good life like never before. Burgundy is France's "breadbasket," the perfect blend of classic French villages, rolling terrain with a patchwork of forests and vineyards, and the country's most remarkable cuisine. Just when it seems like it couldn't get any better, we enter the Loire Valley and—in keeping with the region's opulent reputation—take up residence in our own château. From our gracious home base, we'll meander out for some gorgeous walks and explore the stupendous "getaway cottages" that bedeck the river's banks. If you love to take your time when you travel and soak up your surroundings, this is the perfect place to be!

DAY 1

DIJON

• Meet in Dijon for a guided town walk • Festive welcome dinner

We begin in Dijon, the historic and culinary capital of the region. Celebrated for its mustard, Dijon is also renowned for its fine medieval architecture and outstanding museums. Throughout the Middle Ages, Burgundy was a duchy that led a separate existence from the rest of France. Its high point was the period from 1364 to 1477, during the reign of the four "Grand Dukes of the West." The most notable monument of this period is the Palais des Ducs, which is now a museum. Even after the switch to French rule, Dijon continued to flourish. This was in part due to its location on a major north - south trading route and its relative proximity to Germany and Switzerland, but also because of its numerous gastronomic specialties including snails, mustard and cassis (black current liqueur which is often mixed with white wine to make Kir). We enjoy a walk around the town before arriving at our hotel for the next three nights with time to rest and relax before our festive welcome dinner.

Overnight: Beaune

Meals: D

DAY 2

PONT D'OUCHE / BEAUNE

• Morning walk through a scenic valley • Guided visit and wine tasting in Beaune

Our morning exploration through pastoral landscape offers the opportunity for a walk through the vineyards of Clos de Vougeot, where we'll visit the castle, once the famous wine cellar of the Cistercian monks of the Cîteaux Abbey. Mid-afternoon we visit the medieval town of Beaune, the wine capital of Burgundy, in time to enjoy a wine tasting in the cellar of a former monastery. Here we visit the famous 15th-century Hotel Dieu and rummage through the interesting shops and narrow streets.

Overnight: Beaune

Meals: B

DAY 3

CHÂTEAUNEUF -EN-AUXOIS / LA BUSSIÈRE

• Your choice to sleep in and relax, OR • Morning walk through a fortified village • Exploration of medieval town, La Bussière

Our final full day in Burgundy, you may want to sleep-in late or linger over a book on the terrace of our inn prior to any activities. If you're feeling energetic, join our guide on a morning visit to Châteauneuf -en-Auxois, a fortified village where the wealthy merchants of the region lived for centuries. Our walk through the charming village follows the moat around the château and leads to a panoramic view to the west that overlooks three lakes that feed the Canal de Bourgogne. Late morning, we make our way to the medieval town of La Bussière. On this return to the vineyards you'll enjoy a visit to a winemaker's estate, one which also grows truffles. Following one of the dogs, you'll get a chance to see how they work, and eventually taste a bit of this "white gold," with some fantastic Burgundy wines, of course.

Overnight: Beaune

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

LOIRE VALLEY

• Departure from Burgundy to Loire and our château home • Afternoon walk to Chambord castle, a former hunting lodge

After breakfast, we bid farewell to our hosts in Burgundy. Today is the one day of the trip that requires a fairly long drive, as we leave Burgundy and head west into the neighboring Loire Valley. Along the way, we stop in Châteauneuf sur Loire for lunch. Arriving into Loire, we first notice that it isn't simply a collection of opulent châteaux peppered along beautiful stretches of the Loire and Cher rivers. It's a unique culture, called the garden of France, because of its temperate climate and the long stretches of river that allow for transportation and irrigation of the delicious local produce. Mid-afternoon, we stop on the riverbank at picturesque Saint Dyé sur Loire. We stretch our legs with a walk that allows us to discover Chambord castle, located in the heart of a forest, where the French sovereigns used to hunt. We arrive at our château home near Amboise in the mid-afternoon, with time to relax before dinner.

Overnight: Loire

Meals: B, D

DAY 5

CHENONCEAU

• Cher River walk to Chenonceau Château

This morning we begin our château exploration with Chenonceau, which we reach by way of a beautiful walk along the banks of the Cher river. Arguably the most magnificent and romantic of all châteaux, Chenonceau spans the river and has been the home of six great ladies throughout history. Among them are its builder, Catherine Bricconnet, who built it as a home rather than a fortification; Diane de Poitiers, the mistress of Henry II, who added the bridge between the house and the banks of the river; and Catherine de Medici, Henry's wife. Madame Dupin, who owned the château during the French Revolution, was so kind to the lower classes who lived around the château that it was allowed to survive free from the destruction suffered by many other wealthy homes. Our leisurely visit of the château ends around lunchtime and we stop in at one of the many cafes in Montrichard for refreshment. Following lunch, we stop on our way back to the hotel for a visit at Château de Cheverny, which boasts one of the most outstanding collections of original furniture spanning the period from the reign of Louis XIV to the days of the Napoleonic Empire.

Overnight: Loire

Meals: B

DAY 6

CHATEAU VILLANDRY

• Château visit • Riverside walk to a farmhouse lunch • Festive farewell dinner

Not far down the Loire River is Villandry. Our visit of the château includes guided walks through its spectacular geometric-shaped gardens with their zigzagging hedges, flowerbeds, vegetable plots and a swan-filled lake. Any time you like, wander into the château itself, to see its wonderful collection of paintings, lovely rooms and the magnificent gilded ceiling imported from Toledo, Spain. Midday, we enjoy an easy walk along the riverbank from the château, and then a short drive to a small private farm. Here, a local friend and farm owner greets us and prepares a special lunch for us that might include baked apple stuffed with goat cheese (produced on the farm), fresh salad and dessert. After lunch and a visit of the farm, we enjoy a guided walking tour of Tours, then we meander through beautiful pastoral farmland, woods and market gardens, along a lovely section of the Cher river from its junction with the Loire, and culminating back at Château Villandry. This evening, we return to Amboise to enjoy a festive final dinner.

Overnight: Loire

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

AMBOISE

• Town and market exploration of Amboise

After breakfast, we head for Amboise, a charming city where Leonardo da Vinci enjoyed the later years of his life. On a walk around the town, we pass from the banks of the Loire river along the fortifications of the châteaux of Amboise for an optional visit to Le Clos Lucé, da Vinci's manor, where there is a collection of his inventions and marvelous original drawings. We also enjoy a visit to the beautiful country markets in Amboise before heading home. Midday, we part company in Tours at the St. Pierre des Corps rail station—just a quick one hour train ride from Paris.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Le Cep

Ideally located in Beaune, this is one of the 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World'. Rooted in two 16th century mansions and courtyards with a lovely garden, this homey property features ornately decorated rooms named for the great wines of Burgundy.

OVERNIGHT: Beaune | **NIGHTS:** 3



Manoir Les Minimes

A drape of wisteria festoons the elegant façade of this one-time private residence. The Loire River and Château d'Amboise are directly outside your window. The décor is utterly French, an ambiance that immerses you in the region's grand traditions.

OVERNIGHT: Amboise | **NIGHTS:** 3

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	7 Days, 6 Nights
START	Dijon rail station, Dijon, France
END	St. Pierre des Corps rail station, Tours, France
TERRAIN	Easy on good trails and paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a vehicle in support.

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events
- Wine on Us
- Perfect Pairings Dinners

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference



HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

Samuel
President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Loire & Burgundy...

- Sipping a Côte de Nuits burgundy in the vineyard where it's grown
- Walking along the Cher River to stately Chenonceaux
- Wandering the narrow streets of medieval Beaune
- Wandering Chateau Villandry's sculpted gardens, followed by a farmhouse lunch
- Luxuriating at your grand chateau-style hotel in the Loire Valley

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E., Red Lodge, MT