

# LOIRE VALLEY CASTLES

SALES MANUAL 2020

**A SELECTION OF 6 FAMOUS  
CASTLES TO DISCOVER**

ROYAL CASTLE OF AMBOISE  
CASTLE OF CHAMBORD  
CASTLE OF CHENONCEAU  
CHÂTEAU DU CLOS LUCÉ  
ROYAL CASTLE OF BLOIS  
DOMAIN OF CHAUMONT-SUR-  
LOIRE

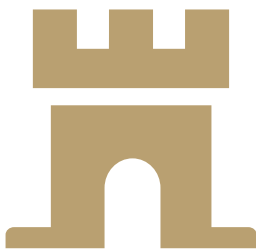
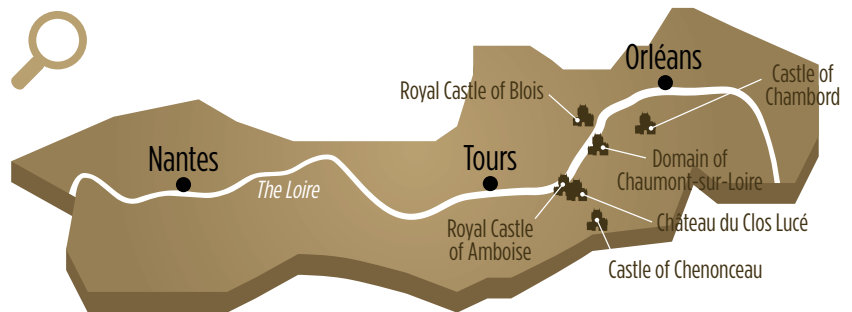


## FRANCE

A selection of 6 famous castles to discover

# ALONG THE LOIRE VALLEY AND ITS CASTLES

©F. Charet – CRT Centre-Val de Loire



Medieval fortresses, royal castles, beautiful Renaissance homes... the castles adorn the Loire Valley with their elegant shapes and remarkable gardens. Along the Loire Valley, these majestic castles

trace and illustrate great moments in France's history and the famous people who lived there: Charles VIII, Francis I, Leonardo da Vinci or Catherine de Medici. Shaped by the amazing artistic, scientific and architectural innovations from the Renaissance, the castles of the Loire Valley still enchant contemporary visitors. HistoPad and augmented reality, 3D models,

interactive scenography... the visits on offer invite you to immerse yourself in the homes of the kings and queens of France in a fun and interactive way! Enjoy beautiful summer evenings and admire illuminated castles or attend nocturnal shows using the latest sound and image technology!

Make further discoveries in the cities of the Loire Valley. Cities steeped in history such as Orleans, Blois, Amboise, Tours... are waiting to be discovered! Admire the landscapes surrounding the Loire, allow yourself to be enchanted by their way of life, or "art de vivre", and discover the rich heritage of their past. Take a walk in the charming small villages in the Loire Valley during a festival!

## THE LOIRE VALLEY'S EXCEPTIONAL NATURE IS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Loire Valley was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its vibrant cultural landscapes in the 280 km between Sully-sur-Loire (Loiret) and Chalonnes-sur-Loire (Maine-et-Loire). Its exceptional landscapes offer visitors an unforgettable sight. Take your time to observe the striking beauty of its unique landscapes and unspoilt nature that offer differing scenery throughout the seasons. Its fauna and flora can be discovered in multiple ways. Ride your bike at your own pace along the Loire and admire the aerial ballet of the several



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birds that nest along its shores. Embark on a traditional Loire boat for a guided boat trip on the water; you might even get lucky and spot a timid beaver. Or maybe you would prefer to reach for the sky and admire the river and its castles from a hot air balloon.

## RENOWNED GASTRONOMY AND WINE

The tasty gastronomy in the Loire Valley will surely enchant your taste buds. Our chefs enjoy working with local products to offer you refined and creative dishes. We are certain that you will succumb to the delicate aroma of a roasted pike-perch fillet or the delicious scent of caramelised apples in the dazzling Tarte Tatin! Accompanied by famous wines of the Loire Valley such as Cheverny, Chinon, Saint-Nicolas de Bourgueil, Vouvray... aromas are sublimated. Red, rosé, white or sparkling wines open the door to various gastronomic combinations! To understand these wines and discover –almost– all the secrets of their creation, please do not hesitate to visit our cellars. Winemakers will be happy to share their passion with you and invite you to visit their vineyard and taste their wines: an unforgettable experience...



©T. Martrou – CRT Centre-Val de Loire



# ROYAL CASTLE OF AMBOISE

TRAVEL LIKE THE KINGS!



**The Renaissance palace of the French kings.**

**The location of Leonardo da Vinci's tomb.**

**The most beautiful view of the Loire Valley.**

Imagine a palace delicately placed on a promontory above the course of the Loire, and you will see the gardens as suspended between heaven and earth...

It is not surprising that Amboise was one of the most popular sites of the kings of France when they radically transformed their country into the Renaissance.

The sovereigns Charles VIII and Francis I, Leonardo da Vinci (buried in the chapel of the castle), Queen Anne of Brittany or the last "king of the French", Louis-Philippe, are all familiar faces of the places. Still today, what a breathtaking view!

At 180°, you discover from the ramparts of the landscapes enshrined in UNESCO World heritage.

Living Castle Open largely on nature, haven of peace for more than 80 species of birds, Amboise is also a place of innovation where new technologies come regularly enrich your discovery.

In 2020, new exhibition: "On the route of the travelling princes".

Gardens of Amboise Castle ©Léonard de Serres



Available since February 2019, the latest generation HistoPad technology offers a spectacular way to enrich your discovery of the royal château of Amboise.

It includes 3D recreations of the Loggia, the interior decoration and recreations of scenes from life at court. New for 2020: recreations of new scenes on the 19<sup>th</sup>-century floor. A new express version (45-minute visit) is also available.



• **Multimedia:**

Visit with HistoPad technology, available in 12 languages including Russian and Polish.

• **Guided tour:**

Visit with visitor guide, available in 16 languages including Russian, Polish, Romanian, Czech and Hungarian. Commentated visit available in 6 languages, including English and German.



The castle is open throughout the year, except on 1<sup>st</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> December.

For detail of opening times, see our website.



- **Individual visitors > Adults:** €13.10
- **Students:** €11.30



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- **Child from 7 to 18 years old:** €9
- **Groups > Adults:** €9.80
- **Students:** €9.40
- **Child from 7 to 18 years old:** €7.70



• **TGV:** (Fast train) station, Tours/St. Pierre-des-Corps is 20km from the château and is linked by SNCF trains to Amboise station. Direct INTERCITES trains also available from Paris/Austerlitz station to Amboise station, journey time under 2 hrs. Walking time from Amboise station is 17 minutes (1,3km).

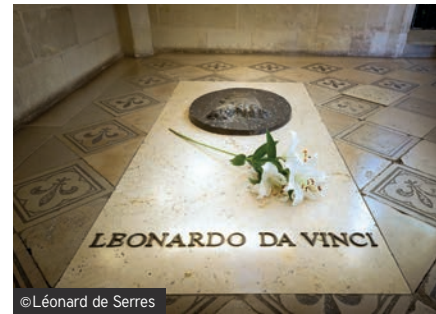
• **By car:** GPS N47.412908 E 0.985605  
Motorway A10, take the Amboise exit, then the D31 followed by the N152 for 15km.

Motorway A28, take the Tours-Sud interchange in the direction of the A85.  
Motorway A85, take the Bléré – Amboise – Chenonceau exit, then the D31 in the direction of Amboise.



HISTOPAD

©Histoverly



©Léonard de Serres



©E. Sander

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SERVICES





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# CASTLE OF CHAMBORD

500 YEARS OF HISTORY!



Chamber of Parade, Chambord Castle ©Léonard de Serres

As an exceptional work of art, Chambord has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Imagined by François I and impregnated with the spirit of Leonardo da Vinci, Chambord is an architectural masterpiece, the emblem of the French Renaissance throughout the world. Absolute must-see are the double helix staircase, the king's Francis I room and the furnished formal suites, the panoramic terraces, the French formal gardens and its forested estate the size of Paris.

For groups: wine tasting or lunch in the château all year round.

High season: horse and bird of prey show; horse-drawn carriage rides; bike, boat and electric vehicle rental.



### NEW 2020

- New scenography: rearrangement of an itinerant court decor with luxurious scenery and textile decorations. The visitor is welcomed as though he were a guest of the king.
- The organic vegetable garden : it consists in a staged labyrinth with horticultural crops on flowerbeds. Guided tour for groups (1h) on request (FR,EN).
- Illumination of the northern façade of the château.
- A 4-star hotel-restaurant "Relais de Chambord". This one and only hotel in Chambord contains 55 rooms and suites, some of which offer exceptional views of the château and its gardens.

### EVENTS

Exhibition "Susumu Shingu, a contemporary utopia". (October 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 to March 15<sup>th</sup> 2020). Major artist inspired by Leonardo,

Susumu Shingu will present a group of sculptures set in motion by the wind, that will reenchant the rooms of the castle. Events throughout the year: 10<sup>th</sup> music Festival of Chambord in July, Christmas in Chambord, etc.

**The spiral double helix staircase**, the most striking element of the chateau! This staircase, at the groundfloor of the keep, consists in a hollowed central core and, twisting and turning one above the other, twinned helical ramps servicing the main floors of the building. This marvelous inventiveness recalls sketches by Leonardo da Vinci... When two persons use the different sets of staircases at the same time, they can see each other going up or down, yet never meet. Magical!



### • HISTOPAD & Multimedia:

A digital tablet for an immersive tour of

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the castle as it was in the 16<sup>th</sup> century thanks to enhanced reality and 3D reconstruction. It also includes more than one hour of recorded commentaries, interactive maps, visitor's guide of the 24 rooms in the castle, a treasure hunt for children. 12 languages FR, EN, DE, IT, ES, PT, NL, PL, RU, JP, KO, CN.

A 20 mins film is shown continuously and traces the history of Chambord and its architecture (FR, EN, DE, ES, IT).

### • Guided tour:

- For individuals (FR, EN), departures depending on season.
- Groups (1hr30) on request (FR, EN, DE, ES). Group prices for 20 or more.
- Literature: Visitor leaflets in 14 languages: FR, EN, DE, IT, NL, ES, PT, ZH, JP, RU, PL, KO, HU, RO.

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From January 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup>: 9 am – 5pm (last admission 4.30pm).

From March 28<sup>th</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>: 9 am – 6pm (last admission 5.30pm).

From October 26<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>: 9 am – 5pm (last admission 4.30pm).

Open every day except January 1<sup>st</sup>, the last Monday of November and December 25<sup>th</sup>.

The French Formal gardens are closed 30 minutes before the château.



Admission fee to the castle and gardens:

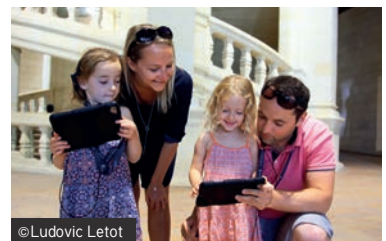
- **Individual:** €14.50 incl. exhibitions and gardens / Free under 18 years / Free

under 26 years from the European Union.

- **Groups** (20 or more): €12  
Groups of children (6–17 years): free from November to February, €3 from March to October.
- **Trade:** €9 or €9.50 (payment voucher).



- **Car:** A 10 exit Mer/Chambord or Blois
- **Train:** Paris–Austerlitz > Blois–Chambord (1hr20).
- **Bus/Minibus:** Shuttle or taxi service from Blois–Chambord train station (20 mins).
- **Plane:** Roissy (2hr15) or Orly (1hr50).



©Ludovic Letot

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## SERVICES





# CASTLE OF CHENONCEAU

## THE UNFORGETTABLE CASTLE



Gardens of Chenonceau Castle ©David Darrault

**A French Renaissance Masterpiece inspired by the Ponte Vecchio, Chenonceau is now inscribed as a Unesco World Heritage site.**

Also known as “the Ladies’ Castle”, the castle boasts a unique architecture, an admirable collection of works of art, elegant formal gardens, and since June 2018, a contemporary garden based on sketches by Russell Page. Professional florists decorate the rooms with spectacular flower arrangements all year round. On the occasion of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Renaissance, a new space is open : Catherine of Medici’s Apothecary. Gourmet restaurant on site, wine tasting of AOC Touraine-Chenonceaux in our historical Cellar.



### NEW 2020

- Opening of the Physics Cabinet of Chenonceau to the public: in the 18<sup>th</sup> century Jean Jacques Rousseau used this special room to educate the son of of Madame Dupin, the illustrious owner of the castle, in the sciences.
- The Night Walks will surprise you with new light effects...
- This year’s Christmas Festivities take place under the motto “the Cabinets of Curiosities”.

### • Multimedia:

A visionary castle, from the Renaissance to the Age of Enlightenment,

Chenonceau was perpetually fuelled by innovation.

Its guests, from around the world, discover today the quality of its visitor experience either through a free visit with a complete brochure or an audio-guided tour in 12 languages.



The castle is open every day. The castle and the shop are open 30 minutes after the ticket office closes Depending of the season, from 9 am to 7 pm.



### Individuals rates

- €15 per adult for the visit of the



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©Dominique Couineau

castle, gardens and gallery with the brochure.

- €19 per adult for the visit of the castle with the audio guide, access to gardens and galleries.
- Free for children under 7 years old.

### Groups rates

- €12 per person for the visit of the castle, gardens and gallery with the brochure.
- €15.50 per person for the visit of the castle with the audio guide, gardens and gallery with the audio guide.



The Castle of Chenonceau is located in the Touraine region, in Chenonceaux, 214 km from Paris, 34 km from Tours.

- **Car:** 2 hours via the A10 motorway (Blois or Amboise exits).
- **Train:** 1hr via TGV (High-Speed Train) Paris-Montparnasse/St-Pierre-des-Corps.



©Marc Jauneaud



©David Darraut

- 1hr40 by TGV from Roissy Paris-Aéroport Roissy-CDG/St-Pierre-des-Corps.
- 1hr50 by TGV from Bordeaux/St-Pierre-des-Corps.
- 25 minutes by TER (Regional Train) from Tours. Tours/Chenonceaux.

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### SERVICES





# CHÂTEAU DU CLOS LUCÉ

LEONARDO DA VINCI'S LAST RESIDENCE & SCIENCES PARK



Leonardo da Vinci Park of Castle of Clos Lucé ©Château du Clos Lucé

**The history of Leonardo da Vinci and his masterpieces, including The Mona Lisa, during his time in France begins at Château du Clos Lucé.**

Invited by King Francis I of France, Leonardo da Vinci left Italy and took up residence at Château du Clos Lucé in autumn 1516.

Appointed first painter, engineer and architect to the King, and party organizer, da Vinci served the monarch with his talents, working tirelessly on numerous projects and imagining plans for the "ideal" castle.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1519, Leonardo da Vinci asked Guillaume Boureau—a local notary in Amboise—to draw up his will. He died at Clos Lucé on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1519. This date marks the beginning of a universal and timeless icon.



## NEW 2020

- **«Leonardo da Vinci – painter and architect»**

### Summer

A new 500m<sup>2</sup> space in the Leonardo da Vinci park presents the master's knowledges of painting and architecture. Experience his work through a virtual gallery, architectural models and 3D animations.

## EVENTS 2020

- **Exposition Leonardo da Vinci and France**

Discover da Vinci's exceptional bond with France and his many works for the French Kings during the Renaissance.

- **Effervescences festivities, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition April**

Filled with activities, creative workshops, exhibitions and other surprises, these days celebrate da Vinci's scientific heritage. This year focuses on the discovery of science in the fields of painting and architecture.

- **Night shows**

### Summer

Experience unforgettable evenings filled with spectacles and concerts, honouring da Vinci's heritage with humor and poetry, at the Clos Lucé.

- **European festival of Renaissance music, 15<sup>th</sup> edition**

### September

Since 2005, Clos Lucé celebrates Leonardo da Vinci as a musician and



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talented performer, inviting the best ensembles to its festival.

### • Christmas at Clos Lucé

#### December

Visit da Vinci's rooms, beautifully decorated by florist Marjolaine Bougrier Vaucelles for the Christmas season.

Participate in creative and festive workshops and be inspired by da Vinci's imagination.



- **Guided tour:** Guided tour by prior reservation.
- **School parties:** Workshops + guided tours.
- **Children's tour:** "Entrez dans la cour des grands" (Enter the court of the greats) illustrated guide.
- **Literature:** Visit with leaflet (16 languages).

Open air commentary with 8 sound spots translated in EN, GER, IT and FR

#### • Multimedia:

In the workshop: virtual reality technology, known as "optical theatre", relive the historic meeting between Leonardo da Vinci and the Cardinal of Aragon.

In the grounds: 3D animations show how Leonardo da Vinci's inventions work.



Open all year (except December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>).



- **Individual adult/child:** €17, €12 from 7 to 18 years old.
- **Group from 15 pax adult/child:** €13, €9 from 7 to 18 years old.
- **Professional trade rate from 15 pax adult/child:** €11.50, €8.50 from 7 to 18 years old.



- **Car:** Highway A10 exit Amboise. 300 meter from the Royal Château of Amboise 220. From Paris 40 km from Chambord, 15 km from Chenonceau.
- **Train:** Train TGV High speed train Paris Montparnasse station/St Pierre des Corps (55 mins) then shuttle train to Amboise (20 mins) Regular train Paris Austerlitz station/Amboise (1hr30).



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#### SERVICES



# ROYAL CASTLE OF BLOIS

TRAVEL THROUGH SEVERAL CENTURIES OF HISTORY



Royal Castle of Blois ©D. Lépiessier

**Tragedy, trickery and power games: a tour of the castle unveils the destiny of 7 Kings and 10 Queens and the secrets of the Court of France...**

Through the diversity of its architectural styles, the castle is a wonderful example of the evolution of French architecture from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The magnificent mural decorations enhance the royal apartments, where furniture and painting evoke daily life at the royal Court.



## EVENTS

- Brought back to life, the royal gardens invite visitors to take a break, relax and enjoy the panoramic views of the Loire river and the old city.
- New : "Zen zone at the Castle": Participe in Qi Gong, Yoga and meditation classes in the gardens.
- Exceptional tours "Nocturnal walks": Discover the castle by torchlight after closing time and embark on a mysterious journey through time and space. Wander through the royal apartments and secret spaces that are usually closed to the public – You will experience the castle in a completely different way.
- Events such as concerts, balls, musical and theatrical performances, the sound and light show and many more bring the royal art of living at the Castle of Blois back to life...

For the complete programme visit [www.chateaublois.fr](http://www.chateaublois.fr)

## • Sound and light show

Video projections and immersive special effects take over the grandiose architecture of the castle, transforming the monument and give it new life. Love affairs, dramas and secrets: all the major episodes in history are shown in a magnificent 360° spectacle.

## • Christmas at the castle

Decorations, activities and exhibitions: in December, the castle celebrates Christmas in royal styles!



- **Guided tour:** (by reservation).
- **Audio-guided tour.**
- **Tour with the Histopad (NEW):** a next generation digital tablet.
- **Literature:** brochure available in 15 languages.

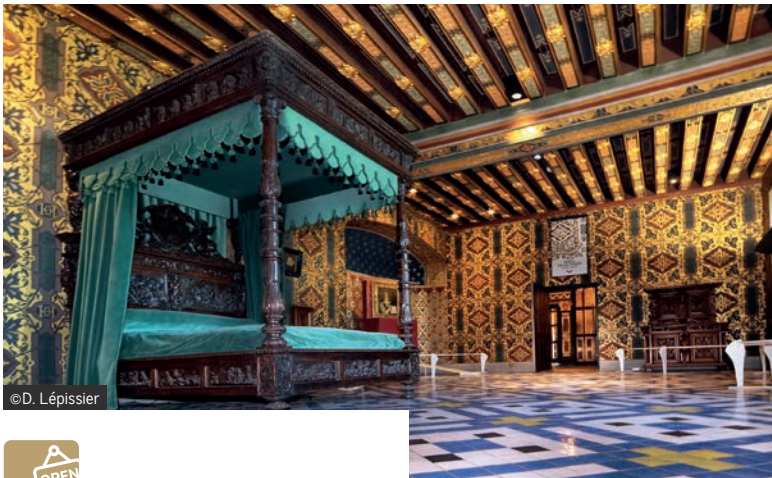


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©Pashrash



©D. Lépiessier



© T. Bourgoin



Open all year round except December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
SOUND AND LIGHT: every evening from April 4<sup>th</sup> to September 27<sup>th</sup>.



- **Individual:**
- Visit of the castle:  
Adult: € 12, Child: € 6.50  
Digital tablet included
- Castle + Sound and Light show: Adult: € 20, Child: € 10.50
- Guided visit: +€ 3 / Audioguide: +€ 3

- **Groups:** (Groups of over 20 persons)
- Visit of the castle: € 8.50
- Castle + Sound and Light show: € 14.50
- Guided visit fee: +€ 90/group (in addition to the entrance price)
- Audioguide or digital tablet: +€ 3



- **Car:** Less than 2hrs by car on the A10 motorway.
- **Train:** 1h30 from Paris Austerlitz station > Blois (castle: 10 mins on foot).
- **Plane:** Roissy (2hrs30).

### INFORMATION

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### SERVICES





# DOMAIN OF CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE

A UNIQUE CHÂTEAU, A ROYAL AND PRINCELY RESIDENCE



Less than 2 hours from Paris and open all year round, Domain of Chaumont-sur-Loire overlooks the River Loire, inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List as a cultural landscape.

Domain of Chaumont-sur-Loire ©Éric Sander

It brings three entities together on the same 32-hectare property:

A Centre of Arts and Nature which welcomes about fifteen world-renowned artists – painters and sculptors – and photographers every year.

An International Garden Festival with an international reputation, renowned since 1992 amongst professional and amateur gardeners alike. Every year landscape gardeners and designers come from all over the world to take part in the festival.

One of the most beautiful châteaux in the Loire Valley, surrounded by large landscaped parks in an English style. These three features are a real asset to the Domaine. Chaumont-sur-Loire has something to captivate each and every visitor: art enthusiasts, the curious and open-minded, gardeners at heart or explorers, historians of heritage or history lovers.



- **Unaccompanied visit:** Visit document available in 10 languages.
- **Guided tour:** Guided tour with one of the Domain's tour guides allows you to delve into the castle's history, explore the International Garden Festival's new theme and finally to admire the artists' work on the contemporary art trail. It's a unique way to gain a real insight into the Domain's history and to discover its cultural innovations.

- **Château multimedia guide.**



- From 02/01 to 31/01 and from 23/11 to 31/12: 10 am – 5.30 pm.
- From 01/02 to 31/03 and from 01/11 to 22/11: 10 am – 6 pm.
- From 01/04 to 22/04 and from 01/10

to 31/10: 10 am – 7 pm.

- From 23/04 to 31/08: 10 am – 8 pm.
- From 01/09 to 30/09: 10 am – 7.30 pm.



- 2/01 to 22/04/2020 and 2/11 to 31/12/2020: € 14/adult.  
Groups : € 11.20/pers.
- 23/04 to 1/11/2020: € 19/adult.  
Groups: € 15.20/pers.



The Domain of Chaumont-sur-Loire is located in the heart of the Centre-Val de Loire Region, in the Loir-et-Cher department, on the left bank of the River Loire between the towns of Blois and Amboise.

You can get to Chaumont-sur-Loire along the D 952 (on the right bank) and D 751 subsidiary roads.



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SERVICES



