

Palais D'Or

Region: France **Sleeps:** 13

Overview

Walk in the footsteps of Joan of Arc and Richard the Lionheart as you stay in *La Cité Royale de Loches*, an incredible and unique location in one of France's most historically significant towns, in the Loire Valley.

It's hard to imagine a more privileged setting for a holiday home – this 18th-century palace is perched high in Loches' citadel with its grand garden set behind the town's 15th-century ramparts. Yet step through Palais D'Or's wrought-iron gate and experience true relaxation within the *palais'* historic walls.

Made with local white stone and steep slate roof tiles, the palace will charm you with traditional furnishings, antique pieces and exquisite attention to detail such as fabric walls and real gold gilding on the ceilings. The spacious living room enjoys views of the formal garden and leads straight through to the graceful dining room, a romantic spot for candlelit feasts prepared in the French kitchen with its vaulted ceiling, elegant La Cornue stove and all-important wine fridge.

The palace features three pretty doubles, one single bedroom and two luxuriously fitted shower rooms in the towers, including a striking gold spine shower, whilst a further three bedrooms and a bathroom can be found in the Pavilion within the grounds, also home to a second lounge and kitchen.

Outside, within your private oasis, stroll through the acre of gardens passing lawns and fruit trees, laze in a hammock or find a bench where you can admire views of Loches and beyond. Dine al-fresco on the terrace with St-Ours church's bell tower peeping through the trees. Guests, both young and old, will adore the table football and table tennis to be found in the garden's underground games room.

How wonderful to be neighbours with the famous Château de Loches with its gardens and castle keep just down the lane – its history is fascinating and it has hosted a number of important figures over the years.

Then, of course, there is the lower town of Loches to explore, right on your doorstep, where you will find cobbled lanes filled with restaurants and cafes as well as many shops and a delightful twice-weekly market. Wander across the picturesque Indre river to the public gardens and admire the views back up towards the historic citadel – this is a truly special location.

Canoe or kayak along the river, hire bikes to follow the Indre à Vélo trail or enjoy shady walks and cycling through the old woodland surrounding Loches. Take the train to the magnificent city of Tours on the Loire river, visit the vineyards of Vouvray and drive to idyllic places such as the garden village of Chédigny and Montrésor, one of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*'.

Seek out many more of the Loire valley's grand châteaux, such as Château



de Chenonceau and Royal d'Amboise, both within half an hour, before stepping back through the Porte Royale gates and returning to your own remarkable sanctuary above the battlements of Loches.

As mentioned in...

THE TIMES

Condé Nast Traveler

Facilities

Walking/Hiking Paths • Weddings • On-Street Parking • Villa • Hairdryer • Ideal for Xmas/NY • Cycling • Tennis Nearby • Historical Sites • Canoeing/Kayaking • Horse Riding • Exclusive • Romantic • Wi-Fi/Internet • Fishing • Recommended • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Games Room • Table Tennis • Gym/Fitness Room • Pool/Snooker • Maid Service Available • Walk to Village • Easy By Train • Indoor Games • Cots (Cribs) • Outdoor Ceremony • Heritage Collection • Allow External Caterers • Indoor Reception Available • Nearby Church/Chapel • Pre-Stocked Fridge Available • Xbox/Playstation/Wii • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Pets on Request • Walk to Restaurant • <1hr to Airport • Smart TV • Table Football • Working Fireplace/Woodburner •

Interior & Grounds

Palais Interiors

Main Floor

- Entrance hall
- Living room with marble fireplace and French doors opening up to garden
- Dining room with table and chairs (for up to 12 guests) and French doors opening up to garden
- Kitchen and utility room, fully-equipped including La Cornue stove, dishwasher (x2), fridge-freezer (x2) and wine fridge
- Library with TV and Playstation 4
- Guest WC
- Bedroom with single bed

First Floor

- 2 x bedrooms with king-size double bed
- Bedroom with double bed
- Bathroom with bath, rain shower, bidet and sink
- WC
- Shower room with spine shower, sink and WC

Lower Ground Floor

- Gym equipment and pool table

Pavilion Interiors

Main Floor

- Living-dining room with lounge seating and table (for up to 6 guests)
- Kitchen area, well-equipped including oven, hob, dishwasher and fridge-freezer
- Guest WC
- Laundry room

First Floor

- Bedroom with king-size double bed
- Bedroom with double bed
- Bathroom with bath and shower

Second Floor (via steep stairs)

- Bedroom with twin beds (low sloping ceiling and no door, best suited to children due to size)

Outside Grounds (one acre)

- Al-fresco dining area (for up to 14 guests)
- Barbecue
- Hammocks, benches and outdoor lounge furnishings



- Formal garden with fruit trees
- Games room (underground) with table tennis and table football
- Parking (up to 3 cars). Additional parking spaces available just outside the cité walls, a 3-minute walk away. Please enquire with the house keeper to find out where street parking is permitted

Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Heating
- Smart TV
- Playstation 4
- Table football
- Table tennis
- Gym equipment
- Pool table
- Cellars (2 acres including underground tunnels, not accessible to guests)
- Washing machine and dryer
- Hairdryers in bedrooms
- 2 irons and ironing boards

Location & Local Information

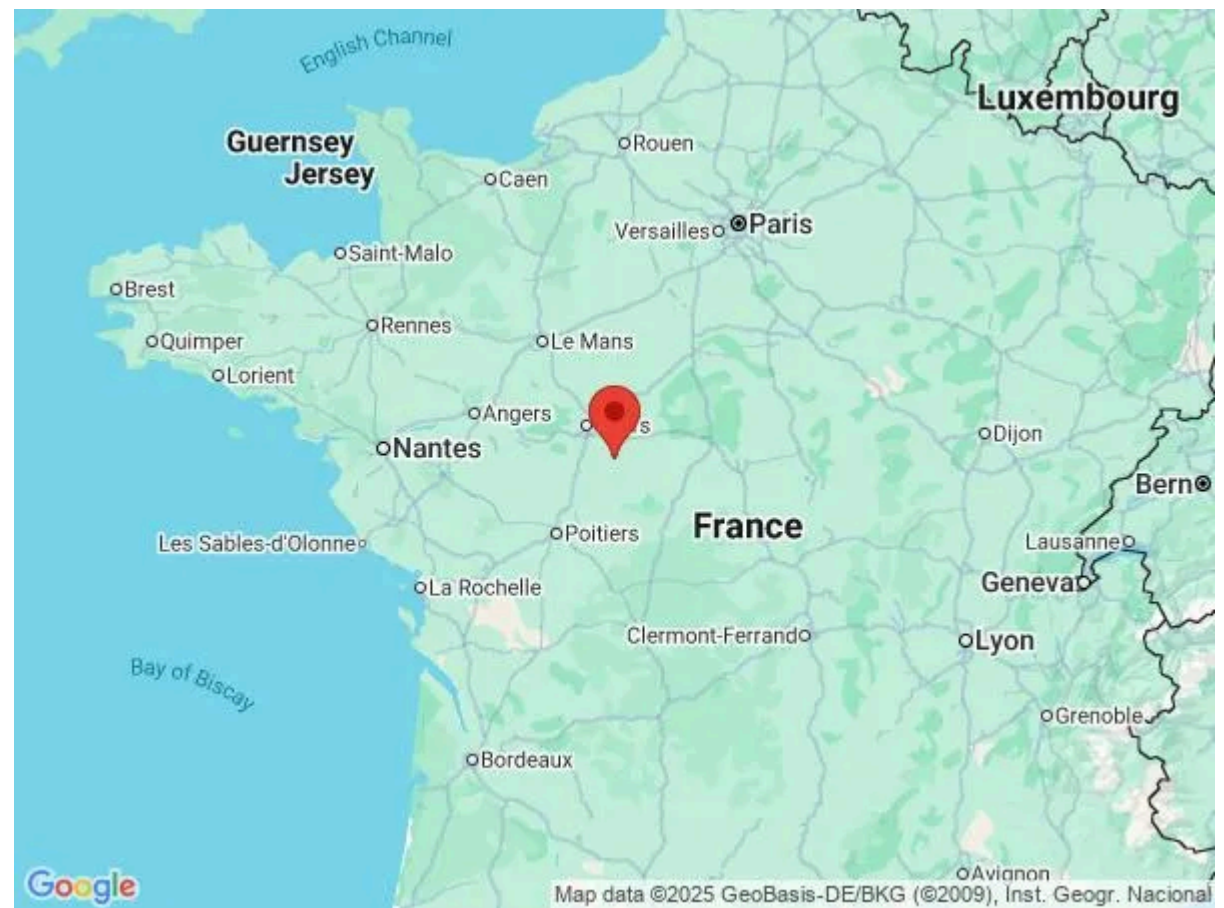
Palais D'Or is located within the city walls of Loches, one of France's most significant historic towns. In a perched position on a rocky spur, in the heart of the citadel, you are surrounded by the town's battlements yet there is a feeling of peace and privacy within your walled home and garden.

Situated in southern Touraine, Loches is one of the most beautifully preserved towns in France, almost like a smaller version of Carcassonne and the only walled town in the Loire valley. In the highest part of Loches, the Palais lies alongside the Château de Loches, the impressively tall 11th century Donjon and the wonderful Romanesque St-Ours church. This is a truly privileged setting - *La Cité Royale de Loches* has been home to many kings and queens across the years and it is famously where Joan of Arc met Charles VII to tell him the war against England was over.

On the banks of the Indre, Loches is home to numerous excellent restaurants, many with pretty al-fresco terraces set out along the town's narrow lanes, as well as a variety of lovely shops and a vibrant twice-weekly market, considered to be the best in the region. Meanwhile, art-lovers will be keen to admire the Caravaggio paintings on display in the Saint-Antoine gallery.

Cross the picturesque river, where locals love to fish, and stroll around the tranquil public gardens. The river offers swimming, canoeing and kayaking opportunities and bike hire is also available – look out for the *Indre à Vélo* cycling trail which passes through Loches or bike into the shady and historic woodland surrounding the town.

The great city of Tours is around 45-minutes drive away (or take the hour-long train ride from Loches' train station). Wander around the old quarter with its half-timbered houses, enjoy the amazing markets across the city and soak up the ambience by the banks of the Loire river with its bars, restaurants and cultural events. Traditional wooden boats offer trips along the Loire and culture



lovers should head to the impressive Olivier Debré Contemporary Art Centre to admire the art displays as well as the architecture.

Just outside Tours, the vineyards of Vouvray are well known across France and there are plenty of chances to visit wineries and sample the well-known white wine produced in this area.

Of course, you are also perfectly positioned to visit some of the Loire valley's other famous chateaux such as Château Royal d'Amboise and Château de Chenonceau, both around 40 minutes drive away, and Château de Villandry just a little further.

Even closer, discover the idyllic village of Chédigny (12km), a glorious garden village known for its many roses which are celebrated at the village's Festival of Roses in late May. Montrésor (20km) is another gorgeous village with medieval lanes on the banks of the Indrois, classified as one of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*'.

For outdoor enthusiasts, as well as all the cycling opportunities, discover walking trails between the Indre and Loire rivers or drive to nearby as L'Étang du Louroux, an especially tranquil lake which is perfect for bird-watching and nature walks.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Tours Val de Loire Airport (47km)
Nearest City	Tours (44km)
Nearest Golf	Golf Loches-Verneuil (12km)
Nearest Restaurant	Loches (Within 100m)
Nearest Supermarket	Small supermarket (Within 500m)
Nearest Tennis	Tennis Club Lochois (2.5km)

Nearest Train Station	Gare de Loches (1km)
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What we love

- A spectacular yet private setting up high within the city walls of Loches, one of France's most historically significant towns
- Gaze out to glorious views of Loches and beyond from the acre of wonderful gardens, set behind the town's 15th century ramparts
- Visit neighbouring Château de Loches, its impressive Donjon and the beautiful St-Ours church just down the lane
- Enjoy spending time in Loches with its charming restaurants, vibrant market and picturesque river ideal for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and swimming
- Explore the Loire valley's grand châteaux, idyllic villages, vineyards and magnificent cities including nearby Tours

What you should know...

- The Palais is home to four bedrooms and two bathrooms whilst the separate Pavilion has three bedrooms and one bathroom.
- If you are planning to enjoy feasts in the Palais' beautiful dining room, please note that the table seats up to 12 guests.
- The Pavilion's twin bedroom on the top floor has low sloping ceilings so may be better suited to children due to its size - do also note it is accessed via very steep stairs and has no door, as you can see on the virtual tour.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £1500 charged to client's credit card as a pre-authorisation one month before arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- **Arrival time:** 5.00 p.m.
- **Departure time:** 10.00 a.m.
- **Energy costs included?:** Yes.
- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes.
- **Pets welcome?:** On request only and with prior agreement with the owner.
- **Other Ts and Cs:** Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges. However, please note it is a quiet residential area.
- **Changeover day:** Flexible.
- **End of stay cleaning available?:** Yes. However, guests are required to leave the accommodation clean, tidy and in the same condition as on their arrival. Any extra cleaning, laundry, maintenance and/or rubbish disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.
- **Smoking Allowed?:** Outside only.
- **Minimum stay:** 2 nights. All other durations on request.
- **Heating costs included?:** Yes.
- **Tax:** French Visitors Tax payable locally (typically costs €1-€3 per adult per night- please enquire if exact amount is required).