

To see, to discover

Château de Montpoupon

Nestled in a harmonious natural environment, the chateau was built between the 13th and 15th centuries. Visitors are welcome to explore the chateau on their own or follow an audio tour. The outbuildings house the Veneur museum and its unique hunting collection.

The Ambacia & the Gabare : Another way to explore... by boat

Departing from Chisseaux (just a few kilometres from Chenonceaux), you can take a cruise aboard the "Ambacia" or the "Gabare". You will sail along the river Cher for around an hour, passing hillsides covered with forests and vineyards. A particular highlight of the trip will be passing under one of the arches of the famous château de Chenonceau.

infos techniques

GPS COORDINATES N 47°33'20.2 - E 1°06'58.0
ELEVATION + 32 m

Accommodation / Catering

Holidays rental, Bed and breakfast, Hotels
Campsite
Restaurants All shops available
Car park near the tourist-office

Tourist-office

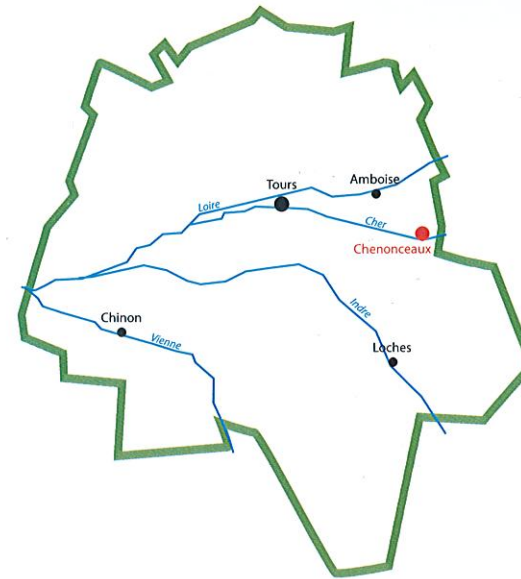
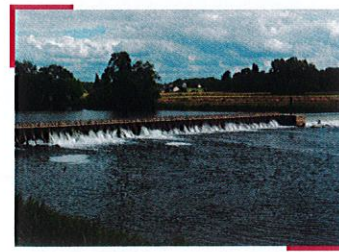
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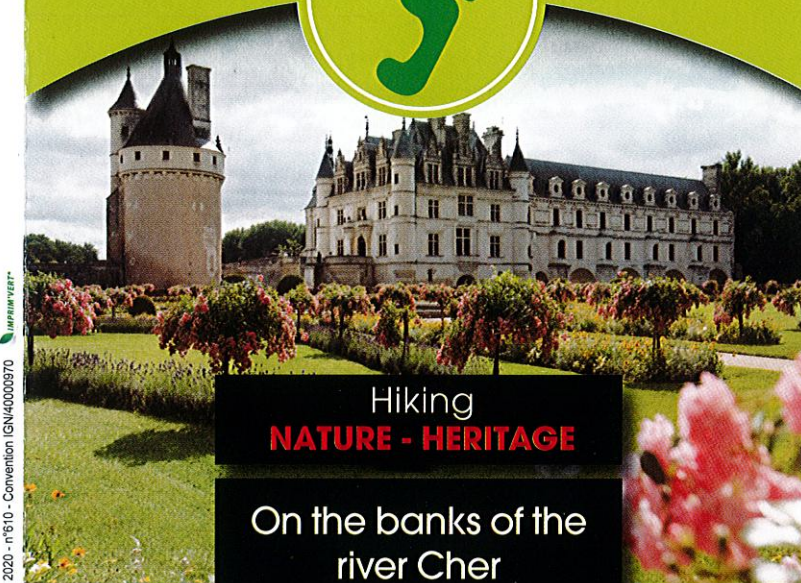


charte du randonneur

Cherish and respect nature. Listen to it, do not spoil it and do not harm it. Stay on the trail and be discreet. Do not damage plants or undergrowth. Do not smoke in the forest or do not light fires. Do not scare animals. Do not neglect human contact. Respect and get to know this rural world that welcomes you.

This material is funded by the Indre-et-Loire Council as part of the Footpath and Hiking Trail Regional Plan.

If you encounter any problem during the process of your walk,
please inform us at sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr

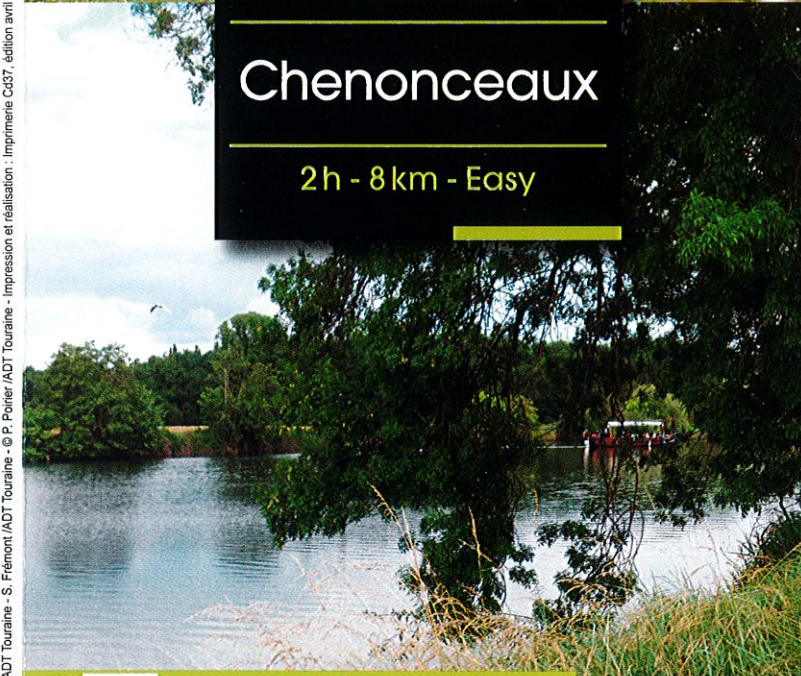


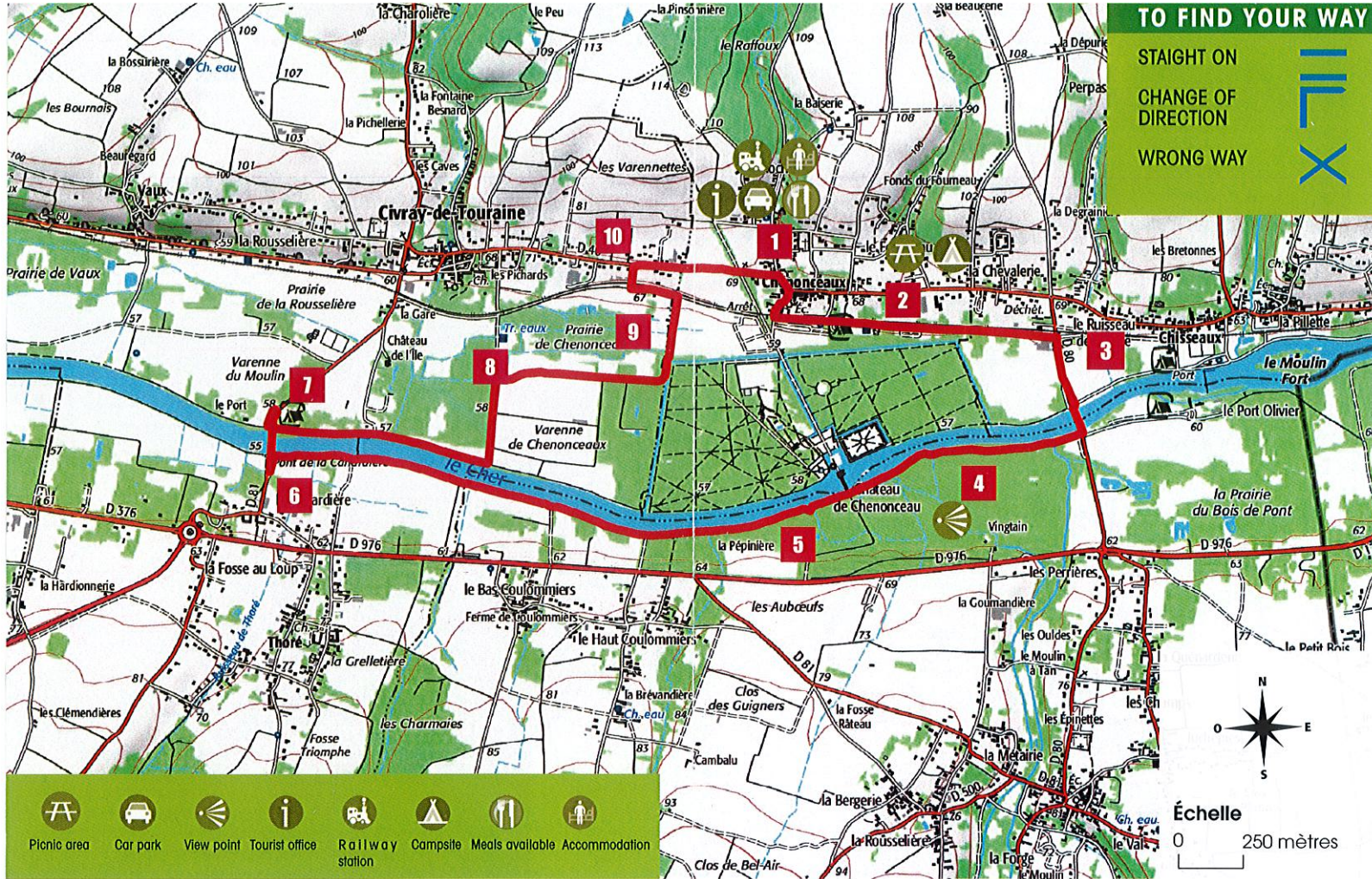
Hiking
NATURE - HERITAGE

On the banks of the
river Cher

Chenonceaux

2h - 8 km - Easy





Chenonceau is known for its world famous chateau but the village has many other riches to discover.

- 1 Start**
The blue waymarked circuit starts from the car park near the tourist office on the D 40 road. Follow this road to the right and pass the 12th century **Saint-Jean-Baptiste church**, the 16th century maison des Pages and the town hall (Mairie). Notice that the village of Chenonceaux is spelled with an X unlike the chateau of Chenonceau.
- 2 Railway line**
Cross the railway line near the Gothic style **crossing-keeper's house** and then turn left between the chateau's car park and the Tours-Lyon railway line. Continue on this path for around 1 km. You will pass a picnic spot and a play area.

- 3 Cher River**
At the stop sign, cross the road and then follow the road to the end, then turn right to get to the bridge, climb the stairs up onto the bridge. Descend the bridge to the right to follow the river Cher on the left bank (the side of a river on the left when you are looking in the direction it flows).
- 4 Chateau**
In front of you stands the most visited private monument in France. This French Renaissance work of art comprises a long covered gallery which rests on the arches of a bridge. It was first built by **Katherine Briçonnet** and then embellished by **Diane de Poitiers** and **Catherine de Médicis**. The **château des Dames** is worth a visit for its unique and rich collections

- 5 Woodland**
First, continue your walk between the **chateau's forest** and the river Cher. The river used to be the border between free France and the occupied territory during the Second World War. The resistance even used the chateau as a crossing point.
- 6 Dam**
Before reaching the bridge, you pass one of the 16 **needle dams** on the river Cher which becoming a canal between Saint Aignan-sur-Cher and Tours, a 62 km stretch. The dam system is named Poirée after its inventor and consists of a row of beams 2 to 4 metres in length placed vertically side-by-side to shut off the flow of water. Walk under and then over the bridge to get back to the right bank, in the direction of Chenonceau.
- 7 Lockhouse**
Pass between the maison éclusière (**lock-keeper's house**) and the lock. The transport of goods for trade was at its height between 1845 and 1920. Coal, stone, steel, oil, wood, sugar and wine were the main goods transported by flat-bottomed boats. They were hauled by horses, mules and sometimes men.
- 8 La Varenne**
Continue on this path for around 1 km. Turn left and then right and follow the hedge-lined path. You are walking along the **Varenne de Chenonceau**, an uncultivated piece of land where livestock once grazed and game roamed.
- 9 Park**
You will see the **surrounding wall** of the park level with a canal fed by the river Cher. In the 16th century the park was comprised of ornamental gardens, ponds, an orchard, a vegetable garden, mulberry trees, a real tennis court and a green garden created by Catherine de Médicis. Turn left to reach the railway line which you cross by turning left then right.
- 10 Vineyard**
Walk along the D 40 road. The red and white waymarkers on part of the circuit indicate that you have been walking on the GR 41 which links Tours to the Mont-Dore. As you approach the village, notice the vines on your right. These **vines produce Touraine-Chenonceaux AOC wine**. Pass the tourist office. This is the end of the walk.