

The Loire Valley - A Great Weekend!



A weekend away in 2010 spent in the Val De Loire region of France in Saumur would be much more relaxing than in previous years due to two things:

1. We would sail from Portsmouth (which is only two hours drive from Taunton) to St. Malo via Brittany Ferries on the overnight service sailing **Thursday** evening at 20.30hrs. With three restaurants to choose from a good evening meal is assured before retiring to a twin bedded cabin for the night. We would dock in St Malo early in the morning (around 0700hrs) which would give us a completely fresh start to the day.
2. From St Malo we would have a three and a half hour journey passing through Rennes (the capital of Brittany) Laval and Le Mans (of 24 hour racing fame) to Saumur to our hotel which would be of a similar standard to last year.

So with the restricted journey time we would find it much more comfortable and have the possibility of stopping off to sight-see en route and arriving early should give everyone plenty of time to see Saumur and get something to eat.

From Saumur visits could be arranged along the Loire valley to a Wine producing Chateau for a wine tasting. The wine produced in this area (Anjou-Saumur) is White Chenin Blanc and Red Cabernet Franc. A trip to Rochemenier, a village built into limestone cliffs (Troglodyte) about 6km from Saumur where a tour can be conducted of the underground caves to see how people lived in ages past. Also we can visit the magnificent Chateau Chenonceau, one of the most spectacular in the Loire Valley.



A trip can also be arranged to visit Pierre et Lumière in Saumur where architectural carvings are cut into the limestone below ground and show Abbeys, Cathedrals and churches and complete villages in amazing detail, all illuminated in varying colours.

Our return trip would be to Cherbourg and then by fast ferry back to Portsmouth in the late afternoon/early evening. Crossing time about 3 ½ hours.

The cost of this trip is based on a minimum of thirty travelling and includes coach travel (remember, hot water is available on the coach for coffee making etc.) twin bed cabins on board the ferry, and bed and breakfast for three nights at the hotel in Saumur. Entry to attractions is extra, as is the tip for the driver who we hope again this year will be Glynn.

Cost per person is £320.00 + extra for single bed accommodation.



Deposits of I presume £25.00 per person will be required at an early date so numbers are required as soon as possible.

The benefits are **NO** early start. **NO** dash to Dover and a long haul across Europe. A **good** night's sleep aboard ship after an evening meal. A **full** day on Friday, for the leisurely run to Saumur, arriving about lunch time or after, depending on what we do on the way.

On the return, we catch a **fast** ferry from Cherbourg back to Portsmouth, and then home in two hours.

Go For It!