

## CAAR 2005.

### SUGGESTED HALF-DAY ACTIVITIES FOR PARTNERS.

The Sunday morning CAAR excursion will take interested participants east of Tours to Chenonceaux, Amboise and Vouvray. The following suggestions take you west and south.

You will need to purchase # 64 Michelin map, as what we are sending aims at just giving you a broad idea.

#### 1/ **Bicycling around.**

Bicycles can be rented from "Vélomania" (109 rue Colbert) or "Amster Cycles" (5 rue du rempart).

"**La Loire à vélo**" is a newly opened bicycle track that runs along the rivers Cher and (mostly) Loire from Savonnières to Candes-Saint Martin. The return trip is about 120 kms. The river's beauty in itself is worth the effort. This is not a sporty hilly ride, but you may have to pedal against the wind on the way out or on the way back. The wind inevitably will follow the river, the same as you do.

From Candes, another 5 kms will take to **Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud**.

You need not go all the way down to Candes. Three places to visit on the way are the **Villandry** castle (25 kms from Tours). Then, you can push on and cross the Loire to **Langeais** castle (29 kms from Tours). Further down is the **Rigny Ussé** castle where Charles Perrault is said to have imagined Sleeping Beauty (40 kms from Tours).

2/ One can **also drive** to those places, though the view of the river is not so good.

3/ **Another trip**, not so far out, would be the town and château at **Chinon**, allowing you to push into Rabelais country at **La Devinière** (Rabelais's holiday home) and near-by **Seuilly** and **La Roche-Clermault** where his heroes fought their literary battles. This is about 50 kms from Tours.

4/ **Still another trip** would consist in le Prieuré Saint Cosme, at **La Riche**, a suburb of Tours where Ronsard is buried. You can then find your way to the **Azay-le-Rideau** castle (28 kms from Tours). Those interested in past ways of life can visit a troglodytic farm complex at **La Sablonnière**, 6 kms from Azay-le-Rideau. Three or four more kms will take you to **Saché**, the manor where Balzac took refuge when he was broke. From Saché to Saint-Epain is 10 kms. Making a right at Saint-Epain, you will find **Crissay-sur-Manse**, a delightful village that has been preserved almost untouched. The round trip to Crissay is about 95 kms. From there, you can also drive on to **Richelieu** through l'Ile Bouchard. Richelieu is a model town the Cardinal ordered built in the middle of nowhere

5/ Staying in Tours to visit the **château**, the **cathedral**, the **museum** (don't miss Fritz, a stuffed P. T. Barnum elephant that died in Tours) and the old city will be of interest.

