

## Leonardo Da Vinci

Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci was born 15 April 1452 in Vinci, close to Florence, Italy. His most famous work includes his numerous inventions and his paintings like the Mona Lisa or the Last Supper.

His interests included sculpture, architecture, science, engineering, anatomy, astronomy, geology, botany, literature & philosophy... He moved to France in 1516 and lived at the Clos Lucé, the residence given to him by François 1er.

Leonardo died there on 2 May 1519.

Leonardo was left handed and a vegetarian. Leonardo was also a mirror writer:

He is still today considered as one of the most diversely talented individuals ever to have lived.

## 1- Le Clos Lucé

Leonardo Da Vinci was invited to stay in the Clos Lucé by François 1er, King of France. He lived there from 1516 to 1519.

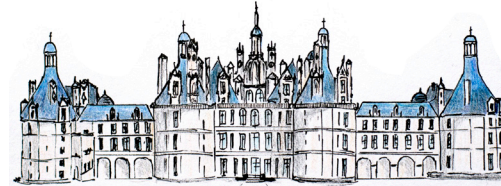
The park displays models of the various machines designed by Leonardo. The museum also includes a copy of the Mona Lisa, painted by himself.

Infos on: [www.vinci-closluce.com](http://www.vinci-closluce.com)



## 3 - The Royal Chateau of Chambord

Chambord was built after Leonardo's death but his work most likely inspired many of the castle architecture specificities including the double helix central staircase, the square shape floorplan, its overall design including the roofs' turrets and spires and even the Royal toilets system.



The Chateau of Chambord is the largest castle of the Loire Valley and a French Renaissance masterpiece.

Infos on: [chambord.org](http://chambord.org)

## Conclusion & notes

The Loire Valley is listed amongst the UNESCO World Heritage sites. It comprises over 50 different castles and museums, an impressive architectural heritage, many charming historic towns & villages and beautiful landscape along the Loire river.

Infos on:  
[leschateauxdelaloire.org](http://leschateauxdelaloire.org)  
[www.loirevalleytourism.com](http://www.loirevalleytourism.com)

Leonardo Da Vinci was 64 years old when he came to France by crossing the Alps on a mule. He carried with him 3 of his most famous paintings: the Mona Lisa, John the Baptist & The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne which are now all in the Louvre, in Paris.



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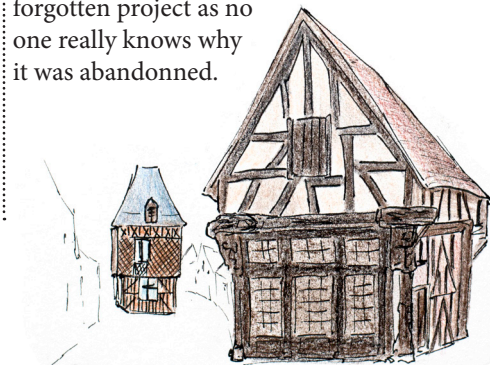
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## 2 - Romorantin

François 1er wanted to transform Romorantin into the Capital of France and charged Leonardo Da Vinci of this titanesque project. This little town was going to become an ideal city, with a Royal Palace and canals like Venice.

It is today referred as the forgotten project as no one really knows why it was abandoned.



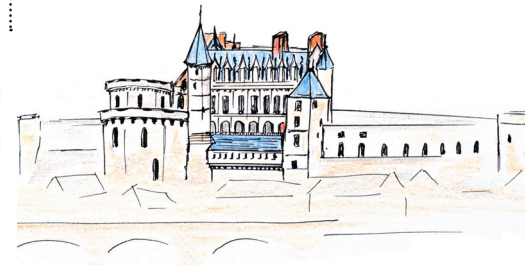
Some infos on: [www.romorantin-leprojetoublieleonarddevinci.fr](http://www.romorantin-leprojetoublieleonarddevinci.fr) (in French only)

## 4 - The Royal Chateau of Amboise

The Amboise Castle was François 1er residence. It is located 400m from the Clos Lucé and it is said that François 1er visited Leonardo daily, maybe even using a secret passageway, which is still to be discovered!

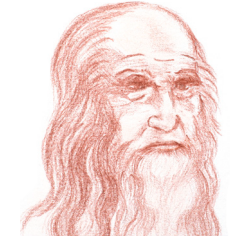
Leonardo's tomb can be found in the Chapel although this is not the original place where he was buried.

Infos on: [www.chateau-amboise.com](http://www.chateau-amboise.com)



## MINI POCKET MAP

## LEONARDO DA VINCI TOUR



# Leonardo Da Vinci Tour

A road trip itinerary around the Loire Valley, to learn about the life of Leonardo Da Vinci while he stayed in France.

## Legend:

..... Itinerary 100 Miles / 160 km

— River

★ Main places to visit

★ Some of the Loire Valley Castles

