

## To see, to discover

### The 10<sup>th</sup> century keep of Montbazon

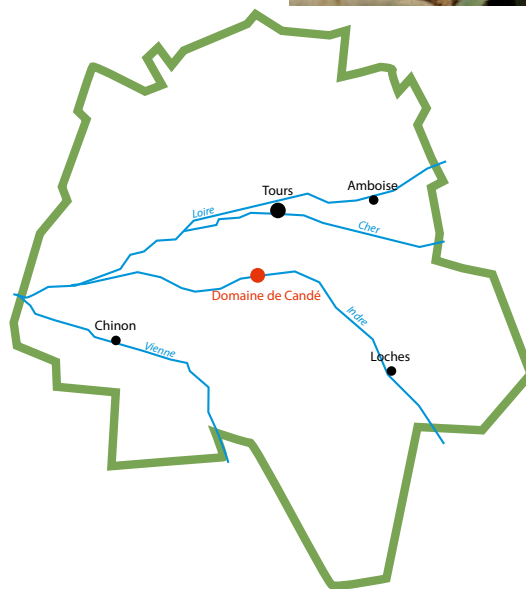
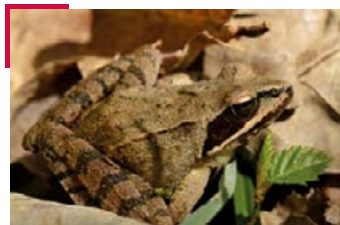
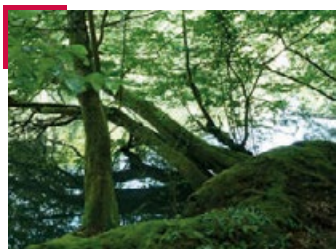
Built in 991 by Foulques Nerra also called the Black Falcon, the Montbazon keep is considered to be one of the oldest monuments in France. Numerous events are held here in the summer season.

### The leisure park « Récréation »

An out-of-the-ordinary leisure park with something for all the family. Open-air games, sheltered picnic tables, barbecue and farmyard animals await you.

### Ramblers Festival in July

Organised every year by the Val de l'Indre tourist office.



## Walking charter

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 [sentinellesportsdenature.fr](mailto:sentinellesportsdenature.fr)

## Technical information

GPS COORDINATES N 47°17.486 E 0°39.578

ELEVATION + 42 m

## Accommodation / Catering

Charming accommodation and catering in Veigné, Montbazon, Artannes, Saché, All shops available in Monts Railway station.

### Domaine de Candé

Château de Candé - 37260 Monts

Tel : 02 47 34 03 70

[www.domainecande.fr](http://www.domainecande.fr)

### Tourist office Azay-Chinon

Val de Loire Tourisme

Bureau d'accueil du Val de l'Indre

Esplanade du Val de l'Indre - RD 910

37250 Montbazon

Tél : 02 47 26 97 87



Hiking  
NATURE AND HERITAGE

In the shade  
of ancient oaks

Domaine de  
Candé - Monts

1 h 20 - 4,5 km - easy

## TO FIND YOUR WAY

STRAIGHT ON



CHANGE OF DIRECTION



WRONG WAY



The Candé estate was set up around 1860 by Santiago Drake del Castillo, a rich Parisian aristocrat. The estate, comprising an area of 250 hectares, is classified as an Espace Naturel Sensible (environmentally fragile area) owing to its rich flora and fauna. This status distinguishes those sites that are both protected in terms of the environment and open to the public. We invite you to explore the property.

1

### Orangery

This 4,5 km ramble, guided by yellow way-markers, starts in front of the former **orangery** (reception-shop) located close to the **chateau**. It was here that in 1937 the American Wallis Simpson married the highly controversial Duke of Windsor who had just abdicated the English throne. Follow the path which extends alongside the ancient vegetable garden and orchard. Here over 40 historical varieties of apples, pears and plums are grown.

2

### Press rooms

You will come to wine storehouses built in 1866. Measuring 1 000 m<sup>2</sup>, this building was used for wine-making. Three large **wine-presses** used to extract the juice from the grapes are still in place. Referred to as « American » because of their modern style, these wine-presses could be used by a single person.

To the right of the storehouses, notice a gothic style manor where the estate manager lives.

Turn left then take the second path on your right.

3

### Saint-Laurent Valley

The forest paths extend those of the park. You will come to the **Saint Laurent valley**. This stream feeds a pond created by the owner of the estate. Upstream of the pond, under water for part of the year, is a marshland of close to

4

### Woods

The forestry management practiced regularly since the estate was created favoured the development of very large oak trees, to the detriment of regeneration trees. Today, **bracken** dominates the underwood, preventing the young seedlings from growing. A change in practice is therefore expected. Branch off to the left in the direction of a clearing and then right.

5

### Clearing

After the shade of the underwood, walk along the clearing where the sun rays reach the ground. Hunting hides are a reminder of the wildlife management on the estate. There is a large number of wild species here. It is not rare to see pheasants, hares, deer, stags or wild boar. Hunting is used to manage the numbers of some wild animal populations. Branch off to the right at the next crossroads.

6

### Heritage vineyards

You will once again come to the plateau which was formerly covered with vines. The « Cot » grape variety produced a robust wine which benefited from being kept and which won first prize in a wine award in 1874. However, around 1888, an invasion of Phylloxera, a kind of destructive aphid, destroyed the vine stock. The vineyard was replanted with American transplants.

Turn left at the edge of the wood, continuing to follow the yellow way-markers. After about 500 metres, turn left.

7

### Pollard beech tree

On your right, notice an old **pollard tree**. These trees spread throughout the forest bear witness to a time when « bocage », farmland criss-crossed by hedges and trees, took up an area larger than the plateau. The strange shapes of these trees, protruding from the hedges, are a result of the regular pruning of their branches. They provide shelter for numerous protected insects.

8

### Pavilion

You will come to the guardian's lodge on your left. Built in the Anglo-Norman style, a very popular style typified by roofs bursting with flat tiles, overhanging roofs offering protection from the rain, awnings over the entrance and window and door frames made from bricks made in the ovens of the Candé estate brickworks.

Return to the orangery by the large path.

You can continue this ramble with a circuit : In the steps of Santiago Drake del Castillo (3 km) (the route is marked by a dotted line on the map).