

TECHNICAL GUIDE

ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

atlantic-loire-valley.com



CONTENTS

Welcome and Access	.4
The Essentials of Atlantic Loire Valley	.6
Culture, Heritage and Loire Chateaux	
1. LOIRE VALLEY: ROYAL CHATEAUX AND HIDDEN TREASURES	.9
2. FROM THE LOIRE VALLEY TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN	.13
3. LOIRE VALLEY: ART (DE VIVRE) AS IT FLOWS	.17
4. A MODERN JOURNEY THROUGH AN OLD LAND	.21
Wine tourism and French art de vivre	
5. LOIRE VALLEY: GREAT WINES AND ART DE VIVRE	.25
6. LOIRE VALLEY SECRET VINEYARDS	.29
7. FRENCH ART DE VIVRE IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY	.33
Cycling	
8. EXPERIENCE THE LOIRE BY BIKE	.37
9. CYCLING ALONG THE LOIRE & BEYOND	.41
Seaside activities	
10. ATLANTIC COAST: SEA, CYCLING AND SPORT	.45
11. FROM BRITTANY TO THE ATLANTIC	.49
Exclusive and Wellbeing	
12. ATLANTIC COAST: RELAX AND FEEL GOOD!	.53
13. EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY	.57
City break	
14. FROM PARIS TO NANTES BY TRAIN	.61
Slow tourism	
15. GREEN AND SLOW LIFE IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY	.65
Contacts	.69

To find the contact details of accommodations & activities of every itinerary, please refer to the box at the end of each circuit.

Dear tourism professional, welcome to Atlantic Loire Valley!

This technical guide has been prepared just for you! We recommend 15 itineraries which can be easily combined with French tours you already know of, such as: Loire Chateaux, Mont-Saint-Michel & Normandy, Brittany & Atlantic Coast, Vineyards of Bordeaux, and more...



Atlantic Loire Valley is located at the crossroads of major French tourist routes, with Nantes just 2 hours away from Paris by high-speed train.

Getting here:

- Nantes Atlantic international airport: direct connections to more than 100 French and international destinations, including the Paris Charles de Gaulle, London, Amsterdam or Munich hubs
- **TGV trains:** from all major cities in Atlantic Loire Valley you can travel to Paris by high-speed train in 50 min. to 2 hours.
- A dense motorway network: A11, A28, A81, A83, A85, A87 motorways

	Tours	Saumur	Paris	Nantes	Le Mont- Saint-Michel	Les Sables d'Olonne	Le Mans	Laval	La Baule / Guérande
Angers	1h30	50 min	3h15	1h10	2h35	1h45	1h15	1h15	1h45
La Baule / Guérande	3h00	2h20	4h40	1h05	2h45	2h05	2h45	2h25	
Laval	1h45	1h45	3h00	2h00	1h40	2h50	1h00		-
Le Mans	1h10	1h20	2h30	2h00	2h30	2h40			
Les Sables d'Olonne	2h55	2h05	4h25	1h25	3h30		N		
Le Mont- Saint-Michel	3h10	3h10	4h00	2h20		X			
Nantes	2h15	1h40	3h50				M	\	L
Paris	2h30	3h15				- A	(- Tomore
Saumur	55 min					Joond	5	$\sum \sum$	K
Technical guide Atlantic Loire Valley						Ś			ZZ

DISTANCES BY CAR

ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

These 15 itineraries will introduce you to the richness of Atlantic Loire Valley.

Culture, Heritage and Loire Chateaux

- 1. Loire Valley: royal Chateaux & hidden treasures
- 2. From the Loire Valley to the Atlantic Ocean
- 3. Loire Valley: art (de vivre) as it flows
- 4. A modern journey through an old land

Wine tourism and French art de vivre

- 5. Loire Valley: great wines and art de vivre
- 6. Loire Valley secret vineyards
- 7. French art de vivre in Atlantic Loire Valley

Cycling

- 8. Experience The Loire by Bike
- 9. Cycling along the Loire & beyond

Seaside activities

10. Atlantic coast: sea, cycling and sport11. From Brittany to the Atlantic

Exclusive and Wellbeing

12. Atlantic coast: relax and feel good!
 13. Exclusive experiences in Atlantic Loire Valley

City break

14. From Paris to Nantes by train

Slow tourism

15. Green and slow life in Atlantic Loire Valley



THE ESSENTIALS OF ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

Top reasons why you should definitely include Atlantic Loire Valley in your itinerary!



THE HEART OF THE LOIRE VALLEY, LISTED ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

This part of the Loire Valley, from Saumur to the Atlantic Ocean is "the other Chateaux region". Admire the still inhabited Chateaux like Brissac or Brézé, the 1,000-year-old Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, the tufa stone cave dwellings of the Saumur area...







VIBRANT CITIES SUCH AS NANTES, ANGERS OR LE MANS

Nantes: Playful and creative, vibrant and young, Nantes has been totally turned upside down by art! 2 hours from Paris by TGV train, the historical capital of Brittany has been awarded European Capital of Innovation 2020 for its quality of life, efficient transportation policy and sustainable development.

When in Nantes "follow the green line" which leads from an artwork by one of today's great artists to a remarkable heritage site. Nantes boasts over 100 permanent artworks in public spaces and every summer in July and August the green line comes alive with artists, architects, designers and gardeners... Save the date!

Angers: Known as the capital of Anjou, Angers spreads out just a few steps away from the Loire River. This vibrant city is renowned for:

- Its Chateau: the Loire Valley's biggest medieval fortress is home to an extraordinary 14th century masterpiece, the Apocalypse Tapestry.
- Its medieval architecture, museums and cobbled streets
- Its Cointreau liqueur
- Its quality of life

Le Mans: Known throughout the world for its 24-hour endurance car race that takes place every year in June, Le Mans also happens to be a charming city. Its medieval town centre - Cité Pantagenêt - is the largest and most preserved testimony of French architecture in Western France (20 hectares). You will enjoy strolling along the cobbled streets, admiring the old timber-framed townhouses which date back to the Renaissance period. And don't miss the impressive cathedral. No wonder the city has served as a film set for many major French and American movies.



CYCLING HOLIDAYS

Atlantic Loire Valley is an ideal destination for families with very flat and well signposted routes, and also for experienced cyclists who will enjoy the connections with the great European cycle routes Eurovelo 1 and 6. The Loire by Bike, the Vélo Francette, the Loir Valley by bike, the Velodyssey® or Atlantic Coast Route ... Take a ride on some of the 3,000 km of cycle paths and green lanes in Atlantic Loire Valley & discover varied landscapes with very different atmospheres: seaside, rivers, grove, marsh...



THE LOIRE VALLEY WINES

Taste world-class AOP-labelled wines and lesser-known gems: Muscadet, Saumur, Jasnières, Coteaux-du-Loir, Anjou are perfect to pair with the local gastronomy. And meet local winegrowers and craftsmen passionate about their trades.



THE ATLANTIC COAST

With 450 km of coastline and 215 km of beaches, La Baule, Pornic, Les Sables d'Olonne, Noirmoutier and Yeu Islands are some of the key places to visit.

For a relaxing moment, choose 1 of 7 thalassotherapy centres, using seawater for treatment. And if you're looking for active holidays, many watersports await you including: windsurfing, catamarans, sea kayaks and even kitesurfing, flyboarding, giant stand-up paddling and kite foiling.



ART DE VIVRE AND GASTRONOMY

Taste local specialties from the sea, like the Guérande or Noirmoutier salt, fresh fish or oysters that will pair perfectly with local wines. And don't miss local produce from the land, like the tender chicken of Loué or Challans, the rillettes from Le Mans, or, for a sweet tooth, the LU or Sablé biscuits, the gateau nantais, not to forget the Cointreau orange liqueur, perfect for cocktails.





A PRESERVED ENVIRONMENT

The region boasts 4 regional nature parks:

- The Poitevin Marshes, with the wetlands also known as "Green Venice"
- The Brière, the second largest marshland in France (70 km2)
- The Loire Anjou Touraine Nature Park, along the Loire Valley listed as a UNESCO world heritage site
- The Normandy/Maine Nature Park, with great hikes in the "Alpes Mancelles"

Slow tourism and river cruising are possible in Sarthe and Mayenne, just a stone's throw from Paris.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

You may have heard of these events before, but did you know that they take place in Atlantic Loire Valley?

- 24 Hours of Le Mans, the world's oldest active sports car race in endurance racing
- Vendée Globe, the single-handed non-stop sailing race around the world without assistance in Les Sables d'Olonne
- Hellfest Summer Open Air, the 1st European rock-metal music festival in Clisson



PUY DU FOU THEME PARK

Puy du Fou is an historic theme park, several times voted "Best Park in the World" and Ist leisure park in France and Europe for 2019 Trip Advisor travelers' choice !

Forget the 21st century and throw yourself into a journey back in time! Show after show, adventure after adventure, cross the centuries.

60 shows and activities 4 period villages 55 hectares of nature 6 theme hotels

FOR YOUR CLIENTS DISCOVERING THE LOIRE VALLEY FOR THE FIRST TIME

-ໍຸ<mark>:</mark> 4 DAYS 🔊 315 KM

1

LOIRE VALLEY: ROYAL CHATEAUX & HIDDEN TREASURES

Highlights of the trip:

- The Loire Valley, a UNESCO world heritage site
- Great Chateaux: Villandry, Azay-le-Rideau,
- Chinon, le Rivau, and Brézé
- The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud
- Angers, capital of Anjou - The creative city of Nantes and
- Les Machines de l'île

Laloire

NANTES



ANGERS

SAUMUR

Brézé

Chinon

Chateau du Rivau



The Chateau of Montsoreau built in the Loire river's bed, Anjou

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<u>⊘</u>[©] 50 KM



The Loire is the longest river in France (1,012km)



Morning | Tours & Chateau & Gardens de Villandry

Guided tour of Tours

Tour of the Chateau and gardens de Villandry, renowned for its magnificent French formal gardens which provide an enchanting setting for the last Loire Chateau built during the Renaissance.

Lunch in Villandry, close to the famous Chateau and gardens

Afternoon | Azay-le-Rideau & Chinon

Tour of the Chateau d'Azay-le-Rideau

Discover this stunning Renaissance architecture beautifully reflected in its water mirror.

Dinner in Chinon

Night at 3* Diderot Hotel in Chinon

Day 2









Discover the Chinon fortress, like a crown perched on high,

Morning Chinon

the royal fortress of Chinon peacefully reigns over the city.

Lunch in Chinon

Afternoon | Rivau & Saumur

Explore Chateau du Rivau.

The medieval fortress reveals an enchanted world in which the footsteps of knights, fair ladies and war horses still echo today.

Take your time for a late afternoon stroll along the cobbled streets of **Saumur**

Dinner at "l'Orangeraie" restaurant in Saumur, a typical restaurant in the courtyard of the Chateau

Night at the <u>4* Hôtel Mercure Bord de Loire</u> in Saumur, facing the Loire River and the Chateau.

©[®] 120 KM



you will find nearly 1,200km of troglodytes / cave-dwelling in tufa stone!









Morning Chateau de Brézé

Explore <u>Chateau de Brézé</u>. Considered one of the most intriguing Loire Chateaux, it welcomes you to its architectural wonders, and to its unique underground tunnels cut into the tufa.

Discover <u>Pierre et Lumière</u>, showing the main Loire Valley monuments in small scale sculpted in tufa stone.

Lunch at "<u>Le Castellane" restaurant</u> in 4* Chateau Le Prieuré – Younan Collection with a unique panorama over the River Loire.

Afternoon Chateau du Plessis-Bourré & Angers

Discover <u>the Chateau du Plessis-Bourré</u>, that stills looks the same as in the 15th century. It is a perfect setting for movies (like Le Bossu with Gérard Depardieu or Peau d'Âne with Catherine Deneuve).

Dinner at <u>the "Brasserie du Théâtre" restaurant</u>, by the main square in Angers.

> Alternative: Dinner at "Pont-Pont" restaurant, overlooking the Chateau

Night at the 4* Hôtel d'Anjou, Angers

> Alternative: Night at 4* Hôtel de France, Angers

Day 4

⊘^Ø 90 KM



The novelist Jules Verne, vho wrote «Around the world in eighty days», was born in Nantes in 1828





Morning Angers & Nantes

Tour of <u>the Chateau d'Angers</u>: the biggest medieval fortress in the Loire Valley is home to an extraordinary masterpiece of the 14th century: the Apocalypse Tapestry.

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants, its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at <u>the 4* Maisons du Monde Hotel & Suites</u> in Nantes.

> Alternative: 4* Oceania "Hôtel de France", Nantes

11

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE ITINERARY

Chateau de Brézé

Pierre & Lumière monuments scultped in tufa stone, Saumur

Le Castellane Restaurant in 4* Hotel Le Prieuré, Saumur

Les Tables de Nantes

INTERESTED IN CULTURE, **CHATEAUX AND GARDENS?**

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• At the entrance of Fontenay-le-Comte, in Southern Vendée, you cannot fail to notice the chateau of Terre-Neuve built at the very end of the XVIe century. Terre-Neuve was the work of an artist and a poet at the same time. Chateau & museum / guided tours and fun visit for children.

• Stay in a chateau and live a king's life! Under the national label "Bienvenue au Chateau", you will find a selection of the most beautiful Chateaux and mansions steeped in history and reflecting the affection of the present owners. Many of places are located in Atlantic Loire Valley!

 Troglo Nature in the Saumur area The Mushroom Museum: Come and discover the secrets of mushroom growing, in a surprising and mysterious atmosphere.

Puygirault garden: A plant garden rather than a flower garden, the various vegetable squares will introduce you to more than 1,000 plants across 2 hectares. A place of relaxation and education, this garden is respectful of our planet.

• The Southern Vendée abbeys, a well-hidden secret

The Abbey of Maillezais is the largest historical site of the Marais Poitevin. Once a powerful fortress, Romanesque abbey then Gothic cathedral, Maillezais has witnessed religious, economic and artistic influences.

The Royal Abbey of Nieul-sur-l'Autise, where technologies reveal the stone: In the heart of a charming village, an architectural gem enhanced by a unique restoration, opens its doors to you for a visit on the border between the real and the virtual. Guided tours.

• The Chateau de Montreuil-Bellay, Saumur area

15 km South of Saumur, the Chateau combines the grace of the Renaissance and the power of medieval military architecture. It is a private historical monument, inhabited, furnished and open to visitors who can marvel at is 600 metres of wall, 13 flanking towers, an impregnable citadel!



FOR CLIENTS WISHING TO UNRAVEL THE CHARM OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

-☆- 4 DAYS ⊘[©] 380 KM

2

FROM THE LOIRE VALLEY TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Highlights of the trip:

- The Loire Valley, a UNESCO world heritage site
- The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud
- The Saumur Cadre Noir and wine cellars
- The medieval quarters of Angers
- The Saint-Nazaire shipyards
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île



Saumur and the Loire river

ORLÉANS

MONT-NT-MICHEL

ANGERS

SALIMUE

SAINT-MALC

<u>⊘</u>[©] 100 KM







Les Fouées, a local gastronomic specialty, is served in a troglodyte/ cave-dwelling restaurant

Morning Angers

Arrive at Angers TGV train station.

Take your time in Angers. In the heart of the Loire Valley, Angers (the capital of Anjou) is renowned for its rich heritage and quality of life.

Lunch in Angers in a typical restaurant.

Afternoon | Angers

Learn the secrets of <u>Cointreau</u>, the famous orange-flavoured triple sec liqueur produced in Angers, used in many famous cocktails. Use your imagination to **create your own signature beverage**.

Dinner at the "Pieds Bleus" troglodyte/cave-dwelling restaurant in Chênehutte, close to Saumur.

> Alternative: Dinner at cave-dwelling restaurant Le Saut aux loups, Saumur.

Night at the <u>4* Hotel Château le Prieuré</u>, Younan Collection, over looking the Loire river. > Alternative: Night at 4* Hotel Saint-Pierre, Saumur.

Day 2

<u>⊘</u>[©] 80 KM











Morning | Saumur

Discover Saumur, by the Loire River, a UNESCO world heritage site, surrounded by vineyards and dominated by its Chateau:

- Visit the <u>Cadre Noir</u>, one of the 4 most prestigious classical riding academies in the world, where equestrians are trained.
- Visit the <u>Gratien & Meyer wine cellar</u>, where they produce "fines bulles" sparkling wine.
- Stop off at the **Saumur market**.

Cruise lunch on board <u>"La Nonchalante"</u>, traditional boat on the Loire River in Saumur.

Afternoon | Fontevraud & Angers

Visit the <u>Royal Abbey of Fontevraud</u>, the largest monastic city in Europe, listed as a UNESCO world heritage site, and now hosting a design 4* hotel, a Michelin star restaurant, and a modern art museum.

Dinner at the 1515 Restaurant at the <u>4* Hotel d'Anjou</u> in Angers city centre.

> Alternative: "Lait Thym Sel" restaurant (1* Michelin) in Angers city centre

Night at the <u>4* Hôtel d'Anjou</u> in Angers city center.

> Alternative: Night at the 4* Hotel de France, facing the Angers TGV train station

©[®] 140 KM









Morning Angers

Explore Angers, medieval capital: known as the capital of Anjou, Angers spreads out just a few steps away from the Loire River. This vibrant city is mostly renowned for:

- Its <u>Chateau</u>: the biggest medieval fortress in the Loire Valley is home to an extraordinary 14th century masterpiece, the Apocalypse Tapestry.
- Its medieval architecture, museum sand cobbled streets
- Its Cointreau liqueur and its quality of life

Lunch at the "<u>Guinguette Port Thibault</u>", a typical bistro-type restaurant by the Loire river.

Afternoon | Saint-Nazaire

Discover Saint-Nazaire, the city by the Estuary and the Atlantic ocean. Delve into the world of legendary cruise ships at <u>Escal'Atlantic</u> (Ocean liner boat experience). Stroll around the streets of La Havana district and discover the villas from the 1900s.

Dinner at a restaurant on the Place du Commando, the new trendy area by the sea.

> Alternative: Dinner at La Brasserie du Port, Saint-Nazaire

Night at the <u>3* Best Western Hotel de la Plage</u>, facing the ocean, in Saint-Nazaire.

> Alternative: The Originals Boutique Hotel Aquilon Saint-Nazaire

Day 4

<u>⊘</u>[©] 60 KM



Don't miss the Passage Pommeraye in Nantes, the only three-storey overed arcade in Europe







Morning | Saint-Nazaire & Nantes

Visit the <u>shipyards of Saint-Nazaire</u> and discover how the giants of the seas are built.

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Radisson Blu hotel</u> in Nantes.

Alternative: 4* Okko Hotel in Nantes, next to the Chateau

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE ITINERARY

Cointreau distillery, Angers carre.cointreau@remy-cointreau.fr 4* Hotel Château le Prieuré, Saumur reception.prieure@vounancollection.c

Cadre Noir de Saumur visites.cadrenoir@ifce.fr

Gratien & Meyer wine cellar, Saumur boutique@gratienmeyer.com

Loire Evasion – River cruise, Saumur loireevasion@gmail.com

The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud 1* Michelin restaurant and 4* Hotel c.chateau@fontevraud.fr

* Hotel d'Anjou in Angers

groupes@hoteldanjou.fr Chateau d'Angers nathalie.koenig@monuments-nationaux.fr Restaurant Guinguette Port Thibault, Ange

port.tnibauit@gmail.com Escal'Atlantic Saint-Nazaire

3* Best Western Hotel de la Plage, Saint-Nazair gaelleportner@ghphotels.com Saint-Nazaire Shipyards

glizea@saint-nazaire-tourisme.com Les Tables de Nantes

www.lestablesdenantes.fr/e

4* Radisson Blue Hotel, Nantes

INTERESTED IN CULTURE, CHATEAUX AND GARDENS?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• A 6-day cruise on the Loire River with Croisieurope "The Loire Valley, a Royal legacy" on board the MS Loire Princess. 48 cabins with private bathrooms and AC, beds facing the window, from Nantes up to the major Loire Chateaux.

• In Nantes city centre, discover the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne, built in the 15th century. The fortress houses a residential palace of refined facades and Renaissance loggias. Numerous guided visits are on offer for you to fully discover this monument and its resounding modern museum.

Known as the "little Versailles of Mayenne", the Chateau de Craon and its
Park are half an hour to the south of Laval by road. Come and explore this beautiful Chateau and its 40 hectares of English and French-style garden.
B&B in the Chateau (6 different rooms)

• Located halfway between Tours and Le Mans, **the Chateau du Lude**, a 13th-century fortress, is surrounded by its remarkable gardens. It has been inhabited for the past 260 years by the same family.

• Known as the "Giant of the Loire Valley" with its 7 floors, **the Chateau de Brissac** ranks as the highest Chateau in France. Still inhabited, you can live the great life by sleeping in one of the B&B bedrooms and taste wine from their vineyard. • Between Angers & Saumur, don't miss **the Chateau de Montgeoffroy**, a 13th century estate that belonged to Lord Geoffroy de Chateaubriand (one of the ancestors of the eponymous Romantic writer). It was acquired in 1676 by the De Contades family and totally rebuilt.

• Located in the Nantes Muscadet vineyard, **the Chateau de Goulaine** has been inhabited by the Goulaine family for 1,000 years. Its 2 B&B rooms give their guests a panoramic view over the marshes and vineyards.

• For garden enthusiasts, do not miss **the Oriental Garden of Maulévrier**,

30 min east of Le Puy du Fou. This 28 ha garden is the largest Japanese garden in Europe and enjoys a unique architectural, botanical and symbolic setting.

 In Vendée, 30 min south of Nantes, discover the Logis & Jardins de la Chabotterie, a typical house & museum about the history of Vendée. Don't miss the French garden with 120 + varieties of vegetables & flowers, including aromatic and medicinal plants, and try the 1* Michelin restaurant.



LOIRE VALLEY: ART (DE VIVRE) AS IT FLOWS

3

Highlights of the trip:

- The Loire Valley, a UNESCO world heritage site
- The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud & its modern art museum
- Famous Saumur sparkling wine producers as patrons
- of contemporary artists
- Angers, capital of medieval and modern tapestry
 Stunning Saint-Nazaire on the Atlantic coast
- The contemporary art trail Estuaire from Nantes to Saint-Nazaire
- The creative City of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île

The Sea Snake art work, Saint-Brevin-les-Pins, Atlantic Coast

ORLÉANS



MONT-NT-MICHEL

ANGERS

SALIMUE

SAINT-MALC

©[®] 80 KM







Morning | Angers

Arrive at Angers TGV train station.

Take your time in Angers. In the heart of the Loire Valley, Angers (the capital of Anjou) is renowned for its rich heritage and quality of life.

Lunch in Angers in a typical restaurant.

Afternoon | Fontevraud

Visit the <u>Royal Abbey of Fontevraud</u>, the largest monastic city in Europe, a UNESCO world heritage site, which will host a modern art museum as from Spring 2020.

Dinner at Fontevraud Le Restaurant (1 Michelin*) at the heart of a 1000 year-old abbey

> Alternative: dinner at cave-dwelling restaurant Les Nobles Fouées, Saumur

Night at the 4* Fontevraud l'Hotel, a design hotel in a medieval crane – a night with Eleanor of Aquitaine > Alternative: Night at 4* Hôtel de la Marine in Montsoreau

Day 2

⊘^Ø 90 KM











Morning | Loire Valley - Montsoreau & Saumur

Discover Chateau de Montsoreau & Museum of contemporary art. Overlooking the Loire, the Chateau has the world's largest collection of works by the Art & Language movement.

Visit the <u>Bouvet Ladubay sparkling wine cellars</u>: kilometers of underground galleries host the great Crémant de Loire sparkling wines.

Lunch in the Ackerman wine cellars, the oldest Loire Valley fine sparkling wine House. Along the lines of its wines, Maison Ackerman displayed boldness, when it decided to support creativity, most especially plastic arts.

Afternoon Angers

Themed guided tour of Angers– art in the city: Jean Lurçat & Contemporary Tapestry museum, Echappées d'art itinerary.

Dinner at restaurant <u>La Réserve</u>, on the roof of the Le Quai Theatre, overlooking the River Maine and the Chateau. > Alternative: Dinner at Restaurant Le Favre d'Anne, 1* Michelin, Angers

Night at the <u>4* Hôtel Mercure Angers Centre</u>.

> Alternative: Best Western Hôtel d'Anjou, Angers

18 CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LOIRE CHATEAUX
 3. Loire Valley art (de vivre) as it flows

<u>⊘</u>[©] 200 KM

The "Giants of the sea, giants of the air" tour takes you into the shipyards and into Saint-Nazaire's Airbus factory.





Day 4



Nantes: follow the green line painted on the ground





Morning | Saint-Nazaire

On your way to the Loire Estuary & Saint-Nazaire, discover a series of works of land art as part of the Estuaire Nantes-Saint-Nazaire contemporary art trail.

Lunch at the Saint-Nazaire market: a 1950's architecture hosting the weekly market with local producers.

Afternoon | Saint-Nazaire and Nantes

Discover Saint-Nazaire, the city by the Estuary and the Atlantic Ocean, and the works of art in the city.

Discover <u>Les Machines de l'île</u>, the city's top attraction and the creative quarter

- Machines de l'île de Nantes (Carrousel of the Marine Worlds) : This unprecedented artistic project sits at the crossroads of Jules Verne's "invented worlds", of Leonardo da Vinci's mechanical universe, and Nantes' industrial history
- Creative quarter of the île de Nantes: new forms of architecture and art installations flourish in this new neighborhood!

Dinner cruise on the Erdre river, an affluent of the Loire, with <u>Les</u> <u>Bateaux Nantais</u>.

Night at the <u>4* Hotel Seven Urban Suites</u> on the Ile of Nantes > Alternative: <u>4* Mercure Grand Hotel in Nantes</u>

> Alternative. 4 Mercure Grana Hotel in Nani

Morning | Nantes

Discover the Nantes Fine Arts Museum

The magnificent Musée d'Arts de Nantes showcases a splendid collection, from Tintoretto and Rubens to Monet, Rodin, Kandinsky and Chagall. Visitors can appreciate the museum's 10,000-strong collection all year round. Not to be missed: the extension dedicated to contemporary art.

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye Hotel</u> in Nantes.

Alternative: 4* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS HIGHLIGHTED

The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud

1* – Michelin restaurant and 4* Hotel c.chateau@fontevraud.fr
Chateau of Montsoreau & Museum of contemporary art mariecaroline.chaudruc@gmail.com
Bouvet-Ladubay – sparkling wine cellar, Saumur accueil@bouvet-ladubay.fr
Ackerman – sparkling wine cellar, Saumur jgoudeau@ackerman.fr
La Réserve Restaurant, Angers contact@lareserveangers fr **4* Hotel Mercure Angers Centre** h0540-gl@accor.com

groupes@nantes-tourisme.com

Les Bateaux Nantais - river cruises, Nantes

4* Hotel Seven Urban Suites, Nantes

Nantes Fine Arts Museum melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.t

Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/

4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye, Nantes Eric.BAHIN@accor.com



INTERESTED IN CULTURE & ART?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• Nantes <> Saint-Nazaire Estuary -Landscape, Art and the River

In Nantes, Saint-Nazaire and along the 60 km of the shores of the Loire River, a collection of 31 artworks created by artists in the heart of a fascinating land. 'Estuaire' river cruises of 2.5 hours from April to October.

• The summertime "Le Voyage à Nantes"

The summertime Voyage à Nantes invites artists, designers, architects to express themselves in the public arena. One-off installations, works of arts, great meeting places all take you on a journey of discovery across the town. Every summer: July and August.

• 20 km south of Laval, **the Robert Tatin museum** will surprise you. Robert Tatin, once a carpenter, then a world traveller, later met Cocteau, Giacometti and Prévert, but refused to be locked up in an academy. He rather expressed his arts closer to nature.

• The Museum of Naïve and Singular

Art (MANAS) is located in the Chateau of Laval, the birthplace of the famous painter Douanier Rousseau (100km away from Mont Saint Michel).

• In Les Sables d'Olonne, Atlantic Coast, do not miss **the Museum of the Abbey of Sainte Croix**, a modern and contemporary art museum.

Nantes Museum of Arts

Monet, Kandinsky, Kapoor... discover the greatest art museum in western France. The museum gives a unique view of art from the 13th to the 21st century!



FOR YOUR CLIENTS DISCOVERING WESTERN FRANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME -☆- 4 DAYS 🔊 450 KM

A MODERN JOURNEY THROUGH **AN OLD LAND**

Today, Nantes, Saint-Nazaire, Rennes, and Saint-Malo welcome international visitors to the West of France by inviting them to explore this region through an itinerary to Mont-Saint-Michel by way of little-known treasures, secret beaches, and artworks nestled in lush landscapes, and excellent places to eat and rest...

Highlights of the trip:

- The creative city of Nantes, les Machines de l'île & the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne
- Saint-Nazaire, the history of transatlantic ocean liners and the Estuary of the Loire river

MONT-INT-MICHEL

SAINT-MALC RENNES •

NANTES

- Rennes, the capital of Brittany, the largest number of timber-framed houses in Brittany
- Saint-Malo, the "city of corsairs"
- The Mont-Saint-Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

4





©[®] 5 KM











Morning Rennes

Arrival at Rennes airport or train station.

Rennes boasts a rich cultural heritage with plenty of timber houses and a very lively city centre, ideal for shopping addicts! The Parliament of Brittany and the Thabor garden are a must-see, together with the lovely Criée covered market where visitors can taste local specialities!

Lunch in a Crêperie of Rennes

No trip to Rennes is complete without a yummy stop-off in a crêperie. Crêpes and galettes on the menu!

Afternoon Rennes

Explore Rennes, the capital of Brittany

This memorable tour of the city involves sampling local specialities while exploring Rennes' imposing architectural heritage. It takes you to places that offer a feast for the eyes as well as the taste buds! See the city's architectural masterpieces in a new light as you discover the culinary skills of a series of restaurant owners, confectioners, chocolate makers and wine merchants who will open their doors to you during this deliciously entertaining tour.

Dinner in a traditional restaurant in Rennes.

Night at a 4* hotel in Rennes city centre.

Day 2

Ø[♥] 180 KM









Morning Saint-Malo

Visit Saint-Malo, the Corsair City and not only...

Saint-Malo is probably one of the most impressive port cities of Brittany: all surrounded by ramparts, the corsair city boasts a magnificent citadel and outstanding views over the ocean. Cradle of privateers and great men, of sailors and explorers, the unofficial motto of Saint-Malo "Neither French, nor Breton, I am Malouin" remains!

Lunch in Saint-Malo. In Brittany, butter is a tradition! Lunch time in the restaurant "Autour du beurre" to celebrate the traditional Breton cookery and its famous Beurre Bordier

Afternoon | Le Mont-Saint-Michel & Saint-Malo

Mont-Saint-Michel.

You will enjoy the natural show and view over the Mont-Saint-Michel, all surrounded by the sea, from the Information-Point "barrage". It happens only a few times per year when the tide's coefficient is high (more than 100). Today is the perfect occasion for discovering the Mont-Saint-Michel by night!

Dinner at "La Mère Poulard" restaurant in Mont-Saint-Michel

Dinner including the worldwide-famous omelet, in the prestigious restaurant of La Mère Poulard, a local institution!

Night in a 4* hotel in Saint-Malo











Day 4













Morning | Saint-Nazaire

Discover Saint-Nazaire & Escal'Atlantic

Saint-Nazaire, a stunning city with unexpected gems: a beautiful seaside front, street art, testimonies of 20th century, History including a gigantic naval base, the cradle of legendary ocean liners that crossed the Atlantic, a submarine and, a stone-throw away from the city centre, an exceptional nature reserve!

Lunch in a typical seaside restaurant "Le Bar iodé" with fish and seafood dishes.

Afternoon | Nantes

Discover <u>Les Machines de l'île</u>, the city's top attraction and the creative quarter

- Machines de l'île de Nantes (Carrousel of the Marine Worlds) : This unprecedented artistic project sits at the crossroads of Jules Verne's "invented worlds", of Leonardo da Vinci's mechanical universe, and Nantes' industrial history
- Creative quarter of the Ile de Nantes: new forms of architecture and art works flourish in this new neighborhood!

Dinner at <u>la Cigale</u>, an Art Nouveau elegant brasserie in Nantes, opened in 1895 and listed as a historical monument.

Night at the <u>4* Radisson Blu Hotel</u>

> Alternative: 4* Oceania "Hôtel de France", in Nantes

Morning | Nantes

Discover the Nantes Fine Arts Museum

The magnificent Musée d'Arts de Nantes showcases a splendid collection, from Tintoretto and Rubens to Monet, Rodin, Kandinsky and Chagall. Visitors can appreciate the museum's 10,000-strong collection all year round. Not to be missed: the extension dedicated to contemporary art.

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

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Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye Hotel</u> in Nantes Alternative: 4* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS HIGHLIGHTED

Escal'Atlantic – Ocean liners experience, Saint-Nazaire glizea@saint-nazaire-tourisme.com The Machines – l'île de Nantes

groupes@nantes-tourisme.com

Brasserie La Cigale, Nantes

4* Radisson Blu Hotel Nantes benjamin.gilbert@radissonblu.com Nantes Fine Arts Museum melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.fr Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en 4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeray Eric.BAHIN@accor.com

A MODERN JOURNEY THROUGH AN OLD LAND:

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

Atlantide 1874 Maison Guého

The Atlantide 1874 is a unique gourmet restaurant located in a mansion overlooking the Loire. Taste the creative cuisine of Michelin-starred chef Jean-Yves Guého.

• Nantes Muscadet Vineyards

Covering 9,500 ha, the vineyard of Nantes is the cradle of the famous Muscadet wine. The wine properties are mostly medium-sized family-run businesses. Meet the winegrowers and learn about Muscadet, the perfect wine to go with fish and seafood!

• Brière marshland

After an experience at Michelin-starred chef Eric Guérin's restaurant La Mare aux Oiseaux, located right in the heart of a nature reserve, you can enjoy the infinite landscapes of the Brière marshland.

• Trentemoult, a former fishing village

Opposite the port of Nantes, lies the former fishing village of Trentemoult, which has today become a charming riverside resort. The locals have created a colourful village with its winding narrow alleyways and small restaurants.





5

LOIRE VALLEY: GREAT WINES & ART DE VIVRE

Highlights of the trip:

- Taste various Loire wines, from the most renowned ones to secret ones
- Meet passionate winegrowers and learn how they work
- Enjoy the UNESCO Loire Valley's unique landscapes
- Enjoy memorable wine & food pairing
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île

Chateau du Coing, Nantes vineyard

PARI

ORLÉANS

AMBORD



10NT-

SAUMUR

SAINT-MALC

RENNES •

NANTE



Loire Valley: 3rd biggest producer of AOP wines in France



Morning | Blois

Guided tour of Blois

Located on the banks of the Loire, the city of Art and History of Blois immediately seduces visitors with its royal Chateau, the houses of the old town and the religious monuments

Tour of the Chateau de Blois

Boat tour on the River Loire

Lunch in Blois

Afternoon Chateau de Chaumont-sur-Loire & Chenonceaux

Tour of Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Dinner at the Restaurant of Auberge du bon laboureur, in Chenonceaux

Night at 4* Hotel L'Auberge du bon laboureur, in Chenonceaux

Day 2

<u>⊚</u>[©] 115 km











Morning Chateau de Chenonceau & Amboise

Discover the Chateau de Chenonceau

Wine tasting at Cave des Domes in Chenonceaux

Lunch at the Orangerie of Chenonceau

Afternoon Amboise & Saumur

Wine tasting at Cave Duhard in Amboise

Wine tasting aperitif at <u>Domaine de Rocheville</u>, Parnay

Dinner at the <u>"Bistrot de la Place" Restaurant in Saumur</u>, (secret wine cellar underneath the restaurant). > Alternative: Dinner at a cave-dwelling restaurant La Cave aux Moines, Saumur

Night at the <u>3* Hôtel Le Londres</u> in Saumur > Alternative: Night at 4* Hotel Mercure Bords de Loire, Saumur

⊚[©] 90 KM

Loire Valley wines: 50 appellations & denominations





Morning | Saumur & Côteaux du Layon

Explore Saumur on board a vintage combi & enjoy the magnificent panorama over the River Loire from the Chateau.

Visit the Gratien & Meyer sparkling wine cellars: Enjoy a rich, detailed and comprehensive cellar tour and discover the epic adventure of Gratien and Meyer.

Lunch at "La Table des Fouées", a troglodytic (cave-dwelling) restaurant where you will taste local specialties.

Afternoon Layon vineyards & Chateau de l'Epinay

Discover the secrets of the Domaine FL vineyard

Dinner at Chateau de l'Epinay, for a food and wine pairing.

Night at 4* Chateau de l'Epinay, Saint-Georges-sur-Loire > Alternative: Dinner & Night at 4* Chateau de Noirieux, Angers

Day 4

⊘ 80 KM





near Nantes, on the banks of the Loire River







Morning Angers vineyards

Discover the Domaine Musset Roullier wine estate in La Pommeraye: tour and wine tasting

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

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Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection Les Tables de Nantes. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Okko Hotel in Nantes</u>, next to the Chateau Alternative: 4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye Hotel in Nantes

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE ITINERARY

Domaine de Rocheville – wine estate, Saumur vineyard contact@domainederocheville.fr

Le Secret des Papilles, wine tasting classes lesecretdespapilles@live.fr

3* Hotel Le Londres, Saumur contact@lelondres.com

Loire Vintage Discovery

vintage combi in the Saumur vineyard loirevintagediscovery@gmail.com Gratien & Meyer – wine cellar, Saumur boutique@gratienmeyer.com La Table des Fouées Restaurant, Saumur lola.plat@vinovalley.fr

Domaine FL - wine estate, Anjou vineyard oenotourisme@domainefl.com

4* Chateau de l'Epinay Hotel, Saint-Georges-sur-Loire direction@chateauepinay.fr

Domaine Musset Roullier - wine estate, Anjou vineyard musset.roullier@wanadoo.fr

Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en

4* Okko hotel Nantes teddy.leboucher@okkohotels.com

INTERESTED IN WINE & GASTRONOMY?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• At **Domaine Jérémie Huchet in the Nantes vineyard**, discover the Melon de Bourgogne, the unique grape variety used to make Muscadet wine, which perfectly pairs with fish and seafood. A friendly and educational visit.

• Fancy a night in a wine barrel? At Vignoble Marchais, just outside Nantes, you can enjoy the moonlight on the vineyard. Included: wine tasting in the cellars & breakfast. Possibility to enjoy a gourmet dinner.

• Wine estate Domaine Saint Nicolas, Vendée-Atlantic coast: If you are really into wines, this biodynamic wine estate offers an educational reading of the soils and will teach you how to make a good food and wine pairing.

• At **Domaine Gigou in the Loir Valley**, discover the little-known Jasnières wine and have a relaxing night in the B&B overlooking the cellars. A warm welcome by the winemakers is guaranteed!

• The Wine cycling tour: in a group or by yourselves you can dive into the history of our 2,000-year-old wines! Various stays are proposed to allow you to discover the rich Loire Valley terroirs. Bikes included. 1 to 5-day routes. • Anjou's famous distilleries: Emblematic of the Anjou region, **the Giffard Company** (Angers) has been known as a liqueur maker since 1885. Take part in an original escape game and discover all the mysteries of the famous liqueur Menthe-Pastille. In Saumur Loire Valley, visit a distillery still in activity, go back in time and learn the secrets of making **Combier liqueurs** and the fabulous history of absinthe.

• While in the Loire Valley, don't miss a stop & taste at a troglodyte restaurant, such as **Les Nobles Fouées in Saumur:** in a tufa stone cave dwelling, enjoy the traditional fouées, these small balls of bread, baked in the oven and filled while still hot with rillettes, pork, mushrooms, or beans or butter.

• Ackerman is synonymous for sparkling wines of course, but also for majestic artworks in the cellars dug into the cave dwellings. Between arts, lights and wine barrels discover the secrets of Saumur brut sparkling wines.



<complex-block>

COINTREAU

Savennières

ANGERS

 Juignésur-Loire

SAUMUR

Beaulieusur-Layon

LOIRE VALLEY SECRET VINEYARDS

NANTES

Saint-Fiacresur-Maine

Clisson

Highlights of the trip:

- Wine tasting of Anjou and Muscadet appellations
- Cocktail workshop at the Cointreau distillery
- Solex vintage motorcycle ride in the Layon vineyard
- Clisson, the city with an Italian flavor

6

 The creative city of Nantes, 20 minutes away from the Muscadet Vineyard



A ROCHELLE

TOURS



©[®] 15 KM







Angevins are said to speak the best and most beautiful French ! Many travellers from overseas come to perfect their

French in Anjou's schools.

Morning | Angers

Arrive at Angers TGV train station.

Take your time in Angers. In the heart of the Loire Valley, Angers (the capital of Anjou) is renowned for its rich heritage and quality of life.

Lunch in Angers in a typical restaurant.

Afternoon | Angers

Enjoy an introduction of the Loire Valley wines (namely Anjou and Saumur appellations) at the Maison des Vins d'Anjou.

Learn the secrets of <u>Cointreau</u>, the famous orange-flavored triplesec liqueur produced in Angers, used in many cocktails. Use your imagination to create your own signature beverage

Dinner at the "Loire & Sens" hotel restaurant in Juigné-sur-Loire, by the Loire River

Night at the <u>3* "Loire & Sens" hotel</u> in Juigné sur Loire, by the Loire River.

> Alternative: Dinner & Night at 3* Hotel Les 3 Lieux, Les Ponts-de-Cé, by the Loire River



©[©] 100 KM











Morning | Anjou

Choose between 2 options:

- A Enjoy <u>a guided walk in the vineyards with winetasting</u>: an original experience to discover the Layon vineyard
- B Get ready for <u>a wine and solex (vintage motorcycle) experience</u> at the Domaine de Piedflond

Lunch at the <u>Chateau Soucherie restaurant</u>, in the vineyard, in Beaulieu-sur-Layon.

Afternoon | Savennières & Muscadet

Enjoy a winetasting session at the <u>Domaine du Closel vineyard</u>. This family property is one of the main wine estates of the Savennières AOP, renowned for the quality of its wines.

Food & wine pairing dinner at the restaurant of the <u>Villa Saint</u> <u>Antoine Hotel</u> in Clisson

> Alternative: Dinner at Restaurant de la Vallée, Clisson

Night at the <u>4* Villa Saint Antoine Hotel & Spa</u>, in Clisson (a former mill transformed into a hotel), facing the medieval Chateau

> Alternative: Night at 4* Hotel Seven Urban Suites, Nantes

©[®] 30 KM



Sarmance cosmetics produced with organic vines







Day 4

<u>⊘</u>[©] 5 KM









Morning Clisson & Muscadet vineyard

Explore the fascinating history of Clisson, its impressive medieval Chateau, narrow streets and Tuscan colors along the banks of the Sèvre Nantaise during a guided-tour.

Discover La Garenne-Lemot in Clisson, an exceptional site (villa and garden), overlooking the river and inspired by Italian architecture.

Taste a range of Muscadet wines at the <u>Chateau du Coing</u> vineyard in Saint-Fiacre-sur-Maine.

Lunch at the Chateau du Coing vineyard in Saint-Fiacre-sur-Maine.

Afternoon | Nantes

Nantes: Discover <u>Les Machines de l'île</u> in Nantes, the city's top attraction and the creative quarter.

- Machines de l'île de Nantes (Carrousel of the Marine Worlds) : This unprecedented artistic project sits at the crossroads of Jules Verne's "invented worlds", of Leonardo da Vinci's mechanical universe, and Nantes' industrial history
- Creative quarter of the Ile de Nantes: new forms of architecture and art works flourish in this new neighborhood!

Dinner at <u>la Cigale</u>, an Art Nouveau elegant brasserie in Nantes, opened in 1895 and listed as a historical monument.

Night at the <u>4* Hotel Seven Urban Suites</u> on the Ile of Nantes > Alternative: 4* Mercure Grand Hotel in Nantes

Morning | Nantes

Discover the Nantes Fine Arts Museum

The magnificent Musée d'Arts de Nantes showcases a splendid collection, from Tintoretto and Rubens to Monet, Rodin, Kandinsky and Chagall. Visitors can appreciate the museum's 10,000-strong collection all year round. Not to be missed: the extension dedicated to contemporary art.

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Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites</u> in Nantes > Alternative: <u>4*</u> Radisson Blu Hotel in Nantes Graslin district

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE ITINERARY

Cointreau distillery, Angers carre.cointreau@remy-cointreau.com

3* Hotel Loire et Sens, Juigné-sur-Loire administration@loireetsens.com

Les Vignes selon Val – guided walks in the Anjou vineyard contact@lesvignesselonval.com

Wine & Solex – Vintage motorcycle in the Anjou vineyard pied-flond@9business.fr

Chateau Soucherie – wine estate, Anjou contact@domaine-de-la-soucherie.fr

Domaine du Closel – wine estate, Anjou contact@savennieres-closel.com

4* Villa Saint Antoine Hotel and Spa, Nantes vineyard c.peneau@hotel-villa-saint-antoine.com

The Château du Coing – wine estate, Muscadet vineyard commercial@vgc.fr

The Machines – l'île de Nantes groupes@nantes-tourisme.com

Brasserie La Cigale, Nantes lacigale@lacigale.com

4* Hotel Seven Urban Suites amelie.joubioux@7urbansuites.fr

Nantes Fine Arts Museum melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.fr

Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/er

4* Hotel Maisons du Monde Hotel & Suites, Nantes direction.nantes@maisonsdumondehotel.com



INTERESTED IN WINE & GASTRONOMY?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• Welcomed by sheep and surrounded by apples and pears, discover the age-old craft of Calvados and cider making at **Mayenne's Musée du Cidre** in Lassayles-Chateaux, in the Normandie-Maine regional nature park.

• Turned into an amusing wine museum around 1920, the cellars of **the Domaine Lelais, in the Loir Valley vineyards** between Angers and Le Mans, will leave you with an unforgettable memory.

• Besides the classic visit, **Veuve Amiot**, one of the famous sparkling wine producers of the Saumur area, also offers special cellar visits by candlelight, along with food and wine tasting in the dark underground galleries. An astonishing visit into the cellars with a mysterious ambiance.

• Close to the Atlantic Ocean in the Vendée vineyards, the Mourat estate offers a discovery day by electric car or by bike to learn more about the Fiefs Vendéens wines and their specificities. • Do you know the perfect spot to enjoy a glass of wine? Just overlooking the river, **the Genaudieres wine estate**, **halfway between Angers & Nantes**, has an incredible panorama on the Loire Valley. A nice place to do geo-emotional wine tasting.

• Enjoy a unique experience at **Chateau de la Ragotière in the Muscadet vineyard**: Picnic or wine & cheese gourmet pairing will allow you to discover the secrets of this still little-known wine.

• Original Vélo Tour, an original guided food & wine bike tour in Southern Vendée and the Poitevin marshes: Discover & taste the Vendée wines in small groups & in several languages with Damien, your experienced guide.





©[©] 100 KM







 Ua Turballe, a village

 next to La Baule,

 is one of the largest

 fishing harbors in France

Morning | Pornichet

Arrival via Nantes airport or train station

Transfer to Pornichet.

Lunch at the "Ailleurs" restaurant at the <u>4* Westotel hotel</u>, facing the Ocean in Le Pouliguen.

Afternoon | Le Croisic & La Baule

Roll up your sleeves and get ready for a <u>seaweed cooking class</u> in **Le Croisic**, Grown and harvested locally, the seaweeds are served by famous chefs all over France.

Dinner in a typical restaurant in La Baule.

Night at the <u>4* Westotel Pouliguen-La Baule hotel</u>. > Alternative: Dinner & Night at 5* Lucien Barriere Resort La Baule

Day 2

©[©] 110 KM





34





Morning | La Baule & Guérande

Explore the market in La Baule and discover locally grown produce

Tour of the La Turballe fishing harbor

Lunch in a traditional creperie restaurant in the medieval town of Guérande

Afternoon Guérande & Noirmoutier Island

Stroll around the charming medieval town of Guérande with its ramparts and fortified towers and gates, narrow paved streets, and old houses.

Discover the 2,000 ha of salt marshes of Guérande.

Meet the salt workers who will teach you about how salt is formed and harvested

Dinner at "La Marine" restaurant (2* Michelin) on Noirmoutier Island

> Alternative: Dinner at La Table d'Elise, Noirmoutier Island

Night at the <u>4* Général d'Elbée hotel</u> on Noirmoutier Island > Alternative: 3* Hotel Fleur de Sel, Noirmoutier Island

WINE TOURISM AND FRENCH ART DE VIVRE 7. French art de vivre in Atlantic Loire Valley

<u>⊘</u>[©] 160 KM







Morning Noirmoutier Island, Vendée

Explore the charming Noirmoutier island with its traditional villas and its local produce: oysters, wine, "pomme de terre", seafood to name but a few. Meet an oyster farmer and taste local oysters

Lunch on Noirmoutier Island in a typical restaurant

Afternoon Chateaux Flocellière & Boisniard, Vendée

Afternoon tea with the owners of the Chateau de la Flocellière

Dinner at the gastronomic restaurant "La Table du Boisniard" (I* Michelin) in Vendée close to the Puy du Fou theme park

Night at the <u>5* hotel "Château Boisniard"</u> in Vendée close to the Puy du Fou

> Alternative: Dinner and night at 4* "Thierry Drapeau" hotel, Saint-Sulpice-le-Verdon

Day 4







Morning Chateau Boisniard, Vendée & Nantes

Unwind at the spa of the Chateau Boisniard

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

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Night at the <u>4* Okko Hotel</u> in Nantes, next to the Chateau > Alternative: 4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye Hotel in Nantes

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE ITINERARY

4* Westotel Hotel & restaurant, Le Pouliguen La Baule helene.lerosier@westotel.com

Jardins de la mer – Seaweed cooking course, Le Croisic jean-marie.pedron@wanadoo.fr

- Terre de Sel Salt marshes, Guérande e.blanc@seldeguerande.com
- 4* Général d'Elbée hotel, Noirmoutier island contact@generaldelbee.fr

Chateau de la Flocellière, B&B Vendée flocelliere.chateau@gmail.com 5* Chateau Boisniard hotel, Chanverrie resa@chateau-boisniard.com Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en 4* Okko hotel Nantes teddy.leboucher@okkohotels.com

INTERESTED IN WINE & GASTRONOMY?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• **Gourmet visit in Angers:** Come and unravel the history behind the famous products from Angers that are used by creative and passionate chefs and artisans to please our taste buds!

• If refined French art de vivre tempts you, at **Chateau de la Mazure**, all your dreams will come true. During a 5-day immersion in Mayenne, approx. 2 hours from Paris, you'll live like a king and learn how to cook like a French chef while tasting beautiful wines.

• Smallest oyster village in France but a world-renowned quality, **the "Port de la Guittière" on the Southern Vendée coast** organises visits to show how to grow oysters and taste them. If you are a real oyster fan, then the oyster discovery route will delight you in the same way as the wines routes probably will.

• "Les Tables de Nantes" is a guide to local cuisine and wines in restaurants chosen by a jury of passionate volunteers (designers, winemakers, graphic artists...). In total 120 addresses in Nantes, greater Nantes and the outlying vineyards are listed.

• Enjoy **the Nantes Food Tour** and discover the city in a gourmet way, between contemporary art, unusual places and tasting experiences.

• Saut aux Loups, Cave-dwelling restaurant & museum: Did you know that most of the Portobello mushroom production in France comes from Saumur? Come & discover all the secrets of growing mushrooms in the famous tufa cave dwellings and enjoy at the end a 100% mushroom meal.

• 19 Michelin-starred restaurants in Atlantic Loire Valley

Loire Valley :

- Fontevraud Le Restaurant Fontevraud-l'Abbaye (near Saumur) **1***
- Le Gambetta (Saumur) 1*
- La Table de la Bergerie
 (Champ-sur-Layon close to Angers) 1*
- Lait Thym Sel (Angers) **1***
- Le Favre d'Anne (Angers) 1*

Nantes & surroundings :

- Manoir de la Boulaie (Haute-Goulaine) 1*
- Lulu Rouget (Nantes) **1***
- L'Atlantide 1874 Maison Guého (Nantes) 1*

Atlantic Coast

- Anne de Bretagne (La Plaine-sur-Mer) 2*
- La Mare aux Oiseaux (Saint-Joachim) 1*
- Jean-Marc Pérochon (Brétignolles-sur-mer) **1***
- La Marine (Noirmoutier island) 2*
- Les Genêts (Brem-sur-Mer) 1*
- Le Pousse-Pied (La Tranche-sur-Mer) 1*

Close to Le Puy du Fou

- La Table du Boisniard 1*
- Thierry Drapeau La Chabotterie
- (Saint-Sulpice le Verdon) **1*** – La Robe (Montaigu) **1***

Le Mans

- L'Auberge de Bagatelle (Le Mans) 1*

Mayenne & Sarthe

- L'éveil des sens (Mayenne) 1*


FOR YOUR CYCLING-LOVING CLIENTS -츳- 4 DAYS ⓒ 400 KM 조장 63 OR 73 KM

EXPERIENCE THE LOIRE BY BIKE

Highlights of the trip:

- A preserved environment and safe and signposted cycle routes
- Loire Valley: a Royal Chateaux Country
- Loire Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- "Accueil Vélo" labelled accommodation for visitors with bikes

Montjeansur-Loire

Champtoceaux

- Professionals keen to welcome cyclists
- Cycling-friendly cities

NANTES

8

- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île



Cycling along the Loire River

ORLÉANS

CHAMBORD



Amboise

TOURS









Morning Orléans

Guided tour of Orléans

Boat tour on the Loire River, Orléans

Lunch in "Le Bar de Loire" restaurant, Orléans

Afternoon Cycling tour & Chambord

Cycling tour approx. 23km (2 hours): Orléans – Jargeau

Dinner at the 4* "Le Relais Chambord" Hotel

Night at the 4* "Le Relais Chambord" Hotel

Day 2

©[®] 170 KM औ© 15 KM





38







Morning Domaine de Chambord & Amboise

Discover the Chateau de Chambord

Discover the Chateau d'Amboise

Lunch at the "Chez Hippeau" restaurant in Amboise

Afternoon | Montlouis-sur-Loire & Saumur

Cycling tour (with electric bikes) approx. 15km (1 hour): Amboise-Montlouis sur Loire

Dinner at "<u>Fontevraud Le Restaurant"</u> (1 Michelin*) at the heart of a 1,000 year-old abbey

Night at <u>4* "Fontevraud l'Hotel"</u> – a design hotel in a UNESCO heritage site – a night with Eleanor of Aquitaine > Alternative: Dinner & Night at 3* "La Croix Blanche" hotel, Fontevraud



Over 500 professionals bear the "Accueil Vélo" label for a warm welcome to cyclists









Morning | Saumur

Cycle tour on the Loire by Bike route between Montsoreau & Saumur – approx. 15 km. Discover the famous troglodytes, the underground buildings and paths which were dug into tufa stone

Lunch at the "<u>Terrier du Château</u>" wine bar in Saumur, facing the Loire River and the Chateau

Afternoon | The Loire by Bike around Angers

Cycle tour on the Loire by Bike route:

Two options: 15 or 25 km cycling. From Béhuard Island or La Possonnière to Montjean-sur-Loire, discover the magic of the river Loire, its small picturesque villages, vineyards and sandy shores. Stop at Saint-Florent-le-Vieil for a panoramic view over the Loire.

Dinner at "La Citadelle" restaurant, Le Champalud hotel

Night at <u>3* "Logis Le Champalud" hotel</u>, Champtoceaux > Alternative: Dinner & Night at "Les Jardins de l'Anjou", La Pommeraye

Day 4



- Age -Nantes has 500km of bicycle path







Morning The Loire by Bike down to the doors of Nantes

Cycle tour on the Loire by Bike route: the last 10km along the river to Nantes

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Mercure Grand Hotel</u> in Nantes

> Alternative: 4* Oceania "Hotel de France" in Nantes, Graslin district Nantes

The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud 1* – Michelin restaurant and 4* Hotel c.chateau@fontevraud.fr The Terrier du Château – wine bar, Saumur leterrierduchateau@gmail.com La Citadelle Restaurant & 3* Hotel Le Champalud, Champtoceaux contact@lechampalud.com Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en 4* Mercure Grand Hotel, Nantes Eric.BAHIN@accor.com



INTERESTED IN CYCLING TOURISM?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• On the Velodyssey - a 3-day-journey along the Nantes to Brest canal

Take a deep breath of fresh air on your bike for a bucolic getaway with your better half. Sail along the canal from Nantes to Brest to relax and unwind in the glorious countryside! From Redon to Nantes, discover a rolling and tree-lined route ideal for escapism! The great thing about this route is that 85% of it is offroad, so you'll have the countryside all to yourselves!

• Vélocéan - just north of the Loire

estuary, the route alternates between seafront and hinterland over 80 km from Saint-Nazaire to Piriac-Sur-Mer. Discover the unique landscapes and historical heritage of the coast. You can take in small rocky creeks and large sandy beaches, and cross famous seaside resorts such as La Baule & Pornichet. Then you will make your way over the salt marshes and discover the charm of small towns like Piriac-sur-Mer.

• V44 - Between Normandy and the

Loire Chateaux. The V44 Route invites you to cycle along a 250 km itinerary made up of small quiet roads and greenways. Linking the Véloscenic (Paris-Mont-Saint-Michel) in the north to the Loire by Bike in the south, the V44 offers the possibility to discover a diversified and remarkable architectural and landscape heritage.

• On the Vélo Francette cycle route, stay in an old lock-keeper's house

In Les Refuges du Halage, on the banks of the River Mayenne, you will be welcomed by Laëtitia. She will offer you an organic 'cyclist' breakfast made of local produce. 3 cottages for max. 15 people.

• Very handy for a cycle journey, **Le Bon Picnic** offers a unique picnic composed of local specialties that you pick up from local shops. This will allow you to meet selected craftsmen and cooks and enjoy local flavours and know-how in your picnic hamper. Service available for individuals and groups, on The Loire by Bike, the V44, and the Loir Valley by Bike.

• Two Vintage events to celebrate old bicycles

Every year, celebrate the bicycles of yesteryear in a vintage guinguette atmosphere in June in Laval for the Laval Vélo Agglo retro, or early July in Saumur for the Anjou Vélo Vintage Festival.

• Bike rental

Vert Event: The Loire by bike www.location-velo.fr Détours de Loire: The Loire by bike www.locationdevelos.com Cycl'Hop: The Velodyssey www.cyclhop.fr Vélo et Company: The Velodyssey www.velocompany.fr Cyclotron: The Velodyssey www.cyclotron-location.fr Canotika: La Vélo Francette www.pagayons.fr/canotika France Vélo Bike: The Loire by bike, The Velodyssey, La Vélo Francette www.francevelo.bike La Boite à vélos: The Loir Valley by bike

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr



CYCLING ALONG THE LOIRE & BEYOND

Highlights of the trip:

- Angers city bike tour

9

- Cycling along the Loire to Béhuard Island
- Lockhouse on the Vélo Francette route, linking Normandy to the Atlantic Coast
- Cooking class in Origné
- The Chateau du Lude and its remarkable garden
- Cycling throughout the Jasnières Vineyard
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île



Cycling throughout the Jasnières Vineyard

ORLÉANS

ANGERS

SAUMUR

SAINT-MALC







900 km: the length of the Loire by Bike route

Morning | Angers

Arrive at Angers TGV train station.

Take your time in Angers. In the heart of the Loire Valley, Angers (the capital of Anjou) is renowned for its rich heritage and quality of life.

Lunch in Angers in a typical restaurant.

Afternoon Angers

Guided visit of Angers by bike. This vibrant city is mostly renowned for:

- Its Chateau: the biggest medieval fortress in the Loire Valley is home to an extraordinary 14th century masterpiece, the Apocalypse Tapestry.
- Its medieval architecture, museum sand cobbled streets
- Its Cointreau liqueur and its quality of life

Dinner at "Les 3 lieux Restaurant", local cuisine in les Ponts-de-Cé, by the Loire river

Night at the <u>3* "Les 3 lieux" hotel</u> in les Ponts-de-Cé, by the Loire river

Day 2











Morning The Loire by Bike and La Vélo Francette

Cycle the Loire by Bike, admiring different villages:

- Bouchemaine, a village located at the confluence of the Maine and Loire rivers.
- Savennières, a charming village "Petite Cité de Caractère" thanks to its renowned vineyard.
- Behuard, the only inhabited island on the Loire River.

Lunch at the <u>"Table du Meunier" restaurant</u> in Chenillé-Changé, local cuisine.

Afternoon The Loire by Bike and La Vélo Francette

Cycle on the Vélo Francette route to Origné

Follow the Mayenne River and discover part of this route that links Normandy to the Atlantic Ocean.

Cooking class at the <u>Belyel restaurant</u> in Origné with a young chef who will share his passion for French food.

Festive and music dinner in Origné, Be prepared for a "guinguette" festive state of mind where you will learn traditional French songs.

> Alternative: Dinner at l'Aquarelle restaurant in Château-Gontier

Night at the <u>3* Parc Hotel in Château-Gontier</u>, a charming place nestling in a large shaded park.

> Alternative: Hotel du Cerf in Château-Gontier

©[®] 120 KM औ© 15 KM







Morning The Loir Valley by Bike

Visit the <u>Chateau du Lude</u> and its "remarkable garden", one of the last remaining important historic Chateaux in France, which has still been lived in by the same family for 260 years.

Lunch at Les Mères Cocottes restaurant in Beaumont-sur-Deme, typical and local cuisine.

Afternoon The Loir Valley by Bike

Cycle through the Loir Valley and the Jasnières vineyards. The Loir Valley cycle route V47 stretches 320 km to Angers, where it joins The Loire by Bike cycle route.

Wine-tasting of Jasnières wine & visit of a cave-dwelling at the <u>Domaine Lelais</u>.

Dinner at the Relais de Ronsard restaurant in the Hotel de France in La Chartre-sur-le-Loir

Night at the <u>3* Hôtel de France</u> in La Chartre-sur-Le-Loir.

Day 4













Morning The Loire by Bike & Nantes

Transfer to Nantes

Wine tasting and lunch in Oudon, along the Loire River, in the Muscadet wine region, on the Loire by Bike route

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Mercure Grand Hotel</u> in Nantes

> Alternative: 4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye Hotel in Nantes

3* Les 3 Lieux hotel & restaurant, Les Ponts-de-Cé accueil@les3lieux.com

La Table du Meunier Restaurant, Chenillé-Changé direction@domainemoulin.com

Canotika – Bicycle rental, Château-Gontier info@canotika.fr

Belyel Restaurant, Origné Craipeau.thomas@gmail.com 3* Parc Hotel, Château-Gontier contact@parchotel.fr Chateau du Lude contact@lelude.com Domaine Lelais – wine estate, Jasnières vineyard vins@domainelelais.com 3* Hotel de France and restaurant, La Chartre-sur-le-Loir welcome@thehoteldefrance.com Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en 4*Océania Hotel de France, Nantes elehors@oceaniahotels.com



INTERESTED IN CYCLING TOURISM?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• Do not miss the **EV1-La Velodyssey**

itinerary: more than 1,200 km by bike along the Atlantic Coast! This cycle route crosses Brittany and follows the Atlantic Ocean down to the Basque Country on a wild and invigorating route. It is connected to the Loire by Bike Route at Saint-Brevin-les-Pins. It is safe and well signposted, making it an ideal route to cycle with children.

• The artistic route along the Loire from Nantes to the Ocean. On a 4-day family itinerary, take the kids to discover Nantes, with its vibrant culture and fascinating neighbourhoods, then show them the River Loire and its unique bird sanctuary dotted with original and amusing artworks. And finally reward them with the Atlantic Ocean and its array of large and small sandy beaches!

• Explore the **2 Vendée islands of Yeu and Noirmoutier by bike**. A 7-day itinerary (each stage from 20 to 75 km) that will allow you to discover this part of the Atlantic, from the large seaside resorts to the picturesque oyster ports. With DMC Parenthèse Océan Voyages. • Kayak & Bike: between Angers & Nantes, enjoy a 2 to 5-day stay combining kayak and bike. On the river or on its banks, you will be able to admire the beauty of the Loire. With LA Kayak.

• **Group à vélo:** A network of places providing group accommodation between Angers and the Atlantic coast. 10 such hostels, all bearing the Accueil Vélo label, can host groups of between 10 and 80 people at affordable prices.

• Specialised incoming agencies – DMCs Rando Vélo: www.biking-france.com La Bicyclette verte: www.bicyclette-verte.com Grand Angle: www.grandangle.fr Vélo Voyageurs: www.levelovoyageur.com

• Luggage transfer for cyclists

<u>Bagafrance:</u> transport of luggage, bikes & persons - The Loire by Bike, La Vélo Francette *www.bagafrance.com* <u>Détours de Loire</u>: bike hire and transport of luggage – The Loire by Bike *www.locationdevelos.com* <u>France Vélo Bike</u>: bike hire and transport

of luggage – The Loire by Bike, The Velodyssey, La Vélo Francette

www.francevelo.bike

<u>La Boite à Vélos:</u> bike hire and transport of luggage – The Loir Valley by Bike *itineranceavelo.com*

• The Accueil Vélo Label

500 places bear the Accueil Vélo label in Atlantic Loire Valley. Located within 5 km of a cycle route, they provide visiting cyclists with facilities such as secure bike shelters and repair kits, etc. and they offer practical advice and services along with a warm welcome. Services include cycling circuits, weather info, luggage transfer, laundry services (washing and drying), bike and accessory hire, bike wash, etc.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr

44

FOR CLIENTS WHO LOVE THE GREAT OUTDOORS -☆- 4 DAYS ⓒ 270 KM

10 ATLANTIC COAST: SEA, CYCLING AND SPORT

Highlights of the trip:

- Cycling along the Velodyssey-EV1-A1, 200km route along the Atlantic
- Sand yachting on the beach in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins
- Bay cruise on a traditional wooden boat in Pornic
- Experience Trail and Nordic walk in Saint-Jean-de-Monts

MONT-

LE MANS

SAUMUR

LA ROCHELLE

ANGERS

SAINT-MALO RENNES •

Atlant Ocea VANTES

• PARIS

ORLÉANS

HAMBORD

- Stand-up paddling in Les Sables d'Olonne
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île

The Pornic harbor on the Atlantic Coast











Morning | Saint-Brevin-les-Pins

Arrival via Nantes airport or TGV train station. Transfer to Saint-Brevin-les-Pins.

Lunch in a typical restaurant in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins, facing the ocean.

Afternoon | Saint-Brevin-les-Pins

Outdoor activity, by the sea, in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins City bike tour.

Dinner at <u>"Le Cap" restaurant</u> in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins.

Night at the <u>3* Hotel Spa du Beryl</u> facing the Ocean. > Alternative: dinner and night at the 4* Alliance Pornic Thalasso Hotel in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins

Day 2

<u>⊚</u>[©] 70 KM



Did you know: the Velodyssey cycling route covers 1,200km along the Atlantic?









Morning | Saint-Brevin-les-Pins & Pornic

<u>Sand yachting activity</u> on the Ocean beach in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins.

Lunch at Marius restaurant, facing the harbor of Pornic. Located in the former casino, the restaurant offers local cuisine.

Afternoon Pornic & Saint-Jean-de-Monts

Bay cruise on the Corsaire de Retz old traditional wooden sailboat off Pornic.

Dinner at the <u>"Bec à Vins" restaurant</u> in Saint-Jean-de-Monts.

Night at the <u>3* Atlantic Thalasso Hotel</u> in Saint-Jean-de-Monts. > Dinner & Night at 3* Le Robinson hotel in Saint-Jean-de-Monts

⊘^Ø 45 KM









Morning | Saint-Jean-de-Monts

Trail and Nordic walk session by the beach in Saint-Jean-de-Monts. Enjoy a recovering moment and cryotherapy treatment at the Vladys thalassotherapy center

Lunch at the <u>Restaurant du Golf</u> in Saint-Jean-de-Monts, followed by a golf introduction

Afternoon | Les Sables d'Olonne

<u>Cycling tour</u> of Les Sables d'Olonne, its surrounding natural landscapes, harbors and beaches

Dinner at the <u>Joa Casino des Pins restaurant</u> in Les Sables d'Olonne.

Night at <u>4* Côte Ouest M Gallery hotel</u> in Les Sables d'Olonne, facing the Atlantic Ocean.

> Alternative: Dinner & Night at 4* Atlantic Hotel, Les Sables d'Olonne

Day 4

©[®] 115 KM



Discover Trenternoult, a former fishing village with colorful houses on the banks of the Loire River







Morning Les Sables d'Olonne & Nantes

Test your balance during a morning s<u>tand-up paddle</u> session on the main beach of Les Sables d'Olonne

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Radisson Blu Hotel</u> in Nantes Graslin district

> Alternative: 4* Okko Hotel in Nantes, next to the Chateau

Le Cap Restaurant & 3* Hotel Spa du Beryl, Saint-Brevin-les-Pins sophie.delrous@hotelduberyl.com Sand Yachting activity Nautical Center, Saint-Brevin-les-Pins cguyot@saint-brevin.fr Bec à Vins Restaurant, Saint-Jean-de-Monts cayapas@live.fr 3* Hotel Atlantic Thalasso, Saint-Jean-de-Monts sandrine.nivez@thalasso.com Restaurant du Golf, Saint-Jean-de-Monts direction@golfsaintjeandemonts.fr Veloodelaforet – Bicycle rental, Les Sables d'Olonne contact@veloodelaforet.fr Joa Casino des Pins Restaurant, Les Sables d'Olonne a.claigeaux@joa.fr 4* Côte Ouest Hotel Thalasso & spa, M Gallery, Les Sables d'Olonne Martineau.Cloe@hotel-coteouest.com Surfzone – Stand-up paddle, Les Sables d'Olonne contact@surfzone.fr Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en 4* Radisson Blu Hotel, Nantes benjamin.gilbert@radissonblu.com

INTERESTED IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND FAMILY OFFERS ON THE COAST?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• Embark for the Vendée Globe, the single-handed non-stop sailing race around the world without assistance. Various packages are available to attend the start of the Vendée Globe in Les Sables d'Olonne, held every 4 years (2020, 2024...): reserve your place on board a boat and be part of the race experience at sea.

• In Longeville-sur-Mer, south of Vendée, at the Manu Surf School & Camp, try surf and paddle lessons (SUP) with qualified instructors on the mythical spot of Bud Bud. Half- or full- board stays can be organised for groups (accommodation in guest houses, apartments or tepees...)

• Looking for accommodation close to the ocean? **Olela Campsites** have 5 campsites and 1 holiday village by the beach.

• With the **Yeu continent ferry shuttle**, hop over in just 30 minutes and discover **the Yeu Island**. To fully explore the island, you can choose packages including roundtrip by boat + lunch + bike rental or a guided tour.

• In Piriac-sur-Mer, close to **La Baule**, **"Nautisme en Pays Blanc"** (NPB) is a multi-activity nautical centre that provides lots of equipment (sailing, catamarans, dinghies, schooner, sea kayaking, stand-up paddling, pirogues, etc.) and can easily welcome groups. • In Pornic, Florent from **Kayak Nomade** offers kayak trips, adapted to any rhythm and tastes, in English. You could be tempted by a sunset kayak trip in Pornic Bay, or by Noirmoutier Island.

• In South Vendée, do not miss the Atlantic Wakepark, home to the largest water ski lift on the Atlantic Coast (750 m linear). The site offers high level equipment: wakeboards, kneeboards, wakeskates and water skiing, for all levels.

• In summertime don't miss the day or evening cruises **departing from Saint-Nazaire**. They offer breathtaking views of the city. You will also be offered a rare opportunity to contemplate the beaches, creeks, cliffs and even the shipyards all from the sea!

• For family stays on the Vendée coast, choose Vacancéole and their 2 hotel resorts (2 & 3*) in La Tranche-sur-mer & Les Sables d'Olonne.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





FROM BRITTANY TO THE ATLANTIC

Highlights of the trip:

– Rennes, Brittany's capital city

- Rochefort-en-Terre, one of the most beautiful villages of France
- The mythical Carnac stones
- The charming harbor of Vannes in the "Golfe du Morbihan"
- La Baule and its bay

11

- Guérande fortress and salt marshes
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île

Pointe de Pen Bron, La Turballe, Atlantic Coast









Sweet crepes, savoury galettes: these are the Breton pancake specialties

Morning | Rennes

Arrive at Rennes TGV train station

Take your time in Rennes. Brittany's capital is a fascinating mix of eclectic architecture, historic heritage, grand squares and glorious gardens

Lunch in a typical creperie restaurant in Rennes.

Afternoon Rennes & Ploërmel

Explore the city of Rennes

Admire half-timbered houses, charming narrow medieval streets and the impressive 17th-century Parliament building, not to forget the Thabor gardens, classed as a Remarkable Garden,

Taste local products (like the Breton beer ...)

Dinner at the restaurant of the 4* Le Roi Arthur Hotel in Ploërmel, set in the land of legends

Night at the 4* Le Roi Arthur Hotel in Ploërmel

Day 2

©[®] 150 KM

La Baule belongs to the Club of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World





Morning Josselin & Rochefort-en-Terre

Visit the charming village of Josselin: medieval city hung on a hillside and protected by its impressive castle of Rohan in the magnificent internal façade from the Renaissance.

Explore Rochefort-en-Terre, one of the most beautiful villages in France. As a feudal town surrounded by deep valleys, Rochefort-en-Terre offers a unique heritage collection of 16th and 17th century architecture.

Lunch in La Trinité sur Mer: get ready to taste oysters.

Afternoon Carnac, Vannes & La Baule

Discover one of Brittany's greatest highlights, the world-famous Carnac standing stones. A total of 3,000 menhirs standing in straight lines over 4 km and 40 hectares, which date from 4,000 BC.

Explore Vannes & its charming harbor: its well preserved traditions & architecture, magnificent French-style gardens, medieval streets & a great mix of elegant private mansions and 15th century half-timbered houses.

Dinner at <u>3* Saint-Christophe hotel</u>, La Baule.

Night at the <u>3* Saint-Christophe hotel</u>, La Baule. > Alternative: Dinner & Night at 4* Mercure Majestic Hotel, La Baule

©[©] 100 KM



Did you know that approx. 13,000 metric tons of salt is harvested each year in Guérande?









Morning Guérande, Atlantic Coast

Explore Guérande medieval city – at the heart of the White Country, where salt is harvested, stroll along the cobbled streets of this charming village.

Lunch in a typical restaurant in Guérande

Afternoon Brière Nature Park & Nantes

Explore the Brière marshes, a regional nature park home to a great diversity of birds

<u>Machines de l'île</u> in Nantes, the city's top attraction and the creative quarter

- Machines de l'île de Nantes (Carrousel of the Marine Worlds) : This unprecedented artistic project sits at the crossroads of Jules Verne's "invented worlds", of Leonardo da Vinci's mechanical universe, and Nantes' industrial history
- Creative quarter of the Ile de Nantes: new forms of architecture and art works flourish in this new neighborhood!

Dinner cruise on the Erdre river, an affluent of the Loire, with <u>Les</u> <u>Bateaux Nantais</u>.

Night at the <u>4* Oceania Hotel de France</u> in Nantes, Graslin district > Alternative: 4* Okko Hotel in Nantes, next to the Chateau

Day 4



Nantes: follow the green line painted on the ground







Morning | Nantes

Discover the Nantes Fine Arts Museum

The magnificent Musée d'Arts de Nantes showcases a splendid collection, from Tintoretto and Rubens to Monet, Rodin, Kandinsky and Chagall. Visitors can appreciate the museum's 10,000-strong collection all year round. Not to be missed: the 2017 extension dedicated to contemporary art.

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Oceania Hôtel de France</u> in Nantes

> Alternative: 4* Radisson Blu Hotel in Nantes, Graslin district

3* Saint-Christophe Hotel, La Baule anne.jourdanneau@st-christophe.com The Machines - l'île de Nantes groupes@nantes-tourisme.com Les Bateaux Nantais - river cruises, Nantes emmanuelle.grange@bateaux-nantais.fr 4* Oceania Hotel de France, Nantes elehors@oceaniahotels.com Nantes Fine Arts Museum melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.fr Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en



INTERESTED IN NATURE AND CULTURE OFFERS ON THE COAST?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• Saint-Nazaire Harbour: Be Transported!

Ready to going exploring? In Saint-Nazaire, on the Atlantic coast, you can enjoy a fabulous range of visits and experiences under the name "The Harbour for All Journeys".

Escal'Atlantic: A fascinating journey into the world of ocean liners awaits you at Escal'Atlantic, inside the WW2 submarine pens. Walk in the footsteps of yesterday's travellers, explore the interiors of a liner, both the public spaces and the hidden parts, and see beautiful collections of artefacts from legendary French liners. A unique visitor experience! Self-guided tours, approx. 90 min.

The Saint-Nazaire shipyards: To visit the shipyard is to gain entrance to a "city within the city". See the workshops and docks while towering high above you is Europe's most powerful gantry crane. The liners and cruise ships which have been built here over the years are among the most famous ever launched – including Queen Mary II and the Harmony of the Seas. Departure by bus from the submarine base. Guided tours, 90 to 120 min.

Airbus factory: Visit the Airbus factory, an important centre of excellence for the aeronautical industry in Europe and see a whole new side to aircraft. On this guided tour, you will have the privilege of walking through the vast workshops where fuse-lage sections of all the different Airbus planes are assembled and equipped. Departure by bus from the submarine base. Guided tours, 2 hours.

• A tour of the savoir-faire around Pornic

To visit an area is also to appreciate the local specialties. Crafts and tradition are very marked in the Pornic area, also known as the Jade Coast. You will be able to visit the manufacturing spaces with the traditional methods of several regional products. Did you know that name bowls have been made in Pornic for more than fifty years? That the "Curé Nantais" local cheese has more than 100 years of existence? And, do you know the story of the famous Galettes Saint Michel biscuits?

• Life in the slow lane in Brière Regional Nature Park

France's second-biggest marshland, Brière, is just a few kilometres from Saint-Nazaire's city centre, yet it feels like a different world. Explore it in a traditional flat boat or a horse-drawn carriage, see the thatched cottages and rich wildlife. Guided tours, boat and carriage rides, 45 minutes each.

• Villa "Entre sel et sable", a relaxing

break: A 5* villa located at the doorsteps of Brittany, close to the Guérande saltmarshes & La Baule, 5 min walk from the beach, for top-of-the-range comfort with personalized services. Up to 14 pers.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr

52

FOR CLIENTS LOOKING FOR WELLBEING TAKE IT EASY! -츳- 4 DAYS ⓒ⁹ 350 KM

12

ATLANTIC COAST: RELAX AND FEEL GOOD!

Highlights of the trip:

- Spa & seawater treatments that will pamper your body and invigorate your spirit in a few of the region's 7 thalassotherapy centres.
- Preserved nature & physical activity
- Locally produced food and wine
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île

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SAINT-MALO RENNES •

Atlanti Ocean ANTE:

T-MICHEI

LE MAN

ANGERS

SAUMUR

A ROCHELLE

BLOIS

PARIS

ORLÉANS

HAMBORD

La Baule Pornichet Saint-Jean-de-Monts La Baule Pornichet NaNTES

The pier, Noirmoutier Island

©[®] 120 KM







Les Sables d'Olonne is also the departure port for the famous "Vendée Globe" race round the world

Morning Les Sables d'Olonne, Atlantic Coast

Arrival Nantes airport or TGV train station Transfer to Les Sables d'Olonne, Vendée

Lunch at <u>4* Côte Ouest Thalasso & spa M Gallery hotel</u>, Les Sables d'Olonne. Facing the ocean, the hotel will plunge you into the atmosphere of the 1930's ocean lines.

Afternoon Les Sables d'Olonne, Atlantic Coast

Enjoy 2 spa treatments at <u>4* Côte Ouest Thalasso & spa M</u> <u>Gallery hotel</u>

Dinner at the <u>4* Côte Ouest Thalasso & spa M Gallery hotel</u>

Night at the <u>4* Côte Ouest Thalasso & spa M Gallery hotel</u> > Alternative: Dinner & Night at 4*Atlantic Hotel and spa, Les Sables d'Olonne

Day 2



Choose 1 of the 7 thalassoherapy centers in the region or your seawater treatments





Morning | Saint-Jean-de-Monts, Atlantic Coast

Discover and test Trail and Nordic walking resort Saint-Jean-de-Monts for a hiking session. This famous resort on the Vendée coast has invested a lot in outdoor activities including water sports and more recently

Nordic walking.

Lunch at <u>Valdys Resort restaurant</u> Saint-Jean-de-Monts and guided tour of the thalassotherapy centre.

Afternoon | Saint-Jean-de-Monts & La Baule, Atlantic Coast

Guided tour by <u>e-scooters</u> of the preserved area <u>Open-air museum Le Daviaud</u>. La Barre-de-Monts

Meet an <u>oyster farmer</u> and taste local oysters

Dinner at a typical restaurant in La Baule

Night at the <u>4* Mercure Majestic</u> La Baule > Alternative: Dinner & Night at 5* Royal Thalasso Barrière, La Baule

<u>⊘</u>^Ø 30 KM











Morning La Baule & Pornichet, Atlantic Coast

Stroll along the alleys of the market in La Baule – full of fresh local produce

Lunch at 4* Chateau des Tourelles Relais Thalasso & spa, Pornichet. Whether inside or on the terrace, you will enjoy your lunch facing the Ocean!

Afternoon | Pornichet & Missillac

Spa treatments at <u>4* Chateau des Tourelles Relais Thalasso & spa</u>, Pornichet. Short walk on the coastal path. Les Tourelles' mantra: move better, eat better, sleep better and you'll feel better!

Dinner at <u>5* Domaine de La Bretesche Hotel and resort</u>, Missillac > Alternative: Dinner at La Mare aux Oiseaux, 1* Michelin restaurant, Saint-Lyphard

Night at <u>5* Domaine de La Bretesche Hotel and resort</u>, Missillac

> Alternative: Night at 4* Chateau des Tourelles Relais Thalasso & spa, Pornichet



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Don't miss "The Nest" (Le Nid), a rooftop bar where you can enjoy the view over Nantes from the 32nd floor (Brittany tower)











Morning Brière Nature Park & Nantes

Spa treatments at <u>5* Domaine de La Bretesche Hotel and resort</u>, Missillac. The Bretesche Manor takes from the past its tradition of courtly love, knightly jousts, aristocratic wellbeing and mysterious legends to display the refined comfort of a haven of peace and romanticism.

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Mercure Grand Hotel</u> in Nantes

> Alternative: 4* Seven Urban Suites hotel on the Ile of Nantes

4* Côte Ouest Thalasso & spa M Gallery hotel, Les Sables d'Olonne Martineau.Cloe@hotel-coteouest.com Valdys Resort Restaurant, Saint-Jean-de-Monts sandrine.nivez@thalasso.com CYCL'HOP – Rent a bike & E-scooter, Saint-Jean-de-Monts contact@cyclhop.fr E-scooter guided tour, Saint-Jean-de-Monts contact@latrotti.net Le Daviaud Museum Marshes, Saint-Jean-de-Mont cecile.angenieux@omdm.fr L'huîtrière de Fromentine – Oyster farmer, La Barre-de-Monts david.lecossois@free.fr
4* Hotel Mercure Majestic, La Baule benoit.audouin@accor.com
4* Chateau des Tourelles Thalasso & Spa, Pornichet resalabaule@relaisthalasso.com
5* Hotel, Golf & spa Domaine de la Bretesche, Missillac pierre.sancho@bretesche.com
Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en
4* Mercure Grand Hotel, Nantes
Eric.BAHIN@accor.com



LOOKING FOR WELLBEING OFFERS?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

Located on the Atlantic Coast, the thalassotherapy centres each have their own very unique charm and qualities. Come and energise your body, refine your figure or simply recharge your batteries while enjoying the benefits of the Atlantic Ocean.

• Elegance is the key word at the **Thalasso & Spa Barrière Le Royal Lucien Barrière** in La Baule. The 1,000m² thalassotherapy centre, fully renovated in 2020, is part of a 5* hotel with 87 rooms & 1 restaurant.

• **Rivage Thalasso & spa – La Baule** 600 m² facing the ocean dedicated to beauty and wellness. • At the Valdys Resort Baie de La Baule in Pornichet, facing the Bay of La Baule and its 9 km long sand beach, no doubt you will get pampered. 3* Hotel, 88 rooms, 1 restaurant

 50 mins drive from Nantes, nestled against the small cove of La Source, the Alliance Pornic thalassotherapy centre -once the town's casino- is now a haven of peace, ideal for cocooning. 4* hotel, 120 rooms, 2 restaurants

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr



FOR YOUR EXCLUSIVE CLIENTS ·츳· 4 DAYS ⓒ 310 KM

13

EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

Highlights of the trip:

- Dining with a count and a countess in a Loire Valley chateau
- Testing the ultimate racing experience on the mythical 24 Hours Le Mans track
- Cheese and wine pairing with 2015 world-best cheesemonger
- Staying at the heart of a 1,000 year-old abbey
- Meeting passionate winegrowers
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île

The Chateau and vineyards of Saumur, Anjou

PARIS

ORLÉANS

BLOIS

SAUMUR

A ROCHELLE

MONT-

SAINT-MALO

Atlant Ocear RENNES •



⊘ 30 KM







Ford vs Ferrari, by James Mangold, with Matt Damon & Christian Bale, takes place in Le Mans

Morning Le Mans

Arrival Le Mans TGV train station

Take your time in Le Mans. Explore the Jacobins market and taste local products

Lunch at <u>"L'Epicurieux" restaurant</u> in central Le Mans

Afternoon Le Mans

Discover the mythical <u>Le Mans 24 Hours circuit & its museum</u>. Test the driving on the circuit at the Porsche Experience Center

Cheese & wine pairing party at 5* Chateau du Grand Lucé with 2015 world-best cheesemonger Fabien Degoulet

Night at 5* Chateau du Grand Lucé

> Alternative: Dinner & Night at the Hotel Domaine de la Groirie, next to Le Mans

Day 2

Saumur is also home to the famous Cadre Noir horse riding school





Morning Loir Valley, Wine & Chateau life

Hot-air balloon captive flight in the park of the Chateau du Grand Lucé

Lunch with Count and Countess de Nicolaÿ at Chateau du Lude

Afternoon | Saumur

Explore Saumur on board a <u>vintage combi</u> & enjoy the magnificent panorama over the River Loire from the Chateau.

Cycle around the <u>Bouvet Ladubay wine cellars</u>: kilometers of underground galleries excavated in the "Tuffeau" limestone host the great Brut de Loire sparkling wines

Dinner at <u>Fontevraud Le Restaurant</u> (1 *Michelin) at the heart of a 1,000 year-old abbey

> Alternative: Dinner at restaurant Le Gambetta, 1 Michelin*, Saumur

Night at <u>4* Fontevraud l'Hotel</u> – a design hotel in a medieval crane – a night with Eleanor of Aquitaine

> Alternative: Alternative : Night at 5* Chateau de Verrières Hotel & Spa, Saumur

©[®] 100 KM

-)-In Fontevraud Abbey's gardens, enjoy a poetic









Morning Loire Valley - Culture & Boat life

Visit <u>the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud</u>, the largest monastic city in Europe, listed as a UNESCO world heritage site, hosting the reclining effigies of Eleanor of Aquitaine, of her husband Henry 2nd and of their son Richard the Lionheart.

Cruise lunch on the Loire River onboard <u>"l'Etoile qui Rit – the</u> Laughing Star" traditional boat

Afternoon | Loire Valley - Wine & Chateau life

Get ready for an **immersive experience in the troglodytic** (cave-dwelling) world and meet with the set designer of the <u>Mystère des Faluns</u> troglodyte site

Dinner at Chateau de Noirieux, an elegant mansion close to Angers. Enjoy the atmosphere of a family chateau in an architectural beauty of the 15th and 17th centuries.

> Alternative: Dinner at La Table de la Bergerie restaurant, 1* Michelin, Champ-sur-Layon

Night at <u>4* Chateau de Noirieux</u>, close to Angers > Alternative: Night at 4* B&B Château Soucherie, Beaulieu-sur-Layon

Day 4

©[©] 80 KM





Discover Surprenantes : a collection of unique and original themed accommodation in Nantes & surroundings









Morning From Anjou to Nantes along the River Loire

On your way to Nantes, stop and enjoy the panoramic views over the River Loire

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4*Radisson Blu Hotel</u> in Nantes Graslin district

> Alternative: 4* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites

L'Epicurieux Restaurant, Le Mans lepicurieux72@gmail.com Le Mans 24 hours – Race track & museum heritage@lemans.org Le Mans 24 hours – Porsche experience center info@porsche-experience-center.fr Fabien Degoulet – world-best cheesemonger, Le Mans fabiendegoulet@gmail.com 5* Chateau du Grand Lucé hotel info@chateaugrandluce.com Chateau du Lude contact@lelude.com Loire Vintage Discovery – vintage combi, Saumur loirevintagediscovery@gmail.com Bouvet-Ladubay – sparkling wine cellar, Saumur accueil@bouvet-ladubay.fr The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud 1* - Michelin restaurant and 4* Hotel c.chateau@fontevraud.fr L'étoile qui rit – cruise on the Loire river, Saumur retiveau.denis@orange.fr Mystère des Faluns – troglodyte site, Doué-en-Anjou m.postec@doue-en-anjou.fr 4* Hotel Château de Noirieux, Angers noirieux@relaischateaux.com Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en 4* Radisson Blue Hotel, Nantes benjamin.gilbert@radissonblu.com

LOOKING FOR UNIQUE EXPERIENCES?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• With its 10 rooms, its private mansion atmosphere, authentic decoration and period furniture, the 5* hotel **Chateau de Verrieres** is ideal for discovering the Loire Valley in Saumur. You will be welcomed by the devoted owners and feel at home in this family-sized chateau surrounded by a four-acre park.

• In the Saumur area, experience an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of **the Doué-la-Fontaine Biopark with a caretaker**. This is the only zoological park in the world located in a cave-dwelling site and it is internationally recognised for its protection of endangered species.

• Live the chateau life in Sarthe: between Le Mans and Caen, choose one of the Il elegant rooms of the Chateau Saint Paterne, and dine with the hosts of this 4* chateau-hotel. You may wish to also experience the authentic and gracious way of life of the French aristocracy, staying at Chateau de la Barre (9 rooms) with Count and Countess de Vanssay, between Le Mans and Blois.

• In South Vendée, 40 mins drive north of La Rochelle, **the Chateau de L'Abbaye Moreilles**, part of Chateaux & Hotels collection, is a 17th-century mansion, remnant of a former abbey, where you will feel at home. 10 mins drive from Nantes city centre, the newly opened 5* Chateau de
 Maubreuil hotel offers 14 suites, each one revealing its own thematic destination.
 The art-loving owners chose the wooded setting of the Maubreuil site to take you on a journey.

• The **Lucien Barrière group** in La Baule has three 5* hotels & 1 thalassotherapy centre – Le Royal Thalasso (87 rooms, Le Fouquet restaurant), L'Hermitage (200 rooms, 2 restaurants) and Le Castel Marie Louise (31 rooms, 1 restaurant).

• At the doorsteps of Brittany, located in the Brière Regional Nature Park, the **5* Domaine de la Bretesche Golf & Spa**, part of Relais & Chateaux group, offers a refined experience where the classic or contemporary-style rooms will enchant you. 36 rooms, gastronomic restaurant.

• Experience an original tour on the smooth and comfortable traditional **"toue cabanée"** (cabined flat-bottomed barge) with la Toue de Nantes: whether in the heart of Nantes, or on the Erdre or Sèvre rivers – groups of 12 persons maximum.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr



FROM PARIS TO NANTES BY TRAIN – CITY BREAK

Highlights of the trip:

- The medieval city center Cité Plantagenêt in Le Mans
- Shopping in Le Mans and Angers

14

- The modern development projects of Angers
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île



AN.



LE MANS

©[©] 10 KM





Known throughout the world for its 24-hour

cobbled streets in the Cité Plantagenêt,

and an impressive Cathedral. No wonder the city served as a film set for many major

endurance car race that takes place every year in June. Le Mans is also a charming city with



Ford vs Ferrari. by James Mangold, with Matt Damon & Christian Bale, takes place in Le Mans 1966

Morning Le Mans

Arrival Le Mans TGV train station

Take your time in Le Mans. Explore the Jacobins market and taste local products and specialties like poularde du Patis, Jasnières wines and rillettes.

Lunch in Le Mans in a typical restaurant

Afternoon | Le Mans

Discover the mythical Le Mans 24 Hours circuit & its museum. Held every 2nd weekend of June, Le Mans 24 hours is the world's oldest ongoing endurance car race

Dinner at the <u>"Epicurieux" restaurant</u> in Le Mans medieval city > Alternative: Dinner at 1 Michelin * L'Auberge de Bagatelle in Le Mans

Night at the <u>4* Mercure Hotel</u> in Le Mans city centre > Alternative: Night at 4* Concordia hotel Le Mans City centre

Day 2

© 100 KM by train



Angers is known as one of the top French cities for the quality of life







ANGERS

Known as the capital of Anjou, Angers spreads out just a few steps away from the Loire River. This vibrant city is renowned for:

- Its Chateau: the biggest medieval fortress in the Loire Valley is home to an extraordinary 14th century masterpiece, the Apocalypse Tapestry.
- Its medieval architecture, museums and cobbled streets
- Its Cointreau liqueur

- Its quality of life

Morning Le Mans & Angers

Visit the Royal Abbey of Epau, founded in 1229 by a heartbroken gueen

Explore the Cité Plantagenet of Le Mans (medieval city center) and discover at your own pace the local and atypical shops.

Lunch in Le Mans before hopping on the train to Angers

Afternoon Angers

Discover at your own pace the city of Angers and its numerous shops

Learn the secrets of Cointreau, the famous orange-flavoured triple sec liqueur produced in Angers, used in many famous cocktails. Use your imagination to create your own signature beverage.

Dinner at <u>"La Rue Sauvage" restaurant</u> in Angers city center

Night at the <u>4* Hôtel de France</u> in Angers city centre near the train station

> Alternative: Dinner & Night at 4* Best Western Hôtel d'Anjou



Playful and creative, vibrant and young, Nantes has been totally turned upside down by art! 2 hours away from Paris by TGV train, the historical capital of Brittany has been awarded European Capital of Innovation 2020 for its quality of life, efficient transportation policy and sustainable development.

NANTES

Nantes boasts over 100 permanent artworks in public space and every summer in July and August the green line (painted on the ground) is reactivated by artists, architects, designers and gardeners.





Morning Angers and Nantes

Explore Angers: known as the capital of Anjou, Angers spreads out just a few steps away from the Loire River. This vibrant city also has numerous new development projects

Lunch in Angers before hopping on the train to Nantes

Afternoon | Nantes

Discover <u>Les Machines de l'île</u>, the city's top attraction and the creative quarter.

- Machines de l'île de Nantes (Carrousel of the Marine Worlds): this unprecedented artistic project sits at the crossroads of Jules Verne's "invented worlds", of Leonardo da Vinci's mechanical universe, and Nantes' industrial history
- Creative quarter of the Ile de Nantes: new forms of architecture and art works flourish in this new neighborhood!

Dinner at <u>la Cigale</u>, an Art Nouveau elegant brasserie in Nantes, opened in 1895 and listed as a historical monument.

Night at the <u>4* Seven Urban Suites hotel</u> on the Ile of Nantes > Alternative: 4* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites

Day 4







In Nantes, Le Hangar à Bananes (former banana warehouse where fruits were ripened) is now a trendy spot for restaurants, bars and terraces overlooking the Loire







Morning | Nantes

Discover the Nantes Fine Arts Museum.

The magnificent Musée d'Arts de Nantes showcases a splendid collection, from Tintoretto and Rubens to Monet, Rodin, Kandinsky and Chagall. Visitors can appreciate the museum's 10,000-strong collection all year round. Not to be missed: the extension dedicated to contemporary art.

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables all visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, healthy, Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4*Mercure Grand Hotel</u> in Nantes

> Alternative: 4* Okko Hotel in Nantes, next to the Chateau

Le Mans 24 hours – Race track and museum heritage@lemans.org L'Epicurieux Restaurant, Le Mans lepicurieux72@gmail.com 4* Hotel Mercure, Le Mans h5641-gm@accor.com Royal Abbey of Epau, Le Mans zohra.elallaly@sarthe.fr Cointreau distillery, Angers carre.cointreau@remy-cointreau.com La Rue Sauvage Restaurant, Angers contact@laruesauvage.com 4* Hotel de France, Angers commercial@hoteldefrance-angers.com The Machines – l'île de Nantes groupes@nantes-tourisme.com Brasserie La Cigale, Nantes lacigale@lacigale.com 4* Seven Urban Suites hotel amelie.joubioux@7urbansuites.fr Nantes Fine Arts Museum melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.fr Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en 4* Mercure Nantes Centre Grand Hotel h1985-RD@accor.com



INTERESTED IN A CITY BREAK ITINERARY?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

TOP 4 VISITS IN NANTES:

• Nantes City Pass – The Pass Nantes allows you to travel across Nantes public transport network, gain free entry to a number of tourist attractions and take advantage of a variety of discounts (24h, 48h or 72h).

• The Elephant of the Machines de l'île – Look at the elephant! In the "naves" of the former shipyards come and see for yourself the extraordinary machines... this one-off, never-seen-before artistic project merges the imaginary world of Jules Verne, the mechanical universe of Leonardo da Vinci and the industrial history of Nantes.

• **Bateaux nantais** – Nantes river cruise. Embark in Nantes for a 10 km cruise (lh30 to 2h30), lunch or dinner cruise on the Erdre River, an affluent of the Loire. Breathtaking view of the Chateaux and natural landscapes. From 5 to 200 pers.

• Le Lieu Unique Located alongside the

Canal Saint-Felix and close to the city centre, the old biscuit factory LU lives to the rhythm of an atypical art centre: the Lieu Unique. Here you will find a bar, a restaurant, a hammam, and the LU tower...

TOP 3 VISITS IN ANGERS

• **The Apocalypse Tapestry** is a medieval treasure 106 metres long, containing 74 paintings, exceptional colours, dramatic or playful scenes, that took 9 years to complete! Such a masterpiece deserved a showcase of its own size: it can be seen at the Chateau d'Angers, with its 17 towers and its kilometre-long walls.

• Loire Odyssée Cruises: from a one-hour discovery cruise to the concert dinner, you can enjoy Loire River -the longest river in France- in a special way, departing from Angers. From April to October

• Visit **Terra Botanica**, a vegetal themed **park** (the only one in Europe): explore the extraordinary gardens and discover the secrets of 500,000 plant species in Angers

TOP 3 IN LE MANS: NOT TO MISS

• Le Mans is known throughout the world for its **24-hour endurance car race** that takes place every year in June. Brad Pitt, Jackie Chan and Steve McQueen are some of the stars who have participated in the race. A not-to-miss event.

• During the summer, Le Mans goes all arty: a whole artistic exploration takes place in the city centre, illuminating the old town (Plantagenêt city) and colouring the parks and gardens in many different ways. Discover new artistic experiences through 2 major cultural events, free of charge: **Plein Champ and the Night of the Chimeras**.

• Every year at the end of September, **the festival "Between courtyards and gardens"** turns the old town of Le Mans (Plantagenêt city) into gardens and gives access to 20 "Secret Gardens" that exceptionally open their doors during the festival.

For more details b2b@solutions-eco.fr



GREEN AND SLOW LIFE IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

Highlights of the trip:

- Sainte Suzanne, one of the most beautiful villages of France
- The charming city of Laval and its market
- The Robert Tatin art museum

15

- The Mancelles Alps in the Normandy-Maine regional nature park
- Unusual accommodation in the middle of nature
- Self-drive house boat on the Sarthe river
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île





<u>⊚</u>[©] 80 KM









Morning | Laval

Arrive at Laval TGV train station

Take your time in Laval, at your own pace

Lunch in Laval in a typical restaurant

Afternoon | Sainte Suzanne & Laval

Explore <u>Sainte-Suzanne</u>, labeled as one of the "most beautiful villages of France". This medieval village is perched on a rock, overlooking the valley

Dinner at the gastronomic restaurant <u>"L'Epicurien"</u> in Laval > Alternative: l'Antiquaire-Laval

Night at the <u>4* Perier du Bignon Hotel</u> in Laval > Alternative: 3* Best Western Hôtel de Paris. Laval

Day 2



The famous naïve art painter Henri Douanier Rousseau was born in Laval









Morning | Laval

Explore Laval, labeled "city of art and history". Discover its:

- <u>Naïve Art Museum</u>
- Historic Center
- Local Market
- The World's Largest Dairy Museum Lactopôle

Enjoy a cheese-themed lunch in Laval

Afternoon Cossé-le-Vivien

Discover the <u>Robert Tatin museum</u>: is it an Asian temple? A Mayan palace? A Maori fortress? Discover by yourself this monumental Palace-museum by the artist Robert Tatin

Festive dinner at the Natur'eau Parc Echologia

Night at the <u>4* Perier du Bignon Hotel</u> in Laval > Alternative: 3* Best Western Hôtel de Paris in Laval



<u>⊘</u>[©] 150 KM











Morning | Mancelles Alps

Explore the Mancelles Alps. Don't miss the local heritage monuments

Discover <u>unusual accommodation "Insolites de JSK"</u> in the middle of nature

Picnic lunch with local and fresh products

Afternoon | Sablé-sur-Sarthe

Have fun exploring the surrounding countryside by driving a swincar, an electric offroad & nature friendly vehicle

Be a captain of a <u>self-drive house boat</u> on the Sarthe River

Explore the charming village of Asnières-sur-Vègres, labeled as "petite cité de caractère"

Dinner in a typical restaurant in Sablé-sur-Sarthe

Night at the <u>4* Grand Hôtel de Solesmes</u> in Solesmes

Day 4

©[®] 140 KM





Nantes' Jardin des Plantes is one of the 4 major botanical gardens of France







Morning | Nantes

On your way to Nantes, stop and enjoy the panoramic views over the River Loire

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Elegant and cultural, the Graslin district is a gem of 18th and 19th century urban planning. Graslin is reputed for its chic shops, its gourmet restaurants and its Passage Pommeraye, the only three-storey covered arcade in Europe.

Afternoon | Nantes

Follow the Green line in Nantes.

A green line literally painted on the ground enables visitors to discover all the main city landmarks, from the Chateau des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner in Nantes city centre

Dine in a restaurant recommended by the selection <u>Les Tables de</u> <u>Nantes</u>. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the <u>4* Hotel Seven Urban Suites hotel</u> on the Ile of Nantes

> Alternative: 4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye Hotel in Nantes

The Chateau de Sainte-Suzanne pascal.tregan@lamayenne.fr 4* Perier du Bignon Hotel, Laval evenements@hotelperierdubignon.fr The Chateau of Laval and Naïve Art Museum cyrielle.langlais@laval.fr Lactopôle – Dairy Museum, Laval damien.soulice@lactalis.fr Robert Tatin Museum, Cossé-le-Vivien museetatin@cosse-le-vivien.fr Natur'eau Parc Echologia – Natural Park, Laval contact@echologia.fr Insolites JSK – unusual accommodation in the nature, Saint-Léonard-des-Bois contact@lesinsolitesdejsk.fr Anjou Navigation – House boat renting, Sablé-sur-Sarthe contact@anjou-navigation.fr 4* Grand Hôtel de Solesmes solesmes@grandhotelsolesmes.com Les Tables de Nantes www.lestablesdenantes.fr/en 4* Seven Urban Suites hotel amelie.joubioux@7urbansuites.fr

INTERESTED IN SLOW TOURISM?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• At the Maison du Lac de Grand-Lieu,

30 mins drive west of Nantes, discover one of the most beautiful wetlands in Europe, known for its biological richness (270+ species of birds). The site includes a museum & observation site. Have a stop at the Guerlain pavilion where the famous perfume maker used to live and enjoy the lake's poetical and imaginary universe.

• 45 mins drive west of Nantes, **the Regional Nature Park of Briere** is the 2nd largest marshland in France, home to 900 different species and thousands of bird species. Flat-bottomed boat guided tours can be organised.

• Renting a self-drive house boat on the Maine, Mayenne or Sarthe Rivers will allow you to really live the slow life, following the pace of the river. From 2 days to one week with Nicols or Anjou Navigation.

• Try a **canoe trip** on **the river Mayenne** from the port of Chateau-Gontier with **Canotika**. Discover bird species and enjoy nature on your own. Canoe, kayak, paddle boards and pedal-boat rentals are available.

• In Vendée, explore **the Salt Route in Sallertaine by cance or bicycle**. With an English-speaking tour guide or on your own, enjoy the quiet atmosphere of the marshland. Possibility of overnight stay in a bivouac. • In South Vendée, in **the Marais Poitevin Regional Nature Park**, discover the marshland, also known as "Green Venice" during a rowing boat ride. 1 hour to 3-hour round trips, from the majestic 14th century Maillezais Abbey

• 30 mins drive north of Laval, explore the charming village of **Fontaine Daniel**, and marvel at the former Cistercian abbey turned into a spinning mill, where the famous Toiles de Mayenne (specific cloth fabric) are made.

• **Between Laval and Angers**, for a treetop experience, sleeping in the middle of nature, Gwendoline will host your group (up to 12 pers.) in a quiet and peaceful environment in **La Chouette Cabane**.

• In Vendée, **near the Puy du Fou theme park**, experience **the Domaine de l'Oiselière**, a modern campsite with cottages and lodges nestling in the countryside, with activities for children (zip line, pony rides...) and an organic and local restaurant. European Ecolabel.

• For quality **holiday rentals**, don't hesitate to consult the **Gites de France** offers in Atlantic Loire Valley. Country houses, city flats or houses by the sea, with flexible arrival and departure dates.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





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Thank you to all our partners (departement tourism boards and local tourist offices) who contibuted to these itineraries



A SELECTION OF DMCS, GUIDES AND COACH COMPANIES TO ARRANGE YOUR TRIPS

DMCs

Loire Secrets – Luxury DMC Western France: Experience the best of the Loire Valley, Normandy and Brittany by booking off the beaten tracks tours. Travel agency specialised in luxury - private tours & corporate events. *loiresecrets.com*

DMC Naow West of France: NAOW Agency offers day trip excursions from Nantes to Western France on a 9-seater minibus. Chloe and Marine embark you on a unique and intimate journey. One rule: meet the locals to find out the little something extra. *naow-excursions.com*

Euro Travel Concept: a division of Richou coach company, Euro Travel Concept is an incoming agency specialised in the organisation of "tailor-made" trips and events in the Loire Valley, France and Europe. *eurotravelconcept.com*

Voyel Incoming: French DMC with 25 years' experience in group travel for an unforgettable experience. Students & school groups, adult groups for itineraries across France. *voyel.com/incoming-anglais*

Atlantic D'Tour Incoming: for groups or individuals, we arrange à la carte tours across Western France – from Anjou to the Atlantic coast. *atlantic-d-tour.com*

DMC Parenthèse Océan Voyages: for groups or individuals, we offer trips in Western France – we have organised cycle trips for the last 20 years.

parenthese-ocean-voyages.fr

Guides

Anjou & Nantes Wine Tours: Experience the Loire Valley vineyards with an experienced, relaxed, knowledgeable, attentive guide. *nantes-winetour.com*

MGuide: MGuide offers dynamic guided tours in Atlantic Loire Valley & surroundings (Brittany, Loire Valley). Tours available in English, French & Spanish, from ½ day to a week. *mguide.fr*

Coach companies

Richou Voyages – richou-voyages.fr Autocars Groussin – autocars-groussin.com/en Voyages Baudouin – voyages-baudouin.fr

For more recommendations, including experienced guides, contact us at b2b@solutions-eco.fr



www.atlantic-loire-valley.com

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