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LOIRE VALLEY: ART (DE VIVRE) AS IT FLOWS

Highlights of the trip:

- The Loire Valley, a UNESCO world heritage site
- The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud & its brand-new 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 Nantes-Saint Nazaire Estuaire art trail
- The creative City of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île





MONT-NT-MICHEL

LE MANS

SAUMUR

ORLÉANS

SAINT-MALC

Day 1

⊘ 20 KM







- Q-Did you know that Fontevraud abbey was turned into a jail in 1814?

Morning Saumur

Access: by TGV at Angers train station + regional train or 40-min drive to Saumur

Visit the Ackerman wine cellars, the oldest Loire Valley fine sparkling wine house. As a patron of art, Ackerman supports creativity, most especially plastic arts.

Or **visit the Bouvet Ladubay sparkling wine cellars:** kilometres of underground galleries host the great Brut de Loire sparkling wines.

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

Lunch in a local restaurant in Montsoreau.

Afternoon | Fontevraud

Visit the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, the largest monastic city in Europe, a UNESCO world heritage site and the modern art museum which opened in 2021.

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

> Alternative: dinner at cave-dwelling restaurant Le Saut aux Loups in Montsoreau

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

Did you know that Angers is home to the prange-based Cointrea liqueur, used in many famous cocktails?



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Morning Angers

In the heart of the Loire Valley, **Angers** (the capital of Anjou) is renowned for its rich heritage, its quality of life and greenery.

Explore the David d'Angers Gallery: discover the sculptures -from sketches to masterpieces- of the Angevin artist featured in a former abbey turned into a museum, bringing a very special magic. Or **discover the Fine Arts Museum of Angers**: housed in the 15th century Barrault mansion, a jewel of Gothic civil architecture, it features artworks from the 14th century to the present day (paintings, sculptures, art objects).

Lunch at Le Relais restaurant in Angers.

Afternoon | Angers

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

Dinner at restaurant La Réserve, on the roof of the Le Quai Theatre, overlooking the River Maine and the chateau.

> Alternative: Dinner at the 1515 Restaurant at the 4* Hotel d'Anjou in Angers city centre.

Night at the 4* Hôtel Mercure Angers Centre.

> Alternative: Best Western 4* Hôtel d'Anjou, Angers

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

Day 3









 ♥

 Nantes: follow

 the green line painted

 on the ground





©[®] 65 KM



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









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 Château 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 Les Tables de Nantes. Fresh, creative, and healthy: Nantes' cuisine will delight you!

Night at the 4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye Hotel in Nantes.

> Alternative: 4* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites

Morning | Nantes

Discover Les Machines de l'île, 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 neighbourhood!

Lunch in one of "Les Tables de Nantes" restaurants.

Afternoon | 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.

Discover Saint-Nazaire, the city by the Estuary and the Atlantic Ocean, and the artworks spread across the city. The "Giants of the sea, giants of the air" tour takes you into the shipyards and into Saint-Nazaire's Airbus factory.

Dinner at La Brasserie du Port, Saint-Nazaire.

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

> Alternative: dinner and night at 4* Château des Tourelles Relais Thalasso & spa, Pornichet.

Depart from Saint-Nazaire TGV station

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

Ackerman – sparkling wine cellar, Saumur jgoudeau@ackerman.fr Bouvet-Ladubay – sparkling wine cellar, Saumur accueil@bouvet-ladubay.fr Château of Montsoreau & Museum of contemporary art mariecaroline chaudruc@gmail.com

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

La Réserve Restaurant, Angers contact@lareserveangers.fr 4* Hotel Mercure Angers Centre h0540-gl@accor.com Nantes Fine Arts Museum melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.

Brasserie La Cigale, Nantes lacigale@lacigale.com

4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye, Nantes maryline dufay@accor.com

The Machines de l'île, Nantes proupes@nantes-tourisme.com

Escal'Atlantic Saint-Nazaire & Saint-Nazaire Shipyards

3* Best Western Hotel de la Plage, Saint-Nazaire



INTERESTED IN CULTURE & ART?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• 1 Nantes – Saint-Nazaire Estuaire art trail - The Landscape, the Art and the River

In Nantes, Saint-Nazaire and along the banks of the Loire River for 60km, a collection of 33 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, 2 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 Château 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.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





