Come Jandemee Jandexperience

the Atlantic Loire Valley



2023





Pornic - coastal path - Loire-Atlantique

Editorial

Holidays can be wonderfully emotional experiences, providing a welcome change of scene and the chance to make new discoveries. But they are also an opportunity to embark on an inner journey and to surprise ourselves with experiences that awaken our senses and arouse our curiosity, inviting us to live each moment to the full and transforming all those who experience it. Mindful of these possibilities, the Atlantic Loire Valley and its partners have chosen to put the spotlight in this press kit on immersive experiences that give priority to a more ethical, responsible and sharing approach to tourism. From community workshops to guesthouses and local produce, visitors are invited to let their curiosity lead the way as they immerse themselves in an invigorating journey, discover the region from the inside and (re)discover themselves in good company.

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Top visitor attractions

LOIRE-ATLANTIQUE (44)

- 1- Blain Château & Nantes-Brest Canal
- 2- Bouaye La Maison du Lac de Grand-Lieu
- Châteaubriant Château of Châteaubriant
- Clisson Italianate town, Château & Domaine de la
- 5- **Guérande** Salt marshes
- 6- La Baule The bay 7- La Boissière-du-Doré Boissière-du-Doré Zoo
- 8- Le Croisic Océarium sea life centre
- Nantes Les Machines de l'île & the Château of the Dukes
- 10- Pays d'Ancenis Tower of Oudon
- Pornic Fishing huts
- 12- **Port-Saint-Pèr**e Planète Sauvage
- 13- Saint-Nazaire Les Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyards & Escal'Atlantic

ANJOU (49)

- 14- Angers Terra Botanica, Château of Angers & the Cointreau distillery

 15- **Baugé** - The twisting steeples of Baugeois
- 16- **Brézé** Château of Brézé
- Brissac Château of Brissac
- 18- Doué-la-Fontaine Biopark and troglodyte houses 19- Fontevraud-l'Abbaye Fontevraud Abbey
- 20- Le Choletais Maulévrier Oriental Park
- 21- Pays de Segré Blue Mine and slate 22- Saumur - Cadre Noir & Château of Saumur

MAYENNE (53)

- 23- **Château-Gontie**r Refuge de l'Arche
- 24- Cossé-le-Vivien Robert Tatin Museum
- 25- Jublains Jublains Gallo-Roman Archaeological Site 26- Laval - Naive and Singular Art Museum - Le Douanier
- 27- River trips & towpath
- 28- Mayenne Museum of Mayenne Castle
- 29- Saulges Caves, canyon and Museum of Prehistory
- 30- Sainte-Suzanne Château and town with remarkable architecture & natural heritage

SARTHE (72)

- 31- Asnières-sur-Vègre Town with remarkable architecture & natural heritage
- 32- **La Flèche** Zoo and Safari Lodge
- 33- Le Breil-sur-Mérize Domaine of Pescheray
- 34- **Le Mans** The Museum of Le Mans 24 Hours Plantagenet City - Papéa Park
- 35- Le Perche Sarthois La Ferté-Bernard
- Mancelles Alps
- Poncé-sur-le-Loir Gardens of the Château of Poncé-sur-le-Loir
- 38- Loir Valley Château of Le Lude39- Sarthe Valley Solesmes Abbeys

VENDÉE (85)

- 40- L'île de Noirmoutier Le Bois de la Chaize Le Gois
- 41- L'île d'Yeu Old Castle
- 42- La Roche-sur-Yon and the Machines on Place Napoléon
- 43- La Tranche-sur-Mer Surfing
- 44- Poitevin Marsh
- 45- **Les Épesses** Puy du Fou
- 46- Les Sables-d'Olonne The Vendée Globe & Sables d'Olonne Zoo
- 47- Moutiers-les-Mauxfaits Indian Forest & O'Gliss Park
- 48- Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie Sardines
- 49- Saint-Jean-de-Monts Sand yachting
- 50- Vouvant Town with remarkable architecture & natural heritage



250 km

of Loire waterways including 75 km UNESCO World Heritage listed



375 km

of navigable riverways



wine-growing region in AOCs



450 km

of Atlantic coastline and two islands: Yeu and Noirmoutier



215 km

of beaches



Regional Nature Parks



47 Petites Cités de Caractère®



3rd largest French



3,400 km

marked cycle routes



690 Accueil Vélo®

quality cycle-friendly service providers and places to stay



92 Vogue&Vague water sports facilities

and 160+ aquatic activities for people of all ages and abilities



3 leading agritourism networks:

Accueil Paysan. Bienvenue à la ferme. Gîtes de France



Some 350 farm-stay

properties and farm-to-fork outlets



3 areas awarded the Vignobles & Découvertes

quality wine tourism label



17 themed circuits

on the Loire Valley Wine Routes



360+ **Caves Touristiques wine**

cellars providing quality services to tourists

Regional specialities !



Fouées from Anjou

Fouées (or fouaces) are typical Saumur rolls served in troglodyte restaurants. Baked

in bread ovens, this type of round bread loaf rises during cooking into hollow rolls to open while hot and stuff with butter, potted meats, mogettes (white beans) and goat's cheese.

www.anjou-tourisme.com



Cheese from Mayenne

From Chaussée aux Moines to Vieux Pané, Carré des Écluses and Entrammes, Mayenne

produces a large variety of cheeses. Port-Salut is the best known of all. This pressed uncooked cheese was invented in 1794 by Trappist monks from Port-du-Salut Abbey in Entrammes.

www.fromageriedentrammes.fr



Rough paté brandy in Sarthe

A unique creation of the Sonneur distillery and Tradition Sarthoise cured meat firm.

this new beverage is inspired by a star of the local culinary scene: rillette (rough paté). This unusual brandy has a delicate scent of rough paté and ends on a lightly roasted note.

www.distillerie-dusonneur.com



Vendée **Atlantique** oysters

Prized for its authentic taste, real bite and salty aromas, this variety of

ovsters is farmed along the Vendée coast. From the Baie de Bourgneuf to the Baie de l'Aiguillon and Noirmoutier, some 7,700 tonnes of oysters are produced every year in Vendée.

www.huitre-vendee-atlantique.fr



Muscadet: pride of the Nantes vineyards

This dry white wine with a palevellow colour,

green hues and a floral, fruity nose is made from a single and unique grape variety - the Melon de Bourgogne. This Loire wine originates in the Nantes vineyards, between the Loire River and the Bocage countryside, and goes down a treat with seafood. www.muscadet.fr



Artisan salt from the Atlantic coast

From the Île de Noirmoutier to the Olonne marshes or the Guérande peninsula, the salt

gathered by salt collectors and salt-marsh workers from the Vendée or Loire-Atlantique region is the white gold of the Atlantic Loire Valley. A local resource prized for a thousand years!

www.terredesel.com

Soak up the energy of city life

From Nantes to Angers, Le Mans and Laval, the cities of the Atlantic Loire Valley are filled with surprises and sights to explore for anyone who enjoys city breaks, with culture, heritage and great food topping the agenda. Charming accommodation, museums, restaurants, outstanding sites and must-see destinations: the region's towns and cities have it all - and some more! As a couple or with friends, a city break in the local region is a chance to enjoy an experience where pleasure and the French art of living go hand in hand.



City breaks in Nantes



Wake up at the SŌZŌ Hôtel

At the heart of the city, opposite the botanical garden, this 4-star hotel makes the ideal base from which to explore Nantes. Set in the soothing surroundings of a former chapel, its 24 rooms have a unique designer touch heightened by the beauty of this historic site. Guests staying in this romantic, out-of-the-ordinary hotel are also invited to enjoy the sauna, steam room, ice room and sensory shower.

www.sozohotel.fr



Embark on a taste journey

From land to sea: a culinary tour through the history of Nantes. From 17th-century ocean traders to the industrial pioneers of the 19th century, explore the city's rich past through its varied and tasty cuisine, from butter biscuits (Petit Beurre) to Curé Nantais cheese. From the Château district to Place Royale, Le Voyage à Nantes organises taste tours to discover the best the city has to offer. A delicious opportunity to share experiences and meet new people as you explore historical sites and the local food scene.

www.levoyageanantes.fr

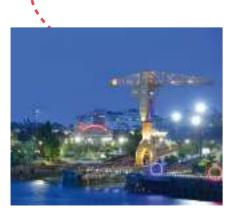




Lunch at Le Sain

Café, eatery and deli, this relaxing, friendly space serves seasonal produce prepared with the greatest care. Run by two brothers, Samuel and Josselin Hutric, this family business is proud of its market-fresh, homemade dishes that are cooked to perfection and definitely pass the taste test. All produce is sourced from local organic suppliers as part of a farm-to-fork philosophy. You can also buy vegetables and eggs from the family farm, Huitric Producteur, in the grocery store.

www.sain-nantes.com





Enjoy a twilight canoe trip

Discover Nantes from a fresh angle on an evening canoe-kayak outing! Several evenings in summer, professional canoeists take visitors on a 90-minute guided tour offering outstanding views of the city. Discover the cultural heritage of Nantes from the Loire river with an optional stop in Trentemoult, a former fishing village with brightly coloured houses, followed by a chance to sample local culinary specialities.

www.canoekayakvertou.com



Just a short walk from the Machines de l'Île, Le Magmaa is a new Food Hall with nine food kiosks serving world cuisine prepared using local produce.









Discover the Nantes Arts Museum www.museedartsdenantes.nantesmetropole.fr

Marvel at the gallery of the Machines de l'Île www.lesmachines-nantes.fr

Visit the Château of the Dukes of Brittany www.chateaunantes.fr

Admire artworks on the Voyage à Nantes cultural trail in summer and winter www.levoyageanantes.fr

Have fun at the Jules Verne Museum www.julesverne.nantesmetropole.fr

Explore the Maison Radieuse by Le Corbusier www.maisonradieuse.org

Soak up the energy of city life

Angers - 49 Rooftop gourmet break overlooking the Château

Located on the top floor of Le Quai theatre, with views over the Château, La Réserve d'Angers restaurant serves creative bistro-style dishes in warm and relaxed surroundings. Here time seems to move at a more stately pace as you enjoy a gourmet break and soak up the panoramic city views from the rooftop. La Réserve serves a seasonal menu of fresh produce, local fine-dining cuisine, dishes of the day, and tapas to share, paired with regional and world wines. Its outstanding location on the banks of the Maine river makes this a must-do destination for visitors to Angers who like to take life at a gentle pace.





Laval - 53 Discover the Naive and Singular Art Museum (MANAS - Musée d'Art Naïf et d'Arts Singuliers)

A 1,100 m² space in the grounds of the Old Castle in downtown Laval, the MANAS is a unique gallery exploring extraordinary art. Its collections and temporary exhibitions showcase marginal works of art alongside contemporary pieces and creations of all kinds. Nationally recognised as a spotter of creative talent and a supporter of visual artists whose work rarely finds its way into conventional art galleries, the museum also has close links with local painter Douanier Rousseau, three of whose most outstanding works are held in the collection of the Naive and Singular Art Museum.

www.musees.laval.fr



of Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie

Visitors keen to explore the seaside town of Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie are invited to follow the blue fish or caravel ships painted on the floor. Created in 2022, these two walking tours - the "Sardine Walk" and "Ballast Walk" - lead you through two of the town's historic neighbourhoods: the first, on the right bank of the Vie estuary, was once home to fishermen and salt-collectors, while the second, on the left bank, is renowned for its typical, charming alleyways once bustling with traders, ship captains and local worthies. Stop at the Atelier de la Sardine to learn more about the fish for which this Vendée port is renowned.

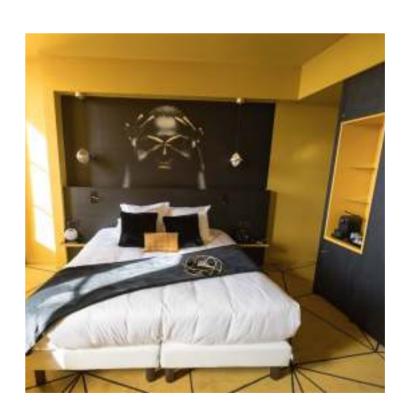
www.payssaintgilles-tourisme.fr



Le Mans - 72 Prestigious city-centre hotel

Leprince Hôtel et Spa is a recent 4-star hotel in the centre of Le Mans, just a short walk from the Cité Plantagenêt - the historic heart of the city. This unique space is a haven of peace prized for its refinement and elegant historic setting. Housed in the former 18th-century convent of the Visitation, it was recently renovated to create a one-of-a-kind setting that opens a window onto the city, with its boutiques, restaurants, performance space, museum and luxury hotel. The 38 rooms of this prestigious establishment are tastefully decorated and enjoy a stylish, cosy feel.

www.leprince-hotel-spa.com

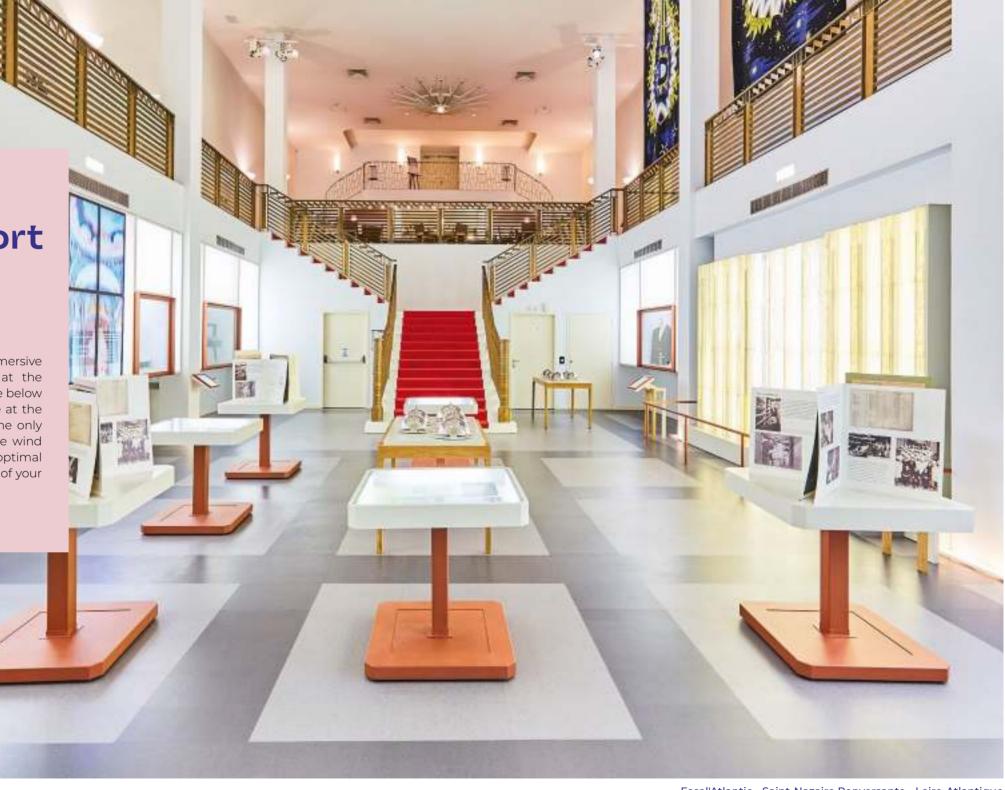


Visits and immersive experiences in the port city of Saint-Nazaire

Discover the 4-sites pass

Saint-Nazaire Renversante is a destination offering a host of immersive experiences for the whole family. Discover legendary liners at the Escal'Atlantic, clamber on board the first French submarine to dive below the ice field, learn all about the amazing history of Saint-Nazaire at the Écomusée or the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyards, and visit the only tourist attraction in France devoted to wind energy and offshore wind farms with EOL. Visit the city and its remarkable sites under optimal conditions by choosing from a range of passes to make the most of your stay in Saint-Nazaire.

www.saint-nazaire-tourisme.com



Leave the car behind

Explore the region at your own pace

Get around under your own steam and explore another side of the Atlantic Loire Valley - it's a great way to discover this rich and varied destination at your own pace. Hop on your bicycle and explore more than 3,000 km of marked cycle routes, take the helm of a houseboat and sail along 375 km of navigable riverways or enjoy new experiences on the water with one of the region's 400 water sport centres... there are countless ways to discover the Atlantic Loire Valley from a totally new angle!



Cycling and sailing breaks in Mayenne



Wake up at Le Moulin de la Rongère

Skirted by the Mayenne towpath, this historic dwelling makes an ideal stopover for anyone exploring the Vélo Francette cycle route. This abode also offers an outstanding riverside setting, making it perfect for nature lovers. Water, trees and birds greet guests from every window! This gîte has five bedrooms each with its own bathroom, a large dining room and a top floor for playing, painting and reading. Le Moulin de la Rongère is ideal for enchanting getaways with family or friends right on the Mayenne towpath.

www.moulindelarongere.com



Peddle along the Vélo Francette cycle route

Between Laval and Château-Gontier, this section of La Vélo Francette is ideal for families. The 35 kilometres that separate these two charming Mayenne towns can be cycled in under two and a half hours. The route takes you along the Mayenne towpath and never strays far from this gentle, meandering river. If you love nature and history, the Château of Laval, the Entrammes Gallo-Roman thermal baths and the Ursulines convent of Château-Gontier are essential stops on any tour of the local area.

www.lavelofrancette.com



Lunch at Les Copains d'Abord

The name alone - which means 'Friends First' - is enough to whet the appetite! Set in timeless, unspoilt countryside on the Neuville lock in Saint-Sulpice, Les Copains d'Abord restaurant invites you to relax and enjoy fun times with friends as you savour hearty traditional dishes next to one of the most beautiful rivers in the West of France.

www.mayenne-tourisme.com



Try crazy sofas or water-skiing

After lunch, there's nothing like plunging into the fun world of watersports, whether you're six or sixty! Crazy sofas and waterskiing guarantee thrills and laughter with family and friends. The Ski Nautique 53 club is just minutes from Château-Gontier town centre. It organises introductory courses, outings for first-timers and water surface sports for all ages, with assistance available for people with reduced mobility.

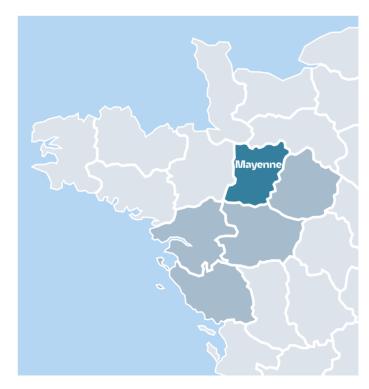
www.skinautique53.fr



The Mayenne region is dotted with lock houses that come to life during the summer, making them perfect places to stop and chat with lock keepers, who sometimes also double as restaurateurs, grocers and even gardeners. Don't miss the riverside guinguettes - open-air cafés for fun and refreshing breaks!









Explore the greenways in Mayenne www.atlantic-loire-valley.com/cycle-tourism

Stop at the Robert Tatin Museum to discover this unique and surprising space

www.mayenne-tourisme.com

Visit the Château of Craon and its park, the "Little Versailles of Mayenne" www.chateaudecraon.fr



Explore the region at your own pace

NEW La Princesse de Loire houseboat - 49

Sleep in a traditional "toue" craft on the Loire river

A complete change of scene for a one-of-a-kind experience! A traditional "toue" craft with a large deck cabin, typical of the Loire, La Princesse de Loire has been transformed into a floating gîte. Moored between Nantes and Angers, in one of the still-wild corners of the Loire, this boat promises a holiday at the heart of the countryside with cormorants, terns and egrets for company. Despite its rustic surroundings, the "toue" boat is equipped with all modern comforts. Rise with the sun and enjoy breakfast on the water as you soak up the breathtaking views over the Loire, lulled by the lapping of the water and the chirping of the birds...





Les Rivières de l'Ouest - 72

Stay on a houseboat from Sablé-sur-Sarthe to Le Mans

River trip pioneer Anjou Navigation organises cruises and hires out licencefree boats for trips along the meandering Mayenne and Sarthe rivers. From Sablésur-Sarthe to Le Mans, the "Cap vers la Cité Plantagenêt" route is perfect if you're looking to get away from it all with family or friends. Cast off from Sablé-sur-Sarthe sailing centre and head up the Sarthe to the majestic Solesmes Abbey, famous for its Gregorian chant. After a stop at Malicorne, officially recognised as an "Arts and crafts town" and renowned for its openwork earthenware, come to berth in Le Mans before exploring the staggeringly rich heritage of the Plantagenet City.

www.anjou-navigation.fr

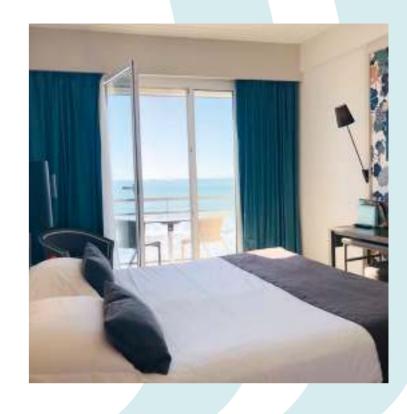
3* Hotel Les Roches Noires in Les Sables-d'Olonne

- 85

Seaside break and cycling along La Vélodyssée cycle route

Fronting the Atlantic Ocean, Les Roches Noires 3-star hotel makes an ideal base from which to explore everything the celebrated coastal resort of Les Sables-d'Olonne has to offer. Built on the Promenade Georges Clemenceau in 1905, this beautiful private villa was transformed into a hotel in the 1930's. Now a holiday residence, it still has 42 rooms and a Spa equipped with hydromassaging baths - perfect for a well-earned and relaxing break along the Vélodyssée cycle route.

www.hotel-lesrochesnoires.com



From Guérande to Le Croisic - 44

Ride through the saltmarshes on the Vélocéan cycle route

Fill your lungs with fresh air and enjoy 360° views over the ocean and saltmarshes on this two-hour ride along the Vélocéan cycle route. From the medieval walled city of Guérande, the route takes riders through a colourful patchwork of saltmarshes that stretch for more than 2,000 hectares. This white gold is a source of regional pride. Further along, visitors embark on a journey to the ends of the earth. The cycle route passes through Batz-sur-Mer, a town awarded "Remarkable architecture & natural heritage" status, and takes in panoramic views around the Croisic peninsula. Riders then return along the stunning Grande Côte path via the port of Le Pouliguen.



www.atlantic-loire-valley.com

Explore the region at your own pace

The Atlantic Loire Valley by bicycle

A must for cycle tourists

The Atlantic Loire Valley has more than 3,400 km of designated and marked cycle routes. At the crossroads of the Loire à Vélo, Vélodyssée and Vélo Francette cycle routes, the region offers seasoned cycle tourists and other two-wheel travellers endless hours of fun. The region's network of cycle routes wind through an unspoilt natural landscape from the Atlantic Coast to the Loire Valley via vineyards and outstanding heritage sites. Explored along greenways, cycle paths or quiet roads, the Atlantic Loire Valley is perfect for invigorating holidays in the great outdoors!

www.atlantic-loire-valley.com





Terroir and lifestyle

Delve into local crafts

With more than 40,000 hectares of vineyards, a rich and varied gastronomic heritage, and producers and craftworkers who give pride of place to the region and its produce, the Atlantic Loire Valley is an invitation to embark on a journey through a world of taste. From tasty meals in the region's restaurants to encounters with producers and winegrowers, and opportunities to discover culinary gems and local crafts, this region has all the makings of a fun holiday with a big dose of authentic charm!



Nature ture stays in La Sarthe



Greet the sun after a night under the stars (or almost)

Far from the hustle and bustle of the city. Jean and Servanne Kesteloot welcome visitors on a stunning 4-hectare estate set in deep in the countryside at the heart of the Mancelles Alps. Fringed by forests and valleys, Les Insolites de JSK offers one-of-akind accommodation with nine charming and original abodes to choose from. For a night with your head in the stars, try a lodge, dome or bubble. Or a special Harry Potter-themed dwelling, added in 2023! Perfect for anyone looking to escape from everyday life in peaceful surroundings, without compromising on luxury and quality services.

www.insolites-jsk.fr



Explore the Mancelles Alps on an electric mountain bike

Saint-Léonard-des-Bois is a charming "town with remarkable architecture & natural heritage" in the Mancelles Alps that's renowned for its outdoor activities in nature. The Chase The Line workshop in the centre of the village repairs and maintains bicycles, hires out electric mountain bikes and organises guided outings to discover the sights and hidden treasures of this protected natural site. It's a great opportunity to explore the rolling wooded landscapes of this unique area, which could easily be mistaken for the mountains!

www.sarthetourisme.com



Lunch at La Maison du Gasseau

Run by four young women who love their work, this ethical business includes a hotel, gîte, well-being area and a restaurant. The atmosphere is friendly and the hearty dishes are made with organic, responsible produce sourced from the kitchen garden or surrounding fields. All recipes are inspired by the raw ingredients. From field to fork, the cooking is refined and tasty, and the menu changes with the weather and season.

www.lamaisondugasseau.com



Take a canoe ride along the Sarthe

Casting off from Saint-Léonard-des-Bois, Préférence Plein-Air organises canoe and kayak rides along the Sarthe, at the heart of the Mancelles Alps, for day or weekend trips. A great opportunity to discover this unspoilt valley recognised for its natural treasures and the beauty of its heritage sites along the banks of the river. On the way, from your canoe, admire Saint-Céneri-le-Gérei, which stands on the Normandy side of the river. Another downstream circuit takes you to Fresnay-sur-Sarthe - a delightful medieval town awarded "town with remarkable architecture & natural heritage" status.

www.canoelocation.com



26)) 27





Visit Le Sonneur distillery in the centre of Le Mans www.distillerie-dusonneur.com

Take a cruise on a flat-bottomed boat, La Rêveuse de Saint-Nicolas. in Le Mans

www.sarthetourisme.com

Take a nature break in a new ecolodge on the Domaine de l'Épau www.domainedelepau.com

Unwind in the well-being area at La Maison du Gasseau www.lamaisondugasseau.com



Delve into local crafts

L'Éveilleuse brewery in Mayenne - 53

Introduction to beer brewing

This micro-brewery opened a few years ago in Saint-Pierre-sur-Erve, a town awarded "remarkable architecture & natural heritage" status. In the beautiful Erve Valley, crossed by one of the most picturesque rivers in Mayenne, this charming village is well worth a visit. Discover the skills of the local craft brewers and taste (within reasonable limits!) their beers. The brewery produces a total of six organic beers. Introductory sessions to brewing are organised throughout the year for beer enthusiasts.







Échos Nature in Loire-Atlantique - 44 Nature outings, cooking classes and seaweed sales

Nature guides and seaweed harvesters Julie and Vincent travel across the Pays de Retz and along the Jade Coast revealing this beautiful region's wealth of natural resources. Joining them on their tour, visitors learn how to recognise and use edible seaweed from the region's coastline. Once Julie and Vincent have harvested the seaweed they run workshops on how to prepare simple, tasty dishes with this surprising seaside bounty. Dried seaweed, seaweed tartar and seaweed pastes can also be bought in the Échos Nature store.

www.echosnature.fr

Pommes Tapées, speciality of the Loire Valley - 49

Discover local gastronomic heritage

At the end of the 19th century, the small village of Turquant in the Saumur region became the world capital of "Pomme tapée". This dried apple flattened with a hammer according to an age-old village recipe helped local winegrowers survive a severe attack of phylloxera aphids. By the mid-20th century, this traditional local delicacy had been all but forgotten when a museum revived its fortunes. The displays introduce visitors to the secrets of how this mysterious speciality is made through a collection of more than 300 objects. Carved into the cliffs and nestled on a hillside, this troglodyte site also has a restaurant and store.







Coast and gastronomic wonders in Vendée - 85

Oyster tasting and visits to the Passage du Gois and the saltmarshes of Noirmoutier

Ideal for lovers of fresh sea air, this adventure begins with a visit to Fromentine oyster farm. Oyster farmer David Lecossois sheds light on the lifecycle of the oyster, from birth to plate, as he guides visitors step by step through his work and unique craft. Next up on the tour is the Passage du Gois, a 4-kilometre-long periodically flooded road linking Noirmoutier to the continent. This fragile link is also teeming with life and an ideal spot for seashore fishing. Two non-profits organise discovery walks to raise awareness of this age-old practice. The day ends with a visit to the Noirmoutier saltmarshes where salt-workers introduce visitors to this surprising maze of colourful channels and basins.

www.challansgois-tourisme.fr www.ile-noirmoutier.com

Loire Valley Wine Routes

17 wine-tourist routes in the Atlantic Loire Valley

There are countless ways to explore the wealth of wine tourism sights in the Atlantic Loire Valley by car, bicycle and water or on foot. The region's 17 routes and circuits offer visitors a chance to meet winegrowers and explore their vineyards. An opportunity for sharing, discovery and tasting (within reasonable limits!), the Loire Valley Wine Routes take budding and seasoned wine enthusiasts from the vineyards of Nantes to the winegrowing estates of Anjou and Saumur via the Fiefs Vendéens and the Loir Valley. Wines from the Atlantic Loire Valley come in every colour - just ask a local winegrower, they love to talk about their craft!

www.atlantic-loire-valley.com



Domaine des Génaudières - Le Cellier - Loire-Atlantique

Culture and Heritage

Reflect on the past, relish the present

The Atlantic Loire Valley has many wonderful sites to explore for anyone interested in culture and history. From stately châteaux and monumental abbeys to charming villages and unique heritage sites, the region opens a window onto the past and brings its remarkable heritage back to life through an array of year-round events. The region's out-of-the-ordinary, original and fascinating must-do sites and local gems promise a complete change of scene and a journey out of time.





Wake up in an extraordinary troglodyte hotel

Just a few kilometres from Saumur, the 3-star Rocaminori Hôtel recently opened in Louresse-Rochemenier, a troglodyte village set in rock as if frozen in time. It has 12 bedrooms carved into the "falun" or shell marl. Rough plaster, rock and exposed stones combine to create an extremely harmonious architectural design. The streamlined décor of this cosy underground hotel fits seamlessly into its natural setting. It takes on an idyllic air at night when the softly lit hotel holds guests spellbound.

www.rocaminori-hotel.fr



Explore the mystery of the shell marl

At the troglodyte site of Les Perrières in Doué-la-Fontaine, a display brings to life a vast 20-metre-high pointed-arch stone ceiling. A mix of science and poetry, Le Mystère des Faluns invites visitors on a journey through the ages. Sound and light displays projected onto the rock take visitors 10 million years back in time to the Faluns Sea. In this former stone quarry, visitors discover the secrets behind the geological formation of this rock created by the accumulation of shells and wonder at the majestic and original architecture of these underground spaces shaped by man.

www.le-mystere-des-faluns.com



Lunch in La Genevraie Caves

This troglodyte restaurant is an essential stop on any tour of the Saumur region. The Justeau family have been restoring La Genevraie cavern for many years and invite food lovers to enjoy a host of local specialities in a one-of-a-kind environment. The menu includes fouaces - stuffed rolls baked in the restaurant's bread oven. After lunch, the hosts guide visitors through the site where centuries of history are hidden away in each nook and cranny.

www.caves-genevraie.fr



Visit Fontevraud Royal Abbey and the Château of Brézéé

Recognised for its remarkably rich heritage, the Saumur region is home to two of the Atlantic Loire Valley's must-see destinations. Fontevraud Royal Abbey, one of the largest monastic sites in Europe, founded in 1101, is steeped in history. With its prestigious hotel and starred restaurant, it's perfect for unique stays in the region. Nearby Brézé is an unusual Loire château with underground galleries and what are believed to be the deepest moats in Europe.

www.fontevraud.fr www.chateaudebreze.com



been home to a modern art museum housing the exceptional Cligman collection and organises events and visits throughout the year. From 17 June to 24 September 2023, a temporary exhibition sheds light on a collection of Rembrandt's etchings. www.fontevraud.fr



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Admire views over Saumur and the Loire from the château www.chateau-saumur.fr

Discover the Château of Montsoreau and its contemporary art museum www.chateau-montsoreau.com

Enjoy wine-tasting with Robert and Marcel www.robertetmarcel.com

Visit Montreuil-Bellay, a town of "remarkable architecture & natural heritage" and its château www.chateau-de-montreuil-bellay.fr

Discover freestone sculptures at Pierre et Lumière troglodyte park www.pierre-et-lumiere.com



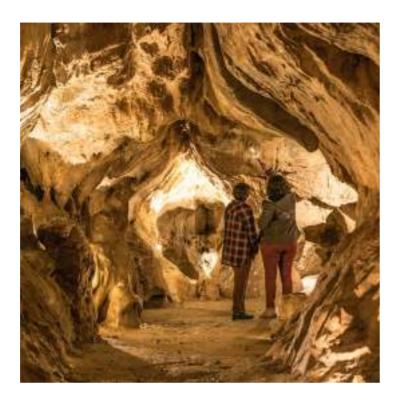
Reflect on the past, relish the present

Valley of Caves in Saulges - 53

Canyon and prehistory: an outstanding site

This site of outstanding natural beauty is nestled in the lush countryside of Mayenne and recalls the landscapes of southwestern France between Causses and Périgord. Winding through a terrain of moorland, boxwood and juniper, the Erve has carved a canyon and a network of caves out of the limestone rock. The only caves decorated with rock art in the north of the Loire Valley are found in Saulges. Two are open to visitors. The brand new Prehistory museum nearby explores the traces left behind by 300,000 years of human occupation. Awarded Natura 2000 status, this natural landmark is also a paradise for climbers and potholers.

www.grottes-musee-de-saulges.com





The Château of Le Lude - 72

History and discovery

The four facades of the Château of Le Lude, each built in a different style, bear living witness to developments in French architecture from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. This is one of the largest Loire châteaux still occupied by the same family - in this case for more than 250 years. This historic site is also famous for its gardens, awarded "Remarkable garden" status by the French Ministry of Culture for their homely yet stately style. For a unique experience in exceptional surroundings, the former outbuildings of the château have been transformed into a full-scale escape game for families and friends.

www.lelude.com

Clisson - 44 Romantic town with an air of Tuscany

From its medieval fortress to its central covered markets and Romanesque church, Clisson has no fewer than 13 listed historic monuments, making it one of the most prized heritage sites in the Atlantic Loire Valley. In the 19th century, artists fell in love with Clisson and turned it into an Italianate ensemble of buildings and landscapes. The most beautiful example is the Domaine de la Garenne Lemot, an ideal setting for romantic country walks. Every year, Clisson hosts one of the biggest rock metal festivals in Europe - Hellfest. Open all year round, the festival site is decorated with some surprising sculptures.

www.levignobledenantes-tourisme.com





Fontenay-le-Comte and the abbeys of the Poitevin Marsh - 85 Country holidays steeped in history

Ideally located close to the Poitevin Marsh. between bocage and the coast, Fontenayle-Comte is renowned for its rich historic heritage. Awarded "city of art and history" status, this beautiful town in Vendée bears witness to a rich history still visible to this day. The nearby abbeys of Maillezais and Nieul-sur-l'Autise are marvels of Romanesque architecture and tell a story stretching back more than 1,000 years. The first, a millennia-old landmark in the marshes, has close ties to the surrounding landscape. A once-rich abbey, it ended its life as a source of stone for local builders. The second is an architectural treasure of exceptionally high quality, made all the more beautiful by a unique conservation project. Visitors to both sites can enjoy interactive museum displays and a yearround programme of events.

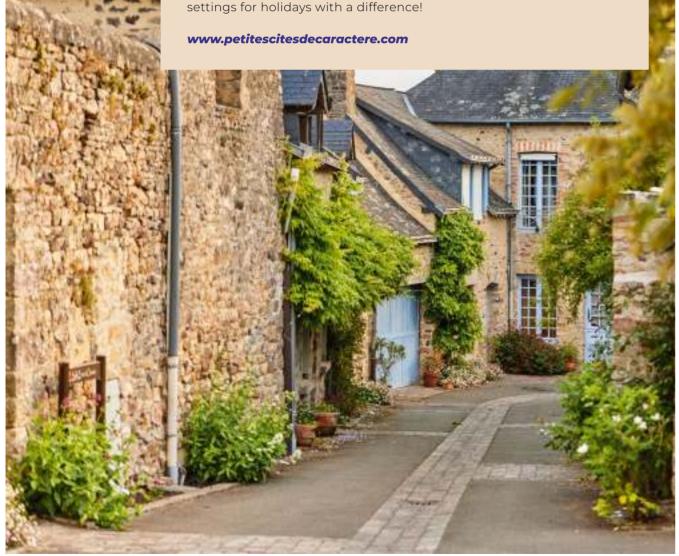
www.sudvendeetourisme.com

Reflect on the past, relish the present

Towns with remarkable architecture and natural heritage in the Atlantic Loire Valley

Outstanding heritage sites and local gems

On the banks of the Loire river, at the heart of the vineyards, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean or nestled in the bocage, the 47 towns and villages of the Atlantic Loire Valley awarded "remarkable architecture and natural heritage" status are well worth a visit. Memories in the making for the region's admirers, they also make great destinations for those who prefer to travel off the radar. Each of these towns and villages has its own remarkable heritage, conserved and brought to life with tourists in mind. From Le Croisic to Turquant, via Vouvant, Asnières-sur-Vègre and Sainte-Suzanne, Atlantic Loire Valley offers a wide choice of settings for holidays with a difference!



Sainte-Suzanne, "Town of remarkable architecture and natural heritage" - Mayenne



Le Signe du Triomphe Puy du Fou - Vendée

A journey back in time!

Voted Best Park in the World, Puy du Fou brings history back to life through 14 immersive shows and adventures, four period villages, a century-old forest and six themed hotels. A staggering journey through time, from Antiquity to the 20th century! In 2023, a new and original creation, "The Mime and the Star", transports audiences to a black-and-white era film set. Puy du Fou is also home to the greatest night-time show on earth, "Cinéscénie", watched by more than 13 million people over the last 45 years.

www.puydufou.com

Coast and bocage

Time out in nature

Between land and sea, the Atlantic Loire
Valley has 450 kilometres of coastline,
250 kilometres Loire waterways, and four
regional nature parks for anyone looking
to get away from it all in opulent green
surroundings. The Atlantic Coast is wild,
rocky or sandy, and the countryside is lush
and luxurious and occasionally broken by
undulating hills. Water is a constant presence
and the flora and fauna are rich and varied.
A stay in the Atlantic Loire Valley is the
perfect opportunity to enjoy time out in the
countryside with family or friends!



Greet the morning in a renovated 19th-century farmhouse

Located in Talmont-Saint-Hilaire, La Maroterie enjoys a homestyle setting of artfully matched tile, bare brick, oak and hemp. On the upper floor of this charming dwelling, owners Christian and Bertrand have created several delightfully furnished guestrooms - one family room sleeping four and two other rooms - along with a small kitchen. A haven of peace, the 4-hectare property has beautiful outdoor areas including a heated swimming pool. Bicycles are also available for rides in the surrounding countryside. Alternatively, try a spot of fishing in the nearby streams.

www.gites-de-france.com



Follow in the footsteps of the dinosaurs

Listed as a "Grand Ensemble Naturel" and entered for "Grand Site de France" status, Le Payré estuary is a nature sanctuary for fauna and flora undisturbed by the modern world. The estuary also forms the backdrop to the magnificent Le Veillon beach, one of Europe's most important palaeontological sites, where one hundred or so dinosaur prints dating back 210 million years can be seen at high tide. To help us learn more about these sites, Jack Guichard, former Director of the Palais de la Découverte, a science centre in Paris, organises guided tours all year round.

www.vendee-tourisme.com



Lunch at La Plage du Veillon

Enjoy panoramic views over the ocean and a retro-meetsbohemian chic interior design by France Durez in this relaxing restaurant where you're invited to leave the world far behind. Inspired by the bars of Ibiza, Saint-Barthelemy and the Cyclades, its terraces take guests on a journey of discovery. The indoor powderhued dining room is brimming with light. The chef prepares tasty, honest and refined dishes using fresh, local and seasonal produce. www.laplageleveillon.com



Take a break among the flowers

Butine is an eco-friendly flower farm at the heart of Natura 2000-listed protected marshland. On this 18,000 m2 site run along sustainable farming lines, horticulturalist Nathalie grows flowers without the use of chemical products; her daughter Cécile, a craft florist, transforms them into bouquets, wreaths, frames and candles. They grow hundreds of varieties throughout the year, including dahlias, cosmos, gladioli, roses and daisies. One Sunday a month, Cécile and Nathalie open their holding and workshop to the public, introducing them to their craft and their unique and fascinating farm.

www.butine-fermeflorale.fr



Take a gastronomic break at the Cayola restaurant and enjoy panoramic views over the bay of the same name - a craggy coastline and one of the wildest in Vendée. www.le-cayola.com







Get away from it all on the Île d'Yeu www.ile-yeu.fr

Feel the thrill of water surface sports on the coast www.atlantic-loire-valley.com

Enjoy a unique experience on the starting jetties of the Vendée Globe race www.lessablesdolonne.fr

Discover the Poupet Valley in Vendée bocage countryside www.vendeevallee.fr

Time out in nature

Line Up: sailing school in Loire-Atlantique - 44 Discover stand-up paddle

The rugged Atlantic coastline between Saint-Nazaire and Pornic is ideal for paddle board adventures. Paddle boarding offers an unbeatable sensation of freedom as you

venture out, standing upright, onto the open water. Line Up organises group activities or private outings to enjoy with family or friends aged 10 and older - an ideal way to discover the

beautiful creeks of the Jade Coast.

www.ecolelineup.com



NEVV Biopark in Doué-la-Fontaine - 49 A stay close to the animals

From April 2023, visitors can spend the night just a short distance from the Biopark in Doué-la-Fontaine. At the heart of the Anjou region, the world's only troglodyte zoo is home to more than 1,700 animals. Devoted to the protection of endangered species, it is set in an outstanding natural environment. Some thirty people, visitors to the zoo or tourists in the region, will soon be able to stay right next to this medley of mineral substrates and lush vegetation carved out of the rock, in a house or one of the five gîtes that are set to open shortly.

www.bioparc-zoo.fr

L'Arche de la Nature in Le Mans - 72

Wide expanse of nature a short distance from the city

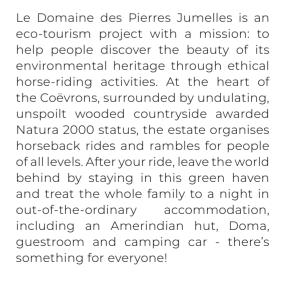
Just minutes from Le Mans city centre, this 500-hectare wilderness makes the perfect setting to enjoy some fresh air and get away from it all! L'Arche de la Nature is a vast expanse of nature where visitors can explore landscapes typical of the Sarthe region. A patchwork of forests, bocage, orchards and meadowland, it's ideal for walks and bicycle rides with the whole family. Playing fields and play areas are also available for adults and children. A packed programme of events and nature outings is organised throughout the year. L'Arche de la Nature also draws the crowds to Le Mans as the venue for several leading popular festivals.





Domaine des Pierres Jumelles in Mayenne - 53 Horse rides and quirky

Horse rides and quirky accommodation







Time out in nature

Regional Nature Parks

Atlantic Loire Valley: the great outdoors

The four regional nature parks of the Atlantic Loire Valley shed light on the region's natural and architectural heritage and help preserve its fauna, flora and biodiversity for future generations. La Brière is a marshland wilderness dotted with thatch-roofed houses at the heart of the Guérande peninsula, a stone's throw from the Atlantic Ocean. Further south, in Vendée, the Poitevin Marsh is criss-crossed by rivers and canals. Nestled between land and sea, this unspoilt hundred-thousand-hectare site has been shaped by human hand since the Middle Ages. Loire-Anjou-Touraine is a regional nature park where the Loire and several of its tributaries wind through a landscape of forests, bocage, vineyards, troglodyte sites, abbeys and châteaux. Bounded by the Mayenne and Sarthe rivers and the neighbouring region of Normandy, the lush, rolling countryside of the Normandy-Maine Regional Nature Park makes the ideal setting for leafy walks!

www.parc-naturel-briere.com www.parc-marais-poitevin.fr www.parc-loire-anjou-touraine.fr www.parc-naturel-normandie-maine.fr



The Port of Tréhé - Brière Regional Nature Park - Loire-Atlantique



Centenary of Le Mans 24 Hours 10-11 June 2023

For its centenary event, the greatest endurance motor event in the world invites spectators to enjoy the "race of the century". Six world-class constructors will be competing in the Hypercar category: Ferrari, Porsche, Cadillac, Peugeot, Glickenhaus and five-time winner Toyota. Exceptional entertainment will be organised throughout the week. L'Automobile Club de l'Ouest, the founder and organiser of Le Mans 24 Hours, has partnered with the French mint, the Monnaie de Paris, to create a unique trophy that will be awarded to the winner of this historic event. The Le Mans 24 Hours museum will also be organising a one-of-a-kind exhibition throughout June to mark the event.

www.24h-lemans.com

Anjou Vélo Vintage is back!

30 June-2 July 2023

The event that invites cycling enthusiasts to return to a golden age of stylish two-wheel travel is back in 2023. Anjou Vélo Vintage organises cycle rides along the Loire and through the region's vineyards and wine estates. Explore the wealth of natural resources to enjoy in Anjou and the Loire Valley on routes ranging from 30 km to 130 km long. This quirky and original event invites you to peddle back in time and revel in the French art of living. Over three days, discover the local heritage as you set out on fragrant, romantic, rustic and gastronomic cycling adventures. Nestled in the heart of the historic centre of Saumur, between the Loire and the Château, the retro Village plays host to leading local wine cellars, second-hand traders and countless free events for all to enjoy.



www.anjou-velo-vintage.com



2023 Rugby VVorld Cup 8 September 28 October 2023

France is preparing to host seven weeks of rugby's centrepiece event: the 10th Rugby World Cup. Eagerly awaited by rugby enthusiasts and fans, this leading international sporting event is expected to pull in the crowds. Nantes is one of 10 host cities that will be welcoming the matches, and organisers are promising 52 days of celebration that aim to bring everyone together. La Beaujoire stadium will be hosting four fixtures, including one with Ireland, currently at the top of the World Rugby Men's Rankings. La Baule-Escoublac has been chosen by the Argentine team as the base camp of the Pumas throughout the competition.

www.rugbyworldcup.com /2023

January

Festival Premiers Plans (film festival) in Angers (49) 21-29 January 2023 www.premiersplans.org

La Folle journée en région (Atlantic Loire Valley) music festival 27-29 January 2023 www.follejournee.fr

February

La Folle Journée de Nantes music festival (44)
Theme: Ode to the night
1-5 February 2023
www.follejournee.fr

Food'Angers food and wine festival (49) 3-12 February 2023 www.foodangers.fr

Made in Angers business open days (49) 13 February-10 March 2023 www.madeinangers.fr

March

Le Printemps de Terra Botanica craft and plants festival (49)
25-26 March 2023
www.terrabotanica.fr

Hanami cherry blossom festival (49) From 15 March 2023 www.parc-oriental.com

Le printemps des rillettes (potted meat festival) (72)) 18-26 March 2023 www.printempsdesrillettes.fr





Les Bonnottes potato festival - Île de Noirmoutier - Vendée

April

Return of the Golden Globe race skippers at Les Sables-d'Olonne (85) From April 2023 www.goldengloberace.com

Easter in Fontevraud (49) April 2023 www.fontevraud.fr

Le Printemps de la Sardine (sardines spring festival) in Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie (85) April 2023 www.payssaintgilles-tourisme.fr

Laval Virtual immersive technology event (53) 12-16 April 2023 www.laval-virtual.com

Cholet carnival (49) 16-22 April 2023 www.cholet.fr

Spring carnival in Pornic (44) Le 23 avril 202323 April 2023 www.pornic.com

Terra Botanica plant festival - Anjou

May

Water surface sports weekend in Saint-Brévinles-Pins (44) May 2023

www.saint-brevin.com

La Bonnotte potato festival in Noirmoutier-enîle (85)

6 May 2023

www.vendee-tourisme.com

Les 3 Éléphants music and street arts festival (53) 10-14 May 2023 www.les3elephants.com

Festival Vélo Vélos cycling event organised by ExpoNantes and the Atlantic Loire Valley Region (44)

13-14 May 2023 www.velovelos.fr

Marathon de la Loire, Saumur (49) 14 May 2023

www.marathon-loire.fr

Vendée va'a (85)
Polynesian boat race with a village exploring
Polynesian culture.
17-20 May 2023
www.vendeevag.com

Festival 7^{ème} Vague (music festival) in Brétignolles-sur-Mer (85) 19-20 May 2023 www.payssaintgilles-tourisme.fr

Débord de Loire (44)
Sailing and artistic event on the estuary.
30 May-5 June 2023
www.deborddeloire.fr



Cinéscénie night show - Puy du Fou - Vendée

June

Festivini, wine-growing festival (49) June-September 2023

www.festivini.com

Cinéscénie night show at Puy du Fou (85)

3 June-9 September 2023 (Fridays and Saturdays) www.puydufou.com

Gardeners' festival at the Château of Le Lude (72) 3-4 June 2023 www.lelude.com

Medieval festival in Guérande (44) 3-4 June 2023

www.labaule-guerande.com

Festival d'Anjou (theatre festival) (49) 6 June-3 July 2023 www.festivaldanjou.com

La Baule International Horse Jumping Show (44) 8-11 June 2023 www.labaule-cheval.com

Festival Les Mouillotins (music festival) in Saint-Poix (53) 9-10 June 2023 www.mouillotins.fr

Nature is Bike (49) 15-18 June 2023 www.natureisbike.com

Hellfest rock music festival in Clisson (44) 15-18 June 2023 www.hellfest.fr

Un singe en été street theatre and music festival in Mayenne (53) 23-25 June 2023 www.unsingeenete.com

Fête du Vélo cycling festival (49) 25 June 2023 www.maine-et-loire.fr

Poupet Festival in Saint-Malo-du-Bois (85) 28 June-21 July 2023 www.festival-poupet.com

Le Mans Classic (72) 29 June-2 July 2023 www.lemansclassic.com

23rd La Nuit de l'Erdre music festival in Nort sur Erdre (44) 29 June-2 July 2023 www.lanuitdelerdre.fr

Anjou Vélo Vintage bike ride (49) 30 June-2 July 2023 www.anjou-velo-vintage.com

Events throughout the year

July

Le Voyage à Nantes cultural trail (44) 1 July-3 September 2023 www.levoyageanantes.fr

La Nuit des Chimères night show in Le Mans (72) 1 July-3 September 2023 www.sarthetourisme.com

Au Foin de la Rue music festival in Saint-Denis-de-Gastines (53) 7-8 July 2023 www.gufoindelgrue.com

L'Héritage Rétro vintage cycle rides in Le Grand-Lucé (72) 8-9 July 2023 www.heritage-velo.com

Kamiplay cosplay event at Parc Oriental in Maulévrier (49) - New in 2022 8-9 July 2023 www.parc-oriental.com

Les Entrelacés street arts festival in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) 13-14 July 2023 www.lesentrelaces.com

50th Les Nuits de la Mayenne performing arts festival (53) Mid-July to mid-August 2023 www.nuitsdelamayenne.com

Les Escales music festival in Saint-Nazaire (44) 28-30 July 2023 www.festival-les-escales.com



Les Escales world music festival Saint-Nazaire - Loire-Atlantique

August

Les Grandes Tablées du Saumur-Champigny food and wine festival (49) August 2023 www.ot-saumur.fr

Les Rendez-vous de l'Erdre jazz festival (44) 28 August-3 September 2023 www.rendezvouserdre.com

La Nuit des Chimères night show - Summer 2021 - Le Mans - Sarthe





Les Grandes Tablées du Saumur-Champigny food and wine festival - Anjou

September

Vignes, Vins, Randos vineyards, wine and hiking (49-72-44) - 20th anniversary 2-3 September 2023

Les Accroche-cœurs street theatre festival in Angers (49) 9-10 September 2023 www.angers.fr

Festival Le Chainon manquant arts festival in Laval (53)
12-17 September 2023

Entre Cours et Jardins flower and garden show in Le Mans (72) 16-17 September 2023 www.entrecoursetjardins.com

www.lechainon.fr

Les Médiévales historical reenactment festival at the Château of Tiffauges (85) 23-24 September 2023 www.nossites.vendee.fr/

Mini transat race - Starting from Les Sablesd'Olonne (85) 24 September 2023

October

www.minitransat.fr

Visit our Businesses in Atlantic Loire ValleyOctober 2023

www.visiteznosentreprises.com

Mondial du Lion horse riding competition (49) 19-22 October 2023 www.mondialdulion.com

November

3 Continents film festival in Nantes (44) November 2023 www.3continents.com

Bebop festival in Le Mans (72) 7-11 November 2023 www.bebop-festival.com

December

Les Lumières de Laval light festival (53)
December 2023

www.laval-tourisme.com

Christmas market at the Château of Tiffauges

December 2023

www.nossites.vendee.fr

Christmas market at the Maillezais Abbey (85) December 2023

www.vendee-tourisme.com

2nd Voyage à Nantes winter cultural trail (44) December 2023 www.levoyageanantes.fr

Christmas in Fontevraud (49)
December 2023
www.fontevraud.fr





Mondial du Lion 2021 horse riding competition - Anjou

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Leave the car behind

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Coast and Bocage

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Acknowledgements

The 2023 press kit has been compiled by Solutions&co on behalf of the Atlantic Loire Valley with the invaluable support of the region's main tourist offices and five departmental agencies: Anjou Tourisme, Loire-Atlantique Développement, Mayenne Tourisme, Sarthe Tourisme and Vendée Expansion. This press pack was printed on 100% recycled paper.



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