

A scenic view of the Loire Valley. In the foreground, a cyclist wearing a hat and carrying a backpack is riding a bicycle on a path. The path leads towards a wide river. In the background, a large, historic castle with multiple towers and spires sits atop a hill, overlooking the river. The sky is clear and blue, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

TECHNICAL GUIDE ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

atlantic-loire-valley.com
BRIMMING WITH HOLIDAY IDEAS

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...

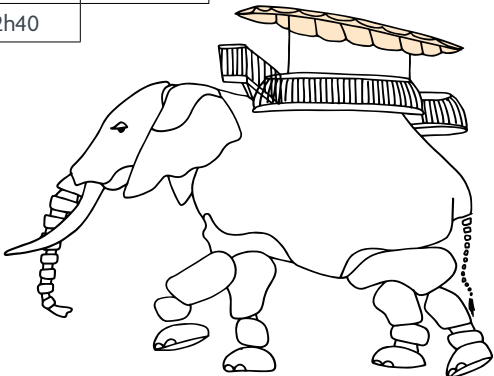


Atlantic Loire Valley is located at the crossroads of major French tourist routes, with Nantes just 2 hours away from Paris by high-speed train.

- Getting here:
- **Direct high-speed train (TGV) connections to Paris from the main cities in Atlantic Loire Valley.** Journey times between 50 mins to 2 hours. Plus TGV connections to Lyon, Marseille, Lille, Strasbourg and Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport.
 - **A dense motorway network:** A11, A28, A81, A83, A85, A87 motorways
 - **Nantes Atlantic international airport:** direct connections to more than 100 French and international destinations, including the Paris Charles de Gaulle, London, Amsterdam or Frankfurt hubs

DISTANCES BY CAR

	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				
Le Mont-Saint-Michel	3h10	3h10	4h00	2h20					
Nantes	2h15	1h40	3h50						
Paris	2h30	3h15							
Saumur	55 min								

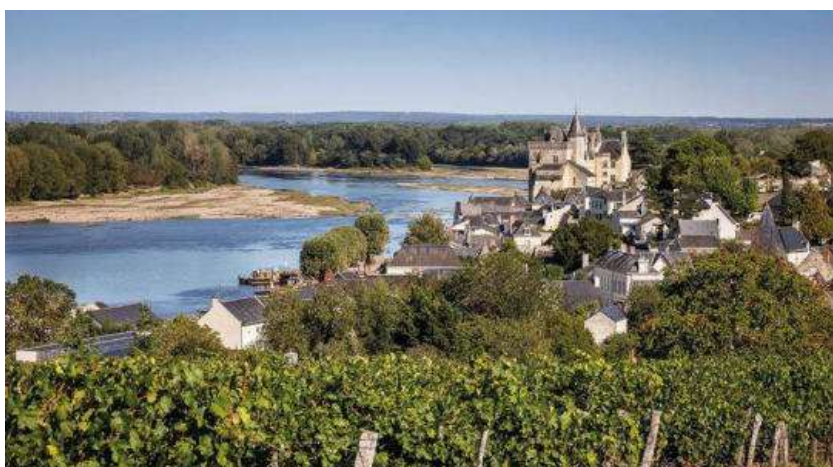


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THE ESSENTIALS OF ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

Top reasons why you should 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...



A PRESERVED ENVIRONMENT IN LINE WITH THE SLOW TOURISM EXPECTATIONS OF YOUR CLIENTS

In line with the UNESCO label which was awarded for the “living cultural landscapes”, Atlantic Loire Valley cares about both its natural resources and cultural wealth.

The region boasts **4 regional nature parks** - The Poitevin Marshes, including the wetlands known as “Green Venice”, the Brière, the second-largest nature park in France, the Loire Anjou Touraine Nature Park, along the Loire River and the Normandy/Maine Nature Park, with great walks in the “Alpes Mancelles”.

In Sarthe and Mayenne, clients can enjoy house-boating in the midst of a welcoming countryside, just a stone’s throw away from Paris.

Finally, Atlantic Loire Valley ranks first among French regions for organic agriculture. In the “garden of France”, we grow high quality fruits and vegetables chosen by the greatest French chefs.



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.

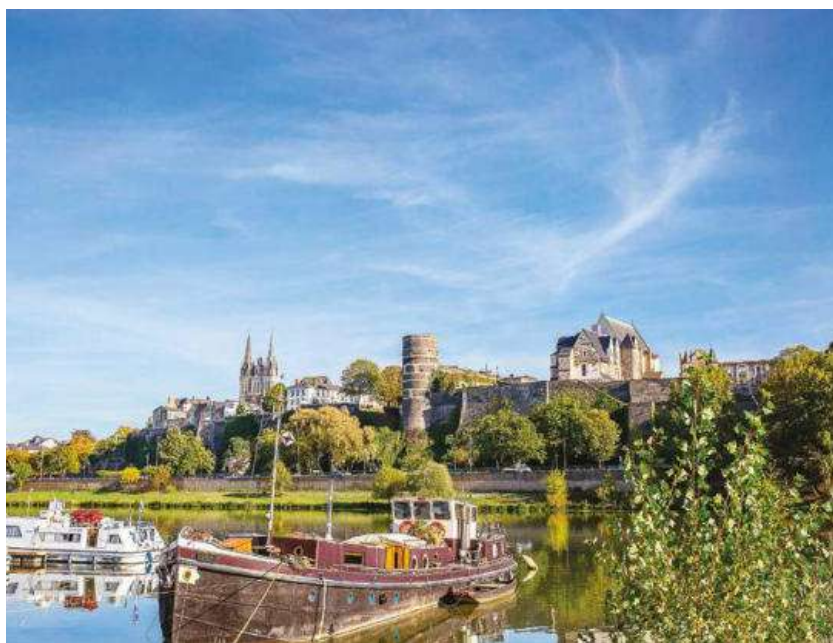
When in Nantes “follow the green line” which leads from an artwork by one of today’s great artists to a remarkable heritage site. Nantes boasts over 120 permanent artworks in public spaces and every summer in July and August the green line comes alive with artists, architects, designers and gardeners... 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 and greenery

Angers is located at the crossroads of 3 major cycle routes: The Loire by Bike, The Vélofrancette and The Loir Valley by Bike.

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 Plantagenêt - 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.





ART DE VIVRE, LOIRE VALLEY WINES & GASTRONOMY

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

Taste local specialties from the sea, like the Guérande or Noirmoutier salt, fresh fish or oysters. 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 gâteau nantais, not to forget the Cointreau orange liqueur, perfect for cocktails.



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 Velodyssée 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 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.

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.



FOR A WELLBEING OFFER, CONSIDER "THALASSO"

Located on the Atlantic coast, the thalasso-therapy centres each have their own unique charm and qualities.

Seawater and its natural benefits are harnessed to create bespoke treatments: hydromassages, seaweed wraps, water aerobics, relaxation massages ... these are temples of well-being:

- Thalasso & Spa Barrière Le Royal Lucien Barrière***** in La Baule
- Alliance Pornic**** thalassotherapy centre in Pornic
- Château des Tourelles Relais Thalasso & spa**** in Pornichet
- Atlantic Thalasso & Spa Valdys*** Saint-Jean-de-Monts in Vendée
- Côte Ouest Thalasso & spa M Gallery hotel**** in Les Sables-d'Olonne



EVENTS

Great events are in Atlantic Loire Valley's DNA!

2023 : The **24 Hours of Le Mans'** 100-year anniversary

2023 : 4 games of the **Rugby World Cup** in Nantes

2024 : Host of the **Olympics Paris 2024**

2024 : Start of the 10th edition of **Vendée Globe**, the solo non-stop sailing race around the world without assistance



PUY DU FOU THEME PARK

Puy du Fou is an historic theme park, several times voted "Best Park in the World" and 1st leisure park in France and Europe for 2019 Trip Advisor travelers' choice !

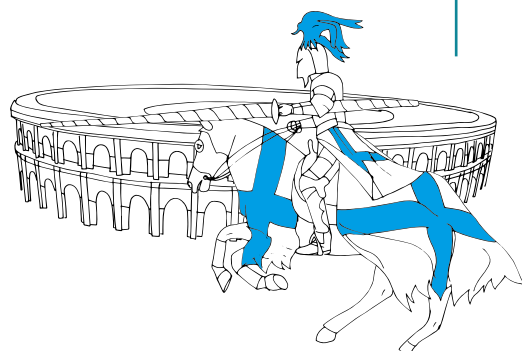
Forget the 21st century and throw yourself into a journey back in time! Show after show, adventure after adventure, cross the centuries.

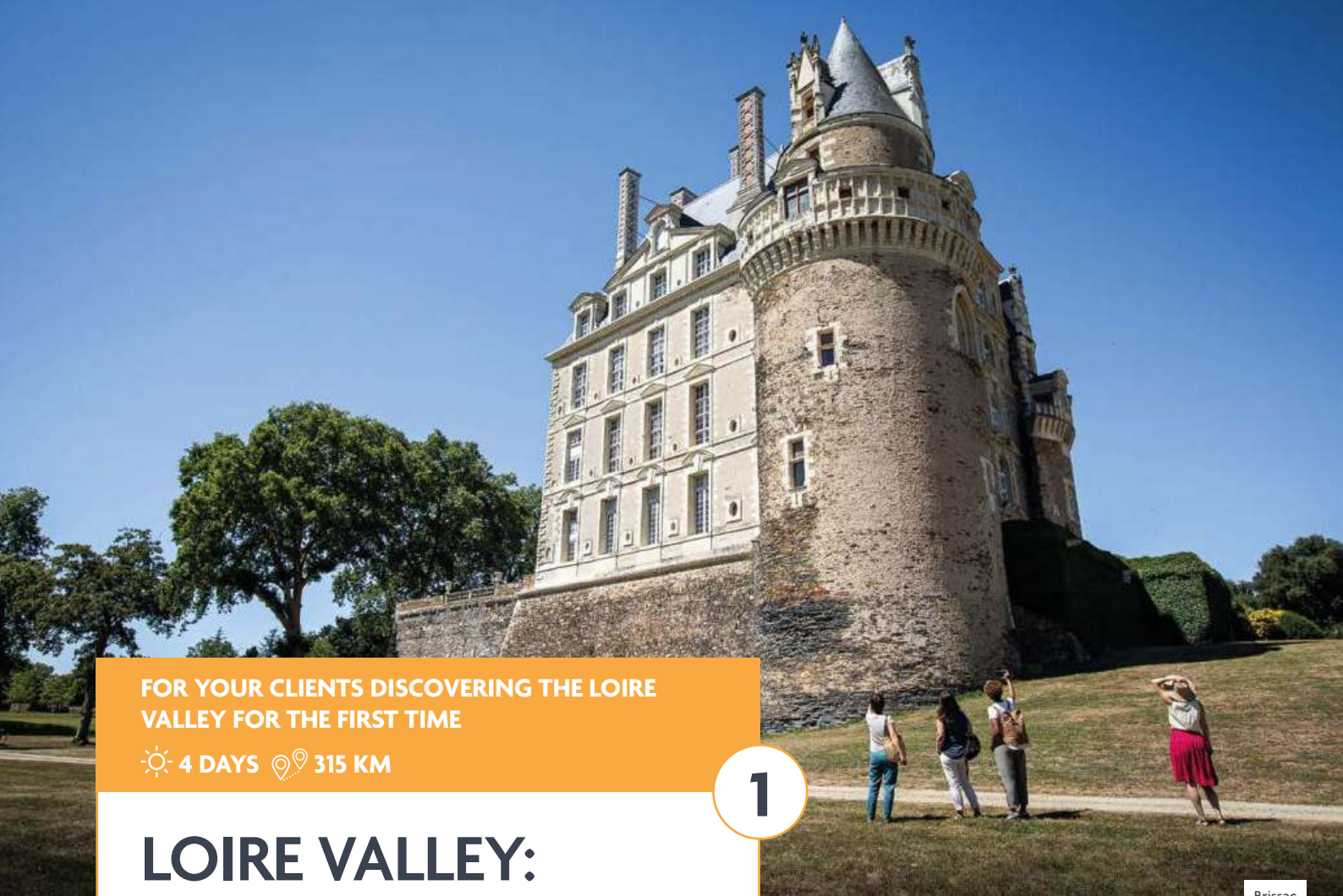
60 shows and activities

4 period villages

55 hectares of nature

6 theme hotels





Brissac

FOR YOUR CLIENTS DISCOVERING THE LOIRE VALLEY FOR THE FIRST TIME

☀️ 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, Brézé and Brissac
- The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud
- Angers, capital of Anjou
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île



Day 1

50 KM



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



Morning | Tours & Château & Gardens of Villandry

Access: by TGV at Tours train station

Guided tour of Tours

Tour of the Château 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 Château of 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

55 KM



The Loire Valley
is known as
the "Garden
of France"



Morning | Chinon

Discover the Chinon fortress, like a crown perched on high, the royal fortress of Chinon peacefully reigns over the city.

Lunch in Chinon

Afternoon | Rivau & Saumur

Explore Château 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'Orangerie" restaurant in Saumur, a typical restaurant in the courtyard of the Chateau

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

> *Alternative: Night at the 4* hotel and spa Anne d'Anjou-The Originals Collection in Saumur.*

Day 3

📍 120 KM



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



Morning | Château de Brézé

Explore Château de Brézé. Considered one of the most intriguing Loire Chateaux, it features the deepest moat in Europe (up to 20 metres deep) and is built on a real underground fortress.

Lunch at “Le Castellane” restaurant in 4* Château Le Prieuré – Younan Collection with a unique panorama over the River Loire.

Afternoon | Château de Brissac & Angers

Known as the “Giant of the Loire Valley” with its 7 floors, **the Château de Brissac** is the tallest Chateau in France. You can live the great life by sleeping in one of the B&B bedrooms and taste wine from its vineyard.

Dinner at the “Brasserie du Théâtre” restaurant, 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

📍 90 KM



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



Morning | Château de Serrant & Nantes

Explore the Château de Serrant, home to one of the finest collections of furniture and artworks, including a library of 12,000 books and fully equipped kitchens.

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 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* Maisons du Monde Hotel & Suites in Nantes.

> *Alternative: 4* Oceania “Hôtel de France”, Nantes*

Depart from Nantes – TGV station or international airport

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

4* Hotel Mercure Bords de Loire, Saumur
h6648-gm@accor.com

Château de Brézé
visite@chateaubreze.com

Le Castellane Restaurant in 4* Hotel Le Prieuré, Saumur
reception.prieure@younancollection.com

Château de Brissac
bureau@chateaubrissac.net

Brasserie du Théâtre Restaurant, Angers
brassieredutheatre@wanadoo.fr

4* Hotel d'Anjou - Angers
groupes@hoteldanjou.fr

Château de Serrant
contact@chateau-serrant.net

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

INTERESTED IN CULTURE, CHATEAUX AND GARDENS?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

1 The Château 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 its 600 metres of wall, 13 flanking towers, an impregnable citadel!

• At the entrance of Fontenay-le-Comte, in Southern Vendée, you cannot fail to notice 2 the **Château de Terre-Neuve** built at the very end of the XVI^e 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 places are located in Atlantic Loire Valley!

• The wonders of the Loire Valley all in one place – Troglodyte Nature in the Saumur area

Pierre et Lumière is one of the most impressive cave dwelling sites in Saumur. You will travel the equivalent of 200 kilometres and discover several sculptures representing the most emblematic monuments of the Loire Valley carved in tufa stone.

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

The 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.

3 **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.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





Saumur and the Loire river

FOR CLIENTS WISHING TO UNRAVEL
THE CHARM OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

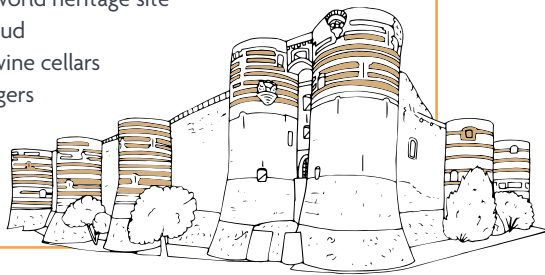
☀ 4 DAYS 📍 230 KM

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



Day 1

20 KM



Coco Chanel, the famous fashion designer, was born in Saumur in 1883



Morning | Saumur

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

Explore Saumur, by the Loire River, surrounded by vineyards and dominated by its castle.

Discover the Gratien & Meyer wine cellar, where they produce “fine bulles” sparkling wine.

Cruise lunch on board “La Nonchalante” traditional boat on the Loire River in Saumur.

Afternoon | Fontevraud

Visit the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, 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 and night in Fontevraud

> *Alternative: Dinner at l'Essentiel restaurant in Saumur and night at 4* Hotel Saint-Pierre, Saumur.*

Day 2

55 KM



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

Morning | Saumur

Visit the Cadre noir, one of the 4 most prestigious classical riding academies in the world, where equestrians are trained.

Stop off at **Saumur market**.

Lunch at the “Pieds Bleus” troglodyte/cave-dwelling restaurant in Chênehutte.

> *Alternative: Lunch at cave-dwelling restaurant Le Saut aux Loups, Saumur.*

Afternoon | Angers

In the heart of the Loire Valley, **Angers** (the capital of Anjou) is renowned for its rich heritage and quality of life. Stroll around the medieval streets and enjoy local shopping.

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 the 1515 Restaurant at the 4* Hotel d'Anjou in Angers city centre.

> *Alternative: Restaurant Chez Pont-pont, facing the Chateau of Angers.*

Night at the 4* Hôtel d'Anjou in Angers city centre.

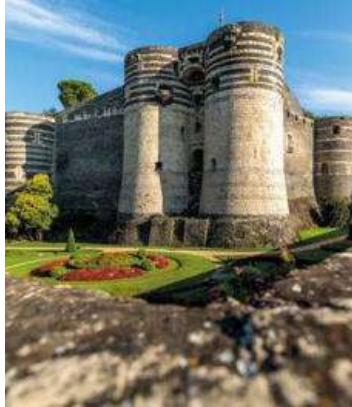
> *Alternative: Night at the 4* Hotel de France, facing Angers train station.*

Day 3

📍 90 KM



In Angers, discover the Apocalypse Tapestry: the largest medieval tapestry in the world (104m-long)



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

Lunch at the “Guinguette Port Thibault”, a typical bistro-type restaurant by the Loire river.

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

Night at the 4* Radisson Blu hotel in Nantes.

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

Day 4

📍 65 KM



With its 3.3km-long, Saint-Nazaire bridge is the longest one in France

Morning | Nantes

Discover Nantes.

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

Lunch in the theatre district in Nantes.

Afternoon | Saint-Nazaire

Discover Saint-Nazaire, the city by the estuary and the Atlantic ocean. Delve into the world of legendary cruise ships at Escal'Atlantic (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 3* Best Western Hotel de la Plage, facing the ocean, in Saint-Nazaire.

> *Alternative: The 4* Originals Boutique Hotel Aquilon Saint-Nazaire.*

Depart from Saint-Nazaire TGV station.

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

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

Nonchalante boat, Loire Evasion - River cruise, Saumur
loireevasion@gmail.com

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

Cadre Noir de Saumur
visites.cadrenoir@ifce.fr

Les Pieds Bleus restaurant, Saumur
infos@cave-aux-moines.com

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

4* Hotel d'Anjou in Angers
groupes@hoteldanjou.fr

Château d'Angers
nathalie.koenig@monuments-nationaux.fr

Restaurant Guinguette Port Thibault, Angers
port.thibault@gmail.com

Les Tables de Nantes
www.lestabledenantes.fr/en

4* Radisson Blu Hotel, Nantes
marion.ledieu@radissonblu.com

Escal'Atlantic Saint-Nazaire
glizea@saint-nazaire-tourisme.com

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

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 river, from Nantes to the Ocean and up to the major Loire chateaux.

- **In Nantes city centre, discover the Château 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", **1 the Château 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, **2 the Château 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.

- North of Angers, **the Château du Plessis Bourré** stills looks the same as in the 15th century. It is a perfect setting for movies (like Le Bossu or Peau d'Âne with Catherine Deneuve).

- Between Angers & Saumur, don't miss **the Château 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, **3 the Château 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 **4 the Oriental Garden of Maulévrier**, 1 hour from Nantes & Angers and 30 mins 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 mins 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 gastronomic restaurant.

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For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr



FOR YOUR CLIENTS PASSIONATE ABOUT
CULTURE AND ART

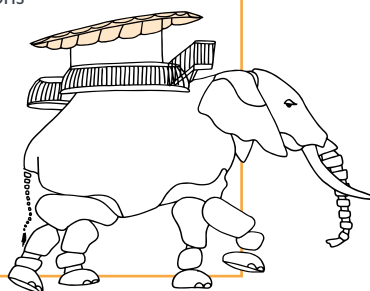
☀ 4 DAYS 📍 250 KM

3

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



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



Day 1

📍 20 KM



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

📍 75 KM



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



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*

Day 3

90 KM



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 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*

Day 4

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 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.fr

Brasserie La Cigale, Nantes
lacigale@lacigale.com

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

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

Escal'Atlantic Saint-Nazaire & Saint-Nazaire Shipyards
glizea@saint-nazaire-tourisme.com

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



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





Le Mont-Saint-Michel

FOR YOUR CLIENTS DISCOVERING WESTERN FRANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME

4 DAYS **450 KM**

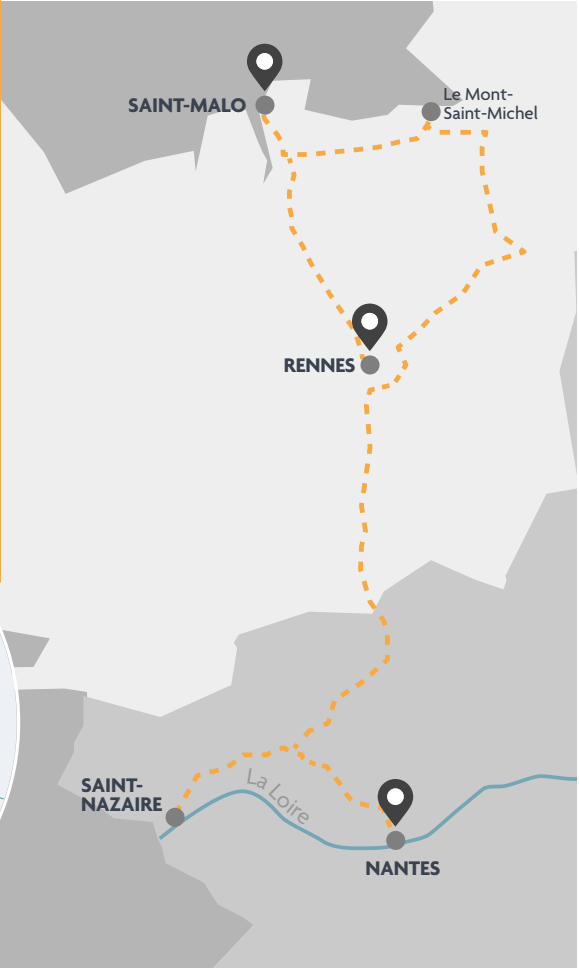
4

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...

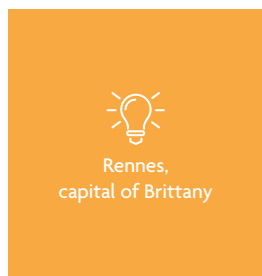
Highlights of the trip:

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



Day 1

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

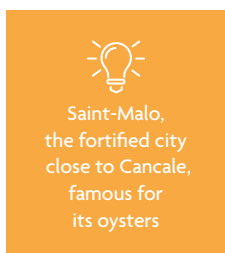
This memorable tour of the city involves sampling local specialities while exploring Rennes' imposing architectural heritage. It takes you to places that offer a feast for the eyes as well as the taste buds! See the city's architectural masterpieces in a new light as you discover the culinary skills 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

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 3

📍 260 KM



Close to Saint-Nazaire:
the Salt Marshes
of Guérande



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 La Brière!

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

Afternoon | 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 Ile de Nantes: new forms of architecture and art works flourish in this new neighborhood!

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

Night at the 4* Radisson Blu Hotel

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

Day 4

📍 4 KM



The Duchess Anne de Bretagne, twice queen of France, was born in Nantes in 1477



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*

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

Escal'Atlantic – Ocean liners experience, Saint-Nazaire
glizea@saint-nazaire-tourisme.com

4* Radisson Blu Hotel Nantes
marion.ledieu@radissonblu.com

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

Nantes Fine Arts Museum
melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.fr

Brasserie La Cigale, Nantes
lacigale@lacigale.com

4* Mercure Centre Passage Pommeraye
maryline.dufay@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!

• 1 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.

• 2 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.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





FOR YOUR WINE-LOVING CLIENTS

☀️ 4 DAYS 📍 335 KM

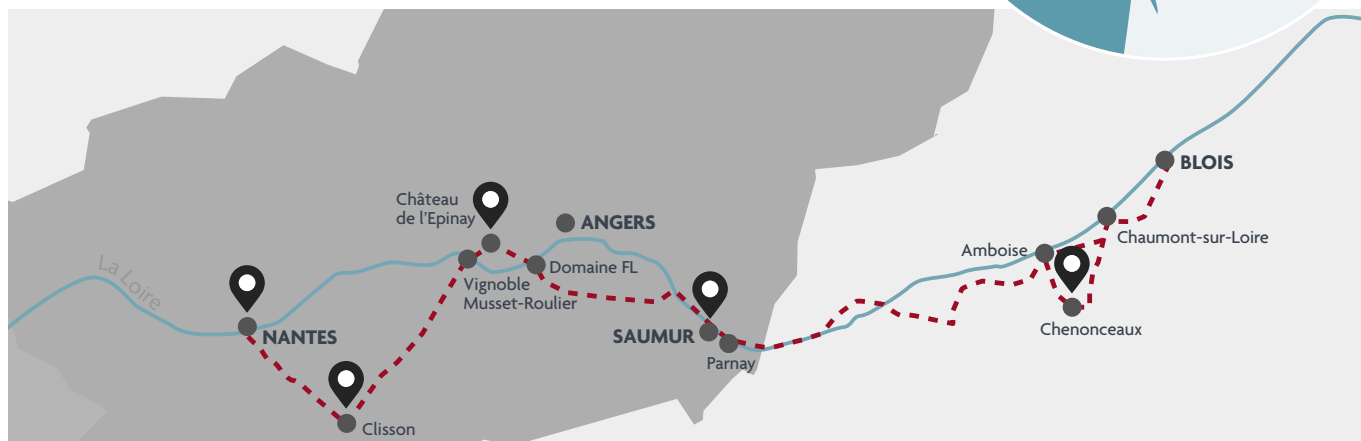
5

Château de Montsoreau,
Loire Valley

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



Day 1

50 KM



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



Morning | Blois

Access: by TGV at Blois train station

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 Château de Blois

Boat tour on the River Loire

Lunch in Blois

Afternoon | Château 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

115 KM



350 wine cellars
are open to tourists
in Loire Valley



Morning | Chenonceaux & Amboise

Discover the Château 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 Domaine de Rocheville, Parnay

Dinner at the "Bistrot de la Place" Restaurant in Saumur, (secret wine cellar underneath the restaurant).

> *Alternative: Dinner at a cave-dwelling restaurant La Cave aux Moines, Saumur*

Night at the 3* Hôtel Le Londres in Saumur

> *Alternative: Night at 4* Hotel Mercure Bords de Loire, Saumur*

Day 3

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 “Les Caves de Marson”, a troglodytic (cave-dwelling) restaurant where you will taste local specialties.

Afternoon | Layon vineyards & Château de l'Epinay

Discover the secrets of the Domaine FL vineyard.

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

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

Day 4

80 KM



The famous “Beurre Blanc”
butter sauce (pairing
ideally with fish) was invented
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 at Domaine de la Brûlaire in Beaupréau-en-Mauges.

Afternoon | Nantes vineyard

Fall under the charm of Clisson, the medieval city with an Italian flavour.

Enjoy a white wine and cheese gourmet pairing at Les Frères Couillaud at the Château de la Ragotiere.
This wine estate has produced organic wines since 2019 and offers original workshops for people to discover their wines.

Night at the 4* Villa Saint Antoine Hotel & Spa, in Clisson (a former mill converted into a hotel), facing the medieval Chateau
> *Alternative: 4* Okko hotel in Nantes, next to the Château*

Depart from Nantes TGV train station or Nantes international airport

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

Domaine de Rocheville – wine estate, Saumur vineyard

contact@domainederocheville.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

Les Caves de Marson Restaurant, Saumur

contact@cavesdemarson.com

Domaine FL – wine estate, Anjou vineyard

oenotourisme@domainefl.com

4* Château de l'Épinay Hotel, Saint-Georges-sur-Loire

direction@chateauépinay.fr

Domaine Musset Roullier – wine estate, Anjou vineyard

musset.roullier@wanadoo.fr

Frères Couillaud – wine estate, Nantes vineyard

info@freres-couillaud.com

4* Villa Saint Antoine Hotel and Spa, Nantes vineyard

commercial@hotel-villa-saint-antoine.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.

- **1 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!

- **2 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 **Combiér liqueurs** and the fabulous history of absinthe.

- While in the Loire Valley, don't miss a stop & taste at a troglodyte restaurant, such as **3 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.

- **4 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.

- **Le Secret des Papilles** (Taste buds' secret): Vanessa, a Loire Valley wines expert guide, offers wine tours at the heart of the vineyards: on foot, by bike, by boat, or on a horseback, discover the secrets of the Loire Valley wines.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





FOR YOUR WINE LOVERS AND CONNOISSEUR CLIENTS

4 DAYS **150 KM**

6

Château du Coing,
Nantes vineyard

LOIRE VALLEY SECRET VINEYARDS

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



Day 1

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 Cointreau, the famous orange-flavored triple sec 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 3* “Loire & Sens” hotel 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*

Day 2

100 KM



Over 50% of Loire Valley is the 3rd largest appellation region in France



Morning | Anjou

Choose between 2 options:

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

Lunch at the Château Soucherie wine estate, in Beaulieu-sur-Layon.

Afternoon | Savennières & Muscadet

Enjoy a winetasting session at the Domaine du Closel vineyard.

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 Villa Saint-Antoine Hotel in Clisson

> *Alternative: Dinner at Restaurant de la Vallée, Clisson*

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

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

Day 3

📍 30 KM



Bring as a souvenir:
Sarmance cosmetics
produced with
organic vines



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 Château du Coing vineyard in Saint-Fiacre-sur-Maine.

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

Afternoon | Nantes

Nantes: Discover Les Machines de l'île 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 La Cigale, an Art Nouveau elegant brasserie in Nantes, opened in 1895 and listed as a historical monument.

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

Day 4

📍 4 KM



M. Lefevre married
Miss Utile, creating the LU
biscuit brand & its flagship
product: the famous
Petit beurre



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* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites in Nantes

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

Depart from Nantes airport or TGV train station

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

Cointreau distillery, Angers

carre.cointreau@remy-cointreau.com

3* Hotel Loire et Sens, Juigné-sur-Loire

administration@loireetsens.com

Wine & Solex – Vintage motorcycle in the Anjou vineyard

pied-flond@9business.fr

Château 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

commercial@hotel-villa-saint-antoine.com

The Château du Coing – wine estate, Muscadet vineyard

commercial@vgc.fr

4* Hotel Seven Urban Suites

amelie.joubioux@7urbansuites.fr

Nantes Fine Arts Museum

melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.fr

The Machines de l'île, Nantes

groupes@nantes-tourisme.com

Les Tables de Nantes

www.lestabledenantes.fr/en



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 **1 Mayenne's Musée du Cidre** in Lassay-les-Châteaux, in the Normandie-Maine regional nature park.
- Turned into an amusing wine museum around 1920, the cellars of **2 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, **3 the Génomères 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 **Château 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.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





The Guérande salt marshes

FOR YOUR GOURMET CLIENTS

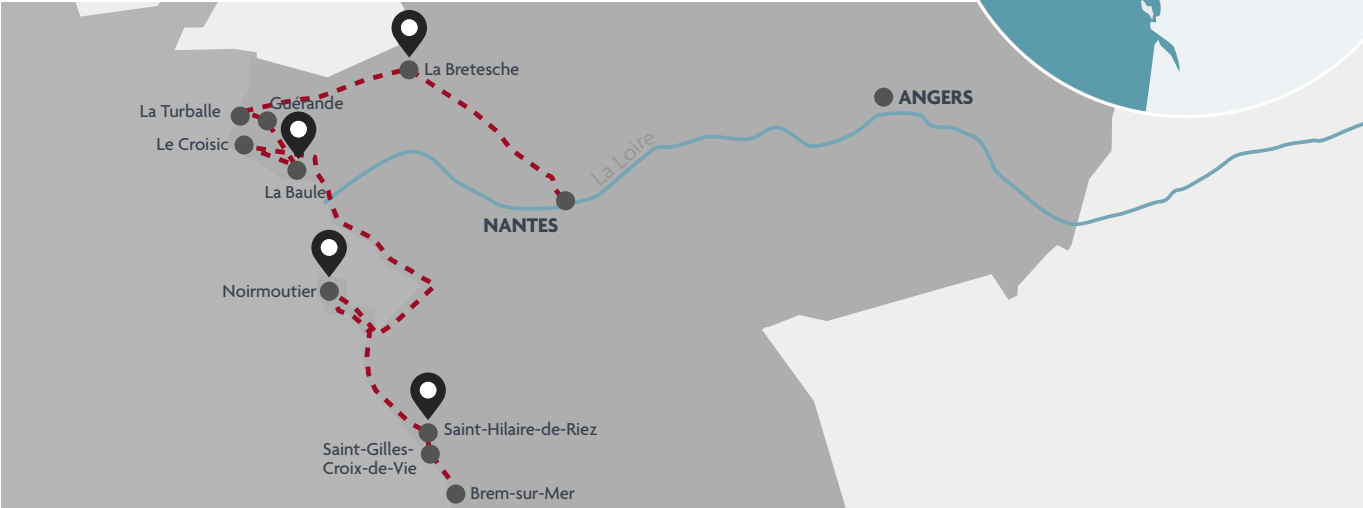
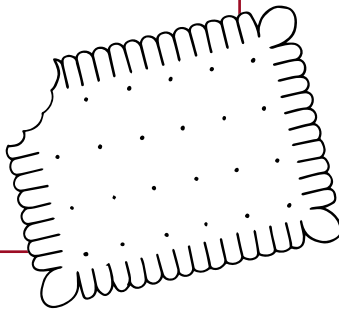
4 DAYS **440 KM**

7

FRENCH ART DE VIVRE IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

Highlights of the trip:

- A seaweed cooking class & a chocolate workshop
- The local market of La Baule
- The salt marshes of Guérande
- The Island of Noirmoutier



Day 1

60 KM



Nantes is famous for its LU Petit beurre: each biscuit has 52 "teeth" for the 52 weeks of the year & 4 corners for the 4 seasons

Morning | Nantes

Arrival via Nantes airport or train station.

Visit the Talensac market. Nantes' oldest (created in 1937) and most famous covered market gathers 150 + shopkeepers. Taste local, fresh and quality produce such as local fish, oysters, bread and cheese specialties.

Afternoon | Missillac

Transfer to La Bretesche in Missillac

Cooking class at 5* Domaine de La Bretesche Hotel and resort, 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.

Dinner at 5* Domaine de La Bretesche Hotel and resort, Missillac

> *Alternative: Dinner at La Mare aux Oiseaux, 1* Michelin restaurant, Saint-Lyphard*

Night at 5* Domaine de La Bretesche Hotel and resort, Missillac

Day 2

40 KM



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



Morning | La Baule & Guérande

Explore the market in La Baule and discover locally grown produce.

Tour of the La Turballe fishing harbour.

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

Afternoon | Guérande & La Baule

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 how salt is formed and harvested.

Dinner in a typical restaurant in La Baule.

Night at the 5* Lucien Barriere Resort, La Baule

> *Alternative: Dinner & Night at 4* Westotel Le Pouliguen-La Baule*

Day 3

115 KM



La Turballe, a village next to La Baule, is one of the largest fishing harbours in France



Morning | Le Croisic

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

Lunch at the Ailleurs restaurant at the 4* Westotel hotel, facing the Ocean in Le Pouliguen.

Afternoon | Noirmoutier Island

Explore the charming Noirmoutier island with its traditional villas and its local produce: oysters, wine, seafood to name but a few.

Meet an oyster famer and taste local oysters.

Dinner at La Table d'Elise, Noirmoutier Island.

> *Alternative: Dinner at La Marine, 2* Michelin restaurant*

Night at the 4* Général d'Elbée hotel on Noirmoutier Island.

> *Alternative : 3* Hotel Fleur de Sel, Noirmoutier Island*

Day 4

80 KM



Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie has grown its traditional know-how for sardine fishing since the 17th century



Morning | Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie

Discover the charming harbour village of Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie, famous for its sardine fishing.

Sea fishing tour in Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie.

Lunch at Le Boisvinet restaurant in Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie.

Afternoon | Fiefs Vendéens vineyards

Explore Saint Nicolas' vineyard on an e-bike – Brem-sur-Mer

This family vineyard has practiced organic and biodynamic agriculture since 1995. The location of the vineyards, by the salt marshes, the forest and the Atlantic Ocean, makes it unique.

Chocolate and cheese wine pairing: get your taste buds ready!

Dinner at Les Genêts 1* Michelin restaurant in Brem-sur-Mer

Night at 3* Vent d'Eden hotel in Saint-Hilaire-de-Riez

Depart from Les Sables-d'Olonne or Nantes TGV train station

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

5* Domaine de La Bretesche Hotel and resort, Missillac
hotel@bretesche.com

Terre de Sel – Salt marshes, Guérande
e.blanc@seldeguerande.com

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

5* Hotel Barrière, La Baule
erenouleaud@groupebarriere.com

4* Général d'Elbée hotel, Noirmoutier island
contact@generaldelbee.fr

Domaine Saint Nicolas – wine estate, Fiefs vendéens vineyard
contact@domainsaintnicolas.com

Les Génets, 1* Michelin restaurant, Brem-sur-Mer
info@restaurant-les-genets.fr

3* Vent d'Eden hotel, Saint-Hilaire-de-Riez
contact@vent-deden.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!

• 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.

• 18 Michelin-starred restaurants in Atlantic Loire Valley in 2021

Loire Valley

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

Nantes & surroundings

- Le Manoir de la Régate (Nantes) **1***
- Roza (Nantes) **1***
- Lulu Rouget (Nantes) **1***
- L'Atlantide 1874 – Maison Guého (Nantes) **1***

Atlantic Coast

- Anne de Bretagne (La Plaine-sur-Mer) **2***
- La Marine (Noirmoutier island) **2***
- La Mare aux Oiseaux (Saint-Joachim) **1***
- Le Castel Marie-Louise (La Baule) **1***
- Les Brisants/Jean-Marc Perochon (Brétignolles-sur-Mer) **1***
- Les Genêts (Brem-sur-Mer) **1***
- Le Pousse-Pied (La Tranche-sur-Mer) **1***

Close to Le Puy du Fou

- La Robe (Montaigu) **1***
- La Table du Boisniard (Chanverrie) **1***

Le Mans

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

Mayenne

- L'éveil des Sens (Mayenne) **1***

—
For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





Cycling along the Loire River

FOR YOUR CYCLING-LOVING CLIENTS

☀️ 4 DAYS 📍🚲 235 KM

8

EXPERIENCE THE LOIRE BY BIKE

Highlights of the trip:

- Loire Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The Royal Chateaux Country
- The Apocalypse tapestry at the Château d'Angers
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île



Day 1



60 KM

Possibility to skip the stage and stay in Gennes



The Loire by Bike itinerary (900km) is part of the EuroVelo 6 that connects the Black Sea to the Atlantic Ocean

Morning | Saumur to Le Thoureil

Access: Angers train station and then, local TER train to Saumur (arrive the day before)

Visit the Bouvet Ladubay sparkling wine cellars by bike in the underground galleries.

Cycle along the longest and wildest river in France.

Lunch in Le Thoureil at La route du Sel restaurant.

Afternoon | Le Thoureil to Angers

Admire the old barge port and put your bike down for a trip on a Loire River boat.

Stroll around the medieval centre of Angers.

Dinner in a local restaurant in Angers.

Night at the 4* Hôtel de France in Angers (facing the train station).

> *Alternative : dinner and night at the Hotel des 3 Lieux, Les Ponts-de-Cé*

Day 2



70 KM

Possibility to skip the stage and stay in Montjean-sur-Loire



Angers often ranks as #1 French city with the best quality of life



Morning | Angers to Montjean-sur-Loire

Don't miss the medieval Château, home to the largest medieval Tapestry in the world.

Take a short diversion to the lovely island of Béhuard, and keep cycling up to the village of Savennières, famous for its dry white wine.

Lunch at "La Guinguette Au bout de l'île" restaurant in Montjean-sur-Loire.

Afternoon | Montjean-sur-Loire to Ancenis

In Saint-Florent-Le Vieil, remember to climb to the top of Mont Glonne and enjoy the panoramic view over the Loire River. Continue along the south bank, then cross the bridge at Ancenis.

Dinner in a local restaurant.

Night at the Hôtel de la Loire in Ancenis.

Day 3

 40 KM



The Loire River:
280km of UNESCO listed
itinerary



Morning | Ancenis to La Chapelle-Basse-Mer

Admire the natural landscapes of the Loire River while cycling.

The climb to Champtoceaux is steep, but the view of the Loire is worth the effort.

You can visit the Oudon Château or enjoy a discovery cruise on board La Luce boat.

Lunch at La Pierre Percée restaurant in La Chapelle-Basse-Mer.

Afternoon | La Chapelle-Basse-Mer to Nantes

Cycle along either bank of the Loire River to Nantes, capital city of Atlantic Loire Valley.

In Nantes, don't miss the Château des ducs de Bretagne and the famous Machines de l'Île!

Dinner in a local restaurant.

Night at the 4* Mercure Grand Hotel in Nantes.

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

Day 4

 65 KM



Nantes has 500km
of bicycle path



Morning | Nantes to Le Pellerin

Head to the final point of this mythical itinerary: this stage is part of the European cycle route La Vélodyssée Atlantic Coast Route!

On your way, admire the 33 different artworks along the Estuary.

Lunch in Le Pellerin in one of the local restaurants, next to the local ferry by the docks.

Afternoon | Le Pellerin to Saint-Brevin-les-Pins

In Paimboeuf, make a stop and admire the colourful fishermen's houses.

Enjoy the view of Saint-Nazaire bridge, the longest in France! And once you arrive in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins, don't forget the souvenir picture next to the Sea Snake artwork.

Dinner and night at the 3* Hotel Spa du Beryl, facing the ocean

Depart from Saint-Nazaire train station.

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

4* Hôtel de France, Angers

commercial@hoteldefrance-angers.com

Hôtel de la Loire, Ancenis

contact@hotel-loire.net

4* Mercure Grand Hotel, Nantes centre

h1985-RD@accor.com

3* Hotel Spa du Beryl, Saint-Brevin-les-Pins

sophie.delrous@hotelduberyl.com

These selected accommodations bear the "Accueil Vélo" logo



INTERESTED IN CYCLING TOURISM?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• The Accueil Vélo logo

690 places bear the Accueil Vélo label logo 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. and they offer practical advice and service 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.



• Bike rental

Paulette Bike

www.paulette.bike/en

Cyrpeo

www.cyrpeo.com

Détours de Loire:

www.locationdevelos.com

Cyclo de Loire

www.cyclodeloire.fr

These rental companies have various pick up et drop off points along the Loire by Bike itinerary

• Specialised incoming agencies – DMCs

Rando Vélo:

www.biking-france.com

A bicyclette Voyage:

www.abicyclette-voyages.com

Le Vélo Voyageur:

www.levelovoyageur.com

• **The Loire by Bike train** offers cyclists free bike transportation between Orléans, Tours, Saumur, Angers, Nantes and the Atlantic coast. Each train can carry 33 bikes, and up to 83 in the summer. Up to 3 Loire by Bike trains are available per day. More info about the schedules and conditions on

www.loirebybike.co.uk

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

www.groupavelo.fr/english-version

• La Vélobuissonnière - Between Normandy and the Loire Chateaux.

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

• 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, la Vélobuissonnière, and the Loir Valley by Bike.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr



FOR CYCLING-LOVING CLIENTS WHO LIKE FRESH AIR

☀️ 4 DAYS 📍🚲 195 KM

9

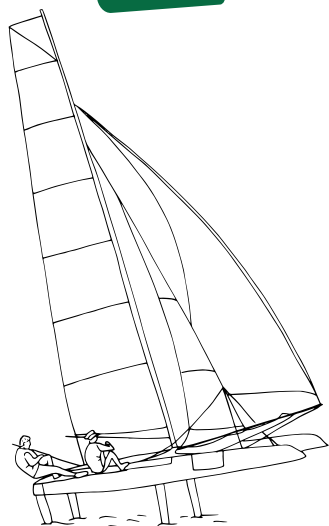
ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST WITH LA VÉLODYSSÉE

Highlights of the trip:

- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'Île
- The saltmarshes
- The Island of Noirmoutier
- The local gastronomy (seafood, sardines, etc)



Saint-Hilaire-de-Riez,
Atlantic Coast



Day 1

🚲 65 KM



La Véloodyssée
is the French portion
of Atlantic Coast Route
EuroVelo1, connecting
Norway to Portugal

Morning | Nantes to Le Pellerin

Arrive at Nantes airport or train station.

Discover the Nantes-Saint Nazaire Estuary exhibition, a collection of 33 artworks.

Lunch in Le Pellerin in one of the local restaurants, next to the local ferry and by the docks.

Afternoon | Le Pellerin to Saint-Brevin-les-Pins

Enjoy the atmosphere of the village of Paimboeuf and its little port.

Cycle along the Loire River which flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy the view of Saint-Nazaire bridge, the longest one in France! Reach the final point of the mythical Loire by Bike itinerary.

Dinner at “Le Cap” restaurant in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins.

Night at the 3* Hotel Spa du Beryl, facing the Ocean.

Day 2

🚲 75 KM

Possibility to skip
the stage in Pornic



When in Saint-Brevin-Les-Pins,
don't miss
the Sea snake artwork
in the water



Morning | Saint-Brevin-les-Pins to Pornic

Cycle along the sandy beaches at Saint-Brevin-les-Pins and up to Pornic. Admire the still inhabited chateau facing the ocean and overlooking the port.

Lunch at restaurant Marius in Pornic.

Afternoon | Pornic to Bouin

Take the time to cycle in the Gourmalon district in Pornic and admire the Belle Epoque villas.

After Les Moutiers, you cycle across the Breton marshes and enjoy beautiful views over the Baie de Bourgneuf.

Dinner and night at the 3* hotel Domaine le Martinet in Bouin.

Day 3

 55 KM



La Velodyssée itinerary is 1,200km long: 70% of the route is traffic-free.



Morning | Bouin to La Barre-de-Monts

Cycle through the marshes. Don't forget to stop at the picturesque Port du Bec and enjoy a plate of oysters.

Discover the Daviaud eco-museum to learn more about the Breton Marshes preserved natural area.

Lunch in a local restaurant in Fromentine.

Afternoon | Fromentine to Saint-Jean-de-Monts

Cycle Saint-Jean-de-Monts through the Pays de Monts forest and the pine trees.

Dinner and night at 3* hotel L'Espadon.

> *Alternative: 3* hotel Le Robinson in Saint-Jean-de-Monts*

(Option: you can add a day and visit the Island of Noirmoutier: Bouin / Noirmoutier en l'Île (Overnight stay) / Saint-Jean-de-Monts. When crossing the Gois passage, be sure to check the tide schedule as the road is submersible. At low tide, you can cycle across the bay. At high tide, take the bridge from La-Barre-de-Monts).

Day 4

 55 KM



L'île Penotte in Les Sables d'Olonne is a district famous for its seashell mosaics



Morning | Saint-Jean-de-Monts to Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie

Cycle along the ocean and admire the sandy beaches giving way to the rocky Vendée coast. Stop by the fishing harbour of Saint-Gilles, famous for its sardines.

Lunch in Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie at La Cotriade restaurant.

Afternoon | Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie to Les Sables-d'Olonne

Keep cycling along the coast and then through marshes and forests in the Olonne region. Les Sables-d'Olonne is known worldwide for the Vendée Globe, the solo non-stop yacht race around the world without assistance.

Dinner and night at the 4* Atlantic Hotel & Spa hotel in Les Sables.

> *Alternative : 3* Arc en Ciel Hotel and Spa*

Depart from Les Sables-d'Olonne TGV train station

*(To cycle down to La Rochelle: add another 2 days:
Les Sables-La Tranche: 45 km + La Tranche-La Rochelle: 73km
La Rochelle : end of La Vélo Francette itinerary*

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

3* Hotel Spa du Beryl, Saint-Brevin-les-Pins
s.delrous@joa.fr

3* Hotel Domaine le Martinet, Bouin
contact@domaine-lemartinet.com

3* Hotel L'Espadon, Saint-Jean-de-Monts
info@hotel-espadon.com

4* Atlantic Hotel & Spa, Les Sables-d'Olonne
info@atlantichotel.fr

These selected accommodations bear the "Accueil Vélo" logo



INTERESTED IN CYCLING TOURISM?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

- **The Accueil Vélo logo**

690 places bear the Accueil Vélo logo 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 service 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.



- **Bike rental**

Paulette Bike: One agency in Nantes (next to the train station)
www.paulette.bike/en
Bicybags
www.bicybags.com
Détours de Loire:
www.locationdevelos.com

- **Specialised incoming agencies – DMCs**

Rando Vélo:
www.biking-france.com
A Bicyclette Voyage:
www.abicyclette-voyages.com
Le Vélo Voyageur:
www.levelovoyageur.com
Safran Tours
www.safrantours.com

- **On the Velodyssée - a 3-day-journey along the Nantes to Brest Canal (Nantes to Redon: 105 km)**

Take a deep breath of fresh air on your bike for a bucolic getaway with your better half. Sail along the Nantes to Brest Canal 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 off-road, 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.

- 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.

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For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr



Along the Mayenne towpath

FOR FAMILY-CYCLING LOVERS

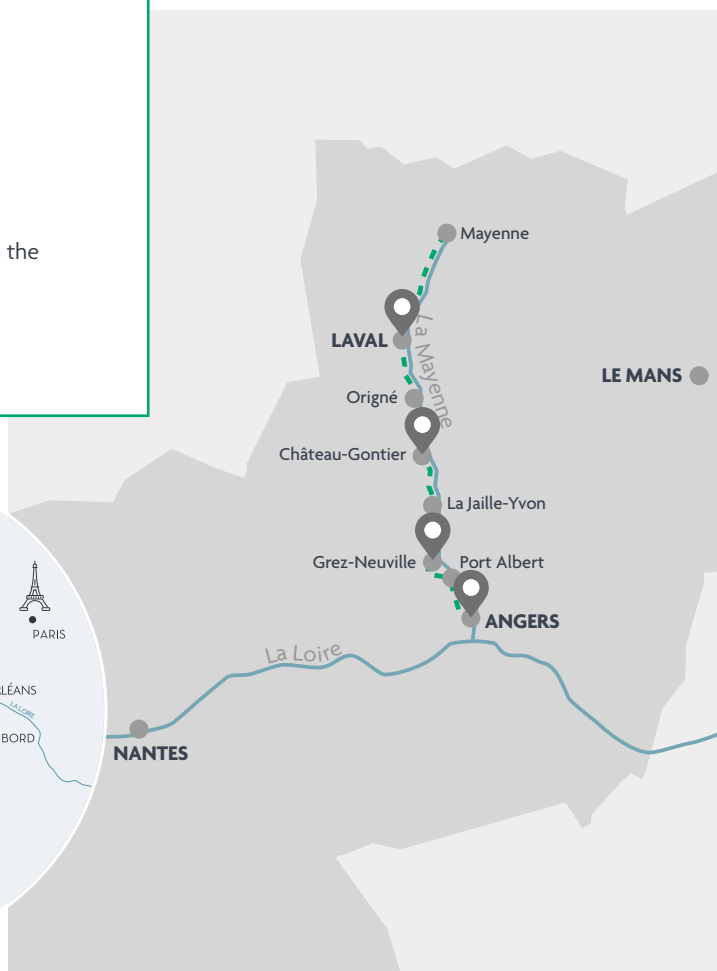
☀️ 4 DAYS 📍🚲 130 KM

10

DISCOVER SWEET FRANCE WITH LA VÉLO FRANCETTE

Highlights of the trip:

- Cycling at a slow pace
- Passing by lock-keepers' houses
- Laval's historic centre
- Angers and its medieval district, the Apocalypse tapestry in the chateau



Day 1

🚲 35 KM



The 600km long
Vélo Francette itinerary
connects Normandy
to La Rochelle

Morning | Mayenne

Arrive at Laval TGV train station. Arrange your arrival in Mayenne city with Bip Bip Voyages, who will handle luggage transfer.

Discover the 10th-century Château de Mayenne, overlooking the river and Mayenne city.

Mayenne is the name of the city, as well as the river and the “county”: don’t get confused.

Lunch - Enjoy your picnic along the towpath.

Afternoon | Laval

Cycle at your own pace to the charming city of Laval where you can explore its:

- Naïve Art museum
- Historic centre

Dinner at the gastronomic restaurant “l’Epicurien” in Laval.

> *Alternative: l’Antiquaire Laval*

Night at 3* Best Western Hôtel de Paris in Laval.

> *Alternative: 4* Perier du Bignon Hotel in Laval*

Day 2

🚲 35 KM



Every year in June,
Laval organizes
the Velo Agglo Retro,
a vintage cycling
festival



Morning | Laval to Origné

Continue your visit of Laval, labeled “city of art and history”.

Discover its:

- local Market
- world’s largest Dairy Museum - La Cité du Lait.

Enjoy fine views of Laval and its two chateaux.

Don’t miss the footbridge open to cyclists on the nine-arched railway viaduct.

Lunch at the Belyel restaurant in Origné.

Afternoon | Origné to Château-Gontier

Cycle slowly along the riverside towpath, passing by lock-keepers’ houses and old chateaux to Château-Gontier.

Dinner at l’Aquarelle restaurant in Château-Gontier.

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

> *Alternative : Hotel du Cerf in Château-Gontier*

Day 3

🚲 35 KM



Despite its name, there is no longer a chateau in Château-Gontier, but the city features other cultural riches.



Morning | Château-Gontier to La Jaille-Yvon

Explore Château-Gontier and its heritage : manors, churches, chapels and mills. Don't miss the local market on Thursdays.

When leaving Château-Gontier, **you can stop and visit the refuge de l'Arche** : this 45 year-old sanctuary, run by an NGO, takes care of 1,000+ animals of 120 different species including birds, raccoons, monkeys, reptiles, felines, bears and herbivores.

Stop for a lunch break at Anjou Sport Nature, a recreation centre where you can rent canoe, pedal boat and paddle boats in La Jaille-Yvon.

Afternoon | La Jaille-Yvon to Grez-Neuville

Before reaching Grez-Neuville, head to Le Lion-d'Angers to **discover l'Isle Briand**, with its chateau and national stud farm.

Dinner and night at Lodge Hammam Côté Rivière and Spa in Grez-Neuville.

> *Alternative : gîte d'étapes Mara Rivière in La Jaille-Yvon*

Day 4

🚲 25 KM



In Angers, don't miss the timber-framed house **Maison d'Adam** Landmark



Morning | Grez-Neuville to Port Albert

Discover Grez-Neuville, its river port, large mill and lake.

Lunch in Port Albert, in one of the traditional guinguettes.

Afternoon | Port Albert to Angers

Cycle down to Angers and discover the chateau and its famous Apocalypse Tapestry, its medieval architecture museum and cobbled streets. Don't forget its Loire valley wines and famous Cointreau liqueur.

Dinner in a typical restaurant in Angers.

Night at 3* Hotel de France in Angers, facing the TGV train station.

Depart from Angers TGV train station.

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

3* Best Western Hôtel de Paris, Laval

info@hotel-laval.fr

3* Parc Hotel, Château-Gontier

contact@parchotel.fr

Lodge Hammam Côté Rivière & Spa, Grez-Neuville

contact@cote-riviere.com

3* Hotel de France, Angers

commercial@hoteldefrance-angers.com

These selected accommodations bear the "Accueil Vélo" logo



INTERESTED IN CYCLING TOURISM?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

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• Specialised incoming agencies – DMCs

A Bicyclette Voyage:

www.abicyclette-voyages.com

Safran Tours

www.safrantours.com

• 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.

• Two Vintage events to celebrate old bicycles

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

• Nature is bike – The Gravel festival

Every year, at the end of June, Angers hosts the Gravel Festival, an event entirely dedicated to Gravel, this new trendy cycling practice. This 3-day event includes a Gravel of Legend cycling competition, linking the D-Day beaches to Angers, a tradeshow dedicated to gravel and adventure cycling and the Gravel night sport challenge.

• The Loir* Valley by Bike

The Loir Valley by Bike - V47 is a 320 km-long itinerary, following the Loir River. It ends in Angers, where it connects to the famous Loire by Bike itinerary and Vélo Francette. The Loir Valley is a land of picturesque villages, vineyards and orchards, and troglodytic houses carved out of the tufa rock. It is a discreet paradise located only 40 km north of the Loire River.

**The Loir river with no "e" is an affluent of the well-known Loire river.*

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr



The Pornic harbour on the Atlantic Coast

FOR CLIENTS WHO LOVE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

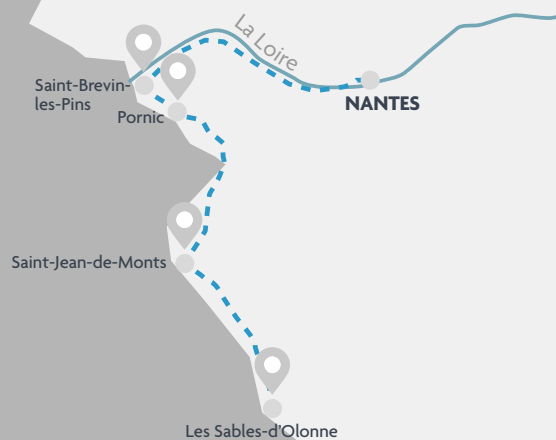
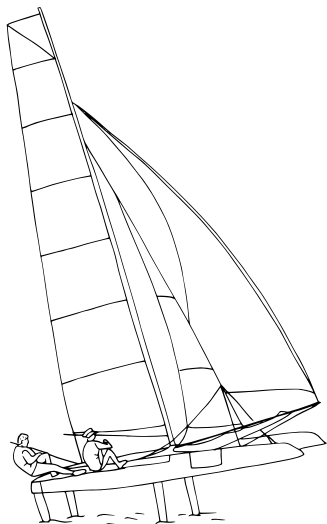
☀️ 4 DAYS 📍 165 KM

11

ATLANTIC COAST: SEA, CYCLING AND SPORT

Highlights of the trip:

- Cycling along the Vélodyssée-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
- Stand-up paddling in Les Sables-d'Olonne



Day 1

50 KM



Saint-Brevin-les-Pins is the final stop of the Loire by Bike route (900km long)

Morning | Saint-Brevin-les-Pins

Arrival via Nantes airport or TGV train station.

Transfer to Saint-Brevin-les-Pins.

Saint-Brevin-les-Pins is the ideal destination for families and water sports enthusiasts with charming typical landscapes of the Atlantic coast (sand dunes and pine forest).

Take the time to watch the arrival of cargo ships on the Loire estuary, passing under the Saint-Nazaire bridge (the longest one in France). You will even see an impressive Sea Snake artwork, part of the Nantes – Saint-Nazaire Estuaire art trail.

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.

The seaside resort also welcome cyclists on the Loire by bike and the Vélodyssée itinerary.

Dinner at “Le Cap” restaurant in Saint-Brevin-les-Pins.

Night at the 3* Hotel Spa du Beryl facing the Ocean.

> *Alternative: dinner and night at the 4* Alliance Pornic Thalasso Hotel in Pornic*

Day 2

20 KM



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



Morning | Saint-Brevin-les-Pins & Pornic

Sand yachting activity on the Ocean beach in

Saint-Brevin-les-Pins. The 8km of sand beaches are a perfect playground for nautical activities such as sand yachting, paddling, kayaking, etc.

Lunch at Marius restaurant, facing the harbour of Pornic.

Located in the former casino, the restaurant offers local cuisine.

Afternoon | Pornic

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

Discover the cultural heritage of Pornic, and namely the still-inhabited-landmark castle and the prestigious seaside villas of the Gourmalon district.

Dinner and night at the 4* Westotel.

> *Alternative: 4*Alliance Pornic Resort Thalasso & Spa*

Day 3

45 KM



In Saint-Jean-de-Monts, the emblematic pier on the water is 400m long



Morning | Saint-Jean-de-Monts

Located on the Northern Vendée coastline, south of the island of Noirmoutier, discover Saint-Jean-de-Monts. This seaside resort is a flagship destination on the Côte de Lumière.

Trail and Nordic walk session by the beach in Saint-Jean-de-Monts.

Lunch at the Restaurant du Golf in Saint-Jean-de-Monts, followed by an introduction to golf.

Afternoon | Saint-Jean-de-Monts

Enjoy a recovering moment and cryotherapy treatment at the Vladys thalassotherapy centre

Saint-Jean-de-Monts is great for sports and outdoor leisure activities and it features 170 km of cycle tracks and 120 km of hiking trails! At low tide, those who like to fish on foot can enjoy shellfishing within the bounds of this highly regulated practice.

Dinner at the “Bec à Vins” restaurant in Saint-Jean-de-Monts.

Night at the 3* Atlantic Thalasso Hotel in Saint-Jean-de-Monts.

> *Alternative: Dinner & Night at 3*Hotel Le Robinson in Saint-Jean-de-Monts*

Day 4

50 KM



The Vendée Globe legendary sailing race is held every 4 years. Next edition 2024.



Morning | Les Sables-d'Olonne

Les Sables-d'Olonne, a major sailing and yachting seaside resort, is known for hosting the legendary Vendée Globe, the solo non-stop sailing race around the world without assistance!

By bike, on foot, on horseback or on rollerblades, take advantage of the resort's coastal paths which will offer you an exceptional panorama of the sea.

Test your balance during a morning stand-up paddle session on the main beach of Les Sables-d'Olonne.

Lunch at 4* Hotel Côte Ouest Thalasso & spa,

Les Sables-d'Olonne. Facing the ocean, the hotel will plunge you into the atmosphere of the 1930's ocean liners.

Afternoon | Les Sables-d'Olonne

Cycling tour of Les Sables-d'Olonne, its natural landscapes, harbours and beaches.

Enjoy spa treatments at Côte Ouest Thalasso & spa, M Gallery Hotel, Accor Group.

Dinner at the Joa Casino des Pins restaurant in Les Sables-d'Olonne.

Night at 4* Côte Ouest Hotel M Gallery hotel in Les Sables-d'Olonne, facing the Atlantic Ocean.

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

Depart from Les Sables-d'Olonne TGV station.

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

Le Cap Restaurant & 3* Hotel Spa du Beryl,
Saint-Brevin-les-Pins
s.delrous@joa.fr

Sand Yachting activity

Nautical Center, Saint-Brevin-les-Pins
cguyot@saint-brevin.fr

Marius Restaurant, Pornic
contact@marius-pornic.fr

4* Westotel, Pornic
helene.lerosier@westotel.com

Restaurant du Golf, Saint-Jean-de-Monts
direction@golfsaintjeandemonts.fr

3* Hotel Atlantic Thalasso, Saint-Jean-de-Monts
sandrine.nivez@thalasso.com

Bec à Vins Restaurant, Saint-Jean-de-Monts
cayapas@live.fr

Surfzone – Stand-up paddle, Les Sables-d'Olonne
contact@surfzone.fr

4* Côte Ouest Hotel Thalasso & spa, M Gallery, Les Sables-d'Olonne
martineau.cloe@hotel-coteouest.com

Joa Casino des Pins Restaurant, Les Sables-d'Olonne
a.claigeaux@joa.fr

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 solo non-stop sailing race around the world without assistance.

Various packages are available to attend the start of the Vendée Globe **1** in **Les Sables-d'Olonne**, held every 4 years (next edition 2024): book your seat on board a boat and be part of the race experience at sea.

• In **2** **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 **3** **the Yeu Island**. To fully explore the island, you can choose packages including round-trip 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 **4** **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





FOR YOUR NATURE & CULTURE LOVER CLIENTS

☀️ 4 DAYS 📍 320 KM

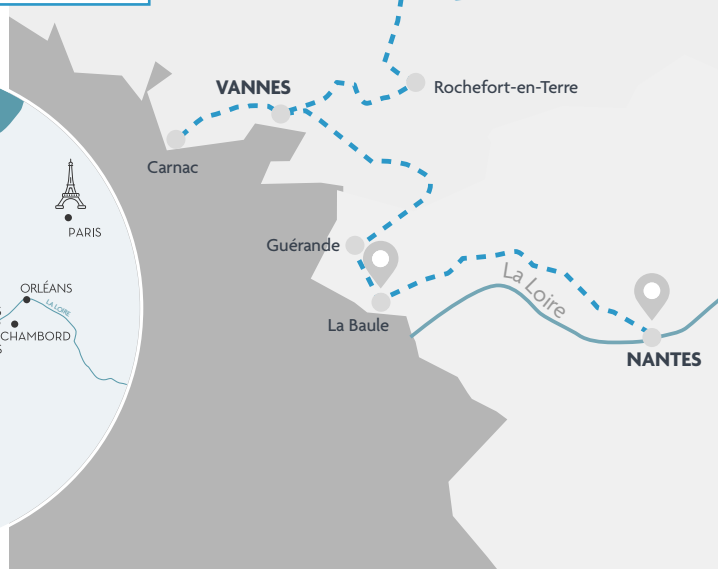
12

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 harbour of Vannes in the “Golfe du Morbihan”
- La Baule and its bay
- Guérande fortress and salt marshes
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île

Pointe de Pen Bron,
La Turballe, Atlantic Coast



Day 1

70 KM



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 3* Saint-Christophe hotel, La Baule.

Night at the 3* Saint-Christophe hotel, La Baule.

> *Alternative: Dinner & Night at 4* Mercure Majestic Hotel, La Baule*

Day 3

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.

Machines de l'île 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 Les Bateaux Nantais.

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

Day 4

4 KM



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 Château des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

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

Night at the 4* Oceania Hôtel de France in Nantes.

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

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

3* Saint-Christophe Hotel, La Baule
anne.jourdanneau@st-christophe.com
The Machines de l'île, Nantes
groupes@nantes-tourisme.com
4* Oceania Hotel de France, Nantes
elehors@oceaniahotels.com

Nantes Fine Arts Museum
melanie.trevisan@nantesmetropole.fr
Les Tables de Nantes
www.lestabledenantes.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 go 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 fuselage 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 salt-marshes & La Baule, 5 min walk from the beach, for top-of-the-range comfort with personalized services. Up to 14 pers.

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For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr

FOR YOUR EXCLUSIVE CLIENTS

☀ 4 DAYS 📍 310 KM

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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
- Staying at the heart of a 1,000-year-old abbey
- Creating your own Cointreau-based cocktail
- Meeting passionate winegrowers
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île

The Chateau and vineyards of Saumur, Anjou



Day 1

30 KM



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

Morning | Le Mans

Arrive at Le Mans TGV train station.

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

Known throughout the world for its 24-hour car race, Le Mans is also famous for its old medieval district.

Lunch at “L’Epicurieux” restaurant in central Le Mans.

Afternoon | Le Mans

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

Dinner at 5* Château du Grand Lucé by Chef Maxime Thomas.

Night at 5* Château du Grand Lucé.

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

Day 2

100 KM



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



Morning | Loire Valley, Wine & Chateau life

Cooking class with the Chef at the Château du Grand-Lucé.

Lunch with Count and Countess de Nicolay at Château du Lude.

Afternoon | Saumur

Explore Saumur on board a vintage combi. Saumur, where the fashion designer Coco Chanel was born, is located by the Loire River, a UNESCO world heritage site, surrounded by vineyards and dominated by its Chateau.

Cycle around the Bouvet Ladubay wine cellars: kilometers of underground galleries excavated in the “Tuffeau” limestone host the great Brut de Loire sparkling wines.

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

> *Alternative: Dinner at the gastronomic restaurant Le Gambetta, Saumur*

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

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

Day 3

100 KM



In Fontevraud Abbey's gardens, enjoy a poetic stroll at dawn...



Morning | Loire Valley - Culture & Boat life

Visit the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, 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. Don't miss the modern art museum that opened in 2021.

Cruise lunch on the Loire River on board "L'Etoile qui Rit – the Laughing Star" traditional boat.

Afternoon | Loire Valley Angers & Chateau life

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 Château 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 4* Château de Noirieux, 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 Château des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

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

Night at the 4*Radisson Blu Hotel in Nantes Graslin district.

> *Alternative: 4* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites*

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

L'Epicurieux Restaurant, Le Mans
lepcurieux72@gmail.com
Le Mans 24 hours – Race track & museum
heritage@lemans.org
Le Mans 24 hours – Porsche experience center
info@porsche-experience-center.fr
5* Château du Grand Lucé hotel
info@chateaugrandlucé.com
Château 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
Cointreau distillery, Angers
carre.cointreau@remy-cointreau.fr
4* Hotel Château de Noireux, Angers
noireux@relaischateaux.com
Brasserie La Cigale, Nantes
lacigale@lacigale.com
4* Radisson Blu Hotel, Nantes
marion.ledieu@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, **1** the 5* hotel **Château de Verrières** 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 11 elegant rooms of **2** the **Château 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 **Château 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 Château 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* **Château 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), **3** 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 **4** **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.
- **The Château de l'Epinay**, a majestic place steeped in history, offers a timeless stay in the heart of the Layon and Savennières vineyards, close to Angers. It features 24 rooms, a Franco-Italian restaurant and a spa.

For more details: b2b@solutions-eco.fr





The Great Elephant and the Carousel of the Marine Worlds, Nantes

FOR YOUR CITY-BREAK CLIENTS

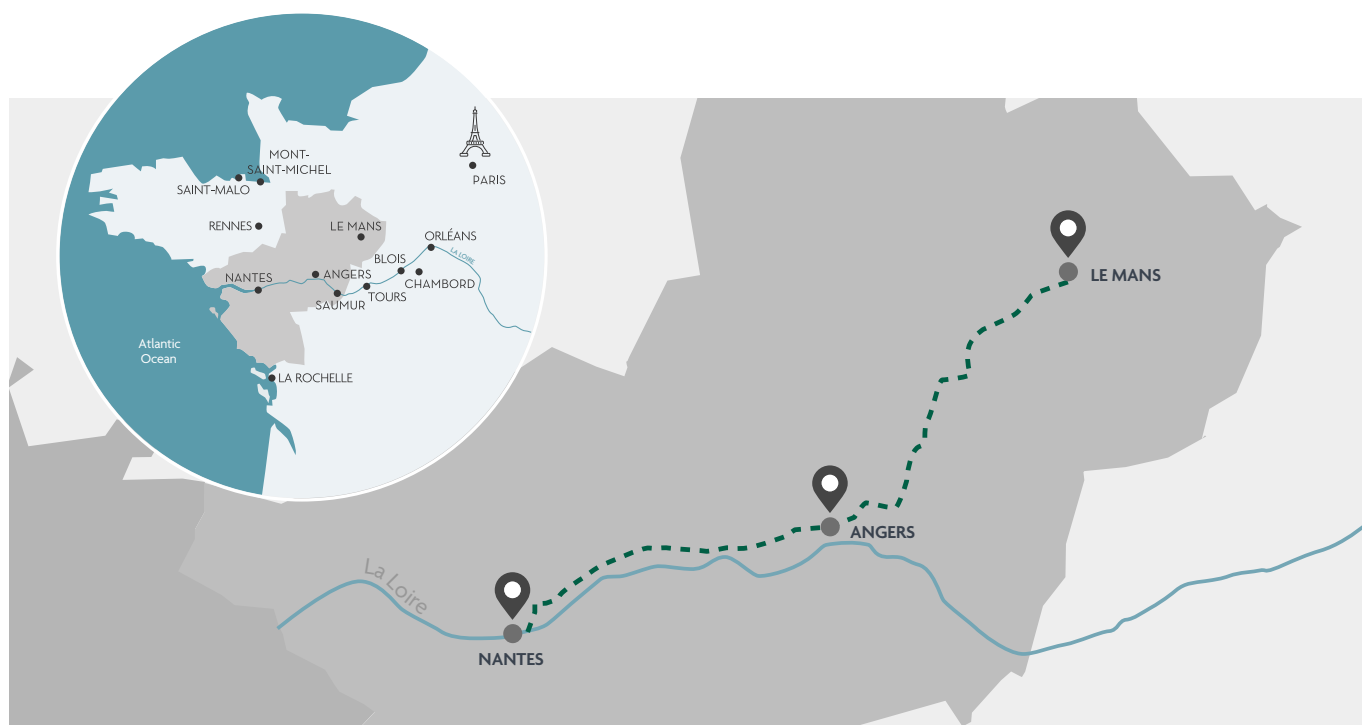
☀️ 4 DAYS 📍 🚆 190 KM

14

FROM PARIS TO NANTES BY TRAIN

Highlights of the trip:

- The medieval city centre Cité Plantagenêt in Le Mans
- Shopping in Le Mans and Angers
- The modern development projects of Angers
- The creative city of Nantes and Les Machines de l'île



Day 1

10 KM



LE MANS

Known throughout the world for its 24-hour endurance car race that takes place every year in June, Le Mans is also a charming city with cobbled streets in the Cité Plantagenêt, and an impressive Cathedral. No wonder the city served as a film set for many major French and American movies.



The movie *Ford vs Ferrari*, starring Matt Damon & Christian Bale, takes place in Le Mans in 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 chicken, Jasnières wines and rillettes.

Lunch in Le Mans at La Ciboulette restaurant.

Afternoon | Le Mans

Discover the mythical Le Mans 24 Hours circuit & its museum.

Held every 24th weekend of the year (around mid-June), Le Mans 24 hours is the world's oldest ongoing endurance car race.

Dinner at the “Epicurieux” restaurant in Le Mans medieval city.

> *Alternative: Dinner at 1* Michelin L'Auberge de Bagatelle in Le Mans*

Night at the 4* Mercure Hotel 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 and greenery

Angers is located at the crossroads of 3 major cycle routes : The Loire by Bike, The Vélofrancette and The Loir Valley by Bike



Morning | Le Mans & Angers

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

Explore the Cité Plantagenet of Le Mans (medieval city centre) 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 “Le Relais” restaurant in Angers city centre.

Night at the 4* Hôtel de France in Angers city centre near the train station.

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

Day 3

90 KM
by train



Nantes has more than
100 artworks
in public space

NANTES

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 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 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 Ile de Nantes: new forms of architecture and art works flourish in this new neighbourhood!

Dinner at La Cigale, an Art Nouveau elegant brasserie in Nantes, opened in 1895 and listed as a historical monument.

Night at the 4* Seven Urban Suites hotel on the Ile of Nantes.

> *Alternative: 4* Maisons du Monde Hôtel & Suites*

Day 4

4 KM



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 Château des ducs de Bretagne to the latest artworks of Le Voyage à Nantes. Get ready!

Dinner 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 Grand Hotel in Nantes

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

Depart from Nantes airport or TGV train station

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

Le Mans 24 hours – Race track and museum

heritage@lemans.org

L'Epicurieux Restaurant, Le Mans

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4* Hotel Mercure, Le Mans

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Royal Abbey of Epau, Le Mans

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Cointreau distillery, Angers

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Le Relais Restaurant, Angers

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4* Hotel de France, Angers

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Nantes Fine Arts Museum

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Brasserie La Cigale, Nantes

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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 (1h30 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 Château d'Angers, with its 17 towers and its kilometre-long walls.

- **Loire Odysée 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 ways. Discover new artistic experiences through 2 major cultural events, free of charge: **Plein Champ and the Night of the Chiméras**.

- 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.

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For more details b2b@solutions-eco.fr



FOR YOUR NATURE AND SLOW-PACE LOVER CLIENTS

☀️ 4 DAYS 📍 265 KM

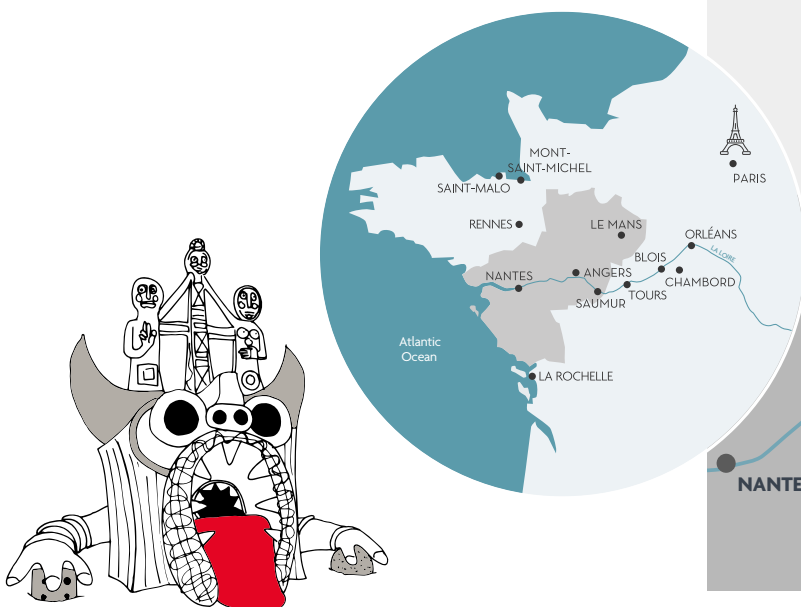
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GREEN AND SLOW LIFE IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

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
- 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 Loir Valley: wine and cycling

Sainte-Suzanne, one of the most beautiful villages of France, Mayenne



Day 1

80 KM



Morning | Laval

Arrive at Laval TGV train station.

Take your time in Laval, at your own pace.

Explore the medieval district of Laval with its chateau, and don't miss the birthplace of the painter Douanier Rousseau. Take the time to look at the boats sailing up to Mayenne or down to Angers.

Lunch in Laval in a typical restaurant.

Afternoon | Sainte-Suzanne & Laval

Explore Sainte-Suzanne, labelled 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 “L'Epicurien” in Laval.

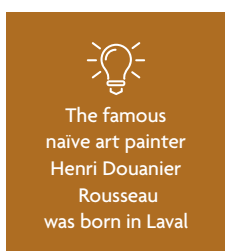
> *Alternative: l'Antiquaire – Laval*

Night at the 4* Perier du Bignon Hotel in Laval.

> *Alternative: 3* Best Western Hôtel de Paris – Laval*

Day 2

60 KM



Morning | Laval

Explore Laval, labelled “city of art and history”. Discover its:

- Naïve Art Museum
- Historic centre
- Local Market
- The World's Largest Dairy Museum – La Cité du Lait.

Enjoy a cheese-themed lunch in Laval.

Afternoon | Cossé-le-Vivien

Discover the Robert Tatin museum: 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 and night at the Natur'eau Parc Echologia.

> *Alternative: Night at the 4* Perier du Bignon Hotel in Laval*

Day 3

150 KM



Every day, at 17.00, the monks at the Solesmes Abbey sing Gregorian vespers



Morning | Mancelles Alps

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

Discover unusual accommodation “Insolites de JSK” 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 self-drive house boat on the Sarthe River.

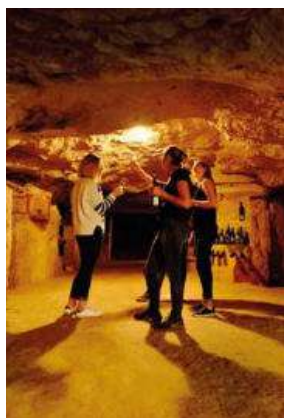
Explore the charming village of Asnières-sur-Vègre, labelled as “petite cité de caractère”.

Dinner in a typical restaurant in Sablé-sur-Sarthe.

Night at the 4* Grand Hôtel de Solesmes in Solesmes.

Day 4

45 KM



La Chartre-sur-Le Loir is famous for its antique boutiques.



Morning | Vallée du Loir & Château du Lude

Visit the Château du Lude and its “remarkable garden”, one of the last remaining important historic castles in France, which has been lived in by the same family for 260 years. Le Lude is part of the Loire Valley chateaux.

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

Afternoon | Vallée du Loir & La Chartre-sur-le Loir

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 Domaine Lelais.

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

Night at the 3* Hôtel de France in La Chartre-sur-le Loir.

Depart from Le Mans TGV station (50km drive from La Chartre-sur-le Loir).

CONTACTS OF SUPPLIERS

The Château de Sainte-Suzanne

chateau.ste-suzanne@cg53.fr

4* Perier du Bignon Hotel, Laval

perretimmobilier@orange.fr

The Château of Laval and Naïve Art Museum

cyrielle.langlais@laval.fr

La Cité du Lait – Dairy Museum, Laval

damien.soulice@lactalis.fr

Robert Tatin Museum, Cossé-le-Vivien

musee.tatin@lamayenne.fr

Natureau 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@grandhotelssolesmes.com

Château 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

INTERESTED IN SLOW TOURISM?

PLEASE FIND BELOW ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

• At **1 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, **2 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.

• 30 mins drive from Nantes and the beaches of La Baule, **Terre d'Estuaire** cultural center offers a unique way to discover the Loire River (hot air balloon captive flight experience and interactive museum), not forgetting unusual accommodation.

• Renting **3 a self-drive houseboat 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 or Les Canalous**.

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

• 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.

• 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.

• On the Atlantic Coast, explore **4 the Salt Route in Sallertaine by canoe 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.

• 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





YOUR BUSINESS CONTACTS IN ATLANTIC LOIRE VALLEY

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Loir Valley tourist office	Véronique Richard	veronique.richard@vallee-du-loir.com
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Pays de Saint Jean de Monts tourist office	Adeline Calloch	a.calloch@paysdesaintjeandemonts.fr
Vendée Vallée tourist office	Stéphanie Ducept	stephanie.d@vendeevallee.fr

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



A SELECTION OF DMCS AND GUIDES 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.
www.loiresecrets.com

Euro Travel Concept – Groupe Richou: An incoming agency specialized in the organization of “tailor-made” trips and events in the Loire Valley, France and Europe. DMC Services with a large fleet of comfortable coaches.
www.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.
www.voyel.com/incoming-anglais

M Travel Experiences: Tailor-made stays in South Brittany for FIT & small groups : authentic experiences around heritage, gastronomy, hiking, cycling, healing...
www.m-travelexperiences.com

Eden en France: incoming agency based in Pornichet on the Atlantic Coast and relying on a network of 22 agencies
<https://edenenfrance.voyage/>

A selection of coach companies

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

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Terra Botanica - Angers

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