



# Nantes

in collaboration with Le Voyage à Nantes

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silvia.cozzi/Shutterstock



Château des ducs de Bretagne © P. Piron/Le Voyage à Nantes

Playful, vibrant, and brimming with creativity, Nantes is a city turned upside down by art. Located in southern Brittany near the Atlantic, it blends history and imagination—explore the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany, follow in the footsteps of Jules Verne, and ride the whimsical Grand Elephant at Les Machines de l'île. Then, lose yourself in the charm of the medieval quarter and be surprised by bold contemporary art along the Loire estuary.

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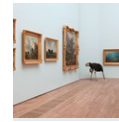
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## THE CITY



Torres-Olivier/Shutterstock

Located on the Loire estuary, about 50 km from the coast, Nantes is France's sixth-largest city and has long been a cultural and commercial hub in the west of the country. Once the capital of the independent Duchy of Brittany during the Middle Ages, the city grew into an important port in the 18th century, thanks to its position at the crossroads of the Loire, Erdre, and Sèvre rivers.

Today, Nantes blends its historical roots with a modern, dynamic atmosphere. You can still explore the Château des Ducs de Bretagne, wander the cobbled streets of the medieval Bouffay district, and admire the half-timbered houses that take you back to its glamorous past. But Nantes is also a city that's constantly evolving.

Its art scene thrives, the food culture is as diverse as it is delicious, and the nightlife buzzes with energy. Whether you're catching a live performance, enjoying a quiet café, or trying out the local cuisine, there's always something new to discover in Nantes.

## Nantes: A Hub of Creativity



Over the past few decades, Nantes has quietly turned into one of the most inventive cities in France. Big events and bold ideas keep things moving year-round—from the musical madness of La Folle Journée, to the giant puppets of Royal de Luxe, to the open-air artworks of Estuaire, and of course, the surreal mechanical creatures of Les Machines de l'île. Art here isn't just in galleries—it spills into the streets, parks, and even along the river.

Photo: Philippe Ramette © P.Piron/Le Voyage à Nantes

## Green Capital



Back in 2013, Nantes became the first French city to earn the title of European Green Capital—a recognition of its long-standing efforts in sustainable urban planning. And it didn't stop there. From car-free zones and electric trams to public parks, bike paths, and nature reserves along the Loire, the city continues to invest in green living. It's a place where environmental goals actually shape how the city feels and works today.

Photo: Filili Viridi, Le Ratisseur, J. Jullien © J. F Fayolles/Le Voyage à Nantes

## Explore Nantes by Bike



Nantes is a cyclist's paradise, sitting at the crossroads of two major bike routes—La Vélodyssée (EuroVelo 1) and La Loire à Vélo

(EuroVelo 6). With over 794 km of bike paths, more than 4,500 bike parking spots, and 21,000 racks scattered around the city, getting around on two wheels is both easy and enjoyable here.

Photo: © M. Argyroglo/Le Voyage à Nantes

## DO & SEE



Zigres/Shutterstock

Follow the green line painted on the ground—literally. It winds through the centre of Nantes, connecting the city's best cultural spots, historic landmarks, and must-see sites. Every year, the route is refreshed with new contemporary art installations, quirky street furniture to relax with friends, and unexpected shop signs that add a playful touch to your stroll.

### Les Machines de l'île



Located on the former shipyard site, Les Machines de l'Île is one of Nantes' most unique attractions. It's an entire world where art, engineering, and imagination collide. The star of the show is the Great Elephant, a massive mechanical creature you can ride, but there's also the fantastical Merry-Go-Round of the Marine Worlds, with sea creatures instead of horses, and the ever-evolving Heron Tree. Drawing on Nantes' industrial history, the

dreams of Jules Verne, and the mechanical genius of Leonardo da Vinci, it's a place where creativity takes on a life of its own.

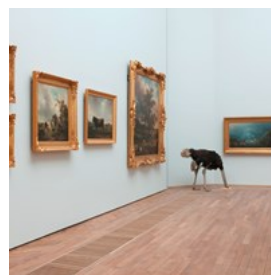
Photo: Les Machines de l'île © Franck Toms/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: Parc des Chantiers, Boulevard Léon Bureau, Nantes

Public Transport: Tramway line 1: Chantiers Navals

Internet: [www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/en](http://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/en)

### Musée d'arts de Nantes



After a major renovation in 2017, this former fine arts museum reopened with a new name and a much bigger footprint. The updated Musée d'arts

de Nantes now covers 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> and includes a striking contemporary extension, a glass-roofed atrium, and even an auditorium. It's one of the few museums in France, outside of Paris, that covers such a wide span of art, from the 13th century to today. Expect a bit of everything: classical paintings, modern works, and contemporary installations. The collection includes big names like Delacroix, Ingres, Courbet, Chagall, Kandinsky, and Picasso, along with changing exhibitions that bring in newer voices.

Photo: Musée d'arts de Nantes © C. Clos/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: 10 rue Georges Clemenceau, Nantes

Opening hours: Wed 11am-7pm, Thu 11am-9pm, Fri-Mon 11am-7pm, Tue closed

Phone: +33 2 51 17 45 00

Internet: <https://museedartsdenantes.nantesmetropole.fr>

Email: [contact.museedarts@nantesmetropole.fr](mailto:contact.museedarts@nantesmetropole.fr)

### Château des ducs de Bretagne



Right in the city centre, this 15th-century fortress was once the seat of the Dukes of Brittany—and now it's home to the Nantes History Museum.

The museum itself is well put together, with interactive exhibits that cover everything from the city's maritime past to its industrial era. There are also temporary shows and events throughout the year. Even if you skip the museum, the castle's ramparts are free to access and worth the walk for views over the moat, courtyard, and rooftops of Nantes.

Photo: Château des ducs de Bretagne © P. Piron/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: 4 Place Marc Elder, Nantes

Public Transport: Tramway line 1: Duchesse Anne - Château des Ducs de Bretagne

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, Mon closed

Internet: [www.chateaunantes.fr/en](http://www.chateaunantes.fr/en)

### Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul



Nantes Cathedral, or the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul of Nantes, is currently closed following a fire in July 2020. The blaze destroyed the

17th-century grand organ and damaged stained glass windows and parts of the interior. Restoration efforts are ongoing, with the cathedral expected to reopen to the public in September 2025.

Construction of the Gothic cathedral began in 1434 and spanned over four centuries. It houses the tombs of François II, the last Duke of Brittany, and his second wife, Marguerite de Foix.

Photo: Michal Ludwiczak/Shutterstock

Address: Place Saint Pierre, Nantes

Public Transport: Bus stop: Foch - Cathédrale

Phone: +33 2 40 47 84 64

Internet: <https://cathedrale-nantes.fr>

### Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery



Nantes was once the main French port in the transatlantic slave trade—around 43% of the country's slave ships sailed from here in the

18th century. In an effort to confront its past, the city has undertaken a significant political initiative to keep alive the memory of this dark chapter. The Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery, the largest of its kind in Europe, is part of that effort.

It opened in 2012 on the Quai de la Fosse, the same riverbank where many of those ships once set sail. The memorial stretches along the Loire and leads underground into a quiet, contemplative space, marked with names of slave ships, key dates, and quotes from around the world. It's a poignant reminder of the human cost behind the city's former wealth—and a place to pause and reflect.

Photo: Mémorial de l'abolition de l'esclavage © F. Toms/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: Passerelle Victor-Schoelcher, Quai de la Fosse, Nantes

Opening hours: Daily 9am-6pm

Internet: <https://memorial.nantes.fr/en>

## Le Lieu Unique



Right by the Canal Saint-Félix, this former LU biscuit factory has been turned into one of the most interesting cultural spots in Nantes.

Redesigned by architect Patrick Bouchain, Le Lieu Unique is part bar, part theatre, part art centre—and it somehow pulls it all off. You'll find exhibitions, live shows, a bookshop, a hammam, even a crèche. The old factory tower still stands, giving the place a strong sense of character.

Photo: MisterStock/Shutterstock

Address: Quai Ferdinand Favre, Nantes

Internet: [www.lelieuunique.com/en](http://www.lelieuunique.com/en)

## Île de Nantes



Once home to shipyards and heavy industry, the Île de Nantes has been completely transformed. Since the late '80s, it's been turning into a mix of

modern living spaces, bold architecture, and creative spots, while still keeping traces of its industrial past. It's one of those areas that's always evolving. As you walk around, you'll see unusual buildings by big-name architects like Jean Nouvel and Christian de Portzamparc, alongside old cranes and warehouses that have been repurposed. It's a great place to explore if you're into architecture, urban design, or just want a walk that's a bit different from the usual historic centre.

Photo: Ile de Nantes © F. Tomps/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: Île de Nantes

## Jules Verne Museum



The museum dedicated to the renowned French writer Jules Verne, born in Nantes in 1828, opened its doors in 1978 to commemorate the

150th anniversary of his birth. Housed within the grand bourgeois mansion where Verne resided from 1882 to 1900, the museum offers a fascinating journey into the life and works of the prolific writer. Visitors can explore the rich legacy of Jules Verne, delving into the imagination and adventures that have inspired generations.

Photo: csp/Shutterstock

Address: 3 Rue de l'Hermitage, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 69 72 52

Internet: <https://julesverne.nantesmetropole.fr>

## Shop Signs



Since 2014, Nantes has turned its shop signs into a canvas for local artists. Along the green line, a route marked by painted pavement that guides visitors around the city's creative spots, you'll find a quirky collection of reimaged signs. These artistic creations stand out like little surprises, interrupting the usual commercial signs with something a bit more out of the box.

Photo: Viva Las Vegas! De l'art des enseignes, par Quentin Faucompré, Olivier Texier et Pascal Lebrain/Le Voyage à Nantes

### Graslin Theatre



Dating back to 1788, the Théâtre Graslin is one of Nantes' landmark buildings. Its grand entrance—with eight Corinthian

columns—makes it hard to miss, and the inside is all marble, gold, and deep blue velvet. It's the home of the city's opera and anchors the lively Place Graslin. Just across the square is La Cigale, the famous art nouveau brasserie, worth a visit even if just for a coffee and a look around.

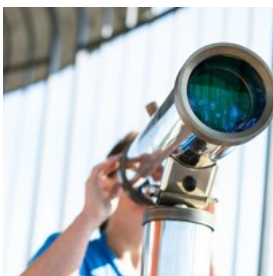
Photo: France MisterStock/Shutterstock

Address: Place Graslin, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 69 77 18

Internet: [www.instagram.com/angersnantesopera](https://www.instagram.com/angersnantesopera)

### Planétarium



Take a journey through the cosmos at the Planétarium of Nantes, where the mysteries of the universe are brought to life with immersive

shows. Located near the Jules Verne Museum, it's the perfect spot to explore the stars, planets, and beyond, whether you're a space enthusiast or just curious about the vastness of the universe.

Photo: Hellame/Shutterstock

Address: 8 Rue des Acadiens, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 73 99 23

Internet: <https://planetarium.nantesmetropole.fr/accueil.html>

Email: [planetarium@nantesmetropole.fr](mailto:planetarium@nantesmetropole.fr)

### Estuaire Nantes - Saint-Nazaire



Stretching 60 km along the Loire between Nantes and Saint-Nazaire, this open-air art trail mixes contemporary art with the landscape of the

estuary. Since 2007, over 30 large-scale works by international artists have been installed in unusual or striking spots—on the riverbanks, under bridges, even out in the water. It's not just about the art; the trail also leads you through lesser-known places, giving you a fresh look at the area's heritage and natural surroundings. You can explore parts of it by car, bike, or boat, depending on the season.

Photo: Martin Argyroglo/Le Voyage à Nantes

### Jardin des Plantes (Botanical Garden)



If you're in the mood for a peaceful stroll, the Jardin des Plantes is the place to be. It's a lush spot right in the city, packed with exotic plants from all over

the world—trees from Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The garden's got everything from a gorgeous rose garden to a tropical glasshouse, and it's actually been around since the 17th century. Nantes is full of green spaces, but this one stands out for its mix of beauty and history.

Photo: saiko3p/Shutterstock

Address: Rue Stanislas-Baudry, Nantes

Opening hours: Daily 8:30am-9:30pm

Phone: +33 2 40 41 65 09

## DINING



*P-Kheawtasang/Shutterstock*

The region around Nantes is rich in culinary heritage—where the Atlantic delivers the freshest seafood, and the fertile land yields vegetables full of flavour. Craving grilled fish? Try it with a velvety *beurre blanc* sauce, born right here in the area. A sprinkle of salt? Guérande provides the finest. Muscadet, the crisp local white wine, pairs beautifully with oysters, mussels or crab. This is a place where passionate chefs, award-winning winemakers and market-fresh ingredients come together to create memorable meals.

### La Cigale



A true Nantes institution, La Cigale has been turning heads since 1895 with its flamboyant Art Nouveau interiors—gilded

mouldings, painted ceramics, and mirrored walls that feel straight out of a Belle Époque dream. Located on Place Graslin, right across from the Théâtre Graslin, it's been a favourite haunt of artists and locals alike, including surrealists like Jacques Prévert and André Breton. The brasserie was even featured in Jacques Demy's 1961 film *Lola*. Today, La Cigale still serves up classic French fare—seafood platters, oysters, and decadent desserts—in a setting that's as much

about the atmosphere as the food.

Photo: U2M Brand/Shutterstock

Address: 4 Place Graslin, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 51 84 94 94

Internet: [www.lacigale.com](http://www.lacigale.com)

### Roza



Right across from the Natural History Museum, Roza blends fine dining with a relaxed, contemporary vibe. Chef Jean-François

Pantaléon—who trained in top Parisian kitchens—serves up refined, seasonal dishes rooted in the Loire terroir. The menu is elegant without being flashy and the wine list leans toward small French producers. A Michelin-starred spot that feels both polished and personal.

Photo: ivanchenko\_maxim/Shutterstock

Address: 3 Place de la Monnaie, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 54 01 87

Internet: <https://restaurantroza.com>

### L'Abelia



Set in a beautifully restored 1900s stone house, L'Abelia serves traditional French dishes with a light modern twist—like sea bass in a

foamed cream sauce and a *crème brûlée* to die for. The menu changes with the market, and there's a peaceful garden out back when the weather allows. It's a good choice for a quiet lunch or dinner paired with Loire wines.

Photo: New Africa/Shutterstock

Address: 125 Boulevard des Poilus, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 35 40 00

Internet: [www.restaurantlabelia.com](http://www.restaurantlabelia.com)

### L'Atlantide 1874 - Maison Guého



Perched above the Loire with sweeping river views, L'Atlantide 1874 is a highlight of Nantes' fine dining scene.

Michelin-starred chef Jean-Yves Guého crafts elegant, contemporary cuisine that plays with textures and bold flavours. The setting is as refined as the menu, with a panoramic dining room and four stylish guest rooms available for those who want to extend the experience into a peaceful night overlooking the water.

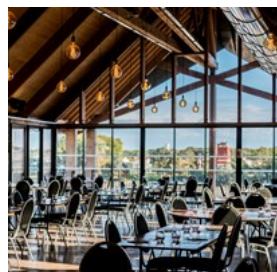
Photo: Maison Guého/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: 5 Rue de l'Hermitage, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 73 23 23

Internet: [www.atlantide1874.fr](http://www.atlantide1874.fr)

### Little Atlantique Brewery



Housed in a restored 19th-century factory by the Loire in

Bas-Chantenay, Little Atlantique Brewery brings together craft

beer, food, and cultural events in an industrial-style space that still hints at its naval past. Five beers are brewed year-round on-site, alongside rotating limited editions, and the laid-back menu leans toward seasonal, globally inspired dishes.

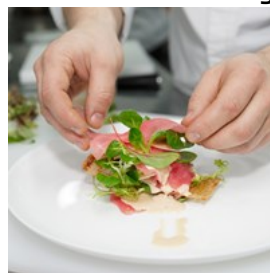
Photo: Little Atlantic Brewery © C. Bornet by Kristo/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: 23 Boulevard de Chantenay, Nantes

Opening hours: Sun-Wed noon-midnight, Thu-Sat noon-2am

Internet: <https://little-atlantique-brewery.fr>

### Le Manoir De La Régate



Right on the banks of the Erdre, this family-run spot is now in the hands of chef Mathieu Pérou, with his sister Anne-Charlotte running

the front of house. The menu focuses on local ingredients—river fish, seaweed from Le Croisic, wild herbs—and dishes are thoughtful without being fussy. It's got a Michelin star and a Green Star for sustainability, but the vibe is relaxed and the cooking speaks for itself.

Photo: Kondor83/Shutterstock

Address: 155 Route de Gachet, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 18 02 97

Internet: [www.manoirdelaregate.com](http://www.manoirdelaregate.com)

### Pickles



Hidden on a quiet street near the city centre, Pickles is a neo-bistro that more than earns its stellar reputation. English chef Dominic Quirke

crafts inventive, globally inspired dishes using top-quality local ingredients. The set menus change with the seasons, the wine list is thoughtful, and the atmosphere remains warm and unfussy.

Photo: Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock

Address: 2 Rue du Marais, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 51 84 11 89

Internet: [www.pickles-restaurant.com](http://www.pickles-restaurant.com)

### Lulu Rouget



After honing his craft in some of France's top kitchens, chef Ludovic Pouzelgues brings his bold culinary vision to life at Lulu Rouget. His

Michelin-starred restaurant delivers a daily changing tasting menu that celebrates the ocean's bounty with inventive flair. Indulge in refined, seasonal dishes full of personality—his signature 'roug(et) noir de Lulu' is not to be missed.

Photo: archimede/Shutterstock

Address: 4 Place Albert Camus, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 04 47 47 98

Internet: [www.lulurouget.fr](http://www.lulurouget.fr)

### Villa Mon Rêve



Tucked inside a 19th-century villa with a spacious garden, Villa Mon Rêve is where chef Jérôme Ponchelle puts fresh fish, seafood, and

French classics front and centre. The setting's elegant but unfussy—good for a slow lunch or a special dinner without it feeling too formal.

Photo: Jacek Chabraszewski/Shutterstock

Address: 2 Levée de la Divatte, Basse-Goulaine

Phone: +33 2 40 03 55 50

Internet: [www.villa-mon-reve.com](http://www.villa-mon-reve.com)

### Les Chants d'Avril



At this beloved local gem, chef Christophe François brings precision, passion, and a near-reverence for quality ingredients to the table. Taking over a true Nantes institution, he offers a surprise prix-fixe

menu that highlights technical finesse and seasonal produce. It's an intimate, unpretentious spot where each dish reflects thought, care, and creativity.

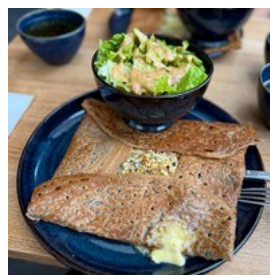
Photo: Les Chants d'Avril/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: 2 Rue Laënnec, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 89 34 76

Internet: [www.instagram.com/restaurant\\_les\\_chants\\_davril](http://www.instagram.com/restaurant_les_chants_davril)

### Crêperie Heb Ken



A beloved fixture on Nantes' food scene, Crêperie Heb Ken has been serving up authentic Breton galettes and sweet crêpes for years. Tucked

away on a charming street with a few outdoor tables, it's the perfect spot to sample buckwheat classics alongside a glass of traditional Breton cider.

Photo: Lapa Smile/Shutterstock

Address: 5 Rue de Guérande, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 48 79 03

Internet: [www.instagram.com/creperiehebken](http://www.instagram.com/creperiehebken)

### La Civelle



Set right on the banks of the Loire, La Civelle combines elegance, comfort, and a prime riverside location. Just a quick ferry ride across

the river, this long-time local favourite serves refined seasonal cuisine with a focus on meat and seafood, all in a sleek dining room or on its sun-drenched terrace.

Photo: Le goût et les couleurs/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: 21 Quai Marcel Boissard, Rezé

Phone: +33 2 40 75 46 60

Internet: <https://lacivelle.com>

Email: [contact@lacivelle.com](mailto:contact@lacivelle.com)

### Lamaccotte



Situated near Nantes Cathedral on Place Saint-Pierre, Lamaccotte offers a contemporary and welcoming setting, where chef Maxime

Fillaut puts together a share-friendly menu built around refined, seasonal ingredients from local producers.

Photo: Lamaccotte/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: 7 Rue Saint-Denis, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 85 37 42 30

Internet: <https://foodcollect.fr/store/Lamaccotte/restaurant>

### Le Petit Boucot



Not far from Théâtre Graslin, this small spot run by chef Frédéric Chiron keeps things relaxed but refined. The menu leans on

well-sourced ingredients and clever, understated dishes.

Photo: FreeProd33/Shutterstock

Address: 3 Rue Lekain, Nantes

Phone: + 33 2 53 97 04 04

Internet: [www.lepetitboucot.com](http://www.lepetitboucot.com)

Email: [contact@lepetitboucot.com](mailto:contact@lepetitboucot.com)

## CAFÉS



MisterStock/Shutterstock

Need a break between sights? Nantes is packed with cafés where you can unwind over a coffee and nibble on local sweet treats—LU biscuits, Berlingots, Rigolettes, Nantes cake, buttery caramels... the list is endless (and delicious).

### Crêperie Heb Ken



A cherished institution in Nantes since 1976, Heb Ken is a quaint creperie specialising in sweet crepes, savoury galettes, and Breton cider. Every dish and pastry is lovingly prepared using fresh produce and organic flours, reflecting the creperie's commitment to homemade excellence.

Photo: elisetta/Shutterstock

Address: 5 Rue de Guérande, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 48 79 03

Internet: <https://en.creperie-hebken.fr>

### Café Penché



Tucked away near Place Royale, Café Penché is a cosy spot adjoining the Kilo Shop thrift store. Here, you can enjoy expertly brewed specialty coffees paired with homemade cakes like pistachio-raspberry or classic carrot. The vintage

decor and relaxed atmosphere make it a perfect place to unwind.

Photo: katyapulka/Shutterstock

Address: 17 Rue des Vieilles Douves, Nantes

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10:30am-6pm, Sun & Mon closed

Internet: [www.instagram.com/cafeopenche](https://www.instagram.com/cafeopenche)

### Café de l'Orangerie



Situated in the picturesque Jardin des Plantes, this café is all about peaceful garden vibes. Come for a relaxed breakfast, stay for lunch,

or grab a table in the afternoon for coffee and cakes surrounded by greenery. A local favourite when the sun's out.

Photo: A. Peluquere/Le Voyage à Nantes

Address: 15 Rue Gambetta, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 28 44 27 08

Internet: [www.instagram.com/cafeorangerie](https://www.instagram.com/cafeorangerie)

### Le Flesselles



A local institution near the cathedral, Le Flesselles is more than just a café. It hosts monthly 'cafés philo', where patrons gather to discuss philosophy over drinks. The venue also features concerts and exhibitions, making it a cultural hub in Nantes. Open from early morning to late evening, it's a go-to spot for both casual meetups and intellectual conversations.

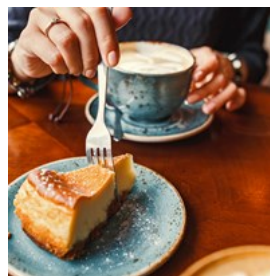
Photo: bodiaphvideo/Shutterstock

Address: 3 Allee Flesselles, Nantes

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7:30am-10pm, Sun closed

Phone: +33 2 40 47 66 14

### Le Select



After a visit to the Château des Ducs de Bretagne, stop by this small art deco spot for a break and a bite. Simple, seasonal lunch dishes by day, creative tapas and cocktails by night in a relaxed atmosphere.

Photo: frantic00/Shutterstock

Address: 14 Rue du Château, Nantes

Phone: +33 6 65 67 70 82

Internet: [www.leselect-nantes.com](https://www.leselect-nantes.com)

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Henryk Sadura/Shutterstock

Nantes has a vibrant, youthful nightlife scene, thanks in part to its large student population. Whether you're after a laid-back bar to chat over a glass of wine or feel like dancing into the early hours, the city offers something for every kind of night owl.

### Quartier Bouffay



The medieval Bouffay quarter, just west of the Cathedral, comes alive after dark. Beneath its timber-framed facades and winding cobbled streets, you'll find one of Nantes' liveliest nightlife hubs—packed with bars, pubs, terraces,

and late-night spots that buzz with students, locals, and visitors alike.

Photo: View Apart/Shutterstock  
Address: Quartier Bouffay, Nantes

### Le Bar du Coin



In the heart of the Bouffay district, this down-to-earth corner bar is where many Nantais nights begin. Cheap beers, tight tables, a buzz that spills into the street—it's loud, packed, and full of life. Ideal for kicking things off before moving elsewhere (or not).

Photo: Le Bar du coin/Le Voyage à Nantes  
Address: 21 Rue de la Juiverie, Nantes  
Opening hours: Daily noon–2am  
Phone: +33 2 40 47 55 05

### Le Hangar à Bananes



Once a warehouse on the Île de Nantes, Le Hangar à Bananes has been reinvented as a lively nightlife hub. Overlooking the Loire and framed by the glowing Buren Rings, this stretch is lined with buzzing bars, clubs, and concert venues. Whether you're here for sunset drinks, live music, or dancing into the early hours, this is the place to be after dark in Nantes.

Photo: View Apart/Shutterstock  
Address: 21 Quai des Antilles, Nantes  
Phone: +33 2 40 71 08 79

### Le Lieu Unique



Le Lieu Unique is Nantes' flagship cultural hotspot, set inside the city's former LU biscuit factory. Since its transformation in 2000, it's become a creative playground where art, music, and everyday life come together. You can catch an experimental show, browse the bookshop, sip a drink at the bar, dine at the restaurant, or even unwind in the hammam. The restored LU tower, a local landmark, now stands as a beacon of the city's bold blend of heritage and innovation.

Photo: Ryan Klaus/Unsplash  
Address: 4 Rue de la Biscuiterie, Nantes  
Phone: +33 2 51 72 05 55  
Internet: [www.restaurantlieuunique.fr](http://www.restaurantlieuunique.fr)

### La Maison Café



La Maison Café is a playful, retro-style bar that feels like stepping into a groovy 1970s home, complete with vintage furniture, bold colours, and even a bathtub-turned-seat. It's the perfect spot for a laid-back evening, whether you're lounging on a living room sofa or enjoying a cocktail out on the leafy terrace during warmer nights.

Photo: Master1305/Shutterstock  
Address: 4 Rue Lebrun, Nantes  
Phone: +33 2 40 37 04 12  
Internet: [www.instagram.com/lamaisoncafenantes](http://www.instagram.com/lamaisoncafenantes)

## Stereolux



Stereolux is a vibrant hub for contemporary music and digital arts, located on the Île de Nantes as part of the innovative La Fabrique complex. Set in a creative neighbourhood near Les Machines de l'île, this cutting-edge venue hosts live concerts, festivals, and multimedia performances, attracting artists and audiences from across Europe. It's the place to discover new sounds, experimental visuals, and the pulse of Nantes' modern cultural scene.

Photo: Andrei Armiagov/Shutterstock

Address: 4 Boulevard Léon Bureau, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 43 20 43

Internet: <https://stereolux.org>

## John McByrne



John McByrne is a lively Irish pub in the heart of the Bouffay quarter, offering the kind of convivial buzz you'd expect from a true Celtic watering hole. Alongside the classic pints, you'll find an impressive selection of beers and whiskies, making it a favourite for anyone after a relaxed drink in good company.

Photo: Little Vignettes Photo/Shutterstock

Address: 21 Rue des Petites Écuries, Nantes

Phone: +33 2 40 89 64 46

## SHOPPING

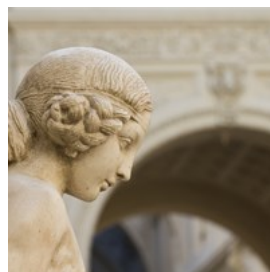


Opéra Graslin © F. Tomps/Le Voyage à Nantes

If you enjoy shopping, you'll love Nantes. Here, window-shopping even has its own verb: *crébillonner*—named after Rue Crébillon, the city's iconic shopping street lined with top designer brands and unique local labels. The street leads to the elegant Passage Pommeraye, a 19th-century shopping arcade that's as beautiful as the boutiques it houses—a must for any visitor.

Don't miss the Marché de Talensac on Place de Talensac, the city's largest market, open every day except Monday. Bargain hunters should head to Rue Jean Jaurès and around Place Viarme, where the city's flea market springs to life every Saturday morning.

### Passage Pommeraye



A gem of 19th-century architecture, the Passage Pommeraye has been charming visitors since the 1840s. With its grand staircase, glass roof, and elegant sculptures, this three-level arcade is as much a sightseeing stop as it is a shopping destination. Lined with refined boutiques, it's a place to browse, linger, and take in one of Europe's most beautiful covered passages.

Photo: Thomas Pajot/Shutterstock  
Address: Passage Pommeraye, Nantes

### Crébillon Street



Can you crébillonner? In Nantes, that means window shopping while strolling up and down the elegant Rue Crébillon—so yes, you can. This central street is lined with upscale boutiques, designer stores, and stylish shopfronts, making it a favourite spot for both locals and visitors to browse, wander, and soak in the city's chic atmosphere.

Photo: CokaPoka/Shutterstock  
Address: Rue Crébillon, Nantes

### Bouffay Area



The Bouffay district is the historic heart of Nantes, where medieval half-timbered houses meet a lively mix of shops, cafés, and bars.

It's a favourite for browsing local boutiques or stopping at Galeries Lafayette, right in the middle of the action.

Photo: Ivanko80/Shutterstock  
Address: Bouffay, Nantes

### Centre Commercial Beaulieu



Centre Commercial Beaulieu is the largest shopping destination in the city centre of Nantes, boasting over 100 shops. It features bold and modern architecture crafted by the talented Patrick Bouchain, imparting a distinctive

personality to the complex.

Photo: Ground Picture/Shutterstock  
Address: 1 Boulevard Général de Gaulle, Nantes  
Phone: +33 2 40 47 00 26  
Internet: <https://beaulieu.klepierre.fr>

### Fromagerie Beillevaire



Cheese holds a cherished place in French culinary culture, and if you're looking to bring home a piece of this integral part of French gastronomy, be sure to visit Fromagerie Beillevaire. They are renowned for their exceptional range of homemade cheeses and dairy products, including yoghurts and butter, along with a diverse selection of cheeses sourced directly from artisanal and farmhouse producers across the country, ensuring a delicious array of options for cheese lovers.

Photo: Ewa Studio/Shutterstock  
Address: 8 Rue Contrescarpe, Nantes  
Phone: +33 2 40 12 02 70  
Internet: <https://fromagerie-beillevaire.com>  
Email: [contact@beillevaire.com](mailto:contact@beillevaire.com)

### Les Rigolettes Nantaises



Les Rigolettes Nantaises is a beloved local confectionery known for its namesake sweets—fruit-filled hard candies created in Nantes in 1902. Inside this charming boutique, you'll find an array of colourful treats and other classic French confections, perfect for a nostalgic indulgence or a gift that captures the local flavour.

Photo: k.nykyforova/Shutterstock

Address: 18 Rue de Verdun, Nantes  
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun closed  
Phone: +33 2 40 48 00 39  
Internet: [www.les-rigolettes-nantaises.com](http://www.les-rigolettes-nantaises.com)

### Chocolatier Gautier Debotté



Since 1977, Gautier Debotté and his family have been treating Nantes to exquisite chocolates, refined pastries, and sweet creations that reflect generations of craftsmanship. Located in the city centre, the boutique offers everything from delicate pralines and seasonal desserts to artisanal ice creams.

Photo: Ryzhkov Oleksandr/Shutterstock  
Address: 9 Rue de la Fosse, Nantes  
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 9am–7:15pm, Sun & Mon closed  
Phone: +33 2 40 48 23 19  
Internet: [www.debotte.fr](http://www.debotte.fr)

### Biscuiterie La Trinitaine



La Trinitaine, an iconic Breton heritage brand founded in 1955, has a rich history centred on biscuit-making expertise passed down through generations within the family. Original recipes and a forward-thinking mindset define their legacy to ensure continued innovation and the development of new products.

Photo: La Trinitaine/Le Voyage à Nantes  
Address: 4 Place Saint Pierre, Nantes  
Phone: +33 2 40 20 33 36  
Internet: [www.latrinitaine.com](http://www.latrinitaine.com)  
Email: [contact@latrinitaine.com](mailto:contact@latrinitaine.com)

### ABC Terroirs



ABC Terroirs brings together the best of the region under one roof. This charming delicatessen showcases carefully selected products from over 150 local producers—wines, gourmet boxes, and gift-ready baskets filled with artisanal treats. It's an ideal stop to pick up a tasteful souvenir or something delicious to take home.

Photo: M-Production/Shutterstock  
Address: 5 Place Saint Pierre, Nantes  
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9:30am–7:30pm, Sat 9:30am–8pm, Sun closed  
Phone: +33 2 40 89 76 26  
Internet: <https://abcterroirs.com>  
Email: [contact@abcterroirs.com](mailto:contact@abcterroirs.com)

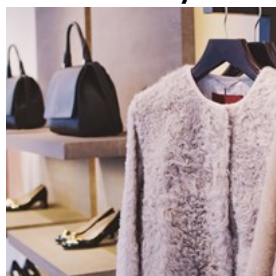
### Chocolaterie Vincent Guerlais



Vincent Guerlais is one of Nantes' most acclaimed artisan chocolatiers, known for his bold creativity and flawless execution. His boutiques are filled with refined chocolates, playful pastries, and colourful macarons—a must for anyone with a sweet tooth.

Photo: Patisserie Vincent Guerlais/Le Voyage à Nantes  
Address: 11 Rue Franklin, Nantes  
Phone: +33 2 40 08 08 79  
Internet: [www.vincentguerlais.com/fr](http://www.vincentguerlais.com/fr)

## Galleries Lafayette



Galleries Lafayette, France's iconic department store, brings fashion, beauty, and lifestyle together in the heart of Nantes. From designer collections to everyday essentials, discover a curated selection of menswear, womenswear, childrenswear, accessories, and beauty products—all under one stylish roof.

Photo: Creative Lab/Shutterstock

Address: 2-20 Rue de la Marne, Nantes

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun closed

Phone: +33 2 40 99 82 12

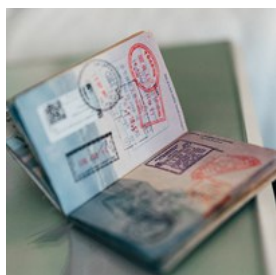
Internet: [www.gallerieslafayette.com/m/magasin-nantes](http://www.gallerieslafayette.com/m/magasin-nantes)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Thea/Unsplash

### Passport/Visa



Citizens of the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) countries do not need a visa to enter France, only a valid ID. Many other countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Australia, and New Zealand, benefit from visa-free entry for short stays of up to 90

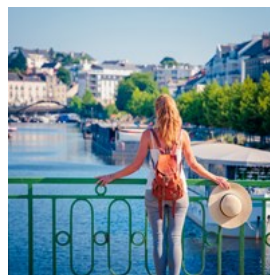
days within a 180-day period.

Visitors from visa-exempt countries must hold a valid passport and, starting in late 2025, will need to apply for an ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) authorisation online before travelling.

For those requiring a visa, such as travellers from some Middle Eastern, African or Asian nations, a Schengen visa must be obtained prior to arrival. All travellers should ensure their passport is valid for at least three months beyond their intended stay.

Photo: ConvertKit/Unsplash

### Best Time to Visit



The best times to visit Nantes are late spring (May) and early autumn (September). These months offer mild weather with average

highs around 18°C in May and 19°C in September, perfect for exploring the city without the summer crowds. If you're into festivals, summer (June-August) is the peak time for events like the Le Voyage à Nantes art festival and Les Rendez-vous de l'Erdre jazz festival, but expect more tourists. Avoid the winter months if you're after outdoor activities, as the weather can be cold and rainy.

Photo: margouillat photo/Shutterstock

## Nantes Atlantique Airport (NTE)



Nantes Atlantique Airport (NTE) is situated approximately 10 to 12 kilometres southwest of Nantes city centre, with travel times ranging from 17 to 25 minutes depending on the mode of transport and traffic conditions. The most convenient option for travellers is the airport shuttle bus, which operates daily between the airport, the city centre, and the main railway station. The journey takes about 25 minutes, with departures every 20 minutes during the summer months (April to October) and every 30 minutes in winter (November to March).

Alternatively, taxis are readily available outside the terminal and car rental services are also represented at the airport for those wishing to explore the region independently.

Photo: Le Voyage à Nantes  
Address: Nantes Atlantique Airport  
Phone: +33 892 56 88 00  
Internet: [www.nantes.aeroport.fr/fr](http://www.nantes.aeroport.fr/fr)

## Public Transport



Nantes boasts a comprehensive and efficient public transport network, making it a great option for visitors getting around the city.

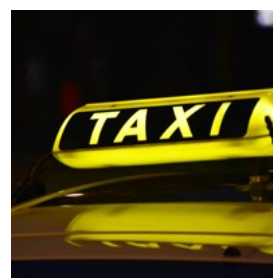
Run by Semitan under the TAN brand, the system includes three tram lines, two Busway (bus rapid transit) routes, a wide-reaching bus network, two Navibus river shuttles, and a night bus service. The network also connects with suburban trains in the Nantes Métropole area, and all services operate on a unified fare system for easy transfers.

For travellers, there are several ticket options: single tickets valid for one hour, 24-hour passes, and group day tickets for up to four people. Public transport is also free every weekend—from midnight Saturday to the end of service on Sunday—excluding the airport shuttle and a few special routes. Tickets are available at tram and Busway stops, on board buses, in TAN agencies, or via the official TAN app.

Having said that, Nantes is known for being a bike-friendly city, with an extensive network of cycle paths and a bike-sharing scheme (Bicloo), making it easy to explore the city on two wheels.

Photo: Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock

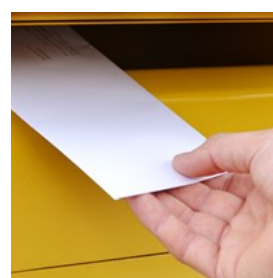
## Taxi



Finding taxis in Nantes is relatively easy, particularly around key locations such as the train station and major squares like Place Royale or Commerce. Licensed taxis can be hailed on the street, found at designated ranks, or booked by phone or app. Ride-sharing platforms such as Uber also operate in Nantes, offering a convenient alternative for short trips around the city.

Photo: Waldemar/Unsplash

## Post



In Nantes, post offices generally open from 9am to 6:30pm, Monday to Friday, with some branches offering Saturday hours until 12:30pm. The main post office is located at 2

Place de Bretagne, which is central and convenient for travellers.

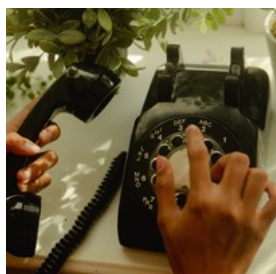
La Poste, as it's called in France, offers a range of services including sending and receiving mail and parcels (domestic and international), banking services through La Banque Postale, mobile services, as well as additional options like photocopying, document scanning, and access to ATMs.

Photo: igra.design/Shutterstock

Address: 2 Place de Bretagne, Nantes

Phone: +33 9 70 82 36 31

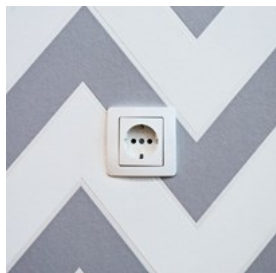
### Telephone



Country code: +33 Area code: 2

Photo: Wesley Hilario/Unsplash

### Electricity



In France, the electrical system operates on a voltage of 230 volts with a frequency of 50 hertz. The country uses two main types of plugs: type C, which has two round pins, and type E, which also has two round pins along with an additional hole for the grounding pin.

Photo: Neven Krcmarek/Unsplash

### Population

711,000 (2025)

### Currency

Euro (€, EUR)

### Internet

[www.levoyageanantes.fr/en](http://www.levoyageanantes.fr/en)

### Newspapers

Ouest-France: [www.ouest-france.fr](http://www.ouest-france.fr)

Presse-Océan: [www.ouest-france.fr/presse-ocean](http://www.ouest-france.fr/presse-ocean)

20 Minutes Nantes: [www.20minutes.fr/nantes](http://www.20minutes.fr/nantes)

### Emergency numbers

112: European emergency number

15: Medical emergency

17: Police

18: Fire Brigade

### Tourist information

Le Voyage à Nantes

9 Rue des États, Nantes

+33 892 46 40 44

Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 10am–5pm

# nantes. tourisme

PLAN TOURISTIQUE DE NANTES

## LÉGENDE DES PLANS

- Accueil Nantes Tourisme
- Tramway ligne 1
- Tramway ligne 2
- Tramway ligne 3
- Busway ligne 4
- Chronobus C5
- Parcours du Voyage à Nantes
- Navette fluviale
- Poste
- Parking
- Parking couvert
- Parking relais
- Navette aéroport
- Œuvre Estuaire

100m



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Le Voyage à Nantes est un parcours urbain du lieu unique à la pointe Ouest de l'île de Nantes à découvrir toute l'année. Il faut suivre la ligne verte tracée au sol et se laisser conduire d'une œuvre d'art qui surgit au détour d'une rue à un élément remarquable de notre patrimoine, des "incontournables" de la destination à des trésors méconnus, d'une ruelle historique à une architecture contemporaine, d'un point de vue étonnant sur la ville à un incroyable coucher de soleil sur l'estuaire.

**RETROUVEZ TOUTE L'ACTUALITÉ NANTAISE SUR WWW.NANTES-TOURISME.COM ET SUR WWW.LEVOYAGEANANTES.FR.**

## BUREAUX D'ACCUEIL

**Nantes.Tourisme**  
Rue des États  
FACE AU CHÂTEAU  
**Station Prouvé** (ouverture estivale)  
Boulevard de la Prairie-au-Duc  
PARC DES CHANTIERS - ÎLE DE NANTES

**Nantes.Tourisme**  
17 quai de la Chaussée des Moines  
4120 VERTOU

**INFOS ET RENSEIGNEMENTS**  
www.nantes-tourisme.com  
**0 892 464 044** (service client 7j/7 - prix appel)  
T. + 33 272 640 479 (de l'étranger)  
info@nantes-tourisme.com

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