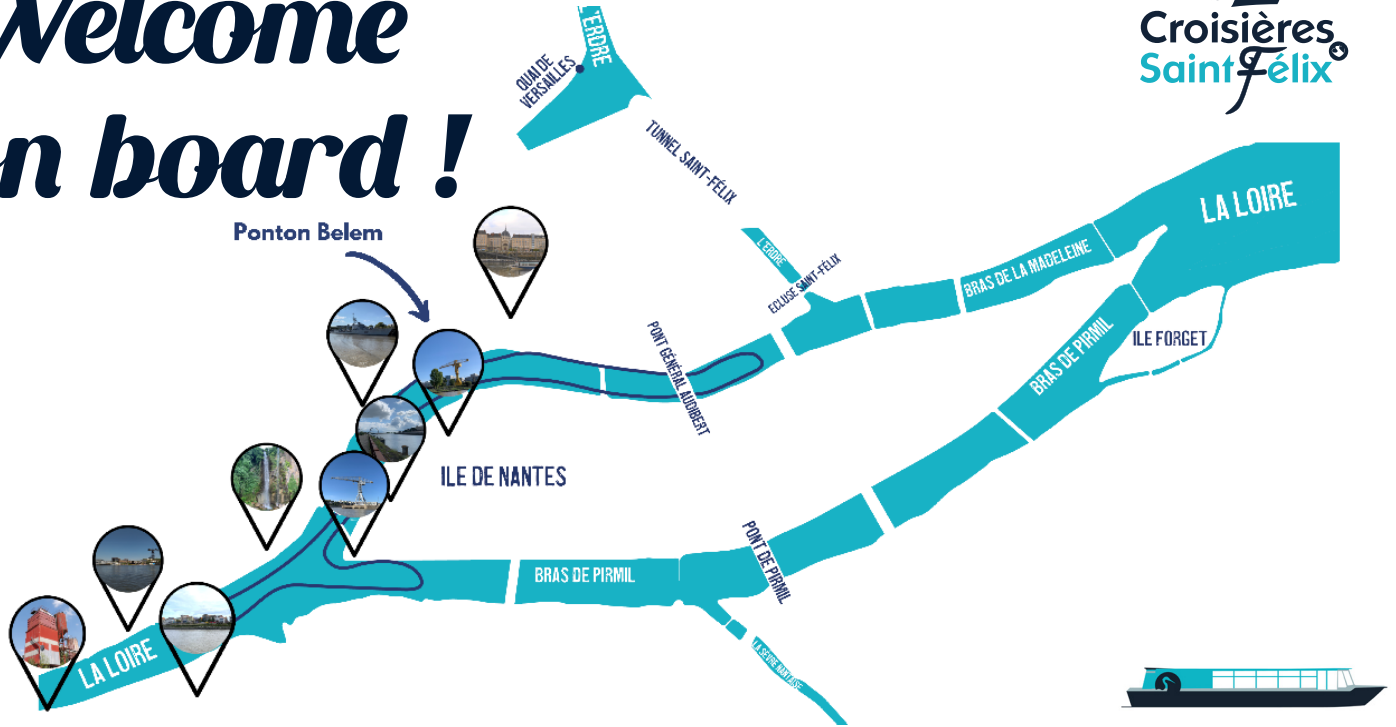




Welcome on board !



VISITOR'S BOOKLET



The transporter bridge

1.

Underneath the Anne de Bretagne bridge, which was built in 1975, the remains of a transporter bridge can be found. The latter was built in 1903 by Ferdinand Arnodin. The basket was held by ropes, and could transport up to 300 people. Most of them were workers, going to the Isle of Nantes shipyard. The transporter bridge was dismantled in the late 1950s.

2.

The Abolition of Slavery memorial

The Abolition of slavery memorial is located inside the docks. The project was launched in the 1980s, but it took around 30 years before it was finished (in 2012). This memorial is a space of mediation regarding the Slave Trade, which the city of Nantes largely contributed to. Indeed, Nantes was the largest slave trade harbour in 18th-century France. Throughout the centuries it was continuously rebuilt with bigger and more numerous docks - which made the neighbourhood more and more popular. In the 1950s the harbour was replaced by a large road for cars and tramways.





3.

The Courthouse

Nantes Courthouse was built in 2000 by architect Jean Nouvel, who also built the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi, Paris' philharmonic building and Barcelona's Agbar tower. Back then, the Ile de Nantes had not been renovated yet. So, the construction of the Courthouse created contrasted quite a bit with the surroundings, which had mostly turned into a wasteland after the shipyard had closed in 1987. The project of building a Courthouse in the area was the start of an important project of rehabilitation of this part of Nantes.



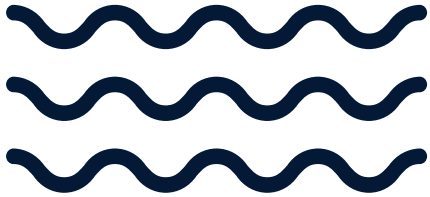
4.

Architecture school (ENSA)

One of the main projects for rehabilitating the Ile de Nantes was to build several schools such as the School of Architecture (ENSA), the Courthouse and the Machines de l'Île. Nowadays, this area is one of Nantes' most creative areas which hosts many start-up companies.



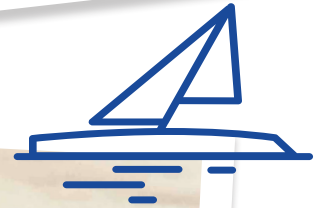
The School of Architecture opened in 2009. It displays two contemporary art pieces. The first one is Jocelyn Cottençon's 'Echoes', and features neon lights on the school's front wall. The second one is the blue structure called "The absence", a work of the Van Lieshout workshops.



5.

Notre dame de Bon Port

Notre-Dame de Bon Port church (literally translating to Notre-Dame of Good Harbour) was built from 1846 onward. However, there already was a church back in the 12th century. The church was built according to a Greek cross-shaped plan, and its dome is inspired from the 1650s Italian baroque area. The facade is inspired from neo-classicism, just like the rest of the surroundings of the church.



6.

The House of People and Technology

This building used to belong to the shipyard. The shipyard was extremely important for the city's economy - five companies were set on the island. In 1994, seven years after the closing down of the last shipyard, one of the old buildings was invested by former shipyard workers in order to create the House of People and Technology (or Maison des Hommes et de la Technique, often abbreviated to MHT). This place enhances the memory of the industrial past of the city of Nantes, as well as the coastal and fluvial patrimony.



The Marine World Carousel

7.

The Manège des Mondes Marins (or Marine World Carousel), as well as the Gallery of the Isle of Nantes machines and its famous elephant, were built in 2003. The machines are inspired by Jules Verne's imaginary universe and his novels such as *Around the World in Eighty Days* or *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas*. Jules Verne was born in Nantes.



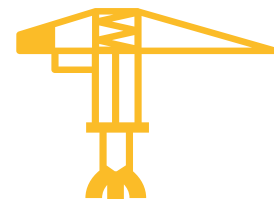


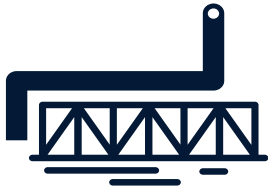
The yellow crane with the old wedges from the Dubigeon construction site launch

8.

The yellow crane, named Titan, was built in 1958 and could lift up to 80 tons. Back then, it was not painted yellow yet. The painting was added in the 1970s to add visibility and safety. The crane worked until 1987, and stopped when the Isle of Nantes' shipyard closed. As the years went by, the crane got damaged and the City Council considered disassembling it. Charities in favour of protecting the cultural heritage of Nantes fought to preserve the crane, and the city of Nantes bought it in order to save it. In 2018, the crane was classified as "Monument Historique", a French label protecting buildings of historic interest.

The crane used to be an important part of the shipyard, helping the boats get to the river. Nowadays, the docks around it are covered with grass. The last boat that was put to sea was the Bougainville in 1987.





10.

The Lunar Tree

The Lunar Tree is a piece from Berliner artist Mrzyk and French artist Moriceau. This white tree is surrounded by a soft light when the night falls. The artists also worked on the expansion of the railway stations, hence the reference to the tree within the railway hall.



Belvedere

9.

Several pieces of modern art were set up within the Chantenay neighbourhood:

The Hermit Belvedere, on top of the cliff, is a vertiginous nest which rises up to 20 metres above the road. It was designed by artist Tadashi Kawamata in 2019.





The City of Imagination

11.



This building, located between the river and the quarry, is a heritage of Nantes' industrial patrimony. Built in 1895, it became one of the first in the world to be made of reinforced concrete. It has been used for several purposes throughout the years, firstly as an industrial flour mill, and then as a storage place, until it was eventually turned into offices. The blue cladding was added in the 1970s. The building is about to go through yet another transformation, as it will soon turn into the City of the Imaginaries, a place dedicated to culture, which will display a Jules Verne museum, a library, an exhibition room, a creative space, and a roof-top - among many other projects. The City will be finalised in 2028.

12.

The Extraordinary Garden

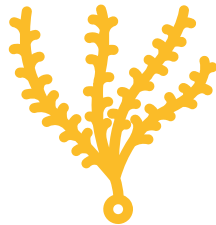
Set on a former quarry, the Extraordinary Garden is a garden of exotic plants that can blossom thanks to the heat held by the stones around them. The temperature within the garden is five degrees Celsius warmer than the temperature in town. However, if you are looking for a bit of freshness, the artificial waterway will cool things down.



13.

Trentemoult

Trentemoult is a former fishermen village located in the town of Rezé. It was the biggest harbour in France up until the Gallo-Roman area. Trentemoult is known for its colourful house facades -The legend says the facades were painted by the fishermen with the paint that was left from their boats hulls.



14.

The Black Crane

The Black Crane, often nicknamed the "crane with a raised leg", was classified Historic Building in 2018. Its leg is up in order to make the access to the boiler making factory easier. The crane fell in the Loire River twice: the first time when the German Army sabotaged it in 1944 before leaving town, and the second time because of a storm in 1948. However, it was kept in activity (boat armament) up until the late 1960s.



15.

Chantenay's back streets

Chantenay is the historical heart of Nantes. This area developed in the 18th century, alongside with the industrial revolution. The first industries to settle were the shipyards. Then occurred a diversification, which included:

- Boiler making factories
- Food industry (sugar refinery, vinegar factories, biscuit factories)
- Cosmetics (soap factories)
- Textile (sail factories)
- Chemicals (fertilizer)
- Tin ware companies
- Paper factories
- Storage

The industrialisation of Nantes kept growing, and the city soon became one of France's most productive places up until the 1930s' economic crisis, which was followed by the Second World War. After those events the industrial activities were replaced with service industries.





16. *The LAB*

The very last shipyard of Nantes is located just by the crane. Next to the shipyard, on the left, the Little Atlantic Brewery (LAB) is a brewery that also offers food. It is located in a former oil factory. The oil was meant to be used for soap making.



17. *Le Pendule*

“Le Pendule” (Pendulum) is a piece of art made by artist Roman Signer. It is located on a former concrete factory in Trentemoult. It is a reminder of the industrial past of the town, the passing of time, and the fact that being alive means dying sooner or later.



18.

The Titan Grey Crane

The Titan Grey Crane is another symbol of Nantes' harbour past. It weighs 350 tons and was used from 1966 to 2003. The harbour authorities of Nantes announced their intention to demolish it in 2004. The inhabitants of Nantes protested and the crane was bought for one symbolic euro by the City of Nantes in 2005. It was also classified a historic monument.

19.

The Banana warehouse

The Banana warehouse was used for the storage of bananas from 1950s onwards. The bananas were still green when they arrived by boat from Guinea, Cameroun or from the West Indies. They were left in the storage place until they got ripe. The Banana warehouse was abandoned in 1971. Nowadays, it is a place of culture, parties and music shows thanks to the many bars, art galleries, and concert rooms.





Les Anneaux de Buren (the Rings)

20.

The numerous big rings alongside the Banana warehouse and the West Indies dock were created by artist Daniel Buren and Patrick Bouchain. The piece is called "The Rings" and is made of eighteen 4-meters wide rings. They light up with red, green, or blue lights when night falls. They refer to the dark past of the City of Nantes, which enriched due to slave trade between the 17th and the 19th centuries. The rings are a reference to the chains worn by the slaves.

21.

Maillé Brézé

The Maillé-Brézé is a former army boat launched in 1957 and later equipped with high technology detection tools. Its equipment was taken off in 2017 when the boat was used for Christopher Nolan's film "Dunkerque". In order to be part of the film, the boat had to be towed along the coast up to the north of France because its engine was removed in 1988, when it was transformed into a naval museum.





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