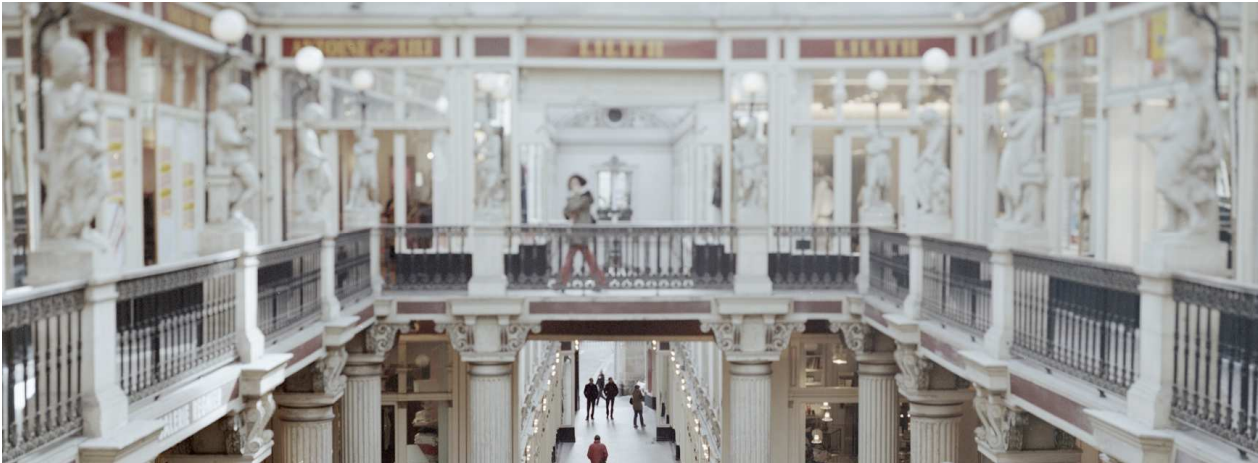


WALKING TOUR IN NANTES

To discover the entire city center



This stroll will take you through the medieval quarter of Bouffay up to the superb Gothic cathedral of St Peter and St Paul and then on to the castle of the dukes of Brittany. You'll also get to see the Isle of Feydeau, a superb example of 18th century architecture, and also the quays of Nantes, to finish in the commercial district, built up in the 19th century, which saw the Nantes Opera and famous 'Passage Pommeraye' shopping centre come to life.

13.30

Meeting with your guide to the tourism office (9 rue des États)

Departure for the visit of the city

The Cathedral Saint-Pierre & Saint-Paul

Masterpiece of the flamboyant gothic architecture, impressive and moving, it shelters the tombstone of the last Duke of Brittany

The Dukes of Brittany Castle

One of the last medieval buildings, it used to stand on the banks of the Loire River. The Duchess-queen Anne de Bretagne was born here.

Walk into the medieval area

Around two prestigious building – the Cathedral and the Castle – was build a medieval town.

You will discover its charms through the narrow streets scattering around the Bouffay square and the Sainte-Croix church (Holly Cross).

Nantes in the 18th Century

"Nantes in the time of the islands" is what Feydeau Island proposes to those who take the time to stroll in its streets.

The discovery of this "vessel of stone" anchored in the heart of the city allows the visitor to come back into the past when Nantes was one of the most important starting points for the slaves expeditions.



The 19th Century

Development of factories during the 19th Century increases the wealth of Nantes.

Consequently, new blocks are created around the theatre Graslin: Crébillon street (well known for its nice boutiques), the Graslin square, and the beautiful La Cigale brasserie...

The Abolition of Slavery Memorial Museum

Designed by the internationally renowned artist Krystof Wodiczcko and by the architect Julian Bonder, the memorial museum was conceived as an urban, a political and an art project. On a revegetated esplanade, 2 000 commemorative plaques recall the slave trade shipping that started from Nantes as well as the major trading posts in Africa and in America. A contemplative trail, punctuated with quotes in every language, of all time and all places, becomes part of the Loire waterfront, at the very spot where the slave ships used to berth. Both underground so as to evoke the holds of these dying places and also aerial to open the debate, this piece is unique in France. What a strange feeling to wander under this waterfront at the same level of the Loire River in a luminous atmosphere and a particular soundscape.

16.00

End of the visit to “Machines de l’île de Nantes”