
Nantes, Rennes,
Saint-Malo, all the way
to Mont-Saint-Michel

A MODERN JOURNEY THROUGH AN OLD LAND



Brittany





The Channel

SAINT-MALO **LE MONT-SAINT-MICHEL**

SAINT-MÉLOIR-DES-ONDES
ROZ-SUR-COUESNON

PLOUËR-SUR-RANCE
DINAN

BÉCHEREL
HÉDÉ-BAZOUGES

RENNES

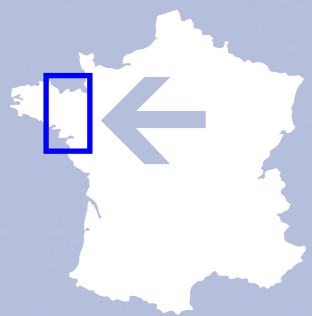
Brittany

RIEUX / FÉGRÉAC

ST-JOACHIM
ST-MALO-DE-GUERSAC
ST-NAZAIRE

PAIMBŒUF
ST-BREVIN-LES-PINS

LE PELLERIN
COUËRON
NANTES



Atlantic Ocean

0 10 50 km

Normandy

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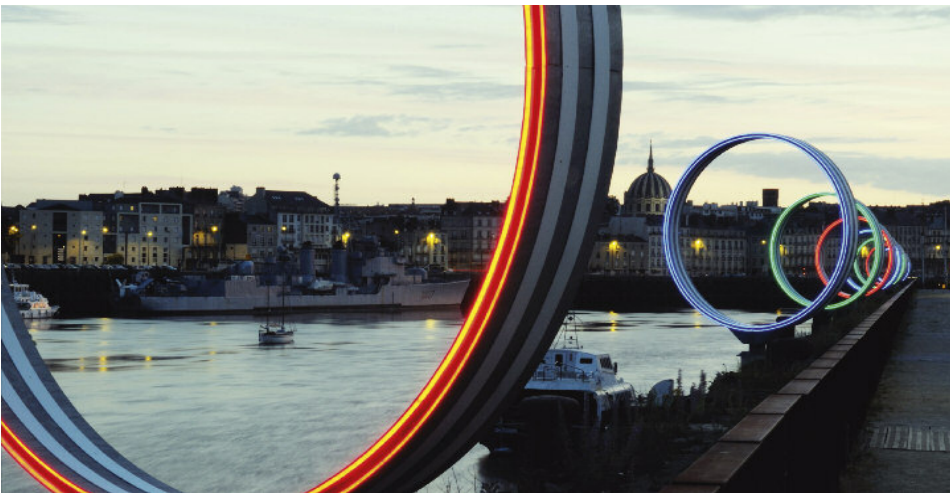
Today, Nantes, Rennes and Saint-Malo welcome international visitors to the West of France by inviting them to explore this region through an itinerary to Mont Saint-Michel by way of little-known treasures, secret beaches, artworks nestled in lush landscapes, and excellent places to eat and rest...

In addition to highlighting our rich architectural heritage, we hope to offer a poetic, or even sensual approach to these major heritage sites, some of which have been forgotten or have yet to be truly revealed. Artists, designers, and architects will be invited to offer their vision of certain stops.

When travelling, there is what one aims to discover (or rediscover), and there is the path leading there. Perhaps this path is, ultimately, the most thrilling part of all.

This modern journey through an old land hopes to introduce – or allow visitors to rediscover – a local culture, where they let themselves drift to their chosen destination, taking the time to let emotion and enjoyment be their guide.

**LENGTH OF JOURNEY:
8 DAYS, 7 NIGHTS
FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER**



LES ANNEAUX DANIEL BUREN – ARTISTIC TRAIL ESTUAIRE © BERNARD RENOUX/LVAN

GRASLIN THEATRE © FRANCK TOMPS/LVAN



DAYS 1 & 2

NANTES

Today, Brittany's historical capital is one of France's most dynamic and creative cities.

Given its walkable size, it can easily be visited on foot in two days: **Castle of the dukes of Brittany**, and its history museum, the **Cathedral** (taller than Notre-Dame-de-Paris!), **the Machines de l'île** workshop and its **famous 12-metre high "Grand Elephant"**, the countless monumental public artworks (including Daniel Buren's **Les Anneaux**), the **Graslin quarter** neighbourhood, with its classic architecture, along with the city's **medieval neighbourhood**, not to mention its 100 parks and gardens, its open-air markets, bursting with fresh produce, and its excellent restaurants... Nantes is an inspiring and calming way to begin your journey throughout an audacious and creative region of France!



MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANT,
LA MARE AUX OISEAUX © OLIVIER MARIE

BRIÈRE NATURAL RESERVE © OLIVIER MARIE



DAY 3

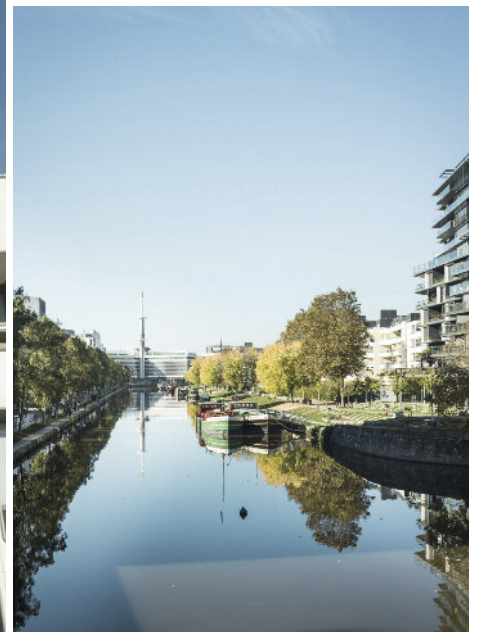
FROM NANTES TO RENNES (210 km / 130 mi.)

Once you've left Nantes, our itinerary takes you along the **estuary of the Loire River**, where you will discover major artworks unlike anywhere else in France: a *House in the Loire*, a "Soggy Boat", a *Starry Garden*, an *Ocean Snake*, and even a *Suite of Triangles*, which is superimposed onto the city of Saint-Nazaire.

After lunch at Michelin-starred chef Éric Guérin's **La Mare aux Oiseaux**, located right in the heart of a natural reserve, you can take in the surrounding biodiversity and enjoy the infinite landscapes of the **Brière marshland**.

This itinerary extends into the afternoon with two viewpoints along the banks of the Vilaine River designed by Russian artist Nicolay Pollisky, one of which is the famed **mur fantastique** ("fantastic wall") built on the ruins of Château de Rieux.

The day ends in Rennes, the capital of Brittany.



THE VILAINE RIVER IN RENNES © FRANCK TOMPS/LVAN

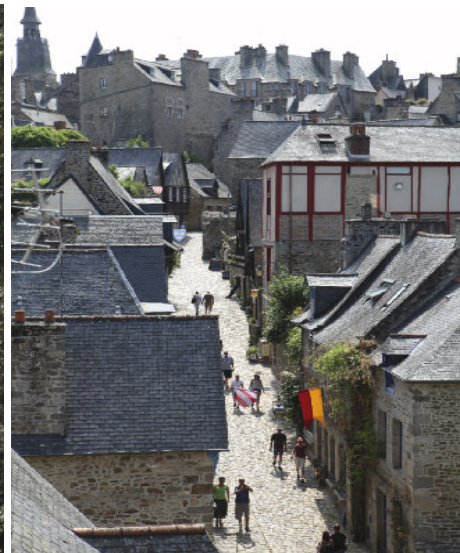


DAY 4

RENNES

With its rich architectural heritage, it's easy to visit Rennes, the capital of Brittany.

Don't miss: the heart of the city, with its medieval architecture (Rennes has the largest number of **timber-framed houses** in Brittany), the **Parliament of Brittany**, the Parc du Thabor, and **La Criée**, a lovely covered market open every morning. After stopping by one of the many *crêperies* for an afternoon snack, discover contemporary structures by important architects, like Jean Nouvel, De Portzamparc (among others), and new contemporary art spaces, like **the FRAC ("Regional Fund for Contemporary Art")**. A path running along the **Vilaine River** allows guests to enjoy the surrounding nature while never leaving the city, and ends at the impressively designed **Le Mabilay** building!



BÉCHEREL © DROITS RÉSERVÉS



DAY 5

FROM RENNES TO SAINT-MALO

(100 km / 62 mi.)

Leave Rennes and head towards **Héde-Bazouges**, where you'll find a spectacular series of 11 canal locks in the heart of a natural reserve, with a magnificent view. A little further down the road, **Bécherel** and its old houses, once belonging to merchants and nobles, is the ideal spot to walk among the artisanal boutiques and tiny antique shops.

A few kilometres from Bécherel lies the medieval city of **Dinan**, where you'll find a wide variety of restaurants. You can discover the city on foot, while walking along its impressive ramparts, picturesque side-streets, and countless boutiques and art galleries.

In the afternoon, continue your stroll along the Rance River and the **Art au fil de la Rance** ("Art along the Rance") itinerary mixing stunning views, heritage sites, and art installations.

End your day by the sea, in Saint-Malo: the "city of corsairs".



SAINT-MALO © ALEXANDRE LAMOUREUX



DAY 6

SAINT-MALO

Saint-Malo and the coast, where you can stroll outside, among the elements and get away from it all.

Filled with tales, adventures and famous characters like Robert Surcouf, Jacques Cartier or Chateaubriand, the “city of corsairs” has preserved much of its prestigious past. From the ramparts, 1,754 metres (over 1 mile) long, you can admire the horizon, as well as the many **walled islands and islets** surrounding the city.

After savouring the day’s catch and other fresh seafood, take a shuttle boat (10-minute trip) to Dinard, where a coastal path reveals a series of magnificent villas typical of Belle Époque architecture. Return to Saint-Malo in late afternoon.



MONT SAINT-MICHEL BAY © DROITS RÉSERVÉS



DAY 7

FROM SAINT-MALO TO MONT-SAINT-MICHEL

(75 km / 46 mi.)

Make your way along the coast, from Saint-Malo to Mont-Saint-Michel, and enjoy the natural and pristine landscapes. Stop at **La Malouinière de la Ville Bague**, a former privateer's home bursting with treasures, including the sublime wallpaper in the sitting room, which is listed as a historical site.

A few kilometres away, enjoy lunch at the **Château Richeux**, the magnificent estate belonging to Michelin-starred chef Olivier Roellinger. Take advantage of the superb park, vegetable patch, and gardens, as well as the stunning view of Mont-Saint-Michel on the horizon.

In the afternoon, you will reach **the polders** – patches of farmland reclaimed from the sea – at the foot of Mont-Saint-Michel. By approaching the UNESCO World Heritage Site from here, you discover the monument in all its splendour and majesty. This unforgettable experience can be prolonged by walking to Mont-Saint-Michel (roughly 45 minutes), where you can savour this privileged moment in absolute calm.



DAY 7

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL

You should finally arrive at Mont-Saint-Michel in the late afternoon, where you can visit the abbey – a monument that has defied time and the elements for centuries, offering a range of architectural forms to behold.

This special tour occurs at the end of the day, when everything is once again calm (in July and August from 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM), allowing visitors to admire how the monument is lit.

Enjoy dinner whenever is most convenient (the specialty on Mont-Saint-Michel is an omelette made from an age-old recipe). And, don't forget to walk along the alleys and ramparts of Mont-Saint-Michel overlooking the bay. Depending on the tide, you'll be reminded that the site returns to its natural state of an island surrounded by water, twice a day.

Must-do: stay overnight in Mont-Saint-Michel. This timeless experience will be one of the highlights of the trip.

Make the return trip home the next morning, with a transfer to Rennes or Saint-Malo.



GETTING THERE

BY PLANE

GETTING THERE: NANTES ATLANTIQUE AIRPORT

regular flights via major European airports (Paris - Charles de Gaulle, Amsterdam Schiphol, London Heathrow, Munich Flughafen, Madrid).

GOING HOME: VIA THE AIRPORT IN RENNES, OR A TGV TRAIN TO ROISSY – CHARLES-DE-GAULLE

BY TRAIN FROM PARIS

Nantes

2 hours from Paris

3 hours 15 min from Roissy – Charles-de-Gaulle

Rennes

90 minutes from Paris

2 hours 30 min from Roissy – Charles-de-Gaulle



SAINT-MALO © FRANCK TOMPS/LVAN

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL © FRANCK TOMPS/LVAN

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



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Saint-Malo, all the way
to Mont-Saint-Michel

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DESTINATION
RENNES
OFFICE DE TOURISME

OFFICE de TOURISME
Saint-Malo
cité romaine