

The hull of a traditional gabare boat with its mast and folded sail, as if moored at the quay, recreates the atmosphere of the old port. We can picture the goods arriving on the traditional flat-bottomed, square-rig boats. Discover the daily life of the merchants and the people living along the river and the importance of the economic life the Loire generated.

An exhibition dedicated to Maurice Genevoix tells the life of this local born writer, a keen observer of nature and patron of the museum. A cultural trail through the town maps the places that were important in the writer's life.



THE MARINE DE LOIRE MUSEUM

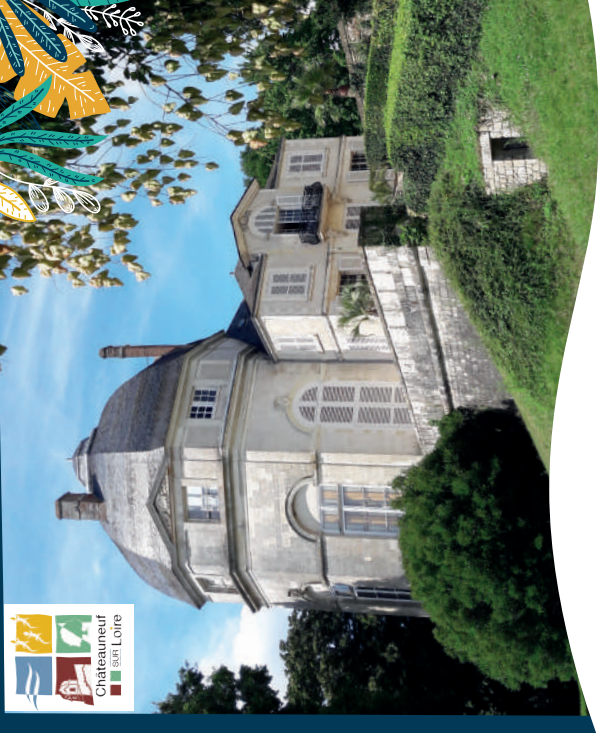


From Antiquity to the 19th century, the Loire was the main waterway in France for the transport of people and goods. It brought great prosperity to the towns and cities it crossed. The port and the stone quays date back to the 18th century, a time when the Loire was a thriving shipping route.

Today, a new generation of passionate riverboat men and women perpetuate the tradition, of the town's river transport history, building and sailing traditional boats such as *filoteaux*, *toues cabanées* or *plates de Loire*.

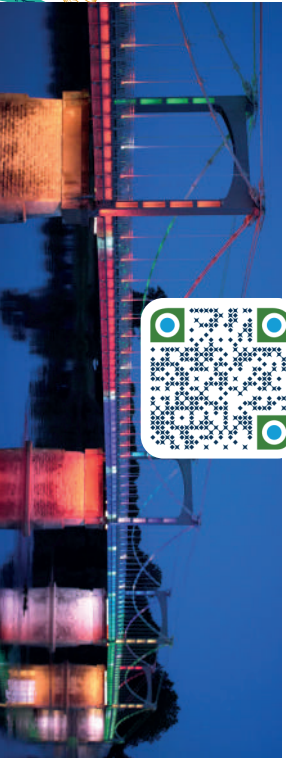
THE PORT AND THE QUAYS

A HISTORIC RIVER SHIPPING TOWN



CHÂTEAUNEUF -SUR-LOIRE

Nature and Heritage 

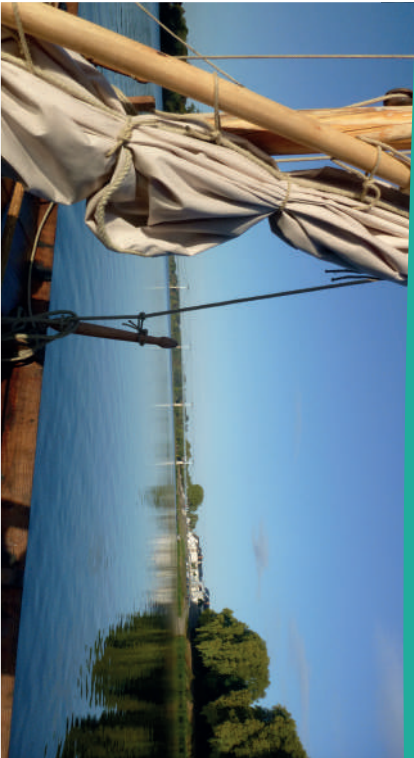


The elegant suspension bridge takes centre stage each summer with the "Port & Lumières" sound and light show. On the quays, as night falls, light beams synchronised to music create infinite patterns and sequences. It's the only show of its kind in France.

During the rest of the year, the bridge is lit up to echo the season or a particular event.

The Place du Port offers a panoramic view of the Loire, its birds, its banks and sand banks, a landscape that changes day by day.

THE LUMINOUS LOIRE



BETWEEN THE LOIRE, THE GANAL AND THE FOREST OF ORLÉANS

A LIVELY TOWN CENTRE!

From the banks of the Loire it's easy to reach the town centre and its historic sites. Information boards explain the history of each site. When hunger calls, the town's cafés, brasseries, restaurants and pizzerias offer a friendly welcome. A variety of shops and the Tourist Office gift shop offer a range of souvenirs, gifts and other items.



THE MARKET AND LOCAL PRODUCE

Every Friday morning, the market is held under the Nouvelle Halle (covered market place). It is one of the best in the region. At this food market the emphasis is on local and organic produce.



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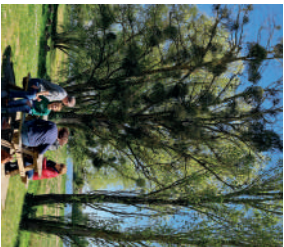
Those into their sport can try out the fitness trail or play a match at City Parc, a multisport court with a view over the Loire.

The Parc is also a great place for children. There's a treasure hunt through the park, a history trail exploring the château and a discovery trail.

Beyond the botanic gardens is a nature reserve with its wetland ecosystem. It is home to frogs, ducks, herons and insects. Bald cypress trees and reed beds grow by the edge of the water and goats graze in the meadow.

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THE PARC - CHÂTEAU GARDENS



Enjoy the many different activities the banks of the Loire have to offer, including walking trails, bike trails – the Loire à Vélo being just nearby – fly and spin fishing, canoeing and trips on traditional Loire boats for an unforgettable experience!



GET CLOSER TO NATURE



LA LOIRE À VÉLO

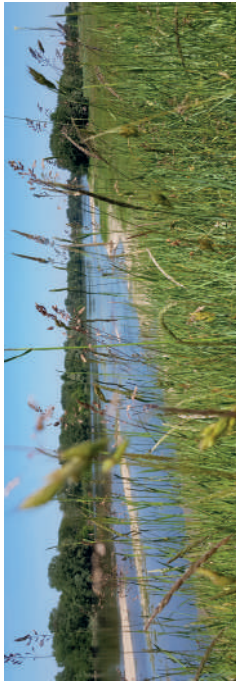
A 900 km marked cycle route, 280 km of which are part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This route is safe and accessible to all.

Looking for a slow-paced and original way to visit the area? The Loire à Vélo cycle route is for you. Between the Sologne and the Forest of Orléans, experience a relaxed way of life and enjoy the diverse heritage dotted along the way. Explore the picturesque scenery as you travel along the river at your own pace.

Get closer to nature and visit the area via this unique cycle route.

The Loire à Vélo is part of the **EuroVélo 6** which connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Black Sea and the **Scandinavian** cycle route which links Norway to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, with various rivers along the way.

www.loireavelo.fr - www.scandinavierique.fr - www.loiretbalades.fr



KEY

- Marine de Loire Museum
- Games for children
- Restaurants - Brasseries
- Hotels
- Swimming pool
- "Herbe Verte" fitness trail
- City parc
- Rémi line bus stops
- Supermarket
- Bike lockers
- Motorhome parking
- Itineraries for motorhomes, caravans, and buses
- Balade des marinières (Sailor's trail) – 5 km
- Balade des fleurs & jardins (Flowers and gardens trail) – 5 km
- La Loire à vélo – Germigny 5 km – Jargeau 9 km
- Forest of Orléans by bike – à 15 km
- 1 > 14 Maurice Genevoix Cultural trail



Places of interest

1 Tourist Office

This former *maison vigneronne* (winegrower's house) was once an inn and today houses the Tourist Office.

2 The Château

Of this impressive château, from which the town takes its name, only the Rotunda, the gallery and the gardens remain. A royal residence of the Capetians and the Dukes of Orléans, in the 17th and 18th century it became known as a "little Versailles". Today it houses the Town Hall. The entrance hall is worth a visit for its coats of arms, painted decoration and wrought iron staircase.

3 The Marine de Loire Museum

Housed in the former stables of the château which were built in the late 17th century and modelled on those of Versailles, it traces the history of life on the Loire River.

4 The Orangerie

Built at the end of the 18th century by the Duke de Penthièvre, it is one of the biggest in France, and is still in use today.

5 Notre-Dame de l'Épinoix chapel

Legend has it this chapel was built to house a statue of the Virgin Mary that was found in a thorn bush. For a long time it was the protector of winemakers, an important community in the area until the middle of the 19th century.

6 The Allée de Lamballe

It is said that this alley of lime trees was planted overnight by order of the Duke de Penthièvre, for his daughter-in-law, the Princess de Lamballe.

7 The rhododendrons

Planted by the botanist Huillard d'Hérou in the botanic gardens (created between 1821 and 1832), they are the park's main attraction and even have their own festival which is held at Pentecost.

8 The temple de l'Amour

Built in the 18th century, this romantic building was moved and restored at the end of the 20th century. It is located between the botanic gardens and the nature reserve.

9 The sailor's gate

Sailors came through this gate when they arrived back to the town, usually on foot after months of navigation.

10 Herbe Verte walking spot

With sports facilities, a picnic area and a magnificent view over the Loire, this is a much-loved walking spot.

11 The former French gardens

A representation of the old French gardens of the château, which is now farm land.

12 Flood markers

These markers indicate the maximum level the Loire reached during the great floods of the 19th century.

13 The colonne des marinières

Built in 1847, this column pays tribute to the lifeboat crews who rescued inhabitants during one of the worst floods on the Loire, in October 1846.

14 Distance chart

This old distance chart gives the distances between the different towns on the Loire.

15 The port and the quays

In the 18th century, the Duke de Penthièvre financed the development of the quays as a way to bring more trade to the town.

16 Water level limit

Before the second bridge was built, a boat was used to cross the Loire. When the river level was higher than two meters, the price of the crossing was twice as expensive because it was longer and more dangerous.

17 Maurice Genevoix fountain

On the Promenade du Chastaing, this fountain honours Maurice Genevoix, a locally born writer who had a great love for the Loire.

18 Hameau de la Ronce

Grand mansion houses stand alongside humble sailor's cottages. The birthplace of the town, this romantic site offers a stunning view of the Loire.

19 Former boat station

When the river froze and caused ice jams, boats took refuge in the "gare de la Bonnée", a boat station named after the small stream it was situated in.

20 Former Genevoix grocer's shop

This was the site of the wholesale grocers shop run by the parents of Maurice Genevoix.

21 The Nouvelle Halle

Built in 1903 to offer the inhabitants of Châteauneuf a covered market, it has an impressive metal roof and a Baltard-style glasshouse.

22 Saint-Martial church

The porch is open between the bell tower and the church due to damage caused by bombing in 1940. Inside, the marble mausoleum of the Marquis de La Vrillière is a remarkable example of 17th century Italian funeral art.

23 Halle Saint-Pierre

Initially built on the canal at Châtillon-sur-Loire, it protected boats and their goods during transshipment. In the 19th century it was moved to Châteauneuf and became a grain exchange.

24 The Manoir des Tourelles

This manor house was built at the beginning of the 20th century by Ferdinand Arnodin, inventor of the transshipment bridges and an expert in suspension bridges.