

🕒 IN 1H 🧑👧 FROM AGES 4 TO 99 📍 10 ROOMS



CHÂTEAU
DES DUCS DE
BRETAGNE
MUSÉE
D'HISTOIRE
DE NANTES

FUN FOR
YOUNG AND OLD
VISITING THE
MUSEUM
AS A FAMILY

Welcome to this nearly 600-year-old **castle** and former home to the Dukes of Brittany!

Today, it's a museum featuring over **1,000 objects** that tell the history of Nantes. In the museum's **32 rooms**, you'll find a selection of **10 objects** on the city's history*.

Each card is composed as follows:



a **photo of the object** to be found



info and an **assignment** for kids



additional info for grown-ups

At the end of the document, there's a **map of the museum** to help you find your way around.

! CAREFUL!

*Museum objects are fragile and **mustn't be touched**. Backpacks and oversized bags must be left at the cloakroom. There are bathrooms nearby.*

** Certain pieces may not be present depending on the Château's agenda. We thank you in advance for understanding.*

Phase 1: START IN ROOM 1 >



The museum's first room is on the lower floor of the castle.



Can you find this object, left behind by a knight...?

This **sword** was made over 700 years ago.



In the Middle Ages, knights faced each other with this kind of weapon. In order to be useful, this sword had to be both solid (made of iron) and light (1 kg to 1.5 kg = 1 bottle of milk), because it was held in one hand.

Over in the next room (room 2), you can watch a film about Duke François of Brittany and his daughter Anne.



Continue on to **ROOM 5** >



In this room, you'll find a buccaneer's **trunk**!
These adventurers set off from the port of Nantes to conquer the islands of the New World. While they were there, one of them made this chest.



Just imagine the treasures hiding inside!
For example: Gold coins, maps, a telescope, clothing...



On these Caribbean islands, many men hunted wild animals, followed by drying or "smoking" the meat to preserve it. They were called "buccaneers". (The huts where they'd smoke the meat was called a *boucan*.) Others would become pirates or privateers, plundering enemy ships in order to survive.



Continue on to ROOM 10 >



In this room, you'll find a **map drawn on the floor**. Here, you can discover the Loire: a **river** that takes boats all the way out to the **Atlantic Ocean**.



Look up at the big painting. To help the sailors in their tiny canoe row, sing:

*« There once was a small ship,
There once was a small ship
Who'd ne'er sailed before
Who'd ne'er sailed before,
Ahoy, Ahoy! »*



The Loire is France's longest river (1012 km / 629 mi.). It flows out to the Atlantic Ocean upon reaching Saint-Nazaire, which was once a small fishing port – you can see when it was a village, to the right of the painting. The river is home to all boats, from the tiniest skiffs to huge three-masters.



Continue on to **ROOM 11** >



Marguerite, a **wealthy woman** from Nantes, waits to drink her hot chocolate.

Dressed in her most beautiful gown and sitting comfortably in her living room, she would like to sweeten her cocoa – but who stole her sugar cube?



Help Marguerite find the little thief. (Hint: he's got feathers...)



This grey parrot was very fashionable in the 18th century among the rich, who appreciated exotic animals and foods from distant climes. Owning one was a sign of wealth.



Continue on to ROOM 17 >



The computers in room 17 will take you on a **journey to the city of the past.**



Discover “*L’isle Feydeau*” and “*La Fosse*”: neighborhoods that have changed over the centuries.



In 1757, the town was transformed, expanded, and modernized through the development of its large trading port.
The people of Nantes built rich homes here.



Continue on to **ROOM 19** >



In this room, look up to see these odd wooden statues. They're called **figureheads** and they would decorate the bows of ships.



Why not copy them by imitating their pose?



Nantes' shipowners sent some of their boats to Asia so they could bring back highly sought-after products, like tea, silk, porcelain, spices, and more...

These figureheads recalled these destinations.



Continue on to ROOM 21 >



To keep themselves from getting bored, sailors would make all sorts of tiny crafts aboard their ships.



In this room, you'll find a ship in a bottle.



Sailors had a lot of free time between tasks. To keep busy, they'd make everyday objects using wood or bone – items like dice, pipes, boxes, cups...

The most gifted of them could fit boats into bottles. They were called *navibotellistes*.



Continue on to ROOM 22 >

LA CHAMBRE DES DRAGONS

Welcome to this play area for families and kids aged 4 and up.

Here you'll find visual, tactile, and audio stations, as well as a reading area where you can learn everything you've wanted to know about dragons!



Continue on to ROOM 23 >



This room features a scale model of the **LU factory**. Once upon a time, biscuits like Le Petit-Beurre and Paille d'or were baked here, in very large ovens, and a delicious scent would waft out of the chimneys...



How many smokestacks can you count?

Answer: 5 smokestacks



LU is named after Lefèvre and Utile, the couple who originally founded the company in 1846. In 1885, their son Louis built this factory on the banks of the Loire, across from the Château. Look out the window: one of the two LU towers still stands today!



Continue on to **ROOM 24** >



Watch out for the **penny-farthing!**
What a crazy bike!



Look for differences with today's bicycles...

For example: two different-sized wheels, no brakes, no chain...



In the late 19th century, the penny-farthing was so dangerous that mainly athletes would use it. With no chain and the pedals attached to the front wheel, you had to keep pedalling to keep moving... and not fall!

If you're curious, you can look for another bike in room 25. Two people sitting behind each other are pedalling together in **tandem!**



Continue on to ROOM 32 >



What are all these strange characters doing in room 32? Each, in their own amusing way, tells us a little about Nantes' history.



They include Anne of Brittany, Jules Verne and a little boy building a sand castle (the Château de Nantes!).



Artist Pierrick Sorin dresses up in disguises, playing virtually all the roles in his videos.



THANKS FOR VISITING!

We hope you had a lot of fun.

Before you go, make sure to take a tour of the castle ramparts and discover one-of-a-kind views of Nantes (FREE).

SEE YOU SOON FOR NEW ADVENTURES!



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