

# STUNNING® saint-nazaire

## Unmissable sights of Saint-Nazaire



### 1 The Submarine Base

**Escal'Atlantic - LiFE / VIP**  
Built in just 16 months by the German army during World War Two, this submarine base is now home to the Escal'Atlantic visitor centre (showcasing legendary cruise liners), LiFE (a space for creativity and exhibitions), VIP (music venue) and the Tourist Office. On its roof, there's a lookout platform with 360° views!



### 2 The Atlantique Shipyards

The Shipyards are open only on guided visits, but you can walk around them to see cruise liners being built. Nearby is the Joubert Lock, site of the strategic raid 'Operation Chariot' led by the British Army in 1942.



### 3 The Fortified Lock

**Sous-marin Espadon** **musée de France**  
**EOL Centre éolien**  
The fortified lock is another remnant of the German Occupation during World War Two, and now houses two outstanding visitor centres: the Espadon Submarine and the EOL Wind Turbine Centre. On the roof, there's a lookout with 360° panoramic views and a canon from the Royal Navy destroyer, HMS Campbeltown (Operation Chariot, 1942).



### 4 The Ecomuseum musée de France

The collections, replicas, objects, films and archive photos in the Ecomuseum will take you on an extraordinary journey through the town's history.



### 5 Following in the footsteps of Tintin

Throughout the town, you'll see 6 giant cartoon reproductions and a panoramic map telling the story of Tintin's visit to Saint-Nazaire in the story, *The Seven Crystal Balls*.



### 6 Place du Commando

This town square has become the new social hotspot for Saint-Nazaire. Perfectly placed facing the sea, it's bursting with bars, restaurants, sun-loungers where you can plug in, and even water misters to keep you cool. It's a must-see! In this square, you can also see a memorial for RMS Lancastria, which sank in 1940.



### 7 The Grand Café

This café from the late 1800s is now a nationally-recognised centre for contemporary art.



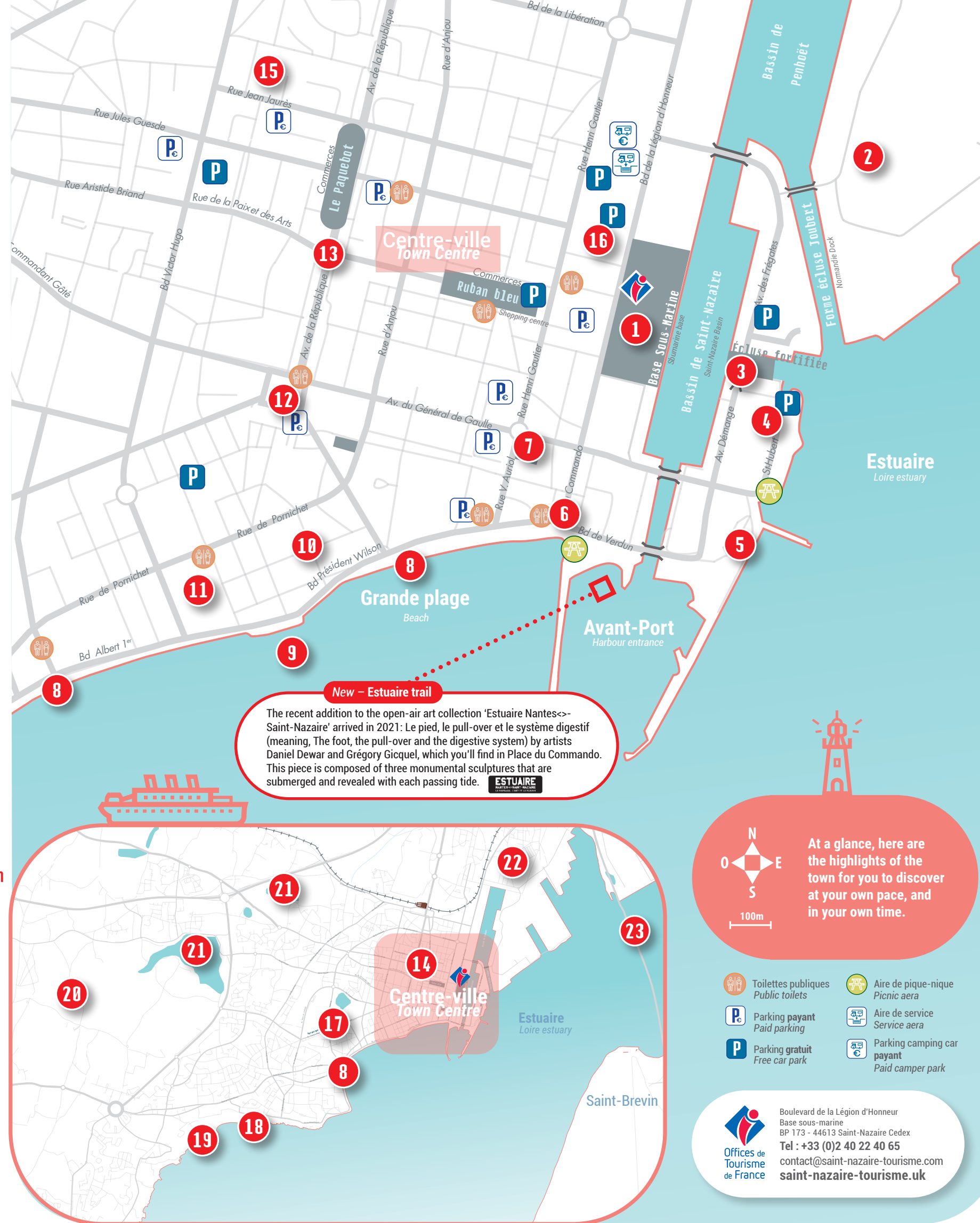
### 8 The Seafront and fishing huts

This seafront has enjoyed a makeover and is a perfect spot for walks, bike rides or roller-blading, taking you from Place du Commando to the fabulous Villès-Martin beach. The rows of fishing huts along the Sautron promenade create a wonderful backdrop.



### 9 Sammy : an American Monument

Unveiled in 1926, and nicknamed 'Sammy', the American Monument commemorates the American troops based in Saint-Nazaire from 1917. Destroyed in 1941 during the German Occupation, the monument was replaced with an exact replica in 1989.



### 10 La Havane district

In this neighbourhood, you catch a glimpse of the town in the 1900s thanks to the beautiful and colourful "Belle Epoque" villas between the seafront and the Jardin des Plantes.



### 11 The Jardin des Plantes

This botanical garden is a peaceful haven adjoining both the seafront and the heart of the town. Dating from 1887, it's a great place to visit whatever the season.



### 12 The Reconstruction

Walking through the town centre takes you back to the 1950s, as so much of the architecture dates from post-war reconstruction. The town hall, which opened in 1960, is a fine example.



### 13 The town centre

Take a stroll through the heart of town, browse the shops and enjoy the surroundings. For our younger visitors, there are playgrounds for children aged 7-12 or 3-6, complete with giant eels and seadragons!



### 14 Art around the Town

Throughout the town, you'll see a multitude of giant paintings, sculptures, monuments and exhibitions. Leaflets are available from the Tourist Office or [saint-nazaire-tourisme.com](http://saint-nazaire-tourisme.com).



### 15 The Market Halls

The town's market halls are typical examples of how Saint-Nazaire was rebuilt in the 1950s. The market stalls are open on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.



### 16 The Old Railway Station

Opened to the public in 1867, this old railway station was a stone's throw from the transatlantic port. Today, it offers a different sort of journey as it now houses the theatre.



### 17 The Landscape Park and Skatepark

The Landscape Park - or parc paysager - is an oasis of greenery close to the city centre. An ideal spot for lounging or for sports, this park stretches to the sea, where you'll also find a well-known skatepark. In summer, this is where you'll find the seasonal nautical base.



### 18 Beaches and Creeks

There are 20 different creeks and beaches in Saint-Nazaire, from the Grande plage near the town centre to Plage des Jaunais, but the most famous is in Saint-Marc-sur-Mer, known as Plage de M. Hulot.



### 19 The GR®34 coastal path

Beyond Villès-Martin beach, the seafront gives way to a beautiful coastal path known as the Customs Officers' Trail - *chemin des douaniers* - as it was once patrolled by customs officers. This GR®34 path lines the entire coast of Brittany, and offers some truly breath-taking views.



### 20 Dissignac Tumulus

This rare megalithic site has been recognised as a Historic Monument, and was built over 6,000 years ago. You can explore the site on a guided visit in July and August, or one of France's national heritage days (ask for dates).



### 21 Ponds and Lakes

In the 1800s, Guindreff and La Belle Hautière were created in order to supply the town with drinking water. Later, in 1918, Le Bois Joalland was officially created by the American army. Today, these ponds and lakes are picturesque spots surrounded by trees, ideal for exploring on foot or by bike.



### 22 Méan-Penhoët: a unique neighbourhood

Head to Rue de Trignac and you'll see the two sides of this neighbourhood: historic Méan and the workers' Penhoët, near the shipyards. Learn more about this part of town through the furniture, outdoor murals or a guided walk that you can download.



### 23 Saint-Nazaire Bridge

With a total length of 3.356km, this impressive bridge was completed in 1975 and connects the two banks of the River Loire. At the foot, Brivet Semaphore provides a good spot to admire and photograph the bridge.





# La Brière : an outstanding natural landscape

The land, the water, the endless horizon, the rustling of reeds, a heron in flight... The Brière Regional Natural Park is the second biggest wetland in France, and there is nothing quite like it. Only a few kilometres from Saint-Nazaire, this park seems to be a world away. Here are some of our suggestions for exploring the Brière.

## 1 Brière's ports

You'll find several of these ports near Saint-Nazaire: the Chaussée Neuve and Tréhé in Saint-André-des-Eaux, Île de Fédrun in Saint-Joachim, Port de Rozé in Saint-Malo-de-Guersac and Port des Fossés Blancs in La Chapelle-des-Marais; each one offers a different gateway into the wetlands.

## 2 Le GR® path around the Brière

The Brière wetlands can be explored on foot, following the red and yellow GR signposts of the GR path. It stretches for nearly 70km, allowing visitors to savour the incomparable peace and quiet of France's second-largest wetland.

## 3 The Bride's House in Saint-Joachim



musée de France

Don't miss this little museum, which shows a glimpse into a once-flourishing industry of the Brière: creating wax orange blossoms. In the early 1900s, these were a vital part of any bridal outfit. You can also see a unique collection of bridal globes, encapsulating souvenirs. (From April to August, advance booking only)

## 4 The « Chaumière » thatched house in Saint-Joachim

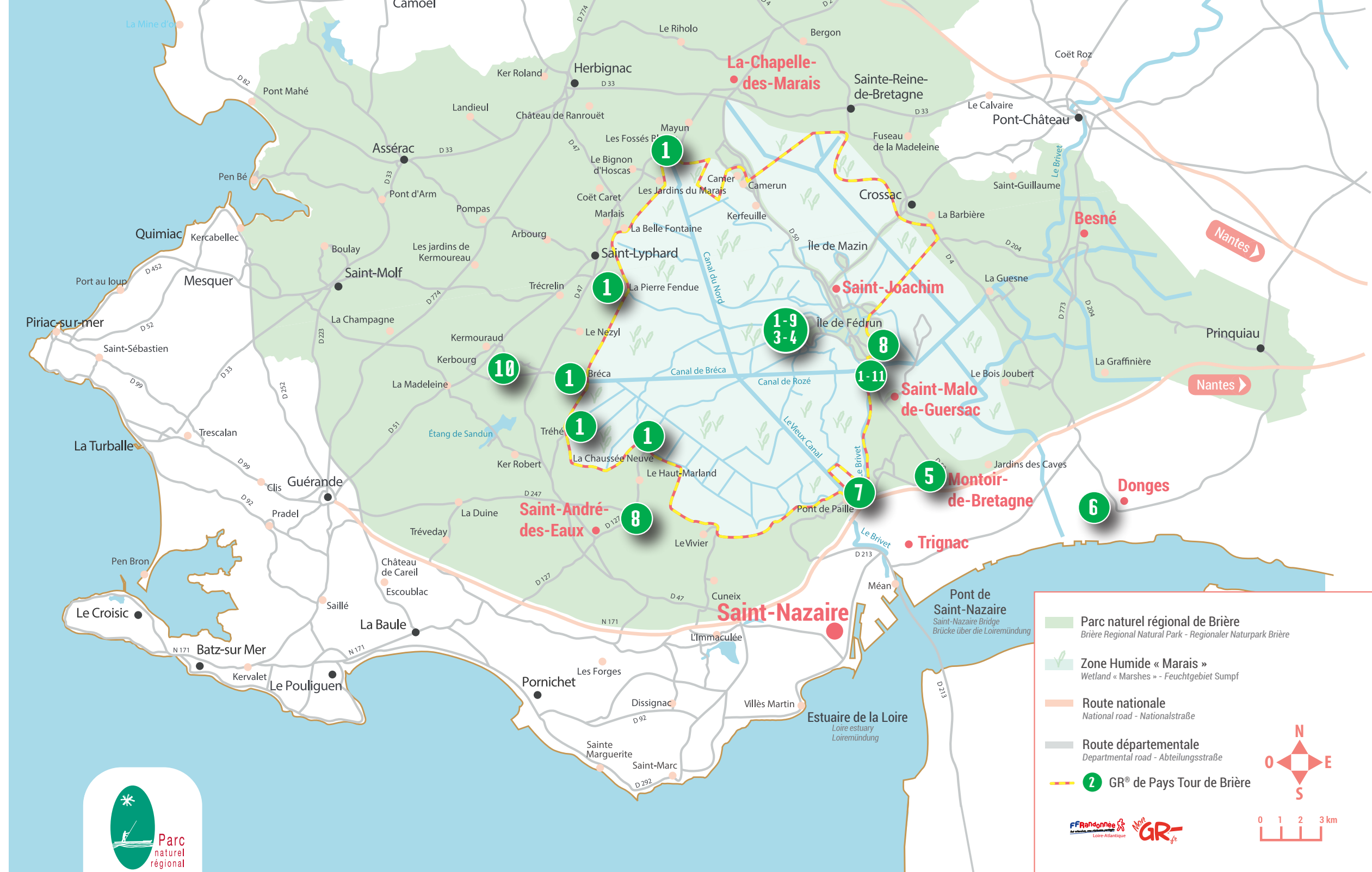
Step into this thatched cottage and you'll step back in time, into a traditional Brière interior. All of the furniture and accessories tell the tale of what everyday life used to be like in the Brière wetlands (from April to August, depending on the schedule).

## 5 Musée de la Marine naval museum in Montoir-de-Bretagne

This museum tells the surprising story of maritime work in a small town of the wetlands. Its townspeople became boat-builders long before any shipyards appeared in Saint-Nazaire. (Open in summer, depending on the schedule.)

## 6 Hêlardièr Manor in Donges

Completely restored, this 14th-century manor and its sheltered grounds are now home to various exhibitions. Visitors must book in advance.



## 7 Brivet Watersports Centre in Trignac

If you love the idea of a canoe or kayak trip along the Brivet, head to the watersports centre at Pont de Paille, and make the most of the natural surroundings, with family or friends.



## 8 Morta: ancient bogwood

Several thousands of years ago, an ancient forest stood in what is now the Brière wetlands. Although the trees have long since disappeared, their trunks can still be found in the marshes, partly fossilised. This ancient bogwood is known as 'morta'. A unique and valuable material, it is sought after by modern craftspeople.



## 9 Traditional thatched roofs

Known as 'chaumière', this secular tradition of using reeds to create a roof is a typical feature of the Brière dwellings, particularly on the island Île de Fédrun in Saint-Joachim.



## 10 Kerhinet Village in Saint-Lyphard

Kerhinet is a traditional thatched village, particularly known for its local market every Thursday in summer. (Open all year round)



## 11 Rozé port in Saint-Malo-de-Guersac

At the very heart of Brière Natural Regional Park, Rozé Port nestles like a suspended breath, a bubble of well-being for nature-lovers, for anyone in search of gentle sensations and eco-tourism!

New

**The belvedere:** it offers a 24-metre-high vantage point, from which you can enjoy an outstanding panoramic view over the Brière wetlands.

• **Departure point for boat rides.** Traditional flat-bottomed boats are ideal for exploring the marshes.

• **The Pierre Constant Regional Nature Reserve:** a terrace with panoramic views and various observation points bring you right up close to nature and allow you to birdwatch discreetly.

• **Good to know:** you can take the cycle path between Saint-Nazaire and La Chapelle-des-Marais (via Saint-Joachim and Rozé).

Informations : [saint-nazaire-tourisme.uk](http://saint-nazaire-tourisme.uk) | [parc-naturel-briere.com](http://parc-naturel-briere.com) | [maisondelamariee.com](http://maisondelamariee.com)

