

PAYS DE LA LOIRE REGION

Western France, Open to the World

Outward-looking
Caring
Entrepreneurial
Generous
Creative
Balanced
Maritime



Pays de la Loire

Pays de la Loire Region Facts and Figures

- Land area of 32,000 km²
- 3.3 millions inhabitants
- 5 departments: Loire-Atlantique, Maine-et-Loire, Mayenne, Sarthe, Vendée
- 4th region in France for industry
- 2nd region for agriculture and fishing
- Largest airport in Western France with 2 million passengers per year
- 21 TGVs per day to Paris

Prefectures ○
Sub-Prefectures ●



By Plane 
Nantes-Atlantique Airport
Tel.: 02 40 84 80 00
www.nantes.aeroport.fr

By Car 
Paris - Le Mans - Angers - Nantes: **A 11**
Le Mans - Laval: **A 81**
Tours - Saumur - Angers: **A 85**
Niort - Nantes: **A 83**
Angers - Cholet - Les Essarts: **A 87**
Le Mans - Alençon: **A 28**

By Train 
Numerous daily TGV (high speed train) links between Paris, Lille and Lyon and the principal cities in Pays de la Loire. One example: Paris - Nantes: 2 hours. More than 200 train stations and bus stops served by the Pays de la Loire TER rail and coach system connect to the TGVs.
SNCF Rail information and reservations
Tel.: 36 35 • www.voyages-sncf.com and www.ter-sncf.com



24 Hours of Le Mans, Vendée Globe, Folle Journée de Nantes, the naive painter Le Douanier Rousseau, Airbus, Queen Mary 2, as well as La Baule, Nantes, Angers, the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, the Cadre Noir de Saumur... everyone has heard of Pays de la Loire.

This industrial region with its host of SMEs and SMIs has built a flourishing tourist industry around its architectural monuments and its waterways, first and foremost the Loire, while promoting its 450 kilometres of coastline, which attracts several million tourists each summer.

This region combines a sense of initiative in business, community life, and local government with a spirit of solidarity, tolerance, and openness to others and to the world.

Jacques Auxiette
President of the Pays de la Loire Regional Council

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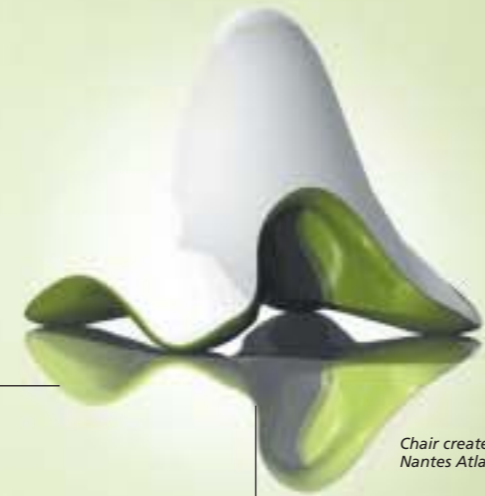
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Pays de la Loire Region Creative...



Chair created by the Nantes Atlantique Design School

With their culture of innovation and openness to the world, the manufacturers, researchers, artists and intellectuals put their talents to work to foster creativity in Western France. Our ability to innovate is demonstrated by the know-how of our businesses and our entrepreneurial spirit.



Wave basin at the Ecole Centrale in Nantes



Gilberto Gil on tour with the Pays de la Loire National Orchestra



The Regional Foundation for Contemporary Art in Carquefou



The 1st European Centre for Children's Clothing near Cholet



Vendée Globe: The round-the world race that starts and finishes in Les Sables-d'Olonne



The LU Tower: Industrial heritage and the Lieu Unique, a site of cultural creativity



In Maine-et-Loire, the internationally recognised "Specialised Plant" competitive cluster

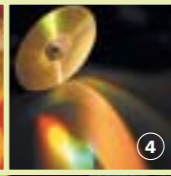
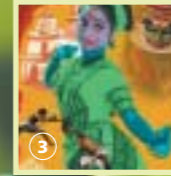
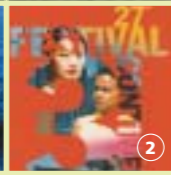
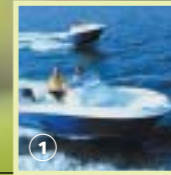


Vivalis, an innovator in the biotechnology therapies



Composite materials, the area of expertise of the EMC2 cluster specialised in Metal Assemblies and Complex Composites.

Alongside the competitive clusters in mechanics, composites, biotherapies, civil engineering, children's clothing industry and luxury goods, the creativity institutes and research centres help the region stay one step ahead. To award its ability for innovation and adaptation, the Specialised Plant Centre was recognised as a worldwide model by the French Government. The Pays de la Loire also ranks fourth in France for the number of industrial patents filed.



- 1 Bénéteau, world's leading sailboat builder
- 2 3 Continents Film Festival, Nantes
- 3 Festival of Music and Traditions of the Orient, Saint-Florent-le-Vieil
- 4 MPO, leading independent optical disk manufacturer in Europe
- 5 Scania, heavy truck assembly, Angers
- 6 Microjoule, leading the energy pack for 10 years
- 7 The elephant of Royal de Luxe, street theatre



- 1 Scopitone, electronic music, Nantes
- 2 The Night of the Chimeras, Le Mans
- 3 The 24 hours of Le Mans
- 4 Royal Abbey of Fontevraud
- 5 The Accroche-Cœurs, Angers



Pays de la Loire Region Creative...

The cradle of surrealism, the region is also the birthplace of Jules Verne, Julien Gracq, Jean Rouaud, the filmmaker Jacques Demy, the naive painter Le Douanier Rousseau and Gaston Chaissac. The theatre company Royal de Luxe, the Pays de la Loire National Orchestra, the Folle Journée of Nantes, François Morellet, Martin Lersch, Philippe Cognée, Claire Bretécher, and Pierrick Sorin are all representatives of a multi-faceted artistic creativity - performing arts, literature, music, comic books, video, etc. - oriented toward the future and toward the world. Artists in residence, the filming of movies, the Regional Foundation for Contemporary Art, are all occasions to share experiences that promote artistic creation and encounters with the public.



Various project shine internationally due to their imagination and daring. The Folle Journée is exported to Tokyo, Bilbao, and Lisbon. The Three Continents Film Festival focuses on cinema from Asia, Africa and Latin America. The 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Vendée Globe are major, world-renowned sporting events. Cruise ships build in Saint-Nazaire sail the seven seas and Airbus planes transport thousands of travellers throughout the world.

- 6 René Martin, creator of the Folle Journée
- 7 Film set of Cyrano de Bergerac, Le Mans
- 8 Gaston Chaissac, museum of the Sainte-Croix Abbey, Les Sables-d'Olonne
- 9 Modern Dance
- 10 The Gate by François Morellet, a figure of geometric abstraction, Regional Council Building, Nantes
- 11 Queen Mary 2, the largest cruise ship ever built at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique, Saint-Nazaire



Pays de la Loire Region Outward-Looking



Land of welcome and encounters among the peoples of the world, the Pays de la Loire region is open to all cultures, all partnerships, and all exchanges.
Firmly oriented towards the future, it promotes the influence of its cultural and economic projects far beyond its own borders.



Regional town hall meetings: Participatory democracy in full swing

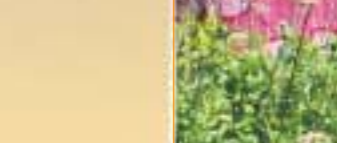
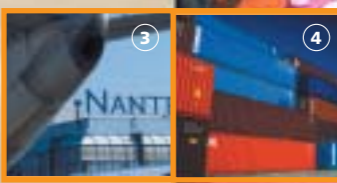
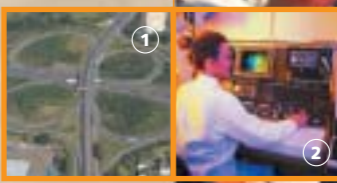
Express regional transportation, accessible to all

850,000 members of 10,000 sports clubs and teams

Young volunteers in Asnières-sur-Vègre

The fifth most populated region in France is increasingly attractive: at present, 23,000 newcomers arrive each year. The region provides for its 3.3 million inhabitants in balanced urban and rural areas, and develops solidarity among the people and the cities. Transportation, as well as information and communication technologies, is an essential link in ensuring harmony between quality of life and economic development. In addition to an excellent road system, the Nantes - Saint-Nazaire Port Authority, the Nantes Atlantique Airport, the TGV and regional rail lines facilitate personal travel and transport of goods.

- 1 • 526 km of motorways and 1600 km of national roads
- 2 • 5th region in the information and communication technologies industry, with 2,230 businesses and 22,000 jobs
- 3 • Nantes Atlantique: Largest airport in Western France
- 4 • Nantes - Saint-Nazaire Port: Leading European port on the Atlantic Coast
- 5 • 40 kilometres of tramway lines in Nantes
- 6 • 21 TGV trains per day to Paris



Pays de la Loire Region Outward-Looking

The dynamic energy of Western France also stems from its partnerships with the neighbouring regions of Brittany, Poitou-Charentes and Centre, in terms of economic development, land development, transportation, culture, research and higher education, as well as by the creation in Brussels of a common interregional space. European projects benefit from made-to-order assistance. The Region participates in transnational interregional networks, like the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM) and Atlantic Arc, in order to defend its specific interests.

The decentralised cooperation agreements in Europe (Schleswig-Holstein in Germany, Emilie-Romagne in Italy, Balaton in Hungary, Basque Country in Spain) and worldwide underscore the determination of the Regional Council to promote the international renown of the Pays de la Loire.



The regional community network is also an important actor for international solidarity. Created just after the tsunami, the coordination platform for aid in the reconstruction of Southern Asia brings together local governments, NGOs, humanitarian associations and private partners undertaking long-term actions.

The Loire-Niger cooperation agreement is an innovative "river to river" partnership project that aims to make these two rivers the engines for sustainable development in the regions they flow through. Asia, and in particular China, an extremely important emerging market, is obviously the scene of official visits, business initiatives, and sister-city programs, including La Roche-sur-Yon and Zibo, Nantes and Qingdao, and Angers and Yantai. In addition to economic partnerships, the Pays de la Loire Region also has university and cultural partnerships with the province of Shandong.

- Atlantic Arc 1
- Mobilisation for Southern Asia 2
- Alcid, the network of regional stakeholders in international cooperation and development 3
- The Brittany, Pays de la Loire and Poitou-Charentes European interregional space in Brussels 4
- Loire-Niger Cooperation Agreement 5
- The Folle Journée in Tokyo 6

Pays de la Loire Region

Determined...



Manitou in Ancenis, world leader in all-terrain forklifts

Agriculture, industry, service, our economy is open to the world, as is our region. Thanks to the creativity and initiative of all of the actors, businesses, local governments, and associations, it has overcome numerous radical changes. Certain economic successes are well-known to all, including sailboats, cruise ships, the luxury goods and fashion industry, electronics, wood, and lily of the valley from Nantes.



1st region for cattle breeding



Salt marshes in Guérande



The Automobile Institute in Le Mans, associated with the luxury automobile cluster of the regions of Brittany, Pays de la Loire and Poitou-Charentes.



2nd region for plastics engineering



1st region for organic farming



1st region for horticulture in France



The Loire Valley: 3rd wine-growing region France



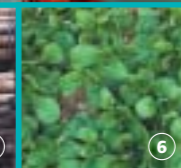
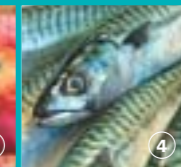
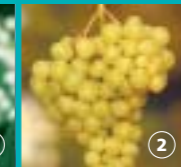
Young fishermen



Food processing industry: 1st industrial employer in the region

With its 160,000 jobs, or 10% of the jobs in the region, the Pays de la Loire is the second agricultural and food processing region in France. It ranks second as well for young farmers setting up, and first for its offering of quality certified products and organic farming. As a gateway to the ocean, the Pays de la Loire has naturally developed the fishing industry, and is the second French region in this field. As the fourth industrial region in France, its know-how is a benchmark in numerous fields. The region ranks first in shipbuilding, second in plastics engineering, and third in aviation and mechanics.

- 1 • Nantes lily of the valley
- 2 • Wines of Nantes, Anjou and Saumur
- 3 • 2nd region for the production of eating apples
- 4 • 2nd region for fishing
- 5 • 4000 regional business in the wood industry
- 6 • Nantes lambs lettuce: a product that is exported to Europe
- 7 • Airbus A380





- 1 • The Chantiers de l'Atlantique, world leader in the construction of cruise ships
- 2 • Nantes - Saint-Nazaire Port, Leading European port on the Atlantic Coast
- 3 • More than 100,000 students, 4 universities and 16 grandes ecoles.
- 4 • The European Institute for Musical Professions, Le Mans
- 5 • Vocational training at all levels, up to the title of engineer
- 6 • Airbus A380
- 7 • Cyclotron for cancer research



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Pays de la Loire Region Determined...

These successes are explained by the skills and expertise of the people. Because young people represent a great resource for development, the Region undertakes strong actions to support vocational training, apprenticeship, insertion and access to jobs. With its four universities, its sixteen engineering schools and grandes ecoles and more than 100,000 students, higher education is a life force in the region, in direct contact with research and business. Beyond its specialisation in food processing, regional research has developed around centres of excellence, led by the universities and grandes ecoles, and has earned international recognition. Examples include plants and horticulture in Angers, metal assemblies and complex composites (EMC2), acoustics and materials in Le Mans, nuclear physics, telecommunication, information technology, control engineering and materials in Nantes, naval engineering in Nantes Saint-Nazaire, and electronics in Laval.

Research is at the heart of the dynamic economy in the Pays de la Loire, specifically through the creation and development of innovative businesses and technology transfers. The region has centres of excellence in nuclear physics, naval engineering, control engineering, acoustics, healthcare and biotechnology.

Pays de la Loire Region

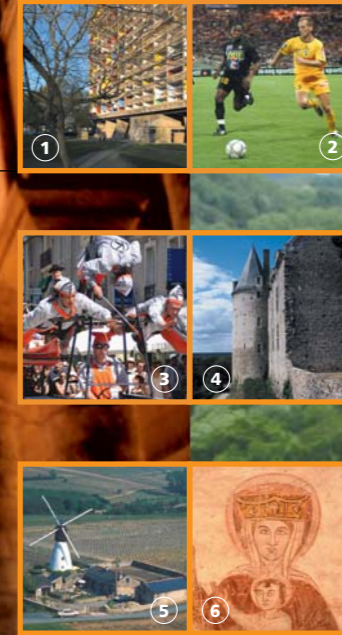
Generous



The Loire by Bike, the Euroveloroute des Fleuves

Flourishing, multi-faceted and singular, the diversity of the Pays de la Loire encourages you to discover its varied identities and the recreational opportunities for all. Adventuresome, athletic, art-lovers, fans of architecture, fine dining or hiking, everyone can find what he is looking for.

- 1 • The Maison Radieuse by Le Corbusier, Rezé
- 2 • The FCNA, football club of Nantes Atlantique
- 3 • Les Affranchis Festival, La Flèche
- 4 • Sainte-Suzanne Chateau, Mayenne
- 5 • Typical windmill
- 6 • Mural, Asnières-sur-Vègre
- 7 • Royal Abbey of Fontevraud



From the banks of the Loire to the United States, Jean-Jacques Audubon is famous for his birds.



Zoo of Doué-la-Fontaine



The Béghin Say sugar factory in Nantes, industrial heritage



Troglodyte in Anjou: a universe to discover



Water sports areas, for sailing, windsurfing, diving, kayaking, sand yachting, and 29 marinas



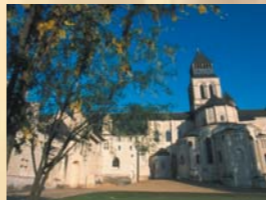
Summer music festival, Les Escales in Saint-Nazaire



Château of the Dukes in Nantes, soon to be museum of Nantes and its surroundings



Boat washhouses on the docks in Laval



Royal Abbey of Fontevraud

Take a walk in the footsteps of the naturalist painter Jean-Jacques Audubon. Enter the universe of the troglodytes or the corridors of the Maison Radieuse of Le Corbusier. Follow the traces of Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard the Lionhearted, Richelieu, Aristide Briand, and Clemenceau. Wander through the court of the Duchess Anne of Bretagne, the Dukes of Anjou and the Plantagenets. Allow yourself to be transported by the heritage and the acoustics of the abbeys. Around every corner, admire frescoes, churches, calvaries, mills, market halls, bread ovens, washhouses, etc. Enjoy the surprising industrial heritage and landscapes, from ancestral skills to the technologies of the third millennium.

Pays de la Loire Region Generous...

Do honour to the tradition of hospitality in the region and the pleasures of the table: fish, shellfish, chicken, duck, and capons, leeks, lambs lettuce, Loire Valley wines, cake from Vendée, sweets from Nantes, salt from Guérande. All these products are the ambassadors of our fine dining and our art de vivre.

With a view to preserving and providing for this outstanding heritage, the Pays de la Loire promotes sustainable development and encourages the enhancement of natural spaces and the use of renewable energy.

- 1 Horse race in Laval
- 2 Berlingots, typical sweets from Nantes
- 3 The Le Gois Passage can be crossed at low tide, linking the continent and Noirmoutier Island
- 4 The Loire Valley, 3rd wine-growing region in France
- 5 The Cadre Noire in Saumur
- 6 The Oriental Park of Maulévrier, Maine-et-Loire
- 7 Towpath in Mayenne



From one bank to the other of the Loire, the preserved landscapes are exceptionally diverse: heaths, market gardens, forests, orchards, marshes, and vineyards. Enjoy the altitude in the Le Mans Alps at the heart of the Normandy-Maine natural park or discover the Loire by Bike, a waymarked bike trail, which in a few years will join the Euroveloroute des Fleuves, making it possible to ride all the way to Budapest.

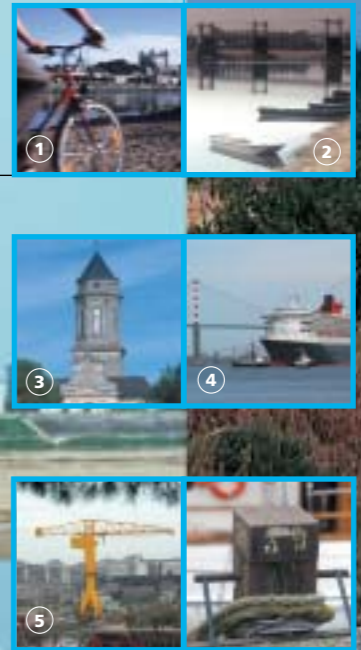
Water-Oriented

Between river and ocean, between Loire and Atlantique, water is omnipresent. The Loire and its tributaries, the streams, marshes and coastline clearly mark out the geography of our region.



Abbey of Solesmes The Sèvre in Boussay in Vendée The Poitevin Marsh Fishing on the Loir Chateau-Gontier, Mayenne River tourism on the Oudon Barges on the Loire Fishing baby eels Fish farm in the estuary

The Loire shapes landscapes and promotes enjoyment of life along its entire 200 kilometres. Following the water, you go back in time, discovering customs, traditional skills, and heritage. Barges and punts retrace the history of river navigation. In the Loire Valley, listed as a Unesco World Heritage site, visitors re-live the history of France at every twist and turn of the river. Water is also present in the marshes of Brière and Southern Vendée, the Grand-Lieu Lake, the largest lowland lake in France, and in the 18,000 kilometres of waterways and canals that crisscross the region.



- 1 • The Loire by Bike in Saumur
- 2 • The Loire
- 3 • Saint-Florent-le-Vieil
- 4 • The Queen Mary 2 in front of the Saint-Nazaire bridge
- 5 • The Titan crane on the Ile de Nantes



Pays de la Loire Region

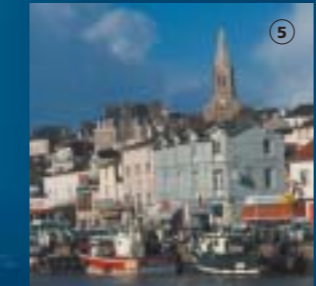
Water-Oriented ...

The reputation of La Baule, Saint-Jean-de-Monts, Ile d'Yeu and Les Sables-d'Olonne has reached far beyond our borders. People flock here with their families and friends, for a weekend or longer. 25 seaside resorts, 450 kilometres of coastline, two islands and diverse landscapes to enjoy: rocky coasts carved out by the waves, large sandy beaches, bluffs and promontories, coastal paths and fishing ports.

Between river and ocean, the region gives free rein to its singularity and forges its identity.

Where the Loire River meets the ocean, there is the estuary, the economic engine of the region. The ships built at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique travel the seven seas, and provide jobs for an entire area.

The ocean is also an economic force: Fishing represents 15% of the national production.



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- 1 Saint-Nazaire Bridge
- 2 Marine aquaculture
- 3 Seawater Spa and Resort
- 4 Propeller of the Queen Mary 2 at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique
- 5 Pornic, Pays de Retz
- 6 The Belem
- 7 The Vendée Globe challenge
- 8 Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-Bonne-Nouvelle, Port de la Meule, ile d'Yeu
- 9 Catamarans

www.paysdelaloire.fr



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Publication Director: **Jacques Auxiette** • Editing and coordination: **Public Relations Office** • Layout and design: *outr em er* • March 2006

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