



🕒 IN 1H30 | IN 3H

ITINERARY AND MAP OF MUSEUM

CHÂTEAU
DES DUCS DE
BRETAGNE
MUSÉE
D'HISTOIRE
DE NANTES

WELCOME

Discover the Château des ducs de Bretagne, built at the end of the 15th century by François II and his daughter, Anne de Bretagne. A castle displaying both its past grandeur and current renewal, rich with eight centuries of history.

The tour of the musée d'histoire de Nantes paints a portrait of the city from its origins to the metropolis it is today.

The history of the castle is told, and a collection of unique objects telling the story of Nantes' role in the European slave-trade, the everyday life of Nantes' population during both World Wars, and the great local industries (LU, BN, etc.): a total of over 1150 objects spread over 32 rooms.

The museum also reveals noteworthy architectural elements. This castle-museum is one of a kind and can be visited however you like (audioguide, guided tour, thematic itineraries) and as long as you like.

All year long, events are also programmed: exhibitions, concerts, readings, installations, and more!

MOVING ABOUT IN THE CASTLE



• Signposting

The rooms are numbered from 1 to 32 and arrows indicate the direction of the itinerary.



• Sequence sign

Seven themes cover the itinerary. Each is represented by a colour and indicated by a square sign pointing out the given rooms along with an explanatory text.



• Pennant room

This pennant bears the colour of the theme and displays the title and number of each room.

• This icon points out the elevators, bathrooms, and overall itinerary best suited to physically disabled visitors.



• For families

There are a number of multimedia stations throughout the museum!

• **Visit tours** are designed to fit your needs.

• Audioguides and video guides are provided, in addition to apps you can download.

• The museum does its utmost to offer the best access to content with commented works, and tours with audio or video guides.



• All year long, guided tours are offering activities for children from 4 to 11, visits for families, for adults, for everyone...). Need clarifying? All day long, information officers offer a "rendez-vous" in the different rooms (short tours, no reservation needed).



• Guided visits in summer.

THE GRAND LOGIS

THE TOUR DE LA
COURONNE D'OR
& THE JACOBINS

THE GRAND GOUVERNEMENT



WELCOME DESK / TICKET OFFICE

CLOAKROOM

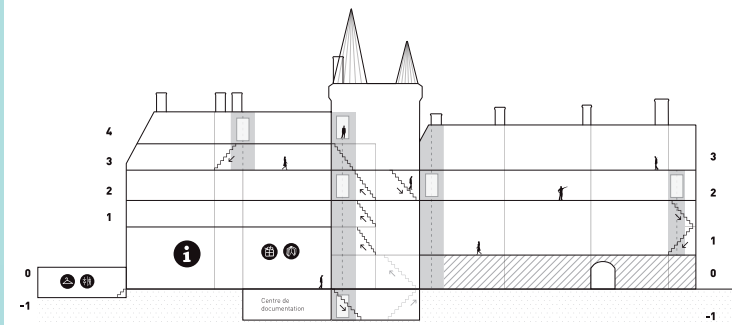
GIFT AND BOOKSHOP

TOILET

ENTRANCES

A B C D ELEVATORS

STAIRS



Find your location in the museum

This map will help you to find your location in the castle as you visit the museum. In every theme, the entrances and the rooms concerned will be indicated.

Length of time to a complete visit of the museum is estimated at 3 hours.

THEMES

Numbered 1 to 7, they are present to help you find your way throughout the itinerary.

1 THE CASTLE, NANTES AND BRITTANY THROUGH THE AGES UNTIL THE 17TH CENTURY

ROOMS 1 > 6 : p. 2-3

2 BORN OF THE RIVER AND OF THE OCEAN

ROOMS 7 > 10 : p. 4-5

3 TRADE AND BLACK GOLD IN THE 18TH CENTURY

ROOMS 11 > 17 : p. 6-7

4 NANTES AND THE REVOLUTION

ROOM 18 : p. 8-9

5 AN INDUSTRIAL AND COLONIAL PORT (1815-1914)

ROOMS 19 > 25 : p. 10-11

6 AT WAR -1914-1918 / 1939-1945

ROOMS 26 > 29 : p. 12-13

7 AN ATLANTIC CITY ? TODAY AND TOMORROW

ROOMS 30 > 32 : p. 14-15

REGULATIONS

Before starting your visit, please leave all bags, umbrellas and other bulky objects in the cloakroom. Animals, food and drinks are not allowed in the exhibit rooms. Smoking is forbidden. Only photos without flash are allowed (for individual use only). Please do not touch the exhibits.



except guide dogs

Theme 1
ROOMS 1 > 6

THE CASTLE, NANTES AND BRITTANY THROUGH THE AGES UNTIL THE 17TH CENTURY

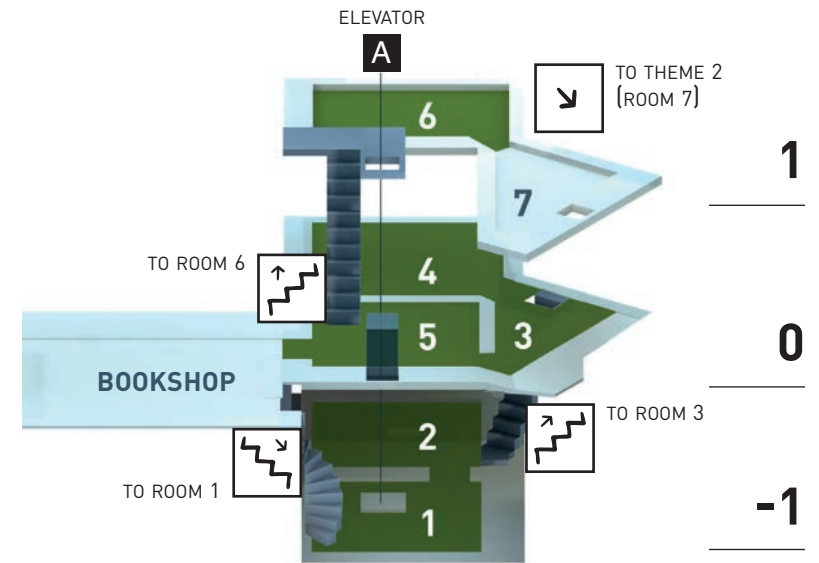
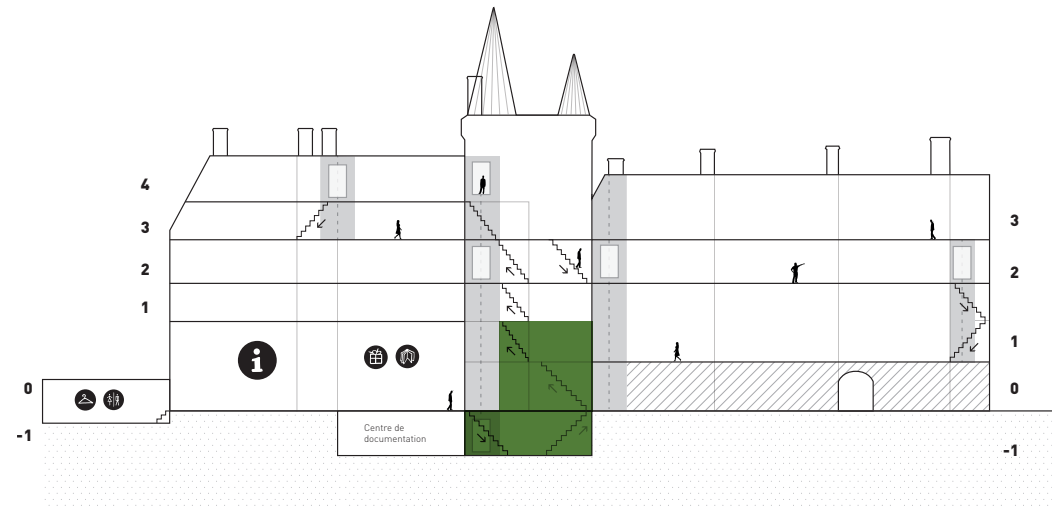
Discover the history of the Château des ducs de Bretagne, the life of François II, and of his daughter, Anne, who was the duchess of Brittany, and later queen of France. The history of Nantes, from the Gallo-Roman era to the opening of the Atlantic colonies, is also examined in this section.

- ROOM 1: THE BIRTH OF A MERCHANT CITY
- ROOM 2: THE CITY OF THE DUKES OF BRITTANY
- ROOM 3: A CITY OF THE KINGDOM OF FRANCE (IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES)
- ROOM 4: A FORTIFIED CITY (IN THE 13TH TO 16TH CENTURIES)
- ROOM 5: THE ATLANTIC TRADE ROUTES (17TH CENTURY)
- ROOM 6: THE CHÂTEAU DES DUCS DE BRETAGNE

1. Room 4 / 2. Room 5



2
-
3



- One can enter the museum through room 5 (to the left, at the back of the bookshop).
- Take the elevator A down to rooms 1 and 2.
- In order to continue to rooms 3 to 5, take the elevator A again, and room 3 is on your right upon exiting.
- To reach the room 6, take the elevator A once again and walk through room 7, on your right upon exiting.

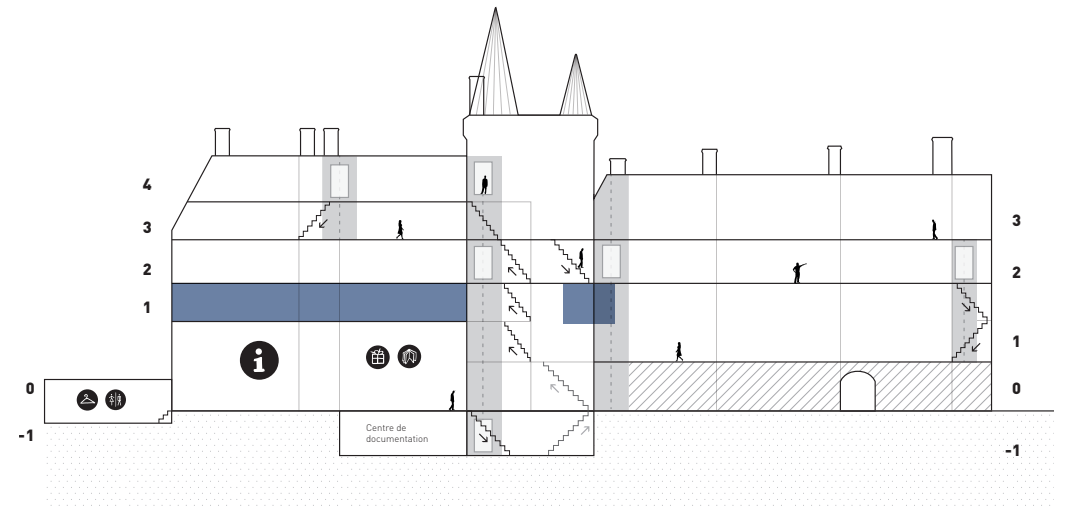
BORN OF THE RIVER AND OF THE OCEAN

What images come to mind today when we think of Nantes? If the Edict of Nantes made it famous, if companies like LU and BN spread its name, if it has inspired artists and songs, the city is also known for having been a slave-trading port, part of the Resistance, a martyr and, today, a hub of cultural activity. Nantes seems to have always played with its image – both Breton and linked to the Loire – portraying its multiple faces, which are on display in these rooms.

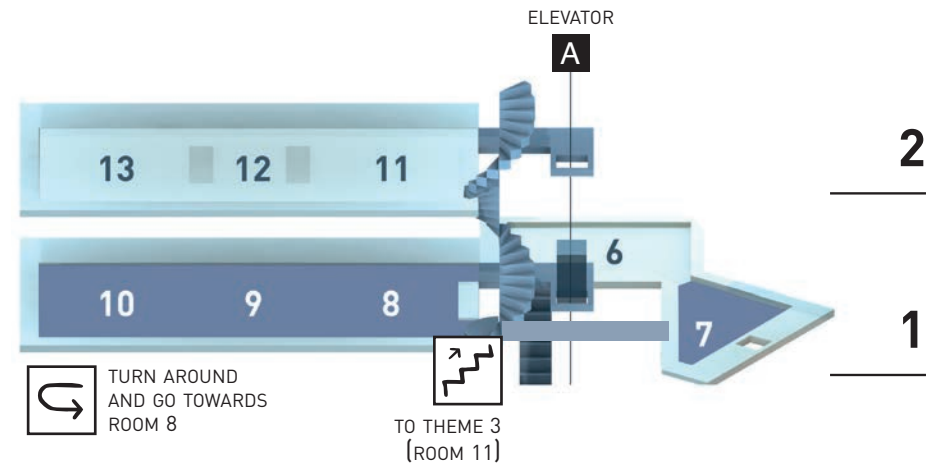
ROOM 7 : AN ESTUARY CITY

ROOMS 8 9 : A MERMAID CITY

ROOM 10 : AN OPEN CITY



1-2. Room 8 / 3. Room 10



- Room 7 is on the 1st floor, on your right upon exiting the elevator A.
- To continue to rooms 8, 9 and 10, take the walkway.
- To continue your visit to room 11, turn around and return to the elevator A.

TRADE AND BLACK GOLD IN THE 18TH CENTURY

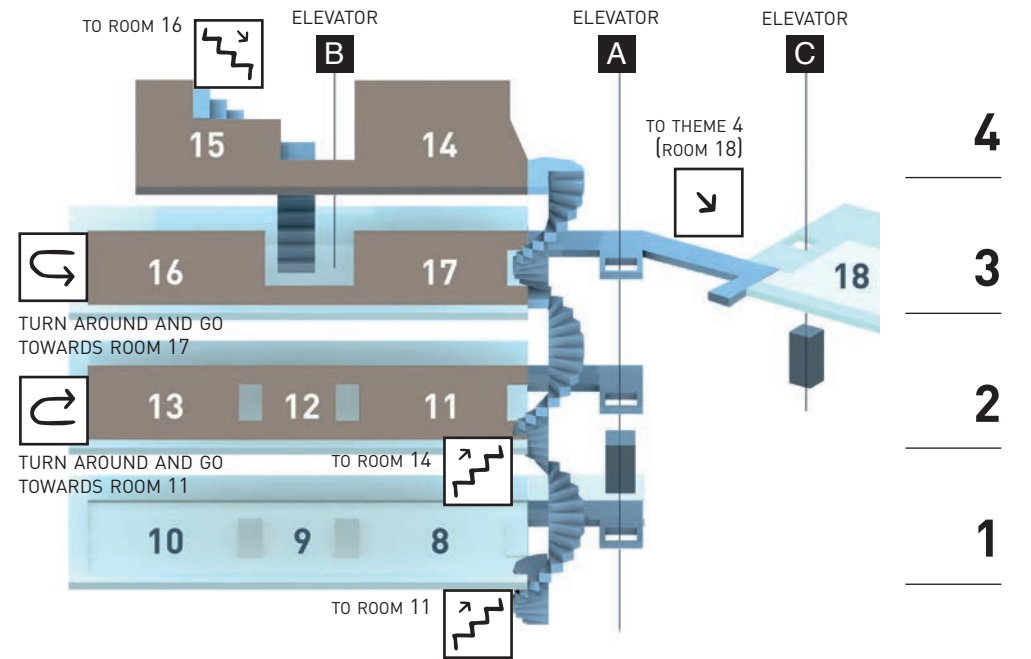
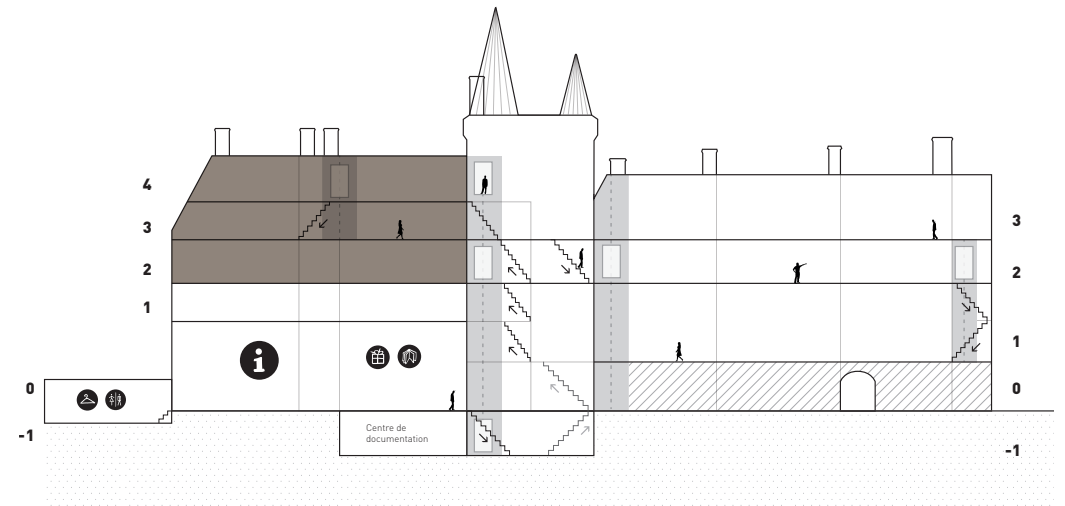
In the 18th and 19th centuries, Nantes was prosperous, thanks to trade with France's colonies in the West Indies, and its "foul traffic" – the term abolitionists used to describe the slave trade. Trade routes stretching from Europe to Asia, Africa and America demonstrate the complexity of this trade, where Nantes' merchants, ship owners, and industrialists reaped substantial profits. 550,000 men, women and children were deported from Africa to America aboard ships departing from Nantes.

ROOM 11 : A PORT OF THE HIGH SEAS

ROOMS 12 13 : A SLAVE TRADING CAPITAL

ROOMS 14 15 : THE "MEN OF TRADE"

ROOMS 16 17 : THE CITY OF MERCHANTS



1. Room 13 / 2-3. Room 11

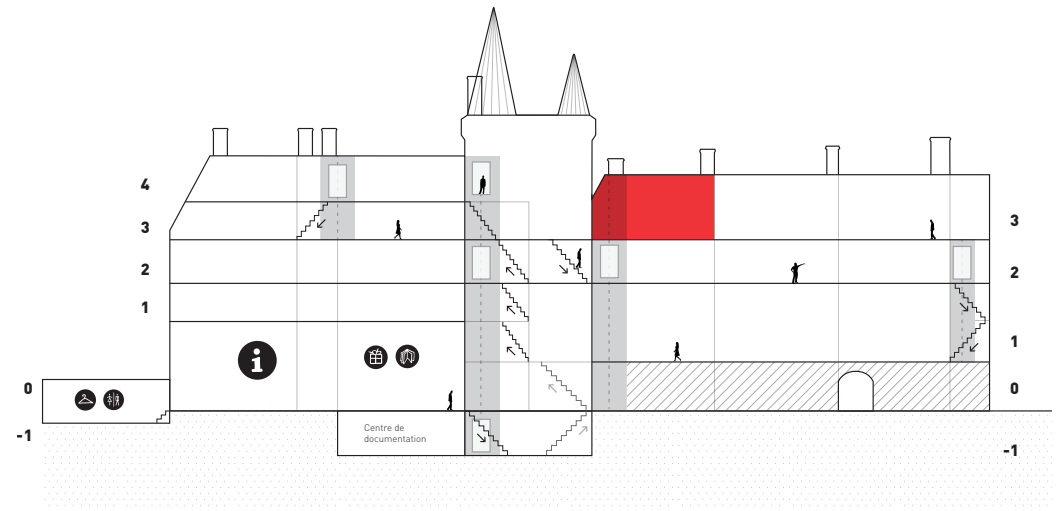


- Room 11 is on the 2nd floor, on your left upon exiting the elevator A. Continue your visit through rooms 12 and 13.
- To continue to rooms 14 and 15, take the elevator A to the 3rd floor, then walk through room 17 in order to take the elevator B.
- Take the elevator B again to discover rooms 16 and 17.
- To continue your visit, take the walkway to room 18.

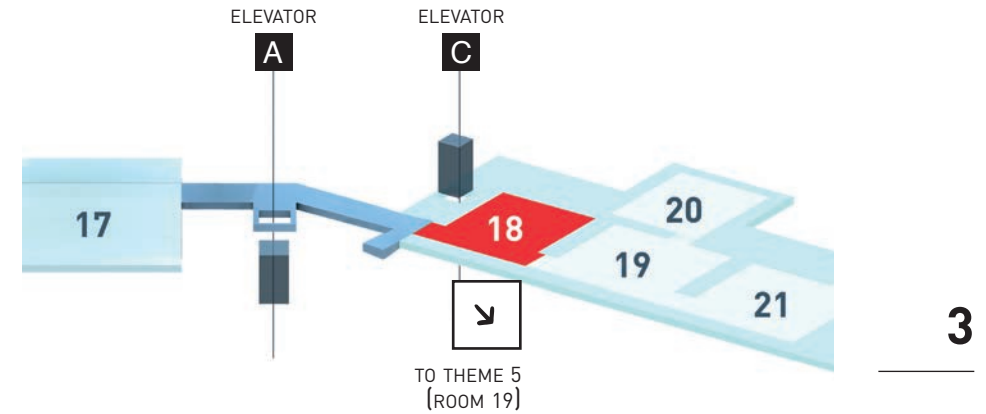
NANTES AND THE REVOLUTION

Simultaneously won over by the ideals of the Republic, and opposed to the abolition of slavery, Nantes is an ambiguous city during the revolutionary period, stuck between the Terror and the War in the Vendée.

ROOM 18 : NANTES AND THE REVOLUTION



1-2-3. Room 18



• Room 18 is on the 3rd floor, on your right upon exiting elevator A.

AN INDUSTRIAL AND COLONIAL PORT (1815-1914)

In this theme, let yourself be swept up in the effervescence of Nantes of the 19th century. Both bourgeois and working class, Nantes became an important industrial city. Weren't the banks of the Loire, stretching all the way to Saint-Nazaire, once referred to as "factory road"? Amieux, LU, BN, Saupiquet, Cassegrain, Biette, Sarradin, all in competition with one another in advertising ingenuity to get themselves noticed!

ROOM 19 : THE SEARCH FOR A NEW HORIZON

ROOM 20 : FAMILY SECTION

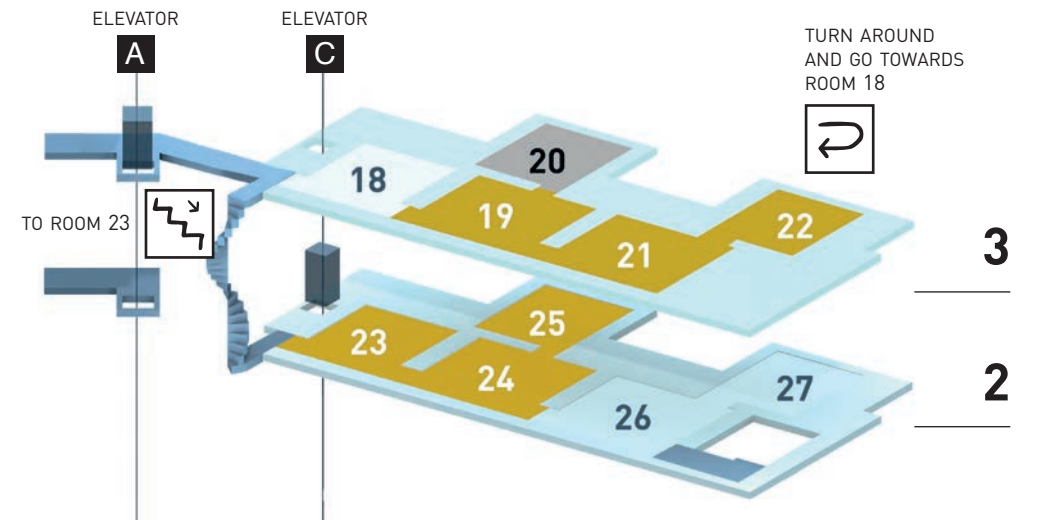
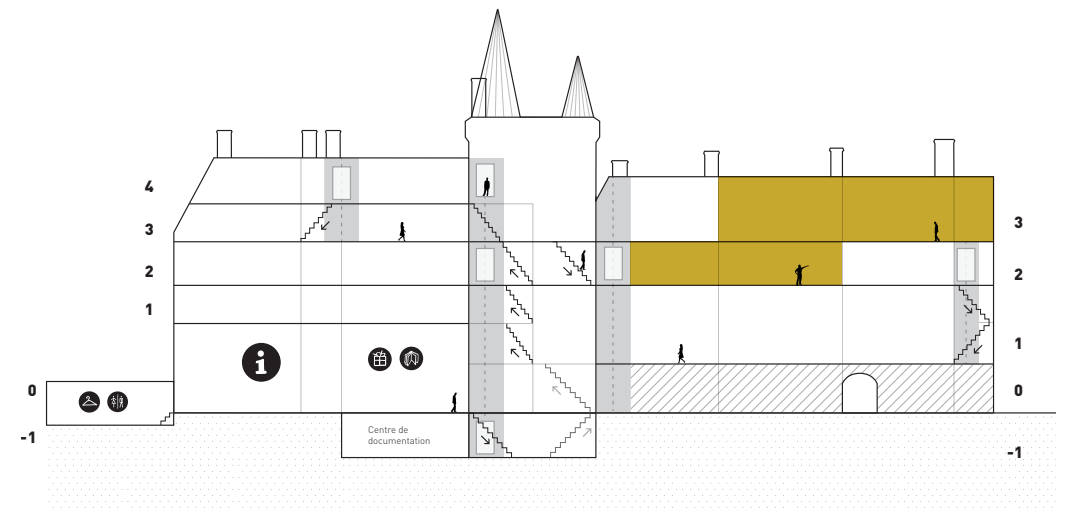
ROOM 21 : NEW-FOUND PROSPERITY

ROOM 22 : AN OUTER HARBOUR? SAINT-NAZAIRE

ROOM 23 : THE INDUSTRIAL ESTUARY

ROOM 24 : THE FACES OF A CITY

ROOM 25 : A CITY OF ARTISTIC ADVERTISING



1. Room 21 / 2. Room 19



- Room 19 is on the 3rd floor (on the right upon exiting the elevator A, after walking through room 18).
- On this plateau, rooms 20 and 22 are inaccessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Continue your visit via room 21.
- To reach the next rooms, turn around and walk until room 18 where you will take the elevator C, then go down to the 2nd floor, where rooms 23, 24 and 25 are located.

AT WAR

1914-1918 / 1939-1945

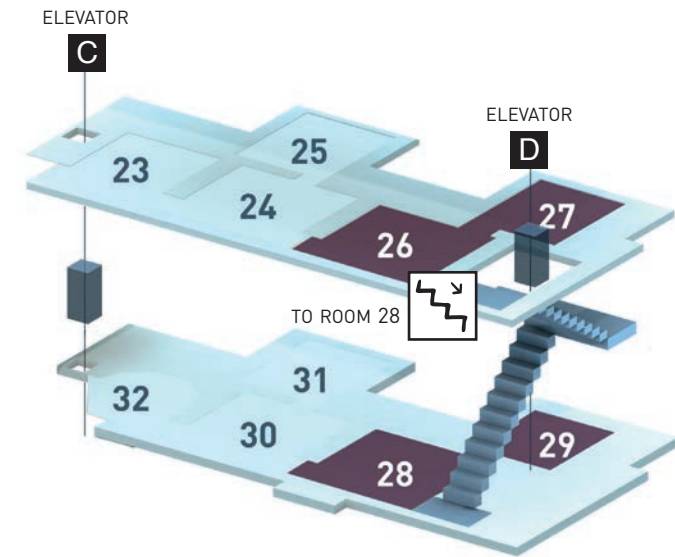
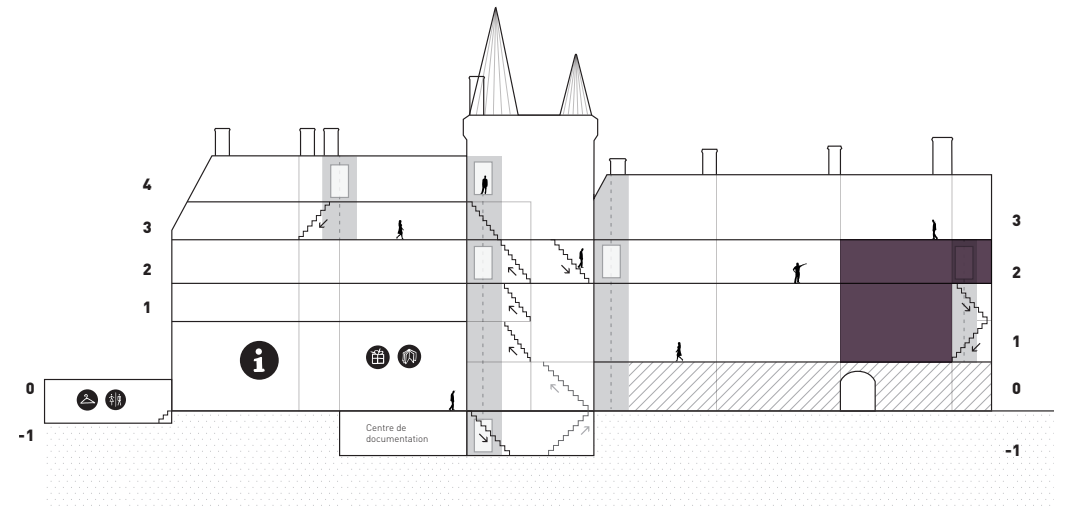
This theme, bringing together both World Wars, reflects the experience of an entire generation of adults: two back-to-back conflicts of unimaginable violence and unparalleled breadth. Though very different in their motives, both wars were equally traumatizing for those who lived through them: the fear, the pain of mourning, the horror of combat... all of which can be felt from the documents and objects on display in these rooms.

ROOM 26 : THE POPULATION OF NANTES AND THE CHALLENGE OF WWI

ROOM 27 : THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE ESTUARY

ROOM 28 : THE BLACK YEARS

ROOM 29 : RESISTANCE AND DEPORTATION



2
1

1. Room 27 / 2. Room 26 / 3. Room 28



- Room 26 is on the 2nd floor of the *Grand Gouvernement*. It is reached by taking the elevator C, after having walked through rooms 23 and 24.
- Continue your visit via room 27.
- In order to access the next rooms, take the elevator D in room 26 and go down to the 1st floor where you will find room 28.
- On this plateau, room 29 is not accessible to visitors in wheelchairs, a multimedia station relating what can be found in this room is available in room 28.



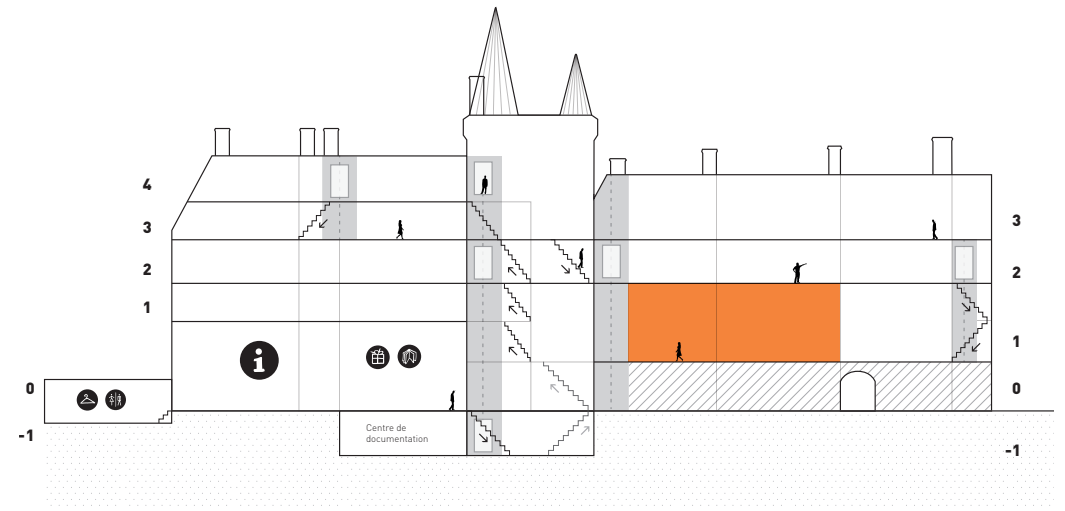
AN ATLANTIC CITY? TODAY AND TOMORROW

Through a ten-minute film, come and hear about current events in Nantes from 1945 to 2015, and discover artist Pierrick Sorin's humorous perspective on the history of the city in the last room of the museum!

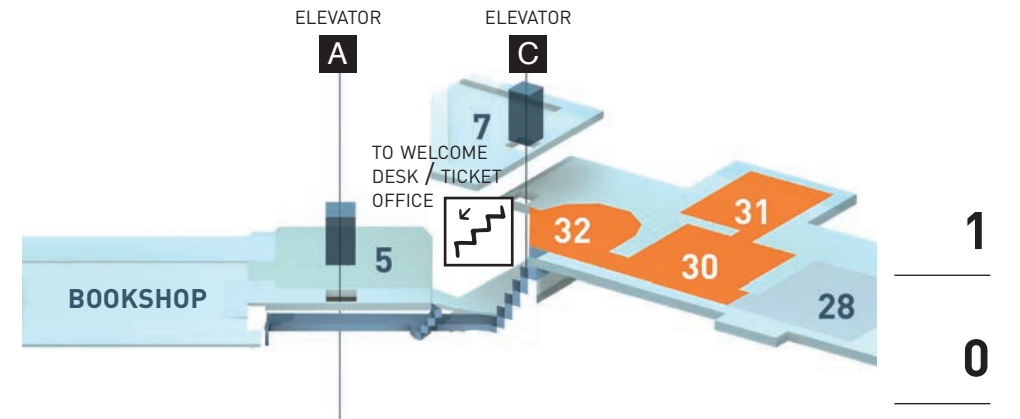
ROOM 30 : THE CITY TODAY

ROOM 31 : AND TOMORROW?

ROOM 32 : NANTES



Room 32



- Room 30 is on the 1st floor of the *Grand Gouvernement*. One can reach it by taking the elevator C after walking through room 32.
- Continue your visit to rooms 31 and 32.
- To return to the welcome desk: take the elevator C to room 7, then take the elevator A until floor 0 (ground floor).
- Exit the museum through room 5 by taking a left upon exiting the elevator.

THE MUSEUM IN 1H30



How to follow the itinerary?

Head over to the rooms listed below!

- 1
- 5
- 8
- 11
- 13
- 17
- 18
- 21
- 23
- 24
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 32

You can custom-tailor your visit according to your time and needs. Different themes are available:

ANNE OF BRITTANY'S CASTLE



> ITINERARY IN 30 MIN | IN 1H | IN 1H30

THE MUSÉE D'HISTOIRE DE NANTES IN 20 OBJECTS



> ITINERARY IN 1H30

THE SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY



> ITINERARY IN 45 MIN | IN 1H30

AT WAR, NANTES

1914-1918 / 1939-1945



> ITINERARY IN 30 MIN | IN 1H

PORTRAITS OF THE CITY



> ITINERARY IN 30 MIN | IN 45 MIN | IN 1H

FOR FAMILIES



> ITINERARY IN 1H30

Length of time to a complete visit of the museum is estimated at 3 hours.



THE CASTLE IS ALSO...



Stop by the bookshop and discover a selection of works on the castle and the city... Sit on the terrace of Les Oubliettes and enjoy a savoury crepe while admiring the gothic facades...

Just one of the many ways to enjoy the castle!

THE CAFÉ-RESTAURANT LES OUBLIETTES

On the courtyard, in the tower of the old dungeon and the lodge, Les Oubliettes welcomes you for a moment to indulge in an exceptional place.

Discover the flavours of local specialities and typical regional meals throughout the seasons.

Discover the new gift and bookshop!

And, if you can't find one of our items or books in the shop, take a look at our e-boutique: www.boutique.chateaunantes.fr



GIFT AND BOOKSHOP

The bookshop welcomes you inside its innovative layout, which highlights the architecture of this historical monument and showcases the major themes introduced in the museum.

Walk along the different sections and discover the new objects inspired by the castle, the Éditions du Château publishing house, with an ever-growing catalogue (books on exhibitions and reference works), as well as new historical works.



*Find the full programme in our detailed agenda on www.chateaunantes.fr.
For all our events, follow us on our Facebook and Twitter pages (@ChateauNantes) or sign up for our newsletter.*

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