

Vendée Bocage



DIS
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Nature

Spend a day following
the Sèvre Nantaise River

Puy du Fou®

Immerse yourself in an unforgettable
emotional experience

Family

Have fun together exploring
medieval castles

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VENDÉE
LE DÉPARTEMENT

**Pays
du Bocage
Vendéen**

**en
VENDÉE**

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Winter

Make the most of winter days in the Bocage by visiting the Logis de la Chabotterie and immersing yourself in a unique historical experience.



Spring

Around Lake Vouraie, follow the 2.5 km sensory trail and enjoy a unique experience blending soundscapes and artistic creations.



Summer

In the Bocage, summer is the perfect time to cool off by the Sèvre Nantaise. Whether you're soaking up vitamin D or grabbing a paddle, there's always a good reason to dive in!



Autumn

Autumn has fully settled in. It's the perfect time to climb Mont des Alouettes and watch the leaves fall... from 232 meters high!



4 Seasons in Vendée Bocage

What is Vendée Bocage?

The area of Vendée Bocage is located in the eastern sector of the Vendée. This region has a genuine rural setting, with its rolling hills, forests, and pastures. The valley of the Sèvre River is charming with many quaint villages and towns.

Numerous tourist offices have been regrouped under the banner of Vendée Bocage to provide a structured service, well adapted for answering the requests of all our English-speaking visitors.

Vendée Bocage is the picturesque region surrounding the Puy du Fou®. Located just an hour from the renowned coastal resort of Les Sables d'Olonne – home of the famous Vendée Globe – and the stunning castles of the Loire Valley, as well as only 45 minutes from the charming Marais Poitevin, Vendée Bocage serves as an ideal base for exploring this captivating area!

Sitting on top of the world



Geologically, the Vendée Bocage is part of the Armorican massif, primarily recognised in the Brittany region. This massif is linked to Dover on the British side of the English Channel, influencing the geography on both sides. As a result of its geological activity, today's rolling landscape offers a variety of breathtaking panoramas allowing stunning views over the hills and valleys that stretch for miles.



1 MONT DES ALOUETTES

At 232m above sea level the Mont des Alouettes, near the Puy du Fou®, is one of the highest points in the Vendée and offers a spectacular view over the rest of the surrounding hills. Constructed during the 16th century, only two of the eight original windmills remain, one of which is in perfect working order.

2 POUZAUGES

'Puy-auger' literally means "the hill from where we can see". The etymology is quite fitting as the town is set on the hilltops overlooking a very steep and rugged landscape. The most impressive views are from the ancient medieval castle perched high above the town.

3 SAINT-MICHEL-MONT-MERCURE

Saint-Michel-Mont-Mercure is the highest community in the Vendée. The most spectacular view point is from the top of the church tower rising to over 290m above sea level. Accessible via its staircase of 199 steps, it's well worth the climb to admire the surrounding countryside. The church tower is surmounted by the statue of the archangel Saint Michel which was fully restored several years ago. An orientation table can be found near the church.



THE MAISON DE LA RIVIERE

The Maison de la Riviere, a beautifully restored former water mill, is set in a stunning natural reserve of over 5 hectares. Discover various fun exhibits which explain the surrounding ecosystem and the daily operations of the watermill. The visitors centre offers an interactive guide especially adapted specifically for children. Why not take a relaxing excursion by a flat-bottomed boat (punt), or explore the many foot trails.



The Maison de la Riviere



City of birds

THE CITY OF BIRDS

The Cité des Oiseaux, a 56-hectare bird sanctuary, invites you to take a real nature escape in the heart of the Vendéen countryside. Bring your binoculars to discreetly observe the comings and goings of the birds that inhabit this remarkable natural site. Stroll along the banks of the pond and enjoy an outdoor naturalist photo exhibition as well as a special indoor display area.



Chateau de la Flacelliere

OUR SECRET GARDENS

Whether public or private the parks and gardens of Vendée Bocage are open to everyone. Each garden is different... landscape, vegetable or à la française... and contributes to the natural heritage of the region. Well known to locals these treasures can be visited by one and all!

MORTAGNE-SUR-SÈVRE

Mortagne-sur-Sèvre is a historic medieval town that reveals its rich history through its impressive castle, charming Renaissance dwellings, and elegant noble houses. The weavers' houses and around 20 mills reflect the town's vibrant artisanal and industrial heritage. To discover the city, explore the many hiking trails that wind along the Sèvre Nantaise river.



MALLIÈVRE

Mallièvre is a lovely village full of character, known for its exceptional heritage and rich history. Perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Sèvre Nantaise river, the village features delightful stone buildings, quaint paved courtyards, charming manor houses and impressive door ways just to mention but a few. During the 16th and 17th centuries Mallièvre was home to a thriving weaving industry.



MOUCHAMPS

Nestled on a rocky escarpment, Mouchamps is a picturesque village full of character and charm. Narrow streets wind between the attractive gardens and imposing bourgeois houses, a reminder of when this area housed some of the most influential and richest families in the land. The village is home to the original church dates back to the 12th century.



POUZAUGES

Pouzauges has a great deal of charm with its steep winding streets and old stones buildings. The old fortress dating from the 11th century evokes a mystical and eerie atmosphere similar to the castle of Winterfell in the Game Of Thrones. It is truly a place full of intriguing mystery and history. It had originally ten towers but today only the Great Keep remains. Standing in a grassy courtyard is the church of «Notre-Dame» : interesting wall paintings dating back to the 13th century were discovered in 1948, hidden under layers of plaster.



1 SAINT MESMIN CASTLE

is a 14th-century medieval fortress to which an imposing 28-metre-high keep was added in the 15th century. Throughout the summer the castle comes to life with various shows representing the daily life of people during the Middle Ages – what they ate, how they dressed, their amusements, but also how they prepared for war! With special activities designed for both children and adults, as well as self-guided tours, each visitor can choose the experience that best suits them their interest.

2 THE CHÂTEAU OF SIGOURNAIS

is a fine example of the military architecture typical of the Middle Ages, featuring fortified walls, arrow-slits (vertical aperture for launching arrows or bolts), a “chemin de ronde” (patrol path) or wall-walk around the château and machicolations (floor openings through which stones or other materials could be dropped on attackers). Visitors can also discover a unique and remarkable display of heraldry representing many towns and countries in France and Europe. Visits, events, shows and games for all the family.

3 TIFFAUGES CASTLE

The largest medieval site in the West of France

The Department of Vendée invites you to discover Tiffauges Castle, an exceptional site clinging to a rocky outcrop, at the mouth of the Sèvre Nantaise river. Located on the borders of the former provinces of Anjou, Brittany and Poitou, Tiffauges Castle captivates with its imposing ruins. Experience a day of shows and entertainment for the whole family and explore a large park with 16 operational medieval war machines. From the Roman catapult to the throwing machines from the Middle Ages, discover the largest collection of working medieval war machines in Europe and try your hand at working the crane or the bricole throwing machine.

4 CHEMIN DE FER DE LA VENDÉE...

All aboard!

All aboard... for a trip which covers 22 kms from Mortagne-sur-Sevre to Les Herbiers. At an average speed of 30 km, the journey lasts 2 hours enabling you to see some fine views of the surrounding countryside from a unique perspective. A voyage back in time to the “Belle époque” of the Orient Express and Hercule Poirot.

5 THE SANCTUARY OF LA SALETTE

During the anticlerical period in France at the end of the 19th century, a time marked by a massive reconstruction of places of worship took place in the Vendée. Among these, the sanctuary of La Salette was initiated by Abbot Hillairet, parish priest of La Rabatelière. It shows an architectural group of buildings that does not fail to intrigue. Built between 1873 and 1908, it represents the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the Alps to the children of La Salette in 1846. Set in a lush natural landscape, visitors can discover the Stations of the Cross amidst a keep and turrets.



TOP 5 MUST-SEES





Puy du Fou® a must-see in France!

Voted “the world’s best park”, Puy du Fou offers a multitude of great shows and adventures for the whole family. Embark on an unforgettable journey through time, from ancient Rome to the beginnings of cinema.



L'ÉPÉE DU ROI ARTHUR (2025)

Dive into the legend of the Knights of the Round Table and live an extraordinary adventure with “L'Épée du Roi Arthur”, Puy du Fou’s **exciting new show for 2025**.

NIGHTS SHOWS

At nightfall, extend your journey back in time and let yourself be amazed, by the enchantment of 2 grandiose night shows that only the Puy du Fou has the secret to.

LES NOCES DE FEU

In the evening, on the lake of the Puy du Fou, the Muse Violinist and the Pianist Virtuoso celebrate their eternal love in the most romantic of weddings. Attend this fantastic wedding and let yourself be swept away by the poetic fairy tale of water and fire, unique in the world, **voted “Best Show of the Year 2020”**.



LA CINÉSCÉNIE

Over its **45 years of existence**, this spectacular night show has become a true legend. Set on a sprawling 23-hectare stage and in front of the Puy du Fou castle, “La Cinéscénie” is **a grand historical fresco where 2,500 actors and dancers bring to life 7 centuries of history** in a captivating blend of French history and legends.

Where history comes alive



In 1789 the Revolution established a new government but amongst the promises lay numerous deceptions. The clergy were obliged to swear allegiance to this new regime, while the Vendéens were subjected to mandatory conscription to support military efforts abroad. This led to organised rebellion in the Vendée and in the South of the Loire, marking the onset of the Vendéen war.

THE LOGIS DE LA CHABOTTERIE

In Saint Sulpice le Verdon (Montreverd), the Logis de la Chabotterie offers a captivating glimpse into the charm of rural life at the end of the 18th century. This historic site played a significant role in the history of the Vendée war, as it was here that Charette was arrested in 1796, putting an end to the Vendéen resistance. The Logis is a quintessential example of Poitevin architecture and its 18th-century interiors and gardens provide insight into the lifestyle of the countryside gentry.

THE REFUGE DE GRASLA

The Refuge de Grasla is a reconstruction which provides a glimpse into the daily lives of the local population during the war in the Vendée. A great number of families fleeing from the “infernal columns” of General Turreau came for refuge, abandoning their homes and farms. Here they found shelter under the thick canopy of the forest. Life and living conditions were hard for these refugees, surviving the cold harsh climate, hunger and the wild animals was a daily struggle.





HAVE A SPLASHING TIME!

There are several areas where you can enjoy swimming. At the leisure complex at La Tricherie, come and test the beach! Yes, we have beaches even in the Bocage! For the kids, nothing beats the excitement of water slides to keep them entertained! With numerous swimming complexes available, there's fun for entire family.



Move, Explore, Enjoy

Splash

CANOEING FOR ALL

The many rivers in the area provide a safe environment for canoeing, allowing you to explore picturesque and refreshing landscapes. La Maine, La Boulogne, La Sèvre Nantaise along with the lakes La Bultière and Touchegray, offer a beautifully preserved natural setting that is accessible year-round.

Several areas offer canoeing for both experienced canoeists and mere beginners. Punts (flat-bottomed boats) may be hired at the Maison de la Rivière and Rocheservière. Just drift along the river listening to the oars in the water, the occasional passing insect and the birds chirping high up in the trees – perfect for a relaxing afternoon!



HIKER'S PARADISE

There are numerous hiking trails in the area. The GR (national hiking trails) of Pays Sèvre and Maine winds through the region, offering a fantastic opportunity to discover its beauty over the course of 5 - 6 days.

TÉPACAP VENDÉE

Treetop Adventure Course

The park of Tépacap Vendée offers a range of treetop adventures for the entire family, designed to accommodate all ages and skill levels. Children can enjoy zip lines, suspended bridges, and a variety of obstacles which will challenge their inner Tarzan and sense of adventure!





Adventures to be shared by all the family

Discover riddles, adventure courses, hidden treasures, and unforgettable experiences at different sites in the Vendée Bocage. At the beginning of each visit, your children will become "Intrépides". They will receive their members' badge and experience new adventures.

CHÂTEAU DES ESSARTS

Discover the Château des Essarts for an outing with family or friends. Though now a collection of ruins due to its destruction during the Vendée Wars, this site offers a unique glimpse into history through a variety of events and shows. From the Gallo-Roman era to the present day, via the 12th century, the Renaissance and the 19th century, you'll learn about all the key periods that have marked this site. Stroll through the 17 hectares of wooded parkland, take part in the adventure trail, enjoy old-fashioned games, trampoline, enjoy shows and educational activities... An exciting programme for all the family!

MANOIR DES SCIENCES DE RÉAUMUR

Carry out your own experiments at Réaumur! At the Manoir des Sciences, curiosity is highly encouraged. Just like 18th-century scientist René-Antoine Ferchault de Réaumur, you can observe, participate and engage in hands-on experimentation. As you follow the trail, you'll be able to practise the same experimental method that Réaumur was among the first to investigate. Try your hand at exploring the origins of plants, discover the collections housed in the Natural History Cabinet, and challenge yourself over a series of puzzles, to name but a few.

ESPACE GASTON CHAISSAC

Welcome to an unusual cultural and artistic space that is accessible to the whole family, dedicated to the extraordinary artist Gaston Chaissac, who lived in Sainte Florence in the Vendée during the 1950s. Explore France's smallest historic monument – the scenography of the mysterious "blue sugar box" – alongside a resource room with art workshops. Enjoy a fun and artistic stroll around the village and take advantage of a 17km interpretation trail that explores the beautiful surrounding countryside.



GASTRONOMY AND CHEFS

BRIOCHE

Brioche is a speciality of the Vendée and is considered as a Viennoiserie, basically it is made in the same way as bread, but has the richer aspect because of the addition of eggs, butter, milk and occasionally sugar. Brioche is commonly eaten at breakfast, as a dessert or as a snack.

LE PRÉFOU

Le pré fou is a specialty of the Vendée, enjoyed as an appetiser with a glass of **troussepinette** (a typical aperitif made from a base of wine or brandy that is infused with fruit, often including ingredients like quince, apples, or other local fruit). This flat bread is traditionally the first bread that the bakers put in their oven to check if it's hot enough. Topped with a garlic butter mixture and baked to perfection, profoundly becomes wonderfully crispy and flavourful.

MOGETTES

Mogettes are white beans traditionally enjoyed in the Vendée, often served alongside a generous slice of roasted Vendée ham. Another classic way to eat mogettes is to ladle them onto a thick grilled slice of sourdough bread that has been generously buttered.



The region of Vendée Bocage hosts a number of restaurants which figure in the Michelin Guide.

STARRED CHEFS OF THE VENDEE BOCAGE

- Restaurant La Robe, Xavier Giraudet, Montaigu-Vendée
- Restaurant La Chabotterie, Benjamin Patissier, Monréverd

UNLOCK THE BEST OF VENDÉE BOCAGE



The 6 Tourist Offices of the Bocage Vendéen are here for you all year round!

Whether you're planning your stay around Puy du Fou®, exploring the Vendée beaches just an hour away, or venturing into the Marais Poitevin only 45 minutes away, we're happy to assist you!

Vendée Bocage App Digital Pass

Always have your tourist pass with you in its digital version!

The app to make the most of your stay in the Bocage Vendéen.

With the app, you can discover activities in real time, find a nearby restaurant, and much more...

Quick and practical content to optimize your vacation!



Before, during or after your holidays

Vendée Bocage has developed different applications to help you in your search for holiday ideas...

- Applications to download to enable you to find those hidden treasures!
- The website - gives you all the best up-to-date information for accommodation, activities and more
- Social media - get to know us, follow us and also share your holiday experiences with us
- Information points accessible 24h/24h

Have a great holiday in Vendée Bocage!

<https://www.vendeebocage.fr/en/>

Tourist Offices

Légende Key

-
- Petites cités de caractère®
Petites cités de caractère
-
- Bourgs pittoresques et sentiers d'interprétation du patrimoine
Picturesque small villages and signed discovery paths
-
- Patrimoine religieux (protégés au titre des Monuments Historiques)
Religious heritage
-
- Moulins
Windmills
-
- Espaces aquatiques
Aquatic area
-
- Lieux de baignade (lac)
Spots of water and swimming
-
- Bases de loisirs nautiques (canoë-kayak, balades en barque...)
Leisure areas (canoe and kayaking, rowboat...)
-
- Train touristique
Tourist train
-
- Points de vue / points culminants
Viewpoints
-
- Gares SNCF
Railway stations
-
- Aires de Camping-cars
Motorhome area
-
- Offices de tourisme
Tourist office
-
- Points info saisonnier
Temporary tourist office
-
- Le Club des Intrépides (animations pour enfants)
The Intrepid Club
-
- PuyduFou® Parc du Puy du Fou®
-
- Station verte®
-
- Autoroutes / Motorway
-
- Axes principaux / A-road
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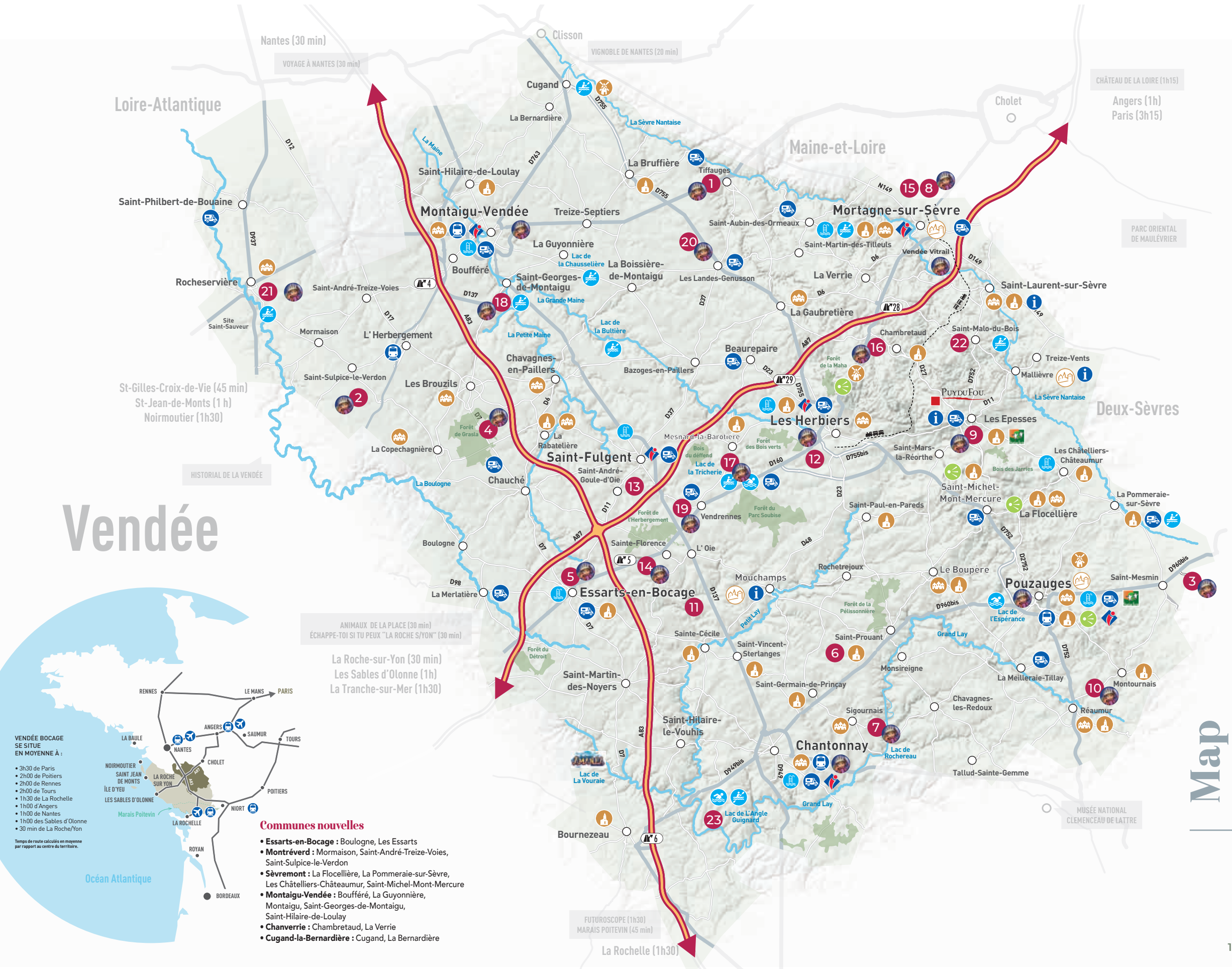
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