

a PROPOS



Angers Discovery Guide
International Week
May 6 to 10



SUMMARY

Food and Drinks	P. 4
Shopping	P. 14
Sightseeing	P. 18
Nature	P. 28
Outside Angers	P. 32

*a*ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Welcome to Angers !

We asked some of our students to write a personal account of places they have discovered in Angers and would recommend to visitors, as part of a creative writing assignment in English class.

These are the best places to see or experience, and we hope you enjoy our collection of 'don't miss' favorites.

These stories are not just about the best shops, restaurants, or sights in and around Angers – they are also an inside look at how students experience the city.

We hope you will be able to take advantage of our recommendations and enjoy this selection of student work, a concrete example of our celebration of Skills and Knowledge.

Michael O'Connor
International Week Team Member

FOOD *A*ND DRINKS

ROMANTIC SNACKS AT LA COQUETTERIE

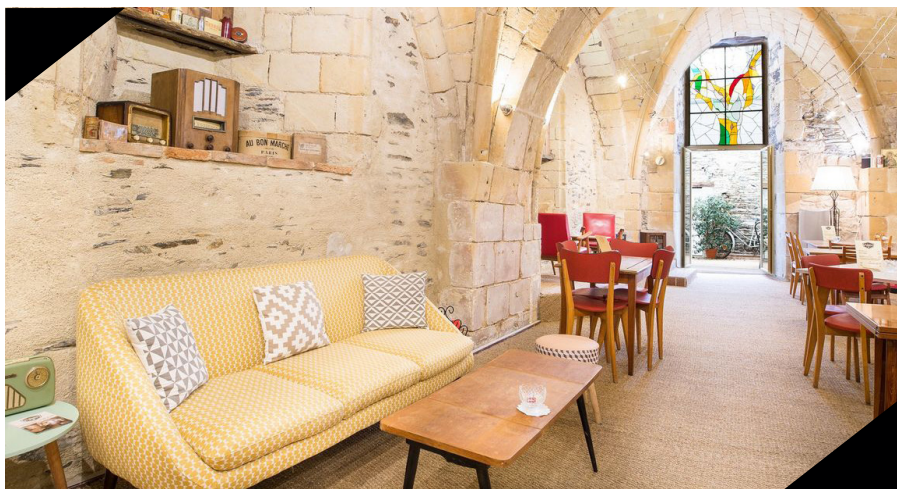
On this cold and sunny day, I walked into the tea room and roastery La Coquetterie to join my boyfriend. Located in the Doutre neighborhood in Angers, the storefront drew my attention, with its bright orange yellowish colour, and I knew I was going to have a good time.

Barely had I entered the shop when the sweet and pleasant smell of all various teas and coffees served there came over me like a fresh spring breeze. I found my boyfriend smiling, and sat facing him. He ordered a delicious strong coffee full of flavour, probably from Bolivia, as he prefers it, along with a blueberry scone.

Not only was there a large range of different teas and coffees, but there were also many pastries I could choose from. For a while, I hesitated between the delicate, flowery undertones of a white rose tea, or a red fruit brew. I finally chose the smooth brew with a home-made and mouthwatering « coquet », a classic cupcake revisited. The waitress was friendly and welcomed me warmly.

We were talking about our school week when she came back with my snack on a small and elegantly decorated plate, along with a pretty classic porcelain teapot. I drank my brew and enjoyed its subtle and warm taste. In the

meantime, I started eating my cupcake, vanilla flavoured with a tasty chocolate cream, the top decorated with a fresh strawberry. I could taste the perfect balance of both flavours and a slight tangy touch.



While I was speaking with my boyfriend about what we were going to do during the weekend, I also observed the refined 60s inspired decor. In addition to the yellow fabric sofas and wooden coffee tables, I could see the vaulted ceiling and the white stone walls, which created a warm atmosphere in this 12th century former chapel with its stained glass windows. In the background, we could faintly hear soft jazz music. I closed my eyes and felt as if I was traveling, among

all these smells and noises.

From where I was sitting, I could see the sky growing darker outside, towards the end of the day. On our left, an elderly lady was comfortably settled, quietly reading a book behind her huge red glasses in this calming place. In the corner to our right, there was a well-dressed man, focused and working on his computer, and I thought he had probably had difficulty getting away from his full-time working day, with his wrinkled brow, his tie, and his perfectly ironed jacket.

Suddenly, we heard a loud and merry laugh. I turn my head towards the back of the room, and saw a mother with her little girl, a smile on their lips. They were speaking with each other, probably laughing at one of their countless jokes which might brighten up their daily routine.

My boyfriend checked the time, and we realized that more than one hour had elapsed since I arrived. Having both finished our snacks, we decided to go back home. Before leaving this trendy, charming place, I decided to buy the white rose tea that I had hesitated to try an hour ago, being keen to take away a piece of this cozy atmosphere and bring it home.

Juliette Bochu

La Coquetterie

17 rue Beaurepaire
49 100 ANGERS
02 41 48 45 70

GREAT FOR GOURMANDS: LE BOUDOIR

It's a pleasant day in early March, the clouds give way to the sun and vice versa. I am with my older sister, sauntering in the streets of Angers. We have had a pleasant afternoon of shopping but it's time to take a break and drink something. Without hesitating, our steps follow the length of the tram tracks, we go through the Place du Ralliement and we finally arrive at Le Boudoir.

As we enter the narrow street to reach the bar, the street noises vanish and calm spreads to the courtyard. We hesitate between staying outside or sitting indoors... we pass a couple, a group of friends and a lonely man reading his newspaper on the terrace to take a seat inside. We choose a corner so I can have a view of the bar but also of the beautiful tree which overwhelms the room. This tree strengthens the welcoming atmosphere of the place.

A graying-haired woman with round glasses approaches us smiling and asks us what we want to drink. I ask for a strawberry juice but they don't have any more so I opt for an apricot juice. My sister Gaëlle asks for a Citrus flavoured Schweppes. Whilst she is talking about her purchases I glance around the room.

To our left, there is a family with a child, a little further I glimpse a couple who is having coffee and on their right a group of men with their elbows on the counter are drinking beers. I focus on my feelings... I can smell the odour of a bouquet of roses on the table. Sipping my juice I also realize I am a little cold ; it's probably due to the bustle of people in the bar.

Some are leaving or arriving and others are just going outside to smoke. The little family is leaving, they say a loud and general "goodbye" as they reach the door. I'm smiling, I like sociable and joyful people and I find they reinforce the friendly atmosphere of the place.

Time passes, my sister and I are hungry but it's a little too early for the tapas, brushettas, cheese and delicatessen plates offered here. As Gaëlle and I are talking about where we could go to eat a pastry, a client nearly closes the door on the barmaid and her tray, full of beers. She cries out, the client catches the door at the last minute and my sister narrowly avoids getting rinsed with beer. Our laughter blends with those of the couple at the back of the room. At this moment I concentrate on what I hear : "Mrs Robinson" by Simon & Garfunkel, Sting with "I'm an English man

in New York", "Wicked Game" by Chris Isaak... I love the playlist! The songs follow each other until a pop ring out across the room.

I look around me to see what is happening and I realize it comes from the couple on our left. After coffee, they decided to buy themselves a glass of champagne. To each his own! We stay for another 20 minutes and we leave. As we reach the street we are once again seized by the turmoil of the city centre.

Julie Malatier-Ségard



Le Boudoir

11 rue d'Alsace,
49 100 ANGERS
09 81 42 86 85

MUSIC AND ATMOSPHERE: LE BLUE MONKEYS

The weather is fine, it is Friday and it is a very pleasant and sunny day in March. I decide to spend this late afternoon with my friends at the Blue Monkeys. It is a bar and cabaret located in Angers between the Catholic University of the West and the ESA Agricultural School, which offers free concerts almost every night. In addition, music lovers can perform every Wednesday evening at an open mike stage. They also encourage other forms of art. Once a month, an improvisational theatre company comes to perform on Saturday evenings, and every 2 or 3 months a different artist comes to display paintings or drawings in the bar.

The sunny days are coming back. We are all sitting in the inner courtyard of this bar, and the music can be heard from the inside as the sun caresses my cheeks. The laughter of my friends echoes throughout my being, the stress of the classes gradually disappears through the bursts of laughter. I manage to forget the stress of the city, I no longer think about all the tasks I have to do.

The terrace is topped by a huge parasol that prevents the sun from burning our eyes while allowing heat to pass through. The ground is made of artificial grass, there are plants everywhere around us, and nature is present

despite the fact that we are in the heart of the city. We tell our memories of summer with nostalgia as we look forward to the next one coming and being even better than the last.



It is 7 pm, the sun starts to set and gives way to the coloured light of the garlands surrounding the terrace. Another group of friends sit on the table next to us, the atmosphere is friendly and very relaxed. The clanging of the glasses becomes a pleasant melody, the soothing afternoon is replaced by the effervescence of the night. It is 8pm and the concert begins, a rock group of 3 people brings the stage to life, the spectators enjoy and let themselves be carried away by the

rhythm of the music. The spotlights bathe the scene with coloured light and bring the instruments to life. After watching the concert, we return to the outdoor terrace to resume our conversations. The musicians do the same and settle down in front of us, we congratulate them for the performance and invite them to settle down with us. My musician friends discuss with the group, delighted to be able to share their experience. A friend of mine asks the bartender to put on some music, and he accepts with pleasure. My friend starts singing, followed closely by the rest of the group. A long shiver overtakes me and it warms my heart to see how relationships and exchanges are created. With the omnipresence of the internet and social networks I find that these moments are becoming increasingly rare, so it is important that there are places like these that can maintain interaction between people.

It is almost midnight, the musicians decide to go home, as they have to be in shape for tomorrow. We decide to stay a little longer to prolong this sweet moment. The cool evening has settled in but the blankets lent by the bar keep us from being cold. After some time we decide to go back ; we leave the bar and go home to our respective apartments. It was a very good evening full of life.

Lou Martineau

Le Blue Monkeys

94 Rue Rabelais,
49 000 ANGERS
06 73 92 64 85

A CUP OF HOT, SWEET TEA AT LA COQUETTERIE

Angers can feel congested with cars and people, or like a really calm town depending on where you are and what time it is. Belle Beille is a rather calm neighbourhood, mostly inhabited by families and university students. Every now and then, with the yellow vests movement going on, there are Saturdays with no bus heading to town. On days like this, I like to get around on foot to my favourite part of town; the Rue de Beaurepaire.

Situated just before the Verdun Bridge, you can have a romantic stroll amongst the old half-timbered buildings or along the river. If you are into photography, this is the place to be. There's an alluring view of the Cathedral, the magnificent Castle of Angers and there are boats docked by the river. On weekends, families and couples can often be seen taking a walk, basking in the sun. One can also find lovely restaurants and cafes in this area, most with interesting interiors as they conserve the late medieval architecture built in the XVth century.

My go to place would be La Croquetterie, an elegant teahouse suitable for a date, hanging out with your friends or even family time. Situated just 10 steps away from the bus stop 'Beaurepaire', it would be hard to miss it. As old buildings tend to have thick walls, you might not get much mobile network inside but it doesn't matter as you won't be needing it anyway. It has a bright interior with stone walls that gives out a homey vibe. There's even a little terrace at the back of the shop if you prefer sipping your cuppa with sunshine caressing your skin.

With over 60 selections of tea, you might be taken aback at first, especially if you don't know much about them. But fret not, the kind workers there are more than happy to explain the differences and help you choose one that suits your palate. If you are feeling a little adventurous, you can also leave it to fate and take the special drink of the day. My favourite drink would be their matcha latte, a lovely green tea with milk with a pleasant aroma that can soothe your worries away. If you are hesitating because you have coffee lovers in your group, don't worry as they have a decent selection of coffee and hot chocolates too.

Apart from warm drinks, they serve a special sugary treat called La Coquet that you absolutely have to try. It looks like a cupcake but inside, it is filled with scrumptious cream of your choice. It tastes so good, one is definitely not enough! I would suggest you order

La Coquet du Saison as it is filled with fresh in-season fruit cream. I think it is unquestionably the best pairing for teas.

One might not have a sweet tooth. For those who do not fancy desserts, the teahouse has a special brunch session every Sunday at noon by reservation only. If you find a favourite brew and wish to enjoy a cup at home, the shop sells tea leaves and other tea making equipment too. Overall, it is a pleasant place with reasonable price. I totally recommend you pop in if you happen to be in this part of town.

Siti Ariffin



La Coquetterie

17 rue Beaurepaire
49 100 ANGERS
02 41 48 45 70

ROOFTOP DINING: LA RESERVE

Angers is crossed by the Maine River. I love walking on the docks, hearing the sound of the water, so relaxing, and the reflection of the lights of the city is so beautiful on the river.

Across from the wonderful Castle, Le Quai Theatre has many artistic performances (dance, music, theatre) but on the roof level, there is a chic restaurant/bar, called La Réserve, where you can admire the view over the entire city. It's hidden and not very well known because it's only accessible by an elevator in the theatre building.

My boyfriend and I decide to go for a drink and have a snack. When we take the elevator, the trip to the 5th floor lasts 30 seconds but I already have a feeling of freedom. Once at the top, you arrive on an ideal outdoor terrace to have a drink on sunny days but unfortunately, today it's not very hot. I still take the time to admire the view.

The wooden deck is huge ; With some trees and some grass, you feel elsewhere. It's about 7 pm, the night begins to fall and the lights of the city are on, and the view is breath-taking: the banks of the Maine, the Castle, the Cathedral and all the streets of downtown are illuminated. The sounds of the city seem far away.



The smell of food starts to make me hungry; I cross the terrace and head to the restaurant. Upon entry, a wave of heat whips my face ; it's warmer inside. A waitress welcomes us, we walk along the bar, and discover a rather small room with two floors, decorated in a modern way, before arriving at our table for two, with red chairs, next to the stairs.

I sit down in front of the windows to see outside. The waitress brings us the menu.

For drinks, no hesitation, I take the local amber beer «Belle de Maine», a safe bet. For tapas, the choice is more difficult, as all looks delicious: fish, seafood, cold cuts, and cheeses. In the end, our choice

is a "crispy" sampler plate, a mixture of breaded chicken, camembert and apple and fish and chips. I take a look at the rest of the menu which makes me even more hungry.

The restaurant offers different types of dishes ranging from burger to scallops, salads and meats. There are few choices but they seem to be good quality and local products. Our order is coming out! The tapas plate makes us so hungry. The three tapas are arranged on the sides and the two small pots of sauce in the centre. It is delicious! The crispy camembert-apple mix with honey-mustard sauce is just perfect. Moreover, the "crispy" plate is well named, and with each bite the crispy feeling in my mouth is great.

We finish our tapas very quickly but we stay to talk quietly while we finish our beers. It's now 8 pm when we decide to leave. The most unpleasant moment is the paying the bill because the price remains quite high, but we had a great time and we ate well, that's the main thing!

Caroline Jeannière

La Réserve

Theatre Le Quai, Cale de la Savate
Boulevard Henri Arnauld
49 000 ANGERS

www.lareserveangers.fr - 02 41 87 85 80

BEST PLACE FOR A BURGER : ERNEST'INN

It's the evening of Valentine's Day and we are heading to the Ernest inn restaurant. After having heard about it for a long time, this is the opportunity to test it. According to a friend, this restaurant makes the best homemade hamburgers in Angers.

My boyfriend opens the door and lets me go in before him. Wow, I'm impressed by the number of people in this small restaurant - it's full! Fortunately, we had booked a table earlier. A young tattooed waiter with brown hair comes in our direction and then directs us to the table prepared in advance. We follow him quietly and sit down. The waiter hands us the menu and then leaves politely. My boyfriend smiles at me, I smile back at him.

The restaurant isn't very large but still large enough to feel comfortable. This warm and friendly place gives off a smell of fries that makes my mouth water. The rustic decoration and the tiny rough wood tables make this restaurant intimate and special. I take a look around me and I see on my left a group of 6 friends. With the mountain of gifts on the floor, I imagine that they came to celebrate the birthday of one of them. They all look very happy to have dinner together. They talk and laugh so loudly that you can only hear them all over the restaurant. The birthday cake with candles arrives and everyone starts to sing. On my right sits a young couple, the woman's fingers intertwined with those of her boyfriend who looks at her with loving eyes.

From where I am, I look up and I notice that I can see the 2 cooks through the small opening in the bar. They are very focused and very meticulous in what they do. Likewise, the very smiley waiters seem rather relaxed and happy to work here. They are very professional and experienced in the field of catering. "And you, what did you choose?". She made me jump! I realize that it was already the third time she has come back to me. What a disgrace! I come back to reality and I tell her my choice.

A little under twenty minutes later, she comes back with our dishes. «The crunchy lard'ny hamburger for you, madam, and the chick & chic champi for you sir. And your French fries. Enjoy your meal !». My hamburger consists of beef, roasted bacon, cheddar cheese and lettuce, accompanied by the excellent homemade Ernest'inn sauce. My boyfriend and I savour it, a delight. The meat is so tender, it melts in the mouth. The bread is crusty, the salad is crunchy and the fries are perfect. The Ernest'inn sauce? Let's not talk about it—a wonder!

Ernest'inn

1-3 rue Saint Maurille,

49 000 ANGERS

www.ernest-inn.com - 02 41 73 23 21

We don't regret coming here. My friend was right, these are the best homemade burgers I have ever eaten. Our stomachs full, we decide not to order dessert. Once the bill is paid, we go out hand in hand, happy to have known this place.

Diana Andrale

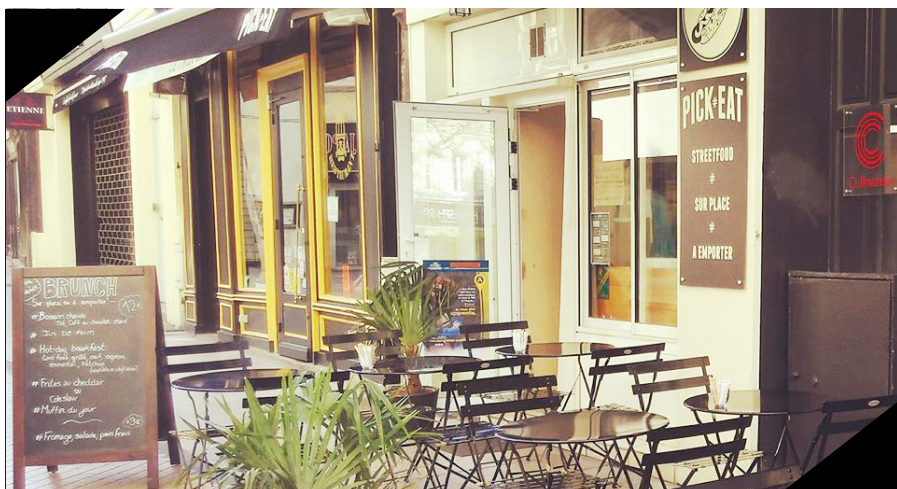


BEST TINY RESTAURANT: PICK#EAT

Maybe you've come across this type of restaurant before, hidden in a little street, with a front window so tiny you can't even tell if it's a restaurant or just a building entrance. Well, the place we're talking about is in the centre of Angers.

We walked past several well-known bars, such as the Joker or L'Irlandais, to reach it. Their specialities are hot-dogs, but not just sausage and ketchup on stale bread. I'm talking about real hot dogs, on a nice soft roll, with onions, ketchup and cheese or BBQ sauce, with French fries. And if you don't eat meat, or animal products, they also have a vegan dog. They also serve chicken or beef kebabs, which also comes with sauce and fries.

When we enter the place, the first thing we saw was the order counter, and behind it, fryers and hotplates. We had an open view on the kitchen to watch the hot dogs being made, while waiting for our order to be filled. The girl at the grill was standing in front of a large hotplate, cooking hot dogs and what seemed like onions, watching from time to time the fryers, to check if orders of fries were ready. The smell of cooked meat was mouth-watering. But, as nothing is perfect, the room between the counter and the dining room, in which we stood to be ready to order, is a little bit narrow.



The restaurant itself is tiny, the dining room essentially composed of a few mismatched chairs and table, with a capacity of around 10 people indoors, and 6 outdoors. But if you can't find a table to sit at, it's not a problem, as you can always order takeaway and eat outside, for example in front of the beautiful fountain in the Jardin du Mail. If you are able to order and find a place to sit, your food will be brought to your table in little cardboard containers, on a larger wicker tray. If you don't feel like eating with your hands, some stainless steel cutlery is available in a metal can on each table. While eating, we started looking around at all the posters hanging

on the walls. Most of them are humorous drawings, sometimes a bit crude. Despite the narrowness of the place and the proximity between tables, noise was not a problem, as most people talked quietly.

The clientele is composed of a wide variety of people, from families to couples or friends sharing a nice meal together. The warm, cosy and welcoming atmosphere is a really strong characteristic of this place. With its wooden furniture and narrow seating, it's easy to feel just like home in the tiny dining room. The music was just at the right volume, not too loud so we could hear each other talking, but just enough to be heard. Rock and French pop, with French musicians such as Caravan Palace to name one.

We spend the meal talking, stopping to take a bite of our freshly made hot dogs, appreciating the mix of flavors. When we were done eating, we had to clear our tray. For this, the restaurant has a little corner, with two bins: one for regular garbage, and another for recyclables. We could also leave the glasses we took to be washed. We paid for our meal at counter, and the price generally varies between 6 and 10€.

Adrien Chotard
Laura Texier

Pick#Eat

15, rue Poeliers,
49 100 ANGERS
02 41 37 04 90

WHERE LOCALS MINGLE: THE BLACK PEAT PUB

Often called the Student City, Angers has many different activities on offer. As a student myself here for almost three years, I have had the opportunity to visit many great places. In this article I'll present you one of my latest discoveries.

It was a Thursday evening in January, and accompanied by friends I was out looking for a bar. We had our usual places but this night we couldn't find a place to sit in our favorite establishments. It is well-known that Thursday night sees students filling the streets, so we had to try something new. This is where we found The Black Peat, a bar located at the end of Foch boulevard just across from the Jardin du Mail Park. It was cold outside; a shivering wind swept the streets reminding anyone who was hanging out outside not to linger and to find a place to warm up. I did not even pay attention how it looked from the outside, too much in a haste to finally find a comforting warmth. I rushed in, crossing my fingers we wouldn't be sent away. The atmosphere was subdued, the same feeling as when you enter an old library, with dark shelves and a dim light. The decoration and furniture were all in wood, and we could almost feel like we were on a pirate ship. It was all about the lighting in the end, and the atmosphere was really welcoming.

We took a seat upstairs, and while I was browsing through the menu, I realized in surprise I was tapping my foot in rhythm. I hadn't paid any attention to the music, but a rock playlist was playing in the bar. Aerosmith, 3 Doors to Down and the Red Hot Chili Pepper to name but a few. I immediately knew I would like this place. I used to be a drummer a few years back and hearing those songs in such a gloomy atmosphere reminded me of being backstage during a school concert.

The Black-Peat offers a wide range of choices in terms of drinks. There are enough types of beer to spend months there testing them one by one, but their specialty seems to be whiskey. I did not take the opportunity to test any, but I will surely do so as soon as possible. Food is also available, as I saw some appetizing plates crossing the establishment.

The Black-Peat is an atmospheric bar to enjoy with friends or family. The mixed clientele is mature and calm, and most importantly you will definitely appreciate it if you love Rock as I do.

Louis Buffet



Black Peat

2 Boulevard du Maréchal Foch,
49100 ANGERS

www.black-peat.fr - 02 41 88 67 36

A SPARKLING GUSTATORY EXPERIENCE AT LAÏT THYM SEL

Lait Thym Sel is a little bit special because recently it received a star from the famous French Michel guide. What makes the charm of this place is the mix of styles, between exposed stone and steel. The name of this restaurant is a pun: 'Lait thym sel' (milk thyme salt) sound like the French word for spark (l'étincelle) But why present such a restaurant? Because the chef knows how to mix the flavors of the region and the world by using fresh product from local farmers.

When I walked into the restaurant, I was surprised by the reduced number of tables, which makes it a very quiet place. The glass façade makes the place very luminous. The first floor is a half-timbered house typical of the city of Angers. In this restaurant the menu is unique and changes every day according to the seasonal products. There are seven courses from the beginning to the end with sparkling and mineral water included.

I was very warmly welcomed and set up at a table with my friend. The furniture is very modern and comfortable. First of all we had local beetroot from la Chapelle Saint Sauveur and bacon from Moze sur Louet. The name



of the dishes are a little weird because just say the ingredients and not the preparation technique, as opposed to a grilled steak for example. Then they served an olive squash from le Croisic with bergamot lemon, tasting like Earl Grey tea. The two ingredients made a smart mix of strong and new flavors. After that came a scallop from Normandie with lemon mogettes, a white bean from the local Vendée region, and since I'm from Vendée I find it very interesting how they transformed a very popular and heavy dish, emblematic of the region, into a more glamorous one. Then, we eat a guinea fowl from Mayenne with Jerusalem artichokes and Daikon radishes, a combination of very sweet

and smoky tastes. A chartreuse liquor flavoured with Reine des prés herbs followed to clear our palates. The penultimate dish is a very uncommon mix of yuzu, an Asian sweet lemon, and a very light and sweet Sichuan pepper.

To finish there is a cake made with gaude, an very old type of grilled cornflour, with pears and a plant called "ache de montagne" (lovage in English). It's far from the typical heavy French dessert.

To conclude I find this very interesting : artistic presentation, unique dishes and a series of dishes to build up flavors in your mouth.

Clément Belaud

Lait Thym Sel
65 rue Beaurepaire,
49 100 ANGERS
02 41 72 08 64

SHOPPING

ORIGINAL SHOPS : PINK-HAIR, BERETS AND COWBOY BOOTS

I began my walk on the rue Bodinier. I just had to cross the tram tracks to reach the first store of my list. The street was really narrow, and, as it was Saturday, full of people. Nevertheless, I was not feeling oppressed but incredibly impressed by the crowd, composed of teenagers, couples, family, friends, all looking enthusiastic at the prospect of spending this sunny Saturday together. I had no difficulty finding Azu Manga. Its front window had immediately caught my attention. Its flashy red stood out in the middle of the white and classic architecture.

I went inside the store. The saleswoman's hair was pink and she was wearing a purple lace doll dress and a puffed-out petticoat. Her style was really « kawaii » and I could not resist staring at her to admire her beautiful, incredible outfit. The store was not that large but the layout made it spacious. A multitude of mangas were exposed and the smell of new books filled the room. I felt very at ease, even if I was not a manga specialist. I observed the customers : on one hand there were the experts, those who chose their mangas with a skillful eye, and on the other hand, those who were a little bit lost, there in order to buy a gift or to accompany their children or friend.

What attracted me first was the collection of manga character figurines of all sizes. I took time to appreciate their details, their expressions and their style.

I decided to take a last look around the store. Some goodies, posters, and Japanese candies were on sale. I hesitated to buy one of those delicious-looking candies. Finally, I could not resist and bought one of them, planning to have it for a snack.

My second store was La Maison d'Adam. To go to it, I had to walk along the Ralliement place, in front of my beloved Grand Théâtre. What architecture ! The front of the building reminded me of a castle or a museum, with its huge windows, its inscriptions, and its statues.

I took time to examine the statues : Four goddess-like women embody lyrical poetry, tragedy, comedy and music. Three busts represent well-known composers : Grétry, Méhul and Lully- and around them, statues of angels and gargoyles stare at the passers-by . I let myself imagine the interior and I promised myself to visit it one day.

La Maison d'Adam is part of a building reminiscent of the Norman houses of the fifteenth century. When I came into the store, the atmosphere was really special to me : the room was full of a pure silence, as if the noise could break the glassworks, the sculptures, and the ceramics on display. The atmosphere was warm, very cocoon-like with the parquet floor and little wood stairs, but also very impressive with all the beautiful creations : sculptures of animals, of goddesses, paintings, jewelry, vases, bowls, and tapestries. I felt moved by all the colors, forms and textures. Some creations attracted me, especially the mysterious animal sculptures, and I could imagine all the work needed to produce these masterpieces.

My last destination was Kilo Shop. I came into this second-hand clothing store and I felt all the vintage vibes of the eighties : long and colorful skirts, multicolored shirts, bell bottom pants. What I found funny was that you had to weigh your clothes in order to know the price. The clothes filled the small store, giving it an intimate and cosy atmosphere. Customers had their own style, really stylish and wearing flashy colours proudly, a completely offbeat mix of textures and accessories such as beret or cowboy boots. In this style, no element was in its place but the whole was harmonious and beautiful. It was a pleasure to see all those inspiring styles, and it gave me ideas for my way to dress.

I decided to put an end to my walk, and all the way home, my spirit full of all the beautiful images of the day, I thought about what I could visit the next day.

Sarah Dakkak



Azu Manga

19 rue Bodinier,
49 100 ANGERS
02 41 36 15 32



La Maison d'Adam

1 place Sainte-Croix,
49 100 ANGERS
02 41 88 06 27

Kilo Shop

10 rue Voltaire,
49 100 ANGERS
02 41 86 01 43

ATOLL IN BEAUCOUZÉ : SHOPS AND MORE.

During my early days in Angers, everyone said The Atoll Shopping Center of Beaucouzé. was one of the most beautiful places near the city. It is the first in France of its size to be built in one piece, and has accumulated records and innovations.

The first impression I had when entering the Atoll was a complete isolation from the outside world. The whole building is UFO shaped, which I've never seen before. Once you are inside the enclosure, you feel like you're in a kind of a space station.

The overall design is open-center and the walls are covered with a pearly white wire mesh. Divided into four parts, the circular peripheral building houses about fifty shops. It is united by a one-kilometer long promenade: a first pedestrian walkway allows you to walk under a canopy under a shelter, which is nice during hot days because of the smooth shade it casts on the ground; a second parallel ring road is reserved for electric shuttles. Each one can carry 14 passengers. I've seen families taking these shuttles and the children were very fond of it.

In an east-west face-to-face, you will find Alinéa home furnishings, which inaugurate a new concept for the occasion, and Castorama, playing the rôle of magnet stores with, at their side, Boulanger, Darty, or Nike. The northern sector hosts smaller retail areas, while personal shopping is concentrated in the south. The presence of these stores is a departure from the original plans, during the bid to build the center, it was out of the question to compete with the city center and existing shopping centers.



When I stopped wandering in the Atoll because of hunger, I didn't have to go too far because the mall center is full of restaurants. With a total of 10 brands, there are specialties from all over the world, ranging from Alsatian cuisine to all-you-can-eat Asian buffets.

It was an experience to be lived with my family, unfortunately, they were not here with me. If you go with children, I would recommend going on a Wednesday or Saturday because many activities are planned for them (often pony rides, inflatable structures or a small train).

One of the things that struck me is the beach sand and deck chairs. They are placed around for people who want to rest. According to some workers of the center, the Atoll changes during the Summer to meet our needs. Everything is set to have a great day at the Atoll.

Erwan Coëffec
Kamel Ghernaout

Atoll Shopping Center

Ecoparc du Buisson,

49 073 BEAUCOUZÉ

www.latoll-angers.fr - 02 41 72 61 00

THE ATOLL FOR A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

If you want to take a breath of fresh air during a sunny spring day and you are looking for a place where you can feel the warm rays of sunshine soothing your skin, then why not make a journey to Beaucouze's Atoll? Whether for an hour, an afternoon or even an entire day, you will not get bored by this shopping centre.

Perhaps you are thinking that all the hustle and bustle of a shopping centre can't brighten your day at all, but let me tell you that you can discover the Atoll from another perspective. In fact, you really should experience this place on a weekday during the week and you will encounter a lot more peaceful and quieter scene, far from the overcrowded Saturdays.

The day I went, the sun was shining high and there weren't any clouds in this bright blue sky. The weather was not too hot thanks to a little breeze. I was thinking: "What a wonderful day to begin a journey!". I put on my jacket and I left my apartment to get to the Atoll.

As I approached I could notice that from the outside, it looked like an impressive stadium. Not everyone will like its huge rounded steel structure, lost in the countryside but it is an uncommon piece of modern architecture to discover. Indeed, if ever it is your first time to the atoll, you will be eager to find out what is hidden inside this ring shaped structure.

I parked my car in the large underground car park. The smell of burnt rubber came with a scent of gasoline. I took the elevator up to the shopping facilities; my walk could finally begin.

There were not many people passing by that day, I noticed a woman taking her young child for a walk in a stroller. She looked happy and pleased. Maybe it was her way to chill after work.

I strolled along the shops, following the circular track made inside the shopping centre. It was so pleasant being outdoors on that sunny day having a walk. Unlike other shopping centres you are not trapped inside a big building with multiple floors. Here, I could feel the sun shining, the wind blowing and what is more I

could slightly hear the radio broadcasted all over the place. It was one of these trendy pop songs, rather delightful to listen to and it brought a little more life in my journey. While walking, I could enjoy on my left the eye-catching shop-windows, some were full of colours while others depicted a scene. The furniture shop's windows represented a lovely living room with patent leather furniture, a nice way to attract potential customers.

On my right, the vegetation and the trimmed trees hid the outdoor parking lot, making the walk even more enjoyable. Half an hour later I finished my walk and I felt hungry and thirsty. Fortunately, in the middle of the Atoll, there were a nice area where you could rest, full of various bars and restaurants rounding a children's playground. I sat on a terrace of a café called Atoll Café. Children played in front of me, inside a pirate ship, having a good time. This area was nice and clean, the flowerbed, well maintained, were composed of colourful flowers. It smelt of a mix of fast-food and nature, making me even more hungry. I had to eat something before leaving this place, where I had an enjoyable time.

Louis Duret



Atoll Shopping Center

Ecoparc du Buisson,

49 073 BEAUCOUZÉ

www.latoll-angers.fr - 02 41 72 61 00

sIGHTSEEiNG

LE QUAI THEATRE : THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF ANGERS

It is late afternoon, the sky is clear and the day is sunny. We decide to go to the banks of Maine towards the docks. The air is fresh, it's "la douceur Angevine" as my grand-father says.

We arrive along the barges on the banks of the Maine. You can feel the excitement of the first days of good weather, people going out and the atmosphere is festive. We are in front of the Le Quai theatre, in front of the entrance on the paved esplanade.

Young people skateboard on this large square. We cross the esplanade and stand in front of the magnificent multicoloured tiled facade of the theatre. Waiting for the elevator, we are not the only ones, a few dozen people are also waiting. We're wondering if we're all going to be able to get back. In the meantime, we watch the reckless young skaters practicing on the roads along the Maine River. The elevator opens, we squeeze along the transparent walls and tightly tighten we all go up. Not surprisingly, everyone is heading for the fifth floor.

When we get to the top, we get out of the elevator, a little hot from squeezing together. But once out, the breeze caresses our faces and the breathtaking view in front of us leaves us speechless.

No one's complaining about the elevator, everyone's watching the show. We are on the rooftop terrace.

From there we have a magnificent view over the city centre of Angers.

After the paths, the greenery along the Maine river and the barges moored on the bank, we admire on the other bank, the castle of Angers with its ramparts, the cathedral which overlooks the whole city centre. We can even guess at all the paved streets between the slate roofs.

Time seems to stand still. We will later pick up a drink at the bar on the other side of the terrace. But for the moment camera flashes are out because everyone wants their selfie in front of this magnificent landscape. This evening at the bar La Réserve on the terrace of the theatre ends with the sky, which, without any clouds, turns from blue to pink and the sunset that offers us a magnificent spectacle on the water, in front of this superb city of Angers.

Jérémy Ligonnière



Théâtre le Quai

Cale de la Savatte

49 100 ANGERS

www.lequai-angers.eu - 02 41 22 20 20

AROUND THE CASTLE OF ANGERS: A TALE OF A QUITE SURPRISING WALK

We strolled along the walkway on the Castle ramparts with the Maine river on our right and the inner city of Angers on our left, after having visited the medieval castle for the first time since my lover moved in with me.

This beautiful first Sunday in February remains in my heart and in my mind for some reasons. Perhaps it was because the perfect light, the contrast of the cloudless sky and the black slates which made everything straight out of a movie. As the morning ended we passed by the castle's moat.

Coming off of the drawbridge on our way back to the apartment we discovered a flea market in the castle square which seems take place the first Sunday of every month. As the market was full, my girlfriend wrapped her fingers in mine, keeping us from separating as we moved through the crowd.

We were lost in another time, in another generation. Sellers, buyers and even objects : everything was old-fashioned. Everybody was carefully examining the products, seeking details as if a treasure must be hidden in one of them. My girlfriend dragged me to one of the seller's tables, covered with gems and precious stones.

The sunlight reflecting on them created a mesmerizing spectacle of various colors. She stayed a few minutes admiring these stones before the seller came closer to us, trying to sell us some gems.

We moved down the little alley trying to enjoy our walk together. This market was full of ancient objects, some of them were very fragile and I've never seen finer glass. The table across from gem seller was filled with high quality glasswork. Some glass vases were covered in such fine engravings that we didn't want to get too close because we were scared that our breathing could break them in two. Some of the objects in this market were very intriguing and we could not figure out what their function was so we made bets on what they could have been used for. It was a funny game that made us laugh a lot.

We had nearly arrived at the opposite side of the

market when a mysterious woman stopped us. Her dress style was different but we could not say if it was fashionable or even older than what we could find in the market. She gazed at us, with a slight smile, as a distinguished person.

"You're stunning," she said to us.

We were quite surprised by this declaration from a total stranger. She talked about fashion and perfumes and how we were an inspiration of love.

We smiled at her, a bit confused and embarrassed, not knowing what to do or say. Our lack of response and our discomfort put an end to the exchange. The woman did not insist and let us go, waving goodbye to us, still with a smile on her lips. We continued to walk slowly, exiting the market and trying to go back home.

When we were back at our car we agreed that this woman was out of the ordinary ; she was very confident to approach people this way and a little strange to talk to strangers about fashion and perfumes in the streets. But she was not dangerous and she complimented us. Perhaps we should have listened more to what she had to say...

Maxime Petitjean



Château d'Angers

2 Promenade du Bout du Monde,

49 100 ANGERS

www.chateau-angers.fr

A STROLL THROUGH LA DOUTRE

Today is the first day of my vacation, and when I wake up in late morning, the desire to go out, enjoy the bright sunshine and the fresh air of the day takes me. So I quickly leave my old apartment ; the wooden steps squeak and I arrive in front of the worn wooden door allowing me to reach daylight and my neighbourhood La Doutre.

The boulevard extends in front of me, and the tall old trees stretching out on both sides of the street leave my body in a soft, pleasant light. I then start my walk, slow and steady and little by little the buildings give way to a slate wall covered with vegetation, and the paved street to irregular paving stones. I arrive at on a square at the crossroads of three streets at the Place Grégoire Bourdillon in the center stands a column surmounted by a statue.

From a distance I cannot yet read an inscription but simply distinguish that it is a man's bust. To my right, the bakery spreads a sugary, hot and gourmet aroma in the air, while to my left stands a magnificent stone and half-timbered building.



I continue along the street I end up passing in front of the statue, whose pedestal actually happens to be also a fountain and whose clear white stone is marked with the inscription «A Garnier, Médecin des pauvres, La ville d'Angers» (To Garnier, Doctor to the Poor, From the City of Angers).

Continuing my way, I cross the street and arrive in a busier area. Blatantly coloured ads at the Bar-Tabac contrast with the soft tones of the street. At the tables set up on a covered terrace, a couple of friends happily discuss their work, two octogenarians each read their newspaper while sometimes grumbling incomprehensibly at the news of the

day, a lonely man drinks a coffee while scrolling through his phone, a smile on the corner of his mouth. Everyone seems to be in their bubble in this small warm place of society filled by pop music with light tones.

I then arrive at the parking lot of the Church of the Trinity and the Abbey the place de la Laitérie. Today the usual cars have been replaced by locals selling antiques. Kitsch paintings, baroque furniture, painted dishes, and other junk goods all mix together to create an atmosphere from another time. About twenty people walk around looking at the offers, interested in the objects and negotiating the prices.

I become absorbed by the church, a huge white building made all the more vivid by this brilliant midday sun. The door, this only dark element, is framed by arches with meticulous details, leading to a large interior, high, white, majestic. But today I don't take the time to stop and I just follow my way alongside.

On the other side of the street (rue Beaurepaire) , there are a succession of shops, always in a magnificent half-timbered architecture. A delicatessen with a mosaic front in a very medieval style, a private club, mini-markets, a hairdresser, etc, here every 2 meters a different universe is on offer. The sun continues to warm me up and I am happy to imagine myself soon at the river's edge. The stone coloured street, the plants and greenery, the brightly-coloured shops, are all completed by the blue of La Maine.

At the end of the boulevard I decide to take a right on a wooden sidewalk, and I follow the river to a place where I can settle down quietly. The closer I get to this calm river, the more the constant, throbbing noise of the street gives way to the regular, soothing flow of water. I finally end up sitting on the edge of a dock, the light breeze brings me a refreshing smell of freshly cut grass, the sun warms my face, my muscles relax, and I rejoice in the journey I have just made in the beautiful La Doutre.

La Doutre Neighborhood

Statue of Doctor Garnier, Place Grégoire Bourdillon

Church of the Trinity and Medieval Houses, Place de la Laitière

Riverside Walking, Quai des Carmes

L'HÔPITAL SAINT JEAN : A HAVEN OF PEACE IN THE CITY CENTRE

It was a Friday as I was on my way from Angers station to Polytech Angers health campus located on boulevard Daviers. The weather was fine with a very pleasant temperature. During this trip, I crossed the city with its share of traffic, lights and the atmosphere typical of the cities which oppressed me.

Once I crossed the Verdun bridge, I continued on Arago Boulevard, when suddenly I saw these large gates through which I could see greenery. It was the Parc de l'hôpital Saint-Jean. Not being in such a hurry, I ventured to discover this place. I crossed through the large wrought iron gate and found myself in this park containing medicinal plants just in bloom that gave off a pleasant spring scent reminding me of my childhood. It made me curious to linger in this unknown place.

I walked through this park and then lingered on

monuments such as statues, but the one that most appealed to me was the columns reminiscent of ancient Rome. The singing of the birds made me travel and contrasted totally with the city located on the other side of these thick fences surrounding this park. I sat on one of the benches in the park and relaxed, feeling the warmth of the sun's rays on my skin, smelling the sweet mixture of the scents of flowers and the radiant melody of the birds that had awoken after winter. It was one of the most peaceful experiences I had ever had before going to class, compared to other days when there is traffic and the stress of being able to park and be on time. This place allowed me to leave all the problems outside the park and just enjoy the moment.

Vincent Roux



Hôpital de Saint Jean & Musée Jean-Lurçat et de la Tapisserie contemporaine

4 Boulevard Arago,

49 100 ANGERS

02 41 24 18 48

PLACE LAFAYETTE : A WEDNESDAY MORNING MARKET

Wednesday the 20th was a fairly pleasant day for February. It was pretty good weather and the sky was generally clear. As I wandered quietly through the streets of Angers, I decided to stop at the Place Lafayette (Lafayette square). It was a very charming place where a market was held.

I started to move among the different stands of the market. As I walked forward I met many people, the majority of them seemed to be rather old. At times I was moving against the grain so I had to avoid others so as not to be pushed over. Most of the time, the elderly people I met were accompanied by small shopping trolleys that they dragged behind them. Inside the shopping trolleys I could see the different products they had bought. I could easily notice that some of these elderly people were regular customers of the market. Indeed, they used the familiar 'tu' form with the sellers and the sellers even seemed to know in advance what these people intended to buy. The further I went, the more the number of smells increased. On the whole, I could smell a soft mixture of salty and sweet scents that merged with the smell of the Angevin air.



In addition, there were the constant calls from merchants who tried to attract as many bystanders as possible with promotions : "5 for the price of 3!"

All this agitation created a general atmosphere that was quite friendly, which I did not dislike.

As I walked, I constantly turned my head to look at the different stands. I suddenly stopped in front of a stand that had caught my attention. To look at it, this stand had nothing special. Like most of the others, this stand mainly offered fruits and vegetables. I think that what attracted me were the kind smiles of the two standholders. There were an older woman with a young teenaged girl. I

started to approach them. The old woman then greeted me and started talking about her different varieties of apples. She said "Our apples satisfy all tastes! These are for people who prefer rather tart apples, those for others who prefer rather sweet ones." The old woman then asked the teenaged girl to start cutting apple pieces for me to taste. She then explained to me that this young girl was her granddaughter who regularly came to help her participate in the Angers markets. I started by tasting a tart apple. I immediately felt a not very pleasant sensation in my mouth...

Fortunately, the sweet apple she later made me taste soothed the taste that the first one had left in my mouth. I finally bought a batch of sweet apples. The old woman and her granddaughter thanked me and then I continued my journey in search of other stands. After leaving this market I had a smile on my face. Going to a market is a great opportunity to meet new people and to discover local products. Merchants and buyers were all very welcoming and smiling, it was an excellent way to start a day in a happy and cheerful mood.

Liza Tatewaki

Place Lafayette

49 000 ANGERS

Market Wednesdays and Saturdays

THE CATHEDRAL OF ANGERS : LOCAL TREASURES

Tall, perched at the top of a small hill, and overlooking the Maine, stands the beautiful Cathedral of Angers (4 Rue Saint-Christophe). I took the Montée Saint-Maurice street to get to it, which is composed of several steps and I recommend you to do the same. You can enjoy some breaks during your rise, to breathe and appreciate the cathedral as you get closer and closer.

Once I arrived in front of the very decorated portal, I push the wooden door and took the path on my right. I recommend you to take time to appreciate the stained glass windows and after going around, sit down for a moment. Feel the almost solemn silence and look around.[...]

If you visit the cathedral at the end of the day, you can appreciate the way the sun filters through the stained glassed windows on the wall.

Then, I recommend you read the history of the cathedral and imagine its construction in the 12th century. You can find a brochure at the entrance of the cathedral. I stood for a moment to admire the splendid organ, dating from the 18th century and modified in the 19th century by Cavaillé-Coll. [...] I tried to analyze all the little details but it would have taken hours. As I look down the organ, I glimpse a monumental wood neo-Gothic

pulpit. I did not dare touch it to avoid damaging it, but do not hesitate to approach, as it is very beautiful.

Then, if you want, you can light an authentic church candle for 1€ or 2€ and display it in the candle holder. I got into the habit of putting a church candle in all the cathedrals I visit. It's a habit of my mothers to think about my grandmother.

Once the inside visit is over, go back to the wooden door and explore the outside of the cathedral. I stopped in front of the Western portal, and I listened to my mother explain the representation, which represent an iconography inspired by the Apocalypse of Saint Jean where the blessing Christ is represented in majesty in a mandorle, surrounded with the symbols of four Evangelists.

All the architectural details are a treasure but I think the most important gift is not inside the cathedral. Indeed, the treasure of the cathedral of Angers, which includes about 3000 objects, is one of the richest in France. One of its special holdings is the Curtain of the Apocalypse, a royal command in 1373 by Louis 1st from Anjou and left to the cathedral in 1480.

We can find this tapestry exposed in a gallery at the castle of Angers, which was my next visit.

Léa Moune



Cathédrale Saint Maurice
4 Rue Saint-Christophe,
49 100 ANGERS

LE JARDIN DES PLANTES : AN AMAZING AFTERNOON IN A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE

I was in Angers, I was cold, but that sunny afternoon warmed me especially when I felt the sunlight gently touching my face, so enjoyable. The sound of horns and engines were resonating throughout the city of Angers and my ears were hurting because of the noises.

My friend and I were walking between the cars. We finally arrived at the beautiful, huge metal gateway of the Botanical Gardens. Suddenly, the noises began to fade away, and the further we went, the less we heard the sound of the cars. It was like walking through a magical portal leading to another world. We had been in the city centre of Angers just a minute ago, and now we were in a place full of greenery, without any cars. The landscape had completely changed.

We walked. We talked about everything and nothing ; we were chatting about what we had done last weekend, the classes we had attended, the parties we had gone to and what we were going to do during our next vacation. And as we walked, we were surrounded by greenery. The flowers started to bloom. The birds were singing, and

we could finally feel the arrival of spring. After a winter, not the coldest, it must be said, but a winter remains a winter, even if it was not cold, the days were short, and people felt tired because of the bad weather. And it must be said that we were a little impatient to finally get back to the good sunny days.



My friend and I walked next to incredibly tall and majestic trees. We also saw people jogging in their sport clothes. It's true, this place is perfect to exercise. Indeed, this park is big enough for a run. I have also come here several times with friends, even if I am not very athletic. As they say, I wanted to ease my conscience, because student food is not the healthiest in the world and I must

admit that since I left my mother's house, I have grown a little fat... In the blink of an eye, we were in the middle of the park without even noticing it.

I am a big fan of animals. I have two cats, and I have been fond of animals since I was a child. That's why I really like this park because even in the city of Angers you can see goats. I really like to come and observe them. It says on a sign that animals should not be fed, but I still take grass next to the pen and give some to the goats. I don't think it is bad for their health, since it's part of their diet.

There were not only goats in the park. When my gaze finally reached the lake. I could also see ducks and moorhens. But as I was watching the landscape, it was not the ducks that caught my eyes ; indeed, it was the splendid lake. The lake was surrounded by trees and flowers, and the most beautiful was their reflection delicately resting on the water with the reflection of the sun ; it created such a «romantic» atmosphere, an ideal scene for a picnic by the water. It was still a little cold for a picnic but with my friend, we said: "Why don't we come back a little later when it will be warmer?"

On the other side, we could also see a playground. There were children playing tag. Even though we were already twenty years old, my friend and I were still children in our hearts, and we had an irresistible desire to go on the swings. After waiting for the children to leave, we decided to swing for a few minutes. This feeling of returning to childhood was really enjoyable.

Without us realizing it, the sun was already setting, and we had to go back home. Before going out the gate , we turned around one last time to admire the beautiful landscape in front of us, and the magnificent colors of the sunset landing on the Jardin des Plantes.

Mélissa Zhou

Jardin des Plantes

39 Rue Boreau,
49 100 ANGERS

A SUNNY AFTERNOON ON THE JEAN TURC PROMENADE

On a sunny winter afternoon, I was walking alongside the castle of Angers. When I arrived at the foot of the huge tower, I saw on my right a pretty path for a walk along the castle and the La Maine river. I was standing on a slight rise, so I had an overview of the Jean Turc path.

The path was wide, curving and lined with greenery, even in this winter month. Beige white stones, gleamed in the sun, and had markings for pedestrians or cyclists. Some areas were green with grass, others were covered with brown tree bark, where flowering plants were planted. The walls of the castle formed a background to the bare, precisely positioned trees. I felt the work of humans on disorderly nature.

Walking along this downhill path, I rushed into the shadow of the castle's more than ten-meter high walls. The walls were composed of slate as dark as ash burnt by the sun. The weather had worn rectangular shapes out of the thirteenth-century landmark. The stones of the wall were colonized by wild green mosses and climbing ivy. In places, the abundant vegetation gave an impression of disorder on a symmetrical building.

At the foot of the castle, on the way, a few wooden benches lined the path for the tired walkers. A couple was sitting on a bench near me, animated by a hilarious discussion. Their conversation was masked by the buzzing of cars rumbling as the road was very close to the promenade area. The humming of the cars was frequently punctuated by the roar of aggressive motorcycles or dissonant horns.

On my way, I met all kinds of people, from children and students to parents and grandparents. Some parents were cycling with their children. Young students were having fun taking pictures through a veil, certainly to give an aesthetic effect to the photo.

In the middle of the promenade, there was a fantastic metal pergola, delimited by two domes open to the sky. This tunnel was clad in climbing plants, giving an organic body, color and life to the inert and dull structure. The curvatures of the branches contrasted with the rigidity of iron bars. When I turned, I could see the dome through the sun's rays, sneaking between the branches. Under the domes, passers-by could sit on benches to better soak up the wild and mystical atmosphere.

Continuing on my way, a little boy playing a ball was

facing me. But I barely had time to look at him as his father came up from behind me, telling him they had to go home. I noticed a children's playground with wooden structures. The area was relatively large and many children were playing, under the watchful eyes of their parents, sitting around the area. The children were screaming, having fun and laughing. The ambiance was cheerful and friendly.

Further on, a space with benches and a sort of wooden raised platform, where people could sit, gathered groups of friends. They were talking passionately and laughing loudly. One of them was sunbathing on the wooden platform. Some people were eating, and others were listening to pop music, in a casual atmosphere. I could have stayed there for hours. The Jean Turc promenade is beautiful, pleasant and clean... the perfect place to linger on a splendid day!

Fiona Carnielli



Jean Turc Promenade

Riverside, at the foot of the Angers Castle

49 000 ANGERS

Riverside Walking, Quai des Carmes

THE GRAND THÉÂTRE : 19TH CENTURY GRANDEUR

One Thursday, I went to the Grand Théâtre of Angers with my friends to attend a performance, entitled *Le Piano*. The Grand Théâtre is an Italian-style theatre located on Place du Ralliement, a well-known square in Angers.

Once we arrived in front of the monument, we stopped to admire it and I took the opportunity to take a picture, as I have always been fascinated by opera and theatre architecture and the evening lighting added an extra charm. It is a magnificent, huge and imposing stone monument built in the 19th century by Alphonse Botrel and Auguste Magne.

After the photo session, we headed for the entrance and the lobby, which was already crowded. We were welcomed by people all dressed in suits and ties. A large central staircase opened up to us between two magnificent columns, and everything seemed immense. We went up the stairs and headed to the left side to find our places. [...]



Once settled in, I looked up to contemplate all the details of the room: the red, wooden seats, the purple wallpaper and the shining golden moldings on the balconies. From the ceiling hung a big, very luxurious chandelier, surrounded by a painted dome staging period characters. It was just sublime. The room was gradually filling up ; there were practically only young people because the evening was organized for students. All were well-dressed : dresses for the girls and white shirts or even a suit for the boys. On the stage, some instruments : violins, cellos, a grand piano etc.

Once the room was full, the lights gradually went out until there was only the light on the front of the stage. A presenter came in to announce the evening's program of masterpieces of Mozart and Beethoven and introduce us to the conductor : François-Frédéric Guy, a kindly looking man, with a big smile and grey hair. The conductor was also the solo pianist of the evening ; he stood in his place in front of his piano and the performance began. The conductor's movements synchronized with those of the musicians' heads and arms ; the delicate movements of the bows on the violin strings and the harmony and purity of the sounds of all the instruments carried us into pleasure. Last but not least, I noticed that to the conductor's left was a young girl with her violin, who seemed to «guide» the orchestra, and between each piece, she stood up to greet the conductor.

At the end of the performance, the whole room applauded and cheered the orchestra for a few minutes. It was a great evening.

Romaine Demery

Grand Théâtre d'Angers

Place du Ralliement,
49 100 ANGERS

NaTURE

LA POINTE DE BOUCHEMAINE, AT THE CONFLUENCE OF LOIRE AND THE MAINE RIVER

There was a place we used to go as children, with my family on Sunday walk. Near the center of Bouchemaine, across the bridge, the two rivers La Maine and La Loire meet and there, at this beautiful piece of land called La Pointe, we used to go walking, seeing how high the rivers were, how the city looked across the water and enjoying the nature at this place.

I decided to go there again, to remember, the good moments spent there when I was a child. Arriving in the center of Bouchemaine, I parked near a little grocery store. Walking a little more to get there would not do any harm, and I crossed the bridge, still under renovation after 2 years. To my left was the little pathway that goes directly to the long (at least from what I remembered) walk we always took to La Pointe. I went there, and it was like nothing had changed, still the same calm atmosphere, the same scenery. The first half of the path was surrounded by tall trees, and the terrain was still quite flat. After a 5-minute walk, the scenery changed quite a bit and the trees on my left made room for a prairie, and on my right the trees thinned out to give a small view on La Maine. As I continued, a man with his dog came running from the other side. Indeed, it was a nice place for a morning run.

After another 5 minutes, I arrived at the spot I had always loved as a child: the exact place where we could see La Maine and La Loire meet. The walk was shorter than I remembered, surely because I hadn't been there since I was a child. The place, however, was how I remembered it, with the two rivers mixing to become one. There I could see the village of La Pointe, on the left across La Maine, and the plains on the right. I sat there for quite some time, starting to write about this little trip.

After some time, I stopped writing and decided to go back. There were two paths I could follow. The first one, directly went back to where I came from, on my left, and the second one, on the right, went on a path I rarely took. After a few seconds, I decided to go right, and followed it until I went back on the road. This path was mostly forest (at least what was left of it on winter), and went back to the road quite quickly. I crossed the bridge on the other way, and went back to my car.

Pierre Engelstein



La Pointe,
Bouchemaine.
From Angers, bus n°6 (Chantourteau/ Zi Est)

MEETING ANIMALS AND HISTORY AT THE PARC DE LA GARENNE

Sunday, tenth of February, after eating at my grandparents house: while filling the pitcher, my grandfather overturned a bottle of water on the table and my brother. This was very funny, but let's go back to our story.

After eating at my grandparents house, we all decided to go walk in the Garenne park (boulevard Albert Camus). We took two cars and drove to the park. The journey was long. When we arrived at the park, at the foot of a huge convent, now dedicated to the integration of foreign clergy in French culture. We walked through the huge metal entrance gate. Surrounded by runners, families and couples, we took the rise at the right. After some minutes, we stumbled upon a pig, a wallaby, some goats, a real little zoo, full of different animals, parked in some pens, where the visitors can see, touch and, although it is forbidden, feed them. All of these animals seemed very comfortable and quiet in their pens. After that, we walked upwards and arrived at a large playground, full of children. In addition to the animals, the park provides a riding arena, slides, climbing walls, a turnstile.

The playground was full of children, surrounding by caring parents. [...] we were then in front of a great calm avenue, with some blocks of slate rising in the background and a headland, giving a magnificent view all over the east part of Angers, especially the Belle Beille district. Furthermore, we had a great view of the lake, shining

in the sunlight.[...] After this great view, my mum lead us to the right, where, after crossing a little stone bridge, we arrived near a pen full of hairy alpaca. I stopped in front of the information panel, to see from where they are, what they eat. My grandfather came with me, explaining to me that these types of animals had been here since he was young.



Another gate, near the lake, and another path around the entire lake. Between the runners, who decided to complete the loop of the lake with more or less difficulty, the fishermen, trying to catch pike,[...] and the other families walking all the way around, this place was animated. After walking for a while, we

saw a long wooden bridge, which crosses the lake. It was 4 pm, snack time, so we decided not to continue to the other bridge situated about a mile away.[...] The way back was pretty similar to they way before, except that we passed near an old wall, using by the military during World War ii for target practice. Near this wall, we saw a memorial for hostages executed by Nazis at Belle-Beille. We took a minute of silence for them, and then, we walked back, silently, to finish our stroll. The nearer we came to the end of the walk, the more we heard car noises from the road, and finally, after walking a mile, we reach the bottom of Belle-Beille, at the Rue Saint-Jacques. After taking one last look at the park, we decided to go home, where we were going to have tea. This was a great journey.

Yohann Hirrien

Parc de la Garenne

Boulevard Albert Camus,
49 100 ANGERS
02 41 22 53 00

RIVERSIDE BIKING IN ANGERS

If you want to do a physical activity and at the same time to enjoy the landscape of Angers, you can ride a bike along the Lac de Maine and the La Maine river. A bike ride along the La Maine river is a good way to view the Angers countryside. Honestly, the bike ride will be more enjoyable if the weather is good. Otherwise, if it rains, the pathways will be flooded and you will have to make a detour.

I started my bike ride on the Boulevard du Bon Pasteur and I came in the Balzac park. There are community gardens available in this park and people are often in their garden creating social links. Indeed, two men in boots were gardening ; one of these men was holding a bag of seeds in his hand. There was a dog with them, I think it was a Jack Russell. I really like passing by this place, as there is a pleasant atmosphere.

After I passed these gardens, I reached the Lac de Maine park. There is a big lake in the middle of the park, where you can picnic, walk or also go kayaking. In addition, if the water quality is right, you can swim in a designated area. There are a lot of people around this lake : runners, friends groups, families with dogs. A woman was running with her dog, looking so happy to be able to run outdoors. It is really a social and restful place.

To move towards the La Maine river, don't ride around the lake but to go straight. However, that day I was in great shape and I went around the lake before

following the riverside. By riding around the lake, I passed an area with barbecues. There was a group of friends cooking meat, beers in their hands, enjoying the first sunny days of the year. I heard them in the distance talking loudly. When I passed in front of them, I smelled the meat cooking, reminding me of summer, my favorite season. [...]

After passing a bridge, green fields on my left side, I heard the noises of a tractor. [...] A short time later, I met a woman on a bike with her three children. The two older children were laughing at their little brother because he was learning to ride a bike without training wheels and he had difficulty moving forward, it wasn't a bad thing because he was laughing too. [...]

I turned to the left after a while. At that moment, I was no longer riding along the La Maine river but along the La Loire river. There was a puddle of water on a small, dark path. I thought the puddle wasn't deep, but when I rolled in it I got mud on my legs and my bike. Just before arriving in the town of Sainte-Gemmes-sur-Loire I made an about-turn towards Angers to return home. After riding for almost two hours, my legs were starting to hurt and I was tired. Above all, my water bottle was almost empty and I was hungry.

Camille Fraboulet



Parc de la Garenne

Boulevard du Bon Pasteur

49 000 ANGERS

THE PERFECT PICNIC SPOT: THE LAC DU MAÏNE

If you want a typical Angevin meal, there are many good restaurants in Angers. But if you want have a different experience, here is what you need: a picnic. Personally I don't like restaurants because I think it's so impersonal to eat with many people around, so I decided to have lunch on the grass.

Indeed I go to the Lac de Maine: picnics are allowed in the park and there are dedicated areas with benches and tables and barbecue enthusiasts also have their own dedicated areas. I can eat whatever I like, as much I want and I'm free. It's not a restaurant but it is a great place to lunch when you are in Angers. As the weather is nice, I made lots of raw vegetables and the sun is beautiful. I smell the cooked meat and charcoal smoke. There are tables with benches on a concrete slab and grass everywhere [...] and the area is surrounded by a semi-circle of oaks, birches and hornbeams. I can see the lake on the other side of the tables. There are already many people spending their Saturday here although we are only in February. It is mostly families. It must be because there is a playground dedicated to children few meters away and the weather is mild. I hear the laughter of children playing and birdsong. I am soothed by the sun warming my face. I feel like I'm on a summer holidays because the atmosphere is so relaxed.



I decide to walk around the lake before dessert. Indeed, I have heard there was a remarkable flora and fauna in Angers so I want to see that with my own eyes. For example there is the House of Environment inside Lac de Maine, a few meters by. It has an organic garden and expositions are freely open to everyone. [...]

About 235 winged species are listed at the Lac de Maine. I see grey herons: with their almost 6-foot wingspan, they can't be missed. During this pleasant walk on small paths where I meet a few cyclists, I find myself near a small clearing near the water and lie on the grass for a moment.

There is slightly stagnant water here so it doesn't smell very good but it doesn't bother me. Going back to the lake, I see people having a miniature electric boat race. They shout and laugh. Normally there are always people bathing, but in February the water must be really cold (I don't even try to soak my feet). Canoes can be rented here, although I think today no one can because it may not be the season yet. I'm getting hungry again and it's time to eat my dessert and I find my place on the bench to finish my meal. [...]

Emeline Recchia

Parc des Loisirs Lac du Maine

Avenue du Lac de Maine,
49 000 ANGERS
02 41 22 32 10

OUTSIDE

 **ANGERS**

BRISSAC CASTLE : A DUKE'S LIFE

Leave Angers from the south, cross the Loire and its many vineyards, come and discover all the splendour of the Brissac Castle. A 20-minute drive takes you to the entrance of this incredible residence that has belonged to the Cossé family since 1502. Even today, this castle is inhabited by the Duke and Duchess of Brissac and is very well preserved.

Here I am, with my hair in the wind in front of this castle. My feet are on the paved path, the stone damaged by people's footprints over time. As I walk towards the castle, I can feel droplets of rainwater on my face. I can smell vines and animal smells, but what attracts me most at that moment is the magnificent view of this majestic castle.

It is the highest castle in France with 7 floors and more than 200 rooms. Before entering, I admire the gardens that surround the residence. There are many animals : donkeys, horses, ponies, sheep... the smell reminds me of my farm home. It feels good here in these gardens. The walk along the riverside shows the different views of the castle and I feel so small at the bottom.

I notice that the castle contains a large wine cellar. Indeed, you can taste 3 wines : a Cabernet d'Anjou, and an Anjou Villages Brissac and a Rosé d'Anjou. The vineyards surrounding the castle allow the production of these delicious wines ; when I felt the taste of «Cabernet d'Anjou» on my tongue, my taste buds were titillated.

You can admire the castle and see the architecture alone or take a 2-hour guided tour. The choice of the guided tour will take you to the most unusual places of the castle, such as a theatre dating back to 1890. If you are lucky, some musicians still perform today on this fabulous stage. When I entered this room, I was impressed by the beauty and how well this room is preserved. It is easy to feel and imagine the concerts and operas that have been performed here.[...] The ceiling height is impressive. I feel so small here...

As the residence belongs to the 13th Duke of Brissac,

during the visit it is possible to meet one of the family members. During my visit last October, I had the chance to meet the Duke in person. Dressed in a hunting suit, he was getting ready to ride a horse. Indeed, as soon as you enter the castle, you notice the importance of hunting in this family. The walls are covered with animal heads such as wild boars or deer. I was surprised by the size and richness of the decorations.

The castle kitchens open their doors to admirers of cuisine and good food. When I entered the kitchens I smelled the good smell of vegetables, fruits, and sauces. It almost seems as if the walls are impregnated with kitchen odours over time.

For 2 hours, I was immersed in another time. The architecture, dating from the time, allowed me to immerse myself in the skin of a queen in the heart of this magnificent region of Anjou. Knowing that this magnificent castle, classified as a historical monument, is only 15 km from Angers, it would be silly to miss it.

Mélissa Cloarec



Chateau de Brissac

Rue Louis Moron,

49 320 BRISSAC-QUINCÉ

www.chateau-brissac.fr - 02 41 91 22 21

THE CHATEAU DE SERRANT : RENAISSANCE TREASURES

Located just 15 minutes by car from Angers, the Chateau de Serrant in October is a real step back in time. I recommend a guided tour (90 minutes) ; at 9€ for adults, the price is worth it. As soon as I arrive at the castle, the city seems far away.

Lost in a large, gorgeous garden, I look at the chirping birds. These gardens, filled with an incalculable quantity of different flower species, create a climate of serenity that will last throughout the visit. The sun is at its peak. I can feel its rays heating my skin. The sky is perfectly blue, no clouds on the horizon. The tour begins in the castle courtyard, a huge, perfectly maintained space. [...]. Years have passed but the buildings are solid and the color of the walls has not aged. As the guide begins to speak, a floral scent comes to my nose. The sweet and springtime smell only makes the guide's explanations better.

He is passionate about the history of the castle, still partly inhabited. Afterwards, we visit the inside of the building. Most of the furniture dates from the Renaissance and I feel small next to the prestigious furniture and multiple gildings. We spend a little more time in front of cabinet made entirely of ivory. It was made in Central Africa and given to the owners of the castle. There are only 2 copies of this piece of furniture in the world. All the furniture

in the castle has a history and is worth a fortune. Opulence is omnipresent. In the library, there are books as far as the eye can see, on shelves up to 3 meters high. What impresses me the most is the smell of old books. I have been particularly fond of this old book fragrance since my childhood.



Once the tour of the castle is done, we decide to explore outside without the guide. It is very easy to get lost amongst the many shrubs in this large garden. As I go on, I can easily imagine life during the Renaissance. I imagine villagers in their cart crossing the courtyard, some craftsmen working on the proper functioning of the castle, all this under

the watchful eye of the owner of the premises, who can see all the activities taking place on his property from the top of his balcony located on the second floor. This time travel is a real break from the active life of the city. It is incredible to think that we are so close to Angers physically but so far away mentally. I keep in mind this memory of peace and well-being [...].

Marie Cruz

Chateau de Serrant

RD 723

49 170 ST GEORGES SUR LOIRE

www.chateau-serrant.net

UNUSUAL ACTORS AT LE PUY DU FOU

At just 1 hour and 20 minutes from Angers, you can find the most important historical park of Europe: Le Puy du Fou. At 9 :30 a.m we were in front of the entrance. After passing the securities portals we arrived in a pleasant square called Bourg 1900.

In the centre of the square, a magnificent carousel with a blue roof had been erected. Impatient and excited children wanted to ride the horses of the carousel. If I had been their age, I probably would have done the same thing. The park was not open yet and the crowd was gradually building up in the village. Some curious people were taking a look through the very nicely decorated pastel-colored windows of the bakery, grocery store or restaurant. I stayed for a moment to look at the architecture, admiring the facades with the exposed metal beams and the coloured stained-glass windows of the Lion d'Or hotel of the square. It was like travelling through time : in a second, we were in the 1900s.

At the opposite side of the square, the crowd was starting to move forward under a huge green wrought iron bridge with French flags on each side. We finally arrived in the park and many majestic trees, plants and flowers of all kinds lined the paths. Delicious smells from the restaurants tickled our nostrils but we didn't have the time to stop and eat. Some exciting shows were waiting for us at the other side of the park. We arrived at a sign indicating "Le bal des oiseaux fantômes». Intrigued, we moved forward. On the path leading to the show, my eyes lingered on large cages on our left, but they were mostly empty.

We reached the scene of the show and I saw in the middle, a small earthen square with a stone well. The square was surrounded by stone ruins, one or two metres high at most. We settled into the wooden stands just behind the ruins. A few meters further down, in front of me, I could see the square with on the right, a destroyed stone tower. Immersed in the heart of nature, we could see the Vendée countryside in the distance. The show was about to start, and security staff asked us to put all the food in bags for our safety. I didn't quite understand why, but, a little worried, I carefully stowed my picnic in my bag. Everyone kept quiet when the music started. An elegant young woman in a midnight-blue medieval dress with a cute fresh flower wreath appeared on the left side of the stage. She told us the story of this place and mentioned that her friend Aliénor had been sleeping for hundreds of years in the destroyed tower in front of us. She started

dancing and calling her friend. Suddenly, smoke began to come out of the top of the tower. We could see a canopy bed magically appear at the top of the tower. Beautiful white doves came out from under the bed and a gorgeous woman in a white dress woke up gently. It was Alienor! With her friend, she started to call different birds. An Grand Duke owl landed on the perch next to me. This well-named animal with its multiple rows of white, grey and brown feathers, looked majestic and I've never seen such a beautiful one. He looked at me with his big yellow piercing eyes. At that moment I couldn't look away. I was hypnotized by that mystical animal.

Emilie Chiron



Le Puy du Fou

85590 Les Epesses

www.puydufou.com

L'ÎLE D'OLONNE, A BUCOLIC FRENCH VILLAGE

Winter was slowly giving way to spring, and the sun was high in the sky on this morning in February. I tied up my shoes, put on my sportswear. What a nice day for a nature run to discover a country corner and recharge. I took a path through the marshes of a little town called Île d'Olonne, one and a half hours from Angers. The distorted and winding trail was tiring but the noise of the water along the passage rejuvenated me. Only a few cyclists, surely locals, ventured into this quiet and preserved corner. After giving them a jovial "Hi", I arrived at a small metal bridge, over a running stream.

I immediately felt the vibration of my step on the structure. It could be disturbing but the bridge had an undeniable charm. Despite the fact that it consisted only of a 3 by 1 meter metal plate and that it did not have any security barrier, I didn't pay attention to it, because what interested me was below, floating in the water.

Indeed, a couple of immaculate white swans were performing a ballet, unwittingly sharing their love with everybody. I stopped my run for a moment in order to look at them. They seemed to slide on the water, ignoring all around them, including the sheep on the bank. Unfortunately, another group arrived causing the two birds to move away. There was a fluidity in their movements that reminded me of their majesty.

It was time for me to start running again so I crossed the bridge. The path was even narrower now, a corridor between walls of bushes and tall grass. I felt lucky to live in this sumptuous landscape, next to many species of birds, fishes and mammals that we can't see in town.

After two more kilometers straight ahead through nature, I finally arrived at a bit more touristy part of the village: the salt marshes. Harvested traditionally, the salt is sold in a small shed decorated with meadow

flowers. Next to this shed, an enormous heap of salt was drying under a tarpaulin. There must have been more than a ton. The salt worker, his bare feet covered in mud and his eyes full of enthusiasm, was talking to an old English woman and explaining his job. I was amazed by his tale and by the color of the water, almost pink from the salt.

Farther down, I left the marshes to reach the town, and the bakery. The smell of fresh bread and the view of pastries made my mouth water. Across from the bakery sat the church. It is nine centuries old but it still welcomes visitors during the summer to enjoy the view from the bell tower. It sits on the place, as the emblem of the village, giving a bucolic atmosphere I love, one needed for running peacefully.

Louis Antoine



L'île d'Olonne

www.mairie-liledolonne.fr

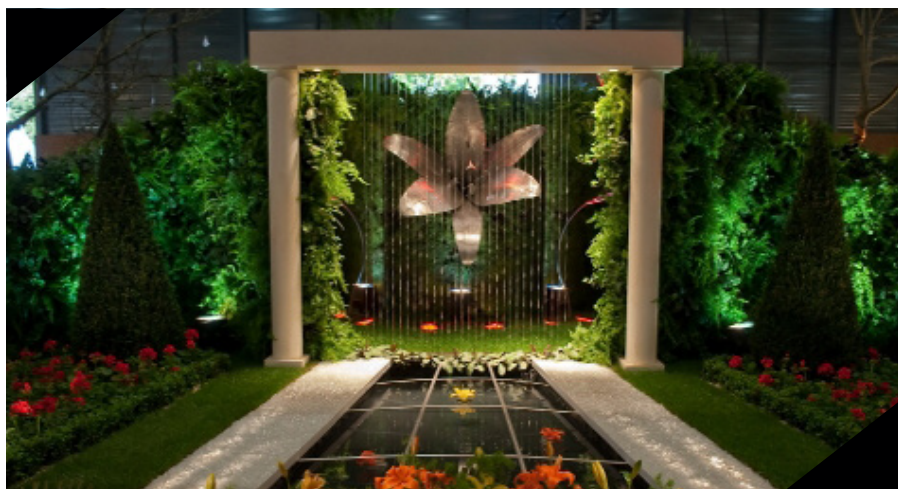
NANTES INTERNATIONAL FLORALIES FESTIVAL

The 12th International Floralties in Nantes (May 8 - 19) is one of the largest ornamental plant and vegetable festivals in Europe. Held every 5 years in the Parc de la Beaujoire, the festival's theme this year is 'Flower to Live'. I was 10 years old when I first went to the Floralties, and even if I was rather young, I remember quite well this magnificent festival. As soon as I entered the exhibition halls, I could already smell the scent of flowers. Each international exhibitor has a space to create plant sculptures.

The first impression is that everything is green and the leaves of all types of plants dominate the landscape. They come in all shapes and sizes and I was impressed to see leaves that they could cover me.

I quickly headed towards the figure of a huge woman made from lilies and orchids, as I was fascinated by her eyes made of pink carnations. Her fascinating look reminded me how delicate and fragile nature is. I fully inhale the fragrance of this woman. I don't think I've ever smelled as pleasant an aroma as I did that day. I continued my visit after one last look at this flower lady.

To better visualize the visit, you have to imagine walking in an endless flowered garden, walking in alleys that



are sometimes green, sometimes blue, sometimes pink... It's not just an exhibition of flowers, it's a walk in extraordinary gardens, where rivers and plants come together to create magic. I was there, in the middle of this floral paradise, observing the arches made of multiple flowers of which I don't know the name. I had never seen so many flowers, small white ones, big yellow ones... so many flowers of all shapes and colours. In a few steps, we pass from the lush vegetation of tropical countries to the desert vegetation, full of cacti, of arid countries. The ceiling itself is decorated ; I remember walking under petal lights, not knowing where to look. I just wanted to walk, to get lost in this infinite green

world.

After several hours of walking, came the moment that most marked my day. During this 10th edition, floral fashion shows were held. The song «The Power of Flowers» was launched and soon I sang the chorus with hundreds of other visitors and even without having heard it for 10 years, I still remember certain parts of the song. That's when the first women appeared. It was my first fashion show and it will certainly be the most impressive. The first one was dressed in a rose dress, real white roses of an incredible size. I was overwhelmed! For nearly an hour, the models paraded in front of us, some covered with leaves, others with moss and fruit. I don't remember how many outfits paraded by, I only remember that I didn't want it to end so quickly. A few hours later, I was sitting in the cool evening during the fireworks, the music playing in my mind and the light dazzling my eyes. It was beautiful. Floralties made me realize the beauty of floral art and the need to preserve our environment.

Appoline Dubois

Nantes International Floralties Festival

Parc des Expositions de la Beaujoire
Route de Saint-Joseph de Porterie,
44 300 NANTES

www.comite-des-floralities.com - 02 40 14 58 60

*a*BOUT THIS GUIDE

Nous remercions tous les étudiants des classes préparatoires E13 qui ont participé à ce projet.

a PROPOS



Polytech Angers

62 Avenue de Notre Dame du Lac,

49 000 ANGERS

02 44 68 75 00

www.polytech-angers.fr

