

FRANCO-BRITISH SOCIETY

The History & Heritage of Nantes

Thursday 10th to Monday 14th September of 2015

Dear Members,

The Society is proposing a five-day (four-night) visit to the capital of the Pays de la Loire region of northwestern France, based in **Nantes**. We shall be travelling by Eurostar & TGV train between London and Nantes. We will meet our tour manager at London **St Pancras Station** for our Eurostar train to Lille Europe Station in standard class coaches. On arrival in Lille we then board a TGV train to Nantes in standard class coaches. We then transfer to the **3* L'Hotel** for a four night stay. A 3 course set welcome dinner (Ballade Nantaise Menu) with a ½ of a bottle of wine per person is included at **Brasserie La Cigale** this evening.

On our second day, our guided tour of **Nantes** this morning will incorporate a visit to the **cathedral**. This gothic building houses a Renaissance masterpiece; the tomb where lie François II, the last Duke of Brittany, and Marguerite de Foix, parents of Anne of Brittany. We also see the **Passage Pommeraye** shopping arcade. Beneath the elegant glass ceiling rises its monumental staircase flanked by allegorical statues. The boutiques in the shopping arcade bring this listed building to life. We will then travel to **La Baule** where we spend some time at leisure for lunch. Later this afternoon we take a scenic drive to **Batz-sur-Mer**.

On Saturday morning, we will spend some time at leisure at the market in **Trentemoult**. After free time for lunch in Trentemoult, we enjoy a ride on the mechanical **Great Elephant**, 40 feet high and 24 feet wide. Later this afternoon we visit the **Musée Jules Verne**. The museum is housed in a beautiful late 19th century building overlooking the River Loire. While Verne never lived in the building, its surroundings reflect the atmosphere which influenced his work.

For the morning of our fourth day, we will have some free time in Nantes to go which could include a tour at the **Fine Arts Museum** in Nantes (**the museum is closed for refurbishment, so we will see some of the highlights of the museum that are displayed in Chapelle de l'Oratoire**). During the afternoon we visit the **Castle of the Dukes of Brittany**. The last of the great Loire Châteaux before the ocean, this Breton fortress with its 15th and 18th century buildings testify of the history of the city. Built by François II, the last Duke of Brittany, and continued by his daughter Anne of Brittany, twice Queen of France, the castle fortifications enclose a Renaissance palace with exquisitely carved façades and loggia. During our visit we also visit the **History Museum** which is located in the castle. This evening a set three course farewell dinner with 2 glasses of wine per person at a carefully selected restaurant in Nantes.

On Monday, we transfer to Nantes station for our TGV train to Lille Europe Station in standard class coaches. We then board our Eurostar train to London St Pancras in standard class coaches.

The cost will be £ 827 per person (plus a single room supplement of £114). This includes London-Nantes return by Eurostar & TGV in standard class coaches; an executive coach throughout the trip for all transfers excursions (a coach is not included during the daytime on Day 4, as both visits are close to the hotel- a coach is included for the evening transfers to the restaurant on day 4 however); Guided tour of Nantes on Day 2 and of the Fine Arts Museum; four nights on a bed-and-breakfast basis (cold buffet breakfast) at the 3* l'Hôtel at Nantes; Hotel city tax; two dinners, on evenings one & four, including some wine; the services of a tour manager; as well as all the excursions and museum entries. It does not include insurance, which the tour operator (Tailored Travel) can arrange at a cost of £29.00 per person. In order to secure our travel and hotel bookings, would you please complete the form below and send it – with a non-refundable deposit cheque for £100 – to arrive, please, by Friday 6th of February 2015 at the office address (3 Dovedale Studios, 465 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 4LR). The final balance will be requested by Thursday 2nd of April.

With best wishes,
Isabelle

Isabelle Gault, Executive Secretary, Franco-British Society
Mobile: 07956968757 Email: francobritsoc@gmail.com

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DEPOSIT FORM

I/We (Please give names **exactly** as they appear on passports):

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Address:
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Telephone: Mobile:

Email: Date:

would like to join the visit to, based in Nantes.

I/We are in good health and would not be travelling against medical advice (please tick):

My/our choice of accommodation is a (please underline): double room, twin room, single room.

I/We enclose a non-refundable deposit cheque for £100 per person (payable to 'Franco-British Society').

Please send this form and your cheque to Isabelle Gault, Franco-British Society, 3 Dovedale Studios, 465 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 4LR to arrive, please, by Friday 6TH of February 2015.

Signed:

Date: