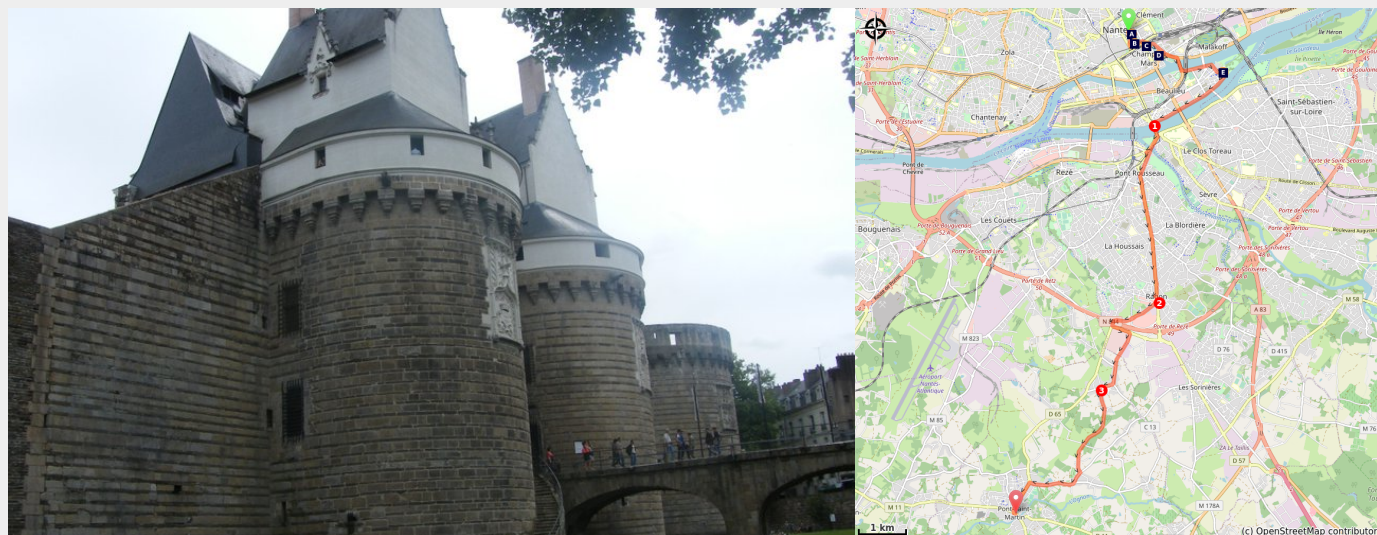


# from Nantes to Pont-St-Martin

France - Pays de la Loire



Château de Nantes (Amis Bretons de Colombar)

## *From City to Country.*

This stage starts in the centre of Nantes, with all its emblematic sites such as the cathedral, the castle of the Dukes of Brittany, the LU building, the Beaulieu Island... It continues by crossing the purely urban Rezé. After passing the Nantes bypass, it continues along small roads through woods and streams.

## Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 4 h 12

Length : 16.8 km

Trek ascent : 136 m

Difficulty : Easy

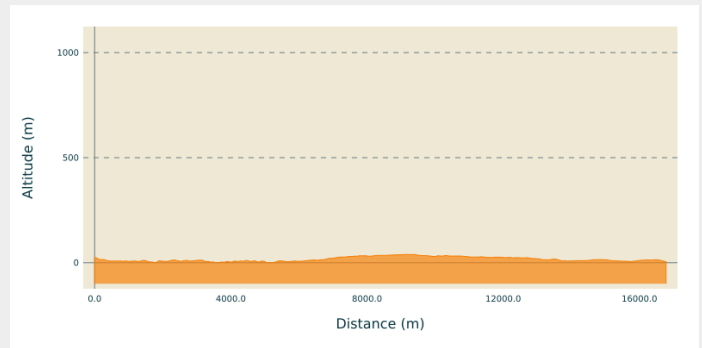
Type : Step

**Departure** : St Peter and St Paul's Cathedral, St Peter's Square, 44000, Nantes

**Arrival** : Church of Pont St Martin, Rue du Pays de Retz, 44860, Pont St Martin

**Cities** : 1. Pays de la Loire

## Altimetric profile

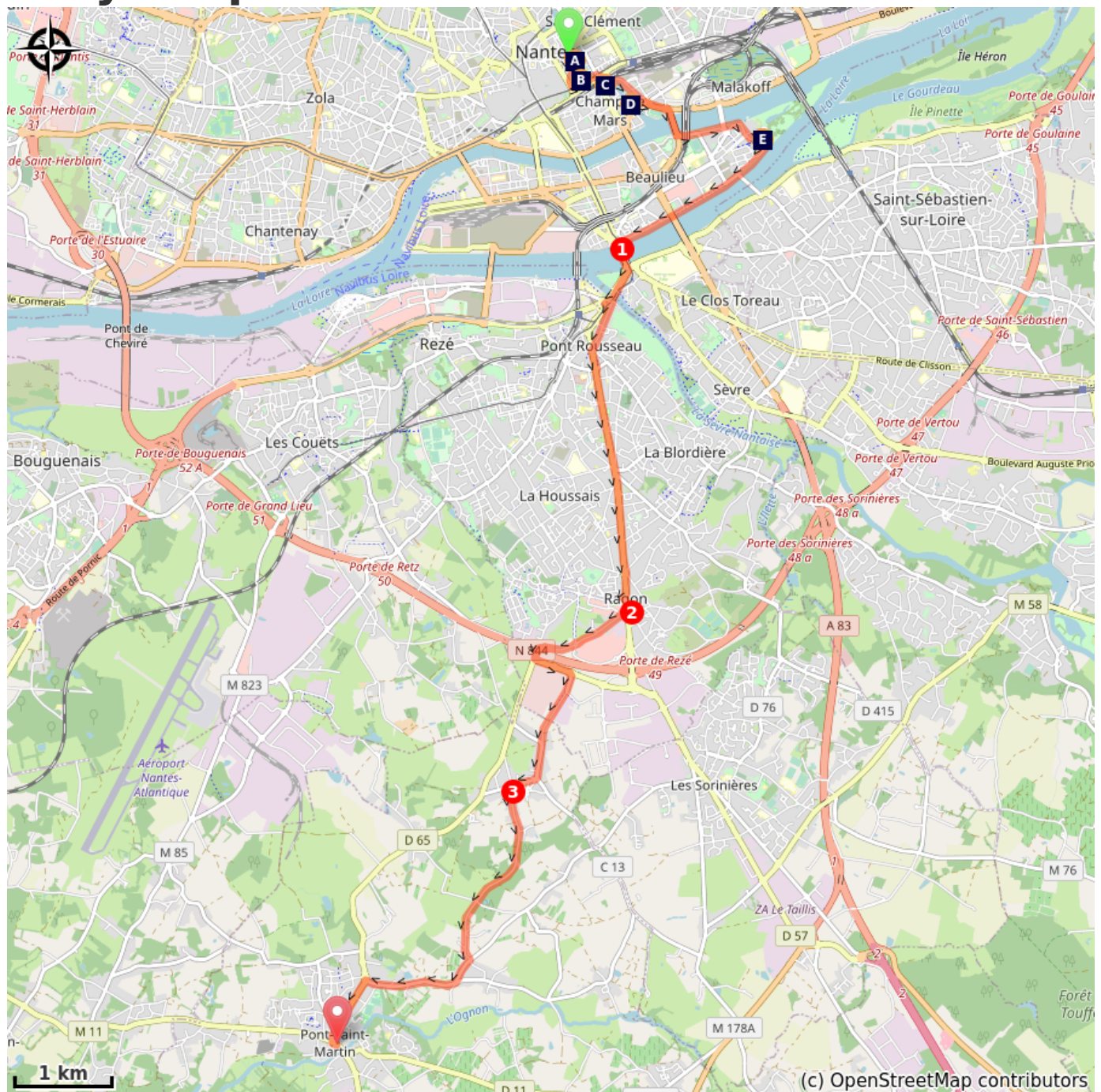


Min elevation 0 m Max elevation 39 m


From the cathedral square, go down the rue Mathelin Rodier on the right and go around the castle of the Dukes of Brittany via the rue des Etats. Go along the Cours John Kennedy on the left, then the Place de la Duchesse Anne. Through the tunnels and stairs, go to the left bank of the Erdre river (Canal St Félix) and follow the Malakoff quay behind the stadium. Cross the arm of La Madeleine by the Willy Brandt bridge to reach the island of Beaulieu. At the end of the bridge, turn left on Boulevard Maurice Bertin, then Boulevard de La Loire. In front of the Hôtel de Région, turn right and continue on rue des Salicornes, then left on rue du Pré Salé and, before the car park, turn right on allée Titus Brandsma. Go around ND des Lumières and join the other side of the island along the Bras de Pirmil. Pass under the Léopold Sédar Senghor bridge, the Georges Clémenceau bridge and continue to the Pirmil bridge.

1. Cross the bridge and at its exit, turn right into the rue du Dos d'Ane. and cross the bridge over the Sèvre Nantaise river. Continue straight ahead on the small street Alsace Lorraine, and, at its end, the avenue de la IVème République. Continue straight ahead on rue Jean Jaurès, rue Aristide Briand, rue Charles Rivière, rue Ernest Sauvestre. At the Bus Ragon stop, turn right onto rue de La Bauche Thiraud.
2. Follow this street until the roundabout to the shopping centre. Continue on the same street that passes on the left of the retirement home. At the roundabout turn left towards Pont-St Martin and cross the four lanes. At the end of the bridge, turn right onto Boulevard Alfred Nobel and follow the MIN, then turn right onto Chemin des Fontaines Laurent. Continue to Champsime (or Champ Siôme). After passing under the medium-voltage line, turn right onto Rue du Champsime.
3. At the exit of the town, turn left, rue de Lavau. Continue on this road up to the stop sign with the route de la Grande Bauche (D76). Turn right and join the D65 at the entrance of Pont St Martin. Turn left and join the church.

# On your path...



(c) OpenStreetMap contributors

-  Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Cathedral in Nantes (A)
-  Castle of the Dukes of Bretagne (C)
-  Port Saint-Félix in Nantes (E)
-  The Psallette (B)
-  The Unique Place (D)
-  Church of Our Lady of Lights (F)

# All useful information



# On your path...

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## ☀ Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Cathedral in Nantes (A)

Tradition dates the first building back to the arrival of St. Clair in the 3rd century. He had brought from Rome a nail from the cross of Christ.

Archaeological excavations at the beginning of the 20th century identify a building from the 6th century. This cathedral was consecrated between 567 and 580.

Saint Columban probably prayed in this building during the days spent waiting for a ship to Ireland, which was too loaded to take to the sea and put the Irish saint and his companions on the shore who set out again towards the north of Gaul.

The Romanesque Cathedral led to the modification of the choir which dominates the 12th century crypt.

The present building was begun in the 15th century and the work lasted until the 17th century. During the Revolution the cathedral escaped destruction.

Violent bombings in 1944 led to a complete restoration of the building.

The nave shelters the tombs and the tombstones of Duke François II of Brittany and his wife Marguerite de Foix (parents of Anne of Brittany).

One can admire the cenotaph of General Louis Juchault de Lamoricière, his decisive military actions contributed to the rapid pacification of French Algeria in the 19th century, a monument erected in 1878.

A very beautiful exhibition of the history of the cathedral is presented in the crypt, accessible from the outside at the chevet level.

[More details](#) : Wikipedia

Attribution : Amis saint Colomban

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## 🏰 The Psallette (B)

A la fin du 15ème siècle, le développement du château et de la cour ducale entraîne la construction, par les hauts dignitaires, d'hôtels à proximité. L'hôtel de la Psallette est ainsi édifié en 1462 par Jean Gougeul de Rouville qui y mène une vie publique et privée.

Au 19ème siècle, l'hôtel accueille la maîtrise de la cathédrale (la psallette) qui lui donne son nom.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban



## Castle of the Dukes of Bretagne (C)

Located in the historic heart of Nantes, the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany is the flagship monument of its urban heritage, along with St Peter's Cathedral.

On the city side, it is a defensive fortress whose 500-metre-long rampart walk is punctuated by seven towers linked by curtain walls founded in the 13th century.

On the courtyard side, it houses an elegant 15th century ducal residence made of tufa stone, in flamboyant Gothic style bearing the first signs of Renaissance inspiration, and other buildings dating from the 16th and 18th centuries. These contrast in their whiteness and sculpted refinement with the harshness of the exterior walls made of granite blocks separated by schist layers.

[More info at:](#) Wikipedia

Attribution : Amis saint Colomban



## The Unique Place (D)

The "Petits Beurre" LU biscuits with their teeth were born in Nantes. The Lefèvre-Utile company started the construction of the production plant in 1895. Only one of its two Art Nouveau towers remains today. In 1986, production was transferred outside the city. The cultural milieu then appropriated the industrial wasteland and the Lieu Unique was created in 2000.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban



## Port Saint-Félix in Nantes (E)

The Via Columbani crosses the Saint-Felix lock.

The river, the Erdre, runs through the city centre of Nantes. A 700 m long tunnel leads into the port of Saint-Félix. This river tunnel was dug in the 1930s as part of the work to fill in the Erdre river to allow the Nantes-Brest canal to flow into the Loire. The lock and landfill works were built at the same time as the tunnel in the early 1930s. This structure ensures the outlet of the Erdre into the Loire. It consists of a 50 m long by 7 m wide lock for the passage of boats, a removable weir and two bottom gates for regulating water levels.

Attribution : Amis saint Colomban



## Church of Our Lady of Lights (F)

The convent and the Carmelite church of Nantes are dedicated to Notre-Dame de Lumières in memory of an ancient carmel from the Luberon.

Situated on an esplanade on Allée Titus Brandsma, on Île Beaulieu, the church was built from 1992 to 1994 on the project of the architect Bertrand Lemaire.

This pentagon-shaped convent church around the altar resembles a large marabout tent.

The spire rises more than 30 metres above the church. It is surmounted by the three flames of fire emblematic of the mystical quest of Carmel.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban