

## To see, to discover

### La maison Lansyer

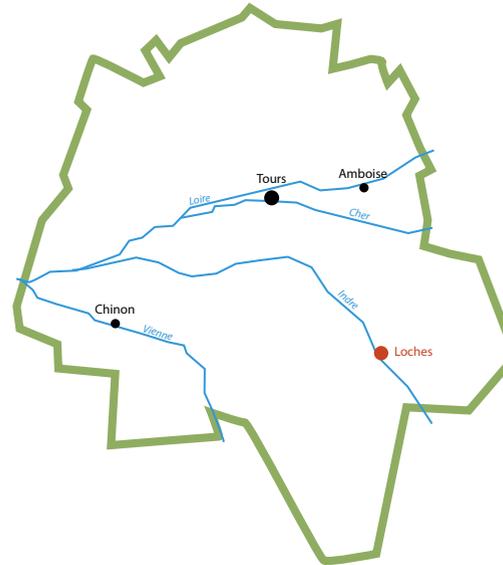
This house-museum, the former home of the 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape artist Emmanuel Lansyer, houses, as well as paintings, objects from the far East, Japanese prints and etchings from the 18<sup>th</sup> (Canaletto, Piranèse) and 19<sup>th</sup> (Millet, Corot) centuries.

### BEAUX LIEUX, contemporary creations in the landscape

Open-air exhibition in the Prairies du Roy, streets, lanes and parks in Beaulieu-lès-Loches. Promotion of landscaped, natural and built heritage with installations created in partnership with local companies and young apprentices.

### Le Château de Bridoré

The Bridoré fortress, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century during Charles V's reign, boasts a 30 metre-high keep with watch towers on the roof. There is also a caponier built in 1475, the first underground defence system, which the military engineer Vauban took inspiration from.



## Walking charter

Cherish and respect nature. Listen to it, do not spoil it and do not harm it. Stay on the trail and be discreet. Do not damage plants or undergrowth. Do not smoke in the forest or do not light fires. Do not scare animals. Do not neglect human contact. Respect and get to know this rural world that welcomes you.

This material is funded by the Indre-et-Loire Council as part of the Footpath and Hiking Trail Regional Plan.

If you encounter any problem during the process of your walk, please inform us at [sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr](mailto:sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr)



Hiking  
**NATURE - HERITAGE**

On Foulques Nerra's  
footsteps

# Loches

2h - 7,5km - easy





**TO FIND YOUR WAY**

STRAIGHT ON

CHANGE OF DIRECTION

WRONG WAY

Car park

Curiosity

Water supply

Shops

Accommodation

Meals available

château

Religious building

Alternative route

*In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Foulques Nerra had a keep built in this fair city of Loches to watch over the Indre valley, its pastures and, on the other side of the river, Beaulieu-Lès-Loches, where he also built an abbey.*

**1 Royal city**  
The 7,5 km yellow waymarked circuit starts within the **royal city of Loches**, from the Baschet park opposite the keep. The medieval fortress, which served as a prison until 1926, is now owned by the Conseil général d'Indre-et-Loire. From this rocky outcrop you can see the area known as Les Prairies du Roy which you will cross to get to Beaulieu-lès-Loches.

**2 Saint-Ours collegiate church**  
Follow the keep's mall to get to the **Saint-Ours collegiate church** built in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. The church has a magnificent portal and two dubs (pyramids covering the nave). To the left of the church is the Logis royal (royal apartments) built between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries where

historical characters stayed. Among them: Charles VII, Louis XI, Joan of Arc, Agnès Sorel, Anne of Brittany and many others.

**3 Saint-Antoine church**  
Retrace your steps and go through the Porte Royale (royal gate). Continue straight ahead. From this little square you can admire the Palais de Justice (courts) that you get to by taking the stairs to your left. On this path, stop near the church to view two magnificent paintings in the **Galerie Antonine** which are believed to be the work of Caravage.

**4 Palais de justice**  
The Palais de Justice was built in 1866 and closed in 1989. Loches' last execution was performed in the large square at the entrance to the courts in 1860 in front of 4,000 people. Go round the building to the right and then walk alongside the **Parc des Montains** citadel with its private castle.

**5 Indre riverbanks**  
Cross the rue de Tours and then a branch of the river Indre over a little wooden bridge and then turn right. The

**6 Les prairies du Roy**  
Covering 240 hectares, the area comprises distinctive different landscapes such as pastures and reed beds. The flora and fauna are typical of humid areas. To find out more about the environment follow the information boards which guide you through the paths of les **Prairies du Roy**.

**7 Beaulieu canal**  
You will come out, either directly or via an alternative route (marked by dotted lines on the map) at the **Beaulieu canal**. The canal was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Benedictine monks to drain the waters from the river Indre and help build mills.

**8 Pont Guénard**  
Cross the bridge over the canal, near the **Pont Guénard** washhouse, turn left and then right. Keep your eyes open. Every street in the village owns an exceptional architectural heritage. You will pass the Leper hospital (léproserie) and enclosure (Enclos de Basile). You are now walking alongside a surrounding wall built in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**9 Agnès Sorel's home**  
Walk around the edge of the school and turn onto the rue Guigné then onto the rue Chaude to the right, which ends in front of the former **home of Agnès Sorel**, Charles VII's mistress and the first official mistress to a French king.

**10 Maison des Templiers**  
Take the rue du Puits Mourier to get to the **Hôtel Suzor** then walk underneath the **Maison des Templiers** and cross the rue Guigné again to arrive in the city's religious centre.

**11 Saint-Laurent Church**  
**Saint-Laurent church**, then, in the square where the town hall (Mairie) sits, the Sainte-Trinité abbey-church built by Foulques Nerra, the conventual building and the maison du Prieur (prior's house) are a reminder of the importance of Christianity in the Middle Ages. Re-join the canal when you get to the Jardins de l'abbaye (abbey gardens) and then go back through les Prairies du Roy to return to Loches.

**12 Town hall**  
Without losing sight of the collegiate church's bell towers, you arrive on place Quintefol. Walk up Les Rampes then take the rue Saint-Ours. Turn left onto the grande rue. Admire the town hall (**Hôtel de ville**), the **Picois gate**, the **Chancellerie (chancellery)** and the Maison du Centaure as you pass them before ending your walk in front of the royal gate.