

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

*The Memorial is a free public space open all year round, except during moments of flooding.*

## VISITING ON YOUR OWN

Open everyday. No reservation necessary.

- from 9 am to 6 pm from 16 September to 14 May,
- from 9 am to 8 pm from 15 May to 15 September.

Last access 30 minutes before closing time.

Closed for maintenance in the last week of January.

## GUIDED VISITS

For groups, a tour "From history to memory" (museum + Memorial) is available.

Reservation:

- Tel.: +33 2 40 20 60 11 - Fax: +33 2 51 17 48 65
- [groupes@nantes-tourisme.com](mailto:groupes@nantes-tourisme.com)

## MEMORIAL TO THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

Quai de la Fosse

TRAMWAY > line 1

STOP > Médiathèque or Chantiers Navals

[www.memorial.nantes.fr](http://www.memorial.nantes.fr)

## CHÂTEAU DES DUCS DE BRETAGNE

MUSÉE D'HISTOIRE DE NANTES

4, place Marc-Elder - **0 811 464 644** Service gratuit  
+17x appel

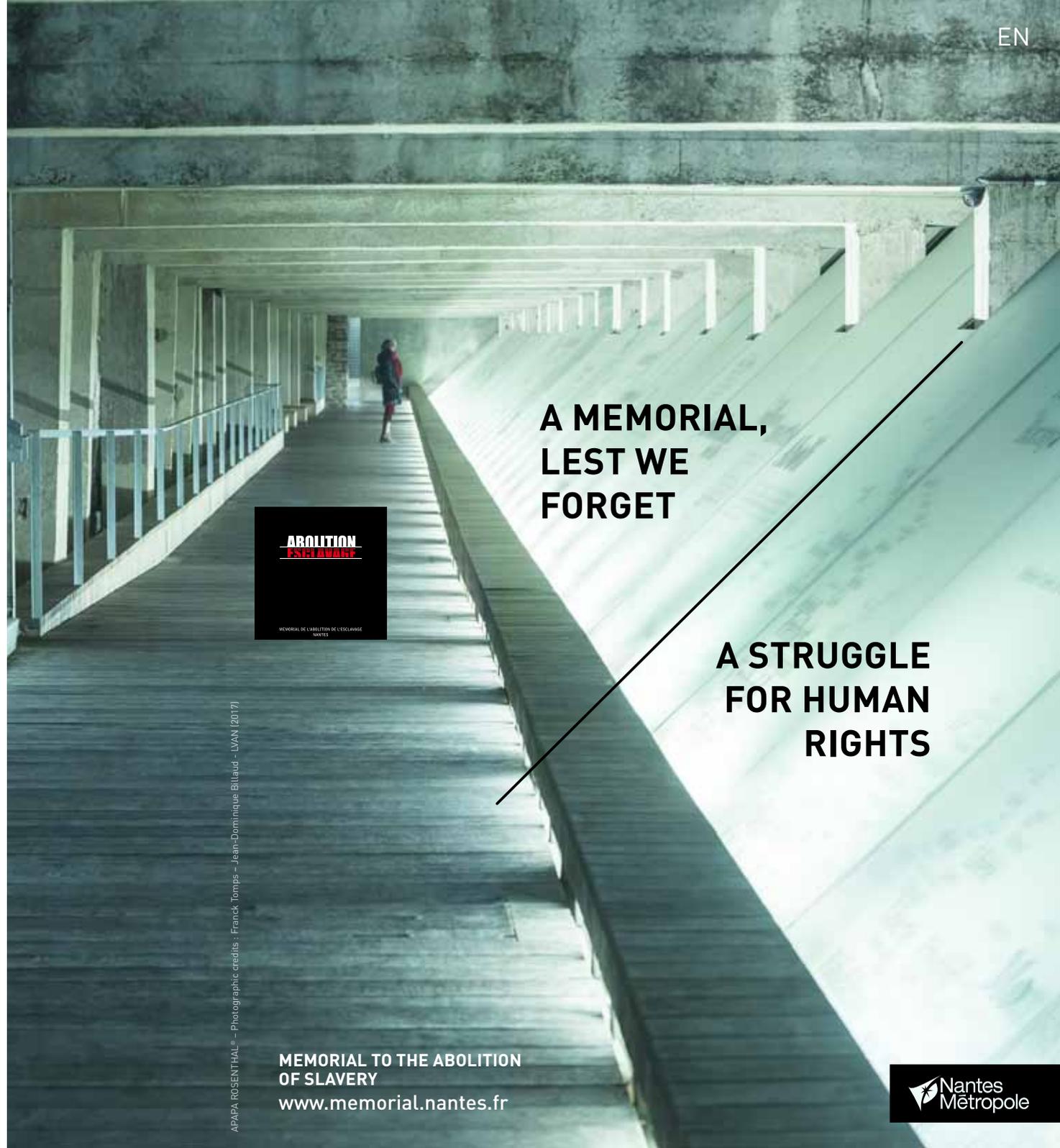
From abroad : +33 2 51 17 49 48

TRAMWAY > line 1

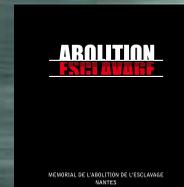
STOP > Duchesse Anne - Château des ducs de Bretagne

[www.chateaunantes.fr](http://www.chateaunantes.fr)

The Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery is property of Nantes Métropole. Le Voyage à Nantes is responsible for its management as part of the public service delegation handling the Château des ducs de Bretagne and the Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery.



**A MEMORIAL,  
LEST WE  
FORGET**



**A STRUGGLE  
FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

This monument is one of the most important memorials in the world devoted to the slave trade and its abolition. It is a solemn reminder of Nantes' history as the most active slave-trading port in 18th century France, paying tribute to those who struggled – and still struggle – against slavery in the world.

The artists behind the project – visual artist **Krzysztof Wodiczko**, and architect **Julian Bonder** – wanted, “a metaphorical and emotional reminder of the primarily historical, but also very current, struggle for the abolition of slavery.” The lights and reflections on the river, the chosen materials, the mix of stones from the old quay, wood, the unfinished concrete... this slow immersion beneath the quays bears a universal message of solidarity and fraternity for future generations, while affirming the value of human rights.

In the underground arm of the itinerary, a space is devoted to placing the transatlantic slave-trade in its context: historical and geographical information, statistics, maps, a timeline underlining historical facts, but also past and present struggles against servitude.



## ON THE QUAY

### A COMMEMORATIVE ITINERARY

Stretched out over 7000 m<sup>2</sup> (75 000 sq. ft.) 2000 glass plaques can be found throughout the plant-covered esplanade that runs alongside the Loire River. Some bear the names of Nantes' slave-trading ships and departure dates, while others relate the names of trading posts and ports where slaves were bought and sold in Africa and the Americas.



## UNDER THE QUAY

### A MEDITATIVE ITINERARY

The heart of the Memorial is made up of a long underground passage. After being greeted by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, visitors are invited to discover a selection of essential texts regarding abolitionism: laws, testimonials, literary works, songs... all of which are etched into a massive 90 metre-long glass plaque.



## IN THE CITY

### THE URBAN ITINERARY

An itinerary with 11 information plaques connects the Memorial to the musée d'histoire de Nantes (Nantes' History Museum), which is in the Château des ducs de Bretagne. The museum's exceptional permanent collection offers keys to understanding the city's past as a slave-trading port.