Nantes

Nantes (pronounced as "Nawnt") is the green capital of Europe, known for its green spaces and its clean air, with several nature reserves inside the city. It is also known as "the Venice of the West", and has been voted as the most livable city in Europe.

Nantes was founded in 70 BC, but was conquered by the Romans only a few years later. In later years it was dominated by the Breton people, who came to the area from England. The city suffered Viking raids, and was ruled by the Vikings from 919 to 937.

The Bretons warred with France, using Nantes as a capital, but the French king eventually won. The entire region officially became part of France in 1532.

Nantes became one of the first places in the world to offer mass public transportation, introducing the service in 1826. The city was bombed twice by Allied forces during the Second World War, before being liberated in 1944.

Population: 580,502

594 kilometres to Paris!