

PLACES TO VISIT

Discover and explore some of the places that we have chosen for you

❖ Nazaré

How can the town of Nazaré be best described? Well, its extensive coastline boasts a number of magnificent beaches and the town itself is home to many seafaring folk, as well as a generous seasoning of traditions and customs. It's also a destination for many travellers seeking to experience a mix of beach and honest traditional gastronomy.

Start by walking along the beaches until you reach the **Nazaré funicular elevator**. Travel as your senses are stimulated and while the vast Atlantic lulls you. You "land" at the top at a place called **Sítio**. Look for the **Suberco viewpoint** and discover the magnificent views over the town. It's a fantastic place to watch the sun set.

Whilst at Sítio, and if religion interests you, you'll also want to see the **Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora da Nazaré**. The sanctuary is built in the Baroque style and was constructed after the miraculous appearance of Nossa Senhora da Nazaré to a Portuguese noble man, Dom Fuas Roupinho, in 1182.

On the opposite side to Sítio, there's the **S. Miguel Fort**, a monument which dates from the 17th century. Once in the past, the fort played an important role in defending the town against pirate attacks from the coast. It was later invaded by the French troops of Napoleon. It is also now known as the lighthouse of Nazaré, as it has housed a lighthouse to help passing ships since 1903.

There's also another monument at Sítio, the **Padrão**, which commemorates Vasco da Gama's return to Nazaré. Legend has it that it was here that the famous Portuguese

discoverer exchanged a precious gold pendant for a beaded necklace of the Virgin Mary. It is said that whilst sailing around the Cape of Good Hope, a dangerous storm gathered and it was only calmed because Vasco da Gama was in possession of the necklace of the Virgin Mary and threw it into the waters to quell the storm.

Recently, Nazaré has gained international fame thanks to the colossal size of its waves. It was here that the surfer Garrett McNamara managed to catch a **30-metre wave**. You can watch a video of this by clicking on the following link:

www.dn.pt/inicio/portugal/interior.aspx?content_id=2110057