



Nazaré Guide.

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The best plans and places to visit in Nazaré

Nazaré is tradition. Nazaré is surf. Nazaré is charm. Most of all, Nazaré is happiness.

This idyllic Portuguese town is one of the favourite destinations for tourists from all over the world. Its fusion of tradition and surfing, night-time entertainment and its infinite range of diverse cuisine plus its friendly people make it a holiday destination that is synonymous with pure happiness.

Whether you're thinking about or have decided to spend a few days in Nazaré, we can guarantee you that you won't regret it. It will be unforgettable. For some ideas of what to do, what to see or how to explore the vast potential of this little Portuguese town, we have prepared this guide that includes some unmissable spots for your trip.



What to see in Nazaré

La légende de Nazaré dit que son nom viendrait d'une statue en bois de la Vierge Marie qu'un moine aurait apporté depuis Nazaré jusqu'à Méride (Espagne) et qu'avec le temps, un autre moine l'aurait ramené en 711 environ.

Legend has it that Nazaré's name comes from a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary, which a monk took to Merida (Spain) from Nazareth, and it was eventually taken by another monk to Nazaré, around the year 711.

This legend is a great representation of Nazaré's religious traditions and the town's long history. Most of its impressive monuments and spaces are based on religious traditions, which perfectly combine with the typical local whitewashed houses, with the spectacular backdrop of the beach and sun behind.

Avenida da República

A good place to start off your trip to Nazaré is the Avenida da Republica. This is the name of the avenue which is the spectacular sea front promenade of the town. It was designed so that people can admire the full extent of this part of the Portuguese coast, while also being able to discover some of the delights of the original local shops.



The Monastery of Batalha de Portugal

If you have a car, or are willing to take a taxi, you can escape from the centre of town and head to the Monastery of Batalha, it takes around half an hour.

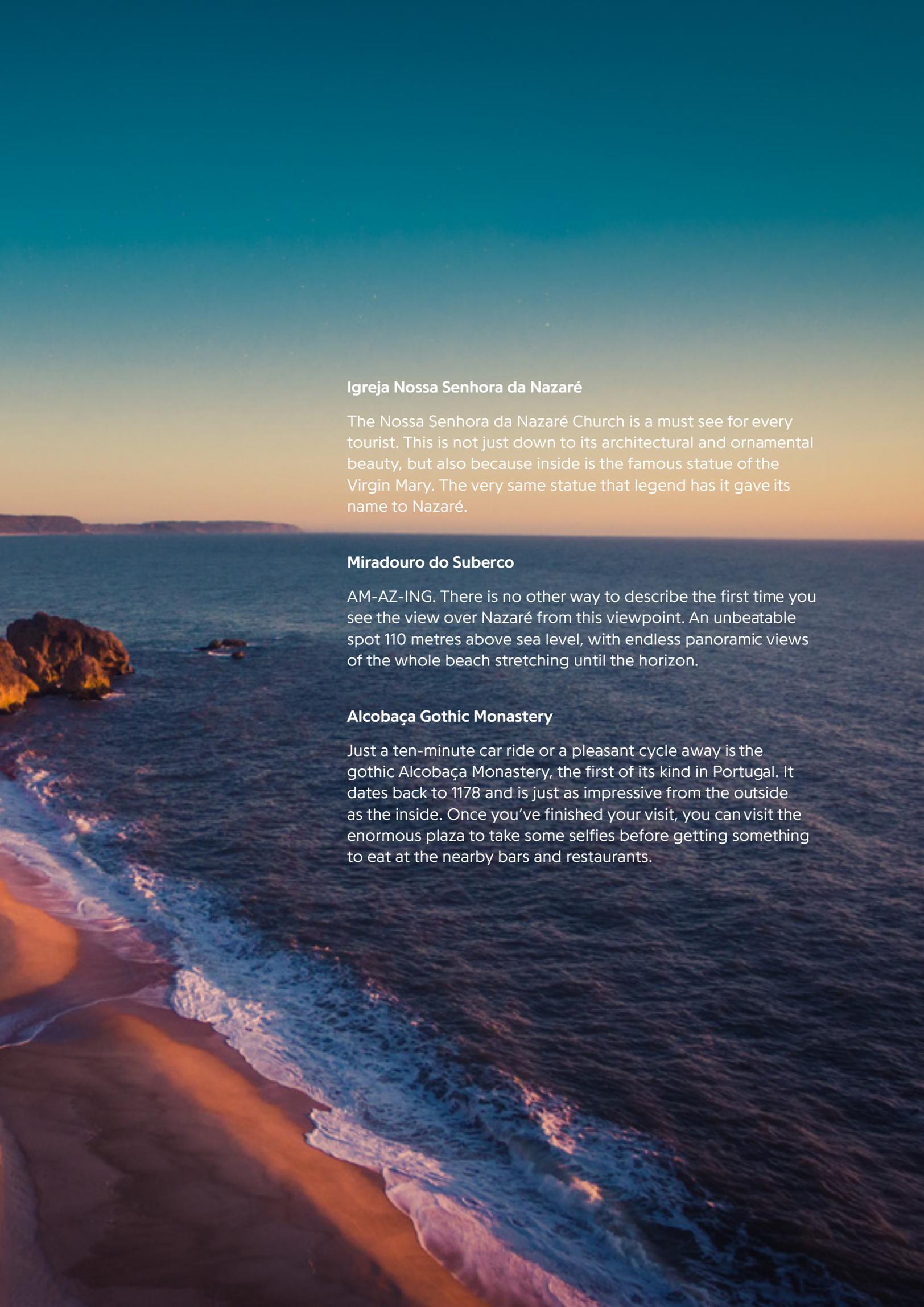
It is the most impressive religious building in the whole country, and you'll have the chance to visit it while on your holidays in Nazaré. Its name is related to the Batalha de Aljubarrota (1385), during which Castilla gained its independence.

The Fort of Sao Miguel Arcanjo

Heading back to the coast, on the Praia do Norte you'll find the Fort of Sao Miguel Arcanjo. This little fort offers tourists a double experience. Firstly, you'll be able to take in all of Nazaré's spectacular coastline, thanks to its fantastic location.

Secondly, it is also a meeting point for surf aficionados. It even has a museum dedicated to the sport. If, when you're visiting, you're lucky enough to see some surfers out at sea, you'll be able to admire their skill as they take on some of the largest and most impressive waves in the world.





Igreja Nossa Senhora da Nazaré

The Nossa Senhora da Nazaré Church is a must see for every tourist. This is not just down to its architectural and ornamental beauty, but also because inside is the famous statue of the Virgin Mary. The very same statue that legend has it gave its name to Nazaré.

Miradouro do Suberco

AM-AZ-ING. There is no other way to describe the first time you see the view over Nazaré from this viewpoint. An unbeatable spot 110 metres above sea level, with endless panoramic views of the whole beach stretching until the horizon.

Alcobaça Gothic Monastery

Just a ten-minute car ride or a pleasant cycle away is the gothic Alcobaça Monastery, the first of its kind in Portugal. It dates back to 1178 and is just as impressive from the outside as the inside. Once you've finished your visit, you can visit the enormous plaza to take some selfies before getting something to eat at the nearby bars and restaurants.





What to do in Nazaré

Holidays in Nazaré are suited to everyone. Families have a variety of activities to choose from for both older and younger children; couples will be able to enjoy romantic sunsets dreaming of their futures, and if you're a keen surfer, nothing beats a good wave session in Nazaré. You won't be the only ones, that is for sure.

Surfing in Nazaré

It is said that Nazaré and Surfing share an unbreakable bond. It's no wonder, Praia da Norte has posed a real challenge for some of the best and most important professional surfers in history.

Andrew Cotton, Justine Dupont, Rodrigo Koxa, Garrett McNamara, Carlos Bure...the list of the feats of these surfers on Nazaré's coastline is remarkable.

But don't worry if it's your first time taking on the swell with a board. Nazaré has plenty of spots so that even new surf fans can begin their romance with the waves. There are a variety of surf clubs where you can learn to enjoy the sport in just a few classes.

Beaches and sun in Nazaré

If Nazaré is a synonym for surfing, it must logically owe something to its beaches. Vast expanses of golden sand bathed by calm sweeping the waves.

The romantic setting of these Portuguese beaches is incredible, even more so when you consider that in some surf championships here the largest waves ever seen have been officially recorded, at 30 metres high.

The list is formidable. Praia da Nazaré, North Beach, Areeira, Salgado, Isla de Baleal, Praia do Bom Sucesso and of course, Praia da Norte.



Enjoy a sunset Bola de Berlim

Imagine it now. After a morning of lazing on the sand, and an afternoon stroll along the promenade, you and your partner stop at one of the local cafes and buy a Bola de Berlim. You take this delightful Portuguese dessert down to the beach where, inseparable, you both relish in its creamy texture, while looking on at one of Nazaré's spectacular sunsets.

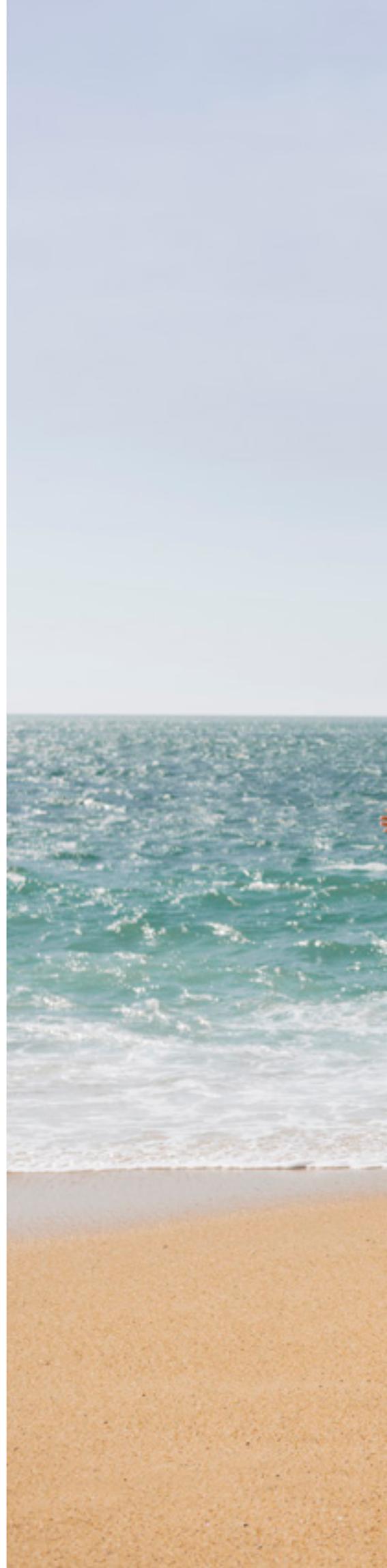
Of course, it goes without saying that a Bola de Berlim is just as perfect in any other scenario. Irresistibly sweet for kids, and invitingly tempting for grownups. Everybody can enjoy this delicious dessert.

Summer nightlife in Nazaré

During the summer season Nazaré receives a considerable number of tourists, especially when compared to the permanent year-round population of the town.

This means different spots have opened up offering night-time entertainment and fun around the town.

From seafront terraces to central bars offering fantastic cocktails, there are plenty of options in Nazaré. There is something for everyone, and you'll surely have a variety of places to choose from close to your accommodation.





Popular celebrations in Nazaré

In Nazaré, all the national and international festivities are celebrated, but if you want to experience some of its more traditional celebrations, there are two you cannot miss out on.

The Virgin of Nazaré celebration

Legend has it this is where the town's name came from. You can also find her statue in the area's most famous church. It goes without saying there is a celebration in her honour.

In fact, the celebration goes on for several days during the first week of September, there are live concerts, markets, processions and various shows and events paying homage to the Virgin as well as to other things.

Sea Man's Day

At the start of May Sea Man's Day is celebrated, the most important date in the fishing community. It usually lasts a few days and includes processions through the streets and out at sea as well as shows in honour of the fishermen. There is also a lot of different food to try, all of which contains some kind of fish, of course!



Nazaré Cuisine

As a fishing town, a large part of Nazaré's excellent cuisine revolves around the sea. That said, there are some exquisite rice dishes and desserts. There's plenty to try!

Caldeirada

A delicious stew made from different kinds of fish, normally turbot, hake, conger eel and skate as well as potatoes and onions.

Fresh baked or grilled fish

If you get the chance, don't turn down a good plate full of fresh fish prepared by Nazaré's veteran chefs, either baked or grilled!

Garlic shellfish soup

Nazaré's shellfish are considered as being some of the best in the world. Imagine the sensation in your mouth once you try this fresh local product coupled with the always on point garlic soup.

Monkfish rice

A Portuguese classic. It is made with soft rice, fresh langoustines and monkfish (although it can also be made with angler fish). Experience is needed to prepare it correctly, but if it is done well it may become your favourite rice dish.



Lobster rice

Could there be a more delicious rice dish? The chef's know-how is a must, but with lobsters like the ones from the Portuguese coastline, the dish is already half prepared.

Cataplanas de peixe & marisco

Another typical Portuguese recipe. Cataplana is a mixture of fish and shellfish in a characteristic stew. It is a long-lasting traditional dish, but it is so healthy that even up until today there are not too many dishes that beat it. It has monkfish, langoustines, cockles, onion, pepper and garlic.

Támares

Támares are little cakes made in the shape of a boat. A really original dessert that is the ideal way to follow up any of the dishes mentioned above.

Sardinhas dulces

It may sound strange, but it tastes extraordinary. It can be a dessert, aperitif or just something to nibble on. Sardinhas dulces will definitely surprise you with their combination of egg yolk, almonds, chocolate, sugar and cinnamon. Careful, you might get hooked!





Around Nazaré

Nazaré is one of the most touristic towns in Portugal. We've told a lot about what to enjoy there, but your holiday doesn't have to have limits! Nazaré is surrounded by some really surprising places.

Leiria

Leiria is one of the most recommended places to visit. Just a 50-minute car journey will take you to this city on the banks of the Lis river.

Its growth over the last few years has meant that it has attracted a lot of students. This has led to lots of new businesses starting up offering all kinds of entertainment.

Don't forget to visit Leiria's impressive castle (you'll see it appearing over the horizon as you arrive) and the Santa Ana cathedral.





Óbidos

Cobbled streets, white houses with pink rooves, medieval markets...You're in Óbidos! This town is just 40 minutes from Nazaré by car, and is ideal for a relaxing day, wandering around and discovering its traditional little streets.

Remember to pay a visit to the Óbidos Castle, one of the most striking in Portugal, it was built in the 12th Century on top of a hill overlooking the surrounding area and is 79 metres above sea level. A few years ago it was listed as one of Portugal's 7 Wonders.





Fátima

When talking about Nazaré's surrounding areas we can't fail to mention Fátima, a world-famous religious epicentre, which has been host to various papal visits and which is home to the Sanctuary of Fátima, one of the most impressive Portuguese monuments in the entire country.



Porto de Mós

The town of Porto de Mós is in the Leiria province, although it is actually closer to Nazaré than the province capital. There you'll have the opportunity to visit the Serras de Aire e Candeeiros Natural Park.

Porto de Mós also offers plenty of options to try new experiences on your holiday.

You can venture up the green towers of its traditional castle to admire the incredible views, or experience the nearby Mira caves, included in Portugal's 7 Natural Wonders – not to be missed! On the outskirts of the town is a waterpark, where you can enjoy a day with your family or friends.

Alcobaça

Just a quarter of an hour away in the car lies the classic Portuguese town of Alcobaça. It only has 15,000 citizens but is famous for its Cistercian monastery.

This is definitely a great place to stop off for lunch. Alcobaça is known for its great quality cuisine as well as its generous portions. Well worth trying.







TRAILS IN NAZARÉ

With the aim of promoting activity holidays in Nazaré, and boosting local tourism, Nazaré town council created the project “Rotas da Nazaré”. They are hiking and cycling trails, allowing tourists to discover more than just Nazaré’s stunning beaches by exploring the local natural and urban beauty of this magical city in Portugal.

In this section you can find eight of the most recommended trails for families, couples, or solo travellers.

Rota do Camarção

Type: cycle trail

Distance: 7.6km

Duration: 25 minutes

Difficulty: medium

Trail: This is an easy trail, with good artificial lighting which is particularly useful at night. It starts at the entrance of the swimming pool at the Centro Escolar da Nazaré and it will take you around the newest urban developments in Nazaré.

Link: <https://www.wikiloc.com/mountain-biking-trails/rota-do-camarcao-percurso-do-centro-escolar-completo-48897395>



Rotas de Famalicão **Percursos da Serra da Pescaria (topo) Completo**

Type: cycle trail

Distance: 5.6km

Duration: 15 minutes

Difficulty: medium

Trail: This trail starts opposite the Serra da Pescaria Sporting Facilities and takes you down quaint narrow streets and dirt tracks. Reaching an altitude of around 100 metres, you can enjoy the beautiful rural landscapes of this trail which is ideal for any level of cyclist.

Link: <https://www.strava.com/activities/3562256259>

Rota de Peniche a Nazaré

Type: cycle trail

Distance: 79km

Duration: 4 hours

Difficulty: high

Trail: The beaches of Peniche and Nazaré are some of the most sought after by surfers, meaning that this is the perfect trail for sport lovers. It starts at the Peniche Castle and ends at Praia da Nazaré, running along the Portuguese coastline.

Link: <https://www.wikiloc.com/mountain-biking-trails/06-nazare-peniche-18138646>



Centro Histórico da Nazaré

Type: hiking trail

Distance: 3.62km

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: low

Trail: You can begin this trail on Rua da Paz and finish off at the end of Praia da Nazaré. Along this trail you'll find some of the most famous spots of Nazaré's Historic Centre, such as the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora da Nazaré, while also taking in the magnificent Nazaré coastline.

Link: <https://pt.wikiloc.com/trilhas-caminhada/centro-historico-da-nazare-42350736>

Rota dos Milagres da Nazaré

Type: hiking trail

Distance: 12.2km

Duration: 5 hours

Difficulty: medium

Trail: This trail starts and ends at the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora da Nazaré. You can discover some of Nazaré's most famous attractions, such as the São Miguel Arcanjo fort, the Promontório cliffs and Praia do Norte.

Link: http://www.walkingportugal.com/z_distritos_portugal/Leiria/Nazare/NZR_PR1_Rota_dos_Milagres_da_Nazare.html

Rota da Pederneira – Percurso dos Miradouros I

Type: hiking trail

Distance: 1.19km

Duration: 20 minutes

Difficulty: low

Trail: This trail starts at the Pavilhão da Associação Recreativa Pederneirense. It is a circular trail, with not much artificial lighting and is ideal for a light, brisk walk.

Link: <https://www.strava.com/activities/3551426183>

Rota de Mendiga a Nazaré

Type: hiking trail

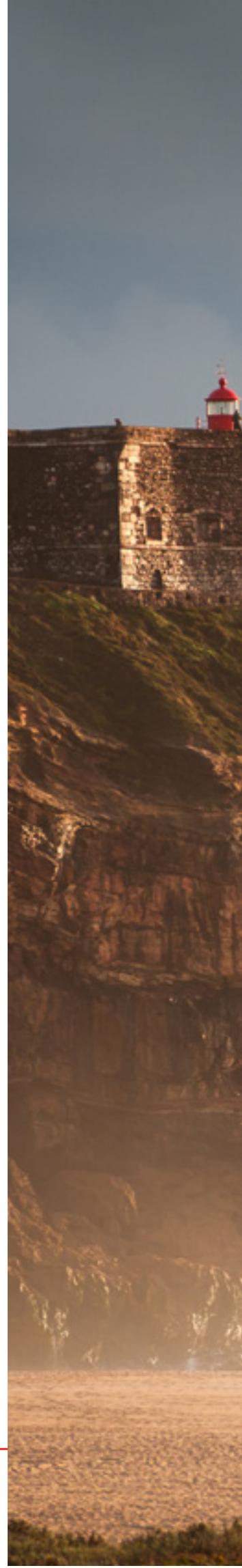
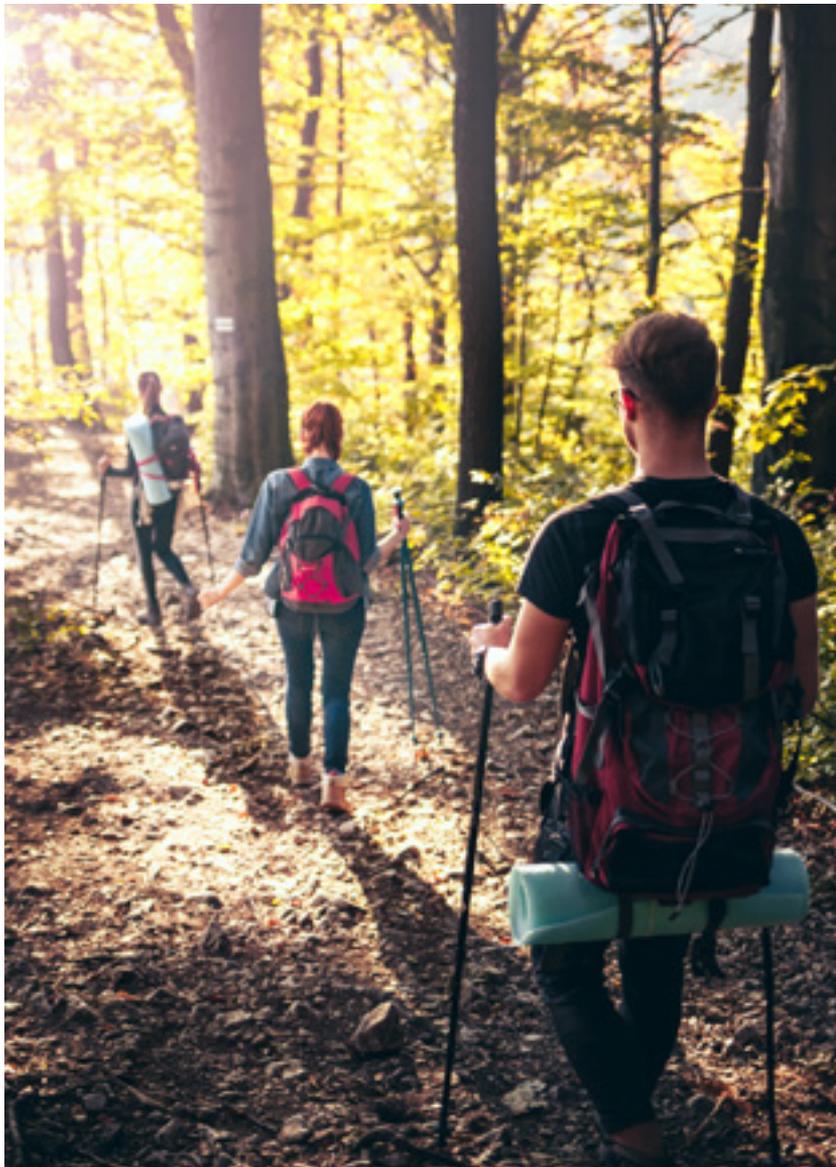
Distance: 55km

Duration: 7 hours

Difficulty: high

Trail: This is a long trail and requires a high level of fitness and prior planning, as it includes a range of natural landscapes and roads. When you arrive to Nazaré you will pass the Pederneira, the fort and the Praia da Nazaré.

Link: <https://pt.wikiloc.com/trilhas-caminhada/nazare-mendiga-18751713>



Rota do Farol da Nazaré

Type: hiking trail

Distance: 7.62km

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: medium

Trail: This trail begins at Avenida do Município and ends at Avenida Vieira Guimarães, both of which can be found around Praia da Nazaré. Along this trail you'll be able to admire the Farol da Nazaré and Pinhal de Leiria, two spots which are a located further out and which require a bit more fitness.

Link: <https://pt.wikiloc.com/trilhas-caminhada/nazare-34532171>





Where to stay in Nazaré

There are plenty of accommodation options in Nazaré. The growth in tourism on the Portuguese coast has meant that there are an increasing number of apartments and holiday homes.

If you are looking for various types of accommodation, adapted to your needs or preferences, just a 2-minute drive from Nazaré is **Ohai Nazaré**; your ideal resort. Bungalows, campsites, glamping, beachside apartments, all designed for you to enjoy the perfect holiday!

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