STUNNING[®] saint-nazaire



I IN THE

The game Simply look, and you will find...

a journalist reporting from Saint-Nazaire and la Brière. He's full of bright ideas!

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saint-nazaire agglomération TOUNISME®•••







Ready to be bowled over?

Saint-Nazaire is a city of surprising contrasts. Boasting an exceptional industrial past and present but also lovely beaches and coves, unique tours and visits but also the infinite calm of the Brière marshes, Saint-Nazaire is truly stunning. Visiting Saint-Nazaire means a journey into the unexpected, exploring a town with a thousand different shades to its personality: urban and seaside, industrial and natural, historic and innovative. From tiny creeks to our vast submarine base and the silence of the Brière marshland – come to Saint-Nazaire and you'll really feel you've travelled.

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All health and safety measures have been taken to assure you the best possible conditions for your safety and wellbeing while you visit.

Saint-Nazaire, city of contrasts

Thanks to maritime business and shipbuilding, Saint-Nazaire expanded so strongly during the second half of the 19th century, mushrooming from 800 to 30,000 inhabitants in less than 50 years, that the town was nicknamed "Little Breton California", in reference to American boomtowns of the gold rush era.

Up to World War II, passengers and goods thus went through Saint-Nazaire before heading off to the West Indies and Central America. Port facilities were expanded and improved: the south lock gate was built (inaugurated in 1907), and then it was the turn of the huge Louis Joubert Lock (first use in 1932), allowing it to accommodate the construction of ever larger ships. Because of the strategic importance of the submarine base, the city became a choice target for the Allied air forces from 1942. Liberated only on May 11, 1945, three days after V-E Day, more than 85% of Saint-Nazaire was destroyed...

Discovering Saint-Nazaire means taking time to stroll and feel the atmospheres of the different neighbourhoods in the city...

Saint-Nazaire, ville d'art et d'histoire (Town of Art and History title)

The town of Saint-Nazaire was recently awarded the prestigious title 'Town of Art and History'.

We are extremely proud of this recognition, as the title highlights the unique history and heritage of our town, particularly through the 20th century when it witnessed a wealth of events that were sometimes surprising and often over-looked. This heritage came, above all, from the flourishing town of the 19th century, but is also a heritage of history, architecture and all the events of the Second World War and subsequent reconstruction. And of course, we cannot forget the incredible industrial heritage, born from a direct link between the town and the legendary transatlantic liners that have been built in Saint-Nazaire since the mid-1800s.

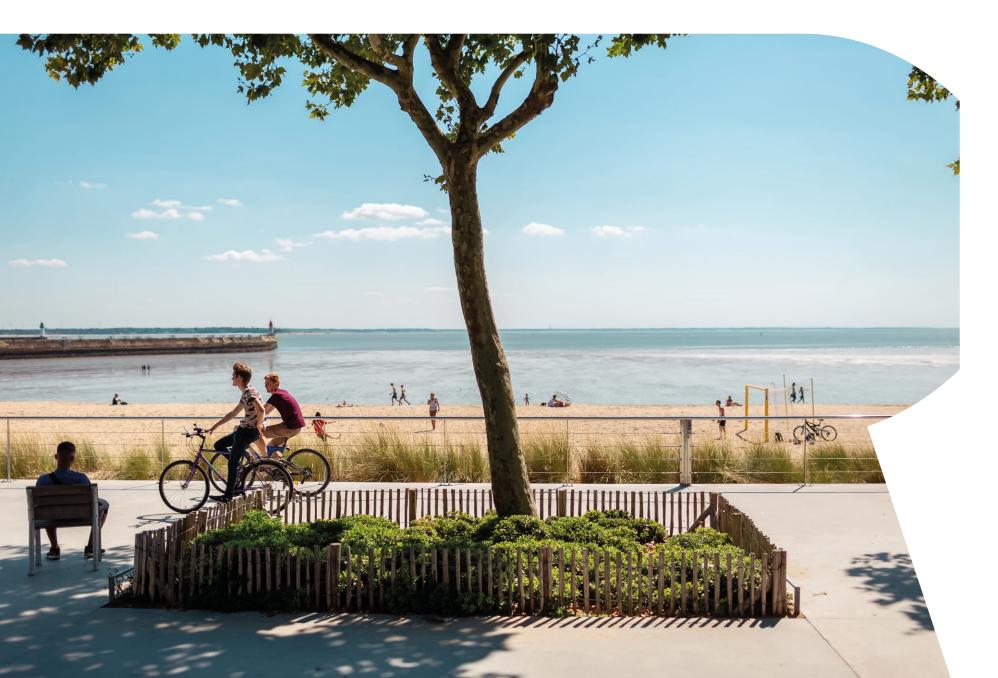
Heritage has been an integral part of the town's overall vision for many years. Having been awarded the title of 'Town of Art and History', Saint-Nazaire will concentrate its work on conservation, showcasing and communicating, notably through a Visitor Centre focusing on architecture and heritage, scientific studies and an impressive programme of events for the public.





<u>N</u> Sta

A seaside town



Exceptional ships on the water

For over 150 years, ocean liners have come to life in Saint-Nazaire, including the 1930s *Normandie* and sixties icon *France*. Today, our shipyard builds vast cruise liners, and each is waved off on her maiden voyage by thousands of locals and visitors wanting to see the world's biggest and best liners.

Here in Saint-Nazaire, a ship's departure leaves no one indifferent. The whole city is shaped by the rhythm of the shipyard. *France, Queen Mary 2, Harmony of the seas...* Each of the legendary vessels built by Chantiers de l'Atlantique represents the excellence of the local know-how and is the pride of residents. So yes, when the fog horn sounds, the entire city quivers!



Look at the scale difference between the pod and the worker on the right of the picture!







Reporter's Tips Saint-Nazaire likes to share its love of liners, so be sure to visit the Atlantic Shipyards (you'll feel tiny in its industrial grandeur) and Escal'Atlantic, where you can discover the decks, cabins and artefacts of the great liners, reliving the experience of passengers from days gone by.



Place du Commando, the place to be!





See you at the sea

Saint-Nazaire seafront now offers a 3km promenade to enjoy all year. You'll love this ocean side of Saint-Nazaire, perfect for strolling, cycling, relaxing in cafés and boat-spotting.

Place du Commando offers plenty of choice and seaviews guaranteed! By the beach, find parasols, loungers and a kids' playpark; in the square, enjoy water games, picnics and shady pines. The quiet streets and villas of the La Havane district take you back to the 1900s when the industrial town dreamt of travel: notice the seafront streets named after Santander, La Havane and Veracruz. A bit further, the superb seafront skate park with its fullpipe; it's a big hit with skateboarders!

Fishing cabins with suspended nets are typical of this area. Watch locals haul in fish and shellfish on square nets or walk the shore at low tide around the cabins. Strolling or hiking? Whatever your level, you'll love the GR®34 coastal path following the Breton coast. Our section has particularly rich landscapes and sensations, from shady pines overlooking creeks to sandy beaches at low tide, all with breath-taking views!





Silence please, we're sunbathing!

The people of Saint-Nazaire long kept it a secret that their stretch of coast, several kilometres in length, concealed so many enchanting beaches and coves. If you think you've seen the main beach at Saint-Marc somewhere before, with its distinctive jetty, group of rocks and its Hôtel de la Plage, don't be surprised. Here, you're in the place where the classic French comedy movie, *Les Vacances de Monsieur Hulot*, was filmed. Director Jacques Tati, seeking a fine natural setting, chose Saint-Marc-sur-Mer for its family atmosphere and its magnificent beach.

The film was shot back in 1951... but the comic hero of the movie is still on-set... thanks to a bronze statue by sculptor Emmanuel Debarre! So Monsieur Hulot continues to watch over his beach, which has been very officially renamed the Plage de Monsieur Hulot!

Today, we boast that the destination Saint-Nazaire has 20 beaches and coves, two designated Handiplage (with facilities for the handicapped), six provided with lifeguards in summer. Plus, three of our beaches have gained Blue Flag status.



Join Mr Hulot in front of the beach







Reporter's Tips

Saint-Nazaire Côté Plages encourages you to enjoy summer to the full by proposing many playful, sporting and cultural shows, festive and leisure events, and outdoor spectacles on the Grande Plage or in the Saint-Marc Quarter. Take your pick. There are events to suit a whole range of tastes and ages!

In the heart of the town



Here, street art is making walls dance!

Saint-Nazaire presents visitors with coats of many colours! Over the past few years, the town has given the green light to a selection of artists, allowing them to decorate several buildings with vibrant wall paintings. Melbourne, Valparaiso, Detroit, Cape Town... Saint-Nazaire has something in common with these major towns: street art painted by leading artists. Since 2015, the festival Les Escales has invited specialists in street art from selected countries to decorate various buildings. To enable you to locate easily the various artworks mentioned below and scattered around Saint-Nazaire, together with the town's major monuments, sculptures and exhibition spaces, get hold of a copy of the brochure "Parcours à Saint-Nazaire - l'Art en Ville", given out free at the Tourist Office, or to be consulted on line on saint-nazaire-tourisme.uk

Estuaire Nantes <> Saint-Nazaire is a collection of 30 works by international artists, spread over a dozen remarkable estuary sites. In Saint-Nazaire, discover the work of Swiss artist Felice Varini on a roof terrace. From an exact point, all the red geometric forms spread around the harbour turn into a single piece of art. The French landscaper Gilles Clément proves us here that concrete and nature can get along very well with his "Jardin du Tiers Paysage" (third-landscape garden).



Unravel, Adnate in front of the Theatre Simone Veil



Reporter's Tips

Greeters enjoy welcoming visitors to their town as though they were friends. They give freely of their time in order to share their enthusiasm for the place with others, via a walk and a truly friendly encounter. Information and booking on saint-nazaire-tourisme.uk

Central perks

From tiny boutiques to big brands, our town centre has everything, including two open-air malls: Paquebot and Ruban Bleu. Among designer décor, jewellery, books and clothing you'll find terraces and seating plus play areas where kids can run, slide and hide and many year-round activities, so there's always a great excuse to go town!







Near 45,000 people are enjoying the urban festival called Les Escales



Reporter's Tips

Les Escales is an urban festival that takes place in the centre of Saint-Nazaire, on the Île du Petit Maroc and at the port. It occurs at the height of summer, beside the Atlantic, offering an eclectic programme focused mainly on contemporary music, including pop, rock, soul, world music and electronic music, featuring major headliners as well as new and upcoming musicians. Every year, in July, in Saint-Nazaire.



Open your eyes and your ears!

Cultural life in Saint-Nazaire is very dynamic, all year long thanks to the whole cultural spectrum!

- (9) The Theatre Simone Veil has drama, dance, music, from classical to contemporary repertoire on offer, whereas the concert venue VIP, inside the submarine base, organises concerts from rock to rap.
- (1) Contemporary art exhibitions, often with internationally renowned artists, are mostly held in two venues, Le LiFE and Le Grand Café.
- ③ Summer is festival time with two unmissable events (Grande Marée on first week-end of June and Les Escales on the last week-end of July) and coming up with fresh cultural forms you have new venues such as Le Garage and Les Abeilles.
- In Not forgetting...: Saint-Nazaire Côté Plages in July and August; Farniente Festival on the beach Plage de Monsieur Hulot, in July; Fête des Chalands Fleuris in Saint-André des Eaux, in August (...)

Families : welcome on board !

There's a lot for families to do in Saint-Nazaire. You may quickly spot the outdoor playgrounds.

- Intersection of the section of th games on the beaches, walk, run, ...
- (9) The most unique is on the central beach, the Grande Plage of Saint-Nazaire. Here, the games are made from wood and thick ropes and encourage you to climb and do gymnastics, as well as digging in the sand. And you can end up the day with a drink or crepes!
- (1) In the town centre, also seek out the sea dragon or its cousin, the sea eel, outsized structures that children love!
- (1) The superb seafront skatepark with its fullpipe; it's a big hit with skateboarders!
- (f) Tintin has fans of all ages. If you and your children are keen on the cartoon reporter with his trademark quiff, you'll be delighted to encounter him round and about in Saint-Nazaire... and an outsized Tintin at that! Why? Because a whole page in "The Seven Crystal Balls" is set in Saint-Nazaire, at the time when it was a major port for transatlantic travel. Six illustrations taken from the album have been enlarged and put up around the port and the submarine base...



Skatepark in front of the sea





A town for visiting



Visits that surprise, and surprises you can learn from!

③ Saint-Nazaire offers unique experiences which make every visit memorable.

Attractions



Escal'Atlantic

A fascinating journey into the world of ocean liners. Walk in the footsteps of yesterday's travellers, explore the interiors of a liner, and see beautiful collections from legendary French liners. When visiting, take a refreshing break at the bar!



ÉCOMUSÉE m musée de France

The heritage museum Ecomusée deals with the industrial and maritime history of Saint-Nazaire. It is an invitation to travel through time, to discover how the city's privileged location between the Loire River and the Atlantic Ocean has shaped its destiny. Collections, documents and scale models bear witness to the city's extraordinary history.



EOL Centre éolien

EOL is the first visitor centre in France which deals directly with offshore wind energy and the technological, economic and environmental aspects of offshore wind farms. Interactive and hands-on devices make for a very lively experience, designed for children and adults alike. Edutainment at its best!



Tumulus de Dissignac

Discover a timeless and unique monument which was built more than 6,000 years ago... Get close to the Neolithic society, its talents and mysteries. Guided tours during the summer.



Submarine Espadon musée de France

Discover what life was like aboard the submarine Espadon where 65 crew members had to share cramped space and a single shower. From the crew's living guarters to the torpedo room, the first French submarine to have dived beneath the Arctic ice field reveals its secrets.

From January 04 to July 04 2021: the submarine Espadon will be closed for works. From summer 2021 : new immersive tour

All health and safety measures have been taken to assure you the best possible conditions for your safety and wellbeing while you visit.

Image: Second Come and connect with Saint-Nazaire's industrial heritage!

Industrial tours



Shipyard

To visit the shipyard is to gain entrance to a "city within the city". See the workshops and docks. The liners and cruise ships which have been built here are among the most famous ever launched. Guided tours, 2 hours. Commentary in French. English-speaking tours in July and August.

CHANTIERS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Airbus

See a whole new side of planes during the guided tour of the Airbus factory. You have the privilege of walking through the vast workshops where fuselage sections of all the different Airbus planes are being assembled and equipped. Guided tours. 2 hours. Commentary in French. English-speaking tours in July and August.

AIRBUS



Saint-Nazaire Harbour Terminals

Nantes Saint-Nazaire Port is the leading port on France's Atlantic seaboard. The transit of all kinds of goods and freight through its terminals, links the region of Saint-Nazaire to the global economy. Guided tours, 2 hours. Commentary in French.



NANTES



Discovery tours in Saint-Nazaire

Throughout the year, explore the heritage of the city with our large programme of activities and special events. Visiting also means the opportunity to explore, stroll and feel overwhelmed by the beauty of a contrasting and sparkling city. Get to know Saint-Nazaire by joining a guided tour! Commentary in French.

Live the Heritage Season

With our Saison Patrimoine, we promise to bring you closer to Saint-Nazaire's past, but also to the port today, sampling its daily life and varied guarters. Our Saison Patrimoine allows you to experience and share emotions not only with friends and family, but also with local people and other visitors. Whatever the season, immerse yourself in Saint-Nazaire's heritage - no prior knowledge necessary, just enthusiasm!

From March to December, Stunning Saint-Nazaire encourages you to make the most of its Saison Patrimoine via numerous events, such as conferences, readings, writing events, guided and discovery tours, novel outings, cruises, urban walks, sound projects, theatre and other shows in French... so come and explore Saint-Nazaire's rich heritage.



Reporter's Tips Make the most of your trip with our combination tickets! Half price for children aged 4-17 and free entry for children under 4

Organize your own visits : pratical information and booking online on saint-nazaire-tourisme.uk

During the summer, we offer guided walking tours in Saint-Nazaire and the Brière.

Discover our must-see attractions and our seasonal tours by foot, by bike and even on a boat!

Seasonal tours



There's nothing like a seaview - or indeed a view from the sea. Here, you can take a boat trip along the coast and see the town from a new angle. For an hour or two, gaze at the coastline, beaches, cliffs, shipyard and guays across the water. From afternoon light to magical sunset, boat trips showcase all that's stunning in Saint-Nazaire.

The 4 different cruises are definitely a must when you come to Saint-Nazaire in the summer: « Saint-Nazaire sur Mer », « Accords maritimes », « La route des phares » and the new one, « Le port, vues d'estuaire ».

All along the shipping channel, the variety of ports reveals the extent of port activity here, which has recently expanded into the fascinating world of offshore turbines. This is a surprising excursion that combines a 90-minute boat trip, complete with commentary, and a 30-minute visit to the Wind Turbine visitor centre.

Nature Discovery Walks

A few miles outside of the city centre of Saint-Nazaire lies another wor-Id... Land, sea, rustling reeds, gliding herons: the Brière Regional Natural Park, France's second biggest marshland, is exceptional. Join one of our guided discovery walks and get an unforgettable nature experience during July and August! 3 walks, 3 themes: « Escapade à pied » (hiking gateway), « Tous en selle » (biking gateway), « Balade autour du four à pain de Marland » (heritage theme walking tours).

Information and booking on saint-nazaire-tourisme.uk



Welcome on board!





In the heart of la Brière



Welcome to the Regional Natural Park of Brière

How can we describe the Brière? It's France's second-biggest marshland, home to 900 different plants and thousands of birds including bluethroats, herons, egrets and ducks, but much more. It feels otherworldly, an endless horizon of calm with the breeze rustling the reeds. Water is everywhere, lapping at the flat-bottom boats ideal for exploring these marshes, an exceptional natural landscape of silence and stillness. Welcome to another world.

Morta is bog oak in the process of fossilisation, a vestige of the vast forest here 4,000 years ago. It has to be dug up (with great difficulty) from beneath the Brière then left to dry before its deep colour and texture are revealed. This rare wood is highly prized by craftspeople.

Bring your walking boots, binoculars and... smartphone! The free app " Immersion en Brière " guides you along a 3km trail from Rozé Port near Saint-Malo-de-Guersac while interactive bollards detail the flora and fauna, history and traditions. A multimedia marshland!



The traditional flat-bottomed boats, ideal for exploring the marshes!



From october 2020, Rozé Port will be home to an impressive lookout tower standing 24 metres tall and offering panoramic views over the Brière marshlands. There will also be a quay on the riverside for watersports and barge trips, a covered market area and a cycle route connecting Saint-Nazaire to the Île de Fédrun passing through Rozé.











Discover the surprises of the Brière

() A bird-watching reserve called Pierre Constant in Saint-Malo-de-Guersac

Easily accessed on foot from Rozé Port, the Pierre Constant Reserve is open all year offering free entry and guided visits in summer (small fee). It's best to visit early or late to see the ducks, geese, herons, spoonbills, wagtails and bluethroats – and you can borrow binoculars. Birds are timid so you need to be quiet and patient!

(9) La Maison de la Mariée in Saint-Joachim

Museum about the former home industry of wax flowers for bridal crowns.

(9) La Chaumière briéronne in Saint-Joachim

A reconstructed traditional interior of a thatched Brière cottage.

(9) Le Musée de la Marine en bois du Brivet in Montoir-de-Bretagne

A local museum about the tradition of wooden boat-building.

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Highlights #savethedate



• Grande marée: this is our great gathering to celebrate the arrival of summer, on Saint-Nazaire's eastern beach and seafront, involving giant picnics, shows, a circus, music and theatre... all told, it provides a very merry evening for all the family. Every year, 1st Saturday in June, on the beach of Saint-Nazaire.

• Saint-Nazaire Côté Plages: Saint-Nazaire Côté Plages encourages you to enjoy summer to the full by proposing many playful, sporting and cultural shows, festive and leisure events, and outdoor spectacles on the Grande Plage or in the Saint-Marc Quarter. Take your pick. There are events to suit a whole range of tastes and ages!

• Fireworks for France's national festival: every summer, Saint-Nazaire celebrates France's main national festival by lighting up the town's skies in a panoply of colours! This fireworks show always proves magical, for young and old alike! Every year, on 13 July, on the Grande Plage of Saint-Nazaire

• Les Escales: an urban festival that takes place in the centre of Saint-Nazaire, on the Île du Petit Maroc and at the port. Eclectic programme focused mainly on contemporary music, including pop, rock, soul, world music and electronic music, featuring major headliners as well as new and upcoming musicians. Every year, in July, in Saint-Nazaire.

• La Fête des Chalands Fleuris is quite unique, bringing together associations that preserve traditional local heritage – in the form of the flat-bottomed punts of the Brière Marshes. Highlight of the day is the Scénoparade, the punts decorated with thousands of wild flowers. Every year, in August, at Saint-André-des-Eaux

• Féeries de Décembre: for seasonal Christmas fun, enjoy the free ice-skating rink and bobsled track, the fair, the light projections and the Christmas Market! Every year, in December, in Saint-Nazaire









How to come in Saint-Nazaire?



• By rail: the high-speed train TGV links Saint-Nazaire to Paris several times a day; allow for approx. 2½ hours on direct trains. Via Nantes, rail connections to and from all over the country. oui.sncf - www.ter.sncf.com/pays-de-la-loire

• **By road** : Paris 4h20 ; Bordeaux 4h ; Angers 1h30 ; Nantes 1 h ; Rennes: 1h30 ; Pornic 30 min ; La Baule 15 min

• By air: Nantes Atlantique airport (less than one hour from Saint-Nazaire): numerous domestic and international flights. Information & booking: +332 40 84 80 00

How to get around?



• The local STRAN buses make it easy to get around town. HélYce runs through the whole city and operates a frequent service. During the summer, the bus line U3 takes you to some of Saint-Nazaire's greatest beaches.

• The regional authority runs a coach service called Aléop which links Saint-Nazaire to many towns in the surroundings. Between Saint-Nazaire and Nantes, but also from Saint-Nazaire to Le Croisic, the easiest way to travel is by rail with the Métrocéane day ticket which gives you access to regional trains (TER), to Saint-Nazaire's buses (STRAN) and the public transport in Nantes (TAN, buses and trams).

Where to stay?



Offices de Tourisme

de France

• If you're staying in Saint-Nazaire or Brière area, you have a wide choice of accommodation, from hotels and apartment hotels to bed & breakfasts and camp sites. Here you can browse all our accommodation options and find your perfect getaway.

Where is the tourist office?

There are two Tourist Information Offices in Saint-Nazaire and Brière:

• Saint-Nazaire, Submarine base, bd de la Légion d'Honneur Tél. +33 (0)2 40 22 40 65 | contact@saint-nazaire-tourisme.com

 Saint-André-des-Eaux, in the Brière, 26 place de l'Eglise Tél. +33 (0)2 40 91 53 53 | contact-standre@saint-nazaire-tourisme.com







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