

# FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF TINTIN





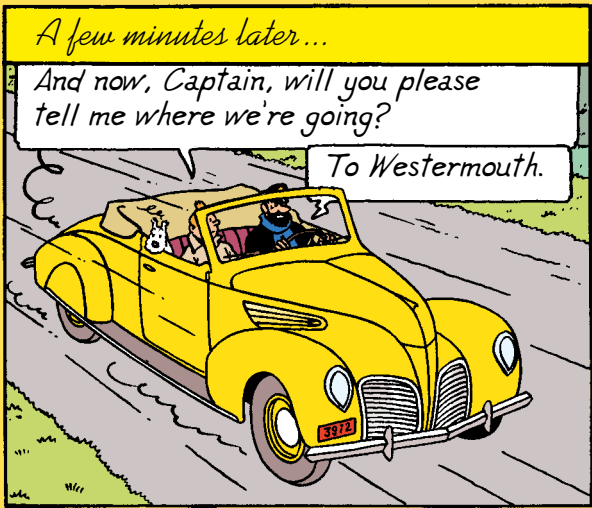
Welcome to Saint-Nazaire, where you are following in famous footsteps! Did you know that Tintin, Captain Haddock and Snowy were here before you? The tale of their trip to this town is told in Hergé's *The Seven Crystal Balls*.

Tintin and Haddock meet General Alcazar on the docks of Saint-Nazaire, just before the General steps on board an ocean liner.

From 1882 until World War II, Saint-Nazaire was the French starting point of a shipping lane to South America. The destruction of Saint-Nazaire during the war brought an end to shipping activities along this route.

Following a project by the Tintin fan club **Les 7 Soleils** (The 7 Suns), six large boards and an orientation table were erected in the town, to commemorate the visit by Hergé's characters.

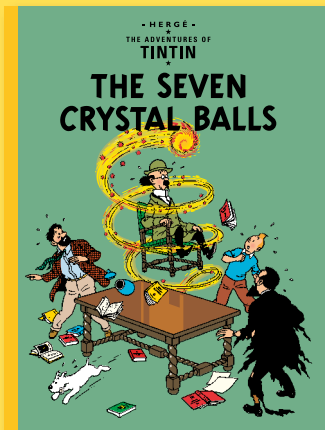




- Tintin, Captain Haddock and Snowy have just left Marlinspike Hall. Haddock has heard from the Westermouth (the name given to the port of Saint-Nazaire in the English version of the story) police: the car that was used in the abduction of Professor Calculus has been seen in the area!

Captain Haddock waxes lyrical about the port: "... decks, jetties, the ocean, the sea-breezes whipping the spray in your face..."

Here we are at the entrance to the town, opened during the 1950s when the town was under reconstruction.



Early next morning...



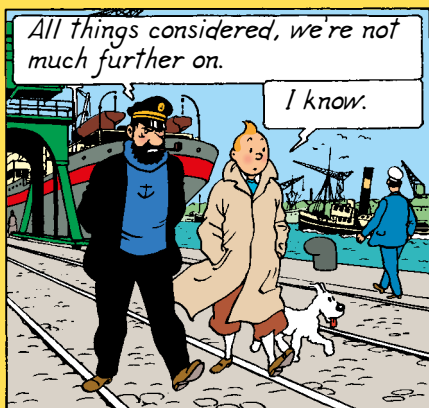
Rue des  
Chantiers

- This was the main entrance to Saint-Nazaire until the town was reconstructed.

In 1862 a shipyard was founded in the Penhoët quarter. Huge ocean liners are still manufactured in Penhoët today.

- Here we are at the junction between two of the port's basins: the Saint-Nazaire basin in the south (where the car used by Calculus' kidnappers is discovered) and the Penhoët basin.

At the beginning, ships arriving at the port of Saint-Nazaire entered via the east entrance (where the French submarine the *Espadon* is docked today). A southern entrance was opened in 1907, which larger ships were able to use, and from 1932 the Louis Joubert Lock provided access to the largest ocean liners – such as le *Normandie* and le *France* – and other vessels. Today most liners constructed in Saint-Nazaire use this lock.



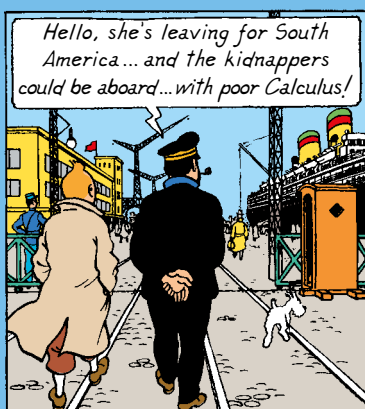
Pont  
du Pertuis



●● This is where the ferry terminal is located. Tintin spots General Alcazar at the moment when he is boarding a ship destined for South America.

In 1941 the occupying Nazi forces began the construction of a fortified submarine base, which covered the part of the Saint-Nazaire basin that was used to dock transatlantic liners.

Founders of the French Line shipping company, the Péréire brothers, were obliged by a contract with the French government to build at least half their ships in France. It was the Péréire brothers who established the shipyard in Penhoët.



Boulevard  
de la Légion  
d'Honneur



Quai du Commerce

- Captain Haddock has made a big mistake – he sat down on a cargo bale that a crane has just picked up!

Transatlantic ocean liners accounted for only a small part of the maritime traffic at Saint-Nazaire. For many decades the port was a key entrance point for exotic merchandise such as Norwegian wood and Welsh coal.

When America joined the First World War in 1917, Saint-Nazaire was the main landing point for American forces.



Photo from Hergé's archives

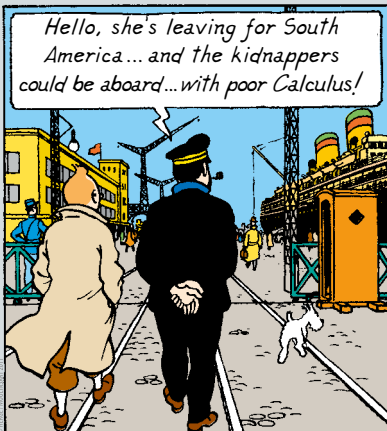


- Tintin, Haddock and Snowy have not found Professor Calculus. They decide to go and say hello to Captain Chester, whose cargo ship the *Sirius* is moored at Bridgeport (La Rochelle in the French version) harbour.

Thirteen other real ports are visited by Tintin over the course of his adventures: Akuyeri (*The Shooting Star*), Antwerp (*The Crab with the Golden Claws*), Callao (*Prisoners of the Sun*), Chicago (*Tintin in America*), Djibouti (*The Red Sea Sharks*), Dover (*The Black Island*), La Rochelle (*The Seven Crystal Balls*), Le Havre (*Tintin in America* and *The Broken Ear*), Marseille (*King Ottokar's Sceptre*), New York (*Tintin in America*), Ostend (*The Black Island*), Port Said (*Cigars of the Pharaoh*) and Shanghai (*The Blue Lotus*).

These ports are marked out on the orientation table "Tintin et la Mer", located near the Vieux Môle, the oldest edifice in the port of Saint-Nazaire. The orientation table also displays the locations of two imaginary events: the landing place of the meteorite in *The Shooting Star* and the site of the shipwreck of the *Unicorn* in *Red Rackham's Treasure*.

The orientation table was designed by the Saint-Nazarian artist Jérôme Besseau.



**SAINT-NAZAIRE**  
France

47°15 N 2°15 W  
0 mille

Founded in 1986, the Tintin fan club **Les 7 Soleils** aims to celebrate the visit paid to Saint-Nazaire by Tintin, Captain Haddock and Snowy.

As well as completing the project to mark out the places visited by the comic strip heroes, **Les 7 Soleils** also developed the exhibition *The Adventures of Tintin at Sea*, first launched in Saint-Nazaire in 1999 and then put on display in Paris, Barcelona, London, Stockholm and Ostend. Built in Saint-Nazaire for the exhibition, Professor Calculus' shark submarine is today on display at the Hergé Museum in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

**Les 7 Soleils** also created the theatrical performance *Le Procès du Général Alcazar*, which was held at the Loire-Atlantique Crown Court in November 2001.

These projects were developed with the authorisation and kind support of Studios Hergé and Moulinsart S.A., and with the help of local groups, European funding and businesses from Saint-Nazaire and the surrounding area.

#### **For more information about Saint-Nazaire:**

Office de Tourisme, Base sous-marine, Boulevard de la Legion d'Honneur  
Tel +33 (0)2 40 22 40 65  
[www.saint-nazaire-tourisme.com](http://www.saint-nazaire-tourisme.com)

#### **Not to be missed:**

- Escal'Atlantic, "The Ocean Liner Experience", at the submarine base
- A visit to the shipyard and EADS Airbus factory  
For information and reservations telephone +33 (0)8 10 88 84 44
- The seafront and Saint-Nazaire's twenty beaches
- Saint-Marc-sur-Mer and the Monsieur Hulot beach



**LES 7 SOLEILS**  
[www.7soleils.org](http://www.7soleils.org)



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[www.museeherge.com](http://www.museeherge.com)