



**ROYAL  
DE LUXE** NANTES

Nantes  
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## The Cathedral

So.... The cathedral!

457 years to make it.

Well back in the days time wasn't money.

The truth is we put it on a former basilic built to shelter a nail!

That nail supposedly taken out from the cross of the Surplice in Saint-Peter in Rome by the second-hand goods dealers of the time became a sacred relic.

Whether it is true or not those believers rushed in to admire the rusty vestige laying on crimson velvet.

In those remote moments the cathedrals were dominating whole cities to get closer to the sky.

In any case this building weights as much as a herd of 5000 elephants, 350 giraffes, 200 rhinoceros, 5 hippopotamus and 2 ostriches.

Of course when it rains it sinks 3cm deeper, but no one notices.

At my left, in the back you can see gargoyles: they were caught alive in the Tibériade lake by fishermen who walked on the water, knocked out with a stick and quickly changed into stone by Peter who was looking for his nail.

At my right in the bottom glass windows were placed, now empty, which at the time were selling trendy suits worn by living mannequins from the very first Decré stores.

At my left, still in the bottom, some niches for sleeping standing were reserved for the poor people who were stretching their hands offering cross nails whose sketchy origins attracted tourists.

At the very top we can see a faithful clock that willing men activate with helical handles connected to a stationary bicycle styled drive, dating from the 5<sup>th</sup> century with a rotary hourglass.

Mini-skirts and cellphones are forbidden inside the building.

At the very top two twin tours are facing the future. From a long time they pretend not to see each other. Impassive they look at the place, ignoring each other on purpose since a squabble no one remember. Anyway they never spoke to each other.

The big secret no one knows about is that the cathedral was built near Rome, and transported as a single block with a log method (as ingenious as a device by Leonardo Da Vinci) like caterpillars tracks from a tank and pulled at full tilt by hundreds of horses.

The dust it released on its way made it impossible to see it.

Then it was placed at the place of the nail and now shines in the landscape of Nantes.

Victim of several fires in its career, the last one was in 1972, accidently started by a welder worker.

The flames rushed into the huge framework, violently devoured by the explosion of heat.

The heroic firemen from several stations fought, immersed in a true battle.  
Entire parts of the roof were collapsing pouring in the sky millions of sparks that looked like they wanted to put the clouds on fire.  
Hell was awaking, giant claws more powerful than the talons of a monster out of a magma puddle were tearing the building apart.  
The scared crowd, united by a brutal movement of quiet rebellion, was unleashing its strength against the elements.  
And when finally everything was over, a six year old child named Stéphane climbed on his father's shoulders and simply said "daddy, is the good lord going to burn too? "

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