Nazaré

Nazaré is one of the most bizarre breaks on the planet. The wave was first documented by foreign wave riders in the 1960s as locals told tourists from the United States of the North Beaches great waves in the winter season. The tourists were sadly only there during the summer and never were able to see these monster waves. It was not until the mid-2000s when a Portuguese bodysurfing local contacted famous American big wave surfer Garret McNamara who would go to fame because of his historic ride on this wave. Nazaré is unlike most other waves with it breaking on a sandbar, making it both unpredictable and typically not very horizontally long as it only breaks to the extent of the sandbar. Breaking on the North beach of Nazaré in Portugal the wave is home to the Nazaré Big Wave Challenge and holds the world record for the largest wave ever surfed at 93.97 feet. Another reason why the break is unique is as the winter season approaches and the WNW swell builds the swell travels through the canyon, allowing it to travel much faster as it approaches the shore. When it hits the canyon wall it shoots up and combines with the slow-moving swell on the side of the canyon to create the biggest wave ever surfed.

100ft World Record Wave, Garrett McNamara Surfing Nazare, Portugal



