



# MONTE CARLO

## MONACO

The French Riviera stretches from St. Tropez to Menton on the Italian border, and includes the cosmopolitan towns of Cannes, Nice and Monte Carlo.

Monte Carlo belongs to the Principality of Monaco and is governed independently, although the way of life is distinctively French. Known as the play-ground of the rich, it is famous for its wealth.

Often referred to as the Côte d'Azur, The Riviera with its beautiful beaches and pleasant climate, has developed into a major tourist resort. The hill-sides surrounding the Côte d'Azur contain many small, fortified towns which still retain much of their medieval character.

Six miles from Monte Carlo, Villefranche is a charming little town, nestled against the hillside, overlooking the bay between Nice and Monte Carlo. The pace here is slow and the atmosphere restful.

Nice, approximately 9 miles from Monte Carlo, is known as the capital of the French Riviera, its main attraction being its location, right in the middle of the Côte d'Azur. The beach, spanning the Baie de Anges, is lined by the Promenade des Anglais, built in 1824 and named for the British who paid for its construction.

Cannes, approximately 34 miles from Monte Carlo, was the first resort on the Côte d'Azur. Each May it attracts members of the 'Jet Set' for the famous Film Festival. The chic and the elegant display their wealth in the exclusive hotels that line the sea-front along Boulevard de la Croisette.



### HISTORY

The Phoenicians and Greeks are known to have set up trading posts along the south coast of France, as long ago as 400 BC. They were followed by the Romans who first established the region known today as Provence, which incorporates the French Riviera. Following the decline of the Roman civilization, various invaders came and went during the next few centuries, including the Saracens from North Africa.

None dominated significantly until the beginning of the 10th century when, the Saracens having been finally evicted, the Counts of Toulouse assumed control. Power continued to fluctuate between rulers in the area, but generally this was seen as a period of growth and development in terms of trade and culture.

In 1481, following the death of King René, Duke of Anjou, sovereignty passed to King Louis XI of France. Nice was an exception however, and became allied to the House of Savoy. Nice remained foreign to France, apart from a brief period during the reign of Napoleon, until 1860 when a vote was taken to resolve the issue.

During the French Occupation in World War II, the Côte d'Azur was left to the Italians. The Allied Forces landed in August 1944 along the coast of Provence, and began their move north towards Normandy.



## MONACO POINTS OF INTEREST

**1 The Prince's Palace** on top of Monaco Rock, was built in the last century. The Changing of the Guards takes place every morning at 11:55 am.

**2 The Cathedral**, built in the 19th century in neo-romanesque style, is located on the top of Monaco Rock. This is where the fairy-tale wedding of Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly took place, and where Princess Grace is now laid to rest. Photography is not permitted inside the Cathedral.

**3 The Oceanographic Museum** is situated on Avenue St. Martin on Monaco Rock. It is also a research institute directed by Jacques Cousteau. As well, it contains one of the most spectacular aquariums in Europe.

**4 The Grand Casino** was once the main source of income for the Principality. The Casino, an elaborate copper-domed building dating from 1878, has terrific sea views over a series of terraced gardens. Inside, view the American Room with its decorative ceiling. Photography is not permitted inside the Casino.

**5 Botanical Gardens** are located on Boulevard du Jardin Exotique on the outskirts of Monte Carlo. These delightful gardens, known as Jardin Exotique for the fact that many of the exhibits are unique to Europe, includes over 600 variations of

cacti and succulents.

## Nice

**Chagall Museum**, located on Boulevard de Cimiez, contains a collection of Chagall's paintings.

**Fine Arts Museum** can be found on Avenue des Baumettes and contains a collection of impressionist works.

**Matisse Museum**, located on Avenue des Arenes, contains many of the great artist's sketches, paintings and collages.

**Old Town** is lined with many interesting shops. Visit the **Cours Saleya** to see the flower market which is held in the mornings. There are many side-walk cafes in this area.

**Russian Orthodox Cathedral**, located on Avenue Nicolas II, is a 19th century building of pink brick and grey marble, it has six onion domes and presents quite a spectacle.

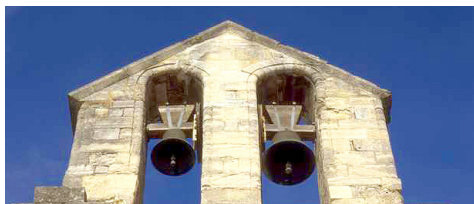
## Cannes

**Boulevard de la Croisette** is famous for its exclusive hotels and designer boutiques which line the esplanade.

**Le Suquet** is the Old Town, situated on a small hill to the west of Cannes. The Lord's Tower, an ancient watch-tower built by the monks of Lérins, dominates the hill.

## Eze

Certainly one of the most charming and picturesque locations to be found anywhere along the entire French Riviera. Along the beautiful mountain road just west of Monaco heading towards Nice, the old village of Eze sits perched 1,300 feet up on a high crest overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and the stunning coast of southern France. Entering the village, guard towers dating back to the Middle Ages provide an immediate sense of security and history. The narrow streets gently wind their way between beautiful stone houses that have been meticulously and lovingly restored. The village squares are shaded by swaying pines and refreshed by bubbling fountains.



## SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Monte Carlo and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing, consult [azamaraclubcruises.com](http://azamaraclubcruises.com) or contact the onboard Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

## LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Not a way of life in France.

Tipping: Generally service will be included in the bill, however, it is customary to leave a few coins. For taxis, a 10% gratuity is normal.

## LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Wining and dining is a major occupation for the French, and this region in particular enjoys fresh fish. The most popular dish is Bouillabaisse – basically a fish stew, the recipe varies according to the Chef. Salade Niçoise combines basic salad ingredients with tuna, hard-boiled egg, green beans and anchovies. Try Ratatouille as a vegetable accompaniment, a tomato based dish with onions, egg plant, zucchini and subtle spices.

Pastis is popular amongst the locals, a clear aniseed flavored aperitif to which water is added. The region of Provence produces a range of good quality red, white and rose wines. Bottled water is recommended.

## SHOPPING

Exclusive shops can be found in Monte Carlo on Rue des Moulins and Place du Casino. Nice has a comprehensive range of shops, particularly along Avenue Jean Médecin, stretching from Place de Masséna. General opening hours are from 9:00am – Noon and 2:00 pm – 7:00pm, Monday through Saturday. U.S. Dollars are not accepted in France, however, most stores accept major credit cards. Locally produced items include; perfume, pottery, olive wood products, paintings and clothing of Provencal fabric.

Value added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCI cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

## LOCAL CURRENCY

The unit of currency in this port is the euro. There are 8 euro coins with a common face. On the reverse, each member state contributes a design. There are 7 euro notes. All euro coins and notes are legal tender in member states. Most stores accept major credit cards. Most stores accept major credit cards.

## POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

Monaco's main post office is located at Number 1 Henri-Dunant Avenue in the Palais de la Scala, on Beaumarchais Square, Monte Carlo. Many telephones in France accept "Telecartes" which can be purchased in the Terminal Building, Post Offices, and Tobacconists.

A coin or telephone card may be required to dial these telephone access numbers:

AT&T: 0800.99.0011

MCI: 0800.99.0019

## TRANSPORTATION

A limited number of taxis are usually available at the Pier

