



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



# Azure Opulence

## Nice, 4 Days

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** From designer yachts bobbing in the harbor to sumptuous cuisine, Nice makes a perfect base to indulge in decadence. Let the gentle sound of the surf lull you down elegant cobbled streets, past baroque architecture and charming brasseries. Head outside of town to enjoy exquisite cuisine on hill-perched terraces. Promenade through the one of the world's wealthiest principalities. And soak in the best Nice luxury of them all: the incredible Cote d'Azur setting.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Nice

**DAY NOTE:** Spend your first day exploring the elegant offerings in the town of Nice. Make Hotel Negresco your central and splendid home base; one of Nice's finest hotels, it touts decadent decor and a staff prepared to pamper. Take a leisurely promenade down Avenue Jean-Medecin and soak in the charming Riviera ambiance, stopping in one of the uncountable cafes for lunch. When your ready to rest your feet, take a horse-drawn carriage tour through the rest of town. Don't be late for your reservations of deservedly popular L'Univers de Christian Plumail, or to the evening show at lavish Opera de Nice.

	<b>Hôtel Négresco</b> Legendary Luxury
	<b>Avenue Jean-Médecin</b> Culture, Cuisine & Commerce
	<b>Parcours en Calèche</b> Tour the city in style
	<b>L'Univers de Christian Plumail</b> Gastronomic Delights
	<b>Opéra de Nice</b> Italian Opera By The Sea

## Day 2 - Nice

**DAY NOTE:** Today you'll spend some time along the harbor before hitting the hills surrounding Nice for stunning sea views and more luxury living. Start at Palais Lascaris for a taste of Baroque opulence before lunching at one of the most classically Nice cafes, Cafe de Turin. Next you'll indulge your inner wine lover at Chateau de Bellet. Take a detour to Jardin d'Eden for incredible, art-inspiring views before heading to Chez Simon for down-to-earth, hill-perched dining.

	<b>Palais Lascaris</b> Baroque Palace In Old Nice
	<b>Château de Bellet</b> Genuine Nice wine!

 **Jardin d'Eden**  
Artistic Viewpoint

 **Chez Simon**  
Overlooking Nice

 **Café de Turin (Le)**  
Not to Be Missed!

## Day 3 - Nice

**DAY NOTE:** Microscopic Monaco has a reputation for luxury that far exceeds its small size--but that it can certainly live up to. You'll make your leisurely way over, first stopping in for some indulgence at Maria Galland Spa. Walk off your massage along the sea at Sentier de Cap a'Ail, then spend the afternoon and early evening exploring the lavish land of Monaco. Dine in the nearby village of Falicon at Parcours Live Restaurant.

 **Maria Galland Spa**  
Journey to Well-being

 **Sentier de Cap d'Ail**  
Romantic Walk by the Sea

## Day 4 - Nice

**DAY NOTE:** Today you'll take a luxuriant private tour. If you didn't get enough of Monaco yesterday, revisit it, along with some medieval villages and sweeping views. For something different, opt for the St-Tropez day tour, which includes a sail across the bay. For your final dinner, go all out at Nice's most well-regarded restaurant, Le Chanetecler.

 **St Tropez Small Group Day Trip**  
Day Trips

 **Monaco, Monte Carlo and Eze Private Tour**  
Ports of Call Tours

 **Chantecler (Le)**  
Dine in Style & Luxury

# Day 1 - Nice

## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Spend your first day exploring the elegant offerings in the town of Nice. Make Hotel Negresco your central and splendid home base; one of Nice's finest hotels, it touts decadent decor and a staff prepared to pamper. Take a leisurely promenade down Avenue Jean-Medecin and soak in the charming Riviera ambiance, stopping in one of the uncountable cafes for lunch. When your ready to rest your feet, take a horse-drawn carriage tour through the rest of town. Don't be late for your reservations of deservedly popular L'Univers de Christian Plumail, or to the evening show at lavish Opera de Nice.

### contact:

tel: +33 4 9316 6400

fax: +33 4 9388 3568

<http://www.hotel-negresco-nice.com/>

### location:

37 Promenade Des Anglais  
Nice PR 06000

## 1 Hôtel Négresco

**DESCRIPTION:** The Negresco, on the seafront in the heart of Nice, is one of the Riviera's superglamorous hotels. The Victorian wedding-cake hotel is named after its founder, Henry Negresco, a Romanian who died a pauper in Paris in 1920. The country's châteaux inspired both the interior and the exterior, with its mansard roof and domed tower. The hotel's decorators scoured Europe to gather antiques, tapestries, and art. Some of the accommodations, such as the Coco Chanel room, are outfitted in homage to the personalities who stayed here. Others are modeled on literary or musical themes, such as La Traviata. Suites and public areas are even grander; they include the Louis XIV salon, reminiscent of the Sun King, and the Napoleon III suite, where swagged walls, a leopard-skin carpet, and a half-crowned pink canopy create a sense of majesty. The most expensive rooms with balconies face the Mediterranean and the private beach. The staff wears 18th-century costumes. One of the two restaurants, **Le Chantecler**, is one of the Riviera's greatest. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

### contact:

tel: +33 8 9270 7407 (Tourist Information)

### location:

Avenue Jean-Médecin  
Nice 06000

## 2 Avenue Jean-Médecin

**DESCRIPTION:** Avenue Jean-Médecin, named after the city's most popular mayor, is one of Nice's grandest promenades. An epicenter of upscale retail shopping, this broad, pedestrian-friendly thoroughfare is bursting with brasseries, boutiques, and department stores. Also on the way is the incredible Basilique Notre-Dame. Avenue Jean-Médecin runs from Place Massena to the train station and makes for a delightful half-hour stroll. © wcities.com

### contact:

tel: +33 (0)4 9392 8282  
(Tourist Information)

fax: +33 (0)4 9392 8298  
(Tourist Information)

### location:

Promenade des Anglais  
Nice Provence-Alpes-Côte  
d'Azur 6000

## 3 Parcours en Calèche

**DESCRIPTION:** This tour is certainly an original way of discovering the city. Your horse-drawn carriage awaits you in front of the Méridien hotel - just sit back and enjoy. Several routes (incorporating a guided tour given in French and English) are available. In a quarter of an hour you can be clip-clopping along the Promenade des Anglais, as far as the old town. A half-hour trip gets you as far as the harbour—via the Promenade des Anglais and the old town—taking in sights that include the Palais de Justice, Cours Saleya and the Opera. The hour-long circuit passes through delightful Place Garibaldi, the city's old district and around the harbour, ending up at the Méridien hotel. Carriages can take 6-8 people. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: +33 4 9362 3222

<http://www.christian-plumail.com/>

**location:**

54 Boulevard Jean-Jaurès  
Nice 06300

## 4 L'Univers de Christian Plumail

**DESCRIPTION:** L'Univers de Christian Plumail is one of the most popular restaurants with gourmets on the Côte d'Azur. Located in the center of town, facing the Place Masséna, it offers a warm welcome and most importantly fantastic food by renowned chef Christian Plumail. The dishes are both refined and delicious: Lamb in Milk, Roast Artichokes with Peppers, and Crayfish are all a royal treat for the palate. The menu changes every week and always with fresh ingredients from the markets, so be ready for an unforgettable culinary experience!  
© wcities.com



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**contact:**

tel: +33 4 9217 4000

fax: +33 4 9380 3483

<http://www.opera-nice.org/>

**location:**

4 & 6 Rue Saint-François de  
Paule  
Nice 06300

## 5 Opéra de Nice

**DESCRIPTION:** Going at least once to a performance at the Opéra de Nice is a must, even if it's just to admire the fairy tale-like theater and its enormous chandelier. Each year, the Opéra de Nice comes up with an interesting schedule of events and concerts. The productions are always of very high caliber. Good seats need to be reserved in advance for the operas. Concert tickets can be booked easily. Check website for the upcoming events and performances. © wcities.com

# Day 2 - Nice

## QUICK NOTE

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**contact:**  
tel: +33 4 9362 7240

## 1 Palais Lascaris

**location:**  
15 rue Droite  
Nice 06300

**hours:**  
Wed-Mon 10am-6pm

**DESCRIPTION:** The baroque Palais Lascaris in the city's historic core is associated with the Lascaris-Vintimille family, whose recorded history predates the year 1261. Built in the 17th century, it contains elaborately detailed ornaments. An intensive restoration by the city of Nice in 1946 brought back its original beauty, and the palace is now classified as a historic monument. The most elaborate floor, the étage noble, retains many of its 18th-century panels and plaster embellishments. A pharmacy, built around 1738 and complete with many of the original delFTWARE accessories, is on the premises. © Frommer's

**contact:**  
tel: +33 4 9337 8157  
fax: +33 4 9337 9383

## 2 Château de Bellet

**location:**  
Quartier Saint-Roman-de-Bellet  
Nice 6200

**DESCRIPTION:** Of course, Nice and its immediate surroundings aren't exactly world-renowned for their wine production. And yet, Nice is the proud owner of a stretch of vineyards where the grapes are harvested and transformed into Appellation Contrôlée wine (wine carrying a guarantee of origin or 'AOC'), called Vin de Bellet (AOC certified since 1941). In the Saint-Romain district of Bellet, which has preserved a certain amount of cultivable land, the Bellet vineyard - among others - produces a nice little local wine with a subtle, attractive aroma. Connoisseurs or amateurs take note - Nice has some excellent wine too! © wcities.com

**contact:**  
tel: +33 4 9713 4201  
fax: +33 4 9713 4202  
<http://www.mamac-nice.org/>

## 3 Jardin d'Eden

**location:**  
Promenade des Arts  
Nice 06364

**DESCRIPTION:** Situated on the roof terraces of Nice's modern art museum, musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain (MAMAC), this little garden and wall walk is a curious sight. Nevertheless, the garden boasts a truly wonderful view over Nice-the modern city as well as the old town with its red-tiled rooftops, and the range of hills that encircle the city. A few artistic works are scattered along the length of this Garden of Eden, and sound recordings create the impression of being in the heart of the forest, treating your ears to birdsong and rustling leaves. Access to the garden can only be gained through the museum. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Jardin d'Eden.

**contact:**

tel: +33 4 93 86 51 62  
http://www.restaurantchezsimon.com

**location:**

275, St-Antoine-de-Ginestiere  
Nice 06200

**4 Chez Simon**

**DESCRIPTION:** Chez Simon, located just outside the city, serves delicious regional specialities, as well as, delectable gourmet cuisine, complemented by a simple, welcoming ambiance. The atmosphere is warm, and feels like a friend's home. While not much fuss has been made over the simple, down to earth décor, the food more than makes up for it. Take your time over a good meal, a glass of French wine, and relax. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Chez Simon

**contact:**

tel: +33 4 93 62 29 52  
fax: +33 4 93 13 03 49  
http://www.cafedeturin.com

**location:**

5 Place Garibaldi  
Nice 06300

**hours:**

Mo to Su from 08:00 AM to  
11:00 PM

**5 Café de Turin (Le)**

**DESCRIPTION:** The origins of this place began in 1900, when it served glasses and carafes of wine to local office workers and laborers. In the 1950s, it added a kitchen to its premises, and ever since, it's churned out the kinds of hearty, bistro-style platters that go well with wine and beer. Much of the energy is expressed outside, under the arcades of the central plaza (place Garibaldi), where local hipsters strut their stuff, people jump to their feet to table-hop, and harassed but well-intentioned waiters do their best to keep the food and beverages flowing. The place is celebrated for its coquillage (raw shellfish), attracting the likes of Princess Caroline, who drives over from Monaco. Other items include whatever species of grilled fish is available that day, pâtés, terrines, salads, pastas, and a satisfying selection of ice creams and pastries. © Frommer's



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# Day 3 - Nice

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### contact:

tel: +33 4 9301 0001

(Reservations)

<http://www.reservebeaulieu.com/uk/navigation.htm>

### location:

5, Boulevard du Général  
Leclerc  
Nice 06310

## 1 Maria Galland Spa

**DESCRIPTION:** The Maria Galland Spa is worth a visit. It is intimate, elegant and inviting. The focus is on treating the body and mind together. The Spa proposes a variety of treatment packages that are supervised by the Institute Maria Galland. From facials to entire body treatments, this spa offers everything from Californian massage, shiatsu, reflexology, balneo-therapy to aromatherapy. The spa is completely dedicated to your well-being. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Maria Galland Spa.

### contact:

tel: +33 4 9378 0233 (Tourist  
Information)

### location:

Sentier du Littoral  
Cap d'Ail 06320

## 2 Sentier de Cap d'Ail

**DESCRIPTION:** This Sentier de Cap d'Ail follows the sea from the quartier Fontvieille to the end of Cap d'Ail via the Pointe des Douaniers and Rognosso cape reaching Plage Mala. Discover the delights of the sea and the beauty of nature; those who like architecture and luxury villas will love the sight of the magnificent Belle Epoque properties along this walk. On a walk lasting a little less than 3 hours there and back at normal pace, you don't have to walk all the way! Why not take the time to have a swim too? Besides that, it is an educational day for children with signs showing types of flora and geological features found on this path. The Office du Tourisme du Cap d'Ail sells a very detailed guide. Guided visits can also be organized. Watch out for the spray when the sea is rough! © wcities.com

# Day 4 - Nice

## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Today you'll take a luxuriant private tour. If you didn't get enough of Monaco yesterday, revisit it, along with some medieval villages and sweeping views. For something different, opt for the St-Tropez day tour, which includes a sail across the bay. For your final dinner, go all out at Nice's most well-regarded restaurant, Le Chanetecler.

**contact:**

<http://www.partner.viator.com/en/6793/tours/Nice/St-Tropez-Small-Group-Day-Trip/d478-2356NCE04>

**location:**

Nice French Riviera

## St Tropez Small Group Day Trip

**DESCRIPTION:** Luxury yachts, fashion boutiques, terrace cafes where else but Saint Tropez? See where the beautiful people hang out on this small group day trip from Cannes and Nice. After leaving the motorway you'll take a scenic drive through the Maure Forest to arrive in the port of St. Tropez. You'll explore the town by mounting the steps to the pretty medieval village, visiting the Annonciade Museum or touring the Citadel with its naval museum. You'll also make a stop at Port Grimaud, known as "Little Venice", to admire its canals, bridges, boutiques and charming houses. From June 15 to September 15 the tour includes a short sail across the stunning bay of St. Tropez. On your return you'll drive along the spectacular coast through St. Maxime, St. Raphael and the Golden Corniche. Special Offer - Book and travel before August 31 and save 10% off the recommended retail price - BOOK NOW! © Viator



viator

**contact:**

<http://www.partner.viator.com/en/6793/tours/Nice/Monaco-Monte-Carlo-and-Eze-Private-Tour/d478-2356NCE10P>

**location:**

Nice French Riviera

## Monaco, Monte Carlo and Eze Private Tour

**DESCRIPTION:** Enjoy panoramic view over Nice from Mt. Boron as you drive on this private tour to the Middle Corniche stop at Eze. Eze is a perched medieval village with artisan shops and breathtaking views where you will have a guided tour of a perfumery. Visit the Old Town of Monaco with free time to visit the Palace (open June to October), Cathedral, Cousteau Oceanographic Museum and see the changing of the Palace Guards. Continue to tour Monte-Carlo with a lap on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit. You will have free time at Casino Square to amuse yourself with luxury shopping, stunning gardens, megayachts, chic casinos or simply watching the rich and beautiful in their favorite haunt. Drive along spectacular coastline Lower Corniche between Nice and Monaco harboring ancient villages and modern marinas. Admire the bay and Citadel of Villefranche as you return to your hotel in Cannes or Nice. This is a privately conducted tour with an English speaking guide. © Viator



viator

**contact:**

tel: +33 4 9316 6400  
<http://www.hotel-negresco-nice.com/restaurant-bar/chantecler>,  
<http://www.hotel-negresco-nice.com/>

**location:**

37 Promenade des Anglais  
Nice 6000

**hours:**

Wed-Sun 12:30-2pm and  
8-10pm

**1 Chantecler (Le)**

**DESCRIPTION:** This is Nice's most prestigious and best restaurant. The walls are sheathed with panels removed from a château in Pouilly-Fuissé; a Regency-style salon is available for before- or after-dinner drinks; and a collection of 16th-century paintings, executed on leather backgrounds in the Belgian town of Malines, decorates the premises. A much-respected chef, Bruno Turbot, revised the menu to include the most sophisticated and creative dishes in Nice. They change almost weekly but may include turbot filet served with purée of broad beans, sun-dried tomatoes, and asparagus; roasted suckling lamb served with beignets of fresh vegetables and ricotta-stuffed ravioli; and a melt-in-your-mouth fantasy of marbled hot chocolate drenched in almond-flavored cream sauce. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Chantecler (Le)

# Nice Snapshot

## Local Info

Nice is said to be the weakest adjective in the English language. And we're sure the French hate it when Americans invariably say that Nice is "nice". Sure, it's true, but Nice – the fifth largest city in France – is so much more than just nice. Nice (say it like "niece," please) located on the French Riviera is the ideal place for romantic tropical beach vacations, lively carnivals, culture and art appreciation as well as historical and archaeological finds. Urban energy combined with a laid back atmosphere amidst a backdrop of pebbled beaches, light blue sea, art galleries and historic plazas make Nice every vacationer's dream.

## Sights

Join the locals for a stroll or simply sit back and take in the view from one of the blue lounge chairs on the Promenade des Anglais by the Baie de Anges. For a prime view of the city, visit the ruins of the Colline du Chateau. Art and culture lovers will certainly love exploring the different museums in the city (and the fact that entrance is usually free). Visit the Museum of Asian Art, Musee Matisse and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art. Archaeology fans will also find the Musee et Site Archeologiques de Cimiez quite an exciting find. Enjoy the concerts or festivals at Place Massena just two minutes from the Promenade des Anglais. Don't forget to take pictures of Vieux Nice or the Old Town with its quaint houses and shops. In the heart of the Old Town is Place Rossetti, famous for its landmark fountain, and the exquisitely designed Cathedrale Sainte-Reparate. Try strolling around the neighborhood at night when the lighting makes your walk a mystical experience.

## Food and Drinks

No one should leave Nice without sampling the most delicious ice cream from the best

ice-cream makers in the Place Rossetti. You can also try traditional Nicoise cuisine like socca, pan bagnat and salad nicoise from the many restaurants in the Old Nice and the Cours Saleya. For more Nicoise food as well as foreign selections, head to the cafes along the Zone Piettone, a street that runs parallel to the Promenade de Anglais starting at the Place Massena. To make the most of the perfect Nicoise evenings, there are many pubs and bars in the Old Town where you can party the night away.

## Shopping

Av. Jean Medecin is Nice's central shopping street. Galleries Lafayette is also worth checking out for affordable fashions. Cours Saleya is home to a flower market while the Nice Etoiles is the city's largest shopping mall, featuring many famous retail outlets.  
© NileGuide

## History

People have inhabited Nice since prehistoric times, but a clear, detailed picture of its past only emerges from antiquity onwards. After centuries of merchant activity marked by occasional invasion, Nice gradually developed through the 18th and 19th Centuries to take the shape we know today as a major tourist destination.

People have lived on the geographical site for 400,000 years, the history of which is chronicled at the Terra Amata museum. Primitive settlers, the very first inhabitants of Nice, established themselves at the base of Mont-Boron, in a cave known as the Grotte du Lazaret, where they lived among ibex, stags, oxen and elephants, and carved weapons out of the limestone rock.

Several thousand years elapsed in peaceful evolution, until Nice eventually gained its name in the 4th Century BCE when the Massaliotes won a memorable victory over the Barbarians. These victorious Greeks hailing from present day Marseille (200

kilometers/124 miles from Nice) named the colony Nikaïa, which literally means "giver of victory." Being the closest port of call from the island of Cynros (present-day Corsica), it became a Massaliote beachhead as well as an important commercial trading post. The beginnings of the new town were established not at the foot of Mont-Boron, as in prehistoric times, but on the slopes of the Château hill.

At this time, Nice was a small stronghold which protected the port using natural defenses—the Colline du Château. The few hundred inhabitants were mainly merchants under the authority of magistrates nominated by Marseille.

Roman occupation of Nice can be traced back to 14 BCE, the start of the Roman Empire. At this time the Romans effectively built a second town, Cemenelum, on Cimiez hill. Once it had become the county seat for the Alpes-Maritimes military government, Cimiez quickly became a strategic center. The lower parts of the town, close to the port and climbing the Château hillside, lived in the shadow of Cimiez for the next few centuries.

In the 6th Century, Nikaïa gained the upper hand over Cemenelum, which disappeared with the fall of the Roman Empire. Nikaïa became part of the French empire, and earned a place of importance through its successful maritime commerce.

While almost no traces of the Massaliotes remain, the Romans left many historic relics. Via Julia Augusta, linking Nice to Vinitmille (37 kilometers/22 miles away) is just one, and you can admire the Trophée d'Auguste – a magnificent construction with four well-preserved columns, which offers a great panorama at Turbie. It symbolizes the submission of the Alpine people to Roman rule, representing the first stage of conquests in the valleys. Emperor Augustus can also be credited with setting up the region's first real administrative organization. Finally, the most manifest remains of the Roman presence in Nice are the well-preserved Roman amphitheatres and baths which you can visit around the

## Nice Snapshot continued

site of Cimiez Archeological Museum, on the hill.

In 813 the town was sacked by the Sarrasins, who managed to conquer the whole of eastern Provence on the Côte des Maures. It was only in 972 that Guillaume, the Comte de Provence, managed to rout them. The commercial activity of the lower town intensified and in 1176 the first town charter was drawn up.

With the death of Queen Jeanne de Provence in 1382, civil war broke out at a time when Nice was the third biggest town in Provence, after Arles and Marseilles. Six years later, the people of Nice chose to place themselves under the protection of the Comte de Savoie, Amédée VII, in what was called the "inedict" of 1388. Nice became a strategic stronghold for the Savoy Counts, and the town was instrumental in assisting their defense against the French and their allies.

In 1543 the Turkish fleet tried in vain to conquer the city. Local washerwoman turned symbolic figure Catherine Ségurane, instigated a particularly unusual form of defense. Legend has it that she lashed out with a carpet beater to send them running...while showing them her behind!

The 17th Century witnessed the flourishing of baroque art in Nice. Façades were painted in warm reds and yellows, ochre and burnt sienna; doorways and window sills were given contrasting colors and woodwork was painted in cold blues and greens. The restoration of the façades over the last few decades has returned Nice to its former baroque glory. Other striking examples of this artistic tradition are the churches of the old town like Cathédrale Sainte-Réparate.

At the end of the 17th Century, in 1691 and 1705, the French army twice destroyed Nice's defenses and the castle was razed to the ground. In 1713, the town again retreated to the protection of the Duke of Savoy, who had also become King of Sardinia.

Between the French Revolution and the Empire(1792-1814), the Alpes-Maritimes

region was created and annexed to France. By the same token, Nice was also returned to the French, but this time with the assent of the people.

With the fall of Napoleon, Nice again came under the sway of Sardinia, but the language and culture distanced it further and further from Italy. On March 24, 1860, Napoleon III and Victor-Emmanuel II, King of Sardinia, agreed that Nice would be handed over to France once and for all, a decision that met with universal approval from the inhabitants. A remarkable economic boom ensued; roads were built, the railway arrived, and the population underwent explosive growth.

At the same time, winter tourism, which had started to develop in the mid 1700s with the arrival of the British aristocracy, gathered in popularity. In 1827 the town received some 600 winter vacationers, coming from all over Europe to enjoy the gentle climate. The latter part of the 19th Century and the years leading up to World War I were something of a heyday, to which the prolific and luxurious belle époque residences attest. Nice was the winter playground of the rich and famous, but with the aftermath of the Second World War, mass tourism grew and the trend was reversed: the resort town became, and still is, a summer holiday spot for sun-seekers who come to relax on the beaches. Today tourism is a vital and fundamental part of the local economy, a fact borne out by the airport—the second largest in France—and the vast array of hotels.

©

### Hotel Insights

Nice is a major tourist destination all year round, and has a remarkably comprehensive selection of hotels, catering to all tastes and budgets.

#### Sea Front

Fans of belle époque architecture should head straight for Nice's most famous hotel, the impressive and aged Négresco, which occupies a place of pride on the city's magnificent seaside walkway, the

Promenade des Anglais. It is among the most expensive hotels in the city, and with good reason: every room offers a panoramic sea view. Its beautiful architectural style is a constant source of inspiration for photographers, and the white façade, crowned with pink domes that look out on the sea, is featured on many a postcard. This gem of a hotel also harbors many treasures inside with rare antique furnishings and exquisite works of art. The Elysée Palace also captivates the hearts of art lovers. The building spans over two blocks, between which a feminine statue seems to glide—a construction of monumental proportions(26 meters or 85 feet tall) that is the work of sculptor Sacha Sosso, a leading figure in the Nice School of Art.

Other lovely hotels lining the Promenade include the Westminster, the West-End, the Beau Rivage, and two of the Mercure hotels, the Mercure Promenade des Anglais, and the Mercure Nice Marché aux Fleurs. For those with more modern tastes, the stylish comfort, central location and sea view of the Méridien is an ideal choice, with the added bonus of the Ruhl Casino on the ground floor. The Radisson hotel is another luxury option, closer to the airport. One last option in this area is the lovely La Pérouse just by the Cours Saleya, a lively pedestrian area full of markets and café terraces.

#### Mont Boron

The four-star Palais Maeterlinck offers similar standards of excellence, situated further away from the commotion of the city near the pretty village of Villefranche. Overlooking the sea, and with a delightful swimming pool, it has a wonderful atmosphere. The hotel's restaurant, Le Mélisande serves some of the very finest French cuisine.

#### Masséna – Town Center

The Grand Hotel Aston, overlooking the gardens of Place Masséna, is an utterly charming hotel offering an atmosphere of simplicity. Also, centrally located large hotel chains include the Holiday Inn on Rue Victor Hugo, and the Mercure Centre Notre-Dame.

## Nice Snapshot continued

The area around the train station also has a large number of hotels. The large hotel, Ibis, with 199 rooms, represents good value for money. This area is also home to some of the more inexpensive accommodation in the city.

In the lower price bracket but more centrally located, the following two and three star hotels are well-maintained and good values. The beautiful ochre-colored facade of the Paradis Hotel can be found in the pedestrianized precinct. The comfy rooms are very welcoming and some even come with a balcony. Small in size, the Hotel Normandie is both a friendly and comfortable place to stay.

### The Port

Hotel Apogia is a three star accommodation option close to the peaceful port area.

### Arénas/Californie

The Mercure Nice Californie, a little way out of the center, is a nice hotel in the Arénas/Californie district. The décor is fairly standard, but you can't fault them for comfort, service, and reliability.

### West Nice

For travelers with business needs, there is the Kyriad St-Isidore and the Novotel Nice Centre. The Kyriad Saint Isidore is situated near the airport and highways, and the prices are extremely reasonable.

### Promenade du Paillon

The rates are a little higher at the Novotel Nice Centre, which is located between the Palais des Expositions and the Acropolis conference center, and is easily accessible to highways and the airport.

©

## Restaurants Insights

Just about everyone has heard of Nice's most famous culinary export, the *salade niçoise*. It's made of fresh tomatoes, mixed greens, anchovies, tuna, beans and olive oil... but it is only the tip of the iceberg of the city's delectable specialties. Local cuisine draws from the mild Mediterranean

climate, resulting in a light style of cooking based on fresh fish and seasonal vegetables. In addition to regional dining options, Nice boasts a dizzying number of restaurants serving traditional French gastronomy, seafood specialties, as well as international cuisine. If you need to quench your thirst, choose one of the welcoming taverns in the old town or a delightful sun-drenched café terrace... and don't forget the ice cream parlors!

### North Nice

A visit to the French Riviera really wouldn't be complete without sampling *la socca*—a delicious savory pancake made from chick peas. Other distinctive regional dishes include *les petits farcis* (stuffed vegetable parcels), *morue à la niçoise* (cod cooked with tomato and olives), *pissaladière* (which resembles a pizza made with onion rather than tomato), *fleurs de courgette cuisinées* (cooked baby zucchini), *raviolis* and *pan-bagnat*, Nice's twist on the sandwich using two round slices of bread soaked in olive oil enveloping a miniature *salade niçoise*. You can discover the flavors for yourself at Chez Simon and Au Rendez-vous des Amis, both of which have great views overlooking the city.

### Vieux-Nice (Old Town)

If you're hankering for a cold one, the old town (Vieux-Nice) is positively overflowing with cozy, welcoming pubs like De Klomp or Master Home. The sweeping terraces at Brasserie L'F and Civette du Cours, both located in Cours Saleya, are also extremely popular. Famous for the *Theatre en Niçois* (a show performed in the local dialect), the Bar des Oiseaux will captivate you with its vibrant local color. Last but not least, Nice's dedicated gourmet cannot go without the flavors of Fenocchio, arguably the best ice cream parlor in town. With an endless selection of flavors, it is set amid one of the old town's charming squares, Place Rossetti, where the beautiful *Cathédrale Sainte-Réparate* stands.

For simple yet delicious dining, check out Chez René. Restaurants specializing in regional cuisine are tucked into neighborhoods throughout the city. Try Don

Camillo or Petite Maison. All are centrally located and serve excellent French dishes à la carte and via set menus, in pleasant and contemporary settings. Slightly off the beaten path, the beautiful vaulted cellar of Baud et Millet offers cheese-based dishes accompanied by fine wines. For the best *offruits de la mer* (seafood), the Grand Café de Turin is in a class of its own. Nice also has many options for those seeking international flavors. To sample the flavors of neighboring Italy, try *Bistro Romain*. For Lebanese, try the always-satisfying *Byblos*.

### The Port

For a great meal in this area, try Pipo Socca. For international flavors, try *Zucca Magica* for flavorful vegetarian cuisine, or seek out fine dining at *Allégro*.

### Masséna-Town Center

Fans of traditional French cuisine have many dining options in Nice. Restaurants of note include *L'Horloge*, and *Epicuriens*. If you're a fan of fresh, unpretentious fish dishes, you should book a table at *Boccaccio*. For tasty Italian in this area, try *Québec*, which serves wonderful pizzas and pasta that are perfectly *al dente*. For flavors of Alsace, try the *Taverne Alsacienne*, or sample the cuisine of the Indian Ocean at *Barachois*. *Casbah* carries patrons to Morocco, the *Petite Sirène* to Denmark, *Raja* to India, and the *Transsibérien* serves the cooking of Russia!

### Sea Front

For the finest and fanciest dining, there are two restaurants in town that stand out above all others. The prestigious reputation of the *Chantecler* befits the palatial hotel where it is located, *Hôtel Négresco*. The service, the ambiance, and the cuisine are all of the highest caliber.

### Mont-Boron

Nice's other grand hotel, the *Maeterlinck*, boasts a similarly exceptional restaurant, the *Mélisande*, which overlooks the sea. The menus in both establishments are regularly updated with fresh seasonal fare, serving dishes like lamb cutlet with mozzarella and aubergine, fillet of sole

## Nice Snapshot continued

and foie gras with fresh pasta. For seafood, try Coco Beach, which is located just below Mont-Boron Park near the Cape of Nice.

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### Nightlife Insights

Nice's trademark symbols are of course its Carnival and the sea, with all the activities that come along with it. But there are a thousand other ways to amuse yourself in Nice, whatever the season. Try shopping in the local markets. The region's warm climate means outdoor markets stay open year-round, and the local color provided by the men and women of Nice adds a certain *je ne sais quoi* for tourists. You can also go clubbing in the evening, pop into a local pub, take in a movie, or visit one of the many museums and art galleries. Cultural heritage and a wide range of artistic enterprise occupy a very important place in the town. The outskirts of the city are also wonderful places to explore by foot, bike or car, especially the surrounding hills or a trip over to Corisca.

### Carnival

If you find yourself in Nice during February, you can't afford to miss the Carnival – one of the most famous after Rio and Venice. Let yourself be swept along in the joyous procession of weird and wonderful floats, brass bands and clowns tottering on stilts. Carnival also brings delightful displays of blooming mimosas and carnations along the magnificent seaside walkway, the Promenade des Anglais.

### Museums & Antiques

Visitors interested in cultural attractions certainly won't be disappointed either. Nice boasts a huge number of museums including the Matisse Museum, dedicated to the works of the great artist; the Terra Amata, preserving Nice's prehistoric past; and the Fine Arts Museum (Beaux-Arts). Nice also has countless art galleries—enough to captivate art lovers of every style—many of which are nestled in the charming and picturesque streets of Vieux-Nice. You might like to look out for Sylvie T or Espace Loas. The area around the

port is sure to enrapture any antiques enthusiast, especially stores such as Ginac. Satisfy your architectural appetite at the Palais Lascaris and the Cathédrale Sainte Réparate, masterpieces of the Italian-influenced baroque style.

### Shopping

As far as shopping is concerned, there are two main streets to check out, Rue Masséna and Avenue Jean Médecin, both in the town center. Rue Masséna is Nice's major pedestrianized district, in and around which cluster pretty little boutiques of every variety: find leather goods at Longchamp or stylish clothing at Kenzo, Sonia Rykiel, and Façonnable. Avenue Jean Médecin is located nearby, and you'll find that fashion takes center stage here as well; one of the most popular shops is Zara. Department stores and shopping arcades, including Galeries Lafayette and Nice Etoile, are also in the vicinity. Finally, for dedicated shoppers, the enormous Cap 3000 shopping center is worth the journey out to the suburbs near the airport.

### Markets

But the markets are truly the most charming sight in Nice. All week long, at almost any hour of the day, Cours Saleya (a little pedestrian friendly area between the old town and the sea) is brought to life by the inimitable Saleya fruit and vegetable market, as well as the flower, arts and crafts and flea markets. Go to whichever market tempts you the most, and stroll in the shade of the colorful awnings. Then take a break in one of the café terraces, sip a cool drink and soak up the wonderful Mediterranean atmosphere.

### Outdoor Activities

With the first rays of summer, you can enjoy the pleasures of the seashore. Nice's beaches are pebbly rather than sandy though, so those who like their comfort will do well to hire a sunbed on the private beaches, such as Castel Plage or Opéra Plage. Most of the private beaches also offer a wide range of water sports including jet and water skiing. Sailing and deep sea diving excursions are available from the

kiosks at the port, between the Quai des Docks and the Quai Ile de Beauté. Don't miss out on the boat trips that take you on a seafaring discovery of this beautiful coastline—various sailing companies can take you out to sea while glass-bottomed boats reveal the underwater world and all its wildlife.

### Nightlife

When night falls, celebrate Nice's diverse nightlife by heading for one of Nice's best destinations like La Paloussa or Master Home, two of the many pubs in the old town.

### Cinema

Film fanatics will revel in the tiny Mercury cinema, which shows films in their original language, as well as the Cinémathèque. The Village Cinema Lingostiere, found in the West Nice district, offers modern comfort and the latest technology in movie-going.

### Music

Music lovers should prick up their ears as every year the town stages some fantastic music festivals including a Jazz Festival and Religious Music Festival. Nice also has a splendid and very active Opera House.

### Excursions & Side Trips

Finally, it would be a great shame not to mention the areas surrounding Nice, where you can take advantage of the many excursions available. Explore Mont-Boron hill and the Fort du Mont-Alban, just a few kilometers below the port where you'll discover wonderful Mediterranean wildlife and a truly stunning view. The train des Pignes makes for a great day out, especially if you get off at the pretty little village of Annot perched on the hill. It's the ideal place for a few hours of walking.

Although it's possible to visit Corsica in a day, it's well worth it to stay a while longer. The Ile de Beauté is some 200km from the coast of Nice and can be reached via the NGV (Navire Grande Vitesse or high speed shuttle) or on Corsica Ferries. In winter, you can practice your skiing at Auron, and all within a 50km radius, towns such as

## Nice Snapshot continued

Villefranche-sur-mer, Eze, Vence, Saint-Paul, Peille with their picturesque village settings, and the ever prestigious Cannes and Monaco, are your playground.

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### Things to Do Insights

#### The Promenade des Anglais & the Colline du Château

Given that these two sites appear prolifically on postcards of Nice, it's certainly worth your while to see the real thing. The Promenade des Anglais follows the shoreline for several kilometers and the vast hillside parkland of the Colline du Château (Castle Hill) overlooks the magnificent Baie des Anges. It'll only take half an hour or so to complete the route, although there are many distractions that could extend it into a leisurely stroll, such as a stop on the beach or a break in the shade of pine trees.

Starting from the Albert I Gardens, cross the road towards the shore and you'll find yourself on the famous Promenade des Anglais. The wide walkway is a favorite place to stroll, ride bikes or roller-blade; down below, the pebbled beaches (both public and private) are great for sunbathing and swimming. Keep heading in the direction of the green hill—the Colline du Château. If you look hard enough, you may be able to make out the fountain on the hillside, which is lit up at night. Continue on until you reach the Rauba Capeu human sundial at the foot of hotels La Pérouse and Suisse. Follow the pavement on your left for around 50 meters, leading you to the bottom of the stairway to the Colline du Château itself. You can always pay to take the lift a little further on, but if you climb the steps you can explore the Bellanda Tower and its little Maritime Museum. The park on the hill exhibits many fine examples of local flora, and you can take in all the different views over the town – the Baie des Anges, the crowds of red-tiled rooftops in the old town, the port and Mont-Boron. Kids will relish the chance to go tobogganing and play in the park. Don't look for the Château though...it was destroyed in the reign of

Louise XIV. The only ruins are those of a medieval cathedral.

At the end of this tour, treat yourself to an upscale dinner at Le Chantecler. This restaurant is located in the ultra-luxurious Hôtel Négresco and was awarded two stars by the Michelin guide. This is truly a gastronomical experience not to be missed.

#### Saint Réparate Cathedral

Discover the most picturesque part of Nice by taking a walk through the old town. The intertwining web of narrow little streets, colorful old houses and little boutiques reveal the charming soul of the city.

Approach old Nice from Place Garibaldi, passing by the Grand Café de Turin, renowned for its excellent seafood. Take Rue Pairolière into the heart of the old town. This long, narrow street, lined with lots of little shops, is incredibly lively during the day and perfect for a little detour to buy some traditional products from Nice and Provence (olives, herbs, etc.), or to sample local specialties like farcis (vegetable parcels stuffed with meat) or socca (a pancake made from chickpea flour). The street opens out into Place Saint-François, the square where the fish market is held.

Leaving Place Saint François behind, take Rue Droite and look for the entrance to the Palais Lascaris on your right. A visit to this large Genoese mansion house, former residence of the Lascaris dynasty, uncovers the glory of the baroque movement, of which Vieux-Nice offers many fine examples. On leaving the palace, continue along Rue Droite until intersected by a large steep road—Rue Rossetti—which will take you down to the square of the same name, where the 17th century Cathédrale Sainte-Réparate stands tall. You can also savor the delicious ice cream at the renowned Fenocchio, or relax in one of the many café terraces. By taking a right at the cathedral down the little side street, Rue Gallo, you will find the false door, behind which is a vaulted passageway and staircase that looks out onto Boulevard Jean Jaurès.

Turn left and continue down Rue du Marché where you can buy souvenirs and pottery.

The street ends in the pretty Place du Palais-de-Justice. Don't cross the square but take an immediate left into Rue de la Préfecture and on to some of the old town's most welcoming pubs and beautiful signs and photographs of Martinetti. Keep going as far as the intersection on your right and go down Rue de la Poissonnerie, where you will chance upon the charming and unassuming little church of Sainte-Rita – the patron saint of lost causes. At the end of the street, the famous Cours Saleya beckons, loved by the locals for its sun-kissed café terraces and lively, colorful fruit and vegetable market. On Mondays you can visit the flea market, but any day of the week you can enjoy strolling around the bustling stalls. Right at the end you'll be able to see, and smell, the blooms at the flower market. While you're near the Cours Saleya, stop in Atmosphère(L') for a bite. This lovely little restaurant serves delicious duck as well as impressive seafood dishes, and the servers are friendly and efficient.

#### The Franciscan monastery

An attractive hill in the very heart of Nice, just north of the old town and bordering the east of the city center, Cimiez is a stylish residential district, that is both stately and calm. Many of the houses exude the charm of the belle époque and are complemented by little gardens. The district is home to an ancient archaeological site and museum, concealed in the delightful park where you can also find the Matisse Museum and the Franciscan monastery. The Chagall Museum is nestled at the foot of the hill.

Bus numbers 15, 17 and 22 will drop you off at Cimiez's Roman amphitheaters which are right in the middle of the vast parkland. Although the big park tends to be overrun by bicycles, roller-bladers and soccer players on Wednesday afternoons and weekends, it is a haven of peace and quiet during the week. It has a wonderful olive grove and beautiful pathways that will inspire an exploratory stroll.

Ancient culture enthusiasts may also be interested in the Archaeological Museum, where you can see collections dating from the bronze age up to the beginning of the

## Nice Snapshot continued

Middle Ages. All around the museum, paved alleyways, Roman amphitheaters and thermal baths from the 3rd to 5th centuries are open to explorers.

The hillside park also shelters the Matisse Museum. Within a Genoese villa, the painter's work from the beginning of his career to the end of his days is displayed alongside some of his personal belongings.

Cross the park until you reach the Franciscan monastery, bordered by a magnificent Italian garden. This spiritual center, dating from the 17th century, presents an array of murals and works of art that trace Franciscan life from the 13th to the 18th centuries. The adjoining cemetery is the final resting place of the two masters of color, Henri Matisse and Raoul Dufy, whose tombstones can be visited.

Heading back towards the city center (take bus number 15 from the monastery square), stop off at the Marc Chagall Biblical Message Museum. Designed by architect André Hermant, the building is both sober and modern in appeal, set amid olive, holm oak and cypress trees. The museum contains over 600 works of a biblical theme, as well as enormous canvasses, mosaics, sculptures, tapestries and superb glass works.

If you've worked up an appetite, don't pass up Auberge de Théo. This little restaurant serves local specialties as well as traditional Italian dishes. The homemade pastas are delicious as are the pizzas, and the meal won't be complete without a serving of their heavenly tiramisu.

### Guided Tours

#### Bike Tour

Nice Cycle Tours(+ 33 6 19 99 95 22/ <http://www.nicecycletours.com/>)

#### Bus/Minibus Tour

Nice Le Grand Tour(+33 8 70 40 73 20/ <http://www.city-discovery.com/nice/tour.php?id=1177>)

Nice City Sightseeing Small Group Tour(<http://www.viator.com/tours/Nice/>)

Nice-City-Sightseeing-Small-Group-Tour/d478-2356NCE08)

#### An Art Tour of Nice

Art Tour from Nice(+33 8 70 40 73 20/ <http://www.city-discovery.com/nice/tour.php?id=4296>)

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### Travel Tips

#### Getting There

##### Air

The Nice-Côte d'Azur Airport(NCE)(+33 4898 8828/ <http://www.nice.aeroport.fr/>) provides some of the world's most beautiful take-offs and landings. Expanding out on a peninsula like a beached sunbather, some four miles outside of Nice proper, the dual terminal airport butts up against the Mediterranean Sea, with flights shooting out over the waters offering views of the Alps, the jaw dropping cliffs between Nice and Monaco and the beaches along the Riviera. The airport has numerous amenities like shops, restaurants and bars, massage-while-you-wait services(+33 6 8833 6697), a business center(+34 9321 3073), vaccination center, currency exchange stations, info desks, and ATMs. Airlines include:

Air France(+1 800 237 2747+0820 820 820/ <http://www.airfrance.com/>)

Air Transat(+877 872 6728/ <http://www.airtransat.com/>)

British Airways(+0825 825 400/ <http://www.britishairways.com/>)

Delta(+0800 354 080/ <http://www.delta-air.com/>)

Easy Jet(+871 244 2366/ <http://www.easyjet.com/>)

Germanwings(+44 870 252 12 50/ <http://www1.germanwings.com/>)

Jet 2(+44 207 1700737/ <http://www.jet2.com/>)

KLM(+0890 710 710/ <http://www.klm.com/>)

Lufthansa(+0820 20 2030/ <http://cms.lufthansa.com/>)

My Travel(+870 238 7710/ <http://www.mytravel.com/>)

SAS(+0825 325 335/ <http://www.scandinavian.net/>)

Sky Europe(+421 2 4850 1111/ <http://www1.skyeurope.com/>)

Virgin Express(+0821 2230 202/ <http://www.virgin-express.com/>)

#### From the Airport

Car Rentals: Driving into Nice from the airport is a simple matter of finding your way through a couple of roundabouts to the famed Promenade des Anglais. For a less dramatic entrance opt for the N7. Car Rentals at the airport include

ADA(+0825 169 169(France)/ <http://www.ada.fr/>)

Avis(+0820 050 505/ <http://www.avis.com/>)

Budget(+0825 003 564/ <http://www.budget.com/>)

Europcar(+0825 352 352/ <http://www.europcar.fr/>)

Hertz(+0825 361 361/ <http://www.hertz.com/>)

Sixt(+33 01 44 38 5555/ <http://www.e-sixt.com/>)

Citer/National(+33 01 44 38 6161/ <http://www.citer.com/>)

Taxi: Taxis line up outside each terminal. Trips into Nice are relatively quick and once all the surcharges add up the fare will set you back about EUR25.

Bus: Various bus companies combine to offer 23 routes connecting the airport with more than 100 destinations between Genoa in the east and Marseille and Avignon in the west and Valle d'Allos and Auron up north in the Alps. Buses depart from the airport to Nice every 10 minutes from 6a-10p.

Train: The Nice St Agustin train station lies just north of terminal one, but is still a good 15-20 minute hike on foot, which is troublesome with a load of baggage. Plus, service at the station varies widely so waiting for a train could be inconvenient depending on when you touch down. Other alternatives include taking one of the frequent buses that go to Gare Nice Ville(the central train station) where the rail choices open up considerably.

## Nice Snapshot continued

**Helicopter& Ferry:** Alternatives for the jet-setters include helicopter transport to just about any place in the region, although Monaco and St. Tropez get the most attention, with flights leaving about every 20 minutes. Also, during the summer Air France(+0820 820 820/ <http://www.airfrance.com/>) has a speedy water ferry that shuttles passengers to and from St Tropez. The journey lasts two hours and fares start at EUR59.

### Bus

Eurolines(<http://www.eurolines.com/>) has a limited number of routes between Nice and other European cities. Most buses pull into the Gare Routire station in the town center. A fleet of local bus companies serve the region with frequent jaunts from Nice to Genoa, Cannes, Antibes, Marseille, and St Tropez.

### Car

The A8 toll expressway rushes along the northern edge of the city heading west to Cannes and east to Monaco and Italy. The N7 also runs east/west and cuts through the heart of the city. The road is toll free, but only two lanes and can be congested during the peak season. The N98 parallels the coast and is the winding scenic drive connecting Nice with Cannes, Monaco and Italy. The narrow, bike filled D19 and the three-lane(the third being a nerve racking shared passing lane) N202 descend into Nice from the Alps to the north. The A7 is the major northbound approach from Paris and Lyon. It merges with the A8 at Aix-en-Provence.

### Train

Gare Nice-Ville is the headquarters for all trains coming to and from Nice. SNCF(+33 4 9214 8252/ <http://www.sncf.fr/>), France's national rail management company, oversees the lines, which run east along the coast through Monaco and down the boot of Italy to Rome, and west to Marseille before turning north to Paris. If you can nab a seat on a TGV high speed train(four to five daily in summer/two daily in winter) the journey time between Paris and Nice is 6 hours.

### Water

Next to the Caribbean, more cruise liners sail the Mediterranean Sea than any other water way in the world. A multitude of the massive cities on water call at the port of Nice-Villefranche(+33 04 93 01 78 05/ <http://www.riviera-ports.com/>). The luxury yachts and pleasure boats that are as synonymous with the Riviera as sunshine moor up the coastline at the Port of Nice(+33 820 425 555/ <http://www.riviera-ports.com/>).

### Getting Around

#### Public Transport

Nice and its environs are deceptively spread out, which you quickly learn this if you choose to tackle sightseeing on foot. Plus, once the city starts heading inland from the sea it begins to rise toward the Alps. Thus, steep inclines can make walking more of a workout than a leisurely excursion. This is where Nice's public transport system, which consists primarily of Sunbus(+33 8 92 70 7407/ <http://www.sunbus.com/>) buses rumbling to all nooks of town.

### Car

Cruising up and down the long crescent stretch of the Promenade des Anglais, preferably in a convertible soaking up the summer sun, is a popular pastime for those who travel to Nice. And unlike Cannes' compact center, which is plagued with traffic year round, Nice is exceptionally manageable by car during the off season, with parking readily available just about anywhere.

### Taxi

Taxis are readily obtainable outside Gare SCNF(train station) and the Acropolis(convention center), along the Promenade des Anglais and the Esplanade Massna. Or you can telephone Central Taxi Riviera(+33 4 9313 7878) 24/7.

### Bike

Nice is also extremely bike friendly(barring a few cobblestoned passageways), and is the perfect destination for any cycling

enthusiast looking to endure the hilly roads like the pros riding the Tour de France. During the peak season(June-August) the long stretch of concrete boardwalk alongside the Promenade des Anglais becomes congested with two wheeled machines of all sorts.

### Ferry

If a day trip to Corsica is on the agenda the appropriately named Corsica Ferries(+33 4 92 00 42 93/ <http://www.corsicaferries.com/>) has daily service to both Calvi and Bastia.

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## Fun Facts

### Nice

Region: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

Country: France

### Nice by the Numbers:

Population: 347,000 Elevation: 176 m/ 578 ft

Average Annual Precipitation: 81 cm/ 32 in

Average January Temperature: 9°C/ 48°F

Average July Temperature: 23°C/ 74°F

### Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Machinery, Chemicals, Automobiles, Electronics, Textiles, Food Processing, Tourism

Electricity: 220 volts, 50Hz, standard two pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT/UTC+1

Country Dialing Code:+33

Area Code: 04

### Did You Know?

Van Loo, Toulouse Lautrec, Modigliani, Dufy, Renoir, Picasso, Chagall, Matisse, or Nietzsche, Aragon, Tolstoï, and musicians such as Berlioz, Bizet, Massenet were all artistically inspired by Nice.

Most beaches in Nice aren't sandy but rocky.

Postcards of Nice's mostly show deserted beaches because skies are always cloudy in the warm summer months. In Nice, blue skies mostly occur during winter times,

## Nice Snapshot continued

when locals decide to stay at home due to the colder temperatures.

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