



Nice, Monaco & Menton

Includes →

Nice.....	45
Arrière-Pays	
Niçois.....	58
Peillon.....	58
Corniche Inférieure...	58
Moyenne Corniche....	61
Grande Corniche.....	61
Monaco.....	62
Roquebrune-Cap-Martin.....	73
Menton.....	74
Ste-Agnès & Gorbio...	77

Best Places to Eat

- ▶ Olive et Artichaut (p54)
- ▶ Café de la Fontaine (p62)
- ▶ Le Mirazur (p77)
- ▶ Marché de la Condamine (p69)
- ▶ Le Beauséjour (p78)

Best Places to Stay

- ▶ Nice Garden Hôtel (p52)
- ▶ Hôtel Lemon (p76)
- ▶ Hôtel Victoria (p74)
- ▶ Hôtel Welcome (p59)
- ▶ L'Hostellerie Jérôme (p62)

Why Go?

There may only be 30km between Nice and Menton, but this short stretch of coastline packs a powerful punch. Nice, with its atmospheric old town, rich architectural heritage (baroque, belle époque, contemporary), raging nightlife, alfresco café life and culinary excellence is a natural queen of the Riviera. Road-tripping east, the Grande and Moyenne Corniches (coastal roads) mesmerise with panoramic views of the Mediterranean, while the Corniche Inférieure laces the shore with its sandy beaches, pretty fishing villages and fabulous belle époque follies. Monaco elicits mixed reactions: the world's second-smallest country is a concrete jungle with a glitzy port, its own monarchy, throngs of VIPs and high-octane casino glamour. Yet it's this very razzmatazz that enthralls, fascinates and entertains. And when you want to make a run for the hills, what better place than the Arrière-Pays Niçois, an unspoilt and tranquil hinterland of stark beauty.

Driving Distances (km)

Èze	5					
La Turbie	12	7				
Menton	19	19	15			
Monaco	11	10	8	10		
Nice	10	15	20	30	21	
Roquebrune-Cap-Martin	18	16	11	4	9	25
	Beaulieu-sur-Mer	Èze	La Turbie	Menton	Monaco	Nice

NICE

POP 343,000

With its unusual mix of real-city grit, old-world opulence, year-round sunshine and exceptional location, Nice's appeal is universal. Everyone from backpackers to romance-seeking couples and families love sitting at a cafe on cours Saleya in Vieux Nice, on a bench on the legendary Promenade des Anglais or on a smooth pebble beach for an epic sunset. Eating options are stupendous, the nightlife buzzes and the local arts scene is thriving. You could happily spend a week here and still be hungry for more.

Sights

★ Vieux Nice

HISTORIC QUARTER

Nice's old town, an atmospheric mellow-hued rabbit warren, has scarcely changed since the 1700s, and getting lost in it is a highlight. Cue **cours Saleya**: this joyous, thriving market square hosts a well-known **flower market** (cours Saleya; ☀ 6am-5.30pm Tue-Sat, to 1.30pm Sun) and a thriving **food market** (cours Saleya; ☀ 6am-1.30pm Tue-Sun), a staple of local life. A **flea market** (cours Saleya; ☀ 8am-5pm Mon) takes over on Monday, and the overflow from bars and restaurants seems to be a permanent fixture.

North of cours Saleya spills the rest of Vieux Nice, its dark narrow lanes crammed with delis, small food shops, boutiques and packed bars. A **fish market** (place St-François; ☀ 6am-1pm Tue-Sun) fills place St-François.

Baroque aficionados will adore architectural gems **Cathédrale Ste-Réparate** (place Rossetti), honouring the city's patron saint; exuberant (1740) **Chapelle de la Miséricorde** (cours Saleya); and 17th-century **Palais Lascaris** (15 rue Droite; guided visit €5; ☀ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon, guided tour 3pm Fri) **FREE**, a frescoed orgy of Flemish tapestries, *faïence* (tin-glazed earthenware), gloomy religious paintings and 18th-century pharmacy.

★ Promenade des Anglais

ARCHITECTURE

Palm-lined Promenade des Anglais, paid for by Nice's English colony in 1822, is a fine stage for a stroll and a flop on one of its iconic sea-blue chairs, immortalised by Niçoise sculptor Sabine Géraudie with her strikingly giant seafront sculpture **La Chaise de SAB** (2014). Historic highlights include the magnificent (1912) **Hôtel Negresco** (☎ 04 93 16 64 00; www.hotel-negresco-nice.com; 37 promenade des Anglais) and art deco (1929) **Palais**

de la Méditerranée (☎ 04 92 14 77 30; www.lepalaisdelamediterranee.com; 13-15 promenade des Anglais; d €345; 📶 @ 📺 📷 📱). In 2015 the city of Nice submitted the Promenade des Anglais as a candidate for Unesco World Heritage status.

The promenade follows the complete 4km sweep of the **Baie des Anges** with a cycle and skating lane. For a fantastic family outing, rent inline skates, skateboards, scooters and bikes at **Roller Station** (☎ 04 93 62 99 05; www.roller-station.fr; 49 quai des États-Unis; skates, boards & scooters per hour/day €5/8, bicycles €5/10; ☀ 9am-11pm Jul & Aug, 10am-8pm Apr-Jun & Sep, 10am-6pm Oct-Mar) to whizz along the silky-smooth Prom; allow for an extra €1/2 per hour/day for protective gear (helmet and pads). You'll need some ID as a deposit. Or cruise along effortlessly on two wheels with an electric Segway from Mobilboard Nice (p48).

★ Parc du Château

GARDEN

(☀ 9am-8pm Jun-Aug, 9am-7pm Apr, May & Sep, 10am-6pm Oct-Mar) This park, on a rocky outcrop above the old town, rewards with a cinematic panorama of Nice, the Baie des Anges and the port. Only the 16th-century **Tour Bellanda** remains of the 12th-century castle, razed by Louis XIV in 1706. The **Cascade Donjon**, an 18th-century artificial waterfall with viewing platform, and children's playground, make it popular for picnics. Hike up from the seafront or ride the free **lift** (Ascenseur du Château; rue des Ponchettes; ☀ 9am-8pm Jun-Aug, 9am-7pm Apr, May & Sep, 10am-6pm Oct-Mar) **FREE** beneath Tour Bellanda.

Musée Matisse

ART MUSEUM

(☎ 04 93 81 08 08; www.musee-matisse-nice.org; 164 av des Arènes de Cimiez; ☀ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon) **FREE** This museum, 2km north in the leafy Cimiez quarter, houses a fascinating assortment of works by Matisse, including oil paintings, drawings, sculptures, tapestries and Matisse's famous paper cut-outs. The permanent collection is displayed in a red-ochre 17th-century Genoese villa in an olive grove. Temporary exhibitions are in the futuristic basement building. Matisse is buried in the **Monastère de Cimiez cemetery**, across the park from the museum.

In the 1940s Matisse lived in the monumental **Régina** building at 71 bd de Cimiez. Originally Queen Victoria's wintering palace, it had been converted into apartments and Matisse had two that he used as studio and home (where he died in 1954).