



Cannes & Around

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Why Go?

There are few areas in the world where you can go from opulent luxury to remote rural life within 45 minutes. The area around Cannes is one of them, so you can look forward to walking deserted trails or talking to an olive-oil producer by day and dining in decadent style by night (oh the restaurants of Cannes...). Equally captivating is the region's rich art heritage: every 20th-century great – Matisse, Picasso, Renoir, F Scott Fitzgerald – seems to have stopped here for inspiration, and left a little something behind: a chapel here, a museum there, an art studio. The Massif de l'Estérel, with its rugged beauty and top-rated walks, offers yet another facet of the region, and one that stays relatively low key year-round.

Best Places to Eat

- » Sea Sens (p88)
- » La Colombe d'Or (p97)
- » Mantel (p88)
- » L'Affable (p88)
- » Bistrot Gourmand Clovis (p101)

Best Places to Stay

- » Les Cabanes d'Orion (p96)
- » La Maison du Frêne (p98)
- » Hôtel Le Canberra (p85)
- » La Cascade (p99)
- » Le Mas des Cigales (p100)

Driving Distances (km)

Biot	7					
Cannes	13	16				
Grasse	28	16	21			
Mougins	14	13	6	11		
St-Raphaël	53	50	37	55	38	
Vence	20	15	31	26	25	68
Antibes						
Biot						
Cannes						
Grasse						
Mougins						
St-Raphaël						

Getting Around

There are two strategies to visiting this part of the world, and they revolve around where you stay. If you're staying in Cannes or Antibes, you can use the excellent bus network to do day trips around the area and limit car rental for the most rural areas. If, however, you decide to stay in a village or somewhere more isolated, you'll definitely need a car, if only to find somewhere for dinner.

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Day 1: Robinson Crusoe Meets Marilyn Monroe

Pack a picnic and jump on a boat to Île Ste-Marguerite: explore the Fort Royal (p90) and enjoy a long stroll across the island's woodland. Plump yourself on a cove for lunch and enjoy a spot of swimming or sunbathing. Get the boat back to Cannes mid-afternoon and walk up to Le Suquet (p84), Cannes' historic quarter. Book for dinner at Mantel (p88) or Sea Sens (p88) and round out the evening with an atmospheric walk along La Croisette (p84).

Day 2: Art Trail

Retrace the steps of famous 20th-century artists. Head to the Fondation Maeght (p96) in St-Paul de Vence and lunch under a Matisse or a Léger at the legendary La Colombe d'Or (p97). Digest among St Paul's exquisite pebbled alleyways and art galleries, and finish the day with a visit to Matisse's masterpiece, the Chapelle du Rosaire (p97) in Vence.

Day 3: Natural Wonder

Spend a day exploring the wonderful Arrière-Pays. Drive to the Domaine des Courmettes (p100) and take one of the scenic walks around the nature reserve; pick from one of the area's gorgeous restaurants and spend the rest of the afternoon motoring around the scenic gorges. Plan a stop at Confiserie Florian (p99) to stock up on traditional sweets and chocolates, and another at Gourdon (p98) for unbeatable views of the valley.

Advance Planning

Many of the most fun activities in the region only take place on certain days of the week or month. Check dates notably for perfume workshops in Grasse and the Palais des Festivals guided tours in Cannes.

Cannes is an important conference centre and when an event swings into town (there are a dozen or so during the year, including the film festival), hotels are generally booked up solid and prices soar, so plan ahead.

DON'T MISS

Picasso spent many years on the Riviera: trail him at the Musée Picasso in Antibes and the Musée Picasso La Guerre et la Paix in Vallauris.

Best Scenic Walks

- » Sentier du Littoral (p106)
- » Chemin du Paradis (p98)
- » Domaine des Courmettes (p100)
- » Cap Roux (p106)
- » Cap d'Antibes (p92)

Best Tours

- » Snorkelling at Corniche de l'Estérel (p106)
- » Perfumery tour (p102)
- » Flower farm visit (p100)
- » Goat's cheese tasting at La Ferme des Courmettes (p100)
- » Wine and olive oil tour at Domaine Saint-Joseph (p100)
- » Catamaran cruise from Cannes (p84)

Resources

- » **Côte d'Azur Tourisme** (www.cotedazur-tourisme.com) Excellent regional guide run by Côte d'Azur tourism professionals
- » **Cannes.travel** (www.cannes.travel) The city's official web portal
- » **Guides RandOxygène** (www.randoxygene.org) Essential for anyone who loves walking.