



Tour Information



Nice Carnival & the Menton Lemon Festival





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

You do not need a visa for short trips to France.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

French consulate: PO Box 57, 6A Cromwell Place, London SW7 2EW; Tel (020) 7838 2000/1. Information Service: Tel (0891) 887 733. Opening hours: 0900-1130 Mon-Fri (except British and French national holidays).



Tickets

You will be sent an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number, with your final departure documents. You will need to quote / show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. Online check-in where possible is available 24 hours prior to departure.

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport.

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit:

www.britishairways.com

Transfers

On arrival in Nice, transfer by coach to the Hotel.

Special Requests

If you have not already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

Taking food into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



Accommodation

Hotel Brice Garden

Located in the heart of Nice, the four-star Hotel Brice Garden is beautifully decorated in a contemporary style, close to the beach and the pedestrianised streets lined with shops and restaurants. Hotel facilities include a lounge bar, serving hot and cold drinks, refreshments, cocktails and more. Bedrooms all have private bathroom facilities, air-conditioning, TV, minibar, safe, free wi-fi. Although the hotel does not have a restaurant there are plenty of local restaurants nearby.

For more information visit their website
<https://www.hotelbricegarden.com/en/#index>



Food

Colourful red and yellow peppers, glorious tomatoes, aubergines, fresh fish, Provençal herbs (basil, thyme, rosemary, sage, marjoram...), olives and olive oil, and citrus fruits ripened in the Mediterranean sunshine form the basis of the French Riviera *cuisine*. Traditional dishes of the Côte d'Azur include *Ratatouille* (stew of courgettes, tomatoes, red and green peppers and aubergines braised with garlic, olive oil and *Herbes de Provence*), *Bouillabaisse* (fish soup), *Soupe au Pistou* (vegetable and bean soup with fresh basil), *Pissaladière* (golden onion, anchovy and olive pizza), *Daube Provençale* (classic French beef stew), *Salade Niçoise* (made with fresh tuna, olives, green beans, anchovies, new potatoes and boiled egg), *Aïoli* (garlic mayonnaise generally accompanies fish, vegetables or crusty bread) and *tapenade* (luscious Provençal paste made with olives, olive oil, anchovies, capers and garlic).

Enjoy the traditional Côte d'Azur sweets, such as the *Tarte Tropeziennne* (rich tart filled with crème pâtissière), the *Tourte de Blettes* (sweet-savoury Swiss chard, raisin and pine nut tart, eaten as a starter or a dessert) and *Nougat*. Coffee is served

after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *café au lait* (or *crème*) is requested.

Almost all restaurants offer two types of meals: *a la carte* (extensive choice for each course, generally more expensive) and *le menu* (a set meal at a fixed price).

The bill (*l'addition*) will not be presented until it is asked for, even if clients sit and talk for half an hour after finishing their meal. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.

Lunch, as a rule, is served from noon to 1330, dinner usually from 2000-2130, but the larger the city, the later the dining hour.



Drink

Wine is by far the most popular alcoholic beverage in France, and the choice will vary according to region. Provence is best known for its rosé wine; the pink wines of Massalia (today's Marseille) are famous since Roman times. Côtes de Provence AOC is the main wine region, producing about 75% of all wine in Provence, principally a fine rosé. The local Côtes du Rhône wines are an excellent accompaniment to the regional cuisine and the Niçois Bellet wines are also worth discovering. *Pastis* (such as *Ricard*), the local anise-flavoured liqueur, is diluted with water to make a refreshing and hugely popular aperitif.

In elegant restaurants the wine list will be separate from the main menu, but in less opulent establishments will be printed on the back or along the side of the *carte*. The waiter will usually be glad to advise an appropriate choice. If in doubt, try the house wine; this will usually be less expensive and will always be the owner's pride.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily



Destination

This lovely tour is based around two delightful annual events: the vibrant Nice Carnival full of music, parades, processions and cheer, and the unique Menton Lemon Festival with its impressive citrus fruit's floats and statues. As well as enjoying the festive atmosphere and Mediterranean warmth, explore part of the French Riviera, renowned for both its beautiful coastal scenery and artistic heritage.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Nice

Capital of the Riviera, Nice is a buzzing city full of culture, excellent restaurants and good shopping. France's fifth largest city, for some 150 years Nice has been a popular destination of the rich and famous, including Queen Victoria. It is a wonderful city to explore, with its distinct districts – the medieval quarter, the Italianate quarter that belies Nice's past as part of Italy, and plenty of rich mansions that show past pedigree as one of the most fashionable resorts in Europe. There are excellent museums to discover, including the Chagall, Matisse, Modern Art and Beaux-Arts, a characterful flower market area to enjoy, the lovely port and famed Promenade des Anglais to stroll along, the 17th century Palais Lascaris and the Russian Church to visit, and much more.

Nice Carnival:

For two weeks every February and March, Nice's streets are filled with colourful parades, open air music performances, processions and carnival cheer. Over 1000 musicians and dancers take part in these festivities. This year's theme is "King of Fashion". Attracting over a million visitors every year, Nice Carnival is one of the world's oldest, with records of it going back to 1294.

A seated ticket is included for the Carnival Parade of Lights. You will be able to purchase extra tickets for other parades whilst in Nice if you wish to.

For more information about Nice, please visit:

<http://en.nicetourisme.com>

For more information about Nice Carnival, please visit:

<http://www.nicecarnaval.com>

Menton & the Lemon Festival

Right on the border, Menton exudes Italianate charm from its picturesque position ringed by mountains. This lovely seaside resort boasts stylish Belle-Époque architecture and some interesting sights including the Baroque *Basilica St-Michel*, the *Musée des Beaux-Arts* and the *Musée Jean Cocteau*. The Menton Lemon Festival (Fête du Citron), which began in 1934, is the resort's biggest annual event. Quite a unique festival, locals use citrus fruit to create huge exhibitions and statues along a set theme – the results are truly impressive. You'll find 10-metre-tall citrus-covered installations in the Biovès Gardens and a colourful parade with entertainers, brass bands and magnificent citrus fruit floats. Over 140 tonnes of fruit are used to create these wonderful designs!

A seated ticket for the Lemon Festival Parade is included.

For more information about Menton, please visit:

<https://www.menton-riviera-merveilles.co.uk/>

For more information about the Lemon Festival, please visit:

<https://www.fete-du-citron.com/?lang=en>

Grasse and the Gorges du Loup

Surrounded by fields of lavender, mimosa, jasmine and roses, it is small wonder that Grasse became the centre of the perfume industry in the 16th century. Scented leather gloves, very fashionable during the Renaissance, were made here. The lovely old town has a museum dedicated to the art of *parfumeurs*, the impressive *Cathédrale de Notre-Dame* that is home to three paintings by Rubens, as well as lovely old streets to wander.

Famous for the fortified villages that perch along the steep sides formed by the River Loup, the *Gorges du Loup* offers wonderful views and dramatic cascades.

For more information about Grasse, please visit:

<https://www.francethisway.com/places/grasse.php>

Vence & St-Paul-de-Vence

Today's group of destinations offer a wonderful combination of artistic and architectural sights. A hilltop town full of charm, *Vence* is interlaced by narrow streets and dotted with lovely squares. Thanks to its excellent light, it was popular with painters, including Picasso, and it was here that

Matisse was involved in the architectural design and decoration of the *Chapelle du Rosaire*.

The hugely popular hill village of *St-Paul-de-Vence* has been a magnet for artists throughout the 20th century and the village is dominated by studios and galleries. Its lovely medieval streets are perfect for a leisurely stroll to take in some of the sights including the 12th century *Église Collégiale*, ramparts, the pretty *Rue Grande* and *Grand Fountain*. The village attracted some of art's most renowned names, most notably to the famed *Colombe d'Or* restaurant where artists such as Picasso traded paintings for meals and accommodation. The village also houses the *Fondation Maeght* museum of modern art.

For more information about Vence, please visit:

<https://www.francethisway.com/places/vence.php>

For more information about St-Paul-de-Vence, please visit:

<http://www.saint-pauldevence.com/en>

Biot, Antibes & Cap d'Antibes

A typical hill village, *Biot* has retained its charm and has always attracted artists including Léger, celebrated in the eponymous museum, who made his first ceramics here in 1949. The town was a centre for pottery between the 16th and 18th centuries, a tradition reborn in the mid-20th century, when the town once again became famous for its decorative pottery and bubble-flecked glasswork, which can be seen (and purchased) at the *Verrerie Biot*.

Cap d'Antibes, with its sumptuous villas in their lush grounds, has been a symbol of luxury life on the Riviera since the 1920s heyday when it was frequented by the likes of F Scott Fitzgerald. Sights include the sailors' chapel of *La Garoupe* and the *Jardin Thuret*.

The lively resort of Antibes has a lovely old town with a 15th century fort and one of the world's best Picasso collections in the old seafront *Château Grimaldi*, where the painter worked in 1946 and donated his entire output of 150 paintings from that period. Entrance to the collection is included.

For more information about Biot, please visit:

<https://www.francethisway.com/places/biot.php>

For more information about Antibes, please visit:

<http://www.antibesjuanlespins.com/en>

Reading Suggestions

Graham Robb, *The Discovery of France*.

A general introduction to French culture, landscape and history, it also features an excellent insight into the distinctive character of France's regions.

Bernard Levin, *From the Camargue to the Alps: A Walk Across France in Hannibal's footsteps*.

As the title suggests, English journalist Bernard Levin follows the Carthaginian military commander's path across France to Italy, describing history, landscape and culture on his way.

James Pope-Hennessy, *Aspects of Provence*.

A concise and vivid survey of Provence.

Peter Mayle, *A year in Provence*.

An entertaining account of the author's life as an expatriate in Provence and his take on the locals and their customs.

Tobias Smollett, *Travels through France and Italy, 1766*.

Laurance Sterne, *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy, 1768*.

Both 18th century authors travelled through France, to Nice, continuing along to Italy. Sterne's personal and sentimental account can be seen as a response to quarrelsome and deriding Smollett's.

Lady Winifred Fortescue, *Perfume from Provence, 1935*.

This bestseller related the everyday life in a village in Provence during the inter-war period.

F Scott Fitzgerald, *Tender is the Night*.

Fitzgerald's famous novel is set in the glamour and extravagance of the 1920s French Riviera.

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

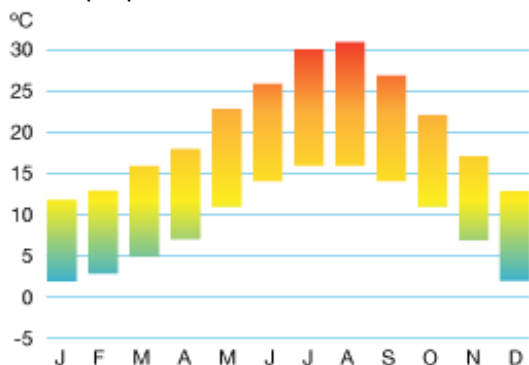
Grading

This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Nice and the French Riviera at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – French.

Religion – Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's Day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Victory in Europe day (08 May); Ascension day; Whit Sunday; Whit Monday; National day (14 Jul); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Armistice day (11 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Nice has a wide variety of shops, including many luxury boutiques. Small villages will have quaint boutiques and local markets. Department stores are open 0900-1830 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1200-1430. Some food shops (particularly bakers) are open Sunday mornings, in which case they will probably close Monday. Many shops close all day or half-day Monday. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one awards with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate Marseille

24 avenue du Prado

13006 Marseille

France

+33 (0)4 91 15 72 10

Marseilleconsular.marseille@fco.gov.uk

Mon, Wed and Fri: 0900 to 1230. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +33 (0)4 91 15 72 10

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