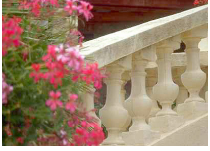




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# PORT EXPLORER



## NICE FRANCE

The French Riviera, often referred to as the Côte d'Azur, with its beautiful beaches and pleasant climate, has developed into a major tourist resort. Nice is known as the capital of the 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.

The hill-sides surrounding the Côte d'Azur contain many small, fortified towns which still retain much of their medieval character.

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.

Cannes, approximately 25 miles from Nice, 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.

Monte Carlo, some 9 miles from Nice, 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. Monaco is ruled by Prince Albert II, a direct descendant of the Grimaldi family, who have reigned since 1275.



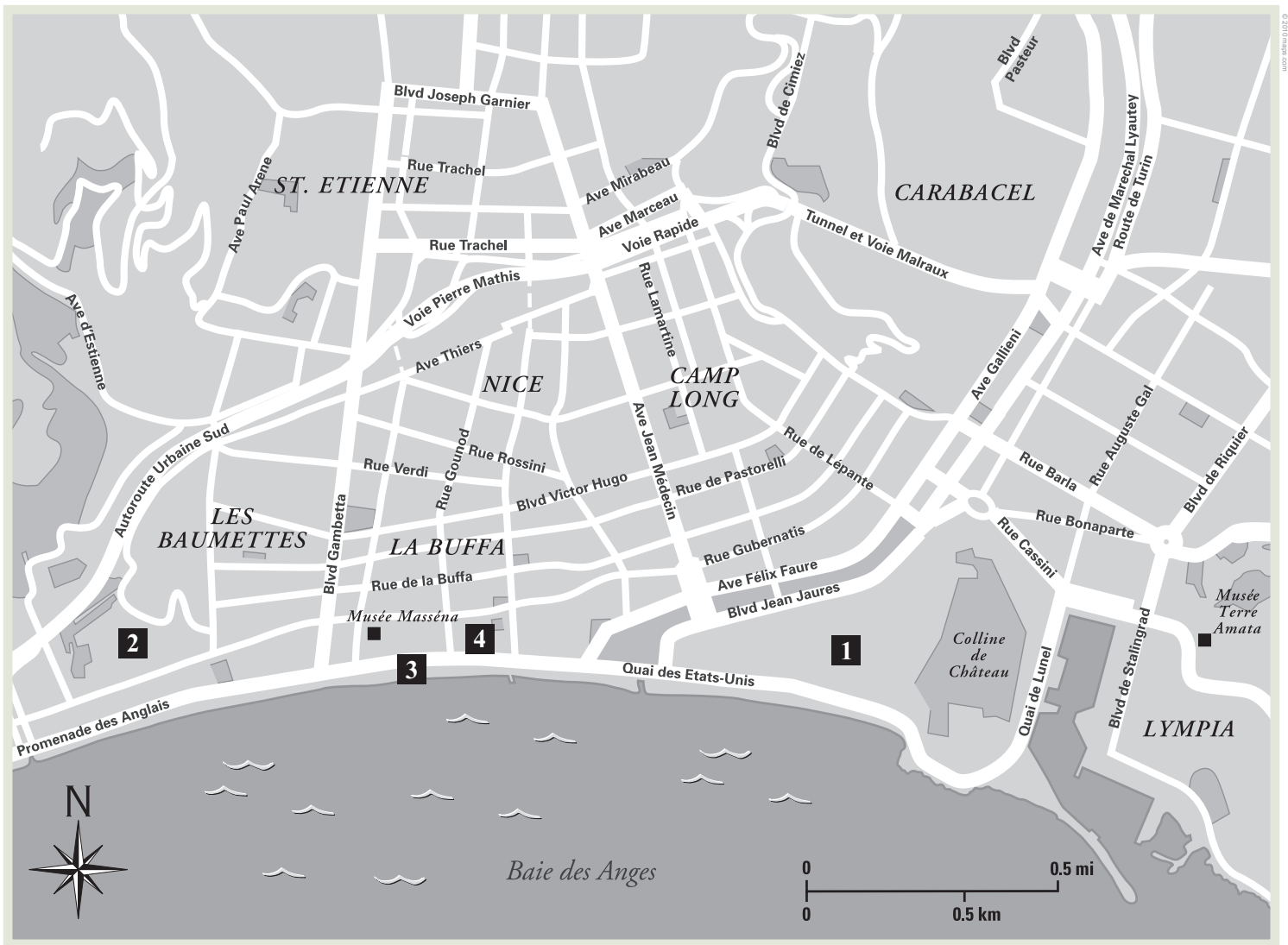
### HISTORY

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.



## PLACES OF INTEREST

### In Nice

**1 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.



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

**3 Promenade des Anglais**, a splendid palm-lined boulevard stretching 3 miles along the Baie des Anges.

**4 Hotel Negresco** - a famous Nice landmark with a Rococo facade.

### Beyond Central Nice

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

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

**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.

### In Villefrance

**Chapelle St. Pierre**, built in the 14th century, was restored and re-decorated in 1956 by the artist Jean Cocteau.

**The Citadel**, built by the Duke of Savoy in 1560, now houses the Town Hall, an auditorium, the Goetz-Boumeester Museum and the Volti Museum. The walls of the Citadel have been arranged with footpaths and gardens.

### In 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.

**Palais des Festivals et des Congrès** houses the municipal casino. The International Film Festival, the town's most spectacular and prestigious event, also takes place here every year in May.

## In Monaco

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

**Cathedral**, built in the 19th century in neo-romanesque style, is located on the top of Monaco Rock. This is where the fairytale 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).

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

**Grand Casino**, once the main source of income for the Principality, this elaborate copper-domed building dates from 1878. The Casino 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.

**Botanical Gardens** are located on Boulevard du Jardin Exotic on the outskirts of Monte Carlo. These delightful gardens, known as Jardin Exotic for the fact that many of the exhibits are unique to Europe, includes over 600 variations of cacti and succulents. Entrance tickets also entitle the holder to admission to the caves next to the gardens and the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology which is adjacent.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Nice and the Côte d'Azur we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

## 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.

**Dress:** In France it is frowned upon to wear shorts, sleeveless T-shirts or blouses or otherwise revealing clothing when visiting places of worship.

## LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALITIES

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 pro-

duces a range of good quality red, white and rose wines. Bottled water is recommended.

## SHOPPING FACILITIES

Nice has a comprehensive range of shops, particularly along Avenue Jean Médicin, stretching from Place de Masséna. Rather more exclusive shops can be found in Monte Carlo on Rue des Moulins and Place du Casino. General opening hours are from 9:00 am – Noon, 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm 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 RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

## LOCAL CURRENCY

The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

## POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

There is a Post Office (Poste) is located at: 35 Rue de France  
Many telephones in France accept "Telecartes" which can be purchased in the Terminal Building, Post Offices, and Tobacconists.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

There is a Tourist information Office located at 5, Promenade des Anglais.

## TRANSPORTATION

A limited number of taxis are usually available at the Pier.

## USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Yes • Oui  
No • Non  
Good Day • Bonjour  
Good-bye • Au Revoir  
Thank You • Merci  
You're Welcome • De Rien

