



Beyond NICE

There are scores of different places to visit along the French Riviera, each with its own unique attractions and style. These pages will give you a flavour of what is on offer, as well as basic transport information. Since the hub of the transport links are from Nice, as well as the majority of our apartments, the transport section presumes your base is Nice.

For a sense of history head to the hills and visit Roquebrune, Èze, Biot and Haut-de-Cagnes. The walks around the Cap d'Antibes, Cap Ferrat and Cap Martin are stunning. Menton has history and a beach as well as being an excellent stopping point for trips into Italy. For a day lazing on the sand it's hard to beat Cap Ferrat or Juan-les-Pins.

We have more comprehensive information on all towns along the French Riviera, including transport links on our websites www.nicepebbles.com and www.rivierapebbles.com. Also, guidebooks can enhance your trip and we would recommend purchasing one if you have not done so already.

Cros-de-Cagnes

Bus (200). 3 each hour. Journey time: 40 mins.

Train 2 each hour. Journey time: 20 mins

A sea-front town with great restaurants and a palm-tree-lined promenade. You can cycle on the path between Cros-de-Cagnes and Nice in approximately 30 minutes. It is for the most part a very safe and pleasant ride.

With a shingle and pebbled beach, this is a less crowded option for beach lovers. Cros-de-Cagnes is also a little town brimming with great restaurants, some Michelin starred.

Golfe-Juan and Vallauris

Bus (200) Every 40 minutes

Train 2 each hour. Journey time 30 mins

Boasting two marinas and gorgeous beaches of fine sand, Golfe-Juan is arguably the best beach resort along the French Riviera. The curved bay is sheltered from the wind so bathers and swimmers take full advantage of this throughout the year.

Just inland, Vallauris, is Golfe-Juan's twin city where you can buy, make and admire pottery and ceramics and view the frescoes painted in the chapel by Picasso.

Villefranche

Bus (100). 3 each hour. Journey time: 15 mins.

Train 2 each hour. Journey time: 10 mins

The charming self-contained bay of Villefranche holds a pretty little village inhabited by local fishermen as well as a few celebrities. A perfect place to amble around the uneven winding and cobblestoned streets shaded by the Provençal 12th and 13th century pastel buildings. Peek inside the tiny boutiques and restaurants for treasures to take back home.

The sea front of this pretty village is lined with restaurants and brasseries. If you are planning a day trip on the weekends, try to arrive early. On Saturday morning there is a small Provençal market and on Sunday morning an antiques and bric-a-brac market. You may also want to visit the soap factory at **La Savonnerie**.

Cap Ferrat

Bus (81). Every 30 mins. Journey time: 35 mins.

Train 4 each hour. Journey time: 20 mins

The main attraction is the **Villa Ephrussi-de-Rothschild**. Here you can see a priceless collection of royal porcelain, but the main draw is the famous gardens. Consisting of seven hectares and decorated with patios, fountains, ponds and flowerbeds, these nine gardens have arresting views over the Mediterranean.

St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat is a great route for walking with a well-signed rocky 10km path that winds around the Cap en route to the Plage des Fosses, a pebbly beach that is ideal for small children. Swimmers can also drive or walk to **La Paloma** beach with its tree-lined bay, 500m south of **Port St-Jean**.

St-Paul-de-Vence

Bus (400). Every 50 mins. Journey time: 1 hour.

Well known for its rocky setting in the middle of impressive hillsides, Saint-Paul is a highly popular tourist spot and a regular haunt for art and culture enthusiasts. Saint-Paul was a rendezvous for the poets Jacques Prevert and Jean Cocteau, the artists Braque, Bonnard, Derain, Dufy, Matisse, and Picasso.

The hotel with famous adjoining restaurant, **La Colombe d'Or**, was built after World War I. Struggling artists such as Miro, Leger, and Lurcat settled their hotel and supper bills by leaving one of their canvasses.



This means it is as much a museum of art as a hotel and restaurant.

Grasse

Bus (500). Every 40 minutes. Journey time: 1 hour.

Train Every hour. Journey time: 1 hour 15 min

Grasse is the perfume centre of the world. Visit **Fragonard, Molinard** and **Galimard**, the perfumeries still in operation today and where free, guided tours in English are offered in their museums. You can make your own unique scent to take home.

The Old Town is a warren of narrow shaded streets, the central hub being the Place aux Aires, with its flower and local food market, fountain and an arcade of shops.

In the outskirts of Grasse, you will find the **Parc Communal de la Corniche** with magnificent views. Also the **Jardin de la Princesse Pauline**, where you can sit and breathe in the sweet mountain air and gaze over the Esterel mountains and all the way out to the sea.

Beaulieu-sur-Mer

Bus (100). 3 each hour. Journey time: 20 mins.

Train 2 each hour. Journey time: 20 mins

The well-manicured beaches of Beaulieu-sur-Mer are a pleasure for the tourists who might want to get away from the crowds. A mix of sand and pebbles, there are

private and public areas which tend to be a little quieter but still with all the usual beach services.

As well as being a pretty resort to walk around peacefully, it is now most famous for its tribute to ancient Greece. Not to be missed here is a faithful reconstruction of a fifth-century Greek villa, the **Villa Grecque Kérylos**.

Èze

Bus (82). 1 each hour. Journey time: 20 mins.

A picture postcard perfect little town perched on a rock 427 metres above sea level.

Charming pebbled and winding steep streets lined with Provençal boutiques will bring you to the summit of the town. It's worth the walk for the serene tropical plant and cactus garden (**Jardin Exotique**) at the top complete with statues and a small man-made waterfall. Take a picnic and relax at the top looking out at sun-drenched rooftops and the dazzling Mediterranean below.

As a special treat, dine at **Chèvre d'Or** ("Golden Goat"), or just pop in for a drink. The nucleus of this tiny village, the Chèvre d'Or is a landmark in its own right and is a unique hotel and gastronomic restaurant worthy of its two Michelin stars.



Menton

Bus (100): 3 each hour.

Journey time: 1 hour 25 minutes.

Train 2 each hour. Journey time: 30 mins

Menton is the last stop on the coast before the Italian border and has the mildest climate on the Riviera. Lemon trees thrive here. This is celebrated in style each year in February with the **Fête du Citron**.

A lot of tourists decide to nip across the border and combine a trip to Menton with bargain hunting at Ventimiglia market or to load up on olive oil, Italian wine and Parmesan cheese.

Roquebrune-Cap Martin

Bus (100): 3 each hour.

Journey time: 1 hour.

A handsome village which rises above the Cap Martin peninsula and ideal for walking or hiking. Roquebrune is divided into an Old Town and a new town. The medieval Old Town has little squares and fountains, narrow stone streets and vaulted passageways. It is found within the peninsula of Cap Martin which is still lined with expensive villas set back from the road.

The area is famous for its 10th century chateau that hosts a decent museum. If you fancy a nice lunch, try **Les Deux Frères** or **Le Vistaero**.

Biot

Bus 200 3 per hour, journey time 1 hour or train, journey time 20 minutes (then the number 10 bus will take you up to the village)

A pretty, medieval village perched high on the hills behind Antibes, Biot is known for its glass and pottery making. Visitors flock to the **Verrerie de Biot** to see years of family tradition in glass making and pick up some souvenirs. The village itself has plenty of arts and crafts on offer; children and adults alike will love trying



their hand at painting their own ceramics at **La Tasse de Couleur**. Biot is also home to some great restaurants perfect for a leisurely lunch. Before travelling up to the village the kids may beg you to stop off at Marine-land, just minutes away from the bus and train stops.



Closure of the Gare Routière

Regular visitors to Nice will have noticed that Nice's central bus station has finally bowed out to make way for the 'coulée verte', the large park stretching from Place Garibaldi all the way to Place Masséna. This means that bus stops have been displaced. You'll find full information in your apartment on where to catch various buses.