

Côte d'Azur, French Riviera, France

Cliff-hugging villages, glamorous harbors, and the bluest water in Europe — the Côte d'Azur packs four distinct worlds into a single, rail-connected coastline. Dock in one port, explore them all.

Mixed: Tender (Cannes & Villefranche) / Pier (Monaco & small-ship Nice)

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Currency: Euro (€)

French (English widely spoken in tourist areas)

Coastal TER train links all four ports

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Cannes & Villefranche: tender. Monaco: pier at Port Hercule. Nice (Port Lympia): small ships only (<190m by berth length)

Best For: Glamour, beaches, hilltop villages, casino culture, world-class food and art

Walk to center: Instant at Cannes & Villefranche tender docks. Monaco: 10 min flat + elevator to Monaco-Ville. Nice: 15–20 min or 5 min by tram

Don't Miss: Monaco's Formula 1 circuit, Cannes' Île Sainte-Marguerite, Villefranche's Rue Obscure, Nice's socca at Chez Pipo

Getting around: Taxi €10–€35 depending on port · Rideshare Uber, Bolt · Hop-on hop-off Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Monaco Full Day: Formula 1, Casino & the Rock** — Walk the actual F1 Grand Prix circuit around Port Hercule, then take the elevator or bus up to Monaco-Ville's medieval lanes and the Prince's Palace.
- **Èze Village & Perfume Factories** — Perched 1,400ft above the sea, this eagle's-nest medieval village is one of the most dramatic sights on the Riviera.
- **Îles de Lérins from Cannes** — A 15-minute ferry from Cannes' Vieux Port drops you on Île Sainte-Marguerite, the wooded island where the 'Man in the Iron Mask' was imprisoned.
- **Vieux Nice: Food Market, Old Town & Castle Hill** — Dive into Cours Saleya's morning flower-and-produce market, wander the Italian-influenced maze of Vieux Nice, then take the free cliff elevator up to...
- **Beach Day at Plage des Marinières, Villefranche** — A 10-minute flat walk from the Villefranche tender dock leads to one of the best free beaches on the Riviera — a long crescent of coarse sand with...

BEST WALKS

- **Villefranche Old Town & Cocteau Chapel Loop** 1.5 miles · 45–60 min · easy (flat old town, gentle slopes) — From the tender dock, walk along Quai de l'Amiral Courbet past waterfront restaurants to the tiny Chapelle Saint-Pierre (Cocteau Chapel, €4).
- **Cannes: La Croisette to Le Suquet** 2 miles · 1–1.5 hrs · easy (one moderate hill to Le Suquet) — Step off the tender directly onto the Vieux Port and walk east along La Croisette, the palm-lined promenade flanked by grand hotels like the Carlton and Martinez.
- **Monaco: Harbor Walk to Monaco-Ville** 1.5 miles · 1–1.5 hrs · moderate (vertical — use public elevators) — From Port Hercule, walk the F1 start/finish line painted on the quay, then head around the harbor to Casino Square to admire the Belle Époque architecture (and supercars).

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	High	Low	Rain
Mon			
Apr	64°	51°	8d
Jun	78°	66°	7d
Aug	83°	70°	4d
Sep	77°	65°	6d
Oct	70°	58°	8d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:48AM–8:14PM · Jun 5:48AM–9:14PM · Aug 6:35AM–8:34PM · Sep 7:10AM–7:40PM · Oct 7:45AM–6:47PM

Currency: Euro (€)

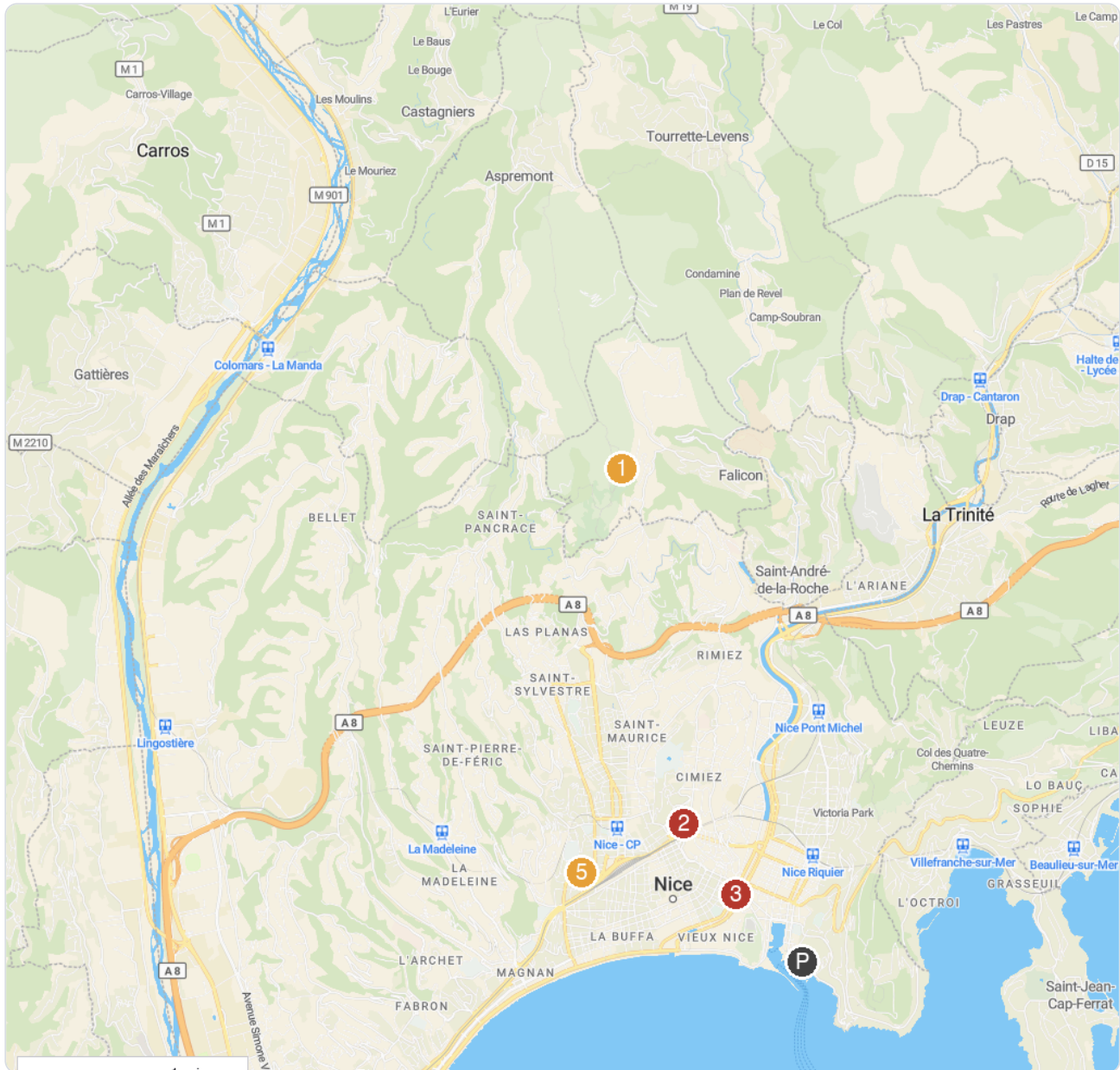
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- The coastal TER train is your best friend. Cheap (€2–5), fast, and runs every 20–30 minutes between Cannes, Antibes, Nice, Villefranche, Monaco, and Menton. Buy tickets from machines at the station — no reservation needed.
- Tender queues can be long. At both Cannes and Villefranche, get tender tickets early — especially on days when multiple ships are anchored in the same bay. Late returners risk missing the last tender.
- Monaco is vertical — use the free lifts. The city has dozens of free public elevators and escalators cut into the cliffs. Download a Monaco map before going ashore; they save enormous time and energy.
- Nice beaches are pebbles, not sand.
- Taxis are expensive throughout the Riviera.
- New 2025 cruise regulations.

Côte d'Azur, French Riviera, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 Pyramid of Falicon | Mysterious, small pyramid monument near Nice. | 2 Marc Chagall National Museum | Museum dedicated to Marc Chagall's biblical art. |
| 3 Prince's Palace of Monaco | Official residence of Monaco's sovereign prince. | 4 Modern and Contemporary Art Museum (MAMAC) | Nice museum for modern and contemporary art. |
| 5 Parc Phoenix | Large botanical garden and zoo in Nice. | 6 Musée océanographique de Monaco | World-renowned oceanographic museum and aquarium. |
| 7 Cathédrale Saint-Nicolas de Nice | Beautiful Russian Orthodox cathedral in Nice. | P Cruise port / terminal | |