



PLACES OF INTEREST

2 Cannes' long and lavish coastal **promenade**, Blvd. de la Croisette, begins here with the huge Palais des Festivals et des Congrès. Situated on the port's eastern side, the Festival and Conference Center houses the municipal casino. The International Film Festival, the town's most spectacular and prestigious event, also takes place here every year in May. Taking a leisurely stroll there is highly recommended for those eager star-gazers who want to 'see and be seen.'

3 Sandy public **beaches** are sandwiched between the strips of sand that are privately owned by the fancy hotels that line Blvd de la Croisette. A small strip of public beach is near the Palais des Festivals for the bathing pleasures of the masses. The public can also use Plages du Midi and Plages de la Bocca that stretch for several km westward from the Vieux Port (old port) along Blvd Jean Hilbert and Blvd du Midi.

4 The best places to walk in Cannes are near the water. Some of the largest yachts you will ever see can be found in the **Vieux Port** (old port). Once an old fishing port, it has now become a haven for the modern day pleasure crafts. It is not uncommon to see numerous multi-million dollar yachts gleaming in the mid-day sun. The streets around the old port are particularly appealing on summer evenings when the many

cafés and restaurants – overflowing with smiling, laughing patrons in chic casual wear – color the whole area with bright neon signs.

5 The **Musée de la Castre**, housed in a chateau atop Le Suquet, was built in the 11th and 12th centuries by the Lérins monks. The museum displays a diverse collection of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern relics such as weapons, masks and instruments as well as objects of ethnographic interest from around the world. The summit of Le Suquet provides the most spectacular views of Cannes in the late afternoon and early evenings on clear nights.

Beyond Cannes

The hillsides surrounding the Riviera contain many small, fortified towns that still retain much of their medieval character.

St. Paul-de-Vence, approximately 1 hour from Cannes, is located on a rocky spur amidst the French countryside and has long been a refuge of famous art collectors

Villefranche, approximately 28 miles from Cannes, is a charming little town, nestled against the hillside, overlooking the bay between Nice and Monte Carlo.

Nice, just 3 miles from Villefranche, is known as the capital of the French 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.

Grasse, the capital of the French perfume industry is less than 15 miles from Cannes. Grasse was known for its leather goods and glove-making when perfumed gloves became fashionable in the 16th century. The perfume industry blossomed with two crops predominating, rose and jasmine. France's three largest, oldest, and most prominent perfumeries are still producing the fragrances preferred by the demanding populace.

Antibes, approximately 5 miles from Cannes, has been a resort since the mid-19th century, but remnants of Greek and Roman occupation indicate that the town was well noted much earlier. Similar to Cannes, Antibes plays host to several international festivals annually. Pablo Picasso presented several pieces of his work to the city, which are now on display in the Musée Picasso.

A museum in nearby Biot also contains several paintings and mosaics by the artist, Fernand Léger, who along with Picasso founded Cubism.

Monte Carlo, some 34 miles from Cannes, belongs to the Principality of Monaco and is governed independently, although the way of life is distinctively French. Known as the playground 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.

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.

Local Cuisine: Wining and dining is a major occupation for the French, and this region in particular enjoys fresh fish. The most popular is Bouillabaisse – basically a fish stew, the recipe varies according to the Chief. Salade Niçoise combines basic salad ingredients with tuna, hard-boiled eggs, green beans, and anchovies. Try Ratatouille as a vegetable accompaniment, a tomato-based dish with onions, eggplant, zucchini, and subtle spices. Another regional dish to try is aioli garni and mesclun, a rather bitter salad of dandelion greens and other roughage.

Drink Specialties: Pastis is popular amongst the locals, a clear anise seed flavored aperitif to which water is added. The region of Provence produces a wide range of good quality red, white, and rose wines. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Blessed with streets and streets of designer boutiques, Cannes has the best window-shopping around. Nouveau Cannes, running parallel to the sea with Rue d'Antibes running through its center, is the city's shopping hub. Passing right along the shore, front high-priced displays all sport familiar names – Christian Dior, Hermès, and Gianni Versace. General opening hours are from 9:00 am – 12:00 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.

A Value Added Tax (VAT) is added to most purchases. Visitors from outside the European Union who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to reclaim 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.

The Banque de France is located at 8 Blvd de la Croisette. There are more banks along Rue d'Antibes (two blocks towards the beach from Rue Jean Jaurès) and on Rue Buttura (across Blvd de la Croisette from the main tourist office).

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main post office is located at 22 Rue Bivouac Napoléon, two blocks inland from the Palais des Festivals. You can also exchange foreign currency there as well.

Many telephones in France accept "Telecartes" which can be purchased in the Terminal Building, Post Offices, and Tobacconists. You can also place a call with your personal calling card using the following access codes:

AT&T: 0800-99-0011
MCI: 0800-99-0019
SPRINT 0800-99-0087

TOURIST INFORMATION There is a (#1) Tourist Information Office on the ground floor of the Palais des Festivals. Contact them via the web at www.cannes-on-line.com. The Tourism Office usually sends one English-speaking hostess with maps and brochures to the maritime station of Cannes during calls of cruise ships.

TRANSPORTATION Taxis on the pier are limited. A taxi can be summoned from the taxi station by contacting the dispatcher. The train station is 300m north of the Palais des Festivals on Rue Jean Jaurès.

USEFUL WORDS

Yes • Ou
No • Non
Good Day • Bonjour
Goodbye • Au Revoir
Thank you • Merci
You're welcome • De rien