

# FRENCH RIVIERA & PROVENCE



Cannes, Nice, Monte Carlo, Arles, Camargue...



Scenic Travel Service S.r.l. - Tour Operator

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## Program

Visit two Mediterranean areas on a same journey: Provence and Côte d'Azur.

The Mediterranean shores, the Provençal country, the art and history of their rich cities, the Southern Alps, the banks of the Rhone, the great natural areas make a region with many faces. Diversity but also many common points: a clear transparent sky, a Light full of power and sweetness and tap rich colours, a Mediterranean plant with World Vineyards, olive trees, almond trees and lavender, always nearby Mediterranean, a "Singing" language, the cuisine and the houses make the Provence and Côte d'Azur unforgettable. Following the discovery of major cultural sights of Provence, and wild ride through Landscapes, it goes to the Cote d'Azur. Always full of dynamism, the Cote d'Azur throughout the year revived, mainly thanks to a rich and diverse cultural entertainment, a particularly favourable access (Nice is the second French airport) and a strong tourist infrastructure.

**Day 1:** Cannes Arrival in Nice. Welcome by your local guide and departure by coach to Cannes. Welcome dinner and overnight

**Day 2:** Cannes, Island of Lerins City tour of Cannes just a fishing village until 1834 when it was discovered by Lord Brougham. Today the fashionable seaside resort, home of the International Film Festival, is located in a beautiful bay, opposite the islands of Lerins and next to the Estérel Mountains. A stroll along the palmed Croisette belongs to the city visit. Some steps away you are awaited by the boutiques of Rue d'Antibes, the market district "Forville" and the old "Le Suquet. " Afternoon time to explore on your own or shopping, or optional trip to the islands of Lerins: We discover the island of Sainte Marguerite with its botanical trails and the Iron Mask fort. Accommodation with dinner.

**Day 3:** Nice, Matisse museum Visit of Nice, the capital of the Cote d'Azur situated along the "angels bay", one can discover from the famous Promenade des Anglais the Old Town with its floral fragrances on the market. The baroque churches and the colourful houses are a reminiscence of the Italian history of the town. The neighbourhood "Cimiez" recalls the Roman tracks and the day of the Belle Epoque. The modern quarters with the Congress House "Acropolis" and the avenue Jean Médecin show the dynamism of this city of 400 000 inhabitants. We visit the Matisse Museum in a beautiful villa with olive gardens presenting many interesting sketches and paintings by the master. Dinner and overnight in Cannes.

**Day 4:** Eze and Monaco After breakfast travel to Monte Carlo. On the way, visit of the Fragonard perfume manufacturer in Eze. In Monte Carlo, visit of the small independent and sovereign Principality of the Grimaldi family, which offers very attractive places. The neighbourhood "Le Rocher" is famous because of the Prince's Palace, the Cathedral and the famous oceanographic institute. The sophisticated "Monte Carlo" has the largest European Casino. Here are the luxury hotels and boutiques where the famous stars from all over the world meet. We visit the exotic garden and have a city tour with a break in the quarter "le Rocher". Back to the hotel for our last night at the Côte d'Azur.

**Day 5:** Thoronet Abbey and Aix en Provence. Departure for Aix en Provence. In a typical Provençal limestone country with its garrigue, green oaks and oliver trees, the Cistercian Thoronet Abbey is a masterpiece of Provençal Romanesque art. The emotional impact of the architecture is the result of its extreme sobriety, with stone and light working in perfect harmony. We continue our way to Aix en Provence, where a city tour will allow us to enjoy the Provençal atmosphere of the town. The city where Paul Cezanne lived and painted is full of vibrant life. In the old town, small narrow streets lead to fountain places. Students of this venerable university town meet along the Cours Mirabeau with its shady trees. Welcome at the hotel in Provence, dinner and overnight.

**Day 6:** Arles, Camargue, Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer Trip to Arles and visit of the city and the arena: Arles has a glorious past testified by the magnificent Roman buildings, the Romanesque churches and the rich art treasures of its museums. At the beginning of the Rhone River Delta, north of the salt marshes Camargue, the town has reached new meanings as an agricultural centre through the rice cultivation. Afternoon, continuing into the Camargue: the plain of the Camargue count undoubtedly among the more unique Provencal landscapes. It is partly protected and therefore has not lost its originality. We reach les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, the capital of the Camargue. As soon as we arrive from the north, long before the arrival, we can see the white silhouette of the village ahead with the old church dominated by a bell. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 7:** Avignon, Saint-Remy, Les Antiques, Les Baux de Provence We drive to Avignon, which is on the left bank of the Rhone. The most important epoch in this city was the period 1309 to 1377, when Avignon was the seat of the popes. The main building is the Pope's Palace giving at least from the outside the impression more of a fortress. Inside the palace are located Rooms and chapels with precious frescoes. Other interesting points are the church of Notre Dame de Doms and the Bridge St. Bénézet well-known through the old song "Sur le pont d'Avignon". Afternoon, travel to Saint Remy de Provence, near the Roman ruins of Les Antiques in a beautiful environment. Last stop is Les Baux de Provence, in the middle of the Alpilles. The village is located on a hill with a magnificent panorama of the whole of Provence from Mont Ventoux to the Mediterranean. Here met 700 years ago minstrels and Troubadours for noble competitions. Evening farewell dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Day 8:** Transfer and home flight Time at leisure and transfer to the airport in Nice or Marseille or speed train.