

ANTIBES-JUAN-LES-PINS

Antibes is a city in the **French Riviera**. The Cap d'Antibes is the break between the Bay of Cannes to the south-west and the **Baie des Angès** to the north east. Old Antibes and the port of Antibes are on the mainland on the side facing the Baie des Angès, while Juan les Pins is on the **Cannes** side and the magnificent Fort Carré lies between the port of Antibes and the rest of the Baie des Angès. Although Antibes is best known for its coast, the municipality does stretch up the hills inland.

During the summer, the place is packed, primarily with French families. In the evenings, everyone is out at the many outdoor restaurants in the old part of Antibes and in **Juan les Pins**. A fun place for a relaxed vacation.



Museums

Archaeology Museum

This museum sits atop the **Promenade Amiral de Grasse** in the old Bastion St Andre, a 17th century fortress. The museum's collection focuses on the classical history of **Antibes**. Many artifacts, sculptures and amphorae found in local digs and shipwrecks from the harbour are displayed here. The views of the sea and mountains from the promenade are also spectacular.

Naval Museum of Napoleon

Housed in a 17th century stone fort and tower, this museum presents a collection of Napoleonic memorabilia, paintings and naval models. Several wall paintings show historic moments in Napoleon's reign and there are also pieces of his clothing such as one of the hats he once wore.

Picasso Museum

This museum houses one of the world's greatest Picasso collections: 24 paintings, 44 drawings, 32 lithographs, 11 oils on paper, 80 pieces of ceramics, 2 sculptures and 5 tapestries.

La Tour Museum

This small museum in the centre of town brings the contemporary history of **Antibes** to life through its exhibit of costumes, tools, photographs and other objects used by the local people.

Absinthe Museum

From its basement location within the Roman foundations of **Old Antibes**, the Absinthe Museum is a must-see for any visitor to Antibes. The owners and their staff are happy to talk you through the process and teach you to appreciate the distinctly green liqueur like a fine wine.

Parks and Gardens

The Exflora Park

The Exflora Park is a five hectare garden open to the public. Next to the large olive grove, there are different styles of mediterranean gardens, from ancient Rome to the exuberant **Riviera** of the 19th century. Fountains and ponds stretch along the terrace, making a waterway 500 m long. **Antibes** is renowned for rose production, and recognising this, rose bushes line the path leading to the sea. The luxuriance of the exotic garden and palm grove is reminiscent of the belle époque, when English gardeners succeeded in planting flowers that bloom in winter, the season when the aristocracy visited the **Cote d'Azur**. A little further on is the Theatre de Verdure, inspired by Italian gardens, and a panoramic viewpoint with a glorious view of the sea and the Iles des Lerins. In the style of Provençal gardens of the 18th century, there is a maze with sculpted hedges. Further on, Islamic gardens are featured, with an orange grove where the ground is patterned with terracotta irrigation pipes similar to those in the celebrated Seville Cathedral in Spain. The vegetable gardens and orchards in the Arsat are planted in hollows as in Morocco, to protect them from the sun and maximise shadow and humidity. A representation of a Moroccan house pays homage to the painter Majorelle, creator of the beautiful blue garden in Marrakesh. In another area, the winter garden contains plants that flower in winter, such as mimosa and camellias.

The Eilenroc Gardens

Villa Eilenroc was built on a rock in the middle of a virtual desert. The area was transformed into a glorious garden through the patience and talent of **Jacques Greber**, landscape architect and consultant to the Great Exhibition in New York in 1939. He was commissioned by Mr Beaumont to create this luxuriant park of 11 hectares. The gardens with all their luxuriant vegetation lie thirty metres above the sea with a view across the bay of the Cap. Planted with traditional mediterranean species such as marine and parasol pines, Alep and Canary pines, Cyprus, oaks, olive trees, arbutus, lavender, thyme, rosemary, eucalyptus, ficus, etc., as well as three km of pittosporum hedges, a whole part of the park has been created with plants found in the Antibes area in 1920.

Thuret Park

In 1857, Gustave Thuret discovered the wonderful, unspoilt **Cap d'Antibes** and bought five hectares of land where he built a villa and began the creation of a glorious park. Bequeathed to the state by his heirs, the Jardin botanique de la Villa Thuret is now managed by the **INRA** (National Institute of Agronomic Research). The superb collection of trees and exotic plants, and the rich earth, provide many opportunities for learning, and the cross-fertilisation of plant species that grow on the **mediterranean coast**.

Garoupe Lighthouse

The old lighthouse of Antibes provides one of the best views in the region from its lofty hilltop. To get here, you must walk about one kilometre up the **Chemin de Calvaire** from the **Plage de la Salis**. It makes for a nice half-day stroll.

Church of the Immaculate Conception

The central church in Antibes was first built in the 11th century with stones used from earlier Roman structures. Its current façade was constructed in the 18th century and blends Latin classical symmetry and religious fantasy. The interior houses some impressive pieces such as a Baroque altarpiece and life-sized wooden carving of Christ's death from 1447.

Ports

There are many yachting harbours which provide moorings for a range of ships ranging from fishing vessels to full sized yachts.

-Port Vauban: The largest yachting harbour in Europe, with more than 2,000 moorings, can accommodate craft of more than 100 metres. This old port was the heart of the ancient Greek city of Antipolis and has a long and colourful history which includes Ligurians, Romans and Crusaders on their way to the Holy Land. Today, it is the largest marina in Europe, serving both local fishing boats and luxury yachts.

Port Galice: 542 moorings

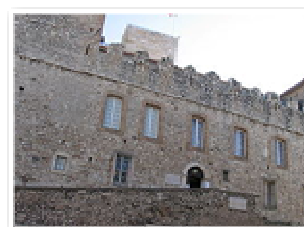
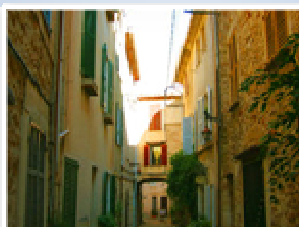
Port de la Salis: 233 moorings

Port du Crouton: 390 moorings

Port de l'Olivette: Situated in the sheltered cove of the same name, this is a harbour for sailors and their wooden fishing boats who enjoy the old marine, provençal traditions.

TO DO

Each year in July, **Juan-les-Pins Jazz Festival**



INFORMATION

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