

CANNES

Once a small fishing village, **Cannes** is now a glamorous and expensive seaside town considered to be one of the social hubs of Europe. Its moment to shine arrives in May as the venue for the **Cannes Film Festival**, entertaining the rich and famous. During the festival, fans can see actors, celebrities and directors up close and in person on the famous steps of the Palais des Festivals at the end of **La Croisette**. Although its nightlife, casinos and high end restaurants give Cannes a feel of exclusivity, Cannes does have alternatives to suit all types of budgets. Tourists can check out the beauty and architecture of **Le Suquet**, with its cobbled streets and breathtaking views, or sit at street side tables and enjoy the favoured hobby of people watching up and down the lovely marina.



Old town. The usual narrow winding streets filled with restaurants and souvenir shops. The view from the castle ruins at the top is excellent.

Covered Market. For a spectacular eating and viewing food experience, no other market in Cannes beats this for scale and variety. The market itself is at the west end of rue Meynardiers, one of the Cote's best gourmand streets.

Palais des Festivals. Down La Croisette is the famous Palais des Festivals, where stars of the screen gather and watch films screened during the festival. Irresistible not to pose for a photograph on the 22 steps leading up to the entrance.

Port. Admire the yachts of the rich and possibly famous - though true mega-yachts will be found at the International Yacht Club down the coast in Antibes.

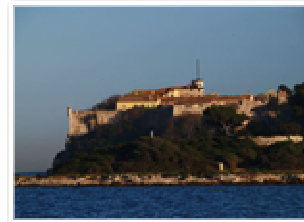
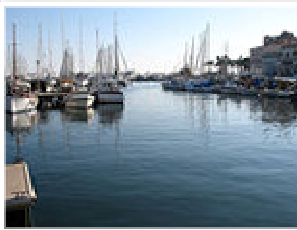
La Croisette. Cannes catwalk beside the sea, it is the center of the city's tourist activity and known for its luxury hotels and boutique shops.

Beaches. The beaches are mostly private. The public beaches are crowded, and are found at the far east and west of town. If you want a quieter beach, a better option is to go to the Îles de Lérins. At night the beaches can be tranquil, but watch out for spectacular fireworks displays in the bay, get to the beach early to get a good spot!

Îles de Lérins. Two islands in the bay that are definitely worth visiting. The smaller is Ste Honorat, which has a monastery and ruined castle. The monks sell monastery-made food/drink products like wine which make unique souvenirs. The larger island is Ste Marguerite which also has a castle, shops, bars, and restaurants. Find a quiet cove, some shade from palm trees, and a cheap snorkel before you swim around the rocky coves.

Notre-Dame d'Esperance. Provençal Gothic church with wood paneling dating back to the 14th and 15th century. Also worth a look is the collection of 19th century paintings, which includes a fresco by George Roux that portrays the baptism of Christ. The church is situated on top of Suquet hill in old Cannes, the church offers visitors a fabulous view of the town and its bay.

Tour du Masque. 9, rue du Mont Chevalier. A popular attraction for history and literary buffs, the Tour du Masque is said to be haunted by the ghost of the mythical, mysterious figure known as the "Man in the Iron Mask."



TO DO

Near Cannes.

Molinard, 60, boulevard Victor-Hugo, Grasse 06130. Follow your nose down this flower-strewn villa to learn how perfume is made and manufactured. It's a old factory and visual feast, as well as smelling some of the world's finest perfumes. Famous perfume bottles are also on display.

INFORMATION

Tourism Office of Cannes

Office du tourisme de Cannes :

SEMEC Palais des Festivals

1, La Croisette

BP 272

06403 Cannes Cedex

Tel : 04 92 99 84 22 – Fax : 04 92 99 84 23