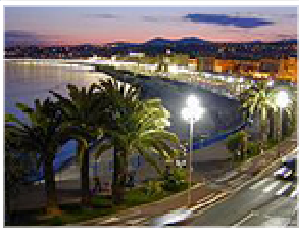


NICE

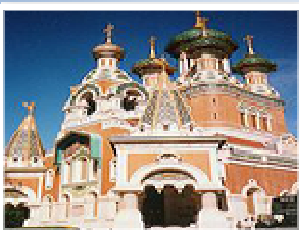
Nice is a large city in France on the **French Riviera**. It's a popular destination for vacationers both young and old, with something to offer nearly everyone. It is well known for the beautiful view on the **Promenade des Anglais**, its famous waterfront, and is an ethnically diverse port city. It is the historical capital city of the County of Nice (**Comté de Nice**). The natural vegetation of Nice is typical for a Mediterranean landscape, with a heavy representation of broadleaf evergreen shrubs.



The Promenade des Anglais ("Walk of the English") is a celebrated promenade along the Mediterranean at **Nice**. Before Nice was urbanized, the coast at Nice was just bordered by a deserted band of beach covered by large pebbles. The first houses were located on higher ground well away from the sea. Starting in the second half of the 18th century, the English took to spending the winter in Nice, enjoying the panorama along the coast. When a particularly harsh winter up north brought an influx of beggars to Nice, some of the rich Englishmen proposed a useful project for them: the construction of a walkway (chemin de promenade) along the sea. The city of Nice, intrigued by the prospect of a pleasant promenade, greatly increased the scope of the work. The Promenade was first called the **Camin dei Anglès** (the English Way) by the Niçois in their native dialect Nissart. After the annexation of Nice by France in 1860 it was rechristened La Promenade des Anglais, replacing the former Nissart name with its French translation.



Cours Saleya. In the past, it belonged to the upper classes. It probably is the most traditional square of the town, with its **daily flower market**. The Cours Saleya also opens on the **Palais des Rois Sardes** (Palace of the Kings of Sardinia). In the present, the court is mostly a place of entertainment. There are good restaurants serving typical Niçoise cuisine, markets and many pubs. It is no doubt one of the most active spots in Nice. It is situated parallel to the **Quai des Etats-Unis**.



The Russian Orthodox Cathedral (Cathédrale Orthodoxe Russe Saint-Nicolas de Nice) is a national monument of France. It is the largest Russian Orthodox cathedral outside Russia. Since the mid-19th century, Russian nobility visited Nice and the French Riviera, following the fashion established decades earlier by the English upper class and nobility. In 1864, immediately after the railway reached **Nice**, **Tsar Alexander II** visited by train and was attracted by the pleasant climate. Thus began an association

between Russians and **the French Riviera** that continues to this day. The Cathedral was established to serve the large Russian community that had settled in Nice by the end of the 19th century, as well as devote visitors from the Imperial Court. Tsar Nicholas II funded the construction of the Cathedral, which was inaugurated in December 1912.

The Jardin botanique de la Ville de Nice (3.5 hectares) is a municipal botanical garden located at 78 **avenue de la Corniche Fleurie**. It is open daily without charge. The garden was begun in 1983 with an initial planting of 100 species from the city's Musée d'Histoire Naturelle (**Museum of Natural History**). It opened to the public in 1991. The garden also contains a herbarium of some 6,000 species, with particular strength in phanerogams of the Mediterranean region and other Mediterranean climates, including Salvia, Phlomis, Astragalus, Cistaceae, and species cultivated in the garden.

The Place Masséna is the main square of the city. Before the **Pailion River** was covered over, the Pont-Neuf was the only practicable way between the old town and the modern one. The square was thus divided into two parts (North and South) in 1824. With the demolition of the Masséna Casino in 1979, the Place Masséna became more spacious and less dense and is now bordered by red ochre buildings of Italian architecture. The recent rebuilding of the tramline gave the square back to the pedestrians, restoring its status as a real Mediterranean square. The Place Masséna is a two-minute walk from the **Promenade des Anglais**, old town, town centre, and **Albert I Garden** (Jardin Albert Ier).



Place du Palais. As its name indicates, the place du palais is where the Palais de Justice (Law courts) of Nice is located. On this square, there also is the **Palais Rusca**, which also belongs to the justice department. The square is also notable due to the presence of **the city clock**. Nowadays, the Place du Palais is alive day and night. It is particularly appreciated by youths who hangout on the steps leading to the Palais de justice, often with alcoholic bottles in hand. The place is not a large open-air bar, though, concerts, animations and events are frequent. It is situated halfway between cour Saleya and **place Masséna**.

SEE

The Colline du Chateau overlooking the **Baie des Anges** and harbour offers a spectacular vantage point overlooking the city. Not much is left of its ruined castle besides crumbling walls. Still, climbing up the stairs to reach the platforms 90 metres above Nice is well worth the view. There is also an ascenseur (lift) which will take you three quarters of the way up. Be aware that the castle "park" closes at around sunset.

TO DO

Casino and Poker

Le Ruhl - Casino Barrière de Nice

1, promenade des Anglais
Nice

Casino Palais de la Méditerranée

13-15, promenade des Anglais
Nice

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