

French Riviera: Perfume Fields by Day, Monte Carlo by Night

A 5-Day Itinerary — Real Hotels, Real Prices, 2026

DURATION

5 Days

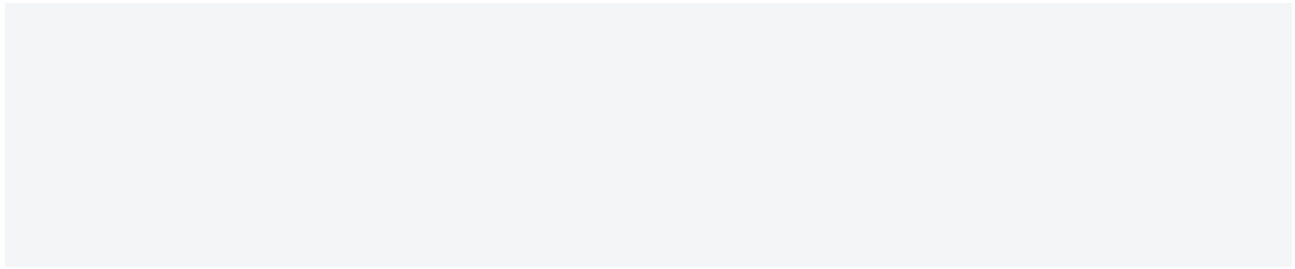
BEST TIME TO GO

May – June & September

warm enough to swim with hotel prices well below the August peak, and Riviera towns still lively without the summer crush; July–August is hottest, priciest, and most

FROM

\$780 USD / person



Train — Nice to Èze-sur-Mer, then Bus to Èze Village

~20 minutes by train + 15-minute bus · train ~\$2 USD, bus ~\$2 USD

The hilltop village of Èze perches above the coast; the regional train drops at Èze-sur-Mer by the water, then a short local bus or taxi climbs the switchbacks to the medieval core.

Èze Village & the Jardin Exotique

~2 hours, self-guided · garden ~\$8 USD / person

Cobbled lanes barely wide enough for two people, stone houses turned into galleries and perfumeries, and a cactus garden at the summit with a 360-degree view stretching from the Italian border to the Estérel massif.

Casino de Monte-Carlo & Café de Paris

~2.5 hours · casino entry ~\$18 USD / person (18+, ID required); atrium free to view

Belle Époque gaming rooms opened in 1863, still the glamorous centerpiece of Monte Carlo — non-gamblers can view the ornate atrium for free, or pay the entry fee to see the private rooms where minimum bets run steep. A drink at the historic Café de Paris across the square, lit up after dark, rounds out the evening before the train back.

Casino de Monte-Carlo · montecarlosbm.com

Train — Monaco back to Nice

~25 minutes · ~\$4 USD

A short evening ride back along the coast, with the casino lights receding behind the train windows.

DAY 4

Grasse's Perfume Workshops & Antibes

A hands-on morning in the perfume capital of the world, then an afternoon in a Riviera town where Picasso once lived and painted.

Train — Nice to Antibes

~25 minutes · ~\$7 USD

A short coastal ride southwest, with bags dropped at the hotel before the day trip inland to Grasse.

Perfume Workshop — Fragonard Factory, Grasse

~2 hours (factory tour free; hands-on workshop ~\$70 USD / person)

Grasse has been the world's perfume capital since the 17th century; the historic Fragonard factory offers a free guided tour of the distillation and blending rooms, plus a bookable workshop where visitors compose and bottle their own fragrance to take home.

Fragonard Perfume Factory · usines-parfum.fragonard.com

Antibes Old Town, Ramparts & the Picasso Museum

~2.5 hours, self-guided · museum ~\$7 USD / person

Antibes' seafront ramparts, the daily Marché Provençal food market, and the Château Grimaldi — a former bishop's palace where Picasso lived and worked for a few prolific months in 1946, now home to one of the world's best collections of his ceramics and paintings.

Overnight — Hôtel La Jabotte

From \$170–\$210 USD / night, for 2 people

A small, family-run hotel a few steps from Antibes' Plage de la Salis, built around a sunny breakfast courtyard, with just nine individually decorated rooms.

Hôtel La Jabotte · jabotte.com

DAY 5

The Îles de Lérins & Departure

A monk-made wine on a private island a few minutes from Cannes' Croisette, then the drive home along the coast that started it all.

Train — Antibes to Cannes

~15 minutes · ~\$4 USD

A short final coastal hop to Cannes' Vieux Port, where the morning boats to the islands depart.

Boat to Saint-Honorat, Îles de Lérins

~20 minutes each way + island time · ferry ~\$18 USD round trip

A tiny monastic island a short boat ride from Cannes, still home to Cistercian monks who tend seven vineyards and sell their own wine and liqueur from the abbey shop — a quiet, pine-scented contrast to the Croisette's glitz a few minutes away by water.

Îles de Lérins Boat Trips · cannes-france.com

Lunch — Cannes Vieux Port

~1 hour · \$25–\$35 USD / person

A last seaside lunch of grilled fish or a nicoise salad at one of the harborfront brasseries facing the yachts, before the ride to the airport.

Departure — Train to Nice Côte d'Azur Airport

~45 minutes from Cannes · ~\$9 USD

A last ride back up the coast to Nice, closing the loop on a week that ran from an old-town market to a casino floor to a monk's vineyard on an island.