

Museums NICE

If you want to visit most of Nice's museums, buy a seven-day museum pass from any of the museums. It's valid for all of Nice's museums except for the Musée Chagall and the Musée des Arts Asiatiques. Some museums close on Monday, others on Tuesday. Usual opening hours are between 10am and 6pm. Most are free (but crowded) on the first and third Sunday of every month. We would recommend visiting one where they will provide information about the others and then planning your itinerary. Art history guides can also enhance your enjoyment of the museums.

W The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MAMAC)

Promenade des Arts Tel: 04.97.13.42.01
www.mamac-nice.org

Directions: Head to Place Garibaldi and you can't miss it. It is behind Monoprix. (map G4)

This hosts classics from the 1960s and 1970s. Works by Andy Warhol, Yves Klein, Niki de Saint Phalle, Alexander Calder and Jean-Pierre Raynaud are all featured. One room is devoted entirely to Klein. Follow the glass and steel bridges which bind the four marble towers to the roof-top garden and terrace.

Open from 10am until 6pm daily except Mondays and bank holidays. The entrance fee is around €5. A guided English tour is only by appointment at an extra fee, but we don't think you would need one.

W The Matisse Museum

164 Avenue des Arènes de Cimiez
Tel: 04.93.81.08.08
www.musee-matisse-nice.org

Directions: Head up the hill through Cimiez. (off map)

Unless you are an avid walker, take the bus numbers 15 or 17 from just off Place Masséna on Rue Gioffredo. The bus stop to get off at is Arènes-Matisse. It is about a ten minute journey. There is car parking available.

The museum boasts a huge selection of engravings, drawings, and cut-outs spanning Matisse's entire career, but concentrating on the period from 1917 to 1954 when he settled in Nice. The museum itself is an impressive, recently renovated, Genoese villa and is situated in the heart of an olive grove.

It is open from 10am until 6pm daily. Closed Tuesdays and bank holidays. Entrance fee is around €5.

The park surrounding the museum is also a pleasant and popular spot for a picnic.

W The National Bible Museum of Marc Chagall

Avenue du Doctor Ménard
Tel: 04.93.53.87.20
www.musee-chagall.fr

Directions: Head up the hill through Cimiez. Unless you are an avid walker take the bus number 15 from just off Place Masséna on Rue Gioffredo. The bus stop to get off at is Musée Chagall. (off map)

This houses the work of the Russian-born graphic artist. It is one of the 33 national heritage museums in France. After the Second World War, Chagall settled in Vence, and between 1954 and 1967 painted 17 large religious-themed murals all on display here as well as many sculptures, sketches, and mosaics. The Chagall museum is well worth a visit and is best explored with a book on his work or a little museum guide.

It is open from 10am until 6pm. Closed Tuesdays and bank holidays. Entrance fee is around €5-10 depending on what is on.

W The Museum of Archeology

160 Avenue des Arènes-de-Cimiez
Tel: 04.93.81.59.57

Directions: Head up the hill through Cimiez. (off map)

Displays all the finds and details Nice's history up to the middle ages. The public baths and the amphitheatre can both be visited here. This is worth a stop off if you are visiting the Matisse Museum but we do not think it is worth a special trip and there is very little information in English so your French or knowledge of ancient archeological finds will need to be quite good.

It is open from 10am until 6pm. Closed Tuesdays and bank holidays. Entrance fee is around €5.

W The Fine Arts Museum Musée des Beaux-Arts

33 Avenue des Baumettes Tel: 04.92.15.28.28
www.musee-beaux-arts-nice.org

Directions: West of Nice. Follow the Rue de la Buffa parallel to the sea front out of Central Nice. Head inland near the Four Points Sheraton. Or take bus 38 from the bus station. (off map)

In a beautiful villa with sumptuous grounds, there are over 6,000 works from the 17th to the 20th centuries including Flemish paintings of the 17th century, Impressionists and Post-Impressionists, some from Picasso, Monet and Jules Chéret. The collections stem from those sent by Napoleon III after Nice joined France in 1860.

There are guided tours in English for around €5 every Friday at 2:30pm. It is open from 10am to 6pm except Mondays.

W Masséna Museum

65 Rue de France

Tel: 04.97.43.34.45

Directions: Walk along the Promenade up to the Hotel Negresco. The address is misleading. Rue de France is one street behind the Promenade des Anglais but it is best found by entering on the Promenade des Anglais. (off map)

Set in a late 19th century Italian-influenced villa, here you can see exhibits, sculptures and religious works as well as ancient artwork from Niçois primitives.

It is open from 10am to 6pm except Tuesdays. Entrance fee is around €5.

W Théâtre de la Photographie et de l'Image

27 Boulevard Dubouchage

Tel: 04.97.13.42.20

www.tpi-nice.org

Directions: Head to Avenue Jean Médecin, just off Place Masséna. (map D3)

In a restored theatre house you can find an interesting display of modern exhibitions of photography and imagery.

It is open from 10am until 6pm. Closed Mondays and bank holidays. Entrance fee is around €5.

W Museum of Asian Arts

405 Promenade des Anglais

Tel: 04.92.29.37.00

Directions: Walk along the Prom all the way up the cycle route almost to the airport. You will see Parc Phoenix on the other side of the road. The museum is inside here.

This is quite a surprise and the peaceful setting is an added bonus. Set on a lake in Parc Phoenix this small museum houses beautiful pieces of art from Japan, China and Cambodia. The pieces shown are a mix of contemporary and traditional works.

It is open daily between 10am and 5pm (6pm in summer). It is closed on Tuesdays. Entry is around €5.

W Prehistoric Museum

25 Boulevard Carnot

Tel: 04.93.55.59.93.

Directions: From the Port walk around onto the far side to Boulevard Stalingrad and then take Boulevard Carnot. (off map)

This small museum is a prehistoric site which was discovered in 1966 and dates back some 400,000 years. Protected in part by the sea it has been preserved and now can teach us about pre-historic travelling hunters.



This will mainly interest those who have a passion for archeological finds and a good grasp of French as otherwise the stone age relics are a little baffling.

It is open between 10am and 6pm. Closed Mondays and bank holidays. Entrance fee is around €5.

W Museum of Natural History

60 Boulevard Risso

Tel 04.97.13.46.80

www.mhnnice.org

Directions: From Place Masséna, walk down Avenue Félix Faure. (map G3)

This is the oldest museum in Nice and small, but family friendly. It was set up to raise awareness of the importance of protecting the environment. You can see display cabinets of birds, fungi, vertebrates and invertebrates as well as temporary exhibits. It's not the most impressive of museums but can keep the interest of young children, especially on a rainy day. And best of all, it's free.

It is open from 10am – 6pm daily. Closed Mondays



Monaco

W Musée Océanographique

Avenue St-Martin

Tel: 03.77.93.15.36.00

www.oceano.mc

Open 10am-6pm (Oct-Mar), 9.30am-7pm (Apr-June),
9.30am-7.30pm (July-Aug)

Adults €13, concessions €6.50

Map ref: D6

Directions: From Place du Palais, follow well-marked signs to take you around a few small winding streets to the museum. Look for the yellow submarine outside.

Perhaps our favourite Monaco tourist attraction, the Oceanographic Museum is impressive and informative as well as fun. Founded by Prince Albert I, a keen oceanographer, it has a floor dedicated to his adventures and finds, both at sea and from his laboratory-style yacht on Monaco's harbour. You can see maps of the ocean floor, weird specimens preserved in dodgy looking liquids, and explorer yachts and diving suits from eras gone by. The main attractions are the fantastic whale skeleton hanging from the ceiling and the shark tank in the aquarium. The aquarium is one of the best in the world with hundreds of beautiful species of coral reefs and tropical fish from around the world.

Cannes

W Musée de la Castre

Le Suquet

Tel: 04.93.38.55.26

Open 10am-1pm, 2-5pm (Tue-Sun)

Adults €3, students/children free

Map ref. B5

Directions: From the Gare Routière, head towards Le Suquet. The museum is inside the Castle.

Built by Iles de Lérins monks, this small museum is the token cultural attraction of Cannes. You can see Impressionist paintings, interesting pictures of old Cannes, and some archeology displays. The best bit though is climbing the tower in the museum for breathtaking views.

Antibes

W Musée Picasso

Château Grimaldi / Place Mariéjol

Tel: 04.92.90.54.20

Open 10am-6pm (June-Sept), 10am-noon, 2pm-6pm
Tue-Sun (Sept-June)

Closed Mon. Adults €6, concessions €3

Map ref. 4D

Directions: From the Gare Routière, head towards the sea and ramparts. The museum is inside the Château Grimaldi.

This airy seaside chateau is home to more than 50 of Picasso's paintings, drawings and objects, mainly from the 1940s when he rented a studio here. The most famous work on display is the huge *La Joie de Vivre*, depicting a flute-playing woman and dancing animals. The rest of the collection is colourful, bursting with imagination and often humorous, so it may just hold the children's interest too. You'll also find works by Nicolas de Staël, Ernst and Miró. Visitors have access to the terrace garden.

W Musée d'Archéologie

Bastion St-André

Tel: 04.92.90.54.35

Open 10am-noon, 2pm-6pm (July-Sept), 10am-1pm,
2pm-5pm (Sept-June)

Adults €6, students €3, children free

Map ref. C5

Directions: Head to Old Antibes and follow the Promenade de l'Amiral until you reach the museum.

Squeezed into the ramparts is one of the many fortifications built under Louis XIV. Representing some 4,000 years of history, this small museum exhibits some interesting excavations from the area including shipwreck salvages and a bread oven. There is also a well-presented model of Antibes prior to some of the ramparts being torn down in the 19th century to accommodate the city's growth.



Cagnes-sur-Mer



Musée Renoir

Chemin des Collettes

Haut-de-Cagnes

Tel: 04.93.20.61.07

Open 10am-noon, 2-6pm (July-Sept), 10am-12.30pm, 2-5pm (Oct-June)

Closed Tue. Adults €4, 18-25s €2, children free

Directions: Take the free shuttle from the centre of Cagnes to Haut-de-Cagnes to the last stop.

Fans of Pierre-Auguste Renoir may wish to visit the home where he spent the last twelve years of his life in Haut-de-Cagnes. The Domaine des Collettes is a beautiful house surrounded by orange and olive groves. It was designed by Renoir to his own specifications so the outlooks from the windows are practically canvases themselves. The house is wonderfully preserved and carefully arranged as though Renoir has just stepped out for coffee. Eleven original paintings and most of his sculpture, preparatory sketches, lithographs, and photographs can be viewed here as well as his personal possessions. There are also several tributes to him by his closest friends including Albert Andre and Richard Guido.



Château-Musée Grimaldi

Place Grimaldi

Tel: 04.92.02.47.30

Open 10am-noon, 2-5pm Mon, Wed-Sun

Adults €4, 18-25 €2, children free

Directions: Take the free shuttle from the centre of Cagnes to Haut-de-Cagnes and get off at the last stop.

Built by the Grimaldi family in 1309, this palace came into its own when Jean Henri transformed it in 1620. It now houses a mix of museums including a huge wooden oil mill, a Renaissance courtyard, and a permanent collection of modern Mediterranean paintings, frescoes and portraits, including some of Suzy Solidor, the French actress and singer. Our favourite sight here is the more than 200-year-old pepper tree. Spectacular!

St-Paul-de-Vence



Fondation Maeght

Colline des Gardettes

Tel: 04.93.32.81.63

www.fondation-maeght.com

Open 10am-7pm (July-Sept) 10am-6pm (Oct-June) daily

Adults €11, students €9, children free

Directions: A 10-minute walk from St-Paul-de-Vence. Free parking.

Thanks to the art dealers Aimé and Marguerite Maeght, the French Riviera is home to one of the world's finest

modern and contemporary art museums. The superbly designed building and well-kept gardens attract some 250,000 visitors a year for the temporary and permanent exhibitions, which include works by Matisse, Miró and Chagall.

Grasse



Musée International de la Parfumerie

8 Place du Cours

Tel: 04.97.05.58.00

www.museesdegrasse.com

Open 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, Sun, 10am-9pm Sat (May-Sept); 11am-6pm Mon, Wed-Sun (Oct-April). Closed 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 1 May, 8-20 Nov

Adults €11, students €9, children free

Directions: From the Gare Routière, walk along Rue Admiral de Grasse to Place du Cours.

Re-opened in 2008 after an €11 million renovation, this museum built into the ramparts traces the 4,000-year history of perfume and its production. It is enjoyable even if you are not a perfume fan, and more substantial than any of the perfume house museums. As well as the expected bottles and cosmetics, you can also smell scents as you tour. The highlight is the gorgeous-smelling greenhouse and gardens. Here you are likely to smell and touch rare plants for the first time. Amongst the roses you will find more unusual plants and flowers including Ylang-ylang, clary sage, patchouli, vanilla orchid, bergamot, cinnamon tree, cardamom and tuberose.

