

May 1st, cruise : Civitavecchia - Bonifacio – Alghero – Porticcio, Ajaccio - Calvi – Portofino - Monaco – Cannes

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.

All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions



BONIFACIO, CORSICA

Isolated on the Southern most point of Corsica, majestic Bonifacio's natural surroundings are nothing less than remarkable. Sheer, white limestone cliffs rise out of the sea, forming a perfect natural harbour as well as a picturesque setting for this unique town. The first historical mention of Bonifacio is actually in Homer's Odyssey: "An excellent harbour, closed in on all sides by an unbroken ring of precipitous cliffs, with two bold headlands facing each other at the mouth so as to leave only a narrow channel in between." Homer's was an accurate description of Bonifacio. In Roman times, Bonifacio was only a small village. It began to develop around 828 AD when Count Bonifacio of Tuscany built a castle on the peninsula. Its strategic location was much coveted by European powers, and like other places in Corsica, it was subject to numerous raids and attacks. The predominant forces were the Genoese who held dominion over the territory from the 12th to the 19th century until Corsica was given back to France.

Until the advent of tourism Bonifacio was just a sleepy town whose main activity was fishing. Nowadays, visitors will discover an exciting destination possessed of both old and new-world charm and breathtaking beauty.

Sartène the oldest Corsican village

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40 per group

Duration 4h30

Euros 64

Discover Sartène, the archetypal Corsican village.

The tour begins with a scenic drive along the rugged west coast highlighting the two distinctive aspects of the island's geography, the coastline with its crystal clear waters and the mountains with their huge granite boulders and dense vegetation.

Before leaving the coast road and penetrating into the hinterland, you will pass the famous "Lion de Roccaspina", the silhouette of a lion carved in red granite rock high up on the mountain overlooking the beach of Roccaspina-Murtoli.

The village of Sartène stands atop a rocky promontory and some of the houses are literally built into the rock face. In the Middle ages it was the scene of vendettas, pirate attacks and fierce battles with the Genoese occupiers and became known as "the most truly Corsican town in Corsica". Visit the Church of St Maria, which houses the hood, chain and cross carried by local penitents during the Good Friday Procession and enjoy some free time before returning to the ship.

Corsican roads are winding, so this tour is not recommended for people suffering from vertigo or car sickness

The tour includes a long panoramic drive with several photo stops



Coastal Boat Trip

Guided tour

Transport : on foot to the marina and then by boat

Duration 1h30 including the walk to and from the ship

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 38

Euros 50

A specially chartered boat will pick you up at the pier. After climbing aboard, you will set off on your coastal exploration trip, leaving the harbour through a narrow channel between the towering cliffs of Bonifacio. The boat will pass by the « Madonetta » lighthouse, built in 1854, before entering the Sdragnato or « Little Dragon » marine cave. There is a long fissure in the roof of the cave through which you can see the sky, and the outline of this natural skylight is strangely reminiscent of the shape of Corsica. Sunlight filters through the crack and illuminates the underwater rocks creating a magical play of light with a wonderful display of colours ; an awe inspiring moment of natural beauty. The tour continues on to « Fazio Creek » and then, following the cliff in a south easterly direction you will pass by the rock known as the « Rudder of Corsica», as well as the King of Aragon's staircase. According to legend the steps were carved by the Aragonese in a single night in 1420 to facilitate a surprise attack on the inhabitants during the siege of Bonifacio. However they actually predate this event and had a much more mundane function, enabling locals to carry water up to the citadel.

The last highlight of the tour is the « Grain of Sand » rock, a large isolated rock, shaped by erosion, which stands in about 10m of sea. This picturesque site will have you reaching for your camera, as it provides the perfect background for a photo souvenir.

If the sea is too rough the itinerary may be modified for your comfort

The boat is chartered exclusively for Star Clippers' passengers

There is a 15 minute walk to the marina

ALGHERO, SARDINIA**Alghero Capo Caccia Scenic drive & Tasting of local produce**

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3 hours

Euros 62

The tender will leave you right in the historical centre of Alghero, where your guide will be waiting to greet you and accompany you on the scenic drive to Capo Caccia.

During the trip you will learn about the "Nuraghe", megalithic edifices which are to be found all over the island. There are over 1000 of these constructions and they are as synonymous with Sardinia as the Great Pyramids are with Egypt.

Palmavera was built during the second millennium BC and consists mainly of two towers. Around the Nuraghe there was a small village which is still being excavated and examined by archaeologists. The coach will not stop at the nuraghe, but the guide will provide some general information about the site.

Capo Caccia is the most extreme point of the limestone promontory facing Alghero and its bay in the east, and Spain in the west. In the beginning of the 20th century the area was famous for pigeon hunting hence the name Capo Caccia (caccia means hunting in Italian). Nowadays however it is a nature reserve, home to various protected species. There will be a photo opportunity at a panoramic viewpoint before driving to a country estate, Leda' d'Ittiri, where you will enjoy a wine tasting accompanied by local cheese, bread, bruschetta and olive oil. The estate consists of 19 hectares of olive orchards and vineyards, cultivated with love and attention. The care lavished on the land by the owners is clearly reflected in the quality of the wine and olive oil they produce. The estate is situated at the foot of Monte Doglia whose peak can be seen from the promontory of Capo Caccia. After the wine tasting you can either go back to the ship or enjoy some free time exploring Alghero.



Nuraghe Palmavera

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30

Euros 50

Sardinia, with its 1800 km coastline, is known the world over as a fantastic holiday destination for water sports enthusiasts and sun seekers alike, offering vistas of unspoilt natural beauty as well as an advantageous geographical position. However Sardinia also boasts a rich and varied history in which the town of Alghero featured prominently. The Aragonesi landed on the coast of Alghero in 1353 and wrested the fortified town from the hands of the Dorian family from Genoa. The Catalan influence is still very strong in the town and can be found in its streets, shops, life style, cuisine and traditions. Even the local dialect is a variant of the Catalan language.

Your guide will be waiting to greet you at the pier and accompany you on the coach for the trip from the Gulf of Alghero to the Gulf of Porto Conte to visit the "Nuraghe Palmavera". Traces of human habitation in Sardinia date back to 4000 BC, and the Nuraghe of Palmavera were constructed by the Nuraghic people, a patriarchal warrior society that appeared in the area from 1500 BC. The Nuraghe consist of circular stone towers and dwellings surrounded by exterior fortifications and an ancient village, which is still being excavated.

After the visit you will proceed to Capo Caccia for a wonderful photo opportunity and then it's back to Alghero for a short panoramic bus and walking tour.

The drive to the Nuraghe takes 30 minutes, and you will spend 45 minutes on site.

PORTICCIO, CORSICA

Situated on the south bank of the Gulf of Ajaccio , directly opposite the Imperial City, Porticcio is a seaside resort much prized for its sandy beaches, turquoise blue sea and panoramic views of Napoleon's city. After some rest and relaxation on the beach, you will get the opportunity to find out a bit about Porticcio's cultural heritage and the Genoese fortified towers scattered over the coastline. The Capello tower stands guard proudly over the northern entrance to Porticcio at the mouth of the Gravona river. It is one of the first such towers to be built in the 16th century. In 1793 the tower sheltered Napoleon's family when (still a simple citizen) he was forced by Pasquale Paoli and his followers to flee Corsica and start a new life in Toulon.



AJACCIO, CORSICA

Ajaccio is famous for being the birthplace of Corsica's most illustrious son, Napoleon Bonaparte, born to Letizia and Carla Buonaparte on August 15th in the year 1769.

The commune occupies a sheltered position at the foot of wooded hills on the northern shores of the Gulf of Ajaccio between Gravona and the Iles Sanguinaires or bloody islands. Some say that these islands got their name because so many ships were wrecked there, but others will tell you it is just because the island's turn a deep blood red at sunset.

Birth of an Empire Walking tour

On foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 25

Duration 2h30

Euros 35

Your guide will be waiting for you at the port and you will set off together to discover the "Imperial City" on a picturesque walking tour through the Old Town. Following in the footsteps of greatness you will see the town hall, Palm tree square dominated by a statue of Napoleon robed like a Roman consul and surrounded by four lions, and de Gaulle square, with its equestrian statue of Napoleon on horseback accompanied by four of his brothers.

Next you will pass by the cathedral, completed in 1593 and dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was here that Napoleon was christened in 1771; none of those present could possibly have imagined that a mere 33 years later the squalling baby at the baptismal font would be crowned emperor. That ceremony took place in 1804 at the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and was witnessed by no less a personage than the pope himself. A pillar near the entrance to Ajaccio cathedral bears a plaque with a capital N surrounded by laurel leaves. This is in memory of the exiled Napoleon's dying wish to be brought back to lie with his ancestors in Ajaccio's cathedral, if his body was not to be buried in Paris.

The tour continues to the "Maison Bonaparte" which is situated in the town centre. Napoleon was born here in 1769 and lived in the house until the age of nine. The house had been the Bonaparte family home since 1682 and apart from a few tumultuous years in the late 18th century when the family had to flee Corsica for mainland France, remained so until well into the 20th century. In the late 1960s it was given to the French government by Prince Victor Napoleon and became a national museum. The museum houses many exhibits associated with the Bonaparte family, including a death mask of the emperor.

After the visit you can either return to the ship or explore the city on your own. The pedestrian area is lined with boutiques, cafés and restaurants and you may like to take a stroll down Rue Fesch before returning to the ship.

ZODIAC ACTION TOUR

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 12

Duration 2 hours

Euros 139

Enjoy a fast moving action packed adventure tour combining stunning scenery and all the fun of a Zodiac Speed boat.

The venue is the Gulf of Ajaccio, considered to be one of the most beautiful bays in Corsica.

Safety first! Before embarking on your zodiac adventure time will be allotted for a dockside security briefing and training session.

You will then set off to explore the Gulf of Ajaccio with your knowledgeable guide.

Participants will get to jump off the boat and swim in the warm waters of the Mediterranean so you can discover the flora and fauna of the Gulf area below the surface of the water too.

The tour also includes a beach stop.

There are no changing facilities on this tour and passengers are reminded that the zodiac speed boat ride can be bumpy and they must be prepared to get wet.

Expectant mothers and people suffering from a bad back are advised to give this tour a miss.



CALVI, CORSICA

Seen from the water, Calvi is spectacular. Its three immense bastions are topped by a crest of ochre buildings, sharply defined against a hazy backdrop of snow-capped mountains. Below the citadel, a finely drawn strip of red-roofed houses and spidery palm trees delineate the Basse Ville, with its yacht-crammed marina, from where the town beach sweeps in a semicircle around the bay. Legend has it that Calvi is the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. The history of Calvi has always been closely tied to the former Republic of Genoa. The city placed itself under Genovese protection for the first time in 1268. Today, Calvi is an appealing yachting haven. Its pine forests, clear blue seawater, mountains, citadel and charming town make for a vibrant composition of natural colors and a first-class seaside resort.

Sant' Antonino & Pigna authentic Corsican villages

By airconditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 44

Duration: 3 hours

Euros 64

This excursion is the perfect way to enjoy one of Corsica's main attractions: its ruggedly beautiful scenery; winding roads will take you from one picturesque village to another.

The ancient circular village of Sant'Antonino, perched on a craggy rock overlooking the sea, is one of the oldest inhabited villages in Corsica and one of the highest. It is visible from miles around and offers superb 360° panoramic views. In the 9th century it was ruled by the Counts of Savelli who built the now-ruined castle in order to defend their clan. The narrow cobbled lanes, vaulted alleyways and neat stone houses have survived the passage of time and have changed very little over the past three hundred years. Sant' Antonino features in the list of "the most beautiful villages of France" and is highly prized by visitors for its spectacular views.

After a short visit of Sant' Antonino you will be driven to the hill top village of Pigna.

This delightful village in the heart of the Balagne region is built on a rocky promontory 224 m above sea level, situated at the foot of a mountain some 562m high. It is a veritable feast for the eyes with flower decked streets and an attractive village square. Pigna is dedicated to the pursuit of arts and crafts and a community of artists has settled there. It is the ideal place to buy some authentic Corsican souvenirs, made on site and sometimes before your very eyes.

You will spend some time in the village and then the coach will take you back to Calvi via the charming old villages of Corbara and Aregno.

Due to restricted access the coach will park below Sant'Antonino. The walk to the village is uphill over uneven and rough ground. Good shoes are a must.

Corsican roads are winding, so this is not the ideal tour for guests suffering from vertigo or car sickness

During the summer months heavy traffic can be expected, which may cause delays

This tour involves a lot of driving. You will spend approximately 30 minutes in each village

E bike experience

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 12

Duration 3 hours

Euros 126

The bike tour starts directly from the port and proceeds along mostly tarmac roads for about 4km before going off the beaten track. The ride covers various different types of terrain including uphill stretches, downhill slopes and flat land. During the excursion there will be a photo opportunity and also a swim stop (weather and sea conditions permitting). Don't miss out on a relaxing dip in the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean or, if you prefer, just sit back and enjoy the sea breezes.

The pace of the tour depends on participants; it is not meant to be a competition but an enjoyable outing for everybody



Revellata – a Hike to the ends of the earth

Nature walk

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 12

Duration 3H30

Euros 44

The tour starts directly from the port and your destination is the lighthouse situated on the Punta de la Revellata. This 3 hour hike through breath-taking scenery is not to be missed. During the walk you will enjoy glorious views and see various cacti and endemic Mediterranean species of flora, some brightly coloured and strangely shaped. The Revellata peninsula is like being on the edge of the world. Access is via a coastal path and there are many beautiful creeks and secluded beaches along the way, perfect for cooling off with a dip in the pristine waters of the Mediterranean. The lighthouse itself is constantly visible, guiding your footsteps, and when you reach it you will be rewarded by marvellous views of the Mediterranean and the surrounding mountains. The return trip to Calvi is via a cliff top path over the peninsula

The walk is 15km long

Possible swimming stop on the way

PORTOFINO, ITALY

Portofino's origins date back to the Roman Empire when, according to the writer and philosopher Pliny the Elder, it was known as Portus Delphini, or the port of the Dolphins, because of the large number of dolphins to be seen there.

The Benedictine order founded a monastery in Portofino, but later abandoned it due to repeated attacks by pirates. The Republic of Genoa acquired it in 1414 and after a long and turbulent history, punctuated by invasions, it was united with the Kingdom of Sardinia in 1815. In the 1850's English aristocrats started visiting Portofino in the belief that the remains of St George, England's patron saint, were buried in the Parish church, and it then became popular as a resort. Since that time the small fishing village has never looked back and has become a playground for the rich and famous, an international resort of the highest standards.

Portofino is a precious jewel in a setting of lush green vegetation that extends to a yacht lined bay. The tall colourfully painted houses and crescent moon harbour blend harmoniously with exclusive boutiques, cafés and villas. Picturesque and yet sophisticated, Portofino is known the world over as a jet setter's paradise.



Trekking from San Fruttuoso

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

This excursion is suitable for experienced hikers

Euros 39

You will take the tender boat to Portofino pier where your guide will be waiting, before hopping on to the public ferry service to San Fruttuoso. During the trip your guide will tell you a bit about the area and the natural environment while you enjoy stunning views of the promontory.

San Fruttuoso, also known as San Fruttuoso di Camogli is a little jewel situated on a pristine bay between Portofino and Camogli. While scarcely more than a blip on the mountainous coastline, San Fruttuoso boasts a Benedictine monastery situated right on the beach and accessible only by foot or by sea. This fine 10th century abbey is dedicated to Saint Fruttuoso, a Catalan bishop martyred by the Roman emperor Valerian and burned at the stake. According to tradition Saint Fruttuoso appeared in a dream to five monks and told them where to bury his mortal remains and to this day his ashes are kept inside the church as a precious relic. The other attraction of San Fruttuoso, apart from the spectacular views and limpid blue sea, is the statue of "Christ of the Abyss". A wonderful bronze statue of Jesus Christ, arms outstretched in blessing. The statue was submerged in the Mediterranean Sea at a depth of 56ft (17 m) near the spot where Dario Gonzatti, the first Italian to use SCUBA gear, died in a diving accident in 1947. It has become a place of pilgrimage for divers from all over the world.

Before starting on the trek, you will have time to admire the abbey (from the outside) and will learn about the history of the village and its monastery.

The trek route goes through the National park, a nature conservation area. A dirt track climbs up the promontory through a shady forest of Holm oaks. At a height of approximately 250m the trail levels off offering fantastic views of the plunging cliffs and deep blue Mediterranean Sea. The vegetation is a mixture of evergreen Mediterranean shrubs and bushes and aromatic herbs. Flanking the southern slope of the promontory, the level trail ends just above Portofino. Don't forget your cameras because the trek offers some spectacular photo opportunities. The descent to Portofino is paved and overlooks the east side of the promontory and the beautiful Gulf of Tigullio.

The ferry boat ride takes 30 minutes

The hike from San Fruttuoso to Portofino takes 2h30 but depends on the group's pace

The hike includes a number of steep ascents and descents

The start of the trail is very steep : from sea level to 250m in 40 minutes

Hiking shoes recommended as the ground is uneven.

The tour is subject to weather conditions

Kayak tour of Portofino

Duration 2h30

Difficulty medium

Minimum 2 participants, maximum 15

Euros 69

Our kayak tour is surely the best, most ecologically sound way of exploring the beauties of the Portofino promontory and the protected marine nature reserve. During the tour you will be accompanied by a kayak instructor and eco tour guide. The excursion starts with a 20 minute stroll along a path on the promontory which leads to sandy Niasca beach. Here you will start your kayak exploration of Portofino (1h30). Glide along one of the world's most beautiful coastlines and admire the craggy cliffs and limpid blue waters as you paddle your way to Portofino lighthouse. The scenery is breathtaking and there will be an opportunity to go swimming.

After a tender boat ride to the shore, you will walk to the end of Portofino village and follow a path along the promontory which leads down below the Hotel Splendido. The walk takes 20 minutes

You will be provided with all necessary equipment including water and a snack

Please bring sea shoes, sun glasses, sunscreen, hat and towel

Wear your bathing suit

Kayaking does not require any technical knowledge just some pleasant physical exercise

There is a 20 minute (approximately) walk each way and 1h30 kayaking.



A Day Trip to Heaven

Transport by public boat

Duration approximately 4h30 depending on the ferry timetable

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Euros 60

Golfo Paradiso or Paradise Gulf, a name full of promise and a lot to live up to for this relatively small stretch of coastline; in this case, however, we are sure that you will not be disappointed. Although less popular than Cinque Terre, this area of picturesque seaside towns with a proud maritime tradition is just as fascinating as its better known counterpart. The best way to explore the gulf is by boat and we will take advantage of the excellent local ferry service to discover some hidden gems.

We will take a local scheduled ferry leaving Portofino and get off at San Fruttuoso some thirty minutes later.

San Fruttuoso, also known as San Fruttuoso di Camogli is a little jewel situated on a pristine bay between Portofino and Camogli. While scarcely more than a blip on the mountainous coastline, San Fruttuoso boasts a Benedictine monastery situated right on the beach and accessible only by foot or by sea. This fine 10th century abbey is dedicated to Saint Fruttuoso, a Catalan bishop martyred by the Roman emperor Valerian and burned at the stake. According to tradition Saint Fruttuoso appeared in a dream to five monks and told them where to bury his mortal remains and to this day his ashes are kept inside the church as a precious relic. The other attraction of San Fruttuoso, apart from the spectacular views and limpid blue sea, is the statue of "Christ of the Abyss". A wonderful bronze statue of Jesus Christ, arms outstretched in blessing. The statue was submerged in the Mediterranean Sea at a depth of 56ft (17 m) near the spot where Dario Gonzatti, the first Italian to use SCUBA gear, died in a diving accident in 1947. It has become a place of pilgrimage for divers from all over the world.

Guests will have time to visit the Abbey (entrance fee not included) or, for a few euros, hire a fishing boat and go out to admire the sunken statue of Christ. Others may well just want to enjoy the beach and go swimming in the pristine waters of the Mediterranean.

Then we will hop back on the ferry and proceed to Camogli, a charming seaside town steeped in nautical traditions. The name itself is said to be an abbreviation of Casa delle Moglie, which translates as the house of wives. This was a safe place where sea captain's would lodge their wives all together, to keep them out of harm's way (and safe from temptation) while they were off on a sea voyage and unable to protect them. The town is also known as the City of a thousand white sails because in the late Middle ages it was a large sea port, sheltering hundreds of Tall ships.

In 1798 the port even hosted a some of Napoleon's fleet, before they left for Egyptian waters where they were defeated by Lord Nelson. A famous naval academy named after Christopher Columbus was founded here in 1874 and by 1880 among a population of 12000 there were 500 registered sea captains. Nowadays Camogli is no longer a large port, but visitors can still admire the brightly coloured waterfront houses which helped guide mariners safely back home.

You will be accompanied on a guided tour of Camogli before enjoying some free time to explore on your own (approximately 45 minutes).

We will then take a ferry from Camogli back to San Fruttuoso and thereafter a boat leaving San Fruttuoso for the return to Portofino.

Be warned! These ferry connections are a public service and will leave according to their schedule; don't be late or you will, literally, miss the boat!



MONACO

The Principality of Monaco, tucked between the French and Italian borders, covers just 1.1 square miles. This independent sovereign state is headed by Prince Albert II who is descended from the Grimaldi dynasty which has ruled Monaco since 1297. The principality is synonymous with the High Life: glamorous celebrities, Formula One racing and Casinos. Monte Carlo is the most famous area, but in reality Monaco is divided into four sections: Monaco Ville, the old section of town which includes the Prince's palace, the Condamine, which is the port area and Fontvieille, a man-made water front district.

Monaco has some of the finest examples of Belle Epoque building, an architectural style which began during the rule of the Emperor Napoleon III. Beautiful natural surroundings, sunny climate, a yacht filled harbour, casino, designer boutiques, prestigious events and gala parties, Monaco can truly be said to have it all.

A heady atmosphere of glamour and excitement permeates the Principality, captivating all who visit this storybook land of princes and princesses.

A Monaco Fairytale

By air-conditioned minibus and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 70

Duration 5 hours

Euros 60

This special tour will start with a short drive to the old town of Monaco, perched on the Rock. You will walk through the gorgeous St Martin's gardens to reach the cathedral where the "Wedding of the Century" between Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly was held on April 19th 1956.

Among the 600 guests at the ceremony were numerous heads of state and diplomats but also high profile celebrities such as Cary Grant, the Aga Khan, David Niven, Gloria Swanson, Aristotle Onassis and Ava Gardner to name but a few. The bride's wedding gown was made under top secret conditions by MGM's fashion designer Helen Rose who also made the costumes for Miss Kelly's films "High Society" and the "Swan". The dress, made of silk and 125 year old Brussels rose point lace, was a present to the bride from the MGM studios. At the time of her marriage Grace Kelly was tied to her contract with MGM for another seven years; in order to be free of her contractual obligations, she had to agree for the wedding to be filmed by the studio. The wedding dress is owned today by the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

In the cathedral you will also see the tombstone of Princess Grace and that of Prince Rainier III. On the day before the wedding a civil ceremony was held in the Throne Room of the Palais Princier. During the visit of the residence of HSH Prince Albert II, Grace and Rainier's son, you will see some portraits of Princess Grace.

You will then get back on the coach for a short drive to the district of Fontvieille to visit the Princess Grace Rose Garden (best in May/June) where you will see a life size bronze statue of the Princess by Dutch sculptor Kees Verkade, a Monaco resident, as well as hundreds of varieties of rose including the famous "Princesse de Monaco" rose.

The Prince's Palace apartments are open from April through October

This tour involves a lot of walking

Appropriate dress is required for the visit to the cathedral and the Prince's palace.



Walking tour & local specialities

On foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 50

Duration 3h00

Euros 39

Accompanied by your guide, you will leave the pier and cross Port Hercule Harbour on board an E-boat. The walking tour starts with the Monte Carlo quarter, including the famous casino, opera and pedestrian area. After a short walk you will reach "Place d'Armes" the site of an open air fruit, vegetable and flower market and a covered market selling many local specialities. "Go Native" and, just like the Monaco residents, feast your eyes and palates on this wonderful array of fresh produce.

Afterwards your guide will take you back to the vessel, or you may choose to stay and explore the city by yourself.

The sampling of local specialities includes: Barbagiuane (a local appetiser which is enjoyed all year round, and especially on November 19th, Monaco's national day), red onion tart, focaccia (flat bread seasoned with olive oil and herbs) fruit pie and a glass of Provençal rosé wine.

Strictly for high flyers !

Panoramic Helicopter tour of Monaco & the French Riviera

Transfer by van to Monaco Heliport

Panoramic flight lasts 20 minutes

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 6 per helicopter

Euros TBC

The Helicopter rises vertically into the air above the Heliport and begins a spectacular 20 minute flight revealing the beauties of the Monaco coast flying towards the Italian border. You will get spectacular views of The Rock (Monaco Old Town) , the Prince's palace, the cathedral where Prince Rainier and Princess Grace were married and where their son Prince Albert wed Princess Charlene many years later, and the famous Oceanographic Museum founded by Prince Albert's great great grandfather. You will then hover over Monaco Port with its amazing cruise ships, site of the legendary Monte Carlo Grand prix Formula one race. Next you will see the beautiful Belle Epoque casino where so many fortunes have been lost and won, the Larvotto beaches, the famous tennis courts which host the Monte Carlo Rolex Masters tournament and some of the Principality's most sumptuous hotels. Monaco boasts a unique architectural tradition and showcases both majestic Belle Epoque buildings and cutting edge modern designs.

The flight continues to Cap Martin and Roquebrune village. As the helicopter reaches Menton and the Italian border it will change altitude and start heading back , flying over Saint Agnes, The highest village on the Mediterranean coast, Gorbio and La Turbie with its famous "Trophée des Alpes" or Trophy of Augustus which was erected by the Emperor Augustus to celebrate his conquest of Gaulle and his victory over the Ligurians more than 2000 years ago. You will also get a bird's eye view of the medieval village of Eze perched on a cliff top, Villefranche and Cap Ferrat before returning to Monaco.

You need to bring ID with you (passport) on this trip

The helicopter is a H130 model

There is a ten minute transfer to the Heliport

The itinerary may be altered to suit meteorological conditions



CANNES

The name Cannes calls to mind images from "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." The city is known the world over as one of the most elite resorts anywhere. Its beginnings, however, were anything but grand. Originally, Cannes was a sleepy fishing and farming village. This changed considerably when Lord Henry Brougham was forced to stay in the village. He was to remain only a few days, but ended up residing there for the last 34 years of his life. His correspondence with British colleagues eventually drew the English aristocracy to Cannes. Shortly thereafter, Cannes became the premiere domain of Europe's high society. In little over a century the quiet village became a chic and elegant town world-renowned for the art of entertaining well.

Scenic transfer to Nice airport (ends at Nice airport)

Transfer with an English speaking driver – no guide.

Transport by air conditioned minibus

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 8 per minibus

Duration approximately 3h30

Euros 75

You will drive straight on to St Paul de Vence, a few kilometres past Cannes. This authentic medieval fortified village was built on a hilltop so as to avoid Saracen attacks. In the 1920's it was discovered by artists such as Bonnard, Modigliani, Signac and Soutine, and since that time it has attracted a good number of the rich and famous literati and glitterati.

You will have approximately one hour at leisure to go round the village before driving to the airport. Stroll down Rue Grande, the main street which runs right through the village and explore the XVI^e century ramparts which afford spectacular views over mimosa, olive and orange groves.

your luggage will go with you in the minibus

« Follow your nose » Tour (ends at Nice airport)

Visit Grasse the world's perfume capital

Transfer with an English speaking driver – no guide.

Transport by air-conditioned minibus

Unaccompanied visit of a perfume factory

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 8 per minibus

Duration approximately 3h30

Euros 84

Ever since the 17th century Grasse has been enveloped in a heady cloud of perfume; today the town is the universally acknowledged perfume capital of the world.

After a 45 minute drive you will arrive in Grasse where you can visit the prestigious Gallimard factory and be initiated into the art of traditional perfume making. Follow each step from the assembling of raw materials to the final precious elixir, piercing the mysteries of distillation and enfleurage on the way. You will visit the laboratory and the conditioning room where you will learn about the origin of perfume. You will also discover the "seat of power", the work place of the indispensable "Nose". This olfactory genius is a Maestro who plays his perfume organ with incredible virtuosity, composing fragrances of unsurpassed subtlety and charm. Some "insider" secrets will be revealed before its time to visit the gift shop to do some last minute shopping before flying back home. (not a guided visit)

If you don't feel like visiting the factory you can set off on your own to discover this fascinating town. The Place aux Aires at the heart of Grasse is a good starting point. This charming square with its ochre façades, arcades and four tiered fountain dating from Louis XV's time is always bustling with activity, and boasts many interesting shops, outdoor cafés and restaurants. The Old town is a maze of narrow winding streets, alleys and stairways with buildings from the Middle ages and the Renaissance. Discover the traces of the city's past as you admire a square Saracen tower, the remains of the 16th century ramparts, and the town hall, formerly the bishop's palace. You will see medieval dwellings and superb private mansions (the Hôtel de Cabris, the Hôtel de Ponteves and the Court de Fontmichel) as well as elegant 18th century villas; not forgetting the wonderful Belle Epoque casino, which is now a conference centre.



The drive to Grasse takes 45 minutes
The drive to the airport takes 45 minutes
Time at leisure in Grasse approx. 1h30

