Toms Cannes – Nice Cruise Port Guide: France

An introduction to the French Riviera

Includes a self-guided walking tour map of Cannes with directions to walk up the hill to old town, to the largest shopping center, and to the train station. I have also included walking tour maps for Nice, St Paul de Vence, and Eze showing popular tourist sites, train stations, and major bus stops/routes.

Located on the French Riviera, Cannes is known for the film festival, beautiful beaches, luxury shops, fine restaurants, upscale hotels, and as a playground for the rich and famous. It's a short, scenic ride on the ship's tenders from the anchorage to the heart of the city. Cannes is a pedestrian-friendly city with wide sidewalks and well-manicured, tree lined boulevards. Photo of cannes Harbor (below).

In addition to Cannes, this port guide describes other tourist sites along the French Riviera including Nice, Saint Paul de Vence, Eze Village, Grasse, and St. Raphael. I have included a description of the train and bus system with tips on how to plan bus travel and issues for self-guided touring. If you have suggestions on how to improve this, or any of my port guides, send me an email to the address shown on the last page of the guide.

CAVEAT
Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan
Photo Opportunity From Ship's Tender

When the tender is in the harbor area, it travels at no wake speed which is very smooth. You pass the gorgeous yachts for closeups and get an excellent view of the shoreline with the sea and beaches in the foreground. *If you sit on the upper level of the tender, you'll have an unobstructed view for photos.*

**TIP:** It's easier to select the best seats on tenders when returning to the ship. There's room on the dock for you to step aside allowing others to pass so you'll be first on the next tender.

Photos from the tender returning to the cruise ship (below).

Cannes is pedestrian friendly with wide, flat walkways, tree-lined boulevards and many places to explore on foot. The only steep streets and stairs I've encountered were at the hill to Old Town, Le Suquet.

My wife's boat (photo below) has room to store my white raft.
CAUTION re cruise ship tenders: Sea swells can raise/lower the tender several feet in an instant when the tender is next to the cruise ship. FOLLOW crew member instructions re when/how to safely step between the cruise ship and the tender. I was about to step off the tender to the floating dock next to the cruise ship when the crew member shouted “no”. The tender rose almost 3 feet in an instant. Wow, I could have taken a nasty fall and broken my leg. There weren't any noticeable waves, the tender was just moving up and down abruptly.

Dock Locations for Tenders in Cannes Port

The primary dock for the ship's tenders is #1 on this aerial photo. They occasionally dock at #2 in the photo, next to the Casino at Palais des Festivals.

The closest landmark to the dock is the 1835 White Palm Hotel across the street at 2 Boulevard Jean Hibert, 06400 Cannes, France. Shown as #3 on this aerial photo.

Walk about 500 feet through the parking lot from dock #1 and you'll see the hotel.

We found a double decker tour bus along the road at the North end of the harbor. It was around 4 Euros for a half-hour ride down the main street going East along the coast. It was not a hop-on/off bus, just a short scenic ride through the city and along the shoreline.

See the map on the next page for these major points of interest for a walking tour

• #4- Restaurants along the harbor
There is a string of restaurants along the harbor that are very convenient to the dock area. Some restaurants, next to the harbor, that cater to cruise ships might not be as good as those further in town. When in doubt, we walk into town to a restaurant popular with the locals.

• #5- Musee de la Castre and #6- Notre Dame d'Esperance church are up the hill, Le Suquet, in the old town area. This area has cafes, shops, and offers magnificent views of the harbor and city. Two common routes to walk up the hill are described in detail on page 5. I caution you that walking up the hill can be strenuous. It is like walking up inclines and/or stairs to the top of an 8-story building.

• #8- Palais des Festivals et des Congrès is used for the film festival and many events and attractions throughout the year. There is a Tourist Information Center, Casino, an auditorium with seating for 2500, a nightclub, and a restaurant. It's open daily – 10 AM to 5 PM. Admission is free

• #9- Shopping area is the biggest shopping center in Cannes. Bring your credit cards for the boutiques, jewelry, watches and La Perla lingerie. Or you can just browse as we do. The street/map address is 64-66 Rue d'Antibes, Cannes, 06400 France

• #10- Train Station – Gare des Cannes Rue Jean Jaurès, Cannes, France is the main train station in Cannes. It's about 0.85 miles from the docking area used by the ship's tenders.
Points of Interest for Walking Tour of Cannes

1 & 2 - Docks for ship's tenders
3 - 1835 White Palm Hotel
4 - Restaurants
5 - Musee de la Castre
6 - Notre Dame d'Esperance
7 - Bus Stop Hotel de Ville (Gare Routiere)
8 - Palais des Festivals
9 - Shopping area
10 - Train station

NOTE: The bus stop at #7 on this map is called by two names. It is known as “Gare Routiere de Cannes” and “Hotel de Ville” bus stop.
Walking up the hill, Le Suquet, to the Old Town - Scenic Views of the Harbor and City

The map at left uses **#3- White Palm Hotel as a reference point**. The scale is 100 feet.

The most direct way to the top of the hill is to take Stairs-A and Stair-B. Stairs-A are 400 feet west/left of White Palm Hotel on the right of the TexMex MEXyCANNES Restaurant.

**You can avoid the steep set of Stairs-A** by walking North along the harbor to the Melting Pot restaurant and then taking a very short set of steps as shown in the photo below.

Photo at right shows the view from the hill looking down Stairs-B.

When you reach the top of Stairs-B, walk around the road as shown by the red dots. I've used A and B for the stairs in this guide. This is not an *official* designation.

There are shops and restaurants in the old town and you can visit **#5- Musee de la Castre** and **#6 - church of Notre Dame d'Esperance and garden**.

**For information on Musee de la Castre, see**


**For information on Notre Dame d'Esperance, see**

http://www.cannes.world-guides.com/cannes_landmarks.html

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For more guides, see [www.TomsPortGuides.com](http://www.TomsPortGuides.com)
Cruise ships dock and/or anchor to tender passengers ashore at the ports of Cannes, Nice, Villefranche-sur-Mer, and Monaco. The ports are small with limited or no dock space so you'll probably use the tenders. Wherever your ship anchors or docks, you'll have access to many popular tourist sites along the French Riviera.

**Three Port Guides for Eastern French Riviera**

**Download All of Them**

**READ the Cannes-Nice Port Guide FIRST**

**Cannes – Nice France Port Guide – an Introduction to Touring the French Riviera**
Describes the French train and bus system with tips for self-guided touring. Includes information on popular tourist sites of Cannes, Nice, St. Paul de Vence, Eze Village, Grasse, and St. Raphael. Information on these tourist sites is NOT repeated in other port guides.

**Monte Carlo Monaco Port Guide**
Focuses on the port and tourist sites in Monaco. Includes bus route maps and schedules plus step-by-step directions to avoid steep streets and climbing stairs. This should help you spend your time enjoying the tourist sites, rather than wasting time figuring out how to get to them. Includes information on bus stops near the Monaco train station with tips on how to get around Monaco if arriving by bus or train.

**Villefranche-sur-Mer France Port Guide**
Focuses on this port with detailed information for travel by train or bus to Nice and Monaco.

**Self-Guided Travel via Train and Bus**
Many tourists use the train and bus system. I have provided sources of information for travel schedules and routes but I caution you to check the information for the specific days and times you intend to travel. Schedules, routes, and pricing change. Get the information you need BEFORE your cruise vacation.
The Train and Bus System Along the French Riviera

Trains are relatively easy.
Sources of information for schedules and pricing are:
  For all trains   see www.RailEurope.com
  For French trains see http://www.voyages-sncf.com/
  For French train schedules see www.ter-sncf.com/paca

The example below shows there are 10 trains between Cannes and Nice-Ville (the main station in Nice) between 8 and 10 AM on June 26, 2012

Buses are more complicated. There are two types of bus lines; namely, “departmental” and “urban”
  “Departmental” buses serve large areas. “Departmental” bus companies provide minimal information. Generally, there is a route schedule but it does not show the time the bus arrives at each stop and there are no maps showing the precise location of bus stops. Self-guided travel is harder with “departmental” buses.

  “Urban” bus lines cover an area around a city. Comprehensive information is available including detailed maps showing all bus stop locations and the schedules show the time the bus arrives at each stop.

HOW TO PLAN BUS TRIPS – A Practical Example
Consider self-guided travel options from Cannes to St Paul de Vence:
  • There is no train station close to St Paul de Vence.
  • There is 20-minute bus ride on departmental bus line 400 from a bus stop near the Cagnes-sur-Mer train station to St Paul de Vence.
  • How to get from Cannes to Cagnes-sur-Mer? Bus or train?
  • Departmental bus line 200 runs from Cannes through Cagnes-sur-Mer to Nice.

Step #1  Download the schedule and route for departmental bus lines 200 and 400 from:
http://www.cg06.fr/fr/servir-les-habitants/deplacements/transport-collectifs/lignes-et-horaires/lignes-et-horaires/
Bus 200 runs between Gare Routiere in Cannes and Bus Station Bermond in Nice.
The schedule for bus 200 is shown at left. Unfortunately, the term “Gare Routiere” is a nondescript French term for “bus or coach station”. In a large city, it is a meaningless term because there are multiple bus stations. The “departmental” bus lines call the Cannes stop for #200 bus “Gare Routiere”. But the “urban” bus company in Cannes uses a more descriptive term; they call it “Hotel de Ville” bus stop. Go figure – it's the same location! I have shown it on the map on page 4 of this port guide.

CAUTION – unless it is a rural area, whenever you see a bus schedule with “Gare Routiere” as a stop, double check where it is located. Ask at the local tourist information office. You can't depend on the web travel blogs; they describe different physical locations for the bus stop. The blogs commonly refer to “Gare Routiere” as the starting point for bus 100 in Nice. That bus station was closed in 2011. Bus 100 departs Nice from J.C. Bermond.

Step #2 Examine schedules for bus 200 and 400 to find common bus stops in Cagnes-sur-Mer to step off bus 200 and get onto bus 400 at the same stop. The photo at right shows the stops for bus 400 in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

There are several stops used both by bus 400 and 200. I selected the stop at Square du 8 Mai because it is close to the train station in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

The map at right shows the location of Square du 8 Mai bus stop relative to the Cagnes-sur-Mer train station. To find the bus stop on Google Maps, enter these coordinates 43.659987,7.148601

The walking distance between the train station and bus stop is ~ 1000 feet. Ask for help at the train station to get pointed in the right direction.
I have marked up this map using red asterisks to show bus 400 and white asterisks to show bus 200 stops near the Cagnes-sur-Mer train station. The buses share the same stops at Square du 8 Mai, Square Bourdet, LaBegude, Les Violettes, and Les Olivers. My plan would be to arrive this area either by bus 200 or train from Cannes and board bus 400 at Square du 8 Mai bus stop.

The schedule for bus 400 does NOT show arrival time at each bus stop, but it shows arrival time at Square Bourdet. To the extent possible, I'd try to arrive at Square du 8 Mai at the time bus 400 arrives at Square Bourdet (two stops away) en route St Paul. You'll be in time for bus 400 and reduce wasted time waiting for the bus. Bus 400 only runs twice an hour.

**Step #3 Determine train travel time from Cannes to Cagnes-sur-Mer**

The train websites show travel time is 19 to 26 minutes
Step #4 Determine bus travel time from Cannes to Cagnes-sur-Mer

If you add up the time along the right column of the schedule for departmental bus 200, you'll find it's an hour ride from from Cannes to Square du 8 Mai bus stop in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

CONCLUSION: It's faster taking a train rather than a bus from Cannes to Cagnes-sur-Mer. It's a short walk from Cagnes-sur-Mer train station to Square du 8 Mai bus stop to get bus #400 to St Paul de Vence. Trains are not delayed by road traffic, so travel time is more predictable on a train vs. a bus.

Thinking About Self-Guided Touring

I caution you that public buses may run late due to heavy traffic, accidents, road repairs, etc. When buses are overcrowded, they will not stop to pick up more passengers. It is also important to know which side of the street to be standing on for your bus; otherwise, the bus may come and go from another stop. Travel blogs are filled with stories of buses being late, overcrowded, not having room for passengers, missing buses due to standing on the wrong side of the street, etc.

For some tourist areas, I do not hesitate to recommend public buses. Buses are the best and easiest way to tour Monaco. Buses and trams are a great way to get around in Nice. The problems are greatest on buses going to remote tourist sites and traveling long distances.

PLEASE research the options to satisfy yourself a particular mode of travel is suitable for you.
Before you go to St Paul de Vence, Eze, Grasse, etc. prepare a reasonable estimate of travel time. Make sure you have that much time in port and that tourist site is a priority for you.

TIME is the most precious issue when a ship is in port. Most ships anchor and tender passengers into the port. Getting off the ship can be delayed by crowds when everyone wants to go ashore in the morning. Winds and sea swells can also slow down the tendering process. The time your ship is in port is NOT the same as the time you can spend on shore.

We've been to most of the tourist sites along the French Riviera many times and we've vacationed there. Our preference for no-hassle, time-efficient touring is ship's excursions, private tours, and short train rides to locations where the train station is close to the area we want to visit. Urban buses and trams are OK in big cities where the public transit is designed to efficiently transport gazillions of passengers.

If I wanted the ultimate flexibility for time-efficient, self-guided touring, I would buy maps for my GPS, renew my international driving permit (some countries require it), and rent a car. I'd program tourist sites and parking areas into the GPS before leaving home. Sharing a car or van rental with 4 other people can make it very cost effective. Also, if you buy the city walking tour chip for your GPS, it's like having a personal guide.

Important Bus Route Maps
Download these maps from the indicated websites.

Map of bus stops in downtown Nice

These maps listed below cover large areas. You have to enlarge the map on your monitor to see the detail.

Map of buses throughout the Nice area including Villefranche-sur-Mer

Map of buses for Nice and to the North and East of Nice including Eze. This map is my favorite.
It shows bus routes from Nice and Monaco to Eze Village and the bus from Nice to St Paul de Vence.
Nice France – A Large City, Popular Tourist Site, and Cruise Port on the French Riviera

**Tip** re pronouncing French names
- Nice is pronounced "Niece or Neese"
- Eze is pronounced “Ezz or Ease”

Our tour guide told us a lady wanted to join the “Nice and Easy tour” for Nice and Eze Village.

**There are many compelling reasons to visit Nice.**

It is the 5th largest city in France. It has everything including an Old Town, excellent shopping, superb restaurants, cafes, markets, museums, cultural activities, churches, parks, a harbor, etc. It is a central hub for transportation along the French Riviera with an airport and a huge infrastructure of bus lines and trams.

**Trains Between Cannes and Nice, France**

The Cannes train station is 0.85 miles from the dock used by the ship's tenders. The map (below) shows the location of the Cannes train station on Rue Jean Jaures.

I have indicated the train station as #10 on my overview map of Cannes; see page 4.

It's important to check the train schedule for the day you will be using it. Check [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com)

Enter your departure as Gare de Cannes and the destination as Nice-Ville. Trains run about every 15 minutes and travel time is about 30 minutes. Round trip tickets are $22 on the internet.

Below is an aerial photo of the Nice-Ville train station. The main North-South road to the center of the city and the Old Town is Avenue Jean Medecin shown in the right of the photo. Note the scale of 50 feet. The full address of the train station is **Gare de Nice-Ville, Avenue Thiers, Nice, France**

The Gray Line hop-on bus stops at the train station. You can take a tram or walk Avenue Jean Medecin south to the center of the city. The main square is Place Massena.
Map of Nice Showing Nice-Ville (the main train station), the T1 Tram, & Several Bus Stops
Jean Medecin runs from the train station (upper left corner on map) to the Luxury shops (Red color) and the Old Town (Yellow Color). It is a short tram ride or a 1.6 km (1 mile) = 15 minute walk from the train station to the Place Massena at the northern edge of the Old Town.

See aerial photo of Place Massena on the next page.
Note the tram lines in the center of the road. Trams run every 4 minutes during rush hour and every 15 minutes the rest of the day. Trams cost is 1.3 Euro per trip between any two points. This is the same cost as the bus.

The main road running East along the northern edge of Old Town is Boulevard Jean Jaures. You can enter the old town along this boulevard.

The following pages include:
- The “official” map for a self-guided walking tour of the Old Town.
- 27 points of interest in the Old Town
- A map for the Gray Line hop-on bus tour. Cost of the bus tour is 20 Euros for a day pass. Stop #10 on the tour bus is at the train station.
- The schedule and stops for the hop-on bus tour
Map of Old Town in Nice (Yellow Color)

The Old Town begins at the Southern edge of Place Massena. You can enter the Old Town along Boulevard Jean Jaures. Note the scale of 2500 feet. It's not a big area.
The table at left lists the 27 points of interest in Old Town walking tour

For many of us, the Old Town is the most memorable place in Nice. It's a centuries old medieval town with narrow, winding cobblestone streets. Tucked away along the streets, you'll find a great number and variety of shops selling all sorts of products from pastries, cheese, wine, art, and other products like 94 flavors of ice cream. There is a flower and vegetable market which is open early in the morning, but some products are for sale later in the day. There are a gazillion cafes and restaurants.

The Old Town is fun to explore, a delight to photograph, and a great place to have lunch. We like to explore on our own. Unless you want to walk up winding roads to a hill, avoid the area on the map called “Colline du Chateau”. Focus on the areas with the green numbered circles and be sure to walk down some of the very narrow, winding streets in the old town. You never know what you'll discover until you turn the next corner.

I suggest visiting these areas on the walking tour map:
# 27 Place Garibaldi – the crossroad between the old town and the city center
# 18 Cathedrale Sainte-Reparte – judged to be in the most beautiful square
# 12 Palais de Justice - an impressive facade
# 4 & # 5 Cours Saleya – the flower market

While you are in the area, be sure to visit the harbor which is due East of the Old Town. Rue Cassini is a good route to the harbor from Place Garibaldi.

The Tourist Office organizes walking tours of Old Nice on Saturdays for 12 Euros/person. The tour lasts 2 – 3 hours and they use the map on the previous page. A brief description of the walking tour with some photos is at this website:

http://www.allaboutnice.com/guided_tour_Nice_Old_Town
Hop-On Gray Line Bus Tour Map with 14 Stops. Price is 20 Euros for a 1-day Pass.
Whether or not you use the Hop-on bus, I always recommend studying the route to plan your self-guided tour of a city because the hop-on bus tour identifies all the major tourist sites. This tour costs 20 Euros and takes about 90 minutes.

I call your attention to the fact that stops #1 through #5 are around the Old Town and Harbor area (next to the Old Town). Stop #10 is at the train station and stop # 14 is just West of Place Massena. If you take the tram between the train station and Old Town, you'll pay 1.30 Euros each way and can walk around half of the stops you would see on the Hop-on bus tour which costs 20 Euros per person.

However, if you wish to see all the tourist sites, are mobility challenged, or if you're tired of walking, the Hop-on bus is an excellent way to see all the sites in Nice.
Saint Paul de Vence
Saint Paul de Vence is one of the oldest medieval towns in the French Riviera. The tourist board's invitation to visitors states:

Whatever your tastes or mood of the moment, the village is the perfect place to relax. Get to know it, revel in its pleasures and experience its art and rich lifestyle.

Photo (above right) from Tourist Office Brochure
Saint Paul de Vence is a wonderful place to visit. The setting is magnificent and aesthetically pleasing. There are scenic overlooks, churches, a dungeon, restaurants, art galleries, and varied and abundant shopping. It is easy to walk because there are no long, steep pathways and few steps to climb. Be sure to view the official website for details about the village. It has extensive information.  

http://www.saint-pauldevence.com/
Getting to St Paul De Vence – See the detailed travel analysis on pages 7-10 of this guide

The key to self-guided travel from the Riviera coast is to take a train or bus to the Cagnes-sur-Mer train station and get the #400 bus for a 20-minute ride to St Paul de Vence. You could take bus #400 from JC Bermond Station in Nice and ride it for an hour through Cagnes-sur-Mer to St Paul. See map below.

See the Saint Paul de Vence tourist bureau weblink
http://www.saint-pauldevence.com/page/acc%C3%A8s-%C3%A0-saint-paul-de-vence

By Train: Take a train to Cagnes sur Mer
From the train station, take No. 400 (Cagnes sur Mer / St. Paul: 15 minutes)
Book your ticket from SNCF on 36 35 or www.voyages-sncf.com
The TER (Regional Express Trains) connect all major cities of the Riviera between Cannes and Ventimiglia
Timetables: www.ter-sncf.com/paca or by phone:0 800 11 40 23 (free call from a landline) Mon-Fri 7h to 19h.

BY BUS: Bus # 400 from Nice St Bermond Station every 30 to 45 minutes with 60 minute travel time.
View and download timetable for bus line No. 400 Nice-Vence via Saint-Paul de Vence.

- Lines and bus schedules serving the cities of the Riviera - All the transport network from the Côte d'Azur
Eze Village
Eze is a picturesque medieval village high on a hilltop. The top of Eze offers scenic views of three countries; namely, France, Monaco, and Italy.

The photo above shows the top of Eze Village is ~ 300 feet above the main road. You'll walk up a steep incline to the end of the road and climb a few sets of stairs to enter the village. If you go all the way to the botanical garden at top, it is like walking pathways and stairs to the top of a 30 story building. You are constantly walking either up or down. To reduce the stress of the walk, don't go to the gardens at the top. If you have difficulty walking inclines and climbing stairs or if you have mobility problems, Eze Village may not be for you. My wife couldn't make it past the entrance.

Useful websites to plan your visit:
- To appreciate the spectacular beauty of the mountains, Eze Village on the hilltop, and Eze-Bord-de-Mer at the sea coast, view a helicopter virtual tour at http://www.eze-riviera.com/Ezevirtuel/eze.htm This is high resolution, stunning aerial photography by professionals.
- Visit the “Official Tourism” website at http://www.eze-riviera.com/emotions/ang/welcome.html and download brochures and maps such as the map shown on the next page.
Points on the map on previous page:

#3 is the stop for public bus lines 82 and 112 from Nice and bus 83 from Eze train station. See page 25 of this port guide for information on buses and trains to Eze.

#1 is the tourist information office. It has toilets. In Eze Village, pay toilets require three 20 cent euro coins. There was a machine to give 20 cent coins for a one euro coin, but it was not working.

#10 is the entrance to Eze Village. Entrance is free.

#31 is the entrance to the exotic, botanical garden on top of the castle ruins. Admission = 6 euros.

Photo above left = typical narrow walkway

Photo above center = Notre Dame de L'Assomption church

Photo above right = cafe and artist studio

Photo right = guard cat on duty in exotic garden at the top of EZE Village
Getting to Eze Village

It's easy to reach Eze Village by bus or train+bus. The bus ride is short, but buses only run every two hours; plan your travel accordingly. PLEASE get the bus schedules for the day and time you wish to travel. Schedules can change!

The map at left shows Eze Village and the train station at Eze-Bord-de-Mer. If arriving by train or by bus 100 (which runs between Nice and Monaco), you'll have to take bus 83 to Eze Village. The schedule for bus 83 below shows it's a 15 minute ride and buses run once an hour.

Note that bus line 112 runs between Nice and Monaco and it stops at Eze Village. Bus 112 is a “departmental” bus line; download the schedule from http://www.cg06.fr/fr/servir-les-habitants/deplacements/transport-collectifs/lignes-et-horaires/lignes-et-horaires/

Bus Schedule below

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>7.00</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col de Villefranche</td>
<td>7.18</td>
<td>9.18</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8.00</td>
<td>9.50</td>
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<td>15.05</td>
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Note that bus 112 runs every 2 hours. It is a half-hour bus ride from Nice or from Monaco to Eze Village. I have included a map of the bus stops in the Monte Carlo Monaco Port Guide. You’ll see the Monaco Roqueville bus stop near the Casino on that map. I have shown the location of Nice Vauban bus stop on page 12 of this port guide.

Bus 82 runs between Nice Vauban and Plateau de la Justice (shown on the map above left). Bus 82 is an urban line. The bus runs every two hours and travel time is 30 minutes. Download the schedule and route from http://www.lignesdazur.com/.

There are several bus stops in Nice where you can board bus 82 including Vauban, Risso/Palais, Xve Corps, Pont Barla, Sequrane, Le Port, etc. I have shown many of these stops on the map on page 12 of this port guide so you can select the stop most convenient for your travel plans.
Grasse - “Perfume Capital of the World”

Unlike the French Riviera where summer heat can be stifling, Grasse enjoys mild temperatures. It’s at a higher altitude than the coast nestled in the hills among forests and rivers. The mild climate and plentiful sunshine provide an ideal environment for growing flowers which are key to production of perfumes. Hence, Grasse is where the most exotic perfumes in the world are produced. The official website = [www.grasse-riviera.com](http://www.grasse-riviera.com)

Grasse is 15 km (12 miles) due North of Cannes. Buses 600 and 610 run between Cannes and Grasse. Travel time is one hour; with traffic, it may be much longer!

NOTE: Do you have a half day or longer to visit Grasse considering the limited time your ship is in port? Are there higher priority tourist sites to visit?

As an alternative to visiting Grasse, go to the Fragonard perfume factory near Eze. It is more convenient and is often included in bus tours.

If you plan to visit Grasse from Cannes, I suggest you download the bus routes and schedules for lines 600 and 610 between Cannes and Grasse from the website below. Click on the bus line and save the information to your computer as a pdf or word file. Below, I have show the schedule.

When you arrive in Grasse, get the walking tour map of Old Town from the Tourist Office. The tour takes 90 minutes.


**Bus #600 Route/Schedule from Cannes Train Station to Grasse Gare Routiere Bus Terminal at 9:00 AM**

<table>
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<th>Stop Name</th>
<th>9:10</th>
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<th>9:50</th>
<th>10:10</th>
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<th>11:30</th>
<th>12:00</th>
<th>12:30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannes Train Station</td>
<td>9.10</td>
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<td>9.50</td>
<td>10.10</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>12.00</td>
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<tr>
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As an alternative to visiting Grasse, consider the Fragonard Perfume factory and the perfume stores near Eze Village. This is a much more convenient location and is on many tour excursion stops.

You'll walk past a Fragonard store on the road you walk up to Eze Village. The factory is a short distance away; see map at left. There is also a Galimard Perfume store near the Tourist Office.

Our tour bus stopped at the factory. It was a “sweet” experience. We reviewed the history of perfume production, toured the factory, and were able to purchase soaps, and fragrances at factory prices.
St Raphael – A Pleasant Town with a Gorgeous Beach

If you've visited most tourist sites between Cannes and Monaco and are looking for something new, consider St Raphael. It's a 25 minute train ride from Cannes to the west. Cost is $13 one way. The train station is in town. The town is clean and attractive. The harbor, beach, and promenade are gorgeous. As you can see in this Google aerial map below, the town is pedestrian friendly; roads and walkways are wide and flat. No stairs!


As you can see from the tourist website, this is a beautiful area. The beach is very popular in the summer – photo at left.

In addition to the beach, there's a market, casino, museum, etc. Put St Raphael on your bucket list of places to vacation along the French Riviera.
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
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PLEASE Help “spread the word” about my website
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Tom Sheridan