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Around the Cote d'Azur

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Cannes, Nice, Antibes, Cap d'Ail, Menton, Monaco, Eze, Villefranche-sur-Mer, Cap Ferrat, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Vence, Grasse

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Citadel St. Elmo, Villefranche-sur-Mer

Fortification, Villefranche-sur-Mer, France

The Citadelle Saint Elme in Villefranche-Sur-Mer was constructed in 1557 by the Duke of Savoy to defend the country of Nice against invaders. The fort consists of two units: Fanes and Sources. Fanes is the city hall and the Nice Archaeological Museum. Sources is a cultural center. Both are open to the public. Nice is in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. There is also the Grimaldi Palace (a castle) and the Costa Bourmontoise Museum, which displays the work of Saint Gaudy and Christiane Bourmontoise, contemporaries (and friends) of Picasso and Miro. Admission is everything is free!

See more

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Le Suquet

Neighborhood, Cannes, France

The old town of Cannes (Le Suquet) sits on a hill overlooking the modern city. During the day, its medieval center is quite different from the glamorous scene down the hill. Cannes is a popular place for film festivals, and the Le Suquet neighborhood (western) is right in the middle of everything. There is a lot to see: the church of Notre Dame d'Espérance (14th Century Provençal Gothic style) and Eglise Paroissiale Saint Joseph, the Musée de la Castre (in the old castle (and tower) and the Tour du Mirpeyre, where the famous Man in the Iron Mask is supposed to have been out his time in jail.

See more

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Hotel de Ville

Place Hôtel de Ville, 06400 Cannes, France

Cannes' city hall can be found off the western end of the Croisette (Promenade de le Pantiers). Cannes Le Suquet (the Old Town on the hill) and Ile Sainte Marguerite (the island) are the most popular tourist attractions in Cannes. Hôtel de Ville, built in 1876, is filled with sculptures in 19th Century architecture and decorations. Highlights include an ornate clock and an ice of lovely female cariatids. (It is located between the entrance on the top floor. In front of the City Hall there is a monument to the soldiers who perished in World War I.

See more

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Hotel Splendid

2 Rue Félix Faure, 06400 Cannes, France

The aptly named Hotel Splendid (that's us in the west side of Cannes, close to the Palais des Festivals and the Croisette. Cannes is a popular place for film festivals (and, and you can walk each to the Palais des Festivals of des Congrès for the film festival in under five minutes. The beach is just a bit further. The Hotel Splendid was built in the Belle Epoque style (Art Nouveau/Art Deco) by the famous composer Jacques Offenbach in 1910, after which the hotel's lounge is named. It is a great perspective of the old port, opt for a sea-view room with a balcony.

See more

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Eglise St François de Sales

Place Hôtel de Ville, 06400 Cannes, France

Being in the Hôtel de Ville church in Beach is on the French register of Historic Monuments. The interior is very tasteful, with a wood panelled choir and Freescoed ceiling. The church was constructed between 1876 and 1882 by the architect Thomas Dufuisse (1854) with the sculptures of the two confessors. In front of the church is a scenic square (regrettably called with plenty of outdoor seating. Very pleasant to sit here with a coffee and listen to the church bell ring.

See more

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Monument aux Morts

Place Hôtel de Ville, 06400 Cannes, France

In France, war memorials are known as Monuments aux Morts (monuments to the dead), and they can be found all over the country. After World War I alone, more than 36,000 memorials were built. Cannes's Monument aux Morts, located in Place Hôtel de Ville (in front of the City Hall), is a little more complex especially in Cannes, should it be overlooked. It features a very fine statue of a woman symbolizing winged victory, and also the names of the Cannois men who died in both World Wars, as well as the Algerian War.

See more

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Opéra de Toulon

Place Louis Blanc, 83000 Toulon, France

Most tourists don't associate Toulon with opera, but the second largest opera house in France after the Palais Garnier (Paris) is here. The Toulon Opera opened in 1862 (more than a decade before the Garnier), and was designed by Jean Desmarais (who also designed the Opéra de Marseille). Desmarais was a student of Napoleon, and the gorgeous interior (lots of red velvet) is inspired by a ceiling painted by Louis Duveau. The Opéra Toulon Provence Méditerranée serves performs at the Opera House, which seats crowds to 1800 spectators.

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Quai Kronstadt

Quai Kronstadt, 83000 Toulon, France

Toulon's port is the most considerable damage during World War II. It's there but it is full of historic architecture to see. One famous element is an Quai Kronstadt, where the entrance to the old City Hall was grafted into a modern building. The ceiling's supporting this balcony are by Pierre Puget and dates to the 17th century. Puget was a native of Toulon, and he was a famous sculptor and architect whose locals refer to them as "Michelangelo" or "Leonardo" of Toulon. In front of them is the Census of Navigation, an 18th bronze statue by Louis Joseph Daumas.

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Hotel du Port Mural

Place Puget, 83000 Toulon, France

Toulon is the primary base for the French Navy, and has been a major port town since Roman times. With all those personnel, and corresponding a high spot (and a sea) memorials. Locals call the neighborhood "Chicago." Chicago's City Sir was, coincidentally, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, who was a native of Haiti. Hotel du Port Mural is on Rue Chevalier Paul. The upper floors show river-viewing rooms and ocean exchanges, while down lower lackey of the evening flash their wares from open windows.

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La Castellet

La Castellet, a charming hilltop medieval town, is a short drive from Toulon or Bandol on the Côte d'Azur. In summer the vacating outdoor bevies are filled with locals and tourists enjoying the cool breezes and the view of the surrounding valley. The town's iconic stepped, and you can get cozy with locals in the restaurants over classic Provençal food and the Bandol wine. Be sure to take a walk atop the 12th century ramparts for amazing views of the Verdun Bandol Basin.

See more

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La Castellet City Hall

Place Jean Jaurès, 83330 Le Castellet, France

La Castellet is a very quiet preserved fortified town. In medieval times it was ruled by nobles (only). Main chateaus in Bellefaillet Square is now the city hall. The keeper's office is inside and tourists aren't usually permitted inside, but the chateau has the left of the entrance leads to the top of the wall (50 carefully) and (but) to much of the town. Also, the Bellefaillet Square is a very pleasant place to sit and have a Sainte Baume rouge. A special at Lucien Le Castellet is the shopping town it time.

See more

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Church of the Savior of the Transfiguration

Place Saint Eulalie, 83330 Le Castellet

The Church of the Savior of the Transfiguration was constructed in 1035 with Tuna Stone (Pierre Tuna) and Roman Brick. The church was built on the ruins of a Roman Temple (with four Ionic columns). Architecturally, this church is a quite fitting for the fortified town of Le Castellet. With its sturdy, defensive, nearly windowless exterior and its bell tower, it looks like a fortress. Inside, the church is quite beautiful. Apart from the Virginal Tableau (Madonna), Hotel Inaria, a 17th painting of St. Clair (as well as a bust), and the church holds a celebration on Ste Paule day, January 23rd.

See more

Saint Paul Cemetery

Chemin de Saint-Pons, 06570 Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France

The medieval town of Saint-Paul-de-Vence sits high on a hill above the Côte d'Azur. It has long been home to artists, and is full of galleries. Marc Chagall, who painted the church in the village square, lived here for 30 years. He and his wife Vava died in 1985, passing the designated resume of the local landscape. Both the painting and Vava's bed in a plot in a mosque cemetery at the edge of a cliff. This spot (the Tallesa Cemetery) is one of the most spectacular resting places of all time. It was replaced by the current chapel in the 18th Century.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Carrousel Palace de Nice

Place Masséna, Nice, France

The Carrousel Palace de Nice sits just off the Promenade des Anglais in the Jardin Albert, a large public park full of palm trees, rivers and neighborhood parks. It is unique the globe. The carrousel dates to 1870 and children still ride up to ride its horses and carriages. The Carrousel Palace de Nice is a 5 star hotel with 150 rooms. Enjoy Provençal cuisine at Chez Ma Mère on. The carrousel is a double decker with a great view from the top level. Hours are from 10 a. m. to 10 p.m. and rides cost 1 euro.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Beau Rivage Beach

Promenade des Anglais, Nice, France

Nice has nearly 6 kilometres of beaches, stretching along the curving Bay of Angles. The beaches are comprised of pebbles, not sand. These beaches "galets" are not jagged (or even sailors!) Trending, but the people of Nice love them. For drinking, there is the Chez Wanda Beach Bar, which is very pretty. Nice, Monaco and the Riviera are famous for their rosé wine. Wanda's Bar has a great selection. The Beach restaurants (or Nice Plages) offer sand, great swimming (with no sharks or jellyfish), and a bar of Nice's best waterside restaurants. (Beau Rivage Beach Restaurant)

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Cascade Dijon

Rue Bons Enfants, 21000 Dijon, Côte-d'Or, France

This lovely waterfall is on the Colline du Chateau (Castle Hill), overlooking Nice. The fortress that once dominated the hill was destroyed by French soldiers in 1706, leaving a major landscaping project for the city. In the early 1800's it was transformed into a public park. The Cascade Dijon is one of Nice's 3 waterfalls. Castle Hill is the highest point in Nice, and offers gorgeous panoramic views. Cascade Dijon is man made, with a large pool at its base, and is a wonderful place for a picnic. Enjoy the Mediterranean sun. Look below the fern ledge of falling water.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Palais de la Préfecture

Place Félix Baret, 06000 Nice, France

Currently the headquarters of the Prefecture of the French Maritime Alps Department, this heavily ornamented neoclassical building was once the Royal Palace of the Duchess of Savoy. The Savoie (Kings of the Italian island of Sardinia), used the Palais de la Préfecture as their summer home. Napoleon III and his wife Eugenie and the Tsarina of Russia also resided in lovely, elaborate and were designed and constructed in 1896. The open air market in front of the palace overflows with beautiful fruits and vegetables. On Mondays, there is a flea market with lots of antiques.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Place du Casino

Place du Casino, 06300 Nice, France

One of the great squares of Europe, Place du Casino (designed in 1883) is bordered by the Cafe de Paris, the Casino de Monte Carlo, and the Hotel de Paris. The square has a circular greenspace at its center, which is seasonally decorated. And there is a fountain with a statue of Apollo. The Casino de Monte Carlo is a gorgeous building. Its facade and staircase remain mostly unaltered and were designated a historical monument in 1996. The open air market in front of the palace overflows with beautiful fruits and vegetables. On Mondays, there is a flea market with lots of antiques.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Le Louis XV - Alain Ducasse a l'Hotel de Paris

Place du Casino, 98000 Monaco, Monaco

Rank 3 in the Forbes Review of the Best Restaurants in France, chef Alain Ducasse has earn 2 Michelin stars in 5 years. Ducasse opened his flagship restaurant, Le Louis XV, in the Hotel de Paris. It was designed by Nicolas Pascault with frieze from Gustave Eiffel. The famous dome in the Winter Garden is Pierre Avisé stunning contribution to the decorative ensemble. Ducasse's cuisine is a mix of Mediterranean and Italian delicacies from north. There are two restaurants. Dishes are strong seasoned in the hotel, as well as a bar. Guests have access to a neighboring spa, with a pool and fitness room.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Port Hercule

Port Hercule, 98000 Monaco

Port Hercule is the modern harbor in the world. Port Hercule, in the La Condamine district of Monaco, is home to a number of yachts, and is well positioned to accommodate large yachts. The harbor is even deep enough to accommodate massive cruise ships. Though used since ancient times, the modern port dates to 1906. There are amusement rides beside the harbor, including a ferris wheel and carousel. In Monaco, the Grand Prix is held every May. The Grand Prix attracts various movies, most notably as a backdrop for James Bond in GoldenEye.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Hotel Hermitage

Place Beaumarchais, 98000 Monaco, Monaco

This five-star historic hotel was built in the 1890s and is a classic example of Belle Époque architecture. It was designed by Nicolas Pascault with frieze from Gustave Eiffel. The famous dome in the Winter Garden is Pierre Avisé stunning contribution to the decorative ensemble. Guests can enjoy the Mediterranean sun on the terrace. Rooms from north. There are two restaurants. Dishes are strong seasoned in the hotel, as well as a bar. Guests have access to a neighboring spa, with a pool and fitness room.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Monaco-Ville Old Town

Rue Grimaldi, 98000 Monaco, Monaco

Monaco's old town is situated on top of the Rock, and has been populated since the 8th Century BC, when the ancient Greeks founded a colony there. The current Monaco-Ville Old Town dates to the 13th Century, when the Genoese Grimaldi family consolidated city with new, dazzling stone. Its buildings are magnificent, and the streets are cleaned religiously. During the day, souvenir shops, bakeries and restaurants are bustling with people coming to do a tour business, but things slow down at night, making the old town a very peaceful place to stay in Monaco. Its gap outside closes after 10 p.m.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Jardin Saint-Martin

Rue Princesse Florestine, 98000 Monaco, Monaco

These small gardens (designed in 1920) run along the southwest edge of the Rock of Monaco, and are packed with interesting flora. Including the native Aleppo Pine, Cedar of Lebanon, Mediterranean Cypress, and Canary Island Palm. Visitors can take a large circular of Monaco's perimeter, or the lower, or a passage of Victoria's Hall. The hotels and grill where and drinks are not to see, pitching the Rock of Monaco. Views from the gardens are wonderful, yet Jardin Exotic and Jardin Exotique are the attractions of the.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Hommage des Colonies Étrangeres Statue

Place Princesse Antoinette, 98000 Monaco, Monaco

The white marble statue dominates the foreign consulates, is a tribute to Prince Albert I (1 of 2 years of rule. It represents Science discovering the bounty of the oceans. Albert I was a pioneer in the study of oceanography. The statue is in front of the Rock, perfect for a postcard, and by the Stele (a tribute to the fallen of the Principality of Monaco). Albert, with his lower vigilant guards. The statue name was given the tourist in the summer, and every year on 23 Hommage Prince is a Children's party is the courtyard.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

François Grimaldi Statue

Place Saint-Nicolas, 98000 Monaco, Monaco

A gift from Prince Rainier III, the Prince Rainier might seem puzzling to those unfamiliar with Monaco's history. In fact, the Grimaldi rule in Monaco dates back to Genoese, a Italian from Genoa, Italy, who captured the Rock of Monaco in 1297. Genoese Grimaldi family ruled Monaco for 300 years, and many of the Princes themselves are Francesca Grimaldi. The descendants are referred to as Monaco's royal of series, which displays two sweet bearing monks. The Grimaldis, descended from Rainier I, who ruled the country today.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Palais de Justice

Place Bellevue, 98000 Monaco, Monaco

Through the interior is usually closed to the public, Monaco's Court House exterior is worth a look. Built in 1926 by Charles Dumont, the Palais de Justice is a neoclassical 1926. A bust of Hercules is seeing in 1966, can be found on the facade and the double-arched eaves and castellated turrets lately stand out on a block of ninety. Hercules is the mythical founder of Monaco, and his image is everywhere in the city, serve as a symbol for Monaco's strength. If you look closely you can see his goddess and sea shells in his ex-face.

See more

See Nice, Monaco

Tomb of Princess Grace

Chemin Saint-Martin, 98000 Monaco, Monaco

Grace Kelly, the Oscar-winning American movie star, married Monaco's Prince Rainier III in 1956, and became Princess Grace. Grace Kelly's tomb is in the Jardin Exotique, a

at the Cannes Film Festival in 1955. One year later they were married at St. Nicholas Cathedral in a star-studded ceremony often referred to as "The Wedding of the Century." Princess Grace died tragically in 1982 when she had an apparent stroke behind the wheel of her car and drove off a 120 foot cliff near Monaco. She's buried in the Grimaldi family vault in St. Nicholas Cathedral. Prince Rainier III, who never remarried, now lies beside her.

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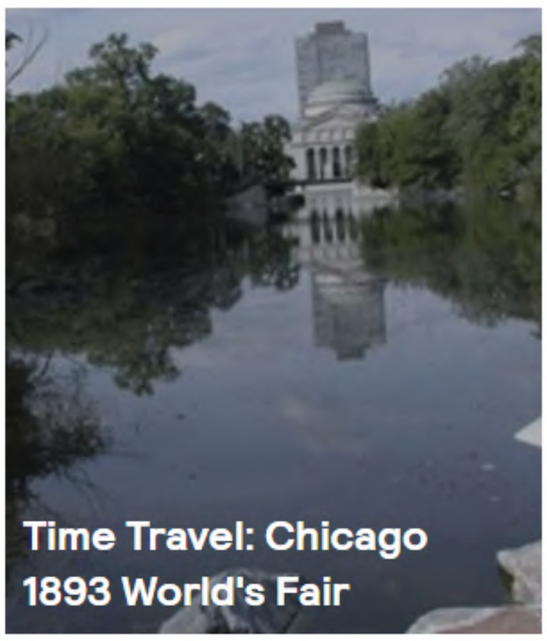

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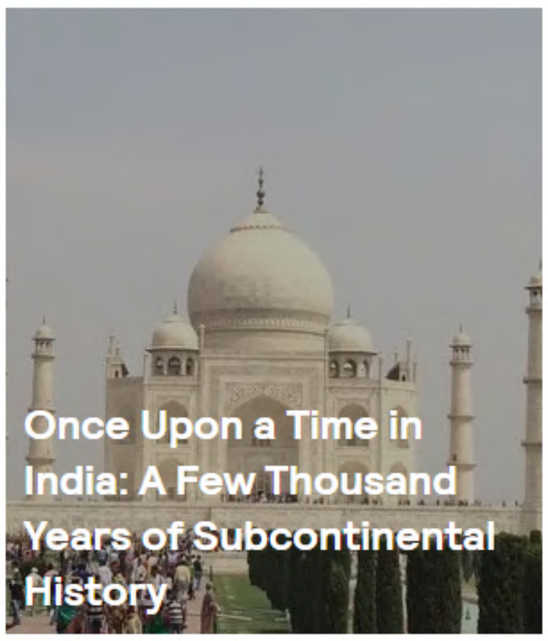

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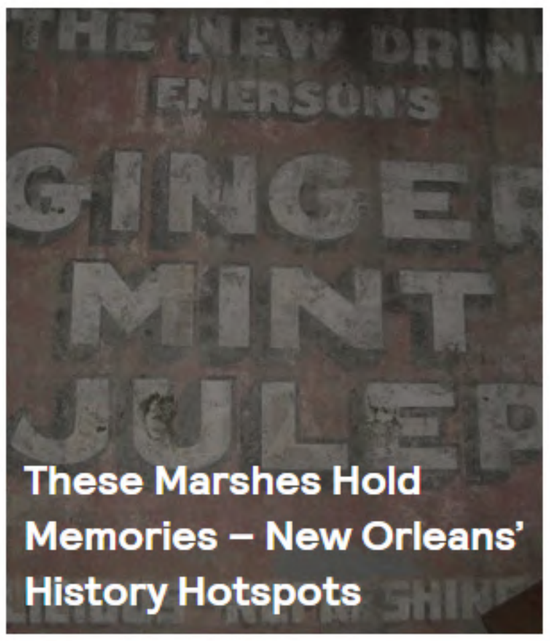

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