



# Discover Nice

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This tour takes place on foot, starting from Molinard perfumes, 20 rue Saint François de Paule, in the Old Nice. It describes a circuit by the Promenade des Anglais, the Negresco hotel, the streets of France and Massena, the place Massena and ends with a complementary visit of the Old Nice. A few variations are proposed starting from the Massena square or the Old Nice, according to your taste. These variations imply shortening the basic route.

**This route can be done in one or two days, or more.**

So we start on rue Saint François de Paule, in Old Nice.

- ▶ **Parfums Molinard** 20 rue Saint François de Paule
- ▶ **Huiles Alziari**, olive-based products, 14, Rue François de Paule

## The Nice Opera

▶ The **Nice opera house** dates from 1882-1885. It was built on the ruins of an old theater devastated by a fire. The architecture is due to François Aune, a French architect. The façade is imposing, with its columns with bronze capitals. Inside, the great hall is magnificent, decorated with stucco, with a frescoed ceiling and richly decorated boxes.

Across the street from this theater is the ▶ **Auer store**, a historic chocolate and confectionery business. Auer dates back to 1820 and still retains some of its old furniture. Here, everything is beautiful and good. Exceptional!



## The flower market of the Cours Saleya

*From the Nice Opera House to **Matisse's apartment**. In front of the opera house, turn left.*

Browse the famous flower market, a market essentially of flowers and local products, from Tuesday to Sunday, until 1 pm. On Mondays, the market is reserved for second-hand goods dealers. Depending on the day and the season, some artists propose their works. In the afternoon, the market ends and the bars set up their terraces.

► **Parfums Fragonard**, 11 Cours Saleya

On this same square, very interesting ► **Charles Nègre museum of photography**. Exhibitions of great photographers are regularly proposed there.

Finish at the end of the courtyard, Place Charles Felix (actually Carlo Felice, King of Sardinia), facing **Matisse's apartment**. The building with 4 windows on 4 floors, opposite the courtyard, is where the painter Matisse lived. He lived first on the 3rd floor and then on the 4th floor, with a magnificent view of the Baie des Anges from his balcony.

## The Ponchettes

The Ponchettes are these small low buildings, separating the Old Nice from the sea. Originally, they were small stores or warehouses. On their flat roof, a walk was particularly appreciated by the inhabitants of Nice. The terraces of the cafés were very sought after. But these terraces are closed nowadays.

## Quai des Etats-Unis

*Cross the Ponchettes, to find yourself on the Quais des Etats-Unis. Cross the street (watch out for the bike path) and turn left.*

For your information, at the foot of the Bellanda tower, the stairs lead you to the Castle Hill. But this is not our route.

## Rauba-Capeu

Go to **Rauba Capeu**, a short climb up the small square overlooking the sea, to the famous sculpture ► **# I Love Nice**. Take the time to admire the long Promenade des Anglais, the Negresco hotel and its red dome. In the distance, the Nice-Côte d'Azur airport. The pebble beaches are partly free, partly private. Lovers can walk along the shore for miles.

When it is very windy, it is useful to hold your hat on your head because here, the wind "steals hats", or "Rauba capeu" in Nissette language.



## The Promenade des Anglais

Walk back down the *Quai des Etats-Unis* which becomes the ► **Promenade des Anglais**.

Follow this wide lane. As you pass, you will admire the 9 steel beams that rise to the sky. These are the ► **Nine Oblique Lines**, by French artist Bernar Venet. It symbolizes the 9 valleys of the county of Nice, attached to France in 1860.

On the right, you also discover the *Barrière Ruhl* casino in Nice. Further on, the ► **Palais de la Méditerranée** with its Art-deco façade, with its *Partouche* casino. Until ► **the Negresco hotel**,

## Carré d'or district

*Cross in front of the Negresco (watch out for the bike path), follow Rue de Rivoli for 120m, with the gardens on the right.*

At the traffic lights, take the time to admire the architecture of the buildings on the corner. And, a little tip, admire the wrought iron doors of the small decoration shop. They would have been made by an old forge in Nice. Then, at the traffic light, turn on the right, *rue de France*. You will bypass the ► **garden and the Palais Massena**, an important Nice history and art museum. You are in the Carré d'or district, a sought-after area.

*Continue straight ahead, through the rue de France which, further on, becomes pedestrianized, rue Massena.* Admire the architecture of the buildings on your way. You are on one of the most commercial axis of Nice.

## Massena square

*The rue de France and then rue Massena lead to the large place Massena, at the corner of which are the Galeries Lafayette.*

Note the perched statues, built by the Catalan artist Jaume Plensa. This set is called ► **Conversation in Nice** and symbolizes the men of the 7 continents, here united in a peaceful and luminous dialogue. At night, the statues light up from the inside.

## 3 variations to the route

But, from the Place Massena, you can choose among 3 variants: Shopping, Nature and Culture. Due to lack of time, if you choose one of these variants, you will have to shorten the proposed route.



## From the place Massena:

### Shopping variant

Shopping enthusiasts can add another route. Another shopping axis in Nice is ► rue Jean Médecin, where the streetcar runs to the Nice Etoile shopping center and beyond. *So on the opposite side of the street from the Sun Fountain.*

### Nature variant

Lovers of greenery will pleasantly enjoy the ► **Coulée verte, the Promenade du Paillon**. This green promenade is easily distinguished by the water mirror, this surface of water jets, so pleasant in summer.

The river Paillon has been entirely covered and vegetated. A beautiful collection of trees, sometimes exotic, have been planted. Children's games are installed there. A magnificent garden in the heart of the city, which goes up along the Old Nice

### Culture variant

Given the location of the Matisse and Chagall museums, we think it is a good idea to visit these two sites in a row. You can reach them by bus from Place Massena.

#### ► The Matisse museum

All art lovers will be delighted to visit this great Matisse museum. For them, it is a must-see in Nice. Of course, we discover the paintings and collages of the artist, but also less usual works, such as sculptures for example. As Matisse lived more than half of his life in Nice, a large part of his works are therefore from Nice: still lifes, interiors, nudes, odalisques, *etc.*

*Accessible by bus N° 5, Massena/Guitry stop (behind Galeries Lafayette), direction Rimiez. Stop at Arènes / Musée Matisse.*

#### ► Chagall museum

The Chagall Museum holds 12 large paintings by Chagall, representing Genesis and Exodus. Also 105 engravings of the Bible as well as their copperplates, lithographs, 5 sculptures, 2 bas-reliefs, 1 ceramic, *etc.*

It is thus 250 works in total which constitute the collections of this Chagall museum in Nice.



*Accessible by bus N° 5, from the Massena/Guitry stop (behind Galeries Lafayette), direction Rimiez. Stop at Rond-point Cimiez. Or on the way back from the Matisse Museum, bus N° 5, from the Arènes / Matisse Museum stop, direction Deloye-Dubouchage. Stop at Rond-point Cimiez.*

**Back to the Place Massena:** The next part of our walking tour leads us to the ► **Sun Fountain**, on the side open to a palm tree and the sea. Cross the Place Massena to the fountain and its statue of Apollo.

The statue of Apollo has known some vicissitudes, detailed on our website, depending on its original location and its nudity.

*Go down the steps, you find yourself in the Old Nice.*

## The Old Nice

You complete your visit of the Old Nice, already approached by the flower market at the beginning of the tour. We propose a circuit in the Old Nice which you can be inspired by, according to your state of dynamism and the time you have left.

*Rue de la Préfecture:* ► **Chocolatier Lac** at N° 12 - ► **Le Panier d'osier** N° 3

Turn on the left, Rue Colonna d'Istria, at the corner of the former umbrella merchant

*On the left, Ruelle de la boucherie*

*On the right, rue de la boucherie :* **Le Fer rouge** at N°8

*then rue du Collet:* ► **Comptoir de la rose** No. 7

*Rue Saint François.* Excellent ► **Néron ice cream shop.**

*Rue paiorière and back.* The Nice "souk". Chocolatier ► **Alexis Monod** at N° 18

*Rue Droite:* ► **Ici là-bas** N°37 (art and eco-responsible crafts)

► **Palais Lascaris** N° 15

► **ArtNice** N° 2

*Rue Jules Gilly:* ► **Transparence**, N° 2

*On the right rue Barillerie*, the street of the former coopers

*To the right and immediately to the left, rue Alexandre Mari: place Pierre Gautier*, the beautiful **palace of the Dukes of Savoy**, now occupied by the offices of the Prefecture.



### **3 other variations to the Nice route**

For fans of culture or nature, starting from the Old Town.

#### **► The Lascaris Palace**

In Old Nice, you can advantageously visit the Lascaris Palace. A palace that dates back to 1648. Adorned with frescoes, tapestries, paintings, sculptures, furniture and art objects, this palace is also a museum of musical instruments and has a collection of regional ethnography.

In short, a pleasant, varied and enriching visit.

*15 Rue Droite (not Rue Lascaris).*

#### **► MAMAC**

The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art is a site with rich collections. It will appeal to art lovers and the curious. From the new realists to arte povera, through Pop Art and up to the artists of the 80's and contemporary, the museum has a solid and attractive collection. One can admire César, Christo, Andy Warhol, Niki de Saint Phalle, Yves Klein, Ernest Pignon-Ernest, etc.

*Place Yves Klein (very close to Place Garibaldi, in the very north of Old Nice).*

#### **► Castel hill, the Colline du château**

Lovers of greenery and grandiose panoramas can also climb the Castle Hill.

- Either by the stairs at the foot of the Bellanda Tower in the curve of the Quai des Etats-Unis already seen.
- Or at the end of Rossetti Street or Castle Street. At first gently sloping up to the cemetery, one bifurcates to the right towards an undeveloped parking lot. And in the parking lot, you can use the stairs on the left to reach the waterfall, but the route is much less tiring than the stairs of the Bellanda Tower.
- We can also join the top of the hill by a road in soft slope but it is longer.
- We go down again by one of the mentioned ways.