

Nice & the Côte d'Azur



Fine Art on the French Riviera

Friday 02 - Wednesday 07 May 2025

Set against a backdrop of deep-blue sea, luscious vineyards and charming rural villages, the wealth of fine art in Nice and on the Côte d'Azur is astonishing. Following a period as a playground for the English aristocracy in the 18th century, *la Belle Époque* saw a flourishing of artistry in the area, perhaps best encapsulated by the spectacular Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild at Cap Ferrat. Since then, the Côte d'Azur has seen the rise of numerous important museums and collections. This includes the Fondation Maeght, which arguably contains France's most important collection of modern art.

Our tour will bring to life a region saturated with creativity and brimming with cultural heritage, highlighting the most important museums and showcasing prominent collections. Aside from the area's artistic wealth, there will be plenty of time to enjoy the dramatic scenery and architectural gems, from the imposing Château Grimaldi to the picturesque town of St Paul de Vence.

FRIDAY 02 MAY 2025

Independent travel arrangements to Edinburgh airport.

We will depart on a flight with EasyJet from Edinburgh to Nice, due to depart at 18.05 and arrive into Nice at 21.45. *(Please note that flights are not included within the tour price).*

On arrival in Nice we will be met by our local guide and transfer by coach to the 4 star **Splendid Hotel & Spa**, where we will check in for 5 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. *Due to the late arrival time, members will be free to make their own dinner arrangements this evening.*

SATURDAY 03 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local guide and depart by coach to the medieval town of **Vence**. This morning we will visit the **Chapelle du Rosaire**, designed and decorated by Matisse. Nursed back to health by Dominican sisters after he had succumbed to a serious illness, Matisse showed his gratitude by building and decorating this chapel between 1946-1951.

The artist considered his resulting work to be his finest, and the small community of Dominican nuns still lovingly tends this masterpiece.

We will continue by coach to the **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Nativity**. This Roman Catholic church is a national monument, and the interior decoration of the Baptistry depicts the *Birth of the Virgin*, a mosaic by Marc Chagall. There will be free time to take lunch in Vence.

This afternoon we will continue to **Saint Paul-de-Vence**, a town with more than 60 art galleries and studios along the Rue Grande.

We will visit the **Fondation Maeght**, one of France's foremost centres for modern art, housing an exceptional permanent collection of 20th century works by such artists as Braque, Chagall and Leger as well as works by Matisse and Bonnard who were personal friends of the Maeght family. Set on a beautiful wooded hill, the futuristic building was created in 1964 as "the ideal environment for contemporary art", becoming one of the era's most talked about galleries.



In the gardens behind the museum, a terraced area laid out by Catalan architect, Jose Luis Sert, is adorned with gigantic sculptures and mosaics by the Spanish surrealist Joan Mirò, and was frequently visited by Picasso and other Côte d'Azur artists. The foundation is building a new extension to coincide with its 60th anniversary of the Fondation's inauguration in 1964.

We will return to the hotel by coach for some time at leisure. **Dinner** will be served in the hotel restaurant this evening.

SUNDAY 04 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local guide in the hotel reception and transfer by coach to the old town for an **orientation tour** on foot. We will continue to the **Musée National Marc Chagall**, which is a testimony to the work of Marc Chagall. The Russian artist lived in St Paul de Vence from 1950 until his death in 1985 at the age of 98. Opened in 1971 to house the largest public collection of Chagall's works, this airy purpose-built museum incorporates stained glass window mosaics and 12 large canvases illustrating Old Testament scenes. There will be free time for lunch following the visit.

We will continue to the **Musée Matisse**, which houses an important collection of paintings, sketches, sculptures, bronzes and drawings tracing the development of the artist over the years through the evolution of his works. The collection also contains a number of his personal artefacts.

We will return to the hotel by coach for an evening at leisure. Independent arrangements for dinner.

MONDAY 05 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will travel by coach with our local guide to **Villa Kerylos** in the village of Beaulieu-sur-mer. An authentic replica Greek villa built by the French archaeologist Theodore Reinach, it was listed in 1966 as a historic monument by the French Ministry of Culture, and is one of the most extraordinary monuments on the French Riviera.

We will continue to nearby Cap Ferrat to visit the **Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild**. This spectacular *belle époque* villa with exotic gardens was created in 1912 as a fantasy world in which to show off Beatrice de Rothschild's wonderful, if eccentric, collection of artefacts. Tiepolo ceilings, Florentine bridal chests, Sèvres porcelain, paintings by Boucher and rare Chinese screens are some of the delights awaiting the visitor here. The central garden was landscaped like a ship's deck so that the Baroness could imagine herself aboard the *Ile de France*, and on the prow of this fantasy stands an enchanting temple of love.

This afternoon we will transfer by coach to the lovely seaside town of **Villefranche**, where there will be free time to take lunch and independent exploration.

We will return to our hotel in Nice for an evening at leisure. Independent arrangements for dinner.

TUESDAY 06 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our guide and transfer by coach to Sainte Maxime, from where we will take a boat to **St Tropez** to visit one of the most magnificent galleries on the Côte d'Azur. The collection of the **Musée de l'Annonciade** is housed in a graceful early 16th century chapel by the old port and contains seminal works by Matisse, Bonnard, Signac, Seurat, Vlaminck, Derain, Braque and Dufy. The Pointilist and Fauvist collections are superb and Cubism is also well represented. There will be free time for lunch in St Tropez.

After lunch we will return by boat to Sainte Maxime and rejoin our coach. We will then continue to **Antibes**, where we will visit the spectacularly sited Château Grimaldi in old Antibes. This 12th century castle served as Picasso's studio in 1946 and now houses the **Musée Picasso**, where the collection of some 200 art works include paintings, lithographs, drawings and interesting displays about his life, as well as several ceramic pieces created during his time spent in nearby Vallauris. Particularly poignant is *La Joie de Vivre*, one in a series of 25 paintings forming the Antipolis Suite. The museum also houses works by Nicolas de Staël, Hans Hartung and Anna-Eva Bergman, as well as a rich collection of Modern Art. The terrace of the Castle offers a permanent exhibition of sculptures by Germaine Richier, Joan Miró, Bernard Pagès, Anne and Patrick Poirier.

We will return to our hotel in Nice with some time to freshen up before a **farewell dinner** is served in a local restaurant.

WEDNESDAY 07 MAY 2025

We will check out of the hotel after breakfast and re-join our coach for the return transfer to Nice Airport, for a late morning EasyJet flight to Edinburgh, due to depart at 11.25 and arrive into Edinburgh at 13.05. *(Please note flights are not included within the tour price). Independent onward travel arrangements.*

Please note that as this tour has been planned many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.



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The Arts Society Stirling & Forth Valley

Nice & the Côte d'Azur

TOUR PRICE

£1,350 per person sharing a twin/double room
£280 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

5 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Nice
Dinner in the hotel restaurant on the second evening
Dinner in a local restaurant on the final evening
Services of a local guide as per the itinerary
All local coaching in France as per the itinerary
All booking and entrance fees as per the itinerary
VOX audio headsets throughout

HOTEL DETAILS

Splendid Hotel & Spa Nice (4 star)

50 Boulevard Victor Hugo, 06000 Nice, France

www.splendid-nice.com

Upgrades from *Harmony Rooms* are available upon request

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote. *Please ensure that any policy has adequate cover for COVID-19 related issues.*

YOUR FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3707. All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to:
www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 20 participants.

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

EasyJet currently operates a convenient service between Edinburgh and Nice and it is our intention to use these flights next year assuming that schedules are similar. The tour price shown **excludes** airfares as these can vary on a daily basis. Heritage Group Travel can book flights on your behalf and will pass on the airfare at cost price plus an administration fee of £10 per person. We anticipate flights to be in the region of £350 per person. In the unlikely event that the tour does not materialise, or that the fares at the time of booking exceed £350 per person, your deposit will be refunded in full. Please indicate on the booking form if you would prefer to make your own travel arrangements, but we would ask you **not** to book your flights until you have received written confirmation that your booking has been accepted and that the tour will be going ahead.

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

British Nationals should be in possession of a valid 10 year passport: visas are not required for travel to France. Other Nationals should contact the French Embassy to confirm current visa requirements.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and deposit of **£450 per person**, to **Heritage Group Travel**, as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 29 November 2024**. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details, flight ticket and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel. The final balance is due by **Friday 07 Feb 2025**.

Heritage
GROUP TRAVEL

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