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Europe

Florence 2 French Riviera Carnival

For accurate departure times, travel times, prices of activities and suggestions on how much extra money you will need please contact info@bus2alps.com

What's Included

- Round trip luxury coach transport (with A/C & DVD) to Nice, Eze, and Monaco
- accommodation with your friends at the top rated hostel in France
- breakfast
- Entrance to Fragonard perfumery with included tour
- Entrance to the Carnival Parade of Lights
- Bus2alps trip leader

What's Not Included, Optional Costs

- Lunches and Dinners
- Bus, taxi, local train tickets
- Transportation to Cannes
- Entrance to museums and sites (Monte Carlo Casino, Exotic Gardens in Eze)

What to bring

- Passport
- Proof of age
- Pillow
- Comfortable shoes
- Sunglasses
- Beach towel
- Extra money
- Camera

Currency: Euro





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Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 The trip departs Florence from the Santa Maria Novella train station. The meeting point is in the International Ticketing Hall opposite tracks 8 and 9. Please meet your trip leader 20 minutes prior to departure. Travel to the French Riviera is by private, luxury coach bus with DVD, A/C, & bathroom. We make one 45 minute stop. Upon arrival to the French Riviera, we will check into our accommodation.

Day 2 Friday we will wake up to Nice, the Cote d'Azur's biggest city. Meet in the lobby at 10:45 after breakfast for a walking tour of Nice. Led by a local guide, this 1.5 hour tour will help you get acquainted with this incredible city. After the walking tour, there will be time to grab a quick lunch. After lunch, we'll depart from the hostel for Monaco, the world's second smallest sovereign state.

Monaco is well known as the premiere getaway for multi-millionaires, featuring the world famous Monte Carlo Casino, with its opulent decorations and extravagant cars surrounding the main entrance. Your trip leader will walk you to the casino and provide directions to the Prince's Palace of Monaco (formerly the residence of Grace Kelly), the Monaco Cathedral, the Oceanarium, Japanese Gardens, and beach. All of these sites are reachable by foot or a short bus ride on the same high speed road as the Grand Prix of Monaco. We will leave Monaco that evening. Please inform your Bus2alps trip leader if you choose to remain and hit it big in the casino or party with celebrities. Your trip leader will then provide you with information on how to return to Nice.

Friday night is free to enjoy an inexpensive meal at the hostel and some drinks at the hostel bar happy hour, where you can also get free pasta with the purchase of a drink from 19:00-21:00. Or, head into the city center for a crepe or dinner at one of several recommended restaurants. We'll all meet at the hostel at 20:45 to walk over to Wayne's Bar to dance on tables while being serenaded by a live band. End your night at one of the nightclubs on or near the Promenade des Anglais, especially High Club, a Bus2alps favorite.

Day 3 Saturday is yours to explore Nice and enjoy the Carnival festivities. This year's theme is King of Gastronomy, a celebration of joining a community and discovering culture via food. As this year also marks the 60th anniversary of the twinning of Nice with Nuremberg, Germany is the guest of honor. The Flower Parade, a tradition which dates back to 1876, will begin at 14:30. Twenty flower-covered floats will parade along the Promenade des Anglais between the Theatre de Verdure and the Hotel Negresco. Tickets for this event can be purchased at the temporary ticket offices, found along the parade circuit, 2 hours before. The parade will last approximately 1.5 hours. After



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Detailed Itinerary

Day 3 (cont.)

the parade, take a break from the day's festivities to explore the beach, shops, and restaurants. For an incredible view of Nice, ascend to the top of Castle Hill, located near the beach.

Saturday night, stop by the hostel bar for some cheap drinks at happy hour and free pasta with the purchase of a drink. Or, head into the city center for a crepe or dinner at one of several recommended restaurants. Then we'll head out to the Parade of Lights, beginning at 21:00, around the Place Massena. Tickets for this event are included in your Bus2alps package and will be distributed by your trip leader. After the parade, which will last about 1.5 hours, head to the clubs to keep the party going all night! High Club is always a good place to go on Saturday nights, or swing by Wayne's Bar for some more table dancing.

Day 4

Sunday morning we will check out of the hostel and depart for the preserved medieval village of Eze. Situated high on the Grand Corniche (1,400 feet above sea level), the views from here are unparalleled. We'll start with a 30-minute tour of the Fragonard Parfumerie, a famous French perfume factory and shop, after which you'll have time to shop for some delicious French perfume, soaps, candles, and more. After the parfumerie, we'll all walk up to the best viewpoint in town in the Exotic Gardens. You'll have some time to have lunch at one of the many delicious restaurants with a view, or grab one last crepe in town. We depart for Florence and will make one stop for dinner.

Transportation: Transportation between Nice, Eze, and Monaco is all included. Transportation is by way of our private bus or public transportation if necessary.





Where We Stay

Accommodation: Villa Saint Exupery Gardens



A remodeled monastery, Villa Saint Exupery is consistently rated the top hostel in Nice, and is always in the mix of top hostels in France (having recently won top honors in 2009). Villa Saint Exupery mixes a fantastic atmosphere, a top-notch bar and restaurant, and good rooms to provide young travelers with a unique experience while in the French Riviera. Villa Saint Exupery is the perfect jump-off to the rest of the French Riviera, with easy access to Nice's downtown night scene, as well as providing its own enjoyable night-time retreat.

Hostelworld Rating: 89% - 2009 #1 Hostel in France

Amenities: Included Breakfast, restaurant, bar, BBQ area, outdoor terrace, activity booking, free internet

Room Sizes: 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12

Location: 22 Avenue Gravier, Nice



Accommodation: Villa Saint Exupery Beach



The newest addition to one of Europe's top hostels, the Villa Saint Exupery Beach hostel is a boutique set-up of the award-winning Gardens hostel also located in Nice. Located a few minutes from the beach and all of Nice's top nightlife options, Villa Beach has the same incredible staff, atmosphere, and restaurant options as the Garden accommodation. The Villa Saint Exupery hostels are a fantastic accommodation spot to enjoy the French Riviera.

Hostelworld Rating: 84%

Amenities: Included Breakfast, restaurant, bar, BBQ area, activity booking, free internet

Room Sizes: 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12

Location: 6 Rue Sacha Guitry



Additional Information

Optional Activities

Monte Carlo Casino: Entrance to the table room is 10 Euro. You need to be wearing decent clothes (open-toed shoes, shorts, and hats are not allowed). You need to provide your passport for entrance.

Exotic Gardens (Eze): One of the best viewpoints on the Cote d'Azur, entrance is 5 Euro and half price with proper student ID.

Picasso Museum: The one-time home of Pablo Picasso is worth checking out if you need a break from the super yachts.

