

Rail holidays to France

Expressions



Nice and the French Riviera by train



Nice and the French Riviera by train holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Nice

French Riviera



This 7-night holiday is a simple and efficient train holiday from London to Nice with seven nights in Nice on the French Riviera. The rail journey is very smooth and starts with a Eurostar train from London to Paris, Lille or Marseille, depending on the day of the week and the time of the year. The travelling time from London to Nice, door to door, is between 10 and 11 hours, with very sensible train times. You then have seven nights in a centrally-located hotel in Nice with plenty of opportunity to explore the immediate city with its famous flower market, Promenade des Anglais, old town and many art galleries and museums. There is of course the long beach (pebbles) in Nice but other sandy beaches just along the coast that can be reached by train or bus. Just behind the coast are several very pretty hill-top villages such as St Paul de Vence and Eze. A little further away is Monaco and Monte-Carlo, whilst it is also possible to reach the Italian side of the border by train. Local buses and trains will accommodate you readily although you may consider the use of a hire-car for a day or two if you want to venture further into the countryside, perhaps to Grasse or the Gorges du Verdon.

PRICES

From £1,340 per person

Based on two people sharing a double or twin room and including standard class rail travel. Supplement for standard premier/first class about £180 per person.

DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings and the route can vary depending on the month and day of the week.

TOUR CODE

FRBR07

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Standard class Eurostar and second-class TGV from London to Nice return (standard premier can be booked at a supplement)
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast in a Classic double room at La Perouse, Nice
- Concierge service and Expressions Holidays regional helpful hints

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Early check-in or late check-out at any hotels (although we can arrange this on request at additional cost)
- Any other services not mentioned above, such as transfers and meals except breakfast at hotels
- Personal holiday insurance. This is essential and cover should be in place from when you book the holiday.
- Local tourist tax, usually between Euros 1 and 3 per person per night, and payable locally to the hotel
- Transfers in Paris and Nice

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

All train times are approximate and may vary depending on travel dates.

Expressions

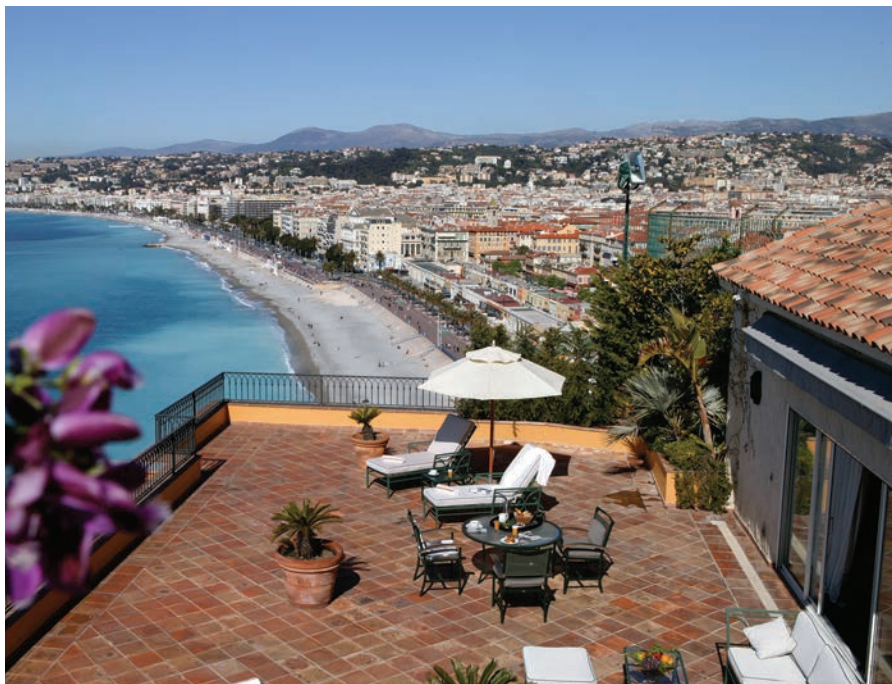
Day one London to Nice

Begin your rail holiday by departing on a morning Eurostar from London St Pancras to Paris or Lille, before changing station for your high-speed train journey to Nice. Enjoy the scenery outside your window as the TGV heads south through the regions of Burgundy and the Rhone-Alpes, following the course of the River Rhone into Provence and the Cote d'Azur. Depending on the season, if you can take the 07.19 Eurostar direct to Marseille, reaching Nice just after 18.00 hrs. If you take the train via Paris, you leave London at about 9.20 hrs and reach Nice just after 20.00 hrs. Your hotel in Nice is a short taxi ride from the station. You spend seven nights in Nice.

Days two to seven in Nice

You have six whole days at leisure in Nice on the French Riviera.

There are plenty of cultural and active things to do both in Nice and nearby. Spend an afternoon walking along the Promenade des Anglais, which runs parallel to one of the most beautiful beaches in France, the Baie des Anges. Well-known for its artistic and cultural connections, Nice has over 20 museums and galleries, including the Musée Matisse, the Palais Lascaris, and several archaeological and historical museums. For something more modern, take a tour of the city's 13 examples of street art, painted by internationally-renowned artists, or simply tour the architecture and atmosphere of the town to the soundtrack of the street jazz music. The Marche aux Fleurs Cours Saleya is the site of some of Nice's best markets, selling flowers, fruit, and vegetables, as well as other local delicacies. Be sure to seek out and try some Socca, a pancake or crêpe made from chickpea flower, or Pissaladière, a kind of pizza topped with onions, olive, garlic, and anchovies. Wander round the Marché Artisanal Nocturne, lit atmospherically by the buildings around it, which runs from 18:30 to 00:30 every night apart from Monday, and displays the work of Nice's local artists. A self-guided tour of the city will bring you to Queen Victoria's Ancien Hôtel Régina, the Basilique Notre Dame, Le Cadran Solaire (a sundial which you operate using your own shadow), and the small squares of the Old Town. Take lunch on one of the café terraces. Voted the Green City of the Mediterranean, Nice has many hidden gardens ready to be explored; large or small, they are all perfectly maintained. For those looking for a more active experience of the Nice landscape, climb the Colline du Château, or head outside the city on one of the many trails that take you along the hillside, through oak woods and olive groves, to the hamlets and neighbourhoods of Bellet, the



View from La Perouse, Nice

origin of Nice's famous Bellet wine. Other possible day excursions include trips to Grasse, the perfume capital of the world, Monaco, the luxurious self-contained state famous for its connections with A-list stars and the Grand Prix, the seaside village of Beaulieu-sur-Mer, and the exclusive peninsula of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat with the beautiful Villa Ephrussi nearby. St Paul de Vence, one of the prettiest perched villages in the hinterland of the Cote d'Azur, is about an hour by bus from Nice. It is renowned as an artists' village and the winding main street is full of galleries and artisan goods to purchase. If you want to have lunch at the famous Colombe d'Or, a haunt for artists and writers who have left their mark with the vast collection of original works of art that adorns the walls. Pre-booking is essential. Near here, about 15 minutes on foot, or call in on your own in or out of the village is the Fondation Maeght, a museum of modern art with one of the largest collections of paintings, sculptures and works on paper of modern and contemporary art in Europe.

Day eight Nice to London

There is a departure from Nice at about 10.00 hrs via Paris which reaches London just after 19.30 hrs. Again, depending on the day of the week there may be a service via Marseille and Lille. At the time of arranging your holiday, your sales consultant will check the best possible connections for your journey for the chosen dates of your holiday. the Italian Lakes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

this rail holiday is one of several suggested rail holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.



OUR TOURS

Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

EUROSTAR

A rail holiday to France starts with a journey by Eurostar from London St Pancras, Ebbsfleet or Ashford stations in the UK to either Paris Gare du Nord or Lille Europe. In summer months there are direct trains on Saturdays from London St Pancras to Avignon with no change required.

Eurostar offers almost hourly departures every day, allowing you to travel from the centre of London to the centre of Paris on the same train in three hours. Not all trains stop at the Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations in Kent, but parking is plentiful at both stations and it allows you to avoid London.

Check-in is 30 minutes prior to departure, customs formalities are completed before boarding and there is no limit to the amount of baggage that can be taken on board. The Eurostar trains themselves have 8 coaches which are split into Standard Class, Standard Premier and Business Premier as well as 2 cafeterias. Standard Premier customers are served a light cold meal and enjoy a more spacious environment than Standard Class, while Business Premier customers receive a hot meal and unlimited beverages as well as lounge access.

TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Premier Standard for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets. On the TGV trains within France, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

TRANSFERS

Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators).

Expressions Holidays
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL



HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441250

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process.