



Nice - City Business Guide

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Overview

Located on the French Riviera, Nice attracts significant volumes of tourists and business travelers alike. France's fifth largest city, Nice supports robust high technology, agriculture, life sciences, corporate services and construction industries, in addition to tourism. Since the 1960s, Nice has undergone significant economic growth that has attracted business centers like the Sophia Antipolis Science Park. The combined annual revenue of Nice and other French Riviera cities totals 46.5 billion euros.

More than 3 million visitors a year come to enjoy Nice's gorgeous beaches, well established tourist facilities and warm climate, which boasts more than 300 days of sunshine a year. Nice's position at the center of the French Riviera, the second most visited tourist region in the country, is also related to its vibrant cultural offering its concentration of 19 museums and galleries places it at the number two position in France, after Paris.

Business Etiquette

- * Customary attire is formal and conservative.
- * Appointments should be made in advance and punctuality observed.
- * Ensure that you have an adequate quantity of business cards.
- * Business associates should be addressed as Monsieur (if male) or Madame (if female) and their last name. Persons holding professional or academic titles should be addressed by these instead.
- * Gentle handshakes customarily open and close meetings. Kisses on both cheeks are the norm between men and women after a few meetings.
- * Ask when and where it is appropriate to smoke. Chewing gum should also be avoided.
- * If you do not speak French, apologizing for this to your French associates is a polite Avoid ordering soft drinks when dining with French business people.

Chamber of Commerce

French Riviera Chamber of Commerce 20, Boulevard Carabacel, BP 1259; Tel.: +33 (0) 820 422 222
Italian Chamber of commerce 11 avenue Baquis 06000 Nice tel : 04 97 03 03 70

Embassies and Consulates

Brazil 30, boulevard de Belgique, Monaco 98000 ; Tel.: + 377 93 30 21 87
Czech Republic 15, Avenue de Grande-Bretagne, Monaco; +377 93 50 46 60
Germany Le Minotaure, 34, Avenue Henri Matisse; Tel.: +33 04 9383-5525
Italy 72, Bd Gambetta; Tel.: +33 4 92 14 40 90
UK 33, bd. Princesse Charlotte 98000 Monaco ; +377 93 50 20 18
Netherlands 14 rue Rossini 06000 Nice tel : 04 93 87 52 94
U.S. (Consular agent) 7, Avenue Gustave V; Tel.: +33 4 93 88 89 55

Business Centers

Most large hotels also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.
NCI Sophia-Antipolis 400, Avenue Roumanille, Antipolis; Tel.: +33 04 9300-1100
ABS Azur Business Services 37, bd. Dubouchage; Tel.: + 33 (4) 93 18 73 18
ABS Azur Business Services 37, bd Dubouchage 06000 Nice, Tel. : + 33 (4) 93 13 17 17

Conference and Exhibition Centers

Acropolis Palais des Congrès 1 Esplanade Kennedy; Tel.: +33 4 93 92 83 00

Translation Offices

ATTIC 17 rue Hôtel des Postes 06000 Nice, Tel. : + 33 (4) 93 62 68 98
English American Language Center 15, rue Berlioz 06100 Nice, Tel.: +33 4 93 88 03 00
Alphatrad 400 avenue Roumanille BP 309 06906 Sophia Antipolis, Tel. : + 33 0 825 33 25 25
Agence Tradutec Méditerranée 10, avenue du Ray ; +33 800 95 40 80

Courier/Messenger Services

TNT chemin St Isidore 06200 Nice, Tel. : +33 825 000 868
DHL Tel.:+0620 202 525 (toll-free within France)
FedEx Tel.: +33 0800 123-800 (toll-free within France)
UPS Parc Activités Logistiques St Isidore Box N 6, 06284 Nice, Tel.: +33 0800 877-877 (toll-free within France)

Internet Connection Place

All upper-range and most medium-priced hotels are equipped with dataports that allow guests to use laptop computers. Many hotels also offer business centers equipped with computers and Internet access. Outside hotels, cyber cafes are available including:
Email Café 8, rue St Vincent 06300 Nice, Tel. : + 33 (4) 93 62 68 86
Nemoes 5, rue Gabriel Fauré 06000 Nice, Tel. : + 33 (4) 93 87 37 48
Dolce Caffè 11, rue Halévy 06000 Nice, Tel. : +33 4 93 82 56 42
Cyberpoint 10, avenue Félix Faure 06000 Nice, Tel. : + 33 4 93 92 70 63

Visas & Customs

Citizens of Brazil, Czech Republic, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the U.K., and the U.S. do not need a visa to enter France. Citizens of the People's Republic of China must apply for a visa. Duty-free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1 liter of spirits with an alcohol content exceeding 22% by volume or 2 liter of spirits or liquors with an alcohol content not exceeding 22% by volume; 50g of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette and; personal goods up to the value of EUR183. However, there are now no limits imposed on tobaccos and alcohol from one EU country to another.

Phone Information

The International Dialing Code for France is 33. The city code for Nice is (0)4.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Police 17
Fire 18
Ambulance 15
SOS Help (English-language crisis line) Tel.: +33 01 46 21 46 46

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

When making calls within France, you need to add "0" in front of the area code. You do not need to dial "0" when calling Nice from abroad. Directory assistance is 12. Toll-free numbers begin with "800," while premium numbers begin with "08". Public phones are widely available, and most public phones accept only calling cards.

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

Cellular numbers start with "06". GSM is the cellular standard in France. SFR, Orange France, and Bouygues Telecom are the main cellular providers. If you choose to bring your cellular phone into France, be sure to check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service.

Money

As of January 1, 2002, euro became the official currency. Euro notes are available in denominations of EUR5, EUR10, EUR20, EUR50, EUR100, EUR200, and EUR500, while coins are in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents, and EUR1 and EUR2. The euro is divided into 100 cents. Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks, hotels, airports, train stations, and authorized foreign currency exchange offices. ATMs are available throughout the country. Traveler's checks are accepted widely. Most businesses accept Visa. MasterCard, American Express, and Diners Club are less common. You may be required to enter your four-digit PIN number, so you should be sure to have this information.

Tippling

- * **Restaurants** A 15 percent service charge is usually added to the bill, unless the menu says service non compris or service en sus when you should add your own 15 percent; an additional small tip for good service is always welcome
- * **Bars** Service is usually included, but it's customary to leave a euro or two or just round up the charge
- * **Airport skycap/porter** EUR1 to EUR1.5 per piece of luggage
- * **Taxis** 10 percent of the fare
- * **Hotel bell desk** EUR1.5 per piece of luggage
- * **Hotel housekeeping** EUR1.5 per night
- * **Hotel room service** Service charge is usually included, but round it up or leave another EUR1
- * **Parking attendant/valet** EUR1 to EUR1.5
- * **Haircare/personal services** 10 percent of the charge

Time Difference

France is in the Western European Time Zone, which is Greenwich Mean Time plus one hour. It observes Daylight Savings Time from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

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VAT & Taxes

VAT is 19.6% and is always included in the posted price.

Voltage

Electricity is 220-240V AC, 50Hz. Plugs are round with either two or three pins.

Local Transportation

Renting a car is not recommended. Nice has an excellent public transit system that is clean, safe, and inexpensive. Bus services reach every corner of the city. Taxis are common and can be either hailed from the street, found at taxi stands, or telephoned. Night rates apply from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Health Info

France requires no special immunizations or health precautions. France has one of world's top healthcare systems, and the emergency rooms are well equipped. Pharmacies in Nice take turns staying open after hours--lists are posted in the pharmacy windows. Access to prescription and over-the-counter drugs in France are excellent.

Climate

Nice has a mild and pleasant climate year-round. Temperatures are regulated by the sea breezes, which cool the air in the summer and warm the air in the winter. During July and August, average daily temperatures may be as high as 23 degrees Celsius, while winter temperatures may sink as low as 9 degrees Celsius in January. Precipitation is minimal, rarely exceeding 1 cm for any month other than October and November.

Public Holidays

- * **New Year's Day** January 1
- * **Easter Monday** Monday after Easter
- * **Labor Day** May 1
- * **1945 Victory Day** May 8
- * **Ascension Day** Sixth Thursday after Easter
- * **Bastille Day** July 14
- * **Assumption** August 15
- * **All Saints Day** November 1
- * **Remembrance Day** November 11 Christmas December 25

Where to Eat

Chantecler is one of Nice's best tables and its chef Dominique Le Stanc will give you a good idea of how sublime Niçoise food can be. **L'âne Rouge** is known for its tasty seafood dishes and its charming view. Located in the Hotel Aston, The **Café de l'Horloge** offers cuisine with Southern French accents in a Art Deco-inspired setting. The heavenly food at **Restaurant Château des Ollières** is served in an elegant interior with breathtaking views. **Melisande** in the Palais Maeterlinck features innovative Mediterranean cuisine amidst stunning views from the seaside cliffs of Cape de Nice. In an elegant dining room with light wood panelling **Les Viviers** features an upscale cuisine based on fish and seafood. **Texas City** is a favorite for its Tex-Mex cooking and Texan atmosphere.

Local Gift Ideas

Perfume, faïence (glazed earthenware), colorful Provençal fabrics, glass and ceramic items and traditional handcrafted santons (Provençal figurines) all make good gifts. The best selections of such items are often found in some of the small towns near Nice. Grasse is famed as the perfume capital of France; St Paul is home to many charming shops offering artisans' creations; and Biot and Vallauris are noted for glass and ceramics shopping.

Leisure Time

Nice offers a range of leisure activities, and its consistently good weather and friendly locals make it easy to enjoy a trip to this city. Nice's Old Town, packed with cafés, restaurants and shops retailing local artisans' ware, is a good area for a stroll. The famous Promenade des Anglais, beside the Bay of Angels, is an 8-km long expanse of beach and chic shops, hotels and restaurants. Nice's Museum of Modern and chic shops, hotels and restaurants. Nice's Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art is a highly respected institution. Other museums that merit a visit are the Fine Arts Museum and the Chagall and Matisse Museums. L'Eglise du Jesus is a stately, peaceful church. Climbing to the top of one of Nice's hills provides you with spectacular views of the city. Not far from Nice is Grasse, famed as France's perfume capital, and the chic Riviera towns of Cannes and Monaco are short drives away. An excursion in the Gorges du Verdon is often a favorite activity for nature buffs.

