

French Riviera Gardens Tour

Destination:
Trip code: CZGDT



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Menton, nicknamed the 'Pearl of France', is located on the Cote d'Azur just across from the Ligurian town of Ventimiglia. The diversity of its landscape in combination with its mild climate has made the French Riviera a garden lover's delight. On this holiday, we'll discover the gardens of Menton, including Val Rahmeh's botanical garden and the Serre de la Madone gardens, landscaped by Lawrence Johnstone, creator of Hidcote Manor. Further along the coast we'll visit the wonderful gardens of the Ephrussi Villa at Cap Ferrat and the Exotic Garden at Monaco, full of subtropical cacti. Across the Italian border, we'll explore the famous Hanbury gardens at Ventimiglia.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Half-Board en-suite accommodation.
- The services of an experienced HF Holidays leader.
- Full day excursions with all entrance fees and essential transport. '
- With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers.

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Serre de la Madone Garden originally created by Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote Gardens fame.

- Explore the superb elevated gardens of Villa Ephrussi Rothschild.
- Travel to Italy to see the Gardenesque Style La Mortola Hanbury Garden.
- Discover the large collection of succulents and cacti at the Jardine Exotica in Monaco.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Day 2: Menton

This morning we visit Lawrence Johnston's French garden – Serre de la Madone. Johnston is perhaps best known for the Hidcote Gardens in Gloucestershire, but this French 'cousin' is still wonderful. Later we return to the town of Menton to visit the Palais Carnoles. This garden has a large collection of citrus trees, a sculpture park and a small museum for us to enjoy. We'll walk back to the hotel, stopping to view the municipal gardens en route.

Day 3: Cap Ferrat

A short walk along the promenade brings us to the Val Rahmeh Botanical Gardens. Set on a series of terraces, the garden is filled with sub-tropical plants and several other collections from around the world. Later we travel to Cap Ferrat to visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild - a superb garden set on an elevated site with extensive sea views.

Day 4: Maria Serena & Italy

A short journey takes us to the Maria Serena garden in Menton. Set only a stone's throw from the coast, this garden houses a marvellous collection of mature tropical and sub-tropical plants. Later, we'll hop across the border into Italy to visit the La Mortola Hanbury gardens, created by an English family in the 19th century.

Day 5: Free Day

On our 7-night holidays we allow one free day where there is no organised excursion. This is an ideal opportunity for you to relax, enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the area independently.

Day 6: Nice

Today we travel west to visit the Jardin du Monastère de Cimiez in the bustling city of Nice. Set just above the city, these beautifully-terraced gardens provide respite for visitors and locals alike. You may also wish to join an optional visit to the nearby monastery museum. Later we visit Parc Phoenix, a modern park with a large collection of outdoor plants and one of the largest conservatories of any public garden.

Day 7: Monaco

Our holiday ends with a visit to luxurious Monaco. Here, we'll be exploring the Jardin Exotique with its large collection of succulents and cacti, set in spectacular surroundings above the town. At the bottom of the garden, you'll find a dramatic limestone cave which is well worth a visit too. Later, we make our way into the town to wander in the perfectly-manicured Casino Gardens, as well as the exquisite Japanese Garden.

Day 8: Departure Day

ACCOMMODATION

Hôtel Le Royal Westminster

The lovingly restored 4-star Hotel Royal Westminster enjoys a lovely position right on the seaside promenade of Menton near to the town centre. This magnificent building sits back from the seafront behind a neatly kept Mediterranean garden.

Accommodation Info

Rooms

There are 92 comfortable en-suite bedrooms, furnished in a simple style. Facilities in each room include air conditioning, hairdryer, satellite television, telephone, free WiFi and a safety deposit box. In common with most European hotels, tea and coffee making facilities are not provided in bedrooms; however hot drinks can be purchased from the hotel bars.

Facilities

Public rooms include a light and airy restaurant opening onto a terrace. The hotel has a palm tree fringed garden fronting the Promenade du Soleil. Also on the ground floor is a lounge piano bar where music is often played in the evenings. The hotel offers a laundry service and has an ironing room available. There is also a gymnasium, and internet access is available in the billiard room.

Food & Drink

Our hotel has an elegant dining room overlooking the garden.

Breakfast is available from 7.30 till 9.30 and there is a wide choice from a self-select buffet including fruit juice, cereals, yoghurt, fresh fruit salad, cold meats and cheese, bread, croissants, pain aux raisins and jam.

Lunch – you can buy ingredients for your picnic lunch from a number of local shops in Menton. On some days it may be possible to visit shops on our walks, or eat in a local café. Our leaders will advise you of the options.

Evening meal – the Hotel Royal Westminster offers a 4-course evening meal. The main course is ordered at breakfast from the menu which offers a mixture of French and international dishes. Water and a good house wine are included with the meal. Tea and coffee can be purchased separately after the meal. It is important that guests with special dietary requirements, including vegetarians, let our reservations team know before you travel.

Your Evenings

Enjoy a glass of wine or local beer before a leisurely meal, either independently or with your fellow guests.

Your leader will also be checking out for any local events.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

Suitable, comfortable footwear for rough, wet or uneven terrain in gardens.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

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TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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