Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur
TRAVEL GUIDE

Oliver’s Travels
YOUR GREAT ESCAPE
There’s a good reason that Provence-Alpes is so popular among fashionistas and film stars. Firstly, there’s the blue sea that gives the Côte d’Azur its name, then there are the glamorous towns along the shimmering coastline. The mountains in the north promise action-filled holidays while the inland towns and cities like Arles, Marseilles and Avignon overflow with culture and history. Then of course, there’s the mouth-watering cuisine and exquisite wine.

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<th>CURRENCY</th>
<th>EURO</th>
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<td>ELECTRICAL</td>
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<td>HIGHEST TEMP.</td>
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<td>EMERGENCY</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>PEAK SEASON</td>
<td>MAY - SEPT</td>
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TRANSPORT TALK

BY WHEELS
Hire a car for unrestricted access to Provence-Alpes. This will allow you to travel unabated and take diversions into whichever town takes your fancy.

BY BIKE
Cycling can be one of the most invigorating ways of exploring the dramatic countryside of the region. And what’s better is you’ll get to experience some completely unexplored places.

BY TAXI
Taxi services in and around the Provence area are widely available, in towns and cities at taxi ranks as well as to be pre booked by phone.

BY WATER
Ferry options include a channel crossing followed by a drive down to the French Rivera, or sailing into Santander in northern Spain for a shorter drive to Provence-Alpes.

BY AIR
Main airports in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur are Nice Airport, Toulon-Hyères Airport, Marseille Airport and Avignon Airport.

BY BUS OR TRAIN
Bus services along the coast are pretty frequent and reliable but less so as you head inland. TGV trains are the fastest to get to the region, and the SNCF trains run regularly between towns.

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Oppède-le-Vieux
An abandoned village that you can amble around at your leisure. By sure to stop by the dramatic Romanesque church where the vistas extend for miles.

Moustiers-Sainte-Marie
Visit to see the artwork or just to enjoy the rustic Provençal architecture and the spectacular setting.

Saint-Paul-de-Vence
One of the oldest and most charming medieval towns in the region, but it’s real appeal lies in the modern art galleries you’ll find there. Foundation Maeght is a particular highlight.

Éze
Not far from the city of Nice, this site is known for the views out to sea from the hilltops, which are unforgettable whatever the weather.
Kids can appreciate the coast in a whole new way with Dune Marseilles, which is the ideal way to introduce them to snorkelling and the underwater world to be discovered.

The Carmargue National Park is the place to go if you feel like getting back to nature. Domaine Méjanes is an estate within the National Park that offers tours around the marshes on horseback.

This section of the Alps provides high-altitude activities for more adventurous families. Les Bois des Lutins is an adventure park with a difference - featuring bridges, zip lines and slides.

Watery adventures can also be enjoyed on the rivers that run through the Alps. Base Sport & Nature offer a great range of activities that tackle the white water, as well as canyoning and hiking expeditions.

Monaco’s Oceanographic Museum is a great way to spend a family afternoon! There are plenty of family activity opportunities to get up close with sea life, including a touch tank and the shark lagoon.

Dolphins seem to capture everyone’s imagination, especially children’s. Swimming with them is an experience that will stay with them for a lifetime! The Cala Rossa team ensure the highest likelihood of seeing the animals in the wild.
MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR KIDS

- Marseille Diving & Snorkelling
- Cannes Climb, Roll & Jump
- Plunge Gorges ★
- Undersea adventure ★
- Nice Undersea adventure ★
- Cannes Climb, Roll & Jump ★
- Swim with Dolphins ★
- Marseille Diving & Snorkelling ★
- Avignon Hop on a Horse ★
If you want to feel like a true film star, hire a sports car and take it for a spin along the coast. **Liven Up** give you the chance to drive a Lamborghini or a Ferrari around the Côte d’Azur’s stunning landscape.

There’s no better way to see Provence than by bike! If you’re looking to hire a set of two wheels, head to **e.bike Tours**, They’ll show you the best places to cycle around the Côte d’Azur’s beautiful countryside.

As a playground of the rich and famous, it hardly comes as a great surprise that there’s some world-famous golf courses in the region. You must try **Golf du Luberon**, it’s one of the region’s most picturesque courses.

**Bleu Evasion** can organise trips to navigate the coastal parts of the Calanques National Park. You can hop between caves, go snorkelling and you could even try wind surfing or wake boarding if you’re feeling adventurous!

If you’re looking for a day trip to somewhere with a bit of a difference, try **Maison Galimard**, it offers tours around the factory as well as a perfume museum, and, as an added bonus, entrance is free.

Such is the size and diversity of Provence-Alpes that perhaps the best way to see the most of it is with a guided tour. **Experience Provence** offer curated, private expeditions into the heart of the region.
MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR GROUPS

- Cannes
- Nice
- Avignon
- Marseille
- Drive Supercars
- See the countryside
- Hit a hole-in-one
- Tour a perfumerie
- Take a private tour
- Drift Away
Alexandre Mazzia is the eponymous chef at this Marseille Restaurant. Mazzia delights in creating unusual pairings of flavours that are as surprising as they are delightful on the palette.

For something a little more representative of rural France try L’Oustalet. You’ll be able to sit right next to the garden where the vegetables for your meal were picked!

There are a good few wine tours available in Provence but if you want something with a personal edge, try Wines in Provence. They can cater your tour so it’s exactly what you want!

If you’re a true foodie, it’s likely you’ve tried a truffle or two in your time – but have you ever gone out on the hunt for one? Look for you own little nuggets of black gold with Les Pastras, with tastings afterwards.

Bouillabaisse is probably king when it comes to the archetypal dishes of Provence. Or try another famous dish, the aperitif pastis with its strong aniseed flavour. Calissons d’Aix are delicious sweets to try!

Bistro du’O is a Michelin starred restaurant that serves up simple and elegant staples such as pork belly with apple, along with edgier fare like the foie gras ravioli and salmon tartare.
MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR FOODIES

Cannes
Nice
Marseille
Avignon
L'Oustalet
Alexandre Mazzia
Wines in Provence
Les Pastras
Bistro du'O
Cannes
Nice
Marseille
L'Oustalet
Alexandre Mazzia
Wines in Provence
Les Pastras
Bistro du'O
We’d like to think we know travel pretty well. Since we first hatched Oliver’s Travels in 2003 it’s been essentially all we’ve talked about. You could call us obsessed.

Our extensive blog, Oliver’s Journal has got tons of information and inspiration on locations across Europe and the Caribbean. It’s a one-stop shop for family-friendly holiday fun, the best group activities, foodie finds and a good dose of adventure. If you found this travel guide useful, (we hope you did!), you can find a whole host more on the blog, too!

At Oliver’s Travels we don’t do ordinary. From luxury chateaux and villas in France, and luxury cottages in the UK, to Mediterranean villas with pools and Caribbean beach villas, we have something for everyone, everywhere.