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Agence de voyages réceptive - Incoming travel agency - Incoming Reisebüro
Spécialiste groupes - Specializing in groups - Gruppenspezialist

Hiking and culture on the Cote d'Azur

Joint program for a clientele of hikers and culture lovers

The **Riviera** is famous for its light, its landscapes which combines sea and mountains nearby, and a myriad of hills dominated by charming Provencal village.

On the coast, next to yachts and glitter, green routes enable visitors to experience lush landscapes, while the mid-country offers a multitude of cultural discoveries.

We offer two programs developed, one for customers wishing to go hiking through beautiful landscapes of the coast, the other for customers attracted by the discovery of the cultural richness of the region.

This two programs are executed in parallel to enable both kind of customers, **combined in one single group**, to participate in a program which meets their own desire: hikers are accompanied by an expert guide who directs them and explain, in their language, main assets. Participants to culture program benefit from guided cultural orientation tours before leaving for further discovery of cultural sites and museums.

This approach facilitates logistics and **reduces costs**.

For you, organizer, it is the assurance of a double offer for easier implementation of your programs.



Hiking program

Day 1: Cannes

Arrival late afternoon at the airport or hotel. Check into the hotel in Cannes. Overnight.

Day 2: Antibes, Cap d'Antibes and Biot

After a brief orientation tour of Cannes over the famous Croisette boulevard, we follow the road along the sea to **Juan-les-Pins** and **Cap d'Antibes** with its villas and hotels frequented by the stars.

Arrival in Antibes, a town with 2,600 years of history where one can admire the historical and artistic ancient Antipolis. Our guide offers a walking tour of the old town with its narrow vaulted alleys and its many flowered balconies, the former **Chateau Grimaldi** which became the **Picasso Museum** and the marina, the largest in France. End of the tour at the Provencal market.

Then we proceed to the famous beach of La Garoupe from which we undertake a 1h30 walk along the seaside trail to better explore the Cap d'Antibes and its specific flora: **seafenne**, **hottentotfigs** or **sweetalison** as well as spectacular views of the snow-covered Alps. Back in Antibes, free time for a light lunch or a coffee on the harbour.

In the afternoon, visit the hilltop village of **Biot**, a village of artists and craftsmen (potters, glassblowers, jewellers). Rebuilt in the 15th century, the village has preserved many historic homes with decorated and fortified gates and a beautiful Romanesque church of the 15th century. Village guided tour and free time. Visit Biot glassware and return to Cannes.

Day 3: Vence, Gourdon and Grasse

We start at 8am from Cannes for a day in the foothills around Grasse, known for its wild landscapes of limestone where the breeding of sheep and the growing of scent plants has left beautiful traces.

Between **Vence** and **Gourdon**, we hike today on the plateau of St. Barnabas, balcony of the Riviera with a great geological interest. Our walk takes us on a path to an altitude of 800 m along abandoned farms, especially in a beautiful landscape, which is reminiscent of some deserts.

Along the way the scents and colours of Provencal herbs are present: **lavender**, **thyme**, **rosemary** and **savory**. The bus gets us to the end of this hike of 3h30 and leads us to Gourdon, perched village nestled on an eagle's nest at 700 meters high. Free time for a little snack and to take photos of the great panorama on the Cote d'Azur. Continue to **Grasse** and visit the Fragonard perfume factory. Back at the hotel in Cannes.

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Day 4: The Esterel and St Tropez

By the beautiful road bordering the sea along the **Corniche de l'Esterel**, we reach the **Gulf of St. Tropez**. The bus dropped us at the beach **Escalet**, which is part of a natural area protected by the French State (Conservatoire du Littoral). Walk along the sea road bordered by pink granite rocks. Many geological explanations of the places are given, plants growing in salty environments, seabirds or shrubs typical of Mediterranean: **lentisc**. All together this 3 hours easy walk allows us to reach the extraordinary sand peninsula of the **Cape Taillat**. Continuation by bus to **St. Tropez**. Short visit with our guide and time to take photos of the luxury yachts in the harbour or a light snack.

In the late afternoon we board a boat for crossing the Gulf of St. Tropez to **Ste-Maxime**. Then back by coach on the motorway to Cannes.

Day 5: La Turbie, Monaco

Departure from Cannes to Nice, then over a spectacular scenic road dominating the sea.

We start walking at 600 m vertically above the Mediterranean. In a way very easy and not steep, the route passes through a military fort from the 19th century, with breathtaking views of the sea, the village of **Eze** and the **Corniche** roads below. Beautiful limestone landscape and rich vegetation including **scrubplants** beautiful **orchids** in spring or flowers with unique colours such as **cistrus** or **lavender**. Our coach gets us near the village of **La Turbie** to visit the village and a little free time. We then continue to the famous **Principality of Monaco**, a small **Grimaldi family's state** of 1.92 ha, sovereign and independent, symbol of luxury which offers many attractions that give it an international reputation: the area of the Rock with the Prince's Palace, the Cathedral and the Oceanographic Museum, the worldly district of Monte Carlo built around the largest casino in Europe with its hotels and boutiques and meeting place for worldwide celebrities.

Guided tour of the old city and Monte Carlo and back to the hotel.

Day 6 : Departure after breakfast.

Culture program

Day 1: Cannes Arrival late afternoon at the airport or hotel. Check into rgz hotel in Cannes. Overnight.

Day 2: Antibes, Cap d'Antibes and Biot

After a brief orientation tour of Cannes over the famous Croisette boulevard, we follow the road along the sea to **Juan-les-Pins** and **Cap d'Antibes** with its villas and hotels frequented by the stars.

Arrival in Antibes, a town with 2,600 years of history where one can admire the historical and artistic ancient Antipolis. Our guide offers a walking tour of the old town with its narrow vaulted alleys and its many flowered balconies, the former **Chateau Grimaldi** which became the **Picasso Museum** and the marina the largest in France. End of the tour at the Provencal market.

Antibes offers many options to enjoy the city: the bustling market until noon, **the Picasso museum** (Optional visit possible), a walk along the maxi-yachts in the **Port Vauban**, the ramparts along the sea edge with beautiful views and lunch in one of the many restaurants in the old town. In the afternoon, visit the hilltop village of Biot. This village of artists and craftsmen (**potters, glassblowers, jewelers**). Rebuilt in the 15th century, the village has preserved many historic homes with decorated and fortified gates and a beautiful Romanesque church of the 15th century. Village guided tour and free time (Optional visit of **the Fernand Leger museum**). Visit **Biot glassware** and return to Cannes.

Day 3: St.-Paul-de-Vence, Gourdon and Grasse

We start at 8am from Cannes for a day in the foothills around Grasse, known for its wild landscapes of limestone where the breeding of sheep and the growing of scent plants has left beautiful traces.

Stop in the village of **Saint-Paul-de-Vence**. This is the most famous perched villages of the Cote d'Azur, the artists village of choice where Marc Chagall, Yves Montand and many others lived. Free time to explore the cobbled streets, renaissance houses and the many artist's.galleries Possibility to visit the famous **Maeght Foundation**.

Continue to a **candied fruit factory**, and other specialties of the local soil. Factory tour and tasting. Then spectacular drive along the Gorges du Loup to the highest perched village of the region, **Gourdon**, set on its eagle's nest at 700 meters high. Free time for lunch and browse through the medieval streets, optional visit of the castle from the 17th century. By mid afternoon continuation to **Grasse** and visit the **Fragonard perfume factory**. Then back at the hotel in Cannes.

Day 4: Saint-Tropez

By the beautiful road bordering the sea along the **Corniche de l'Esterel**, we reach the **Gulf of St. Tropez**.

After a beautiful view from the beach **Escalet** and views of the **islands of Hyères**, visit a winery in the region known for its rosé wines and then continued to **St. Tropez**. Free time for lunch followed by a tour of 1h30 by a local guide. Possibility to visit **the museum of the Annunciation**.

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In the late afternoon we board a boat for crossing the Gulf of St. Tropez to **Ste-Maxime**. Then back by coach on the motorway to Cannes.

Day 5: Eze and Monaco

Departure from Cannes to Nice, then over a spectacular scenic road dominating the sea.

Stop in **Eze** village to visit the Eagle's Nest of the Côte d'Azur on a rock 400 meters above the sea level. Free time for exploring the narrow streets; visit the beautiful **garden of cacti** and other **succulents**. Continue to the famous **Principality of Monaco**, the small Grimaldi family's state of 1.92 ha, sovereign and independent, symbol of luxury which offers many attractions that give it an international reputation: the area of the Rock with the Prince's Palace, the Cathedral and the Oceanographic Museum, the worldly district of Monte Carlo built around the largest casino in Europe with its hotels and boutiques and meeting place for worldwide celebrities. Guided tour of the old city and Monte Carlo and back to the hotel .

Day 6 : Departure after breakfast.

Our services

Hiking program:

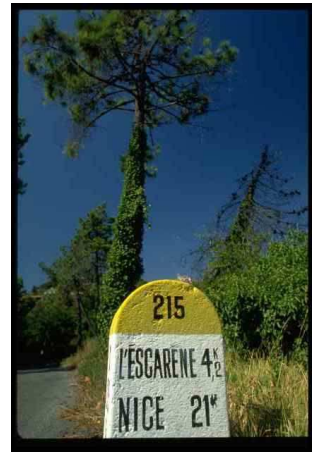
- 5 nights' accommodation and buffet breakfast in Cannes or Juan-les-Pins in a 3* hotel,
- Guided tours of Antibes, Biot, St-Tropez and Monaco,
- Guidance by a specialized hiking guide,
- Visit of a glass factory in Biot and a perfume factory in Grasse,
- A boat trip on the Gulf of St. Tropez.

Culture program:

- 5 nights' accommodation and buffet breakfast in Cannes or Juan-les-Pins in a 3* hotel,
- Guided tours of Antibes, Biot, Saint-Tropez and Monaco,
- Visit of a glass factory in Biot, a candy factory in the Gorges du Loup, a perfume factory in Grasse and wine cellar in Saint-Tropez,
- A boat trip on the Gulf of Saint-Tropez.

Program Features

- Hiking program available from mid March to mid November except during summer (20 June/10 September) for climatic reasons and to account bans for fire hazards.
- The guide can support the entire group for the culture program however the number of participants for the hiking program is **limited to 18 maximum**.
- Hiking or culture program must be chosen by reservation. However, if a hiker needs a day off, it will be possible.



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