

Ideas of walks **Villefranche-sur-Mer - Antibes.**



1. DARK PELICAN Villefranche-sur-Mer

2. Citadelle St. Elme & Chapel Saint-Pierre Villefranche sur Mer

In this one of the most iconic and picturesque parts of French Riviera the massive 16th century fortress is the highlight of this 130BC village between Nice and St. Jean Cap Ferrat. The surrounding old town is definitely worth a visit with its rue Obscure from 1260 and rue du Poilu that locals took when set off to war. In the fortress itself you may find arts by masters such Picasso, Miro and Volti. The office of Dark Pelican is wall to wall with famous Chapelle Saint – Pierre dedicated to the patron of a fishermen – and decorated by Jean Cocteau himself. Villefranche sur Mer has been backdrop of more than feature 150 film scenes. Around the village you find various excellent restaurants and beautiful beaches.



3. Fort of Mont-Alban.

Culminating at 220 meters of altitude and surrounded by exceptional landscape of Bay of the Angels, Monaco, and on clear day – which is a norm- a fantastic view up to Italian Riviera and Corsica.

A rare testimony of French military architecture from the middle of the 16th century, the fort is classified as a historical monument and is surrounded by beautiful lush forests.



4. Port of the Darse.

Old historical military port built in 1550 in the « Rade de Villefranche-sur-Mer and during many centuries the only deep water port in the area of the Mediterranean. The area has been settled since pre-historic times. By the late 19th century it was an important Russian Navy base. Since World War I, for almost two decades Villefranche was the home of the 6th Fleet from USA.

Today a splendid place for mooring and eating.





5. Chapel of the Lazaret.

A tower from the XVIIIth century. It's a little one floor square shaped building topped by a glazed tile roof typical for the region.

This tower is also called « Le Tour Paganini » (the Paganini Tower) as it has sheltered the body the famous violonist Paganini after his death in 1840.

6. Coastal trail or « Chemin des Douaniers ».

After the French Revolution, the customs administration decided to create a public path along the shoreline ; the « Chemin des Douaniers » (Customs Path) and it opened in 1791. It starts from the « Saintes Maries de la Mer » (Saint Maries of the Sea) and follows the seafront all the way to Menton ; the last village in France before Italy. This walk in the protected and wild site has pleasant walkways carved from the rock steps and enabling to discover the charms of this stunning shoreline.



7. Maeterlinck palace.

An ancient palace completed by the Nobel Prize winning Belgian Comte Maeterlinck in 1920. Located at the point of the Cap of Nice and majestically suspended in front of the Mediterranean. Redeemed in 2012 by a Czech and transformed to some twenty luxury apartments. The architecture of this neo-classical palace is inspired by the Florentines. Inside you find some 4 hectare French garden, and pool in front of the sea. A private beach accessible by a funicular. A true jewel of the roaring twenties and today a luxurious residence, this palace still unique on the French Riviera. Next door a more modern house by Renzo Piano, architect of the Pompidou Center in Paris.

8. Castel of the English.

One of the most surprising architectural jewels on the French Riviera. Built in 1856 by the Scottish colonel and an old officer of British army in India, Mr. Robert Smith. With its seductive appearance the building is full of surprises and a curious architectural mix bringing together different styles of gothic art with oriental influence.

The building granted Mr Smith the name « Folie de l'Anglais » (Madness of the English) or « Folie Smith » (Smith Madness).





9. Port of Nice

Also called the Lympia Port was originally a small lagoon only. The Port was built in 1672 by Count Amadeo de Castellamonte. The Port, with the Chateau in the background.

Behind the Chateau is Vieux Nice – the old Nice.

Today the Port is one of the principal harbours on the Mediterranean.



10. War Memorial.

Construction began in 1924 with inauguration in 1928 by the Marshal Foch. Side-by-side at the castel hill , this Memorial is 32 meters high and one of the biggest of France.

Monumental construction erected in memory of 3665 nicoises lost during the 1st World War.

The beauty of this monument earned him to be classed as the « Heritage of the 20th century » in year 2000, and to be registered as Historical Monuments in 2010.

11. Castle Hill.

The ruins are still there, but the castle that defended Nice was destroyed on the orders of Louis XIV in 1706. At this time Nice was not part of France. This fortress was a barrier for French attacks against the Savoy county. Despite of its destruction in the castle garden you find still traces from old monuments. This garden has an exceptionnal landscape, stunning viewq and it is one of the favorite places for a walk for the locals.



12. « Rauba Capéu » dock.

Formerly called « Chemin des Ponchettes », in 1770 it was the first path dig into rock to allow to join the « Marine » (today call « Cours Saleya ») to the newly dug port Lympia.

« Rauba Capéu » means in language of Nice « Stolen hats », as this place is one of the windiest in Nice.

In 2004, this city was given the renovation to architects and this project was obtained the 1st price of Urban Development Trophies. A sundial of 12 meters diameter is incrusted in the floor. Favourite place for a jog or walk.



13. « Vieux Nice » (Old Nice).

Built during the XVIIth and XVIIIth cent in Turin Architectural style reigns in the Old Nice, nicknamed « Le Vieux » (The Old) by the locals. You find a real village atmosphere inside the heart of the city.

Swarming with people this district is lively and a great place for dining.

During summer, this place is appreciated all the more because it is cooler than elsewhere,



14. Chapel of Mercy.

An 18th century baroque chapel situated in the central marketplace of Nice with an astonishing interior. A well hidden gem and true masterpiece of baroque art.



15. Opera of Nice.

The "petit théâtre en bois" (wooden theatre) was first created in 1776 by Marquess Alli-Maccarani. Sold in 1787 to a group of gentry,[2] it reopened in 1790 under the name "Théâtre Royal". In 1826, the city of Nice, encouraged by King Charles Félix, bought it from its owners and had it demolished and rebuilt. It was inaugurated in 1828 with Giovanni Pacini's *Il Barone di Bolsheim*. In 1856, a great ball was organized in the honour of King Victor Emmanuel. Classed as Historical Monument in 1993.

Offers three types of performances: operas, ballets and classical concerts ; and houses the Ballet Nice Méditerranée and the Nice Philharmonic Orchestra.



16. « Neuf lignes obliques » (Nine Oblique Lines).

This monument by French artist Bernard Venet was installed in 2010 in front of the « Promenade des Anglais » (Walkway of the English) to celebrate the occasion of the 150th anniversary of annexation of the County of Nice by France.

The sculpture is made of nine lines made of 30m high steel joined at the top.



17. Albert I Garden.

Created in 1852 and built over the Paillon river this is one of the oldest public gardens of the city.

Location of many festival such as Nice Jazz Festival and Nice Carnival. Followed by the « Coulée Verte » (Green River), which is a huge space with outdoor activities for children in particular.





19. « Palais de la Méditerranée » resort.

Opened for the first time in 1929 and fully epitomising the 1930's glamour. Fully demolished in 1990 except the two facades. Classed a Historical Monument in 1989, and re-opened in 2002 as a luxury hotel.

Today, this luxury resort has a casino, restaurants, theatre, roof terrace & pools and of course, a panoramic view over the Mediterranean.



20. Negresco.

Unique palace-museum of the city of Nice. This mythical hotel built in 1912 by Niermans for the Romanian Henri Negresco was classed Historical Monument in 2003.

It is characteristic and known around the world for its pink cupolas and roof. There is a permanent art gallery inside, a 2 star Michelin restaurant and its private beach.

This hotel was a backdrop is many films such as « La Cage aux Folles 2 » and « Chacal ».

21. Airport of Nice.

Located at the beginning of the « Promenade des Anglais », the airport of Nice is the 2nd airport of France.

Its unique geographical situation make it one of the most spectacular airport for landing or taking off.

22. Angel's Bay (« Baie des Anges »).

Name given at the large bay in front of the city of Nice, this area is from the cap of Antibes until the cap of Nice. Its name was given by the old fishermans, who's named the little shark living in the bay, the Angels.



23. « Promenade des Anglais » / « Quai des États-Unis » (United States Dock).

World famous waterfront promenade built in 1820 by the reverend Lewis Way. Of a total lenght of 7 kilometers, the shoreside walk is separate in two parts.

From the airport until the Albert 1st Garden, it's the « Promenade des Anglais », after and until the « Rauba Capéu » dock, it's the « Quai des Etats-Unis » (United States Dock), in tribute to the Americans during the 1st World War.

24. Port of « Saint Laurent du Var ».

This marina is located next to the Airport of Nice and a location of 'Cap3000' shopping mall and various restaurants.



25. Port of « Cros de Cagnes ».

Between 1920 and 1930 this tiny point became famous by its Italian fishermen with over 200 traditional wooden« Pointu » boats.

It houses the oldest French Coast Guard station (« SNSM ») in the Alpes-Maritimes.

In 2013 the adjacent city was celebrated its 200 years.





26. Horseraces on the Riviera

Opened in 1952 and inaugurated in 1960 this sea front racecourse extends over 63 hectares and at one time can welcome over 11 000 race spectators.

27. « Marina Baie des Anges » (Marina Bay of the Angels).

This real estate project was constructed between 1969 and 1993 and includes a marina and four wavelike buildings by architecte André Minangoy.

All the buildings are residences with commerces on the water level.

This complex has been classed as an Architectural Heritage of the 20th century.



28. « Fort Carré d'Antibes ».

The « Fort Carré d'Antibes » is a military fort built under the reign of Henri II during the XVIth century.

The fort is located on the Saint-Roch peninsula in Antibes, at the edge of the seaside road and built on rocks at 26 meters over the sea.

The fort has been open to the public since 1998 and is classed a Historical Monument. Inside there is a museum and exhibitions. Imuseum.



29. Antibes.

It's with the Creeks that the first traces of this fascinating trading city appear. The town was a colonie from the city of Marseille during its commercial deployment from the IVth century.

Today, Antibes is a buzzing town with a big yacht marina and lovely old buzzing town.

Picasso museum, the « Fort Carré » and the Napoleonic naval museum are some interesting ways to explore this ancient city.