

Ideas of walks Villefranche vers les îles de Lérins.



1. DARK PELICAN Villefranche-sur-Mer

2. Citadel Saint Elme.

To protect the County of Nice from the invaders, Duke Emmanuel-Philibert of Savoy built in the 16th century the Citadel, the strong associates of Mont-Alban (3) and Saint-Hospice as well as the port of Darse (4).

These constructions, entrusted to Italian engineers, prefigure a new type of fortified bastion: we use the powder in the citadel, which is a great innovation for this time.



3. Fort Mont-Alban.

One of the rare examples of military architecture from the middle of the 16th century in France, Fort Mont-Alban is classified as a historical monument. Culminating at 220 meters above sea level, it offers an exceptional panorama: to the west on the Baie des Anges (22) to the Esterel Massif and to the east on the Bay of Villefranche to the Italian Riviera.

It is said that it is possible to see Corsica !



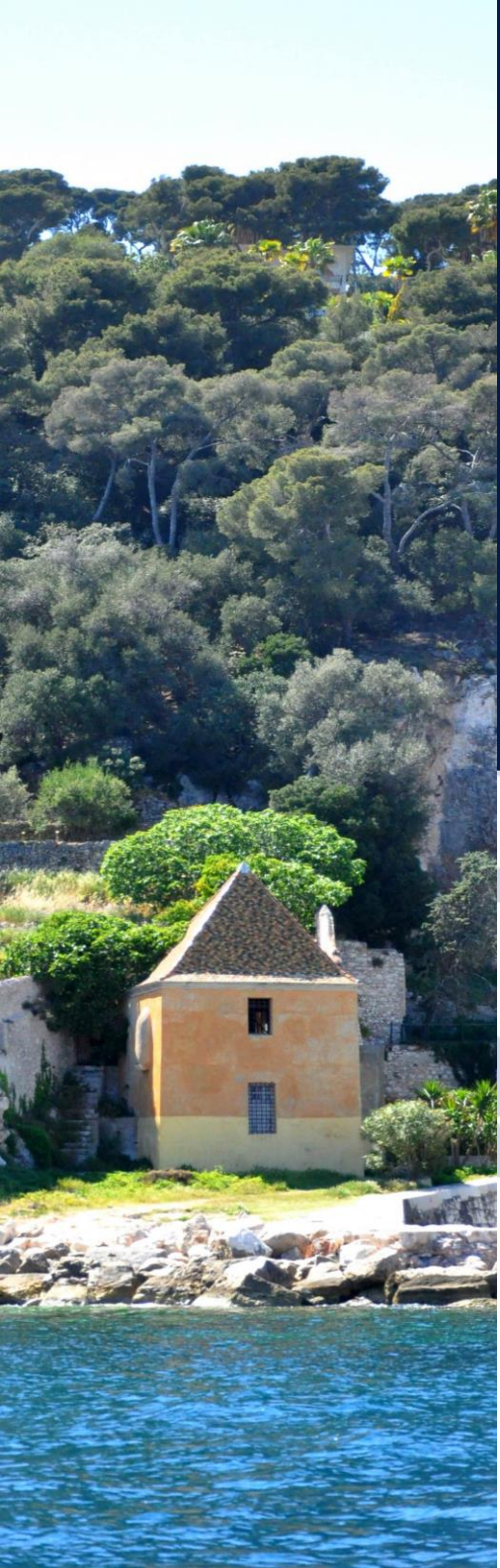
4. Darse Port.

Former historic military port, built in 1550 in the Bay of Villefranche-sur-Mer, the only natural harbor in deep waters of this sector of the Mediterranean for several centuries.

In 1713, it becomes Royal Port and it adds a basin (Radoub), a rope, a barracks and a hospital.

Since 1990, it is registered in the inventory of Historic Monuments.





5. Chapel of the lazaret

Tower vestige of a set of the seventeenth century. It is a small one-storey square building, topped by a glazed tile roof characteristic of the region.

This tower is sometimes called "Paganini Tower" because it sheltered the body of the famous violinist after his death in 1840.

6. Coastal Path or Chemin des Douaniers.

It was during the French Revolution that the Customs Administration decided to draw a path along the coast; the "Chemin des Douaniers" is thus in service in 1791, from Saintes Maries de la Mer to Menton.

This walk, in the heart of a protected and wild site, with wooden footbridges and steps carved into the rock will allow you to discover the charms of our coastline.

Warning: This path is not accessible by bad sea !!



7. Palace Maeterlinck.

It is a former mythical luxury hotel completed around 1920, located at the tip of the Cape of Nice, is like majestically suspended facing the Mediterranean.

Acquired in 2012 by a billionaire Czech for 48 million euros and transformed into twenty apartments. The architecture of this neo-classical palace is Florentine-inspired, on a 4-hectare estate with French gardens, a swimming pool on the seafront and a private beach accessible by a funicular.

Real jewels of the roaring twenties and today ultra luxurious residence, this Palace remains unique on the French riviera.

8. Castle of the Englishman.

This is one of the most amazing architectural jewels of the French Riviera.

Built in 1856 by the Scottish colonel, former Indian Army officer Robert Smith.

Seductive appearance, the building surprises; a curious architectural blend of elements of Gothic art styles with an oriental influence that earned him the nickname of "Madness of the English" or "madness Smith".

Old private house, now divided into several apartments.

The Castle of the English listed in 2000 as a Historic Monument is, without doubt, one of the beauties of Nice not to be missed.





9. Nice Port

At the heart of the city, at the foot of Genoese buildings is the Port Lympia, name given to the port of Nice.

This name comes from the source Lympia that fed a small lake in a swampy area or begin in the middle of the eighteenth century the work of the port.

The construction of this artificial harbor in the countryside began in 1750 and lasted almost a century and a half.

Today, place of anchorage for sharp (typically regional boats), Yachts and pleasure boats.

It also hosts cargo ships and ferries that provide crossings to Corsica.



10. Memorial

Its construction began in 1924 and will be inaugurated in 1928 by Marshal Foch. Attached to the hill of the castle (11), this war memorial is 32 meters high which makes it one of the largest in France.

Monumental construction erected in memory of 3665 Niçois dead for France during the First World War.

The beauty of this monument earned him to be classified "Heritage of the twentieth century" in 2000, then to be listed as a Historic Monument in 2010 before being classified in 2011.



11. Castle Hill.

The castle originally on this hill and which had defended the city of Nice against many attacks, was destroyed in 1706 at the request of King Louis XIV.

Indeed, Nice at that time did not yet belong to France, this fortress was therefore an obstacle for the French attacks against the county of Savoy.

Despite the destruction, the castle park keeps traces of its monuments of the past.

This park offers an exceptional view and is one of the favorite walks of Nice.

12. Quai Rauba Capéu.

Formerly chemin des Ponchettes, in 1770 it is the first path dug into the rock to join the Navy (Cours Saleya today) to the port Lympia newly dug.

"Raub Capéu" means in Niçois language "fly hat", this place indeed is one of the windiest of Nice.

The city entrusted the renovation to an architect collective in 2004, this project won the 1st prize at the Urban Planning Awards.

A sundial a dozen meters in diameter is embedded on the ground, and it is the walkers who play the role of gnomon.



13. Old Nice.

In an architectural style of Turin, built in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, reigns in Old Nice, nicknamed the "Old" by the locals, a true village atmosphere in the heart of the city.

Crowded with people, the neighborhood is alive and can be visited on foot.

In summer, the place is appreciated especially since it is generally cooler than elsewhere, thanks to the proximity and the height of the houses which form narrow lanes, always in the shade, in which the light The wind from the sea penetrates.

It is the ideal place for gourmands and gourmets, being also the place where the Nice come together at night. There is also Cours Saleya, one of the central places of old Nice. From Tuesday to Sunday, it hosts the traditional and famous flower market.



14. Chapelle de la Miséricorde.

Giving full feet to the Cours Saleya, built from 1740, the richness of its interior decorations, the originality of its volumes and the paintings of Bistolfi make it a real Baroque jewel, of an exceptional architectural richness.



15. Opéra de Nice.

Classified Historical Monument in 1993, this Italian theater, adorned with the traditional colors of that time, namely tapestries and gold, illuminations of the mirrors, which adorn each lodge.

The plans are made by architect François Aune and validated by Charles Garnier.

It is a place where it is good to go in simple curious or end connoisseur.



16. Neuf lignes obliques.

Work of the French artist Bernard Venet, installed in 2010 in front of the Promenade des Anglais on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the annexation of the county of Nice to France.

It is a steel sculpture representing nine lines of 30m height joining at their summit.



17. Jardin Albert 1^{er}.

Created in 1852, built on the very mouth of the paillon, it is one of the oldest public gardens in the city.

Place where is held many festivals such as Le Nice Jazz Festival.

This place is alive and deserves to be discovered. It is extended by La Coulée Verte, which is a huge space where there are outdoor activities, especially for children.

Its tree is full of world diversity, not to mention the typical azure plants.



18. Méridien.

Located at number 1 of the Promenade des Anglais, it is one of the most famous hotels in Nice, both in its history and its influence.

De facto partner at the Ruhl casino, it has a private beach and all the benefits that a hotel can offer such luxury.

On its roof is a heated pool and a terrace to enjoy the view of the Bay of Angels.





19. Palais de la Méditerranée.

Opened for the first time in 1929, then completely demolished in 1990, with the exception of its two facades classified as a Historic Monument in 1989, then finally reopened in 2002 thanks to the initiative of private financing.

From now on, it is a luxury resort with restaurants, solarium, swimming pools and panoramic views as well as a casino.

It also has a theater.

The property also has a 1700m² reception area, divided into sixteen meeting rooms.



20. Negresco.

Unique palace-museum of the city of Nice, this mythical hotel built in 1912 by Niermans, on behalf of the Romanian Henri Négresco, is classified as a Historical Monument since 2003.

It is so characteristic and known around the world for its pink cupolas and its roof. It also houses a permanent art gallery, a 2-star Michelin-starred restaurant, luxury shops and also has its own private beach.

This hotel has also been used as a backdrop for many films, such as La Cage aux Folles 2 or Chacal

21. Aéroport de Nice Côte d'Azur.

Located at the end of the Promenade des Anglais, Nice Airport is the 2nd largest airport in France.

Its unique geographical location also makes it one of the most spectacular airports to land or take off.

22. Baie des Anges.

Name given to the huge bay facing the city, it extends from Cap d'Antibes to Cape Nice.

It takes its name from the ancient sinners who called "angels" the small sharks that lived there.



23. Promenade des Anglais / Quai des États-Unis.

Built in 1820 by Rev. Lewis Way, Nice owes its international image. With a total length of 7km, this seaside promenade is divided into two parts.

From the airport to the Albert 1st Garden, it is the Promenade des Anglais, then to the Rauba Capéu wharf is the quay of the United States, in honor of the help given by the Americans during the first World War.

It includes the famous blue chairs typical of Nice, as well as the leisure of being able to go through it from side to side by bike, rollerblading or on foot.

24. Port de Saint Laurent du Var.

This marina, ideally located near Nice airport, is also very popular because of its many restaurants, shops and Cap3000 shopping center that succeeds it.



25. Port de Cros de Cagnes.

Port of a district of Italian sinners, he knows a great activity between 1920 and 1930 with 200 pointed allowing to live more than a thousand people.

It houses the oldest station of SNSM (National Society of Sea Rescue) Alpes-Maritimes.

The adjacent city celebrated 200 years of its creation in 2013.





26. Hippodrome de la Côte d'Azur.

It opened in 1952 but was inaugurated only in 1960, the racecourse covers 63 hectares and can accommodate 11,300 people.

27. Marina Baie des Anges.

This real estate project, conceived between 1969 and 1993, includes a marina and four buildings in the shape of waves, it is the architect André Minangoy who is the author.

All buildings are residential residences.

This complex is also classified Architectural Heritage of the twentieth century in 2001.



28. Fort Carré d'Antibes.

Fort Carré is a military fort built under the reign of Henry II in the 16th century.

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

The fort has been open to the public since 1998 and is also listed as a historical monument in 1976.

It houses exhibitions in the style of a museum.



29. Antibes.

It is with the Greeks that appear the first traces of this city which carries out important commercial exchanges.

Indeed it was a colony of the city of Marseille, which during its colonial redeployment, from the fourth century BC, turns the city into a strong place for trade.

Today, Antibes is a tourist town, with a huge marina, there are also many places to visit.

The Picasso Museum, the Square Fort and the Naval and Napoleonic Museum are some of the avenues to explore to organize your visit.

30. Château de la Croë.

Its construction began in 1927, this exceptional French castle, of Victorian style, does not offer less than 2000 m² of surface.

Designed by the architect Armand-Albert Rateau.

Today it is the property of Roman Abramovich president of the football club Chelsea.



31. Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc.

Built in 1870, in a Napoleon III style, this sumptuous hotel is one of the little gems of the French Riviera.

It is surrounded by a park of 9 hectares of pine trees, has a pool in the rock, a gourmet restaurant, a rose garden and all the facilities that can be expected of a 5-star hotel.

It is also possible to rent private cabins at the water's edge.



32. Port « Gallice », Juan-les-Pins.

33. Port « Camille Rayon », Golfe-Juan.





34. Lerins Islands

Archipelago composed of two islands, Sainte-Marguerite and Saint-Honorat, it offers a great place for a stroll and visit. Sainte-Marguerite Island is the largest, and served as a prison for the famous man with an iron mask in his fort, Fort Vauban.

Ile Saint-Honorat, smaller than Sainte-Marguerite, has a monastic vocation since 410, there is the monastery of Lérins. It is also a famous vineyard.

