

EXPERIENCES MONACO 2023

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visit
MONACO



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SENSATIONAL FOOD

■ EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF HEAVEN AT MONACO'S MICHELIN STAR-LADEN RESTAURANTS

Monaco is of course home to the iconic Salle des Etoiles, the "Room of Stars", and its unparalleled shows featuring some of the world's best-known artists. But the Principality also boasts many other equally unique star-laden rooms, all with their own spectacular offerings. Six different restaurants in Monaco share no fewer than nine Michelin stars between them, for the ultimate lunch or dinner experience. Choose from [the Louis XV-Alain Ducasse](#) at the Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo with its three stars, [Le Grill](#) on the roof of that same luxury establishment, or the [Pavillon Monte-Carlo by Yannick Alléno](#) at the Hôtel Hermitage. Across Place du Casino, the Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo is home to the prestigious [Yoshi](#), the Riviera's one and only Michelin-starred Japanese restaurant. Completing this sparkling constellation are [R-La Table d'Antonio Salvatore](#), which earned its first Michelin star in 2021, and the unparalleled [Blue Bay](#) with its Caribbean style cuisine, at the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort.

■ EMBARK ON A GASTRONOMICAL JOURNEY ACROSS THE CONTINENTS

Some 139 different nationalities rub shoulders in Monaco all year round. The cosmopolitan atmosphere is reflected in the menus of the Principality's restaurants. Fans of fusion cooking will be thrilled by the menu at [Noby](#), whose astonishing blend of Japanese and South American flavours can be found at the Fairmont Monte Carlo. Or why not try the [Buddha Bar](#), where east meets west in a relaxed lounge-style vibe, perfect for celebrating special occasions. [Gaïa](#) serves up the very best of Greek cuisine, [Sexy Tacos](#) invites diners on a culinary journey to Mexico, and [The Niwaki](#) is a veritable Japanese jewel. Over in the Larvotto district, [Song Qi](#)'s modern and refined Chinese gastronomy is definitely not to be missed and [Maya Bay](#) offers a delectable choice of Japanese or Thai dishes.

■ TIME FOR TEA, MONACO STYLE

As the days get shorter and the winter chill starts to set in, what could more be comforting than a warming afternoon feast? The [Mada One](#), with a menu created by the double Michelin-starred chef Marcel Ravin, invites you to take afternoon tea in refinement at the heart of the One Monte-Carlo complex. In its lobby bar with stunning interior design by Jacques Garcia, the [Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo](#) is a perfect place for teatime with a generous assortment of sweet and savoury delights. Settle down comfortably on a soft sofa, and enjoy! There's a similarly warm and inviting experience to be found at the [Tea Shop](#) on Boulevard des Moulins. The tea bar and concept store has a vast selection of different teas from every corner of the world. Last but not least, nestled away at the Hôtel Hermitage Monte-Carlo, you'll find the [Limun Bar](#), a verdant haven of peace in the Beaumarchais Lobby serving fine teas, pastries, and other delicious treats in a unique setting.

■ TAKE TIME OUT FOR BRUNCH

Taking a moment for yourself, surrounded by friends or family, and enjoying a relaxed meal in a magical setting... That's the recipe for a perfect brunch. And the [Azzurra Kitchen](#) restaurant at the Novotel Monte-Carlo hotel in the centre of the Principality serves up one of the best around, overlooking the hotel's swimming pool. Over at Japanese eatery Izakaya Cozza you'll find a special far-eastern inspired brunch - the first anywhere in the Principality - every Sunday from 12 pm to 3 pm. From the enchanting [Calypso at the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort](#) to the seafront [Méri dien Beach Plaza](#), and from the delightful terrace of the [Columbus Monte-Carlo](#) to the famous [Pavillon Alléno](#) at the Hôtel Hermitage Monte-Carlo, there are so many incredible options for brunch fans to choose from in the Principality.

■ DISCOVER THE GASTRONOMICAL SAVOIR-FAIRE OF MONACO'S OLD TOWN

Monaco's history was partly written on the Rock, and it's the ideal place to take the Principality's proverbial pulse. Beneath the pine trees on the Place du Palais, the [Castelroc](#) serves Mediterranean cuisine inspired by local traditions, including Monegasque stockfish or stocafi. A quintessential dish that you'll also find in the colourful streets of the old town, at [La Montgolfière](#) with its menu of contemporary takes on traditional offerings. A little further on, [Le Saint-Nicolas](#)'s Mediterranean-inspired menu changes with the seasons. You'll find the restaurant at the foot of the Cathedral.

■ SHARE PRECIOUS MOMENTS AT "LES AMBASSADEURS BY CHRISTOPHE CUSSAC", A GASTRONOMIC RESTAURANT AT THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE MONTE-CARLO

A century after the original venue closed its doors, chef Christophe Cussac has re-opened Les Ambassadeurs at the Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo! The beautiful Belle Epoque establishment invites you to a convivial culinary experience like no other at "[Les Ambassadeurs by Christophe Cussac](#)", a restaurant that pays tribute to the 1920s with modern and inventive Mediterranean-style cuisine. An exceptional moment to be shared in a warm and welcoming ambience created by Jacques Garcia.

■ EXPERIENCE AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING AT THE CASINO DE MONTE-CARLO

François Blanc, the founder of the [Casino de Monte-Carlo](#), used to say "nothing here is done like anywhere else". With its legendary opulence, James Bond atmosphere and beautiful Belle Epoque architecture, the casino is a magical place indeed. It is also home to two fine-dining restaurants, serving elegant cuisine in an intimate setting. The menu at the stylish [Le Train Bleu](#) marries Italian flavours with a unique decor, as guests are seated in a train dining car. While the [Salon Rose](#) with its boudoir feel and terrace overlooking the Mediterranean offers a selection of local and more exotic dishes, in a haven of peace and tranquillity...

■ ADMIRE THE SEA VIEWS AS YOU DINE IN STYLE

Nestled between the Mediterranean and the mountains, the Principality naturally has plenty of places to enjoy a meal with a sea view. Inside the Fairmont Monte Carlo you'll find the [Lobby Lounge Restaurant & Bar](#), with its bistro-style menu and large windows overlooking

the water. At Port Hercule, Conscientiae is both a centre for environmental innovation and a restaurant, serving sustainable cuisine made with seasonal, locally sourced ingredients. A short distance away is the Quai des Artistes, now re-opened with a brand new and elegant look, but the same hearty fare and views of the marina.

■ **TASTE THE DIFFERENCE AT THE NEWLY-REFURBISHED TWO STAR BLUE BAY**

The Blue Bay at the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort is overseen by chef Marcel Ravin, whose subtle and surprising blend of Caribbean and Mediterranean flavours is like no other. So much so, that the prestigious Michelin guide has awarded the establishment two of its coveted stars. With big, bold and daring cuisine and a unique décor inspired by the island where the chef was born, the Blue Bay is an invitation to embark on a culinary voyage. The restaurant is currently being given a facelift, and will re-open in January 2024 with a fresh new look for an even more unforgettable experience.

■ **AN ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE: BOOK A TABLE AT THE CAFÉ DE PARIS MONTE-CARLO**

The Café de Paris Monte-Carlo is once again accepting reservations, after the iconic venue on the Place du Casino re-opened recently. Have lunch on the welcoming Parisian terrace facing the Casino de Monte-Carlo, enjoy afternoon tea or a celebratory meal, dine 'til dawn...the beating heart of the high life in the Principality is the ultimate in chic elegance and excellence. The emblematic Monegasque location is home to a bright and friendly brasserie. The new-look Café de Paris Monte-Carlo has two separate levels, with the modern brasserie on the ground floor and a cosy area on the first floor.

REGIONAL TIP:

TAKE TO THE SKY TO SEEK OUT THE REGION'S FINEST RESTAURANTS

A taste of excellence à la monégasque is also the chance to hop on board a helicopter and take an unforgettable flight for a meal in one of the region's finest restaurants. An unmissable adventure! With "Héli Gastronomie", local airline Héli Air Monaco offers clients an unforgettable day out including free shuttle transfers from their accommodation to the helipad, a return helicopter flight, and a very special experience at Chez Bruno in Lorgues, a stunning restaurant in a typical Provençal farmhouse.

FASCINATING CULTURE

■ RE-AWAKEN CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AT THE FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DU CIRQUE DE MONTE-CARLO

January is festival month in the Principality, when the big top fills for the [Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo](#), the world's leading celebration of the circus arts. The event is always a huge hit with young and old alike, with its incomparable atmosphere and carefully selected acts, each more spectacular than the last. It takes place in tandem with its sister event New Generation, which showcases the finest up and coming circus talents, and this year will be a special one, as the Festival celebrates its 50th anniversary, rounding off commemorations marking the Centenary of its founder, Prince Rainier III. Look forward to laughter, excitement, and emotions galore!

■ TAKE IN A SHOW IN AN ARCHITECTURAL GEM

Head through the entrance to the Casino de Monte-Carlo, then the atrium and its fascinating curiosities, and finally, you'll find yourself in the [Opéra Garnier](#) itself. Here, the magic begins even before the show gets under way. The Opera is the crowning jewel of the Casino de Monte-Carlo and an important part of the Principality's rich history. The majestic auditorium, with its combination of excellent acoustics and beautiful architecture, has hosted performances by many legendary names. It is now under the direction of the famous opera singer Cécilia Bartoli.

■ PIROUETTE INTO THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF CLASSICAL DANCE AT THE BALLETS DE MONTE-CARLO

Choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot became the director of [Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo](#) in 1993, and in the three decades since his original creations have graced stages in Monaco and around the world. Roméo et Juliette, Cendrillon, LAC, Casse-Noisette Compagnie... all have been performed by the world's greatest ballet companies, including of course the Principality's very own Ballets de Monte-Carlo. This 2023-2024 season will see a new performance in December of "L'enfant et les sortilèges" (The Child and the Spells), which at the time was H.S.H. Prince Rainier III's favourite ballet. The company will also perform the award-winning masterpiece "Carmen", in a most prestigious collaboration with the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra.

■ EXPERIENCE THE VIRTUOSO MUSICAL TALENTS OF THE MONTE-CARLO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Puccini, Ravel, Massenet, Fauré... over the last 150 years, Monaco has been the stage for countless world premières. Each of these exceptional events is a milestone in the illustrious history of the [Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra](#) (OPMC), which is also regularly invited to perform at major international festivals. An important musical institution in the Principality, the Philharmonic has for many years adopted a policy of openness with a diverse

programme including everything from symphonic concerts and recitals, to tribute concerts, musical happy hour performances, and more. This season, the OPMC is planning an ode to Rachmaninov with a cycle of five concerts, before devoting four evenings to the genius of Mozart.

■ **DISCOVER THE VERY BEST OF MONEGASQUE ART**

The Principality is home to a thriving art market. With international art galleries establishing bases in Monaco, the return of the auction houses, and its image as a cosmopolitan nation, the Principality is an important destination in many ways. Not only are two major contemporary art fairs held here every year ([artmonte-carlo](#) and [art3F](#)), but Monaco is home to numerous galleries and prestigious auction houses such as Christie's, Artcurial, Hauser & Wirth, and Sotheby's.

■ **COMBINE RELAXATION AND CULTURE AT THE NOUVEAU MUSÉE NATIONAL DE MONACO**

The Villa Paloma in the Exotic Garden district, and the Villa Sauber in Larvotto. Two outstanding locations, the first with unrivalled views over Monaco, the second one of the finest Belle Epoque houses to be found in the Principality. Both are heritage sites, regularly hosting temporary exhibitions of contemporary art. After the Villa Sauber showcased the unique works created by Jean Cocteau at his home in nearby Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, this winter sees the Villa Paloma devote an exhibition to Pier Paolo Calzolari and his expansive, genre-defying practice.

■ **VISIT THE POLAR WORLDS AT THE OCEANOGRAPHIC MUSEUM**

For the next two years, the Oceanographic Museum is hosting a huge exhibition tracing more than a century of life in the Arctic and Antarctica: "[Polar Mission](#)". Visitors can embark on an epic voyage in five stages, coming face to face with the great polar explorers, the species native to these remote regions, the humans who have chosen to make them their home, and the scientists working to know more about them. A highlight of the visit, the "Immersion" room offers 650 m² of projection space to experience the beauty, as well as the fragility of the polar worlds.

■ **DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF MOTORING IN THE PRINCIPALITY AT THE CLASSIC CARS COLLECTION**

Car enthusiasts will be in heaven here. One such was Prince Rainier III himself, who began building a collection of cars in the 1950s. It has since grown and now includes around a hundred historic vehicles. Housed in a dedicated museum open to the public, the treasured collection symbolises the shared history that has bound the Principality and the automobile world for more than a century. Take an incredible journey through time, from the 2013 Lotus F1 car all the way back to the De Dion-Buton built in 1903. The Formula 1 car driven by Monaco's Charles Leclerc and the glass-roofed Lexus created especially for the Prince and Princess's wedding in 2011 can also be seen here, in a remarkable setting by Port Hercule.

■ ATTEND THE PRINCE RAINIER III CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

“A country does not need great size to have big dreams, nor a large population to realise them”. These words remain every bit as true today as when they were spoken by Prince Rainier III. The centenary of the “Builder Prince’s” birth is being celebrated in 2023, with numerous special events held throughout the year. They include an exhibition entitled “An Ambition for Monaco”, looking back at a 55-year reign that reshaped the Principality into an attractive city-state with a unique mix of history and innovation. You can visit the exhibition at Quai Antoine 1er until 31 December.

■ GET YOUR GROOVE ON AT THE MONTE-CARLO JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival showcases legendary musicians and rising stars in the stunning setting of the Opéra Garnier. Herbie Hancock, Diana Krall, Marcus Miller, Manu Katché, Melody Gardot... some of the very biggest names in jazz have performed to lucky audiences in the Principality. This year, jazz fans were treated to a star line-up including Keziah Jones, Ibrahim Maalouf, and Billy Cobham.

■ ENJOY A UNIQUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE WITH THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE MONTE CARLO

The Principality's hotels are constantly devising imaginative new experiences and unique cultural activities for visitors. At the Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo, for instance, guests of all ages can spend a night at the museum! The intimate secrets of the Oceanographic Museum are revealed by the simple magic of a flashlight in this exclusive tour of the Temple of the Sea.

■ SEE ONE OF THE MANY SHOWS AT THE GRIMALDI FORUM MONACO

Immediately recognisable by its distinctive glass and steel design, the Grimaldi Forum is the venue for some of the biggest cultural events in Monaco. It is the year-round home of resident cultural institutions including Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, the Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Printemps des Arts festival, while also staging unique shows and concerts. The acclaimed musical West Side Story came to the Principality in October, along with the stage show Madagascar, based on the animated film from Dreamworks.

REGIONAL TIP:

TAKE THE CHANCE TO ADMIRE THE WORK OF FAMOUS PAINTERS ON THE RIVIERA

The French Riviera has always held a great fascination for painters and writers, inspired by its gentle climate, breathtaking landscapes, and glittering light. Many of their works are displayed at museums and in unique locations. Starting with Pablo Picasso, who produced numerous works during his three decades on the Mediterranean coast. They can now be seen at the National Picasso Museum in Vallauris. In Nice, you'll find the National Marc Chagall Museum, which has the world's largest collection of the artist's work. Modern and contemporary art has found a perfect home in the hills of the Côte d'Azur. The Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul-de-Vence houses some of the finest treasures of the Riviera with an unmatched collection of 9,000 works by great artists of the 20th century, including Miró, Braque, and Giacometti.

AMAZING ENTERTAINMENT

■ SOAK UP THE NIGHTLIFE AT PORT HERCULE

At the heart of the Principality, Port Hercule is a hub of Monegasque nightlife. From the Brasserie where you can taste Monaco beer brewed on site, to Jack and its warm and lively vibe, via the legendary La Rascasse with live music and DJ sets, the bars around the marina are overflowing with enough entertainment to ensure a great night for visitors and locals alike!

■ MIX APÉRITIFS AND GREAT MUSIC

Music makes the world go round... and is of course the ideal accompaniment to an evening on the town with your significant other, family, or friends! Duke, a cocktail bar specialising in tapas, is the ideal venue to grab a drink and soak up the musical atmosphere, with live performances on Thursday and Fridays, and even karaoke on Wednesday and Saturdays. Over by the water's edge at La Note Bleue, you'll find a lively and welcoming atmosphere. Every Wednesday night, the beachside music bar invites guest musicians for live sets. Some are more intimate affairs, while others will have you on your feet and dancing! Nestled away in the Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo, there's a place that beats to the eclectic rhythms of jazz and swing, blues and soul. The Bar Américain is all about the authentic, timeless style of the 1920s. If you like the private party vibe, the Grimaldi Forum has just the thing with its Thursday Live Sessions, free and open to all. Each session is a whole new musical experience, the ideal opportunity for a club-style afterwork get-together.

■ TRY YOUR LUCK AT THE CASINO DE MONTE-CARLO

Since 1863, the casinos have shaped Monaco and forged its legend. None more so than the world-famous Casino de Monte-Carlo. With its Belle Epoque architecture, rich history, slot machines and classic table games, the Casino will entertain, astonish, and thrill you. Follow in the footsteps of James Bond through fabled rooms including the Salle Renaissance, Salle Europe, and the Salle des Amériques ... and remember: you've got to be in it, to win it!

■ PARTY THE NIGHT AWAY AT EXCEPTIONAL VENUES

The Principality is home to some of the most exclusive venues in the world, ensuring a unique nightlife experience. Launched by Flavio Briatore, Twiga Monte-Carlo is an essential Monegasque night spot with a fantastic location facing in the Mediterranean. Immediately opposite, the Sass' Café is another popular venue for fun-filled nights in the Principality, with everything from lounge music to dinner and live DJ sets 'til dawn! And the party continues at the MK Club, a stylish and modern establishment at Port Hercule.

REGIONAL TIP:

EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE OF CIRCÉ IN BEAULIEU-SUR-MER

In the centre of the delightful town of Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Circé's home is an iconic dome-topped rotunda above the Mediterranean. Inspired by the Greek goddess of hospitality and love of nature, this elegant location has adopted a daringly poetic style. The dishes on Circé's stunning menu are made with the freshest Mediterranean ingredients, and the venue (or part of it) can be hired privately, for a truly unforgettable evening.

ROMANTIC BREAKS

■ RELAX IN EXCEPTIONAL SETTINGS

A trip for two to Monaco is a chance to top up your wellness levels at some of the finest spas in the world. Treat yourself to the ultimate in relaxation, in elegant refinement. The [Cinq Mondes Spa](#) at the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort offers beauty care rituals and treatments inspired by traditional ancestral methods, from Bali, Polynesia, or Japan. In the centre of Monaco, you'll find a unique experience at the [Thermes Marins Monte-Carlo](#). With state of the art facilities, a heated brine pool, cryotherapy, and panoramic sea views, this temple of well-being is perfect for couples looking to indulge in a little cocooning. Just a few yards from the bustling Place du Casino you'll find another gem, the [Spa Métropole by Givenchy](#). The ten treatment rooms are designed to evoke designer dresses, while there is a double suite with a bath and a private hammam, in which to relax and reconnect with your significant other. For a healthy dose of summer wellness, the [spa at the Monte-Carlo Beach](#) is ideally placed in a haven of peace and tranquillity between the sea and the pine trees. Its unique offering combines both spa treatments and outdoor yoga.

■ CELEBRATE YOUR LOVE WITH UNIQUE AND EXCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES

The Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo offers a selection of fantastic activities to help you create some unforgettable memories with your loved one, such as the [From Metropole with Love](#) programme. A private tour of the Casino de Monte-Carlo, a helicopter flight over Monaco, lunch at the Michelin-starred Yoshi restaurant, an Aston Martin road trip, or a couple's massage in your own room followed by a candlelit dinner... The Belle Epoque establishment really goes the extra mile to make your romantic getaway memorable. In between these timeless experiences, head over to check out the Casino and its gaming tables by night, then return to the hotel to be greeted by champagne and rose petals...

■ TAKE TO THE AIR WITH A HELICOPTER FLIGHT

Monaco looks even better from the air! See the Principality in all its panoramic glory, with the Alps one on side and the sparkling blue Mediterranean on the other, thanks to helicopter tours by airlines [Blade](#) and [Héli Air Monaco](#). With best of the Riviera laid out before your eyes, drink in the simply stunning views of the coastline, Italy, the Baie des Anges, Cap-Ferrat, and the mountains, for a truly unforgettable experience. And a winter flight will show the Principality in its best light - the famed winter light so unique to the Côte d'Azur and so popular with artists from around the world.

■ EXPERIENCE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS IN ROMANTIC SUITES

If you're looking for a haven of peace in a romantic setting, head to the Hotel Hermitage Monte-Carlo. Fall under the spell of this beautiful Belle Epoque establishment, the [Diamond Suite](#) with its sun-kissed terrace and jacuzzi with spectacular views of Port Hercule and the Prince's Palace. Just a few yards away, why not treat yourself to a waking dream at the iconic Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo? Following its recent refurbishment, the hotel is looking

better than ever, and offers guests the same unparalleled hospitality. Sublime panoramas, elegant decor, the exceptional Princess Grace Diamond Suite and Prince Rainier III Diamond Suite await you for the most unforgettable experience. Lean on the balcony and drink in the historic beauty of the Place du Casino, surrounded by the world-renowned Casino de Monte-Carlo and the no-less famous Café de Paris. Or perhaps you'd prefer a romantic stay for two at the Columbus Monte-Carlo? Settle into the aptly named Rose Garden Suites and revel in the fragrant view of the magnificent Princess Grace Rose Garden with its thousands of colourful flowers.

■ SPEND AN UNFORGETTABLE ROMANTIC EVENING WITH YOUR BELOVED

The Principality hosts the most prestigious events in the most exceptional settings. One such is the Opéra Garnier, the magnificent Italian-style red and gold auditorium at the heart of the Casino de Monte-Carlo. In Monaco, a night at the opera is an experience like no other. The Philharmonic Orchestra and Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo perform here all year round, providing plenty of perfect opportunities for the most romantic of evenings. After the show, head to Le Train Bleu for a sumptuous meal for two in a truly unique setting, hidden away inside the Casino de Monte-Carlo. Feast on elegant Italian-inspired cuisine as you admire the view of the Place du Casino, and complete a memorable evening in true James Bond style with a game or two on the casino floor, in the iconic Salle Renaissance, Salle Europe, and Salle des Amériques rooms. Refined entertainment with a thrilling hint of risk!

REGIONAL TIP:

AWAKEN YOUR SENSES AT THE FRAGONARD PERFUME FACTORY IN EZE

A stay in Monaco is a chance to make the most of everything the Riviera has to offer. You'll find the Fragonard perfumery in the charming village of Eze, at the foot of the promontory. Learn the secrets of the master perfume-makers with a guided tour of the laboratory. You can even create your own eau de toilette! With a little help from your guide, personalise your very own fragrance to take home with you!

FAMILY FUN

■ RELIVE ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR IN THE PRINCIPALITY

Every October, when the clocks go back an hour and the heat of summer dissipates, the funfair returns to Port Hercule to light up the hearts of locals and visitors alike. For a month, excited thrill-seekers flock to the dodgems and ghost trains, with the sweet smell of candy floss in the air. It's a great place to spend quality time together with the whole family and soak up the traditional funfair atmosphere. The fair always closes on Prince's Day, 19 November. The last night is always particularly special, as the lights of the funfair mingle with the fireworks that illuminate the sky to mark the Monegasque National Day.

■ EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS THE WAY YOU REMEMBER IT FROM CHILDHOOD!

The festive period and its fairytale magic is approaching fast, and as every year, Port Hercule will be the location for the Christmas Village and its special atmosphere. In addition to numerous areas to relax and grab a bite to eat, there are plenty of things to see and do for all ages. Around the Place du Casino, Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer invites you to ring in the New Year with stars in your eyes. With giant snowballs depicting scenes from Charles Dickens' seasonal classic A Christmas Carol, a chance to meet Santa Claus, the Christman Garden, a terrace decorated with fairy lights, a carousel, a special installation on the theme of the Phantom of the Opera, a choir, and more, the Principality is all set to enchant young and old alike this Christmas!

■ BROADEN YOUR MIND THE FUN WAY AT THE OCEANOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

The Oceanographic Museum is a place of inspiration, fascination, and education, with its thousands of tropical and Mediterranean fish, and valuable insights into the importance of preserving marine wildlife. And the place they call the "Temple of the Sea" always has great fun learning ideas! The Museum, which opened in 1910, invites you to discover a miniature marine world with its touch pool, where visitors can get up and close and personal with the plants and animals that inhabit the Mediterranean Sea. There's cutting edge technology too, with the Immerseave headset taking you on an all-new virtual reality underwater experience, swimming alongside some of the most iconic marine species. Finally, the Museum now has its own escape room, where intrepid adventurers can solve puzzles aboard the Princess Alice II, the famous research vessel of Prince Albert I, in a wonderful marine-inspired setting.

■ MEET THE ANIMALS AT THE RAINIER III ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

Against the cliffside overlooking the Port of Fontvieille, the Rainier III Zoological Garden commands spectacular views. The park houses a wide variety of species, from lemurs to exotic birds and caimans, but all share one thing in common: they were brought to the zoo after being abandoned or seized by the customs authorities. One of the world's last remaining royal menageries, the Zoological Garden is taking part in commemorations marking the centenary of Prince Rainier III by hosting the exhibition "The Prince and his

Animals" until 31 December. Visitors can get a glimpse of previously unseen archive documents showing the Sovereign with the animals, in the park that he founded.

■ **THRILL THE YOUNGSTERS WITH A TRIP TO SEE THE MONTE-CARLO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

Regularly invited to perform at top international festivals, the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra is the jewel in the crown of Monaco's classical music landscape. As part of its policy of engagement, the institution organises a variety of different events including concerts for young audiences. This season, following the global creation Cabot-Caboche, the OPMC has planned three further evenings, including one as part of the Prince Rainier III Centenary Commemorations in January 2024. The ideal way to give the kids an early introduction to the joys of classical music!

■ **LET THE KIDS HONE THEIR COOKING SKILLS AT THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE MONTE-CARLO**

At the Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo, youngsters can learn all about seasonal fruits, how to cook them all, what to do with kitchen waste, and much more. The Métropole invites kids aged from 6 to 12 to discover the joys of making delicious cakes and sweet treats in the kitchens of the Odyssey, under the expert supervision of Patrick Mesiano, the hotel's head pastry chef. And as an added bonus, the children can take their superb culinary creations home to share with the whole family!

REGIONAL TIP:

SOAK UP THE TRADITIONAL RIVIERA CARNIVAL SPIRIT

Every February, the Côte d'Azur comes alive with a huge series of colourful carnivals and fairs along the Mediterranean coast. Over a period of two weeks, thousands of spectators flock to see the unique Carnaval de Nice and the Fête du Citron lemon festival in Menton. The Carnaval de Nice will take place from 10-26 February with its traditional flower contest and two-hour-long torchlit procession of creatively designed floats, this year on the theme "Treasures of the World". Meanwhile, the Fête du Citron (11-26 February) will as usual feature vibrant carnival floats, ephemeral art sculpted with citrus fruits, and this 89th edition will have a rock'n'roll and opera theme!

PERFECT INDULGENCE

■ RETAIL THERAPY IN A STUNNING SETTING AT THE MÉTROPOLE SHOPPING MONTE-CARLO

In Monaco's most upscale district, the [Métropole Shopping Monte-Carlo](#) is a mall like no other. With its luxury boutiques and restaurants, magnificent period chandeliers and superb decor of Carrara marble and Bohemian crystal, it is a simply unique place to shop. Step into a world of glamour and refinement in the very heart of the Principality. In winter, the prestige mall is adorned with sumptuous festive decorations, for a magical shopping experience.

■ FALL IN LOVE WITH THE LARVOTTO SEASIDE COMPLEX

The Larvotto seaside complex has it all: the Mediterranean looking glorious in the soft winter light, public and private beaches, a shaded promenade. But there's more too! With vintage decor and jewellery, beach items and even interior design wares, Larvotto has numerous facets to discover for a unique seafront shopping experience!

■ ENJOY A LITTLE WINDOW SHOPPING AROUND THE PLACE DU CASINO

It's said a little window shopping can do wonders for your mood... Why not test the theory at the [One Monte-Carlo](#), the prestige district at the heart of the Carré d'Or! The biggest luxury brands are all to be found here in this exclusive, fully pedestrianised precinct between the Hôtel Hermitage Monte-Carlo and Place du Casino. With designer clothes, hair spa, wellness, and the luxury jewellers' patio inside the Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo, there are all the ingredients to make your shopping experience truly unique! And as if that were not enough, just a few yards away, the Avenue de Monte-Carlo is brimming with big name boutiques where you can pick up creations by the world's top designers, all overlooking the Mediterranean and the Terrasses du Casino.

■ DISCOVER THE SHOPS OF THE CONDAMINE DISTRICT

The district of La Condamine is home to numerous shops and boutiques. Explore the quiet streets, with their colourful houses dating from the last century. From the charming Rue de Milla to the pleasant and entirely pedestrianised Rue Caroline, to Promenade Honoré-II, with 200 market stalls selling a wide variety of goods. You'll find quality, conviviality, and authenticity in La Condamine!

■ LEARN ABOUT THE SAVOIR-FAIRE OF THE TRADERS ON THE ROCK OF MONACO

Monaco's Old Town is not only the best place in the city to buy souvenirs and other items to take home for family and friends, but it's also home to a number of shops with some very special savoir-faire! Starting with [Les Pierres du Rocher](#), a shop specialising in lithotherapy that sells natural stones and original gift ideas. At the end of a typical street, you'll find [La Boutique du Rocher](#), selling a selection of hand-made infant clothing and household linens. If you'd like to take home something to remember the Principality by, visit the high-end

grocer's La Maison du Limoncello and pick up a bottle of their famous home-made citrus drinks!

REGIONAL TIP:

DISCOVER THE LOCAL ARTS AND CRAFTS OF THE RIVIERA

A land of style, bathed in sunshine most of the year, the French Riviera is also well known for its arts and crafts, as a visit to one of the many artisans' studios in the region will show you! The town of Biot, which was awarded the prestigious Ville et Métiers d'art label in 1997 in recognition of its thriving artisanal glassware industry, is a fine example. Between the Mediterranean and the mountains, the capital of contemporary glass is well worth a visit, to see the many glass workshops, each with its own distinctive character.

Just 10 kilometres away, you'll find Vallauris, a veritable mecca of the ceramic arts. The pottery tradition here dates back to the late 19th century and was made famous by Pablo Picasso in the mid-20th century, with the legendary Spanish artist leaving an indelible impression on the village and the entire Riviera with his original creations. The hills around Vallauris bear the mark of the ceramic tradition.

Then there is the town of Grasse, high above the sea with the Alps as a backdrop, the world's perfume capital. It was here that Galimard, one of France's first perfumeries, was founded in 1747. The art of creating unique fragrances has since been passed down through the generations, and Maison Galimard's family expertise can now be seen at the Studio des Fragrances, a veritable shrine to the olfactory senses.

TOP-CLASS SPORT

■ LAUNCH YOURSELF INTO THE SKIES ABOVE MONACO

The air is a great place from which to see Monaco, nestling between the mighty Alps and the glorious Mediterranean. So for an experience you'll never forget, with the ultimate aerial view of the Principality and the whole Côte d'Azur, take a giant leap into the skies above the Principality! [Skydive Monaco](#) has teamed up with Hélicoptère Monaco to give you the chance to jump from a helicopter and experience an incredible freefall, safe in the hands of the professionals!

■ EXPERIENCE RALLY RACING AT ITS FINEST

Monaco's love affair with automobiles goes back a long time. Formula 1 cars first raced along the streets of the Principality as early as 1929, and the Grand Prix has gone from strength to strength ever since. But there is another motor sport that's even older here. The [Monte-Carlo Rally](#) took place for the first time all the way back in 1911, between the Place du Casino and the legendary mountain passes in the back country. The hugely popular event is held in January every year. It's followed immediately by the [Rallye Historique de Monte-Carlo](#), an elegant and authentic race reserved exclusively for cars that competed in the Monte-Carlo Rally between 1911 and 1983. And in October, the future of motor sport is celebrated in Monaco, with the [Monte-Carlo eRally](#). The same glamorous setting, but with zero emissions.

■ HAVE A GO IN A FLIGHT SIMULATOR WITH HÉLI AIR VOYAGES

Whether you're a real aviation enthusiast or simply curious to see what it's like piloting an aircraft, [Héli Air Voyages](#) has the ideal experience for you with their ultra-realistic flight simulator. Hop aboard for an aerial adventure like no other, as you take the controls of an electronic plane for a one-hour virtual flight. Learn to take off, approach, land, and even fly at night!

■ CHEER ON AS MONACO AT THE STADE LOUIS-II

The [Stade Louis-II](#) with its distinctive architecture houses a variety of sporting facilities and is the home venue for two top-class sports clubs. [AS Monaco Football Club](#), one of the biggest clubs in the league and a regular title contender, has hosted some classic nights of elite European football. Whether you opt for a seat in the "legends' box", the "Munegu Family" stand, or behind one of the goals, locals and visitors can support the club come rain or shine. And in recent years, [AS Monaco Basket](#) has experienced a hugely successful revival that now sees them competing for glory! An historic club, the Roca Team is once again thrilling spectators at their home in the fully renovated Salle Gaston-Médecin. There is always a great atmosphere and a big crowd to see one of the top teams in Europe.

■ **PERFECT YOUR SWING WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

There's a green paradise edged with blue overlooking the Principality... In Monaco, you can work on your swing and your putting technique in a setting like no other, at Monte-Carlo Golf Club! Perched 900 metres up, the site is like a balcony above the Mediterranean, the perfect place for a round between the sky and sea.

REGIONAL TIP:

TAKE TO THE SLOPES UNDER THE MEDITERRANEAN SUN

The French Riviera is to be found in a part of France that is perfectly named... the Alpes-Maritimes. From the coast, there are three international ski resorts ideal for beginners and experienced skiers within an easy ninety-minute drive. Snow and sunshine are guaranteed, along with stunning landscapes offering views of the Mediterranean. On the edge of the Mercantour national park, you'll find Isola 2000, Valberg and Auron. Each is popular with families and veteran winter sports enthusiasts.