

FAMILY MONACO



visit
MONACO

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2025

CONTENT

Perfect hotel breaks for all the family	2
Things to see and do in the principality for all the family	5
Family events for all ages.....	10
Great places for a family meal in Monaco.....	13
Practical tips for making the most of your family break in Monaco	16
Monaco / the perfect family base to explore the region	17
Contact us	20

PERFECT HOTEL BREAKS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo

A family stay at the Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo is the stuff dreams are made of. The iconic hotel is looking better than ever, and offers every guest the kind of unparalleled hospitality found nowhere else. With their stunning panoramic views and elegant decor, the exceptional Princess Grace Diamond Suite and Prince Rainier III Diamond Suite are the ultimate in class and comfort for parents and children.

Hermitage Monte-Carlo

The Hôtel Hermitage Monte-Carlo has a whole range of services for younger guests, with its VIK programme, specially made for Very Important Kids! The hotel has teamed up with Bonpoint, the Parisian children's fashion house, to create every kid's dream stay.

Starting with a princely welcome, with fruit juice, home-made cakes and a colouring kit. Not only can your youngsters look forward to a whole programme of activities arranged specially for them, over 6s can also take advantage of the kids' room, where they will find a selection of games and consoles including a PlayStation, Wii console, darts, Lego, Playmobil, and more.

And in keeping with the establishment's nickname, the "connoisseurs' hotel", kids can take part in "little connoisseurs' activities" including painting, collage, sculpture, and even patisserie, and discover their hidden artistic talents! And of course, there are plenty of snacks and sweet treats provided, along with babycare equipment for young parents.

As a bonus, kids can use the heated indoor pool and take part in the water sports available.

Métropole Monte-Carlo

In the heart of Monaco's most exclusive district, the Métropole Monte-Carlo boasts a Family Suite especially for adults... and children! The suite has two separate areas, with two bedrooms and two bathrooms, like a family home away from home. And because the children deserve to enjoy the same luxury experience as mum and dad, there's a unique "Just For Kids" suite, designed by Sabrina Monte-Carlo Kids. A magical world specially created for families with children up to 12 years of age.

The Just For You programme gives families the chance to spend a night at the museum, exploring the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco after closing time when everyone else has gone home. A once-in-a-lifetime experience the kids will never forget!

Put your culinary skills to the test! Children aged 6 to 12 can learn about the joys of making their own cakes, pastries and other dishes without wasting a single thing, with the "Little Green Chefs" activity. Under the watchful eye of Patrick Mesiano, Head Pastry Chef at the Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo, your budding cooks will learn to prepare something mouth-wateringly delicious using every single part of a fruit, throwing nothing away. And they can take their creations home to share with the whole family!

The Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo has embarked on a renovation of its rooms and suites, once again overseen by renowned interior designer Jacques Garcia. The hotel, along with its restaurants and spa, is currently closed for this transformation and will reopen to guests on May 2nd.

Monte-Carlo Beach

The Monte-Carlo Beach, opened during summer season, offers a truly unique experience for families with children. The Kids Club by Petit VIP, for youngsters aged 4 to 12, is a beautifully designed, immersive and multicultural space where kids learn about the environment and discover their own talents.

Families will be naturally drawn to the hotel's Olympic swimming pool, filled with sea water heated to a balmy 28°C and ozone-filtered. There is also a separate area for children under 3, with regular baby swimming sessions.

This seaside villa also offers a range of aquatic activities, whether you're feeling energetic or simply looking to relax. From pedaloes, to stand-up paddleboarding or kayaking, the hotel has something fun for all the family.

Fairmont Monte-Carlo

Fancy being a happy family? The Fairmont Monte-Carlo's family package comes with all the little touches needed for an unforgettable break with the kids, including a colouring kit, cuddly toy, and bathrobe all featuring the hotel's very own mascot, Léna!

The hotel has a swimming pool dedicated to families, and a Little Explorers Club with activities for kids in July and August, plus a babysitting service so mum and dad can enjoy a romantic evening, and relax in the knowledge their little explorers are in safe hands.

Le Méridien Beach Plaza

The four-star hotel boasts its own top-class kids club, "Le Méridien Family", in an outstanding setting with its own private beach and outdoor pool overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. And there's no shortage of things to do! From making their own magic wands, to orienteering, music quizzes, yoga, and pebble-painting, there's something to suit every child!

For thrill-seekers, the Méridien Beach Plaza offers a wide selection of water-based activities at its private jetty, including banana boats, water-skiing, and jet-skis, available during summer season.

Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort

Cloud nine for kids, every day of their stay...

When you arrive at the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort, you know straight away that you're set for a magical experience, with the sandy-bottomed lagoon and the stunning view of the Mediterranean. Here, kids can enjoy the water whatever the weather, thanks to the

inviting covered pool hidden away in a lush tropical garden. Then there's the outdoor infinity pool, heated to a pleasant 28°C from January to December.

If you'd rather head out onto the waves, the Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort offers a selection of sea-based activities. With parasailing and wakeboarding, jet skiing, water skiing, and ringo rides, there's plenty for families to choose from.

The hotel enjoys the perfect location, just yards from the Larvotto seaside complex with its shaded promenade, beach, and restaurants.

Columbus Monte-Carlo, Curio Collection By Hilton

The Columbus Monte-Carlo, in the centre of the Fontvieille district, is positively packed with inspirational ideas and activities to keep kids amused.

Starting with a slumber party in the hotel's family suite for up to six kids aged under 12 - an experience they'll never forget!

The three-star hotel knows how important it is to make birthdays and other events truly memorable, and will happily make rooms available for your private use, decorating them in whatever style takes your fancy.

Thanks to the hotel's partnership with Banwood, budding explorers can hire bicycles (with or without stabilisers), tricycles, and scooters.

The Columbus Monte-Carlo gives kids the chance to try their hand at a quintessentially Mediterranean game with its indoor pétanque court, with boules provided by La Boulisterie! And because welcoming a new addition to the family is always a special time, the Columbus Monte-Carlo has created a unique experience for future parents with the babymoon! Take one last opportunity to relax and pamper yourself, with a pregnancy massage designed just for expecting mothers, a specially decorated room with a little surprise, and romantic cocktails at the bar... Non-alcoholic ones, of course!

Novotel Monte-Carlo

The Novotel Monte-Carlo is always a hit with families thanks to its central location in the bustling heart of the Principality, but it has much more to offer besides! Just a short distance from the railway station, the Place du Casino and Port Hercule, the hotel has an outdoor pool that's open from May to September. It's a delightful oasis of cool in the city, perfect for lazing and soaking up the sunshine on warm days.

The Novotel boasts a number of family and junior suites, decorated in a laid-back Riviera style, making it the perfect home from home to relax and make the most of your stay.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THE PRINCIPALITY FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Take a stroll through the gardens

The Principality is surprisingly green and verdant, and in fact a fifth of the entire country is covered by parks and gardens, many of them open to the public, providing the perfect place for a little relaxing family time.

From Larvotto to Fontvieille, and from Monaco-Ville to the Exotic Garden, there's always a tranquil green space nearby, for a welcome breath of fresh air as you stroll among the trees and plants.

Starting with the Japanese Garden. Created in 1994 on the wishes of Prince Rainier III, this beautiful garden in the Larvotto district is a place of total peacefulness and serenity. A quiet little corner of the Land of the Rising Sun, right here in the Principality.

A Principality that has recently expanded its total area by about 3%, with the inauguration of Mareterra. Six additional hectares to visit with the family. The main attractions of this new area include a Prince Jacques Promenade along the seafront with a unique mineral atmosphere, a blue cave that will allow the curious a glimpse into the internal workings of the new structure, a relaxation space conducive to meditation, gardens, as well as the Quai du Petit Portier and its marina.

Take a walk through the Casino Gardens and see the kids marvel at the huge trees in the Jardins de la Petite Afrique or "Little Africa Gardens", named for the tropical species that grow there.

Fancy a stroll through some glorious gardens overlooking the Mediterranean? Make for the Saint Martin Gardens in Monaco's Old Town district, and admire the gorgeous greenery against a backdrop of stunning blue. These gardens were originally typically Mediterranean, but as you make your way among the plants, look out for some of the surprisingly exotic species planted here over the years. And of course, enjoy the sweeping sea views.

Tucked away at the foot of the Rock of Monaco itself, you'll find the Rainier III Zoological Gardens, named in tribute to the animal-loving Prince. The zoo sits on the cliffside overlooking the Port of Fontvieille, and is home to some 250 animals, all of which were donated, abandoned, seized by customs, or exchanged with other zoos. It's the perfect family day out! Please note that the site is currently closed for safety reasons due to ongoing work on the cliff face.

Continue your stroll with a visit to Fontvieille landscaped gardens, around the big top where the Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival takes place every year. The large gardens are popular with families and locals, as is the nearby Princess Grace Rose Garden with its countless varieties of roses. And don't be surprised if you should happen to meet other families along the way - feathered ones, that is - as ducks and geese are free to roam the park!

Up in the Exotic Garden district on the heights above the Principality, you'll find Princess Antoinette Park. The children's play area, surrounded by olive trees, has amusements for little ones up to the age of 9. There's also a mini-golf course and a miniature farm that's always a big hit with younger kids. The ewes, ducks, rabbits, and chickens are happy and well cared for by the park's team of gardeners.

Last but most certainly not least, there is the Botanical Centre in the Exotic Garden, with its rows of greenhouses containing the world's largest collections of cacti and succulent plants - more than 10,000 altogether!

Immerse yourself in culture

In Monaco, we celebrate culture. The culture of excellence, for all ages! With world-class cultural institutions, countless prestige events, and a vast array of things going on, there's always something to see and do in the Principality!

Take in a movie under the stars from mid-June to mid-September, the Open Air Cinema in the Monaco-Ville district, just below the Oceanographic Museum, shows movies on a big screen in a truly unique setting with the starry skies above and the Mediterranean Sea below. A cinephile's dream!

World-class music for the whole family! In addition to its usual programme of classical music concerts, the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra also regularly performs special concerts for young audiences, aimed at children aged 4 and over. They are a great way to get kids interested in music and offer plenty of variety, with everything from concerts for the whole family, to film screenings, and even musical fairy tales.

Stage left, stage right... The Théâtre Princesse Grâce has all the bases covered with a packed programme that includes numerous plays suitable for younger audiences and families. The eclectic selection of shows means there's something for everyone!

The Principality also has a popular open-air theatre in the Monaco-Ville district, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Every summer, Fort Antoine, a historic fortress dating from the early 18th century, is transformed into an outdoor auditorium and hosts all kinds of performances, from drama to comedy and everything in between. Watching a play, by the sea, on a warm evening under the stars... What better way to make unforgettable family memories? Monaco is also home to many outstanding museums and monuments, some of them world-famous.

Facing the sea, the Oceanographic Museum, which opened all the way back in 1910, is the perfect place for youngsters to learn about the marine world, with its thousands of different species of tropical and Mediterranean fish. A day at the museum is a fun and educational experience, with entertaining activities, permanent exhibits, fascinating one-off exhibitions and even the chance to see sea turtles being cared for in specially created tanks.

One of the highlights of your visit to the Oceanographic Museum will be the new permanent exhibition, "The Prince and the Mediterranean", where you can go aboard a reconstruction of Prince Rainier III's personal yacht. The Monaco-Ville landmark has plenty to keep children entertained, with activities like ImmerSEAVE 360, an immersive virtual reality experience that allows them to explore the ocean, particularly on weekends and during school holidays. Another fun and educational activity for children is the tactile basin. This fascinating workshop reveals the secrets of the fauna and the flora of the Mediterranean coast.

For another great day out that's sure to be a hit with the kids, head to the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology and learn all about the fascinating history of evolution. The Museum caters to children of primary and middle school age, and the curators are experts in sharing their passion for their subject with the younger generation. And until 1st December 2025, the Museum presents "The butterfly effect: pre-historic animals": an exhibition that explores the connections between animal species and brings together significant

archaeological collections. Designed to spark curiosity in all, the exhibition offers workshops for children, animated lectures and guided tours, and projection areas.

Take a step back in time with a visit to the Cars Collection of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco, at Port Hercule. The museum houses around a hundred vehicles once owned by Prince Rainier III, who was a keen automobile enthusiast. The collection is one of the Principality's treasures, and offers visitors the chance to take a journey through history. Kids will be thrilled to see everything from the magnificent 1903 De Dion-Buton, all the way up to the Ferrari Formula 1 car driven by Monaco's very own Charles Leclerc!

It's a classic, something every family has to see at least once when in Monaco: the Changing of the Palace Guard. Every day at 11.55 am on the dot, the solemn, centuries-old ceremony takes place in the square outside the Prince's Palace.

And while you're there, why not take the opportunity to head inside the Palace and explore the State Apartments, which are open to the public between March and October. It's a fascinating journey into history for all the family, with a trove of beautifully-preserved treasures to admire, including 600 m² of newly-restored Renaissance frescoes.

The Casino de Monte-Carlo remains one of the very finest gaming and entertainment venues anywhere in Europe, and indeed the world. With its James Bond atmosphere and Belle Epoque architecture, it would be a shame for the family to miss out on experiencing such a stunning and legendary place. Fortunately, the Casino is open in the morning for tours, and all ages are welcome, as the gaming tables and slot machines are closed at that time of day, leaving the whole family free to admire the gaming lounges, the Atrium, and the Café de la Rotonde. But, of course, this is a highly prestigious establishment, so be sure to dress for the occasion!

Endless sport and leisure activities

If you're an active family, there are plenty of ways to burn off some energy in Monaco! Whether in Fontvieille, Larvotto, or Monaco-Ville, there's no shortage of ideas.

In Monaco-Ville, for example, you'll find not only the Saint-Martin Gardens, the Prince's Palace, the Oceanographic Museum, but also a skate park! A mere stone's throw from the Open Air Cinema, kids aged 8 and over can let off steam as they attempt tricks and jumps with scooters, roller skates, and skateboards. All in a fantastic location overlooking the sea. If that's a little too energetic for your taste, head to Princess Antoinette Park, and enjoy a gentle game of mini-golf or shoot some hoops on the multi-sports pitch. Whichever you choose, the olive trees and the sweeping views of the Mediterranean are the ideal setting for a bit of sporting fun.

If your youngsters are intrepid puzzlers, you'll want to check out the selection of escape games available in Monaco. At the Oceanographic Museum, you can embark on a voyage through time aboard Prince Albert I's famous research vessel, the Princess Alice III! Meanwhile, the outdoor activity Captain' Game is a combination of fun trail and escape game, and is a great way to discover all the secrets of the Fontvieille district by answering questions on the theme of the environment. There are ten riddles to solve along the original 2.5 kilometre trail, each leading to a marked location. Will you find them all?

Sport is ingrained in Monaco's DNA, and the Stade Louis-II is its beating heart. Built in the Fontvieille district on land reclaimed from the sea, it hosts a variety of sporting competitions, but is probably best known as the home of AS Monaco Football Club. It's possible to take a tour of this vast 30,000 m², with its unique design and architecture, and kids can follow in the footsteps of stars like Thierry Henry, Radamel Falcao, and Kylian Mbappé. Speaking of Louis-

Il stadium, this venue also hosts the matches of AS Monaco Basket Ball. For several years now, the Roca Team has been at the top of the French league and a regular in the Euroleague, the best European competition. Experience a family-friendly atmosphere in the same stadium where footballers play, in the Gaston-Médecin all, which is always buzzing with excitement.

If your kids are real water babies, you'll want to include a visit to the Académie Monégasque de la mer, Monaco's Marine Academy, which is running week-long courses throughout the summer. There's a whole range of activities to choose from, and kids can try their hand at scuba diving, snorkelling, freediving, and lifesaving, while learning about the plants and animals that live in the sea.

Alternatively, stay on dry land and enjoy the beach games at the Larvotto seaside complex. With its shaded promenade and pristine beach, it's the perfect place for a refreshing dip in the warm Riviera sunshine. And when the kids need to refuel, there's a wide selection of great places to eat along the seafront, with restaurants on the private beaches - Neptune, La Note Bleue and the Miami, and delicious Italian food from Giacomo, part of the famous Big Mamma chain. Settle down on the sand and enjoy! In the shade of the trees on the promenade, the menu at Sexy Tacos is in the very finest Mexican culinary tradition, while Bistro Coe serves refined cuisine in a stylish and modern setting.

Staying in - or rather on - the Mediterranean, here's another unmissable experience: Sustainable Whale Watching Monaco. Kids will be thrilled to get a glimpse of the huge marine mammals in their natural habitat! Just off the coast of Monaco, the Pelagos Sanctuary is a safe haven for dolphins, fin whales, sperm whales, and other cetaceans. It's an unexpected experience in Monegasque waters, and a chance to discover the incredible natural wonders found off the coast of the Principality.

Pool fans will prefer a visit to the Stade Nautique Rainier-III! A favourite with families, the world-famous swimming pool sits at the foot of the Rock of Monaco, between the Formula 1 circuit and the superyachts moored in the port. Its heated brine pool, diving boards and water slide are sure to keep your youngsters amused!

And if you are looking for a change of scenery, Monaco's location is perfect! Nestled between the Mediterranean and the Alps, it's easy to reach the first ski resorts in just 1.5 hours by car. Imagine yourself breathing in the fresh mountain air at 2,000 meters altitude in family-friendly resorts like Valberg, Isola 2000, Auron, or La Colmiane, with the breathtaking view of the Big Blue in the background!

Visits combining transports and wonder

At just 2,08 km², the Principality is compact enough to be explored on foot, but there are several ways to see the sights from the comfort of a seat on your chosen mode of transport.

Monaco has its own mini tourist train. Perfect for families, the train departs from outside the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco-Ville. A single round-trip lasts around 30 to 40 minutes, and takes in all of Monaco's most iconic locations.

Monaco Le Grand Tour is the Principality's tourist bus, which stops at 12 locations across Monaco, from the Fontvieille district to the beaches at Larvotto. Once you've purchased your ticket, you can hop on and off wherever takes your fancy! If you decide to stay on the double-decker bus for the whole journey, it'll take around 1 hour.

Monaco looks even better from the air! So why not get a bird's eye view with an unforgettable helicopter ride? See the Principality in all its panoramic glory, with the Alps one on side and the sparkling blue Mediterranean on the other, with tours by local airlines

Blade and Héli Air Monaco. Fly over the Riviera, from Italy all the way to the Baie des Anges, for an incredible experience the kids will remember all their lives!

Unforgettable holiday courses and activities for kids

Monaco is a wonderland of culture, sport, and art, and there are all kinds of initiatives to get younger visitors interested!

At the NMNM (Nouveau Musée National de Monaco) for example, there are fun family activities every weekend whenever temporary exhibitions are staged at the Villa Sauber and Villa Paloma. Kids aged from 7 to 12 can take part in creative manual workshops and treasure hunts through the villas' gardens. And during the school holidays, the NMNM organises special themed activities to coincide with its exhibitions, giving youngsters a fun introduction to the world of art.

Educating and entertaining are two of the Oceanographic Museum's most important missions. The Ocean Club combines both, as the hundred-year institution offers kids aged 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 the chance to learn all about the marine world and biodiversity with a variety of inspiring activities. From preparing meals for the animals, to getting a sneak peek behind the scenes of the aquariums, and discovering the magical world of coral reefs, your budding aquariologists will have a whale of a time!

Let the kids discover their inner performer with a turn in the big top where the Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival takes place every year! Over a week, 4 to 16 year-olds can learn skills like the flying pole, trapeze, aerial silk or hoop, with an aerial acrobatics course!

Prehistoric times have always held a fascination for youngsters, so why not head to the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology. For a great family day out, explore the exhibits and take part in the range of activities regularly organised by the curators, including an escape game, treasure hunts, pottery, archery, and more. There's plenty to keep your mini-explorers amused!

Move over theatre giants, the Théâtre des Muses' improvisation classes could well unearth a future star of the stage! In addition to regularly hosting performances designed with younger audiences in mind, this cosy little theatre in the Moneghetti district runs theme-based courses during the summer holidays, inviting kids to tread the boards and learn the art of improvisation. It's a great way to build their creativity and self-confidence.

Another interesting initiative for families: Happy Chou Monaco offers creative workshops for children and their parents. These workshops are very diverse and can include creative activities (painting, drawing, modeling...), cooking classes, or even gardening workshops. It's an opportunity to share creative moments as a family that can become precious memories!

Monaco is a hub for unique educational and fun adventures for children, including The Bubble Bus. As a high-quality educational club, The Bubble Bus Monaco offers programs tailored to babies, toddlers, and young children. This unique concept provides children from 6 months to 12 years old with a space where curiosity and fun go hand in hand, whether it's for entertaining science experiments, crafting sessions, or developmental activities.

FAMILY EVENTS FOR ALL AGES

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. Held in tandem with its sister event the New Generation Festival where the spotlight is on up-and-coming young talent, the Circus Festival has been thrilling fans of all ages for fifty years, with its unique atmosphere and world-class acts.

The Funfair

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 kids and grown-ups. For a month, excited thrill-seekers flock to the dodgem cars 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 Christmas Village

When the festive period arrives with all its fairytale magic, Port Hercule is the location for the Christmas Village and its special seasonal 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.

U Sciaratu

In Monaco, the carnival is a summer activity. Now one of the highlights of the summer season, U Sciaratu - which means "uproar" in Monegasque - is a vibrant event full of colour and life. The carnival takes over the streets of Monaco-Ville for a popular festival that includes parades of floats, street entertainers, marching bands, and more, all between the Place de la Mairie and the Place du Palais!

Summer goings-on at Port Hercule

Every summer, Port Hercule is a bustling hive of activity with a wide array of activities throughout August. You'll find sporting and fun attractions for all ages, shaded areas with greenery to relax, and stands selling welcome refreshments, all in the very centre of the Principality. Perfect for a family day out!

World Music Day

One of the longest days of the year is also a joyous celebration of music in many countries - and Monaco is no exception! Music is honoured in fitting style all over the Principality. From small open-air concerts in the middle of the city, to more intimate gatherings, to the traditional grand concert held at Port Hercule, there's a whole programme to delight music-lovers of all ages in every district of Monaco.

Fireworks and drone show

Seeing the children's eyes light up as the fireworks fly skyward is an unmissable summer experience! Spectacular fireworks displays illuminate the night sky over Port Hercule, while dazzling drone shows paint the Monegasque heavens above the Princely Palace. These enchanting events create cherished memories for families.

Events at La Condamine market

In the bustling heart of the Principality, La Condamine market is one of Monaco's treasures. It's a popular place where the locals come together, to shop, eat, and socialise. Its wide flat space and children's play area make it ideal for family get-togethers, and themed events are held here throughout the year. Visit La Condamine to get a flavour of a traditional Mediterranean market!

Activities for youngsters at the Grimaldi Forum Monaco

The Grimaldi Forum Monaco is inviting kids to learn about art and put the theory into practice with its summer workshops, a companion activity to its landmark exhibition named "Colours" from 8 July to 31 August 2025.

Le Printemps des Arts Monte-Carlo

The Printemps des Arts Monte-Carlo is a three-week long celebration of creativity, encompassing every art form you can think of, from opera and painting, to photography and theatre. More than just an art or music festival, it's a shared event that brings together artists, specialists and members of the public. The Printemps des Arts is not just for adults but kids too, with numerous events for all the family, so everyone can experience the world of the arts, no matter their age. Admission to events is free for under 25s.

Sound and light show on the Palace du Palais

The square in front of the Prince's Palace is the stage for a variety of events all year round, from the National Day celebrations, to the summer carnival, and the grand circus parade. All of which are hugely popular with younger visitors. Every year at the start of summer, the square is the setting for the Meeting of Historical Sites of the Grimaldis of Monaco, where all of the towns and villages with links to the Princely Family come together to celebrate their shared heritage. Numerous events are held to mark the occasion, with cultural activities, tasting of local delicacies, displays of regional arts and crafts, and more. And there's a special treat for the whole family a spectacular sound and light show will be projected onto the walls of the Prince's Palace.

Heritage Days

The Principality has been marking the European Heritage Days for nearly 25 years. Held at the end of September every year, the event gives visitors a unique opportunity to get a glimpse inside numerous exceptional historic sites and monuments, many of which are normally closed to the public. In Monaco, nearly 40 sites take part in the initiative, and lots of them will be fascinating for parents and children, like the Oceanographic Museum, the Cars Collection of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco, and the Rainier III Zoological Gardens. The ideal family day out!

Terrae

Terrae is passionate about transforming urban spaces into thriving centers of ecological agriculture. Founded by Jessica Sbaraglia, this organization designs, builds, and maintains organic gardens in a variety of urban settings, from traditional plots to balconies and rooftops throughout Monaco and Europe. With a commitment to organic practices, Terrae's produce is distributed locally to canteens, markets, restaurants, and individuals, helping to raise awareness about sustainable food systems all year long. Looking for fun and educational activities for kids aged 4 to 9? Terrae has you covered with a range of engaging and meaningful events.

GREAT PLACES FOR A FAMILY MEAL IN MONACO

In cosmopolitan Monaco, dishes from near and far promise you a memorable journey into a land full of flavours. Here in the Principality, we take our gourmet cuisine seriously, and there are infinite gastronomical possibilities for all ages. Here's a selection of restaurants the whole family will love!

Mada One Monaco

Mada One, the concept restaurant created by Michelin-starred chef Marcel Ravin at the One Monte-Carlo complex, serves unique cuisine to eat-in or take-out. Its elegant, eclectic menu is all about Chef Ravin's "snackonomy" concept - top-quality fare at any time of the day, from healthy breakfasts to afternoon tea.

Amù

Amù – the Monegasque word for "love" – is a tribute to the Principality and its local heritage and traditions, a romantic paean to the Riviera. This gem of a restaurant can be found up on the hotel's top floor, serving a harmonious blend of Italian and French-style Mediterranean flavours. There are more than gastronomic delights to be savoured at Amù by the pool. Top up your wellness levels as you relax by the family-friendly pool and gaze out at the breathtaking view.

Old Wild West

For families looking for an authentic American frontier experience, the flavours of the Far West can be sampled right here in Monaco! This restaurant at Port Hercule invites diners to embark on a voyage across the Atlantic without leaving Monaco, with the distinctive flavour of its hamburgers and succulent Argentine beef steaks. So round up your posse and head for this friendly Western-style eatery!

Giacomo

Beachside dining is always a hit with families! At Giacomo, part of the Big Mamma chain with its 17 restaurants around the world, including one in Paris, parents will love the airy floral décor, the friendly vibe and Italian-style cuisine. And kids will be as happy as clams to be able to eat simple, high-quality food without leaving the seaside.

Sunday brunch at Smakelijk, a Belgian gem at Le Méridien Beach Plaza

Le Méridien Beach Plaza invites you to savour Sundays with a delectable brunch at Smakelijk. This Belgian-inspired restaurant expertly blends the best of both French and Belgian cuisine, offering a gourmet experience with a Mediterranean view. Indulge in classic dishes like vol-au-vent, moules-frites, or a chocolate waffle on the sunny terrace of this four-star hotel.

The Food Hall at La Condamine Market

At the heart of the Principality is the popular district of La Condamine, a bustling place where the locals go to shop and socialise. And it also has a Food Hall, serving up great food the whole family can enjoy! Browse the many different stalls and shops in the market hall, buy whatever takes your fancy, then settle down at a table to eat! With everything from Japanese specialities and local delicacies to pizzas, sandwiches, Italian cuisine, and freshly-made meals, there's something to suit every taste.

Café Mai

On the Condamine market square, Café Mai offers a French bistro-style cuisine in a successful setting, where elegance blends with refinement. The restaurant offering a brunch every Saturday also features a dedicated and tastefully decorated children's area.

Café du Cirque

Boasting an expansive, sunlit terrace and a warm, inviting ambiance that flows seamlessly from the main entrance of Fontvieille's renowned Chapiteau, accented by playful circus-themed decor, Café du Cirque is sure to please every palate. Meanwhile, parents can kick back and enjoy quality fare while watching their kids play just outside.

Grubers / Steak'n'Shake / Babek

Monaco is, of course, known for its Michelin-starred, fine dining restaurants, but there are also plenty of places where families on the go can grab a tasty bite to eat, in between visits to museums, parks, or whatever other activities they have planned for the day. Starting with that perennial family favourite, a juicy hamburger. Grubers, a concept burger bar on the pedestrianised Rue Caroline, uses only top-quality ingredients and fresh pickles. A short distance from there, Babek (kebab backwards) serves up delicious street food to enjoy on the move, including flatbreads and veal kebabs. Head to the Sainte-Dévote hairpin - familiar to Formula 1 fans - where you'll find Steak'n'Shake, a welcoming diner with a retro feel, serving generous hamburgers and milkshakes.

Le Saint-Nicolas / Castelroc

Monaco's Old Town district is full of quaint streets and squares, ideal for relaxing with a drink and a plate of good food in the shade of the Mediterranean pine trees. Starting with Le Saint-Nicolas, a restaurant on the square that bears the same name. It's always a popular place to eat, with its fountain, view of the cathedral, and inventive takes on traditional dishes. On the larger Place du Palais, you'll find the Castelroc, serving Mediterranean cuisine inspired by local traditions, including Monegasque stockfish or stocafi. From a seat on the beautiful shaded terrace, you can admire the Prince's Palace and the stunning views of Fontvieille and its port below.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR FAMILY BREAK IN MONACO

Walking is a great way to exploring the city, but there are other excellent transport options available for parents with children. Not only are they convenient, but you won't get lost! Here are some useful tips to keep in mind, to ensure your visit to Monaco goes perfectly.

With Monaco measuring just 2 square kilometres, many places of interest are within easy walking distance, helped by the 80 public lifts, 37 escalators, and eight travelators. Alternatively, the bus network covers the whole country with stops near all of the major tourist attractions. There are six bus routes, plus express services for getting from A to B even quicker. And there are also evening and night buses, so you can get where you need to go at any time of the day or night. Digital screens at each bus stop display information about timetables and when the next bus is due to arrive. Tickets can be purchased individually or in booklets for multiple journeys from the official website of Monaco's bus operator, CAM, and you can also pay on board with a credit card.

To get from one side of Port Hercule to the other, hop on the solar-electric boat bus, an original and relaxing way to travel between Monaco-Ville and the Casino that lets you relax and admire the superyachts in the harbour. The service runs seven days a week.

Finally, Monaco has an extensive network of electric bicycles called Monabike, which can be used by riders aged 14 and over. The popular public bike-share scheme is constantly being improved as part of the Principality's policy to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and there are already around 350 Monabike bicycles and 49 docking stations.

To save time during your stay, download Monapass! The convenient, all-in-one free app is priceless for families, letting you buy all kinds of tickets and passes in just a matter of clicks. Avoid the queues, get real-time updates on local transport, purchase combined tickets for different attractions, and much more besides!

What's more, the Principality is brimming with individuals and professionals who shine a spotlight on activities and experiences that families can enjoy all year round. For inspiration, parents in or visiting Monaco can check out Monaco Kiddos on Instagram. They showcase a wide array of children's activities and services, from creative workshops and shows to holiday camps. Monaco Kiddos also highlights great family outings, from parks and gardens to museums and unique events.

MONACO / THE PERFECT FAMILY BASE TO EXPLORE THE REGION

The Principality packs a whole lot of unique experiences and activities into its 2 square kilometres, and there's always something going on here.

But Monaco is also a fantastic base from which to explore the wider region with the whole family. From Menton to Nice and beyond, there are all kinds of events happening all year round for kids to get excited about, and never any shortage of ideas.

Nice Carnival and the Menton Lemon Festival in February

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 Carnival is a vibrant affair with traditional flower throwing and an illuminated parade, while over in Menton there's a lively atmosphere as the town celebrates all things citrus, with fruit sculptures and plenty more besides.

The Iles de Lérins

Now this an outing that the whole family is sure to love! Off the coast of Cannes lies a collection of beautiful islands: the Iles de Lérins. Each of these jewels of the Mediterranean is a little paradise with well-preserved plant and animal life. The islands of Sainte-Marguerite and Saint-Honorat are a short 15-minute boat ride from the coast, and both offer a marvellous change of scenery. Sainte-Marguerite is criss-crossed with hiking paths and is popular with ramblers. The island even has an underwater eco-museum that visitors are free to snorkel into at their leisure. Saint-Honorat has been home to the monks of Lérins Abbey for centuries, and offers vineyard and wine-themed days out, perfect for relaxing and recharging the batteries.

Les Verreries de Biot

For decades, the charming village of Biot has been famous for its handmade glass. The unique art of glassblowing has become synonymous with the village's name, and attracts visitors to the workshop founded 60 years ago by Eloi Monod. Parents and children will be captivated as they watch the glassmakers going about their traditional craft with expert precision at the red-hot furnace, and see the glass creations take shape before their eyes. Clearly an experience not to be missed!

Le Bois des Lutins

Le Bois des Lutins ("The Elves' Wood") in the town of Villeneuve-Loubet is a country park with a whole host of fun attractions for children aged 2 and over, and mum and dad too! The beautiful park has everything from toboggan runs, bird hides, climbing nets, a trolls' village, and a treetop adventure course, to keep the whole family entertained all day long!

AntibesLand and Koaland

AntibesLand, in the town of Antibes, is the biggest theme park on the French Riviera, and a fantastic family day out in a magnificent Mediterranean setting! With restaurants, attractions for little ones and more adventurous older kids, including time-honoured classics and exciting new rides, there's something for every member of the family in the park's different themed areas.

In Menton, Koaland is a kids' paradise set in parkland once owned by the Princely Family in the 17th century. Koaland and its forest of hundred-year old trees is a lovely place to spend a few hours with fun and games for the whole family in a relaxing setting by the sea. There is also a restaurant at the park.

Cycling along the Riviera dei Fiori in Italy

The glorious Riviera doesn't end at the border, with Italy a mere 30 minutes' drive away. And on the Italian side, the coastline is a delight of characterful villages, beaches, and coves. The Riviera dei Fiori cycle path runs for 24 kilometres along the edge of the Mediterranean, passing through a number of Italian seaside resorts including San Remo, and is a great idea for a family excursion. Starting in Ospedaletti, you can hire bikes for adults and children, and even tandems and four-wheeled pedal cars, so everyone can travel together!

Cap d'Ail coastal footpath

A stunning path that winds along the coast for over 3 kilometres, the Sentier des Douaniers starts on the other side the Port of Fontvieille, the port of Cap d'Ail, and Marquet beach. Along the trail, you'll see beautifully preserved landscapes, exotic species of plants, magnificent early 20th century villas, and historical and geological curiosities, not to mention one of the very finest luxury hotels on the Riviera, the Eden Palace, whose guests have included the likes of Greta Garbo, Winston Churchill and Sacha Guitry.

Cap Ferrat trail

Starting from the charming village of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, this walk will take you around the peninsula, with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean at every turn. As you go, admire the magnificent gardens and luxuriant natural plants and flowers, nestling between the chalk cliffs and rugged reefs. The walk should take you around two hours.

Cap d'Antibes trail

Another walk around another beautiful headland, this time in Antibes! The five kilometre trail, which takes two hours to complete, runs alongside the Mediterranean, where the chalk cliffs occasionally give way to charming coves, with sumptuous villas sitting amid verdant gardens planted with Aleppo pines, hundred-year old olive trees, and exotic species.

The Parc de la Grande Corniche

Perched like a balcony overlooking the Mediterranean at more than 500 metres above sea level, 2 kilometres inland, the Parc de la Grande Corniche stretches for 712 hectares of greenery and hiking paths winding through the villages of La Trinité, Villefranche-sur-Mer, Eze, and La Turbie. There are a number of easy-to-walk paths, all with stunningly gorgeous views sweeping from the Italian coast to the east, to the Var in the west. The park has a variety of spots perfect for exploring or simply settling down for a family picnic, including the wonderfully named Plateau de la Justice, the Fort de la Revère, and the Cime de la Forna.

CONTACT US

Monaco Government Tourist Authority
Athos Palace
2, rue de la Lûjèrneta
98030 Monaco Cedex
Contact : VisitMonaco.Content@gouv.mc

