BLUE OCEAN CLUB

DESTINATION - YACHT CHARTER GUIDE

Nice

Yacht Charter Guide

CRAFTING SIGNATURE CHARTER YACHT EXPERIENCES

Nice Yacht Charter
Region: Mediterranean
Gateways: NCE - CEQ - LTT - MCM
Source: Editorial
Blue Ocean Club LLC

blueoceanclub.com

NICE

Overview

Nice is the Riviera's primary jet gateway and a practical embarkation city - Port Lympia for boarding, Cap Ferrat and Villefranche for the first night's water, Monaco a short run east when the week needs Port Hercule punctuation.

Nice yacht charter - Port Lympia embarkation, Cap Ferrat day-anchors, NCE door-to-deck and APA guidance.

AIRPORTS	NCE, CEQ, LTT, MCM
REGION	Mediterranean
PAGE	https://blueoceanclub.com/charter/destinations/nice-yacht-charter

WHEN TO GO

Season & rhythm

- How a Riviera week actually runs.: Not a floating hotel itinerary - a choreographed operation. Captains, marina agents and concierge lock the sequence before wheels-down at NCE.
- Embark ready: APA open, toys checked, crew briefed on diet and privacy before the first cork. Arrival logistics sit in the Door-to-deck block below - this panel is the onboard open.
- Coastal cadence: Short hops along the Golden Triangle - morning toys, lunch at a held beach-club table, golden-hour reposition, overnight either on a quay or a quiet roadstead.
- Concierge lock: Restaurant, beach club and villa slots confirmed weeks out. Helicopters, security and medical cover sit on standby - not scavenged the morning of.
- Event week or cruising week.: Grand Prix, Cannes and the Yacht Show rewrite berth economics and itinerary logic. Quiet weeks trade spectacle for water, privacy and value.
- Event weeks: Monaco GP, Cannes Film / Lions, Monaco Yacht Show. Berths book 6-12 months out; Port Hercule nights can multiply several times over. The yacht is a hospitality platform - visibility is the point.
- Cruising weeks: May-June and September shoulder, or midsummer away from headline dates. Freer movement Monaco Cap-Ferrat Lérins Saint-Tropez, with anchorage days that event weeks simply cannot afford.
- What changes: Berth strategy, APA contingency, tender logistics and dining holds. Same coast - different operation. We design the week for the calendar you actually fly into.

ON THE WATER

Cruising grounds

Monaco to Cap Ferrat

The eastern Riviera opens with Port Hercule - a tight, theatrical harbour that is as much a stage as a marina. From Monaco most captains run west along Cap Ferrat, dropping the anchor in Villefranche or Beaulieu for swimming and a tender run ashore to Eden Roc or the Cap's pine-fringed coves. Evenings often return to Monaco for Yacht Club dinners, casino nights or Grand Prix week when the bay becomes the world's most exclusive paddock. Short legs, big atmosphere: this stretch packs more signature moments into a few nautical miles than almost anywhere else on the coast.

Antibes, Cap d'Antibes & Juan-les-Pins

Antibes is the Riviera's working megayacht capital - Port Vauban holds some of the largest private yachts in the Med, yet the Cap itself stays green, rocky and surprisingly intimate. Day-anchors under Cap d'Antibes give clear water for toys and a short tender to Garoupe or the old town's ramparts and Picasso museum. Juan-les-Pins adds a livelier shoreline for sundowners without the Croisette crowds. Brokers favour this pocket as the quiet counterpoint between Cannes and Monaco - close to Nice Côte d'Azur airport, with berths that actually fit when Cap Ferrat and Port Hercule are full.

Cannes & the Îles de Lérins

Cannes is the festival and beach-club heart of the Côte d'Azur: Vieux Port and Port Pierre Canto for berthing, the Croisette for nights ashore, and a bay that fills with chartered platforms every May. Ten minutes by tender, the Îles de Lérins flip the mood - pine scent, monastery silence on Saint-Honorat, and sheltered swimming off Sainte-Marguerite. Captains typically split the week between a harbour night and quiet day-anchors around the islands so guests get both the red-carpet coast and a private-island morning. Event weeks (Film Festival, Lions, Yachting Festival) need berths booked months ahead; shoulder season is freer and often more charming.

Gulf of Saint-Tropez

Saint-Tropez remains the Riviera's most photographed gulf - the old port by night, Pampelonne's beach clubs by day, and Cap Camarat's wilder headland for overnight calm. Club 55, Nikki Beach and Bagatelle sit a tender ride from the usual day-anchors; evenings pull back into the village for dinner on the quay. The gulf itself is wide enough that a well-run charter never feels trapped in one scene. West toward Cavalaire and the wilder Var coast, the same week can turn quieter without a long passage - the classic Riviera decompression after Monaco or Cannes.

The Îles d'Hyères: Porquerolles & Port-Cros

An hour west of Saint-Tropez, the Îles d'Hyères feel like another country - national-park rules, turquoise shallows and almost no cars on Porquerolles. Port-Cros is the quieter sibling: hiking trails, no-take marine reserves and some of the clearest snorkelling on the French coast. Charters use these islands as the soft landing after a high-energy Riviera week, or as the whole itinerary for guests who want nature over nightlife. Berthing is limited and overnight stays are tightly managed in season, so captains plan day-anchors carefully and keep a mainland fallback in Hyères or Toulon if the weather turns.

QUAY NIGHTS

Marinas & berthing

Port Lympia, Nice

Practical embarkation near NCE - Cap Ferrat and Villefranche minutes away by sea. - Max LOA ~70 m - Gateway NCE - Transfer 15-25 min from NCE - Peak lead: 2-8 weeks typical

DAY WATER

Anchorages

Anse de la Scaletta (Plage Mala)
Cap d'Ail
A pocket bay on the Cap d'Ail coast, known ashore as Plage Mala: clear water, a cliff amphitheatre, and a short tender run from Port Hercule or Villefranche. Popular day-stop when Monaco berths are full; overnight only in settled weather.

Rade de Villefranche
Villefranche-sur-Mer
The great horseshoe of Villefranche offers deep water, a cinematic amphitheatre of hills, and easy tender access to the old port and Citadelle. A favourite overnight when Cap Ferrat and Monaco are packed.

Between the Îles de Lérins
Cannes
The passage between the two Lérins islands is the classic Cannes day-out: swim stops, pine-scented shores, and La Guérite / Fort Royal a tender ride away. Overnighting is for settled nights only - prefer Port de Cannes when the breeze builds.

Plage de Pampelonne
Saint-Tropez
Five kilometres of sand south-east of Saint-Tropez town. Yacht fleets raft on the roadstead through summer while tenders run Club 55, Nikki Beach and Gigi. Overnighting is common in settled weather; Port de Saint-Tropez for a town night.

Plage Notre-Dame
Porquerolles
The island's most photographed bay on the north shore: pale sand, clear water, and a pine fringe. Ideal lunch and swim stop when cruising the Hyères islands; Port de Porquerolles for overnight berthing if the roadstead fills.

Anse de Méjean & Anse de Magaud
Toulon
Méjean and Magaud sit on the coast between Le Pradet and Carqueiranne: rocky headlands, small beaches, and a less theatrical scene than Saint-Tropez. Useful weather hole and staging bay when transiting Toulon roads toward Porquerolles.

SHORE TABLES

Restaurants

Le Plongeoir
Nice
Rock-perch dining east of the harbour.

Jan
Nice
Fine dining transfer from Port Lympia.

La Pescheria
Nice
Harbour-adjacent seafood for embarkation nights.

DAY ASHORE

Beach clubs

Opera Plage / private beaches
Promenade des Anglais
City beach day before Cap Ferrat water.

Paloma Beach
Cap Ferrat
Short east run for the classic Cap morning.

TRANSFERS

Helicopter & chauffeur - briefly.

Rotor or road from NCE / CEQ to the berth, timed to tender and dinner - not a taxi scramble. Concrete airport marina options sit in the Door-to-deck table below.

Helicopter

Monacair and private charters: NCE Monaco Heliport in roughly seven minutes; coastal hops to Antibes, Cannes and Saint-Tropez when the Corniche would cost the afternoon. NCE Monaco in ~7 minutes Private drops to Cannes, Antibes, Saint-Tropez

Chauffeur

S-Class and SUV fleets briefed on marina gates and FBO kerbsides - airport berth, berth Club 55 or Paloma, late returns from Èze. NCE / CEQ Hercule, Vauban, Cannes, Saint-Tropez Marina beach clubs and villa legs

We lock heli seats and cars against your embarkation slot with Limitless Sky aviation and ground partners.

NUMBERS - FRANCE

French VAT & APA - the short version.

On the Côte d'Azur the base charter fee is only the starting line. Budget VAT and a heavier APA before you lock dates.

French VAT

France typically applies 20% VAT on qualifying charter legs in French waters. Exact treatment depends on the yacht's commercial structure and itinerary - we confirm the figure before you sign.

APA (Riviera)

Industry APA is often 25-35% of the base fee. For a French Riviera high-season week we plan closer to 40% - fuel at anchor, premium berths, and champagne service move the needle fast.

What we send PAs

A line-item estimate (base + VAT guidance + APA + known berth premiums) before deposit, then a live APA report from the captain during the week.

WITHIN THIS COAST

Local guides

Nice Côte d'Azur

NCE wheels-down to gangway - the Riviera week starts here more often than anywhere else. Port Lympia boarding - Heli or chauffeur to Monaco - Villefranche first night

BEFORE YOU FLY

FAQ

Is Nice a cruising destination or a gateway?

Both - Port Lympia is the practical embarkation; Cap Ferrat and Villefranche supply the first night's water within minutes.

How long is NCE to Port Lympia?

Typically 15-25 minutes by chauffeur - the Riviera's cleanest door-to-deck when flights land at Nice Côte d'Azur.

Can we reach Monaco the same day we embark?

Yes - a short coastal run east after boarding. Many weeks open in Nice and punctuate with a Hercule night later.

Where do guests stay ashore before embarkation?

Promenade hotels and Cap Ferrat properties are common; we time transfers to the gangway, not a taxi scramble.

What LOA fits Port Lympia?

Practical up to roughly 70m depending on availability - larger programmes often board and immediately reposition.

How should we budget APA from a Nice start?

Gateway transfers are efficient; APA pressure rises once Cap Ferrat dining and any Monaco quay night enter the plan.

OPERATIONAL

Mooring notes

Saint-Tropez - Port de Saint-Tropez

Very hard in July-August; scarce even mid-week. Peak: 4-8 months for a quay-side slip. Shoulder (June / September): 6-10 weeks is realistic if you stay flexible on nights. Les Voiles (late Sept / early Oct) locks the gulf early - treat it like an event week. Pampelonne day-anchors remain the fallback when the old port is full. We rarely promise a Saint-Tropez overnight on short notice in high summer. The working plan is: hold a Cap Camarat or Cavalaire fallback, tender into the quay for dinner, and only commit a berth when the agent confirms in writing.

Monaco - Port Hercule

Extremely constrained above ~50m; event weeks are a different market. Non-event: 3-6 months for a preferred wall. Grand Prix / Yacht Show: 9-14 months, often via existing relationships and with a premium. Monaco GP (late May) and Monaco Yacht Show (late Sept) - berths can run 10k-15k+ per night for larger yachts when available at all. Historic GP / Formula E are lighter but still special. If Port Hercule is the brief, we start the berth conversation before the yacht shortlist. Many principals board at Beaulieu or Villefranche and take a single Hercule night for Yacht Club / casino - that is often the smarter play.

Antibes - Port Vauban

Easier than Monaco or Saint-Tropez - still busy for megayacht berths. High season: 6-12 weeks for a suitable slip. Shoulder: often 2-4 weeks. Cap d'Antibes day-anchors are usually available same week in settled weather. Cannes Film, Lions and Yachting Festival spill demand into Antibes and Golfe-Juan. Port Camille Rayon is the practical overflow when Vauban or Cannes Vieux Port fill. Vauban is our default embarkation when Nice airport timing matters and Cap Ferrat / Hercule are full. Quiet nights, serious yacht services, and a short run to Lérins or Monaco.

Berth fees, APA budgets and event lead times are indicative and move with LOA, season and harbour policy. Blue Ocean Club confirms live figures in writing before deposit. Not a substitute for captain pilotage or marina contracts.

ENQUIRE

Begin a conversation.

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