



Villefranche

WWW.TRAVELTHEREANDBACK.COM



HISTORY



Villefranche-sur-Mer is a quaint fishing village located in the hear of the Cote d'Azur region of the French Riviera. It is an exclusive area where celebrities and the wealthy are known to get away. Villefranche sits on one of the most stunning and deepest natural harbors on the Mediterranean.

The old town of Villefranche sits near the harbor and dates back to around 130 BC. Colorful Mediterranean-style homes nestled in the hills overlooking the harbor. There are fantastic sites to see that maintain Villefranche's connection with its past including the Citadel of St. Elme (16th century), the Chapel of St. Pierre and the medieval quarter (13th century).

History states that Villefranche-sur-Mer dates back to 1295 and was founded by Charles II of Anjou, Count of Provence. The Port de la Darse harbor served the Duke of Savoy as a shipyard during their war with France. This city was also the site of a Russian Naval Base in the 19th century and a US Naval Base from 1948 until 1966.

Maritime history is the definition of this town's past. Today, this is a town that is crucial on the stop for major cruise lines, celebrities, and tourists to the French Riviera.



CARLTON
INTERCONTINENTAL

MONEY



The Euro is the accepted form of currency in France. There are ATMs available to tourists for quick cash, but there are going to be foreign transaction fees and per-use charges as well. Credit cards, like Mastercard and Visa, are also widely accepted by many businesses in the area.

Credit Cards

One thing that travelers should be aware of is that magnetic strip cards may not be accepted. Most places will require a credit card that utilizes a chip with a PIN. Credit cards, commonly, offer more favorable exchange rates than debit cards. Some credit card providers do not charge for international use. Travelers should contact their credit card company to see what their particular policies are for foreign transaction fees.

Prepaid currency cards can be loaded before travelers depart. These are a great option because there are no foreign transaction fees, and the card can be replaced if it is lost or stolen without losing the funds.



HELPFUL INFO

Climate

The warm temperate climate of the French Riviera is one of the reasons why it is a prime location for summer getaways. The winters are wetter than the summers, and the average temperatures range from around 80-degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and as low as 48-degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. The French Riviera is not an area of the world that is going to see snowfall. It is the Mediterranean at its finest.

Electricity

France adheres to the European standard for Electricity. They use the 2-pronged European plug and the outlets are 230-volt outlets. Travelers from the US are going to want to look into adapters for their devices.



Technology & Communication

There are WiFi spots available all over the city. Some of them are going to be free for users, and others will require a password. Sites, like WiFi Space, are great resources to find these hotspots. Many of the major hotels will also offer free WiFi for their guests. If this is an essential factor, make sure you check for that when booking your hotel room.

If you are going to need to use your cell or make any phone calls, there are a few options. There are SIM cards available at particular retailers in the area. Also, travelers can buy international phone cards for their calls. Lastly, it is also possible to use Skype for making phone calls as well. Travelers need to look into the cost of any call with whatever option they use for making phone calls.

Infrastructure & Transport

Villefranche-sur-Mer is a small town with windy narrow roads. The best ways to get around is on foot, by bike, or even Segway. These are the best ways to get around to keep you in touch with the town. These modes of transportation allow travelers to explore all of the small nooks and crannies of this little beach town.



In Case Of An Emergency

112 is the emergency number throughout the country of France.

Language & Religion

French is the dominant language, but you will find some people who can speak and understand English as well.

Christianity is the dominant religion, specifically Roman Catholicism, of the region. It is evident in the number of beautiful chapels and churches that date back to the early 18th century.



Getting There

Villefranche-sur-Mer is located just 30-minutes from the Nice International Airport. Nice is the gateway city to the region. There are international flights into Nice every day from cities like New York, Paris, and London regularly.

There are plenty of ways to quickly get from the airport into Villefranche-sur-Mer. Train, bus, and car are all options for travelers to the area. They are all easily accessible from the airport. The train is likely the most comfortable and affordable option. The local buses tend to be very crowded, especially during the summer months.

Driving

Driving in this area can be very difficult. The roads are very narrow, and it may seem simple to get to Villefranche-sur-Mer by car when looking at a map, but this is deceiving. Driving is not going to be a great way to get around the region if you are not familiar with the area or the roads. Also, parking tends to be quite expensive, and the streets are crowded, especially during the height of the tourist season. Taxis are a great option if you are looking to get there by car.

THE EXPERIENCE

Culture

Villefranche is a sleepy beach town at its finest. They live a life of relaxation and beauty. This is reflected in the way that they live their lives. They enjoy each other's company, and they appreciate the beauty that surrounds them. This little town is all about enjoying the ocean and all that it has to offer them. It is a place where stop and smell the roses (or the ocean air) truly take on a new meaning.

Something that every traveler needs to remember is that manners and etiquette are essential to the French. Not adhering to these standards can be seen as an insult. Travelers should take the time to understand how to conduct themselves in a way that may be seen as rude or impolite.

Bucket List

The Citadel

Chapel of St. Pierre

Old Harbor

Mont Alban Fort

Rue Obscure

St. Michel's

The Waterfront

Old Town

Family Travel Highlights

Promenade Maurice Rouvier

Mont Boron

Castle Hill

St. Elme Citadel

Promenade of Anglais

Tourism Authority

Jardins Francois Binon

06230 Villefranche Sur Mer

Phone: +33 (0)4 93 01 73 68



Souvenirs To Buy

Visitors need not look further than the authentic artisan shops throughout Old Town. There are amazing things in all the windows and throughout the town. There is nothing specific to layout for travelers. The shops and stores will have an amazing fare for them to purchase to bring home as a memento of your trip.





WWW.TRAVELTHEREANDBACK.COM



425-361-5212



MICHELLE@TRAVELTHEREANDBACK.COM



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TRAVELTHEREANDBACK



WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/TRAVELTHEREANDBACK



WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@TRAVELTHEREANDBACK



WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TRAVEL-THERE-AND-BACK