



# Christmas Holidays

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY IDEAS



### Christmas Markets

#### Nice

The biggest Christmas market in the South of France is held in Nice every year. The "Le Village de Noel" is held in the central Jardin Albert 1er that incorporates an ice rink, a Ferris wheel and a lot of Christmas related food and drink.

The Nice Christmas market is themed around an alpine village and you will see the stalls located in 60 French mountain chalets and an alpine forest constructed from over 600 pine trees. Perhaps the most picturesque element of the Nice Christmas festival however is the Christmas lights and decorations along the Promenade des Anglais.

The Nice Christmas market runs from 1 December 2024 to 1 Jan 2025 in the Jardin de Albert 1er and is open from 11.00 to 20.00. Papa Noel makes an appearance from his busy Christmas schedule from 19 to 25 December 2024 (from 14.00 to 19.00).

If you are planning on visiting Nice Christmas market, it is also an opportunity to pop down the coast to visit the nearby Menton Christmas market (just 20kms away).

#### Valbonne

The 2024 Valbonne Christmas market France, will be taking place from 18 to 20 December 2024 on the Place Méjane to Garbejaire. The festivities will then transfer to various streets around the centre of Valbonne from 21 to 24 December 2024.

In the run up to Christmas, the beautiful French village of Valbonne holds a large Christmas market in the Place des Arcades. This lovely square is transformed into an Alpine scene complete with over one hundred stalls run by local food producers, artists and artisans.

Valbonne's Christmas market features a range of food products from cheese, to tapenades, foie gras and honey. You will also find a good range of local crafts for holiday season gifts and whilst the children will enjoy the carousels and fireworks, magic shows and a small petting zoo.



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# Menton

The Menton Christmas market is a good place to bring families to shop, there plenty of activities for the kids to enjoy. The Menton Christmas market takes place from 1 December 2024 to 5 January 2025.

The market is centred on the Bioves Gardens, but you will also find events taking place at other locations including Les Halles (the indoor market) and the Marché du Carei, located on the Promenade du Maréchal Leclerc. But what makes the Menton Christmas market so special is that the whole town gets involved in the festivities. All throughout Menton you will find lovely nativity scenes displayed in doorways, small alleys and in the shops. The market is open from 10.00am through to 19.00pm each day.

The Menton Christmas market, with its extraordinary nativity scenes, is widely regarded as one of the most colourful Christmas markets in France. Also, with Nice just down the road, you can take in two of the best Christmas markets in France during your stay.

# Antibes

Discover the festive atmosphere of Antibes with our comprehensive holiday season guide. From the illuminations of Old Antibes to traditional activities, we present you with the essential festivities of the season. Place Nationale hosts the traditional Christmas market with wooden chalets offering artisanal products and Provençal specialties. Along the ramparts, the illuminations create a warm atmosphere, while Port Vauban comes alive with maritime decorations. A few steps away, in the historic quarter, shops and restaurants participate in the celebrations with their decorated windows and festive menus.

# Cannes

The Marché de Noël de Cannes is a vibrant holiday market located in the heart of Cannes, featuring over 60 artisanal chalets, a 350m<sup>2</sup> ice rink, and a variety of festive activities including storytelling sessions, workshops, and encounters with Père Noël. The market is open from November 30, 2024, to January 5, 2025, with extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Visitors can enjoy free entry for children under 4 years old and 3€ entry for others, with gants obligatoires (required gloves). The event also includes a crèche provençale, an election for the most beautifully decorated chalet, and various local animations.



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# Ice Skating

## Cannes Carlton

From November 22nd 2024 to January 12th 2025, the Carlton Cannes invites you to experience an enchanting festive season. From gourmet indulgence to celebratory occasions complete with games and gifts, every detail is carefully thought to awaken your joyful holiday spirit. **Download the full Brochure**

Whether you're a seasoned skater or just looking for a fun activity, here's a guide to where you can lace up your skates and hit the ice on the French Riviera this December.

**Beausoleil** is inviting visitors to glide across a 100sqm rink in the Place de la Libération from 7th December to 5th January.

**Menton**, known for its beautiful Mediterranean views, is offering a rink on the forecourt of the Jean-Cocteau Museum from 6th December to 5th January.

A 200sqm ice rink will open up on **Juan-les-Pins'** Square Jacques Leonetti from 13th December to 5th January.

**Cannes**, two rinks will be open to the public: one on the Allées de la Liberté and the other on Cours Félix-Faure. Both opened on 30th November and will continue until the first Sunday in January.

**Mougins** invites skaters to its rink on Cours des Arts from 21st December to 5th January.

**Grasse** is also joining in on the fun with its rink at Cours Honoré Cresp, open from 20th December to 5th January.

**Biot** won't have skating, but it will feature a super-fun toboggan run for children to slide down from 21st to 30th December in the Place des Arcades.

Up in the mountains, **Isola 2000** and **Auron** offer larger, snowy rink experiences at their ski resorts throughout the winter season.



## Chill out in the Mountains

The French Riviera is known as a place of sea, sand and sunshine but there is plenty happening in the mountains during Christmas school holidays

For those seeking a more traditional and snowy Christmas, the mountains of the French Riviera offer an enchanting alternative. Locations such as Auron, Isola 2000, and Valberg are perfect for winter sports enthusiasts, with ski resorts that allow you to practice winter sports while surrounded by breathtaking views.

The mountains also host a range of Christmas events, such as markets, concerts, and activities for children. Provençal traditions, like nativity scenes, are deeply rooted in these locations, where you can find living nativity scenes and theatrical performances. After a day on the slopes, there's nothing better than a warm cup of hot chocolate or a fondue in the charming alpine huts.



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# Fireworks

To kick off 2025 in style, we invite you to a spectacular fireworks display that will light up the sky on January 2! A magical moment to prolong the festivities and welcome in the New Year.

New Year's Eve fireworks at midnight in the bay of Cannes.

As part of the festive season, the City of Cannes is organising a musical fireworks display on New Year's Eve, at midnight on 31 December 2024, in the Bay of Cannes.

This pyrotechnic and musical show will light up the Bay of Cannes with a thousand lights.

Duration: 19 minutes 50 seconds.

Theme: 'La dolce vita'.

Fireworks on the Promenade des Anglais, Nice

One of the most spectacular ways to ring in the New Year is by watching the fireworks display along Nice's iconic Promenade des Anglais. Gather with friends or family, enjoy a picnic, and witness the sky light up as the clock strikes midnight.



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# New Years Eve

## ON THE CÔTE D'AZUR

looking for the perfect location to welcome the New Year. Whether you prefer a laid-back beach party, an elegant gala, or an intimate gathering with friends, the options are endless.

### **Fireworks on the Promenade des Anglais, Nice**

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### **New Year's Gala Dinners**

Many upscale restaurants along the Côte d'Azur host lavish New Year's Eve dinners. Here are a few noteworthy options:

#### **Le Negresco**

Address: 37 Promenade des Anglais, Nice

Known for its opulent decor and Michelin-starred cuisine, Le Negresco offers a special New Year's Eve menu with live music. Reservations are essential.

### **Beach Parties**

For a more relaxed atmosphere, beach clubs in places like Saint-Tropez throw lively parties. Notable venues include:

#### **Nikki Beach**

Address: 15 Boulevard Patch, Saint-Tropez

Known for its glamorous beach parties, Nikki Beach hosts a festive New Year's Eve celebration with music, cocktails, and dancing under the stars.

### **Local Festivals and Celebrations**

Many towns along the Côte d'Azur organize local events to celebrate New Year's Eve:

Antibes: Expect a lively street fair in the old town with live music and entertainment leading up to midnight.

Villefranche-sur-Mer: Enjoy a community gathering with local food stalls and fireworks, providing a charming atmosphere.

### **Clubbing in Monaco**

If you're looking for a night of dancing and excitement, Monaco is the place to be:

#### **Jimmy's Monte-Carlo**

Address: 26 Avenue Princesse Grace, Monaco

This legendary nightclub attracts top DJs and party-goers, making it a hotspot for an unforgettable night of dancing.