

Monaco

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Monaco is a tiny, independent country on the French Riviera, squeezed between steep hills and the Mediterranean Sea. It is the world's second-smallest country, yet it fits Prince's Palace of Monaco, Monte-Carlo Casino and Opera House, and a Formula 1 street circuit into just over two square kilometers. The *Grimaldi* family has ruled here since 1297. *François Grimaldi* is said to have disguised himself as a monk to seize the fortress on the rock above the harbor.

Monaco suits travelers drawn to glamour, motorsport, and high-end shopping rather than budget travel or quiet nature. Its whole territory is walkable in a day. That makes it an easy add-on to a longer stay on the French Riviera, or a day trip from Nice. Expect immaculate streets, tight security, and some of the highest prices in Europe.

Money & payments

Monaco uses the euro, the same currency as France, so there's no need to exchange money if you're arriving with euros.

Currency

CURRENCY

€

EUR

1 EUR

1.106 USD

1 USD = 0.9043 EUR

Cards widely accepted

Cards work almost everywhere, including parking meters and small cafés — keep only a little cash for occasional card-free stalls. Monaco is one of the most expensive places in Europe, more so than nearby Nice or Menton. Budget accordingly for food, hotels, and transport.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, double room	250 – 450 € $276 – $498
Dinner (mid-range restaurant) restaurant meal with wine, per person	50 – 90 € $55 – $100
Inexpensive meal casual restaurant or fast food, per person	20 – 35 € $22 – $39
Local beer 0.5 L at a bar or restaurant	7 – 10 € $8 – $11
Coffee espresso; prices spike right on Casino Square	2.5 – 6 € $3 – $7
Water 0.5 L bottle at a café or kiosk	2 – 4 € $2 – $4
Transit ticket single CAM bus ticket	2 € $2
Taxi (per km) metered fare per km, after the flag-fall charge	2.5 – 4 € $3 – $4

Tipping

A 15% service charge is built into most restaurant and bar bills in Monaco, so tipping isn't required. Rounding up the bill or leaving a few extra euros for great service is common and appreciated, especially in nicer restaurants.

Taxi drivers, hotel porters, and private guides aren't tipped as a rule, but rounding up a fare or leaving a couple of euros is a nice gesture rather than an obligation.

Restaurant round up, or a few extra euros — 15% service is already included by law	Optional
Bar round up if you like	Not customary
Taxi round up to the nearest euro	Optional
Hotel €1–2 per bag for porters	Optional
Tour guide a few euros for a private guide	Optional

Electricity

Monaco uses Type C, E, and F plugs at 230 V / 50 Hz, the same as France — most travelers from outside Europe will need a plug adapter but not a voltage converter for modern electronics.

ELECTRICITY



Type C

ELECTRICITY



Type E

ELECTRICITY



Type F

230 V · 50 Hz

Language

French is Monaco's official language, and it's what you'll see on signs and hear from most residents. Monégasque, a local Ligurian dialect, survives mainly in ceremonial use and street names in the old town.

English and Italian are both widely understood in hotels, restaurants, and the casino district, thanks to Monaco's international clientele — you're unlikely to need more than a few French basics.

Useful phrases

Hello	Bonjour
Goodbye	Au revoir
Please	S'il vous plaît
Thank you	Merci
Yes	Oui
No	Non
Excuse me	Excusez-moi
Sorry	Désolé
How much?	Combien ça coûte
Where is...?	Où est
Help	Au secours
Cheers	Santé

Staying connected

Monaco is not part of the European Union, so EU "roam like at home" rules don't automatically apply here. Check with your carrier before assuming your usual EU data allowance covers Monaco — many French and Italian plans do work seamlessly given the short distances involved, but it's worth confirming.

Monaco Telecom runs the local network, but prepaid tourist SIMs are hard to find in Monaco itself. Most visitors bring a French or EU SIM or eSIM, or rely on roaming. Coverage is excellent everywhere given Monaco's small size and dense urban build.

Safety & emergencies

Monaco is one of the safest places to visit in Europe, with a very high police presence and extensive CCTV coverage. Petty theft and pickpocketing can still happen in crowded tourist spots like the casino square or the harbor during events such as the Monaco Grand Prix.

Emergency numbers

GENERAL EMERGENCY	POLICE	FIRE BRIGADE
112	17	18

Health

Tap water in Monaco is safe to drink, drawn from the same network as neighboring France. Pharmacies, marked with a green cross, are common in the city center, and a rotation system keeps at least one open on Sundays and public holidays.

No special vaccinations are required for Monaco beyond what's generally recommended for travel to Western Europe.

Visas & entry

Monaco isn't an EU or Schengen member, but it has no border controls with France. In practice, it follows the same entry rules as the Schengen Area. Most EU, UK, US, Canadian, and Australian passport holders who can enter France visa-free for short stays can visit Monaco the same way.

Anyone who needs a Schengen visa for France should use it for Monaco too; there's no separate Monégasque visa for short tourist visits.

> Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

Monaco is formal and image-conscious. Smart, neat clothing is expected in restaurants, the casino, and upscale shops — beachwear should stay at the beach or pool.

The gaming rooms at Monte-Carlo Casino and Opera House enforce a real dress code after 2pm: no shorts, sportswear, or flip-flops. Jackets are recommended for men in the evening. The atrium and slot-machine hall stay open to everyone, with no dress code or entry fee.

Photography is generally fine in public areas, but avoid photographing security checkpoints, palace guards up close, or private yachts without permission.

Holidays & opening hours

Public holidays can close banks, government offices, and some smaller shops, though most restaurants and tourist-facing businesses stay open. Book ahead if visiting around Monaco's National Day in November, when the Prince's Palace hosts official ceremonies.

Public holidays

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 27	Saint Devota's Day
May 1	May Day
Aug 15	Assumption Day
Nov 1	All Saints Day
Nov 19	National Day
Dec 8	The Immaculate Conception
Dec 25	Christmas Day
movable — May	Ascension Day
movable — May/Jun	Corpus Christi
movable — Mar/Apr	Easter Monday
movable — May/Jun	Whit Monday

Shops generally open Monday to Saturday, with many closing for a couple of hours around lunchtime; Sunday hours are limited outside the main tourist areas.

Getting around

- **On foot**: Monaco is tiny and hilly — most sights are within a 20-minute walk of each other, and public elevators and escalators built into the hillside help with the steep climbs.
- **By bus**: The local CAM network covers the whole country with frequent buses; tickets can be bought on board by card or contactless phone.
- **By boat**: A small shuttle ferry crosses the harbor between Port Hercule and the casino district, saving a walk around the port.
- **By train**: Monaco's own train station connects to Nice, Menton, and the rest of the French Riviera rail network in minutes; buy tickets via the French national rail site, SNCF Connect.

Driving

- **Speed limits**: 50 km/h in built-up areas; Monaco has no motorways or rural roads of its own.
- **Key rules**: Traffic is dense and parking is tightly regulated — expect fines for even minor violations. Many streets close to non-resident traffic during events like the Grand Prix.
- **Tolls**: Monaco itself charges no road tolls, but the French A8 motorway used to reach it does — pay by card or cash at the barriers.
- **Parking**: Street parking is scarce and metered; multi-story car parks are the more reliable option and accept cards.
- **Fuel**: Stations are self-service, paying by card at the pump, and sell **Sans Plomb 95 / Sans Plomb 98** petrol and **Gazole** diesel, the same labels used in France.
- **Electric vehicles**: Charging points are increasingly common in public car parks, part of Monaco's push toward electric mobility; apps from Monaco Telecom and major French networks cover most chargers.

URBAN
50 km/h

PETROL
Sans Plomb 95, Sans Plomb 98

DIESEL
Gazole, Diesel

Drive on the right

No motorway vignette needed

Monaco itself has no toll roads. The French A8 motorway used to reach it charges tolls at staffed or automatic barriers — pay by card or cash.

Food & drink

Meals in Monaco follow French and Italian rhythms: a light breakfast, a proper sit-down lunch, and a dinner that often starts late by international standards. Seafood, olive oil, and fresh vegetables dominate menus, reflecting the wider Mediterranean coast.

Local specialties worth trying include *barbagiuan*, a fried pastry stuffed with Swiss chard and ricotta, and *socca*, a thin chickpea-flour flatbread shared with neighboring Nice. Cafés and bakeries also sell *fougasse monégasque*, a sweet, orange-flower-scented bread studded with nuts and candied fruit. Restaurants range from casual bistros to several Michelin-starred dining rooms, so both modest budgets and special-occasion splurges are catered for.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Stocafi
Slow-cooked stockfish stew with tomatoes, olives, and herbs, a Monégasque specialty.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Socca
Thin chickpea-flour flatbread cooked in a wood-fired oven, shared with neighboring Nice.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Fougasse monégasque · fougasse monégasque
Orange-flower-scented bread studded with nuts and candied fruit.

DRINKS

Rosé de Provence
Dry rosé wine from the neighboring Provence region, a common accompaniment to seafood.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Barbagiuan · barbagiuan
Fried pastry stuffed with Swiss chard, ricotta, and onion — Monaco's signature dish.

Monaco – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

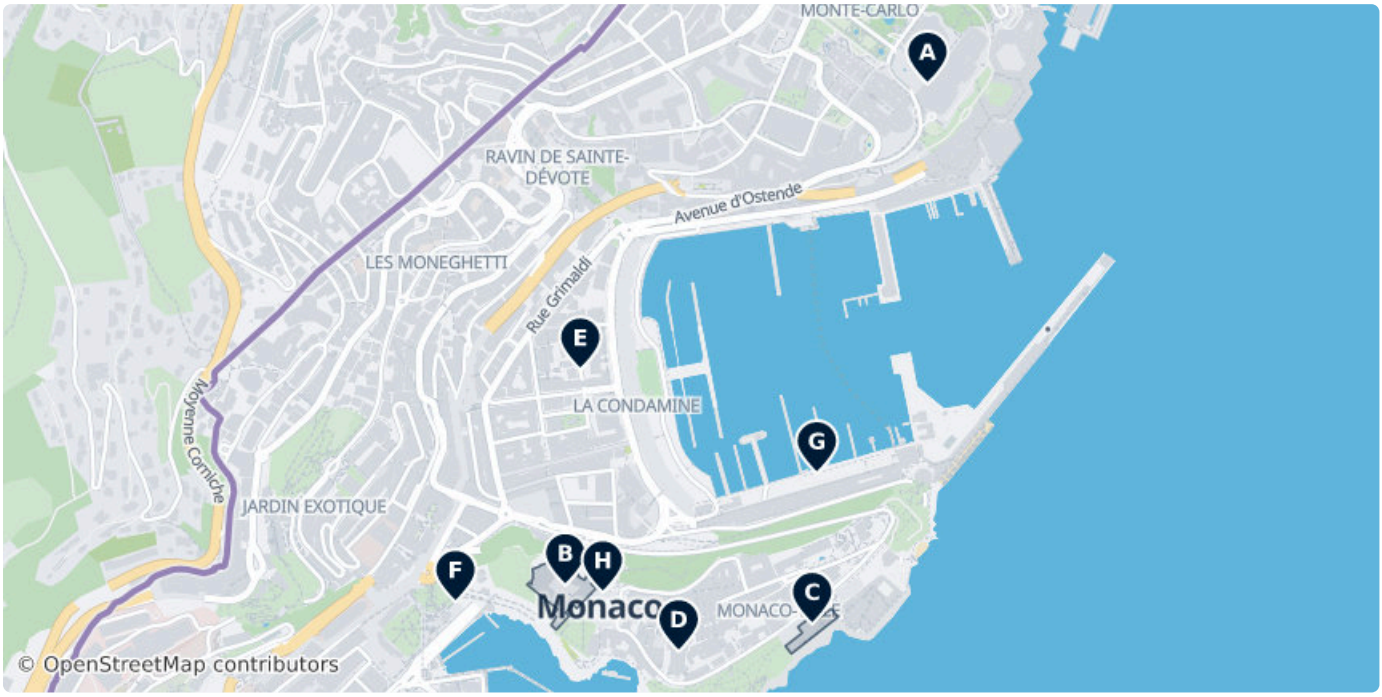
Where to explore

Monaco sits in the middle of the French Riviera, so most visitors pair it with day trips just across the border. Nice is the region's biggest city, with its own old town, beaches, and airport, about 30 minutes away by train.

Closer still is Èze, a medieval hilltop village with sweeping coastal views, and Menton, a quieter town near the Italian border known for its lemon festival and gardens. Both make an easy half-day trip by bus or train.

Monaco's Crown Jewels

Monaco is a historic principality centered on the Rock of Monaco and the glamorous district of Monte Carlo. This selection features the Monte-Carlo Casino, a masterpiece of Belle Époque architecture, and the Prince's Palace, the Grimaldi family residence since 1297. Highlights include the Oceanographic Museum's marine life displays, the legendary 3.3-kilometer Formula 1 street circuit, and the Prince's private collection of vintage automobiles. The list also covers the Romanesque-Byzantine Saint Nicholas Cathedral and Port Hercules, a deep-water harbor that has served the region since ancient times.





A Monte-Carlo Casino and Opera House

The Monte Carlo Casino, officially named Casino de Monte-Carlo, is a gambling and entertainment complex located in Monaco.

Place du Casino, 98000 Monaco, MC (43.73916, 7.42802)

Mo–Su 14:00–04:00

casinomontecarlo.com, +377 98 06 21 21



B Prince's Palace of Monaco

The Prince's Palace of Monaco is the official residence of the Sovereign Prince of Monaco.

Place du Palais, 98000 Monaco, Monaco (43.73137, 7.42023)

Mo–Su 10:00–18:00

palais.mc, +377 93 25 18 31



C Oceanographic Museum

The Oceanographic Museum is a museum of marine sciences in Monaco-Ville, Monaco.

Avenue Saint-Martin, 98000 Monaco, MC (43.73077, 7.42554)

Oct-Mar Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Apr-Jun Mo–Su	10:00–19:00
Jul-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–20:00

musee.oceano.org, +377 93 15 36 00



D Saint Nicholas Cathedral

The Cathedral of Our Immaculate Lady, formerly called the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, or informally the Cathedral of Monaco, is the ...

Avenue Saint-Martin, MC 98000 Monaco-Ville, Monaco (43.73035, 7.42267)

Mo–Su	08:30–18:00

cathedrale.mc, +337 93 30 87 70



E Circuit de Monaco

Circuit de Monaco is a 3.337 km street circuit laid out on the city streets of Monte Carlo and La Condamine around the harbour of the...

7 Rue Louis Notari, Monaco 98000, Monaco (43.73472, 7.42056)

formula1monaco.com/index.aspx, +377 93 15 26 24



F Private Collection of Antique Cars

Come see the Prince's own collection. Cars from all periods of history and of all kind.

54, route de la piscine – Monaco 98000 (43.73111, 7.41787)

+377 92 05 28 56



G Hercules Port

Port Hercules is the only deep-water port in Monaco. The port has been in use since ancient times.

6 Quai Antoine 1er, 98011 Monaco, Monaco (43.73311, 7.42564)

ports-monaco.com/en/cruises.html, +377 97 77 30 00



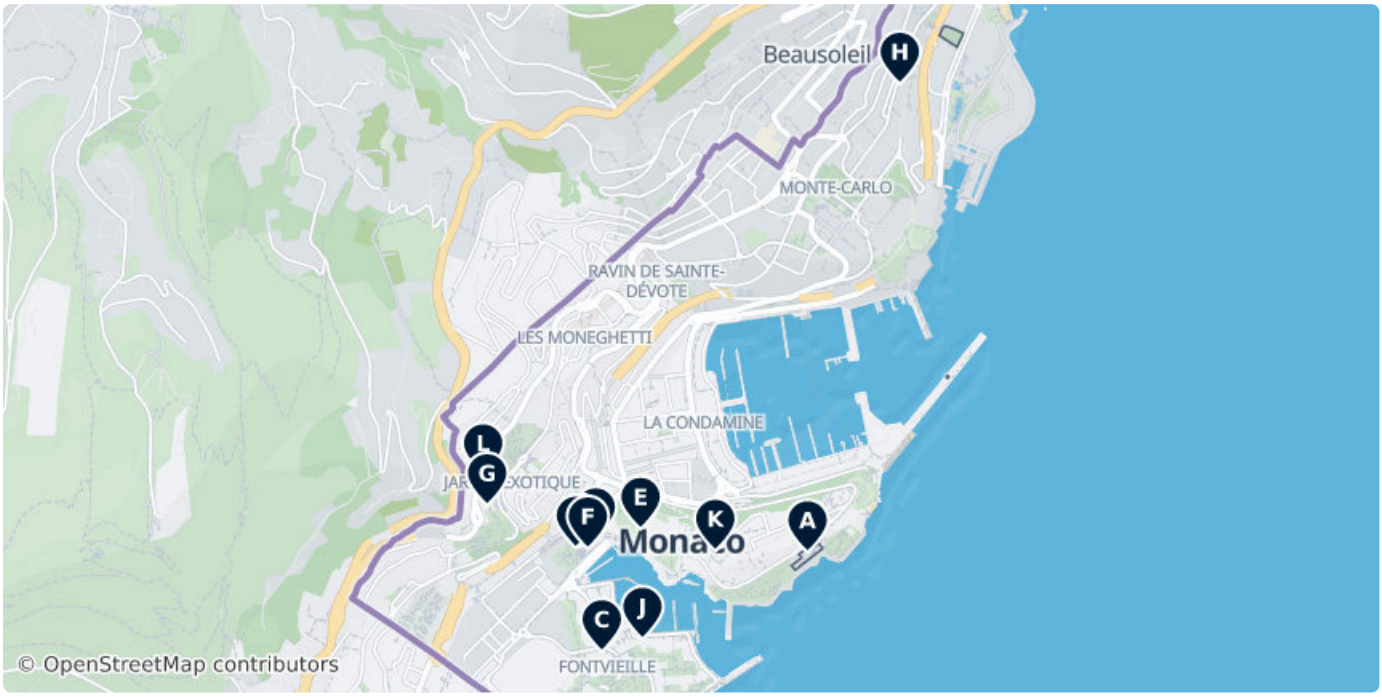
H François Grimaldi

Francesco Grimaldi, called il Malizia was the Genoese leader of the Guelphs who captured the Rock of Monaco on the night of 8 January 1297.

2 Rue des Remparts, Monaco 98000, Monaco (43.73126, 7.42104)

Monaco's Museums & Galleries

Monaco's cultural landscape spans from the cliffside Oceanographic Museum, founded by Prince Albert I, to the extensive automobile collection of Prince Rainier III. The principality preserves its heritage through the Museum of Old Monaco and the Prehistoric Anthropology Museum, while the New National Museum across Villa Sauber and Villa Paloma focuses on contemporary visual arts. Specialized collections include the Museum of Stamps and Coins and the Naval Museum, which houses over 250 ship models.





A Oceanographic Museum

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Oct-Mar Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
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musee.oceano.org, +377 93 15 36 00



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54, route de la piscine – Monaco 98000 (43.73111, 7.41787)

+377 92 05 28 56



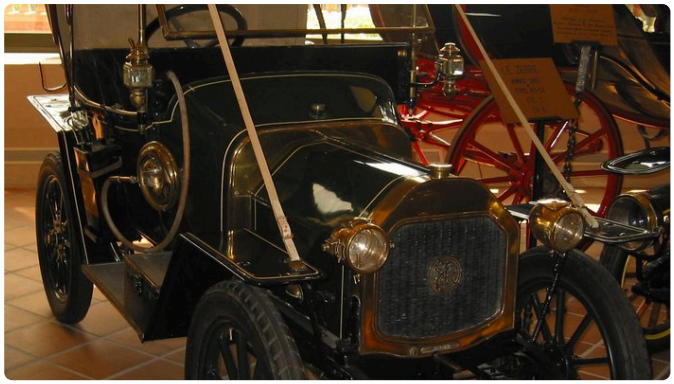
C Monaco Naval Museum

An intriguing museum that displays many models of various ships. Entertaining and great for kids.

Avenue de Saint-Charles 2, MC 98 000 Monaco, Monaco (43.72818, 7.41809)

Mo–Su 10:00–18:00

+377 92 05 28 48



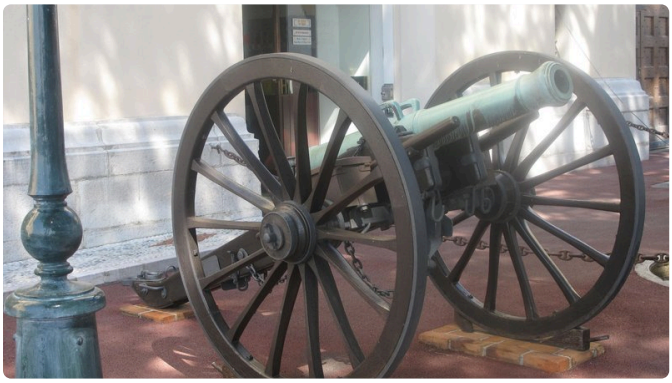
D The Cars collection of HSH the Prince of Monaco

The Monaco Top Cars Collection is an automobile museum in the Fontvieille district of Monaco.The cars were the personal collection of...

MC (43.73089, 7.41715)

Mo–Su 10:00–17:30

mtcc.mc



E Museum of Napoleon Souvenirs

The Napoleon Museum in Monte Carlo, Monaco was a museum of artifacts which once belonged to the French Emperor Napoleon I.

(Unnamed Road), Monaco 98000, Monaco (43.73139, 7.41949)



F Museum of Stamps and Coins

The Museum of Stamps and Coins is located in the Fontvieille section of Monaco.

Terrasses de Fontvieille 11, 98000 Monaco, MC (43.73087, 7.41758)

Mo–Su 09:30–17:00

mtm-monaco.mc, +377 98 98 41 50



G Prehistoric Anthropology Museum

Devoted to the first settlers of the area where now Monaco stands. The human development is compared with that of flora and fauna - very...

Boulevard du Jardin Exotique 56Bis, MC
(43.73200, 7.41394)

map-mc.org, +377 98 98 80 06

H New National Museum of Monaco

The New National Museum of Monaco, formerly Musée National de Monaco, is a museum of contemporary visual art in Monaco.

(43.74303, 7.42889)

Mo–Su 10:00–18:00

nmnm.mc, +377 98 98 91 26

I Espace Léo Ferré

A versatile cultural venue and concert hall named after the Monégasque singer-songwriter. It hosts a variety of performances, exhibitions, and community events throughout the year.

MC (43.73092, 7.41733)

J Monalisa motorsport gallery formula 1

An art gallery specializing in Formula 1 and motorsport-themed works, featuring original paintings, photography, and memorabilia dedicated to racing history and the Monaco Grand Prix.

MC (43.72851, 7.41956)

K Museum of Old Monaco

A museum dedicated to the history of Monaco displaying various items of historical importance from clothing to furniture.

2 Rue Emile de Loth, 98000 Monaco (43.73081, 7.42221)

+377 93 50 57 28



L New National Museum of Monaco - Villa Paloma

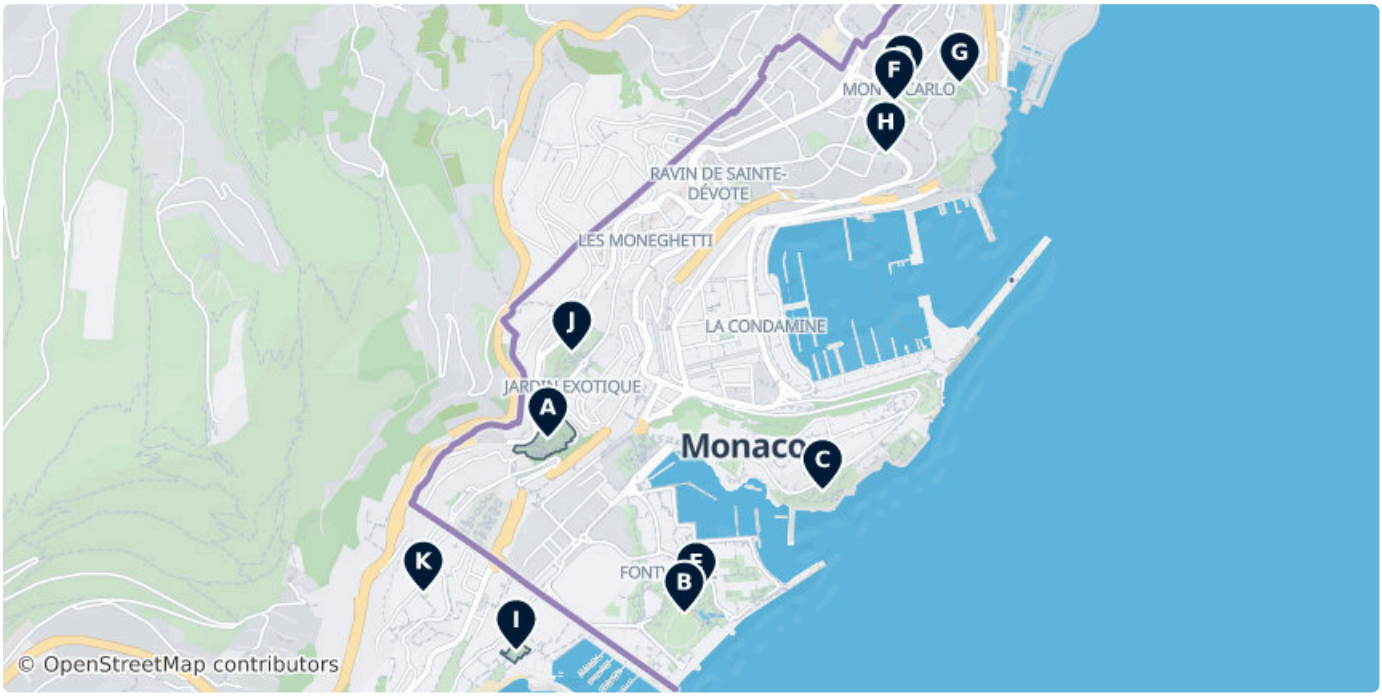
One of two venues for the New National Museum of Monaco, this historic villa overlooks the principality and hosts rotating contemporary art exhibitions often focused on the relationship between nature and culture.

Tunnel Rainier III, 98020 Monaco, Monaco (43.73278, 7.41379)

nmnm.mc

Monaco's Parks and Gardens

Monaco’s green spaces range from the cliffside Jardin Exotique, showcasing thousands of succulent species, to the formal French-style Jardins des Boulingrins near the Casino. The Princess Grace Rose Garden features over 300 rose varieties across 5,000 square meters. In the old town, Jardins de Saint-Martin offers shaded paths overlooking the Mediterranean, while Princess Antoinette Park provides a family-oriented environment with centenarian olive trees. These gardens combine rare botanical collections with historical monuments and panoramic coastal views.





A Exotic Garden

The Jardin Exotique de Monaco is a botanical garden located on a cliffside in Monaco.

Boulevard du Jardin Exotique 62, 98000 Monaco, MC
(43.73125, 7.41395)

Nov-Jan Mo–Su	09:00–17:00
Feb-Apr Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
May-Sep Mo–Su	09:00–19:00

jardin-exotique.mc, +377 93 15 29 80



B Fontvieille Park

The Fontvieille Park and the Princess Grace Rose Garden are two municipal parks in the Fontvieille district of Monaco.

7 Avenue des Guelfes, Monaco 98000, Monaco
(43.72671, 7.41885)

visitmonaco.com/en/Places-to-visit/Ga... , + 377 92 16 61 16

C Jardins de Saint-Martin

Located on the cliffside of the Rock, these gardens feature winding paths, Mediterranean flora, and contemporary sculptures. They connect the Prince's Palace to the Oceanographic Museum and offer panoramic views over the Mediterranean Sea.

(43.72989, 7.42382)

D Jardins de la Petite Afrique

Situated near Casino Square, this garden contains a collection of tropical and subtropical plant species, including giant palm trees and exotic blooms, providing a dense green canopy in the heart of Monte Carlo.

(43.74039, 7.42673)



E Princess Grace Rose Garden

Inaugurated in 1984, this garden contains over 4,000 rose bushes and 300 different varieties. It features a bronze statue of Princess Grace and a central pond.

25 Avenue des Papalins, Monaco 98000, Monaco
(43.72722, 7.41929)

roseraie.mc

F Jardins des Boulingrins

Located in front of the Casino de Monte-Carlo, these formal gardens feature tiered water basins, manicured lawns, and contemporary sculptures, including works by Anish Kapoor.

Allée des Boulingrins, Monte-Carlo 98000, Monaco
(43.74000, 7.42640)

G Jardins du Cafe de Paris

A landscaped terrace and green space located adjacent to the historic Café de Paris, offering a quiet retreat within the Monte Carlo district.

(43.74046, 7.42875)

H Square Beaumarchais

A manicured square located near the Hotel Hermitage, featuring seasonal floral displays and sculptures overlooking the harbor and the Casino.

Square Beaumarchais, 98000 Monaco, Monaco
(43.73865, 7.42610)

I Jardin des Oliviers

A traditional Mediterranean garden dominated by ancient olive trees, often used for community festivals and local events.

Avenue Marquet, 06320 Cap-d'Ail, France
(43.72573, 7.41281)

J Princess Antoinette Park

The Princess Antoinette Park on the Boulevard de Jardin Exotique is a municipal park in the La Condamine ward of Monaco.

27 Boulevard de Belgique, Monaco 98000, Monaco
(43.73349, 7.41481)

Mo–Su 08:30–17:30

Square Bellandro de Castro

A small public square and garden located near the Cathedral in Monaco-Ville, offering a resting spot with views of the surrounding historical architecture.

(43.72725, 7.40947)

DATA SOURCES

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