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PLACES

48 HOURS IN... CANNES

How to spend the perfect weekend in the French Riviera's A-list-approved hub and beyond



BY CAROLINE LEWIS | 13 JUNE 2025

There are many contenders for world's most glamorous holiday destination, but few achieve the status as effortlessly as the [Côte d'Azur](#), whose very name calls to mind sparkling blue seas, coast-hugging roads and yachts with their own helipads.

Thanks to a certain paparazzi frenzy each May during the resort town's famous film festival, Cannes is one of the French Riviera's most sought-after spots, but there's so much more to see and do beyond its starry shoreline. Here's the ideal itinerary for 48 hours in Cannes, with dreamy day trips out into the Provençal coast and countryside.

SATURDAY: AFTERNOON



In our expert opinion, it is now time to hit the beach. Luckily, your options are numerous. For the glitz and glamour the Côte d'Azur does best, select a beach club: the [Carlton](#) has been a fabulous favourite since 1930. For something a little more rustic, head over to the Lérins Islands off the coast of Cannes. Of the four isles, the larger two, Île Sainte-Marguerite and Île Saint-Honorat, are the most visited, and ferries will whisk you over from the port in Cannes in 20 minutes or less. Even better, charter a boat and sail the coast in style, dropping anchor at all four.

If you'd prefer to stay upright and away from a sunlounger or stretched-out towel, have a cultural afternoon in and around Cannes instead, starting with modern-art museum [La Malmaison](#), on La Croisette. In Le Cannet above Cannes, [Le Musée Bonnard](#) is also worth a pitstop. Afterwards, drive out to hill-top village Saint-Paul-de-Vence (50 minutes away), long an artist's refuge — Marc Chagall lived here between 1966 and 1985, and the American writer James Baldwin spent his final years here. On a hill overlooking mediaeval Saint-Paul, [Fondation Maeght](#) has one of the biggest collections of 20th-century art in Europe, a sculpture garden featuring works by Joan Miró and Barbara Hepworth, and a courtyard filled with sculptures by Alberto Giacometti. Just outside of the centre, [Toile Blanche](#) is an expansive resort, with a 200-year-old farmhouse as its centrepiece. The owners have shared their collection of modern art, on the walls of every suite and at the on-site gallery, so it's the perfect base for your highbrow holiday in Saint-Paul-de-Vence.