

# Nice,

*Green city...*

*Ecological ambitions*

*press kit* 2014



*press* SERVICE

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**AIRFRANCE** 

**NICE**   
La lumière naturellement  
A natural brilliance



# NICE, *A green city*

**A**round its streets, the city of Nice offers green spaces. The 300 hectares of parks and gardens, little known by the tourists, trace original and dreamlike landscapes. The city's mild climate enables many plant species from all over the world to acclimatise. Thus created, this palette of shapes and colours has inspired many botany and garden enthusiasts.

At a time when the planet demands special and attentive care, the City of Nice has conceived a highly committed policy in terms of sustainable development and environmental protection. For this purpose, a vast programme for the redevelopment of the parks and gardens is underway.

Today, Nice wants to be the "Green City of the Mediterranean" and makes every effort so that sustainable development is at the heart of its policy in all the sectors of the city.



The incredible plant diversity, introduced by the landscape gardeners of past and present provides the opportunity to discover the city from a different angle. The same applies to strategies implemented to render life in the city "cleaner" in all senses of the term.



## A LITTLE HISTORY...

In the 19th Century, the European aristocracy came to spend winters in this city with a pleasant climate. Lovers of Exoticism, they imported many trees and plants thus composing amazing landscapes punctuated by statues and rockeries in their taste. Then, towards the end of the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th Century, they devised public gardens that also presented beautiful collections of rare species.

## TOP NEWS... *The Promenade du Paillon*

The Promenade du Paillon revolutionises the heart of the city, consisting in a 12-hectare garden. From the Nice National Theatre to the Promenade des Anglais, the city's main street, a pleasant green lung is offered to pedestrians.

This plant and rock trail enables the residents and visitors to move about differently in the hyper-centre, enjoying a vast area while being away from the car traffic.

The main alley retraces the riverbed of the Paillon, the coastal river that crossed the city in the open air from the east until 1893, whose bridges linked the baroque city of Old Nice with the Belle Epoque "new city." (see photo below).

An area of relaxation in the heart of the city that has immediately found its devotees!



### AN ECOLOGICAL PROJECT

Sustainable development is at the heart of this project, as it complies with all the environmental constraints, such as the "green charter", by integrating new plant species and using so-called "sustainable" materials.

Energy savings as well as controlling water consumption are implemented in order to combine pleasure and ecology.

# NICE, *its parks & gardens*

With over 300 hectares and 19 parks and gardens, Nice has decided to be the “green city of the Mediterranean.” Each space has its identity, its rare species and its own charm to be discovered through the main parks listed below.

## THE ALBERT I<sup>ST</sup> GARDEN

This is one of the oldest gardens in the city. Planted with many species of palms and ancient rose gardens, it links the seafront with the Place Masséna. It has been completely redeveloped and retains magnificent trees. It is dedicated to Albert 1st, King of the Belgians.

## THE ARENES DE CIMIEZ GARDEN

Opposite the Monastery, the garden is a vast olive grove, consisting in thousands of century-old trees. Its freely accessible lawns make it a privileged place for family picnics. Every year, traditional Nice events take place there. The Matisse Museum, as well as the archaeological museums are grouped together within this large green space.



## THE MONASTERY GARDEN

Near the Arènes de Cimiez, this one-hectare garden is the monk’s ancient vegetable garden and orchard. It has retained its original layout, divided into three parts: Ornamental, medicinal and nourishing. Its central wells and ancient pergolas entirely covered with climbing roses offer a multitude of flower varieties that embalm the atmosphere. The bottom of the garden provides a vast viewpoint over the city and particularly the castle hill.

## THE OBSERVATORY PARK

Built in 1881 by Charles Garnier and Gustave Eiffel - who designed its dome - the mission of the observatory is now architectural, astronomic and plant heritage conservation. The Mont-Gros, on the Grande Corniche, was chosen because of its quality of visibility and the 35 hectares available. The park accommodates a protected orchid, unique in the world as well as an olive grove and Mediterranean vegetation.



# NICE, *its parks & gardens*

## THE ESTIENNE D'ORVES GARDEN

This natural park occupies 15 hectares of the Saint-Philippe hill and dates back to the 18th Century. It was built to welcome the public that can enjoy lovely viewpoints over the city and the sea. Some terraces presenting Mediterranean plants, vines and orange groves replace the old plantations.

## THE PHOENIX PARK

Facing the sea, this 7-hectare municipal creation at the western entrance to Nice is the dream attraction for a moment of relaxation and a change of scenery. It presents the biotopes representative of the Mediterranean and world flora with about twenty theme gardens, totalling 2,500 plant species. Its lake, where over a hundred animals live peacefully, as well as its greenhouse, one of the largest in Europe, make this park an exceptional green setting.

## THE COLLINE DU CHÂTEAU PARK

Formerly the cradle of the city, the castle was entirely destroyed by Louis XIV before becoming a public garden in 1829. An authentic labyrinth of greenery appreciated for the coolness of its undergrowth and surprising waterfall, this walking place offers a remarkable viewpoint of the Baie des Anges, the old city and the port.



## THE CASTEL DES DEUX ROIS PARK

Situated on the flank of the hill and bordered by the Mont-Boron Park, behind its entrance worthy of a castle (now destroyed), it is the children's paradise for enjoying many performances. For their pleasure, the park also accommodates animals such as nanny and billy goats, hens and rabbits. During the summer season, the alley serves as a cycle track and becomes a mist-sprayed area.





## NICE, *its parks & gardens*

### THE CAROL OF ROMANIA PARK

This 2.3-hectare green space previously accommodated the Château de Fabron, built in 1870, of which King Carol II of Romania was the last owner. Destroyed in 1971, the land was developed into a park and opened its gates in 1978. It is mainly frequented by children who enjoy the large lawn and garden furnishings made for them. A sports trail and a mini golf course (charged) are established in the shaded parts of the park.



### THE DOCTOR JEAN GUILLARD PARK (La Clua Park)

Inaugurated in 2008 in honour of Jean Guillard, a local benefactor, this park of over 5 hectares is situated on a slope of the Vallon de la Clua. This vast space was conceived with a health trail, sporting itineraries, picnic corners and even an area where dogs are allowed, so that each walker has the choice of walks according to his likes.

### THE SENTIER DU VINAIGRIER

Previously used as a 'gully' to bring the water from the hills to Nice, this 2 km trail links the Col de Villefranche-sur-Mer to the Grande Corniche and is thus accessible to all as it is flat. Crossing the Park du Vinaigrier and offering an incomparable panoramic view of the hills and the surrounding mountains, as well as the sea from Mont-Alban to the Cap d'Antibes, benches have been placed along the way enabling walkers to make a pleasant stop in the shade of the dense vegetation.

### THE AIRE SAINT MICHEL PARK

Acquired by the city during the second world war, the Aire Saint Michel, in the north of the city, offers a beautiful olive grove, a series of boards climbing up Mont Chauve and shady areas where the city dwellers, whether sporty or not, can enjoy nature in complete freedom.

### CHAMBRUN PARK

The Chambrun Park is a 11,400 m<sup>2</sup> landscape garden situated in the north of the city, on the site of a large botanical garden created by the Count Caïs de Pierlas in 1837. The park is greatly appreciated for its remarkable Cedar of Lebanon, its calm and its circular shaped elm music pavilion, named "the temple of love." This small romantic masterpiece by the architect Philippe Randon was dedicated to the Countess of Chambrun.

# NICE, *its parks & gardens*

## THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

A place for walking and discovering on the flank of the hill, it offers a remarkable view of the mouth of the Var, a vast panorama of the Alps and the Massif de l'Estérel and overlooks the future Eco Valley.

This 3-hectare garden presents 3,000 varieties of plants, essentially Mediterranean. Some tropical species enable it to be permanently in bloom. Its originality comes from the reconstruction of typical Mediterranean landscapes found all over the world.

## THE GAIRAUT CANAL TRAIL

From the ancient Gairaut road in the Avenue de Rimiez, this 1.75 km trail, scattered with small old bridges, provides beautiful panoramas of the city.

This pleasant walk beneath the olive and fig trees is the ideal setting for romantic or family walks a stone's throw from the city. The canal ends at a water tower and its waterfall located below the Gairaut church.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, visit:

- the City of Nice website: [www.nice.fr](http://www.nice.fr)
- the Office du Tourisme et des Congrès de Nice : [www.nicetourism.com](http://www.nicetourism.com)



## YOU SHOULD KNOW

The City of Nice has conceived a fun booklet entitled: "Nice in 8 discovery loops", an authentic invitation to walk and discover Nice and its architectural, historical and plant heritage. Walking circuits are accessible to all.

It is also possible to discover Nice in a pleasant and sporting way, by bicycle, thanks to "Essential Nice", a 6-km family trail aimed at persons wishing to visit Nice differently.

Available from the Maison de l'Environnement and the Tourist Office reception desks.



## NICE, *an eco-citizen city on a day-to-day basis*

The fifth largest city in France, Nice pays very particular attention to sustainable development. Thus, ecological provisions are implemented in order to reduce the impact of urban life on the environment as much as possible.

### VEGETATION ON ROOFS

The challenge of the city is to restore the ecological aspects degraded by urbanisation. A study carried out for the city by Ernst & Young demonstrated that vegetating the roofs enables thermal insulation, rainwater retention and the adaptation to climate change, but also the improvement of the living environment and biodiversity. For several years ago, construction references such as the Grenelle Environment Forum have been a strong incentive to follow these procedures.

### RECIPROCATORS

To go even further in its steps, Nice is progressively acquiring ecological materials, such as the reciprocators, which enable the mechanised maintenance of public spaces, while respecting the Zero Pesticide Charter.



### THE “ÉCO-PHYTO” PLAN

The city is committed to implementing the National Eco-Phyto Plan, thus eliminating the use of pesticides in the gardens and a portion of the city roads. The objective being to reduce the use of pesticides by 50%, to promote good water quality and make the general public aware of the biological struggle.

### CONTROLLING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION

The objective is to limit gas emission by promoting the use of public transport and the construction of new positive energy buildings, while recycling waste. The Ariane EcoParc is a perfect example of these controls and symbolises the green growth of the city enabling the sustainable management of household waste and similar substances within the Nice Côte d'Azur territory.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In Nice,  
the electricity  
comes from the tap!

Micro-turbines installed in the drinking water supply network generate the amount of power equivalent to the consumption of Line 1 of the city's tramway. The drinking water arrives on one side of the turbine and leaves from the other side intact. Meanwhile, the water flow has been accelerated by the relief of the Nice territory, which acts on the turbines, transforming the energy into electricity.

## NICE, *an eco-citizen city on a day-to-day basis*

### LIGNE D'AZUR (The city's bus/tramway network)

The Ligne d'Azur network comprises 100 lines regularly serving 24 communes of the territory. It provides a broad timetable range and a unique and attractive pricing policy. The development of the bus routes has facilitated the east-west exchanges, as well as enabling the bus to be totally separated from the car circulation, thus facilitating traffic fluidity in the city network. A 'good practice charter' concerning the touring coaches has also been implemented in order to reduce the noise and atmospheric nuisances and to decrease the risks associated with the traffic.

### THE TRAMWAY

Since the line was established, 1,193,000 residents and employees, that is 37% of the Nice population, have the possibility of getting about via this sustainable mode of transport already used by about 110,000 passengers per day. Line 2 linking the Nice Côte d'Azur International Airport or the Administrative Centre to the city centre will begin service in 2017 and will reach the port in 2019. It will enable a flow of 20,000 cars to be eliminated along the Promenade des Anglais, and will also to link together the essential hubs, i.e. the Airport and Arenas business district to the city centre; that is about 200,000 people per day. Then, Line 3 will link the airport to the Eco Valley in 2018.



### VÉLOBLEU

1,750 blue bicycles are made available to users in 175 stations distributed throughout the communes of Nice, Saint-Laurent-du-Var and Cagnes-sur-Mer. The self-service bike rental system is available 24/7.

The annual subscription costs 15 Euros (more information on: [www.velobleu.org](http://www.velobleu.org)).

### AUTO BLEUE

Nice Côte d'Azur is the 1st community in France to have implemented a 100% electric car-sharing service, with 210 vehicles in 70 stations. Each station also has parking spaces reserved for users of this type of vehicles. This configuration enables an urban electrical recharge point to be accessed.

### DID YOU KNOW?

With more than 2,900 reservations made, the month of May 2013 recorded the highest usage since Auto Bleue was put in service. Today, the system has 4,500 active members.

Since it came into service, Auto Bleue has covered 1,300,000 km in 135,000 hours of usage (May 2013 figures).

# NICE & *its Eco Valley*

## ECO VALLEY

Eco Valley is one of the largest Operations of National Interest in France devoted to sustainable development. Its perimeter extends over about 10,000 hectares and thus constitutes the link between the two most emblematic elements of the Alpes-Maritimes territory: the sea and the mountains.

This operation aims to balance in a harmonious and coherent manner, the preservation of natural heritage, opening up to the world, the creation of a major employment area (25,000 in 15 years) and state-of-the-art innovation, but also an economic and social dynamic as a quality of life.

A founding principle guides the operations in Eco Valley: the development must contribute to sustainable development and ecology.

## THE LARGE SUBURBS

### NICE MERIDIA

A priority operation of Eco Valley, the urban technopole Nice Meridia will extend over 200 hectares, with an initial operational sector of 26 hectares. Its urban location makes it a unique eco-suburb. Companies are already established there.

Key figures:

320,000 m<sup>2</sup> building land

2,100 accommodation units

4,000 jobs planned upon completion, in the 1st sector

### GRAND ARENAS

The Grand Arénas represents a highly strategic sector, at the gates of the city and in the immediate vicinity of the Nice Côte d'Azur International Airport.

The project integrates an important exhibition park (75,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the 1st phase), promoting hosting of international events. It has exceptional accessibility and fast links with the whole of Eco Valley and the City.

## THE LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS

### NICE SAINT AUGUSTIN MULTI-MODE STATION

The Nice Saint-Augustin/Airport multimodal pole will be a major connection platform in Eco Valley by grouping together all the modes of transport into a single site. Upon completion, it will regroup a railway station (trains and TGV to Paris, Marseille and Italy), a bus station and a direct link to the city centre via the tramway, as well as bicycle stations (Vélo Bleu) and both self-parking and electric (Auto Bleu) cars.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Key figures

90,000 m<sup>2</sup> buildable area, including:

15,000 m<sup>2</sup> transport facilities

5,500 m<sup>2</sup> for the bus station

1,150 park & ride and TGV spaces



## NICE & *its eco-citizen infrastructures*

### THE ALLIANZ RIVIERA STADIUM

The Allianz Riviera signed by the architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte and all the subsidiaries of VINCI Construction, was conceived in a proactive approach to sustainable development sought after by the Nice Côte d'Azur City, within the Plaine du Var-Eco Valley Operation of National Interest. Thus, Nice has witnessed the birth of one of the very first eco-stadiums in the world thanks to its many energy assets, such as natural ventilation, geothermal energy, rainwater harvesting and solar energy in

### THE AQUATIC CENTRE (NORTH OF CHARLES EHREMANN SPORTS PARK)

This aquatic complex with a surface area of 13,300 m<sup>2</sup> is the first total eco-conception pool using solar energy, heat pumps and geothermal energy. It has a hydraulic circuit with a reduced water treatment and circulation time of 4 hours. Energy saving measures have been integrated. The gas heating of the water is complemented by a solar carpet and the washrooms are equipped with heat pumps.



### THE NICE AIRPORT

The airport is metamorphosing. Its new structure strengthens its capacity: It is the 2nd largest airport in France. Its objectives are to construct more serious buildings in terms of energy and conceive a better articulated town planning with a housing policy, but also commercial and transport development, while improving the quality of life of its users.

### THE THIERS RAILWAY STATION (Word end 2015)

The renovation of the station is an opportunity to make the multi-mode exchange centre of Nice-Thiers an exemplary operation in terms of eco-sustainability and respect for the environment.

The project partners want to take into account the very latest innovations to combine sustainable development, quality and comfort in the spaces provided to the travellers, but also to reduce the ecological impacts of the site.



# RESEARCH IN *sustainable development*

Technological and “intelligent” tools have been conceived for optimising the use of energy resources. Thus, anticipating the impact, increasing the awareness of consumers (companies and individuals) of sustainable development issues and reducing the incidents through concrete and quantifiable actions, becomes a priority.

## THE AIR PACA ASSOCIATION

The association is approved by the Minister of the Environment and is responsible for monitoring air quality. It then communicates the results of samples and the level of the air quality index to the decision-making institutions. Its mission is to manage the air pollutants measuring network and to check that the air quality complies with the standards in force.

## THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBSERVATORY

The observatory is specialised in the fields of water research and analysis. It must manage the (fresh and sea) water resources and sustainably develop the coastal areas.

These studies enable innovative environmental impact evaluation tools to be implemented and managed in the long term.



## GREEN SITE

A Green Site is a natural extension of the environmental quality efforts and respect for the principles of sustainable development implemented during the realisation of works.

It aims to limit the disturbances caused by a site to the neighbourhood and the personnel, but also promotes employment and occupational integration.

This initiative arose from the desire of the Nice Côte d'Azur to be exemplary and at the forefront of environmental and sustainable development matters.

Today, every project is handled in this way.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Nice participates in the 'Earth Hour' action run by the WWF every year in order to mobilise as many players as possible around the issue of climate disruption.

On this occasion, the lighting at sites such as the Colline du Château, the War Memorial, the Pergolas in the Promenade des Anglais and many others is turned off for an hour. An act of solidarity...

# ECOLOGICAL IDEAS

## *for the city*

### ECO-LABELLED HOTELS



During a tourism, business or leisure stay, it is easy to find accommodation subscribing to eco-citizen measures. In Nice, some hotels are green, responsible and hold the European Eco Label, enabling them to reduce their impact on the environment.

Other international labels are also attributed to the establishments whose equipment complies with determined environmental criteria.

### REDUCTION OF NOISE AND DISTURBANCES

Limiting disturbances for the comfort of the population is one of the city's commitments, for example, around the A8, the airport and also the railway track. This challenge focuses on fighting against too frequent travel, as the vibrations affect the architectural heritage of the city.

Nice attempts to make the population aware of global warming and proposes more ecological ways of getting about.

### PRESERVING THE BIODIVERSITY

The infrastructures are bound to be limited in order to leave green spaces in the city, as demonstrated by many districts. The measure also applies to the preservation of the marine setting, which is the main resource of our environment. Besides, the sanctuary for protected sea mammals along its coasts, the Haliotis water treatment station is included in the process, as well as monitoring the swimming waters...



### “ECO-SUBURB” CREATION

New housing constructions ranging from studios to 4 rooms have been built according to the standards of the ecological label: non-reinforced eco-cement and wood, as well as natural insulation.



The “NOU” (New Eco Suburb) proposes a living environment with economic, generational and social diversity, as well as easy access to shops, services and sporting and cultural activities. Some of this housing is also available as furnished holiday rentals for visitors staying in Nice.



## SOCIAL NETWORKS



facebook.com/Nice Tourisme



twitter.com/nice-tourisme

## PRESS FILES AVAILABLE

General  
Large-scale projects  
Business tourism  
A sporting dynamic  
The Nice Carnival

## RECEPTION DESKS

5, Promenade des Anglais  
Thiers Station  
Airport Terminal 1 and Terminal 2  
Promenade du Paillon (Summer 2014)

