



DESTINATION - YACHT CHARTER GUIDE

Monaco

Yacht Charter Guide

CRAFTING SIGNATURE CHARTER YACHT EXPERIENCES

Monaco Yacht Charter

Region: Mediterranean

Gateways: NCE - CEQ - LTT - MCM

Source: Editorial

Blue Ocean Club LLC

MONACO

Overview

Monaco is the Riviera's theatrical punctuation - Port Hercule walls, Yacht Club dinners and Grand Prix density - not a full-week cruising ground on its own. The smart charter uses a Hercule night (or two) and swings west to Cap Ferrat, Villefranche or Antibes for water and privacy.

Monaco yacht charter - Port Hercule berths, Grand Prix weeks, Cap Ferrat day-anchors and APA guidance with Blue Ocean Club.

AIRPORTS

NCE, CEQ, LTT, MCM

REGION

Mediterranean

PAGE

<https://blueoceanclub.com/charter/destinations/monaco-yacht-charter>

WHEN TO GO

Season & rhythm

- How a Riviera week actually runs.: Not a floating hotel itinerary - a choreographed operation. Captains, marina agents and concierge lock the sequence before wheels-down at NCE.
- Embark ready: APA open, toys checked, crew briefed on diet and privacy before the first cork. Arrival logistics sit in the Door-to-deck block below - this panel is the onboard open.
- Coastal cadence: Short hops along the Golden Triangle - morning toys, lunch at a held beach-club table, golden-hour reposition, overnight either on a quay or a quiet roadstead.
- Concierge lock: Restaurant, beach club and villa slots confirmed weeks out. Helicopters, security and medical cover sit on standby - not scavenged the morning of.
- Event week or cruising week.: Grand Prix, Cannes and the Yacht Show rewrite berth economics and itinerary logic. Quiet weeks trade spectacle for water, privacy and value.
- Event weeks: Monaco GP, Cannes Film / Lions, Monaco Yacht Show. Berths book 6-12 months out; Port Hercule nights can multiply several times over. The yacht is a hospitality platform - visibility is the point.
- Cruising weeks: May-June and September shoulder, or midsummer away from headline dates. Freer movement Monaco Cap-Ferrat Lérins Saint-Tropez, with anchorage days that event weeks simply cannot afford.
- What changes: Berth strategy, APA contingency, tender logistics and dining holds. Same coast - different operation. We design the week for the calendar you actually fly into.

ON THE WATER

Cruising grounds

Monaco to Cap Ferrat

The eastern Riviera opens with Port Hercule - a tight, theatrical harbour that is as much a stage as a marina. From Monaco most captains run west along Cap Ferrat, dropping the anchor in Villefranche or Beaulieu for swimming and a tender run ashore to Eden Roc or the Cap's pine-fringed coves. Evenings often return to Monaco for Yacht Club dinners, casino nights or Grand Prix week when the bay becomes the world's most exclusive paddock. Short legs, big atmosphere: this stretch packs more signature moments into a few nautical miles than almost anywhere else on the coast.

Antibes, Cap d'Antibes & Juan-les-Pins

Antibes is the Riviera's working megayacht capital - Port Vauban holds some of the largest private yachts in the Med, yet the Cap itself stays green, rocky and surprisingly intimate. Day-anchors under Cap d'Antibes give clear water for toys and a short tender to Garoupe or the old town's ramparts and Picasso museum. Juan-les-Pins adds a livelier shoreline for sundowners without the Croisette crowds. Brokers favour this pocket as the quiet counterpoint between Cannes and Monaco - close to Nice Côte d'Azur airport, with berths that actually fit when Cap Ferrat and Port Hercule are full.

Cannes & the Îles de Lérins

Cannes is the festival and beach-club heart of the Côte d'Azur: Vieux Port and Port Pierre Canto for berthing, the Croisette for nights ashore, and a bay that fills with chartered platforms every May. Ten minutes by tender, the Îles de Lérins flip the mood - pine scent, monastery silence on Saint-Honorat, and sheltered swimming off Sainte-Marguerite. Captains typically split the week between a harbour night and quiet day-anchors around the islands so guests get both the red-carpet coast and a private-island morning. Event weeks (Film Festival, Lions, Yachting Festival) need berths booked months ahead; shoulder season is freer and often more charming.

Gulf of Saint-Tropez

Saint-Tropez remains the Riviera's most photographed gulf - the old port by night, Pampelonne's beach clubs by day, and Cap Camarat's wilder headland for overnight calm. Club 55, Nikki Beach and Bagatelle sit a tender ride from the usual day-anchors; evenings pull back into the village for dinner on the quay. The gulf itself is wide enough that a well-run charter never feels trapped in one scene. West toward Cavalaire and the wilder Var coast, the same week can turn quieter without a long passage - the classic Riviera decompression after Monaco or Cannes.

The Îles d'Hyères: Porquerolles & Port-Cros

An hour west of Saint-Tropez, the Îles d'Hyères feel like another country - national-park rules, turquoise shallows and almost no cars on Porquerolles. Port-Cros is the quieter sibling: hiking trails, no-take marine reserves and some of the clearest snorkelling on the French coast. Charters use these islands as the soft landing after a high-energy Riviera week, or as the whole itinerary for guests who want nature over nightlife. Berthing is limited and overnight stays are tightly managed in season, so captains plan day-anchors carefully and keep a mainland fallback in Hyères or Toulon if the weather turns.

QUAY NIGHTS

Marinas & berthing

Port Hercule, Monaco

The Riviera's most theatrical harbour - Grand Prix walls, Yacht Club Monaco, and tight high-season berthing that books months ahead. - Max LOA ~100 m - Gateway MCM - Transfer Heli 7-12 min from NCE - Peak lead: 9-14 months for GP / Yacht Show

DAY WATER

Anchorage

Anse de la Scaletta (Plage Mala)

Day-stop west of Monaco when Hercule is full - cliffs, clear water, tender to Mala.

Rade de Villefranche

Preferred overnight when Cap Ferrat and Monaco are packed.

SHORE TABLES

Restaurants

Yacht Club de Monaco

Port Hercule

Member and guest dining overlooking the harbour - book through the captain for race and show weeks.

African Queen

Beaulieu

Classic tender run west for a livelier quay table when Monaco feels formal.

DAY ASHORE

Beach clubs

Paloma Beach

Cap Ferrat

The Cap Ferrat morning - pine shade and tender pick-up opposite Monaco.

TRANSFERS

Helicopter & chauffeur - briefly.

Rotor or road from NCE / CEQ to the berth, timed to tender and dinner - not a taxi scramble. Concrete airport marina options sit in the Door-to-deck table below.

Helicopter

Monacair and private charters: NCE Monaco Heliport in roughly seven minutes; coastal hops to Antibes, Cannes and Saint-Tropez when the Corniche would cost the afternoon. NCE Monaco in ~7 minutes Private drops to Cannes, Antibes, Saint-Tropez

Chauffeur

S-Class and SUV fleets briefed on marina gates and FBO kerbsides - airport berth, berth Club 55 or Paloma, late returns from Èze. NCE / CEQ Hercule, Vauban, Cannes, Saint-Tropez Marina beach clubs and villa legs

We lock heli seats and cars against your embarkation slot with Limitless Sky aviation and ground partners.

NUMBERS - FRANCE

French VAT & APA - the short version.

On the Côte d'Azur the base charter fee is only the starting line. Budget VAT and a heavier APA before you lock dates.

French VAT

France typically applies 20% VAT on qualifying charter legs in French waters. Exact treatment depends on the yacht's commercial structure and itinerary - we confirm the figure before you sign.

APA (Riviera)

Industry APA is often 25-35% of the base fee. For a French Riviera high-season week we plan closer to 40% - fuel at anchor, premium berths, and champagne service move the needle fast.

What we send PAs

A line-item estimate (base + VAT guidance + APA + known berth premiums) before deposit, then a live APA report from the captain during the week.

WITHIN THIS COAST

Local guides

Port Hercule

The stage - not the whole coast. Use it for Yacht Club, casino and GP walls, then leave for water. Event-week berths book a year out - Heliport MCM adjacent - Cap Ferrat 20 minutes by sea

BEFORE YOU FLY

FAQ

Can we berth in Port Hercule for the whole week?

Rarely for larger LOA in high season. Most charters use one or two Hercule nights and cruise Cap Ferrat-Antibes-Cannes for the rest.

Is the heliport the best arrival?

From NCE, Monacair into MCM is the classic seven-minute arrival with the yacht waiting in Hercule - still the tone-setter for Monaco weeks.

How early should we book Monaco Grand Prix berths?

For GP weeks, 9-14 months is normal above ~50m. Non-event high season still needs months of runway for larger LOA.

Where do we overnight when Port Hercule is full?

Villefranche and Cap Ferrat day-anchors are the usual plays - tender into Monaco for dinners and Yacht Club nights.

Is Monaco enough for a full charter week?

Monaco is punctuation, not the whole coast. Pair Hercule nights with Antibes, Cannes or Cap Ferrat water for a balanced Riviera week.

What APA should we expect for a Monaco-heavy week?

Premium berths and Yacht Club dining push APA toward the upper Riviera band - we set a line-item estimate before deposit.

OPERATIONAL

Mooring notes

Monaco - Port Hercule

Extremely constrained above ~50m; event weeks are a different market. Non-event: 3-6 months. GP / Yacht Show: 9-14 months. Monaco GP and Yacht Show rewrite rates and availability entirely. Start the berth conversation before the yacht shortlist. Many principals board at Beaulieu or Villefranche and take a single Hercule night.

Berth fees, APA budgets and event lead times are indicative and move with LOA, season and harbour policy. Blue Ocean Club confirms live figures in writing before deposit. Not a substitute for captain pilotage or marina contracts.

ENQUIRE

Begin a conversation.

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