

Menton Lemon Festival By Train

February 2013



Banish those winter blues and come with us by high-speed train to the blues of the Mediterranean, as well as the oranges and lemons of the famous Citrus Festival held every February in Menton. We shall be staying in one of the best-loved resorts on the coast of the Italian Riviera, that of Diano Marina, an attractive town set in a wide sweeping bay. The mild climate means that temperatures are generally higher than elsewhere in northern Italy, making it an ideal place to visit early in the year.

DAY 1 Meet your Skinners Representative at London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet station and board your Eurostar train to France where we change to TGV direct to Nice. Coach transfer to our Hotel in Italy.

DAY 2 A day at leisure to explore Diano Marina, set in a wide sweeping bay with sandy beaches and an old town with both charm and character. The beach is safe, the water sparkles and the elegant palm-fringed promenade is an ideal place for a stroll. There are pavement cafés, bars and restaurants, and in the citrus lined streets there are shops, boutiques and a weekly market. There is a local bus that can

take you to the little town of Cervo in the afternoon, should you wish to visit.

DAY 3 Today we take a scenic drive along the coastal ways and see some of the historic medieval towns of the Floral Riviera, including Alassio where we shall have time to explore the local street market and find lunch before journeying on to the picturesque town of Albenga.

DAY 4 Today we're off to Menton, where the 80th Fête du Citron is in full swing. The whole town turns into a fruity paradise, with floats depicting everything from Buddhas to coconut groves all made out of fruit.



The Festival has a different theme each year, with past themes including the World's Islands for 2008, the Music of the World for 2009., the Cinema for 2010, The Greatest Civilizations for 2011 and the French regions in 2012. We shall have time to see the citrus exhibition in the Biovès Gardens which is a tour around the cultures of the world through the fantastical fruit statues. We have arranged for a walking tour of Menton old town and we shall have time to visit the beautiful gardens of which Menton is so proud, and have some lunch before taking our places for the carnival parade. Returning to our hotel early evening.

DAY 5 A further day at leisure or join us for an optional excursion to Monaco, the royal ancestral home of the Grimaldi family. There will be time to explore the ornate casino-land of Monte Carlo and perhaps try your luck at the tables, or just gaze at some of the luxury yachts moored in the harbour.

DAY 6 After breakfast, coach transfer to Nice and our High-speed trains to London/Ebbsfleet arriving early evening.

What's included

THE PALACE HOTEL

Diano Marina

The Palace Hotel is situated on the promenade and within easy walking distance to the town centre. There is a lift to all floors, and a Jacuzzi on the top floor.

All bedrooms have private facilities, TV, telephone & radio.

5 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

Travel by high-speed train to the Riviera

Scenic drive along the coast

Time to explore Diano Marina, Menton, Alassio, Albenga & Monaco

Visit to the Lemon Festival

Entrance to citrus set-pieces exhibition

Guided walking tour of Menton

£TBC PER PERSON

Single Room Supp: £TBC

(Prices not available at time of going to print, but please contact us if you are interested in this tour & we will keep you informed).