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TIPS & ARTICLES

Provence & the Côte d'Azur on a shoestring

Glittery [Cannes](#) film festival, the celeb-filled resorts of [St-Tropez](#) and [Antibes-Juan-les-Pins](#)...when you think of [Provence](#) & the [Côte d'Azur](#), you hardly think budget. But don't fret - you can indulge in [France's](#) jet-set playground without breaking the bank. All it takes is a little advance planning and a few tips.



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- July and August are off limits. Just don't do it (unless you fancy being stuck in traffic in the agonising heat). Instead, go in May, June, September or October – when the weather is still warm, the traffic subsides and prices drop.
- Pretend you're living here for the week and rent a *gîte* (self-catering accommodation) - they range from charming villas to simple apartments. Check out [Gîtes de France](#) for the best selection of properties.
- You came here for the food, right? Whether you rent a *gîte* or not, the market is your best source of local specialities - you'll find everything you need for that perfect picnic or simple dinner. Market days vary by town, but most only last until mid-afternoon - make sure you ask about the closest food market (and its schedule) when you book your accommodation.
- If you've just gotta stay in a hotel, base yourself in [Marseille](#) or [Nice](#). In Marseille, hit the tourist office for one of their free walking-tour maps - the best one covers Le Panier, Marseille's boho district. In Nice, hit the curvy lanes of Vieux (Old) Nice and take in the

spectacular baroque architecture before going for a stroll along the famed Promenade des Anglais - come at sunset for unbeatable views of the sea and free people-watching entertainment.

Where would you rather be? Reading this article or lolling on a golden beach in the south of France? Thought so. Grab a copy of Lonely Planet's *Provence & the Côte d'Azur* guidebook and make it happen!

Already planning your next trip? Do it the budget-stretching way with our [Travel on a shoestring](#) resource page.

PUBLISHED AUGUST 2009



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