

Artists and Chapels

For many visitors to the South of France, a visit to Henri Matisse's *Chapel du Rosaire* in Vence is all but mandatory. But Matisse's masterpiece is just one of several places of worship in the area that are designed and decorated by 20th-century artists. From Villefranche-sur-Mer to Fréjus, from the coastline to the countryside, the region is dotted with extraordinary chapels and churches adorned by artists ranging from the most famous—Picasso and Matisse—to the relatively unknown Cuban artist Ponce de Leon. Start in Villefranche where your expert guide will help you decipher the hidden symbolism in Cocteau's *Chapelle St. Pierre*. Visit Vence, not only to see the Rosary Chapel but also to discover Chagall's mosaics at *Notre Dame de la Nativité*. Find out why Picasso, an avowed atheist, insisted on having his own "chapel" in Vallauris, then continue on to Cannes to discover a tiny church with interior frescoes by the Israeli-born painter Théo Tobiassé. Head into the remote hills above Nice to visit *La Chapelle Bleue*, so named because of its pale-blue exterior and brilliant azure frescoes depicting the life of Christ, then take time to see the ancient village's collection of artist-designed sundials. Round out your visits with stops at the museums and galleries dedicated to these artists, from the recently renovated Picasso Museum in Antibes to the Chagall and Matisse museums in Nice. Whether you are a lover of art in general or a connoisseur of *l'art sacré*, our Artists and Chapels Signature Collection itinerary is designed to reveal a very different perspective of the life and work of these legendary artists.



Recommended itinerary length:	3-5 days
Maximum number of people	8
Destinations (varies depending on length of travel)	Fréjus, Vallauris, Cannes, Nice, Vence, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Villefranche-sur-Mer
Optional activities	Guided museum and gallery visits, Lectures by artists and art historians
Recommended add-on Signature Collection Itineraries	Essential Art and History, Americans on the Riviera, Art and Artists of the Riviera and Provence
Optional add-on destinations	Provence, Italy
Optimal seasons	Year round, with some activities changing according to the season
Audience	Adults and families with older children
Areas of interest	Art, history, culture