



The Riviera for

KIDS

With its sophisticated grown-up glamour and glittering turquoise sea, The French Riviera never gets old. But it's also great for little ones. Rowena Carr-Allinson uncovers the child-friendly offerings in Nice, St Tropez and even Monaco, too.

MARVELLOUS MONACO

Tucked between France, Italy and the Mediterranean, the tiny 1.7 square mile principality of Monaco is known for its Formula One Grand Prix, its rather rich residents and its claim to have 300 days of sunshine a year. The tax haven is slightly surreal, home to more millionaires per square metre than anywhere else on earth, but it's unquestionably charming, friendly and easy to navigate due to its 'bijou' size.

See & Do

Monte Carlo exudes old world glamour, in large part thanks to its royal family, the Grimaldis, and the most dazzling of them, the legendary Grace Kelly. Visiting The Rock or 'Le Rocher' as it's known to locals, is the most obvious place to start for children. With its impressive castle and daily changing of the guard, it brings the fairy-tale alive. Take a stroll through the gardens following the 'Grace Kelly Trail', past the cathedral where she tied the knot and down to the Musée

Océanographique for great panoramic views, seagull encounters and traffic-free leg stretching. The museum is a sight in itself, a marble temple to the sea, and home to a fabulous aquarium, including a shark lagoon, octopus, corals, turtles and angel-fish as well as an outdoor yellow submarine, which my toddler loved.

Even better, Monaco's 'petit train' departs right outside the museum. A great hit with the kids, it's the perfect way to sightsee without struggling up the steep hills. The train takes you past the harbour, around the Condamine district where the morning market is also a must (as well as its playground) and onto Monte Carlo's casino. Travelling with boys who like cars? Then it's worth taking a peek outside the famous Café de Paris, and going to see Prince Rainier III's amazing collection of 83 luxury vintage automobiles in the Antique Automobile museum. But if boats are more your thing, then a tour of the harbour guarantees an eyeful of mega yachts – an impressive sight by any standards.