

MONACO

an experience of a lifetime

Regent Seven Seas Cruises caught up with Alison Roberts-Brown, Regional Director of Visit Monaco in Australia & New Zealand to find out what's new in Monaco and what makes this unique Principality so special.

Monaco may be small at just over 2 square kilometres, but what the microstate lacks in size it certainly makes up for in history, culture, entertainment, and character. Today it is reinventing itself while preserving its environment. Home to numerous festivals, international sporting events, a variety of museums, world-class hotels, exclusive shopping, sumptuous gastronomy, and a vibrant nightlife scene, Monaco has been known as an aspirational symbol of luxury and glamour. But there is also a lesser-known side to the Principality that lets visitors dive into the charm and attraction of its heritage and culture, revealing the spirit of a European village with a history that goes back 700 years. From wandering the cobblestoned streets of Monaco's historic district, Monaco-Ville, to staying in the legendary hotels or strolling the Principality's parks and gardens, extraordinary experiences can be found whether travelling solo, as a couple or with friends or family.

Here are some updates and great reasons to visit or re-visit Monaco.

DISCOVER AND RE-DISCOVER THE ICONS

Undoubtedly, the first thing that springs to mind when thinking about Monaco icons is the famous Casino de Monte-Carlo. THE casino of casinos, completed in 1893 by Charles Garnier, is an institution of history, décor and class. The equally iconic Casino Square has just received a new look having been restored to its former glory, providing a new, more spacious and safer place to meet while also preserving the legendary track of the city's Formula 1 Grand Prix.

GO GREEN

Monaco is where luxury goes hand in hand with sustainability. An inspiring sustainability ethos is driven by its goal to be carbon neutral by 2050 and is reflected in many facets of the Principality's tourism offering. From a visit to organic rooftop gardens led by Terre de Monaco, to the e-bikes or the innovative e-car sharing system Mobe, visitors can engage many green activities whilst contributing to a more responsible tourism activity.

REINVENTED HOTELS

In Monaco, hospitality is an art form and there have been exciting hotel makeovers. The legendary Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo completed a 4-year multi-million dollar renovation programme with additions and enhancements including the opening of new exceptional luxury suites, a new garden courtyard, a lush new wellness area, and more. With intimate links to the Grimaldi family, this property was the backdrop for many special occasions between Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace of Monaco, including venue of choice for their 20-year wedding anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the reign of Prince Rainer III. A leisurely stroll away, Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo has embarked on a grand transformation which will makeover all guest rooms, add suites and redesign the main restaurant and bar, due to complete in 2022.

WELLNESS DELIGHTS

It's no surprise that the spas and wellness centres in Monaco are second to none. Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo recently unveiled an all-new wellness experience: the Wellness Sky Club, a 500 sq m space located on the top floor of the iconic 5-star hotel, offering spectacular 360° views of the Prince's Palace and the Place du Casino. At Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo, the modern sophistication of the House of Givenchy is embodied by luxury Spa Metropole by Givenchy. The Principality is also home to Europe's largest spa, Thermes Marins Monte-Carlo.

BRAND NEW SHOPPING DISTRICT

The newest district of chic! The One Monte-Carlo complex is a major new development in the very heart of Monaco, offering a global luxury experience just a few steps from the iconic Place du Casino. Combining high-end residential apartments, retail spaces, top restaurants, cultural and business facilities, the ultra-modern district surrounds the Promenade Princesse Charlene, highlighting a who's who of luxe brand boutiques: Balenciaga, Fendi and Chanel are among the precinct's 24 lavish stores.

DIVE INTO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

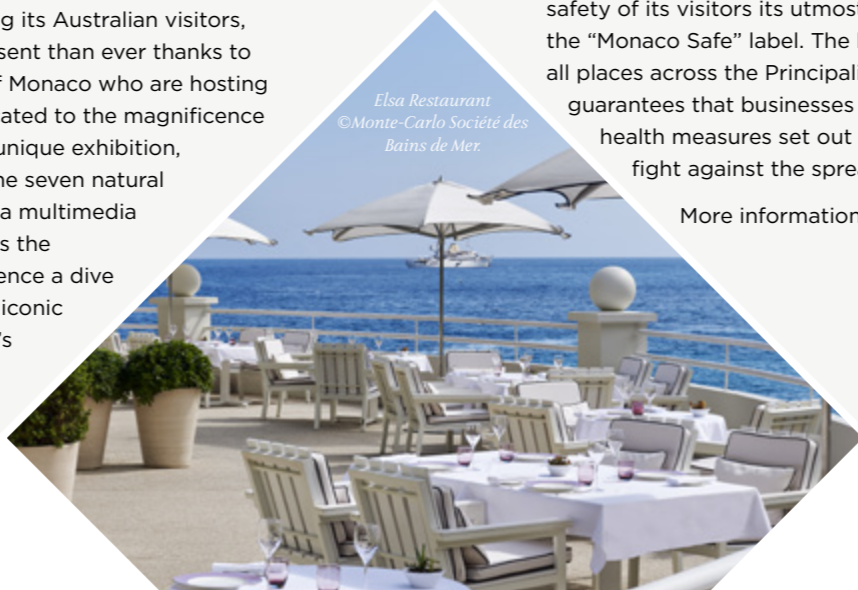
Whilst Monaco is dearly missing its Australian visitors, Australia is currently more present than ever thanks to the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco who are hosting an interactive exhibition, dedicated to the magnificence of the Great Barrier Reef. The unique exhibition, "IMMERSION" reveals one of the seven natural wonders of the world through a multimedia installation which offers visitors the opportunity to virtually experience a dive below the surface to meet the iconic species that inhabit the planet's largest coral ecosystem.



Place du Casino
© Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer-002



Casino Square & Boulingrins Gardens 2020
© Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer



Elsa Restaurant
© Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer

RACING ACTION

The Monaco Grand Prix has been the Principality's major sporting event since 1929, but did you know Monaco is home to some lesser-known equally enticing racing events? The all-electric Monaco ePrix promoting clean mobility tech and the Historic Grand Prix taking you back to the golden days of motorsports racing with an eye-popping array of expertly preserved cars.

These races are usually held on alternate years and take place on the same hair-raising street circuit as the F1. In 2021, exceptionally, all three racing events will be taking place.

CULTURAL TREASURES

One of Monaco's most impressive cultural icons, the prestigious Opéra Garnier Monte-Carlo, designed by Charles Garnier, is home to concerts, ballets, shows and more. All year round it offers an exclusive and varied calendar from the yearly Jazz Festival to opera season. Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo was created thanks to the commitment of H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover who wanted to continue the long tradition of dance in Monaco.

FOODIE GEMS

From Michelin stars to local eateries, Monaco is a delight for foodies. Boasting 3 Michelin stars dining at Louis XV Alain Ducasse is an unforgettable pleasure, and Elsa Restaurant is the world's only Michelin-starred organic restaurant with pristine farm-to-table food. Monaco's thriving foodie scene continues to flourish with the recent arrival of the famed 3-star Michelin chef Yannick Alléno taking the helm at the Vistamar, Hotel Hermitage. And Rampoldi Monte-Carlo has just been awarded its first Michelin Star. But it's not all about fine dining, Monaco has affordable local eateries which truly impress, try lunchtime pizza at Truffle Bistrot in the Condamine Market or the freshest seafood ever at outdoor casual oyster bar, Les Perles de Monaco.

SAFE AND SOUND

The Principality of Monaco is continuing to make the safety of its visitors its utmost priority having launched the "Monaco Safe" label. The label, which is awarded to all places across the Principality that welcome the public, guarantees that businesses are complying with the strict health measures set out by the Prince's government to fight against the spread of COVID-19 in Monaco.

More information: www.visitmonaco.com



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