

Welcome to Menton

32 Blvd. du Fossan
65000 Menton
Tel. 04 93 83 61 09

Transport

AIRPORT

By air to Nice airport (EasyJet flies there from various airports).

TAXI

Order a taxi before you fly by calling Microbus on 04 93 28 19 94. Either buy a return or order a taxi for your return journey before you leave. Preferably give 24 hours' notice for your journey. It's currently a little over €120 for the return journey, regardless of number of passengers/baggage. You'll even have a man holding your name up on a piece of paper as you walk into arrivals.

BUS

A coach leaves every hour from outside the arrivals hall to the middle of Menton, but you'll need to get a taxi from there (or a 20 minute walk— uphill and hot depending when you're going and how much luggage you have). Cheaper than the taxi from the airport only if you have one or two people together. Travel sick? Go by taxi or train.

TRAIN

Take the shuttle bus to Terminal 1 but stay on until it starts its journey back to Terminal 2: ask the driver where to get off for Nice St. Augustin. There's a bus stop that will drop you a ten minutes walk from Nice St. Augustin station. Don't do this option late at night. It's reasonable but there's a journey at the other end either by foot or taxi (see above).

If you're considering taking a bus to Nice town, then the train from there, forget it. It's simply not worth the hassle.

So, bottom line: the Microbus taxi is quick, simple, and goes right to the door and costs less than if three or more of you were to take the bus or train. The standard taxi fare is likely to be much more than the Microbus.

Location

COMING FROM ITALY

In Menton, as you come out of the Garavan tunnel from the direction of Italy, turn immediately right into Rue Guyau, and then bear right up the hill for about 1/3 mile.

COMING FROM MENTON CENTRE, NICE, MONACO ETC

If coming from the bus or train station, it's not hard to find but a little hard to describe here. Essentially you need to get up the Boulevard du Fossan which is well-known, and on the east end of Menton.

In Menton, taxis are outside the railway station and outside the Hotel de Ville.

If you arrive by taxi, pull up outside the double garages on your left just before the hairpin bend coming up the hill. The house is on your right: you can safely unload and go down the steps to the kitchen door.



On arrival

As you stand in front of 32, you will see it is a 3-story house. We are the bottom floor with the garden. You can enter one of two ways:

1: KITCHEN DOOR

We generally use the kitchen door, and it's easier to find when you first arrive/have luggage. You are at the top of the steps leading you down a public path called the *Traverse du Paropert*. Go down here and the first door on the left is ours. It should be locked twice: turn fully anti-clockwise to open.

2: GARDEN DOOR (CONSERVATORY)

Alternatively, enter through the garden door: just by the garage door for 32, a little further up the hill, you'll see a wooden brown front door for all three flats of the house. Enter and take the stairs all the way to the bottom. The keys unlock the gate (big key) and the conservatory door. Enter through the conservatory door rather than the door to your right. We never use this door.

Once in, uncover the furniture, and open the doors and windows to let air circulate.

Turn on the services in the following order:

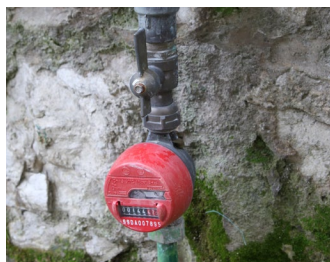
ELECTRICITY

Just inside the kitchen door, you'll see the main switch for the electricity on the fuse box. Up for on, down for off.



WATER

To turn the water on, head up the steps from the garden (out of the conservatory) almost to the gate of the flat above. You will see a red meter with a handle above it on the wall on the right. It should be off when you find it. Turn counter clockwise for on, clockwise for off. The water **MUST** be on before you turn on the gas.



GAS

Check that the water is on! Just outside the kitchen door is a plastic box on the wall. Open it with the screwdriver that's on the counter by the dish rack (please leave the screwdriver where you find it). Once the box is open, turn the metal handle on the pipe gently counter clockwise so the handle is straight down.



Now, open the front panel on the boiler by swinging the flap down. Turn the small switch on the left to *on* (I) and press it in for a few seconds: the pilot flame and lights will come on.

If the hot water doesn't come on, it might be that the water pressure in the system is too low.

Top it up by turning the black knob on the extreme right beneath the boiler until the pressure needle is in the marked position; then turn the black knob off again.



In warmer weather, when you don't need the heating on, keep the middle dial pointing to the sun picture. To turn the heating on, set the middle dial: the further to the right, the hotter it will be. It works on a thermostat. Remember to turn the heating off/down when you go out.

The right dial controls the temperature of the hot water, which is constantly on. You probably won't need to adjust this.

On departure

Please defrost the fridge/freezer the night before departure if possible by unplugging it and leaving the doors open. This gives the freezer time to thaw out—and then please wipe the insides down.

Turn off the services in reverse order. Turn the gas off at the meter outside (remember the screwdriver?) by turning the handle back to its horizontal position. Now turn off the water up the back stairs, and finally turn off the electricity at the fuse box.

Also, and this is important, please make sure that the fridge and freezer doors are open. Dump out any ice from the trays in the freezer, and prop the doors open with the broom. If you leave the doors shut when the fridge isn't on, black mould will build up and the fridge will need to be replaced. We know, because this has happened.

Please also make sure the washing machine door is open.

CHECKLIST:

- Gas, water and electricity off
- Sofas away from the walls
- Washing machine door open
- Fridge and freezer doors open
- Conservatory windows locked shut
- Patio chairs in conservatory
- Brown awning put away
- Conservatory table and wooden bench covered—wooden chairs under table, all covered with blue tarpaulin
- Conservatory bookshelf covered
- Curtains from conservatory closed, including thin white curtain that stops the yellow ones from getting bleached
- Glass doors to conservatory open/ajar—this is important because otherwise the next people cannot gain entry from the garden.
- Refuse emptied
- Bread bag emptied
- Dry goods sealed
- No cats

BED LINEN etc:

Depending on the time of your flight, please either wash & dry your bed linen and towels and put it all away (linen in wardrobe and towels in living room cupboard) or else strip the bed and put the linen in the cotton washing bag hanging from the bedroom door.

If you need to leave stuff drying, please place it on the wire drying rack and inside the flat next to the kitchen.

Please do NOT leave linen on the floor; and please do NOT leave anything drying in the conservatory/on the line.

DON'T FORGET... FRIDGE & FREEZER DOORS PROPPED OPEN AND NO CATS LEFT IN – MERCI!



Day-to-day

COOKER AND OVEN

The stove burners light with a match. For the oven, push the knob that says 'four' in and hold for six seconds while holding a match in the small hole inside at the base of the oven. There are matches on the shelf above the stove.

KEYS

There are spare keys hanging by the fridge. The biggest key is for the garden gate. At night, lock the kitchen door from the inside by pushing the door firmly into the frame as you turn the key. This door can blow open if it's not locked. In an emergency, you'll find a spare set in the clothes peg basket in the shed.

Please lock all doors and windows when you go out. The insurance demands it. The conservatory windows can be opened by a latch from the inside, and the door by the telephone generally stays shut but you can open the window within it by unscrewing the three large bolts. This window can stay open while you're out but cats will come in. Update: the mesh should prevent this.

The shed door isn't locked but is held closed by an unlocked padlock. This is fine. But keep it shut to keep cats out.

WASHING MACHINE

Select the wash program you require, then manually set the spin speed (*Essorage*) and water temperature (*Temp*). Press *Départ* to start the machine.

There is a washing line at the end of the garden and pegs in the shed. In fine weather garments dry very quickly in the sun, but won't dry overnight as the air is humid and cold.

BATHROOM

There are lotions etc in the cabinet, including mosquito spray—but bring what works for you in summer weather.

There are loo rolls in unit under the sink. There's a hair dryer in the bottom drawer of the unit. Hair straighteners are also there.

There are things like shampoo and toothpaste, so you don't need to bring any with you—but, as with everything, if you finish it please replace it.

METAL-FRAMED SOFA-BED (TV LOUNGE)

Linen for this bed is in the wardrobe in the bedroom or in the large wooden dresser opposite the kitchen. To put the sofa bed down, remove the cover (unzip on both sides) and simply pull the front out to unfold.

There is a knack to putting this away. The knack is important, because without it you'll really struggle, but the knack is very simple.



The bed must be away from the wall. Move the bed at least a foot away from the wall. Now take hold underneath the frame between the middle section and the back section, lifting up until the bed begins to fold. The front section will start to slide across, too. When the fold is a bit higher, grab hold of the frame as shown, and simply pull together with force until you hear a click. If you are struggling, check that the bed is away from the wall, and don't be shy of using a good strong shove. It's easier if you're squatting. It's not necessarily easier with two people, you just need to pull it together hard.

The other sofa-bed, next to the kitchen, also pulls out but is less comfortable for an adult. Okay for children, though.

WIFI, TV ETC.

The password for the wifi (Chez Numpt) is 01604766645. When you first arrive, you might find it takes a while to make the connection: it's probably updating software. You should find rechargeable batteries in a little box, and all sorts of converters and leads for UK stuff in the basket below the telephone table. The television on/off switches are on top, it works by remote... if the remote is dead, there are batteries in kitchen drawer. The DVD player should be set up to work.

CONSERVATORY

Use whatever you want from the cupboards. There are some toys below the bookshelves; there are coats/ski gear/sun hats/backpacks etc. in the white wardrobe; and the large wooden seat (it's falling apart) contains beach masks etc.

Bring the metal chairs out onto the terrace if you want to sit/eat out there. The seat pads are in the white wardrobe. The green chairs should be back in the conservatory before you leave.

BEDROOM

Bed linen is on the top shelf of the wardrobe—extras in living room cupboard. Duvets etc on top of wardrobe.

KITCHEN LIVING ROOM

The large dresser contains towels and some bed linen. You'll also find insect repellent for the house, candles and napkins.

The glass cabinet on the right has a Scrabble set (it is complete—and there's a French set too). The orange, blue and green boxes contain maps, timetables and brochures. Feel free to update or replace or add to this.

REFUSE

Use the small white bin in the kitchen for recycling, which goes into the big street container with the yellow lid (green lid bins for other waste). There are collections every night.

AIRING THE FLAT

Damp shouldn't be a problem. The ventaxias in the conservatory and kitchen window will keep a flow of air going through the flat. They should be left open—preferably also with the double glass doors leading the conservatory left open too. Airflow is the key to ventilation, and it can get very humid in the Summer. Please be careful to keep all sofas and other furniture away from the walls when you leave. The stone wall in the dining area might deposit dust on the table or floor. Keep dry goods such as pasta and flour (and especially salt) in airtight containers. Keep them sealed in their jars/tins/bags.

GARDEN & PATIO

The brown parasol for the patio table is in the conservatory. It's had a hard life but it's really useful, so please don't leave it out in the wind. Take it down at night.

If it's really hot, you could put up the sailcloth canopy over the patio. It's kept in the bookcase cupboard in the conservatory. Two corners attach to the hooks above the conservatory door; the third corner ties somehow to the framework high above the garden gate. You'll see!

OTHER STUFF

Feel free to use the stuff in the shed—there are beach towels, beach toys, various inflatables, mats, masks etc, and beach bags including a lovely shopping trolley to carry it all in.

SUPPLIES

Please help yourself to stuff. If you finish something up (olive oil, shampoo, loo paper...) please replace it. If you get stuck, break something major or can't replace something, just let us know. You can always call us, email us, facebook us or whatever.



Around Town and Beyond

There are maps, brochures and timetables in the box files in the large dresser. Feel free to add, and especially to update/replace out-of-date timetables.

GETTING INTO TOWN

The main way to get into town is by walking down the Fossan. Eventually you'll get to the big tunnel entrance on your left, which is usually busy with traffic. Be sure to cross the road at the crossing on your right, and be aware that French (and Italian) drivers won't necessarily stop for you—be careful. Having crossed, turn right and immediately left, past Hotel Narev, and you'll reach the museum square with the Natural History Museum at the top of the square on your right.

Down through the square, you can either cross over into the pedestrian precinct, or turn right into the main town with the town hall and other shops/bank etc beyond.

It is a seven minute walk to the centre and about 10-12 to the beach – we recommend the *Les Sablettes* beach below Porte de France. It's at the other end of the long tunnel at the bottom of the Fossan. Alternatively reach it by walking through the old town. At the end of the beach nearest Italy there's also a good Marche U supermarket.

For a rocky beach head towards Italy past the marina, and keep going on the low road. If you take the high road to Italy you will get to a café on the left after the border and after the first shop. It is a shop/cafe with has the best hot chocolate in the world, and a great view looking back over Menton and Monaco.

There's another way into town that's more picturesque and you should probably do it at least once: out of the kitchen door, rather than walking up the steps of the Paropert to the Fossan, turn left into the Paropert and follow the path all the way. It'll start to climb and you'll come out onto the Route de Castellar. Turn right and take the higher road you see. It takes you up to the big cemetery at the top. There's also a fabulous view of the old town and the sea up here and, if you turn to your right and walk down along the path with the cemetery on your right, head down into the labyrinth of the old town. All the steps and paths (except for a few dead-ends) will take you down to the big church square and eventually the beach.

STUFF TO DO

There are lots of museums in Menton—the Natural History at the top of the main walk through to the centre of town is very nice and they have an orange cat. There is also a gallery that sometimes has great stuff (as well as not so good) next to the tourist office.

This is on the main road near the Casino and you can pick up 'what's on' leaflets down there. They also speak English.

Menton is famous for the Jean Cocteau museum on the sea front near the covered market. The Val Rahmeh botanic gardens are beautiful—there are other botanic gardens too. You'll find all the info you need at the tourist office on Avenue Boyer.

If you fancy a decent walk through town, walk all along the promenade away from Italy and eventually you'll reach Roquebrune. At the point where Cap Martin begins is a little snack bar with a good, cheap menu. It's a perfect Summer spot for lunch and a swim, especially if you clamber over the rocks to the beach behind, which has good waves and not so many people.

By the way: the Mirazur restaurant, with two Michelin stars, is rated as one of the top ten restaurants in the world. We've never been, although apparently it's not as expensive as you'd think. It's on our to-do list :-D

VILLAGES

Take a bus up to St Agnes and at the St Yves restaurant you can have the best rabbit stew on earth or boar (sanglier) casserole, with a wonderful view overlooking the mountains. Take a walk around the grounds of the the mediaeval castle and garden right at the top of village, and the Maginot Line museum (very cool for energetic boys). The walk back down to Menton— a 2-3 hour descent—is highly recommended if you're a walker. Ask for directions.

Take a bus up to Castellar, which is a a shorter journey than to St Agnes. It's a pretty village. It's an easy walk down—get someone to point you in the right direction for the footpath. Gorbio is pretty too.

If you want to get further into the mountains, head for Sospel or Tende. These little places are alpine in character, not at all like the Riviera.

MONACO

Monaco is ten-minute train ride. There is the castle and the harbour, and the Oceanographic Museum is wonderful. The botanic garden (Jardin Exotique) is great.

NICE

Nice is 20 minute train ride, the other side of Monaco, and perfect for shopping and galleries.

ITALY

You can just about walk to the famous Hanbury botanic gardens in Italy, but it's a bit of a trek and not a pretty route. If you have transport, it's well worth a visit. The first place of any significance in Italy is Latte, with a really good supermarket (Conad). Parking down the side street on the right.

Friday is market day in Ventimiglia, and this is quite an event. Lots of leather goods, fake sunglasses, cheese, scarves, cheap kitchenware... avoid it by going to Ventimiglia on any other day, but the craziness of the market is invigorating! Ventimiglia is easy to reach by train, too.

One of our favourite destinations in Ventimiglia is Cactusmania, an enormous garden centre with a spectacular array of cacti. It's much better than I'm making it sound. Google it. Only reachable by car. Just beyond Ventimiglia is Campo Rosso, which is pretty, and up into the valley from there is the very picturesque village of Dolceacqua with its famous bridge.

FOR CHILDREN

Koaland is permanent funfair and good place for a steak sandwich and beer. Walk through the town, past the casino and keep going along Avenue de la Madone. It's low key and very cute. There's a hilarious mini golf at the back, too.

If you have a young child, go into town for the carousel in the pedestrian precinct. The beach at the corniche has a little play-park too, and there is a decking area where you can sit in the sun. It's perfect for paddling with little children. The decking is a popular place to hang out in the evenings. You can watch the sun set over Monaco.

There is another play area by the Marche U near *Les Sablettes*.

Have a wonderful stay!

Heather & David at home: +44-207-2541192
Heather mobile: +44-7899870984
heather@lostgloves.com
David mobile: +44-7775766776
david@lostgloves.com

Ed at home: +44-1604-766645
Fax and answer machine: +44-1604-761813
Ed's mobile: +44 – 7970-410797
Email: edmcd@btopenworld.com

Don't be shy to ask neighbours for help—especially Romy across the patio in the white building.





ITALY

To Ventimiglia

Garavan
Railway
Station

32. Blvd.
du Fossan

Plage des Sablottes
(sandy beach)

Musée
Jean Cocteau

Pebbly beach

Bus
Station

Main
Railway
Station

Menton

Koaland

Carnoles
Railway
Station

Alaska Bar

Cap Martin

Roquebrune

Roquebrune
Railway
Station

To Gorbio

To Sainte-Agnès

To Sospel

To Castellar

To Monaco/Nice

MONACO