

The Col de Turini Loop

From Monaco to the Turini on the roads of the Monte-Carlo Rally

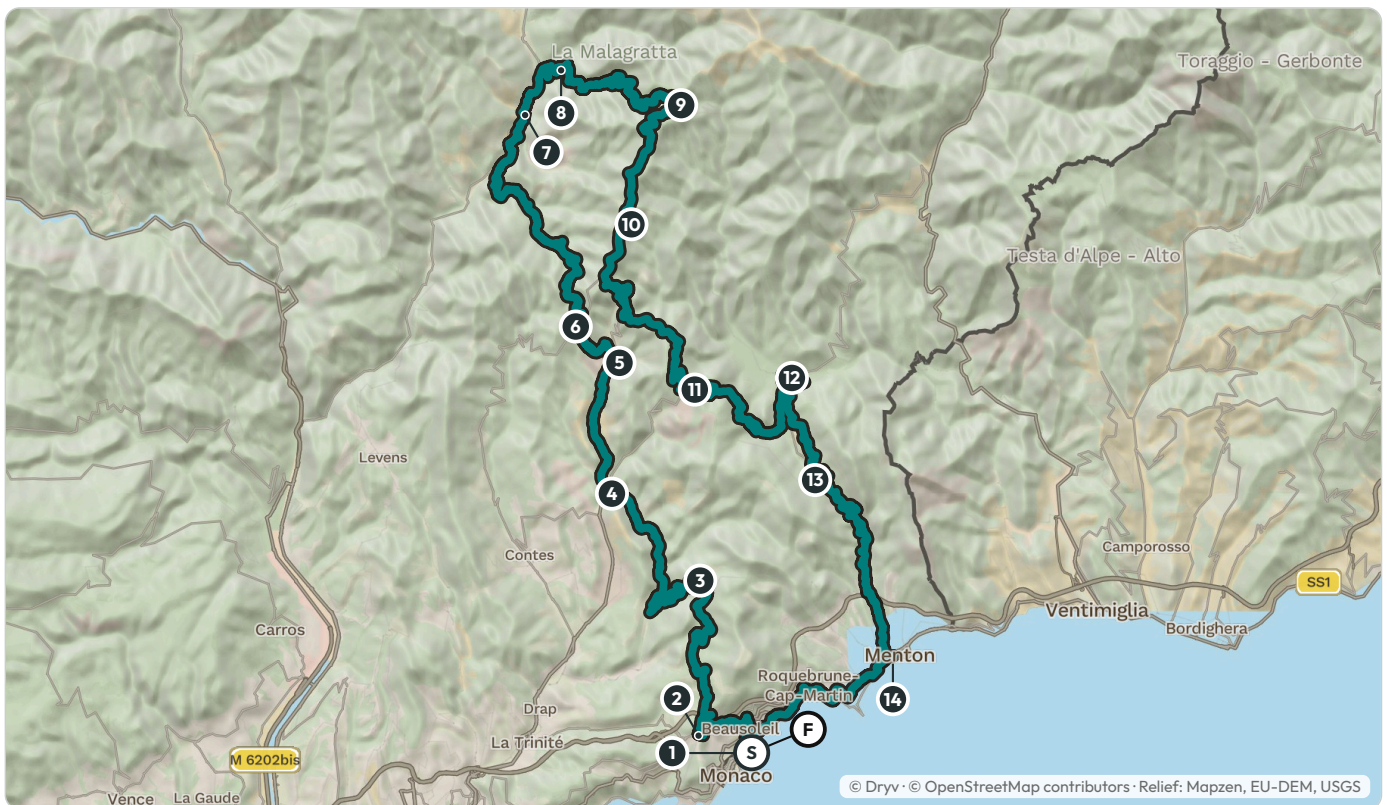
DISTANCE

146.7 km

DRIVING TIME

3 h 59 min

HIGHEST POINT

1,604 m


Founded in 1911, the Monte-Carlo Rally is held in January in the hills behind Nice. The Col de Turini (1,604 m), reached by long series of hairpins, is its most famous pass.

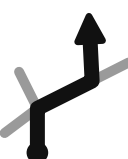
This loop leaves from the Place du Casino, climbs to La Turbie, on the Grande Corniche, then heads for Peille, L'Escarène and Lucéram. Over the Col Saint-Roch and through La Bollène-Vésubie it climbs to the Turini, comes back by Peïra-Cava and the Col de Braus rather than by Moulinet, and returns to the sea at Menton over the Col de Castillon.

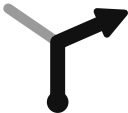
Nearly 150 km of narrow, winding mountain roads. In winter, the Turini may be under snow, so check the conditions before setting off.

Text: Dryv, adapted from Wikipedia (CC BY-SA 4.0) – https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rallye_automobile_de_Monte-Carlo, https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Col_de_Turini · Map: full sources on page 2

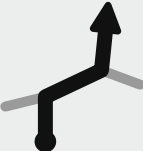
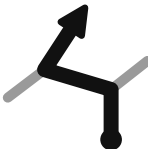
PLACES ALONG THE ROUTE

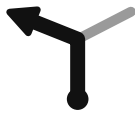
1 Monte-Carlo Casino	km 0.0	5 Lucéram	km 37.7	9 Col de Turini	km 78.0	13 Col de Castillon	km 121.8
2 La Turbie	km 7.2	6 Col Saint-Roch	km 44.0	10 Peïra-Cava	km 85.2	14 Menton	km 136.8
3 Peille	km 17.4	7 Lantosque	km 60.4	11 Col de Braus	km 102.2		
4 L'Escarène	km 31.1	8 La Bollène-Vésubie	km 65.7	12 Sospel	km 114.6		

NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
1	0 m total 0.0 km	—		Start: Monte-Carlo Casino (place 1). Head north
2	110 m total 0.1 km	—		Turn right onto Avenue des Spélugues, then after 60 m left onto Avenue de la Madone
3	260 m total 0.4 km	Avenue de la Madone		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Boulevard Princesse Charlotte
4	160 m total 0.5 km	Boulevard Princesse Charlotte		Turn sharp right onto Boulevard du Général Leclerc
5	140 m total 0.7 km	Boulevard du Général Leclerc		Turn left onto D 53
6	410 m total 1.1 km	D 53 Boulevard de la République		Turn sharp right to stay on D 53
7	270 m total 1.4 km	D 53 Avenue de Verdun		At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit to stay on D 53
8	910 m total 2.3 km	D 53		Turn right onto D 6007
9	2.42 km total 4.7 km	D 6007 Avenue Prince Rainier III Monaco		Turn sharp right onto Route de Beausoleil

NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
10	620 m total 5.3 km	Route de Beausoleil		Turn right to stay on Route de Beausoleil
11	540 m total 5.8 km	Route de Beausoleil		Turn left onto D 2564
12	1.06 km total 6.9 km	D 2564		Turn left onto Avenue Prince Albert 1er de Monaco
13	320 m total 7.2 km	Avenue Prince Albert 1er de Monaco		Stop: La Turbie, Avenue Prince Albert 1er de Monaco (place 2). Head west on Avenue Prince Albert 1er de Monaco
14	40 m total 7.3 km	Avenue Prince Albert 1er de Monaco		Bear left to stay on Avenue Prince Albert 1er de Monaco, then after 90 m right onto D 2564
15	130 m total 7.4 km	D 2564		Bear left onto D 53
16	1.05 km total 8.4 km	D 53 Route du Mont Agel		Bear left to stay on D 53
17	350 m total 8.8 km	D 53		Bear right to stay on D 53
18	780 m total 9.6 km	D 53		Keep right to stay on D 53
19	1.53 km total 11.1 km	D 53 Route de Saint-Martin de Peille		Turn right to stay on D 53

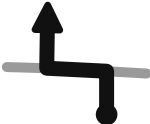
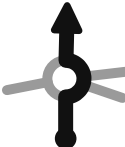
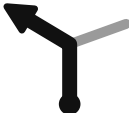
NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
20	2.31 km total 13.4 km	D 53 Route de Saint-Martin de Peille		Turn left to stay on D 53
21	1.52 km total 14.9 km	D 53 Route de Saint-Martin de Peille		Keep right to stay on D 53
22	2.22 km total 17.1 km	D 53		Bear left onto Montée Capitaine Chauncey, then after 110 m sharp left onto Square Mary Garden
23	240 m total 17.4 km	Square Mary Garden		Stop: Peille, Mary Garden car park (place 3). Head south-west on Square Mary Garden
24	70 m total 17.5 km	Square Mary Garden		Turn sharp right onto Place de la République, then after 110 m sharp left onto D 53
25	1.07 km total 18.5 km	D 53		Turn sharp left to stay on D 53
26	5.32 km total 23.8 km	D 53 Route de la Grave		At the roundabout, take the 1st exit to stay on D 53
27	540 m total 24.4 km	D 53 Route de la Grave		Turn right to stay on D 53, then immediately right onto D 21
28	5.49 km total 29.9 km	D 21		Keep right to stay on D 21
29	1.22 km total 31.1 km	D 21		4. L'Escarène On the right

NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
30	90 m total 31.2 km	D 21		Turn right onto Rue Henri Rostagni, which becomes Rue de Saint-Sébastien
31	330 m total 31.5 km	Rue de Saint-Sébastien		Bear right onto D 2204, which becomes D 2566
32	510 m total 32.0 km	D 2566 Montée de la Gare		Keep right to stay on D 2566
33	700 m total 32.7 km	D 2566 Montée de la Gare		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit
34	4.99 km total 37.7 km	—		Stop: Lucéram (place 5). Head north on D 2566
35	310 m total 38.0 km	D 2566		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit to stay on D 2566
36	5.96 km total 44.0 km	D 2566 Route du Col Saint-Roch		 6. Col Saint-Roch Turn right to stay on D 2566, then after 60 m left onto M 73
37	11.30 km total 55.3 km	M 73 Route du Col Saint-Roch		Bear right to stay on M 73
38	230 m total 55.5 km	M 73 Route du Col Saint-Roch		Turn right to stay on M 73
39	4.23 km total 59.8 km	M 73 Route de Loda		Turn left onto M 2565, then immediately right back onto M 73

NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
40	520 m total 60.3 km	M 73 Route de la Cougourdière		Turn right onto Route de l'Ancienne Forge
41	60 m total 60.4 km	Route de l'Ancienne Forge		Stop: Lantosque (place 7). Head north-west on Route de l'Ancienne Forge
42	180 m total 60.5 km	Route de l'Ancienne Forge		Turn sharp right onto M 173, which becomes M 2565
43	2.03 km total 62.6 km	M 2565		Bear right onto M 70
44	3.18 km total 65.7 km	M 70		8. La Bollène-Vésubie On the left
45	270 m total 66.0 km	M 70		Keep right to stay on M 70
46	290 m total 66.3 km	M 70 Boulevard Philippe Corniglion-Molinier		Keep left to stay on M 70
47	11.62 km total 77.9 km	M 70		Turn left onto D 2566
48	50 m total 78.0 km	D 2566 Route de Turini		Stop: Col de Turini (place 9). Setting off, turn left to stay on D 2566
49	7.25 km total 85.2 km	D 2566		10. Peïra-Cava On the left

NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
50	2.62 km total 87.8 km	D 2566 Route de l'Authion		Turn left onto D 21
51	5.32 km total 93.2 km	D 21 Route du Col de l'Orme		Turn left onto D 54
52	7.76 km total 100.9 km	D 54		Turn sharp right to stay on D 54
53	880 m total 101.8 km	D 54		Bear left onto D 2204
54	440 m total 102.2 km	D 2204		11. Col de Braus
55	5.45 km total 107.7 km	D 2204		Turn sharp left to stay on D 2204
56	5.70 km total 113.4 km	D 2204		Turn right to stay on D 2204
57	620 m total 114.0 km	D 2204 Avenue Jean Médecin		Turn right onto D 2566
58	120 m total 114.1 km	D 2566		At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto D 2566A
59	240 m total 114.4 km	D 2566A		Turn right onto Rue du Moulin de Gâtine

NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
60	240 m total 114.6 km	Rue du Moulin de Gâtine		Stop: Sospel (place 12). Head south on Rue du Moulin de Gâtine
61	230 m total 114.8 km	Rue du Moulin de Gâtine		Turn left onto D 2566A
62	240 m total 115.1 km	D 2566A		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto D 2566
63	6.68 km total 121.8 km	D 2566 Route d'Erc		 13. Col de Castillon Turn left to stay on D 2566
64	2.45 km total 124.2 km	D 2566 Route de Sospel		Bear left to stay on D 2566
65	9.03 km total 133.2 km	D 2566 Route de Sospel		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit to stay on D 2566
66	670 m total 133.9 km	D 2566 Route de Sospel		At the roundabout, take the 1st exit to stay on D 2566
67	170 m total 134.1 km	D 2566		At the roundabout, take the 1st exit to stay on D 2566
68	290 m total 134.4 km	D 2566		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit to stay on D 2566
69	660 m total 135.0 km	D 2566 Route de Sospel		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit to stay on D 2566

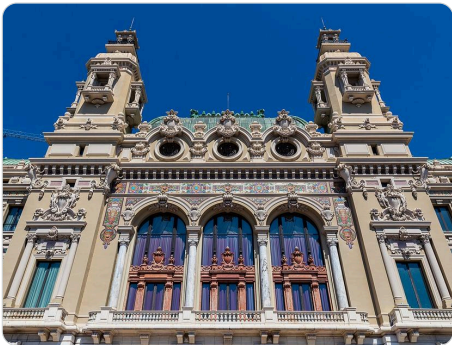
NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
70	330 m total 135.3 km	D 2566		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Rue Pietra Scritta
71	720 m total 136.1 km	Rue Pietra Scritta		Turn right onto Rue du Colonel Herbert
72	130 m total 136.2 km	Rue du Colonel Herbert		At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto D 2566
73	340 m total 136.5 km	D 2566 Avenue de Verdun		Turn left onto Rue Partouneaux, then immediately bear right to stay on Rue Partouneaux
74	300 m total 136.8 km	Rue Partouneaux		Stop: Menton (place 14). Head west on Avenue Thiers
75	430 m total 137.3 km	Avenue Thiers		Turn left onto Avenue Edouard VII, then after 80 m right onto Cours du Centenaire
76	350 m total 137.6 km	Cours du Centenaire		At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit to stay on Cours du Centenaire
77	200 m total 137.8 km	Cours du Centenaire		Turn left onto Avenue Gaspard Médecin, which becomes D 6007
78	460 m total 138.3 km	D 6007		Turn right onto Rue Paul Morillot
79	530 m total 138.8 km	Rue Paul Morillot		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto D 123

NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
80	240 m total 139.0 km	D 123 Avenue Victor Hugo		Keep right to stay on D 123, which becomes D 6007
81	170 m total 139.2 km	D 6007		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto D 2564
82	1.72 km total 140.9 km	D 2564		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto D 6007
83	540 m total 141.5 km	D 6007 Avenue Pierre Curie		At the roundabout, take the 1st exit to stay on D 6007
84	1.45 km total 142.9 km	D 6007 Avenue de la Côte d'Azur		At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Boulevard d'Italie
85	1.98 km total 144.9 km	Boulevard d'Italie		Keep left to stay on Boulevard d'Italie
86	450 m total 145.3 km	Boulevard d'Italie		At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Avenue Saint-Charles
87	900 m total 146.2 km	Avenue Saint-Charles		At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Avenue de la Madone
88	230 m total 146.5 km	Avenue de la Madone		Turn right onto Avenue des Spélugues, which becomes Place du Casino
89	160 m total 146.6 km	Place du Casino		Turn left, then immediately bear left

NO.	DISTANCE	ROAD	DIRECTION	INSTRUCTIONS
90	30 m total 146.7 km	—		Finish: Monte-Carlo Casino (place 1)

ALONG THE WAY

1 Monte-Carlo Casino
Heritage site · km 0.0



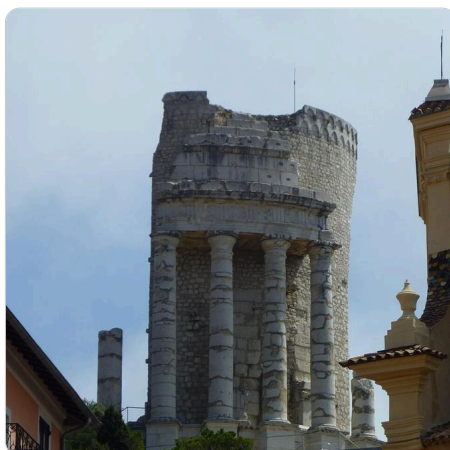
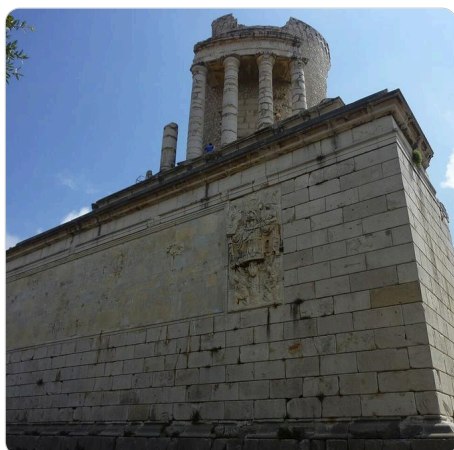
To revive his principality, Prince Charles III set out to make it a resort for wealthy foreign visitors. In 1863 he founded the Société des Bains de Mer and made François Blanc, who came from the casino at Homburg, its president; Blanc opened the Hôtel de Paris in 1864 and the casino in July 1865. The present Belle Époque building went up in 1878–1879 to designs by Charles Garnier, who also built the adjoining opera house, opened on 25 January 1879 with Sarah Bernhardt.

The Monte-Carlo Rally, founded in 1911 by Gabriel Vialon and Antony Noghès, who later created the Monaco Grand Prix, was at first a way of drawing Europe’s wealthy to Monaco. In 1973 it was the very first round of the new World Rally Championship.

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2 La Turbie

Historic village · km 7.2



Just above Monaco, La Turbie stands 450 m up on the headland of the Tête de Chien, from which the view stretches from the Italian coast at Bordighera to the Esterel. The village marked the highest point of the Via Julia Augusta, the Roman road along the coasts of Liguria and Provence, and the border between Italy and Gaul.

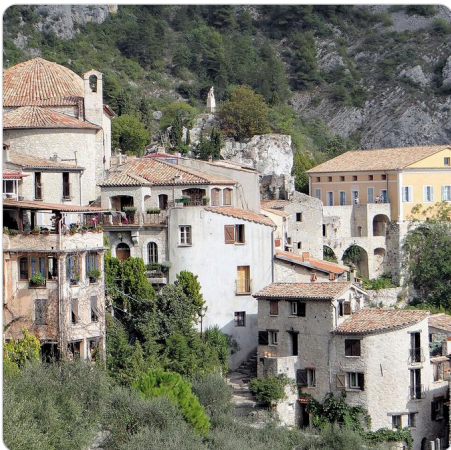
Here the Trophy of the Alps was raised in 7–6 BC to the glory of Augustus: its west face bears the Senate's dedication and the names of the 44 Alpine peoples he subdued. According to the architects Formigé, the emperor's statue stood 49 m high. The ruined monument was restored in the 1930s thanks to the American patron Edward Tuck, who spent his winters in Monte-Carlo.

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3 Peille

Historic village · km 17.4



Recorded as early as 1029, the medieval village of Peille then had a huge territory, running down from the Col de Braus to the sea. At the end of the 12th century it had to give up its rights over the Rock of Monaco to the Republic of Genoa, and L'Escarène broke away from it in 1520. Made a county in 1651 for Jean-Paul Lascaris, Peille remained with the Lascaris family until the Revolution; their 17th-century palace stands at the cliff's edge.

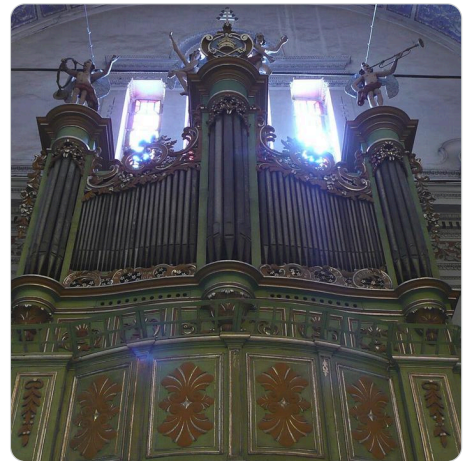
The church of Sainte-Marie, of the 12th and 13th centuries, with a Romanesque bell tower, is made of two chapels side by side, one with a round barrel vault, the other with rib vaulting. In 1989 Prince Rainier III gave the village the organ from the chapel of the Prince's Palace.

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4 L'Escarène

Village · km 31.1



An old market town in the hills behind Nice, halfway between the sea and the Mercantour, L'Escarène lies at the bottom of the Paillon valley, where the Redebras joins it. It broke away from Peille in 1520 and grew in importance as a staging post when the royal road over the Col de Tende came through it, between the Col de Nice and the Col de Braus.

Its Pont-Vieux, the old bridge, crosses the Paillon. A church of Saint-Pierre is recorded here as early as 1037; the present church of Saint-Pierre-ès-Liens has a listed historic organ built by the Grinda brothers in 1791. The town also has the chapels of the White and the Black Penitents.

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5 Lucéram

Historic village · km 37.7



Built around the 13th century on a rocky spur, the Baous, Lucéram stood at a crossroads of the salt road that ran from the port of Nice to Savoy through the Vésubie valley. Its narrow stepped lanes wind up to the foot of a round tower, open on the village side, which survives from the wall that protected it. Its name may come from the Latin *Lucus eram*, “I was a sacred wood”, recalling the forests around it.

On the Baroque route of the Nice region, the church of Sainte-Marguerite, begun in 1487, holds five large altarpieces from the school of the Nice master Ludovico Brea, among them the 10-panel altarpiece of Saint Margaret, attributed to Brea himself. Since Christmas 1998 the village has laid out a trail of Nativity scenes every winter.

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6 Col Saint-Roch

Mountain pass · km 44.0



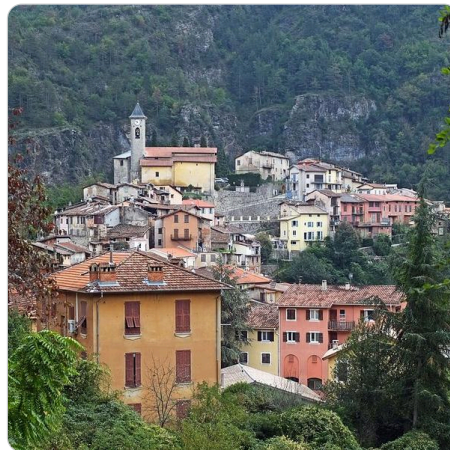
At 991 m, deep in the state forest of the same name, in the commune of Lucéram, the Col Saint-Roch links the Paillon de Contes valley with the Lucéram valley and the north of the Alpes-Maritimes. It has been a known crossing since the 18th century: in 1748 Louis-René Colbert described a level spot marked by a cross where four tracks met, from L'Escarène, Lucéram, Lantosque and Duranus.

Two other passes lie on either side, the Col du Savel, 1.4 km to the south, and the Col de la Porte, 2.4 km to the north. Not far from the pass, the ruins of the village of Rocca Sparvièra look down over the valley.

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7 Lantosque

Village · km 60.4



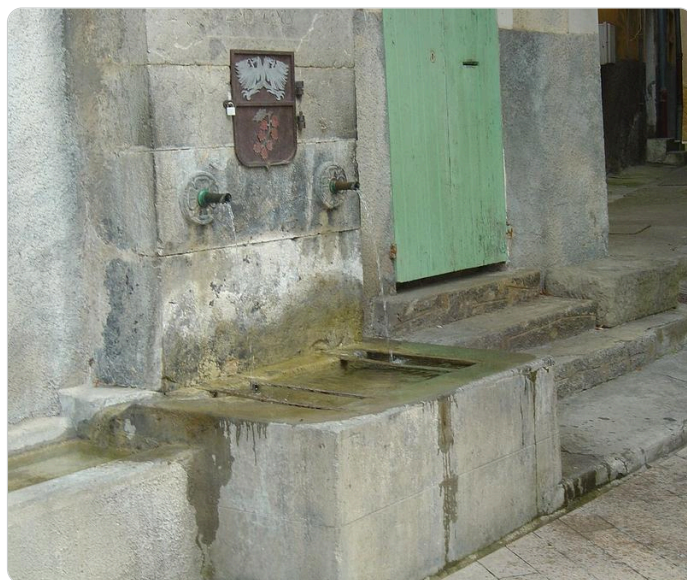
In the middle of the Vésubie valley, Lantosque was its leading village and capital in the Middle Ages, and the valley then bore the village's name; the village kept its official Italian name, Lantosca, until 1860. It was built by the river on sediment piled against a glacial step; the unstable ground has often moved, and an earthquake destroyed the village, church and all, on 20 July 1564.

The commune brings together the village and four hamlets, Saint-Colomban, Loda, Camari and Pélasque. On 2 October 2020 an exceptionally violent Mediterranean storm, Storm Alex, struck the Vésubie valley and its villages hard.

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8 La Bollène-Vésubie

Village · km 65.7



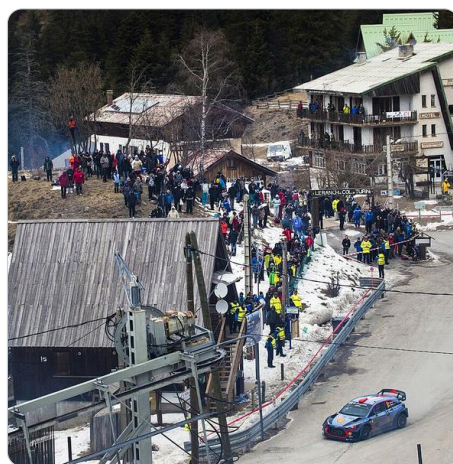
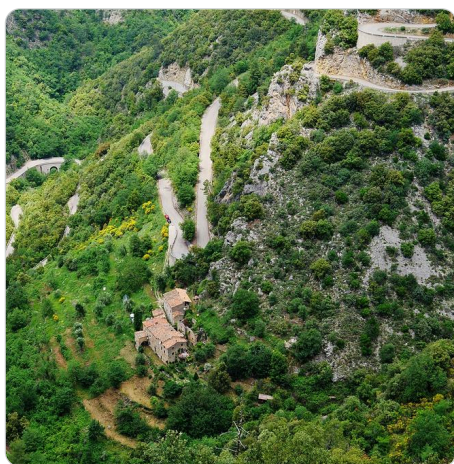
At the gates of the Mercantour, one of its 28 communes, La Bollène-Vésubie is perched 680 m up on a spur looking west over the Vésubie valley; the village was originally circular. Its Baroque church of Saint-Laurent was finished in 1725.

To the east, the Turini forest covers the shaded slope crossed by the road over the pass towards Sospel; at the edge of the commune, the Turini-Camp d'Argent ski area, shared with Moulinet, has five runs and 15 km of cross-country trails. From Lantosque, the climb to the pass through La Bollène is the steepest side: 17 km at an average of 6.5%, with a spectacular series of hairpins after the village and a short tunnel.

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9 Col de Turini

Mountain pass · km 78.0



At 1,604 m, near the top of the Authion massif, the Col de Turini links the Vésubie valley with the Bévéra valley; three main roads meet here, around a hamlet. The Monte-Carlo Rally uses it almost every time: in the race, drivers usually climbed it from Sospel before dropping down to La Bollène-Vésubie, by the side that this loop climbs.

The Tour de France has crossed it five times, from 1948, when Louison Bobet was first over the top, to 2024, when Richard Carapaz was. The pass was also the setting for the end of Georges Lautner's film *Les Seins de glace* (1974). Beyond it, a narrow one-way road loops round the Authion massif, where a memorial recalls the fighting of 1945.

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10 Peïra-Cava

Village · km 85.2



Perched 1,450 m up on a gently rolling ridge, Peïra-Cava saw its first army manoeuvres, by the Chasseurs à Pied (light infantry), in the summer of 1876; barracks later housed a half-brigade of Chasseurs Alpains there every year. On 24 January 1909 these Chasseurs Alpains held the area's first cross-country ski race, a few days before the lake's skating rink opened: the first winter sports resort of the Alpes-Maritimes was famous in its day.

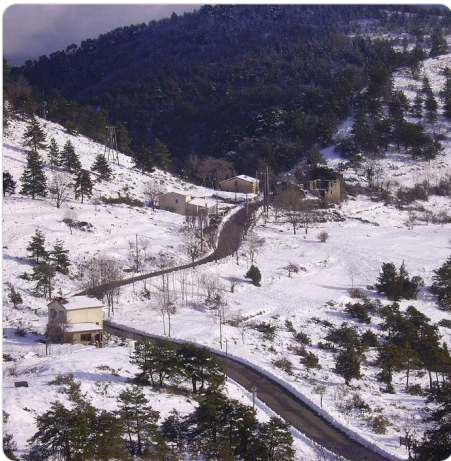
Its viewpoints take in the chain of the Alps, the Mercantour and the Esterel down to the sea and the Lérins islands; on very clear days Corsica can be seen. From the Turini, seven kilometres of forest road, with shelters here and there along it, lead to the village; 2.5 km further down, at the Baisse de la Cabanette, the loop leaves the Lucéram road for the one over the Col de l'Orme.

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11

Col de Braus

Mountain pass · km 102.2



The former Route Nationale 204, now the D 2204, crosses the Col de Braus at 1,002 m between L'Escarène and Sospel; the roads up to it are full of hairpin bends. This loop reaches it from Peïra-Cava over the Col de l'Orme and the Col de l'Ablé; the D 54 joins the main road on the western side, some 400 m from the top, and the loop then drops down to Sospel.

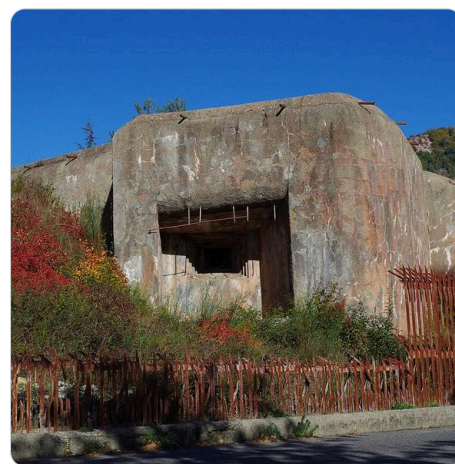
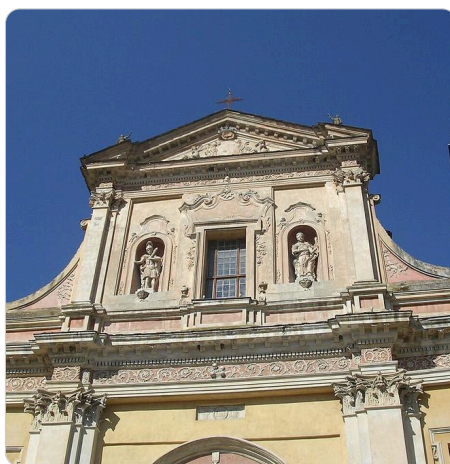
Beneath the pass, the railway from Nice to Breil-sur-Roya runs through a tunnel 5,938 m long. The Tour de France has crossed the Col de Braus 28 times, and the Monte-Carlo Rally regularly comes over it.

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12 Sospel

Historic village · km 114.6



A medieval village on the Bévéra, Sospel is known for its Pont-Vieux, built in the early 13th century, probably of wood, and rebuilt in stone in 1522; damaged in October 1944 in the fighting of the Liberation, it was fully restored in 1953. Tradition has it that its central tower was a toll post on the royal salt road between Nice and Turin.

The Baroque co-cathedral of Saint-Michel stands on a square lined with arcaded houses; only its bell tower, in the Lombard style, recalls the Romanesque church that preceded it. A kilometre from the centre, on the road to Nice, Fort Saint-Roch, part of the Alpine Maginot Line built in the 1930s, is a true underground town 50 m deep.

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13 Col de Castillon

Mountain pass · km 121.8



At 728 m, the Col de Castillon links the Bévéra valley to the north with the Careï valley and Menton to the south; the D 2566 crosses it, and the Tour de France has been over it 27 times. The road also serves the village of Castillon, rebuilt several times: after the War of the Austrian Succession, after the earthquake of 1887, and after the bombing of the winter of 1944–1945.

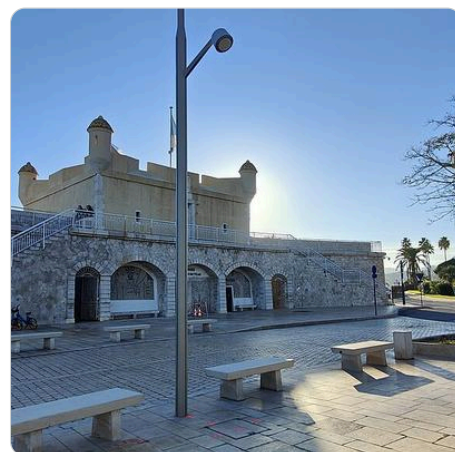
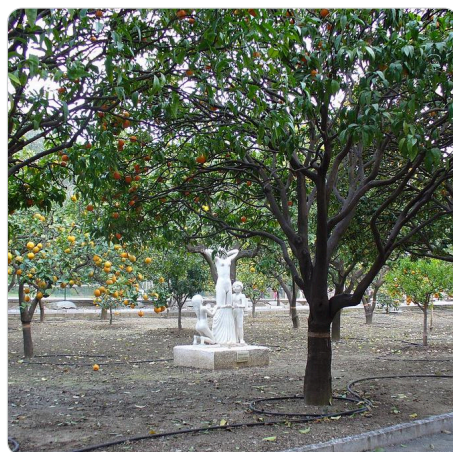
The new village, built halfway up the slope in the Provençal style, has become a village of artists, with workshops and galleries. In the commune, the 125 m Caramel viaduct, built in 1910, is one of the last remains of the tramway that ran from Menton to Sospel.

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14 Menton

Town · km 136.8



The last town before Italy, 7 km from Monaco, Menton was called the “Pearl of France” by the geographer Élisée Reclus. A free town together with Roquebrune, it became French in 1861, a year after the County of Nice. The resort is known for its Lemon Festival, held every year in the Biovès gardens.

The old town climbs in lanes and colourful façades up to the basilica of Saint-Michel, a jewel of the Baroque in the Menton area, whose forecourt hosts the Music Festival every summer. The Palais de Carnolès, once the home of Prince Antoine I of Monaco and now a fine arts museum, has in its garden the leading collection of citrus trees in France. On the harbour, the 17th-century bastion houses a museum devoted to Jean Cocteau.

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