

MONACO 26. - 28. JULY 2011

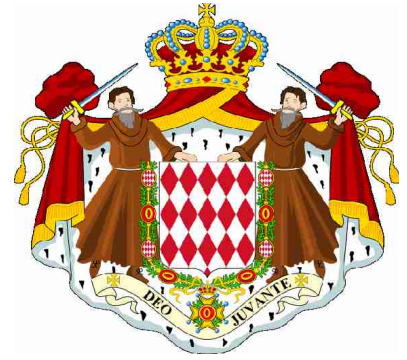
This time the trip went to [Monaco](#). We went with [Norwegian](#) from [Gardermoen](#) to [Nice](#). The flight took about 3 hours in each direction. From the airport we took a direct bus to [the railway station in Nice](#). This took about half an hour.



Monaco's location in Europe



Flag



Coat of arms

Monaco was founded as a Genoese colony in 1215. Monaco has been governed by [the Grimaldi family since](#) 1297, when [François Grimaldi](#) captured the castle, which protected the city, disguised as a monk. The only exception was in the period 1789 - 1814, when Monaco was under French control. After the Vienna congress, Monaco became a protectorate of Sardinia until 1860. Monaco's sovereignty was acknowledged by the French - Monegasque treaty of 1861.



The prince was autocratic until the constitution was signed in 1911. In July 1918 there was signed a treaty, which gave France a limited liability to protect Monaco. The treaty implied that Monaco's politics had to be coordinated with French political, military and economical interests.

A new constitution was signed in 1962. It removed death penalty, gave women the right to vote and established a Supreme Court to secure the legal protection.

In 1993 Monaco became an official member of FN.

In 2002 there was signed a new treaty between France and Monaco that consolidated Monaco's independence, even if there should not be an heir to the throne.

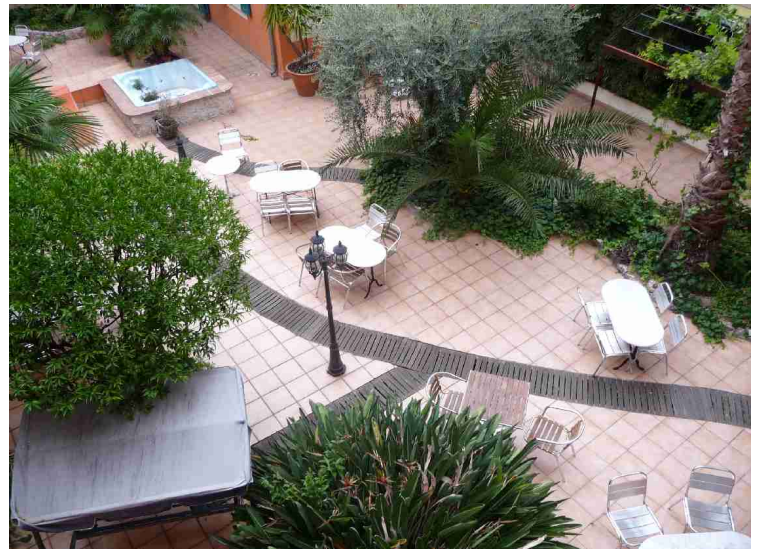
Monaco is the world's second smallest country, the world's smallest country is the Vatican state. It consists almost of only urban areas. Monaco is divided into four sections (quartiers), [Monaco-Ville](#) (Old City), [La Condamine](#) (the harbor area), [Monte Carlo](#) (most important residential area and the casino) and [Fontvieille](#) (newly built). The highest point in Monaco (140 m) lies in the south slopes of [Mont Agel](#).



Arriving to the hotel.



Taking pictures from the hotel room.



The hotel is called [Hotel Durante](#), and it lies only a couple of hundred meters from the railway station.



In the hotel garden there was a cat that we “talked” with for a while. There was also a tin cat on the roof.



In the evening we we had dinner at this restaurant, which lies just below the railway station. We had grilled meat. It did not taste very good, because it tasted burned.

The next day we walked up to the railway station to go to Monaco. The railway station was built in 1867.



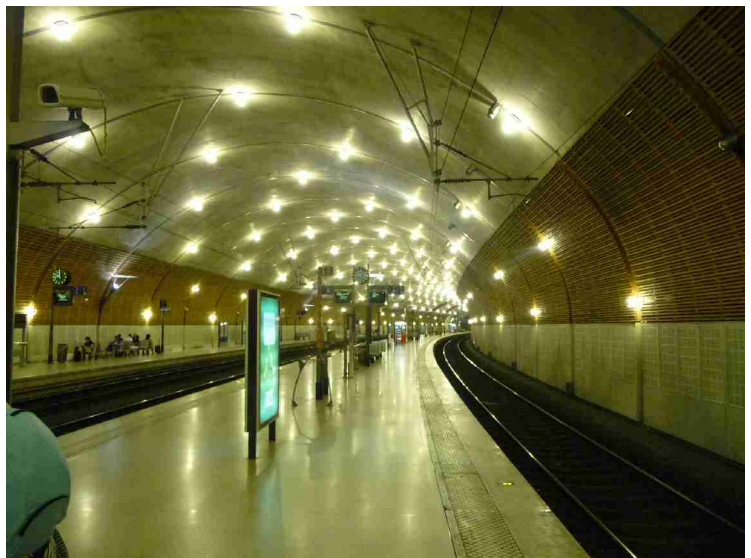
Here we have bought the tickets from a ticket machine. Kjell is controlling that everything is correct.



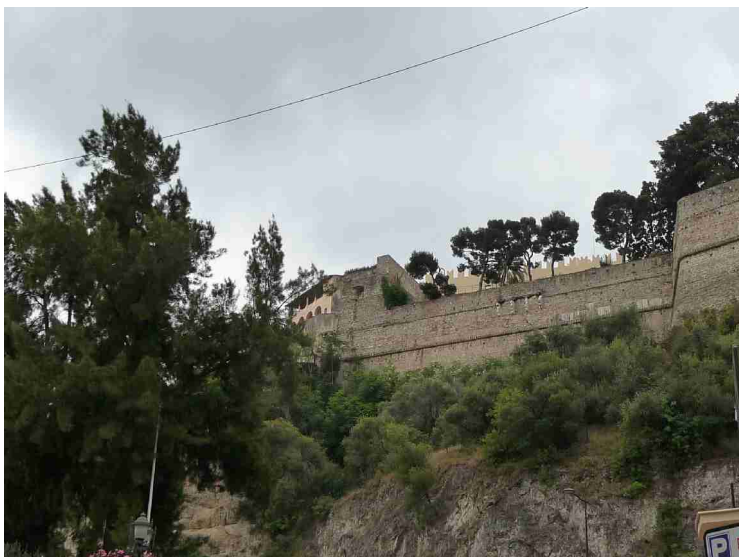
We had to wait for the train a little while.



The platforms are covered by a glass roof.



Monaco has got only one [railway station](#). It was built in 1867, but was thoroughly modernized in 1999. It is built into the mountain.



A view up to the old town of Monaco.



On Place d'Armes, ready to walk up to the old town.



Nice plantings and statues.



There is a steep walkway up to the old town and the palace.



A good look to La Condamine.



An overview of the harbor [Port Hercules](#).



Here Kjell has got his first job as photographer.



The way further up.



Some of the old town (Monaco-Ville) to the right and the harbor.



A guard outside the palace.



Some of the palace.

When we are arriving up on the palace square, we can see this statue with the inscription Francoise Grimaldi - «MALIZIA» - 1297 – 1997. He is disguised as a monk with a sword under his cloak.



In the western section of the palace square. Now it has started to rain.



There space for two guards at the main gate to the palace. [The palace](#) seen from another angle. It was built in 1191 as a Genoese castle.



Bullets and canons.



More view over the harbor and Monte Carlo on the other side.



A monument in commemoration of [Prince Albert 1](#), as the 25. regent.



A pedestrian street from the palace square.



Flowers and statues outside the police station in Monaco-Ville.



[The Oceanographic Museum](#) (Musée Océanographique de Monaco) is a museum and research institute, which was founded in 1910 by prince Albert I of Monaco. It was managed by [Jacques-Yves Cousteau](#) for many years. In this museum we can see among other things Cousteau's diving equipment. There is also an aquarium, which is 9,1 meter long and 6 meter deep.



The Oceanographic Museum seen from the sea.



One of Cousteau's diving vessels.



Anne Berit beside an octopus outside the institute.



The sightseeing trains started outside the institute.



Right beside the institute is one of the entrances to a park, which is called [The Gardens of Saint-Martin and Sainte-Barbe](#).



Outside the entrance is a picture from 14. April 1962 of Cousteau, [Prince Rainier](#) and [Princess Grace](#).



In the park is Prince Albert I standing and watching the sea while he is at the rudder.



Here we see down to the part of the city called Fontvieille and the harbor Port de Fontvieille.



Seagulls in the park.



A lot of various types of plants in the park.



The cathedral. Earlier here was a church, which was built in 1252 and demolished in 1874. The cathedral was finished in 1875. It is dedicated to Saint Nicolas.



When we came out from the park there was heavy showers and we decided to sit down at Fredy's Restaurant to have a beer.



Kjell is looking a bit dissatisfied of all the rain.



After a while the rain stopped, and we went in the direction of the palace to look at the change of guard that take place each day at 11.55.



Then we see that there is put up a sign that there will be no change of guard that day. There is some activity, but not a normal change of guard.



A lot of people had come to look at this. Here most of them has gone again, but a few are still standing there.



On our way down from Monaco-Ville. The walls are looking old here.



A view down to Port Hercule.



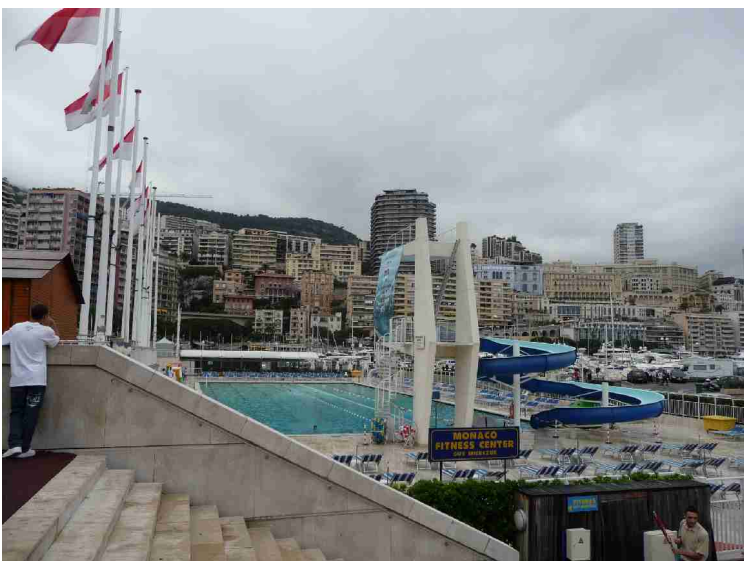
On Place d'Armes the traders are stowing away their goods.



In La Condamine on our way down Rue Princesse Caroline towards the harbor Port Hercule.



There are some big cruisers here.



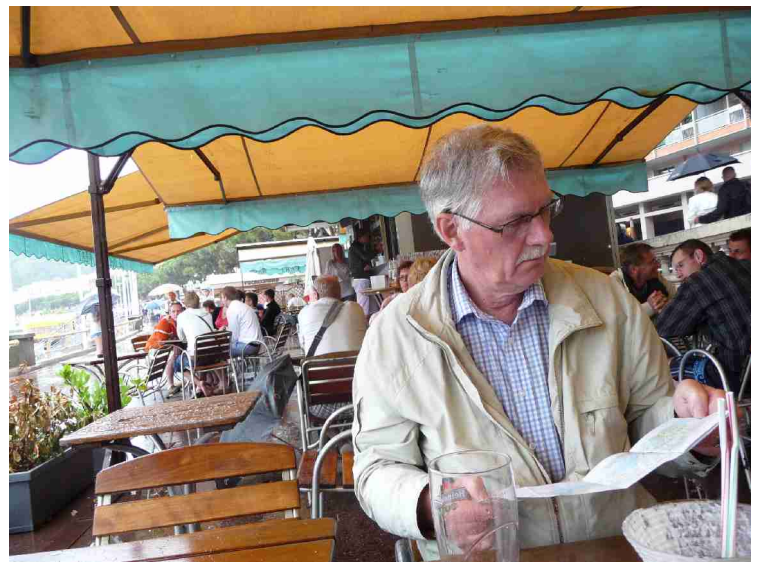
There is also a Monaco Fitness Center.



Coming so far i started pouring down again, so we had to sit down here for a while. It turned out to be plenty of time for a beer to Kjell and an Irish Coffe to Anne Berit.



Here the staff is trying to get all the water down from the roofs.



Kjell is studying the map of Monaco, which we obtained at the tourist information office.



The rain is diminishing a bit so we are walking on. Here we are looking back where we were just sitting.



We are walking in direction of Monte Carlo.



A view of Port Hercule.



This is the [Hermitage Hotel](#), which was finished in 1900. Grand and expensive hotel.



Another picture of Port Hercule.



Kjell has got his photographing assignment no. 2.



They are building densely and high up in the slope.



[Hotel de Paris](#) is also an expensive and grand hotel, which lies right beside the casino. It was decided to be built by [Prince Charles III](#) and was finished in 1864.



A view in direction of Monaco-Ville.



Kjell during the execution of photo assignment number three of the day.



Here we are arriving at the [Casino](#).



Hotel de Paris is lying right beside.



View from the Casino and Hotel de Paris.



Cafe de Paris in front. Behind lies Gallery Charles III and the shopping center Le Metropole.



Some more of Hotel de Paris.



Some more of the casino. That is perhaps the most visited tourist attraction here. One has to show the passport to get inside and the cost is from 30€ and up, depending what hall one wants to play in. The inhabitants in Monaco is not allowed inside.



Cafe de Paris.



The entrance to Cafe de Paris.



The police station in Monte Carlo.



Park with the casino in the background.



A stylish statue of Pegasus.



A fountain in the park facing the casino.



There are more fountains higher up in the park.

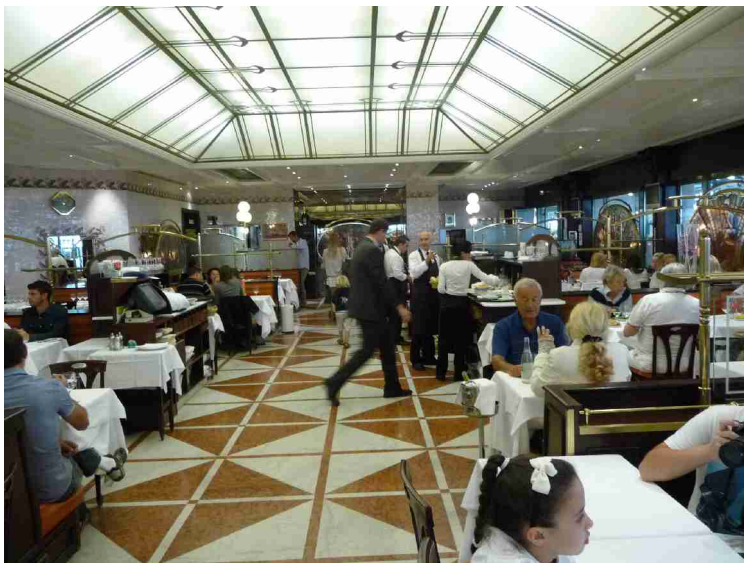


Now we had got some hunger, so we found out that we could just eat at Cafe de Paris when we were there.



We had Bouillabaisse. It was very good.

Bouillabaisse is a fish soup, which originate from the area around Marseille in Provence. There is always used various kinds of fish and perhaps shellfish, but the composition varies. The soup may also contain leak, tomatoes, garlic, herbs (e.g. parsley, thyme, fennel), laurel leaves and orange peel. A traditional bouillabaisse shall contain at least three different kinds of fish. The soup is poured in a plate, usually over a piece of roasted slice of bread. The fish and shellfish that the soup is coked on, is served beside. Moreover the soup is often eaten with a kind of mayonnaise, which consists of olive oil, bread rasp, garlic, chili and saffron.



All tables were occupied all the time, so we had to wait for our table. It was busy both outside and inside.



After we had eaten, we walked further on, past the casino building.



Nice buildings.



Stylish sculpture.



Apartment buildings.



At the entrance to one of the entrances to the [Japanese Garden](#).





On the other side of the Japanese Garden lies [Grimaldi Forum](#). That is a big congress center.

Les Ballets de Monte Carlo and the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra are performing there regularly. The exhibition EVER Monaco is arranged here every year in March.



A poster outside the entrance.

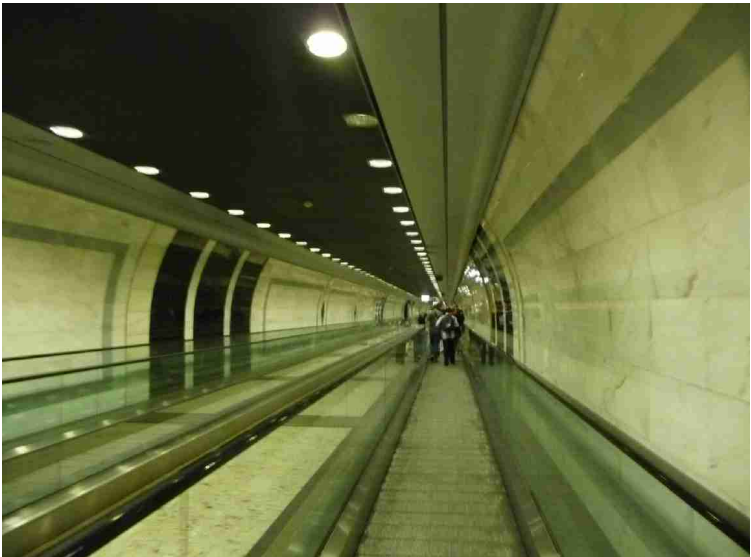


When we were there, there was an exhibition about the art form graffiti.



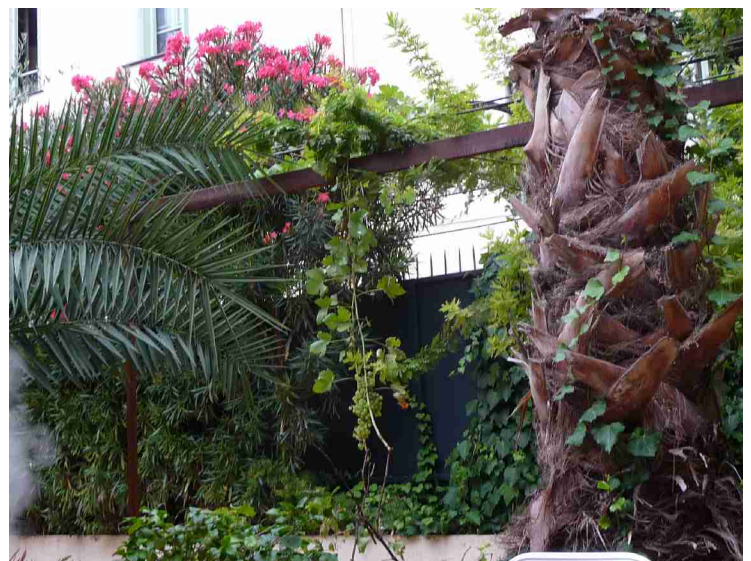
We went back through the Japanese Garden. More pictures from there.





After this we went back to Nice. This is one of the entrances to the railway station in Monaco inside the mountain.

There are long corridors inwards.

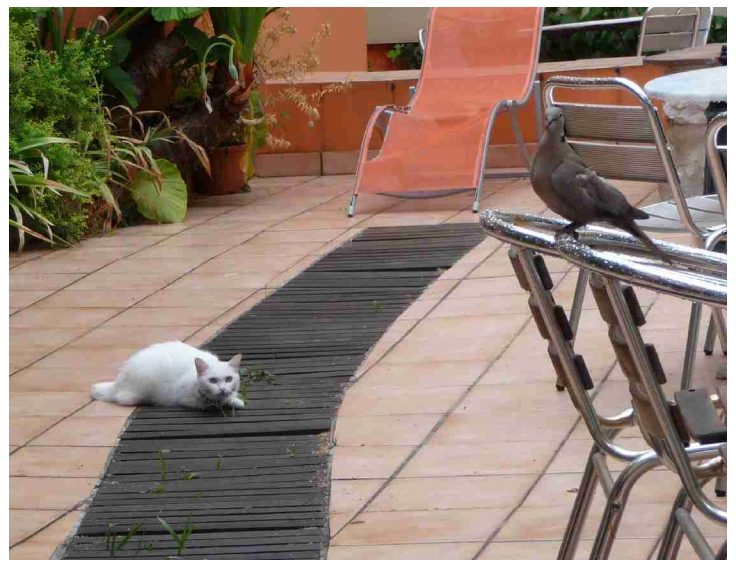


Inside the station waiting for the train.

Back in the hotel garden. There are clusters of grapes here.



The grapes are not ripe yet.



The cat is chasing a pigeon.



After coming back to the hotel and relaxing for a while, it was time for some food again. We didn't want to do the same mistake as the night before when we got bad food, so we asked in the reception for a good restaurant. They showed us to a restaurant right around the corner that is called Voyager Nissart. It turned out that they had very good and inexpensive food. We had cured ham and melon, roast beef and caramel pudding as desert.



Good local red wine.

As a finish we had coffee and a local brandy called Marc de Garlaban.



We had a table outside.



Then the journey back to Norway.