WHERE TO STAY

A luxurious alternative to staying in a hotel is to hire an apartment through the super-helpful Nice Pebbles (09.52.78.27.65, www.nicepebbles.com, €30-€200/night). Properties range from elegant, antique-dotted hideaways to slick, super-modern renovations with home cinema systems and immense walk-in showers. The pick of the bunch include the quirky Katja (a hip mix of modern design and flea market finds) and Vincent, an opulent Old Town pad (best feature: a magnificent Philippe Starck bath at the foot of the bed).

Hi Hôtel

With its experimental living spaces in jellybean colours, this place remains the funkiest place to stay in Nice. The tiny rooftop pool has a lovely view, interiors are by up-and-coming designer Matia Casset and there are DJ soirées on weekends.

Hôtel Albert 1er

Overlooking the gardens of the same name, this belle époque hotel exudes old-world charm. Its rooms feature oak bedsteads and antique armoires, while floor-to-ceiling windows look out on the sea or over the gardens.

Palais des Sports Jean Bouin
The star attractions at this vast municipal complex are its well-kept, Olympia-sized indoor pool and impressive, good-value ice rink.

Théâtre de la Photographie et de l’Image
Formerly a theatre, this is now a slickly appointed photography gallery. Temporary exhibitions are usually well chosen, showcasing emerging talents as well as big-name artists.

Théâtre National de Nice
The Théâtre National de Nice stages high-profile productions of French and foreign classics, along with a robust programme of contemporary drama.