



**Press release**  
**2021**

As a major player in the mobility of the Côte d'Azur, the Chemins de fer de Provence operates a unique link between the Côte d'Azur coastline and the rich valleys of the high country. The beauty of the landscapes through the seasons, the authenticity of the villages and the know-how, place the line at the heart of the local heritage and the history of the inhabitants of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. From the hinterland of Nice to the Asse Valley via the Var, Vaire and Verdon valleys, the Chemins de fer de Provence are the ambassadors of the maralpine territory.

## A hundred-year-old line

### HISTORY

It was in 1861 that **Alphonse Beau de Rochas**, an engineer from Digne, inventor of the four-stroke engine, imagined linking Nice, annexed to France the previous year, to Grenoble via the Var Valley, Digne-les-Bains and Gap. However, it was not until 1882 that the military authorities gave their approval to the project. In order to adapt to the steep relief, the engineers adopted a metric track system, instead of the meter forty generally used, allowing tighter curves and reduced construction costs.

When **Félix Martin**, director of the Compagnie des chemins de fer du Sud de la France, at the beginning of the 20th century, inaugurated the link between Nice and Digne-les-Bains on July the 3rd 1911, he probably didn't know that the train would still be winding between the mountains 110 years later!

Today it is Région Sud, the Organising Authority for Mobility, which has entrusted the operation of the line to **the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Transport Authority (RRT)**.

### GOVERNANCE

The governance of the Régie is ensured by a **Board of Directors** which votes on the budget and validates the annual accounts.

**11**

Members

**1**

President

**7**

Elected  
representatives

**2**

Employees  
representatives

**1**

Users  
representative

## CP in figures



**151**

Km of tracks



**178**

people at the service  
of passengers



**4 A/R**

round trips between  
Nice and Digne Daily



**50**

stations  
with daily service  
to small towns  
and villages



**22** daily round trips  
between Nice and  
Pont de la Manda,  
in 23 Mn (serving the  
Carros industrial zone)



**5**

daily round trips  
between Nice & Annot



**1000**

engineering  
structures between  
Nice & Annot

### ASSIGNMENTS

The Chemins de fer de Provence (Provence Railways), under the operation of the Régie Régionale des Transports Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (RRT), is subject to a Service Obligation Contract (OSP) with Région Sud, its organising authority. This contract specifies its obligations in terms of:

- Offers and quality of service
- Maintenance and upkeep of infrastructure and rolling stock
- Railway safety and passenger safety
- Development and investment strategy

In 2017, Région Sud renewed its confidence in the line by committing itself until 2027.





# A line rooted in its territory

For 110 years, the Chemins de fer de Provence have linked the valleys to the coast, crossing unique landscapes that open up vast territories to imagination.

## LANDSCAPES AND VILLAGES

### The Chemins de fer de Provence line is one of a kind

Linking the coast to the mountains, it peaks at 1023 metres as it approaches its terminus at Digne-les-Bains. Its route is punctuated by stations and stops, opening onto exceptional spaces. Hiking trails, cultivated plains in the major basin of the torrents, wild forests adorned with a thousand colours, medieval villages with impregnable fortresses... So many invitations to travel and breathtaking natural landscapes.

### FOCUS



## PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMMES

### An active and reactive ecosystem

Committed to the promotion of the area and the improvement of the service provided to its users, the Chemins de fer de Provence join with leading local players. The aim is to offer services and unexpected detours to those, both locals and tourists, who use the line.



## Sports

Users can benefit from special conditions to get to the **Allianz Riviera Stadium**, particularly during OGC Nice matches. On this occasion, special shuttles are set up in addition to the regular trains, allowing fans to get to the stadium from Nice city centre in just 10 minutes!

## Arts

The Chemins de fer de Provence work **with artists, collectives and contemporary art networks** to make culture accessible in its public spaces. In this way, they regularly feature works of art and ephemeral performances along the way, bearing witness to the rich heritage of the region.

## Tourism

In a region rich in opportunities, the Chemins de fer de Provence offer genuine experiences to discover the line, through a range of services and tourist offers in perpetual evolution to be discovered on **www.cpzou.fr** and on our mobile applications.



In association with **the municipal, inter-municipal and metropolitan Tourist Offices** of the territories crossed by the line in the Alpes-Maritimes and Alpes-de-Haute-Provence departments, the Chemins de fer de Provence offer to discover the richness of the territory while taking advantage of the best addresses around 4 themes: **sport, outdoor activities, culture and gastronomy**. For each of these themes, the Chemins de fer de Provence makes available documentation and information, including hiking routes, itineraries, good addresses, local producers, etc. In addition, they also relay information on local events related to nature, outdoors, etc.



### A strategy of influence

To take the message of the Chemins de fer de Provence further, partnerships have been developed with **influencers** with local, but also national and international audiences:

- Manon @manonsuenepradier
- Prispel Mundo @prispelomundo
- La parenthèse niçoise @laparenthesenicoise
- Les notes dorées @lesnotesdorees.fr

## OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Linking Nice to Digne-les-Bains was above all a challenge for the engineers in charge of carrying it out at the end of the 19th and the very beginning of the 20th century. The technical constraints and natural obstacles imposed by the maralpine territory crossed by the Provence Railways nevertheless sublimated the builders' genius. The line has thus seen **more than 1000 engineering structures** essential to its daily operation. Bridges and viaducts, tunnels, rip rap, stations and stops punctuate the route. Regularly maintained, restored, monitored and secured, they write the legend of a mythical line and offer spectacular viewpoints.



**25**

Tunnels



**16**

Viaducts



**15**

Steel bridges



**50**

Stations

### FOCUS



## A cinematographic territory

**And God... Created Woman, (1956), The American Night (1973), Never Say Never Again (1983), The City of Fear (1994)...** To name but a few amongst many. The cinema has not been mistaken in looking at the formidable variety of settings, from the beaches to the summits of the Mercantour, which animate our department. Already in 1938, Christian Jaque filmed **Ernest the Rebel** with Fernandel, using trains, stations and natural settings to serve the purpose of his work. More recently, the famous brand **Aldi** chose the Nice station of the Chemins de fer de Provence for the filming of its latest advertising campaign. The line has always been the scene of numerous filming sessions for various artistic and television projects, such as, very recently, the report filmed in 2021 for the programme **Faut pas rêver**, broadcast on France 3. From majestic valleys to snow-covered summits, from picturesque stations to vertiginous bridges, from stormy rivers to narrow gorges, the route is rich in photogenic spaces that are sure to feed the imagination of film-makers!

Access to the works of art is subject to authorization to be requested for filming. Apart from these particular cases, they remain strictly forbidden to the public.

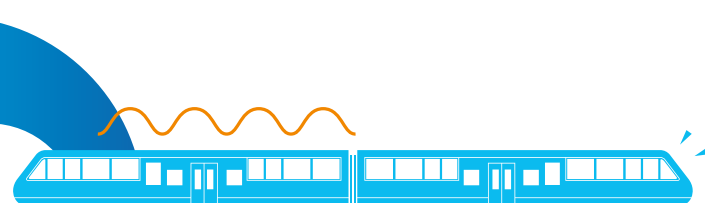
### HOW TO APPLY FOR A FILMING PERMIT

In order to be allowed to film on the Chemins de fer de Provence line, professionals must be able to provide a certain amount of information:

- The number of participants
- Whether it is necessary to block tracks for filming.
- The locations concerned.
- The number of technicians attending.
- A description of the equipment used.
- The services requested from the Chemins de fer de Provence.
- The date, time and approximate duration of the filming of the sequence(s).

**In addition, all requests must be completed with documents specified by the sales department.**

The request must be made in writing to the attention of the Head of the sales department (mail or e-mail): [trainprovence@rtregionsud.fr](mailto:trainprovence@rtregionsud.fr) / Gare de Nice des CP, 4bis rue Alfred Binet 06000 NICE.





# Far more than a train

The Chemins de fer de Provence has the ambition to accompany the discovery and development of the territory. With this in mind, combined regular and steam train offers are proposed, with :

- **An on-board commentary service** through our mobile application between Nice and Digne.
- **Steam train service** between Puget-Théniers and Annot, from July to November, in partnership with the GECP (Study Group for the Provence Railways). This association has set itself the task of safeguarding the railway heritage of the line. Its volunteers enable the circulation of the famous Steam Train des Pignes and run it in close collaboration with the teams of the RT Région Sud.

Numerous **activities and excursions** are currently being planned, in order to compose a global offer, dedicated to the enhancement of the rich territory of the Côte d'Azur hinterland.



## For the fans

Emblematic of the local heritage, the Chemins de fer de Provence have developed a merchandising offer that is part of a modern transport network resolutely turned towards the future: Clothes, mugs, toys...

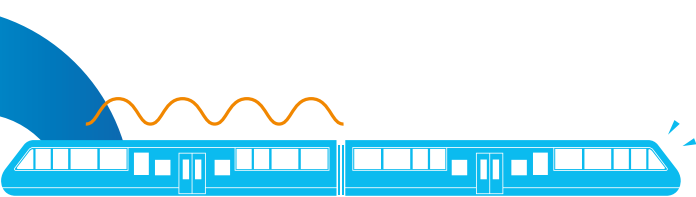


# A train that moves with its times

As a historical heritage, the Chemins de fer de Provence are more than ever inscribed in their time. They maintain with their passengers, whether regular or occasional, that special link which throughout history has connected them, by and for travel.

They are thus present and very active on the networks through their **Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter** accounts as well as, more recently, **TikTok**, through the hashtag: **#CPZouOfficiel**

Photos, testimonials, anecdotes and rail life punctuate this presence and sharing with passengers and friends of the line.





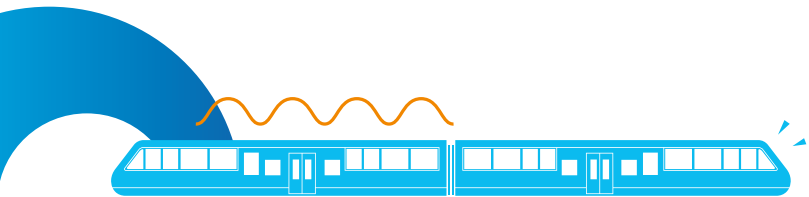


Find all the news and traffic information from the Chemins de fer de Provence on the [www.cpzou.fr](http://www.cpzou.fr) website and on the **CP ZOU app!**  
Follow the Chemins de fer de Provence on social networks:

[f](https://www.facebook.com/cheminsdeferdeprovence)
[@cheminsdeferdeprovence](https://www.instagram.com/cheminsdeferdeprovence)
[t](https://twitter.com/CPZouOfficiel)
[@CPZouOfficiel](https://www.tiktok.com/@CPZouOfficiel)
[y](https://www.youtube.com/cheminsdeferdeprovence)
[in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/chemins-de-fer-de-provence) Chemins de fer de Provence

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[www.cpzou.fr](http://www.cpzou.fr)

**Image bank:**  
 Additional visuals can be downloaded on the following page:  
[www.cpzou.fr/infos/pressbook/](http://www.cpzou.fr/infos/pressbook/)







# Find us in Nice

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