



Press release

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.

Operating **every day of the year**, from Monday to Sunday, including public holidays, the trains run on biofuel, thus embodying the transition towards more sustainable means of transportation. The historic **Train des Pignes** steam train comes to life seasonally, from May to November, with a departure at the heart of the village of Puget-Théniers, adding a touch of enchantment to the travel experience.

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



LES CP en chiffres



151
Km of tracks



174
people at the service
of passengers



50
stations with daily
service to small towns
and villages



jusqu'à 29
daily R/T between Nice/
Colomars la Manda/
Plan du Var Vésubie



4
daily R/T between Nice
and Digne*



1114
engineering
structures

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, Region Sud renewed its confidence in the line by committing itself until 2027.



*Coach substitution between the stations of Saint-André-les-Alpes and Digne-les-Bains during the rehabilitation works of the Moriez tunnel by the region.

CHEMINS DE FER DE PROVENCE
press release

A line rooted in its territory

For more than 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.

From 2023, the **urban stops** of the Chemins de fer de Provence between Nice and Le Chaudan become accessible with a Lignes d'Azur transport ticket.



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. Experiencing the Chemins de fer de Provence is **much more than a journey**: an all-inclusive excursions, combined service with the steam train, the line acts as a relay for the territories to explore the hiking routes, share in the festivities and take advantage of the activities offered by the communes served, all of which are referenced in the **Agenda** of events near the stops and stations.



Economical actors

Shops, hotels, leisure providers of proximity join forces with the Chemins de fer de Provence to offer **advantages** in the framework of the **Train de vie** program:

- On simple purchase of a transport ticket or subscription, travelers benefit from a Free exchange voucher.
- Voucher available at all stations of the line.
- To be presented at the partner establishment to benefit from the negotiated offer.
- Choice of an eco-responsible mode of transport.

A cinematographic territory

And God... Created Woman, (1956), The American Night (1973), Never Say Never Again (1983), The City of Fear (1994)...to name 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.

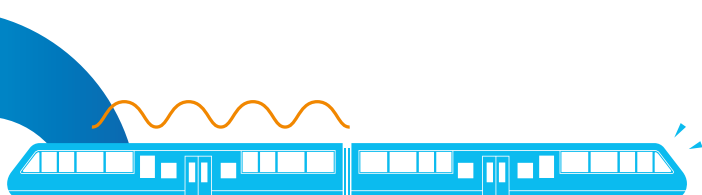
Very recently, the advertisement for the **Aldi** brand filmed at the Chemins de fer de Provence station in Nice, the report filmed in 2021 for the programme **Faut pas rêver** (Don't Dream) on France 3, the documentary **Les chemins de traverse** (The Crossroads) directed by **Félix BESSON**, the German feature film **AEIOU** (The Crossroads) directed by **Nicolette Krebitz**, or **Sylvain TESSON**'s account of his adventures, directed by **Denis IMBERT**, with the participation of the actor **Jean DUJARDIN**. 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.

In this regard, the Chemins de fer de Provence are listed on the Film France CNC website <https://locations.filmfrance.net/fr/location/chemins-de-fer-de-provence>.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FILMING PERMIT

In order to be allowed to film on the Chemins de fer de Provence line, please send your request to the attention of the Sales Department, by e-mail to trainprovence@rtregionsud.fr or by post to **Gare de Nice CP, 4 bis rue Alfred Binet 06000 NICE**, specifying the project according to the criteria listed below (additional documents may be requested):

- The purpose of the shooting and the desired scenes
- The date, time and approximate duration of the shooting of the sequence(s) – The locations concerned
- The number of participants including technicians
- The need to privatise a train or occupy tracks for the filming
- A description of the equipment used (optional)
- Any other services requested from Chemins de fer de Provence



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.



30

Tunnels



13

Viaducts



106

Steel bridges



50

Stations

FOCUS



Excursions all-inclusive groups

FROM NICE AND DIGNE-LES-BAINS

Works councils, associations, private groups from all walks of life, the Chemins de fer de Provence offer a multi-faceted experience from Nice at prices preferential: **all-inclusive excursions, hiking itineraries, etc.**



St André-Les-Alpes All inclusive 1 day Excursion

Day Trip : rountrip train + lunch
+ museum



Entrevaux & Touët-sur-Var All inclusive 1 day Excursion

Day Trip :
2 destinations + rountrip train +
lunch



Entrevaux All inclusive 1 day Excursion

Day Trip : rountrip train + guided
or free tour + lunch



Annot All inclusive 1 day Excursion

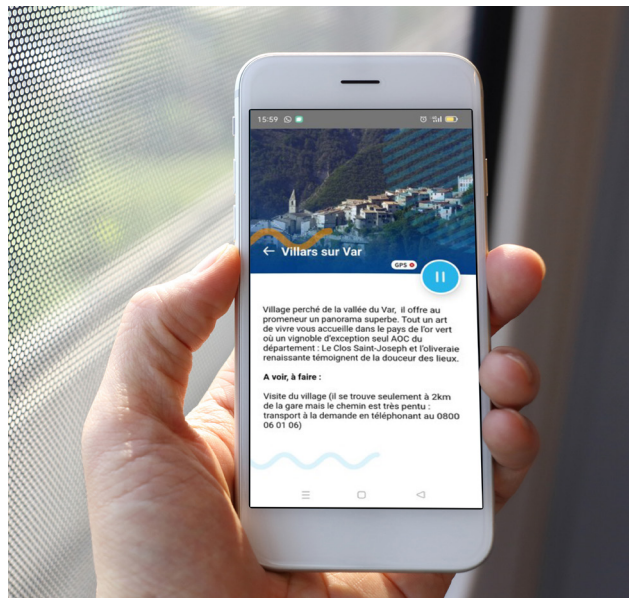
Day Trip : rountrip train + guided
or free tour + lunch



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 Audioguide service** through our mobile application between Nice and Digne.
- **Steam train service** between Puget-Théniers and Annot, from May 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. In order to enable the circulation of the famous Steam Train des Pignes and run it in close collaboration with the teams of the RRT Région Sud and compose a global offer, dedicated to the enhancement of the rich territory of the Côte d'Azur hinterland.





For train lovers

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, videos, testimonials, anecdotes, punctuate the train's life and its passengers, friends of the line.





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

  @cheminsdeferdeprovence

  @CPZouOfficiel

 Chemins de fer de Provence

#CheminsdeferdeProvence #CPZouOfficiel





LES CHEMINS DE FER DE PROVENCE **welcome you all year long**

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www.cpzou.fr

Image bank

Free visuals can be downloaded at :

www.cpzou.fr/infos/pressbook

Please mention the copyright :

[@cheminsdeferdeprovence](#)



Find us in Nice

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