

PRESS RELEASE

Saint-Raphaël's sea resort

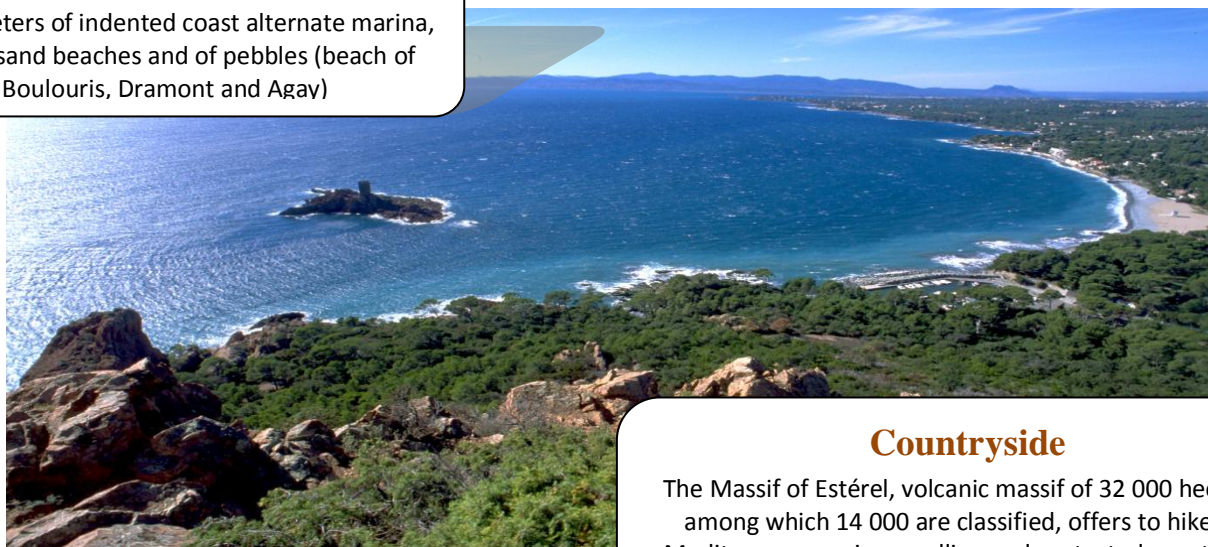
St Raphael is located **45 min from Nice**, between Cannes and Saint-Tropez. This **classified and recognized sea resort** extends over **thirty six kilometers on the coastline**, between the **Massif of Esterel** and the **Mediterranean coast**, and is divided by creeks, for the greatest pleasure of the visitors.

Saint Raphaël has a year round population of approximately **36 000 inhabitants**, offers a waterfront city center, as well as several districts and **real places of interest** with their own character: the old town, the city center, the ports, Valescure, Boulouris, The Dramont, Agay, Anthéor or still Trayas

Particularly known for his **numerous assets** as the **sea, the sweetness of its climate, the beauty and the wealth of its natural heritage** as well as its **numerous possibilities of year round activities**. Saint Raphaël is also a multi-city facets, alternately: France nautical resort, as well as diving, golfing, gambling, Esterel resort, it is also a **city of business tourism and events**, thanks to its Congress Office.

Sea side

36 kilometers of indented coast alternate marina, 30 fine sand beaches and of pebbles (beach of Boulouris, Dramont and Agay)



Countryside

The Massif of Esterel, volcanic massif of 32 000 hectares among which 14 000 are classified, offers to hikers a Mediterranean, nice-smelling and protected vegetation. The natural harbour of Agay establishes the natural front door of the Massif.

The city of light where landed **Bonaparte** in **1799**, became from the second half of the XIXth century, a **sea resort** appreciated by **the artists, the sportsmen and the politicians**, under the influence of his Mayor, **Félix Martin** and by the writer **Alphonse Karr**. Saint Raphaël is the east **economic and cultural pole** from the Var and a guardian of his **prestigious past**, of luxurious villas (for some registered on historic monuments), **trading alleys** and **beautiful maritime facade**.

Saint Raphaël, a year-round vibrant city



Saint Raphaël: sport, leisure activities, and culture

Saint-Raphaël's fabulous natural heritage and choice of leisure and sporting activities makes it an attractive year-round destination.

Sports Activities

Well-being

Culture

Sites

- **« Faites le plein de loisirs »** : More than 130 activities are offered all year-round to match everyone's level: water-sports, outdoor activities, well-being and children's activities available at Saint-Raphaël's Tourism Office.
- **Nautical activities**: 7 diving clubs, 3 sailing clubs (sailing, funboard, sea canoeing, etc.), waterskiing, water jousting, and boat trips.
- **Nature**: the 11-km coastal footpath or "Sentier du Littoral", formerly used by customs officers to track down smugglers, hiking adventure trails, riding, mountain-biking in the Estérel Hills, climbing, tennis, archery.
- **For golf lovers** : 3 golf courses, including the Var's oldest and France's 5th oldest course - the "Golf de Valescure" - built in 1895.
- **Come in and relax in our 6 well-being institutes** with spa, hammam, massages, swimming pool, relaxation.
- **The Archaeological Museum**, featuring exhibits from wrecks discovered in the Bay of Saint-Raphaël
- The 12th-century Parish Church (a listed monument since 1907) – Europe's oldest sanctuary dedicated to the Archangel Raphaël.
- **The superb neo-Byzantine "Notre-Dame de la Victoire" Basilique**, designed by Pierre Aublé and built between 1883 and 1887.
- **The Old Town and Provençal Markets**. The Tourist Office organizes guided tours every thursday at 10 am (duration =2h, Price : 2.50 €).
- The fabulous **20-km "Corniche d'Or"** coast road.

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A few annual events

MONTHS	EVENTS
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Les fantaisies Carnavalesques ✓ House and Home Exhibition ✓ Voyage en multimedia
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sud Aventure ✓ Well-being festival ✓ 21^{ème} Triathlon de la Corniche d'Or
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sainte-Baume party ✓ Water sport party ✓ Saint-Honorat party
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Music festival
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Saint Pierre ✓ New Orleans Jazz competition ✓ The Templars Musical evenings ✓ The Saint-Raphaël Orchestra Summer Concerts
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Saint-Raphaël Orchestra Summer Concerts
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Heritage day ✓ Festival of Laugher ✓ European Cinema week
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Var Rambling Week ✓ Festival of The Pays de Fayence String Quartet
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Minerals and Fossils Exhibition ✓ Wedding Exhibition ✓ Good Food Exhibition
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Festival of Light

Saint-Raphael, 1st tourism city of Var

■ Tourist accommodations

Saint-Raphael is the 1st tourism city of 'Var' and the 4th of 'Provence Alps French Riviera region' just after Marseilles, Nice and Aix-en-Provence (in terms of tourist nights). Whether it is on the seaside, in the middle of pinewood or at the bottom of Esterel, the city of saint Raphael gives you the biggest capacity of accommodation in Var with a very sprawling range.

- ✓ 37 Hotels : 2 ****, 11 ***, and 18 hotels **
- ✓ 16 holiday residences (3 three-star and 3 two-star)
- ✓ 13 1* campsite, 4 **** Campsites, and 5 3***campsites
- ✓ 2 Villages or Holiday Centres
- ✓ 166 Seasonal Rentals
- ✓ 13 Bed and Breakfast
- ✓ 8 lodgings

■ Access

Saint-Raphaël benefits from a sophisticated transportations network.

✓ By air :

- 45 mins. from Nice Côte d'Azur Airport,
- 1 hour from Toulon-Hyeres Airport
- 1.5 hours from Marseilles International Airport.

✓ By rail:

Served daily by the "TGV Méditerranée" high-speed train (4h40 from Paris).

✓ By road:

5 km from the A8 highway Fréjus/Saint-Raphaël exit (exit 38).



Don't hesitate anymore and come and join us!

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