

# Institute of Physics – L & S E Branch – Retired Members Section

## REMS Visit to Nice and Menton

11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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This trip is being organised by David Pick

This REMS visit is being planned to include the Nice Flower parade and parade of lights on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 <http://www.nicecarnaval.com/en/carnaval/presentation/bataille-fleurs.php> and the Menton Golden Fruit Parade on the 14 Feb 2016 and the Exhibition of “citrus patterns” in the Bioves Gardens <http://www.fete-du-citron.com/exhibition-of-citrus-patterns/?lang=en>. This flyer also includes details on the “Train des Pignes”, a scenic narrow gauge railway, which runs between Nice and Dignes-les Bains. <http://www.beyond.fr/travel/railpignes.html> and a visit to Eze village <http://www.beyond.fr/villages/eze-provence-france.html>. Public transport will be used throughout and what you do and see is entirely up to you. If you let me know by email ([david.pick@physics.org](mailto:david.pick@physics.org)) if you are interested in coming on this trip, I’ll provide updates on travel and bookings as the information becomes available.

The schedule is as follows and is expanded on the following pages.

11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 Arrive at Nice.

12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 Take the Train des Pignes from Nice to Digne-les-Bains and back

13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 Explore Nice and watch the afternoon flower parade and evening parade of lights.

14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 Move to Menton and watch the afternoon parade of La Fête du Citron®

15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 Visit La Fête du Citron® and Eze village.

16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 Trip return to UK.

### 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Travelling to Nice. Easyjet fly from London Gatwick to Nice with 2 flights at 13.00 and 17.40 on the 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and three flights back on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. There are direct express bus services to Nice Ville SNCF rail station (note do not take the service to Nice Riquier!). You can also travel by Eurostar to Paris and then from Gare de Lyon direct to Nice Ville, this takes about 9 to 10 hrs.

I suggest we try and stay at Best Western Hotel Riviera, 27 Avenue Thiers, 06000, Nice, France, which is some 300m from Nice Ville station.

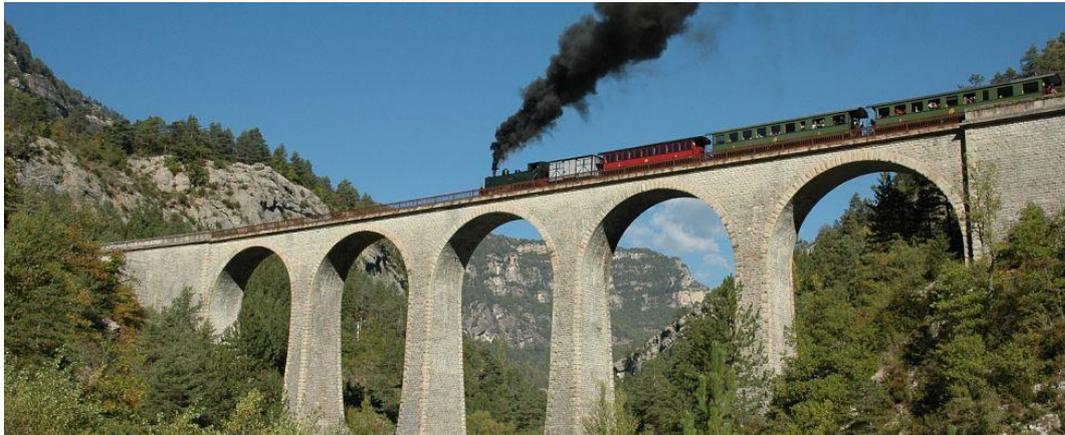
### 12<sup>th</sup> February

The Train des Pignes is known by the locals as TGV (Trains des Grandes Vibrations)

“This 1-meter gauge railway runs between Nice and Digne-les-Bains, 151 km, and takes about three hours. The track follows rushing rivers and steep-sided mountain valleys, many not accessible by car, and the view is magnificent. The ride is an adventure. The stations are old, tiny and personal, with everything on a human level. The name Train des Pignes comes from the pinecones, once used for tinder to start the steam engines.”

The train leaves from Gare des Chemins de Fer de Provence a 20 min walk (1.5km) from BW Hotel Riviera. There are several videos of the journey to be found on

<http://www.100trains.com/france-le-train-des-pignes-nice-digne-train.html>. In February the journey is made by a diesel train rather than the steam train, which is used primarily on the summer schedule.



### 13<sup>th</sup> February.

The Nice Carnival runs from the 12th February to the 28<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup> at 14.30 there is a Flower Parade (with reserved seating) and at 21.00 there is a Carnival Parade of Lights (also with reserved seating). Tickets can be booked online from mid November. Details can be found at <http://www.nicecarnaval.com/en/carnaval/programme-tarifs.php>.



### 14<sup>th</sup> February

Move to Menton by direct train from Nice Ville in the morning. A possible hotel is Ibis Styles Menton Centre, 10 rue Vilarey, 06500 MENTON. The fruit parade starts at 14.30. Online ticketing for reserved seating “starts soon” see <http://www.fete-du-citron.com/golden-fruit-parade/?lang=en>. For 2016 the garden of lights display starts on the 16<sup>th</sup> so we will miss! The exhibition of “citrus patterns” in the Biovès Gardens is open from 9.00 to 19.00 on Sunday and 10.00 to 18.00 on other days.



## 15<sup>th</sup> February

Take the train to Eze and the bus from Eze station to the Eze village. “The tiny village of Eze is one of the jewels of the south of France which is probably why it is chosen as a holiday spot by royalty, the rich and the famous. Perched on a rocky hill above the sea, it could not get any prettier. With narrow cobblestone, pedestrian-only streets, wonderful views of the surrounding hills and the azure water below, it is just as it was centuries ago. One of the most famous inhabitants was Frederic Nietzsche who, in the 1880s, used to walk up and down a hill path to the sea thinking up his philosophy.

At the top of the hill, just above the village, is the exotic garden. Filled with statues of earth goddesses, cacti, winding paths and wonderfully relaxing contemplative spaces and lookout points, this is not to be missed.”



**16<sup>th</sup> February**

Return to the UK either by express bus to Nice airport (which is west of Nice) or take the train back to Nice Ville and then train to UK or bus to the airport.