

Cannes Film Festival
and overtourism in
the French Riviera :
Who's responsible?



As of January 2026, the city of Cannes reduced the daily number of passenger visits from cruise ships to 6,000. And the number of cruise ships that carry over 5,000 people is reduced by 48%. The aim is to combat pollution and overtourism.

But what about the growing number of planes and private jets that also contribute to pollution and overtourism?





Cannes Film Festival

- 750 private jet flights in 2025
- Releasing emissions comparable to 14,000 passengers on commercial return flights from Paris to Athens



Cannes City

- France's #2 city hosting professional and cultural events with over 150 per year
- Maintains a constant pressure on residents, public spaces and housing



Cannes-Mandelieu Airport

- France's #4 airport for private jets
- Private jet travel represents around 10% of the Festival's estimated 2025 CO₂ emissions



Nice Côte d'Azur Airport

- France's **#3** airport for all flights and Europe's **#2** airport for private jets with **163,000 flights** in 2025 carrying **15 million passengers**, up **25%** in a decade
- The airport's CO2 emissions in 2023 were nearly equivalent to the annual emissions of the entire city of Stockholm



Côte d'Azur Region

- The leisure tourism strategy is focused on **international expansion** and **year-round seasonality**
- The 2025 winter season saw a **16% year-on-year increase** in international air arrivals



5 steps for more sustainable tourism and transport in the French Riviera



Privilege arrivals by rail and commercial flight while reducing private jets, to enhance societal value and minimize environmental impacts



Review the impacts of growing international air arrivals on housing and social equity and examine reductions to help ease housing availability and rent price increases



Align airport capacity with climate, air quality and noise protection goals so that residents and visitors can enjoy a healthy environment



Put an end to airport and air traffic expansion, to address overtourism and saturation from excessive flights



Rebalance tourism strategies to prioritise the region's environmental, health and societal limits over visitor numbers