

PROPOSAL LOCATIONS ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA



PROPOSAL LOCATION GUIDE BY
PHOTOGRAPHER PETER HORTON

INTRODUCTION

Hello! Thank you for downloading my guide. I use my local knowledge to advise on the best times to go to these places, depending on the light, tourists, transport, weather, and other factors.

To photograph a proposal I generally organise closely with the proposing partner so they know everything: exactly how to get to their chosen location, where to stand, which way to face, and how to spot me. Organising something so important from a distance is difficult and requires real detail, so I try to be as helpful and informative as I can.

For surprise proposals, I usually hide in plain sight, looking disinterested and like

any other random person with a camera on the Riviera (sometimes [this happens](#)). Once the proposal begins I react very quickly – my camera will already have been switched on, set up, and good to go.

Once in place, the person doing the proposing can forget I'm there and just be in the moment. Once the excitement has died down and the proposal's finished, I'll introduce myself. I never hang around too long as I know people are eager to get on with the rest of their day.

I have a super-friendly and flexible approach with photoshoots, so if it rains and I have availability, we can re-arrange at short notice at no extra expense.

- Generally the harder the place is to get to, the more you'll be rewarded with privacy and photos with fewer people, but this all depends on the time of day and year.

- If you want to propose somewhere crowded, [this set-up](#) can work well. A grand wide angle shot afterwards can be set-up at no extra cost, if desired.

- In July/August it can be dangerously hot (with humidity, it feels like 40 degrees C (104 Fahrenheit) - assume it's too hot to walk very far.

- The fastest way to iron out many complicated decisions is usually via a call with me, I can usually advise what's best quickly given your vision, budget, and your travel preferences.



About Me:

I'm a British wedding photographer and have lived on the French Riviera since 2021. I'm bilingual and live with my wife and our two children.

Contact me on:
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(WhatsApp is usually easier)

Or: pete.horton@live.com

Pricing:

For **429 euros** I provide all the help with organisation you'd need, then photos of the proposal itself (normally around 20 images). These include close ups of the ring, some images of you both afterwards, and a 'set up' proposal if the real one wasn't picture perfect for whatever reason.

For **529 euros**: Same as above plus a full couple photoshoot afterwards (+ 40 or so images).

For **599 euros** Same as above but you can have the photoshoot held at a different location/day. This option exists because if the proposal's a surprise, one partner may not be wearing their favourite clothes or necessarily have their hair the way they prefer, etc. The separate photoshoot allows for this to happen.

There is no deposit, and payment happens after images have been taken, but before delivery. Images are always edited and delivered in HD via a download link; fast turnaround of the proposal itself can usually be made available within 24 hours. Photoshoot images will be available after a month, but may be sooner.

Add-ons:

I can bring fresh flowers, champaign (with glass flutes) to your proposal for an additional **149 Euros**. (Each will have an RRP of around 50 euros).

For an additional **699 euros** I can shoot a video up to a minute long in a similar style to my photography. If the location and weather is suitable it features drone footage of the location and a re-creation of the proposal moment if desired. Videos can be in landscape or portrait mode and may take up to three months to process.

MENTON PANORAMIC VIEW-POINT

[Click to see blog post example.](#) [Click here to see location on Google Maps.](#)

This is probably the best free, public access spot on the Riviera in terms of minimal stress, accessibility, and photographic consistency. Menton is 45 minutes on the train east of Nice, and this spot pictured right is a 20-30 minute walk or so through Menton. But again, the walk) either qlong the coast or through the town's shopping street with its many boutiques isn't bad. Menton has some beautiful things to see, lots of places to stop by for a drink, and a really beautiful old town. It's worth seeing in its own right.

The proposal spot is located on some rocks, which means no high-heels.

[Check out a seperate photoshoot in Menton.](#)



ADVANTAGES:

Probably the best 'free to access', location on the Rivier in terms of privacy and ease of access

Menton is [worth seeing](#), anyway

The view is stunning

No one will get in the background

Cafés and bars are near-by

DISADVANTAGES:

45 mins from Nice (but the train is cheap, I'd say no more than 25 euros all in for the two of you), then a pleasant 30 min walk through Menton

You'd have to persuade your partner to go down onto the rocks (claim you want a selfie!), but that's not a problem and not difficult as there are stairs (but maybe not possible in high-heels!).

THE CHEVRE D'OR HOTEL

[Click here to see location on Google Maps.](#) [Click here for website.](#)

The Chevre d'Or is a luxury hotel and restaurant that's huge, sprawling grounds blanket the entirety of Eze village hill's east and south slopes. The grounds encompass a range of manicured green gardens, beautiful winding paths and stone terraces.

You'd have to inquire as to the pricing, as each terrace or section seems to be priced differently. No matter which you choose, you'll get an ocean view and since the entrance to the Chevre d'Or (or if you want to pronounce it with an British or American accent, it's "Shevruh Door") is in Eze's medieval streets, you could enjoy a photoshoot around the beautiful village itself afterwards.

If you have a photoshoot in Eze village, evening is best; and it's difficult to traverse in high heels due to cobbled streets.



(Note: I've reduced the number of images in this brochure to reduce the file size). [Click here to see more examples from the Chevre d'Or.](#)

ADVANTAGES:

Beautiful, private, with a luxury-feel
Peaceful and quiet - far from any road traffic
The south side terraces are well-orientated for evening light
personally I'd avoid the gardens with the animal statues - it's quite dark and the view is not as good.

DISADVANTAGES:

Has to be pre-arranged with the venue
Might not match your budget
A private, breath-taking view can be had for less at Chateau Eza, but this place is far bigger
Not weather-proof - but that's highly unlikely to be a problem in summer.

NICE CASTLE HILL

AKA: *The Mound, la Colline de Chateau*

[Click to see location on Google Maps.](#) You might like this idea ([click here](#)).

A 20 minute walk from Nice old town, infact you're still in the heart of Nice when you're there - albeit 200 or so meters up.

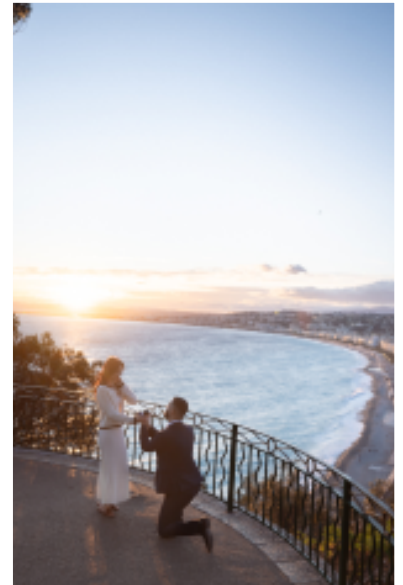
There is a lift, accessible from near the Promenade, but is notoriously unreliable. If you take the stairs in the summer, take your time, you're going to get hot, but the views on the way up are beautiful.

Castle Hill is very close to Nice's touristy old town and there are viewing platforms looking over the Promenade des Anglais, and Nice's Port Lympa. These photos are looking over the promenade (with the black

fence) and at the very top directly above the waterfall (with the stone/pillar wall).

Avoid proposing mid to late afternoon - the sun's position will mean the sea and sky will lose their blue hue. Morning, lunch, and sunset would be better - although sunset could be crowded. If you're not headed there for sunset, the best time would be 8-9AM if you want fewer people.

The only motorised way up is on Nice's little white tourist train (which is a road train, not a real, rail-way train).



ADVANTAGES:

It's very easy to get to, being in the middle of Nice

If you can get there beteen 8:30 and 9am there'll be fewer tourists, but privacy is never guaranteed.

DISADVANTAGES:

There *will be* a lot of people around, this is a very popular view-point. The picture here was taken in winter.

Because of the appearance of that black iron fence, people are very hard to photoshop out.

VILLA EPHRUSSI DE ROTHSCHILD

PAID FOR ACCESS, 600 EUROS

[Click here to see location on Google Maps.](#) [Click here to see a blog post.](#)

Villa Ephrussi's Florantine balcony has a sublime view, a magically peaceful atmosphere, and you can propose here for free, if you decide not to have a photographer.

The 600 Euros won't privatise the balcony either, it will however, allow you bring a pro-photographer on site to photograph the proposal and have a photoshoot in the villa's beautiful gardens afterwards (the photography will have to be paid separately, according to the rates of the photographer).

For the 600 Euro-option, bringing in external props or decorations (such as flowers) is strictly forbidden. There will be other tourists milling around, so it's best to do it earlier in the day – if possible, soon after the villa opens at 10am.

(The second option, for 12,000 Euros, allows you to hire the villa privately, and the rules about props magically disappear.)



(Requires a separate booking with Villa Ephrussi for 600 euros or else I will not be allowed onto the site with professional camera equipment.)

ADVANTAGES:

Villa Ephrussi, the balcony, the gardens, the view, everything is beautiful and quiet.

It's calm - tourists will be milling around, but the vibe is calm, dignified, and quiet.

The photoshoot in the garden afterwards will create stunning images.

DISADVANTAGES:

The price tag doesn't guarantee privacy, only the right to take a photographer inside (I can usually move people along as you approach, but there's no guarantee I'll succeed).

It might rain - not likely, but it might.

NICE MONT BORON

SPECIFICALLY THE "PANORAMA DU MONT-BORON"

[Click to see location on Google Maps.](#) [Click here to see blog post.](#)

Due to large numbers of tourist buses that have begun to show up here, I'd not recommend this location during tourist season (between Easter and the end of October) unless you were prepared to take the risk that a bus-load of tourists will descend on your proposal.

Mont Boron is an hour or two's hike from Port Lympia, but don't do that if it's hot as it's a 300-odd meter ascent and will be tough if you're not used to the heat. Usually best way to get here is via an Uber, I'd say it's 15 or so minutes' ride from the centre of Nice, but geographically it's very close.

To get the blue sky and sea you need to get there before late-afternoon or else the bright sun will bleach everything (most of the pictures on this page were taken at 10:45 in April). I'd encourage you to go here with a couple of stalling tactics in mind incase you have to wait for crowds to clear. Never come here on Sunday morning as loads of private tour buses arrive. It's best on a weekday, late morning or early afternoon.

Only consider Mt Boron if you don't mind people being around.



ADVANTAGES:

In an Uber it's easy to get to and close
The photo can be beautiful
People can be easily photoshopped out

DISADVANTAGES:

Unfortunately, there are often people milling around. Sometimes I can ask them to step aside before the couple arrive but basically, you'll be lucky to get privacy. It's not a problem if you don't mind setting up a "picture perfect" proposal a few minutes after the real one if necessary

The sea is not always as blue as in this picture (but the view always has a wow factor).

FORT DE LA RIVIERE

[Click to see blog post example.](#) [Click here to see location on Google Maps.](#)

Fort de la Riviere is about a 20 or 30 minute drive from Nice or about 10 or 15 minutes from Eze. You'll need transport to get up to the car parc, and from there this location is about a four-minute walk. This place is 700 meters (2,300 feet) up, so there aren't many views in the French Riviera as spectacular as this.

It is a spot known to locals so there will likely be people picnicing or walking their dogs, but there won't be any tourists.

There is a minute logistical risk with this place during high-summer as if you're unlucky, they'll be someone already in your chosen spot picnicing or something. I'd say that would be unlucky, but not unfeasible, especially between May and September.



Flowers by Nusta

ADVANTAGES:

- A short trip from Nice or Eze
- A beautiful view
- Practially no tourists
- Quiet
- Parking (not always a given on the Riviera!)
- Public access and backs onto a nice forested area

DISADVANTAGES:

- Not weather-proof
- Maybe a 25-30 minute drive from Nice

COCO BEACH*, NICE

*not actually a beach, more of a winding, rocky coastal path

[Click to see blog post example.](#) [Click here to see location on Google Maps.](#)

Coco Beach is not a beach, but a coastal path about 20 minutes' walk from Nice's Port Lympia port (which has its own tram stop).

It's beautiful, but will be crowded mid July to mid September, when locals bathe here to try to cool off.

Coco Beach is definitely a better spot for photoshoots than proposals, but if you don't mind a few people being around you, it's definitely worth considering.

There is some flexibility with location if one place is busy, you can hopefully propose near-by without too much stress. I don't mind this approach - where I identify the couple and follow them, waiting for the right place and the right time.



[Click here to see more examples.](#)

ADVANTAGES:

Easy to get to via Nice's tram, by the 96 bus, or by foot

A very beautiful, wind-swept, romantic setting

Well-positioned for or sunset

DISADVANTAGES:

Can be busy during July to mid-September. A second 'picture perfect' proposal may be necessary.

If the sea's rough, or the weather's generally stormy, access will be closed off by the authorities.

THE BALCONY AT CHATEAU EZA

(REQUIRES A SEPERATE BOOKING WITH CHATEAU EZA FOR AROUND 300 EUROS.

NOTE THAT A LOW CEILING HAS BEEN EDITED OUT OF THESE IMAGES AND REPLACED WITH SKY.)

[Click to see blog post.](#) [Click here to see location on Google Maps.](#)

After much research, people on a mission to find the perfect proposal spot on the French Riviera often end up choosing the balcony at Chateau Eza in the village of Eze.

This proposal option ticks a lot of boxes – it's reasonably priced (the reservation package is around 300 Euros), it's private, the view is spectacular in any weather, the popular location of Eze can be visited without eliciting suspicion, and from what I see, the service is also friendly.

Unlike other spots people consider, such as Eze's Exotic Gardens or the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, any pro-photographer you hire is allowed on site without formal permission as long as you have a booking.

Eze village is about 25 minutes from Nice or Monaco. You can get there by bus from Nice (82 or 602, which can be crowded during tourist season), or by Uber. Avoid going by train to Eze unless you want to climb 400 meters up The Nietzsche Path, which is a whole other experience and one you probably want to avoid on the day of your proposal. If you want a photoshoot in Eze, it's far better doing it in the evening - the light is softer and there will be around 70 or 80 per cent fewer people.

The [restaurant](#) is Michelin Star.



ADVANTAGES:

Privacy is guaranteed

The view is stunning.

For the price on the Riviera, I think it's great value if you can budget for it.

There is a low ceiling, which is a pain for photographers but does protect the space from rain.

Eze is often crowded, so it's great to get some peace and quiet.

Eze is a great place for a photoshoot afterwards.

The best time for a photoshoot in Eze is the evening.

DISADVANTAGES:

None particularly - the low ceiling (which I remove in photoshop) is one perhaps, the other is IF the weather isn't great, the view loses some of its wow factor (but you'll still be 400m (1300ft) above sea level).

THE LIGHTHOUSE, CAP FERRAT (PHARE DE CAP FERRAT)

[Click here to see blog post.](#) [Click here to view location on Google Maps.](#)

There is a beautiful coastal path around the edge of Saint Jean Cap Ferrat, which is an amazing coastal walk (but it would be impossible in high heels).

To get to the location below most people just get an Uber to the end of Cap Ferrat, otherwise it's about an hour's (extremely scenic) walk from train station Beaulieu Sur Mer, (which itself is about 10 minutes train from Nice). Half way on the walk is the coastal village of Saint Jean Cap Ferrat, which can break the walk up with a glass or two of wine.



ADVANTAGES:

Genuinely stunning location means beautiful photos. The sun will set behind the lighthouse as in the pictures.

Fewer people, and people that are there can easily be photoshopped out

A unique image: I've not seen an engagement photograph on this path, which is crazy but I guess it's because it's slightly difficult to get to.

DISADVANTAGES:

Possibly slightly annoying to get to, but you can get there and back via an Uber.

The train station, Beaulieu Sur Mer, is about 45 minute walk away, but the walk is beautiful - if it's not too hot!

Likely to be some people milling around on the path. A second 'picture perfect' proposal may be necessary.