



Australian Government



Australian Guide

to the Cannes Film Festival 2026





The Cannes Film Festival is the biggest and most important celebration of cinema on the annual festival calendar and a unique opportunity to build a network of international film industry professionals.

Front cover:
Palais des Festivals
Photo courtesy of Marché du Film
© Claire Lebeau / Marché du Film



It is a festival, market and media spectacle that attracts buyers, sellers, filmmakers, financiers, festival directors and journalists from around the world.

This guide provides an overview of the festival, market, accreditation details, useful contacts and essential tips for first-time attendees.

The Festival de Cannes has remained true to its founding purpose: to raise the profile of films—contributing towards the development of cinema, boosting the film industry worldwide and celebrating cinema at an international level.

In 2026, the festival will run from Tuesday 12 — Saturday 23 May.

Cast and crew of *The New Boy*
Official Selection – Un Certain Regard 2023

The festival and its sections

Cannes is composed of three major events, each with its own sections and programs. These are the Festival de Cannes, Directors' Fortnight and Critics' Week, and they comprise what is commonly referred to as Cannes Film Festival.

Festival de Cannes

Official Selection

The Official Selection highlights the diversity of cinema through its different sections, the two most important of which are In Competition and Un Certain Regard.

Films that are representative of 'auteur cinema with a wide audience appeal' are presented In Competition, while Un Certain Regard focuses on works that have an original aesthetic. The Official Selection also includes Out of Competition films, Special Screenings and Midnight Screenings, and La Cinef.

Films In Competition

This is the festival's main event. Films in this section are referred to as being *in competition* and compete for a variety of awards. The Palme d'Or for best picture is one of the most prestigious awards a film can receive. "In Competition" welcomes both features and shorts, and there are different awards in each category.

Out of Competition

Films shown in this category are typically high-profile showcase films, special events – films the festival feels deserve the honour of screening at Cannes or films which did not necessarily meet the criteria for Competition.

Un Certain Regard

Un Certain Regard is a reflection of current quality world cinema. The Prix Un Certain Regard is awarded to the best film.

Cinéma de Demain

Cinéma de Demain curate La Cinef which is the festival's competition for short and medium-length films made at film schools around the world. La Cinef has its own jury which presents three different awards.

The Résidence du Festival, L'Atelier and the Creative Programs (Focus SCRIPT, Focus WiP, Focus COPRO) are selective development and financing labs.

Cannes Classics

Cannes Classics is a showcase section that screens a selection of classic films, tributes to foreign cinema, documentaries on filmmaking and rare or rediscovered footage from days gone by.

Directors' Fortnight

La Quinzaine des Cinéastes

The Directors' Fortnight was founded with the intention of opening up Cannes to lesser-known filmmakers.

This program for edgier films is organised by the French Directors Guild (Société des Réalisateurs de Films).

Critics' Week

La Semaine de la Critique

Each year, a panel of international critics selects around 10 features and 10 shorts from first- and second-time filmmakers to compete in this section.

Independent from the Festival de Cannes and organised by the French Union of Film Critics (Le Syndicat Français de la Critique de Cinéma), this program has a tradition of discovering new talent from all over the world.



The Surfer
Official Selection – Midnight Screenings 2024

The Market

The **Marché du Film** is the largest film market in the world, where the industry gets together to do business – financing, buying and selling.

The market is attended by roughly 15,000 film industry professionals from 140 countries, with around 4,000 films and projects in development at 33 screening venues. The Marché also runs programs for producers – the Producers Network and Workshop. This year the market will run from Tuesday 12 – Wednesday 20 May 2026.

Marché du Film

By registering with the Marché du Film and gaining accreditation, you can take advantage of many services including access to:

- **Marché du Film screenings**
28 screening rooms, the majority of which are digitally and 3D equipped
- the Official Selection of the Festival de Cannes
- exclusive reruns of the Official Selection films in private screenings
- areas reserved for industry professionals such as the Palais des Festivals, the Riviera, Lérins and the Village International
- a digital Marché Guide, detailing contact information for every registered company
- Company listing and annual subscription to cinando.com.

The Producers Network

The Producers Network is the go-to event for producers seeking to make the most out of their time in Cannes. Launched in 2003, the Producers Network welcomes more than 400 producers from all around the world for a series of meetings and unique events specifically designed to create opportunities, build their peer network and get international co-production projects off the ground.

The Producers Network is reserved for producers who've recently produced feature films. The number of producers is limited, so it is recommended to register your interest as early as possible.

impACT

impACT is open to all Marché du Film badge holders and focuses on diversity, inclusion, representation and sustainability in the film industry.

Other sections of the Marché du Film conference program can be found below:

Cannes Docs

Cannes Docs offers a dedicated venue and tailored program of events for all creative documentary film professionals. The program includes talks, consultations and multiple networking formats, culminating in the much-anticipated Doc Day. A day-long celebration of documentary cinema, featuring keynotes, panel discussions and masterclasses with celebrated guest speakers from the industry and documentary filmmakers in selection.

Cannes Animation

Cannes Animation is a curated program and one-day event, dedicated to the ingenious artistry of animation. In partnership with the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, the program features a works-in-progress showcase, talks, panel discussions and other networking events for animation film professionals and enthusiasts to gather, meet and connect.

Cannes Immersive Market

The Immersive Market is a new initiative designed to accelerate collaboration and distribution opportunities for immersive industry professionals. It connects creators and rights holders of immersive works with cultural curators and event programmers through pitching sessions, workshops, panels and networking events.

Cannes Next

Cannes Next is an innovation-driven platform for business, networking and exploring the future of entertainment. Bringing together pioneers and innovators from both the entertainment and tech worlds, it blends cutting-edge technology with world-class creativity. The programming includes masterclasses, workshops and networking sessions that dive into the latest trends shaping the industry — from AI and virtual production to immersive storytelling and beyond.

Cannes Fantastic

Cannes Fantastic is the Marché du Film's umbrella initiative dedicated to genre cinema, uniting its key programs and spaces into one dynamic hub for discovery and networking. With Frontières, Fantastic 7, the Fantastic Pavilion and Fantastic Night, it celebrates bold projects and connects the global genre community in Cannes.

Cannes Co-Production Day

Co-Production Day is a day-long event dedicated to co-production and the ultimate platform for co-producers and financiers to explore potential collaborations. The program features insightful conference panels and engaging networking events, including the popular Co-Production Night — an evening of celebration with co-production markets and representatives.

Accreditation

Unlike many international film festivals, Cannes is an event reserved for film industry professionals and requires accreditation to gain access to the Palais des Festivals.

Film industry professionals and those in associated disciplines can attend the festival but must register prior to arriving. All requests must be supported by evidence of industry affiliation.

There are various types of accreditations at Cannes and each has different rules, fees, eligibility criteria and inclusions.

Festival Accreditation

The **Film Professional's Accreditation** is available to a specific range of film industry professions and provides access to all festival venues (the Palais, Riviera, Village International and major hotels), and to screenings in the Official Selection and sidebars.

Festival Professional Accreditation is free, except for a small contribution payment to offset carbon footprint. The pass is highly restricted.

Typically, Australian industry should register through the Market Accreditation.

Other festival accreditation types include 'Three Days in Cannes' which is offered to 'cinema lovers' aged between 18–28 to enable them to discover the Official Selection, and 'Cinephiles' – open to school groups, film students and film clubs.

For more details, click the button below.

Market Accreditation

Market Accreditation is available to the board members and employees of companies which either operate in the film industry or service the film industry.

Registration prices for the Marché du Film are €459 (without taxes) if registered before 5 March / €529 (without taxes) from 6 March to 27 April. From 28 April, registration increases to €629 (without taxes).

For more information, visit the Marché du Film registration page.

The Producers Network

The Producers Network is a special accreditation for producers. The intention is to provide a collection of services and events to help producers develop their projects and to encourage international co-productions. Registration for the Producers Network is a flat-rate add-on of €89 (without taxes) on top of your Market Accreditation registration.

For more information, visit the Marché du Film registration page.



Short Film Corner, Rendez-vous Industry

The Short Film Corner | Rendez-vous Industry is a Forum dedicated to short film professionals. It has its own registration fee and accreditation.

It is important to note that the Short Film Corner is not curated and is not part of the official selection of short films. It accepts all and any short film submissions (excluding pornography) as long as the registration fee is paid. It is not a festival screening, but a market screening, so should be carefully considered.

Before registering for the Short Film Corner and investing in travel costs, we advise that Australians reflect on their objectives and research what is on offer. The Short Film Corner will run 17–20 May 2026.

Press Accreditation

The festival is attended by around 4,000 journalists, representing 2,000 media outlets in over 90 countries. Media access is managed directly by the Festival de Cannes via its Press Accreditation Commission.

Screenings in the Market

Access to Marché screenings is by the separate Marché badge or by an invitation issued by the sales agent representing the film. Screenings are held in cinemas in the streets around Cannes or in the small screening rooms at the Palais. All screenings are listed on a daily basis in the Cannes trade dailies.

Screenings at The Festival

As an accredited attendee, your badge gives you access to the Festival area and screenings (Official Selection and parallel sections such as Directors' Fortnight and Critics' Week screenings).

Tickets are booked and issued via an online service which is part of your accreditation. Once you have registered, information is supplied in market and festival communications from Festival de Cannes/ Marche du Film as the festival approaches.

If you are successful in being allocated tickets, you will receive your ticket approximately 24 hours before the film screens. Tickets may be printed or presented electronically. They are strictly personal and re-sale of tickets is expressly forbidden. For most screenings, a time period when you can access the theatre is indicated on the ticket. Please adhere to this.

For evening In Competition screenings at the Palais Lumière, you must be in evening dress or you may not be allowed entry; this means a black suit and black tie for men.

If unsuccessful for a ticket, some screenings also have a last-minute entry where you can line up with your badge and if places are available you might be lucky enough to attend.

The Critics' Week and Directors' Fortnight programs do offer a small public ticket allocation.

The latest information can be viewed below.

In addition to the above, every evening from 9.30pm onwards the Cinéma de la Plage provides open-air screenings for all to enjoy.



Tips for first-timers

Make the most of the festival.

- **Set up your meetings in advance.**

Do your research in the weeks leading up to the festival and make contact with those you'd like to meet before you arrive in Cannes. Cinando provides contact information for accredited professionals attending the Marché du Film and details on their films and projects, as well as the screening schedule. A login to Cinando is provided with your accreditation. Once you have registered for the Marché du Film, you can use Cinando to present your company and projects, and connect with fellow producers, distributors and sales agents from around the world.
- **Read the trades every morning.**

Daily issues of *Variety*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Screen International*, *Le Film Français* and other magazines provide invaluable information on the latest business news and reviews, what's happening and market trends. Track the activities and marketing campaigns of the distributors and sales agents with whom you'd like to work. Pay attention to the fortunes of debut feature filmmakers with films screening in any sections of the festival, including the market.
- **Don't arrange formal meetings with distributors or sales agents if your project is not ready to finance.**

If you meet someone at a social function, don't just launch in with your pitch, but first have a conversation and if it seems to be going well, tell them about the project. The festival is a very stressful place for acquisitions executives. Their focus is on finished movies and projects they are tracking. It's far more important for you to make a connection with someone you may do business with in the future, than to pitch a project that isn't ready.
- **Try to avoid spending all your time with friends.**

It might be comforting, but you haven't spent all those dollars to hang around with people you already know. The festival is huge, but it has a very singular focus: films and filmmakers.

Armed with your knowledge of what's going on (from the trades) and your opinion of the films that are screening (from your viewing) you are well-placed to make connections with the many other festival participants.
- **Stay up-to-date with screenings.**

The Festival Daily and all the major trades provide screening schedules for the day and the following day, as well as key events organised by the festival. *The Festival Daily* is distributed each morning at the main entrances of the Palais, information points and select hotels.
- **Track the companies you're interested in.**

Look at their ads in the trades, keep up-to-date with their acquisitions and sales, and see their movies. Don't forget, Screen Australia's [directory of International Sales Agents](#) has a list of sellers handling Australian movies and other more detailed tips for setting up and meeting with sales agents at the market.
- **Keep a diary.**

Have a clear record of any follow-ups you need to make after the festival (e.g. to send a showreel, short film or the outline of the project you have discussed).
- **Keep your business cards with you at all times, along with your Market Accreditation (also referred to as your 'badge').**
- **Keep your expectations in check.**

Your first few trips to the festival will be research. After each visit you will understand more about how everything works and how to build relationships with other filmmakers.
- **Leave plenty of time to get to screenings, as most are heavily subscribed – this applies to market screenings as well as screenings in the festival selection.**

- **Cannes is about business.**
While parties are fun in Cannes, this is a business space. It doesn't pay to spend all your time trying to score invitations to parties. You will only annoy your contacts.
- **Cannes is a means to introduce yourself to people in companies based outside your home turf.**
You can make appointments with local companies at any time of the year and Australian companies won't want to spend time in Cannes meeting with filmmakers who live down the road from them. Every serious film company in the world is in one place – and so are you.
- **The Marché du Film daily Screening Program** lists both market and festival screenings. It's available from 4pm one day in advance, at press counters and information points, inside the Marché du Film screening rooms, as well as in select hotels.
- **To assist parents and families attending the market & festival, Le Ballon Rouge offer family-friendly services such as childcare. To learn more, email redballoonalliance@gmail.com.**

- **Meetings tables are available at Screen Australia's office.**
Priority is given to key creatives with films screening in Cannes, and those with a track record of commercially released and internationally recognised long-form Australian content. These facilities are only available to Australian-based citizens or permanent residents.
- **Be mindful of office opening and closing times** which will be communicated in advance of the event. As there is a high demand for these tables, we recommend that you set some of your meetings in other locations throughout the market, such as the casual areas in the Palais, at sales agents' offices, and the many cafés and great outdoor areas that hotels offer like Mondrian (previously The Grand), Cafe Roma and other popular meeting spots.

The Screen Australia office is located at Level 3, Le Gray d'Albion, 4 Rue des Serbes, Cannes 6400. Enter at 4 Rue des Serbes, turn right once inside the building, catch the elevator on the left to the 3rd floor.



Practical info

Getting to Cannes

By plane

Nice Côte d'Azur International Airport

nice.aeroport.fr

Tel. (in France): 0820 423 333

Tel. (from abroad): +33 (0)4 89 88 98 28



By train

Cannes Railway Station

Approx five-hour high speed train journey from Paris

sncf.com/en

Tel. (in France): 36 35

Tel. (from abroad): +33 (0)1 84 94 36 35
3635#85 for the English menu



Transportation from the Airport to Cannes

By bus



One way: €20.50

50min ride, see timetable [here](#).

Tickets for Bus 81 to Cannes are available at the Service Centre or t-zoukeolis.fr.

By taxi



Around €80/trip (daytime rate: 7am to 7pm)

Around €90/trip (nighttime rate: 7pm to 7am)

Located at: Gate A1 (Terminal 1), Gate A3 (Terminal 2)

Central Taxi Riviera Nice: +33 (0)4 93 13 78 78

Car hire



All of France and Europe's major car rental companies (Advantage, Avis, Budget, Europcar, Hertz, Enterprise, FireFly, Goldcar and Sixt) have branches at Nice Airport.

Click [here](#) for car hire information.

Village International
Photo courtesy of Marché du Film
© Claire Lebeau / Marché du Film

Getting around Cannes

The majority of the festival and market takes place within approximately two square kilometers. Your best option to get around is by foot. It's a good idea to allow longer than you think, as the Croisette and Rue d'Antibes both get incredibly crowded with slow-moving foot traffic and often the festival security unexpectedly change the traffic conditions depending on what is happening on the red carpet. Alternatively, some people hire bicycles which is a quick way to get around.

Taxi



Allô Taxi Cannes

taxiscotedazur.com/en/

Booking: +33 (0)4 93 992 727

Or you can [download](#) the free mobile app.

Eating out

You won't have a problem finding a place to eat out in Cannes; it is filled with restaurants. You can find an array of places to eat along the Croisette. For cheaper restaurants head to the Port area past the Palais, where you'll find great alternative, and budget-friendly, options.

The official Cannes tourism website has hints and tips on bistros, restaurants and wine bars.

Daily needs

Morning [markets](#) like Forville, Gambetta and La Bocca have great fresh produce and ingredients on sale, while [supermarkets](#) like Monoprix and Carrefour can supply your daily needs.

Accommodation

There are a variety of options for accommodation in and around Cannes. View a list of hotels [here](#). For apartment rentals the Marché du Film recommends booking with its partner [Immosol](#), which offers apartments with or without hotel services, depending on your budget. There are a number of other reputable agencies located in Cannes.

If you need any advice or contacts in Cannes to help arrange accommodation, email coords.content@screenaustralia.gov.au.

On Arrival

It is a good idea to text or call whoever arranged your accommodation as soon as you're in a cab, bus or train from Nice. That way, they can meet you with the keys to enable immediate access to your apartment or hostel.

Beware of Fraudulent Accommodation

You may be contacted by organisations with attractive offers of hotel or apartment rentals for your stay in Cannes, sometimes using the logos of the Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes or the Palme d'Or.

Fraud can occur when you arrive at the hotel or residence where the booking was made, only to discover that a reservation does not exist. In these cases, fraudulent companies can no longer be contacted and there is no possibility of having payment reimbursed.

Cannes participants have fallen victim to fraudulent accommodation providers presenting themselves as: **Premier destinations, euro-events, Global Living Group, The Ultimate Living Group, Riviera network, Business Travel International and expo Travel Group.** If you receive requests or notifications from any of the aforementioned, please be extremely careful.

If you suspect any fraudulent activity, let the Marché du Film know at marketinfo@festival-cannes.fr.



Warning

Take care with security in the office, your apartment and in the streets. There are always incidents of crime during the festival.

We advise you not to leave windows open at night (if you're on a lower floor), as there are burglaries every year. In case of a lost or stolen passport, notify the Australian Embassy immediately.

Telephone: +33 (0)1 40 59 33 00
Email: consular.paris@dfat.gov.au
In person: (by appointment only)

Australian Embassy

4 rue Jean Rey 75724 Paris Cedex 15
Metro line 6 – Bir Hakeim Station
REC C – Station Champs de Mars-Tour Eiffel

**The Australian Government provides
emergency 24-hour consular assistance:**

+61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
1300 555 135 from within Australia

Medical help and English speaking Doctors

Fire service and First Aid

Tel. 18 or +33 (0)4 93 48 78 00

Ambulance

Tel. 15

Cannes Hospital ER

15, av des Broussailles Tel. +33 (0)4 93 69 70 00

The Australian Embassy keeps a list of English-speaking doctors and chemists across different French regions here.

It is recommended that you take out appropriate travel and medical insurance to cover any unexpected costs.



Cast of *Dangerous Animals*
Directors' Fortnight 2025

Banking and Foreign Exchange

Groupe Change Miramar Sarl

57 bd de la Croisette
Tel. +33 (0)4 93 94 45 20

European exchange Office

65 bd de la Croisette
Tel. + 33 (0)4 93 94 45 20

Travelex

8 rue d'Antibes – 06400 Cannes
Tel. +33 (0)4 93 39 41 45

Police Stations in Cannes

For emergency dial 17
1, Avenue Grasse
Tel. +33 (0)4 93 06 22 22

122, Blvd de la Republique
Tel. +33 (0)4 93 68 0101

Municipal Police (Lost and Found)

Tel. +33 (0)8 00 117 118

Information Points

Staff at information points will be available to answer your questions. These are located in the following Marché and festival zones:

Outside the Palais

Entrance of the Village International Pantiero

Inside the Palais

- Level 01: Marché du Film entrance, centre aisle Level 01: Puits de Lumière
- Level 0: Hall Méditerranée (on the left of the main entry)
- Level F+3: street entrance by the newspaper stands At the Riviera: seaside entrance



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