



## CAR MEETS ROAD

### ELEVATION



## The Road

Having spent less than a year in exile on the Mediterranean island of Elba, deposed French emperor Napoléon Bonaparte decided to stage a *Wrath of Khan*-like return to power in 1815. With only a few troops, Napoléon landed outside of Cannes, in Golfe-Juan, and during the next seven days proceeded to march north toward Paris. The Route Napoléon traces this historic journey through the Alps to Grenoble, where Napoléon convinced the Royalist troops sent to stop him to switch sides. His second reign, called the "Hundred Days," is best known for its brevity and the emperor's eventual defeat at Waterloo. This time, he was exiled to a remote island in the South Atlantic. Today, the Route Napoléon trades on its historic significance to promote tourism throughout the region. Despite being the most direct path from Cannes to Grenoble, the 200-mile route is mostly a two-lane mountain road. Heading north, the serious driving begins just outside of Grasse, where the road passes over the Maritime Alps and continues all the way to Digne-les-Bains—a 74-mile run of switchbacks and blind corners. —MA

