



Corse : The best of Corsica

Corsica is a mountain in the sea, this is an opportunity to enjoy every aspect of the island, to discover the extreme contrasts. You can bathe in the perfumes, colours and contrasting landscapes that have earned Corsica its reputation.

Ancient coastal paths that overhang the sea provide walkers with a unique panorama of villages steeped in history.

This holiday offers you the chance to discover some fantastic places such as the Aiguilles de Bavella, (tall needles of rose granite), the interior of the island, the historical capital, Corte, Niolu valley, encircled by the highest mountain summits, Aitone forest, the villages of Evisa and Ota and the Spelunca gorge.

Your destination is the fabulous gulf of Porto where the deep blue sea and famous 'Calanches de Piana', granite needles, tortured shapes and sculpted rock formations, await you.

Tour Aventure Trekking

Agence de voyages LI 02A.06 0002 - Garantie Financière de 137204€ : APS - Contrat RC : n°86 410 716 Gan Eurocourtage IARD

RCS AJACCIO 489 755 470 - Membres du SNAV - E-mail : info@tour-aventure.com - Web site : www.tour-aventure.com

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Program

D1 - Arrival in Zonza

Ascent through the Alta Rocca to the village of Zonza. Time to settle into your hotel.

Bavella to Paliri

The GR20 follows the ancient transhumance trail that joins Conca and Bavella, slowly winding down to the charming Paliri refuge. From the col de Finosa you will have a superb viewpoint of the sea and the gulf of Porto to the East. The return will lead you through the aiguilles de Bavella, a landscape with a rare beauty. The entire walk takes place in the shade of Laricco pine trees, a symbol of Corsica that you find in high-altitude forests.

Distance : 7km, duration : 5h00, altitude gain : +540m, descent : -540m.

The Trou de la Bombe

A walk to the Trou de la Bombe, a circular opening that pierces the Paliri crest of peaks. A pleasant walk under Larriccio pine trees and superb views over the gulf of Porto Vecchio.

Distance : 6km, duration : 3h00, altitude gain : +300m, descent : -300m.

D2 - The Aiguilles de Bavella

A spectacular walk in the heart of the aiguilles de Bavella massif. The tall needles of rose granite tower above, you will pass by different pinnacles, such as, the Acellu, Ariettu, Vacca and the Pargulu. The trail is sometimes steep and in places assisted by hand chains. The area of Bavella is reputed for rock climbing, it possesses a rare beauty, a chaotic jumble of granite. You plunge into an unusual mountain decor and it is surprising to glimpse views of the sea not far away.

Distance : 12km, duration : 7h00, altitude gain : +900m, descent : -900m.

Bavella to Corte

You leave behind Bavella for Solenzara via a picturesque, winding trail. The walk takes you along the Oriental coast to Aléria before arriving in Corte, Corsica's historical capital.

D3 - The Tavignano Gorge

From Corte a walk in the Tavignano gorge, a stone path will lead you into the gorge amidst a heady, warm Mediterranean vegetation of blue, black island lavender, the curry plant and juniper. The cliffs soar up above and deep below you can glimpse the pounding torrent with its numerous rock pools. For centuries, this age-old path was the link of communication and access route into the very isolated Niolu region. The towering granite cliffs have been beautifully sculpted by time, with clinging pine trees and rugged pinnacles all around, you will find the Tavignano gorge a haven of wild beauty. Your destination is a swing bridge that traverses the torrent, a great swimming and picnic place with smooth sun baked rocks and inviting clear rock pools.

Distance : 12km, duration : 6h00, altitude gain : + 480m, descent : - 480m.

D4 - Restonica Gorge

The small town of Corte is situated at the confluence of two magical gorges the Restonica and the Tavignano. This is a magnificent mountain walk, a well trodden route leads up to the lake of Melo. The path is assisted at two points by a ladder and a hand chain (no difficulty). You arrive at a large apple shaped, glacier lake surrounded by spongy grass. You press on higher to the abruptly contrasting lake of Capitellu, it is 40m deep, the deepest on the island. Sheer

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sheets of granite plunge into its depths and there are little traces of vegetation.

Distance : 6km, duration : 4h30, altitude gain : + 500m, descent : - 500m.

Corte to Calacuccia

The road that rejoins Calacuccia leads you through the infamous 'Scala Santa Reginia', a wild and arid place built into the granite.

D5 - The GR20 and Nino lake

The walk starts at the col de Vergio ski station then follows the GR20 to the lac de Nino. Most of the walk is along a mountain ridge, affording a wide view accros the mountain massifs, the highest on the island. At 1743m this glacier lake is in a lovely, sheltered bucolic spot, surrounded by a spongy peat, with runnels of water and wells, ideal grazing ground for ponies and other animals in the summer. The air is fresh and tinged with the scent of alder and the fragrance of the high mountains.

Distance : 14km, duration : 7h00, altitude gain : +600m, descent : -600m.

Col de Vergio to Evisa

After the walk descent to Evisa village.

D6 - The valley of Golo

From Castel de Vergio you follow the GR20 past the Radule bergeries nestled amongst granite rocks. Soon afterwards the path rejoins the Golo, where you ascend to its spring. You pass many natural swim spots on your way to the Ciuttulu di i Mori refuge (1990m). The trail follows a mountain ridge before arriving at the refuge where you will discover spectacular views of the West coast.

Distance : 12km, duration : 6h30, altitude gain : +590m, descent : -590m.

Col de Vergio to Evisa

After the walk descent to Evisa village.

D7 - Porto and the West coast, Ota and Girolata

The trail looses altitude and gets closer to the sea leading along the Spelunca gorge in the heart of a pink granite massif. The walk takes you to Ota, a village typical of the region, where you can visit its Genoese bridges. In Porto you will discover Barbary fig trees, eucalyptus, agaves and other species of flora characteristic of the Mediterranean.

Distance : 7km, duration : 4h00, altitude gain : +300m, descent : -300m.

D8 - The Calanche de Piana

Discover the famous 'Calanche de Piana', the most dramatic part of the coastline and classed by UNESCO as a site of world beauty. The vegetation is a haze of lavender, myrtle, delicate pink cistus flowers, juniper, foxgloves, tall white asphodels and cyclamen. Once in the 'calanques' you will be surrounded by an incredible site of granite needles tortured shapes and sculpted rock formations dotted with maritime pine trees. Ascent to Capu d'Ortu possible.

Distance : 11km, duration : 4h30, altitude gain : +500m, descent : -500m.

The Capu Rossu

We take a coastal road from the village of Piana out towards Capu Rossu. This promentary is spectacular both from the sea and inland. The trail leads towards the cliffs that jut out into the sea, the rock is red in hue. You climb up to a Genoise tower that is perched on the very top of the enormous rock of Capu Rossu.

Distance : 7.5km, duration : 4h00, altitude gain : +522m, descent : -522m.

Piana to Ajaccio

We will communicate the time of the public bus back to Ajaccio when you reserve. The time changes during the season.

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You may have time to walk down to the small cove of Ficaghiola for a swim.

This programme is an example of the itinerary we aim to adhere to. It may be possible, if situations arise that are beyond our control, for the itinerary to be modified.

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Details

Level of difficulty

The walks are on good footpaths and trails, the terrain is varied but often rocky. You need to be used to walking and take regular exercise to enjoy this holiday.

Price

- From 01/04/2010 to 30/06/2010 : Price per person in Double room 460 €
- From 01/07/2010 to 31/08/2010 : Price per person in Double room 525 €
- From 01/09/2010 to 31/10/2010 : Price per person in Double room 460 €

Price includes :

Bed & Breakfast accommodation, the dossier containing your maps, route notes and all necessary details needed for your holiday.

Price does not include :

Dinners, picnics, drinks, entrance fees, additional activities, holiday insurance and travel.

Encadrement

Self-guided walking.

Carrying

Undefined

Accommodation/food

Half board in 2 or 3 star hotels or chambres d'hotels.

Starting point/end

Starting point : At Ajaccio or another place of arrival.

End : At Ajaccio or another place of departure.

Organisation

We reserve all of your accommodation along the route and we provide a holiday pack complete with maps and detailed route notes. During your holiday our team is always on hand to answer any of your questions.

Dates

Departures every day from the start of April to the end of October.

Number of participants

From 2 people

Access

Ajaccio, Bastia or Calvi port or airport.

Bibliography

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The Rough Guide

The Granite Island – Dorothy Carrington

Practical information

For supplementary nights in Ajaccio

Hôtel Le Dauphin (HT) : 0033 (0)4 95 51 29 96

Hôtel Le Kallisté **: 0033 (0)4 95 51 34 45

Hôtel Fesch ***: 0033 (0)4 95 51 62 62

Hôtel Les Mouettes**** : 0033 (0)4 95 50 40 40

For supplementary nights in Bastia

Hôtel Sud Hôtel ** : 0033 (0)4 95 30 20 61

Hôtel le Forum ** : 0033 (0)4 95 31 02 53

Hôtel Les Sablettes *** : 0033 (0)4 95 58 50 20

Hôtel Ostella*** : 0033 (0)4 95 30 97 70

For supplementary nights in Calvi

Hôtel du Centre (HT) : 0033 (0)4 95 65 02 01

Hôtel Christophe Colomb ** : 0033 (0)4 95 65 06 04

Hôtel le Grand Hôtel *** : 0033 (0)4 95 65 09 74

Hôtel La Villa ****luxe : 0033 (0)4 95 65 10 10

For supplementary nights in Corte

Hôtel de la Paix** : 0033 (0)4 95 46 06 72

Hôtel du Nord** : 0033 (0)4 95 46 00 68

Hôtel Les Jardins de la Glacière** : 0033 (0)4 95 45 27 00

Hôtel Dominique Colonna*** : 0033 (0)4 95 45 25 65

For supplementary nights in Porto-Vecchio

Hôtel Holzer ** : 0033 (0)4 95 70 05 93

Hôtel Le Goéland ** : 0033 (0)4 95 70 14 15

Hôtel Shegara *** : 0033 (0)4 95 70 40 31

Hôtel Alcyon *** : 0033 (0)4 95 70 50 50

For supplementary nights in Propriano

Hôtel Bellevue (HT) : 0033 (0)4 95 76 01 86

Hôtel Beach Hôtel ** : 0033 (0)4 95 76 17 74

Hôtel Claridge *** : 0033 (0)4 95 76 05 54

Grand hôtel Miramar ****luxe : 0033 (0)4 95 76 06 13

How to get to Corsica :

By boat :

SNCM : Departures from Marseille, Nice or Toulon

Tel : 0033 (0)891 701 801

Web site : www.sncm.fr

Corsica Ferries : Departures from Nice or Toulon

Tel : 0033 (0)825 095 095

Web site : www.corsicaferries.com/Pcorsica.srv

CMN (Compagnie Méridionale de Navigation) : Departures from Marseille

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Tel : 0033 (0)810 20 13 20

Web site : <http://www.cmn.fr/en/index.php>

By Airplane :

Air France : tel 0870 142 4343

Web site : www.airfrance.com/uk

Public transport in Corsica :

Buses :

Bus route Calvi, Ponte-leccia, Bastia :

Bus Les beaux voyages tel : 0033 (0)4 95 65 11 35. Departures from 01/09 to 30/06 from Monday to Friday, except bank holidays, and from 01/07 to 31/08 from Monday to Saturday except bank holidays.

Duration of journey Calvi Ponte-leccia 1h45 ; Calvi Bastia 2h15.

Bus route Ajaccio, Propriano, Porto - Vecchio :

Bus Eurocourse voyages tel : 0033 (0)4.95.21.06.30. Departures from 16/09 to 30/06 from Monday to Saturday except Sundays and bank holidays and from 1/07 to 15/09 every day.

Duration of journey Ajaccio Propriano 1h50 ; Ajaccio Porto - Vecchio 3h30.

Bus route Ajaccio, Vizzavona, Corté, Ponte-leccia, Bastia :

Bus Eurocourse Voyages tel : 0033 (0)4.95.21.06.30. Departures every day except Sundays and bank holidays.

Duration of journey Ajaccio Corté 1h45 ; Ajaccio Bastia 3 heures

Train companies in Corsica :

Direction Bastia, Ponte Leccia, Corté, Vizzavona, Ajaccio

Direction Bastia, Ponte Leccia, Ile Rousse, Calvi

Ajaccio train station : 0033 (0)495 23 11 03

Bastia train station : 0033 (0)4 95 32 80 61

Calvi train station : 0033 (0)4 95 65 00 61

Corte train station : 0033 (0)4 95 46 00 97

What to bring and pack

Bags

-A small day pack for your water bottle, camera, picnic and waterproof.

-A bag, rucksack or suitcase for your main luggage.

For Walking

-Good walking shoes or boots with a good grip sole

-Walking socks

-Warm fleece

-Shorts and T shirts

-Swimming costume or trunks

-Towel

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- 2 Walking poles (optional)
- Water bottle (one litre minimum)
- Personal first aid kit with good blister protection

For your picnics

- A good cutting knife, fork, spoon, plastic cup and plate
- Plastic bags

Sun and rain protection

- Sunglasses and sun cream
- Sun hat
- Wind and waterproof jacket (Gore-tex style)

Relaxing time

- Trainers or open sandals
- Warm Fleece and casual wear

Tour Aventure Backup

The Tour Aventure team is present and always at hand to ensure the smooth running of your holiday. We are on the ground and ready to assist in any eventuality.

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