



Corse : Drive'n Hike

Corsica is a wild unspoilt island. It is a wonderful mix of contrasting scenery, with deep gorges, sun baked rock pools and high airy granite summits. It's a real paradise for nature lovers and this itinerary takes in a superb palette of landscapes. From the busy Mediterranean port of Ajaccio, you head inland to the island's historical capital, Corte. The town was once the host for the Corsican government during the independant years. There is a choice of mountain hikes including the Tavignano Gorge, or the nearby glacier lakes. Travelling on through the remote Niolu valley, you arrive in Evisa. Locally, the village is known as 'The pearl of the mountains' because of it's natural beauty, it is surrounded by chestnut trees and a lush pine forest. The village is situated at a high altitude of 800m and it's close proximity to the sea gives it a dry, crisp temperate climate. A deep gorge leads from Evisa out towards the west coast where you will discover a windy coastal road and dramatic pink sea cliffs. This area is truly stunning and classed by UNESCO as a place of world beauty.

Tour Aventure Trekking

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

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Program

D1 - Start of holiday in Ajaccio

Arrival in Ajaccio, time to settle into your hotel before exploring. Ajaccio is the capital of Southern Corsica, the ambience is very vibrant and Mediterranean. It is great to just sit in one of the cafés opposite the harbour and soak up the atmosphere. The old streets and houses are often dwarfed by the large ferries that arrive from Italy or mainland France. visit the shops, museums, cathedral and Napoleon's house or simply relax on the beach. Opportunity to visit the îles Sanguinaires by boat.

Les Crêtes-Mountain ridge walk

You can choose to do this walk upon arrival or before you leave Ajaccio the following day. You are given the option of two walks along the mountain ridge 'les Crêtes' that dominates the city and Gulf of Ajaccio. The aerial views of the town, over the sea and the mountains are stunning.

Distance : from 6km to 11km, duration : from 2h00 to 4h00 , altitude gain : +140m to +340m, descent : -140m to -340m.

D2 - Driving from Ajaccio to Corte

Nice drive to Corte, the island's historical capital. This small town is situated in the heart of the mountains. Having checked into your hotel, take some time to discover the town, wander amongst the old streets and soak up the atmosphere. If you're not up to hiking today, you can choose to visit The Museum of Corsican History or try one of the numerous sporting activities available in the area: horse riding, canyoning, etc. Duration : 1h30.

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.

D3 - Driving from Corte to Vizzavona

Duration : 45 min.

The Cascade des Anglais

Vizzavona was once a popular resort for the English at the beginning of the century, there are some old buildings that were once grand hotels, representing a former glory. From the station you take the GR20 path towards the dazzling 'Cascade des Anglais.' You will discover the crystal clear, bubbly river Agnone, with its alluring rock pools and dramatic waterfall.

Distance : 10km, duration : 5h00, altitude gain : + 570m, descent : - 570.

D4 - Driving from Corte to Evisa

Leave Corte and head north along twisting mountain roads to the peaceful village of Evisa, which is famous for its chesnuts. Today, you will cross over the highest pass in Corsica. You can choose between the following walk or just do one and enjoy your hotel's pool for the afternoon. Duration : 1h00.

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Evisa and the forest of Aitone

Today's walk is under the shade of Laricio pine trees to the spectacular Aitone waterfalls. A great swim spot in the natural 'piscines'. The trail then takes you through Evisa chestnut forest where you will find trees that are hundreds of years old.

Distance : 9km, duration : 4h00, altitude gain : +450m, descent : -450m.

Day in Evisa with optional walk to the village of Marignana

Today you have the option of just relaxing, or taking a walk that follows part of the trail known as the 'Mare e Monti' It is a village to village walk and in the old days the path was the only route of communication between the villages. It leads through the surrounding chestnut woods and into a luxuriant maquis, a jumble of vegetation which at this altitude is a mix of oak, cistus flowers, the strawberry tree, the curry plant and tree heather. You will arrive at the abandoned hamlet of Tassu, a small treasure to investigate. You can continue on to the village of Marignana which is situated directly across the valley from Evisa. A return walk via the village of Cristinacce completes today's insight into rural village life.

Distance : 9km, duration : 4h30, altitude gain : +300m, descent : -300m.

D5 - Driving from Evisa to Piana

Today's destination is Piana, one of France's official "Plus beaux villages". Thought short, only 36 kms, today's drive will take you through some of the most spectacular scenery on the island.

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 promontary 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 Genoese 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.

D6 - Sailing to Scandola

After a short promenade to the Cove in the morning (3 hours back and forth), you are set on a boat excursion to Scandola. If the weather doesn't permit it, an alternative activity will be proposed.

Walk to Ficaghjola

The cove of Ficaghjola is a small sandy creek. With its white sand and high mountains it is very picturesque. It is a favourite nightstop for passing sailboats who like to drop anchor.

Distance : 5km there and 5km back, duration : about 1h30 one way, altitude gain : +450m, descent : -450m.

Boat excursion from Porto to Scandola

A short drive along the coast from Serriera to the Porto marina. From Porto we can take the boat to Scandola. The sea cliffs and scenery is breathtaking, the Scandola reserve is protected by UNESCO as a site of world beauty. On the way back the boat stops off at Girolata, a little fishing village that is accessible by boat and foot only. Time for a drink and swim before getting back on the boat for the final blast back to Porto. Once back in Porto you may wish to wander around the marina and shops or enjoy the beach before we drive back to our nightspot and hotel in Serriera. Duration : 3h00.

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D7 - From Piana to Calvi

Time to pack or enjoy a few hours at the beach before you depart and follow the coastline to Calvi. Upon arrival, you can sit down at a local cafe's terrasse and sip a fresh glass of locally produced wine or stroll around the narrow alleyways and staircases of the Citadel ramparts that were build in the 15th century.

The Fango Valley

Discover the hidden treasures of the Haute Vallee du Fango: the classified Green Oak forest, stunning and so rare or the vestiges of an ancient convent. Near the remarkable Bridge of Tuarelli, you will stumble accross the water pools of the river. Dip a foot in the refreshing waters of the river and enjoy this invitation to bath and have fun!

Distance : 12.5km, duration : 4h00, altitude gain : +600, descent : -600.

D8 - End of holiday in Calvi

End of holiday in Calvi.

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 530 €
- From 01/07/2010 to 31/08/2010 : Price per person in Double room 600 €
- From 01/09/2010 to 31/10/2010 : Price per person in Double room 530 €

Price includes :

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

Price does not include :

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

Encadrement

Self guided.

Carrying

No luggage transfers.

Accommodation/food

Accommodation

- Bed and Breakfast in double or twin bedrooms in hotels.

Food

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, butter, jam)
- Evening meals and Pic-nics not included.

Starting point/end

Starting point : At your first hotel in Ajaccio, check in after 2pm.

Possibility of arriving in another place, please consult with us.

End : At your hotel in Calvi, after breakfast.

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

From early April to the end of October.

Number of participants

From 2 people

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Access

Ajaccio, Bastia or Calvi port or airport.

Bibliography

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

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Tel : 0033 (0)825 095 095

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

CMN (Compagnie Méridionale de Navigation) : Departures from Marseille

Tel : 0033 (0)810 20 13 20

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

By Air :

Air France : tel 0870 142 4343

Web site : www.airfrance.com/uk

What to bring and pack

- Luggage:

A small backpack for your water bottle, camera, picnic and waterproof.

A travelling bag or rucksack for your main luggage, 10kg maximum per person.

- For Walking

Good walking shoes or boots with a good grip sole - Shorts and T shirts - Walking socks - Warm fleece - Swimming costume or trunks - Towel - Personal first aid kit with good blister protection - 2 Walking poles (optional)

- Water bottle (one litre minimum).

- For your picnics

Tupperware - A good cutting knife, fork, spoon, plastic cup and plate - Some plastic bags.

- Sun and rain protection

Sunglasses - Sun cream - Hat - Wind and waterproof jacket (Gore-tex stlye)

- 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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