



GR20'S BEST WALKS

Technical sheet - Drive and stroll - 8 days, 7 nights - Drive & Stroll - 6 days walking

DRIVE AND STROLL 8 days / 7 nights

Level 1 2 3 4

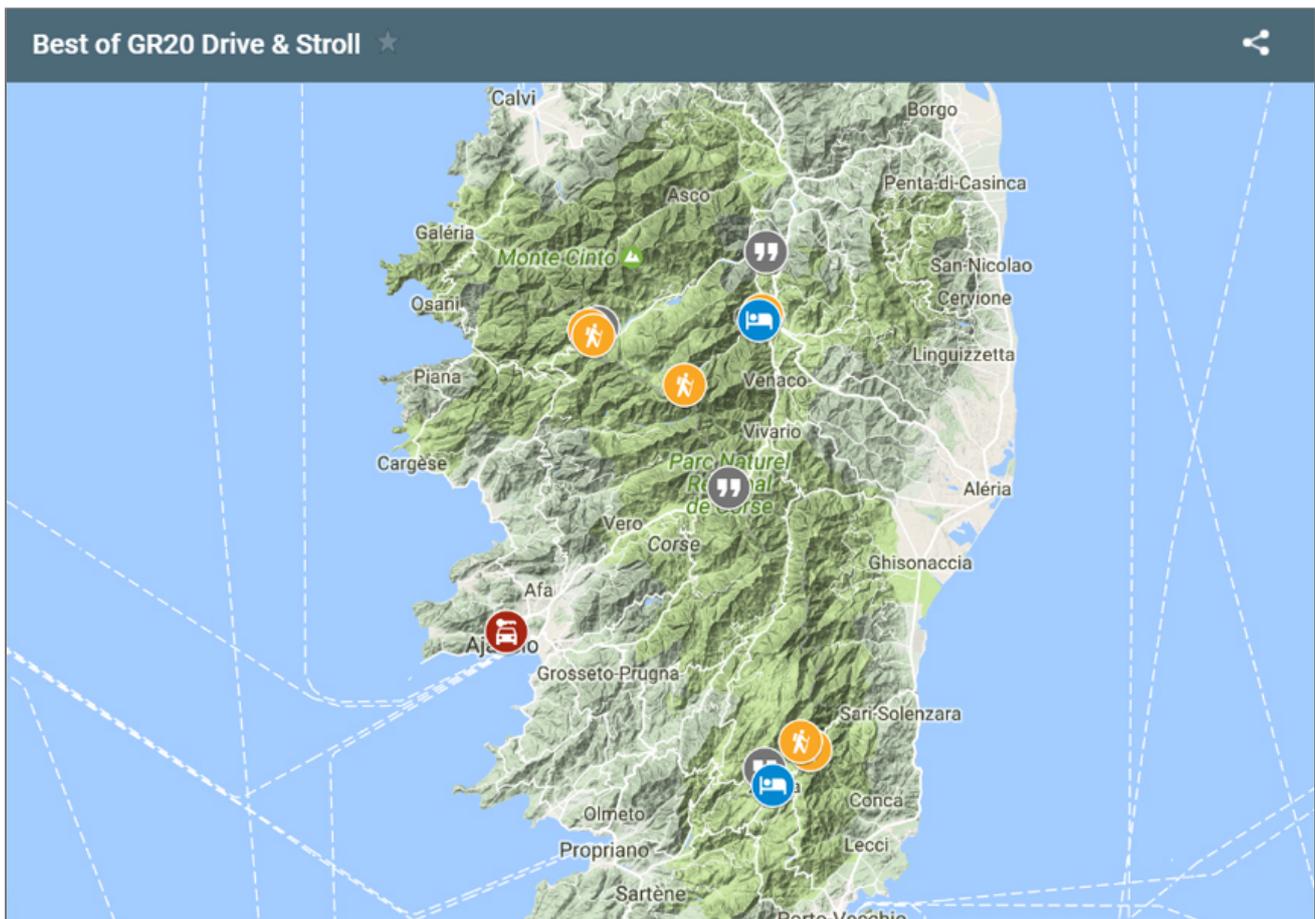
Drive & Stroll - 6 days walking

Comfortable 3* Hotels

- The most challenging walking in Europe
- Comfortable Hotels on the GR20
- Some great stages - self guided
- B grade **AVIS** Car Hire included



The GR20 is the holy grail of walking in Corsica. It traverses the island diagonally following the high granite barrier of mountains that form the natural boundary between the two regions. The trail offers some fantastic scenery and an insight into the working mountain community. You may meet the shepherds that still follow the age-old lifestyle of the transhumance, whereby they pass the summer months with their flocks on the high fresh airy pastures and the winters down by the coast. On this comfortable "taster" version of the GR20, the ambiance is strictly alpine with some of the best bits of the GR20 including the Lac de Nino, Breche de Capitello, Golu Valley and the Bavella needles.



Day 1 - Arrival Ajaccio, Bastia or Figari

Arrive in Corsica, pick up your hire car and drive to the Alta Rocca to the village of Zonza, this will take between 1-3hrs, depending on your arrival airport. Having settled into your hotel, time to explore the village and maybe have lunch in one of the restaurants. In the afternoon, you can simply relax at the swimming pool. Stay at 3* Hotel, Zonza on a B&B Basis.

Day 2 - GR20 Bavella to Paliri

From Zonza village, it is a short 15mins drive up to the Col de Bavella. This is a famous high mountain pass reputed for rock climbing. It possesses a rare beauty, a chaotic jumble of granite. You plunge into an unusual mountain decor and it's surprising to glimpse views of the sea not far away. You take the GR20 to the charming Paliri refuge, this is a great first walk, challenging but not too long. The little refuge is an idyllic spot to enjoy a picnic and take pictures. Stay at 3* Hotel, Zonza on a B&B Basis.

6km, 5h00, +400m, -400m.

Day 3 - GR20 Aiguilles de Bavella

From Zonza village, again drive up to the Col de Bavella. Today you are heading into the granite needles. You plunge into an unusual mountain decor and it's surprising to glimpse views of the sea not far away. You take the GR20 and it gets quite technical! The Aiguilles de Bavella - a spectacular walk in the heart of the tall needles of rose granite, you will pass by different pinnacles, such as, the Acellu, Ariettu, Vacca and the Pargulu. The GR20 trail is sometimes steep and in places assisted by hand chains. You can do a there and back walk to the needles, or make it a long challenging circular walk. Stay at 3* Hotel, Zonza on a B&B Basis.

12km, 9h00, +900m, -900m.

Day 4 - Bavella to Vergio

The drive from Bavella down to the East coast is beautiful. A picturesque, winding road takes you to the sea, then north to Aléria before heading inland to Corte, Corsica's historical capital, from here you head west through the Niolu to Col de Vergio. The driving time is around 4h00. You may decide to stop en route and swim in one of the mountain rivers, explore a sea lagoon, or the Roman site at Aleria. Stay in a hotel at Col de Vergio on a HB basis.

Day 5 - GR20 to Lac de Nino

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 across the high massifs. Situated at 1743m this glacier lake is in a lovely, sheltered bucolic spot, surrounded by a spongy peat, with runnels of water and wells. It is an ideal grazing for ponies, lush grass and fresh air, tinged with the scent of alder and the fragrance of the high mountains. Stay in a hotel at Col de Vergio on a HB basis.

14km, 7h00, +600m, -600m.

Day 6 - Radule bergeries and the GR20

From the Fer à Cheval, you take the GR20 trail through the woods and into the Golu valley. Pass the Radule bergeries and continue to a small bridge, there are many natural swim spots before arriving at the refuge, head up to Ciottollu di I Mori, the highest refuge on the GR nestled beneath the peak of Paglia Orba, and then loop back to the Hotel before taking the drive to Corté. Stay at 3* Corté on a B&B basis, 4* available at a supplement.

15km, 7h00, +651m, -651m.

Day 7 - Melo & Breche de Capitello GR20

The town of Corté is situated on the confluence of two magical gorges the Restonica and the Tavignano. A path leads up to the lake of Melo, made easier early on by two sets of metal steps. You arrive at a large apple shaped, glacier lake surrounded by spongy grass where you press on higher to the abruptly contrasting lake of Capitellu. It is 40m deep, the deepest on the island. Sheer sheets of granite plunge into its depths and there are little traces of vegetation. Higher still you climb above the lake to the Breche de Capitello at 2000m. 3* hotel included, 4* available at a supplement.

6km, 4h30, +500m, -500m.

Day 8 - End of Stay

After breakfast in Corté, you drive back down through the mountains to the airport and drop your hire car off.

This itinerary is an example of the itinerary we aim to adhere to, correct at time of publication. Should situations arise that are beyond our control, such as severe weather conditions, or other factors that could put your safety at risk, it may be possible for the itinerary to be modified.

✓ TECHNICAL INFO

Starts	Arrival Bastia, Figari, Calvi or Ajaccio
Ends	Ends in Bastia, Figari, Calvi or Ajaccio
Access	Ajaccio or Bastia Airport or Port, Figari Airport, Calvi airport. Air tickets and boat reservations available, please ask for a quotation.
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hotel 3*, in a twin/double room, please request at time of reservation.• Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam).• Where staying on a B&B basis, there are restaurants to choose from nearby. Evening meals often based on local specialties, including a starter, a main course and a dessert.• Picnics can be purchased locally <p>Should you have any food allergies, special requests or dietary requirements, please advise at time of booking.</p>
Number of participants	Reservations for minimum of 2 participants. NB. For safety reasons we do not accept solo hiker reservations on Self-Guided treks.
Level	Strenuous. Although more comfortable than the whole GR20, the walks are challenging. You should be comfortable walking with a 35-45 litre rucksack. The walks require good endurance, as there are constant ascents and descents with serious scrambling. The trail is sometimes high and airy, where necessary, there are hand chains to get over steep rock slabs. This requires good balance, agility and co-ordination. If you have vertigo you will find this walk difficult and unpleasant. If you have an injury, it is not the right time to undertake this trek.
Guiding	Self Guided Walking. We provide you with a Travel Dossier complete with IGN map and Topoguide created by our team. During your hike our 24-hour assistance service will also be able to answer all your questions and, if necessary, bring you useful tips for the smooth running of your stay.
Luggage transfers	You need to carry a day sack only with a water bottle, camera, picnic and windproof jacket.

✓ DATES AND PRICES INFORMATION

Prices	Starting from 780 € consult our rates on our website : http://www.corsica-aventure.com/gb/Sejours/GR20-best-walks-tour
Price includes	Accommodation on B&B basis (days 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7), HB on days (4 & 5), 7 days AVIS car hire (B grade) including collision damage waiver, 2 drivers (over 21), unlimited mileage and the possibility to pick up and drop off at different airports, travel dossier with IGN maps and topo guide. Car Hire prices includes unlimited mileage, two named drivers per car, Collision Damage Waiver, Theft Protection Cover and tyre and windscreen damage cover, pick up and drop off at different agencies if required (within Corsica). Booster seats and baby seats are available at a supplement. Drivers must be at least 21 years old and have held a full licence (International) for at least 1 year.
Price does not include	Reservation fee of €5pp, travel insurance, drinks, site visits and transfers not included in the program including travel to Corsica. Car hire upgrades available.

✓ SPECIFICITIES OF THE STAY

Preparing for your walk

We recommend at least 3 sessions a week of aerobic exercise and regular hill walking. It is good to get in some hill walks on rough, uneven terrain, to build up ankle strength. Train to walk downhill, get used to knowing where to put your feet. Aim to progress walking downhill at a reasonable pace, two walking poles will reduce the shock on your legs.

The GR20 is becoming more and more popular, but it remains the most difficult trek in Europe. To overlook this could put inexperienced walkers in danger. Do not overestimate your skills, and prepare your trip properly. The GR20 is for hikers in very good physical shape who already have the experience of high mountain trekking over several days, are able to manage to self guide their walking with all that involves (determination, effort, map skills and orientation, weather, abstraction of the usual comfort, adapted material ...). You should not underestimate the nature of this hike, committing to the GR20, and abandoning after a few days. If in doubt about your skills, we advise you to choose one of our formulas with guide.

Relevant walks

- Ascending **Snowdon** by **Crib Coch**
- Descending from **Blencathra** in the Lakes by **Sharp Edge**
- Scrambling along the **Aonach Eagach** ridge **Glenn Coe**

Climate

Set in the Mediterranean, 170km from France and 85km from mainland Italy, Corsica has a pleasant Mediterranean climate with hot summers and moderate, dry, clear winters. Climate in the mountains though is alpine rather than Mediterranean, Corsica is known for its micro climates, each valley can be different, with the mountains often generating some stormy, unpredictable weather. Corsica also has one of the highest sunshine records in France, with around 7.5 hours a day throughout the year. **It should be noted that mountains see significant snow in the winter, generally lasting into mid June on the highest slopes.**

Forest fires

During the dry and hot summer months, in the event of high winds and certain other climatic conditions, forested areas can be closed to prevent fires. Areas at risk are closed for walkers in order to reduce the high risk to life. Access to these areas is prohibited during a stated time scale which could affect the walking itinerary. On certain routes including the GR20, this could close consecutive stages, and prevent walking. Alternative itineraries may not be available.

Language

Most people in this area of France speak French and know little English. In the villages you can still hear Corsican being spoken. It is good to learn some simple French phrases and greetings as this is always appreciated.

Currency

You will need to bring sufficient cash to cover your personal expenses, including picnics, snacks and drinks. Credit cards are sometimes not accepted in more remote villages. Cash machines can be found in only the larger towns.

Travel to Corsica

Flights

The price of our trips covers the land package only and does not include travel to the island. You will need to book flights which enable you to arrive on Corsica in plenty of time for your holiday, please ask regarding travel options or take a look at our **travel page** and make sure your trip is confirmed prior to purchasing flight tickets.

- **Air Corsica** (flights from London Stansted, Paris Orly & Roissy CDG, Toulouse, Marseille, Nice, Lyon, etc) www.aircorsica.com
- **Easyjet** (flights from Paris Roissy CDG, Lyon, Geneva, London, Manchester...) www.easyjet.com

Overland & Sea

There are a number of Overland options including self drive and taking the train, then the ferry. There are ports around Corsica including Ajaccio, Bastia, L'Île Rousse, Propriano and Porto Vecchio with regular ferry services from mainland France & Italy.

- **Corsica Linea** operates from Marseille. www.corsicalinea.com
- **La Meridionale** operates from Marseille. www.lameridionale.fr
- **Corsica Ferries** operates from Toulon, Nice, Savone, Livorno & Piombino & certain Sardinian. www.corsica-ferries.fr

Getting about Corsica

There are limited public buses and a good train service for getting travelling around the island. The train runs from Ajaccio via Corte to Bastia, with a branch line separating at Ponte Leccia for Calvi and the Balagne. Bus services are restricted and even in the summer months don't necessarily offer daily departures. A very comprehensive independent website in French and English Corsica Bus www.corsicabus.org show you the options available. It is updated as soon as the timetables become public, please ask for information on public transport, taxi and car hire options with **AVIS**.

GR20 Equipment

There is no opportunity on this trip to buy new equipment. Ensuring you have the right gear is essential for everyone's safety. It can be equally dangerous to carry too much gear that is not useful. If you are weighed down this adds to fatigue and you will be unable to accelerate your rhythm in bad weather.

What to bring and pack

Walking

- Hiking boots or fell shoes, with soles in excellent condition, Socks
- Shorts and T shirts, Swimwear
- Good quality waterproof Gortex jacket & Waterproof trousers (optional)
- Thermal hat and Thermal gloves, & Warm fleece
- Sun protection (sunhat, sun cream, lip protection, sunglasses)
- 2 litre platypus/camel-bag (A platypus system helps you to drink enough and saves time. Mix in energy drinks or electrolyte if this is something you do normally)
- Basic first aid kit with blister repair (moleskin or compeed)
- Two walking poles & Headlamp

First Aid

A first aid kit is required. We would suggest adding to its usual contents, immodium for diarrhoea, re-hydration salts (Dioralite), Anti-histamine tablets or cream and plenty of blister protection.

Accommodation

We try to describe our accommodation and their surroundings as accurately as possible. Although every effort is made to ensure the information is correct, some facilities may not be available at certain times of year, or at times when maintenance work is required or events are being held. Check in time is generally accepted as mid afternoon, with check out by 10am. Half board is usually on a set menu basis and breakfasts are buffet unless otherwise stated. The style and décor of each individual hotel accommodation will inevitably differ across our programmes.

Water supplies

You can drink water from springs en-route. Spring water is generally safe to drink on the GR20 but care should be taken in drought periods and you should never drink from rivers or streams. **We advise you to take purification tablets in case of emergencies.**

Wildlife and Insects.

Mosquitoes, wasps, ants, and other insects are common in Corsica, and in the heart of the countryside, rodents, cows, goats, foxes and wild pigs are abundant and care should be taken around them, especially with food. There are no dangerous snakes in Corsica.

Bed bugs are becoming an increasing problem throughout the world on hiking trails and the GR20 is no exception. About 4mm (1/4 in) long, 2.5mm wide and a brown colour, they are notorious travellers, and walkers are the ideal way to spread infestation. Whilst bed bugs do not carry any known diseases, bites can be very uncomfortable and cause painful rashes in some people. Guardians and hoteliers are well aware of these pests and are extra vigilant in the prevention of an infestation. If you do get bitten, you should assume that your belongings are carrying bugs and/or eggs. Once infested, bed bugs are very difficult to get rid of and on returning from the trek, you should always be aware that your luggage could harbour them. The presence of animals or insects in or near any accommodation is out of our control.

✓ TAILOR YOUR HOLIDAY TO YOUR NEEDS

Our holidays are created to offer the best quality, at the fairest price. They can be tailored to your personal requirements.

We can

- modify the itinerary or difficulty level of the holiday
- increase or shorten the duration of the holiday
- organize extra visits and activities
- benefit from additional transfers
- upgrade accommodation

✓ OUR SERVICES

We offer several services to facilitate the organization of your holiday in Corsica.

- Reservation of hotel nights before or after your walking holiday
- Car rentals & bike hire
- Equipment Rental - sleeping bags, poles and backpacks
- Organization of taxi and train transfers
- Left luggage service

Verified by
VISA
MasterCard.
SecureCode.



✓ INSURANCE

To EU Nationals, we offer a multi-risk insurance with **APRIL** (cancellation, assistance and repatriation) particularly adapted to the practice of hiking. This insurance is optional and must be taken out at the time of reservation, costing 4.00% of the price of the holiday. The insurance covers your package booked through us and will not cover additional parts of your holiday such as flights, etc, not booked separately.

✓ RESERVATIONS

Our site offers secure online bookings, on reservation a deposit of 30% of the total cost of your holiday will be requested. The balance is be paid at the latest 1 month before departure.

Payment can be made by Mastercard or Visa and can also be made by International Bank Transfer.

✓ CORSICA AVENTURE

The team at Corsica Aventure are amongst the most experienced in Corsica, with the proven ability to set up and operate a wide programme of different walking and activity holidays. The company is based in Ajaccio, we have a whole team of guides, drivers and logistics staff on the ground as well as a team of people at the office in Ajaccio ready to help in any eventuality. When you contact us, by phone or e-mail, or visit our office, you will find the help and advice you need, from someone who has actually done the trip and can give you the benefit of their first-hand experience.

Corsica Aventure is a fully licensed Travel Agency registered with the French Government Tourist Board **ATOUT FRANCE**. You can book your holiday with us in complete confidence that all monies you pay for a trip are fully protected.