

VILLAGES OF THE BALAGNE

Technical sheet - Self Guided Walking - 8 days, 7 nights - Point to Point - 6 days walking

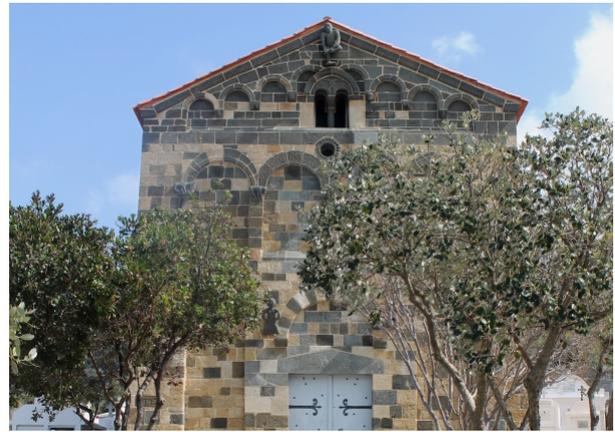
SELF GUIDED WALKING 8 days / 7 nights

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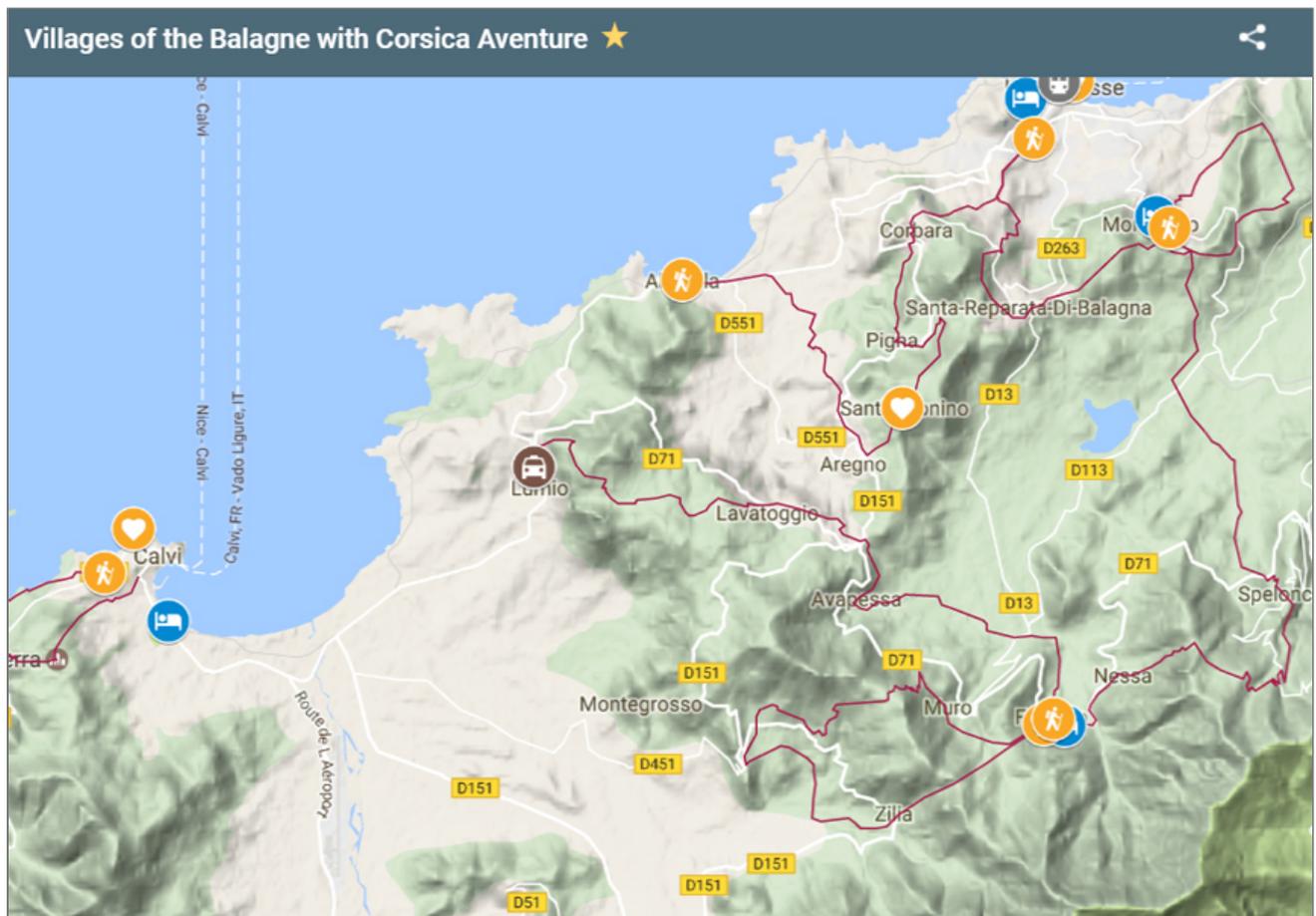
Point to Point - 6 days walking

Comfortable 3* & 4* hotels

- Comfortable hotels
- Highly flexible walking & sightseeing options
- Stay in pretty hilltop villages, never far from the sea
- L'Île Rousse, Monticello, Sant Antonino, Calvi



The Balagne is a great introduction to Corsica and this holiday explores this beautiful region, from the coast to the high hillside villages. Backed by mountains that dominate the coastline, the silver sand beaches are also a favourite with holiday makers and you will bathe in the perfumes, colours and contrasting landscapes that have earned the Balagne a prestigious following. Your holiday starts in the beautiful seaside town of L'Île Rousse. Explore the town and the red island, that gives the town its name. After a couple of nights by the coast, you head to the hills, through the garden of Corsica, along old mule tracks, through pastures and olive groves, past perched villages trapped in time.



Day 1 - L'Ile Rousse

Your holiday starts in L'Ile Rousse, on the North West coast. Check into your hotel before exploring the cobbled streets of the old town, the cafés of the Place des Platanes, one of the beautiful beaches and the 'Red Isle' that gives the town's name. The town was founded by Pascal Paoli, in response to the Genoese at Calvi, and has a wonderful lived in feel. Optional coastal walk to the Parc de Saleccia, a beautiful Mediterranean garden.

Day 2 - Algajola to L'Ile Rousse

Today is a pleasant stroll through the Balagne, you take the train to the village of Algajola. The tracks hug the coast, and the views are sublime on this short 15 min ride. From Algajola you climb between dry stone walls to the artists village of Pigna, the narrow streets of the village are home to various crafts. From Pigna you take a path to Corbara, and pass through narrow alleyways of the village of Corbara before dropping down to return to Ile Rousse.

15km, 6h00, +620m, -620m.

Day 3 - L'Ile Rousse to Monticello

Your walking starts at L'Ile Rousse, before climbing along old mule tracks via the hamlets of Santa Reperata to Monticello, you can even do a detour to the Cima Sant'Angelo at 562m for a true birds eye view. The village of Monticello is perched high above L'Ile Rousse and is home to many a French celebrity. The walking is very flexible and we offer a circular walk around the village with views over L'Ile Rousse and the Regino valley. Stay in a charming hotel in Monticello.

14km, 5h30, +545m, -380m.

Day 4 - Speluncato to Monticello

After a short transfer, you are dropped in the perched village of Speluncato. After exploring this high village, you have a choice of walks today via perched villages and paths that down drop onto the Regino plain, between market gardens, past old chapels and ruins of long forgotten hamlets before climbing again to the village of Monticello. Another night in the heart of the village of Monticello.

14km, 6h00, +400m, -705m.

Day 5- Corbara to Lumio

From the Convent at Corbara, you pass through the villages of the Haute Balagne including the village of Sant Antonino, one of the most beautiful villages on the island before walking via the village of Cateri, past a Convent and washhouses to Lavatoggio. From here we follow on across lofty land, climbing to the abandoned village of Occi high above Lumio. The village was deserted in the 20th Century, when no road could be built for access. The views from here towards Calvi are sublime. A transfer takes you from Lumio to Calvi for your nights stop.

13km, 5h30, +447m, -560m.

Day 6 - Calvi to La Revellata

There are a few walks to do in Calvi. The first is a beautiful walk on the Revellata peninsula, an unspoilt area of maquis and sea cliffs. Head around the coast towards the lighthouse, a real highlight of the trip. This protected area is a haven for wildlife, with much flora and fauna that is found only here. The walk passes along sea cliffs and down to unspoilt coves, your journey back can be extended to take in Notre Dame de la Serra, high above Calvi, this beautiful chapel is the ideal spot for a few shots.

11km, 5h00, +210m, -210m.

Day 7 - Capu di a Veta

Relax today or take a challenging walk to the summit of Capu di a Veta and the Austrian cross at 700m above Calvi for which you will need to leave early but the views are sublime. If you want an easier day, just enjoy Calvi, hire a bike, take time at the beach or explore the Genoese citadelle and town.

11km, 5h00, +700m, -700m.

Day 8 - Calvi

End of holiday in Calvi, extra nights and transfers available, please ask for details.

This itinerary is correct at time of publication. Should situations arise that are beyond our control, such as severe weather conditions, or other such factors that could put your safety at risk, the itinerary may be modified.

✓ TECHNICAL INFO

Starts	At your first hotel in L'Île Rousse.
Ends	At your hotel in Calvi after breakfast.
Access	Calvi Airport or L'Île Rousse Port, Bastia Airport or Port. If you arrive into Ajaccio, please ask for details of transport connections. Air tickets and boat reservations available, please ask for a quotation.
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hotel 3* & 4*, in a twin/double room, please request at time of reservation.• Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam).• Evening meals night 3 (based on local specialties, including a starter, a main course and a dessert). <p>Should you have any food allergies, dietary requirements or special requests, 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	<p>Gentle 3-4 hours of effective walking with ascents. Accessible to occasional walkers and to anyone in good health, you don't have to be a seasoned hiker to enjoy these walks.</p> <p>Moderate Involve longer walks, generally from 4-6 hours a day. The nature of the terrain presents little technical difficulty but some previous hill walking experience is useful. The ascents will vary from 400m to 800m altitude gain per day.</p> <p>See our level ratings.</p> <p>There are two options in the walking notes provided offering greater flexibility.</p>
Guiding	Self-Guided Walking. We provide you with a Travel Dossier complete with A4 copies of the IGN maps and a walking guide created by our team. During your hike our 24-hour assistance service will also be able to answer all your questions and, if necessary, assist you with the smooth running of your stay.
Luggage transfers	During this walk you will carry only a small day sack with a water bottle, camera, picnic, trailfood, sun and wet weather gear. Luggage is transported by vehicle, point to point.

✓ DATES AND PRICES INFORMATION

Prices	Starting from 960 € consult our rates on our website : http://www.corsica-aventure.com/gb/Sejours/balagne-village-walking
Price includes	Accommodation on B&B (days 1, 2, 5, 6, 7) HB (days 3,4), local internal transfers, luggage transfers, travel dossier with IGN maps and topo guide.
Price does not include	Reservation fee of €5pp, travel insurance, drinks, picnics, site visits and transfers to L'Île Rousse and from Calvi, travel to Corsica.

✓ SPECIFICITIES OF THE STAY

Preparing for your trip

It is really important to get prepared physically for your trip. The more time you put in before you leave, the more you will get out of the walking. You should do regular aerobic exercise in preparation for your holiday. Walking regularly with a rucksack up and downhill is the best way to make sure you are fit enough and enjoy the trip to the fullest.

Climate

Set in the Mediterranean, 170km from France and 85km from mainland Italy, Corsica has a pleasant Mediterranean climate with hot dry summers and moderate dry, clear winters. Climate in the mountains is alpine rather than Mediterranean. Corsica is known for its micro climates, each valley can be different, with the proximity of the mountains and the sea 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, making it the ideal destination for active outdoor adventures. It should be noted that mountains see significant snow in the winter, generally lasting into May on the highest slopes.

Sun hours (Average)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Corsica	4	5	6	8	10	11	12	11	9	7	5	4
London	2	1	1	2	4	5	6	7	6	6	5	3

MaxTemperatures (°C)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Corsica	13	14	16	18	21	25	27	28	26	22	18	15
London	10	7	6	7	10	13	17	20	22	21	19	14

Forest fires

During the summer months, in the event of high winds and in hot and dry 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 & Mare e Monti, this could close consecutive stages, and prevent walking. Alternative itineraries may not be available.

Rivers & Lakes

Rivers and lakes may be a tempting spot for a dip on your walking holiday but you do so at your own risk. It is important to be aware of weather in the mountains around you that could suddenly and significantly change the water level and flow of a mountain stream. It is also important to remember that sudden immersion in cold water can produce a shock which can very quickly lead to drowning.

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, Toulouse, Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Nantes, etc) www.aircorsica.com
- **Easyjet** (flights from Paris Roissy CDG, Lyon, Geneva, London, Manchester...) www.easyjet.com
- **British Airways** (flights from London Heathrow) www.ba.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 & La Meridionale operate from Marseille. www.corsicalinea.com & www.lameridionale.fr
- Corsica Ferries operates from Toulon, Nice, Savone, Livorno & Sardinia. www.corsica-ferries.co.uk

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 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. Please ask for information on public transport, taxi and car hire options.



What to bring and pack

Equipment Warning – Please note, there is no opportunity on this trip to buy new equipment. Ensuring you have the right gear is essential for your safety and the enjoyment of your holiday.

Bags

- Small day pack for a water bottle, camera, picnic and waterproof
- Rucksack or suitcase for main luggage (15kg max per person)

For the walking

- Good walking shoes with an excellent grip sole & Walking socks
- Warm fleece, Shorts or trousers, and T shirts
- Swim wear & Microfibre Towel
- Sun and rain protection including sunglasses, Sun hat and sun cream
- Waterproof jacket (hat and gloves optional)
- 2 Walking poles
- Platapus or camel bag (2 litres capacity) or water bottle
- Personal first aid kit with good blister protection
- For your picnics - a good penknife & some plastic bags

Relaxation time

- Trainers or open sandals, Warm Fleece and casual wear

Picnics

Where picnics are not provided, there are grocery stores available to purchase your picnic for the following day. At certain hotels, they can be provided at a supplement. If a pre-booked picnic is important to you, please do not hesitate to ask.

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, earlier when a transfer involved. Half board is usually on a set menu basis and breakfasts are continental unless otherwise stated. The style and décor of each individual hotel accommodation will inevitably differ across our programmes.

Communication

As mobile phone coverage is sporadic across Corsica due to the mountainous terrain, there could be no coverage in more remote areas. We advise that you check with your operator that your phone is suitable for use overseas. If you are coming from the US, Australasia or Asia, it may be advisable to purchase a local SIM card.

Early & Late season

Towns and villages in Corsica may have limited facilities available at the beginning and end of season. If a destination has a year round local population you are likely to find supermarkets and grocers shops open throughout the season, but more seasonal activities including Restaurants, could be closed outside of the summer months.

Wildlife, Insects & Pests.

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. About 4mm (1/4 in) long, 2.5mm wide and a brown colour, they are notorious travellers, and holiday makers 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. Bed bugs can be in the simplest or most luxurious hotels and all 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.

Insurance

Before you embark on this holiday you must be fully insured.

✓ 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
- Equipement 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.