



MINI ISLAND MYSTERY

Technical sheet - Self Guided Walking - 5 days, 4 nights - 3 days walking

SELF GUIDED WALKING 5 days / 4 nights

Level 1 2 3 4

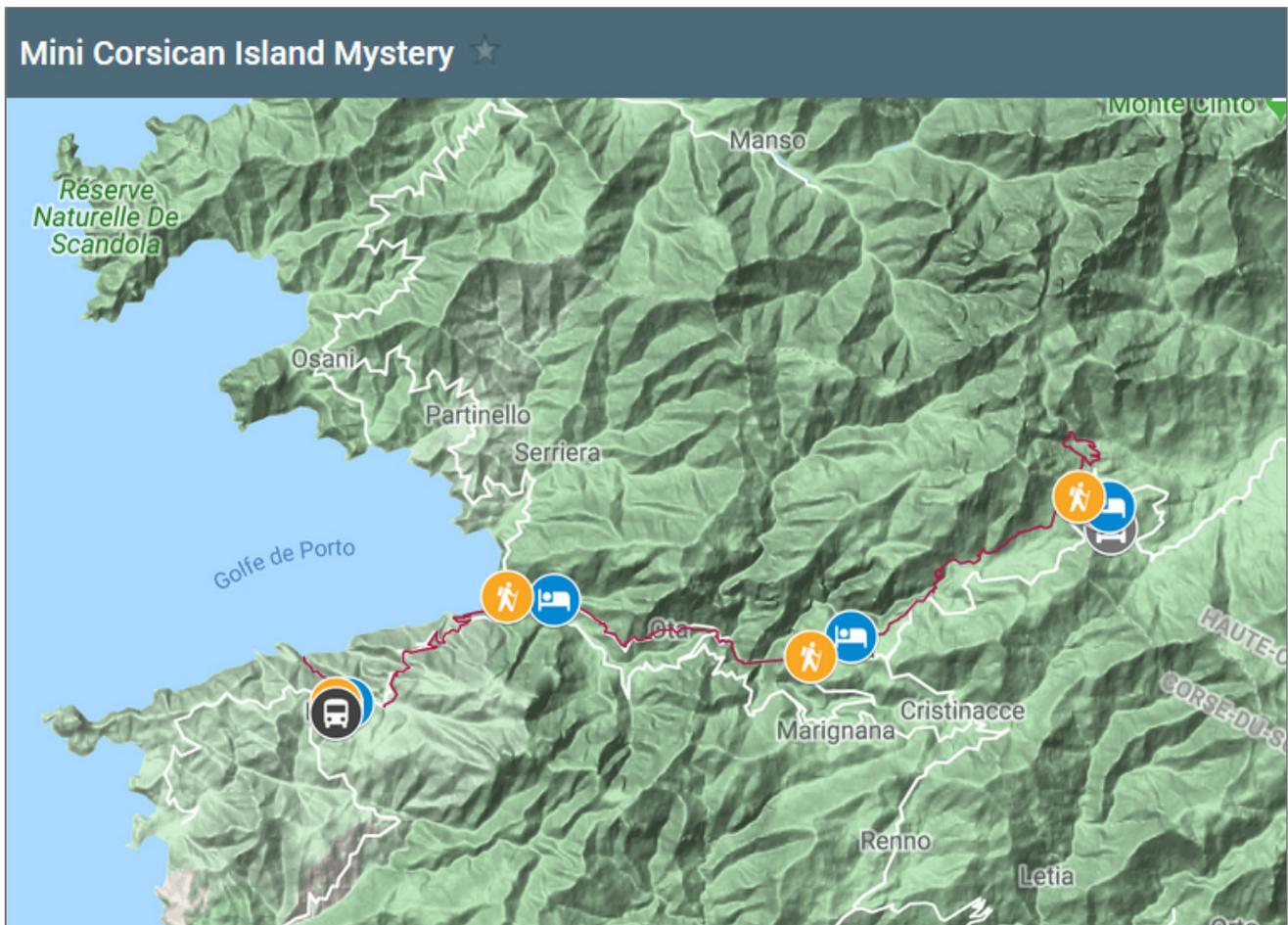
3 days walking

Comfortable 2 & 3* hotels

- Rural village life from mountains to the sea
- Gulf of Porto UNESCO World Heritage site
- Comfortable accommodation and good hearty cuisine
- Evisa, Ota, Golfe de Porto, Piana



If you have less than a week to do the trip, this is a mini version of one of our classic Corsican walks. Leading through forests and villages, you will discover a land little changed in time. Corsica is a mountain in the Sea, this is an opportunity to enjoy every aspect of the island and to discover the extreme contrasts. You can bathe in the perfumes, colours and contrasting landscapes that have earned Corsica its reputation. The remote villages, chestnut forests and gorges are a pleasure to discover as the mountains plunge abruptly into the sea.



Day 1 - Ajaccio to Vergio

Arriving at Ajaccio, it is just a two hour taxi journey into the mountains. We can collect you from your hotel or the airport, and we take you to your first nights stop, the Castel di Vergio. (*Taxi at a supplement*). If the transfer is early there is time walk to the Radule bergeries along part of the GR20, into the Golo valley, below the Paglia Orba. Stay in the mountail lodge hotel Castel di Vergio on Half Board basis, with picnic for tomorrow.

5km, 2h30 , +320m, -320m.

Day 2 - Vergio to Evisa

The Col de Vergio is a high mountain road pass, it is marked with a forbidding statue and is the boundary point between the island's north and south departments. The views are majestic; the peaks are high and loom above. The trail goes down hill through the Aitone pine forest to the outskirts of Evisa. You will pass the piscine naturelle, a big rock pool and local swim spot, then continue down through the chestnut woods that mark your approach to the village. Some of the thick knarled old trunks have been standing here for nearly two thousand years. You will arrive in the centre of Evisa, situated at 830m altitude, it's a vibrant mountain village with a healthy climate. It is unusually close to the sea for a village of this height and is known locally as 'the pearl of the mountains'. Stay in the Auberge style, Hotel Aitone 2* on Half Board.

11.5km, 5h00, +80m, -720m.

Day 3 - Evisa to Porto Ota

From Evisa, an old path descends through the Spelunca gorge, it zig-zags back and forth leading into the depths. You will come to a high arched Genoese bridge. The path leads alongside the torrent, towards Ota. This is a village that couples mountain architecture with a hot Mediterranean climate and flora. Braying donkeys, hunting dogs, villagers working in their gardens, bright bougainvillaea, lemon and fig trees all add to the colour. The delicious smells from the Ceccaldi restaurant beckon, perhaps you will get tempted in, take a moment to sit and unwind at 'Chez Felix'. From the terrace you can see the succession of high pink hued sea cliffs not so far off now. Your route leaves Ota, heading swiftly down to the coast. The view towards the Gulf of Porto is a kaleidoscope of colour: red cliffs, shock blue sea and the bold silhouette of the Genoese tower. On your way downhill you can find all the plants that you associate with the heat and the Mediterranean, deep blue black island lavender, pale pink cistus and rock sedum. Stay in a comfortable 3* in Porto. You may choose to take an afternoon trip towards Scandola, this is the most reputed part of the coastline, the wild natural beauty is spectacular. Taxi and boat trip available from Ota (at a supplement).

14km, 6h00, +320m, -1170m.

Day 4 - Porto Ota to Piana

This dramatic coastline is classed by UNESCO a site of world beauty. From Porto a taxi takes you towards Piana, you climb into the Calanques' where you will discover an incredible site of granite needles, tortured shapes and rock sculpted formations dotted with maritime pine trees. The walk above the coast road follows the old mule path, that used to link Piana with Ota, offering some spectacular views. Below lays the rugged coastline and its many creeks. Depending on the season, you can find foxgloves, tall white asphodels and delicate wild cyclamen. Stay in the comfortable 3* Hotel Scandola on a Half Board basis. For an alternative walk, at a supplement, we can drop you on the Capu Rossu headland for the most spectacular west coast walk to the Genoese "Tour de Turghia", perched high on the red sea cliffs, high above the Golfe de Porto. The views are wonderous, over the sea and a lost landscape of farmsteads, threshing circles and olive groves recently restored showing the amazing pastoral history of this area.

12km, 5h00, +520m, -140m.

Day 5 - Piana

End of holiday in Piana, extra nights and transfers by bus or taxi to Ajaccio 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 hotel in Vergio (transfer or bus and transfer available from Ajaccio), parking available at hotel.
Ends	After breakfast in your hotel in Piana (transfer to Ajaccio or Vergio and extra nights available).
Access	Ajaccio Airport or port. If you arrive into Calvi or Bastia, 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 2 & 3* and Chambres d'Hôtes, in a twin/double rooms, please request at time of reservation.• Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam).• Evening meals nights 1, 2, & 4 (based on local specialties, including a starter, a main course and a dessert). <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	Moderate. Involves 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. See our level ratings.
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 540 € consult our rates on our website : http://www.corsica-aventure.com/gb/Sejours/Mini-Island-Mystery
Price includes	Accommodation on half board (days 1, 2, & 4), picnic on day 2, luggage transfers, travel dossier with A4 copies of IGN maps and walking notes.
Price does not include	Reservation fee of €5pp, travel insurance, drinks, certain picnics, site visits and transfers to Ajaccio or Calvi Piana, 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.