

## Corse : Calacuccia to Piana

*8 days, 7 nights*

*6 days walking*

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.

We start our walking in the very heart of the island in the Niolu valley which is completely encircled by the highest mountain summits. The Paglia Orba and the Cinto tower above dominating the skyline. You walk through pine tree forests, with the ever present clear emerald waters of the rushing torrents, cascading chutes and rock pools.

The remote villages, chestnut forests and gorges are a pleasure to discover. The weeks walking cumulates at the magnificent gulf of Porto where the majestic rose hued mountains plunge abruptly into the sea.

### 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](mailto:info@tour-aventure.com) - Web site : [www.tour-aventure.com](http://www.tour-aventure.com)

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## Program

### Day 1 : 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 , dénivelé plus : from +140m to +340m, dénivelé moins : from -140m to -340m.

### Day 2 : Ajaccio to Calacuccia

An early morning transfer from Ajaccio to the Scala di Santa Régina, situated just outside of Corte. The transfer to Corte will be organised either by train or vehicle, at our discretion. From Corte a vehicle transfer will take you to the start of the Scala di Santa Régina.

### The Scala Santa Régina

The Scala Santa Régina valley. This trail is of great historical importance, it was the path used by shepherds leading their herds in and out of the Niolu valley. It winds through a decor of granite cliffs, along a superb balcony path to the Erco génois bridge and the village of Corsica. Descent to Calacuccia village, passing through old chestnut groves.

Distance : 10km, duration : 4h00, dénivelé plus : +700m, dénivelé moins : -340m.

### Day 3 : Calacuccia to Castel di Vergio

Walking from Calacuccia, you cross the village of Albertacce. Taking a path from the village outskirts, you will pass by an old chestnut mill and cross a Genoese bridge, following a trail that winds its way up through a wonderful forest. You will be able to see Calasima across the valley, the highest village on the island. For most of the walk, you will be flanking the mountain side, staying more or less on the level and enjoying startling views across the Niolu valley and back down to the lake you have just left behind. Depending on the month, the vegetation always has something special to offer.

Distance : 13km, duration : 6h00, dénivelé plus : +750m, dénivelé moins : -200m.

### Day 4 : Castel de Vergio to Evisa

A walk from Castel di Vergio up to Col di Vergio, the dividing high mountain pass that separates the two counties of Corsica. From the col, the trail leads down hill to the village of Evisa. Situated at 830m, it is unusually close to the sea for a village of this height. It benefits from a privileged climate and is known locally as the 'pearl of the mountains.' You will descend through the wonderful pine tree forest of Aitone, through a transition of different trees and vegetation. As you approach the village you take a trail that leads through an ancient chestnut forest. The village still exploits its chestnuts, keeping up the traditional local dishes and chestnut specialities.

Distance : 12km, duration : 5h30 , dénivelé plus : +200m, dénivelé moins : -650m.

### Day 5 : Evisa to Porto

From Evisa you walk down the Spelunca gorge, the path zig-zags back and forth leading into the depths. You follow the torrent to a Genoese bridge where you start the walk up through the maquis, towards the vibrant village of Ota. A village

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that couples mountain architecture with a hot Mediterranean climate and flora. Braying donkeys, hunting dogs, villagers working in their gardens, bright bougainvillea, lemon and fig trees all add colours to the picture. The delicious smell of the Ceccaldi restaurant beckoning and the rose coloured granite sea cliffs getting ever closer. Perhaps you will get tempted to sit and unwind on 'Chez Felix's terrace to marvel at the succession of high mountains so close to the sea. Your route leaves Ota heading swiftly down to the coast. The view towards the Gulf of Porto is a kaleidoscope of colour: red cliffs, shocking blue sea and the bold Genoese tower. The walk is downhill and 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. Impatience will mount as you draw closer to the sea.

Distance : 14km, duration : 6h00, dénivelé plus : +320m, dénivelé moins : -1170m.

#### Day 6 : Porto to Piana

With just 4h30 walking today you may choose to spend your morning in Porto to enjoy some of the sea activities. When the sea is calm there are regular boat trips towards Scandola, this is the most reputed part of the coastline and the wild natural beauty is spectacular. It is possible to explore on your own with snorkel and mask, or for the more adventurous there is scuba diving. If you decide to walk directly to Piana in the morning it is possible to walk down to the small sandy cove of Ficaghjola in the afternoon. Leaving Porto you cross over the bridge that links Porto to the harbour. You walk along the beach that is bordered by a eucalyptus wood, then take a path that is just above sea level and gives a balcony view down onto the clear blue waters, as well as splendid views of the indented rugged coastline and its many creeks. It is 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 rock sculpted formations dotted with maritime pine trees.

Distance : 12km, duration : 5h00, dénivelé plus : +520m, dénivelé moins : -140m.

#### Day 7 : Piana to Ajaccio

You can choose to take a transfer back from Piana to Ajaccio by public bus either in the morning, or early afternoon. It is possible to do a short walk from Piana to the cove of Ficaghjola.

#### 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, dénivelé plus : +450m, dénivelé moins : -450m.

#### Day 8 : End of holiday in Ajaccio

End of holiday in Ajaccio.

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 2008/04/01 to 2008/06/30 : Price per person in Double room 610 €, Price per person in Single room 696 €
- From 2008/07/01 to 2008/08/31 : Price per person in Double room 641 €, Price per person in Single room 744 €
- From 2008/09/01 to 2008/10/31 : Price per person in Double room 610 €, Price per person in Single room 696 €

### **Supplements/reductions :**

- No luggage assistance : 70 €/pers - Private transfer Piana/Ajaccio : 80 €/pers

### **Price includes :**

Half board accommodation, (no evening meal on day 1 and 7), internal transfers, baggage transfers between hotels, the dossier containing your maps, route notes and all necessary details needed for your holiday.

### **Price does not include :**

Unforeseen additional transfers, drinks, picnics, holiday insurance and travel, evening meal day 1 and 7.

### **Encadrement**

Self-guided walking.

### **Carrying**

You will need to carry a day sack only, with your water bottle, camera, picnic and gortex jacket.

Our bag-moving service means you can travel light during your walks.

Your main luggage - will be transported by vehicle between the different night stops. We ask you to please limit your main luggage to between 10-15kg to facilitate the transportation and carrying for the taxis. It is also important to consider that it may be necessary to carry your bags short distances at the start or end of your holiday. (Consult with us for left luggage facilities)

### **Accommodation/food**

#### **Accommodation**

- Half board In double room in hotels or chambres d'hotes (except day 1 and 7).

#### **Food**

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, butter, jam)
- Evening meals in gites, often based on local specialities.
- Pic-nics and drinks not included.

### **Starting point/end**

Starting point : At your hotel in Ajaccio.

End : At the hotel after breakfast in Ajaccio.

### **Organisation**

We propose a self guided, independent formula. You choose your departure date and we will take care of all the rest

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between the initial rendez-vous time through to the dispersion point. We transport your bags between the hotels, provide the maps and good walking route notes. This is a way of enjoying complete flexibility, you dictate the pace and rhythm of your holiday. It is important to point out that a few times during the holiday you will have to wheel or carry your luggage a short distance. Make sure your luggage is adapted for this.

### **Dates**

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

Departures on alternative days are possible on request.

### **Number of participants**

From 2 people

### **Access**

Ajaccio Airport or port.

### **Bibliography**

The Rough Guide

The Granite Island – Dorothy Carrington

### **Practical info**

#### **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**

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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](http://www.sncm.fr)

Corsica Ferries : Departures from Nice or Toulon

Tel : 0033 (0)825 095 095

Web site : [www.corsicaferries.com/Pcorsica.srv](http://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 Plane :

Air France : tel 0870 142 4343

Web site : [www.airfrance.com/uk](http://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 Eurocorse 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 Eurocorse 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

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## **To carry in your luggage**

### - Bags

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

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

### - 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

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  
some plastic bags

### - Sun and rain protection

Sunglasses and sun cream

Sun hat

Wind and waterproof jacket (Gore-tex stlye)

### - Relaxing time

Trainers or open sandals

Warm Fleece and casual wear

## **With your service**

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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