

GRAND TOUR OF CORSICA

The Greeks have given the name Kallisté to Corsica, which means « the island of beauty ». Discover its secret charms and its variety of landscapes in this Grand Tour of Corsica, a mix of hike, rivers and sea, cultural and historical visits, and local products tasting ... an unforgettable trip!



PROGRAM OF THE GRAND TOUR

Day 01 – Arrival at Bastia airport in the evening

Monday, 3rd of October

We welcome you at the airport at 9PM and we organize the transfer to the hotel in Saint-Florent (40 minutes).

No dinner planned at the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel in Saint-Florent

Day 02 - Gulf of Saint-Florent and Agriates desert

Tuesday, 4th of October

Boat trip (20 minutes) to the beautiful beach of Lotu. The Agriates desert is a wild and preserved peninsula, with sandy beaches and turquoise water, covered with dense Mediterranean maquis. Return to Saint-Florent by boat after the picnic.

In the afternoon, cultural visit of Saint-Florent, the Corsican Saint-Tropez: its fortress, the cathedral, the harbour and the nice shops and local products.

Lunch: picnic on the beach

Accommodation: Hotel in Saint Florent

USEFUL INFORMATION

LEVEL

2

Elevation: from 150m to 300 m

Walking duration < 3 hours

Altitude < 1000 m

Backpack < 6 Kg (30 litres max)

Distance from 5 to 10 km / day

WEATHER

Best season is from March to November.

Temperatures can vary from 30° to 10°.

OUR SPIRIT AT ORGAYA

We propose outdoor activities, guided by a professional, graduated by a state diploma and with knowledge into geography, prehistory, ecology and coaching.

Performance is not our goal. We rather choose a relaxed approach. We like to share our knowledge, experience and our passion of nature acquired during many hikes in the mountains. We listen and adapt to your needs to build a program that suits your physical and financial possibilities and your points of interests. Our groups are composed of 5 and 15 persons maximum.

Our hikes are classified into 6 flavours depending into their main orientation:

- Nature
- Culture
- Discovery
- Family
- Technicity
- Sport

Day 03 - Cape Corse, villages and beaches

Wednesday, 5th of October

Bus transfer to Macinaggio: 1h30

Discover the main French port for crayfish!

You can have lunch and crayfish in the many nice restaurants on the port, or have a picnic on the beach.

In the afternoon, visit of the picturesque village at the very end of the Cape Corse.

Lunch: restaurant (not included)

Accommodation: Hotel in Saint-Florent

Day 04 - Corte and the Restonica Gorges

Thursday, 6th of October

Bus transfer : 1h30

Though Corte is a small town, it used to be the capital of the island from 1755-1769 under Pasquale Paoli - a name you will hear often in Corsica. A local guide will lead us through the old town and we'll reach the belvedere, which offers views on the famous valleys of Restonica. We will visit the Citadelle, a fortress of the XVth century dominating the town and a regional museum showing the history, the economy and the culture of the inhabitants.

In the afternoon, walk along the Tavignanu river and swim.

Lunch: picnic

Accommodation: Hotel in Corte

Day 05 - Castagniccia « Mare e Monti »

Friday, 7th of October

Bus transfer: 1h15

Visit of the villages at the heart of the chestnut forests, and visit of the source of Orezza... An easy and lovely hike with the tasting of local products like chestnut, cheese and wine amidst the nature of Castagniccia.

Lunch: picnic

Accommodation: Hotel in Corte

Day 06 - The forest of Aitone

Saturday, 8th of October

Transfer to Porto: 2 h

We stop in Evisa, for a visit of the village and a discovery of Aitone and its Laricio pines, chestnut trees and river pools (1h30, easy walk).

Lunch: picnic

Accommodation: Hotel in Porto

« O Corsica, sublimely wild
and riven by the winds and waves [...] »

J.L. Stoddard



Agriates' desert

GEOLOGY

Corsica is divided into two main geological units: Crystalline Corsica and Alpine Corsica. 25 million years ago, Sardinia and Corsica started to split from the continent in the direction of Italy, thus creating the basin of the Mediterranean Sea.



GEOLOGY

Corsica has an incredible variety of rock formations compared to the size of the island. On this territory of less than 200 kms from North to South and 80 kms maximum in width, one can find the same rock of the Esterel, or some limestone like on the Northern part of the island.

The shortest distance between France and Corsica is 164 km, between Cap Martin and the Cape Revellata in Corsica. Italy is nearer, only 83 kms and 27 kms from the Toscan archipelago Capraia.

Day 07 - the Natural Reserve of Scandola

Sunday, 9th of October

Bus transfer: 20 minutes

Boat trip to discover the gulf with the calanques of Piana and Capo Rosso, the reserve of Scandola and the village of Girolata.

Nice hike in the afternoon in the area of Porto.

Lunch: picnic

Accommodation: Hotel in Porto

Day 08 - Calanques of Piana

Monday, 10th of October

Bus transfer to the village of Piana: 20 minutes

Easy walk around the Calanques de Piana amidst the red rocks, sculpted by the wind, the salt and the sea. Bring your camera!

At the end of the day, transfer to Ajaccio with a stop in Cargese, a small village created by Greeks ... in 1676! 1 hour of easy walk in the nature and history.

Lunch: picnic

Accommodation: Hotel in Ajaccio

Day 09 - Ajaccio city trek and Napoleon

Tuesday, 11th of October

We visit Ajaccio, the city of Napoleon.
Visit of the old town, Museum of Napoleon or free time and shopping.
In the afternoon, beautiful walk to the Iles Sanguinaires.

Transfer to Bonifacio: 2h30

Lunch: picnic

Accommodation: Hotel in Bonifacio

"Hail, generous Corsica! Unconquered isle!
The fort of freedom; that amidst the waves
Stands like a rock of adamant, and dares
The wildest fury of the beating storm[...]"

Anna Laetitia Barbauld



BIODIVERSITY

The island holds many maritime natural reserves like Scandola, Finocchiarola, Biguglia, Cerbicale, Bouches de Bonifacio and Tre Padule de Suartone.

Inland, the Regional natural park of Corsica is a rich place for fauna and especially birds who find a lot of shelters in the cliffs. An observatory has been put in place to protect the mand make their inventory.

With almost 3000 plant species, nearly 300 of which are native, Corsica has a very rich and remarkable flora.



Day 10 – Bonifacio city trek

Wednesday, 12th of October

Visit of the old town, on the footpath of Charles Quint and Napoléon Bonaparte. The writer Valery, a fan of Bonifacio, called the town « the city of cliffs ».

In the afternoon, nice hike above the cliffs.

Lunch: picnic

Accommodation: Hotel in Bonifacio

Day 11 – Archipelago of the Lavezzi Islands

Thursday, 13th of October

A fantastic boat trip between Italy and France, with views towards the cliffs of Bonifacio and Sardegna. Picnic on the Island, relax on the beach, or discovery of the landscape scattered with huge granite boulders, as well its protected fauna and flora.

Lunch: picnic

Accommodation: Hotel in Bonifacio

Day 12 – *Ce n'est qu'un au-revoir...*

Friday, 14th of October

Nice breakfast and Transfer by bus to the Figari airport for a departure at 11h35.



PREHISTORY

The history of Corsica has been influenced by its strategic position at the heart of the western Mediterranean and its maritime routes.

-10 000 BC, first humans on the island

-6500 BC, human beings presence all over the island. Remanings have been found in Bonifacio, and Pietracorbara (Cape Corse).

-5000 : Start of the Corsican Neolithic, probably coming from North Africa (Lybia)

-1500/-1300 : The Torrean civilization of the Corsican Bronze Age is named for its torri, "towers".



First text from the Romans

«Cyrnus is called by the Romans Corsica; it is poorly inhabited, being both rugged and in many parts entirely inaccessible, so that the mountaineers, who live by plunder, are more savage than wild beasts. Whenever any Roman general invades the country, and, penetrating into the wilds, seizes a vast number of slaves, it is a marvel to behold in Rome how savage and bestial they appear. For they either scorn to live, or if they do live, aggravate their purchasers by their apathy and insensibility, causing them to regret the purchase-money, however small. We must remark, however, that some districts are habitable, and that there are some small cities, for instance Blesino, Charax, Eniconiæ, and Vapanes »

— Strabo



THE ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

- Backpack of 30 litres
- Pair of hiking shoes
- Mountain pant
- Pile jacket
- Rain cover and wind shell
- Extra base layer
- Warm socks
- Cap, sunglasses, sunscreen
- Knife and water bottle (1.5 litre minimum)
- Extra food: high energy snacks
- Personal medication

OPTIONAL

- Clothes for the cultural visits and churches
- Swimming suit and towel
- Camera

FOOD

All picnics are prepared by the hotel or by the guide with the local and fresh products.

Dinners at the hotel when possible or at a restaurant.

Dinner is not included on Day 1.

Picnic is not included on day 1 and 12 but also on day 3 (you will be in a special crayfish village, several restaurants offer menus with crayfish)

Rates: from 35 to 55 € per person

USEFUL INFORMATION

MEETING POINT

Bastia airport

LUGGAGE:

Each piece of baggage must be equipped with a name tag. They should contain personal belongings. Backpacks of 20 to 30 liters are sufficient and must contain excursion or hiking gear.

Limit volumes and weight, luggage will be transported in bus holds and handled several times during the stay. Save your strengths and those of guides and drivers!

END OF STAY

Day 12 departure at 11h35 from Figari airport

LUNCHES:

All picnics are made with local and fresh food by the guides or the accommodation owners.

BACKPACK :

The weight of your backpack should not exceed 5-6 kg per day, containing extra clothes, camera, water, wind shield and picnic.

INSURANCES:

Our insurance covers logistics and guiding of the hikes. It is kindly requested to be personally well insured for civil liability. Please do not hesitate to contact us for a assistance-cancellation-repatriation insurance. A quote will be provided.



OUR ACCOMODATION

3 nights in Saint-Florent
2 nights in Corte
2 nights in Porto
1 night in Ajaccio
3 nights in Bonifacio



COMFORT LEVEL

HIGH

*Bar, restaurant with local food, double room or single, TV, bathroom, balcony, terrace, WIFI.
Hotels have either a swimming-pool or access to the sea.*

OUR RATES: 12 DAYS AND 11 NIGHTS

WHAT PRICE INCLUDES

Trip organization and reservations
Bus transport with fuel costs and parking,
Professional guide (French : Accompagnateur moyenne Montagne)
Boat trip to the beach of Lotu (D1)
Boat trip in Cape Corse (D2)
Boat trip in the Reserve of the Scandola (D7)
Boat trip to Lavezzi islands (D11)
11 days of tourism
Security gear
Professional civil liability insurances
Picnics from D2 to D11 (but not on D3)
Full board in 2-star hotels or dinners at restaurants

RATE FOR 6 PERSONS

RATE FOR 10 PERSONS

RATE FOR 15 PERSONS

USEFUL INFORMATION

RESERVATION

Please book at least 3 months before departure.

Web : www.orgaya.com

Email : sas.orgaya@gmail.com

Phone : 0033 6.62.43.87.03

PAYMENT

Deposit 30% at booking

Balance 30 days before departure

LEGAL INFORMATION

YAGO ORGANISATION – ORGAYA

Accompagnateur en Montagne

SIRET 434 911 857 – DDJS n° 00698ED0262

Assurances MMA 105 630 300

ORGAYA- TRAVEL AGENCY

Immatriculation Opérateurs de Voyages

IM006130019 - Atout France

Garantie Financière : 10 000 € COVEA

RCP : SNAM MUTUELLES DU MANS - Oullins
(69) n° 107 282 450

WHAT PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Transportation to the meeting point

Lunch of D1, D3 and D12

Dinners on Day 1 and 12

Wine at the restaurant

Personal drinks

Personal civil liability insurances

Cancellation insurance

Everything that is not indicated in «what the price includes »

1895 € TTC

1680 € TTC

1590 € TTC

RESERVATIONS / INFORMATION

ASK PIERRE

Email : sas.orgaya@gmail.com

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