

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 tasting of local products... an unforgettable trip!



PROGRAM OF THE GRAND TOUR

The Grand Tour of Corsica is offered in two versions:

Hiking: moderate/sporty hikes with an average of 600m of elevation and 5 hours of walking, cultural visits and tourism.

Excursion: easy hikes around 200m of elevation/3 hours and a lot of time for cultural visits and tourism.

Day 01 Ajaccio and Cargese

We welcome you at the airport and organize the transfer to the hotel in Porto

Bus transfer to Porto with a stop in Cargese.

If your arrival time allows it; a visit and free time in the old town (1h30).

Lunch: free.

After one hour's drive, we visit Cargese, a small village created by Greeks ... in 1676! 1 hour of easy walk in the nature and history.

40 minutes of a magnificent road are necessary to reach our final destination Porto.

Accommodation: 2-star hotel in Porto (seaside)

Lunch: not included (restaurant in Ajaccio)

Day 02 The Natural Reserve of Scandola

Hiking: We embark on a small boat to see the Natural Reserve of Scandola and Girolata (2.5h) Afternoon: hike in the Calanques of Piana.

Excursion: in the morning, boat trip to discover the Natural Reserve of Scandola and Girolata (2.5h).

In the afternoon, 1.5 hours of visit of Porto. Option aquarium and museums, or free time on the beach.

Accommodation: 2-star hotel in Porto (seaside)

Lunch: picnic (included)

USEFUL INFORMATION

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY OF THE HIKES

2-3

Elevation: from 300m to 600 m

Walking duration < 5 hours

Altitude < 3000 m

Backpack < 6 Kg (30 liters max)

Distance from 10 to 15 km / day

WEATHER

Best season is from March to November.

Temperatures can vary from 30° to 10°.

GROUPS

Our groups are composed of 6 to 15 persons per guide.

OUR SPIRIT AT ORGAYA

We propose outdoor activities, guided by a professional, certified by a state diploma and with knowledge of 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 6 to 15 persons maximum.

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

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

Day 03 Calanques of Piana

Bus transfer to the village of Piana: 12 km / 20 minutes

Hiking: Hike towards Capu Rossu and the Genoese tower of Thurgiu. The panoramic views on the gulf of Porto and Calanques of Piana are stunning. Option, a more difficult walk: Capu d'Ortu
Walking duration: 3 hours / 8 km, elevation: 400 m.

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

Lunch: picnic (included)

Accommodation: 2-star hotel in Porto (seaside)

Day 04 Aitone and the Spelunca gorges

Bus transfer to Evisa: 23 km / 40 minutes

Hiking: Evisa is a picturesque hill village, surrounded by the Aitone Forest and mountains. We will walk 2 hours among the old Laricio pines and chestnut trees, near a beautiful river, natural pools and on a Genoese arched bridge.
Option: Gorges of Spelunca.
Walking duration: 5.5 hours/ 15 km, elevation: 500 m

Excursion: Discovery of the Aitone and its Laricio pines, chestnut trees and river pools (1,5 hour, easy). Visit of the village of Evisa.

Lunch: picnic (included)

Accommodation: 2-star hotel in Porto (seaside)

Day 5 Calvi and Rousse Island

Bus transfer to St-Florent: 4 hours (125 km)

Transfer by bus from Porto to Calvi (2,5 hours) and crossing of the region known as "La Balagne". 2 hours visit with the Citadel and meal at the restaurant (salad and platter of cold cuts)

For the afternoon:

Hiking: 2 hours hike and visit of the Village of Monticello and panoramic view of Rousse Island
Walking duration: 2 hours/ 5,5 km, elevation: 230 m

Excursion: Discovery of Tour of the island of Pietra between rock and path by the sea or walk on the Maritime path on the cape of Guardiola and the cala di Olivu (1,5 hour, easy).

1 Hour bus transfer to the city of St-Florent and hotel

Lunch: restaurant (included dinner at the hotel)

Accommodation: 2-star hotel in Saint Florent /(seaside)

« 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 from East to West, 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 06 Gulf of Saint-Florent and Agriates desert

Hiking: Arrival by boat (20 minutes) on the beautiful sandy beach of Lotu. The Agriates desert is a wild and preserved peninsula, with sandy beaches and turquoise water, covered with dense Mediterranean maquis. The hike on the coastal path brings us back to Saint-Florent, with splendid views on the mountains and on Cape Core.

Walking duration: 5 hours, 10 km
Elevation 200 m

Excursion: Visit of Saint-Florent, the Saint-Tropez of the Northern Corsica. History, culture et tourism in the little port and discovery of the local products. In the afternoon, visit of the vineyard of Patrimonio and wine tasting. Bus transfer, 20km.

Accommodation: 2-star hotel in Saint Florent / dinner at the hotel

Lunch: picnic (included)

Day 07 Nonza – the jewel of the Cape Corse

Hiking: Nonza is a medieval village situated on an impressive location, perched atop sheer cliffs that plunge up to 100 meters to the sea below. Our hike offers views to the unusual grey sandy beaches and to Cape Corse. The visit of the village passes by the ruins of an ancient castle and the painted church of Sainte-Julie.

Walking duration: 4,5 hours / 11 km, Elevation 500 m, Bus transfer: 35 km
Lunch: picnic (included)

Excursion: Amazing trip! Cape Corse, villages and beaches
Discover the main French port for crayfish and enjoy the apéritif and arrival in Centuri at mid-day. In the afternoon, visit of the picturesque village at the very end of the Cape Corse. To go for a dip on a wild sandy beach is the best way to end the day before coming back to Saint-Florent.
Option: boat-trip for the day (supplement of 45€)

Lunch: not included (Restaurant crayfish in option)

Accommodation: 2-star Hotel in Saint Florent / dinner at the hotel

Day 08 Castagniccia « Mare e Monti »

Bus transfer to Corte, at the heart of Corsica: 85 km / 2 hours

Hiking: Hike in the Castagniccia area, among the wild and most ancient chestnut (castagnu in Corsican) forests of the island. Here the water flows everywhere, the contrast with other regions in Corsica is huge. We'll reach the isolated village of Piedicroce near the source of Orezza.

Walking duration: 4 hours/10 km, Elevation: 500m.

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

Lunch: picnic (included)

Accommodation: 2-star Hotel in Corte / dinner at the hotel

"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 09 Corte and the Restonica Gorges

Bus transfer: 25 km

Hiking: transfer by bus to the beginning of the path. The road is magnificent, surrounded by giant cliffs and above the river. The hike reaches the famous lakes of Melo and Capitello, sources of the river Restonica.

Walking duration: 4 hours / 9 km, elevation: 550 m.

Excursion: Tourism and cultural visit of Corte and its area

Although 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. We will lead you through the old town and 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.

Lunch: picnic (included)

Accommodation: 2-star Hotel in Corte / dinner at the hotel

Day 10 Bavella's needles and Cucuruzzu

Bus transfer to the Alta Rocca: 125 km / 2h30

Hiking: The Bavella Needles are ideally situated in the Regional Nature Park of Corsica, with their impressive shapes and colors, ranging from red to grey and covered with immense forests. One of the nicest hikes is the "trou de la Bombe", a geological curiosity, accessible across a forest of the endemic Larriccio pines.

Walking duration: 3 hours / 8 km, elevation: 350 m.

Optional « Tour of the needles » 6,5 hours / 750 m of elevation

Excursion: Visit of the archaeological sites Cucuruzzu (historic monument since 1982) and Capula and visit of the granite villages, typical of the area. The two sites are located on the Livia plateau in Southern Corsica, in the Alta Rocca.

Option: easy hike in Zonza and Quenza

Walking duration: 2 hours / 4 km, elevation 60 m.

Lunch: picnic (included)

Accommodation: 2-star Hotel in Quenza (Zonza) / dinner at the hotel

Day 11 Bonifacio, Sentiers des douaniers or Lavezzi islands

Bus transfer to Bonifacio: 50 km / 1 hour

Hiking: from Bonifacio, this very unusual hike starts at the Aragon stairs and reaches Capo Pertusato, after 4 kilometers. The views on the cliffs and the town are stunning and sometimes Sardegna and Lavezzi islands can be observed.

Walking duration: 4 hours / 9 km, elevation: 150 m.

Excursion: a visit of the old town, on the footpaths of Charles Quint and Napoléon Bonaparte. The writer Valéry, a fan of Bonifacio, called the town « the city of cliffs ». You will love the atmosphere and the views of the area.

Option: boat trip to the Lavezzi islands (supplement of 33€)

Lunch: picnic for hikers (included) or restaurant for excursionists: (not included)

Accommodation: 2-star Hotel in Bonifacio or Propriano / dinner at the hotel



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



Day 12 Figari or Ajaccio Airport

Bus transfer to Ajaccio airport: 65 km / 1h30

Bus transfer to Figari airport: 22 km / 35 minutes

Last breakfast in Corsica and return by plane.

Scheduling according to your flight time. Transfer to the airport.

Lunch: not included

THE ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

- Backpack of 30 liters
- 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 liter minimum)
- Extra food: high energy snacks
- Personal medications

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

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

MEALS

All picnics are prepared by the hotels or the guide with local and fresh products.
Dinners at the hotels.

Meals not included for hikers on Day 1 and 12.

Meals not included for excursionists on Day 1 and 12 but also on Day 7 (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

Ajaccio airport

LUGGAGE:

Each piece of luggage 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 by and handled several times during the stay. Save your strengths and those of guides and drivers!

END OF STAY

Day 12 midday

Schedule according to your flight time and transfer to the airport (Figari or Ajaccio)

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 shell and picnic.

INSURANCES:

Our insurance covers logistics and guiding of the hikes. We kindly request you to be personally well insured for civil liability.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for an assistance-cancellation-repatriation insurance. A quote will be provided.



OUR ACCOMMODATION

4 nights in Porto
3 nights in Saint-Florent
2 nights in Corte
1 night in Quenza
1 night in Propriano
or 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 near access to the sea.

OUR RATES: 12 DAYS AND 11 NIGHTS

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Trip organization and reservations
Bus transport with fuel costs and parking
Bus transfer to and from Ajaccio airport
Professional guide (French : Accompagnateur moyenne Montagne), maximum 15 persons per group
Tickets for the archaeological sites of Cucuruzzu and Capola
Boat trip to the beach of Lotu (D6, hiking)
Boat trip in the Reserve of the Scandola (D2)
11 hiking days or 11 days of excursions
Security gear
Professional civil liability insurances
Restaurant in Calvi D7
Picnics from D2 to D11 (hiking)
Picnics from D2 to D6 and from D8 to D11 (excursion)
Half-board in 2-star hotels

We can add to the price the purchase of plane tickets at cost or help you buy plane tickets from your departure airport.

See the general conditions of sale.

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 21 days before departure

LEGAL INFORMATION

ORGAYA- TRAVEL AGENCY

Immatriculation Opérateurs de Voyages

IM006130019 - Atout France

Garantie Financière : 100 000 €

GROUPAMA

RCP : Hiscox France, 38 Avenue de

l'Opéra, 75002

Paris

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Transportation to the meeting point*

Lunch of D1 and D12 for hikers

Lunch of D1, D7 and D12 for excursionists

Wine at the restaurants

Personal drinks

Personal civil liability insurances

Cancellation insurance

Option: Boat trip to Cape Corse (D3, excursion) supplement of 45€

Option: Boat trip to the Lavezzi islands D11 (supplement 33€

Everything that is not indicated in «Included in the price »

2000 € TTC

1825 € TTC

1695 € TTC

RESERVATIONS / INFORMATION

ASK FOR PIERRE

Email : sas.orgaya@gmail.com

Phone : 0033 662.438.703