

## On the trail of the GR20 North

9 days / 8 nights

The mighty GR20: a fantastic itinerary from the North-West to the South-East of the island! From the Balagne region to the centre of Corsica, discover stunning gorges, alpine lakes...

### YOUR PROGRAM

#### Day 1 - From Calenzana to Bonifatu

Meet with your taxi driver in Calvi this morning for your transfer to Calenzana. This little village, surrounded by olive trees, is the official start of the GR20. You walk through up through the forest of Bonifatu, past magnificent viewpoints over the villages of this beautiful region of the Balagne.

Distance: 11km

Active Walking time: 4 hours.

Altitude gain & loss: +700m, -450m.



#### Day 2 - From Bonifatu to Haut Asco

After breakfast, you will leave Bonifatu for one of the longest stages along the GR20 (timewise). Once more crossing several rivers before reaching the famous Spasimata footbridge, which is 30 metres in length and suspended above a waterfall (a great location for photos). You will arrive in the Valley of the Muvrella (mouflon) with its small lake. The viewpoints are numerous and divine from the passes. The route continues to the foot of the Monte Cinto, the highest summit of Corsica, where you will spend the night.

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gite (double room available at a supplement)

Distance: 9.5km

Active Walking time: 8 hours.

Altitude gain & loss: +1300m, -598m.



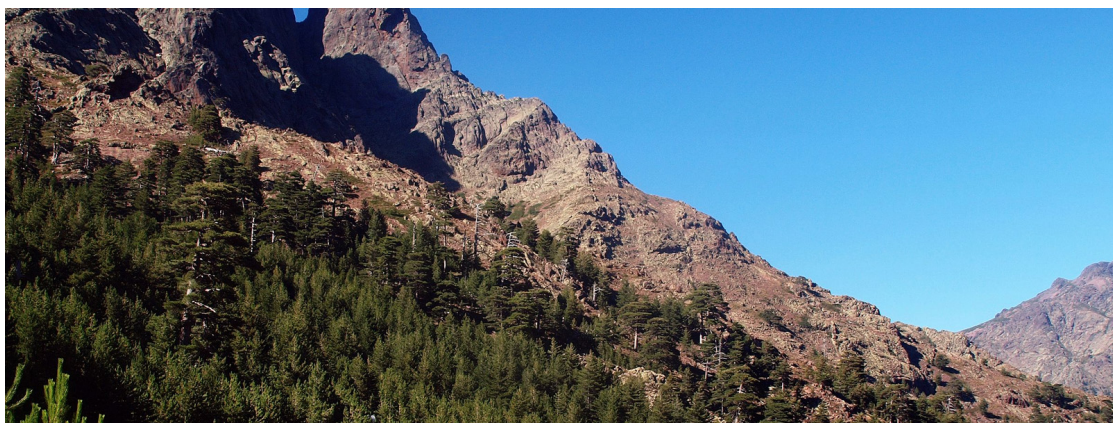
### Day 3 - From Ascu to Vallone

To avoid the mythical Cirque de la Solitude, closed to the public in 2015, you cross the "Great Barrier" crossing the slopes of Monte Cintu and over the highest point on the GR20 the Pointe des Éboulis. You drop down to the small Melarie valley where you may have the chance to see mouflons. Your accommodation, the shepherds hut in Vallone, is in an ideal setting by a stream, with the backdrop of a starry sky for the night. Dinner at the hut and night in a tent.

Distance: 9km

Active Walking time: 8h30

Altitude gain & loss: +1200m, -800m



### Day 4 - From Vallone to Verghju

Your setting for the day is the beautifully traditional Niolu, located at the heart of the island. You pass at the foot of the most beautiful summits in Corsica, the Paglia Orba and the strange Capu Tafunatu. When the weather is good, you can get a stunning viewpoint over the gulf of Porto before plunging into the small valley of the Golo.

The shepherd's hut of Radule and a series of natural pools punctuate your walk towards the forest and the Castel di Verghio.

Dinner and night at the gîte, hotel room at a supplement.

Distance: 14.5km

Active Walking time: 6h15.

Altitude gain & loss: +971m, -1017m.



#### **Day 5 - From Verghio to the Manganu refuge**

We pass Bocca San Pedru between sky and sea. The magic happens after passing Bocca a Reta. To the east, the coastline stands out against the deep blue of the Mediterranean. On the other side, a glacial cirque is revealed which hides, in a green setting, one of the jewels of the Corsican mountain. Bordered by its pozzines, Lake Nino welcomes a herd of wild horses.

Food: B,L

Accommodation: Refuge.

No access to your main luggage.

Distance: 16km

Active Walking Time: 6h00

Altitude gain & loss: +869m, -689m





### **Day 6 - From Manganu to Petra Piana**

Stream and rocky bars follow one another before reaching a plateau of pozzines. Then the Capitellu breach will offer you a breathtaking view of the lakes of Melu and Capitellu. After some efforts to reach Bocca Muzella (2206m), you will descend to reach a small plateau where the Petra Piana refuge is located.

Food: To be paid on spot.

Accommodation: Refuge.

No access to your main luggage.

Active Walking time: Around 6 hours

Altitude gain & loss: +670 m, -465 m



### **Day 7 - From Petra Piana to l'Onda**

A rather short, aerial and panoramic stage between the massifs of Monte Rotondo and Monte d'Oro. Be careful, some tricky passages when the wind blows (but a variant is possible)! On a clear day, you will have the chance to see the Gulf of Ajaccio.

Food: To be paid on spot.

Accommodation: Refuge.

No access to your main luggage.

Distance: 7km

Active Walking time: 4h30

Altitude gain & loss: +560 m ; -965 m



### **Day 8 - From l'Onda to Vizzavona**

Last day on the northern part of the trail. A magnificent stage awaits you from the Onda refuge towards Vizzavona, passing through the magical Agnone valley at the foot of Monte d'Oro. After the Turtettu footbridge, here we are in front of a multitude of small waterfalls and streams. Between forest and clinking of water, you arrive slowly towards Vizzavona.

Night and dinner in Vizzavona.

Food: D

Accommodation: Gite or hotel (double room available at a supplement)

Possible access to your main luggage.

Active Walking Time: About 6.5 hours

Altitude gain & loss: +630 m ; -1140 m



### **Day 9 - End of trip in Vizzavona**

End of your GR20 adventure in Vizzavona, Corsica, you can reach Calvi, Ajaccio and Bastia by train.

## Additional information

### TARIFFS

Price from 750 euros per person.

### OPTIONS

4 nights in double room (per person) : 205 euros per person.

Luggage transfer supplement (4 days out of 8). Per person, for a group of two hikers. : 540 euros per person.

Luggage transfer supplement (4 days out of 8). Per person, for a group of four hikers. : 270 euros per person.

### INCLUDED

Accommodation in privates gîtes (dormitories) and in tents.

5 Dinners

5 Breakfasts

4 Picnics

Taxi transfer from Calvi to Calenzana on day 1.

Local hotline

Route notes and maps on our app (a smartphone is necessary with an extra charger).

### NOT INCLUDED

Transfers not included in this itinerary (including for example transfers due to bad weather or injury)

Transfer from Calvi onwards

Luggage transfers (see options)

Beverages

Everything not mentioned on the "included" section

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Terrain: well-marked paths but very technical terrain (rocky and uneven). You need to be sure-footed and have plenty of relevant mountain experience.

Walking: from 4h30 to 8h15 per day.

### CARRYING

Luggage transfers available 4 days on 8 (see prices on options)

### ACCOMMODATION

In gîtes d'étape (dormitory style), 4 nights in tent.

4 nights can be in rooms of two (upon availability).

### SIZE OF GROUP

Minimum two.

### DEPARTURES

Every day from the beginning of June to mid-September.

## DEPARTURE

Calvi.

## DISPERSION

Vizzavona.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Calvi is easily accessible by train (from Ajaccio, Corte and Bastia). There is also an airport "aéroport Sainte Catherine" and an important harbour.

## EQUIPMENT TO TAKE

- A good pair of walking boots (ones that you have used before), with ankle support and non-slip soles.
- Good quality walking socks
- A comfortable rucksack (either for all of your kit or as a day sack) with plenty of plastic bags to keep your kit dry.
- If you are having your luggage transferred, please make sure that you have only one bag for the transfers, with a maximum weight of 15 kilos. It should be an easily transportable soft bag or with wheels.
- T-shirt and shorts (depending upon the likely weather)
- Light trekking trousers (not jeans)
- It is good to be able to 'layer' your clothes – with several light tops (for protection against cold, wind or sun)
- A warm sweater, polar or fleece. Beanie, gloves.
- Waterproofs – such as an anorak (Gore-tex or micro pore for example) or poncho.
- A bathing suit and towel
- Sandals or flip flops for beaches, river wading, or for wearing in the evening (it's important to be able to rest your feet from your walking boots)
- Sun cream plus sunglasses and a hat or cap
- A change of clothes
- For the picnics, you will need a small Tupperware box (for stews or salads), a plastic mug, a knife and fork. A Swiss Army knife or a pen knife is optional but can be very useful.
- Walking poles can be very useful to take the weight off the knees and to steady yourself on uneven terrain.
- A water bottle (at least one). It is preferable that you should be able to carry at least 2 litres of water at any one time.
- Camera and film, or batteries and memory cards for digital ones.
- A light torch (with spare battery)
- A small first aid kit possibly including: Rehydration salts to combat dehydration or fatigue, something for cuts, sprains, blisters, breaks, burns, stings, and pain relief. Please remember any personal medication that you may need.
- Wash bag, including: toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, toilet paper. Preferably a biodegradable soap for washing fruit, washing yourself and for washing clothes (it is possible to buy a multi-purpose biodegradable soap). Earplugs can also be useful if you are sleeping in dormitories.
- Money – make sure you have enough cash on you for your trek (in Euros), as it is unlikely that you will be able to use a card or withdraw money if you are in the mountains.
- Maps – IGN maps of a scale and quality that allow you to see the route clearly. If you are on a self-guided tour, you will more than likely be given copies of sections of maps. These should be clear enough to guide you along the route alongside the route notes, but we strongly recommend that you have the correct maps for the area of your walk. Please contact us if you need advice.

- A compass – but make sure you are able to read it before starting on your trek
- Mobile phone and charger (it may not always be possible to get a signal or to charge it, but it can be very helpful in many circumstances).
- Snacks (such as energy bars, dried fruit).
- If you are a vegetarian, we suggest you bring a good supply of nuts or other foods containing protein. It is not always possible to get a good balanced meal, particularly in the more remote places in the mountains.
- A waterproof plastic pouch in which to put your trip documents, identity papers and insurance documents.

### **SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

Please remember that self-guided walking requires individuals to use problem-solving skills, to be adaptable and have a keen eye. Our walking specialists also recommended that you have a good knowledge of map reading and that you have good sense of direction. Sometimes, asking, finding and/or losing your way are all part of the adventure. There is also a certain level of unknown when it comes to self-guided walking. However, with a methodical approach and good preparation on your part, you will find that potential problems can soon be averted. If you're a first-time traveller, you will see that you soon get the hang of it as the majority of our first travelers do (as long as you are well-prepared). If you are a solo traveller, using maps and directions can be more difficult as two heads are often better than one when it comes to finding your way. In the event of problems or emergencies, please remember that Europe Active provides a 7/7 hotline service.

Note: these trip notes are the most current information available for this itinerary.

All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes. When necessary, you should be prepared to be flexible. Occasionally, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to a variety of reasons (ie. climatic, political, physical or other). In these circumstances, Europe Active will try to make suitable alternative arrangements.