

Alta Rocca villages & the Gulf of Valinco

7 days / 6 nights

Corsica offers an impressive diversity of scenery, culture and history. We invite you to discover this secret island through a holiday designed to take you right to Corsica's heart.

Starting in the Alta Rocca, known for its villages lost in the middle of the mountains, your hiking trip will take you to the Mediterranean Sea using well marked trails. You will walk under endemic forest, swim in beautiful rivers and brooks, see prehistoric sites, visit very old churches, and cross the Corsican scrub.

This program emphasizes on Corsican gastronomy and the discovery of the local culture and traditions.

We propose for you a circuit using nice accommodation in double or twin rooms.

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Zonza

Your holiday begins in Zonza, which is a charming village in the heart of the Alta Rocca. You will be able to admire the whole valley from the centre of the village.

Dinner and night in Zonza.

It is possible to reach Zonza from the main ports and airports around Corsica including Figari, Bastia, Porto-Vecchio and Ajaccio. Do contact us with your time and place of arrival and we can organise your transfer for you.



Day 2 - From Zonza to Aullène

From Zonza, the path will lead you in a northwesterly direction before turning west to take you across the Saint Antoine river. You will shortly arrive at the village of Quenza, after having crossed the Criviscia river. The chapel of the village is more than 1000 years old and is classified as a historic building. From Quenza, and after a refreshing dip in the river Codi, you will enter the forest. This will be your first experience of the Corsican scrub! The path takes you directly to the sheepfolds of Lavu Donacu before leading you to Aullène, your stop for the night.

Dinner and night at Aullène.

Approximately 4H15 of walking. +636m, -581m.

Day 3 - From Aullène to Santa Lucia di Tallano

Under the chestnut trees, you leave the village before shortly arriving in Sierra di Scopamena. You will notice on the way the

old mill restored by the Natural Reserve of Corsica. After several brooks, passages in forests and in the middle of strawberry trees, you will finally descend towards Santa Lucia di Tallano, a pretty mountain village with houses built from the local granite. Santa Lucia di Tallano is famous for its convent, its tower dating from the XVth century, the extremely rare rock which is the "corsite" (diorite), as well as its olive oil museum.

Night and dinner at Santa Lucia di Tallano.

Approximately 5h55 of walking. +735m, -1143m.



Day 4 - From Santa Lucia di Tallano to Burgo

After the Romanesque chapel from the XIIth century named Saint Jean Baptist, you will descend through forests of oaks to the bridge of Piombatu which spans the river Rizzanese. You will soon cross the Loreto di Tallano and the ruins of Altanaria. After enjoying the panoramic views around Bavella and the villages of the Alta Rocca, you will cross two ravines before arriving in Fozzano. You will see its famous tower dating from the XVth century before visiting the famous tomb of Colomba, the heroin of the novel of Mérimée written in 1840. Do not miss the sunset on the sea from the terrace of your lodging, it is unforgettable!

Dinner and night at Burgo.

Approximately 6H10 of walking, +876m,-1135m.

Day 5 - From Burgo to Olmeto

Your path leaves from the middle of the forest to the hamlet of Maratu. You soon arrive in the middle of the Corsican scrub and climb in the direction of the woods to the Pass of Vint' Unu. Enjoy the forests of oak trees, a rare sight now in Europe, before arriving at the village of Olmeto which offers a fantastic view of the area.

Dinner and night at Olmeto.

Approximately 5H15 of walking, + 780m,-607m.

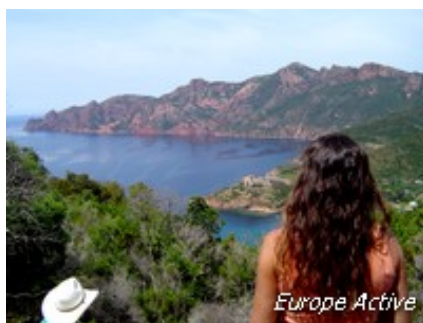


Day 6 - From Olmeto to Porto Pollo

Today you set out again towards the sea. Along the route there are some splendid view points over looking the Gulf of Valinco. You will cross more oaks forests, walk between pretty low stone walls, pass under olive-trees and finally, after the bridge which spans Taravu, you will approach your stop for the night, Porto Pollo. The great beach of Porto Pollo is all yours to enjoy. This pretty seaside resort offers many activities related to the sea and nature (horseback riding, boating, water skiing, jet-ski, quad...). If you wish to benefit longer from your stay here, do not hesitate to let us know!

Night at the seaside in Porto Pollo.

Approximately 5h05 of walking, + 336m,-671m.



Day 7 - Porto Pollo

End of the stay after your breakfast. A bus transfer is possible early in the morning in order to bring you back to Ajaccio.



Additional information

TARIFFS

Price from 680 euros per person.

OPTIONS

Supplement for July / August : 50 euros per person.

IGN maps : 40 euros per person.

Trip without luggage transfer : -140 euros per person.

INCLUDED

All nights in double rooms, 5 dinners, 6 breakfasts, luggage transfers, detailed route notes and maps.

NOT INCLUDED

Transfers to the meeting point and from the end point, insurances, site visits, optional transfers and activities, picnics (easy to find), dinner on day 6.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

This classical Corsican trail uses very well marked paths. From 4 to 6 hours of walking per day.

CARRYING

Your main bag will be transferred by vehicle, you just have to carry your personal belongings and your picnic.

ACCOMMODATION

In double rooms in guest-houses (2 nights), hotels (3 nights) and gite d'etapes (1 night).

SIZE OF GROUP

Minimum two.

DEPARTURES

From End of April to beginning of October. There are buses from Ajaccio to Zonza and from Porto Pollo to Ajaccio from Monday to Saturday, except bank holidays.

DEPARTURE

Zonza.

DISPERSION

Porto-Pollo.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Picnic lunches: You will be able to buy these from the gîtes (around 10€) or in the village shops. Always buy your picnic in the morning before starting your walk.