



Mare e Monti Sud

This hiking trail crisscross you through Corsica's wild and relatively undeveloped interior to the gulfs of Valincu and Ajaccio

This hiking path allows you to discover the inland of Corsica to the gulfs of Valincu and Ajaccio. "A mountain in the sea" said Guy of Maupassant when talking about the island that is nicknamed "the island of beauty". You will not be disappointed by taking on the Mare e Monti Sud, a path that zigzags between an enchanting coastline and traditional villages perched in the mountains! The trail begins in Alta Rocca, one of the oldest populated areas in Corsica as evidenced by numerous archaeological sites.

Referred to as "Land of Lords" in the Middle Ages, the region is marked by a tragic past made of Corsican vendetta between families and resistance against Genoese power. The architecture that we discover over the trail reflects this story : villages nestled on the headlands are made of high granite houses closely packed together for protection. Religion has always been important, so there are numerous churches, chapels and convents. The path leaves the interior to zigzag along the coast. You will pass through maquis, scented bushes, leafy forests and grassy meadows regularly leading to large panoramas on the wild coasts of the Valinco's gulf and the beaches of the Ajaccio's gulf. If the contrast is sometimes striking, scenic beauty and views remains the common thread of this magical journey.

The hosts of the small villages give you a warm welcome with exquisite dining.





Program

Day 1

Bus transfer from Ajaccio through St Georges pass then the gulf of Valincu above Propriano. Arrival in the village of Ste Lucie de Tallane, typical with its high granite houses organized in narrow streets and famous for its orbicular diorite, an extremely rare rock. Discover the village on foot, via an « heritage trail » with interpretation boards. Dinner and night at a guesthouse.

Time : 1h, Elevation : + et -50m, distance : 1km

Day 2

The hike begin in a wonderful course set in the midst of an olive grove, continue to an imposing chapel, follow in a Mediterranean forest with magnificent views from the interior villages to the needles of Bavella. The trail reaches the village of Fozzanu famous for having inspired Mérimée the story of Colomba. Like this story, the steep streets are topped with granite houses looking strict and two beautiful *casa forte*. Night in Burgo, in an hotel

T : 6h, E : + 675 m/- 945 m, d : 20 km

Day 3

Continuing in a beautiful holm oak forest scattered with impressive boulders. Very beautiful panoramic views over the gulf of Valincu. Night in Olmetu in hotel.

T : 5h, E : + 900 et - 750 m, d : 11 km

Day 4

A shorter walking day allowing you to take the time to explore the little port and the beach at Porto-Pollo.

A nature educational trail build with a long construction of boardwalk, leads up to an observation tower with panels describing the bounty and fragility of this natural environment.

Short stage to enjoy the beach and the small port of Porto-Pollo. Night in a hotel by the sea.

T : 4h30, E : + 250 m et - 600m, d : 15 km.

Day 5

hosting a walk on a customs officers trail following the sea up to the bay of Cupabia. Then the trail ascent in a maquis of strawberry trees up to the village of Coti-Chivari where you will get the first views of Ajaccio's gulf. Night in a hotel.

T : 5h , E: + 750 m et -250 m. d : 12 km.

Day 6

Passing by a route above the gulf of Ajaccio, the path rises up the Monte Tignoso before descending into a little hamlet. Next walking in the forest up to the village Bisinao : night in a bed and breakfast.

T : 5h30, E : +530 m et - 450m, d : 16 km





Day 7

Proceed to Porticcio, with more beautiful views of the gulf of Ajaccio. Crossing the gulf on boat to Ajaccio town centre : night in a hotel.

T : 5h, E : +280 m et - 930m, d : 17 km

Day 8

After breakfast, it is possible to buy various local products at the little market. There is also the chance to potter round the port admiring the different sorts of boats. We offer you two last circuits : the first lets you discover the Genovese town, and the second the imperial town of Napoleon Bonaparte. Both are a good opportunity to meander through the streets of Ajaccio.

Price

930 € per person, booking from 2 people minimum.

Booking from 4 to 7 persons : 855 €/pers.

Booking from 8 to 12 pers. : 825 €/pers.

Supply for the departure between 5/7 to 20/8 : +90 €/pers.

Price Includes

Accommodation

Accommodation : 5 nights in a hotel and 2 nights in guesthouse

Quality accommodation with a personal welcome

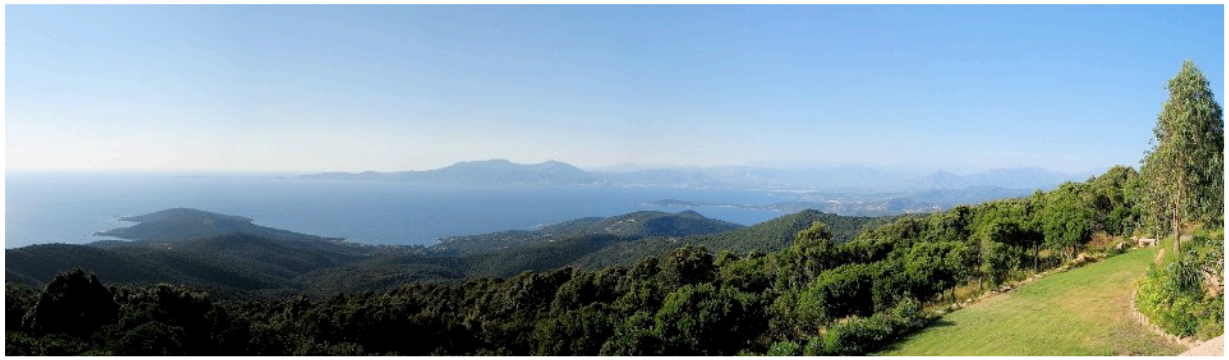
Meals

Breakfast and Corsican traditional evening meals at the accommodation.

The 2 evening meals at Porto-Pollo & Ajaccio (Day 6 & 7) are not included.

Day 3, the picnic is included





Luggage transfer

You need to carry a small day sack only with a water bottle, camera, picnic and wind jacket.
The main luggage will be transported by vehicle between the different accommodations.

Travel notebook

You will receive this as soon as the payment is received. it includes day by day description of the route, the route map of 25 000 °, GPS tracks and practical information

Price does not includes

Midday picnics (except D3, included)

2 evening meals (Day 6 and Day 7)

Transport by bus Day 1 (provide 15€/p.) and by shuttle boat Day 7 (provide 5€/p.)

Cancellation and health insurance unless if you took the option

Drinks, including wine and any other personal expenses

Please note, you will be charged for any modifications you make to the program

Trips 2023

Dates

From April to October : every day except Sundays and Bank holidays (10 April, 1, 8, 18 et 29 May)

July & August : every day

Start and end

Day 1 : At around 14h30 from Ajaccio (ferry terminal or airport)

Day 8 : On the morning at Ajaccio

Information

This tour is very well adapted to spring and to autumn.

In July and August, we advise our other walks « **Transhumance** » and « **Objective 2000** ».

