



## From Bastia to Ajaccio along the West coast

8 days / 7 nights

Follow Corsica's most beautiful coastal roads from Bastia to Ajaccio.

This is a superb trip that will allow you to enjoy the best that Corsica has to offer, using the same roads of the amazing third stage of the Tour de France 2013. From the northern capital of Bastia you will cycle to Ajaccio, the birth place of Napoleon. For the most part you will be cycling along the stunning and varied western coastline. You will have the chance to visit the Balagne region, which has wonderful beaches and picturesque mountain villages, and the area around Porto which has quite rightly been named as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Accommodations offer comfortable double rooms, in 2\* or 3\* hotels.

Trip available with our digital road-book.

[Find out about the digital road-book](#) [Prepare your trip](#)

### YOUR PROGRAM

#### Day 1 - Arrival in Bastia

Your trip starts in Bastia, the capital of "Haute Corse" (upper Corsica). Settle into your hotel in the afternoon and spend some time wandering around this interesting town. In particular, it is worth visiting the ancient Citadelle, the Place St Nicolas and the old harbour. There are plenty of excellent restaurants to choose from for your evening meal.

Night in a 3\* hotel



#### Day 2 - St Florent

This first stage leads you over the col de Teghime (536m), where you have a beautiful view on both sides of the island. On your way down to St Florent you can stop in Patrimonio for a "short" wine tasting. The region of Patrimonio is well known for its vineyards. For the very courageous ones an 85km stage can be done by cycling north of Bastia onto the Cap Corse and over the col de Santa Lucia (381m).

Distance:

around 26km (D+ : 584m ; D- : 581m ; Min. : 0m ; Max. : 552m)

or 85km (D+ : 1407m ; D- : 1399m ; Min. : 1m ; Max. : 393)



### Day 3 - The Corsican desert

Today you will leave the bay of St Florent and head through the "desert des Agriates". At spring time you will be acosted with the scents and colours of the wild maquis (Corsican scrub). After about 30km you reach the coast again, with a superb view of the "red island" that shelters the harbour of Ile-Rousse. Your overnight stop is a village just above it.

Distance: around 48km (D+ : 843m ; D- : 642m ; Min. : 1m ; Max. : 363m)

Night in a 3\* hotel



### Day 4 - The Balagne

Today you continue southwards to Calvi. You have the option to stay high and ride through some nice mountain villages (with superb views of the sea) or take the shorter route along the coast (this is the main road).

Once you arrive in Calvi it is worth visiting the Citadelle that overlooks the bay. A refreshing drink on the port is a must.

From Calvi you still have 37km to go on the coastal road. This has been named as one of the most scenic coastal roads in the whole of Europe, despite the fact that it is, at times, in bad condition. Tonight you will spend your evening in a small fishing village.

Distance: around 79km (D+ : 1114m ; D- : 1353m ; Min. : 0m ; Max. : 531m)

Night in a 2\* hotel



### Day 5 - Porto

Just when you thought the scenery couldn't get any better, it does! This is a superb day of cycling with breath-taking views along the whole ride. After a few warm-up km you start to climb the col de Palmarella (408m). From the top you can see the bay of Scandola (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Further on you will climb the pass to the col de la Croix, after which you can enjoy some good downhill riding. You will cross the villages of Curzu and Partinello, before taking the last short climb that separates you from the bay of Porto.

Distance: around 51km (D+ : 921m ; D- : 903m ; Min. : 5m ; Max. : 411m)

Night in a 3\* hotel (with pool, if available) in Porto.



### Day 6 - Piana and Cargese

This stage starts with a climb out of Porto to the famous "Calanques de Piana". This is an area with stunning rock formations and has also been named a UNESCO world heritage site. You'll then cross the village of Piana and finally, Cargese, an ancient village built by the Greeks in the 18th century.

Distance: around 31km (D+ : 703m ; D- : 660m ; Min. : 10m ; Max. : 481m)

Night in a 2\* hotel



### Day 7 - Ajaccio

Already your last day on the bike. As it isn't too far to Ajaccio, you can do a round-trip to the bay of Lava and its magnificent beaches. An early arrival in Ajaccio allows a visit of the "iles sanguinaires" at the north cape of the Ajaccio-bay, or a tour of the city including for example, the Tino Rossi harbour and Napoleon's birth place.

Distance: around 49km (straight)

(D+ : 648m ; D- : 728m ; Min. : -1m ; Max. : 405m)

Night in a 3\* hotel



### Day 8 - Tour end

After breakfast, your tour comes to an end. If you rented bikes, we'll pick them up at the hotel. Transfer to the airport or back to Bastia (possible by train) on request.

## Additional information

### TARIFFS



Price from 1370 euros per person.

### **OPTIONS**

Single room : 370 euros per person.

Departures in June and September : 65 euros per person.

Departures in July and August : 140 euros per person.

Hybrid bike rental (delivery and repatriation included) : 350 euros per person.

Electric bike rental (delivery and repatriation included) : 390 euros per person.

Aluminium road bike rental (delivery and repatriation included) : 420 euros per person.

Carbon road Bike rental (delivery and repatriation included) : 480 euros per person.

### **INCLUDED**

The nights in double rooms

7 breakfasts per person

The luggage transfers on each stage

Information package with maps and road-books on our app (a smartphone is required)

Local assistance by phone

### **NOT INCLUDED**

Transport to Bastia and from Ajaccio

Unplanned transfers

Meals and drinks

Insurances

Personal spendings

Bike rental

### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

Medium: stages from 26km to 52km, with up to 800m h.d.

On some you have the choice between 2 routes; longer or shorter

### **CARRYING**

Your luggage gets transferred from one accommodation to the next. You only have to carry what's needed for the day.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Double rooms in 2\* and 3\* hotels.

### **SIZE OF GROUP**

From 2 participants

### **DEPARTURES**

Daily from the beginning of April to mid-October

### **DEPARTURE**

In your hotel in Bastia, in the afternoon.

### **DISPERSION**



In your hotel in Ajaccio, after breakfast, on day 8.

## HOW TO GET THERE

[Pour venir en Corse](#)

## EQUIPMENT TO TAKE

ADVISED MATERIAL TO TAKE WITH YOU (non-exhaustive checklist) :

As a good preparation is key to a successful stay, here are a few tips to ensure that your trip takes place in optimal conditions.

### BIKES

In order that your stay does not turn into a mechanical training course, it's advisable to carry out a meticulous revision of your bike before going on a tour :

- the tyres are well inflated and in good condition
- cables and chain are in good condition
- the transmission elements are clean and oiled
- there are no leaks in the suspensions
- the wheels are well tightened
- the brakes are in good condition (wear + possible leaks)
- the headset has been checked

And don't forget that anomalies are easier to spot on a cleaned bike...

### REPAIR MATERIAL

To avoid mechanical problems, it's better to be far-sighted and always carry the basic equipment of a biker:

- 2 inner tubes (puncture sealant is strongly recommended, or puncture sealant strips)
- a pump
- tire irons
- an inner tube repair kit consisting of patches and glue
- a multi-tool
- a small wrench
- a piece of tire

Also, you can prepare your own toolbox which we transfer with your luggage. You will put in it the following items :

- a brake cable (front and rear)
- a derailleur cable
- a tyre
- one derailleur hanger
- chain oil
- a rag

### EQUIPMENT

As you can't judge a book by its cover, cycling slinky shorts won't help you to turn into a cycling champion. However, a minimum of specific bike equipment will be necessary in order to be comfortable :



- a helmet
- glasses
- suitable shoes (no smooth soles)
- a cycling short or short
- a breathable tee-shirt (try to avoid cotton)

#### DAY BACKPACK

Because it's unpleasant to ride with a too loaded backpack, it's better to think carefully about the necessary things to bring in the backpack for the day:

- a water bag and/or a flask and/or water cans on the bike (2L/day/person minimum)
- provisions (energy bars, dried fruits...)
- the basic repair material for your bike (see above)
- a windbreaker (waterproof)
- picnic
- a headlamp
- a knife
- sun cream (+ lip protection)
- toilet paper
- a first-aid kit (see below)
- your mobile phone + an external battery
- a rubbish bag

#### PICNIC

In order to avoid unnecessary waste at picnic time, remember to take with you :

- an airtight box (0.5L) with initials marked on the lid and on the box + wide elastics
- reusable cutlery (fork and pocketknife)

#### TRAVEL BAG

Your luggage is transferred during the day and you will find it every evening at your hotel. It is preferable that your travel bag contains the following items :

- a sleeping bag liner (stays in gîtes)
- a change of clothes
- a pair of light shoes for the evening
- a large jumper or fleece jacket
- a small toilet bag with a towel

#### FIRST-AID KIT

Concerning all our guided stays, the instructor has a first aid kit.

However, it is essential to bring your own first aid kit.

Here is a list of the minimum items to take with you:

- disinfectant
- gauze strips



- plaster
- protective cream for the buttocks
- your personal medicines
- micropur pastilles (water disinfectant)
- a survival blanket

A more complete first-aid kit should be formulated with your doctor.