

Self-guided road bike tour in Southern Corsica

8 days / 7 nights

We picked comfortable accommodation for this fantastic bike tour in the southern part of Corsica. Luggage transfers included! This fantastic itinerary will enable you to explore the southern part of Corsica by bike. Cycle south from the great city of Ajaccio to the southern tip of the island and the chalk cliffs of Bonifacio. You will then ride north-east to Porto Vecchio and climb up to Ospédale, a little village famous for hosting professional cycling races. Finally, discover the heart of the island with its rugged and authentic landscapes and meet friendly locals, proud of their island and Corsican culture.

Prepare your trip

YOUR PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Ajaccio

Depending on your time of arrival, you will be able to explore your surroundings. Ajaccio's citadel and old port are really worth a visit!

Night in Ajaccio.



Day 2 - Ajaccio to Propriano

During the first stage of this itinerary, you will leave the buzzing town of Ajaccio for a scenic coastal ride along a quiet road which will lead you to cycle uphill to Coti Chiavari. From this enchanting village, perched on a mountainside, you will get stunning views over Ajaccio. These are most definitely worth the effort! Next, you will descend to Propriano and its exotic fine sandy beach.

Cyclists, who feel brave enough to tackle the Col de Siu (730m), will have the opportunity to admire the Gulf of Propriano from

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above.

Night in Propriano.

Distance: approximately 80km (D+ : 1206m ; D- : 1223m ; Min. : 2m ; Max. : 639m)
or 124km (D+ : 2029m ; D- : 2020m ; Min. : 2m ; Max. : 807m)



Day 3 - Propriano to Bonifacio

After leaving the delightful Gulf of Propriano, you will cycle through Sartène and head to the south of the island with views over majestic little coves along the way. Cycling to Bonifacio should not be a problem for you, and you will have enough time to explore this wonderful Corsican town.
Uptown, Bonifacio's cliff-top citadel stands as an architectural marvel, rising up proudly over the rest of town. Many stunning landscapes are to be admired from the battlements, including crystal-clear waters, chalk cliffs and Sardinia's coastline in the distance.

For those cyclists who enjoy the climbs, the inland route option will provide you with more of a challenge.

Night in Bonifacio.

Distance: approximately 78km (D+ : 1151m ; D- : 14123m ; Min. : 3m ; Max. : 393m)
or 122km (D+ : 2269m ; D- : 2240m ; Min. : 3m ; Max. : 718m)

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Day 4 - Bonifacio to Porto Vecchio

Our short version of this stage is also the easiest: you will cycle inland and then eastward to reach the coastline. A scenic coast ride along the most beautiful beaches of Corsica, including Palombaggia and Santa Giulia, will surely tempt you to go for a relaxing swim in the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Mountain-lovers will undoubtedly enjoy the second version of this stage, with a 15km ride around the Col de Bacinu (810m) and spectacular views over Porto Vecchio.

Night in Porto Vecchio.

Distance: approximately 58km (D+ : 821m ; D- : 793m ; Min. : 1m ; Max. : 281m)
or 91km (D+ : 1649m ; D- : 1625m ; Min. : 1m ; Max. : 777m)



Day 5 - Porto Vecchio to Zonza

For this fifth day of the tour, our team has organised two different itineraries. The first one will lead you to cycle directly to Zonza via the legendary Col de l'Ospédale where racing cyclists such as Froome, Evans or Contador have demonstrated their

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talent year after year during the Criterium International. On the summit, you will discover the Dam of Ospédale which offers lunar-like landscapes, dominated by a quiet lake, which is sprinkled with submerged tree stumps and set against a mystical pine tree forest.
The second itinerary includes a coastal ride northwards, along a very narrow and uphill road which leads to the village of Conca, where the GR20 officially ends. You will also have the chance to climb the Col de Bavella and its famous toothy Needles which appear to be biting at the sky. This 30km detour is easy to start with, but the ascent gets steeper as you try to reach the 1240m summit.

Night in Zonza.

Distance: approximately 60km (D+: 1582m ; D-: 827m ; Min.: 22m ; Max.: 1213m)
or 88km (D+: 1953m ; D-: 1193m ; Min.: 3m ; Max.: 1205m)



Day 6 - Cycling the big loop around the central region

Today, you will have the choice to either stroll down the streets of the enchanting village of Zonza or to go for a swim in natural pools or even to cycle one of the two routes that our team has prepared especially for you.
You will ride through several charming little villages, discover an authentic side of Corsica and have the chance to meet welcoming locals. This particular stage will end with a gentle 25km uphill ride (available for both versions of this route).

Night in Zonza.

Distance: approximately 64km (D+: 1334m ; D-: 1334m ; Min.: 53m ; Max.: 929m)
or 84km (D+: 1617m ; D-: 1617m ; Min.: 53m ; Max.: 931m)

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Day 7 - Zonza to Ajaccio

In the morning, you will leave Zonza for the West Coast of Corsica. One of the toughest rides of today's circuit is the Col de St Eustache, which will reward you with a sensational 15km descent. Along the way, you will be able to admire Corsican cottages – each more charming than the next – in typical picture-postcard settings. Whereas the easy version of this stage offers you a 'relaxing' ride, the harder version will take you to the Col de Saint Georges, which is named after a spring, and the Col de Cricheto (725m). You will also cycle through Tolla Lake before swooping down to Ajaccio on a well-tarmacked road.

Night in Ajaccio.

Distance: approximately 100km (D+: 1430m ; D-: 2210m ; Max.: 1037m)
or 126.5km (D+: 2050m ; D-: 2840m ; Max.: 1037m)



Day 8 - Your trip ends here

Your trip ends after breakfast. Possible transfer to the airport (please contact us for more details).

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Additional information

TARIFFS
Price from 1490 euros per person.

OPTIONS
May & June departures : 75 euros per person.
July, August & September departures : 190 euros per person.
Single room : 430 euros per person.

INCLUDED
Breakfasts from day 2 to day 8
Luggage transfers from one hotel to another
Nights in 3-star hotels (double bedrooms)
Information package with maps and road-books on our app (a smartphone is required)
Local phone hotline

NOT INCLUDED
Transport options from and to Ajaccio
Meals and beverages
Bike rental (see options), repair costs
Everything not mentioned on the "included" part

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY
Approximately 80-110km a day with height gains between 800 and 2000m.

LUGGAGE
Luggage transfers by vehicle.

ACCOMMODATION
7 nights in 3-star hotels (double bedrooms).

SIZE OF GROUP
From two.

DEPARTURES
Departures every day from the beginning of April to the end of October.

DEPARTURE
Ajaccio. Contact us for assistance with your travel arrangements.

DISPERSION
Ajaccio.

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HOW TO GET THERE

Ajaccio is accessible by plane with departures from Nice, Marseille and Paris but also from several French and European cities depending on the time of year with Air France, Air Corsica but also Easyjet, Volotea or Ryanair.

Ajaccio is also accessible by train from Bastia and Calvi.

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE

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

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 recomended, 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

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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.

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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.

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