

Self-guided road bike tour in Northern Corsica

8 days / 7 nights

This cycling tour takes you along the magnificent Corsican coastline, on picturesque roads offering exceptional panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea, from Cap Corse to Porto. You will then cross the majestic mountain ranges to reach the heart of the island and explore Corsica's most authentic regions. This totally self-guided tour includes a practical luggage transfer service, so you can drive with peace of mind while discovering Corsica's natural and cultural treasures.

Trip available with our digital road-book.
Find out about the digital road-bookPrepare your trip

YOUR PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Bastia

Free arrival in Bastia.

Depending on your arrival time in Bastia, you'll have the chance to discover the city and its must-sees. Be sure to visit the majestic citadel, stroll through the picturesque lanes of the old port and relax in the famous Place Saint-Nicolas, one of the city's landmarks.

Overnight in Bastia.



Day 2 - From Bastia to Saint Florent - Cap Corse

On this first leg, you'll explore the wild and magnificent Cap Corse. Following the east coast, you'll enjoy exceptional panoramic views before crossing the Col de la Serra, at an altitude of 365 metres, to cross the northern tip of the island. A must-do stage for discovering the diversity of Corsican landscapes.

2 possible distances:

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673 avenue de Borgo
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82km (D+: 1407m; D-: 1399m; Min: 1m; Max: 393m)
or 107km (D+: 1569m; D-: 1575m; Min.: 1m; Max.: 364m)

Overnight in Saint-Florent.



Day 3 - From St Florent to Calvi - La Balagne

You leave the charming Gulf of Saint-Florent to cross the famous ‘Agriates desert’ and cross the Vezzu pass (311 m). You will then reach the Balagne region, renowned for its picturesque mountain villages. From these heights, you'll enjoy superb panoramic views of the coast and the whole region, a real treat for lovers of breathtaking scenery.

2 possible distances:
66Km (D+: 997m; D-: 999m; Min: 1m; Max: 373m)
or 104km (D+: 1000m; D-: 989m; Min.: 0m; Max.: 366m)

Overnight in Calvi.



Day 4 - From Calvi to Porto

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You're on one of the most beautiful coastal roads in Europe! This route offers spectacular panoramic views of a wild and unspoilt coastline. After crossing the Col de Palmarella (408 m), you'll have a breathtaking view of the Gulf of Girolata and the Scandola nature reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This iconic route was also covered by the Tour de France riders in 2013, adding a sporting touch to this unforgettable stage.

Distance :
75km (D+: 1331m; D-: 1289m; Min: 8m; Max: 407m)

Overnight in Porto.



Day 5 - Day off in Porto

Today, there are no restrictions: just do what you want! Enjoy a lazy day on the beach or at the hotel, visit the charming village, or take a boat trip to the Scandola nature reserve or the magnificent Calanques de Piana. These calanques, a UNESCO World Heritage site, are also accessible on foot or by bike and are well worth a visit. For the more active, there's a superb loop over the Col de Sevi (1101 m), offering breathtaking panoramic views.

Distance (optional) :
95km (D+: 2283m; D-: 2281m; Min.: 4m; Max.: 1105m)

Overnight in Porto.

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Day 6 - From Porto to Corte

From Porto, you'll set off to climb the Col de Vergio (1477 m), passing through breathtaking scenery including the impressive Spelunca gorge and the magnificent Aïtone forest. After more than 30 km of ascent, get ready for a descent of around 35 km, including 15 km down the famous Scala di Sta Regina, a memorable experience you won't soon forget.

Distance:
83km (D+: 2895m; D-: 2493m; Min.: 32m; Max.: 1480m)

Overnight in Corte.



Day 7 - From Corte to Lucciana - La Castagniccia

You leave Corte, the historic capital of Corsica, and head for Castagniccia, the birthplace of such emblematic figures in Corsican history as Sambucucciu d'Alando and Pascal Paoli. This stage, one of the most difficult on the route, includes no fewer than four passes, with the most demanding at the end. Once out of the mountains, you'll return to the east coast, heading for Lucciana, south of Bastia, where you can enjoy a soothing coastal landscape.

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95km (D+: 2894m; D-: 3281m; Min: 14m; Max: 999m)

Overnight in Lucciana - close to Bastia airport.



Day 8 - Your trip ends here

End of trip after breakfast.

Additional information

TARIFFS

Price from 1350 euros per person.

OPTIONS

May and June departure : 70 euros per person.
July and September departure : 150 euros per person.
August departure : 230 euros per person.
Single room : 320 euros per person.
6-day hire of a hybrid bike, including a helmet, smartphone mount and panniers – delivery and collection in Bastia : 310 euros per person.
6-day e-bike hire including a helmet, smartphone mount and panniers – delivery and collection in Bastia : 350 euros per person.
6-day hire of an aluminium road bike, including a helmet, smartphone mount and panniers – delivery and collection in Bastia : 310 euros per person.
6-day hire of a carbon road bike, including a helmet and smartphone mount – delivery and collection in Bastia : 450 euros per person.
Transfer from Bastia Airport to Bastia city centre – daytime fare for 1 to 4 people : 70 euros per person.

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INCLUDED
Nights in 3-star hotels
Breakfasts
Luggages transfer between
Information package with maps and road-books on our app (a smartphone is required)
Local assistance (by phone)

NOT INCLUDED
Airport transfers (see options)
Bike rental (see options)
Beverages and meals
Personal travel insurance
Everything not mentioned on the "included" part

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

LUGGAGE
Your luggage is carried in a vehicle. So you only have to take with you your things of the day (picnic, camera ...).

ACCOMMODATION
7 nights in hotels*** (double bedrooms).

SIZE OF GROUP
From two.

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

DEPARTURE
Bastia

DISPERSION
Lucciana (south of Bastia and near the airport)

HOW TO GET THERE
Bastia is reachable by plane from several European cities depending on the time of year with Air France, Air Corsica but also Easyjet, Volotea or Ryanair.

By sea, Bastia is reachable with the compagnies : Corsica Ferries, Corsica Linea or La Méridionale.
Corsica ferries: http://www.corsica-ferries.co.uk/?gclid=CLyF3O_TvroCFa-WtAodlScA5A
Corsica Linea: https://www.corsicalinea.com/
La Méridionale: http://www.lameridionale.fr

From this city all access is possible by bus and train.

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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

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

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- 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)

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
A deposit is required by our bike rental partner for each bicycle. The amount ranges from €500 to €800 per bike, depending on the model chosen. The deposit is held as a pre-authorisation and is not charged, subject to the rental partner’s conditions.

To fully enjoy your trip independently, you should be familiar with the basics of bike maintenance, including how to change an inner tube in the event of a puncture.

In the event of a breakdown or technical issue that is not due to a defect in the bicycle and requires assistance from our team, an assistance fee may apply.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS
In July and August, temperatures in Corsica can be particularly high and the roads busier. We therefore recommend starting your ride early in the morning, to enjoy more comfortable cycling conditions and avoid the hottest part of the day.

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