

# CORSICA

## A once in a lifetime trek through the Island of Beauty

### OVERVIEW :

In a hiker's life, the GR20, the itinerary crossing Corsica from North to South, is a must that you absolutely cannot miss !

This sumptuous route follows the line that separates the water flowing on the island's west coast from the water flowing on the island's east coast. Which means that you will progress on a mountain track while having on both sides breath-taking views on the Mediterranean Sea.

The island of Beauty is known for this unique mix of mountain and sea. You will discover an incredible variety of landscapes, from breath-taking sunrises on the Mediterranean Sea, to the regenerative atmosphere of its centenary pine grove Laricio, without forgetting Tafone sculptures engraved in the Rhyolite's red granites.

GR20 is known as one of the most beautiful and toughest of all European treks. This trip requires a good level of fitness and previous trekking experience is recommended.

A qualified guide (French State Diploma in Alpinism) will guarantee your safety all along the journey and share with you its most secret places and its knowledge of local culture and traditions.

If the challenge seems high, please feel free to contact us to limit the trek on the southern part of the GR20, which is a lot easier.

Group : 6 to 10 people - Good fitness condition needed

Partial crossing - 8 days - Price : 925 euros/person

Integral crossing - 14 days - Price : 1750 euros/person



**ITINERARY (can be done in reverse side South to North according to group arrangement) :**

**Day 1 : Maison Forestière de Bonifatu – Refuge de l'Ortu du u Piobbu. Positive elevation 1077m. Distance 8 kms. Walking time 5h.**

You will meet your guide at Calvi harbor at 10H30. We will then organize a transfer to the forest house of Bonifatu, where our adventure starts. We will climb our first steep ascent to the Refuge de l'Ortu through a luxurious laricio and marine pine grove. Our track will progress along the Malaghia river and will give us the opportunity to cool down during our climb..

Night in refuge or tent.

**Day 2 : Refuge Ortu di U Piobbu – Refuge Carrozzu. Positive elevation 774m. Distance 8 kms. Time 5 h.**

A fantastic day to discover the Corsican rough granitic mountains. The route progress at a close to 2000 meters altitude through jagged rocky slabs, rhyolite peaks soaring to the sky. Stunning view at the Bocca de Innominata, a well deserved reward before starting a steep descent toward the Refuge de Carrozzu.

Night in refuge or tent.



**Day 3 : Refuge Carrozzu – Refuge Ascu. Positive elevation 900 m. Distance 6 kms. Walking time 5h.**

Another day on the mineral road of the northern Corsican massif. The day starts along the Spasimata river on huge granite slabs. Be careful walking in wet weather as the path can be slippery! Ask your guide to comment on the incredible carvings in the granite rocks. The tafoni are the result of the combined chemical and wind erosion of the granite. A living testimony to the island's rich geology.

We reach the bocca di Muvrella at 1987 m. Here we have a perfect view of Monte Cinto, the highest point of the island.

Night in refuge or tent.

**Day 4 : Refuge Ascu - Refuge Thighiettu. Positive elevation 1190 m. Distance 8 km. Walking time 7h.**

We will start early to take advantage of the fresh morning air to climb the 1200 meters to the Pointe des Eboulis. The more courageous can add a 2 hour walk to Monte Cinto through the granite rocks. A fantastic 360° view from the top of the island. Save your strength for the long and technical descent to the Thighiettu refuge.

Night in refuge or tent

**Day 5 : Refuge Thigiettu – Refuge Ciuttulu di Mori. Positive elevation 652 m. Distance 6 km. Walking time 4h.**

A short stage, well deserved after the previous day ! Your guide will lead you to some secret corners of the Foggiale river, time to take advantage of the fresh water and relax in a wild and unspoiled environment

Night in refuge or tent

**Day 6 : Refuge Ciuttulu di Mori – Refuge Manganu. Positive elevation 821 m. Distance 22 kms. Walking time 8h.**

We will pass by the Lake Nino, source of the Tavignano (the second largest river in Corsica, both in length and flow). It is surrounded by small peaty lakes, called pozzines,. A typical and magical Corsican landscape.

Night in refuge or tent

**Day 7 : Refuge Manganu – Refuge Pietra Piana. Positive elevation 838m. Distance 10 kms. Walking time 6h.**

Certainly one of the most beautiful stages of our route. You will understand why the GR20 is one of the most famous treks in Europe. The Capitello pass, carved into a sharp granite ridge, offers an incredible view of the glacial lakes of Melo, its deep blue waters surrounded by impressive rocky chaos. Magical scenery!

Night in refuge or tent

**Day 8 : Refuge de Pietra Piana – Refuge de l'Onda. Positive elevation 524m. Distance 10 kms. Walking time 5h.**

On the GR20, the good surprises come at the right time to relieve pain and relax: the natural pools! The Manganellu river runs alongside the GR20 trail and has many natural pools and basins along the way. Take advantage of your guide to find the most preserved ones.

Night in refuge or tent

**Day 9 : Refuge de l'Onda – Vizzavona. Positive elevation 650m. Distance 10 kms. Walking time 5 h.**

Again the atmosphere of the Corsican high peaks today until Vizzavona, which separates the northern part of the GR20 from the southern part of the GR20. Your guide will suggest you climb Monte d'Oro, one of the highest peaks in Corsica.

Night in refuge or tent.

**Day 10 : Vizzavona – Campanelle. Positive elevation 1115m. Distance 14 kms. Walking time 8h.**

We have the chance to cross one of the richest forests in France: the territorial forest of Vizzavona. The shapes and dimensions of the hundred-year-old Laricio pines are impressive, as are those of the beech trees. We will observe the rich natural fauna of the forest: the Corsican nuthatch, wild boars, the green woodpecker, etc.

Night in refuge or tent.

**Day 11 : Campanelle – Refuge du Prati. Positive elevation 1064m. Distance 17 kms. Walking time 8h.**

The GR20 is a ridge line that separates the waters flowing to the west of the island from those flowing to the east. The 5 most famous peaks on this line are Monte Cinto, Monte d'Oro, Monte Retondo, Monte Renoso and Incudine. Today we will leave the main GR20 route to climb Renoso. A rewarding ascent that will take us over the aerial ridge of Pietradione and the Pozzi shepherd's huts.

Night in refuge or tent.

**Day 12 : Refuge di Prati – Refuge d'Usciulu. Positive elevation 677m. Distance 10 kms. Walking time 5h.**

A ridge line route with beautiful scenery. An opportunity for your guide to comment on the geological history of the island, which was once part of the main continent and was separated by the movement of the African and Iberian tectonic plates. It is an ideal moment to become aware of the finiteness of human beings in the face of the immensity of geological time.

Night in refuge or tent.

**Day 13 : Refuge d'Usciulu – Refuge d'Asinau. Positive elevation 799m. Distance 19 kms. Walking time 8h.**

Today we propose a variant of the GR20 to climb Monte Incudine, a wild and rocky peak at 2134 metres. The landscape is made up of a huge rocky slab dotted with boulders. The panorama is breathtaking: you can enjoy a 360° view over the whole of the Corsican mountains, with even views of the bays of Ajaccio, Valinco and the east coast of the island.

Night in refuge or tent.

**Day 14 : Refuge d'Asinau – Refuge de Parili. Positive elevation 616m. Distance 14 kms. Walking time 6h.**

Another unforgettable day through the Aiguilles de Bavela, one of the island's diamonds. We will follow a magical trail winding through the granite needles that soar into the island's sky. Your guide will suggest alternative routes if you feel uncomfortable with the cabled passages along this route.

Night in refuge or tent.

**Day 15 : Refuge de Parili – Conca. Positive elevation 394m. Distance 12 kms. Walking time 4h.**

Sunrise at the Parili is an incredible spectacle. We strongly advise you to wake up early and we guarantee you that you will not regret it. This is our last day and logically mostly a downhill track through pines and mediterranean species forest

Optional: Possible night in Conca for departure the next day.

Transfer to Calvi harbor by bus.

**DIFFICULTY :**

Our route does not require any alpine experience. It requires good physical condition as you should be able to walk 5-8 hours on mountainous terrain.

## **FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS :**

All inclusive tour including nights and meals.  
Nights in refuge or tent.

## **GUIDE :**

This itinerary requires a good knowledge of the mountain environment. A qualified guide (French State Diploma in Alpinism) will guarantee your safety all along the journey. Our guides will also share their passion of the Alpine flora, fauna and the island's most secret places.

## **WHEN TO GO :**

**from June to September please contact us for confirmed dates.**

Minimum number of participants is 6 people. Maximum 10 people.

## **WEATHER :**

As we travel in a mountainous environment, we must be prepared for rapid changes in weather, from clear blue skies to cold and windy conditions. Please double check the equipment list before departure.

**Please note that your guide can adapt the program according to weather conditions.**

**TRANSPORTATION :** Pick up at Calvi harbor. All transfer to the walks departure points included in the price.

## **PRICE :**

**1750 € (full trip)**

**935 € (partial trip from Calvi to Vizzavona)**

Included : guide fees, food and accommodation, transportation (from Calvi harbor)

Excluded : transportation up to Calvi harbor, insurance, taxes, equipment rental (if required), extra drinks.

## **INSURANCES and LEGAL informations :**

Our tour is managed through our Vercors Escapade travel association.

Tourism Agreement N° AG.026.08.0001 | Immatriculation Atout France IM026100019

Insurance RCP : Mutuelle du Mans Assurances – Cabinet Piquet-Gauthier – BP 27 – 69921 Oullins Cédex

Financial Warranty : Covea Caution – 34 Place de la République – 72013 Le Mans Cédex 2

N°SIRET : 51225760100017 | N° TVA Intracommunautaire :FR69512257601

## **Terms of Sales :**

Vercors Sales terms of sales applies. Visit our website for details.

## **CO2 FREE AND ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY TOUR :**

One of our strong value is the protection of the environment. We strongly recommend to travel by train and boat to the Calvi's harbor. Our car transportation will be limited and compensated.

We will not set up camp fires. A minimum distance to wild life (wild ungulates, chamois, ibex, ..) will be respected. Obviously no garbage will be left during the trek. Off trail route are chosen to limit our impact on the soil. Finally, our food will include a limited quantity of meat.

### **Total CO2 estimation : 25 kg CO2 per people fully compensated**

Train : 5 kg CO2

Car transportation : 4 kg CO2

Food and Accomodations : 9 kg CO2

Equipment : 7 kg CO2

Compensation : 25 kg CO2 per people

## **EQUIPMENT LIST :**

Adjustable trekking poles  
Sleeping bag (-5 degrees)  
inflatable mattress  
Head lamp

Backpack with a hip belt.  
Sunglasses  
Sunscreen  
Head lamp  
Water bottle  
Plastic lunch box  
Knife, fork, spoon

Hygiene kit

Medical kit :  
Antiseptic wipes and bandages  
Medication for pain, fever, inflammation, diarrhea  
Compeed (or equivalent) for blisters  
Elastoplaste (o equivalent) for blisters  
Medical tool (chisel, ..)

Clothing and footwear :

Moisture-wicking T shirts  
Quick drying pants/short  
Long sleeve shirt  
Socks

Rain jacket  
Warm insulated jacket  
cap

Binocular (optional)  
Navigation tools (optional)  
Cell phone (even if remote area are outside coverage zone, cell phone is part of safety equipment)

Please make sure all you belongings are stored in plastic bags to guarantee everything keep dry even in case of bad weather.