



Collett's
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

CORSICA – FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE MED

A 7 night self-guided route
Weave your way from historic Corte, high in Corsica's mountainous interior
to Porto on its captivating coastline
Daily luggage transfers included

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At a glance

This is a 7-night self-guided exploration of the mountains, coast and culture of Corsica. Take a scenic train ride to secluded Corte at the island's heart where you will have a day to explore. Travel back in time as you use old mule tracks and Genoese bridges to cross the mountainous divide through ever-changing scenery before descending to Porto on the Mediterranean coast. You can rest on the beach on your final day in historic Calvi or use the time to explore the surrounding area on foot. Start any day between mid May and mid October. Your luggage will be moved for you each day between comfortable 2 and 3* hotels where you can enjoy traditional cuisine and Corsican wine.

Dates & Prices

Available from mid April to mid October

The best months to visit are May, early June & September

Low Season – April, May, June, September & October £995 pp

High Season Supplement – July & August £50 pp

Transfer Supplement for Bastia Arrivals (if required) £100 pp

You may start this itinerary any day (although Sunday coincides with most flights).

Prices are per person and based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Please note that all bookings are subject to availability in the hotels.

Please do not make any travel arrangements until we have confirmed your accommodation dates.

The minimum party size is two (for reasons of safety no single travelers are permitted)

Grade : Moderate to Moderate/Hard

Ascents: 200m to 900m each day

Descents : 310m to 1200m each day

Walking Time : 5 to 7 hours each day

Terrain : Much of the walking in Corsica can be rough underfoot, requiring sure footedness but is not in itself technical. Previous hill walking experience is useful. The route generally follows clear footpaths and forest tracks with some short sections on road. The route is usually waymarked, but attention to your surroundings and the map may at times be necessary. Any exposure is mild and only very short (max. 5m) sections, usually avoidable by not taking a route extension. Ascents and descents tend to be well-graded and of reasonable length. The exception is the zig-zagging descent into the Spelunca Gorge on Day 4, which, although long, follows an ancient mule track and is not too steep. *If you are in any doubt whether this holiday is suitable for you, please call the office on 01799 513331 or email enquiries@colletts.co.uk and we will be happy to discuss the route in more detail with you.*

Included in the price

- 7 nights B&B accommodation in handpicked 2 & 3* hotels
- 4 three course evening meals (on nights 1, 3, 4, and 5)
- Luggage transfers each day from hotel to hotel
- Detailed route cards (including IGN maps and route descriptions)
- 24/7 Telephone support throughout your holiday
- Taxi transfer to Calvi airport at the end of your holiday
Transfer to Bastia is available at a supplement.

Not included in the price

- Flights & Travel Insurance
- Transport from Calvi Airport or Bastia Airport to Corte on your arrival day (See Travel Section below for your options)
- Dinners (on the two non-inclusive nights)
- Packed Lunches (available daily, pay locally)
- Drinks and all "extras"



From the Mountains to the Med – The Itinerary

Day 1 (Sun) – Arrive, Travel to Corte & Settle in

After arriving at either Bastia or Calvi airport, it is just a short taxi ride to the nearest station from where you can catch a train to Corte. Alternatively, you can transfer directly from the airport to your hotel in Corte by taxi for a supplement. After the picturesque journey to Corte, your hotel for the next two nights is just a short walk away. **Accommodation** - Hôtel Duc de Padoue / Hôtel du Nord 3*, in Corte (Dinner included)

Day 2 (Mon) - Tavignano Gorge Day Walk

12½ km, 6 hours walking time, 310m ascent/descent - The Tavignano Gorge is one of Corsica's most beautiful spots. Unlike the open pine escarpments of the nearby Restonica valley, this there-and-back route follows a centuries old mule track that weaves its way along a dramatic and enclosed gorge deep into the high mountains offering glimpses of large rock-pools below. There will be plenty of time today to explore Corte further and to pick up any last minute supplies before you start your point to point adventure tomorrow. Dinner is not included, but there are plenty of local restaurants to suit all budgets and tastes. **Accommodation** - Hôtel Duc de Padoue / Hôtel du Nord 3*, in Corte.

Day 3 (Tues) - Scala Sta Regina to Calacuccia

13km, 5 ½ hours walking time, 700m ascent/ 340m descent - After breakfast a taxi (included) will transport you the short distance to the start of your walk in the Scala di Santa Regina. This trail is an age-old path that was used by shepherds leading their herds in and out of the Niolu valley leading up through a décor of granite cliffs along a superb balcony path to a small Genoese bridge. The views open up and you continue on through old chestnut groves and rolling forest hills. You walk down towards the lake in the base of the valley towards the village of Calacuccia. Hotel Acquaviva is situated on the edge of the village and you can expect a delicious dinner in a local restaurant.

Accommodation - Hotel Acquaviva, in Calacuccia (Dinner Included)

Day 4 (Wed) - Calacuccia to Vergio

17km, 7 hours walking time, 700m ascent/ 340m descent - Walking from Calacuccia, you cross the village of Albertacce. Taking a path from the village outskirts, you will pass by an old chestnut mill and cross a Genoese bridge, following a trail that winds its way up through a wonderful forest. You will be able to see Calasima across the valley, the highest village on the island. For most of the walk, you will be flanking the mountain side, enjoying startling views across the Niolu valley and back down to the lake you have just left behind. A forest path leads uphill towards the Col de Vergio and the mountain lodge Hotel Castel di Vergio - where a delicious three course meal will await you.

Accommodation - Hotel Castel di Vergio, in Vergio (Dinner included)

Day 5 (Thurs) - Vergio to Evisa

11½km, 5 hours walking time, 200m ascent/ 720m descent - Today you get the first views of the sea as you descend from the Col de Vergio - which is marked with a forbidding statue and is the boundary point between the island's north and south departments. The views are majestic; the peaks are high and loom above. The trail goes downhill through the Aitone pine forest to the outskirts of Evisa. You will pass the piscine naturelle, a big rock pool and local swim spot, then continue down through the chestnut woods that mark your approach to the village. You will arrive in the centre of Evisa, a vibrant mountain village with a healthy climate before heading to the Auberge style Hôtel Aitone. Over dinner, from the hotel's panoramic restaurant, you will be able to immerse yourself in the sun as it sets over the distant Mediterranean. **Accommodation** - 2* Hotel Aitone (with pool), in Evisa (Dinner included)

Day 6 (Fri) - Evisa to Porto

14km, 6 hours walking time, 320m ascent/ 1170m descent - The path zig-zags through the Spelunca gorge, leading into the depths. Crossing a high arched Genoese bridge, you walk high above the torrent, towards Ota, a mountain village with a Mediterranean feel. The delicious smells from "Chez Felix" restaurant beckon; take a moment to sit and unwind. Your path leaves Ota, heading down to the coast and the view towards the Gulf of Porto are sublime: red cliffs, shock blue sea and the bold silhouette of the Genoese tower. If you wish you can pre-book a transfer from Ota to Porto after lunch and a boat trip to see the Scandola nature reserve (not included). Stay at a comfortable 3* hotel on the marina with a pool. Dinner is not included, but there are plenty of local restaurants to suit all budgets and tastes. **Accommodation** - 3* Hôtel Kalliste (with pool), in Porto

Day 7 (Sat) - Transfer to Calvi, Rest Day, or Afternoon Walk

Today, in the morning, you transfer directly from your hotel in Porto to your hotel in Calvi by taxi (1¼ hr, included) where you can check into your hotel, grab a spot of lunch and then choose from one of the two following walks:

1. Notre Dame de la Serra - 5km, 2.5 hours walking time, 200m ascent/descent - The 13th century chapel of Notre Dame de la Serra sits high above the town and affords captivating views of the Bay of Calvi with its mountainous backdrop. This short but beautiful walk leaves you plenty of time to explore Calvi and its iconic citadel.

2. Calvi to the Revellata Peninsula - 14km, 5 hours walking time, 300m ascent/descent - Stretching to the north of Calvi, the Revellata Peninsula is a taste of the arid wilderness typical to the north-east of Corsica but still within easy reach of the town. The path hugs the coast, offering plenty of opportunities for a refreshing swim. Return by the same path or take the high route over the cliffs on the western side before walking back to Calvi. Alternatively, you might just want to explore Calvi, do some last minute shopping or spend some time on the beach! **Accommodation** - 3* Calvi Hotel (dinner is not included, but there are plenty of local restaurants in Calvi to suit all budgets and tastes).

Day 8 (Sun) – Departure

A taxi transfer back to Calvi airport in time for your return flight to the UK is included in the price of your holiday. Guests using Bastia Airport will either need to make their own way using public transport, or book a private transfer (1½ hr, £100 pp supplement based on two sharing) Alternatively, please call us to discuss the options for independent onward travel or the possibility to extend your stay.

Travel

This holiday is designed so that guests can arrive into both Bastia and Calvi airports.

Bastia Arrivals

Arguably the best served airport to fly into is Bastia – but it does result in a longer transfer back on your departure day, and hence the reason for the £100pp supplement. Easyjet, BA and Air Corsica fly here from various airports in the UK. From Bastia Airport, the closest train station is at Casamozza, just a short taxi ride away (budget €25 for 2-4 people) from where you can board a train to Corte (approx €10pp and 1 ½ hours). Alternatively, a private taxi can transfer 2-4 people directly from Bastia Airport to your first hotel in Corte (£85 pp supplement based on 2 sharing). At the end of your holiday, a private transfer from Calvi to Bastia Airport (approx 1½ hrs) can be booked at a £100pp supplement. For guests whose flight times mean they can make use of public transport to get back to Bastia airport, the £100 pp supplement will not be necessary.

Calvi Arrivals

Calvi airport is served by Air Corsica (from London Stansted) and charter flights organised by Corsican Places (from Manchester). From Calvi Airport, the main train station is just a short taxi ride away (budget €35 for 2-4 people) from where you can board a train to Corte (approx €15pp and 3 hours). Alternatively, a private taxi can transfer 2-4 people directly from Calvi Airport to your first hotel in Corte (£85 pp supplement based on 2 sharing). At the end of your holiday, a taxi transfer (included) will take you from your hotel in Calvi back to Calvi Airport (approx. 15 mins).

‘Open Jaw’ Flights with Corsican Places

Fly into Bastia, Fly out of Calvi

For those interested, Corsican Places can organise ‘open jaw’ flights on Sundays from London Stansted into Bastia but returning from Calvi by combining flights. This would save you the additional 1½ hr transfer from Calvi back to Bastia at the end of your holiday (together with the £100 pp supplement). To check availability and indicative pricing visit the Corsican Places flight only search engine [here](#) and then contact Corsican Places directly for more details and to book - mentioning that you found their flights through Collett’s Mountain Holidays.

‘At Your Own Risk’

Your self-guided “From the Mountains to the Med” holiday will be spent entirely at your own risk and it is important that you understand that whilst the route notes are accurate at the time of writing, the situation on the ground may change and this itinerary relies on your sound judgement and decision making throughout. Our self-guided “From the Mountains to the Med” has been organised so that you might enjoy a route and associated accommodation you may not otherwise have discovered having organised the itinerary yourself. It represents nothing more than the opportunity to go out on a beautiful walk in a part of this wonderful walking area, with the support of knowing that many of the logistics have been arranged for you. It is a fact that mountain and coastal walking can and is associated with personal injury and death. By coming to such areas, you are exposing yourself and your party to the possibility of personal injury or even death. In such an event, Collett’s Limited trading as Collett’s Mountain Holidays will not be held responsible for your interest in the outdoors and your involvement in mountain and coastal walking, which can occasionally have tragic consequences. It is important that you understand that this itinerary is essentially based on the recognised Mare a Mare (Northern Route). The information provided uses only marked paths which are in use at the time of writing, however, it is your responsibility to continually assess the suitability and safety of the route throughout the walk and to undertake any action necessary to avoid any terrain which each or any member of the group is not comfortable with. The route choice also assumes an ability to read maps and navigate competently. It is the responsibility of each individual in the group to make an assessment of the information provided, and to make an informed decision about whether the itinerary is suitable for them. Finally, during your holiday with Collett’s Mountain Holidays you act at your own risk on any ideas, information and opinions included in any material prepared by us to help you get the most from the area.

