

Self-guided hiking trip West coast of Corsica

Self-guided hiking trip
West coast of Corsica
7-day / 6-nights



The journey

This itinerary is a selection of the most beautiful stages of the Mare e Monti Nord itinerary. The connecting stages of the Mare e Monti Nord have been omitted in favour of other highly interesting walks.

From the creeks of the Piana to the Bay of Calvi, this walk follows the coastline of the Parc Régional de Corsica. Starting with a view of the Gulf of Porto, the paths take you into the heart of the Corsican maquis before reaching the Gulf of Girolata. The route then runs alongside the Scandola nature reserve before plunging into the Gulf of Galeria and ending in Calvi.

Along this route, each stage is a new source of wonder. Between the sea and the mountains, this hike offers a wide variety of landscapes: the sculpted rocks of the famous Calanques de Piana, paths winding through the depths of the Corsican maquis or through ancient chestnut groves, the coastal path overlooking the cliffs and the ridge paths overlooking the rugged Corsican coast.

On the first few days, your walks will end in small, typical Corsican villages such as Piana and Ota, with their red granite houses. On other days, the walks will end by the sea. You can take the opportunity to swim in the Mediterranean or simply walk on the beach at sunset. The end of your walking holiday in Calvi is unexpected; you return to civilisation, but gently. You will stroll through the cobbled streets of the citadel of Calvi, overlooking the bay of fine sand.

If you take the West Coast walk in spring, you will be enchanted by the scents and colours of the flowering scrubland. In autumn, you will be amazed by the softness of the light.

Finally, hedonists will be seduced by the flavours of traditional cuisine and the opportunity to swim in the sea every day.

Period & Information

Important information about departure dates:

From April to October:

Daily from Monday to Saturday.

No departures on Sundays and public holidays (21 April, 1, 8, 29 May and 9 June).

Day 1: departure from Ajaccio bus station at 15:00, except on Saturdays when departure is at 12:15.

In July and August:

Daily departures.

Day 1: departure from Ajaccio bus station.

This itinerary is more suitable for spring and autumn; in midsummer we recommend the 'Transhumance' or 'De train en train' itineraries instead, as the walks are at higher altitudes.

Itinerary

Day 1 The village of Piana

By coach from Ajaccio, via the gulfs of Sagone and Cargese, to the village of Piana, one of the most beautiful sites in Corsica. The village of Piana, with its pink granite houses arranged in an amphitheatre, overlooks the Gulf of Porto. The panorama becomes breathtaking as the sun sets over the Gulf of Porto. Dinner in a small family restaurant serving Corsican cuisine based on local produce, fish or maquis. Night in a *** hotel.

Day 2: Calanques de Piana – Capu d'Ortu (1,294 m) – Ota village

We leave the village of Piana on foot along a path with panoramic views of the Calanques de Piana and the Gulf of Porto. The path then climbs in the shade of a pine forest. Suddenly, the forest opens up to reveal the Capu d'Ortu, with the highest mountains in Corsica, part of the Cinto massif, in the background. The descent is by another path that winds in the shade of the maritime pines, between the fantastic shapes of the red rocks, with a view of the Gulf of Porto.

Short taxi transfer to Ota, a well-preserved Corsican village.

Dinner at a traditional restaurant. Overnight in a bed and breakfast.

Average walk: + and – 600 m, 4.30 hours

Sporty hike: + and – 1000 m, 7 hours

Day 3: Tra Mare e Monti – Bussaglia beach

The itinerary begins in front of the Gulf of Porto, where the sea breeze mixes with the scents of the maquis. It then zigzags up the narrow gorges of the Vitrone, beautifully carved out of red granite. It then reaches a large plateau that was once cultivated, as evidenced by the old chestnut grove and the old drying kiln that can still be seen. Large flat stones form a picnic area with a view of the sea. The descent to the village takes you through dense heather and arbutus scrub.

Dinner and night in a *** hotel on the beach of Bussaglia.

Average walk: +350 m and -650 m, 4 hours

Sporty hike: + 780 m and – 1080 m, 6 hours

Day 4: Sentier des douaniers – Gradelle beach

This wonderful hike, starting from Porto Vecchio, will allow you to admire numerous coves, always surrounded by lush vegetation and multicoloured rocks, red, black, grey and white. The path winds along the rugged coastline, then dives into a cove by the sea. It then climbs along the coast as close as possible to Grattelle beach, where you will have dinner and spend the night in a bungalow.

In summer, the itinerary is slightly modified to stay overnight in Curzu.

Moderate walk: + and – 410m, 4 hours.

Sporty hike: + and – 750m, 5.30 hours

Itinerary

Day 5: Postman's path – Gulf of Girolata

A new stage with views of the rugged coastline of the Scandola nature reserve. It continues along the coastal path known as the "Postman's Path" and ends with extraordinary views over the Gulf of Girolata. This village is a small corner of paradise. As there are no vehicles, it can only be reached on foot or by boat.

Dinner in a restaurant on the beach, night in a bungalow.

Average hike: +400m and -400m, 4.30 hours

Difficult hike: +650m and -650m, 6 hours

Day 6. Scandola Nature Reserve – Calvi Citadel

The trail climbs above the Scandola Nature Reserve, a mountainous peninsula surrounded by rhyolite cliffs and inhabited by cormorants, ospreys and wild goats. From the Fuata Pass you can choose between two routes. The traditional Mare e Monti route follows the ridges, while an old footpath leads to the sheepfolds of Focolara before reaching the Corsican village of Galeria.

Transfer by taxi to Calvi. Evening in the heart of the Genoese town, whose citadel overlooks the immense fine sandy beach lined with pine trees.

Dinner not included. Night in a ** hotel.

Walk along the ridges: +780m and -750m, 6 hours.

Walk over Focolaro: + 680m and – 650m, 5.30 hours

Day 7 Morning in Calvi – end of the trip

A delicious breakfast awaits you in Calvi before your journey ends. Departure by train to Ajaccio or Bastia.

Prices & Information

Dates	Prices*	Prices for 4 people
From 01 May to 31 May 2025	900€	830€
From 1 to 30 June 2025	930€	860€
From 1 to 31 July 2025	960€	900€
From 01 to 31 August 2025	990€	940€
From 1 to 30 September 2025	930€	860€
From 01 to 06 October 2025	900€	830€

*Price per person based on 2 people

Supplement for single room between €290-350 depending on the season

The price includes

Accommodation :

3 nights in a *** hotel

2 nights in a bungalow

1 night in a bed & breakfast

Meals :

Half board

Breakfast and evening meals in a restaurant, at a table d'hôte or in a hotel.

However, you are responsible for the meal on the last evening in Calvi.

Transport :

Day 2: taxi from Piana to Ota

Day 6: taxi from Galeria to Calvi

Luggage transfer:

Between the different accommodations (except in Girolata, where you will find it in the Galeria).

The travel diary:

The itinerary, which will be given to you when you pay for your stay, includes a day-by-day description of the itinerary, the route on a 1:25,000 scale map and practical information.

The price does not include

Picnics at lunchtime

The meal on the last evening in Calvi

Transport on day 1 from Ajaccio to Piana (allow €20)

Transport not specified in the programme

Wine with meals, drinks and other personal expenses

Cancellation and repatriation insurance, unless you have taken out the option.

Any changes to the programme are at your own expense.