

Corsica on a Tandem

Batik

2019



Wishing you a pleasant tandem cycling holiday in

Corsica



Bienvenue en Corse !

Welcome to Corsica !

The team at **CORSICA AVENTURE** would like to wish you an enjoyable cycling holiday with us here in Corsica. We have the pleasure in enclosing the documentation for your Corsican holiday. Please take time to look carefully through this booklet and the contents of the pack.

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Your ticket pack includes

- **JOURNEY PLANNER** including list of hotels
- **CYCLING NOTES** including information on the area
- **PDF** copies of **IGN Maps**
- **TOWN PLANS** (*where applicable*)
- **Map(s)** 1:60000 scale

We ask you to familiarise with the information in this pack, prepare your walking and rucksack appropriately for the daily conditions. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or queries, or if you need assistance during your trek.

Have a great holiday!

Kind Regards,

The Corsica Aventure Team

Essential Security

PLAN YOUR DAY IN RESPECT OF WEATHER & CONDITIONS.

- Avoid risk areas in thunder storms and be prepared for all different weather eventualities.
- Take care in strong winds and on wet surfaces.

STUDY YOUR ROUTE CAREFULLY BEFORE SETTING OUT.

- Always know where you are on the map.
- Judge your pace and progress accordingly.
- Obey road signs and take care on narrow roads.

HAVE A WELL PREPARED SADDLEBAG.

- Pack enough water for the day (2 litres + per person, more in hot weather).
- Have a small **FIRST AID** kit to hand.
- Be prepared for cold, windy and stormy weather, as well as sun and heat.
- Pack a good picnic and always have snack-food.
- Puncture repair kit, lock, pump should be with you at all times.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For **URGENT SITUATIONS** or **OUT OF HOURS** please call our **DUTY PHONE**.

URGENT SITUATIONS & DUTY PHONE: +33 (0)6 75 24 63 62

Your call will be taken by our **EMERGENCY** line, please provide a telephone number, your location, and a brief description of the **PROBLEM**. They will contact the necessary persons to assist you.

If you need to contact us during your holiday, for **NON URGENT ISSUES, QUESTIONS & REQUESTS**, please call our **OFFICE TEAM**.

OFFICE TEAM (8h00 - 16h00 Mon - Fri) +33 (0)4 95 504408 (English speaking)

In the event of any **PROBLEMS** please contact us during your stay. Do not wait until your return home to report these as they can only be rectified if we are given the chance to act at the time.

Change of Plan

If it is not possible to do the day's itinerary due to adverse weather conditions, a personal difficulty including injury or fatigue, or other such factors or if you decide to cut your holiday short please contact us on the **ASSISTANCE NUMBERS** straight away.

Alerts

Please inform us **in all situations** if you will be arriving at your night stop late. If there is no warning from you we will presume there is an emergency situation to deal with which will involve rescue services.

Weather & Fire Risk Information

Due to the large number of travellers on the terrain we cannot contact individual travellers about the weather. If after looking outside and assessing the weather you have doubts about doing the stage, you can ask your hosts if there is an official **VIGILANCE ORANGE**, or take a look at the website <http://vigilance.meteofrance.com/> to see if you should undertake your ride.

Insurance

Before you embark on this holiday you must be fully insured. You should always have your insurance details and their emergency number at hand should you need to contact them.

Mobile Phones & Coverage

In remote areas, there are still zones where there is little or no coverage. We ask you to supply us with a mobile phone number should we need to contact you whilst on the terrain.

General Information

Your Cycling Holiday

Map Reading

The routes in general are well easy to follow; a useful application is **lphiGeNie** which shows IGN topographic maps and localised GPS positioning.

Cash & Cards

Please have enough cash on you for the more rural areas where bank cards are not accepted. There are cash machines in larger towns only.

Food & Drink

As with Corsica itself, the island's cuisine is best described as somewhere between French and Italian but there are also many aspects which are distinctly Corsican. The earthy style of hearty food takes its inspiration from the land, with sun-loving fruits and vegetables, **charcuterie** and **cheeses**.

Dietary Requirements

We have informed all accommodations and restaurants of any special dietary requirements you may have but we suggest you do remind them on arrival. ***Please note Vegetarian, Gluten & Lactose free options will be limited in smaller villages.***

Breakfasts

Breakfast is served from 8h00 onwards, if you need to get away early you should confirm the time of breakfast the night before with your hotel. Breakfast is generally simple and continental with French bread, croissant, jams, butter and a hot drink eg. strong black coffee.

Evening Meals

Where included, your **Half Board Evening Meal** is normally a 3 course affair, with normally soup or **charcuterie** as a starter, a local main course, **cheeses**, and / or dessert. The evening meal is generally served from 19h30 / 20h00 onwards. Evening meals may be taken in local restaurants a short walk away. ***Please note drinks are not included with the meal and should be paid for locally.***

Meat Dishes

Wild boar is possibly the island's most celebrated dish - look out for **Sanglier** on the menu. Pork is common as pigs are bred throughout Corsica. Meat dishes may be served with pasta or polenta, made of chestnut flour. A lot of the dishes are stews. Other dishes you may see

- **Veau aux olives** – pink Veal with local olives in a thick tomato stew
- **Cabri de lait** – roasted young goat / kid

Fish Dishes

In the mountains you'll find mountain trout on menus. On the coast you will find a good selection of fish and seafood although prices can be fairly high in harbour side restaurants. Look out for red mullet (rouget), sea bream (loup de mer) and crayfish (langoustine).

Cheese

Much of the mountain cuisine is based around the locally produced dairy products and in particular ewe's cheese which is similar to goat's cheese. Local cheeses are varied and you will find locally made cheese in most of the mountain villages, occasionally served with fig jam. **Brocciu** is a Corsican whey cheese much like ricotta.

Charcuterie

Cured meats are very popular and a wide selection is usually available on Corsican menus.

- **Lonzu & Coppa** similar but are made from different parts of the pig, Lonzu is leaner.
- **Prisuttu** - Corsica dried ham.
- **Figatellu** – a long liver sausage, served grilled.

Desserts

Traditional Corsican desserts are generally milk or egg based or “à la **Chataigne**” – made with chestnuts

- **Fiadone** - soft brocciu cheese and lemon tart.
- **Beignets** - chestnut flour doughnuts, sometimes stuffed with brocciu cheese.

Picnics

Picnics are generally not included and you can purchase provisions from the village shops. Shops are generally open from 8h30 – 12h00 then from 14h00 – 18h30 sometimes staying open later in the summer months. On Sundays and Monday mornings shops could be closed, if in doubt, you should buy supplies the night before and ask at your hotel for the local opening times.

Snack Food

We advise you to have a stock of snack food with you, for extra energy along the way.

Corsican Wine & Beers

Corsica produces several very good wines, which are only recently known outside the island. The grape harvest is still often cut by hand and also there are a number of **BIO** or organic wines.

James Boswell was an aficionado, writing in his Tour of Corsica published in 1782:

"The flavours of wines differ all over the island. It is a true marvel that such a slight difference in soil and exposure generates such considerable diversity."

Some wines are made with traditional Corsican varieties of grape, such as the delicious white **Vermentino**, **Nielluccio**, the basis of the esteemed Patrimonio red, and several excellent rosé wines.

As a quick guide, wines from **Patrimonio** (Clos Teddi, Orenga de Gaffroy, etc), **Calvi** (Alzipratu, Landry, etc), **Ajaccio** (Peraldi, Abbatucci) and from near **Sartène** (San Michele, Saporale) are outstanding. Also worth tasting are the local fortified wines, such as Muscat made from the delicious pale Muscat grape, or the darker, thick and sweetish herb-rich Cap Corse. Home-produced, dusky coloured, high alcohol "digestif" drinks made with flavours of herbs such as myrtle, may be offered at the end of the meal.

There are three brands of beer produced in Corsica, Pietra has a range of beers which include chestnuts among their ingredients, Serena and Colomba, are 'German style' wheat beers.

A little bit about Corsica...

History

When you arrive you will be instantly aware of the differences between the island and mainland France. The Corsicans are a people rich in traditions, proud, hospitable and generous and away from the busier coastal towns you will find a way of life that is authentically Corsican.

Brimming with history, the earliest evidence of Neolithic human inhabitation of the island comes in the form of '**Dame de Bonifacio**' human remains dating back to 6570 BC. Corsica is also home to many standing stones and dolmens, traces of the **Tor-réens**, a Bronze age people who lived here around 2000 BC.

Corsica has also preserved the memories of the many nations who conquered the island - a truly European saga that includes the Greeks, Romans, Vandals and Genoese and Papal armies.

During the Middle Ages, Corsica was the prize in rivalries between the Papacy, Pisa and Genoa. When the Genoese finally took over Corsica in 1284, they tried to develop agriculture in Corsica, but the numerous revolts by the inhabitants, organized in clans, became an insurmountable obstacle. There still are over 80 towers that guarded the coast during that time, dotted on headlands and high points.

In 1755, Pasquale Paoli, a Corsican patriot ***U Babbu di a Patria***, led a general uprising of the island against the French, becoming the "General de la Nation Corse" or President of the Executive Council of Corsica. Paoli gave Corsica a democratic constitution, which later went on as a blueprint for the American Constitution, and founded the island's University. This independence came to an end in 1769, at the Battle of Ponte Nuovo, and the first exile of Paoli to London after being forced out by the French.

The French Revolution further aggravated the opposition between clans and, thus, Paoli appealed to the English for help in his struggle, and the English occupied the island from 1794 until 1796 under the crown of George III.

During the 19th century, Corsica became a bastion of Bonapartisme, Corsica's most famous son and France's most famous Emperor, born in Ajaccio, came to fight Paoli and brought Corsica back into the Republic by force. Often neglected by the French state, the island was wild and the population generally unruly. The 19th and 20th Centuries saw a period of recession of the economy for Corsica, and have seen the continued and growing struggle for independence from the Republic of France.

The Moor's Head

You will notice this symbol across the island. The Moor's Head symbol dates back to the 13th century, when the Aragonese were given rights over Corsica by the Pope after their victory over the Saracens. They portrayed their acquisition by the Moor's Head. It was, however, forgotten in Corsica during the subsequent Genoese occupation when the Virgin Mary (the patron Saint of Corsica) was used to symbolise Corsica.

In the 18th century the German adventurer, Théodore Von Neuhoff (who became king of Corsica for 6 months in 1736) chose the forgotten Moor's Head as the National flag. Twenty years later it was re-established as the official Corsican flag by the great Corsican patriot: Pascal Paoli. He insisted that the bandana was moved from its original position covering the eyes (to the forehead) in order to symbolize the liberation of Corsica.

It has since become the Corsican emblem and can be seen on flags throughout the island. Any locally produced goods; official buildings; Corsican owned boats; properties and aircraft carry this symbol. All Corsican political parties (whatever the strength of their Nationalist tendencies) also use this emblem, but it is generally a simple statement of pride in their country.

Further reading

Visit the Corsican tourist board website www.visit-corsica.com

Lonely Planet Corsica, Eyewitness Travel Guide to Corsica, Rough Guide to Corsica

Responsible Tourism

At **CORSICA AVENTURE**, we ask you to

- Support environmental initiatives at hotels
- Respect local culture.
- Respect the environment through which you travel through
- Do not disturb wildlife or dig or pick plants.
- Please take all rubbish with you and dispose of responsibly.

Your Holiday Starts here

On arrival in **AJACCIO** airport, please make your way to town. As you have pre-booked, the taxi will be there to meet you – please see **JOURNEY PLANNER** for details. The taxi may be waiting in the taxi area, to the far left of the terminal building, the other side of **DEPARTURES**.

Ajaccio

AJACCIO, Corsica's diminutive capital sparkles with Mediterranean buzz reminiscent of the Cote d'Azur and is the largest town on the island. His place of birth, Napoleon Bonaparte gave the town international fame and visitors cannot escape his commemorative presence throughout the town. It is an attractive town with an exceptionally mild climate and boasts a wealth of cafés, restaurants and chic shops. The old town is especially charming with a cluster of ancient streets spreading north and south of the Place Foch, which opens out onto the seafront by the old port. There are plenty of places to visit including Napoleon's house **MAISON BONAPARTE**, the **CITADEL** and **MUSÉE FESCH**. There is also a local produce market held every morning Mon-Sat at **PLACE FOCH** providing an ideal scene to capture the essence of local life as you watch the world go by. The seafront promenade along the **ROUTE DES SANGUINAIRES** is a pleasant place to stroll and leads to some lovely beaches, the least crowded being the furthest along. **LES ILES SANGUINAIRES** are four granite islands glow red at sunset and are a protected site at the northern edge of the **GULFE D'AJACCIO**. They have an air of remoteness, with gorse, gulls, the abandoned tower of Castellucciu and the crashing waves adding to the isolation.

Filitosa

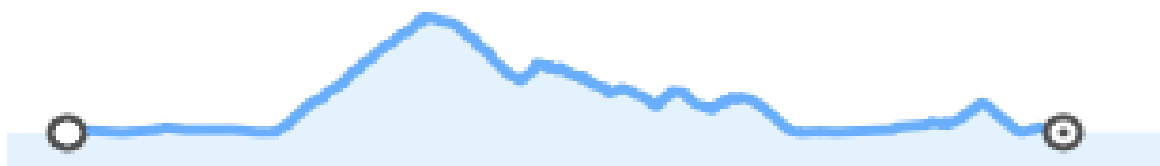
Lying in the countryside of the **TARAVO** valley on the north side of the Valinco Gulf is **FILITOSA**, a collection of menhirs, (from the Celtic maen hir meaning long stone). Filitosa is one of the most important prehistoric sites in Corsica and was discovered in 1946 by Charles-Antoine Césari. The oldest findings on the site date back to approximately around 6000BC indicating that there was a human population living in caves in this area as early as 3300BC. Allow about 1 - 1.5 hours.

Ride 🚲 Ajaccio – Coti Chiavari – Propriano

↑ 1045m

↓ 1034m

63km



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES:

AJACCIO, PORTICCIO, **PORTO POLLO**

POINTS OF INTEREST:

COAST OF THE **AJACCIO** GOLFE (BEACHES) & **FILITOSA**

PLEASE NOTE:

TAKE WATER, SUN CREAM, SWIM GEAR and PICNIC.

➔ 0km

**TODAY STARTS WITH A FERRY JOURNEY, LEAVE YOUR HOTEL
DROP DOWN TO AJACCIO HARBOUR (BELOW PLACE FOCH)**

AFTER A SHORT CROSSING, ARRIVE AT PORTICCIO BY BOAT.

FROM THE FERRY, YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE **D55 AND THE **D155**.**

PORTO POLLO	<i>PORTI PODDU</i>
PROPRIANO	<i>PRUPRIA</i>
SERRA DI FERRO	<i>SERRA DI FARRU</i>

YOU ARE HEADING WEST **RIGHT ALONG THE COAST ON THE **D55**.**

**KEEP THE SEA ON YOUR RIGHT HEADING STRAIGHT ACROSS AT
THE FIRST MINI ROUNDABOUT AND STRAIGHT ACROSS AT THE
SECOND AGOSTA BEACH.**

← 5KM

AT THE NEXT ROUNDABOUT SOLELLA, TAKE THE LAST EXIT **LEFT.
CONTINUE ON **D55**.**

FOR SOLELLA BEACHES TURN RIGHT AT ROUNDABOUT.

↑ 7KM

**JUST AFTER THE PETROL STATION, YOU WILL FIND RUPPIONE
BEACH. CONTINUE ON THE **D55**.**

- ↑ 12KM YOU ARE NOW NEARING THE MARE É SOLE / PLAGÉ D'ARGENT
- ← 13KM TAKE THE **D155** TO **CÔTI CHIAVARI**.
- ↑ 15KM PASS THE OLD PENITENTIARY
- 23KM HEAD RIGHT INTO **COTI CHIAVARI** VILLAGE
- ↑ 28KM YOU ARRIVE AT **ACQUA DORIA**. CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE **D155**.
(* CAPU DI MURO TOWER AND HEADLAND OVER TO THE RIGHT)
- ↑ 44KM YOU CONTINUE ON THE **D155** ROAD UNTIL **SERRA DI FERRO**
CONTINUE THROUGH **SERRA DI FERRO**, DROP DOWN TO SEA.
- ← 46KM TURN LEFT TOWARDS **PROPRIANO** ON THE **D757**
*TO YOUR RIGHT IS THE NATURE RESERVE TANCHICCIA
- 48KM TURN RIGHT, CROSSING AN **IRON BRIDGE**, ON THE **D157**.
***AFTER 1KM THERE IS A LEFT HAND TURN TOWARDS FILITOSA**
- ↑ 50KM CYCLE ALONG THE COAST ON THE **D57**. KEEPING SEA ON RIGHT.
- ↑ 52KM YOU WILL FIND A SERIES OF BEACHES INCLUDING ABBARTELLO
- 58KM YOU NOW REACH A MAIN ROAD **T40**. TURN RIGHT
CARE ! DANGEROUS DESCENT.
- 62 KM YOU ARE BEHIND THE BEACH AT BARRACCI (NATURE RESERVE).
AT ROUNDABOUT, TURN RIGHT TOWARDS **PROPRANO**.
- ↑ 63 KM ARRIVE **PROPRIANO**. YOUR HOTEL IS ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE.

Golfe de Valinco

The **GOLFE DE VALINCO** is perhaps the most beautiful gulf on the west coast of the island, with lots of sandy beaches. The bay stretches along the rugged west coast from the sleepy, laid back village of **PORTO POLLO** to **CAMPOMORO**, interspersed with white sand beaches of varied shapes and sizes, all with clear waters superb for swimming and snorkelling. This area has obvious ancient roots. Inland from the northern edge of the Valinco is the archaeological site of **FILITOSA**, whose famous sculpted menhirs always have a few visitors.

Propriano

On the eastern side of the Valinco Gulf, **PROPRIANO** is a working port town with immense character. Unpretentious, life centres around the harbour where there are numerous bars and restaurants with wonderful terraces where you can enjoy an ice cream or an apéritif. The natural harbour of **PROPRIANO** was first exploited by the ancient Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans but was an easy target for pirate raids and therefore never became established. Sampiero Corso landed here in 1564 when he tried to liberate Corsica from the Genoese but until the early 20th century when the port facilities were constructed and **PROPRIANO** became the centre of maritime activity for the Sartènaï region, it remained a tiny cluster of ramshackle buildings. The arrival of tourists to the Valinco did the rest and **PROPRIANO** is now a popular sea-side resort. There are many boutiques lining the streets leading up from the quay side and there is a daily local produce market in the square behind the harbour front. There are also some great beaches in the area (see beach section). The natural harbour has a somewhat unfinished air about it, symbolic of the changes that have metamorphosed **PROPRIANO** from a sleepy fishing village to a bustling resort.

Sartène

SARTÈNE developed in the early middle ages when eleven parishes united for safety against the pirates. It became the unofficial capital of feudal barons (known as Sgio) who preferred to meter out their own form of justice than adhere to the law. In the 16th century, the Genoese surrounded **SARTÈNE** with a wall which failed to keep out

the Corsican **Sampiero Corso** who besieged the town for 35 days in 1565 and left it devastated.

In 1583 it was an easy target for the King of Algiers who captured the town and took 400 of its people as slaves. Thereafter, **SARTÈNE** became faithful to the Genoese and Pascal Paoli himself came in person to rally the Sgio onto his side. When the French took over, the Sartènaï channelled their energies into murderous clan warfare, which won the town pride of place in the chronicles of Corsica's long tradition of vendettas. When Napoleon III visited he granted the Sgio noble titles and tax concessions which allowed them to plant vineyards on the empty lands surrounding the town, providing the area today with the mainstay of the local economy.

"La plus Corse des villes Corses" is well worth a visit. Founded in the 10th century it was home to the Sgio, the rich and powerful landowners of the region, who ruled with their own laws. In the 19th century the whole town was caught up in a nasty vendetta, which finally ended with a peace treaty being signed in the church in 1834. Testimony to this is the number of bricked up windows you can see if you wander around the old **SANTA ANNA** district, through the arch off the main square, the **PLACE PORTA**. People literally used to barricade themselves in and even today the atmosphere is somewhat sombre and forbidding. Sartène has a small produce market in the square on a Saturday morning, which is a great spot for a morning coffee, and a bit of watching the world go by. The Cave Sartenaise is a wine shop where you can taste and purchase some of the local wines, reputed to be the best in the south of the island, You will also find some small handicraft and souvenir shops in the streets through the arch. **SARTÈNE** is famous for its Easter procession, when on Good Friday evening an anonymous penitent re-enacts Christ's journey to Golgotha, through the streets of **SARTÈNE**, falling three times as Christ did. He carries a huge wooden cross, and walks barefoot in chains and these items can be seen in the church.

Things to See & Do in the Valinco & Sartenais...

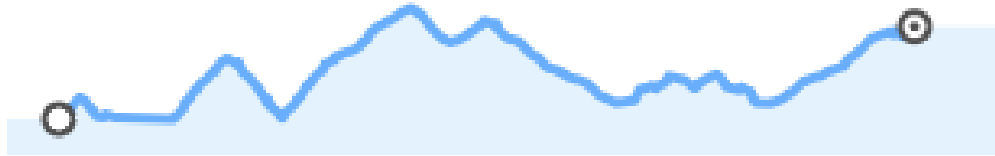
- Southern Corsican wines are some of the best on the island with vineyards around the Ajaccio area and throughout the **SARTENAIS**. Look out for **ABBATUCCI**, **SAPARALE** and **SAN MICHELI** amongst others.

Ride Propriano – Campomoro – Sartene

↑ 1213m

↓ 969m

63km



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES: PROPRIANO, CAMPOMORO, SARTENE

POINTS OF INTEREST: CAMPOMORO, CAURIA, SARTENE

PLEASE NOTE: TAKE WATER, SUN CREAM, SWIM GEAR and PICNIC.

➔0KM FROM YOUR HOTEL HEAD RIGHT

⬅0KM THEN LEFT AT THE **BOULANGERIE** JUNCTION.

THE **MAIRIE** IS BEHIND YOU.

YOU ARE INITIALLY FOLLOWING THE **N196** OUT OF TOWN.

SARTENE	<i>SARTE</i>
BONIFACIO	<i>BUNIFAZIU</i>

YOU CROSS TWO ROUNDABOUTS TO GET OUT OF TOWN.

CROSS THE **RIZZANESE** RIVER.

➔4KM TAKE THE **D121** RIGHT TO **CAMPOMORO**.

BELVEDERE	<i>BELVIDE</i>
CAMPOMORO	<i>CAMPUMORU</i>
✈ TAVERIA	

↑9KM YOU WILL FIND THE BEACH AT **PORTIGLIOLO**

➔13KM

KEEP RIGHT TOWARDS **CAMPUMORU**.

↑18KM

YOU WILL FIND THE BEACH AND TOWER AT CAMPUMORU. €5pp

➔24KM

RETRACE YOUR TRACKS TO **BELVEDERE** AND TURN **RIGHT** ON **D21**.

GROSSA

BILIA

SARTENE

SARTE

+ HOPITAL

U SPIDALI

←29KM

AT THE VILLAGE OF **GROSSA**, TURN LEFT TOWARDS **SARTENE D21**

↑37KM

PASS THE **HOSPITAL**

(AT JUNCTION **SHORTCUT TO SARTENE** TURN LEFT ONTO **D48 &**
JOIN **BOCCA ALBATRINA** TO MEET **T40** TURN LEFT)

➔38KM

TURN RIGHT ONTO **D48**

↖44KM

OPTION 1 - HEAD LEFT ONTO **D48A** SIGNPOSTED

(ROAD **POTHOLED** CARE)

STANTARI FONTANACCIA RENAJU

➔48KM

FIND **CAURIA** PREHISTORIC SITE FREE ENTRY 1H00 VISIT TIME.

OPTION 2 – KEEP STRAIGHT ON FOR **TIZZANO BEACH**

↓

RETRACE YOUR TRACKS

←60KM

CLIMB TO **BOCCA ALBATRINA** TO MEET THE **T40**. TURN **LEFT**.

←62KM

DROP DOWN BY THE CHURCH TO THE LOWER ROAD AND HOTEL.

Sartene to Bonifacio

↑ 905m

↓ 1117m

63km



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES: SARTENE, ROCCAPINA, PIANATOLLI, BONIFACIO

POINTS OF INTEREST: SARTENE, ROCCAPINA, BONIFACIO

PLEASE NOTE: TAKE WATER, SUN CREAM, SWIM GEAR and PICNIC.

YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS TODAY. OPTION 1.

➔0KM TURN **RIGHT** UPHILL OUT OF YOUR HOTEL, HEADING TO **SARTENE**

FOLLOW ROAD INTO **CENTRE VILLE** SIGNPOSTED

MUSEE DEPARTMENTALE DU PREHISTOIRE

FOLLOW ROAD INTO CITADELLE OF SARTENE

CONTINUE STRAIGHT ON AT **PLACE PORTA**

⬅1KM TURN **LEFT** AT THE MINI ROUNDABOUT (**BEFORE THE CASINO SUPERMARKET**) ON **D65** SIGNPOSTED

FOCE BILZESE

FOCI BILZESI

VIGNALELLA

VIGNALEDDEA

BAZZACONU

MOLA

STADE

MUSEE DEPARTMENTALE DU PREHISTOIRE



AFTER 300M YOU ARE HEADING **RIGHT** TO

MOLA



FOLLOW **D50** THROUGH **MOLA (10KM)**



15KM

PASS SAPARALE VINEYARD



21KM

TURN **LEFT** ONTO **T40** DIRECTION **BONIFACIO**



27KM *

PASS ROCCAPINA

ON YOUR LEFT IS THE CASA DI ROCCAPINA



38KM

ENTER THE VILLAGE OF **PIANATOLLI CALDARELLO**. ALL SERVICES.



43KM

CYCLE PASS THE TURNING FOR **PORTO VECCHIO**.



52KM

ON YOUR **RIGHT** A ROAD LEADS TO HERMITAGE DE LA TRINITE.



56KM

REACH A ROUNDABOUT

TAKE THE SECOND EXIT **RIGHT** CENTRE VILLE



52KM

ENTER **BONIFACIO**. CLIMB AND FOLLOW SIGNS FOR

HAUTE VILLE

OFFICE DE TOURISME



GARE MARITIME



57KM

PLEASE NOTE - YOU COULD GET OFF YOU BIKE AND WALK UP

THROUGH THE TOWN – DISMOUNT AT THE NO ENTRY SIGN,
CLIMBING THE HILL.

WALK THROUGH THE TOWN.

⬆️⬅️**59KM** ONCE ON THE FLAT HEIGHTS OF THE **HAUTE VILLE**, YOUR HOTEL IS
AT THE VERY TOP OF THE TOWN, NEAR **MARITIME CEMETARY**.

OPTION 2. DIRECT MAIN ROAD.

➡️**0KM** TURN **RIGHT** UPHILL OUT OF YOUR HOTEL, HEADING TO **SARTENE**

YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE **N196** ALL THE WAY TO **BONIFACIO**.

➡️**1KM** TURN **RIGHT** AND **RIGHT** AGAIN FOLLOWING THE SIGNS

BONIFACIO	<i>BUNIFAZIU</i>
PORTO VECCHIO	<i>PORTI VECHJU</i>

AT THE TOP OF HILL, BY CHURCH TURN **RIGHT** ONTO **N196**

20KM TO VISIT ROCCAPINA BEACH HEAD **RIGHT** AFTER **AUBERGE DE**
CORALLI FOR **ROCCAPINA** (**CARE ROUGH UNMADE TRACK**)

⬆️**22KM** *ON YOUR **RIGHT** IS THE **LION OF ROCCAPINA (SEE ABOVE)**

L'Extreme Sud

Porto Vecchio

This is a resort that has developed into a thriving tourist destination. Its success is largely due to the beautiful coastline stretching north and south from the town where some of the most famous Corsican beaches with white sand and turquoise waters can be found. **PORTO VECCHIO** was built on a hill overlooking the gulf and salt marshes that surround it. The old Genoese walled town still seduces visitors with its picturesque narrow streets and high stone houses that are set within the citadel's ramparts. The streets are dotted with numerous chic boutiques offering the latest fashion and the very best local products. And just a few minutes' walk away, the marina, lined with lively cafés is a great place to enjoy a leisurely drink on a warm summer evening.

Founded in 1539 by the Genoese, **PORTO VECCHIO** has grown to become Corsica's third largest town with a population of over 9,000 people. In its infancy, the town was abandoned many times when the inhabitants were stricken with Malaria and remained so until 1564, when Sampiero Corso chose **PORTO VECCHIO** for his new base from which to liberate the island from the Genoese. However, the town did not really begin to thrive until the Malaria infested areas were transformed into salt marshes in 1795. Many islanders still call it 'Salt City'; the 900 tonnes produced annually caters for most of Corsica's needs (mostly preservation of meat) although these days, Porto Vecchio prefers to refer to itself the 'Pearl of the South' – a claim that is hard to dispute.

Bonifacio

Just a short hop from **SARDINIA** at **CORSICA**'s 'land's end' sits the fortress town of **BONIFACIO**. Established in 833AD, its rich history offers visitors a fascinating and bustling base from which to explore the south of the island. Its isolated position with ramparts perched high on the limestone plateau, give **BONIFACIO** a timeless charm.

Mentioned in Homer's *Odyssey* (*it is the lair of the fearsome Laestrygonians*), the precipitous cliffs overhanging the sea are honeycombed with watery grottoes. These cliffs enclose the restaurants and the yachts in the natural harbour and the views of the Citadel from here are impressive. However it must be said that the most amazing view of the town and port is from the sea. Excursion boats head out from the town throughout the day to the best vantage points, including the **LAVEZZI** islands a scattering of islets just out in the **STRAITS OF BONIFACIO**.

Perched on a limestone pedestal, **BONIFACIO** is one of the most spectacular towns in the Mediterranean. The citadel walls and ancient houses appear to rise seamlessly out of sheer cliffs that have been hollowed and striated by the wind and waves. Beneath, an inlet about 100 metres wide forms a natural harbour, home to a buzzing port. Only 12 kilometres from **SARDINIA**, the town is distinctly more Italian than French in atmosphere, and even has its own dialect based on Ligurian Italian.

The cafés around the port are an excellent place to watch the world go by and there are numerous restaurants. Walk or take the tourist train from the port up to the old town at top of the hill. From the **U MASGILU** square you'll see the grain de sable, a massive chunk of limestone cliff that's fallen into the sea, which is the subject of thousands of postcards. In the **HAUTE VILLE** you can visit the churches and ramparts with narrow streets and tall houses. The **MARINE CEMETERY** at the far end of the cliff top above the Hotel Genovese is a windswept place full of extraordinarily elaborate mausoleums.

The discovery of the archaeological remains of the **DAME DE BONIFACIO** indicate that the area was inhabited in Neolithic times. There was a village here in Roman times but in 828AD Count Bonifacio of Tuscany built a castle on the peninsula which marked the birth of Bonifacio. It suffered continuous pirate raids but due to its posi-

tion was coveted by various powers. Most notably the Pisans, the Genoese and the Aragonese. In 1092 the Pisans took over and then in 1187 the Genoese massacred them and replaced the population with Ligurian families who developed the town into a mini republic with its own laws. For this reason **BONIFACIO** remained faithful to the Genoese.

In 1528, the plague decimated the town leaving only 700 survivors from a population of 5000 and then further trials in 1533 came in the form of invasions by the French army and the Turks. **SAMPIERO CORSO** (Corsican freedom fighter) rescued the town and there then followed a brief period of French rule which came to an end in 1559 when it was returned to Genoa under the treaty of Cateau-Cambresis. **BONIFACIO** enjoyed relative prosperity until the late 18th century when the French gained control of the whole island. **BONIFACIO** lost all of its privileges, merchants drifted away and the town suffered a commercial decline, only reversed with the advent of tourism.

Things to See & Do in the Extreme Sud...

- Wander the sheltered harbour side of **BONIFACIO** Port, take a trip from the port around the **GROTTE ET FALAISES** (caves and cliffs) or to the **ILES DE LAVEZZI** providing the opportunity to view the magnificent coastal rock formations from the sea.
- Wander the bastion walls and ancient streets of **BONIFACIO HAUTE VILLE** Old Town and see the **GRAIN DE SABLE**, a massive chunk of limestone cliff that's fallen into the sea, which is the subject of thousands of postcards. You can see this by looking over the wall at the top of the hill in the old town. **SEE TOWN PLAN**. Visit the **BASTION DE L'ETENDARD**, the large walled fortress complete with its underground chambers and medieval defensive architecture, or climb down the 189 steps cut into the cliff the **ESCALIER DU ROY D'ARAGON**.
- Witness superb views from the cliff top walk at **CAPU RUMANILU** (a good short walk).
- The old Genoese walled town of **PORTO VECCHIO** still seduces visitors. Wander the ancient streets, the **BORGIO**, the 19th century church of **ST-JEAN BAPTISTE** and the gallery housed within the **BASTION DI A FUNTANA VECCHJU**.

Capu Rumanilu to the Capu Pertusato

A nice clifftop walk towards the lighthouse with magnificent views of **BONIFACIO**.

Distance: 3/ 10km

Effective walking time: approx 1h00 to 4h00 depending on how far you go

Altitude gain / Descent: +/- 100m

Way-marks: Some signs indicating the main directions

Drinking water springs: None

Food supplies: BONIFACIO

Points of interest: Views over BONIFACIO and the straights, lighthouse,.

PLEASE NOTE: **TAKE PLENTY OF WATER ON CLIFFS DO NOT GO OFF TRAIL**

Col St Roch (to Road) 0h45

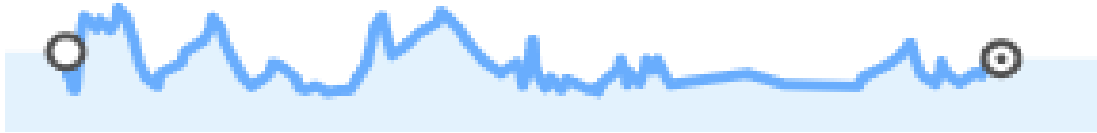
From the **HAUTE VILLE** and the **BASTION DE L'ETENDARD**, drop down via the **PORT DE GÊNES** gateway to the east of the town to the white **CHAPEL ST ROCH**. With your back to the white chapel and **HAUTE VILLE** climb ahead, along the stone laid ramp that leads towards the cliff top paths made by the Conservatoire du Littoral. Take the **CAMPU RUMANILU** path, turn your head for spectacular views back towards the medieval Citadel with its houses perched vertiginously over the cliffs. For the most views, after a short climb (3 mins) you see a ruined building ahead. To your right switching back, there are stone steps that climb into the maquis, heading towards the coast. Climb here, and you will find a succession of viewing platforms across this natural area, the **CAMPU RUMANILU**. **NB. For a shorter walk (1h00), you will soon arrive at a small building overlooking the cliffs, this was the abattoir for the town. Facing away from the town, you can loop back towards the port from the ruins of the Abattoir on a path at right angles to the cliff (ie to your left). Or return on the path you came on.**

Bonifacio to Aleria

↑ 962m

↓ 1005m

100km



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES: BONIFACIO, PORTO VECCHIO, SOLENZARA, ALERIA

POINTS OF INTEREST: BONIFACIO, BEACHES, PORTO VECCHIO, ALERIA

PLEASE NOTE: TAKE WATER, HAT AND SUN CREAM. SWIMGEAR

➔ 0km

TURN **RIGHT** OUT OF YOUR HOTEL, THEN RIGHT AGAIN.

↑ 1KM

AT THE MINI ROUNDABOUT NEAR THE WAR MEMORIAL
FOLLOW SIGNS FOR **OFFICE DE TOURISME & AUTRES DIRECTIONS**.

←

TURN **LEFT**. THE ROAD BECOMES COBBLED AT IT DROPS DOWN

➔

AT THE **OFFICE DE TOURISME**, THE ROAD HEADS **RIGHT** UNDER AN
ARCH. CONTINUE ON THIS ROAD AND TURN **RIGHT AT STOP SIGN**.

➔ 2KM

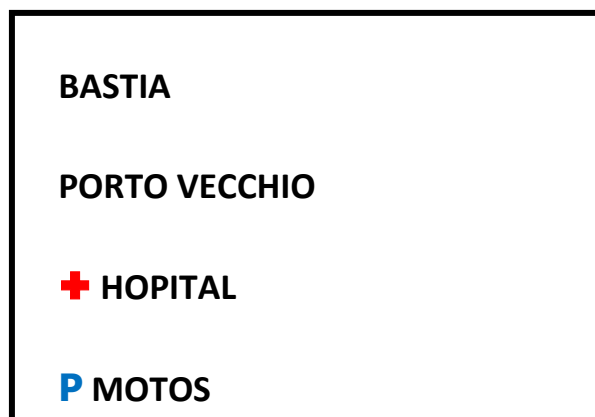
FOLLOW SIGNS FOR

TOUTES DIRECTIONS.

←

TURN LEFT BEFORE THE **SPAR** SUPERMARKET IN DIRECTION OF

AJACCIO



FOLLOW THE ONE WAY SYSTEM OUT OF TOWN.



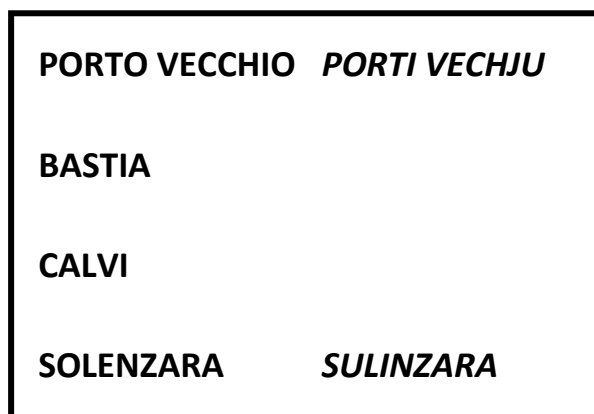
AT THE HARBOUR, THE ROAD HEADS **RIGHT**.



FOLLOW THE ROAD OUT OF TOWN.



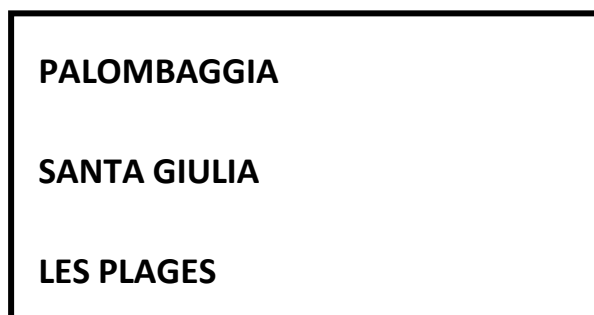
AT THE ROUNDABOUT FOLLOW THE FIRST EXIT STRAIGHT AHEAD



CONTINUE ON THE **T10**. PASS TURNING FOR **RONDINARA**.



PASS THE TURNING FOR THE **BEACHES** OF



GO STRAIGHT AHEAD AT THE ROUNDABOUT TOWARDS

PORTO VECCHIO CENTRE VILLE

←28KM

VISIT PORTO VECCHIO CITADELLE.

THE CITADELLE AREA IS LARGELY PEDESTRIAN SO DISMOUNT.



HEAD OUT OF TOWN ON THE **COURS NAPOLEON**

TURN LEFT AT **ECOLE JOSEPH PIETRI** TAKE **RUE STEFANO SARDO**

↑29KM

AT ROUNDABOUT HEAD STRAIGHT ACROSS BEHIND **ELECLERC**

PASS SPORTS GROUND AND TAKE NEXT LEFT

RUE DU COMMANDANT DOM QUILICI

→30KM

TURN RIGHT ONTO **ROUTE DE BASTIA**



AFTER 300M GO STRAIGHT ACROSS ROUNDABOUT SIGNPOSTED

BASTIA

CALVI

SOLENZARA

SULIZNARA

↑43KM

PASS **SAINTE LUCIE DE PORTO VECCHIO**

↑66KM

PASS **SOLENZARA**

↑84KM

PASS **GHISONACCIA**

↑90KM

PASS **ETANG D'URBINO**

↑99KM

PASS **ROMAN SITE ALERIA**

→100KM

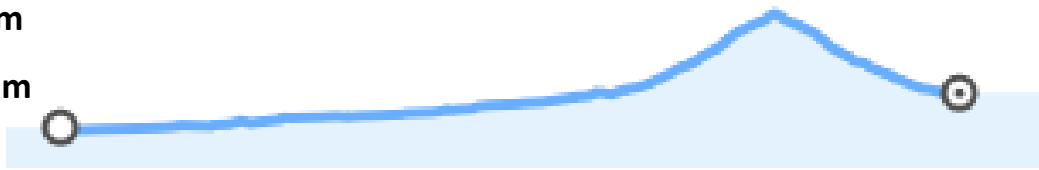
ARRIVE **ALERIA**, YOUR HOTEL IS ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE

Aleria to Corte (& Restonica extension)*

↑ 546/1550*m

↓ 118/1118* m

47/77.5km



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES: ALERIA, CORTE

POINTS OF INTEREST: ALERIA ROMAN SITE, ETANG DE DIANE, TAVIGNANO & RESTONICA, CORTE

PLEASE NOTE: TAKE WATER, PICNIC, HAT AND SUN CREAM.

BEFORE LEAVING ALERIA YOU COULD HEAD NORTH (RIGHT FOR 1KM5) AND TAKE THE ROAD ON YOUR RIGHT FOR ETANG DE DIANA & HUITRES NUSTRALES "OYSTERS"

←0KM TURN LEFT OUT OF HOTEL.

→ AT CROSSROADS TAKE N200 RIGHT TO

CORTE CORTI

↑28KM PASS PONT ALTIANI

↑45KM ARRIVE CORTE (SHORTCUT TO CENTRE VILLE FOLLOW SIGNS↓)

↑ GO STRAIGHT AHEAD AT THE ROUNDABOUT TOWARDS

AJACCIO AIACCIU

→ AT SECOND ROUNDABOUT TURN RIGHT

CYCLE INTO TOWN

← JUST AFTER THE RESTONICA BRIDGE, TURN LEFT

THE **MOUNTAIN TORRENT** WILL SOON BE ON YOUR LEFT

THE ROAD IS NARROW IN **RESTONICA VALLEY** CARE!

↑57km

YOU REACH **PONT DE FRASSETA**.

↑62km

AT THE VERY END OF THE CLIMB YOU ARRIVE AT **BERGERIES DE**

GROTELLE SHEPHERDS CABINS AND THE LEGENDARY ***CHEZ THEO***.

RETRACE YOUR TRACKS TO FIND YOUR HOTEL

←77km

TURN LEFT AT END OF RESTONICA ROAD CONTINUE ONTO **COURS**

PAOLI AND TURN RIGHT ONTO **SQUARE DUC DE PADOUE**

Central Corsica

Corte

The small town of **CORTE** is situated at the confluence of two magical gorges the **RESTONICA** and the **TAVIGNANO**. **CORTE** is the geographical centre of the island and was once the capital of Pascal Paoli's nation. Today, it remains a strong symbol of independence and there is a distinct Corsican identity here. In picturesque villages dotted around the nearby hills, islanders attempt to preserve their way of life despite dwindling populations and the erosive affect of modern civilization. The towns and villages in this part of Corsica are linked by the Corsica's metre-gauge, single track railway which winds lazily through forests and around mountains.

CORTE is surrounded by brooding, granite mountains. It is perched on the side of a wedge shaped crag and can seem foreboding, inhospitable and austere. The best view of the citadel is from the **BELVÉDÈRE**, the platform situated above the town on a pinnacle of rocks. At the same time one can also view the magnificent forests and rivers below. One cannot deny that a certain charm exudes from the warren of cobbled streets of the ville haute. The main street, cours Paoli, divides the town in two. The west steps lead to the upper town (ville haute) and to the east one descends into the lower town and the new quarter (ville basse).

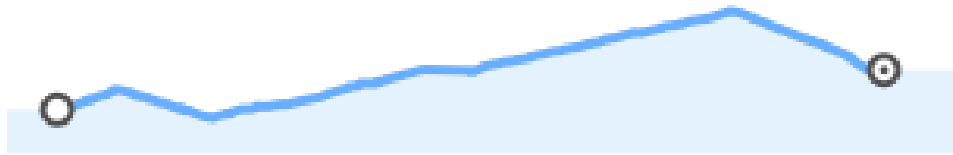
There is a new **SENTIER DU PATRIMOINE** which you can take from the Citadelle. The pathway is waymarked with large metal signs and dark arrows and passes through the Citadel, down from the Belvedere and crosses the modern **TAVIGNANO** bridge towards the GITE U TAVIGNANO. The path turns behind the gardens of BALIRI, that line the banks of the **TAVIGNANO**, before coming to the small hamlet of **SCARAVAGLIE**, previously the winter base for shepherds who in summer guarded their flocks high up in the **RESTONICA**. The path then crosses the Genoese bridge back over the **TAVIGNANO**, and you can see a Roman bath house opposite, before climbing back up into the citadel.

Ride Corte – Col de Vergio – Evisa

↑ 1422m

↓ 999 m

62 km



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES: CORTE, CALACUCCIA, CASTEL DI VERGIO, EVISA

POINTS OF INTEREST: CORTE, VAL du NIOU, AITONE, EVISA

PLEASE NOTE: TAKE WATER, PICNIC, HAT AND SUN CREAM.

↗→ 0KM TURN RIGHT OUT OF HOTEL

TAKE THE RIGHT TURN D18 SIGNPOSTED

CASTIRLA

←9KM AT CASTIRLA TURN LEFT ONTO **D84** SIGNPOSTED

COL DE VERGIO *BOCCA DI VERGHJU* CALACUCCIA

YOU ARE TRAVELLING ALONG THE SANTA REGINA ROUTE

↑27KM PASS CALACUCCIA

CONTINUE ON THE **D84** SIGNPOSTED

COL DE VERGIO *BOCCA DI VERGHJU* ALBETACCE

PASS HOTEL CASTEL DI VERGIO (BAR REFRESHMENTS)

↑52KM PASS COL DE VERGIO

↑56KM PASS FORET D'AITONE

↗61KM HEAD RIGHT SIGNPOSTED **D84**

EVISA

PORTO *PORTU*

← **62KM** ARRIVE **EVISA** YOUR HOTEL IS ON THE **LEFT**

Golfes of the West Coast

The Golfe de Porto

The coast of the **GULF OF PORTO** is one of Corsica's most famous landscapes. The pinnacles and ravines of the red granite Calanches soaring out of beautiful blue seas are framed behind by the jagged peaks of **PAGLIA ORBA** - the island's second highest peak. They are best explored by foot or by sea and there are daily boat trips from Porto, which visits this UNESCO world heritage site. The splendour continues inland with the **GORGE OF SPELUNCA**, the forest of **AITONE** and the villages of **OTA** and **EVISA**, all of which are a paradise for walkers and rock pool bathers.

Porto

PORTO is hidden at the end of the gulf, and although deprived of the best views, it is well placed for exploring and has plenty of amenities. In the olden days **PORTO** was so unimportant it didn't even have a name; it was simply the port for the village of **OTA**. The only permanent building was a square Genoese tower from 1549. In the 19th century a eucalyptus grove was planted to dry the marshy river mouth and these trees now form one of **PORTO**'s landmarks. La Route de la Marine, lined with these stately old eucalyptus trees, links the two parts of the resort. The town beach is an exposed pebble beach situated south of the rock upon which stands the Genoese tower. It shelves steeply and can be dangerous if the sea is rough or it is a windy day. However, the crags overshadowing the shore set a spectacular scene and there is great snorkelling from the rocks to the south.

Piana

PIANA is balanced on plunging cliffs and despite its prime location overlooking the **CALANCHES**, it retains its sleepy feel and does not suffer the crowds of tourists. It comprises of a cluster of old stone houses arranged around an 18th century church and square, from the edge of which the views over the gulf are sublime.

Things to See & Do around Porto...

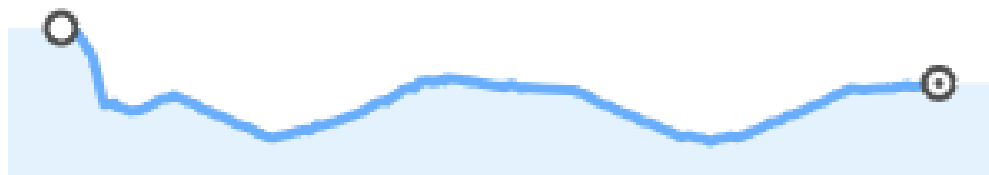
- The coast of the **GULF OF PORTO** is one of Corsica's most famous landscapes. The pinnacles and ravines of the red granite **CALANCHES** soar out of beautiful blue seas framed by the jagged peaks of **PAGLIA ORBA**. Walks in the **CALANCHES**.
- Visit the **CAPO ROSSO, SCANDOLA** nature reserve or **GIROLATA** by boat, or rent a kayak in Porto Marina or on **BUSSAGHLIA** beach at **SERRIERA**.
- The **SPELUNCA GORGE** spans 2km between the villages of **OTA** and EVISA and is a formidable sight with its bare granite walls. 1000m high in places it plunges into the green torrent of the confluence of rivers **PORTO, TAVULELLA, ONCA, CAMPI, AITONE**. Walking option from **OTA** into the Gorge.
- **GIROLATA** is a delightful village far from the madding crowd, there is no road access so you can either walk in or take a boat.

Ride Evisa – Piana – Arone – Piana

↑ 1029m

↓ 1438m

58km



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES: EVISA, PORTO, PIANA

POINTS OF INTEREST: CALANCHES, GOLFE DE PORTO, ARONE

PLEASE NOTE: TAKE WATER, SUN CREAM and PICNIC.

← 0KM TURN LEFT OUT OF HOTEL ON **D84**

DROP DOWN THROUGH EVISA VILLAGE

AFTER **1.5KM** VIEWPOINT OVER SPELUNCA GORGE

← 21KM FROM JUNCTION TURN LEFT TOWARDS

PIANA PIANA AJACCIO AJACCIO

CONTINUE ON THIS ROAD TO PIANA & LES CALANCHES

↑ 32KM AT PIANA VILLAGE TURN **RIGHT** CONTINUING ON **D824**

ARONE VISTALE

CONTINUE ON THIS ROAD TO PLAGE D'ARONE

↓ 45KM RETRACE YOUR ROUTE TO PIANA

Ride 🚲 Porto – Partinello – Gradelle – Porto

↑ 1351m

↓ 1349m

76km



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES: PIANA, ROAD SIDE STALLS, PORTO

POINTS OF INTEREST: SCANDOLA RESERVE, GOLFE DE PORTO

PLEASE NOTE: TAKE WATER, SUN CREAM and PICNIC.

← 0KM

TURN LEFT OUT OF HOTEL

↑ 5KM

TRAVEL THROUGH THE CALANCHES

↑ 10KM

PASS PORTO

↑

CLIMB TOWARDS **SERRIERA** FOLLOWING THE **D81**

↑ 24KM

PASS THROUGH **PARTINELLO**

↑ 33KM

COL DE LA CROIX (PANORAMIC VIEW / CAFE)

RETRACE YOUR TRACKS* OR AT 1KM (FOR EXTRA RIDE)

→ 35KM

TURN RIGHT TOWARDS **OSANI VILLAGE**

↑ 40KM

ARRIVE AT **GRADELLE BEACH**

↓ 44KM

RETRACE YOUR **TRACKS**

↓ →

ARRIVE AT JUNCTION WITH D81 TURN RIGHT TOWARDS PORTO

↑ 52KM

*RETRACE YOUR TRACKS TO **PARTINELLO**

↑ 76KM

ARRIVE BACK INTO **PIANA**

Golfe de Sagone

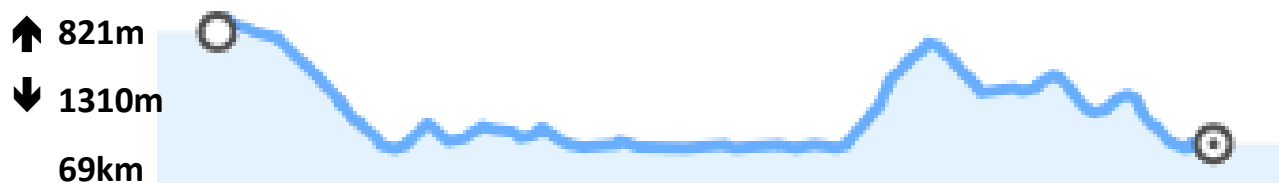
Cargèse

A village famous for having given asylum to Greek refugees that sought refuge in Corsica in 1676, its attractions include two churches, the white Catholic church with its pretty view, and the brightly coloured Greek church, equipped with the bells from the cathedral at Vitylo, stand facing each other as well as the many good sandy beaches.

Sagone

The coastal plain below the village of **VICO, SAGONE** is a bustling resort in season. The draw is the many good sandy beaches but beware the currents are some of the most dangerous on the island, so pay attention to the flags on the beaches. Ice Creams and sorbets come highly recommended at **GLACIER PIERRE-GERONIMI**.

Ride Piana – Cargèse – Ajaccio



DRINKING & FOOD SUPPLIES: PIANA, CARGESE, SAGONE, TUICCIAAJACCIO

POINTS OF INTEREST: CARGESE, GOLFE DE SAGONE

PLEASE NOTE: TAKE WATER, SUN CREAM and PICNIC.

➔ **0KM** TURN **RIGHT** OUT OF HOTEL ON **D81**

DROP DOWN TO **CARGESE**

CONTINUE ONTO **SAGONE**

↑ **32KM** CROSS **SAGONE** HEADING FOR

AJACCIO AIACCIU

↑ **40KM** CROSS **TIUCCIA**

↑ **51KM** PASS OVER **COL DE SAN BASTIANO**

➔ **56KM** AT **COL DE LISTINCONE** TURN **RIGHT** FOLLOW **D61**

↑ **67KM** AT ROUNDABOUT NEAR **E LECLERC** HEAD **STRAIGHT** ON

↑ CONTINUE TO **COURS NAPOLEON** FOLLOWING SIGNS

CENTRE VILLE

➔ HEAD **RIGHT** ONTO **COURS NAPOLEON**

➔ TURN **RIGHT** BEFORE THE PREFECTURE

➔ TAKE **FIRST RIGHT** TO HOTEL NAPOLEON



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IN AN ACCIDENT & IF ONE OF YOU IS INJURED

In an EMERGENCY situation

DIAL 112

Keep the injured person warm. Never leave the injured person alone.

CORSICA AVENTURE

Licence d'état agence de tourisme : LI 02A.06 0002 2 Boulevard Masseria, 20000 AJACCIO, CORSE