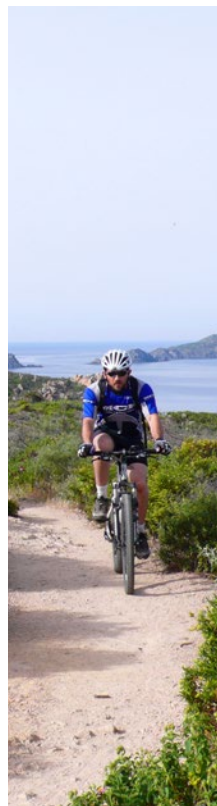
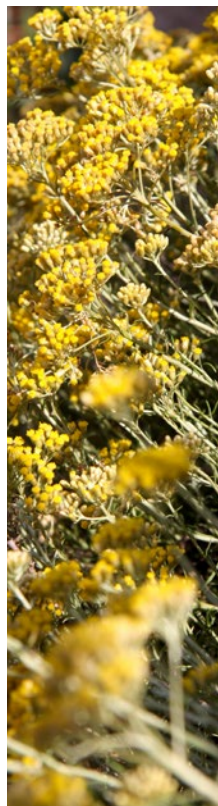


*Press
book*



VISIT-CORSICA.COM

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- 5 Key Corsica tourism figures
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" A whole world on an island " is the perfect description for Corsica, with its exceptional beauty and diversity. Its identity as a well-preserved green island with incredible biodiversity is enhanced by the value of sustainable development, which contributes to Corsica's leading position in the Mediterranean.

A mountain in the sea



120 mountain peaks of over 2,000 metres

1,000 kilometres of coastline

A green island thanks to an exceptional natural environment



7 nature reserves



4 100 sq.Km of forests and maquis scrubland



40 mountain lakes



30 rivers and streams



1 regional park covering 40% of the island



1 natural site on the UNESCO World Heritage list



2 marine parks

Tourism figures



8 680 sq.Km island area



339 178 habitants



3 000 annual sunshine hours



2.5 million euros

31 % PIB

of employees work in the tourism industry

Daily tourist spend: 63 euros



3 million tourists

71% French 29% foreign

71% France 24% Germany 20% Italy 10% Switzerland 9% Belgium



168 913 beds

Hotels	Campsites	Holiday villages
★★★★★ 16	1	-
★★★★★ 53	26	25
★★★★ 172	68	50
★★★ 60	33	15
★★ 1	7	-
★ 153	-	161



4.3 million campsite stays



3.2 million hotel stays



4.1 millions annual flight passengers



4.3 millions annual ferry passengers

Practical info



Accessibility

At the heart of the Mediterranean, 174km from the French coast, 80km from Italy and 12km from Sardinia, Corsica is served year round from France and other countries by numerous airlines and ferry companies.



With its 6 ferry ports and 4 airports, Corsica is accessible all year round by sea and by air.



Northern Corsica : Bastia, Calvi

Southern Corsica : Ajaccio, Figari



Northern Corsica : Bastia, Île Rousse

Southern Corsica : Ajaccio, Bonifacio,
Porto-Vecchio, Propriano

Approximate travel times :



90 minutes from Paris

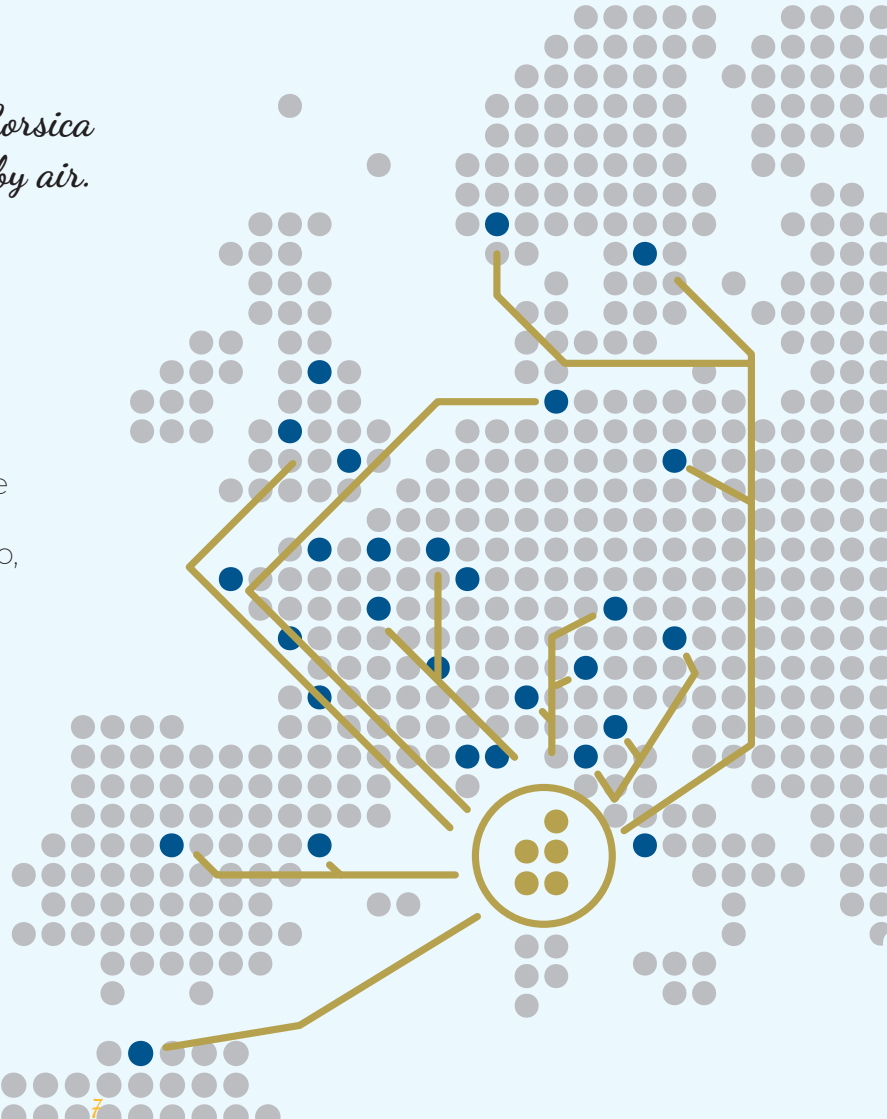
2 hours 15 minutes from London

45 minutes from Nice



Between 4.5 and 6 hours (daytime)

Between 8 and 12 hours (overnight)



How do you get around without your own car?

By bus, train, plane, bicycle, motorbike or hire car, there are numerous ways to get around on the island.

www.visit-corsica.com/fre/Guide-de-voyage/Se-deplacer

#HiddenGem

#LaCorseparlavoieverte

To appreciate the varied landscapes, Corsica is best explored on foot, on horseback or by kayak...

Tip :

In Corsica, distances are measured not by kilometre but by journey time. Use the following table to help you.



Times	Ajaccio	Bastia	Corte	Porto-Vecchio	Bonifacio	Porto	Calvi	Ile Rousse	Propriano	Sartène	Aléria	Saint Florent	Solenzara	Ghisonaccia	Moriani
Ajaccio		2h30 147 km	1h30 81 km	2h30 140 km	2h15 130 km	1h40 80 km	2h50 165 km	2h25 142 km	1h20 68 km	1h30 71 km	2h10 126 km	2h50 154 km	2h30 132 km	1h55 102 km	2h30 145 km
Bastia	2h30 147 km		1h10 67 km	2h20 142 km	2h50 170 km	2h30 133 km	1h52 110 km	1h25 87 km	3h30 201 km	3h20 178 km	1h10 72 km	40 mn 24 km	1h40 105 km	1h20 86 km	40 mn 40 km
Corte	1h30 81 km	1h10 67 km		2h00 118 km	2h25 145 km	1h45 85 km	1h30 85 km	1h00 62 km	2h25 134 km	2h30 137 km	50 mn 47 km	1h20 75 km	1h20 80 km	1h00 61 km	1h00 66 km
Porto-Vecchio	2h30 140 km	2h20 143 km	2h00 118 km		30 mn 27 km	4h10 200 km	3h23 204 km	3h00 179 km	1h20 72 km	1h05 61 km	1h15 71 km	2h40 152 km	44 mn 38 km	1h00 56 km	1h40 102 km
Bonifacio	2h16 130 km	2h50 171 km	2h25 145 km	30 mn 27 km		3h40 204 km	3h50 231 km	3h20 206 km	1h05 64 km	50 mn 52 km	1h40 99 km	3h00 181 km	1h10 66 km	1h32 85 km	2h13 131 km
Porto	1h40 80 km	2h30 133 km	1h45 85 km	4h10 197 km	3h40 201 km		1h30 74 km	1h40 90 km	2h40 141 km	2h50 142 km	2h30 132 km	2h40 134 km	3h00 171 km	2h40 152 km	2h20 132 km
Calvi	2h50 165 km	1h52 110 km	1h30 85 km	3h30 204 km	3h50 231 km	1h30 74 km		30 mn 25 km	3h57 119 km	4h00 221 km	2h09 132 km	1h25 69 km	2h42 165 km	2h25 146 km	1h50 109 km
Ile Rousse	2h25 165 km	1h25 87 km	1h00 62 km	3h00 179 km	3h20 206 km	1h40 90 km	30 mn 25 km		3h30 195 km	3h30 198 km	1h50 109 km	55 mn 45 km	2h11 141 km	1h55 122 km	1h19 85 km
Propriano	1h20 68 km	3h30 201 km	2h25 134 km	1h20 72 km	1h05 64 km	2h40 141 km	3h50 219 km	3h20 195 km		15mn 15 km	2h30 141 km	3h40 208 km	1h40 78 km	2h00 94 km	3h00 175 km
Sartène	1h30 71 km	3h20 178 km	2h30 137 km	1h05 61 km	50 mn 52 km	2h50 142 km	4h00 221 km	3h30 198 km	15 mn 15 km		2h10 107 km	3h30 188 km	1h40 76 km	2h00 92 km	2h40 138 km
Aléria	1h10 126 km	1h10 72 km	50 mn 47 km	1h15 71 km	1h40 99 km	2h30 132 km	2h10 132 km	1h50 109 km	2h30 144 km	2h10 107 km		1h25 82 km	30 mn 33 km	15 mn 15 km	30 mn 32 km
Saint Florent	2h50 154 km	40 mn 24 km	1h20 75 km	2h40 152 km	3h00 180 km	2h40 134 km	1h25 69 km	55 mn 45 km	3h40 208 km	3h30 188 km	1h25 82 km		1h55 115 km	1h35 96 km	1h00 50 km
Solenzara	2h30 132 km	1h40 105 km	1h20 80 km	45 mn 38 km	1h10 66 km	3h00 171 km	2h40 165 km	2h10 141 km	1h40 78 km	1h40 76 km	30 mn 33 km	1h50 115 km		20 mn 19 km	1h00 65 km
Ghisonaccia	1h55 102 km	1h20 86 km	1h00 61 km	1h00 56 km	1h30 84 km	2h40 152 km	2h25 146 km	1h55 122 km	2h00 93 km	2h00 92 km	15 mn 15 km	1h35 96 km	20 mn 19 km		40 mn 46 km
Moriani	2h30 145 km	40 mn 40 km	1h00 66 km	1h40 102 km	2h10 131 km	2h20 131 km	1h50 109 km	1h20 85 km	2h40 138 km	2h40 138 km	30 mn 32 km	1h00 50 km	1h00 65 km	40 mn 46 km	



✦ Producers and local produce

Corsicans have been able to extract nature's great richness and work it into authentic products. Influenced by culture and history, island producers exploit local products of recognised quality to contribute to its unique cuisine, one of the destination's major assets.

Corsican cuisine comprises a great many specialities: charcuterie, cheese, chestnuts, citrus fruit, honey, jams, biscuits, wine and liqueurs. Food and socialising being inseparable, the proud producers never miss the chance to share their know-how and offer tastings to visitors.

Did you know?

Corsican products have been awarded several labels

4 AOC Wines of Corsica

AOC Muscat of Cap Corse

AOC / AOP Corsican honeys – Mele di Corsica

AOC / AOP Brocciu

AOC / AOP Corsican olive oil – Oliu di Corsica

AOC / AOP Chestnut flour Corsica – Farina castagnina corsa

AOC Prisuttu – Cured ham from Corsica

AOC Coppa di Corsica – Coppa of Corsica

AOC Lonzu – Lonzo of Corsica

A must for foodies

To find out about the produce grown and made on the island, follow the Route des Sens Authentiques to meet local producers and artisans. The itinerary is a great opportunity to appreciate the flavours and identities of many iconic specialities.

www.gustidicorsica.com



- Taste charcuterie in the Upper Taravo or Castagniccia Valleys
- Savour frozen chestnuts prepared in Zevaco in the Haut Taravo
- Follow the winding roads of the Prunelli Valley and taste goats' cheese while overlooking the gorges
- Watch bees and taste honey around Ajaccio
- Cycle through the vineyards at Patrimonio, ending with a wine tasting or exhibition
- Stop off in Soveria to taste Corsican nougat made with the island's fruits
- In the Nebbiu area enjoy the citron, the fruit of Cap Corse, and taste almonds from Muro grown in the traditional way.





#ISLAND SECRET

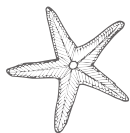
Visit with friends and family between December and April and enjoy sea urchins, harvested from the creeks across the island.

A must for seafood lovers

A tourism initiative for fishing enthusiasts, 'pescaturism' allows visitors to board fishing boats and discover the daily life and job of the local fishermen, contribute to the preservation of local heritage and appreciate this lovely activity alone or in a group. This is available from certain ports with participating fishermen.

www.crpmem-corse.com

The Étang de Diana in eastern Corsica, north of Aléria, is a must for seafood tasting. The small port of Centuri is a popular place to eat lobster.



Fine food connoisseurs will enjoy the Michelin-starred restaurants on the island:

- U Santa Marina in Porto-Vecchio - 1 star
- La Table de la Ferme - Murtoli in Sartène - 1 star
- Casadelmar in Porto-Vecchio - 2 stars
- A Casa di Mâ in Lumio - 1 star
- La Signoria in Calvi - 1 star



Did you know?

Brocciu

Made from the goats' or sheeps' milk, brocciu is THE must-eat cheese in Corsican cuisine.

Awarded an AOC and a PDO, brocciu can be enjoyed on its own or in a wide variety of dishes.



✦ Festivals and events

- A Tumbera de Renno – January
- Art'è Gustu in Aleria – April
- Olive Oil Festival in Sainte Lucie de Tallano – April
- Fiera di u Casgiu in Venaco – May
- Hazelnut Festival in Cervioni – August
- Mele in Festa in Murzu – September
- Chestnut Festival in Evisa – November
- Bocognano Festival – December



#ISLAND SECRET

**La Tumbera: a must-see
ancestral tradition
Spend a day learning about
the old techniques used to
prepare dried meats and
"charcuterie"**



✦ Artisans

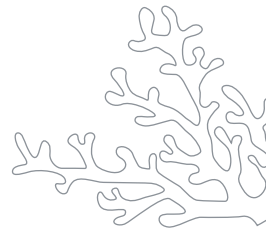
Working with quality local materials and inspired by nature, Corsica's talented artisans put their creativity in the spotlight. Often using ancestral techniques and traditional know-how, they make high-quality crafts which fame has, in many cases, spread far and wide. Cutlery, basketry, pottery, jewellery, musical instruments... Corsican craftsmanship shows great artistic variety and beautiful creativity.

- Watch knife-making around Ajaccio
- Visit artist workshops in Patrimonio, in the Nebbiu area
- Meet leathersmiths and makers of traditional Corsican instruments in village of Pigna in Balagne.



Corsican artisans:

Island designers make trendy fashion and design objects. They often choose to exhibit their creations in unusual places, such as a shop nestled in a cave in the centre of Bastia, where the items are inspired by the island's legends and mysteries – jewellery, statues and waxworks.

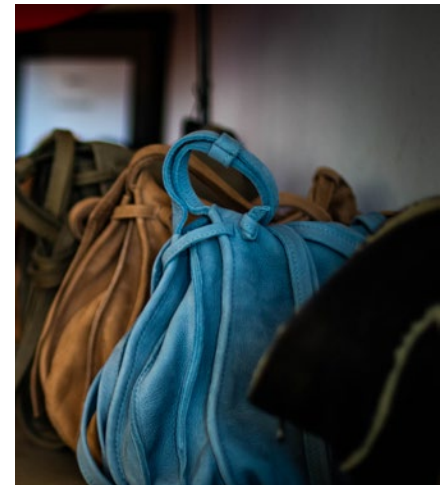
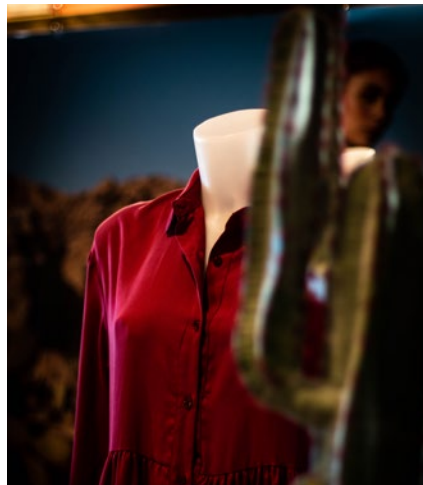


In the old town of Bonifacio, admire high-quality handmade coral jewellery.

Finding their inspiration in landscapes and traditions, island designers are passionate about fashion and offer collections of ready-to-wear garments and trendy accessories that enhance the buyer's best assets.

Must-see event

Creazione festival of
fashion and design in
Bastia (June)





Well-being

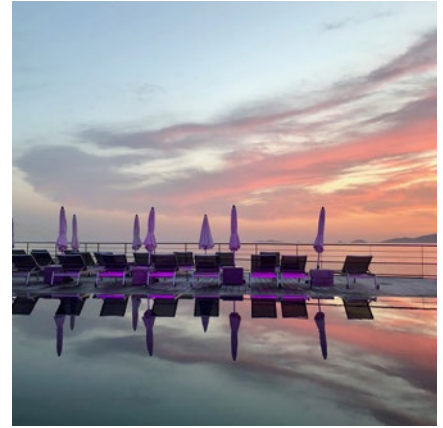
✦ Corsican Lifestyle

Escape for a weekend and enjoy the benefits of thermal waters

Bains de Caldane, Baracci and Pietrapola are three Corsican sites, open almost year-round, where you can enjoy the therapeutic virtues of hot freshwater springs to relieve rheumatism, skin problems and infections.

From a wellbeing perspective, Corsica capitalises on its essential oils of immortelle, lemon and myrtle used in the many spas on the island.

Aromatherapy, phytotherapy: industry professionals offer a wide range of products and beauty treatments, transporting visitors to the very heart of the Corsican maquis.



In the thalassotherapy domain, the Riva Bella Thalasso & Spa in Aleria on the east coast and the Sofitel Gulf of Ajaccio in Porticcio offer a range of treatments with essential oils and Corsican cosmetics.

Island brands have developed quality ranges of perfumes and cosmetics using immortelle, hazelnut and olive essential oils, and even citrus fruits.



Have a relaxing break...



Yoga and other wellbeing and relaxation activities are accessible to everyone in Corsica, and offered in unusual places, responding to demand from a generation displaying new patterns of consumer behaviour.

Try a unique experience such as glamping under the stars beside the Gulf of Porto-Vecchio, or sleeping in a yurt in Zonza.

Must-see event:

- Yoga Festival in Porto-Vecchio



Tip:

Corsican spirulina is grown across the island and offers many benefits, maintaining good health and strengthening the immune system.



#ISLAND SECRET

Corsica is rich in endemic flora, and local professionals extract their essences for use in aromatherapy.

Must do:

Take part in an essential oil workshop. For a sensory exploration of the Corsican maquis, go on a hike with a horticulturist tour guide.



Outdoor sports

The smallest but also the most mountainous of the three major Mediterranean islands, Corsica has 120 peaks over 2,000 metres high. This 'mountain in the sea', whose natural park covers a third of the territory, offers a multitude of activities: walking and hiking, running races and trails, horseback riding, mountain biking and road cycling, climbing, gliding, snowsports, outdoor yoga, watersports in rivers and the sea... you name it, it's possible!



✦ At sea

With 1,000km of coastline, Corsica offers a wealth of watersports: windsurfing, kitesurfing, paddleboarding, sea kayaking. The destination is also ideal for sailing enthusiasts who can access the beautiful coastline, enjoying the beaches and secret coves.

#ISLAND SECRET

Try a beginner's dive at one of the 60 diving centres across the island, exploring its preserved dive sites to observe beautiful marine life. It's common to see groupers and many other protected species. Dive to explore the remains of the B17 bomber at the foot of the Calvi citadel.

In authorised areas, you can go fishing, diving or snorkelling aboard sailboats, monohulls or catamarans – with or without a skipper, and all available from the main island ports.



#ISLAND SECRET

To admire the shallows, the transparent kayak makes a nice alternative to snorkelling.

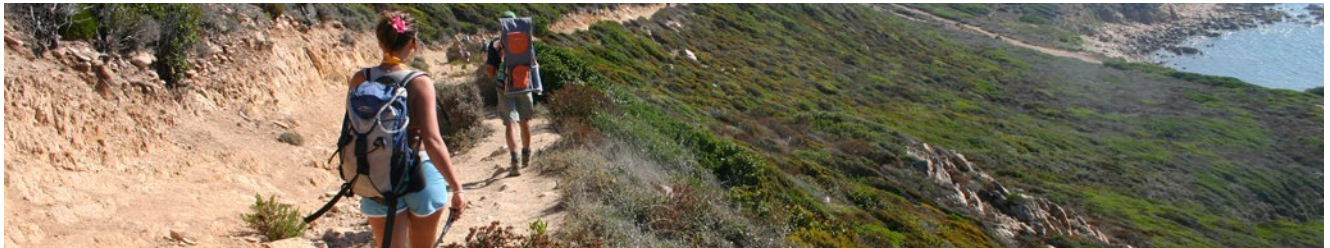


✦ On land



On foot

Both along the coast and in the mountains, Corsica boasts a large number of hiking trails to be enjoyed in all seasons. From hiking to sports races, the outdoor playground is limitless.



Did you know?

Corsica's Regional Natural Park

boasts 1,500km of trails through unspoilt nature and stunning landscapes.

Must-try trails:

Measuring 200km, the GR20 is one of Europe's toughest trails for experienced hikers, crossing Corsica from Calenzana to Conca.

The Transhumance Trail links Calenzana with Corscia, south of Monte Cinto. It's an original way of exploring the island's heritage and traditions.

The Sentiers des Douaniers are routes to explore the coastline through the maquis, while appreciating the extraordinary landscapes.

Tip: Every hiking trail has its own quirks and features, and it's important to choose the one most suited to your ability and always be well equipped before venturing out.

Further information at www.pnr.corsica



✦ On the snow

The topography of Corsica is such that, come winter, there's a powdery playground here to surprise and delight snowsport fans. You can go snowshoeing, ski touring, and downhill skiing for the more athletic.



For Alpine skiing enthusiasts, the island has three resorts: Asco in the north, Val d'Ese in the south and Ghisoni 2000 in central Corsica.



✦ By bike

To help develop sustainable tourism, signposted cycling routes have been set up on the island. They offer mountain bike rides for all cycling enthusiasts who can choose according to their level of ability, with opportunities to appreciate the local heritage.



For the less sporty, electric bike hire is available across Corsica, allowing you to reach high- and medium-altitude sites just like the professionals.



#FOCUS

A mountain bike site labeled by the FFC offers over 220km of slopes and trails in the Balagne.

#NEW ADDITION

With 13 stages across 550km and plenty of climbs and villages to explore, the GT20 route connects the north and south of the island and highlights the authentic, lesser-known Corsica. The Balagne is the most popular area for cyclists, where there are several marked routes.

Canyoning

With jumps, abseils and natural slides in vast pools of turquoise water, canyoning is an adrenaline-fuelled activity to be enjoyed accompanied by a professional. There are courses adapted to all levels.



Horseback riding

Along the donkey trails, out on the green plateaus or on the beaches, Corsica is a great place for a ride. Equestrian guides with expert knowledge can accompany visitors for outings from a few hours to several days.



Take the heights

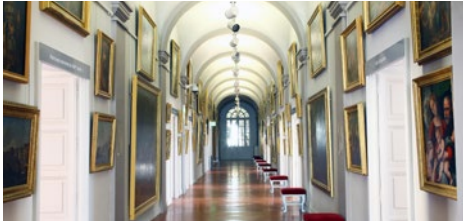
Paragliding and parachute jumping are widespread activities, just like climbing, via ferrata and treetop adventure courses – all allowing you to get closer to nature.





Architectural heritage

Inland and on the coast, Corsica has a remarkable architectural heritage which can be appreciated throughout its territory. The many sites and ancient remains are proof of the existence of rich and varied ancestral trades. Defensive buildings such as citadels, bastions, towers and bridges were built during periods of conquest and colonisation, and stand as testimony of the island's turbulent history punctuated by calmer periods. There are also numerous religious monuments – chapels, churches, cathedrals and convents – displaying different architectural styles.



Corsica has numerous museums and thematic sites scattered across its territory: these include the eco-museum dedicated to the mouflon in Asco, the museums of Luri and Alta Rocca and the prehistoric site at Aléria.

Don't miss:

Sartène, considered the “most Corsican” town in Corsica: uncover the secrets of the past at the museum of prehistory and archeology.

Corte, former island capital: follow in the footsteps of Pascal Paoli and visit the museum of Corsica to understand the turbulent history of the island.

Ajaccio, birthplace of Napoléon Bonaparte: to learn about the Emperor's youth, visit the Palais Fesch Museum of Fine Arts and appreciate the permanent display of Italian paintings, plus some outstanding temporary exhibitions.

Bastia, cultural Baroque city: admire the city highlights at the Palais des Gouverneurs, museum of Art and History.

Did you know?

Ajaccio, Bastia, Bonifacio and Sartène

are classified Cities of Art and History.



Did you know?

A total of 85 listed Genoese towers frame the island.

The citadels of Bastia, Bonifacio, Calvi, Corte, Porto-Vecchio and St Florent are all visible and accessible.

At public sites in Aléria, Filitosa, Cucuruzzu, Capula, Araghju, Cauria, there are fascinating signs of a prehistoric human presence on the island.

#ISLAND SECRET

A stone's throw from Lumio is the hamlet of Occi, an abandoned village in the Balagne. And in the far south, at the bend of the road near the village of Chera, is the Oriu di Canni: a shelter under the rock that's even more amazing.





Cultural heritage

These festivals and traditions are testimonies to Corsica's rich cultural heritage, punctuating life in the island's towns and villages throughout the year.

- The Madonuccia festival in Ajaccio **(18 March)**
- The Catenacciu of Sartène, processions in Bonifacio and Granitula in Calvi **(during Holy Week)**
- The celebration of Saint Erasmus, patron saint of fishermen, in Ajaccio, Bastia and Calvi **(2 June)**
- The Saint Jean-Baptiste feast day in Bastia and Porto-Vecchio **(24 June)**
- The Feast of the Nativity **(8 September)**
- The Santa di u Niolu in Casamaccioli **(7-9 September)**
- The Feast of the Immaculate Conception in Ile-Rousse **(8 December)**

Must-see events

- Festivoce in Pigna – August
- Polyphonic Singing festival in Calvi – September
- Les Médiévales de Levie - June

Did you know?

The paghjella

The traditional Corsican song is registered as UNESCO World Heritage.





Business tourism

✦ Professionally organised meetings and eco-friendly events in Corsica.

Beyond the power of its special setting, Corsica has a certain authenticity, enhanced by its culture and deeply-rooted traditions, and modern equipment and services. These give Corsica an attractiveness in the MICE sector for congresses, seminars, incentives, product launches and events. With a landscape ideally suited to business trips, the destination offers exceptional places where sea and maquis rub shoulders, with meeting rooms for seminars and gala evenings.

The island offers sea, mountains and culture in equal measure, where work sessions can be combined with leisure activities and heritage visits that appeal to event organisers.

Business trips always leave a strong impression on clients, with island providers competing for professionalism to transform each trip into something extra special. The Convention Bureau of the Corsica Tourist Board, and the many incoming and outgoing agencies and specialist service providers of the destination, can offer customised programmes combining business with pleasure. They can also help clients with successful event – all just two hours from the major European capitals.





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Business Destination