

# Corsica

Corsica, nestled in the Mediterranean, truly embodies its "Island of Beauty" nickname, offering rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking scenery. Discover this enchanting gem with our 8-day small group tour.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flight Tickets
- All transfers and excursions
- 4-star Hotels
- Daily Meals
- Expert Local Guide

# **PACKAGE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Old Port and Citadel of Bastia
- Picturesque villages of Cap Corse; Wine tasting in Patrimonio
- Scenic drive though the Agriates Desert and the Balagne region
- Citadel of Calvi and its sweeping views of the bay
- · Corte, the historical capital of Corsica
- Scala di Santa Regina scenic mountain drive
- Scandola Nature Preserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- · City of Ajaccio, the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte
- Sartene and Bavella Needles breathtaking mountain landscapes
- Bonifacio and the Lavezzi islands

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

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# **Your detailed itinerary**

#### DAY 1 • BASTIA

Upon arriving in Bastia, you'll collect your luggage and take a shuttle to your hotel. After settling in, your guide will meet you for a walking tour of the city. Discover the Old Port and the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church with its two bell towers, the emblem of Bastia. A staircase from the old port leads up to the citadel where you can admire the Cathedral Sainte-Marie and right behind it the hidden Oratoire Sainte-Croix, a small baroque chapel. Dinner and overnight stay in Bastia.

# DAY 2 • CAP CORSE

Join your guide for a full-day excursion to Cap Corse, a 25-mile peninsula at the island's northern tip. Explore the charming village of Erbalunga with its colorful houses, small port, and Genoese tower ruins. Enjoy lunch in Centuri, known for its spiny lobster fishing. Afterward, visit St. Florent for scenic views from its Citadel, then head to Patrimonio for a wine tasting of its renowned red wines. Conclude the tour with a drive through the Col de Teghime mountain pass and return to Bastia for dinner and an overnight stay.

#### DAY 3 • BALAGNE | CALVI

Explore the scenic Balagne region with your guide, driving through the Agriates Desert, bordered by mountains to the south and the Mediterranean Sea on all other sides. Visit Sant'Antonino, a 9th-century village perched on a hill, with narrow streets, courtyards, a chapel, and a bread oven adding to its charm. Enjoy a Corsican lunch in Cateri before heading to Calvi for a guided tour of the Citadel. Afterward, enjoy free time to explore the narrow streets and take in stunning views of the port and bay. Dinner and overnight in Calvi.

## DAY 4 • CORTE | SCALA DI SANTA REGINA

This morning, enjoy a guided tour of Corte, Corsica's historic capital. Ride a small train to the Citadel, built in 1419, now housing the Regional Museum of Anthropology. Visit Place Gaffory, named after an 18th-century leader, and admire the Church of the Annunciation and the National Palace, home to Pascal Paoli. After lunch, drive through the scenic Scala di Santa Regina, passing the village of Evisa with its chestnut groves and the Col de Vergio (4,500 ft.), before arriving in Porto for dinner and an overnight stay.

#### **DAY 5** • SCANDOLA NATURE PRESERVE

Embark on a boat excursion to the Scandola Nature Preserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its dramatic cliffs, forests, and crystal-clear waters, home to diverse wildlife. Visit the secluded village of Girolata, accessible only by boat or on foot. After lunch, explore the Calanques de Piana, towering red cliffs plunging into the Mediterranean, and the village of Piana. The day concludes with a return to Ajaccio for dinner and an overnight stay.

#### DAY 6 • AJACCIO

This morning, enjoy a guided tour of Ajaccio, Napoleon Bonaparte's birthplace. Visit the Bonaparte House Museum, Ajaccio Cathedral, and the Fesch Museum, showcasing art from Napoleon's uncle. Explore the 14th-century citadel built by Genoese settlers, including the Bonaparte family. After a Corsican lunch, head to Ocana to visit an essential oil distillery and the Jardin des Abeilles to learn about Corsica's black bee and its prized AOP honey. Dinner and overnight in Ajaccio.

#### DAY 7 • SARTENE | BAVELLA NEEDLES | PORTO VECCHIO

Enjoy a scenic drive through Corsica's Bavella region, featuring dramatic landscapes, rock formations, forests, and the stunning Bavella Needles. Visit the fortified city of Sartene and have lunch in Zonza. Continue towards Porto-Vecchio, passing l'Ospedale village with breathtaking views of the Gulf and Sardinia. After a brief stop in Porto-Vecchio's Old Town and marina, head to Bonifacio for dinner and an overnight stay.

#### DAY 8 • BONIFACIO

Join your guide for a boat excursion to the Lavezzi Islands, a nature preserve south of Bonifacio. Enjoy stunning views of Bonifacio's white cliffs and citadel. After the tour, take a small train up to the Citadel for lunch, followed by a guided tour of Bonifacio and free time for shopping. Dinner and overnight in Bonifacio.

# **DAY 9** • **RETURN HOME**

Transfer by private shuttle to Figari Airport for your flight home.



