

# Self-guided road bike tour in Northern Corsica

8 days / 7 nights

This cycling tour takes you along the magnificent Corsican coastline, on picturesque roads offering exceptional panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea, from Cap Corse to Porto. You will then cross the majestic mountain ranges to reach the heart of the island and explore Corsica's most authentic regions. This totally self-guided tour includes a practical luggage transfer service, so you can drive with peace of mind while discovering Corsica's natural and cultural treasures.

Trip available with our digital road-book.

[Find out about the digital road-book](#) [Prepare your trip](#)

## YOUR PROGRAM

### Day 1 - Bastia

Depending on your arrival time in Bastia, you'll have the chance to discover the city and its must-sees. Be sure to visit the majestic citadel, stroll through the picturesque lanes of the old port and relax in the famous Place Saint-Nicolas, one of the city's landmarks.

Overnight in Bastia.



### Day 2 - From Bastia to Saint Florent - Cap Corse

On this first leg, you'll explore the wild and magnificent Cap Corse. Following the east coast, you'll enjoy exceptional panoramic views before crossing the Col de la Serra, at an altitude of 365 metres, to cross the northern tip of the island. A must-do stage for discovering the diversity of Corsican landscapes.

2 possible distances:

82km (D+: 1407m; D-: 1399m; Min: 1m; Max: 393m)

or 107km (D+: 1569m; D-: 1575m; Min.: 1m; Max.: 364m)

Overnight in Saint-Florent.



### Day 3 - From St Florent to Calvi - La Balagne

You leave the charming Gulf of Saint-Florent to cross the famous 'Agiates desert' and cross the Vezzu pass (311 m). You will then reach the Balagne region, renowned for its picturesque mountain villages. From these heights, you'll enjoy superb panoramic views of the coast and the whole region, a real treat for lovers of breathtaking scenery.

2 possible distances:

66Km (D+: 997m; D-: 999m; Min: 1m; Max: 373m)

or 104km (D+: 1000m; D-: 989m; Min.: 0m; Max.: 366m)

Overnight in Calvi.



### Day 4 - From Calvi to Porto

You're on one of the most beautiful coastal roads in Europe! This route offers spectacular panoramic views of a wild and unspoilt coastline. After crossing the Col de Palmarella (408 m), you'll have a breathtaking view of the Gulf of Girolata and the

Scandola nature reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This iconic route was also covered by the Tour de France riders in 2013, adding a sporting touch to this unforgettable stage.

Distance :

75km (D+: 1331m; D-: 1289m; Min: 8m; Max: 407m)

Overnight in Porto.



### Day 5 - Day off in Porto

Today, there are no restrictions: just do what you want! Enjoy a lazy day on the beach or at the hotel, visit the charming village, or take a boat trip to the Scandola nature reserve or the magnificent Calanques de Piana. These calanques, a UNESCO World Heritage site, are also accessible on foot or by bike and are well worth a visit. For the more active, there's a superb loop over the Col de Sevi (1101 m), offering breathtaking panoramic views.

Distance (optional) :

95km (D+: 2283m; D-: 2281m; Min.: 4m; Max.: 1105m)

Overnight in Porto.



### **Day 6 - From Porto to Corte**

From Porto, you'll set off to climb the Col de Vergio (1477 m), passing through breathtaking scenery including the impressive Spelunca gorge and the magnificent Aitone forest. After more than 30 km of ascent, get ready for a descent of around 35 km, including 15 km down the famous Scala di Sta Regina, a memorable experience you won't soon forget.

Distance:

83km (D+: 2895m; D-: 2493m; Min.: 32m; Max.: 1480m)

Overnight in Corte.



### **Day 7 - From Corte to Lucciana - La Castagniccia**

You leave Corte, the historic capital of Corsica, and head for Castagniccia, the birthplace of such emblematic figures in Corsican history as Sambucucciu d'Alando and Pascal Paoli. This stage, one of the most difficult on the route, includes no fewer than four passes, with the most demanding at the end. Once out of the mountains, you'll return to the east coast, heading for Lucciana, south of Bastia, where you can enjoy a soothing coastal landscape.

Distance :

95km (D+: 2894m; D-: 3281m; Min: 14m; Max: 999m)

Overnight in Lucciana - close to Bastia airport.



### **Day 8 - Your trip ends here**

End of trip after breakfast.

## Additional information

### **TARIFFS**

Price from 1340 euros per person.

### **OPTIONS**

May and June departure : 75 euros per person.

July and September departure : 160 euros per person.

August departure : 220 euros per person.

Single room : 490 euros per person.

Hybrid bike rental : 240 euros per person.

Electric bike rental : 350 euros per person.

Aluminium road bike rental : 360 euros per person.

Carbon road Bike rental : 410 euros per person.

### **INCLUDED**

Nights in 2 and 3-star hotels

Breakfasts

Luggages transfer between each stage

Information package with maps and road-books on our app (a smartphone is required)

Local assistance (by phone)

### **NOT INCLUDED**

Transport options from and to Bastia

Beverages and meals

Personal travel insurance

Bike rental

Everything not mentioned on the "included" part

#### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

Approximately 80-110km a day, with height gains between 800 and 2000m.

#### **CARRYING**

Luggage transfers by vehicle.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

7 nights in hotels (double bedrooms).

#### **SIZE OF GROUP**

From two.

#### **DEPARTURES**

Departures every day from the beginning of April to the end of October.

#### **DEPARTURE**

Bastia

#### **DISPERSION**

Lucciana (south of Bastia and near the airport)

#### **HOW TO GET THERE**

Bastia is reachable by plane from several European cities depending on the time of year with Air France, Air Corsica but also Easyjet, Volotea or Ryanair.

By sea, Bastia is reachable with the compagnies : Corsica Ferries, Corsica Linea or La Méridionale.

Corsica ferries: [http://www.corsica-ferries.co.uk/?gclid=CLyF3O\\_TvroCFa-WtAodIScA5A](http://www.corsica-ferries.co.uk/?gclid=CLyF3O_TvroCFa-WtAodIScA5A)

Corsica Linea: <https://www.corsicalinea.com/>

La Méridionale: <http://www.lameridionale.fr>

From this city all access is possible by bus and train.

#### **EQUIPMENT TO TAKE**

ADVISED MATERIAL TO TAKE WITH YOU (non-exhaustive checklist) :

As a good preparation is key to a successful stay, here are a few tips to ensure that your trip takes place in optimal conditions.

#### **BIKES**

In order that your stay does not turn into a mechanical training course, it's advisable to carry out a meticulous revision of your bike before going on a tour :

- the tyres are well inflated and in good condition
- cables and chain are in good condition

- the transmission elements are clean and oiled
- there are no leaks in the suspensions
- the wheels are well tightened
- the brakes are in good condition (wear + possible leaks)
- the headset has been checked

And don't forget that anomalies are easier to spot on a cleaned bike...

#### REPAIR MATERIAL

To avoid mechanical problems, it's better to be far-sighted and always carry the basic equipment of a biker:

- 2 inner tubes (puncture sealant is strongly recommended, or puncture sealant strips)
- a pump
- tire irons
- an inner tube repair kit consisting of patches and glue
- a multi-tool
- a small wrench
- a piece of tire

Also, you can prepare your own toolbox which we transfer with your luggage. You will put in it the following items :

- a brake cable (front and rear)
- a derailleur cable
- a tyre
- one derailleur hanger
- chain oil
- a rag

#### EQUIPMENT

As you can't judge a book by its cover, cycling slinky shorts won't help you to turn into a cycling champion. However, a minimum of specific bike equipment will be necessary in order to be comfortable :

- a helmet
- glasses
- suitable shoes (no smooth soles)
- a cycling short or short
- a breathable tee-shirt (try to avoid cotton)

#### DAY BACKPACK

Because it's unpleasant to ride with a too loaded backpack, it's better to think carefully about the necessary things to bring in the backpack for the day:

- a water bag and/or a flask and/or water cans on the bike (2L/day/person minimum)
- provisions (energy bars, dried fruits...)
- the basic repair material for your bike (see above)
- a windbreaker (waterproof)
- picnic

- a headlamp
- a knife
- sun cream (+ lip protection)
- toilet paper
- a first-aid kit (see below)
- your mobile phone + an external battery
- a rubbish bag

#### PICNIC

In order to avoid unnecessary waste at picnic time, remember to take with you :

- an airtight box (0.5L) with initials marked on the lid and on the box + wide elastics
- reusable cutlery (fork and pocketknife)

#### TRAVEL BAG

Your luggage is transferred during the day and you will find it every evening at your hotel. It is preferable that your travel bag contains the following items :

- a sleeping bag liner (stays in gîtes)
- a change of clothes
- a pair of light shoes for the evening
- a large jumper or fleece jacket
- a small toilet bag with a towel

#### FIRST-AID KIT

Concerning all our guided stays, the instructor has a first aid kit.

However, it is essential to bring your own first aid kit.

Here is a list of the minimum items to take with you:

- disinfectant
- gauze strips
- plaster
- protective cream for the buttocks
- your personal medicines
- micropur pastilles (water disinfectant)
- a survival blanket

A more complete first-aid kit should be formulated with your doctor.