

Holiday: Southern Corsica Walk

Rating:  level

Holiday type: Independent Walking

Corsica

- Independent walking from the mountains to the Med; easy-to-follow, superbly maintained footpaths
- Stunningly beautiful villages, mediaeval castles, prehistoric sites
- White sandy beaches, turquoise seas, unspoilt natural forests
- Friendly hotels, great regional cuisine
- Exotic Mediterranean flora: olives, lemons, palms, oranges and figs



Southern France

One of the most popular holidays in the Headwater programme, this independent, mid-level walking holiday takes in some of the most dramatic scenery in the Med. Over 8 days, you'll cover the full cross-section of the Southern Corsican landscape, from the pinky-gold peaks of the mountainous Alta Rocca to the rugged coast and white sandy beaches near Propriano.

Your starting point is the picturesque village of Zonza, perched against the backdrop of the spectacular Aiguilles de Bavella. It affords superb walking possibilities, so we have built in time for you to explore the amazing panorama of peaks and forests all round. You then tread the deep, pine-scented valleys of the mountainous heart of the region – the rivers here are perfect for cooling off in high summer. Finally, there's a real sense of achievement as you come down through chestnut forests and *maquis*-shrouded slopes to the sea. Throughout, the footpaths are well maintained and easy to follow, with virtually no road walking. Wild herbs can be found everywhere, and the countryside is a colourful mosaic of mountain flowers, olive groves, fruit orchards and vineyards.



The places you stay in are special too: Antoine's working *ferme-auberge*, set in 20+ hectares of serene countryside, offers outstanding home cooking; M Bertini has recently restored his C19 coaching inn into a beautiful *** hotel overlooking the Ospedale forest, and Jean-Charles and Béatrice show true southern hospitality at their lovely coastal base only a hundred paces from the glorious white sandy beach at Campomoro.



“Known in ancient times as ‘Kaliste’ meaning ‘the most beautiful’, Corsica is perhaps the least spoiled of all the Mediterranean islands.”

Southern Corsica Walk: Day by day

Sunday Arrive in Zonza

Dramatically set against a backdrop of the Bavella massif, this picturesque granite village affords spectacular views over one of the most celebrated of Corsican landscapes. Your hotel has a gorgeous sun terrace and lovely swimming pool.

Monday In Zonza 13km/8mi/5hr

We give you a lift to the stunning Col de Bavella (1218m), which is overlooked by the jagged rock needles of the Aiguilles de Bavella. Then it's a fantastic walk along the classic GR20 over the Foce Finosa to the Paliri refuge - a great lunch spot. The full majesty of the mountains stretch out below and, on a clear day, you can see Sardinia. There's the option to detour to the Trou de la Bombe, a curious circular opening in the rocks - keep your eyes open for the rare lammergeyers soaring here.

Tuesday Zonza to Levie 17km/11mi/5hr

Today's route follows part of the popular *Mare a Mare Sud* trail and takes in some of the most beautiful Laricio pine forest in the Mediterranean - look out for the Corsican nut-hatches scaling the trunks like mini-acrobats! Explore the ancient villages of San Gavino - curious C12 church with crowned head over the door - and Levie, former capital of the region, where our delightful farm-hotel is set in 20 hectares of private woodland.

Wednesday At Levie 10km/6mi/3hr or 20km/12mi/6.5hr

Today we suggest a circular walk following the popular *Mare a Mare Sud* trail as it winds its way down via the St Antoine stream - lovely spot for a paddle! - and on to the recently listed UNESCO bronze-age settlements of Cucuruzzu and Capula: superb views from the mediaeval castle right out across the region, from the Bavella Needles to the Gulf of Propriano.

Thursday Levie / Propriano / Campomoro 12km/8mi/5hr or 20km/12mi/6km

Today's walk starts from the exquisite neighbouring village (lift provided) of Santa Lucie de Tallano. Time to explore its attractive cobbled streets and lovely village squares before winding down through olives, vines and cork oaks into the heart of the deep green Rizzanese Valley. It's then a gentle, steady climb to the Col (700m) from where you follow a beautiful ridge walk - gorgeous views out west to the sea - to the pretty village of Fozzano. We pick you up from the bar here and take you on to the glorious sandy bay of Campomoro.

Friday At Campomoro 12km/7mi/3hr

Campomoro is an enchanting fishing village, lapped by clear turquoise seas and backed by a jumble of colourful stone-built cottages. Part of its excellent sandy beach has been turned into a coastal nature reserve. A gently undulating path takes you from the Genoese Tower on the headland out along the wild and beautiful coast, part of which is a nature reserve.

Saturday Campomoro to Ajaccio 8km/5mi/2.5hr

A lift (90 mins) north passing the wooded Gulf of Valinco and on to the regional capital, Ajaccio. Basking under palms and orange trees, it has all the trappings of an upmarket French-Mediterranean setting: pastel houses, chic boutiques, open-air cafés, yacht-filled marina and the largest curved bay on the island. Spend the day exploring on the famous *Sentier des Crêtes*, a ridge of hills cloaked in broom, mimosa, gorse and colourful wild flowers, just above the town.

Sunday Leave Ajaccio



For departure dates, prices and travel options, please visit our website at:
www.headwater.com

Walking Details

As there are frequent ascents and descents, you need to be a reasonably fit and confident walker. The paths are very good, but as they are stony in places, ankle-supported boots are essential and walking poles helpful.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

13 15 20 21 22 21 16
 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

48 50 21 10 16 50 62
 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

