



Villages

Cities



Hikes

# DAY TRIP GUIDE

*from the Hotel l'Empereur*

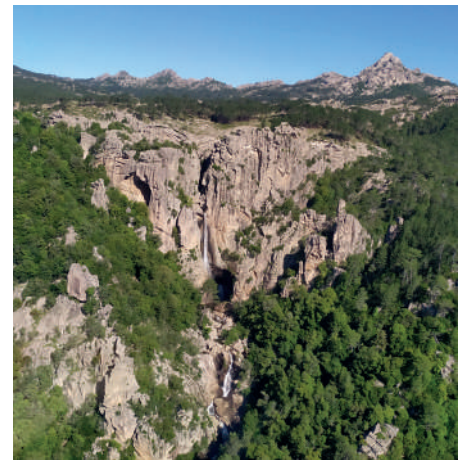


**INCLUDES** A Google Maps link to find all the addresses from your Smartphone !



Beaches

Activities



Natural pools



The **Google Maps** link here

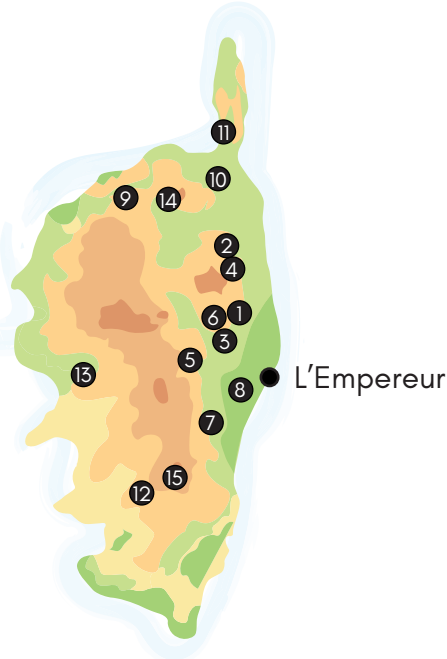


All the spots mentioned in this guide

or by following this link : [shorturl.at/ekqV8](https://shorturl.at/ekqV8)

# VILLAGES | PAESI

The surroundings of the Hôtel l'Empereur are full of authentic villages with undeniable charm. They have preserved their original character and are true cradles of island culture. Come and enjoy their panoramic views and peaceful atmosphere. You may also have the opportunity to meet the locals and discover the stories and anecdotes of these places steeped in history. Here are my recommendations nearby:



## 1 Cervione 30 km ♥♥♥

A small gem perched in the mountains, Cervione is a historic town and former capital of Corsica, renowned for its hazelnut production. Beyond exploring the historic center, museum, and narrow streets, Cervione is also the perfect place to sample local specialties made with chestnut and hazelnut flour. You'll find a handful of affordable restaurants in the town center. Consider extending your visit with a trip to the Ucelluline waterfall and enjoy its refreshing natural pools. The waterfall is located between Cervione and San Nicolao; park just after the tunnel, where a few spaces are available. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes for the climb up to the pool. From Cervione, you can also hike to the Madonna di a Scupiccia chapel for stunning views over the plain (10 km round trip).

## 2 Penta Di Casinca 50 km ♥♥♥

It's hard not to be charmed by this stunning village in the Casinca region. Adorned with grey stones and slate roofs, perched like a fortress on its rocky promontory, Penta offers breathtaking views of the sea. In its streets, discover photographs of life from bygone days, artisan workshops, and local restaurants. For hiking enthusiasts, try "The Loop Around Penta di Casinca," a 2-hour 40-minute route (details on Visorando).

## 3 Tox, Campi, Pianello, Zalana, Tallone 23 km ♥♥♥

A succession of authentic villages in the heart of Eastern Corsica, ideal for a half-day escape. Along this loop, discover local cheese dairies and wine estates, and spot black pigs, sheep, and goats along the way. In addition to the villages, highlights include U Mulinu (a natural swimming spot, see p.6), the Chapel of Tox, and the Bravone waterfall. In Pianello, a hiking trail leads to Punta de Caldane, where, on a clear day, you can admire Monte Cinto.

## 4 Porri 55 km ♥♥♥

The village of Porri is the smallest of the 7 villages of Casinca and boasts remarkable charm. Spread across the hillside, it captivates visitors with its beauty and mysterious past, having been a stronghold of the Resistance in the 1940s. Stroll through its narrow streets, discover the church and the washhouse, and for the more adventurous, hike to the "Grotte de la Résistance," which once housed a clandestine printing press (2-hour round trip).

## 5 Piedicorte di Gaggio, Pietraserena 28 km ♥

These two villages in the Rogna region offer magnificent panoramic views of the surrounding mountain ranges as well as the eastern plain.

## 6 Linguizzetta, Canale di Verde, Chiatra, Petra di Verde 25 km ♥

Less than half an hour from Riva Bella, immerse yourself in the heart of authentic, peaceful Corsica. The villages of Linguizzetta, Canale di Verde, and Tallone offer exceptional views over the entire eastern plain and the Alesani dam. Don't hesitate to stop along the way to visit local cheese and olive producers, as well as nearby winegrowers. A guaranteed change of scenery!

## 7 Prunelli Di Fiumorbu, San Gavino 31 km ♥♥

Overlooking the eastern plain, the village of Prunelli offers breathtaking views of the Urbinu and Pinia lagoons. Continue on to San Gavino to hike to the Buja waterfall and enjoy an exceptional natural swimming pool.

## 8 Aleria's Fort 2 km ♥♥♥

Step back in time by visiting the ruins of the former Roman capital of Corsica or the archaeological museum (located in the fort). A magnificent viewpoint overlooking the vineyards of the eastern plain can be found in front of the church.

## to go a little further:

### 9 The wonderful Balagne Villages 126 km ♥♥♥

It's impossible not to be charmed by the villages of Balagne, each with its own appeal:

**Sant'Antonino**, a pedestrian village atop a hill, is known for its lemon specialties (jam, juice, liqueur);

**Pigna**, a village of artisans and artists, hosts numerous music and theater festivals every year;

**Speloncato**, a stunning village perched on a rocky spur, features an orientation table in the heart of the village worth the short climb.

Also worth visiting are **Corbara**, **Montegrossu**, and **Lumio**.

### 10 Murato 74 km ♥♥

A small village renowned for its excellent inns and its Pisan-style Romanesque church, which is well worth a visit!

### 11 Cap Corse villages 70 km ♥♥♥

In these fishing villages, you feel as if you've reached the end of the world: Centuri, Erbalunga, Nonza, Macinaggio, Barcaggio... More information on p.11.

### 12 Santa Lucia di Tallano 90 km ♥♥♥

This village in Alta Rocca has great character and beautiful, cohesive architecture centered around the 16th-century Pisan tower. With its natural hot spring and olive oil culture, it's sure to captivate you.

### 13 Ota 135 km ♥♥♥

If you're planning a few days on the East Coast, you'll enjoy Ota and its inns with hearty cuisine. Natural pools, breathtaking landscapes, and traditional houses near the UNESCO Scandola Reserve—this place has it all!

### 14 Lama 85 km ♥♥

No pun intended with our favorite animal, the village of Lama enchants with its old houses built against the rock, narrow streets, and vaulted passages. Lama is also the starting point for an exceptional hike to Monte Astu.

### 15 Zonza 70 km ♥

A small, lively mountain crossroads, the charming village of Zonza is an ideal base for exploring Alta Rocca. Its streets are home to restaurants, shops, and the Resistance Museum.



## CITIES A CITÀ

### Calvi ♥♥

The citadel, the Chapel of Notre Dame de la Serra, and the Revellata peninsula.

### Corte ♥♥♥

The citadel, the Corte Museum, Cours Paoli, and the Tavignanu and Restonica valleys.

### Ajaccio ♥

The Fesch Palace, the Sanguinaires Islands, the Bonaparte House, and the Capo di Feno Reserve.

### Sartène ♥♥

The town center and its narrow streets, the Lion Rock, and Roccapiina Beach.

### Saint-Florent ♥♥

The citadel, the Agriates Desert, and the beaches of Saleccia, Lotu, and Ostriconi.

### Bastia ♥♥

The citadel, the Governors' Palace, old Bastia, the old port, Saint Nicolas Square, the Biguglia Lagoon, Ville di Petrabugno, and the Bocca Pruna icehouse. For a scenic hike above Bastia, head to Punta di Guaitella.

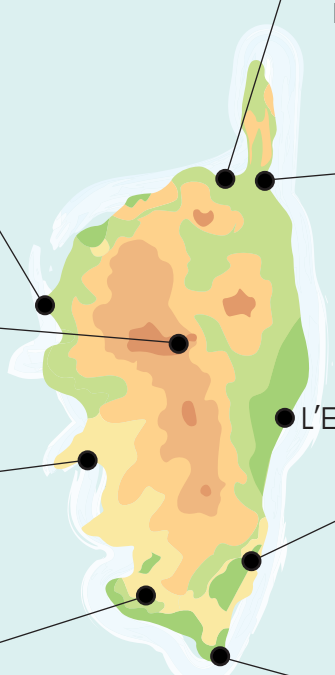
### L'Empereur

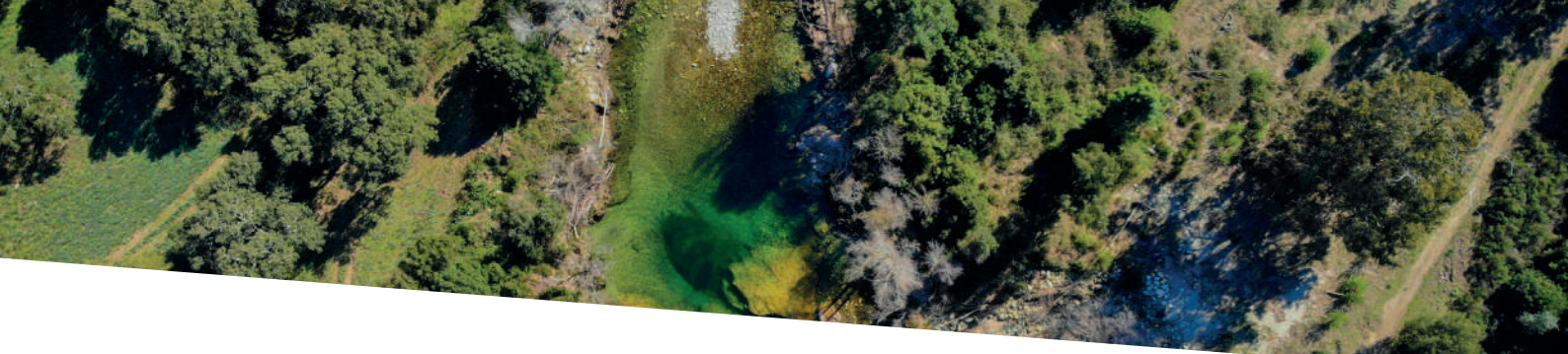
### Ponto Vecchio ♥

The town center and its shops, and the beaches of Palombaggia, Rondinara, Santa Giulia, and Pinarello

### Bonifacio ♥♥♥

The citadel, the cliffs, the view of Sardinia, the Lavezzi Islands, the beaches of Petit Spérone and Grand Spérone, the King of Aragon's stairs, and the sea caves.





Crédits : Anthony Bressy

# NATURAL POOLS L'ONDE

Of course, everyone love the island's beaches, its turquoise waters, and the warmth of the sea, but... it would be a real shame to visit Corsica without stopping at a natural pool or river! Nestled in the mountains, these spots offer hikers and visitors a refreshing break. From small basins to vast natural pools, here's a shortlist of must-visit locations nearby.

## 1 The 3 pools of Chisa toward Chisa 47 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.921077, 9.273611 | Pool coordinates : 41.923067, 9.273015

A stunning river spot nestled in a small valley leading to the village of Chisa. Enter "Chisa" into your GPS, then park in the small lot at the coordinates above. After a fairly steep 20-minute descent (sturdy shoes required), you'll reach the beautiful natural pools. Quite popular in summer, so don't hesitate to walk a little further for more tranquility. Extend your visit by exploring the village of Chisa and the viewpoint overlooking the valley.

## 2 Fiumorbu's Pools toward Ghisoni 34 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.104659, 9.247354 | Pool coordinates : 42.104276, 9.247193

Beautiful swims can be enjoyed along the Fiumorbu River as it winds through the Inzecca Canyon. For an easily accessible spot, head to the Fiumorbu pools.

## 3 Verghellu Canyon toward Venaco 55 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.196982, 9.122231 | Pool coordinates : 42.198806, 9.121104

A true haven of nature and tranquility awaits in the Verghellu Canyon. Although about an hour and a half from l'Empereur, the Verghellu Forest River is almost worth keeping secret, so magical is the setting. To get there, locate the large bridge (Pont du Vecchio, built by Gustave Eiffel) between Vivario and Venaco and follow the D623, a narrow but safe winding road. A parking area is 13 km further. From there, take the trail near the bridge and follow the river upstream to discover a stunning waterfall.

## 4 Buja Waterfall San Gavino di Fiumorbu 39 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.986187, 9.259137 | Pool coordinates : 41.987015, 9.249403

Standing 100 m tall, the Buja waterfall—also spelled Bura or Bughja—is one of the highest in Corsica. At its base lies a pool perfect for a refreshing dip, and the surrounding rocks are ideal for lounging. To reach this beautiful swimming spot, you'll need to hike 30–45 minutes. The climb is fairly steep (282 m of elevation gain), but the reward is well worth the effort!

## 5 The Hell's Bridge (Le Pont de l'Enfer) toward Velone Orneto 40 km ♥♥

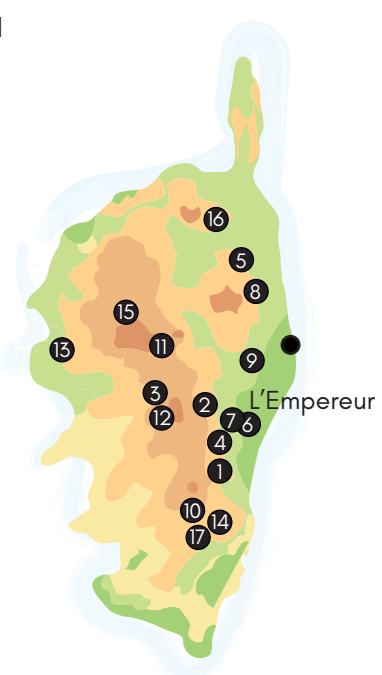
GPS car park coordinates : 42.388832, 9.474603 | Coordonnées bassin : 42.387439, 9.473174

The Pont de l'Enfer is anything but dark! On the contrary, it's one of the most beautiful natural pools near l'Empereur. Located in the village of Velone Orneto, you'll find nearby parking, a riverside restaurant, and a trail that can be explored on donkeyback (donkeys available on site), leading to the abandoned village of Fiuminale, where the panorama is stunning. Perfect for a day out with family or friends!

## 6 The Devil's Hole (Le Trou du Diable) toward Poggio di Nazza 28 km ♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.039005, 9.325419 | Pool coordinates : 42.037262, 9.321380

A lovely pool along a river, reached after an easy 10-minute walk through the maquis. After your swim, enjoy the panoramic views from the villages of Poggio di Nazza or Prunelli di Fiumorbu.



7 **Saltarucciu** between Lugo di Nazza and Poggio di Nazza 30 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.061742, 9.292350 | Pool coordinates : 42.061554, 9.291697

Little known, this swimming spot, while less dramatic than some of the larger pools, offers complete tranquility. Follow the small trail near the bridge (sturdy shoes required!). If you walk upstream for about ten minutes, you'll reach this small pool.

8 **U Celluline** between Cervione et San Nicolao 34 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.362082, 9.492145 | Pool coordinates : 42.362085, 9.491101

On the road between Cervione and San Nicolao, the Ucelluline waterfall offers exceptional views over the entire Moriani plain. Wear sturdy shoes, as the climb is fairly "adventurous" though very short. Coming from Cervione, you'll find a few parking spots just after the tunnel carved into the rock.

9 **U Mulinu** toward Tallone 15 km ♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.224863, 9.446592 | Pool coordinates : 42.225339, 9.447084

Follow the road toward Tallone and park at the lot of the former U Mulinu restaurant near the bridge. A beautiful small freshwater pool awaits you—perfect for a short outing by car or bike.

10 **Purcaraccia & Pulischellu** between Solenzara and Bavella's Pass 55 km ♥♥♥

Purcaraccia : GPS car park coordinates : 41.830857, 9.272117 | Pool coordinates : 41.834370, 9.265580

Pulischellu : GPS car park coordinates : 41.820155, 9.260903 | Pool coordinates : 41.834370, 9.265580

Two stunning river swimming areas with large pools. Visit in the shoulder seasons, as these spots are very busy in summer. To prevent accidents due to high attendance, access is sometimes restricted. Check with the Zonza tourist office for more information.

11 **In the surroundings of Corte** Restonica & Tavignanu 50 km ♥♥

Restonica : GPS car park coordinates : 42.292499, 9.135937 | Pool coordinates : 42.290897, 9.135621

Tavignanu : GPS car park coordinates : 42.308046, 9.147537 | Pool coordinates : 42.307753, 9.139780

The Tavignanu swimming area is accessed from the center of Corte. Park at the citadel and walk about ten minutes toward the Segia Bridge to reach a beautiful swimming spot in the heart of the mountains.

The Restonica road (D623), which runs along the river, is very busy in summer. You'll find many natural pools, but in summer, park within the first few kilometers, as access further along is prohibited due to the narrow road.

12 **Manganello** Hike from Canaglia 66 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.224863, 9.446592 | Pool coordinates : 42.225339, 9.447084

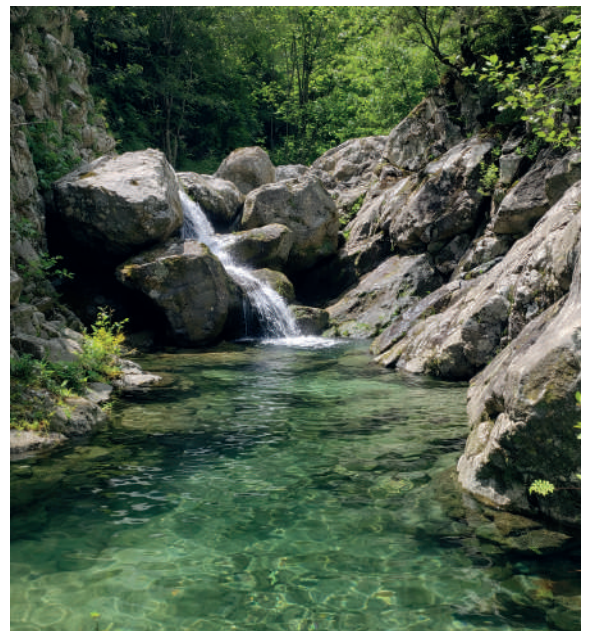
A fantastic natural swimming spot reachable after a 1 h 20 walk on the GR20. Park before entering the village, as turning around can be tricky. A parking area is located near the river.

### To go a little further

Swim in the Fangu if you're in the Galéria area (13), in the Cavu near Sainte-Lucie de Porto-Vecchio (14), at the Radule waterfall near Albertacce (15), or at the Sorio Waterfall in Pieve (16).

## TO TAKE WITH YOU ON YOUR TRIP

- **Picnic** : there are very few restaurants on the riverside.
- **Trainers or river shoes**: sometimes you have to walk a bit to reach the nice river spots.
- A **waterproof bag, water, a cap**
- A small **first aid kit**
- **Games, books**
- And of course don't forget your **swimsuit** ahah!
- The **Day Trip Guide** to plan your days!
- Be careful with the **sun cream**, it disturbs the ecosystem.
- A **small bag** to bring back your rubbish and leave the place intact for the next visitors.



# TO THE BEACH? U MARE

The Corsican coastline has long been a favorite for sunbathers, thanks to its fine sandy beaches and turquoise waters. With the island's varied terrain and changing vegetation, each beach is unique. Here's a quick guide to the beaches worth visiting. Crossword puzzles, mask and snorkel, a book, sunglasses—and you're ready to go!

## *the hotel's favourite*

### 1 **Casabianca Beach** 7 km ♥♥

GPS coordinates : 42.060805, 9.5078083

Casabianca Beach, located just 7 km from the hotel, is a true hidden gem. Wild and secluded, it is mainly known to locals, as it sits on the site of a former, now-abandoned campsite. Here, there are no crowds—just nature, calm, and authenticity. Its fine sand and turquoise waters, which remain shallow for a long distance, make it an ideal spot for relaxation and swimming.

## *Most wow beaches! (but very crowded)*

### 2 **Rondinara** between Porto Vecchio and Bonifacio 93 km ♥♥♥

GPS coordinates : 41.468425, 9.266632

Rondinara Beach almost feels like the Caribbean with its water color and fine sand. Shaped like a cove and therefore sheltered from the wind, it is surrounded by reddish rocks and located south of Porto-Vecchio. At the end of a short road, you'll find paid parking (€ in season) and nearby shops. A less crowded beach lies further south.

### 3 **Palombaggia** south of Porto Vecchio 85 km ♥♥♥

GPS coordinates : 41.560217, 9.332122

This 1.5-kilometer-long beach is probably the most famous in Corsica. Located 12 km south of Porto-Vecchio, its fine white sand gives the impression of being in the tropics. The pine trees lining the beach provide shade for swimmers. Tip: go early to avoid the summer crowds.

### 4 **Santa Giulia** south of Porto Vecchio 85 km ♥♥♥

GPS coordinates : 41.531432, 9.274253

Also south of Porto-Vecchio is the small Santa Giulia Beach. It's unique for being set in a bay that forms an almost perfect semicircle, providing swimmers with shelter from the wind. Its clear, shallow waters are especially popular with snorkelers, who enjoy exploring the fish with a mask and snorkel.

### **Pinarello / Saint Cyprien** north of Porto Vecchio 61 km ♥

### 5 GPS coordinates Pinarello : 41.678310, 9.372412 Saint Cyprien : 41.632048, 9.345860

Two lovely beaches with shops and bars nearby.

## *Stunning and unspoiled beaches*

### 6 **Caratoggio** south of Porto Vecchio 88 km ♥♥♥

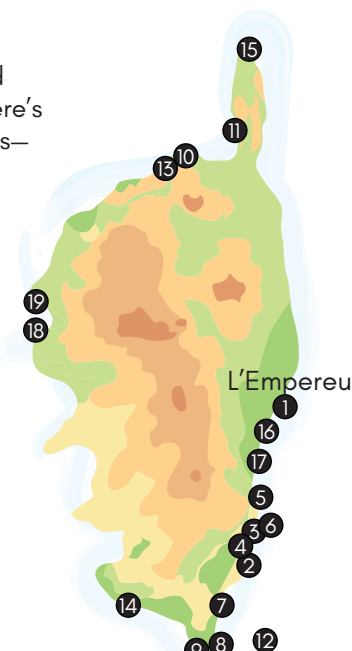
GPS coordinates car park : 41.577076, 9.336878 GPS coordinates beach : 41.574821, 9.347290

A stunning fine sandy beach, fairly wild. Walk 15 minutes through the maquis to reach this secluded spot.

### 7 **Balistra** between Porto Vecchio and Bonifacio 94 km ♥♥♥

GPS coordinates : 41.439383, 9.222399

A stretch of beach away from the crowds, nestled between the sea and the lagoon, reached after 3 km along a slightly winding (but manageable) road. The natural surroundings are beautiful and well preserved.



8 **Petit Spérone** in Bonifacio's gulf 102 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.577076, 9.336878 GPS coordinates beach : 41.574821, 9.347290

A beautiful, fine sandy beach, fairly wild. Walk 15 minutes through the maquis to reach this secluded spot.

9 **Saint Antoine** toward Bonifacio 103 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.370037, 9.181678 (on the road) GPS coordinates beach : 41.366754, 9.182149

A beach facing Sardinia, offering stunning views of the Bonifacio cliffs. A special feature: a sea cave (Saint Anthony's Cave) is located nearby.

10 **Saleccia et Lotu** in the Agriates' Desert 82 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.722760, 9.200015 GPS coordinates beach : 42.725387, 9.202114

Secluded beaches accessible only by boat or 4x4, immersing you in the heart of the Agriates Desert.

### Unique beaches

11 **Nonza (grey sandy beach)** Nonza, in the Cap Corse 98 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.799481, 9.341244 GPS coordinates beach : 42.797302, 9.342876

Nonza Beach is the only gray beach in Corsica. Some claim it contains asbestos, but that's completely false. The gray sand and pebbles come from the waste of the former Canari-Abro asbestos quarry, which closed in 1965, so there's no risk. The beach lies below the charming village of Nonza.

12 **Lavezzi islands (facing Sardinia)** Boat tour from Bonifacio or Porto Vecchio ♥♥♥

Various companies offer excursions, or you can rent a boat in Bonifacio and Porto-Vecchio.

The Lavezzi are an archipelago of 23 granite islands, islets, and reefs, located 10 km southeast of Bonifacio. With fine sandy beaches and small coves, the Lavezzi are extraordinary islands made of sometimes massive granite blocks set in a rugged landscape with exceptional underwater life. Bring your own parasol, as there is no shade on the islands!

13 **Ostriconi** toward Ile Rousse 95 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.654258, 9.062255 GPS coordinates beach : 42.662295, 9.061023

One of the wildest beaches, Ostriconi Beach enjoys a stunning location between the sea and the mountains and is easily accessible despite its remote setting. The beach is rarely crowded, so you'll have no trouble finding a spot for your towel.

14 **Roccapina (Lion's Rock)** in Sartène 117 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.370037, 9.181678 GPS coordinates beach : 41.366754, 9.182149

The wild turquoise beach and the Lion of Roccapina are a true natural gem. It's an excellent starting point for a walk across the Cap de Roccapina and to discover the famous granite Lion that watches over the area.

15 **Cala Genovese (Genoese tower in the sea)** in Macinaggio 113 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.974250, 9.453871 GPS coordinates beach : 42.991460, 9.448021

Start from the beautiful Tamarone Beach. Before reaching the end of the beach, another trail branches off to the left toward the Santa Maria Chapel. You'll arrive at Santa Maria Bay and its tower—a surprising spot that gives a true sense of being at the edge of the world.

### Beautiful beaches without going too far away

16 **Pinia** Ghisonaccia 22 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.011472, 9.462493 GPS coordinates beach : 42.011025, 9.464346

Nestled in a pine forest, Pinia Beach offers a wide stretch of white sand with the Alta Rocca mountains as a backdrop.

17 **Fautea** in Zonza 52 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.714720, 9.401756 (or the road) GPS coordinates beach : 41.713139, 9.403507

A charming small beach just a 10-minute walk from the road. A trail also leads to the nearby Genoese tower.

Don't forget your fins, mask, and snorkel to admire the many fish near the rocks.

## UNESCO Scandola Reserve and Calanques of Piana

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, **Scandola**, a nature reserve officially established in 1975, is an exceptional site offering unique biodiversity and stunning landscapes. A true geological gem, its red granite cliffs rising from the sea are a must-see during your Corsica holidays. The **calanques de Piana**, geological formations shaped like animals, architectural structures, or human forms, overlook the sea. Two beaches not to be missed nearby: the magnificent Ficaghjola cove (18)—bring your mask and snorkel—and the very pretty E Grattelle Beach (19), a little-known spot offering stunning sunsets over the calanques.



Crédits : Mathilde Cureau

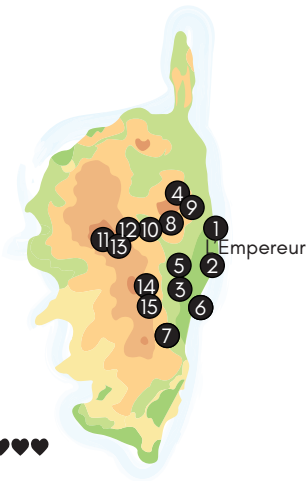
# WANT TO HIKE ? CHJASSI DI GIRANDULATE

The list of hikes in Corsica is so long and varied that it could fill an entire guidebook. From short walks to long high-mountain treks, there's something for every taste and skill level. Before setting out, I recommend two free apps:

- 1) Download the **Maps.Me** app and the Corsica map. You can geolocate yourself (even without a network!) and find the trail if you get lost.
- 2) Download the **Visorando app**. In Corsica, you'll find over 200 commented and documented hikes, with access to IGN maps and detailed route descriptions. You can also find many routes on [corse-randos.com](http://corse-randos.com).

## *Less than an hour from Hotel l'Empereur*

- 1 The Pond's Trail** Terrenzana **9 km** Distance 8 km | 2h - 2h30 | Easy Maquis Pond ♥♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 42.15739, 9.54718  
 A walk through a protected nature reserve to discover the plants of the maquis and the Diana Lagoon, where mussels and oysters are farmed. A true immersion in the heart of Corsican maquis.
- 2 Mare e Stagnu** Aleria **3 km** Distance 4-10 km | Between 1h and 2h30 | Easy Maquis Pond Tower ♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 42.141921, 9.555794  
 A lovely walk through the maquis with viewpoints overlooking the Diana Lagoon. Several trails of varying lengths are available to suit your preferences. Parking is possible at the Diana Tower.
- 3 Buja Waterfall** San Gavino di Fiumorbu **36 km** Distance 4 km | 2h00 | Moderate Waterfall Mountain ♥♥♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 42.141921, 9.555794  
 Little known yet stunning, the Buja waterfall is worth the effort after a short (steep!) walk.
- 4 Abandoned village of Fiuminale** Le Pont de l'Enfer **44 km** Distance 5 km | 2h00 | Moderate River Village Pool ♥♥♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 42.388709, 9.474484  
 Combine a swim in the river at Pont de l'Enfer with a family hike to the abandoned hamlet of Fiuminale—a true journey back in time.
- 5 Casevecchie Trail** Casevecchie **25 km** Distance 12 km | 5h30 | Moderate Village Panorama ♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 42.143539, 9.356967  
 This hike will quickly take you to a ridge to reach the highest point, Punta Capizzali (728 m), where three communes—Antisanti, Casevecchie, and Vezzani—meet, offering 360° views of both sea and mountains.
- 6 Urbinu Lake** toward Ghisonaccia **13 km** Distance 2 km | 1h00 | Easy Pond Fauna ♥♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 42.053855, 9.467875  
 A short walk along a wooden boardwalk beside the Urbinu Lagoon. Perfect for families with young children!
- 7 Monte Santu** Sari Solenzara **43 km** Distance 4 km | 1h30 | Easy Mountain Village Panorama ♥♥♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 41.833839, 9.375228  
 A rocky summit with stunning panoramic views of Alta Rocca, the Tyrrhenian Sea, and the Assunta Gloriosa Monastery.
- 8 Punta Caldane** Pianello **38 km** Distance 13 km | 7h00 | Difficult Shepherd Panorama Summit Mountain ♥♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 42.291948, 9.361349  
 A hike from the charming village of Pianello to one of the peaks of Castagniccia and Bozzio. From the summit, the panorama stretches endlessly across all the major mountain ranges of central Corsica, from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Mediterranean. Along the way, you'll encounter a river, a spring, and shepherds' huts (only in summer).
- 9 Botanic Trail** San Giovanni di Moriani **41 km** Distance 4.5 km | 2h30 | Moderate Village Producers Fauna ♥♥  
 GPS coordinates starting point : 42.377363, 9.476671  
 This botanical trail lets you discover the typical flora and fauna of the Costa Verde through numerous informative panels. Along the way, visit a cheese dairy, a Romanesque chapel, and enjoy the panoramic views.



10 **Heritage's Trail** Erabajolo 45 km Distance 5.5 km | 2h30 | Moderate Village Chapel Panorama ♥♥

GPS coordinates starting point : 42.265168, 9.282792

This trail will take you back in time to explore what life might have been like a few decades ago in this wonderful part of Corsica.

## Around Corte

11 **Melo and Capitello Lakes** Grotelle Car Park 53 km Distance 4.5 km | 2h20 | Moderate+ Mountain Lakes Panorama ♥♥♥

Starting at the end of the Restonica Gorge road, this 1.5-hour hike (add 45 extra minutes for the climb to Capitello Lake - Difficult) immerses you in a high-mountain setting. Bring a windbreaker, as it's cool near the lakes. Paid parking in summer (6-7 euros, cash only).

12 **Corte Arch** Car Park of the citadel 51 km Distance 9 km | 5h45 | Difficult Mountain Panorama ♥♥

A hike with an impressive climb, offering stunning panoramas over Corte and the Tavignanu Valley, leading to a granite sculpture at around 1,500 m altitude.

Also consider: (13) **The Cappellaccia and Alzo shepherds' huts** ♥♥ from the Pont de Frassetta (Restonica Road, 6h00 min, 10 km, difficult), less frequented than the other two trails but equally impressive!

## Around Ghisoni

14 **Bastani Lake - Monte Renosu** Ski Resort of Ghisoni 56 km Distance 10 km | 4h00 | Difficult Lake Summit ♥♥♥♥

If there were one hike to choose among all of them, it would probably be this one (good physical condition required). The hike to Monte Renosu offers views of Sardinia, the east and west coasts, and the island's highest peaks. If you don't want to reach the summit, you can stop at the lake—the viewpoint is already breathtaking. This hike should only be done in good weather and is also possible in winter with snowshoes.

15 **Pozzi Shepherd's Hut** Verde Pass 45 km Distance 14 km | 5h40 | Difficult Mountain Pozzi Panorama ♥♥♥

Discover the surprising environment of the Pozzines (from Corsican i Pozzi, meaning "wells")—these acidic peat meadows crisscrossed by small streams. A good level of fitness is required for this stunning hike. At the end, a shepherd's hut is open in summer (the cheese is strong!).

## to go further

Here's a selection of other hikes in Corsica that promise breathtaking views!

19 **Cima di Gratera** Serra di Pigno ♥♥♥

Dist: 9 km | 3h45 | Moderate  
Exceptional viewpoint over Bastia and the Cap Corse

21 **Monte Cinto** Asco ♥♥♥

Dist: 12 km | 8h00 | Very difficult  
Challenging ascent to the summit of Corsica

22 **Radule Waterfall** Vergio's Pass ♥♥♥

Dist: 4 km | 2h00 | Moderate  
An incredible river spot along the GR20

23 **Nino's Lake** Vergio's Pass ♥♥

Dist: 10 km | 5h00 | Difficile  
Exceptional hike towards the pozzi

24 **Manganello River** Canaglia ♥♥

Dist: 10 km | 4h00 | Moderate +  
Waterfall, rivers, shepherd's hut and pools

25 **Capu d'Ortu** Piana Stadium ♥♥♥♥

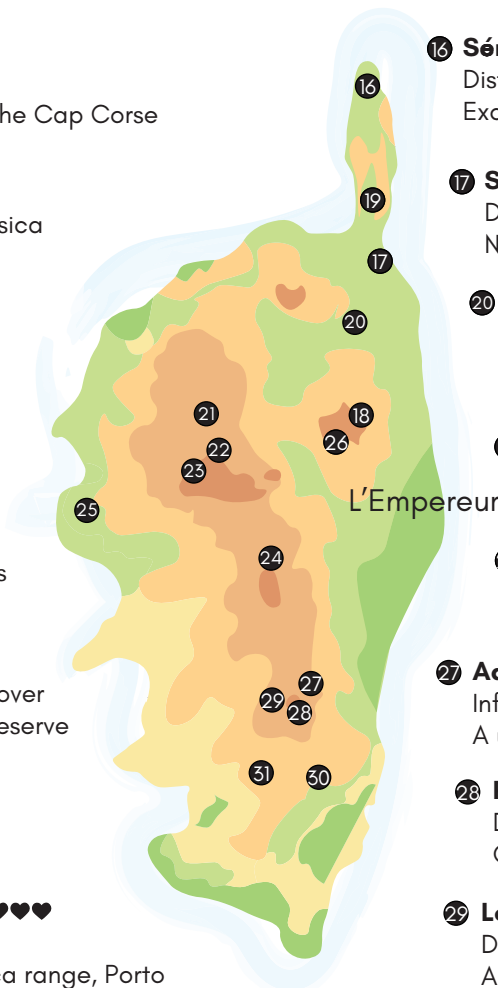
Dist: 12 km | 6h00 | Difficult  
One of the most breathtaking viewpoints over Porto, the calanques and the Scandola reserve

31 **Plateau du Coscione** Aullène ♥♥♥

Dist: 4 km | 1h15 | Easy  
Many hike starts from this altiplano

30 **Punta di A Vacca Morta** Cartalavonu ♥♥♥

Dist: 5,5 km | 2h30 | Moderate  
Exceptional viewpoint over the Alta Rocca range, Porto Vecchio the Ospedale artificial lake.



16 **Sénéque tower** from Luri ♥♥♥

Dist: 9 km | 4h00 | Moderate  
Exceptional viewpoint over Cap Corse

17 **Sant'Andria Chapel** Biguglia ♥♥

Dist: 4 km | 2h00 | Easy  
Nice loop with Land Art

20 **Monte Castellare** Campile ♥♥♥

Dist: 6 km | 3h00 | Easy  
Nice village and stunning panorama et panorama over Corsican highest mountains

18 **The Resistance cave** Porri ♥♥

Dist: 4 km | 2h00 | Moderate  
Hike in a place steeped in history

26 **Mont San Petrone** Bocca U Pratu ♥♥

Dist: 13 km | 6h00 | Difficult  
Discover the Castagniccia highest mountain

27 **Aqua Hike (water hike)** in Fiumicelli river ♥♥♥

Informations on paradisus.info | Duration 2h00  
A unique and easy aqua-hike !

28 **Piscia Di Ghjaddu** D368 ♥♥

Dist: 5 km | 1h30 | Easy  
One of the nicest waterfalls of Corsica

29 **Le trou de la bombe** Col de Bavella ♥♥♥

Dist: 6 km | 2h00 | Easy  
An amazing hike in Alta Rocca



Crédits : Ecotourisme en Corse Orientale

# IDEAS OF ITINERARIES IDEA DI PASSIGHJATA

The island's diverse landscapes, variety of activities, and rich cultural heritage make Corsica the perfect place for a holiday that meets everyone's interests. Below is a non-exhaustive list of itineraries that can be done in a single day. Of course, these are only suggestions—you're free to mix and match ideas from the previous pages to plan your day. Check the weather and equip yourself appropriately.

## Half day or full day

### 1 Cervione - U Celluline Waterfall Village & River

Discover the charming village of Cervione (p.2) and take a dip at the Ucelluline waterfall (p.5). For a larger and more accessible swimming spot, head to Pont de l'Enfer (p.4), just a few kilometers away.

### 2 Buja Waterfall - Pietrapola Hot Springs Hike & hot thermal spring

Head to San Gavinu di Fiumorbu for a 1.5-hour round-trip walk to the Buja waterfall (p.8) - stop at Pietrapola for a swim in the hot pool (a former washhouse) - then continue to Prunelli to explore the village and enjoy the panoramic views.

### 3 Chisa River pool, village and viewpoint

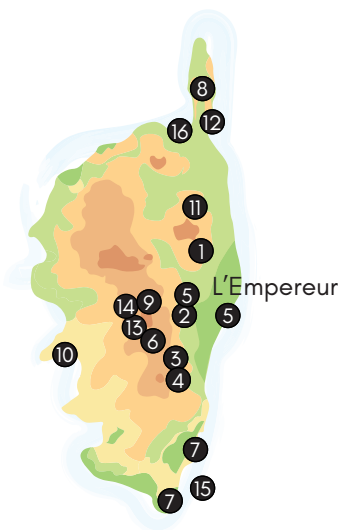
Doable in half a day but more enjoyable as a full-day outing. Start at the village of Chisa, then take the trail leading to the viewpoint. On the way back, stop at the natural pools (p.4).

### 4 Monte Santu - Trou du diable Hike, monastery and pool

Here's a plan for a short day trip to admire Corsica's mountains and rivers. Start at the village of Sari above Solenzara - a round-trip walk of about 1.5 hours to Monte Santu (p.8) - you can also visit the Assunta Gloriosa Monastery and the shop (pottery, jams, sculptures) - on the way back, make a detour to the Trou du Diable (p.4).

### 5 Fiumorbu Pool - Beach and pine forest of Pinia River and sea

A lovely itinerary for a short day combining beautiful river swimming spots and a fine sandy beach near a pine forest. Start at the Fiumorbu pools (p.4), then continue to Pinia Beach (p.7) to stroll through the pine forest and enjoy the stunning beach.



## Full day

### 6 L'Ospedale - Piscia di Gallu Waterfall - Bavella - Purcaraccia River Hike, River & Waterfall

Start your day early heading toward Porto-Vecchio and then the village of L'Ospedale - stop for photos and a coffee at L'Ospedale - continue to the Piscia di Gallu waterfall for a 1.5-hour round-trip hike - then head to Zonza and stop at the Bavella Pass for a 1.5-hour round-trip hike to the Trou de la Bombe - finish your day at the Purcaraccia River. It's a full day, but with stunning landscapes to discover. For a lighter day, you can choose to do either the waterfall or the Trou de la Bombe.

### 7 Bonifacio - Rondinara Beach Cliffs, charming town with a fine sandy beach

Start early toward Bonifacio to avoid traffic. Upon arrival, head straight to the Bonifacio semaphore for a stunning panorama of the town, cliffs, Sardinia, and the islands. Return to the center of Bonifacio and park - stroll through the citadel and the port - visit the King of Aragon's Staircase - finish with a swim at Rondinara Beach (popular) or Balistra Beach (wild) with mask and snorkel, then return.



8 **Cap Corse** [A Sense of Being at the Edge of the World](#)

Start early for Nonza – visit the village and its gray-sand beach – continue to Centuri to explore the port and enjoy a seafood lunch – stop at the viewpoint of Moulin Mattei – visit the wild cows on Barcaggio Beach – walk to the Santa Maria Tower and swim at Tamarone Beach in Macinaggio – finish in Pietracorbara. Option to climb the Torre di Castellare – visit the traditional port of Erbalunga.

9 **Verghellu - Corte** [Incredible Scenery of the Cortenais](#)

Looking for breathtaking landscapes? This route is for you! Start toward Verghellu (p.4) – swim in the river – then head to Corte to visit the citadel, gain some height with a hike to the Corte Arch (p.9), and enjoy the lively atmosphere of the town.

10 **By train : Corte - Ajaccio - Corte** [A Day Following Napoleon's step](#)

A long day exploring the island's interior by Corsica's railway! Start at Corte station – morning train to Ajaccio (2 hours, schedules at reception). Enjoy the splendid views of valleys and mountains during the journey. Arrive in Ajaccio, visit the old town (Napoleon Museum, Rue Fesch), and optionally take a trip to the Sanguinaires Islands. Return by train to Corte in the late afternoon – evening in the citadel.

11 **Castagniccia Getaway:** [A Day in the Land of Chestnuts](#)

Depart for Chiatra – visit Petra di Verde, a charming village overlooking the Alesani Dam, photo stop – swim at the Struccia waterfall (40 min round trip) – visit Piedicroce village – Orezza spring – La Porta – then head to D506 at Pruno (GPS: 42.427983, 9.433713), park on the roadside to enjoy a swim in an intimate canyon.

12 **Bastia Region:** [Hike, City & Village](#)

Depart for Biguglia – park at the village washhouse – unique hike to Sant'Andria Chapel, passing numerous natural artworks and Land Art along the trail – the chapel offers stunning views of Bastia, Cap mountains, and the Italian islands of Elba and Montecristo – a path behind the nave returns to the starting point – visit the old village of Biguglia – continue to Bastia to explore the bastion, old port, and shopping streets. Dinner in town.

13 **Canaglia - Méli Waterfall - Manganello River:** [Hike, Waterfall & Natural Pools in the High Mountains](#)

Head to the small village of Canaglia – hike to the Méli waterfall, Tolla shepherds' huts, and Manganello River (p.5) – swim and return via the same trail – a shepherd's hut on the route serves meals and drinks in summer.

14 **Restonica Valley - Corte:** [Hike, River & Village](#)

Full day, start early. Drive to Corte – head to the Restonica Gorge road – after 13 km of winding road (not recommended for motorhomes) you'll find paid parking at the Grotelles shepherds' hut (€ cash) – hike to Melo Lake (p.9) – return to Corte. Along the way, you can swim in the Restonica (p.5) – visit the citadel, the Corsica Museum, and the town's streets.

15 **Pinarello - Boat Trip to the Lavezzi Islands & Bonifacio Cliffs:** [See Corsica from the Sea](#)

Riva Bella – Pinarello (in season) or Porto-Vecchio – embark for the Lavezzi Islands (reservation required; many operators available) – observe the Bonifacio cliffs from the boat – free time on the islands – return to the port in the evening. Bring a parasol, as there is no shade on the islands.

16 **Saint-Florent - Saleccia & Lotu Beaches:** [Agriates Desert Getaway](#)

Full day, start early. Head to Saint-Florent – boat trip to Saleccia and Lotu beaches (book in advance to avoid limited schedules) – sunbathe and swim at these two stunning beaches (bring a picnic; only 2 restaurants 20 min walk away) – return to Saint-Florent, visit the citadel – on the way back to Aléria, you can enjoy freshwater at Pont Génois de Torreno.

### Corsica with Kids!

Corsica is also an ideal destination for families: water sports, adventure trails, donkey rides, boat trips, wildlife parks, horseback rides, and more. There's no shortage of activities!

### Summer Festivals

The island of beauty hosts numerous festivals in summer: Les Nuits de la Guitare (mid-July to August in Patrimonio), Porto Latino (August in Saint-Florent), Festivoce (July in Pigna), Theatre Festival (mid-August in Linguizzetta), Les Violoncelles de Moita (July in Moita), Les Nuits du Piano (mid-August in Erbalunga), and Film Festival (early August in Lama).



Crédits : Ecotourisme en Corse Orientale

## PRODUCERS | PRODUTTORI

Corsica is brimming with authentic products and culinary expertise that has been passed down from generation to generation, with recipes often carefully preserved. Support the local economy and short supply chains by visiting producers on their farms. Around l'Empereur, you will find **vineyards, whisky distilleries, gin, vodka and liqueur distilleries, breweries, an oil mill, a mustard-making workshop, beekeepers, producers of essential oils** and related products, **cheese** and dairy cooperatives, farms specialising in **chestnut and hazelnut** products, traditional **bakeries**, and more. Find all the producers on the websites: [www.gustidicorsica.com](http://www.gustidicorsica.com) or [www.ecotourisme-corseorientale.corsica.com](http://www.ecotourisme-corseorientale.corsica.com). When it comes to crafts, take your pick: knives, pottery, wooden toys, paintings and even glassblow.

## DINNER IS READY A TAVULA

**Charcuterie** The Corsican pork industry is the legacy of an ancient pastoral tradition, traditional know-how and very specific products: figatellu, lonzu, coppa, prisuttu or saucisson, etc. As for meat, you should also try veal with olives and lamb.

**Brocciu specialities and cheeses** Brocciu is an integral part of Corsican gastronomic culture. It is a raw milk cheese made from goat's and/or sheep's milk. It has had an Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) since 1998. It is found in many traditional sweet and savoury recipes: fiadone, cannelloni, migliacci, fritters... Try it now! You should also try Corsican cheeses, which go perfectly with fig or green tomato jam!

**Specialities made with chestnut flour** The chestnut tree has a special place in the history of Corsica, even giving its name to the region of Castagniccia. Under Genoese influence during the Middle Ages, Corsican landowners had to plant at least four chestnut trees to pay their taxes during times of famine. Today, chestnuts are found in many dishes (pulenda, migliacci), in sweet specialities (canistrellis, chestnut cakes) and even in the typical Corsican beer (La Pietra).

**Myrtle** During your stay, you will surely be offered a glass of "une petite myrte". Myrtle is a liqueur made from myrtle, a shrub that grows in the maquis and produces small purple berries in September, which are used generously to season traditional dishes.

**Corsican wine** With its nine appellations d'origine contrôlée (AOCs), Corsica offers a wide variety of wines with unique flavours. You should also try the excellent sparkling Muscat, a speciality of Eastern Corsica. Cheers!

We couldn't finish this list without a quick mention of **Corsican olives** (to be enjoyed plain, in olive oil or as tapenade) and the **famous clementines**.

Not far away! Try the famous **oysters and mussels** from the Étang de Diane! A treat for seafood lovers.

## CULTURE & MUSEUMS | CULTURA E MUSEI

To learn more about Corsica, we recommend visiting the **Aléria Antique Museum**, the **Corsica Museum in Corte** or the **Cervione Ethnographic Museum**. You can also explore the botanical gardens, where you will learn more about the island's endemic vegetation. Music lovers? We highly recommend a concert of Corsican songs, often held in churches during the high season. A treat for the ears!

## SPORTS & ACTIVITIES | SPORTI & ATTIVITA

Corsica is the ideal place to discover or rediscover many water sports: **diving or snorkelling, paddleboarding, canoeing, boating with or without a licence, canyoning**.

Thrill seekers can try **paragliding, rock climbing, via ferrata, paramotoring**, and more. Find all the information you need at reception.



This guide was written and produced by Valentin, receptionist at Riva Bella and passionate about Corsican nature. Did you enjoy this guide? Do you have any new recommendations? Is there anything that needs changing? Come and see me at reception or write to me at [valentin.durantpro@gmail.com](mailto:valentin.durantpro@gmail.com).

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