

### **About Hidden Trails**



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

#### **Hidden Trails**

Phone: 604-323-1141 Fax: 604-323-1148 Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: info@hiddentrails.com Website: www.hiddentrails.com

#### Address

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#### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0-808 189-0420 Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

# France's Island of Beauty - France, Europe

Tour Code: ZZ-FR-Hike31
7 days / 6 nights ~\$1,020.00
Dates: March to October

Trip Rating : •••••
Difficulty : ••••
Lodging: •••

Tack: Horses: Pace:

Airport: Calvi Sainte-Catherine
Airport





#### Introduction

Corsica, France

Discover Corsica, part of France for over 200 years. This is Europe's best kept secret island!

Experience the best of both sea and mountains, staying 3 nights in Calvi (sea) and 3 nights in Corte (mountain). From its jagged coastline and sandy beaches to the serrated rocky summits that soar into and above the clouds, and everything in between, the landscapes are as sumptuous as they are contrasting. Immerse yourself in the remote and wild landscapes.

We have handpicked some of the most beautiful coastal and mountain walks with moderate difficulty level.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience best of both sea & mountain walks
- Swimming opportunities on sandy secluded beaches
- Walk along the green natural pools and winding river
- Strolling through Corte, the historic capital surrounded by mountain peaks
- Enjoy picnic at Lac Mélo Corsica's most emblematic glacial lake at 1700m altitude

#### Accomodation

#### Accommodations

This is a progressive trip, so you will be staying in different establishments along the way.

#### Description

We favour small local establishments, often family-run hotels or B&Bs, that employ local people. Selected by our track finders, our accommodations are chosen based on the friendliness of the owners, the quality of the service, the charm of the establishment and, quite often, the quirkyness (of both accommodation and owners!) that makes where you sleep an integral part of your adventure.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability Night 1-3: Hotel in Calvi Night 4-6: Hotel in Corte

#### Hotel in Calvi

This 3-star hotel offers 47 refurbished rooms and a panoramic rooftop offering beautiful views of the surrounding bay. Each room is equipped with private facilities, a TV, a phone, a balcony, air conditioning and free Wi-Fi. There is a small heated outdoor pool and a Jacuzzi where guests can relax in the evening.

#### Hotel in Corte

The hotel is housed in a beautiful building built in 1861. The rooms all feature satellite TV, a phone, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi and a private bathroom.

#### Meals

All breakfasts are included in your package.

Breakfasts will be provided by the accommodations.

Lunches and dinners need to be paid extra locally.

### Riding

#### Hiking Difficulty: Moderate

This tour is of Moderate + level, due to rocky terrain. Some trails can be more rocky than others, and therefore may take more time to walk if you are not used to this type of terrain. We do our best to calculate a fair estimation of the walk. The indicated walking time is based on no rest, no stop, no picnic, this time can vary according to walking abilities.

You enjoy regular exercise, are keen to set off on all-day walks and can handle walking uphill (slowly) for up to two hours at a time. Walks are generally under 5 hours, on various types of terrain — though nothing technically difficult — with up to 600m/2000ft of climbing per day.

#### Itinerary

Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

#### Day 1: Arrival

Arrival on your own in Calvi. There is an airport and a ferry terminal in Calvi.

Explore the beautiful citadel perched on a rocky spur and the pretty cobbled streets. You will enjoy the great views of the coast and the beaches nearby.

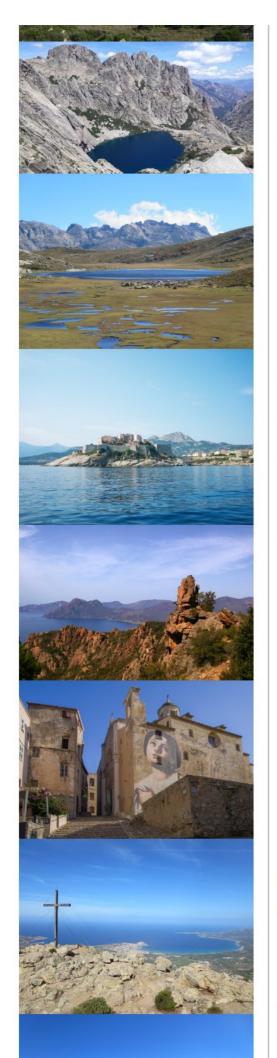
Meals included: none

Overnight in Calvi

#### Day 2: Revellata Lighthouse

Today's scenic walk takes you along the Sentier du Littoral. The path is set along the bar rock and follows the jagged costline. You'll discover the peninsula and its secluded little beaches perfect for a swim. You will return to this same spot after completing the loop around the Point de la Revellata.

From the Revellata Lighthouse, you will be able to admire the Mediterranean and surrounding mountains. Return



to Calvi along a path on the top of the peninsular. Hiking about 15 km (4.5 hours) / +220m/-220m Meals included: Breakfast Overnight in Calvi

#### Day 3: Notre Dame de Serra & Capu di Veta

Option 1: Moderate loop walk to Notre Dame de Serra (9 km - 3 h, +/-250m)

Today you will leave the coast and head up to the Notre Dame de Serra, a beautiful hilltop chapel from which you will have some magnificent vistas of the bay of Calvi, its citadel and the Reginu valley. The path is mostly easy underfoot with some rocky sections, passing through Corsican scrub (or maquis) until you reach the chapel of the Notre Dame de la Serra. The original religious sanctuary was destroyed during a siege in 1740, but a new chapel was built in the first half of the 19th century. Admire the 19th-century chapel's simple architectural design features and Baroque bell tower and the large statue of Notre Dame de la Serra atop a rock, before returning back to Calvi.

#### Option 2: Challenging hike to Capu di Veta (15,5 km - 5h30, +/- 720m)

The challenging option continues from Notre Dame de Serra onto a sun-exposed and rocky trail taking you to the highest point above Calvi, the Austrian cross "Capu di a Veta". It is an exhilarating walk with incredible panoramic views. Though not dangerous and no drop-offs, some of the terrain is very rocky in nature with steep steps, and one short passage on a traverse with a short chain to help passage (though not necessary to use). Good balance and fitness are required.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight in Calvi

#### Day 4: Relax in Calvi & Corte

Today, you have a free day to discover Calvi, relax by the beach or go for a boat tour (we can advise you on activities). However, you need to plan your transfer to Corte in the afternoon (not included).

For the transfer, you have two options:

- the famous Micheline train (2h30 ride) sneaking from the sandy beaches up to the mountains. Costs around 20-25€ (tickets can be bought directly at the train station)
- a private taxi (1h30 transfer). Fare from 220€ on weekdays and 300€ Sunday's & Bank Holidays (subject to

When you arrive in Corte it's a 20 minutes walk to your hotel situated in the center. The town of Corte is nestled at the base of several valleys, crowned by its citadel. It is the historic capital of the island and has always been at the heart of the movement trying to maintain the Corsican language and culture.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight in Corte

#### Day 5: Gorges de Tavignano

This hike should be done very early in July & August as there is not much shade.

Option 1: Moderate (13 km - 4.5 h, +/-350m)

This is an out-and-back walk. You leave Corte on foot and head out on your hike. You're in the heart of the wilderness as soon as you leave the centre of Corte. The path is always easy underfoot, easy to follow and cobbled most of the way. There are no steep climbs or descents and the route follows the "Mare a Mare" path above the left bank of the Tavignano river before entering the high mountains the further you penetrate into the gorge and the scenery becomes more dramatic. At the end of the hike the path descends to a footbridge that crosses the river. There is a natural pool for a refreshing swim. Return back on the same path.

Clients can continue on the Mare a Mare path beyond the bridge if they want to extend the walk. Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight in Corte

#### Day 6: Mountain Lakes

Difficulties for both hikes: set in an Alpine environment; steep paths including "easy" scrambling passages with chains and ladders. It is worthwhile to begin the hike early in the morning to avoid the crowds, and enjoy the stillness of the lakes. If starting early enough, you can enjoy lunch in one of the two "bergeries", 30 minutes before the end, or at the end itself. Both options start and finish with a taxi transfer (drop off and pick up Bergerie de la Grotelle)

Option 1: Moderate hike to Lake Melo (4 km - 2.5 h, +/-350m)

A short taxi ride (30mins) from your hotel up the Restonica brings you to the Bergerie de la Grotelle (at 1370m in altitude). From there, the walk climbs steadily up the valley on a rocky path to Melo Lake. Peaceful, with lots of places to enjoy a break or picnic lunch. The moderate option turns back down the valley, though now on the opposite side of the river (right bank). Though there are no chains and ladders to contend with on this side, the path is extremely steep and rocky. The challenging option also descends this route after having visited the Lac di Capitello

#### Option 2: Challenging hike to Lakes Melo & Capitello (6.5 km - 4.5 h, +/-550m)

Fom Melo Lake, the challenging option continues up to Capitello Lake on a steep and rocky path. There is another chain segment to negotiate, this one a bit longer and steeper than the one below Melo Lake. 45 minutes to 1 hour above Melo you reach Capitello Lake, perfectly still, frozen 8 months of the year. The lake is situated at the very top of the Restonica valley.

This is the perfect lunch spot if you have a picnic. The route turns back down the same path to Melo Lake. However, you can continue climbing above the 2nd lake, to the very crest, where you intersect with the GR20 at its highest point, with views of both lakes from above. The route is extremely steep, rocky and difficult.

Taxi transfer back to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight in Corte

### Day 7: End of trip

End of the program after breakfast.

### Other Info

Meeting: Calvi

Airport: Calvi Sainte-Catherine Airport

Transfers are not available for this trip. You need to make your own way to Calvi on Day 1.

Tack: Horses: Pace:

Level: (3.5 out of 5) Moderate +

Riders: Min 2 riders Max 6 riders



## Rates and Dates 2024 - ZZ-FR-Hike31

Rates include: Accommodation, All breakfasts, Local transfers described in the itinerary (day 6), Emergency phone number & Road Book

**Packages and Options** 

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	7 day Self guided walking tour (Peak)	€925	\$1020
	Group discount (4-6 pax), pp Single supplement Solo hiker supplement	(€40) €575 €675	(\$45) \$630 \$740
B 2024	7 day Self guided walking tour (High)	€840	\$925
	Group discount (4-6 pax), pp Single supplement Solo hiker supplement	(€40) €510 €610	(\$45) \$560 \$670
C 2024	7 day Self guided walking tour (Mid)	€750	\$825
	Group discount (4-6 pax), pp Single supplement Solo hiker supplement	(€40) €440 €550	(\$45) \$485 \$605
D 2024	7 day Self guided walking tour (Low)	€650	\$715
	Group discount (4-6 pax), pp Single supplement Solo hiker supplement	(€40) €260 €360	(\$45) \$285 \$395

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

### **Transfer Option**

#### Description

2024	Make you own way to Calvi on Day 1		
Tour Dates			
Season	Tour Dates		
D 2024	04/06/2024 - 04/22/2024	7d / 6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (Low)
C 2024	04/23/2024 - 06/24/2024	7d/6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (Mid)
B 2024	06/25/2024 - 07/22/2024	7d/6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (High)
A 2024	07/23/2024 - 08/31/2024	7d/6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (Peak)
B 2024	09/01/2024 - 09/30/2024	7d/6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (High)
D 2024	10/01/2024 - 10/23/2024	7d/6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (Low)

Min/Max: 2/6

Rates do not include: All lunches and dinners, Drinks, Transfers not mentionned in the itinerary & Entrance fees

# **Reservation Form**

Tour:	Code #:	from:	to:							
The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female Single room / Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height Weight	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	20 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40						
1.										
2.										
3.										
4.										
Special Diets:										
Your fitness level: Excellent Moderate How long have you been riding?										
How often do you ride? Have you been on other riding tours? No Yes last trip when?										
If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES () NO ()										
In an emergency, name and phone number of contact:										
Attention: Please, if there is more than one p	participant, all have to	sign the reservation	form - make copies it	f needed						
With my signature I confirm my reservation of I made all participants aware of the risk involvement the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and brochure or as listed on the Internet.  I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational A	ved with these outdoor d the Hidden Trails Red activity Release and Ind	adventure activiti areational Activity R	es. All participants ha elease and Indemnity	ve read and agree  Agreement in this						
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City  Phone (wk) (hm)  Date  Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my	State  C  Signature (manda  r person) now and y credit card.	ell  tory)  Additional Sig  2.	Fax							
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City	State  Signature (manda r person) now and y credit card.  (no debit cards)	Additional Sig	Faxnatures:	Ce Credit Card required						

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