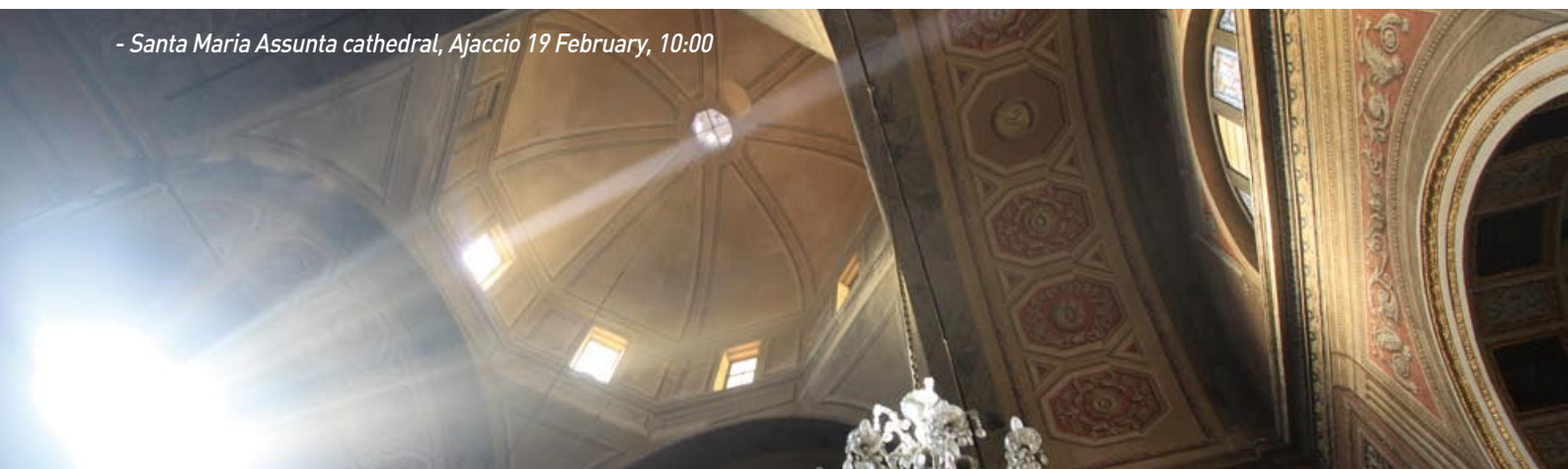


CORSICA^{MADE}

- Cirque de la Solitude, GR20 North, 15 June, 12:00



- Santa Maria Assunta cathedral, Ajaccio 19 February, 10:00



- Santa Giulia, Porto-Vecchio, 11 May, 15:00



* Dazzle your senses.

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CORSICA^{MADE}



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* *Editorial.*

The Corsica Tourist Board is delighted to introduce a new image of this stunning island destination. Corsica Made is more than just a simple slogan – it is a philosophy and a commitment, the aim of which is to highlight the authentic character of Corsica, an island with a strong and unique identity.

This comprehensive brochure invites readers to embark on a journey across our island via a series of themes which illustrate Corsica's full diversity: our towns and cities and varied maritime and mountain landscapes provide an extraordinary playground where culture, gastronomy, art de vivre, nautical activities and outdoor pursuits can be enjoyed to the full.

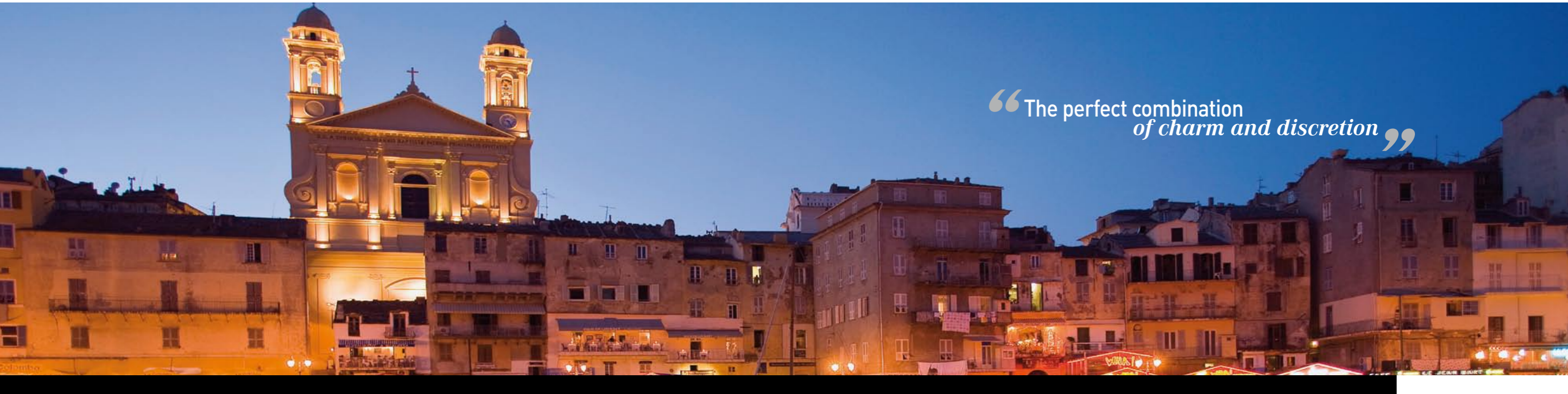
Our island offers myriad year-round holiday ideas for visitors.

The aim of this brochure, therefore, is to demonstrate a new strategy for tourism in Corsica. It is my sincere hope that by working with tourist offices across the island we can develop a well-managed sustainable tourism sector which is respectful of our identity and creates long-term employment and prosperity for Corsica.

The time has come to give free rein to your imagination and to explore the "Île de Beauté" – quite simply a unique destination!

Vanina Pieri

President, Corsica Tourist Board



“The perfect combination
of charm and discretion”

*A unique island.

Corsica – a dream destination and utopian paradise!

The island provides an opportunity to visit magical sights with a discreet charm all of their own. As you explore the island, taking time to visit our rural villages as well as our main towns and cities, you'll soon understand why Corsica is so renowned for its hospitality. You'll be invited into people's homes, where you can soak up the atmosphere of authentic Corsica and really learn all about its people and culture. The locals will be delighted to offer suggestions and advice, making sure that you get the best out of their beloved island. They'll tell you all about the most interesting museums and art centres, which form such an important part of Corsica's culture. Make sure you visit our markets to taste our delicious local produce; having done so, Corsica's gastronomy will no longer hold any secrets for you. The Island of Beauty also offers a diversity of cultural pleasures. In summer, music events such as Nuits de la Guitare in Patrimonio, Porto Latino in Saint Florent and Calvi On the Rocks will undoubtedly put you in a party mood. But whatever the season, the island's heart will beat to the rhythm of cultural events, such as the Italian film festival held in Bastia. During your stay in one of Corsica's refined and relaxed hotels or resort complexes, head out on a voyage of discovery to our local villages. Sartène and Bastia, officially recognised "towns of art and history", will bowl you over with their monuments and cultural sights; Piana and San't Antonino, two of "France's Most Beautiful Villages", boast a discreet charm all of their own; while Lama is one of just 205 places in France to have been awarded "Town or Village in Bloom" status; not forgetting Ajaccio, the Imperial City, boasting a unique quality of life. Just a couple of hours by air from Europe's major capital cities, Corsica is a dream destination with an important cultural and historical heritage and an impressive infrastructure, qualities which together make it a leading destination for business tourism.

*For more info, log onto
visit-corsica.com*



Holidays of distinction

Corsican hospitality and art de vivre find their true expression in our guesthouses and hotels. Mediterranean conviviality is a perfect combination of the discreet character and expertise of our inhabitants. In our towns and villages, by our tiny ports and along mountain footpaths, you'll always find a room to rest and relax, with a wide choice of accommodation to suit every budget. Why not head off the beaten track to explore winding roads where you can recharge your batteries in an undiscovered corner of paradise? Not a road sign or signpost in sight – just country lanes leading to extensive stretches of wild maquis, where you'll come across picture-postcard landscapes dotted with the occasional sheepfold in an unspoilt setting. These buildings full of character have preserved the rustic spirit of Corsica, where the protection of the environment comes as second nature. For golfing enthusiasts, Corsica boasts a number of courses. Sperone, near Bonifacio, is undoubtedly the most famous;

considered the fifth hardest course in France, it extends across a magnificent landscape of alternating wild maquis and limestone cliffs. At Speloncato, in the heart of the Balagne, the Le Reginu golf course is nestled amid centuries-old olive trees in undulating terrain. The golf courses in Porticcio, Borgo and Lezza, near Porto-Vecchio, are also home to top-quality courses. Once you've packed away your clubs, it's time to book a table in one of the island's best restaurants. Corsica's gastronomy is synonymous with a sense of sharing, and there's no better way of experiencing this than by discovering the superb cuisine of our leading chefs in and around Calvi, Porto-Vecchio, Ajaccio and Bastia. There's a real treat in store for your tastebuds as you savour their unique dishes combining creative flair and traditional flavours. Added to all of this is the quiet determination of our hotel and guesthouse owners to ensure that their guests make the most of their time in Corsica and have an unforgettable holiday!



A land of culture...

Corsica is a land of culture which rewards the curious traveller. Our many museums are home to remarkable exhibits which bear witness to the passing of time and the island's history.

The Musée de Bastia has a collection of 10,642 art exhibits and documents, the Palais Fesch in Ajaccio boasts the largest collection of Italian paintings in France after the Louvre, while Napoleon's birthplace, in Ajaccio's old town, will reveal myriad secrets about the family of the island's most illustrious son. Take a short walk through the town to visit the Bibliothèque Fesch, a library with a unique collection of incunabula. As you enter this temple of learning, you can't fail to be impressed by the gaze of two plaster lions, moulded from original sculptures by Canova which grace the tomb of Pope Clément XIII at St Peter's in Rome. In Sartène, the Musée de la Préhistoire boasts major collections illustrating the daily life of past civilisations on the island, while the museum in Aléria, occupying the Fort de Matra, displays items unearthed during excavations of the Ancient colony and necropoli. Meanwhile, in Corte, admire old photographs and exhibits relating to the island's ethnology and history at the Musée de la Corse. This renowned museum evokes the traditional life of shepherds and farmers, the development of local customs and beliefs, as well as the different aspects of contemporary life on the island. Film buffs will also be keen to head to the Cinémathèque de Porto-Vecchio, which hosts a full programme of screenings, exhibitions and conferences.

“ Corsica's museums display major works which mark the island's history ”

“ Places of worship with striking aesthetic and architectural qualities ”

... and sharing

With its strong Latin roots, Corsica is striking for the beauty of its religious buildings.

Almost everywhere on the island seems to be home to a small church or cathedral. Near Bastia, the Santa Maria Assunta church, popularly known as "A Canonica", is a former 12C Pisan-style basilica and a veritable masterpiece of sobriety. The Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste, the largest parish church on Corsica, rises proudly above the old port of Bastia. From its lofty and theatrical façade, it observes the daily lives of the city's inhabitants. On the west coast of the island, Ajaccio's ochre-coloured cathedral was the setting for the baptism of Napoleon in 1771, and as such is one of the pride and joys of this Imperial City. In Murato, in the Nebbiu region, you'll come across one of Corsica's most beautiful churches, the Romanesque Église San Michele, whose unique and original decor impresses its many visitors. All these places of worship are striking for their aesthetic and architectural qualities, their harmonious interiors inspiring the development of the island's humanist vision. A fascinating tour exploring these admirable buildings bequeathed by centuries of different civilisations cannot fail to captivate visitors to the island.



“A journey through a land of unique culture, cuisine and traditions”

A land of discovery...

Wonderful surprises and a feast of colour await you as you stroll through some of Corsica's most breathtaking and bustling markets.

At weekends, the markets in Ajaccio, Bastia, Île-Rousse and Calvi serve up a multitude of flavours, colours and scents amid an atmosphere of frantic hand-waving and loud pronouncements extolling the virtues of fresh, local products such as cheese, charcuterie, and fruits and vegetables ripened by the Corsican sun. Every market has a unique character and identity, providing a snapshot of the region's day-to-day life. The island's Sunday flea markets will also offer temptations galore. Browse their stalls and you might just come across a few rare items which typify the island's cultural heritage.

To really get to know the island, sign up for the guided tours offered by our tourist offices. In Bastia, the unique "légendines" tours, available from April to September, will introduce you to Corsica's stories and legends on an exciting walking tour through the city, providing surprises and historical insights at every turn. In the Ajaccio region, spring is the perfect season for celebration with day-long events focusing on local traditions and landscapes, with a good measure of fun and friendliness thrown in.

And as the end of the day approaches, and the sun's rays cast a shadow on the island's arbutus and wild olive trees, make time for one final and very special visit.

If you're a wine enthusiast, why not visit a few of our many estates to try some exquisite wines produced from our unique grape varieties. Time will no longer have any importance – just sit back and spend an enjoyable hour or two learning about this important aspect of Corsican culture in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. If you're feeling a little more adventurous, why not try to identify different aromas and dream up your perfect wine as our producers explain their art to you? Via a combination of tastings of "grands crus", strolls through the island's breathtaking markets, and tours exploring Corsican heritage, you'll get a true insight into our island on a journey far from the hustle and bustle of modern life.

... and flavours

There are no two ways about it – Corsica is a gastronomic paradise!

In addition to sharing delicious cuisine with close friends and family, there's nothing quite like wandering through narrow streets to track down the island's specialist food shops. Our farmers, so passionate about their land, are fully respectful of both the seasons and the environment in their quest to provide products with the utmost flavour. Let your senses be your guide as you try specialities such as "prisuttu", "coppa", "lonzu", "figatellu" and sweet chestnut flour, all of which can be found on the shelves of our shops. To accompany our delicious local charcuterie, what could be better than a bottle of one of our fine local wines? With whites, reds, rosés and muscats to choose from, our wine merchants will be happy to offer their personal recommendations.

If you're keen on discovering more of the island's gastronomic traditions, why not follow the famous "Routes des Sens Authentiques"? Available in each of the different areas of Corsica, these itineraries will enable you to get a close-up view of local farming culture.

For those hoping for a more leisurely pace, why not wander through our towns and cities on certain summer evenings when our shops are open late to experience a typical Corsican shopping experience – relaxed, friendly and an experience in itself!

“The guiding principle of our farmers is the respect of the seasons and the environment”

**“From singing to cinema,
and international theatre
events to local festivals,
the choice is huge”**

Festivals and cultural events

Corsica's cultural calendar is peppered with numerous events all year round. Encompassing chanting and cinema, international theatre events and local festivals, the choice is highly eclectic and ensures that there's something for everyone.

The religious Easter weekend ceremonies are important aspects of popular devotion, with numerous processions taking place in every region of Corsica, during which local brotherhoods carry their patron saints aloft through the island's towns and villages. The most famous of these is the Catenacciu in Sartène, which symbolises Christ's journey to the cross.

For something completely different, the "Mosaïcales du Rire" in Porto-Vecchio is a comedy festival attracting some of France's best comics. The beginning of autumn is the perfect time to catch up with other artistic events: the "Musicales" festival in Bastia, the oldest in Corsica, always promises great excitement with its varied programme. A party atmosphere is also very much part of Porto Latino, a music festival in Saint-Florent, where bright lights and rousing rhythms make this a must-see event!

If jazz is your thing, head to Calvi and Ajaccio at the start of the summer season for a fusion of harmony and swing from around the world. Blues and rock are the big stars in July, however: in Patrimonio, guitar rhythms resonate so strongly that the whole island seems to pulsate; while in Calvi, music-lovers can spend several frenetic evenings tuning into the kings of Rock at the "Calvi on the Rocks" festival.

Film-buffs are also well catered for on Corsica with an eclectic mix of events and festivals. In February, Bastia celebrates Italian cinema with a festival that is always a huge success with cinema-goers; in July, the Lama film festival offers open-air screenings on the theme of rural life; while the French actor Robin Renucci has chosen the villages of Le Giussani and in particular Olmi Capella as the venues for his "Rencontres Internationales de Théâtre", an annual drama festival which he has founded.



“Come the evening, as the curtain falls on our festivals, stroll through our streets, mingling with the locals. To keep in the party spirit, why not head to a cabaret club, tapas or wine bar or typical bistro full of charm ***to enjoy a relaxed evening with friends?***”





Corsica is the perfect destination for incentive trips, with plenty of options for free-time activities – our professional travel agents are on hand to design a tailor-made programme just for you.

Whether you take an excursion by zodiac or speed boat, a trip by catamaran or yacht, or try your hand at scuba diving or deep-sea fishing, you'll be tested to the limit in a safe environment with supervision from fully qualified staff. For those keen to explore the island's stunning and unspoilt scenery, the heart of Corsica is the place to head for, with hikes, trips by 4x4 or quad bike, and mountain bike treks all available in this rural paradise.

Galloping along a beach, flying along the coast by helicopter, tackling rapids on a raft, exploring the maquis on horseback or climbing our mountain peaks are all challenges that await visitors to the island.

Corsica has something and somewhere for everyone. And for those who prefer to spend their time in a more leisurely fashion, why not visit our renowned museums and historical sights? You'll never be short of unique and original ideas as you explore the island, with myriad innovative and creative options available to ensure that your conference or business event is a runaway success!



Business tourism

Corsica offers all the attractions of a top-class destination just a few hours from Europe's major capitals. Its superb historical and cultural heritage, quality of life free of stress and pollution, and outstanding infrastructure make it a leading region for business tourism.

With its focus on an "authentic" way of life and facilities and attractions which are full of character, the island has positioned itself as an effective alternative destination for the hosting of conferences and conventions. Situated in the heart of Corsica's "imperial city", the Palais des Congrès et d'Expositions in Ajaccio has a seating capacity of 650 and is ideally located close to the marina and fishing and commercial ports, as well as just ten minutes from the Napoléon Bonaparte international airport.

The Île de Beauté as a whole is also easily accessible all year round, with four airports on the island offering direct flights to Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Paris-Orly and Paris-Roissy, as well as other regional capitals across France. Seven ports also operate services to the French mainland and Italy via traditional ferry, combined passenger and cargo ships, and high-speed boats.

“A varied choice of unique options for your business event”



“ Discover magical places *where crystal-clear water, tiny deserted creeks and wild cliffs stand side-by-side* ”

**The pleasures of the sea.*

Corsica lends itself to a slower pace of life. Where better to enjoy this than by the sea, which plays such a key role in island life?

Corsicans are united by a strong sense of humanity, as a visit to the island's small ports will show. If you while away a few minutes by the quayside, you'll soon understand the appeal of the "Grande Bleue", as the Mediterranean is affectionately known. You'll feel a real sense of freedom and escape, which will inspire you to explore the island's coastline further. Discover new routes and new shores, with interesting sights and striking landmarks around every corner – for those who look, Corsica can offer all this and more. The seasons take on less importance when your day-to-day life is put to one side. Whether you're seeking out marine sites of an incredible purity or taking part in a major sporting event, follow your instinct and embark on a journey to discover this veritable jewel in the Mediterranean's crown. In the words of the famous writer Gustave Flaubert in his fine work, *Voyage dans les Pyrénées et en Corse*: "the sea was calm, the sun beat down, making the clear waters a limpid blue [...]" – Corsica is truly one of the last paradises on earth.

*For more info, log onto
visit-corsica.com*



Time to relax

If you're in need of a rest and a place you can spend your days listening to the lapping waves in a stunning setting, there's only one possible destination: Corsica, an island that lends itself perfectly to a relaxing holiday at any time of year. Discover magical places where crystal-clear water, deserted creeks and wild cliffs stand side-by-side.

In the spring, explore the sublime stretches of fine sand along Corsica's eastern plain from Palombaggia or Santa Giulia to Porto-Vecchio and you'll soon understand why the island is considered "the cradle of angels".

As soon as you step foot on Corsican soil in summer there's no time to lose: put on your swimming costume, pack your towel and sun cream and head off to breathe in the scented air of the Aleppo pine-fringed beaches of Saint-Florent.

In the autumn, why not take a trip to the famous Sanguinaires islands off the coast of Ajaccio, an archipelago considered a paradise for birds, inhabited by shags, peregrine falcons, warblers and ospreys. With family or friends, visit the Parata tower, a former Genoese fortress and one of the symbols of Corsica's history, and watch the famous sunset here – you'll soon understand the words of Alphonse Daudet who described Corsica as: "a reddish island with a wild appearance". And lastly, a small but important recommendation for those visiting the island in March: head for the beach and make sure you enjoy a plate of sea urchins or shellfish accompanied by a glass of white Corsican wine – a truly exquisite experience!



Sport, leisure and relaxation

When you head for Corsica for an invigorating holiday, a whole host of sporting activities await you – perhaps even an exciting game of beach or foot volleyball!

Over the past few years, beach sports have become increasingly popular in Corsica, with beach football and rugby stars, as well as youngsters competing at a high level, enjoying the adulation of the Corsica public who are great fans of these types of sports event, which combine excitement, fun and a competitive spirit. Why not take the plunge and give it a go yourself with a delightful setting as a backdrop? You'll find these sports on most of our beaches. National championship events are held in Porticcio (south bank of the Gulf of Ajaccio), Sagone and Cargèse, where magnificent bays of fine sand and pristine water set the scene. And if the sun just gets too much for you, take no more than a few steps to cool off in the Mediterranean!

Who said sport wasn't fun?

“Experience a huge range of exciting sports amid a landscape of extraordinary beauty”

“Our myriad landscapes offer a diversity that you won't find anywhere else”

For travellers keen to enjoy new adventures, Corsica is much more than just a simple holiday destination, it is an experience in itself.

With around 1,000km of coastline, water sports take centre stage! Our myriad landscapes offer a diversity that you won't find elsewhere. The unspoilt beaches of Calvi and Ile-Rousse are musts for surfing fans, in a region where stunning nature and peace and quiet provide the ideal setting in which to unwind.

Sailing enthusiasts should head for the southern tip of the island, where the winds strengthen as they are funnelled through the straits between Corsica and Sardinia. In addition, around Bonifacio, near Figari, Tonara, Piantarella and Santa-Manza, small lagoons facing the mountains provide a charming setting for relaxed sailing. These exciting activities provide the ideal opportunity to discover superb stretches of coast where stunningly beautiful and pristine creeks back onto rocks sculpted over the millennia. If you're after a sense of freedom, Corsica's the place for you!



“Give free rein to your imagination along our stunning coastline”

Corsica and the sea

Follow in the footsteps of great explorers and discover some of the world's most beautiful coastlines

Due to the wealth of landscapes and numerous options on offer, everything is possible in Corsica.

So there's no time like the present to give free rein to your imagination along our stunning coastline.

Take advantage of the island's sailing opportunities and head off on your own mini-cruise, perhaps chartering a yacht to explore our shores. Explore the hidden creeks of the Lavezzi islands, or head to Girolata, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in a magnificent setting.

By far the best way of accessing Saleccia beach is from the sea, a trip that passes the historic Mortella tower, a prominent sight in the Agriates desert region.

Or if you prefer a faster pace, why not hire a jet ski to explore our coastline?

Whether you're heading offshore or along our coasts, the choice is endless...



“The Mare Nostrum of Roman times has retained its distinctive character, providing a feast for the senses and a haven of peace”

To experience its unique treasures to the full, take to the water on a family boat trip, visiting some of the island's maritime jewels in just a couple of hours.

Take advantage of the many cruises on offer from Ajaccio, Cargese, Porto and Calvi to discover the unique Scandola nature reserve, part of the Parc Naturel Régional de la Corse, with its extraordinary variety of vegetation. A volcanic peninsula, the reserve is alive with a veritable explosion of colours and incredible landscapes. Its fragrant vegetation combines with the purity of the water to create one of the lungs of the Mediterranean.

The Lavezzi islands provide equally enticing scenery just an hour by boat from Bonifacio. This magnificent nature reserve, a paradise for divers, is home to a multitude of miniscule islets, tiny beaches with crystal-clear water, and hidden creeks.

The Mare Nostrum of Roman times has retained its distinctive character, providing a feast for the senses and offering a haven of peace and tranquillity, including unique sights such as the Sdragonato cave beneath the cliffs of Bonifacio.

Corsica is also the ideal location for sailing trips offering by the island's numerous sailing clubs. Enjoy the perfect balance between sporting activity and exploring while your children have the time of their lives at the "kids' sea club" – a great way to introduce them to the joys of water. There are no two ways about it, Corsica is a magical paradise for sea-lovers!



Underwater treasures

Corsica's beauty is a source of endless debate: where are its most scenic beaches and majestic peaks? There's one point of common agreement, however: the island's most impressive marine sights are found in its nature reserves.

Experienced divers are unanimous on this subject: the Cerbicales islands, a protected area, the Lavezzi islands, the Finochiarola archipelago and Scandola reserve are truly enchanting, where many hobbies and careers have been spawned from a first scuba dive in Corsica's waters. At the heart of these magnificent protected zones, surrounded by slipper lobsters and date mussels, transform yourself into a fearless explorer as you discover the island's unique Mediterranean coastline. Get in contact with one of our many diving clubs, whose instructors will introduce you to some hidden and undiscovered diving spots. And for those who prefer more leisurely pursuits, why not don a snorkel and mask? Perfect for more shallow waters, snorkelling is the ideal way to experience a variety of reefs, while guided snorkelling tours provide an insight into marine biology.

Corsica is also made for regular fishing and harpoon fishing enthusiasts, with the island's gentle climate and translucent waters favouring an abundant variety of rock fish.

If, like Hemingway, boat fishing is more your thing, make sure you head for Ajaccio, a town reflected in the waters of its old port. In the company of some of the island's most experienced sea captains, patiently learn traditional "berley" and "dragnet" fishing techniques to help you catch noble species such as dentex, leerfish and barracuda. On the island, fishing is a way of life combining pleasure, curiosity and conviviality in equal measure. Take time to observe the locals who live in close communion with the sea – such an integral part of the Corsican character.

“Observe the locals who live in communion with the sea for an insight into the Corsican soul”

“Experience underwater adventure as you discover vegetation as breathtaking as it is surprising”

Astonishing marine flora and fauna

With its pristine underwater world, Corsica is the perfect destination for divers all levels, from beginners to the most experienced enthusiasts. Numerous clubs offer exciting underwater adventures enabling visitors to discover vegetation as breathtaking as it is surprising.

Whether you're using an oxygen tank or simply a snorkel and mask, you'll come across typical Mediterranean residents such as scorpion fish, mullet and gilthead sea bream. A must for all marine enthusiasts is a visit to the "underwater trail" on the Lavezzi archipelago in the heart of the Parc Marin International des Bouches de Bonifacio, which enables visitors to get close up to a wealth of amazing marine fauna and flora (brown grouper, giant limpet, large pen shell, corb fish etc). The Office de l'Environnement de la Corse arranges free guided tours for visitors. If you prefer not to head offshore, you'll be able to observe birds such as the famous osprey by the island's beaches, as well as many other species which endow our special region with an almost unreal charm. Corsica is indeed unique in character and magical in its diversity.

Coastal hiking

A region with a stunning variety of landscapes, Corsica is one of the most beautiful destinations in France for coastal hiking enthusiasts.

Stride out along our coastline, enjoying long beach walks such as those on offer in Erbalunga, stopping along the way at its tiny fishing port, a listed historic monument. You can also discover the coastal footpath which starts at Macinaggio and ends in Centuri, France's leading lobster fishing port, and provides stunning sea views along its length. These hikes, and many others like them, introduce visitors to the scents and sounds of Corsica, offering ample opportunities for cooling dips in the sea along the way.

One final recommendation for cinema-lovers: make sure you visit the beach in Saleccia, in the Agriates region just a short distance from Saint Florent, the setting for one of the most famous scenes in the history of the big screen: the re-enactment of the landing in the film *The Longest Day*.

As you can see, Corsica has every type of landscape imaginable, including the beaches of Normandy! Hollywood's leading directors can't be wrong – the island's enchanting landscapes are perfectly in keeping with the magic of cinema.

“Hiking introduces visitors to *the scents and sounds of Corsica*”



“Every year, summer brings with it *a host of exciting activities*”

Corsica, a theatre for nautical events

Corsica's extraordinary maritime heritage has given rise to a plethora of internationally renowned nautical events

For several years now, the east coast has been the venue for leading speedboat and jet ski events such as the world jet ski championships and the world offshore championships in Solenzara bay, when the town of the same name, standing along the Côte des Nacres, is transformed into a venue combining sporting prowess, art de vivre and culture.

Meanwhile, the Mare in Festa festival is a major nautical event for those seeking thrills and spills and lots of adrenaline-filled excitement.

In Ajaccio, the famous “Les Régates Impériales” Mediterranean yacht race, featuring over 300 sailors, always attracts hordes of visitors to the town, where they can admire these prestigious vessels with their massive triangular sails.

Just a few days later, the “Saint Erasmus” fishing festival, a convivial celebration of the patron saint of Ajaccio's fishermen, is also a must, bringing crowds of locals into the streets of the town to participate in traditional Corsican song and outdoor banquets. It's not just for fishermen from the town, however, as fellow mariners from around the world are also welcome.





“Scale the “roof of Corsica” – at an altitude of 2,710m, Mt Cinto is ready to welcome you”

*Nature at its best.

Corsica’s landscapes are remarkably diverse, with the mountains and sea providing a formidable backdrop. Exploring them is the best way of absorbing the island’s culture.

If you’re looking for the archetypal “land of milk and honey”, this island, with its strong character, is surely it, with every season leaving its mark on the contours of a land which remains remarkably unspoilt. With close to 1,500km of marked footpaths and over 1,350 beds available in its stopover gîtes and mountain refuges, the Parc Naturel Régional Corse offers superb hiking opportunities as well as the chance to discover rare fauna and flora, including over 2,000 different plant species.

Experienced hikers can stride out along the marked trails of the GR20 long-distance path; conquer the summits of the Aiguilles de Bavella; or plunge into the natural pools of the Gorges de la Restonica. Yet, despite their grandiose appearance, these majestic landscapes are often easily accessible, with surprises at every turn, and whether you’re with family or friends, your favourite outdoor pursuits provide the ideal way of exploring these wild and pristine areas. As a reward, why not treat yourself to a delicious platter of seafood at the foot of a snow-clad peak – a uniquely Corsican experience which sums up to perfection its extraordinary combination of sea and mountains.

*For more info, log onto
visit-corsica.com*

A paradise for walkers

Corsica is an island of superlatives where mountains, escarpments and freshwater lakes framed by towering peaks provide a majestic backdrop. The island is much more than a mass of rocks fringed by idyllic beaches – it is a mountain jewel set in the middle of the Mediterranean, and to discover its true heart you’ll need to conquer the GR20 long-distance path. Considered one of the world’s most beautiful hiking trails, this route crosses Corsica from north to south and encompasses Mount Cinto, the “roof of Corsica”, at an altitude of 2,710m. Stride across the rocky mountains of the north of the island before tackling the peaks in the south. Cross the Massif de Bavella and discover the “Trou de la Bombe”, a huge natural excavation eroded out of a granite wall; climb up to the Capitello breach from where the views encompass deepwater lakes; or scale the summit of the impressive

Mount Incudine. For visitors keen on competitive hiking, spring is the ideal season. Why not enter the “Foulées Cortenaises”, or the Corsica Raid Aventure with its numerous categories covering a range of activities. Perhaps stride out along the “Mare a Mare” hiking path which runs from Porto-Vecchio to Propriano through the heart of the Alta-Rocca region. This route plunges into the very depths of Corsica with an azure-blue sea at either end. Or test yourself with the “Mare e Monti” experience, a trail linking Calenzana with Cargèse. With either of these walks, you’ll really feel as though you’re experiencing the hidden Corsica. After such intense effort, reward yourself with a few hours’ rest in one of our impressive refuges, often sculpted out of the rock, where you can refresh yourself with the purest water you’re ever likely to taste!





A land of exciting adventures!

Every region offers beginner classes and courses run by instructors who adapt to the individual experience of their participants.

For a great introduction, why not head to the Massif de Bavella? This vast expanse of pine-covered mountains is one of the most majestic sights in Corsica, and it's impossible not to fall under the charm of its famous "aiguilles" (needles), towering ancient peaks which provide a true challenge for all mountain enthusiasts. At the foot of Mt Paglia Orba, and home to the Lac de Calacuccia, the Niolu valley is a huge adventure playground promising plenty of thrills for visitors, as is the Restonica valley, framed by a number of steep cliffs with a unique and almost indescribable beauty.

Experience the pleasures of Via Ferrata at climbing sites in Peri, Solenzara, Tolla, Zonza, Chisa and Moltifao, in the heart of the island's deepest gorges. Or perhaps head for our "adventure parks" where zip-wires and tree-climbing routes offer plenty of fun for visitors of all ages in a diversity of landscapes which will impress even the most seasoned traveller. However, these imperious peaks would be considerably less impressive without the lakes, waterfalls and thermals springs which surround them. The Bujia waterfalls, on the east coast, and those of the Voile de la Mariée (Bride's Veil) in Bocognano, and Polischellu, provide welcome cool on a hot summer's day, while mountain lakes such as the Nino, in the Niolu, Créno, in the Vico region, and the Lac de l'Ospedale, near Porto-Vecchio, will enchant those who visit them. You'll soon understand why the island is a paradise for lovers of the great outdoors.

“ In Corsica, the diversity of landscapes will bowl over even the most seasoned traveller ”

A mecca for outdoor pursuits!

Corsica can boast that it is the perfect setting for outdoor pursuits such as mountain biking, horse trekking and quad biking, with myriad options offered by activity companies and guides who will be delighted to introduce you to the true nature of this region via a range of multi-activity holidays.

When it comes to mountain biking, Corsica has something for everyone: for braver cyclists, the biking trails in the Niolu and our mountain tracks will provide a suitable challenge; while those keen on more gentle riding can follow coastal routes or pedal in relaxed fashion from village to village, taking the time to stop for a drink in a café and chat with the locals, who will be happy to recommend little-known and more remote cycling options.

Our long-distance cycling trails are also some of the best in Europe. Take a short detour via the Cuscione plateau, an area popular with top-level cyclists. For those who prefer exploring on horseback, the Balagne, Corte region, coastline of the Agriates desert and the Rizzanese valley provide ample opportunities to enjoy the wide open spaces on offer.

The 1,900km of trails criss-crossing the island provide a promise of superb quad bike excursions guaranteed to take you off the beaten track.

And why not complete your day by trying your hand at clay-pigeon shooting or kite flying on one of our beaches – the possibilities are endless.

“ Corsica offers myriad options which will introduce you to the true nature of this remarkable region ”



“From a walk on the beach to a *day’s downhill skiing in just a few hours*”

Long live winter sports!

Corsica is full of life all year round, and from December to April there are numerous possibilities for a great holiday. In just a few hours you can go from enjoying a stroll along the beach to spending an afternoon on the ski slopes.

If you’re planning an adventurous trip inland to tackle the island’s often austere yet beautiful snow-clad mountains, you’ll need a boldness of spirit and your imagination! Explore the Alta Strada (GR20 in winter) on a free ride adventure, enjoying moments of great companionship as you admire the horizon of the Mediterranean from the region’s mountain tops. Spend a holiday near the remarkable resorts of Ese and Ghisoni, where you’ll succumb no doubt to the pleasures of downhill skiing and snowshoeing. The “Vallée des Pozzi”, completely carpeted in snow and teeming with ponds and the famous “pозzine” (water holes), are natural wonders which offer limitless scope for exploration. You’ll soon be struck by the immense beauty of our scenery and Corsica’s endless opportunities for extreme sports and relaxed leisure activities.

A land of extremes!

With its astonishing beauty, mountain landscapes and activities on offer, Corsica is truly a land of extremes. “Corsica seen from the sky” is more than just a slogan, it is a tempting promise!

Paragliding has a special magic – for a few precious moments you can enjoy the sensation of reaching out and touching the sky. Once you’ve got over your initial fears, experience a feeling of lightness as you slowly gain altitude, taking in the scenery of Cap Corse and the superb sights of Teghime and Nonza, places that have inspired the island’s famed singers. If you can hold your nerve, how about a parachute jump? Corsica’s landscapes will pass before your eyes in a way that you’ve never before experienced. If you prefer to keep your feet on the ground, try rafting or canyoning through the grandiose scenery of the island’s stunning rivers. Kayaking is another option – the island hosts an internationally renowned festival which will challenge even the most experienced of canoeists. This “mountain in the sea” is truly a mecca for outdoor sports!

“The island’s grandiose landscapes are *a feast for the senses!*”

”



“Immerse yourself in the sights, scents and sounds of the island for *a true sense of Corsica*”

Preserved flora and fauna...

Corsica is a paradise for flora and fauna, with numerous animal and plant species endemic to the island offering a stunning display of colour.

Keen walkers can experience the evocative scents of Corsica's famous maquis, the unique "pozzine" (water holes), and the island's stunning coastline as they stroll through landscapes lined with Corsican pines or myrtle trees. Immersing yourself in the sights, scents and sounds of these landscapes will give you a true sense of Corsica.

Just outside Île-Rousse, explore the delightful Parc de Saleccia, a 7ha botanical reserve. Also worth a visit are the Jardins

Traditionnels du Cap Corse, with fine examples of vegetable gardens, orchards and tree plantations. Other fascinating sights include farms awarded the "Bienvenue à la Ferme" label, which are great places to visit, relax and be inspired.

The Corsican mouflon, an animal straight out of Greek mythology, can still be seen in the unspoilt Aitone, Asco and Bavella forests. Meanwhile, Corsica's botanical footpaths will take you in search of sweet chestnut trees, holm oaks and cistus bushes.

Admire the beautiful everlasting flower, one of Napoleon's favourites, as well as the arbutus tree, which lends its delicate aromas to our unpasteurised cheeses and our famous Brucciu cheese. And if you look up, you may well catch a glimpse of the magnificent bearded vulture or the golden eagle which soar above the trees, dominating the landscape and keeping a sharp eye out for prey.



... carefully preserved traditions

The history of Corsica is full of accounts of colourful characters venturing through the maquis on the back of the famous Corsican donkey, a true travelling companion.

But the donkey isn't the only animal with a special place in a Corsican's heart. The wild boar also plays an important part in the island's cultural heritage, and you'll get a special feel for the land in the company of hunting enthusiasts on the trail of this emblematic animal.

A land deeply attached to its traditions, Corsica is home to 2,000 hectares of natural habitat between the coast and the mountains. The areas of the Ortolo valley and Belle Lasagne in Oletta are protected hunting grounds where wild boar, partridge, pheasant, quail, hare, thrush, woodcock, pigeons and ducks roam through the wild landscapes. In summer, you may be lucky enough to spot a shepherd and his flock as they make their way through the forests and valleys. If you do, listen to his delightful sing-song accent as he tells you some of our island stories and take a moment to rest in the shade of the ancient trees, sharing some local cheese and wine for your lunch. Unforgettable memories of the relaxed Corsican way of life...

“Animals are an important feature of the *unspoilt Corsican landscape*”



“ Our local produce has a unique flavour, reflecting *the diversity of the Corsican landscape* ”

An important agricultural heritage

Traditional in nature, Corsican agriculture is closely linked to man's relationship with the land.

Most livestock in Corsica is raised outdoors and fed with natural produce. Cattle and sheep continue to be watched over by cowherds and shepherds, and the ancient tradition of transhumance is still practised on the island. As autumn approaches, it's not unusual to catch sight of one of these herdsmen leading their flock followed by his dogs and another shepherd. Such authentic practices are the key to high-quality, environmentally friendly farming and, as a result, Corsican agricultural produce has a distinctive flavour which reflects the diversity of the island's landscapes. Each region has its own expertise and traditions and each family of farmers its own skills, enabling the best restaurants on the island to offer delicious cuisine which is full of flavour.

“ Corsica – the perfect *car rally destination* ”

Sporting events with a cult status!

Although firmly anchored in its traditions, Corsica is also the venue for numerous international competitions which showcase the Mediterranean.

Horse racing at Zonza, held at the highest race track in Europe, boasts an international reputation. In this majestic setting, its summer meeting attracts crowds of flat and harness racing enthusiasts.

The Critérium International de Porto-Vecchio sees some of the world's best cyclists go head-to-head on two wheels, while for those who prefer four wheels, Corsica is also a mecca for car rallying. The world-famous Tour de Corse, a cult event, is very much part of the island's popular culture.

Other equally exciting yet less well-known rally events include the Ronde de la Giraglia, the Pila Canale rally and the Rallye de la Balagne, all of which take place to a backdrop of picturesque scenery. Special stages, held along some of the island's steepest mountain roads, bring together some of the world's finest drivers.





“Fascinating myths and customs kept alive by tradition”

*A land of character.

Over the years, great artists have attempted to capture Corsica's beauty. Those who love legends see the mark of the gods in its landscapes, which could easily have served as a backdrop to Homer and Ulysses, with their exploits of honour, greatness and tragedy. With its dramatic scenery and fascinating history, Corsica is a land full of character.

With natural landscapes of granite and schist, the island is dotted with secret corners which are dramatic and evocative in atmosphere. This is the hidden, authentic Corsica which surprises visitors every time. The striking cliffs of the Calanche de Piana, the fascinating archaeological ruins at Filitosa, and the beauty of the Scandola reserve are all examples of landscapes marked by time and sculpted by the passing years. Explore the island through its renowned craftsmen and women, who demonstrate their unique skills through the production of knives, essential oils or red coral jewellery. And as you make your way around the island, take time to stop and eat at one of Corsica's charming village inns. Food enthusiasts will delight in sampling our delicious traditional cuisine, much of which is inspired by recipes handed down from one generation to the next. Or visit one of our many food fairs, festive occasions which allow you to taste a range of local produce. Kalliste – the name given to the island by the Greeks – also attracts increasing numbers of tourists keen to follow in the footsteps of Napoleon Bonaparte or Pasquale Paoli. As a result of its tumultuous past, Corsica is also home to some exceptional historical buildings, such as Genoese towers, Romanesque and Baroque churches and fine mansions, making it a fascinating place to visit. Through a host of festivals, religious celebrations, fairs, markets and cultural events, Corsica delights in sharing its legends, traditions and day-to-day life with its visitors.

*For more info, log onto
visit-corsica.com*



Hidden and authentic Corsica

The island is endowed with a rich cultural and religious heritage.

From Franciscan country churches to Genoese frescoes and stunning apses, the influence of Christianity is evident throughout Corsica. Traditions have kept unusual and fascinating myths alive, with each town having its own patron saint venerated by huge processions. The most important pilgrimages are those of La Madonuccia, Notre-Dame de Lavasina, and Santa di U Niolu. The faithful also commemorate the festival of Santa-Lucia of Ville di Pietrabugno, as well as numerous other saints. In Sartène, “the most Corsican of Corsican towns”, the Catenacciu procession which takes place on Good Friday is an extremely popular festival attended by huge crowds. A

cross weighing more than 30 kilos and a chain of 15 kilos are given to a penitent whose identity must be kept secret and who, clad in a large red robe, makes his way through the streets of Sartène, commemorating Christ's journey to Golgotha. Emotion, peace, reverence, respect and beauty all play a part in Corsica's religious heritage. The worlds of reality and dreams, of the religious and the profane occasionally merge on this island where ancestral beliefs in the “Signadore” (believed to ward off ill fortune), “Mazzeri” (those who possess the gift of premonition) and “Streghe” (evil witches) are still firmly held. These mysterious beings form a part of the island's collective memory and it's in the heart of the villages, sitting in a shady square or invited into a local's house, that you're most likely to encounter some of these fascinating stories.



“Napoleon Bonaparte, Pasquale Paoli and Sampieru Corsu *all had Corsica engraved on their heart*”

A tumultuous history

The history of Corsica is marked by its battles, numerous revolts and the great men who have lived here.

Fought over by the Carthaginians and the Romans, Corsica became a place of banishment under the Roman Empire – Seneca was one of the many exiled here. In the Middle Ages, the island was the centre of conflict between the Papacy, Pisa and Genoa, with the latter city taking the island in 1284. The Genoese attempted to make Corsica an agricultural centre, but numerous revolts by the inhabitants, organised into clans, put a stop to this ambition. Pasquale Paoli, who fought for the independence of Corsica and became governor of his region, introduced democracy to the island. The Moorish head still emblazoned on the flag of Corsica, which was only annexed to France in the 18th century, became the island's emblem at this time.

These important characters are distinguished by their strong identities and united by their love for Corsica. Napoleon I, born in Ajaccio, made his mark on history and is famous around the world. He never stopped proclaiming his affection for Corsica, whose values of combat, honour and conquest informed his greatest victories. His maternal uncle, Cardinal Fesch, a great art enthusiast, bequeathed his magnificent collection to the city of Ajaccio. Other figures who have helped to forge the island's character include Ghjuvan Petru Gaffory and Sampieru Corsu, both of whom symbolise the image of liberators in the face of oppression.

Buildings and monuments which evoke the island's history

The villages of Corsica are dotted with Genoese towers, prehistoric ruins and fortified bastions – history is engraved in the very stones of this unique island.

Built to defend the island against attackers during the Genoese occupation, Corsica's Genoese towers can be seen all over the island and are a reminder of this important period of its history.

Many of these towers are being restored and those open to the public include the Tour de Porto, Tour de Capitello, and Tour de la Parata. Also of interest is the Genoese bridge which spans the Golo river in the village of Ponte Golo, the site of a famous battle between the troops of Pasquale Paoli and the King of France in 1769.

Evidence of Italian military genius can be seen across Corsica, which is dotted with citadels, forts and bastions. One of the best examples is the citadel at Calvi, which is marked by the island's long struggle for liberty with its stone fortifications, imposing keep and drawbridge overlooking the sea.

As you explore the island's history, you'll discover the Genoese forts at Matra, Girolata and Saint-Florent. Admire the old fortifications at Porto-Vecchio, a fine example of Ligurian architecture, and contemplate the ruins of Filitosa, an important prehistoric site dating back 8,000 years which is famous for its menhirs and other fascinating remains.

Also of major historical significance are the archaeological sites of Capula and Cucuruzzu in Levie in the heart of the Alta-Rocca, both of which are listed by the "monuments historiques" association – Cucuruzzu is accessed via a delightful track lined with ancient oaks, tall pines and sweet chestnut trees. Finally, the Ancient town of Aléria is not to be missed, with its Greek ramparts, pre-Roman necropolis and Roman villa. These intriguing sites and monuments are marked by the passing of time and bear witness to the island's rich history.

“Corsica's history is engraved in its stone”



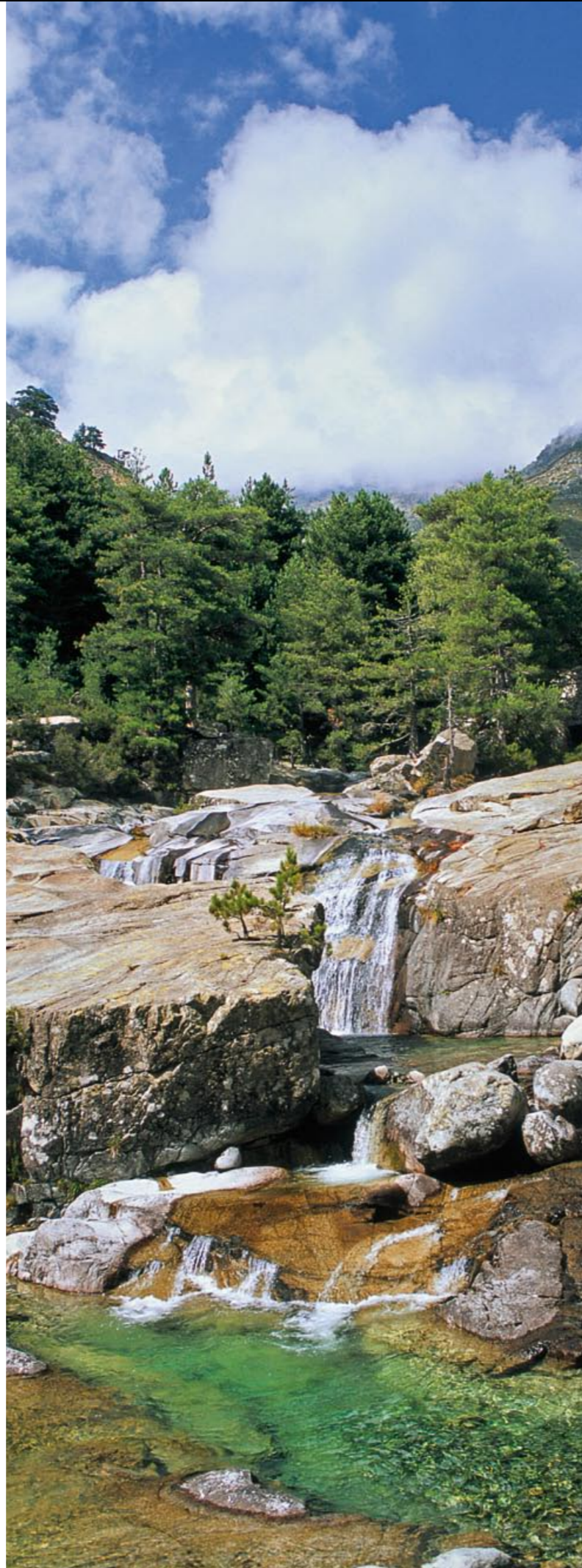
Delightful natural landscapes

The island's appeal lies in its superb natural landscapes. With its magnificent mountain scenery and delightful seascapes, Corsica is full of surprises.

Shaped and hollowed by erosion, the striking red granite cliffs known as the Calanche de Piana plunge steeply into the sea. Also remarkable is the hamlet of Girolata, overlooked by a Genoese fort and only accessible by boat. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the Gulf of Porto is a breathtaking sight, with its granite cliffs soaked by the sun and its multi-coloured pebble beaches.

Although very different in character, the Straits of Bonifacio, which separate Corsica from Sardinia, are equally stunning. Bonifacio is characterised by its beautiful limestone cliffs, including the famous "grain de sable" (grain of sand), a huge rock which lies just off the coast here.

On the opposite side of Bonifacio lies the Escalier du Roi d'Aragon, a staircase which, according to legend, was built by the Aragonese in a single night. Used by the people of Bonifacio for centuries, these steps are a source of pride for locals. Corsica's landscapes and monuments reflect the island's complex history which can be explored through the statue-menhirs of Filitosa, the "castelli" of the Alta Rocca, and the Genoese citadels standing guard along the coast – a whole host of beautiful sights in peaceful, tranquil surroundings.



“ Corsica's stunning natural scenery provides *the perfect backdrop for walkers...* ”

An incredible array of flora and fauna!

Discover the emblematic forests of Corsican pine, inhabited by mouflons; some of the remarkable trees in these forests are centuries old. Take a stroll through the Castagniccia region, exploring the labyrinth of gently sloping hills planted with sweet chestnut trees. As spring begins to leave its mark on the landscape, breathe in the scents of the flowers and the blossom of the exotic lemon and mandarin trees which are so characteristic of the region. Full of hidden gems, the Castagniccia never ceases to surprise visitors with lakes, rivers, waterfalls and natural springs around every corner, making each walk in the region a real delight. Stop for a rest alongside one of these natural pools, or, better still, take a dip in their clear, refreshing waters and then dry off on the warm stones nearby. It's so easy to find peace of mind in Corsica...

“... and an incredible sense of wellbeing ”

“Creativity, authenticity and tradition are the hallmarks of Corsica”

Arts and crafts

Talented artists, brimming with ideas and expertise, use their skills to produce a range of high-quality products.

Metal, wood, wool, basketwork, pottery – Corsica is home to a selection of arts and crafts of the highest quality, with craftsmen and women creating unique, individual art often inspired by their local culture and society.

One of the most important crafts on the island is knife-making. Knives are made by hand and lovingly sheathed with wood from Corsican forests or scrubland, while the blades are patiently forged using the best steel. The arrival of new producers has seen the introduction of modern ideas to this industry, which attracts visitors from across the globe to its workshops inland. By combining authentic materials, excellent techniques, artistic creativity and a sense of identity, these knife-makers have succeeded in modernising their production methods.

Coral has fascinated mankind for centuries. In Corsica, its red colour and mineral skeleton have been compared with the blood of the Gorgon killed by Perseus in Greek mythology. The most beautiful red coral in the world is found in the Straits of Bonifacio. Allow yourself to be tempted by the pearls and branches of coral fished from the deepest seas and then made into precious jewellery by skilled goldsmiths. This “red gold of the Mediterranean” is the pride and joy of the island.

Admire Corsica’s variety of crafts, with potters, ceramicists, stringed instrument-makers, knife-makers and jewellers all keen to share their talents. Learn all about their art and creativity, and maybe even try your hand at their craft yourself.



“Sample our cuisine, flavoured with the scents of the maquis and the sea”

A region with a thousand flavours

Corsica has maintained many of its gastronomic traditions, with food and wine playing an important role in the life of the island.

Discerning gourmets will appreciate the quality of our ingredients, produced according to traditional methods from a land renowned for its sweet chestnuts, citrus fruits, charcuterie, creamy cheeses, wines and liqueurs. Corsican food is full of surprises. And if you spend a bit longer on the island, you’ll have time to appreciate the different honeys made here – many of which have been awarded their own AOC (Appellation d’Origine Contrôlée) status – and to discover Corsica’s huge variety of flora. Another traditional product is sweet chestnut flour, used to make the famous “polenta” often served at Christmas and New Year. And of course, you can’t fail to enjoy our wines, such as Cap Corse muscats and Patrimonio wines, nine of which have been awarded AOC status and which spread the image of Corsica around the world. A glass of Corsican wine is the perfect accompaniment to a plate of local charcuterie. Sample some of our “prizuttu” (cured ham), which is full of flavour, or try some of the famous “figatellu”, which is perfect grilled over the fire on a cold winter’s day.

Our cheeses are equally as remarkable. In winter, enjoy our “brocciu” cheese, made from whey and used in

savoury recipes such as stuffed meat and vegetables, and sweet dishes such as “fiadone” and “ambrucciata”. Fall under the spell of our sheep cheeses flavoured with herbs and spices from the Corsican maquis, best savoured with a glass of myrtle liqueur or brandy. If you’re curious to try some of our local specialities, you’re sure to find a good restaurant where you can sample our traditional stews, wild boar or grilled fish. Corsica is home to around twenty farm-inns bearing the Chamber of Agriculture’s “Bienvenue à la Ferme” label, all of which offer visitors the chance to sample local specialities. On the coast, try the shellfish, mussels and oysters from the Étang de Diana, which have won a gold medal at the Agriculture de Paris show on more than one occasion. Finally, savour specialities such as “calamars farcis à l’Ajaccienne” (squid stuffed with onions, parsley and garlic) and Corsican lobster, which demonstrate once and for all that Corsican cuisine has plenty to offer the visitor – and, just as importantly, that it’s accessible to all budgets.



“Traditional events which showcase the true flavours of the land”

Exploring Corsica's fairs and markets...

Corsica offers numerous themed markets dedicated to products such as almonds, charcuterie, sweet chestnuts, cheese, honey, hazelnuts, olives and figs.

These convivial, traditional events will delight visitors with a keen interest in locally produced food, with a wide choice of different markets held throughout the year. They provide a clear image of the island's authentic identity and allow food producers to introduce visitors to their high-quality produce through competitions and other events, which often run alongside local art and craft shows.

Bocognano's "Fiera di a Castagna" (sweet chestnut fair) and the fig fair at Peri have acquired a reputation which has spread throughout Corsica and beyond, while the olive oil fair at Sainte-Lucie de Tallano is not to be missed. These enjoyable events are the perfect opportunity for visitors to meet local farmers and producers, who are happy to provide suggestions and advice, as well as information regarding their produce. Full of atmosphere, and offering an evocative combination of scents and flavours, these markets are the living expression of a culture embedded in a love for the land – a very special way of experiencing the best of "Corsica Made" produce.



The heart of Corsican identity

Victor Hugo said it best: "if there was only one man left, I would be that one". This saying could easily be applied to Corsican culture "if there was only one culture left..."

Older Corsicans believe that the island is a cathedral which vibrates to the song of life. Corsican song is a distinctive symbol of this culture which is proud of its unique identity, and polyphonic singing is an excellent ambassador for the island. For this reason, Corsican "paghella" is included on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

According to legend, these uplifting songs were inspired by shepherds who once recounted the events of their daily life in this way. The songs are performed today by groups such as A Filetta, Canta u Populu Corsu, I Chjami Aghjalesi and I Muvrini, all of whom keep alive this tradition in some of the world's greatest theatres. If you happen to be in Corsica in September, don't miss the Rencontres Polyphoniques in Calvi, a fantastic celebration of music and song. And if you're strolling through one of our towns in summer, and you hear a group of young singers performing a "paghjella", a song based on three-part harmony, make sure you take time to stop and listen. You'll soon appreciate that these songs still convey the full range of human emotions, as they have done since time immemorial.

“The towns and villages of Corsica are bathed in song!”

* Tourist Offices in Corsica.

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