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Corsica: Mountain & Beach Trail

8 days / 7 nights / 6 riding

Best Airport : BASTIA PORETTA

Weight limit : 90kg



Embark on a riding adventure through Corsica's landscapes during this immersive 8-day experience. Starting from the charming village of Corte, you will ride through rugged mountains, pristine rivers, and spectacular coastal cliffs, stopping for picnics at picturesque spots like Col d'Ominanda and the Tartagine River. Camp by wild rivers, gallop on deserted beaches at Saleccia, and share memorable moments with your horses on pristine shores.

The journey continues beyond the Col de Tenda, with the possibility of spotting wild horses, culminating in a rich experience of Corsican nature, culture, and conviviality. Perfect for nature lovers and adventurers alike, this expedition offers a unique blend of exploration, relaxation, and discovery on one of France's most beautiful islands.

The pace of the ride ranges from peaceful riding to exhilarating gallops, allowing you to enjoy the stunning landscapes at different speeds.

Level of Riding & Fitness

To participate, riders must have a minimum level of Galop 4 the French equivalent to BHS Stage 2, ensuring they are confident and comfortable with different gaits and riding conditions. This experience is suitable for riders with some prior experience and good knowledge of outdoor riding, ready to enjoy both relaxing moments and more exhilarating sensations on scenic trails.

Guides & Group Size

During this experience, you will be accompanied by a professional of equestrian tourism, who will guide you throughout the ride. They will share their knowledge of the region, local wildlife, and flora, while ensuring the smooth progress of the adventure. With their experience and training, they will guarantee your safety, organise the itineraries, and take care of the horses' well-being. Their role is to create an enriching, safe, and unforgettable experience for each participant, while promoting respect for the environment and core equestrian values within a responsible tourism approach.

Minimum 5 and maximum 8 riders.

The Horses

Geldings and female Arab and half-Arabian horses, born and raised in Corsica, with a steady build, average height of 150 cm, gray, chestnut, or bay.

Tack & equipment

A mixed or trekking saddle, mainly made of leather, equipped with a croupière, girth, and hunting collar, double fabric saddle bags, and a leather bridle with simple bits.

Accommodation & Dining

All nights during the trek will be spent camping in tents. The first and last nights will be in a dormitory with 6 beds and a bathroom, and another dormitory with 4 beds.

Breakfast: bread, butter, jam, fruit juice, tea, coffee, or hot chocolate.

Lunch: sandwich, cereal bar, and fruit compote.

Dinner: garden vegetable soup or raw vegetables, farm-grown veal with olives served with tagliatelle, sheep's cheese, and homemade dessert (wine included).

Itinerary

Day 1 – Saturday

Arrive at Bastia Airport, where you will be met by your hosts and transferred to the Albadu farm. Lunch is served at the farm before a free afternoon, with the option to explore Corte or enjoy a swim in the beautiful Restonica Gorges.

Later, you'll meet the horses and receive a briefing on the week ahead in preparation for setting off the following morning. The day ends with a welcome aperitif and communal dinner at the farm.

Overnight in dormitory accommodation.

Day 2 – Sunday

Prepare the horses in the morning before setting off from the Albadu farm in late morning. Ride through the town of Corte and head north, crossing the Cabetsoli stream before joining the historic Corte–Castirla trail.

Stop for a picnic at the Ominanda Pass, surrounded by the Corsican countryside. On arrival at the evening's camp, you'll help care for the horses, including grooming, watering and feeding, before setting up the bivouac.

Tonight you'll wild camp at Tripirole, with the opportunity to gather around a campfire in the evening.

Day 3 – Monday

Ride towards the dramatic Aiguilles de Popolasca, crossing the Golu River and passing through the village of Popolasca. Descend towards the Asco River, crossing an old stone bridge before stopping for a picnic and the chance to cool off with a swim.

In the afternoon, enjoy a long gallop through the valley before arriving beside the Tartagine River. After caring for the horses, set up camp for another night in the wild.

There is another opportunity to swim in the river before dinner.

Day 4 – Tuesday

Today's route takes you into the Castifao Valley, passing traditional shepherds' huts and the San Pietro fountain. Ride between rolling valley slopes and panoramic ridgelines, with increasingly impressive views towards the coast.

Stop for a picnic with views towards the sea before continuing to the village of Pietralba, perched high above the Balanina countryside.

At the end of the day's ride, care for the horses before setting up camp for the night.

Day 5 – Wednesday

An early start this morning for a more demanding day in the saddle. Climb gradually along an old mule track towards the Tenda Pass at around 1,200 metres. Keep an eye out along the way, as you may be lucky enough to encounter horses roaming freely in the mountains.

After a picnic beside a stream, continue towards the village of Sorio before descending through the Aliso Valley, with opportunities for some exhilarating gallops along the way.

Tonight you'll camp at La Pinède, where there is a swimming pool to enjoy after the day's ride.

Day 6 – Thursday

Today the mountains give way to the coast. Follow the old customs officers' trail towards the spectacular Saleccia Beach, riding through the wild landscapes of the Agriates.

In the afternoon, spend time with your horse on Saleccia's white-sand beach, including the unforgettable opportunity to ride bareback into the turquoise sea and swim together.

After caring for the horses, set up camp at U Paradisu, where you can enjoy the sunset over the coast.

Day 7 – Friday

Continue across the Desert of the Agriates, this time following its coastal side. Ride beside the Mediterranean through secluded coves and along stretches of fine sandy beach, with opportunities for exhilarating gallops beside the sea.

Stop for a picnic with your feet in the water and another opportunity for a swim before continuing along the coast to Ostriconi.

From here, the horses and riders are transferred back to the Albadu farm. After giving the horses their final care and tending to the tack, enjoy a final communal dinner at the farm.

Overnight in dormitory accommodation.

Day 8 – Saturday

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast at the farm before packing your bags and saying goodbye to your hosts.

The transfer to Bastia Airport leaves at approximately 10:00am. Please arrange your return flight to depart no earlier than 1:30pm.

Please note: The itinerary is provided as a guide and may be changed or adapted according to weather conditions, safety considerations or other operational requirements. The guides will make any necessary decisions to ensure the safety and smooth running of the trail.

Price includes

- 2 night in a dorm
- 5 nights camping
- 6 riding days
- Full board plus wine
- Airport Transfers
- A support vehicle for your luggage
- Guide

Price excludes

- Flights
- Tips
- Other Alcoholic beverages
- Other expenses

Packing list

- ☐ Sleeping bag, camping mattress, lightweight walking shoes, mini-chaps (riding boots or ankle boots are not suitable for this program), anorak, riding breeches.
- ☐ Windbreaker
- ☐ Raincoat
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Water bottle (minimum 1.5 liters)
- ☐ Sweater, T-shirt, or long-sleeve shirt
- ☐ Flip-flops or sandals for the evening
- ☐ Hat or cap
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Pocket knife

- ☐ External battery (no electricity on days 2 and 3)
- ☐ Sunscreen, mosquito lotion.
- ☐ All equipment should fit in your travel bag. Also bring a fanny pack (for easy access to sunscreen, tissues, camera, etc.), a spray or helmet, and saddle bags (if you have any).
- ☐ We recommend bringing a small personal toiletry kit.

The single supplement is not available for this trip, as sharing is part of the ambiance of this trek.

Flights and transfers

Please do not book your flights until you have received a confirmation email from saddletravel.com

Plan to arrive at Bastia Poretta Airport in the morning to enjoy the first midday meal. You will also have the opportunity to explore Corte and visit the horses. The organization of the departure the next morning and the assignment of horses will also be arranged.

On the last day, a transfer is scheduled at 10:00 AM, with a journey of about one hour to Bastia Poretta Airport. Your flight shouldn't depart before 13. 30pm.

Currency and Tips

The local currency in France is the euro. We recommend bringing enough cash for any additional drinks you wish to purchase.

Tipping at restaurants is common. Giving a tip to your guide is appreciated but entirely at your discretion.

Health

Consult your general practitioner at least 8 weeks before departure so they can advise you and, if necessary, administer any vaccinations appropriate to your age and health condition.

Travel Documents

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france>

Equestrian Level Certification

"I am an experienced rider, confident, comfortable, and in control at all gaits on uneven and open terrains. I am capable of mounting and dismounting without assistance and I have good physical fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could compromise my safety or that of others."

Cancellation Policy

Payment and Cancellation Conditions

Your stay is confirmed upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit of 20%.

The total amount is due 56 days before the departure date.

If you cancel your reservation at least 56 days before the departure date, we are entitled to a full refund. After 56 days before departure:

- 42 days or more before departure: - 50%
- 30 days or more before departure: 30% discount
- Less than 30 days: 0%

Insurance

All Saddletravel.com clients are required to take out travel insurance to cover riding activities and trip cancellations. Proof of insurance will be requested during the booking process.



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