

# The authentic full GR20

15 days / 14 nights

Considered as the most difficult and technical long-distance walk of Europe, the GR20 attracts walkers from all over the world looking for a challenge. This self guided circuit will allow you to discover the most wild and most beautiful landscapes that Corsica has to offer.

The "traditional" GR20 route goes from refuge to refuge (i.e. bunk houses). We use Gites, which means that our trip is designed around the GR20 footpath, but inevitably, it diverges away from the GR20 to reach the gites that we use. This by no means affects the quality of the trip; on the contrary, it increases the quality of the trip. We also propose the greatest number of luggage transfers (in option).

[Prepare your trip](#)

## YOUR PROGRAM

### Day 1 - Calenzana to Bonifatu

Meet with your taxi driver in Calvi this morning for your transfer to Calenzana. This little village, surrounded by olive trees, is the official start of the GR20. You walk through up through the forest of Bonifatu, past magnificent viewpoints over the villages of this beautiful region of the Balagne.

About 11 km, 4h00, +700 m, -450 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte at Bonifatu, breakfast and picnic for tomorrow.



### **Day 2 - Bonifatu to Haut Asco**

You leave Bonifatu for one of the longest stages along the GR20 (timewise). Crossing several rivers before reaching the famous Spasimata footbridge, you will arrive in the Valley of the Muvrella (mouflon) with its small lake. The viewpoints are numerous and simply superb. The GR20 continues down to the foot of the Monte Cinto, where you will spend the night in the ski resort of Haut Asco.

About 9.5 km, 8h00, +1300 m, -598 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte at Haut Asco (double room available at a supplement), breakfast and picnic for tomorrow.

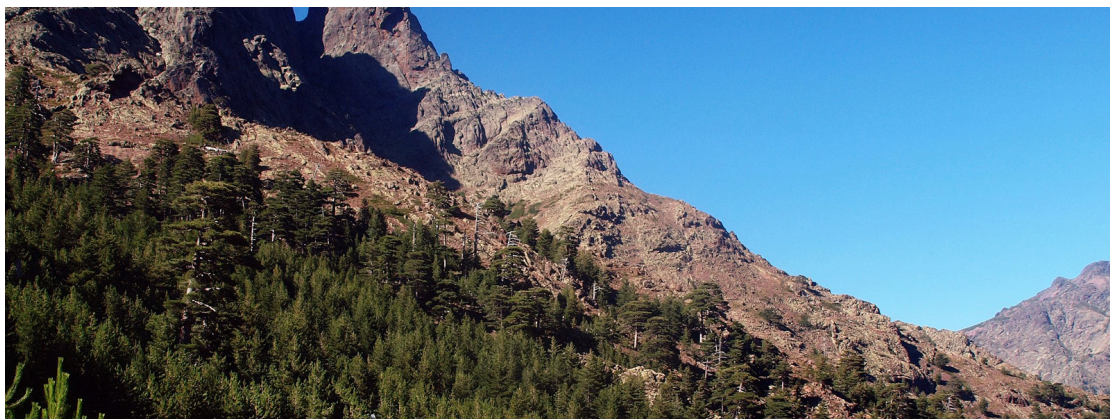


### **Day 3 - Haut Asco to Vallone**

To avoid the closed circle of solitude, you climb crossing the slopes of Monte Cintu and over the highest point on the GR20 the Pointe des Éboulis. You drop down to the small Melarie valley where you may have the chance to see mouflons. Your accommodation, the shepherds hut in Vallone, is in an ideal setting by a stream, with the backdrop of a starry sky for the night.

About 9 km, 8h00, +1200 m, -800 m.

Dinner and night in a tent at Vallone, breakfast and picnic for tomorrow



#### **Day 4 - Vallone to Verghio**

Today you walk into the beautifully traditional Niolu, located at the heart of the island. You pass below the Paglia Orba and the strange Capu Tafunatu. When the weather is good, you can get a stunning viewpoint over the gulf of Porto before plunging into the Golo Valley where you will find a series of natural pools before reaching Verghio.

About 14 km, 6h15, +975 m, -1020 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte at Verghio (double room available at a supplement), breakfast and picnic for tomorrow.



#### **Day 5 - Verghio to the Campotile plateau**

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After an easy path you pass your first Col at Bocca San Pedru and then magic happens. The coastline stands out against the deep blue of the Mediterranean. On the other side, a glacial cirque is revealed which hides one of the jewels of the Corsican mountainq. Bordered by its pozzines, Lac de Nino is a welcome sight, complete with wild horses.

About 16 km, 6h00, +870 m, -689 m.

Night at the refuge at Manganu. Dinner, Breakfast and Picnic can be purchased locally.



#### **Day 6 - Campotile Plateau to Petra Piana**



It's a sharp climb and rocky up to the Capitellu Breche from where you have superb views of the lakes of Melu and Capitellu in the high Restonica. After some efforts to reach Bocca Muzella (2206m), you will descend to reach a small plateau where the Petra Piana refuge is located.

About 8.5 km, 6h00, +670 m, -465 m.

Night at the refuge at Petra Piana. Dinner, Breakfast and Picnic can be purchased locally.



### **Day 7 - Petra Piana to l'Onda**

A rather short, aerial and panoramic stage between the massifs of Monte Rotondo and Monte d'Oro. Be careful, some tricky passages when the wind blows (but a variant is possible)! On a clear day, you will have the chance to see the Gulf of Ajaccio.

About 7 km, 4h30, +560 m, -965 m.

Night in tents at the refuge at Onda, Dinner, Breakfast and Picnic breakfast and picnic can be purchased locally.



### **Day 8 - L'Onda to Vizzavona**

Last day on the northern part of the trail. A magnificent stage awaits you from the Onda refuge towards Vizzavona, passing through the magical Agnone valley at the foot of Monte d'Oro. After the Turtettu footbridge, you pass the Cascades des Anglais before arriving at Vizzavona.

About 10 km, 5h30, +630 m, -1140 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte at Vizzavona (double room available at a supplement), Breakfast tomorrow.



#### **Day 9 - Vizzavona to Capanelle**

Today's hike begins in a beech forest at Vizzavona before climbing to Bocca Palmente where you will have a stunning viewpoint over the lagoons of Diana and Urbino. The next part of the trail takes you to the Bergeries d'Alzeta and you then walk along an ancient mule-track to reach the gîte at Capanelle.

About 14 km, 5h00, +1155 m, -715 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte at Capanelle, breakfast and picnic for tomorrow.



#### **Day 10 - Capanelle to the Col de Verde**

From Capanelle, you make your way to the picturesque sheepfolds of Traghjete before trekking on towards the Plateau of Ghialgone. You then cross the footbridge of I Spiazzi and the forest of Marmano, before reaching the Col de Verde.

About 14 km, 5h00, +600 m, -900 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte at Col de Verde. Breakfast and picnic for tomorrow.



### **Day 11 - Col de Verde to Cozzano**

You climb up to the Bocca del Orro and walk across the Prato plateau with its alpine fields. As you follow the ridge line, you have spectacular views of the Taravo valley to the west and the Tyrrhenian Sea to the east. You then drop down the St Antoine forest to reach the delightful village of Cozzano.

About 14 km, 8h00, +750 m, -1300 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte. Breakfast and Picnic for tomorrow.



### **Day 12 - Cozzano to the Coscione Plateau**

After an early morning departure, you climb the Bocca di l'Usciolu and walk along the mountain ridge with its dreamlike rocky landscape, sculpted by the wind. The path descends through an ancient alder forest. The lush vegetation becomes more dense and exposed, and you soon reach the plateau de Cuscione and the shepherd's hut where you will spend tonight.

About 16 km, 8h00, +1300 m, -650 m.

Dinner and night at a Shepherds hut on the plateau de Coscione. Breakfast and Picnic for tomorrow.





### **Day 13 - Coscione Plateau to Bavella**

The plateau de Cuscione offers a gentler terrain with its green grazing lands and pozzines (a type of peat bogs). You then climb the rocky slopes of Mount Incudine (over 2000m high and the highest peak in the south) before dropping down to the Asinao Valley. From here, the path climbs to the spectacular granite peaks that are the famous Needles of Bavella.

About 15 km, 8h00, +985 m, -1100 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte at Bavella. Breakfast and Picnic for tomorrow.



### **Day 14 - Bavella to Conca: the last stage!**

Bavella to Conca: the last stage!

The start of the day is an easy path through the forest to the refuge at Paliri. You will then attack the descent, accompanied by the scented essences of the warm maquis. The end of this great adventure is approaching ... On your arrival in Conca, you have finished the GR20!

About 16 km, 7h00, +450 m, -1400 m.

Dinner and night at the gîte in Conca. Breakfast for tomorrow.



#### **Day 15 - End of the great adventure**

End of services after breakfast. From Conca, you can easily take a shuttle to Porto Vecchio, then a bus to Bastia or Ajaccio. Contact us if you need a transfer.

### Additional information

#### **TARIFFS**

Price from 1290 euros per person.

#### **OPTIONS**

Extra cost for luggage transfer (10 days out of 14). Per person, for a group of two hikers. : 1100 euros per person.

Extra cost for luggage transfer (10 days out of 14). Per person, for a group of four hikers. : 550 euros per person.

4 nights in double room instead of dorms (price per person) : 240 euros per person.

#### **INCLUDED**

Nights in gîtes, bergeries and tent.

11 breakfasts, 11 dinners, 10 pic nic lunches.

Transfer from Calvi to Calenzana.

Information package with GPS tracks and route notes on app (a smartphone is required)

Local hotline

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

Transfer from Conca at the end of the trip

Luggage transfers

Transfers not included in the itinerary (including in times of bad weather or physical ailments)

Everything not mentioned on the "included" section



Beverages and holiday insurance

### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

You need to be used to trekking in the mountains and be able to read and follow map instructions. From 4h30 to 9h of hiking per day on sometimes difficult trails.

### **CARRYING**

Possibility of luggage transfers 10 days out of 14 (see prices in the options).

### **ACCOMMODATION**

In gîtes d'étape (dormitory style), 4 night in tent. 4 nights can be in rooms of two (upon to availability).

### **SIZE OF GROUP**

Minimum 2.

### **DEPARTURES**

Everyday from mid June until mid september

### **DEPARTURE**

Calvi

### **DISPERSION**

Conca

### **HOW TO GET THERE**

Calvi Sainte Catherine is one of the 4 international airports in Corsica.

Regular and direct flights from and to London (Stansted), Germany (Cologne), Austria (Salzburg and Vienna), Belgium (Brussels Zaventem et Charleroi), France (Lyon, Marseille, Nice, Paris Orly), Luxembourg and Swiss (Basel, Geneva).

Schedule:

<http://calvi.aeroport.fr/en/direct-flight-destinations/>

### **EQUIPMENT TO TAKE**

- A good pair of walking boots (ones that you have used before), with ankle support and non-slip soles.
- Good quality walking socks
- A comfortable rucksack (either for all of your kit or as a day sack) with plenty of plastic bags to keep your kit dry.
- If you are having your luggage transferred, please make sure that you have only one bag for the transfers, with a maximum weight of 15 kilos. It should be an easily transportable soft bag or with wheels.
- T-shirt and shorts (depending upon the likely weather)
- Light trekking trousers (not jeans)
- It is good to be able to 'layer' your clothes – with several light tops (for protection against cold, wind or sun)
- A warm sweater, polar or fleece. Beanie, gloves.
- Waterproofs – such as an anorak (Gore-tex or micro pore for example) or poncho.

- A bathing suit and towel
- Sandals or flip flops for beaches, river wading, or for wearing in the evening (it's important to be able to rest your feet from your walking boots)
- Sun cream plus sunglasses and a hat or cap
- A change of clothes
- For the picnics, you will need a small Tupperware box (for stews or salads), a plastic mug, a knife and fork. A Swiss Army knife or a pen knife is optional but can be very useful.
- Walking poles can be very useful to take the weight off the knees and to steady yourself on uneven terrain.
- A water bottle (at least one). It is preferable that you should be able to carry at least 2 litres of water at any one time.
- Camera and film, or batteries and memory cards for digital ones.
- A light torch (with spare battery)
- A small first aid kit possibly including: Rehydration salts to combat dehydration or fatigue, something for cuts, sprains, blisters, breaks, burns, stings, and pain relief. Please remember any personal medication that you may need.
- Wash bag, including: toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, toilet paper. Preferably a biodegradable soap for washing fruit, washing yourself and for washing clothes (it is possible to buy a multi-purpose biodegradable soap). Earplugs can also be useful if you are sleeping in dormitories.
- Money – make sure you have enough cash on you for your trek (in Euros), as it is unlikely that you will be able to use a card or withdraw money if you are in the mountains.
- Maps – IGN maps of a scale and quality that allow you to see the route clearly. If you are on a self-guided tour, you will more than likely be given copies of sections of maps. These should be clear enough to guide you along the route alongside the route notes, but we strongly recommend that you have the correct maps for the area of your walk. Please contact us if you need advice.
- A compass – but make sure you are able to read it before starting on your trek
- Mobile phone and charger (it may not always be possible to get a signal or to charge it, but it can be very helpful in many circumstances).
- Snacks (such as energy bars, dried fruit).
- If you are a vegetarian, we suggest you bring a good supply of nuts or other foods containing protein. It is not always possible to get a good balanced meal, particularly in the more remote places in the mountains.
- A waterproof plastic pouch in which to put your trip documents, identity papers and insurance documents.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

You will need a sleeping bag. Tents are provided when necessary.