

# 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 - From Calvi to Bonifatu

Your trip will start in the morning from Calvi. Calvi is accessible by plane, train or ferry. A transfer to Calenzana is then organised for you. South-east of Calvi, this little village sits quietly within an area abundant with olive trees. From here you will start your hike to Bonifatu, which lies high up in the forest. This stage is characterised by several river crossings as well as magnificent views of the typical towns of the Balagne. It is an excellent warm up to the GR20 offering superb views towards the Corsican coast.

Food: D

Accommodation: Gîte (double room available).

Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: 11km

Walking: About 4h05.

Height gain: + 700m Height loss: -450m



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

After breakfast, you will leave Bonifatu for one of the longest stages along the GR20. Once more crossing several rivers before reaching the famous footbridge of Spasimata, which is 30 metres in length and suspended above a waterfall (a great location for photos). You will arrive in the Valley of the Muvrella (mouflon) with its small lake. The viewpoints are numerous and divine from the passes. The route continues to the foot of the Monte Cinto, the highest summit of Corsica, where you will spend the night.

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gîte (double room available).

Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: 9.5km

Walking: About 8h00.

Height gain: +1300m Height loss: -598m.



### **Day 3 - From Haut Asco to the sheepfolds of Vallone**

To avoid the Cirque de la Solitude, closed to the public since 2015, you cross the Great Barrier Reef by the itinerary of Monte Cintu and through the Pointe des Éboulis. The route continues passed the refuge of Tighjettu before reaching the sheepfolds of Vallone, where a cluster of shepherd huts await you with ample portions of home cooked food made from local products.

Food: B,L,D

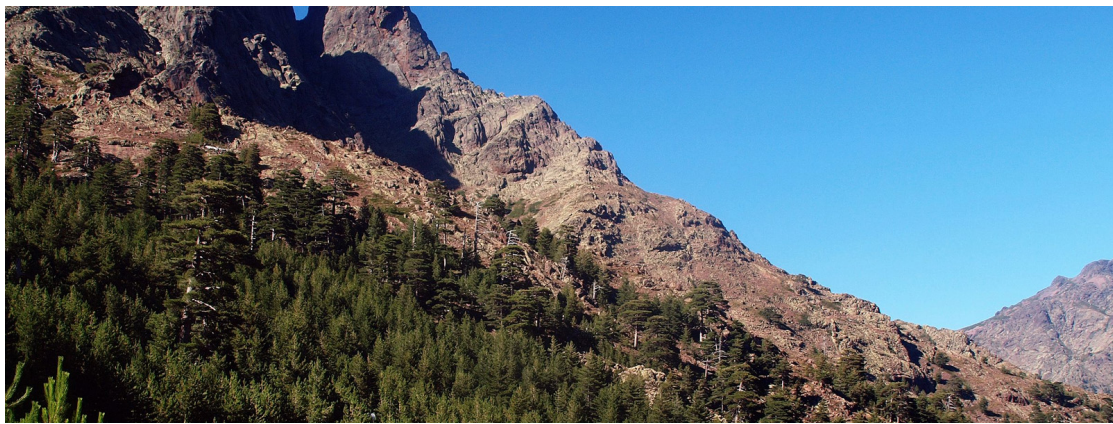
Accommodation: Tent

No access to your main luggage.

Distance: 7.5km

Walk: about 8h30

Altitude gain & loss: +1200m, -800m



#### **Day 4 - From the Sheepfolds of Vallone to Verghio**

After waking up to views of the surrounding mountains, the day begins with a gentle walk through a forest of giant Laricio pines before a long climb up the Bocca di Fuciale. The climb is soon rewarded as you reach up and over the saddle towards the Refuge of Ciotulu i Mori, where the view expands down towards the Golo valley. From here, the path becomes much easier, as you wind your way down the valley, past the many rock pools on the Golo river, which are fantastic for bathing. The final stretch takes you back through the woods and up again to Castel di Verghio.

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gîte (double room available).

Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: 13.5km

Walking: About 6h15.

Height gain: +971m Height loss: -1017m.





### **Day 5 - From Verghio to the Manganu refuge**

We pass Bocca San Pedru between sky and sea. The magic happens after passing Bocca a Reta. To the east, the coastline stands out against the deep blue of the Mediterranean. On the other side, a glacial cirque is revealed which hides, in a green setting, one of the jewels of the Corsican mountain. Bordered by its pozzines, Lake Nino welcomes a herd of wild horses.

Food: B,L

Accommodation: Refuge.

No access to your main luggage.

Walking: About 7h50

Height gain: +869m Height loss: -689m



### **Day 6 - From Manganu to Petra Piana**

Stream and rocky bars follow one another before reaching a plateau of pozzines. Then the Capitellu breach will offer you a breathtaking view of the lakes of Melu and Capitellu. After some efforts to reach Bocca Muzella (2206m), you will descend to reach a small plateau where the Petra Piana refuge is located.

Food: To be paid on spot.

Accommodation: Refuge.

No access to your main luggage.

Walking: About 6 hours

Height gain: +670 m Height loss: -465 m



### **Day 7 - From 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 in strong winds! On a clear day, you will have the chance to see the Gulf of Ajaccio.

Food: To be paid on spot.

Accommodation: Refuge.

No access to your main luggage.

Walking: About 5 hours

Height gain: +560 m ; -965 m



### **Day 8 - From 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, here we are in front of a multitude of small waterfalls and streams. Between forest and clinking of water, you arrive slowly towards Vizzavona.

Night and dinner in Vizzavona.

Food: D

Accommodation: Refuge (double room available)

Possible access to your main luggage.

Walking: About 6,5 hours

Height gain: +630 m ; -1140 m



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

Today's trek begins with the col de Vizzavona and the stiff but steady climb to Bocca Palmente where the view is splendid. Next, after passing the crest, you will discover several sheepfolds before finally arriving at the sheepfolds of Capanelle where you will spend the night.

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gîte

Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: 14km

Walking: About 5h00

Height gain: +1155m Height loss: -715m





### **Day 10 - From 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 will cross the footbridge of I Spiazzi (another bathing point). Your final descent of the day lies under the shadow of the rarest and most majestic Corsican fir trees, before reaching the Col de Verde.

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gîte.

Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: 12km

Walking: about 5h00

Height gain: +630m Height loss: -915m



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

You start the day with a climb towards the refuge of Prati, which is perfectly positioned for beautiful views across to the massif of Renosu. The view is at its best when we reach the crest. From here the view stretches out across the Ligurian sea and the Italian island of Elba (when the weather allows it). We now descend in amongst a landscape of rocky slabs before reaching Cozzano, a town in the heart of Corsica.

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gîte (double room available).

Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: 18km

Walking: about 8h00

Height gain: +970m Height loss: -1520m



### **Day 12 - From Cozzano to the Sheepfolds of Bassetta**

Today you'll climb to 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 alder-tree forest, aged over a hundred years. The lush vegetation becomes more dense and exposed, and you soon reach the plateau of the Cuscione and the shepherd's huts of Bassetta.

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gîte.

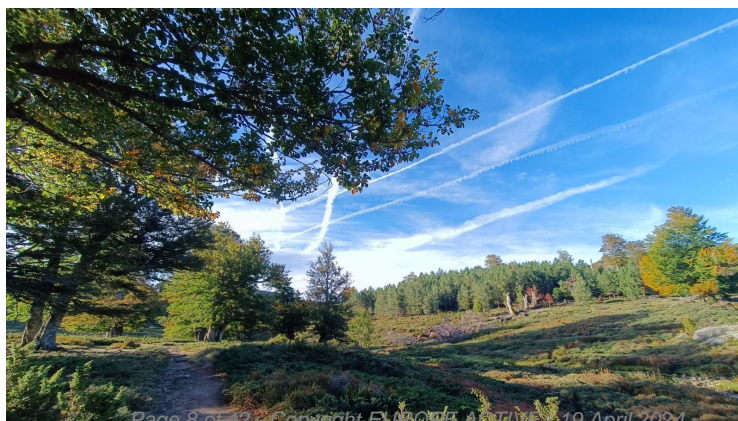
Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: 13km

Walking: about 6h30

Height gain: +1240m Height loss: -670m

A different route can be taken in case of bad weather.





### **Day 13 - From Bassetta to Bavella**

This is the longest and hardest day of the holiday, but the end of this superb trek is in sight. The plateau of the Cuscione offers a gentle terrain with its green grazing lands and pozzines (a type of peat bog). The climb then begins towards Monte Incudine. Once over the ridge, the descent takes you to the Asinau valley. The path continues to skirt around the spectacular granite peaks known as the "Aguilles" or "needles" of Bavella, which dominate the landscape of this breathtaking Alta Rocca region. There couldn't be a more fantastic place to finish this memorable walk.

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gîte

Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: 23.5km

Walking: about 09h00

Height gain: +1300m Height loss: -1400m



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

The start of the day is outlined by an easy path in the forest in the southern massif of Bavella to the refuge of Paliri. You will then attack the descent, accompanied by the scented essences of the maquis. The end of this great adventure is approaching ... On your arrival in Conca, you will be able to pose proudly next to the sign marking the end of the GR20!

Food: B,L,D

Accommodation: Gîte (double room available).

Possible access to your main luggage.

Distance: km

Walking: about 7 hours.

Height gain: + 450m, -1400m



### **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 1240 euros per person.

### **OPTIONS**

Extra cost for luggage transfer (10 days out of 14). Per person, for a group of two hikers. : 920 euros per person.

Extra cost for luggage transfer (10 days out of 14). Per person, for a group of four hikers. : 460 euros per person.

4 nights in double room instead of dorms (price per person) : 150 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 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. We strongly advise you to buy the correct IGN maps for this trip to complement the printed map sections that we provide as part of the package.