

Mare e Monti North: Calvi - Porto

6 days / 5 nights

Our team has chosen beautiful coastal walks and comfortable accommodation to give you the best possible holiday. While you hike through forests and maquis shrublands, you will have several opportunities to swim in the crystal-clear waters of the island's natural pools. With this Mare e Monti trip, you will have all the right ingredients to guarantee an unforgettable holiday!

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - From Calvi to Bonifatu

Meet in Calvi in the morning (extra nights available in Calvi pre trek). Transfer to Calenzana, a delightful and vibrant village at the start of the Mare e Monti and GR 20 trails. During this first stage, you will cross beautiful rivers and have magnificent views over the Balagne region. Night in the Auberge in the heart of Bonifatu forest.

Walking: approximately 4h05.

Height gain: +800m.

Height loss: -540m.



Day 2 - From Bonifatu to Galeria

From the Bonifatu forest, the route climbs up to the Bocca Bonassa pass to descend into the Fango valley. From a mountainous environment, we gradually move into the Mediterranean zone. Transfer from Tuarelli after the hike and overnight in Galeria.

Walking time approx. 7h30

Difference in altitude: +1100 m; -1400 m



Day 3 - From Galeria to Girolata

Today's stage will take you past the Scandola Natural Reserve, a site which has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The beautiful coves, turquoise waters and the volcanic red rock formations will offer you truly unique landscapes. As for Girolata, it is an enchanting little village only accessible on foot or by boat, and a heavenly place for hikers once the day tourists have left. There, you will be able to go for a swim in majestic coves and enjoy eating freshly caught fish for dinner, in a restaurant next to the beach.

Walking: 5 hours.

Height gain: +900m.

Height loss: -900m.



Day 4 - From Girolata to Curzu

As you walk along a coastline path called the 'sentier du Facteur Guy', you will be blown away by magnificent panoramic views sea, the path climbs to Col de la Croix before arriving in the village of Curzu, where you will spend the night.

Walking: 6h30.

Height gain: +1300m.

Height loss: -1200m.

An alternative and easier walk is also available for this particular stage. Duration: approximately 5 hours.



Day 5 - From Curzu to Porto

Your journey will take you to the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Porto. You will cross a river and discover the now desolate village of Pinetu. You will also be able to discover the beach of Bussaglia, which has often been described as the most beautiful beach in the Gulf of Porto. Finally, you will end today's walk by stopping in Porto's famous port for the night.

Dinner at your own expense. Night in a hotel.

Walking: 4h40.

Height gain: +565m.

Height loss: -878m.



Day 6 - Porto

End of trip after breakfast.

Additional information

TARIFFS

Price from 890 euros per person.

OPTIONS

INCLUDED

Accommodation in hotels and gîtes

Breakfasts

Dinners (4), except in Porto

Private transfer from Calvi to Calenzana and from Tuarelli to Galeria

Luggage transfer (except for the stage at Girolata)

Topographical guide, hiking maps on our application (a smartphone is required)

Telephone assistance

NOT INCLUDED

Transport to and from the meeting point

Dinner in Porto

Transfers not included in the programme

Insurance

Luggage transfer in Girolata

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

You will need to be in good physical condition and used to walking. This Corsican trail uses very well marked paths. Walking: 4 to 6 hours a day.

CARRYING

Your main bag will be transferred by vehicle except in Girolata. Otherwise, you will only need to take your day bag with you (for picnics, water, cameras etc.).

ACCOMMODATION

3 nights in stopover gîtes (shared dormitories).

2 nights in a hotel (double room).

SIZE OF GROUP

From 2.

DEPARTURES

Every day from the beginning of April to the end of October.

DEPARTURE

Calvi.

DISPERSION

Porto.

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

Picnic lunches are available in gîtes (cost: approximately 12€) or in local shops. Always take something to eat with you during walks.