



AMC ADVENTURE TRAVEL
Volunteer-Led Excursions Worldwide

Trip 2347

2–12 October 2023

ISLE OF WILD BEAUTY—HIKE & E-BIKE IN CORSICA

1. TRIP OVERVIEW

“Jutting from the foaming Mediterranean like an impregnable fortress, Corsica has astounding geographical diversity. Within half an hour drive, the landscape ranges from glittering bays, vibrant coastal cities & fabulous beaches to sawtooth mountain ridges, verdant valleys, dense forests, & time-forgotten hilltop villages.” Lonely Planet France.



Citadel of Corte on our first day on the trip. [Michal Osmenda from Brussels, Belgium](#)

Our 11-day Corsican adventure will consist of 5 days of hiking, 4 days of e-biking, plenty of local cuisine options, & time to explore at your own pace:

- A. Fully outfitted trip: lodging, all meals, e-bikes, road support, & local guides
- B. Hiking trails past gorges, scenic highlands, farming terraces, granite cliffs, & views of Corsica’s tallest mountain Monte Cinto. Overnights in mountain lodges & simple family run hotels.
- C. Biking routes along Karst rock formations, beaches, Mediterranean idyl villages, classic mountain roads, artisan trail, & garden of Corsica.

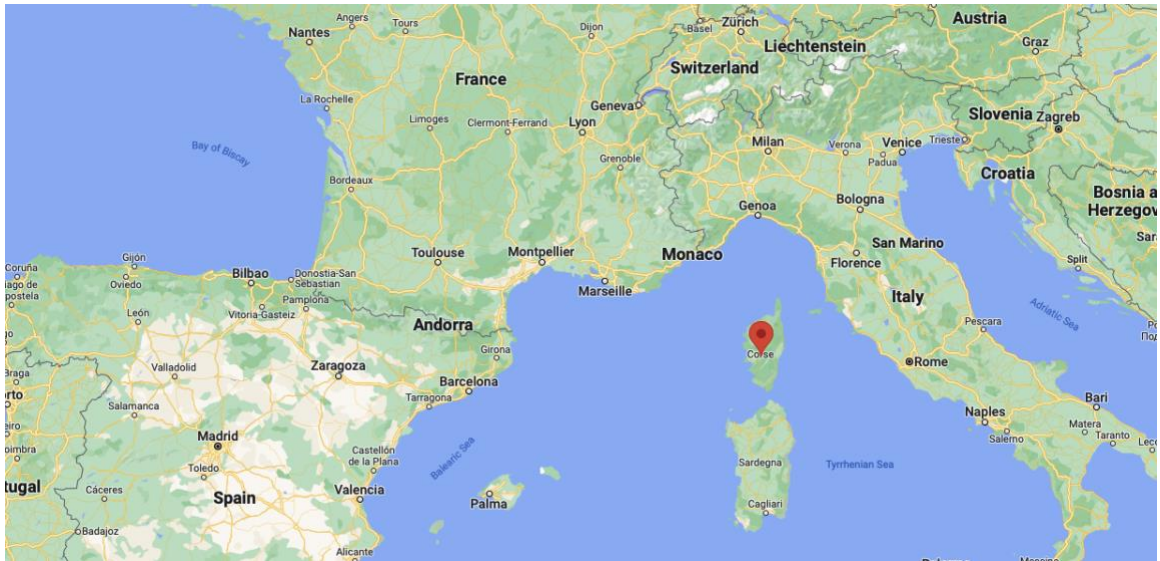
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3. CORSICA

Corsica is an island in the Mediterranean Sea and one of the 18 regions of France. It is the fourth-largest island in the Mediterranean after Sicily, Sardinia and Cyprus and lies north of the Italian island of Sardinia. A single chain of mountains makes up two-thirds of the island. It is the most mountainous island in the Mediterranean—a “mountain in the sea”. Monte Cinto is the highest peak at 8,878ft, and the island has around 120 other summits of more than 6,600ft. Mountains comprise two-thirds of the island, forming a single chain. Forests make up 20% of the island.

About 42% of the island’s area of 3,350 sq mi is dedicated to nature reserves (Parc naturel régional de Corse), mainly in the interior. Corsica contains the GR20, one of Europe’s most notable hiking trails. It has 620mi of coastline, with more than 200 beaches such as Paraguanu.



4. TRIP DIFFICULTY

This trip is rated **Moderate** hiking & biking geared towards the outdoors adventurer and experienced hiker & cyclist.



Tavignano Gorge. [Quentin Scoufflaire](#)

- A. You must be able to hike 6 to 8 miles per day at a moderate pace with elevation gains between 500 feet and 2800 feet over the course of 5 to 7 hours, while carrying

- enough equipment to keep you safe in the event of bad weather or injury. Hikes are at altitudes between sea level and 5,000 feet.
- B. You must be able to e-bike between 30 and 45 miles per day over the course of 4 to 6 hours.
 - C. You must be comfortable in hot, cool, and rainy weather.
 - D. We will be accompanied by local guides.
 - E. There will be support vehicles during the biking days.

5. WEATHER

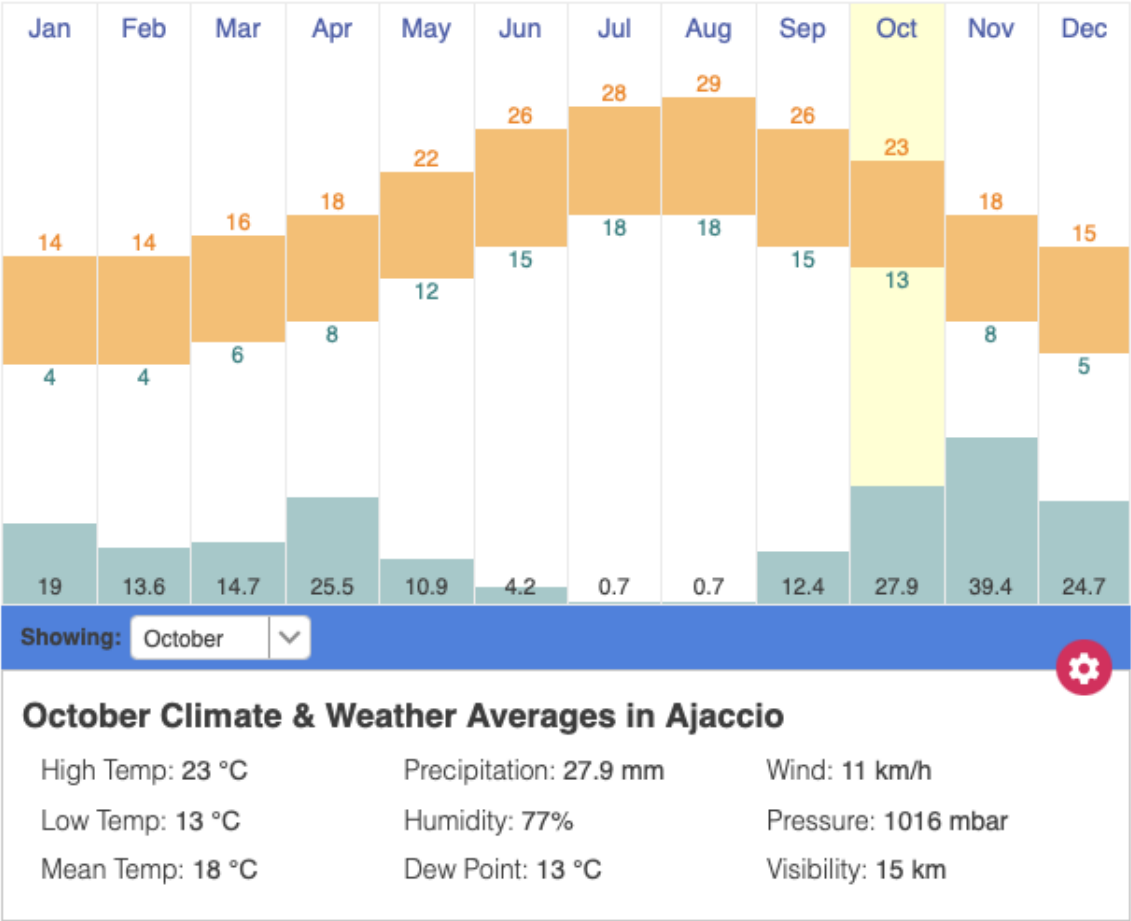
In October the average maximum daytime temperatures are moderate and range from 18°C (64°F) in Bastia to 22°C (72°F) in Ajaccio. Nighttime temperatures generally drop to 11°C (52°F) in Ajaccio and 8°C (46°F) in Bastia.

In Corsica in October precipitation ranges from moderate in Ajaccio with 87mm (3.4inch) rainfall to high in Bastia with 110mm (4.3inch) rainfall. In general, it is a sunny month with an average of 212 hours of sunshine in Ajaccio during the whole month.

Annual Weather Averages Near Ajaccio

Averages are for Ajaccio Airport, which is 5 kilometers from Ajaccio.

Based on weather reports collected during 1985–2015.

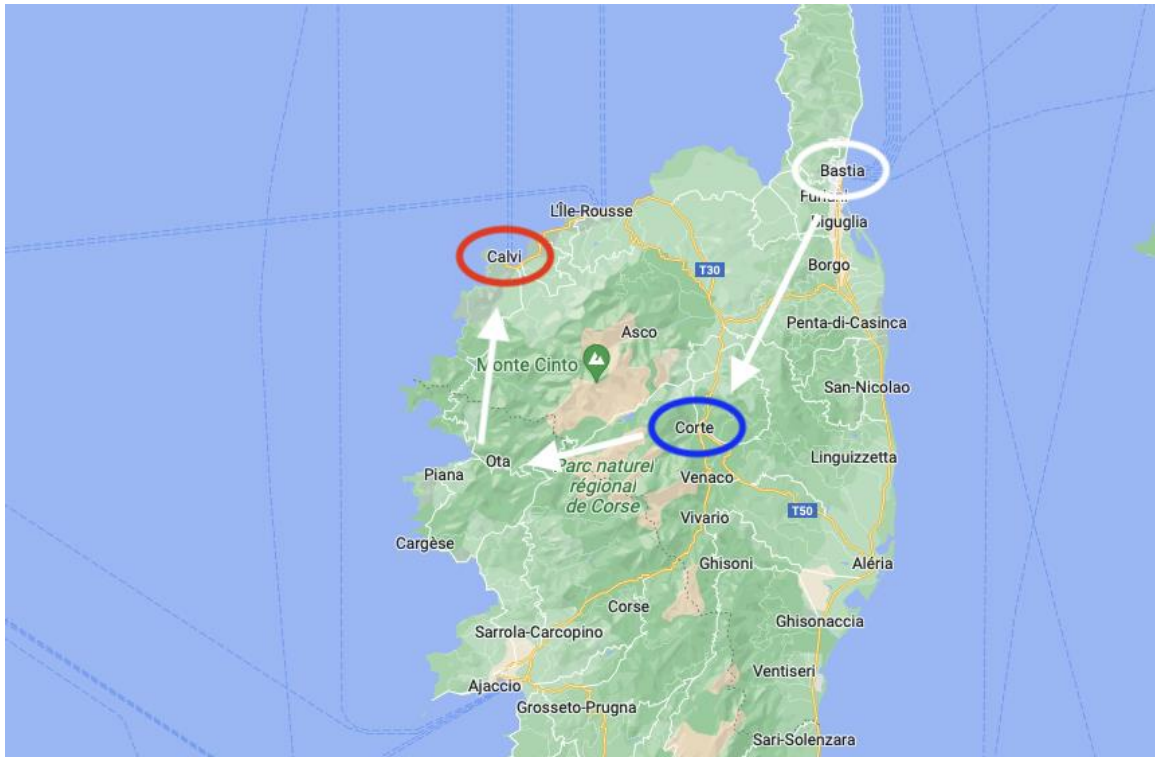


Source: <https://www.timeanddate.com/weather/france/ajaccio/climate>

6. LODGING

- A. Double occupancy rooms with two twin beds & private bath
- B. The two twin beds can be separate frames or two adjacent twin mattresses on a single bed frame. Each mattress has its separate sheet, blanket, & pillow.
- C. Single supplements maybe available

7. ITINERARY



A. Sunday 1 October 2023: depart US

- i. Destination to start of our trip is Bastia (BIA) airport. Note that some flights connecting in Paris (CDG) require land transfer to Orly (ORY). Review itinerary carefully to avoid such transfer connecting only through CDG.
- ii. Alternatively, fly a day or two earlier into Nice (NCE) to visit the town on your own, outside of the trip, then take a ferry to Bastia. You can arrange for this visit at the end of the trip as well.



Option to arrive Corsica on ferry from Nice. [Fabien1309](#)

B. Monday 2 October 2023: Arrive Corsica, transfer to Corte

Arrive Corsica via either Calvi or Bastia Airport & transfer to Corte.

Located in the center of Corsica, Corte is a small settlement with a rich history, having served as the capital of the Corsican Republic during its brief existence in the mid-18th century. Its most immediate landmark is the citadel, a 15th-century fortress situated on a high, rocky perch, from where it overlooks the city and the stunning mountain scenery that surrounds it.

After dropping off your luggage at your hotel, the rest of the day is free to explore the town independently and to soak in its atmosphere.

C. Tuesday 3 October: Hike the Tavignano Gorge (7½mi)

The first day of your walk will see you explore a well-trodden route starting from Corte. Leaving town, you'll trek into the Tavignano Gorge and follow an old shepherd's trail into the scenic highlands. The scenery is diverse, with the steep cliffs of the gorge soon giving way to abandoned farming terraces and pockets of forest. At the end of the walk, return to Corte for dinner and overnight.

D. Wednesday 4 October: Hike Scala di Santa Regina–Calacuccia (7mi)

The day begins with a driven transfer from Corte to the Scala di Santa Regina, a dramatic gorge that will provide the starting point for today's walk. Leaving the vehicle at the trailhead, you'll follow the trail into the Niolu Valley. This is a steep walk involving 2,300ft of altitude gain, but with wonderful scenery, as you follow a balcony path over granite cliffs with views down into the valley and to Lake Calacuccia. Overnight at a comfortable hotel in Calacuccia.

E. Thursday 5 October: Hike Albertacce–Col de Vergio (6mi)

A short driven transfer will take you from Calacuccia to the neighbouring town of Albertacce, starting point for today's walk. In Albertacce, you'll join the Mare a Mare Nord trail, a long-distance walking route that crosses northern Corsica from east to west. You'll be completing a scenic section of the trail, as you climb from Albertacce to

the Col de Vergio, a high mountain pass. The final section of the walk will see you trek below Corsica's tallest mountain, Monte Cinto, with often stunning views.



Albertacce. [Pierre Bonq](#)

Today's walk is predominantly uphill, starting from an altitude of 2,820ft in Albertacce and climbing to 4,850ft at the top of the pass, but can be taken at a gentle pace. Overnight at a mountain lodge on the Col de Vergio.

F. Friday 6 October: Hike Col de Vergio–Evisa (7mi)

After breakfast, set off from the mountain lodge and follow the trail down from the Col de Vergio to reach the mountain village of Evisa. The route will take you through forests of pine and chestnut, which soon give way to semi-arable land as you reach the outskirts of Evisa. Overnight at a simple family-run hotel in Evisa, where you'll enjoy a delicious supper of Corsican cuisine.



Col de Vergio. [Pierre Bonq](#)

G. Saturday 7 October: Hike Evisa–Porto (7½mi)

The final day of your walk will see you descend from Evisa to Ota, a small village situated in the lower Corsican foothills with beautiful coastal views. The route will be via the impressive Gorges de Spelunca, as you follow a balcony path above the Spelunca River. From Ota, it is a short hike down to the coast at the Gulf of Porto, where you overnight.



Gorges de Spelunca. [Nerijp](#)

Today marks the completion of your walk, with the biking to follow!

H. Sunday 8 October: e-Bike Porto–Capu Rossu via the Calanches de Piana (→ 31mi
↑4,500ft)

Your e-bikes will be delivered to Porto this morning, and there will be time after breakfast to try the bikes and ensure each member of the group is comfortable before departing.



Porto. [Io.tangelini from Soliera / Modena, Italia](#)

Today's ride will take you through the Karst rock formations of the Calanche of Piana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and then on to the coast at Arone. The initial section of the ride is uphill on a mostly gentle gradient—you'll need your climbing legs! Beyond the village of Piana, the route drops down past Capu Rossu to arrive at the beach at Arone. After time to rest, you'll retrace the route, stopping for refreshments in the village of Piana before arriving back in Porto late this afternoon.

I. Monday 9 October 2023: e-Bike Porto–Galéria (↔ 31mi ↑ 3,500ft)

Leaving Porto, you'll enjoy a scenic ride along one of Corsica's standout coastal routes. After passing Serriera, you go village to village, col to col, enroute to the Balagne. This is a lush area, little changed by time, with shepherds' huts, straying cows and the odd goat the only sign of civilisation. At the last col, with views towards the Scandola Nature Reserve, you commence the long descent to the seaside village of Galéria, arriving late in the day and staying overnight in a comfortable ★★★ hotel near the port.

J. Tuesday 10 October: e-Bike Galeria–Calvi (↔ 35mi ↑ 2,600ft)

Head out of town, passing the tower and the river delta, then cross the Fango valley, followed by a gentle ride through the wild Filosorma region and the villages of Moncale, Calenzana and Montemaggiore. At the end of the ride, you drop down to the picture perfect Mediterranean idyl that is Calvi, with its 5km of beach, historic centre, and its Genoese citadel.

The rest of the day is at leisure to explore Calvi independently. Or, if the group are keen to ride further, there is also the option to take a late afternoon ride to Notre Dame de la Serra for a panoramic "apero" high above Calvi.



Calvi. [Julian Nyča](#)

K. Wednesday 11 October: e-Bike in the Balagne region (↔45mi ↑3,800ft)

The last leg of your journey will see you ride village to village in the Balagne region, often referred to as the garden of Corsica, as you follow a well-known route through the honey-hued villages of Cateri, Aregno, Monticello, Feliceto and Pigna. Known as the “Artisan Trail”, on account of the many craft stores and workshops found within this region, this is an especially scenic trail and the perfect culmination to your tour of Corsica. You’ll be biking on classic Corsican mountain roads, which offer a window onto this beautiful region of perched hilltop villages, vineyards, and olive & almond groves. At the end of the day, you’ll drop back down to Calvi for your final night in Corsica.

L. Thursday 12 October 2023: International departure

At leisure until scheduled group transfer to Calvi airport. Transfer to Bastia airport instead will be at additional cost to discuss with leaders.

8. TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please refer to [Terms & Conditions](#) regarding the AMC Adventure Travel:

- A. Cancellation Policy with \$250 minimum once the trip is confirmed
- B. Leaders' Right to Change Itinerary
- C. Leaders' Expectations of Participants
- D. Trip Price
- E. Travel Documents
- F. Safety
- G. AMC Trip Rating System

9. COST

Price is \$4,400 per person shared occupancy for AMC members & \$4,500 for non-members. [Join AMC](#) for \$50 individual & \$75 family.



Mountain roads. [Kutter Knlich](#)

The price will be adjusted in accordance with the best final arrangements we can make & currency fluctuations. Any savings we achieve, as well as any cost increases, will be passed back to you. Our cost estimates are conservative. A refund is considerably more likely than a price increase.

A. Payment schedule:

- i. Deposit of \$1,000 is due with application
- ii. Second payment of \$1,400 due 1 November 2022
- iii. Balance of \$2,000 due 1 March 2023

B. The cost includes:

- i. All lodging in double occupancy rooms
- ii. All meals starting with dinner on Monday 2 October until breakfast on Thursday 12 October 2023
- iii. Assistance of two local walking & biking guides for duration of tour
- iv. Electric bicycles
- v. Private transfers by coach, including shared group arrival in Bastia & departure from Calvi
- vi. Support vehicle during cycling days

C. Participants are responsible for:

- i. International flights
- ii. Drinks with meals
- iii. Tips & personal expenses
- iv. Arrival & departure from alternate airports other than included in itinerary

10. REGISTRATION

We expect a group size of 14–19 participants, 2 leaders & local guides.

To enter France, you will need a valid US passport valid for three months beyond your planned date of departure from the Schengen area.

To apply, you must [review, complete, & submit the application form](#) which consist of:

A. Application

B. Acknowledgement & Assumption of Risk & Release form

C. Medical Questionnaire

This trip is likely to fill quickly. If you are interested, you should apply as soon as possible. When registration is complete, we will send all participants the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all those going on the trip. A waiting list will be established when the trip is full.

To apply, you must submit the [online](#) application at <https://forms.office.com/r/LytexZeSzd>

You will not be accepted & your check will not be deposited until the leaders have determined by telephone conversation with you that you & the trip are a good match. Deposit checks from wait-listed applicants will not be cashed until a spot is available, the applicant is accepted onto the trip, & they confirmed their continued interest.

11. LEADERS

A. Rami Haddad



Rami is an active AMC leader with Adventure Travel, Bicycle, & Ski committees. He travelled throughout the world on several trips for hiking, bicycle touring, & sightseeing. He has been on extended trekking, trail running, & bicycle tours through the [White Mountains](#), [100 Mile Wilderness](#), [Pacific Northwest](#), Japan, [southern Patagonia](#), [Switzerland](#), [Hong Kong](#), [South Africa](#), [France](#), [Italy](#), & [Germany](#). Follow his adventures on [blog](#), [Instagram](#), & [Strava](#).

B. Jay Sitkin



Jay, from Philadelphia, is a Delaware Valley hiking, biking, and backpacking leader, and AMC Adventure Travel Leader. He has traveled throughout North & South America, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, and Western & Eastern Europe. Jay has lived in Israel and has had an extended stay in New Zealand. He has hiked, cycled, or backpacked in Patagonia, Croatia, and the alps. Over the years he has organized trips as varied as hiking the Tour Du Mont Blanc, touring Alaska, and to Machu Picchu. He has participated in long distance cycling activities such as the Tour of Colorado, MOOSA, and has backpacked and hiked Yellowstone and the Tetons, and the “W” in Patagonia.

12. GEAR

Choosing the right equipment for an outdoor trip is crucial to your safety & comfort. Weather between mountain & coast is variable. Your equipment must keep you warm, dry, comfortable, and healthy in challenging conditions.

Below is a suggested listed for both hiking & biking activities, with many that can overlap to use to travel lightly.

- A. Passport. Tourist visa not required for US citizens. For other citizens, check with the French embassy. The passport must be valid for three months after date of departure.
- B. Walk Gear
 - i. Poles
 - ii. Broken-in waterproof hiking boots
 - iii. Two or three sets of hiking socks. Some participants choose to use liners as well.

- iv. Hat or bandanna for sun protection
- v. Whistle

C. Bicycle Gear

- i. Helmet
- ii. Water bottles
- iii. Bicycle shorts & top
- iv. Flat shoes or cleats with matching pedals
- v. Rear-view mirror
- vi. Zealios Betwixt chamois cream

D. Personal Gear

- i. Camera & battery charger
- ii. GPS, power charger, bicycle mount
- iii. Mobile phone & charger
- iv. Sunglasses
- v. Nuun hydration tablets
- vi. Day pack with Waterproof pack liner and/or pack cover
- vii. Bottles or hydration bladder (at least 3 liters total capacity)

Clothes

- i. Waterproof wind & rain gear (tops & bottoms)—thunderstorms & rain are likely at some point during the trip, but we do not let that stop us
- ii. Warm clothing—it can get cool: vest, jacket, sweater
- iii. Evening slippers, shoes, sandals, or flip flops
- iv. Non-cotton clothes (tops & bottoms)
- v. Long underwear top and bottom
- vi. Hat for warmth
- vii. Gloves or mittens

E. Accessories

- i. Toothbrush
- ii. Lip balm
- iii. Toothpaste
- iv. Razor
- v. Shaving cream
- vi. Contact lens solution & case
- vii. Glasses
- viii. Flashlight or head lamp
- ix. Deodorant
- x. Comb (or light hat for the evening)

- xi. Sunscreen
- xii. Lip protection balm
- xiii. Toilet paper and plastic bags for carrying out the used paper
- xiv. Ear plugs if sensitive to noise at night
- xv. Personal first aid kit (leaders will have a group first aid kit)