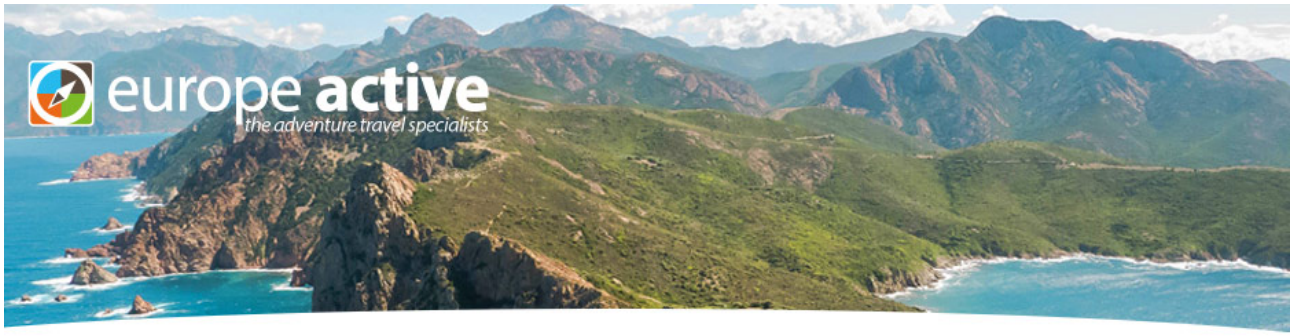

GR20 South: Guided

6 days / 5 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.

The south side of the GR20, being considered as easier, is still a great holiday for experienced hikers. Even though the relief is less abrupt than in the north, the landscapes remain magnificent and varied everyday. From the Forest of Vizzavona to the Needles of Bavella, here is a carefully prepared itinerary which will give you a superb trekking holiday.

This circuit will allow you to discover the most beautiful and the wildest areas of Corsica all with the aid of a guide.

Prepare your trip

YOUR PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Vizzavona - Capanelle

We welcome the group in the early morning in Ajaccio, and transfer to the Col de Vizzavona. We follow an old mule track to the Col de Palmente (1640 m). The eastern coastline looms at our feet, offering a vast panorama of the Diana and Urbinu ponds. Descent into the Marmano forest.

Overnight in a gîte in Capanelle.

Approx. 13.9km
Approx. 5h30 walking time
+883m; -430m
Access to tracking bag

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Day 2 - Capanelle - Col de Verde

Sublime day!!! We head for the Col de Verde via the ridges! As a prelude, we witness a superb sunrise over the eastern plain, then reach the Lac de Bastani, before climbing to the highest peak in southern Corsica, Monte Renosu. An aerial descent to the magnificent Pozzi plateau and the Col de Verde.

Overnight at Col de Verde

Approx. 12.8km
Approx. 5h30 walking time
+812m; -1 121m
Access to tracking bag



Day 3 - Col de Verde - Usciolu

We continue southwards. Ascent to the Prati refuge. An aerial route over the watershed between the Taravu valley and the eastern plain, we pass wind-torn granite boulders against a backdrop of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Overnight at the Usciolu refuge

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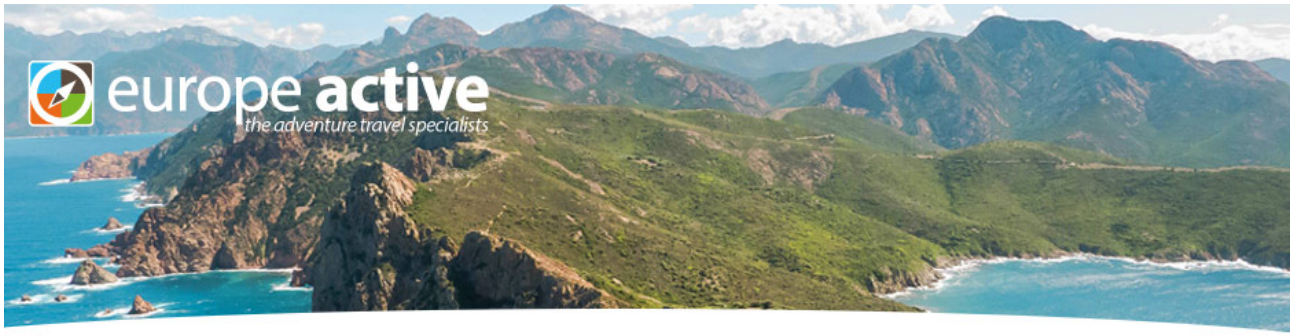

Approx. 16km
Approx. 7h30 walking time
+1,260m; -810m
No follower bag access

Day 4 - Usciolu - Croci

Still on a magnificent ridge route between heaven and earth, on the edge of the ridge we reach Bocca l'Aghone, where the GR becomes gentler until we reach the Croci sheepfolds.

Overnight in Croci.

About 13.5km
Approx. 5h walking time
+450m; -660m
Access to bag

Day 5 - Croci - Bavella

Morning ascent of Incudine 2134 m. Crossing the Asinau valley, we take the alpine variant to cross the famous Aiguilles de Bavella.

Overnight at the Bavella gîte.

Approx. 13.5km
Approx. 7h walking time
+991m; -1 319m
Access to tracking bag



Day 6 - Bavella - Conca - End of stay

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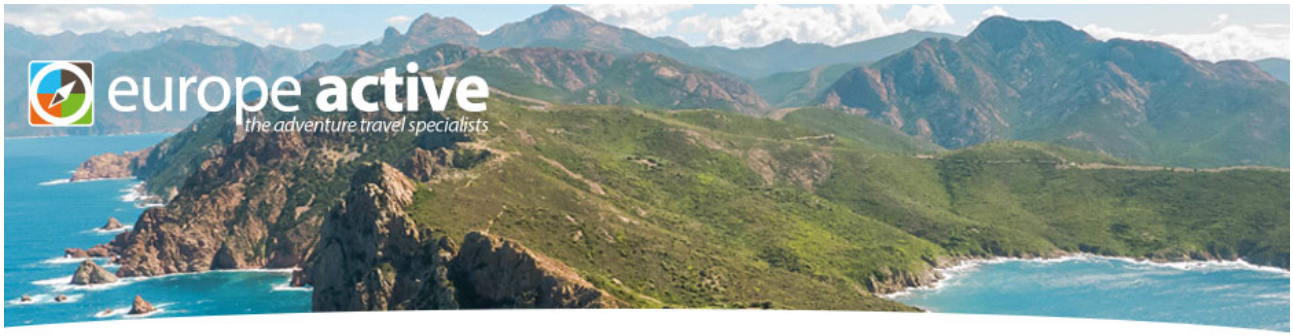

Descent through the maquis to the Gulf of Porto-Vecchio, with a final passage through granite chaos. Arrival at Conca, transfer to Porto-Vecchio and dispersal.

End of hike.

Approx. 17km
Approx. 7h walking time
+591m; -1 536m



Additional information

TARIFFS
Price from 890 euros per person.

OPTIONS
INCLUDED
Transfers from the reception point (Ajaccio) to the
departure point: Vizzavona
Transfer from Conca to Porto Vecchio
Full board
Programmed luggage assistance
Professional liability insurance
Accompaniment by a state-certified guide
Full guarantee of deposited funds

NOT INCLUDED
Transportation Corsica/Continent
Personal expenses

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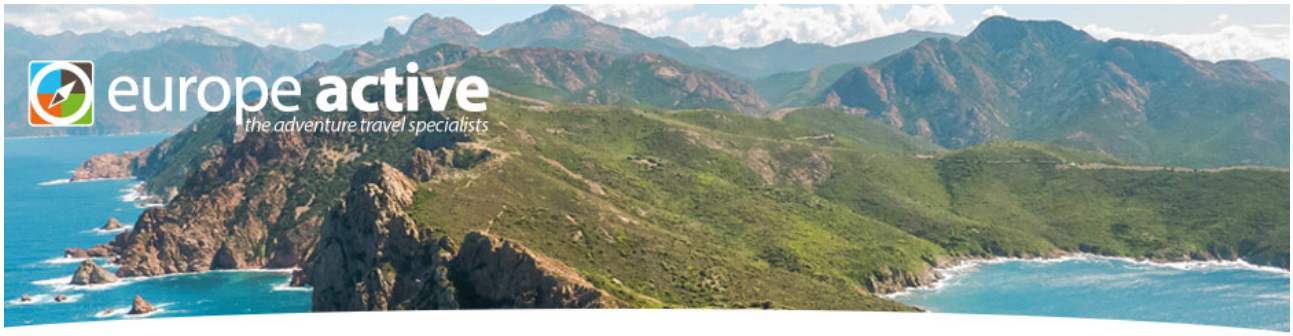

Individual insurance
Personal transfers during the hike due to problems of level or state of fitness

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY
Sportif, stages averaging between 6 and 9 hours' walking per day 600-1200 m per day. You'll need to be in good physical condition to get the most out of your stay.

LUGGAGE
The assistance team will transport your luggage to the accommodation accessible by road.
Food and any bivouac equipment is carried by our assistance team.

On each stage, the whole group helps carry the midday meal, so you'll need to keep some room in your rucksack.

Luggage assistance: Access to your tracking bag 4 times during your stay: Evenings 1, 2, 4 and 5. You will not have access to it on evening 3 at the Usciolu refuge. You should therefore plan your equipment accordingly (sleeping bag, change of clothes and mini toilet bag).

Carrying:

- Carry your personal belongings for 2 days (approx. 8 kg, sleeping bag, change of clothes and mini toilet bag) on days 3 and 4.
- Carry your "day" bag on days 1, 2, 5 and 6.

Luggage packing:

All your luggage must be packed in 2 bags:
- one piece of assistance luggage (called "follower luggage"), with padlock, maximum 10 kg per person, easily transportable (a sports bag, travel bag, or even a carry-on or small suitcase in good condition). This bag must be labelled with the luggage label, which will be sent to you when you register or given to you on the day of departure.
- a 50-liter backpack (45-50 liters mandatory, with hip belt and padded shoulder straps) for your day hikes, containing the minimum mandatory equipment called "fond de sac". Bring a waterproof protective cover.

Make sure you keep your equipment to a minimum (especially your assistance luggage).

ACCOMMODATION
In shared dormitories or igloo tents with mattresses available for bivouacs in the vicinity of accommodation. A Sleeping bag is necessary.

SIZE OF GROUP
Groups of 12 participants maximum.

DEPARTURE
Day 1 at 8 a.m. in Ajaccio, in front of the reception hall of the bus and ferry terminal opposite the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Corsica. Our assistance team will take care of your luggage, and you should arrive ready to hike.

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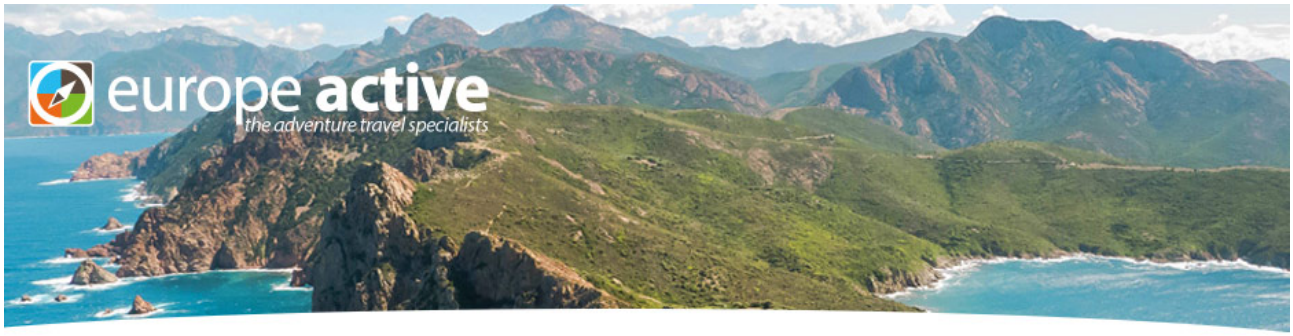

DISPERSION

Day 6: late afternoon in Porto Vecchio.

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.
• 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

We use local mountain guides with excellent knowledge of the route. However, their level of English cannot be guaranteed. Groups are opened to french and english speaking walkers (You will not be with english speaking persons only).

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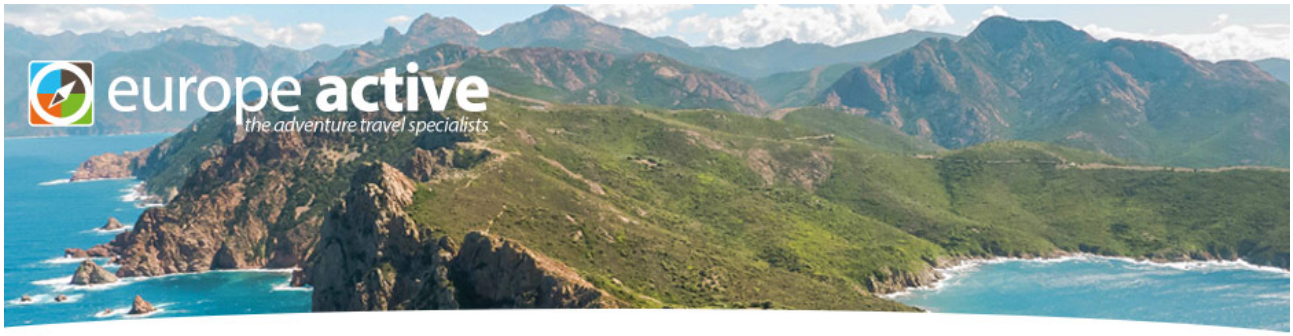

All our trips are led by qualified, state-certified mountain guides from Corsica, who know the island and its terrain very well.

Depending on weather conditions, technical difficulties and the participants' physical condition, the guide may modify the planned programme or itinerary. The guide is solely responsible for assessing the situation and making any necessary decisions, with the safety and physical well-being of the participants as the priority.

The guide is not under an obligation to complete the itinerary at all costs. They may decide to stop a participant if their technical ability, physical condition or level of fatigue does not allow them to continue safely. The stages must also be completed within a reasonable timeframe to ensure the smooth running and organisation of the trip. If a participant's level is insufficient or their progress is too slow, the guide may therefore decide to stop their participation, without compensation, in accordance with our General Terms and Conditions.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

All our trips are supervised by state-certified Corsican mountain guides who know Corsica inside out. Depending on weather conditions, technical difficulties or the physical condition of participants, the guide may modify the program and itineraries proposed.

He remains the sole judge of the situation and of the decisions he makes, which he adapts to the constraints and imperatives of safety.

Please note that under no circumstances does the guide have an obligation to achieve results, whatever the cost. It is the guide who judges and

decide whether or not to stop a participant, taking into account his or her technical level, physical condition and freshness. The only thing that counts is the physical integrity of the participants. He therefore has an obligation of safety, not of result.

What's more, the stages must be completed within a conventional timeframe, to ensure that the trip runs smoothly and is well organization of the trip. Should this not be the case, the guide will be obliged to stop the participant(s) for insufficient level, without any compensation on our part, in accordance with our General Terms and Conditions of Sale.

Technical information

Nature of the terrain: very varied, paths in forests and pastures, alternating with rocky and stony terrain, scree, slabs, often with a high step amplitude. Very mineral and chaotic terrain.

Numerous fairly steep climbs, with a few passages on ridges and off-trail. Snow-covered passes at the start of the season.

Walking times: These are given as a guide only. These are average times, taking into account only

the duration of the actual walk, without taking breaks into account. They are calculated on the basis of 300m of

per hour on the ascent and 450 m per hour on the descent; they take into account the quality of the terrain.

Level: sporty, stages averaging between 6 and 7 hours' walking per day, with an average daily ascent of 500 meters. An average level of fitness is required to fully enjoy your stay. Don't forget to keep fit at least once a week by walking (15 to 18 km), if possible on a route with a gradient (350 m/h), or by practising a sporting activity that develops endurance.

NB: If one of the participants has a problem on the circuit, he or she can, if possible, take advantage of the luggage assistance

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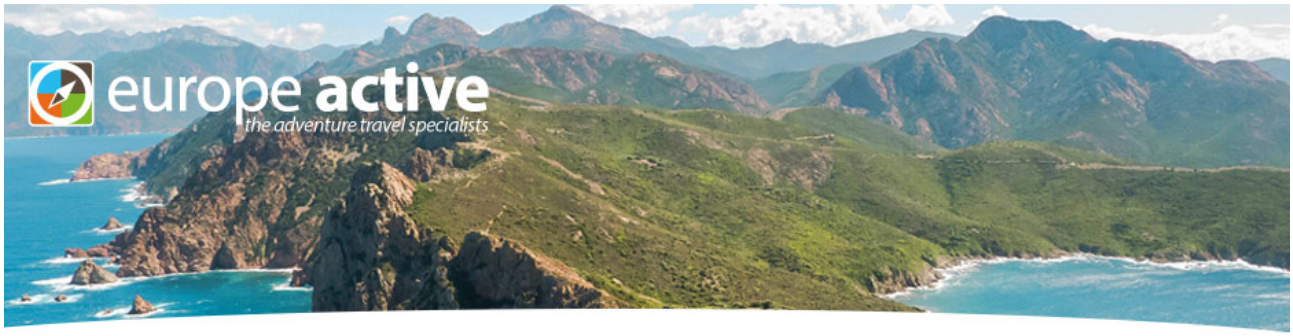

service to join the group at the next stage.
This option is not systematic and will entail an additional cost to be borne by the customer. Any transfer not provided for by the organization must be paid for directly by the customer.

Meals and accommodation:

Lunches: provided in the form of picnics by the accommodations that welcomed you the day before.
Dinners and breakfasts: breakfasts and evening meals served in the accommodation.

Showers: You'll be able to take a shower every evening (hot shower not guaranteed in the refuge on evening 3).

Water: drinking water is regularly available at springs along the trails; however, a flask of at least one and a half liters is desirable.

Accommodation: Please note that gîtes are only equipped with dormitories with shared sanitary facilities; comfort is basic but adequate. Single rooms are not available. Power outlets are available for overnight stays in gîtes.
Depending on availability, nights in refuge can be spent in a 2-person tent or a large Marabou near the sheepfolds.
Refuges are accommodations owned by the Parc Naturel Régional de Corse and run by independent managers. They are inaccessible by road and offer rustic comfort (cold showers, random sanitary facilities, no blankets). The dormitories are low-floor accommodation with thick mattresses. If the refuge is full, igloo tents with mattresses (floor mats) are available for bivouacs. You may have to pitch your own tent. For bivouacs near sheepfolds, basic comfort with either a shower or a river.

In all cases, you'll need a sleeping bag.

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