



Villages

Cities



Hikes

2023

# DAY TRIP GUIDE

*from Domaine de Riva Bella*

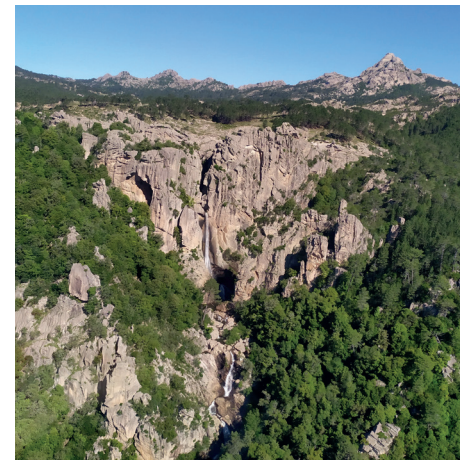


**INCLUDED** A Google Maps link to find all the addresses from your Smartphone !



Beaches

Activities



Natural Pools



The **Google Maps** link here



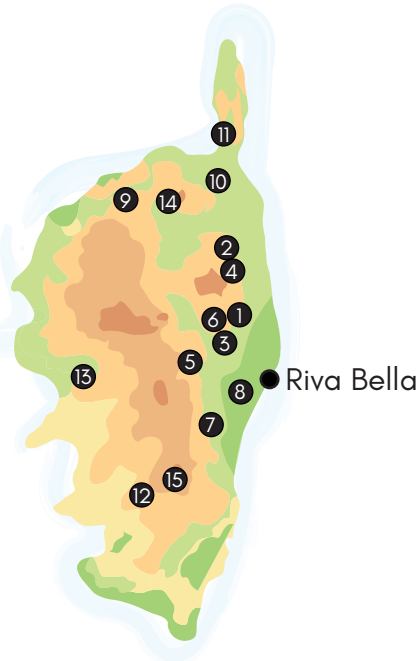
All the addresses mentioned in this guide

or by following this link : [shorturl.at/ekqV8](https://shorturl.at/ekqV8)



# VILLAGES | PAESI

The area around Riva Bella abounds in authentic villages of considerable charm. They have retained their original character and are true cradles of island culture. Come and enjoy the views and the tranquility of these unique hamlets. It may also be an opportunity to meet the inhabitants and discover the anecdotes of these places full of history. Here are my recommendations for the surrounding area:



## ① Cervione 25 km ♥♥♥

A small jewel perched on the mountainside, Cervione is a town steeped in history. Formerly the capital of Corsica, it is now famous for its hazelnut cultivation. In addition to visiting the historic centre, the museum and its narrow streets, Cervione is also the ideal place to taste culinary specialties produced from chestnut and hazelnut flour. In the town you will find a handful of good value restaurants. Be sure not to miss the Ucelluline waterfall and take advantage of its natural pools to refresh yourself. You will find the waterfall between Cervione and San Nicolao. Park just after the tunnel, some places are specified. Remember to bring sturdy shoes to climb up to the pool. From Cervione, you can also hike to the Madonna di a Scupiccia Chapel for a superb panorama over the coastal plain (10 km return tip).

## ② Penta Di Casinca 44 km ♥♥♥

It is difficult not to fall under the spell of this magnificent village Casinca village. Adorned with grey stones and slate roofs, set like a fort on its rocky promontory, Penta is host breathtaking panorama over the sea. In its narrow streets you will find historical photographs, craftsmen's workshops and local restaurants. For hiking enthusiasts, take the 'Loop around Penta di Casinca', which lasts 2 hours and 40 minutes (information on the Visorando app).

## ③ Tox, Campi, Pianello, Zalana, Tallone 23 km ♥♥

A succession of authentic villages in the heart of eastern Corsica. Ideal for a half-day getaway. Along this loop, discover cheese dairies and wineries. Encounter black pigs, sheep and goats. In addition to the villages, marvel at U Mulinu (bathing site, see p.6), the chapel of Tox and the Bravone waterfall. In Pianello, a hiking trail leads to the Punta de Caldane. From the top, with a good weather, you can admire Monte Cinto, the highest mountain of the island.

## ④ Porri 50 km ♥♥♥

With its engaging charm, the village of Porri is the smallest of the 7 Casinca villages. Clustered along a secluded ridge, one would hardly guess that this beautiful perché was a centre of resistance during WWII. Stroll through the narrow streets, discover the church and the washhouse or hike to the 'Grotte de la Résistance' which once housed an underground printing press (duration 2h return).

## ⑤ Piedicorte di Gaggio, Pietraserena 35 km ♥

These two villages in the Rogna region offer magnificent views of the surrounding mountain ranges and the eastern plain.

## ⑥ Linguizzetta, Canale di Verde, Chiatra, Petra di Verde 20 km ♥

Dive into the heart of authentic and relaxing Corsica less than half an hour from Riva Bella. The villages of Linguizzetta, Canale di Verde or Tallone offer exceptional panoramas over the entire eastern plain and the Alesani dam. Don't hesitate to stop at the local cheese and olive producers and wine growers along the way. A change of scenery guaranteed!

## ⑦ Prunelli Di Fiumorbu, San Gavino 41 km ♥♥

Overlooking the coastal plain, the village of Prunelli offers a breathtaking view of the Urbinu lagoon and Pinia beach. Continue towards San Gavino to hike to the Buja waterfall to enjoy an exceptional natural pool.

## ⑧ Fort d'Aléria 12 km ♥

Travel back in time to the ruins of the ancient Roman capital of Corsica or to the archaeological museum (in the fort). There is a magnificent view of the vineyards of the eastern plain in front of the church.

## Extend your exploration

### 9 The beautiful Balagne villages 126 km ♥♥♥

It is impossible not to succumb to the charm of the villages of the Balagne, each of which possesses its own unique appeal:

**Sant Antonino** voted one of the most beautiful villages in France, this hilltop hamlet with lemon specialties (jam, juice, liqueur) is discovered on foot.

**Pigna** A village of craftsmen and artists where numerous music and theatre festivals take place every year.

**Speloncato** Built on a rocky outcrop, this magnificent village features an orientation table in the heart of the hamlet that is well worth the short climb.

**Also worth your while:** Corbara, Montegrossu, Lumio.

### 10 Murato 69 km ♥♥

A small village known for its good inns and famous for its Pisan church with bicoloured Romanesque architecture! Make sure you look closely at the sculpted figures under the eaves!

### 11 Cap Corse Villages 50 km ♥♥♥

In these fishermen's hamlets you would think you were at the end of the world: Centuri, Erbalunga, Nonza, Macinaggio, Barcaggio... More information on p11.

### 12 Santa Lucia Di Tallano 99 km ♥♥♥

This village in the Alta Rocca possesses great character with its beautiful homogeneous architecture centred around the Pisan tower dating from the 16th century. With the nearby Caldane hot spring and olive oil specialties, you will inevitably be charmed.

### 13 Ota 144 km ♥♥♥

If you're planning a few days on the east coast, you'll enjoy Ota and its inns with generous cuisine. Natural swimming pools, breathtaking landscapes, traditional houses near the UNESCO reserve of Scandola. This place has something for everyone!

### 14 Lama 94 km ♥♥

Excluding bad puns about our favourite Riva Bella animals, the village of Lama is enchanting thanks to its old houses built into the rock, narrow streets and vaulted passages. Lama is also the starting point for an exceptional hike to Monte Astu.

### 15 Zonza 81 km ♥

A lively little mountain crossroads, the pretty village of Zonza is an ideal base for exploring the Alta Rocca. The village's narrow streets are home to restaurants, shops and the resistance museum.



## CITIES A CITÀ

### Calvi ♥♥

The citadel, the Notre Dame de la Serra chapel, the Revellata peninsula.

### Saint Florent ♥♥

The citadel, the Agriates desert, the beaches of Saleccia, Lotu and Ostriconi.

### Corte ♥♥♥

The citadel, the Corte museum, the Paoli square, the Tavignanu and Restonica river valleys.

### Bastia ♥♥

The citadel, the palace of the governors, Bastia old town, the old port, Saint Nicolas square, Biguglia lagoon, the town of Petrabugno, Bocca Pruna glacier. For a pleasant hike above Bastia, head to Punta di Guaitella.

### Ajaccio ♥

The Palais Fesch, the Sanguinaire islands, the Bonaparte house, the Capo di Fenò reserve.

### Riva Bella

### Porto Vecchio ♥

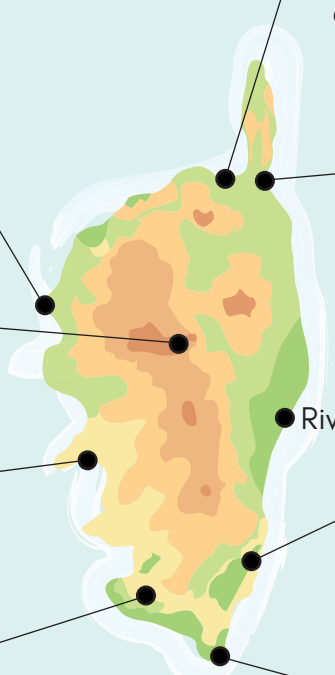
The town centre and its shops, the beaches of Palombaggia, Rondinara, Santa Giulia and Pinarello.

### Sartène ♥♥

The city centre and its alleys, the Roccapina lion (rock) and beach.

### Bonifacio ♥♥♥

The citadel, the cliffs, the view of Sardinia, the Lavezzi islands, the beaches of Petit Sperone, Grand Sperone, the stairs of the King of Aragon, the sea caves.







Crédits : Anthony Bressy

# NATURAL POOLS L'ONDE

Of course, we love the beach, its turquoise waters and the warmth of the water, but... it would be a real shame to visit Corsica without experiencing some of its natural swimming pools or rivers! Tucked away in the heart of the mountains, they offer hikers and visitors a breath of freshness. From small basins to huge natural pools, you will find a register of some of the places not to be missed in our vicinity.

## 1 The 3 natural pools of Chisa toward Chisa 52 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.921077, 9.273611 | Pool coordinates : 41.923067, 9.273015

A beautiful river spot nestled in a small valley leading to the village of Chisa. Enter 'Chisa' on your GPS and park in the small car park above the pools. After a steep 20 minute descent (shoes required) you reach three beautiful pools. Quite busy in summer, don't hesitate to move further along the river for some peace and quiet. Extend your trip by visiting Chisa village and its viewpoint overlooking the valley.

## 2 Fiumorbu pools toward Ghisoni 39 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.104659, 9.247354 | Pool coordinates : 42.104276, 9.247193

Great swimming can be had all along the Fiumorbu river as it runs through the Inzecca canyon. For easy access place, go to the Fiumorbu swimming pools.

## 3 Verghellu Canyon toward Venaco 59 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.196982, 9.122231 | Pool coordinates : 42.198806, 9.121104

The Verghellu canyon is a real haven of nature and tranquillity. Although an hour and a half from Riva Bella, the river of the Verghellu forest river should almost be kept a secret, so unspoilt is the place. To get there, look for the big bridge (Pont du Vecchio, built by Gustave Eiffel) between Vivario and Venaco and follow the D623, a small winding but not dangerous road. A car park awaits you 13 kms later. Go down the path near the bridge and walk up the river to find a magnificent waterfall.

## 4 Buja Waterfall San Gavino di Fiumorbu 44 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.986187, 9.259137 | Pool coordinates : 41.987015, 9.249403

With a height of 100m, the Buja waterfall, also called Bura or Bughja, is one of the highest in Corsica. You can bask on the surrounding rocks and at the foot of the waterfall is a basin where it is pleasant to cool off. To reach this lovely swimming spot, however, you will have to walk 30-45 minutes. The climb is quite steep (282 m) but you will be rewarded for your effort!

## 5 Pont de l'enfer (Bridge of Hell) toward Velone Orneto 33 km ♥♥

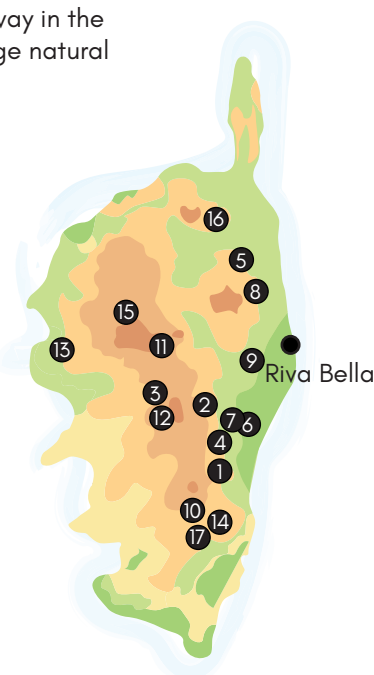
GPS car park coordinates : 42.388832, 9.474603 | Pool coordinates : 42.387439, 9.473174

There is nothing sinister about the Bridge of Hell! On the contrary, it is one of the most beautiful natural pools around Riva Bella. Located in the village of Velone Orneto, you will find a car park nearby, a restaurant on the river bank and a trailhead from which you can ride a donkey (donkey hire on site) and that takes you to the abandoned village of Fiuminale Soprano where the view is superb. Ideal for a day out with family or friends!

## 6 Le Trou du Diable (The Devil's Hole) towards Poggio di Nazza 37 km ♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.039005, 9.325419 | Pool coordinates : 42.037262, 9.321380

A pretty pool along a river that you can reach after a 10-minute walk through the maquis. After your swim, contemplate the panorama from the villages of Poggio di Nazza or Prunelli di Fiumorbu.





7 **Saltarucciu** between Lugo di Nazza and Poggio di Nazza 40 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.061742, 9.292350 | Pool coordinates : 42.061554, 9.291697

This little-known swimming spot is less impressive than some of the larger pools, but is wonderfully secluded for peace of mind. Descend the small path near the bridge (shoes necessary!). Then walk upstream for about ten minutes and you will find this small pool.

8 **U Celluline** between Cervione and San Nicolao 29 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.362082, 9.492145 | Pool coordinates : 42.362085, 9.491101

On the road between Cervione and San Nicolao, the Ucelluline waterfall allows you to enjoy an exceptional panorama over the entire Moriani valley. Bring good shoes because the climb is quite 'adventurous' although very short. Coming from Cervione, you will find some parking spaces just after the tunnel dug in the stone.

9 **U Mulinu** toward Tallone 17 km ♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.224863, 9.446592 | Pool coordinates : 42.225339, 9.447084

Follow the road towards Tallone and park at the car park of the old U Mulinu restaurant near the bridge. A nice little freshwater pool awaits you there. Ideal for a short trip by car or by bike.

10 **Purcaraccia & Pulischellu** between Solenzara and the Bavella pass 60 km ♥♥♥

Purcaraccia : GPS car park coordinates : 41.830857, 9.272117 | Pool coordinates : 41.834370, 9.265580

Pulischellu : GPS car park coordinates : 41.820155, 9.260903 | Pool coordinates : 41.834370, 9.265580

Two beautiful river swimming areas with large pools and multiple waterfalls. The best time to visit is before and after high season, as both rivers are very busy in summer. Access is sometimes restricted to avoid accidents due to the high number of visitors. Consult the Zonza tourist office for more information (+33 4 95 71 48 99).

11 **In the surroundings of Corte** Restonica & Tavignanu 60 km ♥♥

Restonica : GPS car park coordinates : 42.292499, 9.135937 | Pool coordinates : 42.290897, 9.135621

Tavignanu : GPS car park coordinates : 42.308046, 9.147537 | Pool coordinates : 42.307753, 9.139780

The Tavignanu bathing area can be reached from the centre of Corte. Park at the citadel car park and walk for about ten minutes upstream towards the Sega bridge for a lovely bathing site in the heart of the mountains.

The Restonica road (D623) is extremely busy in summer and runs alongside the river. That does not detract from the beauty of the many natural swimming pools. In summer, park in the first few kilometres as it is forbidden afterwards, as the road is too narrow.

12 **Manganello pools and waterfalls** by foot from Canaglia 66 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.224863, 9.446592 | Pool coordinates : 42.225339, 9.447084

A great swimming spot in the middle of nature, reachable after a 1h20 walk on the GR20. Park before arriving in the village because turning around is complicated. There is a car park near the river.

### Further afield...

Bathe in the **Fangu** if you are in the vicinity of Galéria (13), in the **Cavu** near Sainte Lucie de Porto Vecchio (14), in the **Radule** waterfall above Albertacce (15) or in the **Sorio waterfall** in Pieve (16).

There is a **naturist river** area in Corsica! Travel to U Furu (17) in Muratello, near Porto Vecchio. If you go there, specify that you come from Riva Bella. 5 euros for access.

## TO TAKE WITH YOU ON YOUR TRIP

- **Picnic:** there are very few restaurants on the riverside.
- **Trainers or river shoes:** sometimes you have to walk a bit to reach the nice river spots.
- **A waterproof bag,** water, a cap
- A small **first aid kit**
- **Games, books**
- And of course don't forget your **swimsuit** ahah!
- The **guide of the escapades** to plan your days!
- Be careful with the sun cream, it disturbs the ecosystem.
- A **small bag** to bring back your rubbish and leave the place intact for the next visitors.



# TO THE BEACH? U MARE

The Corsican coastline has long since won over sunbathers with its fine sandy beaches and turquoise waters. Thanks to the varied relief and the changing vegetation of the island, the beaches follow one another but are not alike. Here is a small summary of beaches that are worth a look. Crosswords, mask, snorkel, book, sunglasses and off you go!

## *For getting back to nature*

- ① **Riva Bella** under normal circumstances you shouldn't have too much difficulty finding it 0 km ♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.159425, 9.554333

Of course, we recommend Riva Bella beach. Not to boast, but you'll soon see that it has its advantages: very peaceful even in high season, extensive, clean, shallow and especially naturist from April to November! There is even a great snorkelling spot 100m out in front of the restaurant. A real treat!

## *The most wow! beaches (but the most crowded)*

- ② **Rondinara** between Porto Vecchio and Bonifacio 103 km ♥♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 41.468425, 9.266632

The colour of the water and the fineness of the sand at La Rondinara could transport you to the Caribbean. Rondinara beach, surrounded by purple rocks, is located south of Porto Vecchio. You will find a pay car park (5 euros in season) at the end of a narrow paved road. Shops nearby. The beach to the south is less frequented.

- ③ **Palombaggia** south of Porto Vecchio 94 km ♥♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 41.560217, 9.332122

This 1.5 kilometre long beach is probably the best known in Corsica. It is located 12 kms south of Porto-Vecchio. Its fine white sand gives the impression of being in the tropics. The pine trees that line the beach provide shade for bathers and motifs for million of postcards. Tip: go early to avoid the summer crowds.

- ④ **Santa Giulia** south of Porto Vecchio 90 km ♥♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 41.531432, 9.274253

Still to the south of Porto-Vecchio is the small Santa Giulia Beach. It has the particularity of being located in a gulf forming an almost perfect semi-circle, allowing swimmers to be sheltered from the wind. Its transparent and shallow water is particularly appreciated by seabed lovers, who can discover fish with mask and snorkel.

- ⑤ **Pinarello / Saint Cyprien** north of Porto Vecchio 90 km ♥  
GPS car park coordinates Pinarellu : 41.678310, 9.372412 Saint Cyprien : 41.632048, 9.345860  
Two pretty, fine sand beaches with shops and bars nearby.

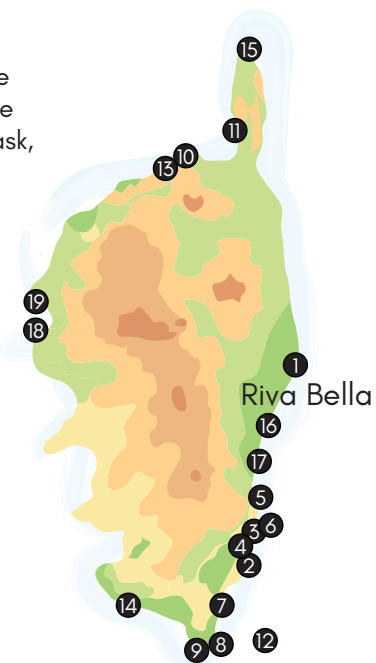
## *The beautiful wild beaches*

- ⑥ **Caratoggio** south of Porto Vecchio 94 km ♥♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 41.577076, 9.336878 GPS beach coordinates : 41.574821, 9.347290

A superb quite secluded beach of fine sand. Walk 15 minutes through the maquis to reach this unspoilt gem.

- ⑦ **Balistra** between Porto Vecchio and Bonifacio 103 km ♥♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 41.439383, 9.222399

Between the sea and a lagoon a strip of beach far from mass tourism that you reach after 3 km of a slightly rough narrow road (but doable!). The nature is beautiful and preserved.





8 **Petit Spérone** in the Gulf of Bonifacio 94 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.577076, 9.336878 GPS beach coordinates : 41.574821, 9.347290

A superb relatively secluded beach of fine sand, quite wild. Walk 15 minutes through the maquis to reach this wild unspoilt beach.

9 **Saint Antoine** toward Bonifacio 103 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.370037, 9.181678 (or on the road) GPS beach coordinates : 41.366754, 9.182149

A beach facing Sardinia with a magnificent view of the Bonifacio cliffs. A special treat close to this beach is a marine cave (Grotte de Saint Antoine).

10 **Saleccia et Lotu** in the Agriates desert 103 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.722760, 9.200015 GPS beach coordinates : 42.725387, 9.202114

Isolated beaches accessible only by boat or 4x4 that plunge you into the heart of the Agriates desert.

## *The original beaches*

11 **Nonza (grey sand)** Nonza, in the Cap Corse 89 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.799481, 9.341244 GPS beach coordinates : 42.797302, 9.342876

Nonza beach is the only grey beach in Corsica. The grey of the sand and pebbles that line this beach do come from the waste from the old Canari-Abro asbestos quarry (closed in 1965) but the health department has performed regular tests, determining that there is no risk. It is located 500 steps below the charming village of Nonza.

12 **Iles Lavezzi (facing Sardinia)** Boat trip from Bonifacio or Porto Vecchio ♥♥♥

Various companies organise the excursions or hire boats in Bonifacio and Porto Vecchio.

The Lavezzi are an archipelago of 23 islands, islets and granite reefs located 10 km south-east of Bonifacio. Fine sandy beaches and small creeks, the Lavezzi are extraordinary islands made of granite blocks, sometimes immense, set in an arid nature and with exceptional sea beds. Bring your parasol, there is no shade on the islands!

13 **Ostriconi** north of Ile Rousse 104 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.654258, 9.062255 GPS beach coordinates : 42.662295, 9.061023

One of Corsica's wildest beaches, Ostriconi beach feature a fascinating location between the ocean and the mountains that is easily accessible despite its remote location. The beach is rarely overcrowded and you will have no problem finding a place to lay your towel.

14 **Roccapina (Lion's Rock)** north of Sartène 126 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.370037, 9.181678 GPS beach coordinates : 41.366754, 9.182149

The wild turquoise Roccapina beach and its lion are small wonders of nature. The beach is an excellent starting point for a walk through the Capo di Roccapina and to discover the famous (granite) Lion of Roccapina that guards over the area.

15 **Cala Genovese (Genoese tower in the sea)** in Macinaggio 106 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.974250, 9.453871 GPS beach coordinates : 42.991460, 9.448021

Leave from the pretty beach of Tamarone. Before reaching the end of the beach, another path goes off to the left towards the chapel of Santa Maria. Your destination is the Santa Maria bay and its photogenic tower. A surprising place with a feeling of being at the end of the world.

## *Beautiful beaches nearby*

16 **Pinia** Ghisonaccia 31 km ♥♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.011472, 9.462493 GPS beach coordinates : 42.011025, 9.464346

Hidden behind a pine forest, Pinia beach offers a wide stretch of white sand with the Alta Rocca mountains in the background.

17 **Fautéa** in Zonza 60 km ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 41.714720, 9.401756 (on the roadside) GPS beach coordinates : 41.713139, 9.403507

Nice little beach 10 minutes' walk from the road. A path also leads to the nearby Genoese tower.

Don't forget your flippers, mask and snorkel to contemplate the numerous fish at the edge of the rocks.

## The Scandola reserve and the Calanques de Piana

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, **Scandola**, a nature reserve officially created in 1975, is an exceptional habitat featuring unique biodiversity and a captivating landscape. A real geological marvel, the red granite outcrops rising from the sea is a must-see during your holidays in Corsica. The **calanques of Piana** are geological formations with almost mystical animal, architectural or human forms overhang the sea. Two beaches in the area should not be missed: The superb cove of Ficaghjola (18) (don't forget your mask and snorkel) and the very pretty E Gratelle beach (19), a very little known beach offering magnificent sunsets from the nearby creeks.

# WANT TO HIKE? CHJASSI DI GIRANDULATE

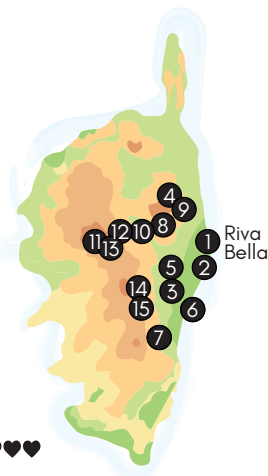
Credits : Mathilde Cureau

The list of hiking possibilities in Corsica is so long and varied that it could be the subject of a complete guidebook. From short walks to long hikes in the high mountains, there is something for all tastes and all levels. Before going on a hike, I recommend **two free apps**:

- 1) Download the **Maps.Me** application and the map of Corsica. You will be able to geolocate yourself (even without a network connection!) and find the path if you get lost.
- 2) Download the **Visorando** application. Find in Corsica more than 200 commented and documented hikes with an access to the IGN map and a description of the itinerary. You can also find many itineraries on [corse-randos.com](http://corse-randos.com).

## Departures of the hike within an hour of Riva Bella

- 1 Lagoon Walk** Riva Bella **0 km** Distance 4 km | 1h30 | Easy Maquis Lake ♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.154037, 9.554297 | Detailed map at reception  
A walk in the middle of a nature reserve to discover the plants of the maquis, the Diane lagoon where mussels and oysters are bred. An immersion in the heart of the Corsican maquis.
- 2 Mare e Stagnu** Aleria **16 km** Distance 4-10 km | Between 1h00 and 2h30 | Easy Maquis Lake Tower ♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.141921, 9.555794  
A nice walk through the maquis with views over the Etang de Diane. Several paths of different distances according to your desires. Possibility to park at the Diane tower.
- 3 Buja waterfall** San Gavino di Fiumorbu **46 km** Distance 4 km | 2h00 | Moderate Waterfall Mountain ♥♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.141921, 9.555794  
Unknown and yet so beautiful, the Buja waterfall has to be earned after a short hike (steep ascent!).
- 4 Abandoned village of Fiuminale** Pont de l'Enfer **34 km** Distance 5 km | 2h00 | Moderate River Village Pool ♥♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.388709, 9.474484  
Combine a swim in the Pont de l'Enfer river with a family hike to the abandoned of Fiuminale Soprano. A trip back in time.
- 5 Casevecchie trail** Casevecchie **33 km** Distance 12 km | 5h30 | Moderate Village Viewpoint ♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.143539, 9.356967  
This hike will quickly lead you to a ridge line to reach the highest point, Punta Capizzali 728m, the crossroads of three municipalities, Antisanti, Casevecchie and Vezzani (360° view, sea and mountain).
- 6 Urbinu lagoon** Toward Ghisonaccia **22 km** Distance 2 km | 1h00 | Easy Pond Fauna ♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.053855, 9.467875  
A short walk on a wooden footway along the Urbinu lagoon. Perfect for families with small children!
- 7 Monte Santu** Sari Solenzara **50 km** Distance 4 km | 1h30 | Easy Mountain Village Viewpoint ♥♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 41.833839, 9.375228  
Rocky peak with a beautiful panoramic view of the Alta Rocca, the Tyrrhenian Sea and the monastery of the Assunta Gloriosa.
- 8 Punta Caldane** Pianello **38 km** Distance 13 km | 7h00 | Difficult Shepherd's Hut Viewpoint Summit Mountain ♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.291948, 9.361349  
A hike from the pretty village of Pianello to a peak between the Castagniccia and Bozzio. At the top, the panorama stretches as far as the eye can see over all the great massifs of central Corsica, from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. On the way, you will come across a river, a water source and sheepfolds (only in summer)
- 9 Botanical trail** San Giovanni di Moriani **34 km** Distance 4.5 km | 2h30 | Moderate Village Producers Fauna ♥♥  
GPS car park coordinates : 42.377363, 9.476671  
On this botanical trail you will discover the typical flora and fauna of the Costa Verde with numerous explanatory panels. Visit a cheese factory, a Romanesque chapel and enjoy the view.





10 **Heritage Trail** Erbajolo 45 km Distance 5.5 km | 2h30 | Moderate Village Chapel Viewpoint ♥♥

GPS car park coordinates : 42.265168, 9.282792

This trail will take you through time in search of what life might have been like a few decades ago in this wonderful part of Corsica.

*In the vicinity of Corte*

11 **Melo/Capitello Lakes** Grotelle Shepherd's Hut 71 km Distance 4.5 km | 2h20 | Moderate + Mountain Lakes Viewpoint ♥♥♥

Starting at the end of the Restonica Gorge road, this one and a half hour hike (allow an additional 45 minutes of climbing to the Capitello lake - difficult) immerses you in a high mountain setting. Bring a windbreaker as it is cool around the lakes. Parking fee in summer (6-7 euros in cash).

12 **Corte Arch** Citadel car park 58 km Distance 9 km | 5h45 | Difficult Mountain Viewpoint ♥♥

A hike with an stunning ascent offering superb views over Corte and the Tavignanu valley and leading to an amazing granite sculpture at an altitude of about 1500m.

Also consider: (13) The Cappellaccia and Alzo sheepfolds from the Pont de Frassetta ♥♥ (Route de la Restonica, 6h35, 10km, difficult), less frequented than the other two paths and just as impressive!

*Around Ghisoni*

14 **Bastani Lake - Monte Renosu** Ghisoni Ski Resort 66 km Distance 10 km | 4h00 | Difficult Lake Summit ♥♥♥♥

If you only had one hike to choose from, this would be it (good physical condition required). The hike to Monte Renosu provides a view of Sardinia, the east and west coast and the highest peaks of the island. If you don't want to go all the way to the top, you can stop at the lake. The view even to here is already breathtaking. This hike should only be attempted in good stable weather. This hike can also be achieved in winter with snowshoes. Check the weather report.

15 **Pozzi Shepherd's Huts** Col de Verde 45 km Distance 14 km | 5h40 | Difficult Mountain Pozzi Viewpoint ♥♥♥

Discover the uniquely enchanting environment of the PIZZINES (from the Corsican i Pozzi which means "wells"), these acidic peat moss meadows grasslands crossed by meandering brooks. Good physical condition is necessary for this superb hike. On arrival, a sheepfold is open in summer (the cheese is strong!).

*Further afield*

Here is a sample of other hikes to do in Corsica to take in the sights!

19 **Cima di Gratera** Serra di Pigno ♥♥♥

Dist: 9 km | 3h45 | Moderate  
Exceptional panorama over the Cap and Bastia

21 **Monte Cinto** Asco ♥♥♥

Dist: 12 km | 8h00 | Very difficult  
Complex climb to the top of Corsica

22 **Radule waterfall** Vergio Pass ♥♥♥

Dist: 4 km | 2h00 | Moderate  
A beautiful river spot along the GR20.

23 **Nino lake** Vergio Pass ♥♥

Dist: 10 km | 5h00 | Difficult  
Exceptional hike to the pizzlies

24 **Manganello river** Canaglia ♥♥

Dist: 10 km | 4h00 | Moderate +  
Waterfall, river, sheepfold and natural pools

25 **Capu d'Ortu** Piana soccer field ♥♥♥♥

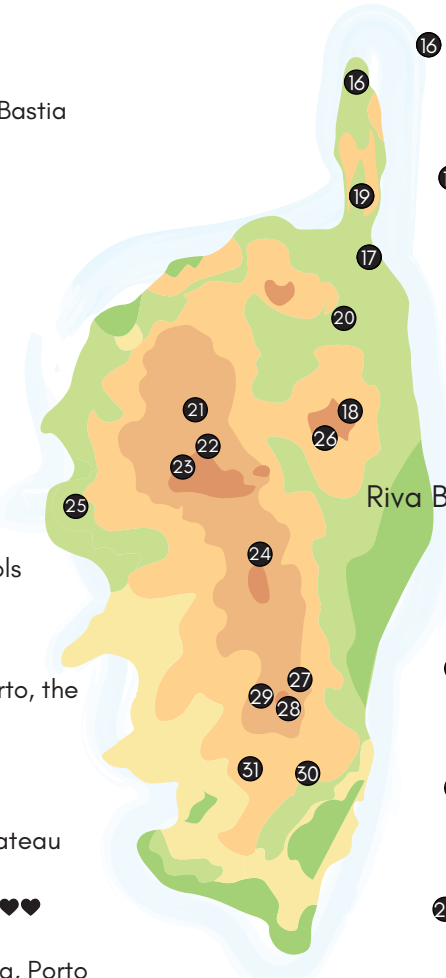
Dist: 12 km | 6h00 | Difficult  
One of the most breathtaking views of Porto, the calanques and the Scandola reserve

31 **Coscione plateau** Aullène ♥♥♥

Dist: 4 km | 1h15 | Easy  
Various entry points for this enchanting plateau

30 **Punta di A Vacca Morta** Cartalavonu ♥♥♥

Dist: 5,5 km | 2h30 | Moderate  
Exceptional panorama over the Alta Rocca, Porto Vecchio and the Ospedale dam.



16 **Sénéque tower** from Luri ♥♥♥

Dist: 9 km | 4h00 | Moderate  
Exceptional panorama of Cap Corse

17 **Chapel Sant'Andria** Biguglia ♥♥

Dist: 4 km | 2h00 | Easy  
Great loop with Land Art

20 **Monte Castellare** Campile ♥♥♥

Dist: 6 km | 3h00 | Easy  
Pretty village and exceptional view of the summits

18 **Cave of the resistance** Porri ♥♥

Dist: 4 km | 2h00 | Moderate  
Hiking in an area steeped in history

26 **Mont San Petrone** Bocca U Pratu ♥♥

Dist: 13 km | 6h00 | Difficult  
Discover the summit of the Castagniccia

27 **River walk** in the Fiumicelli ♥♥♥

Information on paradis.info | Duration 2h00  
An easy and unique river trek !

28 **Piscia Di Ghjaddu** D368 ♥♥

Dist: 5 km | 1h30 | Easy  
Spectacularly beautiful 60m waterfall

29 **Le trou de la bombe** Col de Bavella ♥♥♥

Dist: 6 km | 2h00 | Easy  
Easy scenic hike in the Alta Rocca

# ITINERARY IDEAS

## IDEA DI PASSIGHJATA

Crédits : Ecotourisme en Corse Orientale

The diversity of the island's landscapes, the variety of activities and the cultural richness make Corsica the ideal place to spend a holiday while respecting everyone's expectations and interests. Below you will find a non-exhaustive list of itineraries that can be done on a daily basis. Of course, these itineraries are suggestions, and you are free to choose from the ideas on the previous and following pages to compose your day. Be aware of the weather and equip yourself appropriately.

### Half day or short day

#### 1 **Cervione - Cascade U Celluline Village & river waterfall**

Discover the charming village of Cervione (p.2) and swim in the Ucelluline waterfall (p.5). For a larger and more accessible swimming spot, choose the Pont de l'Enfer (p.4) a few kilometres away.

#### 2 **Cascade Buja - Pietrapola Hot Spring Hike & hot spring**

Drive past San Gavinu di Fiumorbu for a 1h30 walk to the Buja waterfall (p.8) - Pass through Pietrapola for a soak in the outdoor hot tub (a former wash house) - Then head for Prunelli, for the village and the panorama.

#### 3 **Chisa river swimming, village and viewpoint**

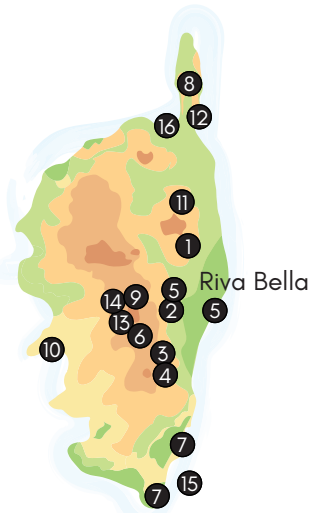
Doable in half a day but more enjoyable over a full day. Go to the village of Chisa. Then take the path to the viewpoint - On the way back, stop at the natural pools (p.4).

#### 4 **Monte Santu - Trou du diable Hiking, monastery and swimming**

Here is a programme for a short day trip to admire the Corsican mountains and rivers. Meet at the village of Sari above Solenzara - Walk of about 1h30 AR to Monte Santu (p.8) - Possibility to visit the Assunta Gloriosa monastery and the shop (pottery, jams, sculptures) - On the way back, make a diversion to the Trou du diable (p.4).

#### 5 **Fiumorbu pool, beach and pine forest in Pinia River and beach**

A pleasant contrasting itinerary for a short day between pretty river bathing areas and a fine sandy beach close to a pine forest. Head for the Fiumorbu pools (p.4) then continue to Pinia beach (p.7) to walk through the pine forest and enjoy the superb beach.



### Full day

#### 6 **L'Ospedale - Piscia di Gallu Waterfall - Bavella - swimming in Purcaraccia River Hike, River & Waterfall**

Start your day early heading towards Porto Vecchio and then inland to Ospedale village - Photo and coffee break at Ospedale - Continue to the Piscia di Gallu waterfall - 1h30 hike AR - Continue to Zona and then stop at the Bavella pass for a 1h30 hike AR to the Trou de la Bombe - End your day on the Purcarracia river. Big day but outstanding landscapes await you. Possibility to do either the waterfall or the Trou de la Bombe as a short day alternative!

#### 7 **Bonifacio - Rondinara beach Cliff, historic city and sandy beach**

Start early towards Bonifacio to avoid the traffic on the road. When you arrive, head straight to Capu Pertusato lighthouse for a splendid view of the town, the cliffs, Sardinia and the islands. Return to the centre of Bonifacio and park - Stroll around the citadel heading up from the port - Experience the Escalier du Roy d'Aragon - Return via the Rondinara beach (busy) or Balistra (wild) with your snorkel and mask and return to Riva Bella.



8 **Cap Corse** [Stunning scenery at the end of the world](#)

Early start of the day heading towards Nonza - Visit of the village of Nonza and the grey sandy beach - Centuri, visit of the port and lunch (seafood specialities) - Marvel at the view at the Moulin Mattei - Visit the wild cows on the beach of Barcaggio - Walk to the Santa Maria tower and swim at the Tamarone beach of Macinaggio - Pietracorbara. Possibility to climb the Torre di Castellare - Visit the typical port of Erbalunga.

9 **Verghellu - Corte** [Incredible landscapes of the Cortenais](#)

Looking for breathtaking scenery? This itinerary is for you! Start heading towards Verghellu (p.4) - swimming in the river - then head for Corte to visit the citadel, take a step up by hiking to Corte arch (p.9) then enjoy the lively atmosphere of the former capital.

10 **By train : Corte - Ajaccio - Corte** [A day in the footsteps of Napoleon](#)

A long day which allows you to discover the interior of the island thanks to the Corsican railway! Head for Corte station - a train leaves in the morning for Ajaccio (2 hour journey - timetable at reception). During the journey, enjoy the splendid view of the valleys and mountains - Arrival in Ajaccio, visit the old centre (Napoleon museum, rue Fesch) and possibility of an excursion to the Sanguinaire (blood) Islands - Return by train to Corte at the end of the afternoon - Evening in the citadel.

11 **Escapade in the Castagniccia** [A day in Chestnut country](#)

Departure to Chiatra - Petra di Verde, a pretty village overlooking the Alesani dam, photo stop - Swimming at the Struccia waterfall (40min return) - Visit of the village of Piedicroce - Orezza spring - La Porta - Meeting point then on the D506 at Pruno (GPS coordinates 42.427983 9.433713 exactly), possibility of parking on the side of the road in order to take advantage of a dip in an intimate canyon

12 **Around Bastia** [Hike, city and village](#)

Departure towards Biguglia - Parking at the Lavoir of the village in Biguglia - Unique hike to the Sant'Andria chapel, on the path you will come across many works of natural art and Land Art - The chapel offers a sumptuous view of the Bastia region. The chapel offers a sumptuous view of the Bastia region, the Cape mountains and the Italian islands of Elba and Montecristo - Behind the 'nave', a path leads back to the starting point - Visit of the ancient village of Biguglia - Continue to Bastia, visit of the bastion, the old port and the downtown streets. Dinner in town.

13 **Canaglia - Méli waterfall - Manganello river** [Hike, waterfall and natural Pool in high mountains](#)

Head to the small village of Canaglia - Hike to the Méli waterfall, the Tolla sheepfolds to the Manganello river (p.5) - Take a swim and return by the same path - A sheepfold serves meals and drinks in summer.

14 **Restonica valley - Corte** [Hike, river and city](#)

Caution: busy day, leave early. Head to Corte - In Corte, take the road of the Restonica gorges - After 13 kms of this winding road (not recommended for campervans) you will find the car park at the Grotelles sheepfold (6 euros in cash) - Hike to Melo lake (see p.9) - Return to Corte. On the way, possibility to swim in the Restonica river (p.5) - Visit of the citadel, the museum of Corsica and the downtown alleys.

15 **Pinarello - Boat excursion to the Lavezzi islands and Bonifacio Cliffs** [Corsica from the sea](#)

Riva Bella - Pinarello (in season) or Porto Vecchio - Embarkation for the Lavezzi islands (reservation required), many service providers offer the trip - Observation of the cliffs of Bonifaccio from the boat - Free time on the islands - Return to the port in the evening. Remember to bring a parasol, as there is no shade on the islands.

16 **Saint Florent - Saleccia and Lotu beaches** [Escapade in the Agriates desert](#)

Attention: busy day, leave early. Direction Saint Florent - Boarding for the beaches of Saleccia and Lotu (think of reserving in advance) - Sunbathing and swimming on these two magnificent beaches (plan picnic, only 2 restaurants after 20 min walk) - return to Saint Florent, visit of the citadel - Back to Aléria, possibly taking a dip in the Bevinco river at the Torreno Genoese bridge near Murato.

### Corsica with children!

Corsica is also an ideal destination for families: water sports, acrobatic courses, donkey rides, boat trips, animal parks, horse riding etc. There is no shortage of activities!

Don't forget the kid's club at Riva Bella, which is open in the morning and afternoon, as well as the llama and donkey park to entertain your little ones.

### Summer festivals

The island of beauty hosts many festivals in summer: Nights of the Guitar (mid-July - August in Patrimonio), Porto Latino (August - in Saint Florent), Festivoce (July - in Pigna), Theatre Festival (mid-August - in Linguizzetta), The Cellos of Moita (July - in Moita), The Nights of the Piano (mid-August - in Erbalunga), Film Festival (Beginning of August - in Lama)



Crédits : Ecotourisme en Corse Orientale

## THE PRODUCERS | PRODUTTORI

Corsica is full of authentic products and culinary know-how that has been passed down from generation to generation and whose recipes are often carefully preserved. Take part in the local economy and bypass the middlemen by visiting the producers on their farms. Around Riva Bella you will find **vineyards**, whisky, gin, vodka and liqueur **distilleries**, **breweries**, an **olive oil mill**, a **mustard studio**, **beekeepers**, **producers of essential oils**, **farmers**, **cheese** and milk by-product cooperatives, farms specialising in **chestnut and hazelnut products**, traditional bakeries, etc. You can find all the producers on the websites: [www.gustidicorsica.com](http://www.gustidicorsica.com) or [www.ecotourisme-corseorientale.corsica.com](http://www.ecotourisme-corseorientale.corsica.com). As for crafts, take your choice: knives, pottery, wooden toys, paintings or glassblowers.

## TIME TO EAT! A TAVULA

**Charcuterie** The Corsican pork industry is the heritage of an ancient pastoral tradition, of traditional expertise and of very specific products: figatellu, lonzu, coppa, prisuttu or sausage, etc. As for meat, try veal with olives and lamb.

**Brocciu and cheese specialities** Brocciu is an integral part of Corsican gastronomic culture. It is a cheese made from raw goat's and/or sheep's milk. It has had an Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) since 1998. It can be found in many traditional sweet or savoury recipes: fiadone, cannelloni, migliacci, fritters... Made to make your taste buds water! Also try Corsican cheeses, which harmonise perfectly with fig jam or green tomatoes!

**Specialities made with chestnut flour** The chestnut tree has an integral place in Corsican history, even giving its name to the 'castagniccia' region. Under Genoese influence during the Middle Ages, Corsican landowners had to plant at least 4 chestnut trees to pay their taxes during the famine. Today, chestnuts can be found in many dishes (pulenda, migliacci), in sweet specialities (canistrellis, sweet chestnut cake) and even in the typical Corsican beer (Pietra).

**Myrtle** During your stay, you will probably be offered a 'little myrtle'. Myrtle is the liqueur and myrtle is maquis shrub of the maquis that produces small purple berries from September onwards, which are used to season typical dishes.

**Corsican wines** With its 9 appellations d'origine contrôlée, Corsica offers a wide variety of wines with unique flavours. Try the very good sparkling muscat, a speciality of eastern Corsica. Cheers!

We couldn't end this list without a small mention of Corsican olives (to be enjoyed plain, in olive oil or tapenade) as well as Corsica's cherished clementines, highly prized on the continent.

**Just down the road!** Try the famous oysters and mussels from the Etang de Diane! A treat for seafood lovers.

## CULTURE & MUSEUMS | CULTURA E MUSEI

To learn more about Corsica, we recommend the **Aléria archaeological museum**, the **museum of Corsica** in Corte or the **ethnographic museum in Cervione**. You can also discover **botanical gardens** which will teach you more about the endemic vegetation of the island. Music lovers? We highly recommend a concert of Corsican songs, often organised in churches in high season. A treat for the ears!

## SPORTS & ACTIVITIES | SPORTI & ATTIVITA

Corsica is the ideal place to discover or rediscover many water sports: **diving or snorkelling**, **paddling**, **canoeing**, **boating with or without a licence**, **canyoning**.

For those who love thrills, discover **paragliding**, **climbing**, **via ferrata**, **paramotoring**, etc. Find all the information at the reception.



This guide was written and produced by Valentin, receptionist at Riva Bella and passionate about Corsican nature. Did you like this guide? Do you know of other good addresses? Do you have a change to make? Meet me at the reception or write to me at [valentin.durantpro@gmail.com](mailto:valentin.durantpro@gmail.com).  
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