

Live Life Cycling

CORSCIA JUNE 7-16th 2025

Our place to place tour around the north of this Mediterranean gem takes in the very best of the many delights that this special island has to offer. Beginning and ending in the bustling historic city of Bastia on the eastern coast of the island, our tour is a fascinating combination of quiet coastal roads, rustic hillside villages and deserted coves. Cycling in Corsica you'll also experience some of the most spectacular mountain riding you could ever wish for.

Day 1

Arrival: Bastia Non Riding Day D

Today we get our first glimpse of 'The Beautiful Isle' of Corsica as we arrive in the historic city of Bastia. Corsica is comprised of 2 departments, 'Corse du Sud' in the south and 'Haute Corse' in the north. Bastia is the modern day capital of the northern region; a relatively small city with a bustling port and beautifully picturesque harbour. Upon arrival at our hotel we will assemble the bikes and while there is no official guided riding scheduled for today, depending on arrival times, there may be an opportunity for a quick spin. Alternatively you may wish to explore the city on foot.

Day 2

Bastia Loop 125KM / 2400M Approx. B L

After breakfast we saddle up and head out for our first day of Corsican riding. Leaving the hustle and bustle of the city we head out on a stunningly beautiful coastal road. The main part of the day will be spent riding around the 'Cap Corse', the island's largest and most prominent peninsular.



Day 3

Bastia to Calvi 131km / 2300m Approx. B L

We leave the coast behind us for a while this morning as we climb out of Bastia and on the Saint Florent and continue southwards into a region unlike anywhere else on the island; Le Désert des Agriates. The region is named after the Corsican word *agriates* which means 'cultivated plot' or 'garden'. Staring out across the parched orange landscape it is difficult to imagine that the inhabitants of Cap Corse would once brave the rugged coastline by boat in order to climb the hills to tend their crops amongst the wild maquis and rocky outcrops. We drop down rapidly out of Les Agriates, cross the national road and then continue on very minor mountain roads which lead us through numerous tiny artisan villages. After lunch we continue along the Route des Artisans, high in the hills above the town of Ile Rouse (Red Island). Finally we arrive in the glitzy resort town of Calvi



Day 4

Calvi Loop 74km / 1100m Approx. B L

Our loop ride today consists of small rural road and undulating roads. Taking the time to take in all that northern Corsica has to offer. After the only real climb of the day we drop down to Lac de Codole before making our way onto the coast road. With the Mediterranean on our right we will pass through a number of small coastal towns on our way back to Calvi.

Day 5

Calvi to Porto 83km / 1700 Approx. B L

Leaving Calvi we'll begin an unforgettable ride along a route which is widely recognised amongst cyclists as one of the most beautiful coastal routes in Europe. The first stage undulates along a rugged coastline of tiny beaches and turquoise coves. The surface might not be the smoothest we'll encounter this week but the views do more than compensate and will take your mind off the odd lump or two! The road improves as the morning progresses and by the time we reach our coffee stop we'll be cruising along. A beautiful 11km climb (Col de Palmarella) follows, taking us to a stunning viewpoint 400m above the coastline.

Dropping down from the summit, we'll have lunch before pushing on through numerous coastal villages. Again the views are breathtaking as we approach the tiny, eucalyptus flanked town of Porto where we stay for the next 2 nights.



Day 6

Porto Loop Ride 106km / 2400m Approx. B L

Today's ride will be one to remember, climbing out of the bay to the village of Piana. The road rises through the World Heritage 'Callanche de Piana' – fantastic natural granite sculptures which must be seen to be believed.

After the awe of the "Red Rock" the next part of our day after we turn away from the coast is climbing up the small roads. This climb will get the legs and lungs going but don't worry, "What goes up must come down" and an incredible descent through the dramatic Spelunca Gorge follows as we return to Porto.



Day 7

Porto to Corte 84km / 1999m Approx. B L

This is the big day!! The challenge, as we tackle the Col de Vergio, Corsica's highest paved road, starts almost as soon as we leave Porto. At 1,471m it may not be the highest mountain summit in the world but we must remember that we will be riding from sea level. Thankfully the vast majority of the climb is gentle so we can enjoy the awesome views of the Spelunca Gorge and savour the experience as we go.

A coffee stop in Evisa, two thirds of the way up, is possible (probable!) and will allow us to re-group before tackling the final and more challenging stage through the often-misty pine forest. A descent through the pines takes us to lunch after which we will continue downwards through the Scale de Santa Regina. If nothing else will make you want to return to Corsica, the descent through this magnificent gorge which runs alongside the Golo River, Corsica's longest, will do so! As exciting as it is beautiful it's the most fun you can have with your pants on! One final re-grouping at the bottom of the gorge before the last 11km (approximately 6 uphill and 5 downhill) sees us arriving in Corte, Corsica's fantastically rustic ancient capital city.



Day 8

Corte Loop 98 or 48km / 2500m or 900m Approx. B L

Today can either be a rest day where you can explore the ancient capital city. Or come on either one of our planned rides for the day

Leaving Corte and heading south we will take in some more small climbs as we ride through the Regional Natural Park of Corsica. This stunning ride will leave a little sting in the legs but leave you wanting to see more of this beautiful island

Day 9

Corte to Bastia 96 / 1400m Approx. B L D

Our last day on the bikes sees us heading back to the north-eastern coast to complete our circuit and, just as with every other day in Corsica, it is packed with surprises.

Having picked our way through the Corte's bustling centre, it isn't long before we join the network of minor, virtually traffic-free roads that lead us deep into the "Castagniccia", the island's sparsely populated chestnut forest, a region rarely visited by tourists and one which seems to have been untouched by modern life.

The road rises, gently at first, through a series of tiny villages until we reach Bustanico, after which the road switches back and forth dramatically and ramps up sharply towards the first summit of the day.

What follows is a rollercoasting ride through some of the island's wildest territory. Eventually we reach the summit of the Col de Pratu, our last significant ascent and a perfect spot to have lunch before making our way back down out of the mountains, via a series of beautiful rural roads, and back to where we started in the outskirts of Bastia.

Day 10

Departure: Bastia Non Riding Day B

Our final Corsican breakfast had to come, and with tired legs and great memories we take a transfer back to the airport for our flights home.

What's Included

- A) Hotel accommodation (shared twin rooms) single supplement available
- B) Meals as per the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- C) Full tour service including guides
- D) GPX files available on request
- E) Unless stated, at least one leader qualified in first aid
- F) Support vehicle and luggage transfers
- G) Airport transfer on scheduled arrival day from Bastia Airport (BIA)
- H) Airport transfer on scheduled departure day to Bastia Airport (BIA)

What's Not Included

- A) Bike rental (available if required)
- B) Flights and charges for travelling with your bike (if applicable)
- C) Meals not stated in the itinerary
- D) Travel insurance
- E) Single room (available if required)
- F) Personal clothing and equipment
- G) Personal expenditure (souvenirs, bar bills, hotel facilities etc)
- H) Entrance to museums and other attractions en route
- I) Airport transfers on days other than the scheduled arrival / departure days

Departures and Prices

June 2025 (Proposed Date 7th-16th)

Price 3500 euro per person twin share.

Single supplement 550 euro