# GR20 Corsica - The Complete Route

Trip Code: COR

Version:

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Trek the whole of the GR20, north to south, from Calenzana to Conca
- Enjoy varied terrain from forested slopes to airy ridges and rocky outcrops
- Expertly guided hiking with an experienced and qualified tour leader
- Vehicle support with access to bags where possible so you can walk in greater comfort
- Enjoy restful nights, with 6 night's camping to avoid the busy refuge dormitories

### AT A GLANCE

- 13 days trekking
- Max altitude - 2600m
- Join at Bastia

### ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

# Introduction

On this absolutely classic walking holiday you can challenge yourself to walk the complete GR20 Haute Route, on the beautiful Mediterranean Island of Corsica, one of the finest and hardest mountain walking routes in the whole of Europe; what a superb adventure! Rising abruptly from the Mediterranean Sea, with granite peaks soaring to over 2500m, Corsica is known as 'the Scented Isle'.

Famous for its dramatic coastline and pretty, perched mountain villages, the island reveals its most spectacular scenery only to those who are prepared to explore it on foot. Over the course of a truly spectacular 2 weeks we will cover a total of 180km of mountainous terrain, with approx 12,000m altitude ascent and descent, as we trek the entire GR20 route, from the pretty village of Calenzana near the northern coast, all the way down to Conca, in the south east.

As we follow Corsica's granite backbone down through the heart of the island, we will encounter a variety of terrain, which means that everyday is a different challenge; whether it be hiking forested slopes, high pasture and alpine valleys or scrambling airy ridges and rocky outcrops. This unique European trekking holiday offers the perfect combination of Mediterranean sunshine, inspiring scenery and a challenging walking adventure; you'll be returning home with a real sense of achievement.

If you're up for the challenge of completing one of Europe's toughest walking routes, but need to know exactly what's involved? Then read our candid guide to find out if the GR20 is for you: **GR20 - Is It For You**

## Is this holiday for you?

Completing Corsica's GR20 should be an achievable challenge for experienced mountain walkers. There are some consistently long days, with scrambling sections and high ridge walks; which will require you to be in very good shape, with good hill walking stamina and the ability to move confidently over rocky mountain terrain. On average we will be covering 10 - 15km per day (the longest day being 25km), with 800 -1000m ascent/descent. This equates to around 7 - 8hrs of walking each day, with a few days of around 9hrs (this is not including stops). We can look forward to some full and satisfying hill days, where we will begin at first light and arrive at our nightspot in the early evening.

As the route cannot be fully vehicle-supported, you will be required to carry your sleeping bags, rain gear, the day's food and additional snacks for the group, along with essential overnight items on 8 of the 13 walking days, though we will make sure to get your main baggage to you wherever possible (6 nights).

If you want to know more about walking Corisca's GR20, including some suggestions of good UK based training walks, then read our candid guide: GR20 - Is It For You?

# Itinerary

Version:

# Holiday Information

## What's Included

- The group will be led by an experienced and qualified tour leader
- A single timed group transfer from Bastia Airport to Calvi on Day 1
- All road transfers detailed in the itinerary
- All meals
- All accommodation as described
- During the trek a full service - including food and all camping equipment (excluding personal equipment)
- A closed cell foam camping mat
- Vehicle support and baggage transfer

## What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Airport transfers (other than the single group transfer to Calvi on Day 1)
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks etc
- Any costs incurred should you depart the trip early

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Day 1
There will be a single group transfer from the airport in Bastia to the group's accommodation in Calvi. This transfer is timed to meet the arrival of the Easy Jet flight from London. All clients arriving into Bastia airport earlier than the group transfer on Day 1 can wait at the airport and join this transfer (a local guide or a representative of our local agent will assist).

Day 15
You will need to make your own travel arrangements from the group hotel to the airport in time for your flight; the easiest way to do this is by taxi.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

## Meal Plan

All meals are included from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 15.

## Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

## Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as **Water-to-Go**, which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

Breakfasts will be continental style and usually consist of a hot drink and bread and jam. If you are used to a large breakfast, it may be a good idea to bring some supplements such as cereal bars. Dinner will be a simple meal of home cooked food. At most of the places we stay this will consist of a starter of soup or cold meats followed by a wholesome and carbohydrate-rich main course such as pasta. Cheese and bread is also a large portion of the diet here. In most cases this is a set meal though it is normally possible to ask the hut guardian for more. Lunch is usually a pre cooked pasta/rice/lentil salad, with extra bread, cheese, meat and fruit. For this you will need a plastic Tupperware box (about 0.6 litre), and a fork or spoon. A penknife is a very useful piece of kit for lunches as well. In some places your lunch box will be filled for you overnight and in others you will be given a sandwich type lunch. A trail snack is also provided each day and you can purchase these at some of the huts and gites, but you may wish to supplement this with additional snacks brought from home.

Please note that it can be difficult (but not impossible) to cater for vegetarians on the GR20. The refuges are isolated and depend upon local produce so if you are a vegetarian you should be prepared for a more restricted choice and a repetitive menu. Your lunch choices will be limited and often only omelettes or basic pasta dishes will be available in the evening. We recommend that you bring your own supply of protein (eg nuts and seeds) to ensure you can keep up your energy levels, as this may not be provided in the quantities you require otherwise. It may also be able to purchase nuts etc... en route at some of the accommodations.

Unfortunately it will not be possible to cater for any other dietary requirements.

## Accommodation

During this trip the group will have 4 hotel nights. The other nights during the trek we make use of park refuges, or small privately owned gites, either staying in the non-segregated (mixed female/male) dormitory-style sleeping arrangements or camping outside. Camping is often a better option to staying in the busy dormitories. Whilst camping outside the refuges, we will still have use of the toilet and washing facilities. Please note that washing facilities at some of the refuges are simple and the water can be cold. Our evening meals will be also provided by the refuges and these will be taken in the basic dining area provided.

It is possible to provide Single rooms (however these are very limited), but not single tents on this holiday. In the hotels the rooming is either on a twin, triple or quad sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired with other travellers of the same sex. Additional hotels nights in Bastia are available, please contact the KE office for prices.

Please note: it is not possible to bring your own tent on this holiday.

Note: The accommodations mentioned in the itinerary are given as examples of the type of accommodation used for this trip. The actual accommodations may vary between departures depending on availability.

## Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by an experienced and qualified tour leader,

## Altitude

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude.  During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres.  Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on trekking at high altitude.  You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

## Spending Money

Approximately €300 should be sufficient to cover your personal expenses including snacks, drinks, some tips and the final airport transfer. Bottled water, soft drinks, beer and wine are available at many of the refuges on the route, but can sometimes be expensive. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly. You should bring this money with you in cash Euros as there will be no opportunity to change money once the trek starts.

## Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying thank you for good service. It is important to remember that tipping is voluntary and should be dependent on good service. How much to tip your guide and local staff is entirely up to you, but we do recommend that you give any tips together as a group.

## Additional Information

### Costs for early departure

This is a very challenging trek, which is reflected in the grading. In Corsica we work with qualified IML mountain guides who work to strict safety standards and you should note that if they feel that your physical condition or performance is detrimental to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of the group as a whole, or if they feel that your general wellbeing is put at risk by continuing, you will be asked to leave the tour. You will only be asked to leave at points where there is close road access to return to Calvi or Bastia and you will be reunited with your baggage at the earliest opportunity. From the point of your evacuation you will be expected to cover all of your expenses, although our local agent will offer assistance with making alternative travel and accommodation arrangements either to remain in Corsica or travel home early. You may be able to claim for any additional expenses incurred due to your evacuation through your travel insurance.

### Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage, which should be a soft bag, and one 45 litre rucksack. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline. During the trek your main baggage will remain in the support vehicle and you will have access to this on a total of 8 nights. There will be 6 nights where you do not have access to your main baggage. Effectively, this means that on 10 days you will be carrying your sleeping bag and any overnight essentials.

### Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

# General Information

## Passport & Visas

### Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

**The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.**

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates** *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

## Health & Vaccinations

**Vaccinations:**

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.**

**Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.**

**Severe Allergies:**

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

## Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

## Preparing for your Holiday

It is essential that you spend time getting relevant exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. You should be getting out and doing a challenging cardiovascular fitness regime leading right up to your trip. You need to develop considerable stamina and endurance. You should be used to your hiking gear, which means that you are comfortable with your rucksack and used to carrying a certain weight. You need to have walking shoes/boots with excellent grip soles that you are used to, two poles that you know how to walk with and a camel bag (both of which we strongly recommend).

## Climate

The temperatures that we can expect to encounter can be far ranging anything from freezing to 30°C. The micro climates in Corsica make the weather very unpredictable and fast changing. Be ready for hot sunshine, storms, harsh wind, rain, hail and snow cannot be ruled out in the summer months either. You can experience a whole range of conditions in the same day from minus temperatures through to severe heat and sun. For departures earlier in the year there is a stronger possibility of snow on some of the higher passes, on rare occasions with higher than normal levels of snow this can mean we need to transfer round this section - this transfer would be included in the trip cost and is not an extra charge as mentioned in the 'Additional Information' section.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Books

- GR 20 Corsica. Paddy Dillon (Cicerone Press).
- Corsica Walking Guide. Bergverlag Rother GMBH.
- Corsica. Insight Guide.

## Maps

**GR20 2 map set 1:60,000 Libris**

2 large scale maps showing the entire GR20, a useful guide Derived from IGNs with contour interval of 50m. and relief shading and spot heights. GR and other trails are shown. Though not at the detailed scale of the IGN, these are probably the better option for following the route without having to bring lots of maps.

## Private Groups Information

**Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!**

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

**Independence with Security**

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

# Equipment Information

## Equipment List

The following check list should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

## You must bring the following items:

- Hiking boots
- Socks
- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Shorts
- Underwear
- Baselayer shirts (1 short sleeve, 1 long sleeve)
- T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Windproof/waterproof jacket
- 2 trekking poles - highly recommended
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Lightweight thermal gloves
- Sleeping bag (comfort rating 0°C)
- Daypack c. 45 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries

- Sun protection (including for lips)

- Water bottles x 2 (1 Litre) or 2 litre Camelbak/Platypus style drinking system. We highly recommend camelback/platypus system for this trek. (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)

- Water purification tablets

- Washbag and toiletries

- Small towel

- Toilet paper

- Antibacterial handwash

- Tupperware lunch box (0.6 litre)

- Fork & spoon

- Penknife

- Small padlock (to lock trek bag)

- Insect repellant

- Basic first aid kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Immodium) painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, antihistamine cream/tablets (in case you get bitten!) and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are a good idea.

## The following items are optional:

- Sleeping bag liner

- Thermarest (note that closed cell foam mats are provided)

- Waterproof daypack cover - recommended

- Gaiters
- Trainers or sandals
- Spare laces
- Earplugs (particularly if you are not the one snoring!)
- Swimwear
- Travel clothes
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

## Notes

You will not have access to your main trek bags on 6 nights. Effectively, this means that on 8 days you will be carrying your sleeping bag and any overnight essentials.

In recent years some of the national park refuges have suffered from outbreaks of bed bugs. We minimise this risk by only staying at national park refuges on 6 nights of the trip and using tents if possible when staying at the refuges. However to be extra safe we would recommend spraying your sleeping bag and liner with an insect repellent such as Lifesystems EX4 spray. (be careful using DEET based insect repellents as they can melt plastics)

## Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

## Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Bastia. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Bastia Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel.

### Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

# Why Choose KE

### Why KE

If you want to walk the WHOLE GR20 then this is the itinerary for you. This is the real route and the whole trail from Calenzana in the north, all the way to Conca in the south-east. We avoid the busy refuge dormitories with 6 nights camping and the itinerary is also designed to allow you access to your main baggage on many nights, so you can carry less and enjoy more! With everything except your travel insurance, airport transfers and miscellaneous expenses included, you have little to worry about except enjoying the journey.Ben Weeks, Journalist and Gear Editor for Trail Magazine, travelled on this trip and trekked this epic route. Read his article 'Five things you need to know'.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change