

Bicycle Tours in France: Cycling Corsica Plus! Beaches and Bonifacio

OVERVIEW

From the sea, Corsica appears as a large piece of Alpine Europe floating on a cobalt blue sea. Corsica is geologically more closely related to the Alps than it is to its larger neighbor to the south, the Italian island of Sardinia. But culturally and linguistically this birthplace of Napoleon is all Mediterranean. Palm-lined streets bustle with colorful marketplaces and the island's official language, French, mingles with a variety of exotic dialects brought here from northern Africa, Italy, and the rest of the Mediterranean basin. An island of beauty, Corsica is also an island of delightful surprises for the touring cyclist.

If this sounds like a great ride but you'd prefer an 8-day tour check out [Cycling Corsica](#)



OR


Italy's [Sardinia](#) island is a short ferry ride away so do both tours and save \$400.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mountain scenery, Extraordinary coastal scenery, French and Mediterranean food, Picturesque villages, Beautiful Pisan and Genoese churches, Fabulous beaches, Impressive watchtowers along the coast, Wine Tasting.

TOUR FACTS

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Tour Style |  Classic: Learn more about our Classic tours at https://www.experienceplus.com/tours/bike-tour-styles/classic-tours |
| Includes | 11 days, 10 nights' accommodation; meals as noted in itinerary; wine tasting; guided tour of Bonifacio; and the usual (see below) |
| Countries | France |
| Begin/End | Bastia/Bonifacio |
| Arrive/Depart | Bastia / Figari Sud-Corse |
| Total Distance | 436-524 km (269-323 miles) |
| Avg. Daily Distance | 58 km (36 miles) per riding day |
| Tour Level |  |

Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the  [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/guided-bike-tours/france/bicycling-tour-corsica-plus-beaches-of-bonifacio>

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DATES & PRICES

| Dates | Price | Single Supplement* |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 📅 Sep 13-23, 2023 | 📄 USD\$5595 | 📄 USD\$650 |

*We are happy to match solo travelers who would like to share a room with someone of the same gender. If no match exists, due to hotel pricing, we will charge 50% of the single supplement rate. This fee will be collected at the time of the final payment. If a roommate assignment is available this fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the tour.

DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

| Day | Distance/Gain | Terrain | Day Level | Notes |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Test ride | | | |
| 2 | 39km / 737m (24mi / 2417ft) | Hilly | ▶▶▶▶▶ | |
| 3 | 74km / 1623m (46mi / 5323ft) | Rolling hills | ▶▶▶▶▶ | |
| 4 | 51km / 1331m (32mi / 4366ft) | Very hilly | ▶▶▶▶▶ | Today's ride is an optional loop ride |
| 5 | 47km / 919m (29mi / 3014ft) | Rolling hills | ▶▶▶▶▶ | |
| 6 | 78km / 1800m (49mi / 5904ft) | Very hilly | ▶▶▶▶▶ | |
| 7 | 71km / 1361m (44mi / 4464ft) | Hilly | ▶▶▶▶▶ | |
| 8 | 90km / 1891m (56mi / 6202ft) | Mountainous | ▶▶▶▶▶ | Today's ride is an optional loop ride |
| 9 | 63km / 758m (39mi / 2486ft) | Hilly | ▶▶▶▶▶ | |
| 10 | 29km / 387m (18mi / 1269ft) | Rolling hills | ▶▶▶▶▶ | |
| 11 | Last day | | | |

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ARRIVAL INFO

Meeting time 2 p.m. - on Day 1, meet your fellow cyclists and Tour Leaders at the Day 1 Hotel specified on the itinerary.

Note:

As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, **check with us** if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

The below information will help you plan your arrival. For more tips or other routes, you might like **Rome2Rio**. The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

We recommend flying into the Bastia Poretta Airport (BIA).

Although there are no direct international flights to the island of Corsica, London, Paris, Marseille and Nice all serve this airport regularly.

Getting to the Day 1 Hotel

- Taxi from the airport to the Day 1 hotel (30 min/EUR 45-60)

Or public transportation

1. Shuttle Bus from the airport to central station (45 min/EUR 10)
2. **Walk** from central station to taxi stand or Tourist Information where you will find a taxi stand or the Tourist Information will arrange one for you (2 mins)
3. Taxi from central station to hotel (10 min/EUR 10-12)

If you are planning to arrive by Ferry from France or Italy, you will find information on arriving from Marseille, Nice and Toulon in English at Corsica-ferries.co.uk (travel time 3.5 to 10 hours). For Ferries from Italy (Genoa, Livorno and Piombino), you can find information at MobyLines.com (travel time 4-10 hours).

DEPARTURE INFO

Your trip ends on the final day after breakfast.

We recommend departing from the Figari Sud-Corse Airport (FSC). The Bastia airport is a 2.5-3 hour drive away.

- Taxi from the ending hotel to the Figari airport (20 min/EUR 40)

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Arrive Bastia, Corsica

Highlights Historic capital of Corsica, sidewalk café, gourmet introductory dinner

Bright blue and white fishing boats and sidewalk cafés await you today as our tour begins near Bastia, Corsica's historic capital and its most picturesque city. We recommend arriving a day early to soak in the charms of this centuries-old Mediterranean seaport. We'll fit you with a bicycle this afternoon so you can ride to a viewpoint above the city, and then reconvene this evening for a traditional French gourmet dinner together.

DAY 1: Wed, Sep 13th

Meals Dinner

Lodging  L'Alivi

Bicycle to Rogliano

Highlights Scenic cycling in Corsica's panhandle, Genoese history and settlements

After breakfast you'll head north on an easy ride along the east side of Cap Corse, Corsica's panhandle. You'll want to stop for a snack or coffee in Erbalunga to see its Genoese coastal tower before cycling through the tiny port of Santa Severa. Stop for lunch and perhaps a swim in Macinaggio before heading inland to our hotel.

DAY 2: Thu, Sep 14th

Distance 39 km (24 mi)

Gain 737 m (2417 ft)

Terrain Hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  U Sant'Agnellu

Bicycle to Saint-Florent

Highlights Scenic cycling on Cap Corse, Mediterranean beaches

Today's ride is one of the most spectacular bicycle rides in the Mediterranean basin. We suggest an early start as you'll want to stop often for photographs. You can even take a swim during your lunch stop. Our route follows a chain of Genoese watchtowers, built along the coast in the late Medieval period to provide the local villagers early warning of impending attack by pirates. We'll continue south along the west side of the Cap Corse to our hotel right on the water, located in the ancient Roman town of Saint-Florent.

DAY 3: Fri, Sep 15th

Distance 74 km (46 mi)

Gain 1623 m (5323 ft)

Terrain Rolling hills

Level 

Meals Breakfast

Lodging  Hotel Dolce Notte

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Rest day in Saint-Florent

Highlights 11th-century Pisan cathedrals, enchanting bay of Saint-Florent with nearby beaches

A stop to our first 11th-century Pisan cathedral begins our day. Pisa ruled Corsica unchallenged until 1133 A.D. when the pope divided the island between Pisa and rival Genoa. Our optional ride continues on to the most famous Pisan cathedral in Corsica as we wind our way through hilltop villages and river gorges.

DAY 4: Sat, Sep 16th

Distance 51 km (32 mi)

Gain 1331 m (4366 ft)

Terrain Very Hilly

Level >>>>>

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging 🏠 Hotel Dolce Notte

Bicycle to L'Ile Rousse

Highlights Beautiful coastal landscape with breathtaking vistas and Mediterranean beaches

You'll head across the unique Désert des Agriates today. This stony landscape that was once rich with wheat fields is unlike any area on the island and offers some beautiful panoramas. After soaking up the views you'll coast down to the beach for a refreshing swim if you wish. Our efforts today will be rewarded as we explore the coastal town of L'Ile Rousse with its charming center and beach. And if that's not enough, we'll watch the sunset into the sea.

DAY 5: Sun, Sep 17th

Distance 47 km (29 mi)

Gain 919 m (3014 ft)

Terrain Rolling hills

Level >>>>>

Meals Breakfast

Lodging 🏠 Hotel L'Escale ' Côte Sud

Mountain Day

Highlights Coastal to mountain scenery, spectacular wildflowers in season, Genoese history

You'll head into Corsica's interior today. This is the main "mountain day" on the tour, so take your time and enjoy the spectacular scenery. Climbing over the pass of Saint Colombano you'll enjoy a wonderful cruise down the Navaccia river valley to Ponte Leccia, named for the 17th-century Genoese bridge still in use. You'll then have a steady long climb to be rewarded with a beautiful descent through chestnut forests as we head into one of Corsica's most interesting regions.

DAY 6: Mon, Sep 18th

Distance 78 km (49 mi)

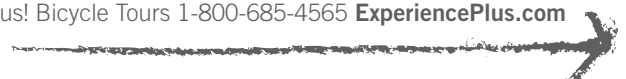
Gain 1800 m (5904 ft)

Terrain Very Hilly

Level >>>>>

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging 🏠 Le Refuge



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Bicycle to Aléria, shuttle to Pinarello

Highlights Ancient capital of Roman Corsica, luxurious beachfront hotel

The trend today is down though there are a few hills that will certainly get your attention before you reach the coast. Our destination, Aléria, was one of the principal Roman trading towns and capital of Roman Corsica by 170 B.C. From Aléria we'll shuttle just under an hour to our luxurious beachfront hotel, and home for the next two nights.

DAY 7: Tue, Sep 19th

Distance 71 km (44 mi)
Gain 1361 m (4464 ft)
Terrain Hilly
Level 
Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging  Le Pinarello Hotel

Rest day or stunning ride

Highlights Visit Pinarello's charming little port, relax at the beach, or take a challenging ride into the hills

Our hotel is on the beach, and you may very well want to spend the day soaking in the sun there. Go for a swim in the clear blue waters of the bay, unwind by the hotel's swimming pool, or sign up for some pampering at the hotel's wellness center. Pinarello beach is one of the many beautiful beaches to the north of Porto-Vecchio. The sea is azure blue, and the 1.2 km long, narrow sweeping beach has soft white sand, is backed by dramatic mountains and overlooked by a Genoese watchtower. Pinarello has a pretty little port and plenty of opportunities for refreshments and water sports. For those of you who want more cycling, we'll offer an incredible roller-coaster ride on the famous Route de Bavella.

DAY 8: Wed, Sep 20th



Distance 90 km (56 mi)
Gain 1891 m (6202 ft)
Terrain Mountainous
Level 
Meals Breakfast
Lodging  Le Pinarello Hotel

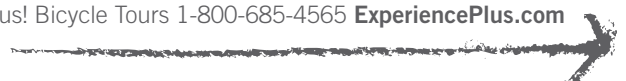
Bicycle to Bonifacio

Highlights Visit Porto Vecchio and the Seaside fortress of Bonifacio

This morning we'll ride through Porto Vecchio a well-known seaside resort, bounded on the west by the relief of Ospedale and to the east by the Tyrrhenian Sea. We will then continue onto Bonifacio at the southern tip of Corsica. This magnificent village perched on limestone cliffs was the prize possession of both the Pisans and Genoese who fought over it for over 150 years.

DAY 9: Thu, Sep 21st

Distance 63 km (39 mi)
Gain 758 m (2486 ft)
Terrain Hilly
Level 
Meals Breakfast
Lodging  Hotel Solemare



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Highlights Morning ride along the coast to the lighthouse, guided tour of Bonifacio

This morning we'll have a leisurely ride out to a lighthouse and some beautiful alcoves. We'll regroup in the afternoon with a local guide to reveal Bonifacio's intriguing history. Tonight we'll celebrate our final dinner together.

DAY 10: Fri, Sep 22nd

Distance 29 km (18 mi)

Gain 387 m (1269 ft)

Terrain Rolling hills

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Hotel Solemare

Tour ends in Bonifacio, Corsica

Highlights Bon Voyage!

Our tour ends this morning after breakfast. Sardinia is just a few miles across the Strait of Bonifacio, so maybe you plan to explore more of the Mediterranean. Whatever your plans, bon voyage!

DAY 11: Sat, Sep 23rd

Meals Breakfast

INCLUDED

WHAT'S INCLUDED

When you book a tour with ExperiencePlus! our goal is to ensure your only focus each day is to hop on your bike and explore scenic cycling routes in new destinations. Inclusions may differ depending on which tour style you pick but all ExperiencePlus! tours include the three most important aspects of a guided bike tour.

- Superb tour leaders who are fun and multilingual, bi-cultural experts, and cycling enthusiasts. They will support you and help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- High quality bikes selected for the terrain you are cycling on and correct bike fitting to ensure comfortable cycling.
- Thoughtfully designed itineraries and routes that take advantage of stunning cycling destinations and the freedom of bicycle travel.

PRE-TRIP SUPPORT

- Bicycle training programs designed specifically for your tour and fitness level.
- Planning tips on what to pack, hotel recommendations and other helpful details from our Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>
- A gift of your choice (cycling jerseys, socks, or a t-shirt) as our way of saying thanks for choosing ExperiencePlus!
- *Traveler services including assistance booking extra nights at the tour starting and ending hotels. (*Explorer Tours excluded)
- See "What's Included" for tour-specific inclusions and be sure to check the "Keep in mind" section under "Tour Summary" online.

BICYCLES

For a full list of what's included with your bike see: <https://www.experienceplus.com/what-to-expect/our-bikes/>. If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so. On Explorer tours we include a GPS device on all bikes. We ask that you bring your own helmet to ensure the best fit. If you would like us to provide you with a gently used helmet, please contact us.

NAVIGATING, DAYSHEETS AND VAN SUPPORT:

Each day you'll receive a daily briefing with a highlighted route map. About 14 days prior to your tour, we will provide you with access to RideWithGPS Experiences, our platform to distribute information on each tour day's activities, meals and ride, as well as GPS-routes. Daily information also includes Tour Leader phone numbers,

hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information. On Classic, Bike and Boat and Expedition tours we also navigate using our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map. On Explorer tours the terrain and destinations are not always conducive to using chalk arrows so we'll ride as a group or you can navigate on your own with the GPS tracks. On tour you will have a support van providing water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, a lift for tired cyclists, and luggage transfers. On some itineraries the van will not be able to follow sections of the route that stray from the road for example onto cycling paths.

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Need More Miles? On many days it is possible to add miles to the day, just talk to your tour leader about your options.

Need Fewer Miles? If you aren't sure about your abilities or how much you want to ride remember the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. You are on vacation and we're here to help make it perfect for you.

TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADER TEAM:

If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5% of the tour cost per traveler – this is for the entire tour leader team, not each tour leader. You can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your tour leaders did not quite meet your expectations, please let us know. *Tips are included in Expedition pricing.

PHOTOS:

By reserving space on tour, you agree that ExperiencePlus! Bicycle Tours may use, re-use and reproduce any images, photos or videos that you send to us, or that are taken by our guides and/or other travelers of you individually or in a group, in any medium, including but not limited to print, electronic media, or Internet, free of charge and without your right to inspection, for promoting and publicizing our travel products and services worldwide. If you do not want us to use any images of you that are taken by us or other participants during the tour, you must inform us or your tour leader in writing at the start of the tour.

STYLES

OUR TOUR STYLES

We realize that one size does not fit all and there are as many ways to travel by bike as there are different types of cyclists and travelers. No matter what you are looking for in a cycling vacation, we have a tour with just the right pace for you.

Classic Tours: Dream of traveling through a region by bike? then our Classic style bike tours are for you! Our unique chalk arrows lead the way as you explore small villages and world-class cities while traveling at your own pace.

- Tour Length: 7-15 days
- Hotels: 3-4 stars, most itineraries include at least one two-night stay at the same hotel.
- Road Type: Pavement, bike paths.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4.5

Explorer Tours: Travel further off the beaten path - we let the destination dictate where we ride, not the road surface.

- Tour Length: 7-8 days
- Hotels: 2-3 stars, occasional multi-night stays at the same hotel.
- Road Type: 30-50% gravel or hard-packed dirt, the rest pavement.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation: Group riding and GPS
- Price: \$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

Bike and Boat Tours: Spend days cycling and your evenings relaxing on a private boat as you cruise to your next port.

- Tour Length: 7-8 days, some itineraries have land-based extensions available.
- Barge/Boat: 3-4 star, same cabin for the entire boat trip.
- Road Type: Pavement
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

Expedition Tours: Multi-week tours where you spend long days on the bike with the added satisfaction of pedaling across multiple countries.

- Tour Length: 15-40 days
- Hotels: 2-4 stars, typically there is a 2-night hotel stay every 5-7 days.
- Road Type: Pavement with occasional hard-packed dirt or gravel.
- Multi-night Stays: On rest days
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 4-5

**LEVELS**

We know that travelers have different cycling abilities and preferences for the number of miles, elevation gain, and type of terrain they want on a bicycle tour. We have rated each day of our tours on a scale of 1-5. Our Tour Level's are an average of the day rating on tour. We recommend looking at the daily summary on the PDF and Website Itinerary to see details about each day's ride.

LEVEL 1 - 1.5

Level 1 - 1.5 days will be mostly flat and the distance will rarely exceed 50 km. Level 1 - 1.5 tours are suitable for beginner cyclists, those traveling by bicycle for the first time, or multi-generational groups with a desire for a nice and easy bike tour with plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery.

- **Average daily mileage:** 20 - 50 km. (12-30 miles) Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 0-400 M (0-1200 ft)
- **Terrain:** Mostly flat with occasional gentle climbs at a grade of less than 3%, that are sustained for a maximum of 3km. There might be a steeper but short climb.

LEVEL 2 - 2.5

Level 2 - 2.5 days are ideal for riders newer to bicycle touring looking for a bit of a challenge.

- **Average daily mileage:** 30-60 km (18 - 38 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 400 - 600 m (1200 - 2000 ft)
- **Terrain:** Mostly rolling terrain around 3%. Presents multiple 3% to 4% climbs. May present an occasional steeper climb.

LEVEL 3 - 3.5

Level 3 - 3.5 days are great for active individuals (who run, bike, swim etc. on a regular basis).

- **Average daily mileage:** 50-70km (30-45 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 600 - 900m (2000 - 2800 ft)
- **Terrain:** Multiple Climbs with grades of 4 - 6%.

LEVEL 4 - 4.5

Level 4 - 4.5 days are the best riding days for avid cyclists or very active individuals who are excited to challenge themselves on a bike.

- **Average daily mileage:** 70-90km (45-55 miles) Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 900-1000m (2800-3600 ft)
- **Terrain:** Presents multiple steep climbs (6% to 8% grades), 1 to 3km long. Alternatively, 4 – 6% grades for 6 kilometers or more.

LEVEL 5 (EXPEDITION)

Our Expedition tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages mean limited van support so we recommend these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 500-2000 m (1600- 6500 ft)
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

REMEMBER

A tour level is the average of the days so we recommend you look at the day level on each day of the itinerary to help you better understand what to expect from your tour.

CHECKLIST

TO DO ONCE YOU'VE BOOKED!

- Read through your Reservation Confirmation and After you Book Information (link sent to you by e-mail), it has important information to help you plan your trip!
- Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country.
- Complete the Customer Information Form:
<https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/customer-information-form/>
- We recommend you take out travel insurance. Find details
at <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/travel-insurance/>
- Choose a bicycle training program: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/>
- Peruse our country-specific Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>

6 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Refer to your Tour Packet/Itinerary to see step-by-step arrival and departure information for your tour, meeting place and time, if a reservation on a complimentary ExperiencePlus! Shuttle (if applicable) is required, along with other important information to help you plan your arrival and departure.
- Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed.
- Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights.
- Begin your chosen training program
- Final payment is due 90 days (120 days for Bike & Barge/Boat tours) prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail which we send 10 days prior to the due date for detailed instructions.

6 TO 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Reading and Movie Lists:
<https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>.
- Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing Lists for suggestions, and see luggage limits at <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/packing/>
- We'll email you your access code to Digital Daysheets, Hotel Itinerary, Participant Roster, names and contact information of your Tour Leaders, emergency phone numbers, and other important departure information about 2 weeks prior to your tour start date. All this will be provided to you via a feature called Experiences via the RideWithGPS App (tracks available but not necessary for navigation on Classic, Expedition and Bike & Boat tours).

DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack one day of cycling gear in your carry-on just in case. See you soon!