

Corsica Itinerary—Southern GR20

Two years ago, we hiked the northern part of the GR20 (See “Corsica – Hiking the GR20 (North)” under Longer Trip Itineraries), the long distance trail that spans nearly the entire **island of Corsica**, from the northeast corner to the southwest, approximately 180 km in total. We took nine days (the suggested timing) to travel by foot from **Vizzavona to Calenzana**. We were determined to return to hike the southern six stages of the trail, from **Vizzavona to Conca**. But scheduling the trip was complicated, as we preferred to go in July or August to avoid snow and when the temperatures in the mountains is warm enough to avoid carrying too many layers. In the end, we decided to push ourselves, to complete the last six stages in just three days (with a day and a half of poolside recuperation) instead of the suggested six days. **IT WAS HARD**. Unless you are an experienced alpine hiker in very good shape I would *not* recommend this schedule. Four days of hiking would have been tough but more reasonable, and six days would still be a good workout and would leave you more time for relaxation. That being said, I would not have given up that last day by the pool in **Bonifacio** for anything!

If you are interested in hiking the entire GR20 (15 days are recommended), and for more details on planning your hike and reserving the *refuges*, please read this itinerary in conjunction with **my itinerary** entitled “Corsica – Hiking the GR20 (North)” under Longer Trip Itineraries for the northern part of the trail.

Wed, July 13—fly Paris to Ajaccio, night in Ajaccio
 Thurs, July 14—train to Vizzavona, hike to Refuge de Prati
 Fri, July 15— hike to Refuge d’Asinau
 Sat, July 16— hike to Conca, taxi to Bonifacio
 Sun, July 17—Bonifacio
 Mon, July 18—fly Figari to Paris

Date	To	Cost (total for 2 people)	Transport/Lodging Details
Wed, July 13	Fly to Ajaccio 21h15-22h50	<i>Flight:</i> €392.44 (paid) <i>Hotel:</i> €108	<i>Hotel in Ajaccio:</i> Mercure Ajaccio Reservation number F29-18CB Tel : (+33)4/95100909 115 cours Napoléon - 20090 AJACCIO I picked the Mercure Hotel because were arriving in Ajaccio late and leaving early and wanted somewhere in walking distance to the train station that was not too expensive. It was very comfortable and about a 10-minute walk from the train station. If you are looking to explore Ajaccio itself, you may want to pick a hotel in the old center.
Thurs, July 14	Hike Vizzavona to Refuge de Prati We hiked 10 hours, which included a half hour stop for lunch and brief stops for water, peanut M&Ms, etc.	<i>Refuge:</i> €22 (total—paid)	<i>Train to Vizzavona:</i> 8:50am – 9:50am See http://www.corsicabus.org/ for the bus and train schedules in Corsica. Lunch at Bergeries de Capannelle. (Spend the night here if you are following a 6-day itinerary.) Night at Refuge de Prati This <i>refuge</i> is in a beautiful location atop a plateau, looking down at the sea far below, but it can be very windy, so be prepared!
Fri, July 15	Hike to Refuge d’Asinau We hiked for nearly 14 hours, including almost an hour for lunch and other brief stops.	<i>Refuge:</i> €22 (total—paid)	We bought lunch food at Refuge d’Usciolu, which is in a beautiful spot. (Spend the night here if you are following a 6-day itinerary.) Night at Refuge d’Asinau Although in a more protected valley, it can also be quite windy at this <i>refuge</i> .

Date	To	Cost (total for 2 people)	Transport/Lodging Details
Sat, July 16	Hike to Conca We hiked for 12 hours, including just over an hour for lunch and other brief stops.	Hotel: €540 Taxi: €130	We had lunch at Les Aiguilles de Bavella at the Gite d'Etape Restaurant, a welcome break from refuge food and with a terrace overlooking the magnificent Aiguilles de Bavella. (Spend the night here or at the Refuge de Parili a bit further along the trail if you are following a 6-day itinerary.) Taxi from Conca to Bonifacio reserved for 20h at restaurant U Chiosu (Gilles taxi: taxigilles2a@orange.fr /0 6 17 77 37 96) Gilles taxi was very reliable—we reserved through them to go from Bonifacio to the airport on Monday as well. We were told to reserve ahead as there are not many taxis in the Bonifacio area. Hotel in Bonifacio: Hotel Genovese ADDRESS: Quartier de la Citadelle, Haute Ville Hotel EMAIL: hotelgenovese@venere.com TELEPHONE: +33-495731234 RESERVATION NUMBER: IHR10446662 Hotel Genovese is a pricey hotel but the location could not be better in the heart of Bonifacio's old town high above the port and the pool is one of the nicest I have seen. I would highly recommend it for a good couple days of relaxation!
Sun, July 17	Bonifacio	--	Bonifacio is a beautiful city with some excellent restaurants. I hope to visit again soon.
Mon, July 18	Fly back to Paris 15h30-17h10	--	

From - To	Highest Point	Ascent	Descent	Time ↓
Vizzavona (920 m) - Bergeries de Capannelle (1586 m)	1640 m	890 m	224 m	5h15
Bergeries de Capannelle (1586 m) - Refuge de Prati (1820 m)	1840 m	642 m	408 m	6h10 → Day 1: 11h25
Refuge de Prati (1820 m) - Refuge d'Usciolu (1750 m)	2041 m	677 m	747 m	5h45
Refuge d'Usciolu (1750 m) - Refuge d'Asinau (1530 m)	2134 m	845 m	1065 m	8h00 → Day 2: 13h45
Refuge d'Asinau (1530 m) - Refuge de Paliri (1055 m)	1536 m	429 m	910 m	7h00
Refuge de Paliri (1055 m) - Conca (252 m)	1055 m	160 m	926 m	5h00 → Day 3: 12h00

The information above is from <http://corsica.forhikers.com/gr20>. Be sure to visit this site for detailed information on planning your hike.

FLIGHTS

Votre vol : Paris - Ajaccio

Mercredi 13 juillet 2011

AF4504 - Economique

21:15 Paris, Orly (ORY), FRANCE - Terminal W

Heure Limite d'Enregistrement : 20:55

22:50 Ajaccio, Napoleon Bonaparte (AJA), FRANCE

Effectué par : CCM

Appareil : Airbus A320

Repas à bord : Information non disponible

Classe de réservation : E

Temps de vol: 01h35, sans escale

Franchise : 23 kg par passager

Votre vol : Figari - Paris

Lundi 18 juillet 2011

AF7533 - Voyageur

15:30 Figari, Figari Sud Corse (FSC), FRANCE - Terminal

Heure Limite d'Enregistrement : 15:10

17:10 Paris, Orly (ORY), FRANCE

Effectué par : Air France

Appareil : Airbus A320

Repas à bord : Information non disponible

Classe de réservation : E

Temps de vol: 01h40, sans escale

Franchise : 23 kg par passager

RESTAURANTS IN BONIFACIO

Kissing Pigs—we did not try this restaurant but it got good recommendations

15 Quai Banda del Ferro

20169 Bonifacio

0495735609

U Castille—we had dinner here at one of the few tables on the terrace overlooking the water. The food and setting were wonderful.

7 Rue Simon Varsi

20169 Bonifacio

0495730499

We also ate at and quite enjoyed Le Café de la Poste and La Cantina Doria, both in the old town.