

Exploring the Calvi region on Corsica's west coast October 3 - 7, 2019

a pre-trip optional excursion for the trek across northern Corsica #1941

The focus of this pre-trip excursion is to experience a portion of Corsica's west coast, an area that we will not traverse in our trek "Mare e Mare Nord." The excursion vibe is laid back: recover from jetlag, soak in some rays, be introduced to the Corsican culture. While there are one or two planned events each day, everyone is free to participate, explore, or lie on the beach as they see fit.

We will stay at two or three star hotels throughout and eat at nice local seaside restaurants. Yes, the accommodations will on average be nicer than on the trek ahead, but "tant pis" [French for "never mind"]!

The itinerary is as follows:

Day 0: (Thursday October 3) Depart US

Day 1: (Friday October 4) Fly into [Calvi](#), a resort town on the northwest coast of Corsica. It's known for its beaches and crescent-shaped bay. A medieval citadel overlooks the marina from the bay's western end. It is home to the baroque St-Jean-Baptiste Cathedral. Restaurants line the harbor on the Quai Landry esplanade. Perched on a high hill a short distance inland, the chapel of Notre-Dame de la Serra has panoramic views of the area. We will explore the old town and beach areas. Dinner and lodging in Calvi.



Day 2 (Saturday October 5) In the morning we sail south along the shoreline to the [Reserve Naturelle Scandola](#). The Scandola Nature Reserve was the first site in France dedicated to the





preservation of both land and marine natural heritage. A true geological showcase, the Scandola site corresponds to the emerged part of an ancient volcanic complex partially collapsed at sea. There is a great diversity of volcanic rocks as well as eruption-related formations. It is considered a mecca for biodiversity at the marine level (species that have long since disappeared in the Mediterranean are still found there, and even more exceptionally, new species are still being discovered). We return mid-afternoon to Calvi in time to climb to the top of the citadel overlooking the city. Lodging in Calvi, dinner on your own.

Day 3 (Sunday October 6) In the morning we take the tram to [Ile Rousse](#), a seaside community about 15 miles north of Calvi. We will explore the town and harbor. In the afternoon we proceed to [Parc Saleccia](#), a botanical garden featuring native species. Local hikes starting in Ile Rousse are also available. Dinner and lodging in Ile Rousse.



Day 4 (Monday October 7) We travel by train to Bastia where the official trip begins: it is about a 2 ½ hour journey. The tracks take us across the island, giving us a glimpse of the landscapes that lie ahead when we begin our trek in two days time.

Pricing and registration: The trip starts at with departure from the US on Thursday October 3, 2019 and ends on Monday October 7, 2019 after the conclusion of the mid-day train ride to Bastia. It includes:

- Three nights lodging, three breakfasts, and two dinners. Lodging is two persons per room.
- All ground transportation starting in Calvi and ending in Bastia including transportation to the Parc Saleccia in Ile Rousse
- A boat trip to the Reserve Naturelle Scandola.

It does not include:

- All lunches
- Dinner on the night of Saturday October 5, 2019
- All beverages excluding those provided at no-charge at breakfast
- Entrance to any point of interest not mentioned in the text above

The price for this excursion is \$850. Registration (an email is sufficient) is required by February 15th. A check for \$850 should be mailed by that date. If you would like, you can combine the price of the pre-trip with the final trip payment of \$1,700 (due April 1, 2019) for a total of \$2,550. The check should be payable to the Appalachian Mountain Club and sent to Stephen Cohen at 2802 Arbor Drive #2 Madison, WI 53711.

The leaders' expenses for the trip and administrative costs to support the trip are included in the trip costs to be shared by the participants. This is a non-profit excursion conducted by the leaders on a volunteer basis. Any unforeseen increases in costs will be shared by all participants. Any funds remaining after all expenses are paid will be divided among the participants in accordance with AMC Adventure Travel rules. We plan conservatively, so refunds are considerably more likely than cost increases.

Trip rating: The trip is rated [easy](#) - hiking of a few hours per day with <500 feet elevation gain. Everyone signed up for the main trip can do this optional excursion with no difficulty.

Cancellations prior to confirmation that this trip extension will run as scheduled will be entitled to a refund on money deposited with the AMC. Cancellations after the trip is confirmed will be subject to a minimum \$100.00 cancellation charge. Refunds will only be made to the extent that the cost of the trip for other participants is not affected. Trip cancellation insurance is advised. Late cancellations are likely to result in no refund.

Getting to Calvi: Calvi is serviced by [Air Corsica](#) and Air France. You can fly directly to Calvi from Orly (Paris), Nice, and Marseille. NOTE: International flights to Paris land only at Charles de Gaulle. The flight to Calvi from Paris is only from Orly airport. There are both direct bus and train connections from CDG to Orly. Nonetheless, you should leave a minimum of five - six

hours between landing at Charles de Gaulle and departure from Orly (two hours for baggage/customs/arrival at train/bus station at CDG, one hour transit time, two hours in advance of flight time at Orly). A more comfortable alternative may be fly to Nice or Marseille because the connection to Calvi leaves from the same airport. In any case, it is important to line up both the overseas flight and the Corsica flight before making a commitment to either.

Applicability of previously provided documents: This extension is part of trip #1941 (Savage Beauty: the trek across Corsica) to which you have already been accepted. By registering for this extension you are agreeing that the previously provided documents (trip application, medical health questionnaire, supplemental medical form, and waiver of liability form) become part of this extension as well.

The sections of the original prospectus related to experience and risk (page 9) are specifically included in this trip extension.