

Corsica via the Italian Riviera

From £1,299 per person // 13 days



Soak up the sunshine on a holiday by rail and sea to the beautiful French island of Corsica via the stunning Italian Riviera. Stop in Nice, Sestri Levante and Livorno, then catch a ferry to Bastia. From here, continue to Calvi and Ajaccio before returning to the mainline and travelling up through France back to the UK.

The Essentials

- Catch a train to Nice and spend a night on the Côte d'Azur
- Continue along the lovely Italian Riviera, with stops in Sestri Levante and Livorno
- Take a ferry to Bastia, Corsica's bustling port city
- Spend time on the north-west coast in Calvi and explore Ajaccio, the birthplace of Napoleon
- Return via overnight ferry with a stop in Marseille on the way back to the UK

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 11 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Day ferry from Livorno to Bastia and a twin cabin on the overnight ferry from Ajaccio to Marseille
- Comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets and hotel vouchers
- All credit card surcharges and delivery of your travel documents

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade hotels and rail journeys
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Nice

This morning, take a Eurostar service to Paris, then make an easy change onto a French TGV train from the Gare de Lyon. There is a buffet car on the TGV service, but you'll also have time to collect supplies in Paris for lunch, or perhaps enjoy a meal at one of the restaurants in and around the station. On arrival in Nice this evening, check in for an overnight stay at the Excelsior Hotel (or similar), located right outside the station. Please note, ferries to Corsica also travel from Toulon and Marseille and none of the services run every day, so your first night stop may be subject to change.



Day 2 - Nice To Sestri Levante

Enjoy a leisurely start today. Perhaps take a stroll along the famous Promenade des Anglais or enjoy a visit to the Cours Saleya where there is a weekly flower and food market. Just before lunch, it's time to return to the station for your onward journey around the coast and into Italy, via the border town of Ventimiglia and the city of Genoa. The train line snakes its way right along the coast, burrowing through the cliffs as it does so. Look out for glimpses of the sea before your arrival in Sestri Levante, where you have a 2-night stay at the Hotel Miramare & Spa (or similar).



Day 3 - Sestri Levante & The Cinque Terre

Enjoy a free day today to explore the Italian Riviera. You can either take the train further down the coast to the five villages that make up the famous Cinque Terre, all of which have a station. There are also boat services along the coast during high season so you could also visit the famous town of Portofino, or you can just relax in the lovely town of Sestri Levante. This popular resort occupies a promontory with bays on either side, the Baia del Silenzio (Bay of Silence) and Baia delle Favole (Bay of the Fables). The Baia del Silenzio has a lovely beach to spend a lazy afternoon, perhaps with a gelato.



Day 4 - Sestri Levante To Livorno

After breakfast this morning, it's time to leave Sestri Levante and continue your journey down the coast to the port town of Livorno. The journey takes just under two hours by rail. On arrival, check in for an overnight stay at the Hotel Europa (or similar). Spend the rest of the day exploring this historic port, built by the powerful Medici family, with its colourful old town threaded with canals and lovely seafront promenade, the Terrazza Mascagni. This evening, why not enjoy some of the best seafood this stretch of coastline has to offer?



Day 5 - Livorno To Bastia

Enjoy another free morning in Livorno, perhaps visiting one of the town's historic churches or the Museo Civico Giovanni Fattori, an art museum housed in the 19th century Villa Mimbelli. After an early lunch, make your way to the port and board a ferry bound for Corsica. This journey takes 5.5 hours, arriving in the evening. However, other services are overnight night or leave early in the morning. We will let you know the options for the dates you would like to travel. On arrival in Bastia, make your way to the Hotel Les Voyageurs (or similar) for a 2-night stay.



Day 6 - Bastia

Bastia is France's second busiest port after Calais and offers a lovely introduction to Corsica. There are two distinct areas in the historic heart of the city, Terra Nova, the walled citadel and Terra Vecchia, the pretty harbour area below. Contrary to what their names suggest, Terra Nova is the oldest part of town, founded in the 15th century. Here you will find the 15th century Palais des Gouverneurs, now housing the city museum. Back down in the Vieux Port, there are plenty of options for coffee or a meal with a view over the yachts in the harbour.



Days 7 & 8 - Calvi

It's a 3-hour journey from Bastia to Calvi by local train (payable locally). On arrival, check in for 2 nights at the Hotel Mariana (or similar). On the north-western coast of Corsica, Calvi boasts some stunning beaches and a medieval citadel with narrow cobbled streets which overlooks the marina. On a clear day, you can get spectacular panoramic views from the hilltop chapel of Notre-Dame de la Serra, or the city ramparts. Also worth a visit is the 13th century St-Jean-Baptiste Cathedral. Restaurants line the Quai Landry, where you can pick your favourite yacht whilst enjoying local cuisine and wines.



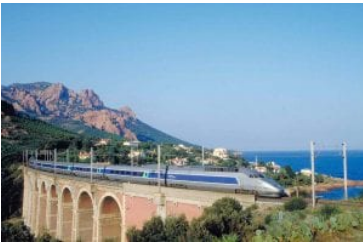
Days 9 & 10 - Ajaccio

Corsica's train lines are arranged in a 'Y' shape, with Calvi at the end of the western spur. So you'll need to change trains today in Ponte Leccia at the meeting of the lines to continue your journey south to Ajaccio. On arrival, check in at the Hotel Fesch (or similar) where you have a 2-night stay. Enjoy time at leisure to explore Ajaccio on Corsica's rugged west coast, the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. Bonaparte's ancestral home is now a museum where you can learn more about the family's history. Elsewhere, the 16th-century Notre-Dame Cathedral, where Napoléon was baptized, is well worth a visit and contains paintings by Delacroix and Tintoretto.



Days 11 & 12 - Ajaccio And Overnight Ferry To Marseille

Spend another day exploring Ajaccio before collecting your bags from your hotel and making your way to the port for an overnight ferry service to Marseille. You'll have a private en suite cabin and can enjoy dinner onboard. Please note that ferry timings and destinations may vary, due to the irregular nature of the ferries to and from Corsica. Your route of travel will depend on the dates you would like to travel.



Day 13 - Marseille To London

Leave Marseille after breakfast this morning and catch a direct high-speed TGV pack to Paris. Cross over to the Gare du Nord and board the Eurostar service for London. If you would like to extend your stay in Marseille or break the journey home with a night in Lyon or Paris, please let us know and we can create a tailor made itinerary for you.

Pricing

From £1,299 per person

Low season (November-March) from £1,299pp

High season (April-October) from £1,499pp

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.