



PRESS KIT

CORSICA TOURIST BOARD



RENDEZ-VOUS IN TERRA NOSTRA

CORSICA MADE





RENDEZ-VOUS IN TERRA NOSTRA

visit-corsica.com

No-one can deny that Corsica is the greenest, most spectacular, most varied and most beautiful of all the Mediterranean islands.

So it's no surprise that when we talk about Corsica, we quickly run out of superlatives. The island's geography and topography, as well as its natural sites and cultural monuments, give it a definite advantage over other islands in the Mediterranean.

Situated 174km off the French coast, 12km from Sardinia and 80km from Tuscany, just a 1hr 30min flight from Paris, 2hr from London and 1hr 25min from Rome, Corsica lies right at the heart of Europe.

The island's highest peak, Monte Cinto, stands at an altitude of 2,710m and its average altitude of 600m gives Corsica some magnificently dramatic scenery. 1,000km of stunningly beautiful and varied coastline completes the picture.

Corsica's 25 mountain streams and rivers make it one of the most lush and best irrigated regions in the Mediterranean.

With 4,100km² of forest and maquis scrubland covering over half of the island, this is without doubt an island with an abundance of greenery.

It comes as no surprise to learn that the Ancient Greeks, who were true connoisseurs of beautiful islands, gave Corsica the name "Kalliste", which means "the most beautiful".

The wealth of tourist attractions on this miniature continent include a vast number of natural sites, notably a regional natural park covering almost 250,000 hectares, as well as a rich cultural heritage and a traditional way of life.

The many sites and monuments dotted all over Corsica bear witness to the island's history and vibrant, open culture which is supported by centuries of tradition and kept alive by the island's sense of identity expressed through song, music and local arts and crafts.

The island's attachment to religious values can be seen through its many Romanesque- and Baroque-style churches and chapels, as well as through the processions and traditional costumes which help to keep religious faith alive in rural Corsica.

Its varied gastronomy, which includes a wide range of culinary specialities, is constantly evolving and many tourist packages include an introduction to the island's cuisine.

Corsica's climate and geography make it perfect for all kinds of outdoor and leisure activities, from simple swimming to mountaineering, including a whole host of nautical and mountain activities such as hiking, horse riding and mountain biking.

You'll also find these different activities among the many sports events which take place throughout the year on the island.

In the same way, festivals and cultural events, many of which have an international dimension and which take place in towns and villages across Corsica, encourage cultural exchange and an open attitude towards other cultures.



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IDENTITY

Corsica expresses its true identity through its **CORSICA^{MADE}** brands

By using this brand name, the Corsica Tourist Board aims to convey an image of quality and authenticity in a variety of sectors such as food production, the environment, hotels and restaurants, arts and crafts and outdoor pursuits.

Created in 2010, the "Corsica Made" label is at the heart of Corsica's tourism strategy.

The label helps to promote Corsican identity through food, culture, heritage and the island's way of life, placing different sectors such as hotels, restaurants, arts and crafts and outdoor pursuits at the centre of tourism promotion and development.

A marker of both quality and authenticity in the fiercely competitive tourism sector, Corsica Made allows the island to stand out as a truly exceptional destination.

It gives Corsica a distinctive personality and approach through the use of a single phrase which is based on the identity of the island and its inhabitants.

Much more than a simple marketing slogan, the "Corsica Made" brand name encompasses all those involved in tourism on the island and is based on a respect for the island's image by combining the appeal of Corsica's natural landscapes (sea and mountains, open spaces, quality of the environment, preservation of sites etc) with specific Corsican qualities such as friendliness, identity, character and traditions.

HIGH-QUALITY TOURISM

In such a competitive market, high-quality tourism is the obvious choice.

This starts with the welcome offered to visitors, and even before they reach our shores, with the image that we present of our island through our marketing and communication activities. It is based on excellent accommodation and infrastructure and a professional approach and training which fully meets the criteria of a modern tourism industry and the demands of the targeted clientele.

This approach places much of its attention on the island's architectural heritage by restoring old village buildings which bear witness to so much history and tradition and which are often dilapidated and in need of repair.

These beautiful old villages offer high-quality accommodation for visitors, for whom they conjure up an image of a gentle way of life – the perfect setting for a relaxing holiday.

Outdoor pursuits and leisure activities play a strategic role in the island's tourism policy. Corsica's natural landscapes offer a superb background for the development of such activities, which corresponds with a sharp increase in demand.

At the same time, these activities must be regulated and organised in order to preserve and enhance the environment and to ensure that any services offered are professional and of a high standard.



RENDEZ-VOUS IN TERRA NOSTRA



AN ACCESSIBLE DESTINATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Corsica is accessible by direct flight from 33 cities in France and 36 towns and cities around Europe

The Corsica Tourist Board's new marketing policy with regard to visitors and key destinations aims at promoting a successful tourist industry through appropriate transport policies, thus ensuring that a regular flow of European visitors helps to stagger visitor numbers over the year.

Corsica's guiding strategy is the setting up of permanent flight connections from the airports of Marseille, Nice and Paris, which then act as an interface between the main European markets and Corsica in order to encourage a broad spectrum of clients.

In addition to the ferry companies which operate regular services to Corsica throughout the year from France and Italy, Corsica can now be reached by plane from many major cities in France and Europe.

2014 in Corsica, the year of the plane!

With 400,000 extra seats offered by Air Corsica alone, 2014 is proving to be the year of the plane in Corsica, with the island now accessible by direct flights throughout the year – in total, 7 companies now fly to Corsica from 33 French towns and cities.

Direct flights to Corsica are now also available from a total of 12 European countries (36 towns and cities).

Getting to Corsica

Accessible throughout the year by plane or ferry, Corsica has four international airports which handle flights from regional French and European capitals operated by around 20 scheduled and charter airlines, in addition to seven commercial ports with frequent ferry services from mainland France and Italy.

Under the heading "Book your transport online" on the Corsica tourism website, you'll find a list of airline companies which fly to the island, including the phone numbers of their main reservation offices in France and Europe, as well as a list of all direct flights from France and Europe to Corsica.

Contact the airline companies and travel agents for further information.

You will also find a list of the ferry companies which operate services to the island, including the phone numbers of their main reservation offices in France and Europe, as well as a list of all ferry sailings from France and Europe to Corsica.



BY PLANE

FLIGHTS TO CORSICA FROM FRANCE :

Agen, Angoulême, Bâle/Mulhouse, Brest, Brive, Bordeaux, Caen, Castres, Châteauroux, ClermontFerrand, Dole Franche Comté, Dijon, La Rochelle, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Metz/Nancy, Montpellier, Nantes, Toulouse, Toulon Tours.

(R) : Regular scheduled services
(LC): Low cost
(C) : Charter

Flights from France:

Air France : www.airfrance.com (R)
Air Corsica : www.aircorsica.com (R)
Easy Jet : www.easyjet.com (LC)
Volotea : www.volotea.com (LC)
HOP! Air France : www.hop.fr (LC)-(R)
Corse Voyages : www.corsevoyages.com (C)
Corsicatours : www.corsicatours.com (C)
la-corse.travel / Ollandini Charter : www.la-corse.travel (C)-(LC)
Thomas cook : www.thomascookairlines.com (R)

FLIGHTS TO CORSICA FROM EUROPE :

Berlin, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Francfort, Hambourg, Munich, Memmingen, Stuttgart, Salzbourg, Vienne, Luxembourg, Bristol, Londres Stansted, Londres Gatwick, Londres Heatrow, Manchester, Berne, Genève, La Chaux de Fonds, Sion, Les Eplatures, Sion, Zurich, Göteborg, Stockholm, Billund, Copenhague, Bruxelles, Bruxelles-Charleroi, Liège, Oslo, Milan, Rome, Amsterdam, Barcelone.

Find flight information on corsica-pro.com – under Transport/Travelling by plane

From Germany :

Lufthansa : www.lufthansa.com (R)
Air Berlin : www.airberlin.com (R)
Germanwings : www.germanwings.com (LC)
Rhomberg : www.rhomberg-reisen.com (C)
Niki : www.flyniki.com (LC)

From Austria :

Niki : www.flyniki.com (LC)
Rhomberg : www.rhomberg-reisen.com (C)

From Belgium :

Ryanair : www.ryanair.com (LC)
Thomas Cook : www.thomascookairlines.com (R)
Jetair Fly : www.jetairfly.com (LC)
Corsea Travel : www.corsicatavel.be (C)
La-corse.travel / Ollandini Charter : www.la-corse.travel (C)
Air Corsica : www.aircorsica.com (R)

From Spain :

Vueling : www.vueling.com (LC)

From the UK :

Easy Jet : www.easyjet.com (LC)
Corsican Places : www.corsica.co.uk (C)
Mark Warner : www.markwarner.co.uk (C)

From Italy :

Air Corsica : www.aircorsica.com (R)
Easy Jet : www.easyjet.com (R)

From Luxemburg:

Luxair : www.luxair.lu (R)
la-corse.travel /ollandini Charter : www.la-corse.travel (R)

From the Netherlands :

Transavia : www.transavia.com (LC)

From Scandinavia :

Norwegian : www.norwegian.com (LC)

Langley Travel : www.langley.eu (C)
Ruby Rejser : www.ruby-rejser.dk (C)
S.A.S. : www.flysas.com (R)

From Switzerland:

Air Glaciers : www.air-glaciers.ch (C)-(R)
VT Vacances : www.vtvacances.ch (C)
Frantour : www.frantour.ch (C)
Swiss : www.swiss.com (C)
HOP! Air France : www.hop.fr (R)
Rhomberg : www.rhomberg-reisen.com (C)
Helvetic : www.helvetic.com (LC)
Skywork Airlines : www.flyskywork.com (C)
Easy Jet : www.easyjet.com (LC)

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BY FERRY

FERRY CROSSINGS TO CORSICA FROM :

France : Marseille, Nice et Toulon

Italie : Gênes, Porto Torres, Livourne, Savone et Santa Teresa Di Gallura

Liaisons depuis la France et l'Italie

Corsica Ferries : www.corsica-ferries.com
La Méridionale : www.lameridionale.fr
S.N.C.M : www.sncm.fr
MobyLines : www.moby.com
www.moby.it
SAREMAR : www.saremar.it

COMMERCIAL PORTS

AJACCIO

Tél : +33(0)4 95 51 55 45
www.2a.cci.fr

BASTIA

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www.bastia-hautecorse.cci.fr

BONIFACIO

Tél : +33(0)4 95 73 06 75
Fax : +33(0)4 95 73 19 55
www.2a.cci.fr

L'ILE ROUSSE

Tél : +33(0)4 95 65 28 12
Fax : +33(0)4 95 60 45 54
www.bastia-hautecorse.cci.fr

PORTO VECCHIO

Tél : +33(0)4 95 70 49 49
www.2a.cci.fr

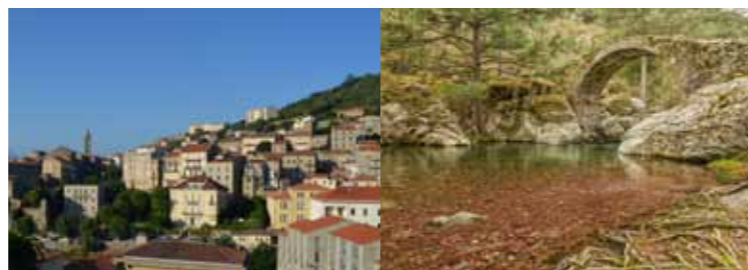
PROPRIANO

Tél : +33(0)4 95 76 21 51
www.2a.cci.fr



THE ISLAND'S 9 TOURIST AREAS

- > Ajaccio region : www.ajaccio-tourisme.com
- > Western Corsica : www.ouestcorsica.com
- > Central Corsica : www.centru-corsica.com
- > Bastia region : www.bastia-tourisme.com
- > Southern Corsica : www.destination-sudcorse.com
- > Taravo-Sartenais-Valinco : www.lacorsedesorigines.com
- > Eastern Corsica : www.corsica-costaserena.com
- > Pays de Balagne : www.balagne-corsica.com
- > Castagniccia Mare e Monti : www.castagniccia-maremonti.com



CORSICA, A PARADISE FOR OUTDOOR

Whether you're hiking along some of the most beautiful footpaths in the world, mountain biking through unspoilt forests, horse riding on some of the island's 2,000 kilometres of bridle paths, or scuba-diving in coral reefs, you'll soon realise that Corsica is the perfect playground for adventurers and sports enthusiasts of all levels.

Above all, Corsica has unique landscapes waiting to be discovered – a single region boasting a multitude of treasures.

From north to south, east to west and from the sea to the mountains, you'll be stunned by the island's varied landscapes, with smart coastal towns contrasting with secluded inland villages on this hugely diverse island. And although its beautiful natural scenery is its major attraction, Corsica offers much more than picture-postcard views and its inhabitants have made every effort to offer alternatives to simply lazing in the sun.

Whether you're keen to explore on land, on sea or even underwater, the island has developed a whole host of leisure pursuits and outdoor activities to be enjoyed with all the family. Tree climbing, botanical walks, farm visits to meet the animals, taking a ride on a tourist train, and even visiting a turtle museum are just some of the land-based activities available.

Options at sea are just as plentiful. The island's sailing clubs, which are dotted all around the coast, offer a warm welcome and a wide selection of activities for young and old – from beach activities and underwater adventures to learning all about Corsica's marine environment, the choice is almost endless.

The scene is set and the options are limitless – so come to Corsica and experience a truly unique holiday!



Sea or mountains?

In Corsica, enjoy beach activities, jet skiing, fun boarding or underwater fishing, and then at the end of the day go rafting or canyoning in one of the nearby river valleys. Or try your hand at paragliding or via ferrata. A whole host of activities are available on the island, including winter sports such as cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing.

Looking for excitement?

In Corsica, enjoy beach activities, jet skiing, fun boarding or underwater fishing, and then at the end of the day go rafting or canyoning in one of the nearby river valleys. Or try your hand at paragliding or via ferrata. A whole host of activities are available on the island, including winter sports such as cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing.

Looking for excitement?

Wherever you visit on the island, even if you're a die-hard sports fanatic you'll leave with the sensation of having given it your all, with the added bonus of practising your favourite activity surrounded by Corsica's grandiose natural landscapes.

Whether you're keen on scuba diving, flying or river sports, you'll find that this "mountain in the sea" is a paradise for all sorts of outdoor activities.

And because we don't all want to "challenge" ourselves on holiday, there are a thousand and one ways in Corsica of enjoying outdoor activities which are accessible to all and yet still provide fun and excitement. Mountain biking, horse riding and climbing are just some of the options available to beginners and experienced practitioners alike, so that you can experience the thrill of trying something new without feeling terrified!

Or relaxation?

Diving in the unspoilt underwater world of the Scandola maritime reserve. Hiking up to the stunning Aiguilles de Bavella. Mountain biking along the mountainous slopes of the Niolo valley. Horse riding through the Balagne, the Corte region or the coastal area of the Désert des Agriates.

Go paragliding and enjoy grandiose birds'-eye views of Corsica. Take a hike along the world-renowned GR 20 long-distance footpath which crosses Corsica from north to south. Kayak down a river, trot or gallop through a forest, scale the heights as you climb one of our rocky cliffs.

To do:

Take a hike along the world-renowned GR 20 long-distance footpath which crosses Corsica from north to south. Kayak down a river, trot or gallop through a forest, scale the heights as you climb one of our rocky cliffs. Even if you're not an expert in your sport, introductory classes and improvers' courses are available throughout Corsica, run by experienced instructors who are happy to tailor their lessons to individuals' needs and abilities.

Exploring

Diving in the unspoilt underwater world of the Scandola maritime reserve. Hiking up to the stunning Aiguilles de Bavella. Mountain biking along the mountainous slopes of the Niolo valley.

Horse riding through the Balagne, the Corte region or the coastal area of the Désert des Agriates. Paragliding and enjoying grandiose birds'-eye views of Corsica.



EXPLORING CORSICA

Corsica is a region full of character, as its rich history and stunning natural landscapes testify. Its striking granite and schist geology make a lasting impression, offering a whole host of idyllic sites which charm and enchant visitors to the island. It is this unique and authentic Corsica which often comes as a real surprise.

The imposing Calanche de Piana, the historical importance of the ruins at Filitosa, and the beauty of the Scandola reserve all bear witness to the passing of time which has shaped this multi-faceted landscape. The region can be explored through its renowned traditional crafts which demonstrate a unique expertise, whether in knife-making, the production of essential oils or red coral work. The work of the island's artisans can be admired throughout the year, with ham producers, knife-makers and ceramic artists all happy to open their doors to visitors and share their ancestral knowledge and traditions.

Kalliste, as it was known to the Greeks, is attracting a growing number of curious walkers who are keen to follow in the footsteps of Napoleon Bonaparte or Pasquale Paoli. Marked by its tumultuous past, Corsica boasts a remarkable number of fascinating monuments, including Genoese watchtowers, Romanesque and Baroque churches, and elegant townhouses, all of which make the island well worth a visit.

And if, as you wander around the island, you come across one of our charming village inns, don't hesitate to push the door open and step inside.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Throughout the year, and especially during the summer, each region in Corsica organises festivals and events to promote local art and culture. From the Balagne to Ajaccio or Bastia, visitors can experience the vibrant heart of Corsican culture at any time of year.

Whether you visit a secular festival, a religious celebration or a cultural fair, you'll experience the locals' real sense of celebration and respect for their cultural heritage which they are always more than delighted to share with visitors.

REMARKABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

In Corsica, old buildings have a soul. The Romanesque chapels in Castagniccia, Baroque churches of Bastia, the old fortifications of Bonifacio or the citadel at Calvi – all bear witness to the island's rich history, which has left its mark even on the most secluded villages.

The inhabitants of Corsica have also built museums, developed archaeological sites, and organised music and theatre festivals which have proved hugely popular. Prehistory has given the island the menhirs of Filitosa, while the Romans brought vine cultivation and oyster farming.

From the Middle Ages onwards, Christianity encouraged the construction of Romanesque and Baroque churches. Meanwhile, the Genoese came to the island where they built fortresses and citadels as protection against invaders.

Corsica boasts a whole host of magnificent buildings and monuments bequeathed by centuries of civilisation. Strongly influenced by the Latin world, the island is striking for its many beautiful religious buildings, with small churches and fine cathedrals dotted right across the land.

Near Bastia, the Santa Maria Assunta church, often referred to as "A Canonica", is an old Pisan-style basilica which is a masterpiece of remarkable simplicity dating from the 12th century, while in Bastia itself the Saint-Jean-Baptiste church, the largest parish church in Corsica, stands proudly above the old port where its high, theatrical façade watches over the city's inhabitants.

Meanwhile, Ajaccio is renowned for its ochre-coloured cathedral where Napoleon Bonaparte was baptised in 1771, making it one of the proud symbols of this Imperial city.

In Murato, in the Nebbiu region, you'll find the Romanesque-style San Michele church, one of the most beautiful churches in Corsica, whose original decor attracts numerous visitors.

All of these places of worship are striking for their architectural strength and beauty, offering a harmonious appeal which is the basis of the island's humanist vision. Exploring these superb buildings adds a rich dimension to any visit to the island, making them a real point of interest for curious visitors to Corsica.

UNSPOILT NATURE

A unique and fragile flora and fauna

With a Regional Natural Park covering two-thirds of its territory, Corsica is a largely unspoilt island full of nature reserves and protected sites. The park covers an area of 3,500km², on both land and sea, and is constantly monitored and protected by the authorities that manage it. In total, five nature reserves and an international marine reserve have been created to protect the island's unique and fragile flora and fauna.

Corsica's verdant landscapes set it apart from the traditional image of a Mediterranean island, with forests of Corsican pine, emerald mountain lakes, scented maquis scrubland, cool Alpine pastures and rows of vineyards all contributing to the island's patchwork of greenery.

It is this topography, unique in the Mediterranean, which makes it so green. This "mountain in the sea" is aptly named, with 120 mountain peaks at an altitude of over 2,000m, many of them covered in snow until spring. The 25 rivers and streams which criss-cross Corsica make this the most irrigated island in the Mediterranean.

And, as an added bonus, Corsica also boasts a rich, varied coastline which extends for over 1,000km.

Preserving the island's rich landscapes

The idea of respect for the natural environment is an essential factor in maintaining and protecting our landscapes – and indeed, in our commitment to protecting these landscapes.

In Corsica, a number of different organisations, public bodies and professionals come together to manage these natural landscapes, paying attention to their ecological potential, richness and fragility. Corsica is home to a large number of protected sites and nature reserves, some of which are recognised nationally and others of which are designated UNESCO World Heritage sites



Nature reserves

Five nature reserves protect the island's unique flora and fauna: the Cerbicales islands, home to the European shag; the Lavezzi islands, where 68 different species of fish have been recorded; the Finocchiarola islands; Scandola, the first nature reserve in France to cover both land and sea; and the Etang de Biguglia, which provides the nesting grounds for 127 different species of aquatic birds.

Marine parks

The Bouches de Bonifacio international marine park covers an area of 800km² in French territory and extends from the Île aux Moines to the Gulf of Porto-Vecchio (Pointe de la Chiappa).

The Parc National Marin de Corse stretches from south of Calvi (the La Revellata peninsula) to the Gulf of Porto, covering an area of 1,500km² at sea and 117km² on land.

Holiday ideas *discover a whole host of holiday ideas at visit-corsica.com*

> The hidden creeks of the west coast

From Ajaccio to the north of Bonifacio, head south along the west coast in a sea kayak. This coastline is a real paradise for canoeists, with its round pink-hued rocks punctuated here and there by white sandy beaches where you won't be able to resist taking a quick dip or going snorkelling!

> Relax with the family

On the banks of the River Asco in the heart of Corsica's parc naturel regional, enjoy a relaxing holiday with the family, where the emphasis is on activities in the great outdoors. Attractions include accommodation which is environmentally friendly in design, activities suitable for all ages, and a focus on sustainable and responsible tourism.





A UNIQUE WAY OF LIFE

A REGION WITH A THOUSAND FLAVOURS

Corsica has maintained many of its gastronomic traditions, with food and cuisine playing an important role in the life of the island.

Visitors with discerning palates will appreciate the quality of our ingredients, produced according to traditional methods from a land renowned for its sweet chestnuts, citrus fruits, charcuterie, creamy cheeses, wines and liqueurs.

And if you spend a bit longer on the island, you'll have time to appreciate the different honeys made here – many of which have been awarded their own AOC (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée) status – which bear witness to Corsica's huge variety of flora. Another traditional island product is sweet chestnut flour, which is used to make the famous "polenta" often served at Christmas and New Year. And of course, you can't fail to enjoy our wines, such as Cap Corse muscats and Patrimonio wines, nine of which have been awarded AOC status and which spread the image of Corsica around the world. A glass of Corsican wine is the perfect accompaniment to a plate of delicious local charcuterie. Sample some of our prizuttu (cured ham), which is full of flavour, or try some of the famous figatellu sausage, which is perfect grilled over the fire on a cold winter's day. Produced from pigs which graze freely in oak and sweet chestnut forests, Corsican charcuterie (coppa, figatellu, lonzu etc) is among the best in the world. Watch producers expertly slice the prisuttu ham at local markets and in village shops – they're more than happy to offer curious visitors a taste of their produce.

The island's cheeses are just as delicious. In winter, taste the famous brocciu, which is made from whey and used in savoury recipes such as stuffed meat and vegetables and sweet dishes such as fiadone and ambrucciata (types of Corsican cheesecake). You'll also enjoy the local sheep's cheeses which are best savoured with a small glass of myrtle liqueur or brandy.

Hospitality and the Corsican way of life

Renowned for their friendly hospitality, Corsicans delight in sharing their way of life with visitors to the island, with its rich flavours and full-bodied wines, its fine gastronomy based on traditions of fishing and hunting and its vast array of ancestral crafts and expertise.

Visitors who show the slightest curiosity about the island's history and traditions will soon find that Corsicans are happy to share their knowledge. With discreet yet authentic hospitality, locals offer a warm welcome to visitors, whether you're sitting in a shaded village square or invited into someone's home, where conversations can go on well into the early hours of the night.

Good food and farm inns

If you're keen to try local specialities, then you'll be spoilt for choice with a whole host of good places to eat offering stews, wild boar, grilled fish and other dishes cooked in traditional ways. Corsica is home to around twenty "fermes auberges" (farm inns) which have been awarded the "Bienvenue à la ferme" label by the Chamber of Agriculture and which are renowned for their excellent local food.

Meeting the locals

Corsicans are keen to preserve their traditional culture but they also like nothing more than to share this with visitors. Throughout the year, visitors to the island can taste local specialities such as olive oil, sweet-chestnut products, AOC honey and wines from Patrimonio and Sartène in markets, shops or traditional restaurants, adding a delightful local flavour to their holiday. For example, the "new olive oil" festival, held in late March in Sainte Marie de Tallano, allows visitors to explore the olive oil mills in the region and to taste the oil produced that year.

You may prefer to take a tour of local wine producers to sample the island's ten AOC wines. Or go for a walk through the maquis scrubland in the spring and smell the delicate scent of our spring flowers. Meanwhile, the numerous wine, cheese, olive oil, sweet chestnut and honey festivals held around the island introduce visitors to the many delights of Corsican gastronomy.

Fish and seafood

On the coast, try the shellfish, mussels and oysters from the Étang de Diana, which have won gold medals at the Agricultural de Paris show on more than one occasion. Savour specialities such as calamars farcis à l'Ajaccienne (squid stuffed with onions, parsley and garlic) and Corsican-style lobster, which demonstrate once and for all that Corsican cuisine has plenty to offer the visitor.



Holiday ideas

discover a whole host of holiday ideas at visit-corsica.com

A wine holiday in Corsica

Enjoy a weekend away in the heart of the Corsican vineyards on an exclusive and personalised holiday with a sommelier who will spend a day guiding you through the wine-making traditions of Ajaccio's AOC wines.

Discover the different wine varieties of the region and meet producers on their estates, where you'll learn all about the wine-making process and taste some of their best wines.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Whether you enjoy thalassotherapy, balneotherapy or hot springs, Corsica is the perfect destination for a relaxing spa holiday.

Corsica is a mecca for anyone who loves water. Water is everywhere on the island, with its abundance of rivers and beaches which are ideal for cooling off and relaxing. You'll find pools created by natural streams near every footpath and village, with large rocks smoothed by the current and crystal-clear water just perfect for a refreshing dip.

Discover the joys of a holiday dedicated to thalassotherapy, balneotherapy or bathing in hot springs – the perfect way to relax and let go of the stresses of everyday life.

Well-being and pleasure

Corsica is an island with an attractive, relaxing way of life. Breathe in its fresh air and enjoy the fragrance of its many plants and flowers, take time to relax on the beach and bathe in its clear seas or pure mountain streams and experience the sense of serenity and well-being which comes so naturally here.

Fresh water?

Rivers, waterfalls, mountain lakes and hot springs provide an abundance of fresh water on the island, with more and more visitors coming here every year to swim in some of the island's most secluded spots. There's nothing like a quick dip in fresh cool water to give you a feeling of joy and well-being – a rare experience indeed!

Or salt water?

Wherever you are in Corsica, even in the busiest and most visited parts of the island, you can always find a tranquil cove for a quiet and secluded swim. And you may even be tempted by the pleasures of a thalassotherapy or spa treatment available in some of the hotels on the Corsican coast.

Things to do

Once spring is here, follow waymarked footpaths through the woods and scented maquis scrubland. Many of these little paths are cool and uncrowded and often they lead to lakes and rivers where you can take a refreshing dip in the clear water, then dry off on the warm rocks in the sun. A truly idyllic experience!

Opting for a thalassotherapy treatment is just as appealing. With experienced and qualified therapists using oils made on the island, a full-body massage and invigorating shower is a delightful way to follow a relaxing day on the beach.

Things to see

Waterfalls such as the Cascades de Bujia (east coast), Le Voile de la Mariée (Bocognano in the Ajaccio region) and Polischellu (southern Corsica); the Le Grand Valinco hot springs; high mountain lakes such as Lac Nino in the Niolu (Vico region), Lac Creno in the middle of a forest of Corsican pines, and Lac de l'Ospedale near Porto-Vecchio.

Holiday ideas

discover a whole host of holiday ideas at visit-corsica.com

> Thalassotherapy

Relax, unwind and experience a whole host of new sensations thanks to the virtues of floral waters and Corsican essential oils combined with the beneficial effects of sea water at this thalassotherapy centre facing the Bay of Ajaccio and the Îles Sanguinaires, where you can embark on a sensory voyage combining thalassotherapy with massages and beauty treatments.

> Time to do nothing

Are you looking for a restful holiday, with time to do nothing other than enjoy the beautiful scenery and listen to the waves lapping on the shore? If so, there's only one possible destination for you and that's Corsica! The "island of beauty" is perfect for a lazy, relaxing holiday at any time of year. You'll find a whole host of magical locations offering wild coastal scenery, tiny deserted coves and crystal-clear water.

In spring, take a stroll along the stunning fine sandy beaches situated along the eastern coast, from Palombaggia to Santa Giulia in Porto-Vecchio. You'll soon understand why Corsica is often described as the "cradle of angels".

In summer, as soon as you arrive on the island you'll want to put on your swimming costume, grab your towel and sun cream and head straight to the beautiful beaches of Saint-Florent lined with Aleppo pines.

In autumn, you might like to go for a walk on the famous Îles Sanguinaires in Ajaccio. This archipelago is a paradise for birds, with European shags, peregrine falcons, warblers and ospreys all found here. With family or friends, why not visit the Tour de la Parata, the old Genoese fortress which is one of the symbols of Corsican history, and watch the sun go down? You'll soon understand French writer Alphonse Daudet's description of the island as "une île rougeâtre d'aspect farouche" (a wild island of reddish tones).

A small (but important) tip: in March, head to the beach to taste some of the local sea urchins and other shellfish accompanied by a glass of Corsican white wine. Bliss!



A DESTINATION FOR BUSINESS

The perfect destination for business tourism

Renowned for its crystal-clear waters and fine sandy beaches, its traditional character and unspoilt natural landscapes, Corsica is the perfect destination for business meetings, incentive trips, conferences and conventions. Easily accessible and yet offering a real sense of getting away from it all thanks to its climate, scenery, atmosphere, inhabitants and history, Corsica is just waiting to be discovered!

For companies organising business events, the island is a destination combining high-quality facilities and authentic and adventurous activities thanks to its magnificent mountain scenery and beautiful beaches.

Local experience and know-how make the most of the island's rich cultural and historical heritage to offer a range of exciting incentive activities which will more than meet your requirements. In this delightful setting, business visitors will discover unspoilt natural landscapes and authentic traditions which will make their trip here a truly unforgettable experience.

Corsica offers all the attractions of a high-quality destination, just a few hours away from Europe's major capital cities. The island's superb historical and cultural sights, its quality of life untainted by stress or pollution, plus its excellent infrastructure make this a leading destination for business tourism.

A breathtaking variety of landscapes combined with a mild climate give visitors to Corsica a real sense of getting away from it all – just 1hr 40min from the major capital cities of Europe!

The island offers a wide variety of interesting sites and places to visit, including mountain lakes and picturesque sheep huts, Mediterranean-style village squares, luxurious yachts and the finest beachfront resorts.

Corsica is also able to host a wide spectrum of events, with excellent conference facilities such as the Palais des Congrès et d'Expositions d'Ajaccio Millanari, which can house up to 450 delegates. Built in the heart of the imperial city, this conference centre is conveniently situated right next to the marina and commercial port, just 10 minutes from Napoléon Bonaparte international airport.

There are also plenty of options for incentive trips here, allowing participants to make full use of their time on the island. Local DMC teams have excellent knowledge of the area, enabling them to put together tailor-made programmes which offer a whole range of sports and activities, such as dinghy and speed boat rides, sailing trips, scuba diving and game fishing, all of which challenge participants in a safe and fully supervised environment.

Corsica's natural inland landscapes can be explored by 4WD, quad bike or mountain bike, while more adventurous visitors may choose to follow the coastal footpaths on horseback, giving them the opportunity to gallop along the beaches and explore the mountain peaks all in the same day.

If your group is interested in cultural activities, then they'll find the island an inexhaustible source of delight, with historical events from the Napoleonic period offering a real source of inspiration during their incentive activities!



A PERFECT PLACE TO VISIT AT ANY TIME OF YEAR

Numerous ways to enjoy Corsica out of season

You're bound to find a season to suit you in Corsica, whatever your interests. As far as the climate is concerned, it is only from mid November to early March that you run the risk of persistent rain which can vary from one micro-region to another. As Corsica is essentially a mountain surrounded by sea, temperatures vary greatly depending on the altitude of where you are staying. Whether you're tempted by spring flowers and the scents of the maquis or autumn festivals in hill-top villages celebrating the sweet chestnut, there's something to discover in Corsica at any time of year with a whole host of holiday ideas to choose from.

Summer, is the busiest time of year, with a wide choice of things to do, plus the guarantee of superb weather which means you can make the most of every day of your holiday. As Corsica always enjoys a slight sea breeze, temperatures are never excessively hot.

Spring is the season of the first festivals. Resorts come to life as soon as the Easter holidays start and this is the best time of year for outdoor activities, especially water sports in the mountains and by the seaside. It's also the best time to enjoy the flowering maquis and to appreciate the islands magnificent scenery.

Autumn, is a lovely time of year to visit Corsica, with the majority of the island's hotels and shops staying open and the sea retaining the warmth of summer. This is the best time to visit the island as a couple, with friends or in a group and you'll find that the locals have more time to interact with visitors.

Those who love the mountains in **winter** will enjoy following the island's challenging cross-country ski trails, some of which follow sections of the famous GR 20 long-distance footpath, and discovering the small family resorts which are perfect for skiing and snowshoeing. The island's many coastal paths remain accessible at any time of year and its major cities are always lively, making them an ideal base for a winter break with trips inland to sample Corsica's excellent local cuisine.

PLANNING YOUR HOLIDAY

In line with other leading tourist destinations, Corsica now has a new website highlighting all the latest trends in e-tourism: www.visit-corsica.com.

www.visit-corsica.com aims to promote Corsica as a destination, offering suggestions, practical information and up-to-date news from the island. Its new revamped site offers a more streamlined look which incorporates a simple design and easy access to information via a new navigation system.

The website, translated into English, Italian and German, offers a whole host of useful information which introduces Corsica to visitors and helps them to plan their holiday (accommodation, things to do, transport, events etc). The site is connected to the regional tourist information system managed by the Corsica Tourist Board and is updated on a daily basis by the island's tourist offices.

THREE LEVELS OF INFORMATION:

> A rolling menu at the top of the page displays information by topic, with a focus on the many different types of holiday you can enjoy in Corsica.

In the background, large beautiful photos illustrate different topics, providing an attractive image of the island.

>The central part of the home page focuses on what's on now, with holiday offers, special deals and transport information.

> The footer at the bottom of the page lists general information such as access, subscribing to newsletters, search engines etc.

A calendar of events, travel information, transport details and other practical information are all listed to help visitors plan their holiday. All of this information can be shared on social media.

In order to meet the needs of its users even more, visit-corsica.com has integrated new functions which enable users to access accommodation suppliers in real time, make a booking and pay online.

Beautiful images and information you can trust – the best way to discover the website is to go online and start planning your holiday to Corsica!



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Agence du Tourisme de la Corse 2013 - Conception rédaction Cellule communication



QUOI DE NEUF ?

Hôtel SPA Radisson Blu Resort ** Ajaccio** - Agosta plage - 20166 Porticcio
info.porticcio@radissonblu.com - www.radissonblu.com/resort-ajaccio - 04.95.77.97.97

The Radisson Blu hotel opened in Porticcio on the south-west coast of Corsica in June 2012. Situated near Ajaccio, this elegant 4-star hotel with a superb setting is ideal for beach-lovers and spa enthusiasts. The hotel stands on Agosta beach, one of six fine sandy bays in Porticcio. It offers 170 designer-inspired guestrooms and suites with terraces which overlook either the surrounding vegetation or the Mediterranean.

Hôtel Le Mariosa ** Porto-Vecchio** - Route de Palombaggia - 20137 Porto-Vecchio
contact@hotelmariosa.com - 04.95.70.17.77

The Hôtel Mariosa boasts a superb location, situated directly on one of the beaches in the Gulf of Porto-Vecchio. Facing the town, this new 4-star hotel in southern Corsica makes an ideal base for a holiday with its comfortable and original guestrooms. The hotel has 27 rooms divided into four different categories and sleeping 1-3 guests.

Hôtel La Plage Cas a Del Mar - Porto-Vecchio
info@laplagecasadelmar.fr - 04.95.71.02.30

Renovated in 2012, this hotel comprises 3 villas and a main building and boasts its own private beach and swimming pool. Situated on the Benedettu peninsula in the Bay of Porto-Vecchio, the Plage Casa Del Mar offers 12 guestrooms and 3 suites (29m² to 60m²) and is right on the beach just 1km from the shops. Open from April to October.

Hôtel Don César *** - Porto-Vecchio** - Rue du Commandant Quilici - 20137 Porto-Vecchio
info@hoteldoncesar.com - 04.95.76.09.09

With a superb location right on the beach facing the Gulf of Porto Vecchio and less than 1km from the town centre, this hotel offers top-of-the-range facilities and is a reference for luxury hotel accommodation in Corsica. The hotel's 39 rooms are divided into seven different categories and can sleep from 1-4 guests

Le Carré Noir - Porto-Vecchio - Lieu-dit Bella Vista - Santa Giulia - 20137 Porto-Vecchio
info@hotelcarrenoir.com - 04.95.70.18.66

The Hôtel Carré Noir on the Bay of Santa Giulia in Porto Vecchio is a luxury hotel with 25 guestrooms, all of which boast a terrace overlooking the sea.

Hôtel Liberata Île Rousse **** - La Marinella - 20220 Ile Rousse
hotel.liberata@orange.fr - 04.95.62.03.62

L'hôtel Liberata est la nouvelle adresse incontournable pour un séjour de charme à Ile Rousse doté d'un spa, piscine et le confort d'un hôtel de son rang. Sa situation exceptionnelle de cet hôtel 4 étoiles vous permettra de profiter de la plage ainsi que de la proximité du centre-ville. L'hôtel Liberata dispose de 22 chambres réparties en 5 catégories différentes.

High-tech golf course on the Murtoli estate

The unique feature of the Murtoli golf course, designed by Kyle Phillips in a delightfully rustic setting, is the chance for golfers to play as if they were in an actual tournament – in other words, exactly as golf was originally played and before the word "par" took on its current meaning. This has resulted in a unique golfing experience, with its 12 greens evoking the spirit of the Prestwick Open Championship played in the 1860s.

With 47 different playing options and holes varying in length between 100m and 500m (including 3 par-5s), Murtoli golf course offers a hugely enjoyable golfing experience for players of all levels.

The course is also perfect for beginners with a fully equipped practice range, including a green and bunkers, enabling golfers to fine-tune their full range of shots.

KEY TOURIST FIGURES

TOURISM CLIENTELE: Foreign/French visitors: 29% / 71%

Foreign visitors: > Germany 20% > Belgium 15% > Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands 10%.

1 in 5 foreign tourists comes from Germany.

French visitors: > PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) region 20% > Ile de France region 17% > Rhône Alpes region 15%

1 in 5 French tourists comes from the PACA region..

ACCOMMODATION

Corsica has a tourist accommodation capacity of 493,000 beds, 53,000 of which are in commercial properties (4,350 properties) and 340,000 of which represent the non-commercial sector (second homes).

ENVIRONMENT

> 40% of the region is covered by the Parc Naturel Régional de Corse

> 5 sites are UNESCO World Heritage listed, in addition to 6 nature reserves

> 200km of coastline and 18,000ha managed by the Conservatoire du Littoral association

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

> 273 monuments and listed buildings

> 76 noteworthy towns and villages

> 21 museums, 50 cultural festivals and 32 rural fairs

> 7 archaeological and historic site

TOURIST FACILITIES

> 36 tourist offices

> 19 marinas with 9,000 moorings

> 1,500km of footpaths

> 4 golf courses and 3 ski resorts

HOTELS/CAMPSITES

> 2.8 million overnight stays in hotel accommodation in 2013.

The average occupation rate is 58.8%, with a trend towards shorter breaks.

> 4.1 million overnights in campsites.

The average occupation rate is 45.7% over the season.

3 million tourists every year
13% of the island's GDP **21%** of the private sector's value added
 Turnover: : **1,8 billion €**

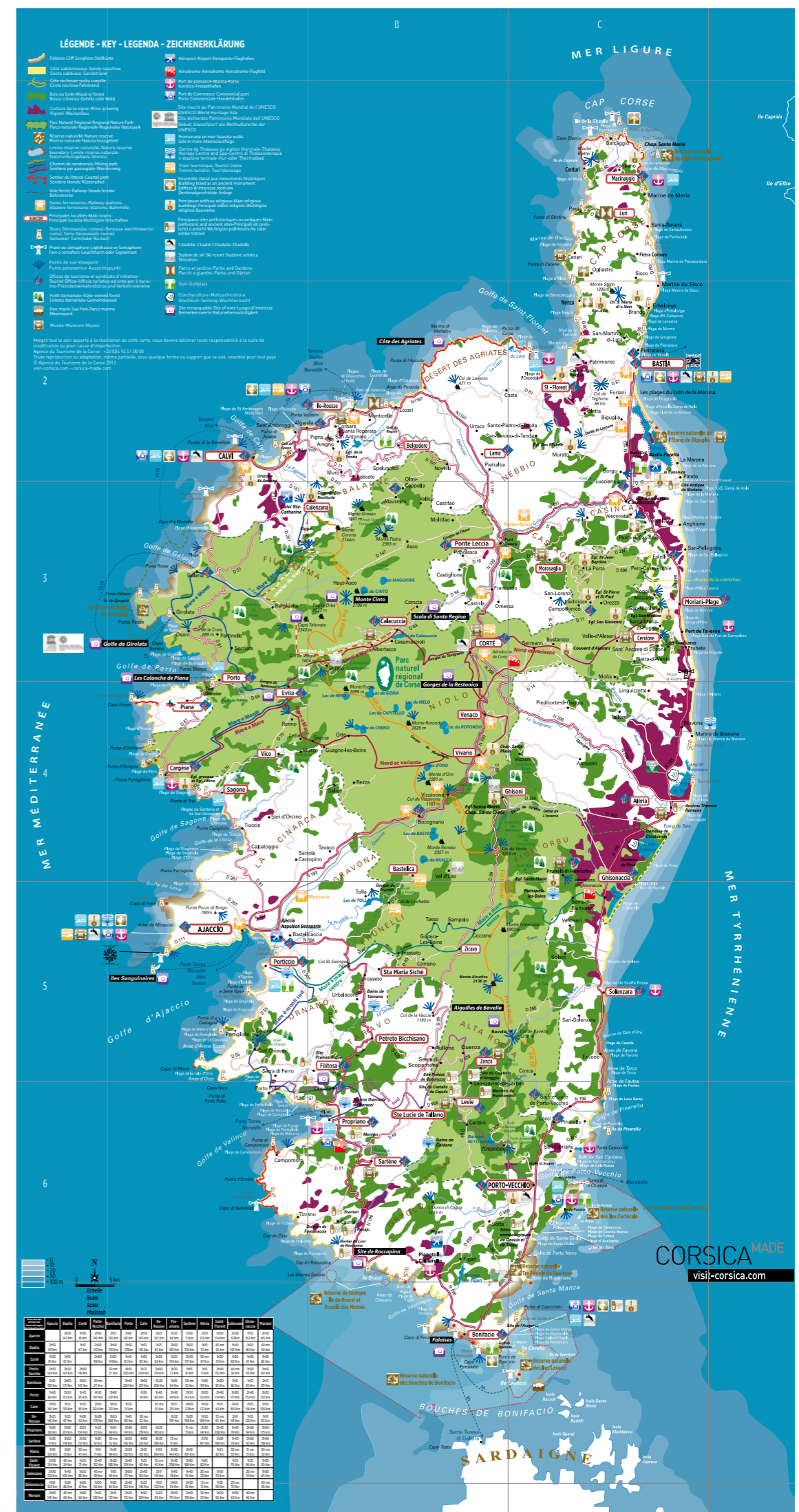
TRANSPORT FIGURES

7.5 million visitors (excluding cruise passengers) with an increase of 1.4% in one year.

Flights: 3.23 million passengers – a record high in 2013 with an increase of over 7.9% in a year.

By sea: 4.25 million visitors.

Cruise ships: 700,000 cruise ship passengers with 81% docking in Ajaccio.





Corsica tourism website visit-corsica.com

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