

Inroads to **CORSICA**

WITH **LE FRENZ** CONNECTION:



THE ISLAND OF BEAUTY

.....OR SO THE FRENCH CALL IT - and as with all coveted jewels, they keep this one very much to themselves. Corsica has its own unique flavor—Citadels and Genoese Towers, prehistoric sites, perched villages scattered along rugged mountain roads,



coastlines bordered by dizzying rock formations, pristine sandy beaches, and in every direction the crystal clear turquoise Mediterranean Sea.

You'll find Corsica's turbulent past and colourful present overlapping in this timeless land. As you journey along its remote roads and scented maquis, the views will simply take your breath away. Roots plunge deeply into the Corsican soil for sustenance and a

strong sense of identity. Your Franco-Kiwi driver/guide François had grandparents of Corsican stock – hence his special affinity with the island. With carefully honed driving skills and insider knowledge, François will take you on a special journey of this proud, unruly and intensely beautiful land.

His natural talent at engaging the locals will enable you to partake in the very best of Corsican hospitality.

TOUR DEPARTURE DATE:

1-10 JUNE 2016

7-16 SEPTEMBER 2016

(groups of 4 or more may enquire about other tour dates)

NZ \$4,750 PP (TWIN SHARE)

MAX 8 TRAVELLERS



DAY 1

You will be met off the overnight ferry at Bastia or at the airport. Then it's on for a guided walking tour of the Citadel which offers beautiful views of the city, the old port and a visit to the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville with its lively market. After a drive east along the coast we stop at the magnificent Ile Rousse and walk past a small Genoese watch tower to the lighthouse for a spectacular vista of the Mediterranean. Dinner and night's accommodation in a hilltop village with commanding views.

DAY 2

We explore the pretty port and citadel of Calvi. After lunch at the marina journey

on to Porto, picturesque seaside village framed by thickly forested hills. Dine at leisure at a seaside restaurant of your choice. Two night's accommodation with views on the Mediterranean.

DAY 3

A boat trip is almost an obligation at this prize location nestled between UNESCO's protected marine reserve La Scandola and the majestic world-renowned Calanques of La Piana.

A small boat takes you alongside sculpted rocky cliffs that leap towards the skyline and absorb the sun to reflect russet red hues in the water.

Afternoon option of coastal walk, sea kayak, or leisure time.





DAY 4

We travel into the mountains to Corte, the emblematic soul of Corsica and symbol of its struggle for independence. A stop at Calacucci offers an opportunity to take in the views and stretch your legs.

A guided walking tour of Corte; its warren of streets, colourful edifices, Citadel, and thoroughly modern museum are all worth a visit. Napoleon was conceived here and his legacy is strongly felt.

We have an apéro with his countrymen in a local wine cellar amongst smoky hams and then the afternoon and evening are yours to explore and discover more of the town at leisure.

Dinner and a night's accommodation in a stylish family home that has been accommodating travellers for more than three generations.

DAY 5

A spectacular train ride from Corte to Vizzavona takes you through some of the most scenic and inaccessible mountain landscape of the island and over the enormous Vecchio viaduct engineered by Gustav Eiffel. A shady track leads us through the forest to some of the first prehistoric cave dwellings discovered in Corsica. Then the road snakes back to the east coast and we have a late lunch overlooking the marina of Solenzara followed by an afternoon swim at the beach. Three nights' accommodation near Bonifaccio.



DAY 6

A free morning in the historic citadelle of Porto Vecchio followed by a short drive to a selection of Corsica's secluded and most beautiful beaches. Dig your toes into fine white sand, sink into the warm and azure coloured sea, or watch the world go by under the leafy canopy of a shady beachside café.



DAY 7

Time to enjoy Bonifaccio at the island's southern extremity. Here limestone cliffs, Citadel walls and ancient houses have merged to form a formidable fortress town suspended above the sea and marina.

A boat takes us to the Lavezzi Islands (a collection of bleached granite island and reefs that separate Corsica and Bonifaccio) armed with picnic and snorkling gear.

This is a protected marine reserve whose translucent waters offer a paradise for swimmers and divers. The return trip offers us views of Bonifaccio's impenetrable walls from the sea; marine life is easy to spot through the clear water and there is a myriad of calanques, cliffs and caves to discover. Back on land it's worth exploring the high town's cobblestone streets, churches and ancient facades. Dinner in a local favourite.



DAY 8

Leaving the coast we take the sumptuous road that twists up to the spectacular Alta Roca offering a dramatic backdrop of the red granite Needles of Bavella dissecting the skyline. We stop at the prehistoric sites of Curcuruzzu and Capula at Pianu di Levie. Here an enchanting trail will take you through ancient oak and chestnut woods where giant blocks of granite were used to shelter the island's earliest inhabitants (Bronze Age) before leading to a medieval castle ruin. Spend the evening taking in the valley view at a charming bed and breakfast in the heart of the Corsican mountains.

DAY 9

We head east down the mountainside towards Filitosa, Corsica's prized megalithic site. After venturing through an olive grove, you'll come across a number of larger than life menhirs with human faces, armor and weapons that scatter strategically around the terrain. Ajaccio is our final port of call on the tour and at sunset we visit blood red Iles Sanguinaires at the end of a narrow promontory.



DAY 10

A guided walk around the colourful and relaxed old town of Ajaccio will give you a better feel for this attractive town and we include a visit to Napoleon's museum. In the afternoon you're at leisure to shop, explore, and hang out under a parasol at a terrace café or lounge at the nearby beach below the Citadel walls. We then accompany you to your boat or plane.

INCLUDED:

- 9x nights shared twin boutique accommodation
- 9 x French breakfasts
- 5x dinners
- 1x 2-course lunch
- All excursions and visits (as listed)
- Transfers to and from the port or airport
- Linguistic opportunity to converse with the locals (optional but free of charge). We provide daily handouts of helpful phrases and vocabulary and provide the opportunity for you to practice with your guide over a glass of wine.



NOT INCLUDED:

- Beverages and snacks
- Laundry
- Telephone charges
- Extras on fixed menus
- Personal travel insurance



For information and bookings, please contact:

Sally and François
Le FRENZ Connection
www.lefrenzconnection.com
lefrenzconnection@hotmail.com
NZ phone +64 (0) 221 892 188
France phone +33 (0)6 48 88 35 09

For terms and conditions please refer to booking form.