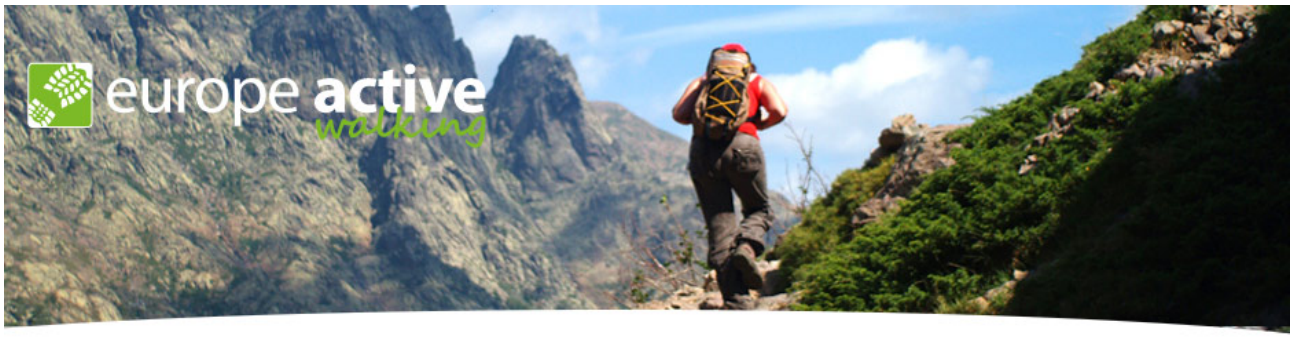


On the trail of the GR20 South

7 days / 6 nights

The mighty GR20: a fantastic itinerary from the North-West to the South-East of the island! From the Renoso Mountain to the Needles of Bavella, you'll follow red and white markings and take some alternative routes to complete this southern part of the “Grande Randonnée” (GR).

Prepare your trip

YOUR PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Vizzavona

Arrival in Vizzavona. Night in a gîte or refuge depending on availability at the moment of booking.
Dinner and night in Vizzavona.



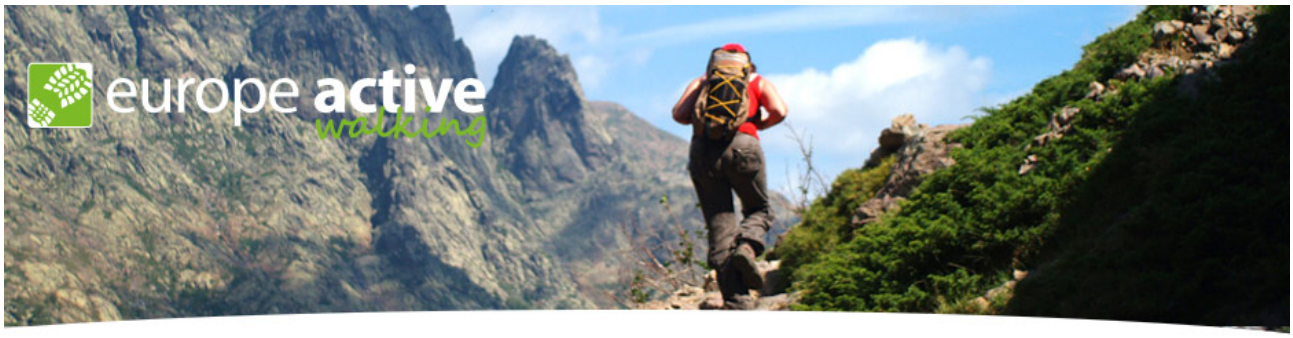
Day 2 - Vizzavona to Capanelle

Today’s hike begins in the beautiful beech forest of Vizzavona, where the trail winds through the trees before gradually gaining altitude towards Bocca Palmente. From this mountain pass, you can enjoy far-reaching views across eastern Corsica. On a clear day, the distant Diana and Urbino lagoons can be seen shimmering along the coast.

The route then continues through the highland scenery towards the Alzeta Shepherds’ Huts. From here, you follow an old transhumance trail, once used by shepherds to move their livestock between seasonal pastures. This historic mountain path leads you onwards to the Capanelle lodges, where you will spend the night.

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Approx. 14 km – 5 hours of hiking
Elevation gain: +1,155 m / descent: -715 m

Dinner and overnight stay at the Capanelle mountain lodge. Breakfast and a packed lunch are provided for the following day.



Day 3 - Capanelle to Col de Verde

Leaving Capanelle, you continue your GR20 trek towards Col de Verde, through a landscape that becomes increasingly green and pastoral. The trail first reaches the picturesque Traghete Shepherds' Huts, a reminder of the traditional pastoral life that has long shaped Corsica's mountain landscapes.

You then cross the Ghialgone plateau before reaching the I Spiazzi footbridge. From here, the route enters the Marmano Forest, one of the beautiful mountain forests along this section of the GR20, before finally arriving at Col de Verde.

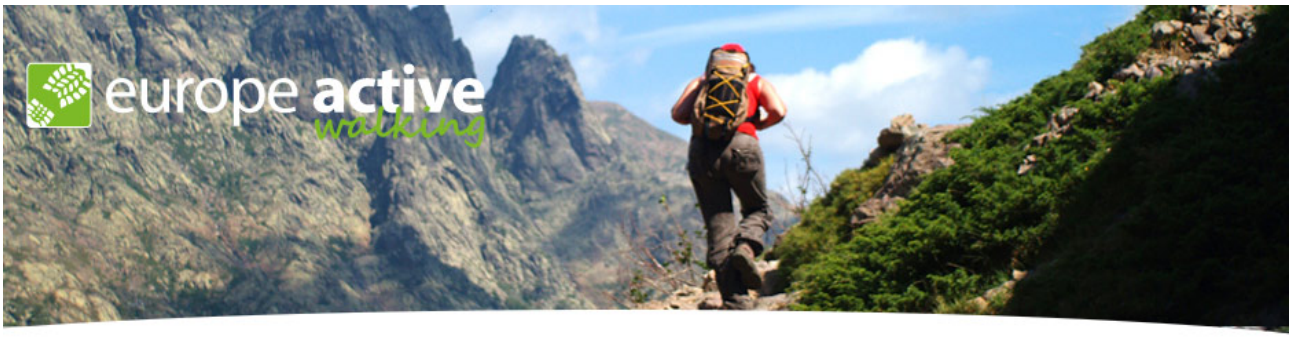
A varied stage combining high-altitude pastures, woodland paths and more remote mountain scenery, offering another perspective on the natural and cultural heritage of Corsica.

Approx. 14 km – 5 hours of hiking
Elevation gain: +600 m / descent: -900 m

Dinner and overnight stay at the Col de Verde mountain lodge. Breakfast and a packed lunch are provided for the following day.

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Day 4 - Col de Verde to Usciolu

Leaving Col de Verde, you begin the day with an early climb towards Bocca d'Oru. The trail then crosses a wide mountain plateau before reaching Prati Refuge, with fine views over the surrounding valleys and mountain ranges.

A final ascent takes you to Punta Capella, after which you continue southwards along the mountain ridges. This is a demanding stage of the GR20, with significant elevation changes requiring a good level of fitness. In return, the route offers a wonderful immersion in the high mountain landscapes of southern Corsica.

At the end of the day, you reach Usciolu Refuge, perched on the Furmicula ridge and overlooking the eastern side of Corsica. Its remote setting makes it a memorable place to finish this challenging day of hiking.

Approx. 16 km – 7 hours of hiking
Elevation gain: +1,290 m / descent: -830 m

Overnight stay in a tent at Usciolu Refuge. Breakfast, dinner and a packed lunch can be purchased directly at the refuge.

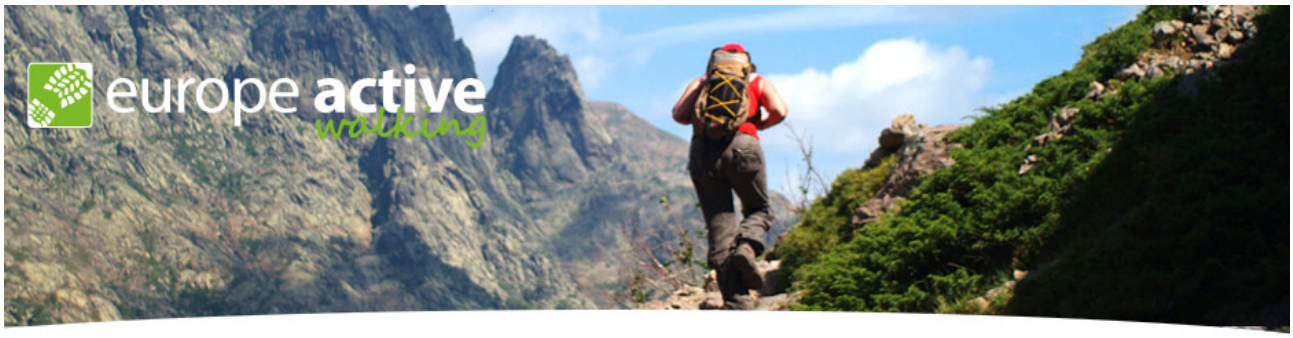


Day 5 - Usciolu to Cuscione Plateau

Leaving Usciolu Refuge, the trail gradually descends from the mountain ridge towards the wide-open landscapes of the

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Cuscione Plateau. The route alternates between balcony sections and more open terrain, offering beautiful views across the Corsican mountains.

As you progress, the scenery changes noticeably. The rocky ridges give way to broad high-altitude meadows dotted with pozzines and crossed by small mountain streams. The atmosphere becomes gentler and more pastoral, revealing another side of the GR20 and the landscapes of inland Corsica.

Although easier than the previous stage in terms of elevation, the distance still makes this a full day of hiking. You finish the day on the Cuscione Plateau, near Croci, surrounded by peaceful mountain scenery and the traditional pastoral landscapes of Corsica.

Approx. 13.5 km – 5 hours of hiking
Elevation gain: +550 m / descent: -550 m

Dinner at the shepherd's hut. Breakfast and a packed lunch are provided for the following day.



Day 6 - Coscione Plateau to Bavella

Leaving the wide-open landscapes of the Cuscione Plateau, known for its high-altitude meadows and distinctive pozzines, the trail gradually leads into more rugged terrain. You climb towards Monte Incudine, rising to over 2,000 metres and the highest peak in southern Corsica.

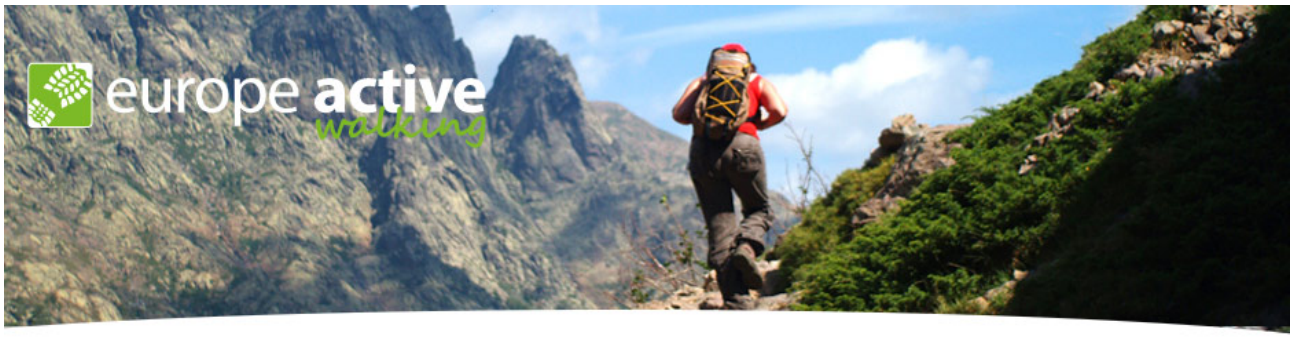
After this ascent through a striking rocky landscape, the route descends into the Asinao Valley. The trail then climbs once again towards the Bavella Needles, a dramatic collection of granite peaks and one of the most iconic landscapes in southern Corsica.

This demanding stage of the GR20 combines high mountain plateaus, rocky terrain and far-reaching views before reaching the Bavella Pass and your accommodation for the night.

Approx. 15 km – 8 hours of hiking
Elevation gain: +985 m / descent: -1,100 m

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Dinner and overnight stay at the Bavella mountain lodge. Breakfast and a packed lunch are provided for the following day.



Day 7 - Bavella to Conca: the last stage!

For the final stage of your GR20 trek, you leave Bavella on a trail that first winds through the forest towards Paliri Refuge. From there, the route continues downhill towards Conca, passing through the fragrant Corsican maquis as you make your way through the final kilometres of your adventure.

As you gradually lose altitude, the landscapes change and the end of your crossing draws closer. After several days of hiking through the mountains of Corsica, you finally reach Conca, the traditional finishing point of the GR20.

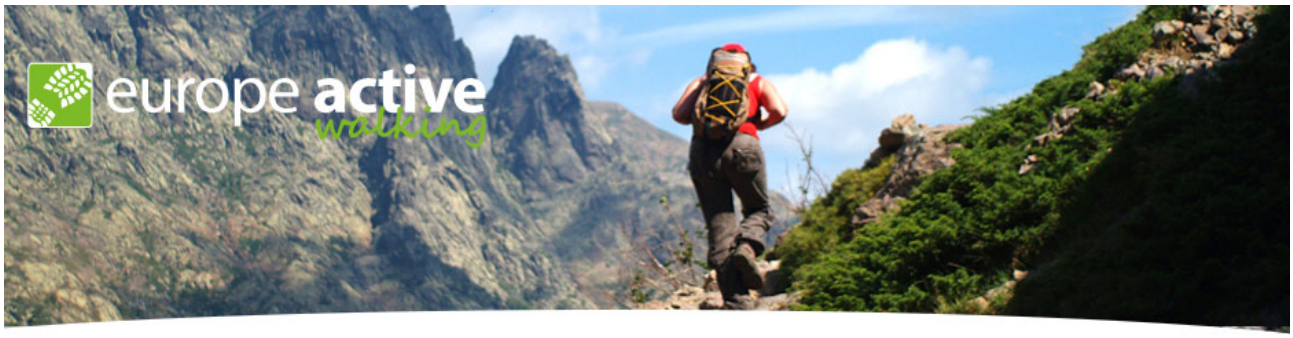
Approx. 16 km – 7 hours of hiking
Elevation gain: +450 m / descent: -1,400 m

Your GR20 adventure ends upon arrival in Conca.



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Additional information

TARIFFS
Price from 590 euros per person.

OPTIONS
Luggage Transfer Supplement – 4 days out of 7 (to be shared between participants) : 960 euros per person.

INCLUDED
Accommodation, 6 nights in gîtes (dormitories) and tents
5 dinners
5 breakfasts
4 picnic lunches
Route notes and maps on our app (a smartphone and extra battery are necessary)
Local hotline

NOT INCLUDED
Transfers to Vizzavona.
Transfers from Conca.
Transfers not included in this itinerary(for example, due to bad weather or physical ailments).
Luggage transfers
Beverages
Holiday insurance
Everything not mentioned on the "included" section

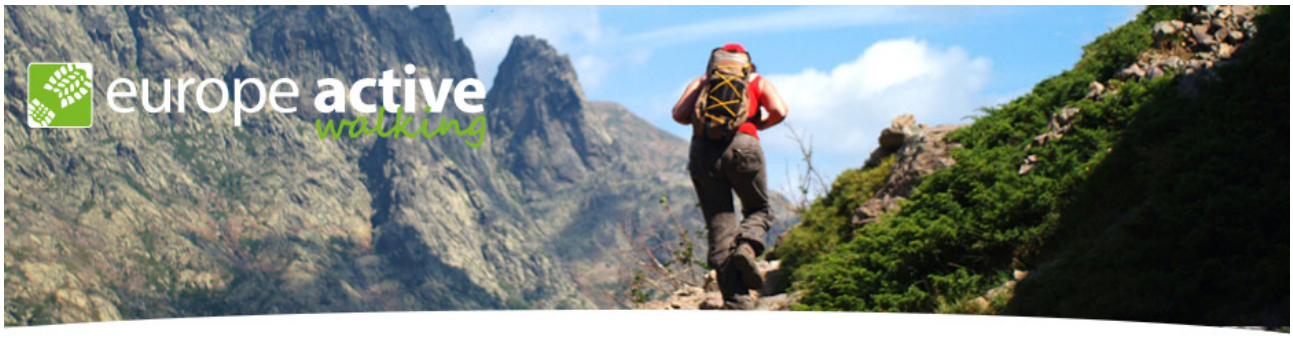
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY
Terrain: well-marked paths but very technical terrain (rocky and uneven). You need to be sure-footed and have plenty of relevant mountain experience. You also need to be able to read and follow map instructions.
Walking: from 4h30 to 9 hours.

LUGGAGE
Luggage transfers are available on each stage except in Usciolu, see options for prices.

ACCOMMODATION
Gîtes d'étape (dormitories for 5-6 people with shared bathrooms) and tents.
Please be aware that facilities will be basic and normally on a shared basis (except in hotels). Hot showers should be available at each accommodation, but water may be limited due to high demand.

SIZE OF GROUP
Minimum two.

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DEPARTURES
Every day from the beginning of June to mid-September.

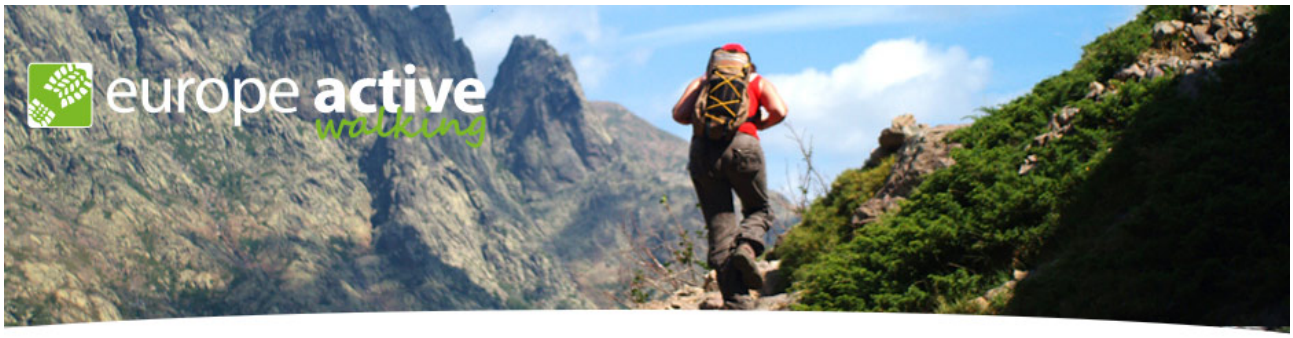
DEPARTURE
Vizzavona

DISPERSION
Conca

HOW TO GET THERE
Vizzavona is easily accessible by train from Ajaccio, Bastia and Calvi.

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE
• A good pair of walking boots (ones that you have used before), with ankle support and non-slip soles.
• Good quality walking socks
• A comfortable rucksack (either for all of your kit or as a day sack) with plenty of plastic bags to keep your kit dry.
• If you are having your luggage transferred, please make sure that you have only one bag for the transfers, with a maximum weight of 15 kilos. It should be an easily transportable soft bag or with wheels.
• T-shirt and shorts (depending upon the likely weather)
• Light trekking trousers (not jeans)
• It is good to be able to 'layer' your clothes – with several light tops (for protection against cold, wind or sun)
• A warm sweater, polar or fleece. Beanie, gloves.
• Waterproofs – such as an anorak (Gore-tex or micro pore for example) or poncho.
• A bathing suit and towel
• Sandals or flip flops for beaches, river wading, or for wearing in the evening (it's important to be able to rest your feet from your walking boots)
• Sun cream plus sunglasses and a hat or cap
• A change of clothes
• For the picnics, you will need a small Tupperware box (for stews or salads), a plastic mug, a knife and fork. A Swiss Army knife or a pen knife is optional but can be very useful.
• Walking poles can be very useful to take the weight off the knees and to steady yourself on uneven terrain.
• A water bottle (at least one). It is preferable that you should be able to carry at least 2 litres of water at any one time.
• Camera and film, or batteries and memory cards for digital ones.
• A light torch (with spare battery)
• A small first aid kit possibly including: Rehydration salts to combat dehydration or fatigue, something for cuts, sprains, blisters, breaks, burns, stings, and pain relief. Please remember any personal medication that you may need.
• Wash bag, including: toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, toilet paper. Preferably a biodegradable soap for washing fruit, washing yourself and for washing clothes (it is possible to buy a multi-purpose biodegradable soap). Earplugs can also be useful if you are sleeping in dormitories.
• Money – make sure you have enough cash on you for your trek (in Euros), as it is unlikely that you will be able to use a card or withdraw money if you are in the mountains.
• A compass – but make sure you are able to read it before starting on your trek
• Mobile phone and charger (it may not always be possible to get a signal or to charge it, but it can be very helpful in many circumstances).

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• Snacks (such as energy bars, dried fruit).
• If you are a vegetarian, we suggest you bring a good supply of nuts or other foods containing protein. It is not always possible to get a good balanced meal, particularly in the more remote places in the mountains.
• A waterproof plastic pouch in which to put your trip documents, identity papers and insurance documents.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To Vizzavona:

To get to Vizzavona, you can either book a taxi transfer with us or you can take the local bus or train. For train fares and timetables, please visit www.corsicabus.org.

From Conca:

To get to your destination point from Conca, you can either book a taxi transfer or you can take the local bus or train. For train fares and timetables, please visit www.corsicabus.org

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