



Ruelle, citadelle de Bastia - Street, citadel of Bastia

BASTIA

The city of Bastia is located 9 kilometers south of the hotel. Perhaps the attractive *Place Saint-Nicolas* is the best place to start a visit (underground pay car park, accessible from the *Noguès* roundabout).

Head across the square to the narrow *Rue Napoléon*, where the former stables have been replaced by smart shops. Keep walking and, to your left, you will see a remarkable XXth century religious building featuring a neoclassical façade, the *Saint Roch* Brotherhood Oratory. 100 meters further ahead along the same pavement is the *Immaculate Conception* Brotherhood Oratory. Its rich interior designs compensate for its stern façade. It boasts the same architectural features as *Saint Roch*, sumptuously adorned with gilding and frescoes. A sloping narrow street to your left will bring you to the market square with the XVIIth century *Saint Jean Baptiste* church. The impressive façade is flanked with two church towers topped by domes. The church is one of the island's largest, as it encompasses surprisingly imposing interior space.

A stroll around the *Vieux Port* is enhanced by the numerous bar and restaurant terraces, and takes you to the *Jardins Romieu*. These gardens are a pleasant expanse of green overlooking the sea.

From there, a tunnel leads you through the defensive walls to the *Citadel*, built by the Genoese in 1381. Do not miss the quarter of the Citadel; getting lost in the maze of narrow lanes and tall, closely packed houses is quite an experience.

Look out for the palace occupied by the Genoese Governors until 1768, and its baroque façade, the defensive walls, the *Porte Louis XVI* (notice how the French Revolution inflicted damage on the royal coat of arms), the *Place du Donjon* at the heart of the Genoese town. The *Rue Notre-Dame* takes you to the cathedral.

The *Sainte Croix* Brotherhood Oratory is the city's oldest, and was declared a Historical Monument in 1931. The *Crucifix of Miracles* chapel is remarkable for its renaissance painted cases, and holds a blackened oak crucifix.

The *Sainte-Marie de l'Assomption* cathedral dates from the XVIth century and was rebuilt in a more accomplished baroque style in the XVIIth century. It is characterized by a triple pediment façade and stands out for its rich interior decorations where colour and gold reign supreme, and for its unusual additions : the hats of the bishops who sat there are hanging from the choir vaults.

Bastia has a rich heritage that can easily be discovered; make sure you do not miss :

- the surrounding atmosphere of the market days (on Saturdays and Sundays mornings),
- the old port and its restaurants, the citadel and the old town of Bastia which has been renovated but still keeps its unique style.
- the main streets for shopping are the Paoli Boulevard, the Cesar Campinchi street and the Napoleon street, all three parallels.

Do not hesitate to ask for more information about the city of Bastia at the reception or at the tourist office located at the bottom of the *Saint Nicolas* square.

At night, the *Vieux Port* or the *Citadel* are an ideal spot to have dinner. Our choice of restaurants:

- In the **Citadel** :

CHEZ VINCENT, traditional Corsican food
A CASARELLA, Corsican and seafood cuisine

- On the **Vieux Port** :

CHEZ HUGUETTE, seafood fine dining
COL TEMPO, Mediterranean cuisine
CORTO, fish and seafood restaurant

- In **Bastia City Center** :

GLACIER RAUGI,
Traditional Ice-cream maker since 1937