



ERBALUNGA & THE CAP CORSE WHAT TO SEE, WHAT TO DO

Tourists guides in all languages are available at the front desk.

Likewise, a copy of each article of this section is available at the front desk.

ERBALUNGA & THE MUNICIPALITY OF BRANDO

The first thing to do when you arrive at the hotel is to take an hour to stroll in the romantic little streets and squares of *Erbalunga*, and discover its tiny pier, its *palazzi americani* and its Genoese tower.

In July and August, the village becomes completely pedestrian, which will allow you to grant a little bit of freedom to your kids.

Higher on the hills, you can visit the peaceful and authentic hamlets of *Poretta*, *Castellu* and *Pozzu*, by taking a panoramic road. Located just nearby *Castellu*, there are the medieval ruins of the Gentile family castle, as well as a 10th century chapel in remarkable condition, *Notre Dame des Neiges* with its original frescos (one of the most ancient religious buildings in Corsica).

Should you want to visit *Brando's* religious and cultural monuments, please contact the municipality at the following number : 04 95 33 20 84.

The Holy Week, the days before Easter, is marked by a large procession in *Erbalunga* led by secular religious confraternities : *A Cerca*.

On Good Friday, *A Granitola*, another procession, takes place in the village, during which the population turns on itself following a symbolic spiral, inherited from pagan ritual since the dawn of time

CAP CORSE

With the user's guide to visit the Cap Corse, you cannot miss the main attractions of this region. Please ask copy at the front desk.

The (secondary) D80 road goes all around the Cap Corse, from *Bastia* to *Patrimonio*, almost all the way by the sea, except only for the top of the *Cap*, where the road is somewhat in the background. It takes at least 3 hours to go all around it without stopping.

As you discover the region, you will come across the numerous Genoese watchtowers that are dotted along the coastline. Built of stone, these towers are 12 to 17 meters high and comprise four levels. They were originally meant to protect the Corsican village communities against the attacks of Barbary pirates. Some are in ruins, other in a very good state, and they are now one of the symbols of the island.

Tour Génoise de l'Osse - Genoese tower of Osse



North from **Erbalunga**, on the D80 road, you will cross **Sisco's** seascape, you can also visit its picturesque village/hamlet (*see hiking p.68*). After the beach of **Ampuglia** (*see beach p.49*), also known as **Marine de Pietracorbara**, you will see the Genoese tower of **Osse**; its name supposedly comes from the bones buried at its base. Dating from the 17th century, it is in perfect state of conservation. Below is the lovely wild crick of Osse, the ideal place for a swim.

Set in the town of **Cagnano**, the authentic little **Porticciole** marina is well worth a walk along (park along the D80 road, then walk down to reach the marina). Discover this genuine small harbour and some very old houses with local grey lauze stone roofs.

Once you hit the **Santa Severa** marina in the town of **Luri**, you can either opt for a shorter tour of the *Cap Corse* by taking the D180 road and reaching **Pino**, or decide to climb the *Col de Sainte Lucie* after a drive through the *Luri* valley. Leave your car at the *Col* (pass) and walk up to the 564 meters high *Tour "de Sénèque"* in order to enjoy the impressive splendid view on the island of *Elba* and *Capraia* on the horizon, and, on clear days, of the Italian coast.

Keep following the D80, and you will then drive through the **Meria** marina. Overlooked by a Genoese tower, it features a magnificent small white pebble beach (*see beach p.49*). You need to drive further up to discover the village of *Meria*, where you can park your car and explore the lovely narrow paved streets, their rare passages and secret openings.

At the top of the *Cap Corse*, the D80 road is off the coastline/seashore, 10km after **Macinaggio**, a 10km side road will take you to the village of **Barcaggio**.

Barcaggio is a lovely small seascape with a small harbour and a nice beach (*see beach p.49*), in the front of the *Giraglia* island. It also has a *paillotte* (local beach restaurant) which is open for lunch. It is also a starting point for the **Sentier des Douaniers** trail (*see hiking p.68*).

Continue along the D80, the very windy top of the *Cap Corse* is just 1,5km away. Stop there for a stunning panoramic view. Visible from the road are three windmills standing on both sides of the *Col*, including the famous *Mattei* windmill.

The **Maison MATTEI** is known for creating the internationally famous "**CAP CORSE**" drink in the last century. Keep driving in the direction of the village of **Centuri** until you reach a junction leading to **Canelle**. This typical hamlet is perched on the hill and accessible via an ancient paved road or "*via*". The village holds an old refurbished tower, and a remarkable fountain and washhouse.

Then, follow the direction of "*Centuri port*" / road to visit the seascape. On the way down to the village, choose the left route to by-pass the village and go to the car park. *Centuri* is the "capital" of the lobster in Corsica.

Lobster fishermen also own restaurants over there and you can enjoy lobsters and fish on the port terraces, pitch on "*La Macciota*" or "*Le Vieux Moulin*".

When you go back up to the D80 road, you can discover the small island of **Capense**: after the village of **Morosaglia**, keep going towards *Pino*; meanwhile, you will pass by **Aliso** sandy beach, with wild turquoise blue ocean bottom (*see beach p.49*), (you have to be careful on this beach because it can be very dangerous in case of rough sea or strong wind).

4km further, you'll be in *Pino*. At this point, you will have the opportunity to shorten your "*Tour du Cap*" by taking the road of *Luri* from the D180 (30km to *Erbalunga*). There still are a lot of things to discover, so do not hesitate to stop in *Pino* and to refresh yourself in the shadow of the "*Bar des Platanes*". You can admire the mausoleums surrounded by cypresses and umbrella pines.

800 meters further, do not miss the road to the **Marine de Scalo**, where you can visit the imposing *Saint François* convent erected in 1486 near the old Genoese tower, showing on its front door a remarkable fresco and an amazing 15th century Virgin.

You will then cross (still on the D80 road), the hamlet of **Minerviu** in **Barretali**, and then the seascape of **Giottani**.

At the next fork take left and you will reach **Canari** after 2.5 kilometres.

From the village square, as you stand before the high church tower, discover a stunning panorama over the Saint-Florent gulf, the *Revellata* tip and the *Cintu* mountain. You can also go to the marina of **Canelle** (1 km from the D80), where you can find, in a picturesque setting, a very good fish and lobster restaurant : *U Scogliu*.

CAP CORSE (TO CONTINUE)

Continue along the D80 in the direction of **Nonza**; park your car along the road at the entrance of the village. Hike uphill to the *Paoline* square tower perched on a hill and overlooking the sea to enjoy the best view of the Cap Corse on the north side. Look South for a panorama of other parts of Corsica, including the *Agriate* desert, the island's highest mountains, and on clear days, the top of *Monte Cintu*. On the east side lies the village built around the *Sainte Julie* church. The restaurant-bar *La Sassa*, at the foot of the tower, is the best place to watch the sunset, with background music. You can reach the black beach of *Nonza* (*see beach p.49*) (260 steps and 15 minutes to go down there); you have to be careful because it can be dangerous in case of rough sea.

Then, the road continues towards **Farinole**; below the road, you can see a nice sandy beach. To get there, please stop at the restaurant *l'Ambata* on the seaside. From the round about, *Bastia* is about 18km away on D81 road.

Here are our restaurant picks in the region, reservation are strongly advised :

- in **Macinaggio** (on *Tamarone* beach):

U PARADISU

Mediterranean cuisine

- à **Barcaggio**

U FANALE

Fish specialities

- in **Centuri** :

LE VIEUX MOULIN

Fish and seafood, lobster

- à **Centuri** :

A MACCIOTTA

Family owned restaurant, fish, seafood & lobster (nice terrace upstairs)

- in **Canari** :

U SCOGLIU

Fish and seafood

-à **Canari** :

L'AUBERGE DU CHAT QUI PÊCHE

Corsican good.

- in **Ogliastro** :

CHEZ MORGANTI

Fish and seafood

- à **Nonza**

LE CAFE DE LA TOUR

Historical café of the village

- à **Nonza**

LA SASSA

Restaurant, cocktail bar with a splendid view for the sunset

- à **Farinole**

LE BO'S

Chic restaurant on the beach, perfect for the sunset



Plage de Nonza - Nonza beach

THE BEACHES

NEARBY

A beach made of large flat rocks is located down the little lane, just across the road.

A large pebble beach is located 300 meters north of the village. The **Capellu creek**, with its large flat rocks and green water, is located 500 meters north of the village. Park your car in the large right turn, then take the little path.

For those seeking more excitement, head 2km north, to **Cap Sagro**, which you will recognize by its little green semaphore.

There, you will find large flat rocks to rest, and 3 to 23 meters vertical, easily accessible cliffs to dive from, with very deep water.

Swimming in *Cap Sagro* may be dangerous in the event of agitated sea or strong winds.

A FEW MILES AWAY

Drive 9km north to **Ampuglia** (*Pietracorbara*) where you will find a large sandy beach, perfect for children - and lazy adults.

Hobie cat and windsurfs hire, sailing lessons.

For farniente fanatics - and large families - head to **la Marana**, a large strip of sandy beaches 4km south of *Bastia*.

There you will find some beach restaurants and bars with a large set of amenities.

The nicest beaches are *Pineto* and *La Pagode*.

THE BEACHES (TO CONTINUE)

BEYOND

22 kilometres north of Erbalunga lies the white pebble **beach of Meria**. Located in a small cove sheltered from the wind, and overlooked by a Genoese tower, it has a restaurant open all year round.

Further north you can leave from *Macinaggio* (25 kilometres North of the hotel) and head to the beach of *Tamarone*. To get there, follow the dirt road on your right as you leave the village. You will find a large white sandy beach and translucent sea water. It is certainly one of the most beautiful beaches on the Cap Corse. The **Cala Francese**, north of *Macinaggio* (the harbour 25km north of *Erbalunga*), is a pristine beach with a clear, emerald water. The area is surrounded by a ruined Genoese tower and Roman vestiges. There, you will feel completely alone in the world. To go to the *Cala Francese*, park your car just nearby the beach of *Tamarone* in *Macinaggio* and take the coastguard path for approximately 25 minutes. Then pass the *Santa Maria* chapel, the eponym Genoese tower and the little beach right after. The next beach, a few minutes later, is the *Cala Francese*.

Situated at the tip of the Cap Corse is the beautiful **beach of Barcaggio** facing the island of *Giraglia* and boasting vast stretches of white sand and crystal clear water. It is a heavenly place, best enjoyed on windless days. Try the paillotte at the centre of the beach for a delicious meal. The beach is also accessible via a *Sentier des Douaniers*. To get there, drive along the D80 up to the village of *Ersa*. When you hit the junction on your right, take the road leading to the *Barcaggio* marina. In the summer, a shuttle boat, "*U San Paulu*" offers a beach landing and pick-up service: its crew can bring you back to *Macinaggio* at the end of your trip. Ask the front desk for more information.

The **wild beach of Aliso** (35 kilometres from the hotel) is to be found on the east coast of the Cap Corse. It is located in the town of *Morsiglia*, and as not very many people go there, it stands out as a most pleasant spot. Remember to stay near the shore on days of strong winds and rough sea, as the sea streams are a potential danger. Meals are available from the paillotte on the beach. To drive there from the hotel, reach *Aliso* by heading north along the D80 up to the town of *Luri*, approximately 16km away.



Plage de Tamarone - Tamarone beach

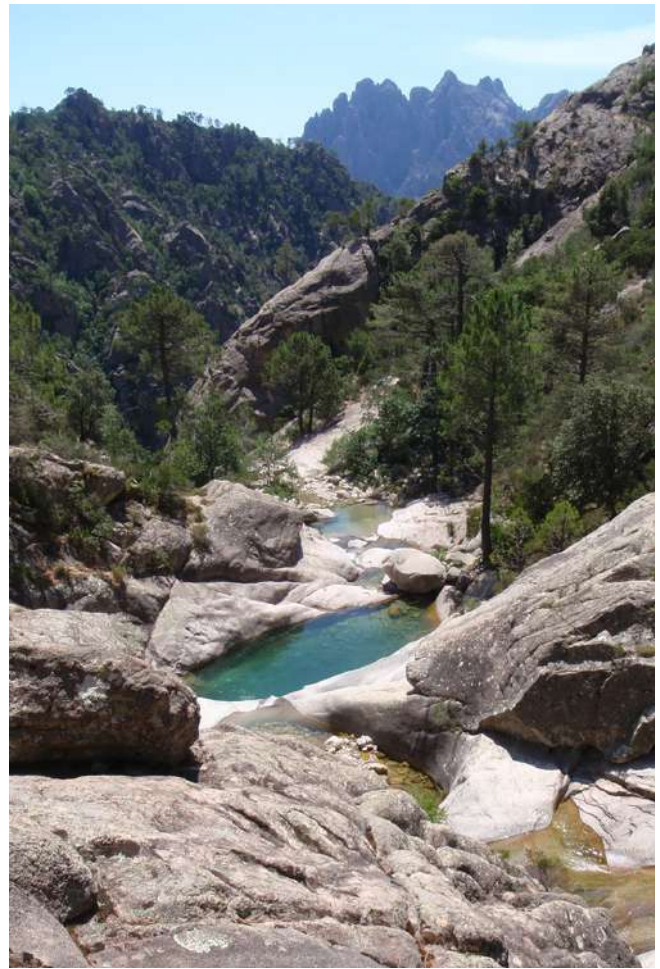
Then at the *Santa Severa* junction, take the left branch onto the D180 and drive for about 16 kilometres. When you hit the fork at *Pino*, take the right branch onto the D80 towards *Morsiglia* and drive for about 5 kilometres, until you finally reach the *Aliso* cove.

Located on the other side of the Cap Corse on the D80, lies the black sandy **beach of Nonza**. This original spot is famous for the words written with white pebbles by the people who pass by; this scenery is visible from the tower overlooking the beach.

Saleccia, located west of Saint-Florent, is one of Corsica's most beautiful beaches - and probably one of the most remarkable in the Med. This preserved white sand strip opens on waters with a unique blue and green colour. You can only access to Saleccia by a track or by boat

- By car (leisure cars will not make it), take the 10km track from the hamlet of *Casta* (possibility to rent 4x4 or quad in St-Florent), or
- By boat, in *Saint-Florent*, take the shuttle boat that will land you to the *Saleccia* beach, you could also take the shuttle to the *Lotu* beach and walk to *Saleccia*.

Do not forget to take some food and beverages with you, as well as a trash bag, in order to help preserving these two protected sites.



Natural deep swimming pool in Brando

THE RIVER

In the commune of *Brando*, 4km from the hotel, there is a beautiful river where you can take a cool bath in beautiful waves in a deep crystal clear water.

To get there from the hotel take the direction of Bastia up to Lavasina. At the roadsplite turn right - D54 towards *Pozzo/Poretto* and drive 1.5 km. Once past the bridge you can park your car. At the bridge on the mountain side a dirt road takes you, after a 10 minutes walk, to a beautiful natural deep swimming pool. Follow the path and the river along the irrigation line to the end, from this point there are only a few tens of meters before the big pool.

NB: Never bathe in the river following heavy rainfall and to bring shoes to walk in the water (ex: sport's shoes or light walking shoes)