

STROLLS & HIKES RECOMMENDED ITINERARIES

HIKING

LE MONTE STELLU

The *Monte Stellu* is the highest point of the Cap Corse (1 307m high). It dominates the valley of *Brando*. Up there, the view is simply splendid : you can see the coasts of Italy, the whole Cap Corse, *Calvi* on the west and all the highest Corsican mountains in the south. This hike has a medium difficulty: 1 000 meters of altitude difference, 6 to 7 hours back and forth. Wearing hiking shoes is highly recommended.

The path is well marked out from the departure point in *Pozzu*.

It is important to consult the weather conditions before going: do not proceed by foggy or stormy weather, as well as when temperatures are very high.

CASTELLU

When taking the public track along the hotel (500 meters), then a path on your left after the chapel, you will first reach the village of *Mausoleu* that is crossed by its pedestrian streets and then, you will be back on the road for 500 meters. Take the small road on your right that will take you to *Castellu*.

SISCU

A pleasant walk through the trees makes it possible to explore the hamlets overlooking *Sisco*. This authentic place is redolent of history and shelters adorable stone houses and a number of forgotten chapels. The hike is relatively easy and will take about 2.5 hours; light hiking shoes or running shoes are needed.

After a 5 minutes' drive from *Erbalunga*, take the junction at the *Sisco* marina and drive up to the hamlet of *Moline*. Parking space is available around the town hall. Starting from *Moline* to your left, take the way-marked footpath which leaves from the valley and goes all the way up to the hamlet of *Balba*. After *Balba* and its round-shaped tower, hike up to *Chjosu* and its "American houses". The lovely cobbled path bordered by walls will take you all the way to *Poghju* and *Munacaghja*, where you will find a superbly refurbished square-shaped tower. As you exit *Munacaghja*, follow the road and take the footpath on your left to hike downhill to *Barrigioni*.

The descent from *Barrigioni* is quite steep. You will cross the departmental road on two occasions and reach the *Techje* trail, a typical example of the exclusive use of the local schist-stone in architecture. Walk across the fine village and head to the monastery of *Sant'Antone* via a very pleasant and charming cross-field path. You will pass the ruins of a windmill and walk across the river on a Genoese foot bridge in the shade. From the *Sant'Antone* cemetery, hike downhill in the direction of *Partine*; when the road bends, head onto the path crossing into the fields and slowly leading you through holm oak trees back to your starting point on the D32.

Please check the weather forecast, and in case of strong summer winds, refrain from hiking the footpaths.

PIETRACORBARA "Le sentier de l'eau"

(A footpath for water lovers)

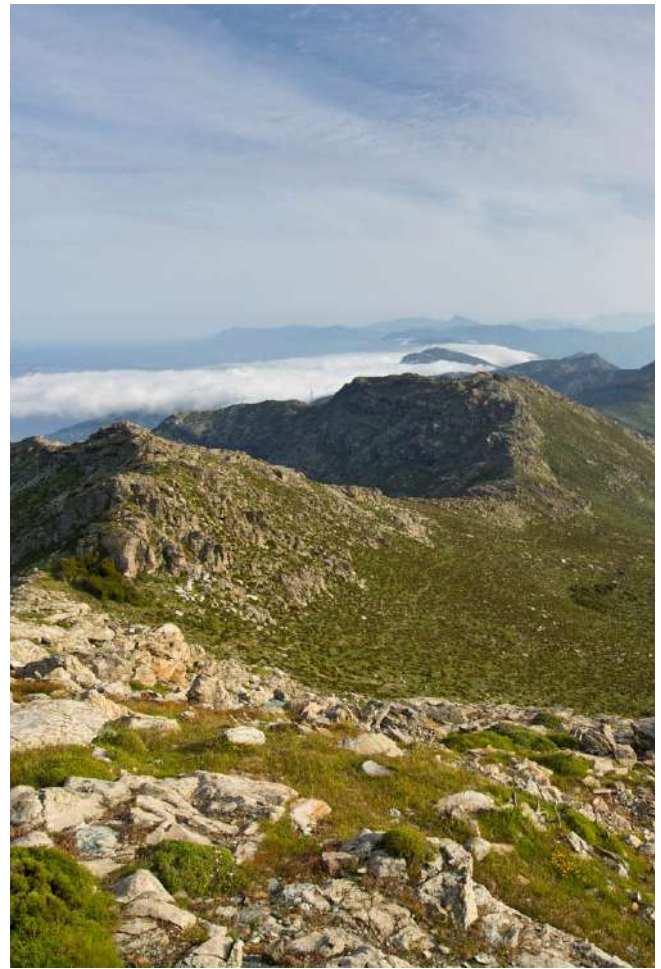
A nice walk full of coolness around the village of *Pietracorbara*, 1 hour (2,8 km). Easy hiking, but make sure you have sports shoes with you anyway. It's the best circuit to take if you want a summary of the village.

Everything is in there: the river flowing between old rocks and under two Genovese bridges with audacious arches, the hamlets crossed by hidden paths, the various fountains which were restored and watered. And then, there's the renovated mill of *Petra Viva*. These are all things to discover. Start from the square of the *Saint Clément* church (parking space available to your left as you enter the square), turn right, cross the D232 road and make for the footpath in front of you leading up to *l'Ornetu*. When you reach *l'Ornetu*, take some time to discover the village's two towers and bread ovens. Then turn left, walk up the stairs of the "rue de la voûte" to reach *l'Ornetu*'s small square. Walk southwards downhill along the short tar road and, halfway down, take at your right a cemented path which turns into a dirt footpath leading to *A Funtanella* (Corsican for "the small fountain"). You will walk past a stream and the houses of *l'Oreta Suprana*. As you continue along a narrow street, turn right and walk through a gate - which you must remember to close behind you. Follow the path up to the stream, which you should now walk along keeping it on your right, to *a Funtana di Landi* and its bronze gargoyle. Back onto the footpath, walk in the opposite direction to the hamlet of *Oreta*.

At the end of the small village square, go downstairs to *Oreta Suttana*, where you can see a chapel dedicated to *Saint Antoine* the Hermit.

Keep going downhill as far as road D232. You will be facing the cross of the hamlet, the starting point of the trail going down to the river. The locality you will find is called *A Puzzata* ("small water hole"). Turn left at the bottom of the stairs for 300 meters and you will find the *Petra Viva* grain mill: *Mulinu Vivu*. Cross the river facing the mill and get back onto the footpath on your left. The blue signs should lead you to a bridge characterized by elegant arches. On the other bank of the river below the bridge, do not miss *a Funtana di u Ponte*, for a refreshing peaceful stop. Then keep walking: within a few minutes you will reach the first houses of *Pontiellu* and get back to the D232 road. Then go downwards the river via the presbytery. Pass by the ford river and then on your right, take the *Stradavecchja* (former road that used to take people from the hamlets to the marina in order to load exported or imported foodstuffs), along the river. Reach the first Genovese bridge and its beautiful fountain always flowing, even during drought. Go up towards *l'Ornetu* and turn left. Halfway up the hill/mid-slope, take the path and stop at *Funtanella*, small *ex gratia* fountain on the way. Join the hamlet of *Oreta* and turn right towards *Funtana landi*, genuine and rustic. Take again this way in the opposite direction, and go up towards *Selmacce* and then *Petruncacce* where you can discover the finely crafted / beautifully-made *funtana fresca*. Go down again towards the river (*U guadubughju*) and then go on the other side, this time in front of the small villages. Then, reach the *Mulinu Vivu* of *Petra Viva* (hamlet of *Oreta*). Back on the church square via an undergrowth path and then via the section of the *stradavecchja* already taken on the way out.

Signposting: blue rectangle



Vue du Monte Stellu - View from the Monte Stellu



Quelque part à Barrettali - Somewhere in Barrettali

FROM PIETRACORBARA TO BARRETTALI

"Le Chemin de Lumière"

(The best way to enjoy the light)

Here is another way of savouring the beauty of the Cap Corse, as you walk along the "Chemin de Lumière" from chapel to chapel, from one valley to the next: enjoy the sunrise on the horizon from the beach of *Pietracorbara*. Alternately, take in the wonderful sight of the sunset over the sea from *Barrettali*.

The 12 kilometers route takes you through the maquis and past amazing viewpoints over the Tuscan archipelago and Ligurian sea for 5.5 hours. It is medium-difficulty walk for good hikers. Starting from the heights of the town of *Pietracorbaba* at the *Lapedina* hamlet, it will take you to the hamlet of *Petricaghju* in *Barrettali*. The route offers particularly varied landscapes, starting with a dirt footpath interspersed by sections of stone trail. It then continues through a mixed maquis of briar and arbutus before becoming a schist slab stone ascending path. A grass-covered plateau marks the start of a section with moderate height variations which leads you through a talweg to another grass-covered portion. From there you will walk on until you finally reach a track passing near *Pinzu a Vergine*, and ending after over 3 kilometers at the arrival point, the junction of the *U Petricaghji* hamlet. The total climb is 620 meters over one third of the route, and the descent is 640 meters for the remaining two thirds. Yellow signs mark out the trail.

Important notice: Remember you need five hours for the walk back, or plan a way to go from Barrettali (a second car, taxi) back to your starting point at Pietracorbara.



Plage, Sentier des Douaniers - Beach, Sentier des Douaniers

LA TOUR DE SÉNÈQUE

(The Senèque Tower)

The Senèque Tower located at the *Sainte Lucie* pass, is a nice and short walk giving a splendid viewpoint and from there you can admire the two sides and the top of the Cap Corse on clear days. It is an easy walk but you must wear sport shoes anyway. The starting point is the *Sainte Lucie* pass, from the chapel, or 1km further from the tar public road which is in bad condition anyway. At the end of it, there's a large dirt road which becomes narrower after 5 minutes; once you get to a crossroad, take the path on your right. It should take you about 20 minutes up from the car park.

LE SENTIER DES DOUANIERS

(The Coastguard Path)

This centuries-old path that goes along the sea around the tip of the Cap Corse, crossing some superb, pristine coastal areas. You will be able to make some halts in small sandy beaches where no one will disturb you. This stroll is easy, just wear some sneakers though, and take a sufficient quantity of water with you. The path starts from the beach of *Tamarone* in *Macinaggio*, and is well marked out. Going to the *Cala Francese* takes 30 to 40 minutes; reaching the pier of *Barcaggio* will take you 2 hours more.

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.