

CC/FRCC Joint Meet to Corsica, September 2010

This meet is scheduled for September 12th to 26th **ALL WELCOME!** Please express and confirm your interest as soon as possible

Getting to Corsica

Easyjet fly Gatwick to Bastia or Ajaccio, flights to Ajaccio are cheaper and more convenient than those to Bastia. I looked for other carriers (and flights to Figari on the Southern Tip of Corsica) on price comparison websites, prices were much higher than those quoted by Easyjet (i.e. £300+). These are my suggested flights:

Sunday 12th September: 11-55am Easyjet Gatwick – Ajaccio (Flight is about 2.5 hours)
(There is an earlier flight the same day – about 06 am, catching this would mean an overnight stop at Gatwick).

Sunday 26th September: 15.55 Easyjet Ajaccio to Gatwick (there is also an earlier return flight at about 10am)

Return price with 20Kg luggage in one hold bag £90 (as at 28/1/10)

Getting Around Corsica

Car hire for the fortnight would cost between £400 (for a Corsa or Peugeot 207) and £470 (for a modest estate car). Not expensive if split 3 or 4 ways. Distances on the island are not great (no more than about 100Km between potential bases – usually a lot less) but the roads are fairly tortuous! Public transport may be a possibility.

Accommodation

Camping is my preferred option although there are plenty of chalet type self catering places for rent. There are a number of mountain huts to take the strain from the longer approaches.

The Corsican Climate

Data for Ajaccio on the west coast shows typical temperatures to be in the range 15 to 25 Celsius with an average of 9 hours sun per day and only six rain days (rain >0.25mm per day). Sounds good to me!

A Proposed Itinerary

I suggest a two centre trip as follows:

The **first week** is spent in the more southerly area around The Col de Bavella. This area has lower peaks (up to 1800m) and shorter approach walks (typically about 1 hour) The GR20 goes through this area which is one of the most beautiful on the island (according to the local publicity). Camping is available at Zonza and Quenza at the foot of the western side of the Bavella Pass. The area has great walking, scrambling, canyoning, some via ferrata, sport climbing and, most importantly for me, lots of long (to 300m) steady rock routes (4 to 5+) of the “terrain d'adventure” (naturally protected) style; all on magnificent sculpted granite.

I then suggest moving North for the **second week** to the area around the town of Corte, the mountains here rise to 2,700m and are less accessible than those in the Bavella area (the approach walks can be up to 4 hours). The GR20 also goes through this area which also has great walking, scrambling, canyoning, some via ferrata, sport climbing and lots of long (to 300m) steady rock routes (4 to 5+) of the “terrain d'adventure” type – once again the rock is granite.

There are many other distractions, the sea, wildlife, relaxing etc. for those in need of a gentle time. There are even loads of little sport crags for the odd half day's entertainment.

Maps and Guidebooks

Guidebooks are hard to acquire, I have managed to get a guide to the Bavella Region; a selected climbs for the whole island and a set of topo's for many of the small sport crags (plus a few multi-pitch sports routes). The widely available and expensive *Falaise de Corse* guide only covers sport routes, mainly single pitch. There are other guides that are available on the island such as the selective *Corse, Paradis de l'escalade (2003)* by Martial Lacroix, published by DCL Editions and costing about 25 Euro. I have scanned the three guides I have and they are available as PDF files if you send me blank CD plus SAE.

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