



Upper Corsica

Photo: gevision/Shutterstock.com



Jon Ingall/Shutterstock.com

The small Mediterranean island of Corsica encompasses a bewildering diversity of landscapes, experiences and delicacies. Though its southern counterpart often steals the spotlight, the region of Upper Corsica lacks for nothing in terms of entertainment, character and natural beauty, and savvy travellers would do well not to ignore its unmistakable allure, from the peak of Monte Cinto to the island's numerous picture perfect coastal and hilltop villages.

NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit ArrivalGuides.com



Pawel Kazmierczak/Shutterstock.com



Marek Kania/Shutterstock.com

QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Bastia
Corsica's second city is its main commercial port and one of the island's hu...



Calvi
The striking town of Calvi is dominated by the imposing citadel, which tower...



Corsica Regional Natural Park
Covering over 40% of the island's territory, the Corsica Regional Natural Pa...



Sant'Antonino
Sant'Antonino is one of the oldest villages in Corsica, its origins dating b...



Corte
Corte is at the very heart of Corsica, both geographically and politically, ...



THE ISLAND



Littleaom/Shutterstock.com

After centuries under Genoese rule and a brief stint as an independent republic (lasting just a decade and a half), Corsica was ceded to King Louie XV in 1769, and has remained a French territory ever since. It is divided into two regions, Upper Corsica and Southern Corsica, and though the southern half tends to garner more praise (and visitors), Upper Corsica has more than its share of attractions, excitement and beauty.

Much of the region is taken up by the Corsica Regional Natural Park, a vast protected area of dense forests and rocky peaks, ideal for hiking and adventurous endeavors. The numerous laid-back coastal towns and beaches are perfect for rest and relaxation, while the regional capital of Bastia offers cosmopolitan comforts and animated city life.

DO & SEE



Sander van der Werf/Shutterstock.com

Upper Corsica's appeal is undeniable and multifaceted. Explore the region's vast untamed natural wonders for a taste of adventure, find respite as you wander through coastal villages or relax on tranquil beaches, or enjoy the laid-back but cosmopolitan vibe of Bastia for fine dining and nightlife.

Bastia

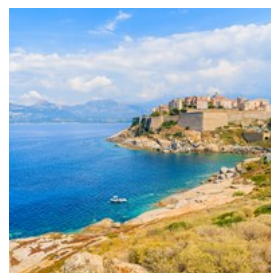


Corsica's second city is its main commercial port and one of the island's hubs in terms of attractions, dining and entertainment, and

boasts an air of authenticity more striking than the island's other cities. The Vieux Port ('Old Port') is a must-see, as are the historical neighbourhoods of Terra Vecchia and Terra Nova, with its Genoese citadel.

Photo: [lightpoet/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)

Calvi



The striking town of Calvi is dominated by the imposing citadel, which towers over the town from atop a hill by the sea. Its fortifications and

surrounding wall enclose also some old houses and a 13th century cathedral. The town's marina has numerous pleasant cafes and restaurants, while the 6 kilometres of sandy beaches attract sun-seekers from around the island.

Photo: Pawel Kazmierczak/Shutterstock.com

Corsica Regional Natural Park



Covering over 40% of the island's territory, the Corsica Regional Natural Park encompasses a massive area and countless natural

wonders, from lush forests to mountain massifs, impressive gorges to mountain lakes, and more. The GR20, a famous hiking trail, also crosses the park and is one of its biggest draws.

Photo: Paolo Grandi/Shutterstock.com

Phone: +33 4 9551 7910

Internet: www.pnr.corsica

Sant'Antonino



Sant'Antonino is one of the oldest villages in Corsica, its origins dating back to the 9th century.

Sitting atop a pleasant hill, with beautiful views

of the surrounding countryside and nearby coast, it is one of the island's most picturesque villages, known also for its excellent craft shops.

Photo: Pawel Kazmierczak/Shutterstock.com

Corte



Corte is at the very heart of Corsica, both geographically and politically, as it was the capital of an independent Corsica during its brief existence as a sovereign nation (1755-1769). The town retains its air of grandeur from those days, with the National Palace and an impressive 15th-century church as the centrepieces.

Photo: Dominik Michalek/Shutterstock.com

Corsica Cape



Corsica Cape (Cap Corse) is a beautiful 40-kilometre peninsula that juts out from the northern tip of the island.

It is also a mountain

range that gives the area striking scenery as the mountains plunge into the sea. It is a favourite area for hiking and photography, and one of the most beautiful areas of Corsica.

Photo: Anilah/Shutterstock.com

Nonza



Located on beautiful Corsica Cape, the picturesque village of Nonza hangs over the sea on a striking cliff. The town's historic buildings

are incredibly well preserved, and the views of the ocean and the surrounding mountainous countryside are simply breath-taking.

Photo: lightpoet/Shutterstock.com

Erbalunga



Another idyllic Corsican village located on Cap Corse, just north of Bastia, Erbalunga was once an important fishing port. Today it is more of a lazy seaside town, with a relaxed pace and easygoing inhabitants. The town's beautiful houses are grouped together on a tiny rocky peninsula, crowned by an old Genoese tower.

Photo: Pawel Kazmierczak/Shutterstock.com

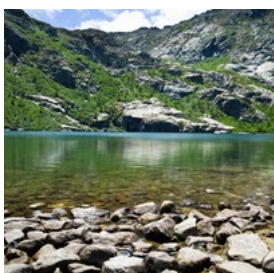
Centuri



Centuri is a peaceful little fishing town located at the northern tip of Corsica, famous for its pleasant marina and port, which boast many lovely restaurants and cafes that become quite animated at lunchtime. Not far from Centuri are a number of small beaches that are well worth exploring, as well.

Photo: bensliman hassan/Shutterstock.com

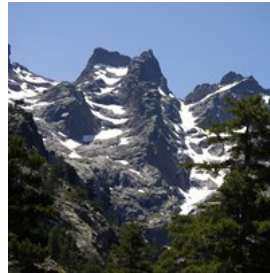
The Restonica Gorges



The Restonica river runs through the central town of Corte, and flows towards a series of mesmerising gorges just to the southwest. Hiking, swimming and climbing are popular activities in the area, all along the 15 kilometres the gorges stretch.

Photo: Jack Jelly/Shutterstock.com

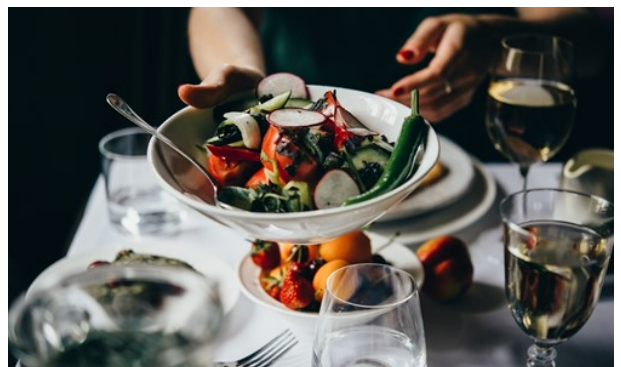
Monte Cinto



Standing tall at 2,700 metres, Monte Cinto, also known as the "roof of Corsica", is the tallest mountain on the island. Though sweeping panoramic views can be enjoyed from its peak, it is a challenging climb that should only be attempted by experienced climbers.

Photo: 360b/Shutterstock.com

DINING



Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Corsican cuisine has historically relied heavily on local products and ingredients, and those traditions are still very much alive today. Seafood is understandably pervasive, but meat, particularly pork, is an island staple, famous worldwide for its characteristic flavour; local animals are fed a steady diet of chestnuts, another ubiquitous Corsican ingredient, and maquis herbs).

Grazie Mille (Bastia)



Boasting one of the finest locations in Bastia, right on Place du Marché, Grazie Mille serves up fine Italian dining in a lovely setting. The menu

features, among other things, great seafood pasta dishes, that pair wonderfully with the Corsican wines.

Photo: Evgeny Karandaev/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place du Marché, Bastia

Opening hours: Thu-Mon 12pm-2pm and 8pm-10pm, Wed 8pm-10pm

Phone: +33 4 95 32 38 22

La Taverne (Bastia)



La Taverne serves some of the best steaks to be found in Corsica (and best value meals, as well, with their large serving sizes) at their indoor and

outdoor terrace seating areas located right by the Bastia marina, offering traditional gourmet cuisine with a view.

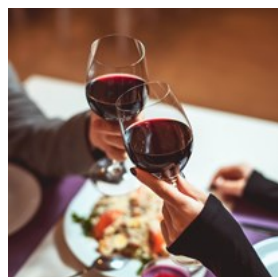
Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Quai des Martyrs de la Libération, Bastia

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-2:30pm and 7:30pm-12am

Phone: +33 4 95 31 62 31

La Rivière Des Vins (Corte)



La Rivière Des Vins is a fantastic restaurant and meeting place in Corte which offers traditional Corsican food and local wine. The 'menu

gourmand' comes highly recommended, a sampling menu of numerous Corsican specialities.

Photo: Mikhail_Kayl/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5 Rampe Sainte-Croix, Corte

Phone: +33 4 95 46 37 04

Email: larivieredesvins@gmail.com

Octopussy (Calvi)



The calm waters in the bay beyond Calvi is home to one of the island's most pleasant beaches, Plage de Calvi, where Octopussy serves as a wonderful restaurant and beach bar. For breakfast, lunch, dinner, or evening drinks, there is never a bad time to come.

Photo: Freedom_Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Chemin de la pinède, Plage de Calvi, Calvi

Phone: +33 4 9565 2316

Internet: www.plage-octopussy.com

Email: contact@plage-octopussy.com

Auberge de la Restonica (Corte)



Just outside the central Corsican town of Corte, located along a country road on the banks of the Restonica river, the small Auberge de la Restonica, a hotel and restaurants with a charming outdoor, poolside dining terrace with mountain views, where traditional Corsican cuisine is put on display, especially in their signature dish, Filer Restonica.

Photo: Alias Studiot Oy/Shutterstock.com

Address: Route de Restonica, Corte

Phone: +33 495 460 958

Internet: www.aubegerestonica.com

Email: restaurant@aubegerestonica.com

Café Wha (Bastia)



For a change of palate, head to Bastia's lovely marina area and indulge in the spicy flavours of Mexican cuisine. It doubles as a lively pub

after dark, with colourful cocktails and delicious bar food over sports screenings or loud music.

Photo: Dalea Rossi/Shutterstock.com

Address: Vieux Port, Bastia

Phone: +33 4 95 34 25 79

Internet: www.cafewha.fr

Le Café du Centre (Bastia)



Le Café du Centre is a modern and sleek cafe-restaurant in the centre of Bastia, and a great place to try some authentic Bastia dishes.

Pasta and seafood feature heavily on the menu (the octopus comes highly recommended). Finish your meal with their cheap but delicious coffee for a perfect afternoon.

Photo: al1962/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 Rue Miot, Bastia

Opening hours: Fri-Wed 6:30am-8:30pm, Thu 6:30am-11pm

Phone: +33 4 95 31 65 12

CAFES



Ditty_about_summer/Shutterstock.com

Corsican coffee culture is as much about ambience as it is about the drinks. For the best coffee, head to Bastia, where there is a wider selection of speciality coffee shops and baristas take their craft to new heights. For atmosphere, visit the region's numerous quaint cafes in coastal villages and hilltop towns.

Dulcis (Corte)



Dulcis is a charming little neighbourhood bakery and cafe, offering quiches and other savoury snacks, as well as pastries, homemade cakes and ice

cream. It is a family-run establishment that only uses local ingredients and recipes when making their products.

Photo: Tirik/Shutterstock.com

Address: 10 Cours Paoli, Corte

Opening hours: Daily 8am-8pm

Phone: +33 6 34 66 77 84

A Casetta (Calvi)



A Casetta is a quaint boutique with a wide selection of local products, ranging from cured meats, sausages and cheeses to pates,

olive oils and honey, not to mention authentic Corsican and imported beers, aperitifs and wines.

Photo: Timolina/Shutterstock.com

Address: 16 Rue Georges Clemenceau, Calvi

Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm

Phone: +33 4 95 65 32 15

Internet: www.acasetta.net

Cake And Coffee (Bastia)



As the name suggests, this cafe serves up delectable homemade cakes of all sorts, served alongside fresh coffee in the regional capital of

Bastia. They also have some savoury options, such as wraps and sandwiches, as well as milkshakes.

Photo: Germanova Antonina/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2 Rue César Campinchi, Bastia
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:30am-6pm
Phone: +33 4 95 48 18 96
Email: cakeandcoffee.bastia@gmail.com

Cafe de la Place (Bastia)



With a privileged location right on Place Saint-Nicolas, in the heart of Bastia, Cafe de la Place boasts a breezy outdoor seating area,

ideal for the warm summer months. Local favourites include the cafe's fantastic meat and cheese platters and the decadent crepes.

Photo: sacura/Shutterstock.com
Address: 9 boulevard General de Gaulle, Place saint Nicolas, Bastia
Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-1am
Phone: +33 6 78 39 89 63

Le Café du Centre (Bastia)



Le Café du Centre is a modern and sleek cafe-restaurant in the centre of Bastia, and a great place to try some authentic Bastia dishes.

Pasta and seafood feature heavily on the menu (the octopus comes highly recommended). Finish your meal with their cheap but delicious coffee for a perfect afternoon.

Photo: al1962/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2 Rue Miot, Bastia
Opening hours: Fri-Wed 6:30am-8:30pm, Thu 6:30am-11pm
Phone: +33 4 95 31 65 12

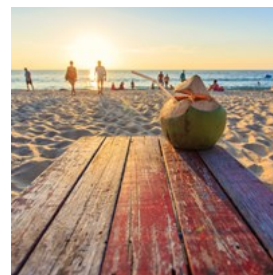
BARS & NIGHTLIFE



oneinchpunch/Shutterstock.com

From raucous beach parties to quiet wine cellars, like gigs to sports bars, Corsicans know how to let loose. Bastia gathers large numbers of party-goers and interesting events, as does Calvi, while more intimate nightlife experiences await at Corte and the inland vineyards.

Octopussy (Calvi)



The calm waters in the bay beyond Calvi is home to one of the island's most pleasant beaches, Plage de Calvi, where Octopussy serves as a wonderful restaurant and beach bar. For breakfast, lunch, dinner, or evening drinks, there is never a bad time to come.

Photo: Freedom_Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Chemin de la pinède, Plage de Calvi, Calvi
Phone: +33 4 9565 2316
Internet: www.plage-octopussy.com
Email: contact@plage-octopussy.com

Café Wha (Bastia)



For a change of palate, head to Bastia's lovely marina area and indulge in the spicy flavours of Mexican cuisine. It doubles as a lively pub

after dark, with colourful cocktails and delicious bar food over sports screenings or loud music.

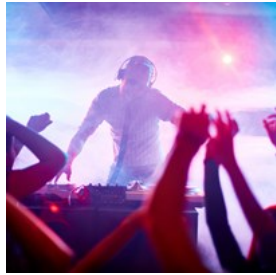
Photo: Dalea Rossi/Shutterstock.com

Address: Vieux Port, Bastia

Phone: +33 4 95 34 25 79

Internet: www.cafewha.fr

Chez Tao (Calvi)



A Calvi institution, Chez Tao can boast over 80 years of history and the best views in town. It is a sleek, up-scale bar and lounge located in the

Calvi Citadel tower itself and features live music and DJs, which goes some way toward explaining its unyielding popularity.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: Route de la Citadelle, Calvi

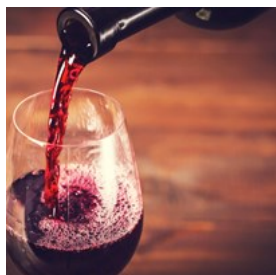
Opening hours: Daily 10:30pm-6am

Phone: +33 4 95 65 00 73

Internet: www.cheztao.com

Email: contact@cheztao.com

Bar Pigalle (Bastia)



A fancy bar and restaurant located on the south side of the breezy Bastia quai, Bar Pigalle is one of the city's most sumptuous

establishments. Enjoy an early evening glass of wine on the outdoor terrace overlooking the marina for an unforgettable Bastia experience.

Photo: Ievgenii Meyer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Quai Albert Gillio (quai sud), Vieux Port, Bastia

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-2am, Sun 7am-12am

Phone: +33 9 83 25 56 77

Bar de l'Ombrage (Bastia)



Housed in a charming old building, Bar de l'Ombrage has a long history in Bastia. Crowds gather nightly for the simple but delicious

home-cooked fare and frequent live music, featuring the best of local talent.

Photo: Meschanov Anton/Shutterstock.com

Address: 13 Boulevard Auguste Gaudin, Bastia

Phone: +33 4 95 31 02 16

Black Sheep (Bastia)



Bastia's premiere British-style pub, Black Sheep offers a full roster of entertainment throughout the week, including karaoke nights,

stand-up comedy, sports screenings, DJs and live music. This, on top of the regular varied offering of beer, whiskey and rum.

Photo: Dean Drobot/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Rue Saint-Erasme, Bastia

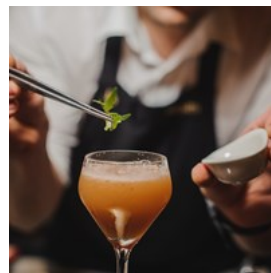
Opening hours: Wed-Sat 8pm-2am

Phone: +33 6 13 16 81 34

Internet: www.pubblacksheep.fr

Email: connorsbastia@gmail.com

Bar de la Haute Ville (Corte)



In the inland town of Corte, Bar de la Haute Ville is a small but welcoming bar that serves as a bit of a gathering place in the

town. It even showcases occasional live music that takes place on the street just outside the bar, enjoyed both by the patrons on the terrace and passersby.

Photo: Maksim Fesenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 place Gaffory, Corte

Phone: +33 4 95 61 06 20

Email: accueil@bardelahauteville.fr

La Tour (Calvi)



La Tour boasts one of the most picturesque locations in Calvi, in the shadow of the impressive citadel walls, with a balcony terrace just over

the marina water, and with sweeping views of the mountains in the distance. Stop by for a drink at sunset for the perfect evening out.

Photo: Uber Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: Quai Adolphe Landry, Calvi

Phone: +33 4 95 46 39 74

SHOPPING



eomgaa/Shutterstock.com

Corsica's many delicacies and local products are by far the most coveted gifts and souvenirs on the island. Its charcuterie (cured meats and sausages) is world-renowned, as are the island's cheeses and oils, as well as, of course, local wines. Bastia harbours the greatest selection of shops and boutiques, but more unique items await in more remote towns and villages.

LN Mattei (Bastia)



Travellers have been coming to LN Mattei for years in search of the best delicacies Corsica has to offer. There are wide selections of local wines and brandies, as well as food, like chestnuts and scented salts, but most people go for one thing in particular: their signature aperitif, *cap corse*.

Photo: Amy Johansson/Shutterstock.com

Address: 15 Boulevard Générale de Gaulle, Bastia

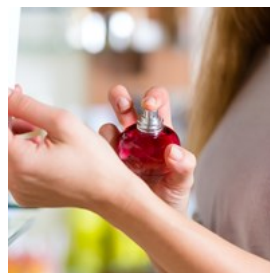
Opening hours: Daily 10am-8pm

Phone: +33 4 95 32 44 38

Internet: www.capcorsemattei.com

Email: louisnapoleon@capcorsemattei.com

Parfumerie Laboratoire Cynarom (Bastia)



Parfumerie Laboratoire Cynarom showcases only handmade scents made with local ingredients. Visitors can learn about the scents and their

ingredients and even create one of their own to take home as the perfect souvenir.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: 29 avenue Emile Sari, Bastia

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5pm-8pm

Phone: +33 4 95 31 39 30

Bastia Farmers' Market



Bastia's fresh produce market takes place at the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville from Tuesday to Sunday morning. Stalls are set up that sell fruit and

vegetables, meat and fish and all of Corsica's specialities.

Photo: Jack Frog/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place de l'Hôtel de Ville, Bastia

Opening hours: Tue-Sun morning

Annie Traiteur (Calvi)



For some of the best products Corsica has to offer, visit the family-run Annie Traiteur in Calvi. Their selection ranges from oils, honey and jams

to more unique items like veal sausage and of course wine.

Photo: Visionsi/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5 rue Clemenceau, Calvi

Opening hours: Daily 7am-9:30pm

Phone: +33 4 95 65 49 67

Internet: www.annietraiteur.com/produits-corses/

Pâtisserie Confiserie Grimaldi (Corte)



With three locations in Corsica (Ajaccio, Bastia and Corte) Pâtisserie Confiserie Grimaldi offers exquisite chocolate creations, ranging from

truffles to cakes to ice cream to macarons, and more.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com

Address: 15 Cours Paoli, Corte

Phone: +33 4 95 46 01 10

Internet: www.grimaldi-corse.com/histoire-grimaldi-chocolaterie-8-fr.html

Email: info@grimaldi-corse.com

U Muntagnolu (Bastia)



U Muntagnolu showcases local specialties of the highest quality, including cheeses and cold cuts, oils and jams, wines and a number of other artisanal products that show off the care given to local production.

Photo: dragi52/Shutterstock.com

Address: 15 Rue César Campinchi, Bastia

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-8pm, Sun 9:30am-7:30pm

Phone: +33 4 95 32 78 04

Internet: www.umuntagnolu.com

Email: contact@umuntagnolu.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Pawel Kazmierczak/Shutterstock.com

Passport/Visa



France can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travelers need a passport that is valid for at least

3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of Schengen countries can travel without a passport, but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Airport



The Bastia-Poretta Airport (BIA) is Upper Corsica's main international airport, located 17 kilometres to the southeast of Bastia, in

the municipality of Lucciana. There is a simple shuttle service that runs from the airport to the Bastia train station (the journey takes about 35 minutes). Another option is to take a taxi from in front of the terminal to whatever your destination may be.

The smaller Calvi-Sainte-Catherine Airport (CLY) is located just 6 kilometres from Calvi and operates mostly seasonal flights from Europe. To get to the city from the airport, visitors will have to take a taxi, as there are no buses.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Route de l'aéroport, Lucciana

Phone: +33 4 95 54 54 54

Internet:

www.bastia.aeroport.fr/AeroportBia/accueilAeroBia.php

Best Time to Visit



Peak tourist season falls on the months of July and August, when the weather is hottest. Late spring (May-June) and early fall

(September-October) are much more pleasant in

terms of weather, and better fit for hiking and active outdoor pursuits.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Public Transport



It is notoriously difficult to keep track of Corsican public bus schedules, as these may change without notice or not always be reliable. There

is, however, a frequently updated website containing all available information on island transport.

There are also three railroad routes on Corsica, one of which connects the capital of Ajaccio to inland Corte.

Renting a car is the best way of getting around and is recommended for convenience if you plan to explore the island.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Internet: www.corsicabus.org

Taxi

Corsica Taxi +33 4 95 36 04 65

www.corsica-taxis.com



Photo: ArrivalGuides

Pharmacy



There are multiple pharmacies in larger settlements across the island. Pharmacie Principale 31 Rue César Campinchi, Bastia +33 4

95 31 07 70

Mon-Fri 9am-7pm

Photo: Gemma Garner

Post



Correus:

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Avenue Maréchal Sebastiani, Bastia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, Sat 8am-12pm

Internet: www.laposte.fr

Telephone



Country code: +33 Area code: 495

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



230 V 50 Hz Plug types C and E

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

141,603

Currency

1 euro = 100 cents

Opening hours

Although business hours may vary, there is often a lunch break at most shops and small businesses, making the customary working hours from 8.30 or 9am to 1 or 1.30pm & 2 or 2.30 to 6 or 7pm. Most businesses close on Sundays.

Emergency numbers

Medical: 15

Police: 17

Fire: 18

Mobile emergency number: 112

Tourist information

Ufficio Turistico di Bastia

Parking St Nicolas, Bastia

+33 4 95 54 20 40

www.bastia-tourisme.com

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-7pm, Sun 8am-6pm