



Sardinia & Corsica: Undiscovered Islands of Italy & France

15 days | 17 days with Nice extension

This isn't the Italy and France you thought you knew. Begin in Rome, then veer off the well-trodden path to Sardinia, where Catalan echoes ring through Alghero's Old Town and wild thyme perfumes the grasslands of Gallura and Ogliastra. Meet shepherds in Sardinia's famed Blue Zone, cruise the emerald waters of La Maddalena on a catamaran, and savor meals rooted in centuries-old tradition. Next, cross to Corsica—French for just two centuries, yet steeped in thousands of years of Indigenous culture. Its rugged villages, white cliffs, and haunting polyphonic songs (recognized by UNESCO) reveal a fiercely independent spirit. You'll even spend a day in Ajaccio, the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. End with the amber glow of Nice—and since we know you won't want to leave, we've arranged an extension so you can continue basking in the French Riviera.



Your tour package includes

- 13 nights in handpicked hotels
- 13 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 7 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 cooking class
- 4 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights
- 1 ferry transfer

Included highlights

- Rome's Pantheon
- The Spanish Steps
- Alghero's sea walls
- Sardinian cooking class
- Ogliastra shepherd lunch
- Maddalena Archipelago
- Bonifacio Old Town
- Megalithic site of Filitosa
- Maison Bonaparte
- Corsican polyphonic singing performance

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved roads.

Group size

12–22

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Rome today.

Rome → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Rome

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers over a welcome drink at your hotel. Afterward, head as a group to a nearby restaurant for an included dinner, served with beer or wine, and continue getting to know one another as you eat.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Your journey in Italy begins not with a checklist, but with a feeling—the blush of morning light on cobblestones and the scent of espresso drifting from a nearby cafe. Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided walking tour of the Eternal City, where you'll discover its centuries-old squares and fountains.

- Wander past the Spanish Steps and pause beside Bernini's Fontana della Barcaccia, its soft gurgle echoing through the square like a whisper from the 1600s. Then, turn a corner and find yourself face-to-face with the Trevi Fountain, its marble figures caught mid-motion, water cascading like silk. Toss a coin, close your eyes, and make a wish—Rome has a way of making dreams come true.
- Step inside the Pantheon, where the air shifts and the light spills through the oculus like a spotlight from the gods. You'll stand beneath the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome, marveling at the genius of ancient engineers who built something so bold, it still stuns two millennia later.
- End at Piazza Navona, alive with street artists, laughter, and the drama of Bernini's Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi. Each sculpted river god tells a story of power, faith, and faraway lands—all commissioned by a pope who wanted the world to know Rome's reach.

This afternoon, the city is yours. Add our optional excursion to explore the Capitoline Museums,

where centuries of art and archaeology sit high above the Roman Forum. Or, slip into a slower rhythm with a visit to the Galleria Borghese's hushed halls, or simply let Rome unfold around you—one piazza, or gelato, at a time.

Please note: Travelers should have their passport information confirmed at least 30 days prior to departure to ensure we can secure tickets for entrance to the Pantheon.

+ Capitoline Museums & Rooftop Aperitivo

Alghero → 3 nights

Day 4: Flight to Alghero

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

This morning, leave behind Rome's golden light and timeless ruins, trading them for the sea-scented air of Sardinia. As your plane descends, the landscape shifts—terra-cotta rooftops give way to craggy cliffs, turquoise waters, and the sun-drenched coastline of Alghero, your home for the next few nights.

Once you arrive, settle into your hotel and take a moment to breathe it all in. Tonight, you'll gather with fellow travelers for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Alghero & cooking class

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Join your local guide for a morning walking tour through the historic heart of Alghero, a city shaped by centuries of shifting tides and foreign rule. Originally a Phoenician port, Alghero later came under Catalan control—a legacy still visible in the language spoken on the streets and the architecture that lines them. As you walk, you'll trace the city's layered past in its stone walls, quiet chapels, and lively town squares.

- Wander through the Old Town's narrow lanes, where ochre buildings lean into one another and balconies overflow with potted geraniums. The rhythm of daily life hums around you—shopkeepers chatting in Algherese, church bells marking the hour, and the scent of espresso drifting from corner cafes.
- Stand before the Torre di Sulis and the thick, weathered stone ramparts that once guarded Alghero from sea-bound invaders.

- Notice the Catalan Gothic flourishes—pointed arches, carved lintels, and quiet courtyards—that echo the city's 14th-century transformation under Spanish rule.
- Pause at lookout points where the rooftops fall away to reveal the sea, shifting from deep blue to glassy green, with fishing boats bobbing just offshore and the limestone cliffs of Capo Caccia rising in the distance.

This evening, join a local chef to learn about traditional Sardinian cooking, including traditional pastas such as malloreddus, ravioli, macarrones, and more. After crafting your dishes, sit down to enjoy your masterpieces during an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 6: Free day in Alghero

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day soaking up the rhythm of Alghero at your own pace. Mornings here start slow—sea breeze on your skin, the sound of church bells echoing through the Old Town. Want to dive deeper into the region's natural beauty? Opt into today's excursion to Neptune's Grotto and Capo Caccia, where you'll descend into sea caves carved by centuries of tide and time, and stand at cliffside viewpoints where the coastline stretches wide and wild beneath you. Prefer to stay local? Step into the Coral Museum to trace Alghero's centuries-old connection to red coral, from ancient harvesting techniques to intricate jewelry still crafted by hand. Or, head to the Mercato Civico, where locals shop for just-picked produce, wheels of pecorino, and handmade goods that speak to Sardinia's artisanal soul.

Please note: The excursion to Neptune's Grotto and Capo Caccia includes walking over wet or slippery terrain inside the sea caves so be sure to bring a pair of sturdy shoes.

+ Neptune's Grotto & Capo Caccia

Gallura Region → 2 nights

Day 7: Gallura region via Ogliastra

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

After bidding farewell to Alghero's golden coastline, you'll wind your way through Sardinia's remote and rarely visited mountainous interior,

where the island’s unique culture has been preserved for generations. The road carries you through Ogliastra’s raw, cinematic landscape—jagged limestone cliffs and valleys studded with ancient olive trees.

- Meet Sardinian shepherds, whose days are built on simple rhythms—tending flocks, gathering with neighbors, and sharing meals pulled from the land. In the Ogliastra region, part of Sardinia’s famed Blue Zone, longevity is woven into daily life. The air smells faintly of wild herbs as shepherds slice rustic bread still warm from the oven, layer it with tangy pecorino, and set platters of roasted meats before you.
- Lunch unfolds in the Supramonte style—hearty, unhurried, and meant to be savored. Between bites, you’ll lift a glass of cannonau wine, its deep ruby color catching the light. In this Blue Zone, locals credit their remarkable longevity to the land, the wine, and the laughter that fills every table.

After this feast, you’ll continue into Gallura, where wind-sculpted granite boulders, fragrant cork groves, and pristine beaches set the tone. Once you’ve settled into your hotel, the day closes with a leisurely dinner, complete with your choice of beer or wine in hand.

Day 8: Maddalena Archipelago boat tour
Included meals: breakfast, lunch

After driving to its harbor, you’ll set sail from Palau and watch the shoreline melt away as the Maddalena Archipelago unfurls on the horizon—a scatter of islands so pretty they look almost make-believe. The water here is the kind of blue you’ll long to describe later, shifting from sapphire to glass-clear turquoise with every ripple.

Your boat glides into quiet coves and along rugged cliffs, where wind and waves have sculpted the rock into whimsical shapes. You’ll drop anchor off Spargi and Santa Maria, slipping into water so clear it feels like floating in liquid light. Between swims, stretch out on deck with a freshly prepared lunch and keep your eyes opened for views that beg to be committed to memory: emerald hills tumbling into turquoise bays, secret beaches only the gulls seem to know, and that delicious sense of being far from everywhere. Day on the water complete, you’ll drive back to your hotel and rest up for the evening.

Southern Corsica → 2 nights

Day 9: Bonifacio & Southern Corsica
Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Make your way to Santa Teresa di Gallura, then cross the glittering Strait of Bonifacio—just eight miles of sapphire water that separate Sardinia from Corsica. As Southern Corsica comes into view, the sight is cinematic: a fortress city clinging to chalk-white cliffs, its ramparts standing watch as they have for centuries. Your day begins in Bonifacio, the island’s oldest and southernmost city, where pastel fishing boats bob in the harbor and the salty breeze carries hints of its medieval past.

- Stroll the lively quay and savor some free time for lunch. If you want to eat like a local, order aubergines à la bonifacienne—stuffed eggplant baked until silky, a dish that’s been perfected here for generations.
- Ride the petite tourist train as it chugs up to the cliff-top citadel, revealing layers of history at every turn—from the Genoese who fortified the city to the pirates who once prowled these waters.
- Wander the Old Town at your own pace. Lose yourself in cobblestone lanes lined with artisan shops, or simply claim a spot on the limestone bluff and watch the water lap at the shore.
- Pause for one last jaw-dropping photo on your way out—Bonifacio poised above the waves like a stone ship, timeless and defiant against the horizon.

Continue to your hotel in Southern Corsica and freshen up for tonight’s included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 10: Free day in Southern Corsica
Included meals: breakfast

Savor a full free day to immerse yourself in the soul of Southern Corsica. You can choose to rest up at your hotel or head inland to the storybook village of Sartene with its weathered granite facades and centuries-old plazas. Interested in learning more about Corsica’s agricultural traditions? You can opt into today’s excursion to visit a working organic cattle farm nestled in the Corsican maquis—the dense shrubbery of this part of the Mediterranean. You’ll learn more about traditional farming practices and enjoy an included lunch featuring Corsican specialties.
+ Corsican Organic Farm & Lunch

Ajaccio → 3 nights

Day 11: Ajaccio via Filitosa
Included meals: breakfast

Travel north along Corsica’s mountainous spine toward Ajaccio. En route, pause at Filitosa, a UNESCO-listed archaeological site that carries the island’s story back more than 8,000 years, and get to know it alongside a local guide.

- Walk among wind-smoothed granite statues carved into human forms, their features still faintly visible after millennia in the Corsican sun. These enigmatic figures stand alongside circular stone dwellings, the silent remains of a prehistoric community that thrived here long before the first Phoenician sails appeared on the horizon.
- Hear how Corsica and neighboring Sardinia house some of Europe’s most remarkable Bronze Age sites, preserving the beliefs, defenses, and artistry of early Mediterranean peoples.

Arrive in Ajaccio, where pastel facades line the harbor and fishing boats bob beside café terraces. You’ll have free time to wander the waterfront, browse markets for coral jewelry or chestnut flour pastries, and see the streets where a young Napoleon once played.

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Ajaccio & polyphonic singing performance
Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Ease into the day with a free morning before setting off on an afternoon guided walk through Ajaccio, Corsica’s sun-warmed capital and the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte.

- Step inside the softly lit Cathedral Notre-Dame-de-l’Assomption, where a marble font still marks the spot of Napoleon’s baptism. The air carries the faint scent of incense, and light filters through small, jewel-toned windows onto the worn stone floor.
- Continue to Place d’Austerlitz, where a towering statue of Napoleon surveys the city he once called home. Hear how this square became a focal point for remembering Corsica’s most famous son—and the battles that carried his name far beyond the island.
- Linger among the palms and the chatter of outdoor cafés in Place Foch before stepping into Maison Bonaparte. Inside this townhouse-turned-museum, creaking staircases and family portraits tell the story of Napoleon’s youth and the Bonapartes’ strong influence over the island.
- Break for lunch in downtown Ajaccio—order a plate of wild boar charcuterie or a slice of fiadone, Corsica’s lemony cheesecake, and watch fishing boats drift in the harbor.

- In the evening, immerse yourself in the spellbinding harmonies of Corsican polyphonic singing. Once sung in fields and village squares to tell epic tales or mourn lost loves, these interwoven voices now fill concert halls, carrying an age-old tradition that still sends shivers down the spine. Following the performance, sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Please note: Dinner will take place later in the evening following the singing performance.

Day 13: Free day in Ajaccio

Included meals: breakfast

Today, you can choose to venture into the wild and scenic heart of Haute-Corse on an optional excursion that reveals a different side of the island—full of mountain charm, forest trails, and historic towns.

Prefer to stay local? Enjoy a full free day in Ajaccio, with time to follow your own curiosity through the city and beyond. You might step into the galleries of the Musee Fesch, where crimson walls and gilded frames showcase one of France's most impressive collections of Italian Renaissance art outside the Louvre. Stand before canvases by Botticelli and Titian, then wander into the Napoleonic salon, where relics of the Bonaparte family add a personal twist to the museum's grandeur.

+ Haute-Corse: Corte & Cascade des Anglais

Nice → 1 night

Day 14: Flight to Nice & farewell dinner

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

It's time to bid farewell to the wild beauty of Corsica as you return to the French mainland with a flight to Nice. After arriving and settling in, enjoy some well-deserved downtime to relax or take a stroll along the sparkling Mediterranean coast on the Promenade des Anglais. This evening, come together with your group one last time to celebrate your unforgettable journey during a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home—or give in to the irresistible pull of the

Mediterranean and linger a little longer on the tour's extension in Nice. With its sun-drenched promenades, cafe-lined squares, and markets perfumed with lavender and fresh baguettes, Nice has a way of slowing time.

+ Nice extension

Nice has already dazzled you with its sparkle—but staying a few extra days means soaking up the full charm of the French Riviera. Stroll the iconic Promenade des Anglais, wander through the winding lanes of the Old Town, and savor the Mediterranean lifestyle with fresh seafood, Provencal flavors, and a glass of wine by the sea. Think: pastel facades, ethereal light, and postcard views that linger long after you leave.

Nice → 2 nights

Day 15: Sightseeing tour of Nice

Included meals: breakfast

Nestled between Cannes and the Principality of Monaco on the Cote d'Azur, Nice is part cultural crossroads, part seaside escape, and wholly captivating. Fall for La Belle during a guided tour this morning and see which of its quarters steals your heart.

- Glide along the Promenade des Anglais, the palm-fringed waterfront cherished by locals for its morning walks and by visitors for its endless views. As your guide points out its icons—the opulent, pink-domed Hotel Negresco, the Art Deco Palais de la Mediterranee, and the whimsical iron sculpture La Chaise—it's easy to see why this stretch is the city's calling card.
- Head up to the refined Cimiez district to step inside a second-century Roman amphitheater, a lone survivor of the ancient city of Cemenelum. Then, wander the serene gardens of the Cimiez Monastery, where monks have tended olive groves and terraces since the ninth century. Pause here for a moment of quiet before diving back into the city's hum.
- Conclude your day with free time in Nice's Old Town, a labyrinth of narrow streets connecting bustling squares, quaint cafes,

and the vibrant Cours Saleya market. (Looking for souvenirs? Here's your last chance! Pick up tapenades, candied fruit, and other local specialties for the gourmand in your life.)

Day 16: Free day in Nice

Included meals: breakfast

Make the most of your last full day on the French Riviera by tapping into its unbridled beauty—and unbelievable luxury—during today's optional outing to Cap Ferrat and Eze. Alternatively, dig deeper into the area's art scene by staying behind in Nice and roaming one of its museums. The Musee Matisse catalogs the works of one of the city's most celebrated former residents, while the Musee d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain—MAMAC for short—showcases avant-garde creations.

Finally, rejoin your fellow group members in the evening for a farewell drink and celebrate your trip together.

+ Cap Ferrat & Eze

Flight Home

Day 17: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://www.goaheadtours.com/SARG> | 1-800-597-0350

Day 3: Capitoline Museums & Rooftop Aperitivo

From \$145.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the morning)

Discover the timeless allure of the Capitoline Museums, the world's oldest public museums, perched majestically above Piazza del Campidoglio and designed by the legendary Michelangelo. Founded in 1471, these museums have evolved over centuries, offering a rich collection of history and art. Embark on a guided tour to marvel at iconic bronze masterpieces, including the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, the Capitoline Wolf with Romulus and Remus, and the colossal head of Constantine I. After immersing yourself in the museum's treasures, ascend the Tabularium for panoramic views of the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill. Conclude your visit with an aperitivo on the rooftop, soaking in the stunning vistas and the essence of Rome.

Day 6: Neptune's Grotto & Capo Caccia

From \$85.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the morning)

Set off on a scenic adventure from Alghero to Neptune's Grotto and Capo Caccia—an experience that showcases some of Sardinia's most dramatic coastal landscapes. Begin with a short walk from your hotel to the Port of Alghero, where you'll board a boat and cruise across the bay. As you approach Capo Caccia, admire the stark white cliffs rising from the sea and catch a glimpse of the iconic lighthouse perched atop them. Upon arrival at the base of the cliffs, join a local guide for a tour of Neptune's Grotto, a stunning sea cave filled with stalactites, stalagmites, and shimmering pools. After exploring, board your boat for a relaxing ride back to Alghero and walk back to your hotel. Please note: The floor in Neptune's Grotto can get slippery, so be sure to bring appropriate footwear.

Day 10: Corsican Organic Farm & Lunch

From \$139.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (TBD, departs in the morning, includes lunch)

Venture into the heart of the Corsican countryside to a working organic cattle farm nestled in the island's wild maquis landscape. After a scenic drive, meet a local guide for an introduction to the farm's origins, philosophy, and sustainable practices. Learn about the native plants cultivated on the land and the traditional methods used to raise livestock. Continue to the terrace for a closer look at the farm's meat production process, including a tour of the food processing workshop and insight into how every part of the animal is used with care and purpose. Then, sit down to a generous lunch of Corsican specialties, centered on the farm's own cured meats and paired with regional wines. On the way back to your hotel, stop at the picturesque Spina Cavallu arch bridge, built in the 18th century.

Day 13: Haute-Corse: Corte & Cascade des Anglais

From \$85.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (8 hours, departs in the morning, includes lunch)

Discover the untamed beauty of Haute-Corse on an unforgettable journey through the island's mountainous heart. Begin with a scenic transfer to the Cascade des Anglais, where a gentle hike along the famed GR20 trail leads you through a tranquil pine and beech forest. The sound of rushing water grows louder as you approach a series of crystal clear cascades and rock pools—perfect for a refreshing break on hot days. After your forest adventure, continue to the historic town of Corte, once the capital of independent Corsica. Enjoy a leisurely lunch and take time to explore its cobbled streets, dramatic citadel, and sweeping valley views. On your return to Ajaccio, pause at the Belvedere de Pasciola, a breathtaking viewpoint that offers one last glimpse of Corsica's rugged splendor.

Extension excursion options

Day 16: Cap Ferrat & Eze

From \$159.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (6.5 hours, departs in the morning)

Embark on a sunny, salty exploration of the French Riviera, a region known for its glamorous resorts and yacht-dotted coasts. Begin at Cap Ferrat, a lush headland graced with dreamy villas. (You'll get to enter one of them: the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, commissioned by the famed banking family.) Then, head to the medieval village of Eze and drink in the beauty of its cobblestone streets—all in plain view of the shimmering Mediterranean. After free time to pop into cafes, explore shops, and roam within Eze's ancient walls, return to Nice with your snapshots and souvenirs. Please note: In the event Villa Ephrussi is unavailable, groups will visit Villa Kerylos instead.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.