

Unique Islands of the Mediterranean:

Corsica & Sardinia with Malta extension

Blue Dot Travel
Go somewhere different

September 2027 | 20 Days

Cost to be confirmed

Tour Highlights

- Bonifacio's stunning cliffs and fortress
- Corsica's scenery, villages and food
- Sardinia's rural charm and culture
- Exploring the stone-walled Neolithic Nuraghes
- Visit to the Museum of Bandits
- Malta's famous harbour and stunning buildings
- Fishing villages along Malta's coastline



Unique Islands of the Mediterranean: Corsica & Sardinia with Malta Extension



Tour overview

Discover Corsica, Sardinia and Malta's stunning beauty and rich culture on this unique Mediterranean tour.

The French island of Corsica offers a fascinating blend of French and Italian influences, with a laid-back atmosphere reminiscent of regional France from 50 years ago. The island's capital, Ajaccio, is the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte, and his family home now serves as a museum. Corsica's history is rich, with influences from the Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians, Genovese, and many more, all contributing to the island's unique character. Less developed than many Mediterranean islands, our travellers love Corsica for its beautiful scenery, delicious food, and perfect weather.

Just below Corsica lies the Italian island of Sardinia. Its rugged, rural landscape is dotted with ancient Nuraghes, stone-walled Neolithic fortresses that tell stories of its ancient past. The coastal towns are renowned for fresh seafood, while the inland regions are famous for local produce like capers, olives, and the renowned Pecorino Sardo cheese. The sea around this large Mediterranean Island are some of the clearest and most beautiful waters in the world. You'll love Sardinia for its people, food and unique culture.

To complete your Mediterranean Island experience, we recommend extending your stay on the independent island nation of Malta. This Mediterranean gem is a treasure trove of stunning architecture, rich history, and unique cultural experiences. It comprises three islands: Malta, Gozo, and Comino. Malta's small size makes it easy to explore everything within a short distance, from its magnificent fortified harbour to its traditional hilltop towns and bustling capital.

Join us for this cultural small group tour to three of the Mediterranean's most unique and beautiful islands.



MODERATE

Activity rating: Moderate

You must be capable of: walking up to 8,000 steps daily; occasionally ascending 3-4 flights of steps; standing at attractions for 1-2 hours; boarding and disembarking transport unaided and handling your own luggage.

September 2027 (date to be confirmed) DEPARTURE

Depart Australia for your flight to Nice. Please contact us for more information about flights.

Day 1: ARRIVE NICE, FRANCE

On arrival, we'll be picked up from the airport and transferred to our accommodation. The afternoon will be at leisure, allowing you to freshen up and/or stroll the Old Port area near the hotel before our group welcome dinner early in the evening at a local restaurant. Overnight in Nice. **D**

Day 2: NICE – BASTIA

Today is a free day to explore this gem of a city, noting that today is unguided and un-hosted. Stroll the beachfront promenade, visit the panoramic belvedere, the Cours Selaya markets, or the captivating Old Town. Have an early dinner in Nice, then return to the hotel for our transfer to the airport for an evening flight to Bastia in Corsica. On arrival, we'll meet our Corsican guide and driver and transfer to our hotel in the city's heart for a three-night stay. **B**

Day 3: BASTIA

Today, we'll take a walking tour of charming Bastia. Our day includes the city's impressive citadel (it involves some uphill sections, but the old city's views and sights are well worth it), the bustling marina, and the picturesque historic quarter. We'll return to our hotel in the afternoon to freshen up and conclude our day with dinner at Bastia's Old Marina. **B/D**

Day 4: CAP CORSE DAY TRIP

Today, we'll enjoy a full day in and around the Cap Corse, a finger of land at the top of Corsica. Explore from east to west, with its rocky terrain, crystal-clear waters, and quaint villages. We'll stop at Erbalunga (a charming village with a 16th-century Genoese tower), Macinaggio, Pino and Nonza, with its black pebble beach. We'll enjoy wine tasting, then return to Bastia via the Col of Teghime. Dinner is at a local restaurant near our hotel in Bastia. **B/D**

Day 5: BASTIA – CALVI

Today, we'll travel through the Castagniccia region, a collection of 29 villages, with slated rooftops, cobbled streets, traditional bakers' ovens and washhouses. The villages are set in a chestnut grove that gave its name to the area. After lunch, we'll continue to beautiful Calvi for a walking tour and a two-night stay. Dinner is at your leisure. **B/L**

Day 6: CALVI AND SURROUNDS

We'll enjoy a guided tour of Calvi's impressive citadel and lunch at a restaurant with fabulous views. We'll explore the picturesque villages of San Antonino and Pigna, followed by the small harbour town of Ile Rousse, then return to Calvi for an evening of leisure. **B/L**

Day 7: TO PORTO via CORTÉ

Today, we'll drive to the beautiful mountain village of Corté, with its citadel perched atop the rocky mountain crags. Board "Le Petit Train" for a novel way to reach this historic site, where we'll visit the Museum of Corsica. We'll continue on a scenic drive, showcasing Corsica's beautiful nature, to the lovely seaside town of Porto, where we stay for one night. Dinner is at a local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 8: PORTO – AJACCIO

Weather permitting, we'll take a boat trip to the World Heritage-listed Scandola Nature Reserve, with its stunning rock formations and wildlife. Lunch is at your leisure; then we'll drive through the Calanque de Piana, a bizarre geological formation of granite rocks rising 400m above sea level, to Ajaccio for a one-night stay. Dinner is at a local restaurant in Ajaccio. **B/D**

Day 9: AJACCIO – PROPRIANO

This morning, we'll explore the beautiful imperial city of Ajaccio. The birthplace of Napoleon, this bustling city is brimming with history, the tangled streets of the city's old town, the marketplace, citadel and cathedral. It is also home to fantastic modern art and culture, like the Fesch Museum of Modern Art. We'll then take a short drive out of town for a special lunch at a family-run auberge. In the afternoon, we'll visit the archaeological site of Filitosa with its megalithic art before continuing to the beachside town of Propriano for a one-night stay. Dinner is at your leisure, and it's a great place for a stroll, watching the iconic Mediterranean sunset. **B/L**

Day 10: PROPRIANO – SARTENE – BONIFACIO

This morning we'll explore nearby Sartene, known as the "soul of Corsica", on a walking tour, exploring its well-preserved medieval buildings and charming streets. Then, be ready for some stunning scenery as we drive the "Colle de Bavella" through the Corsican mountains. We'll pass through small villages and watch as the landscape changes from dramatic rock formations to forests of giant Laricio pines. The most beautiful panorama is at the Col de Bavella pass (1,218m elevation) within the regional reserve. We'll have lunch in this scenic area before continuing to the stunning city of Bonifacio for a two-night stay. Dinner and the evening are at your leisure. **B/L**

Day 11: BONIFACIO

The ancient fortress town of Bonifacio sits atop limestone cliffs carved by centuries of endless waves, and makes for some fabulous photos. This morning, we'll take the local mini-train up the steep ascent to the high town and enjoy a guided tour explaining the citadel's interesting history. There's free time to explore the winding laneways, local shops, and craft outlets. After lunch at your leisure, return to sea level for a boat excursion (subject to weather conditions) to discover the caves of Bonifacio. The rest of the afternoon is free, before dinner at the port. **B/D**



Day 12: ARZACHENA, SARDINIA

This morning, we'll take a one-hour ferry to Santa Teresa at the northern tip of Sardinia. We'll meet our Sardinian guide and driver, then board another ferry to La Maddalena Island. Once a fishing village, La Maddalena drew the attention of several notable leaders who recognised its strategic location between Sardinia and mainland Italy. Now, the town centres around the animated cafes and buildings of Piazza Garibaldi, named after Giuseppe Garibaldi, the father of Italian independence. We'll visit the museum, then continue to the island of Caprera, Garibaldi's last retreat. The panoramic views of the azure-blue sea against the green vegetation of the hinterland are stunning. Returning to the main island, we'll arrive at our hotel in Arzachena late in the afternoon for dinner and a two-night stay. **B/D**

Day 13: AGGIUS

This morning, an archaeological tour of the "Giant's Tomb" at Coddu Vecchiu. This necropolis dates back to the Neolithic era (approximately 1600 BC) and is the largest in Sardinia. Next, we'll travel to Aggius to visit both its interesting museums. The MEOC Museum explores Sardinian traditions and culture from the 16th to the 20th century. Aggius was the epicentre of banditry in Gallura for about three centuries, and the Museum of Banditry documents this interesting slice of local history. We'll continue to Tempio Pausania, the "city of stone", a picturesque town famous for its granite and cork production. We'll return to Arzachena late afternoon, with dinner at our hotel. **B/D**

Day 14: ARZACHENA – ORGOSOLO – BITTI

Today we'll travel to Orgosolo, in the heart of the Barbagia del Supramonte mountain area. Its hinterland is strewn with the traces of the ancient dwellers of Sardinia, domus de janas, tombs of the giants and nuraghes. After a stroll through the narrow streets and alleys of the village, we'll enjoy lunch with the local shepherds, who will share the "Cantu a Tenore" with us (a style of polyphonic folk singing characteristic of the Barbagia Area.) After lunch, we'll explore the panoramas en route to the quaint village of Bitti in the North Barbagia region. Our hotel, situated in the countryside, allows you to slow down and immerse yourself in the surrounding natural beauty. Your evening is free to enjoy the local hospitality. **B/L**

Day 15: BITTI – BOSCA – ALGHERO

After breakfast, we'll travel to Bosa, arguably one of Sardinia's most beautiful towns. Lunch is at your leisure, and sitting in the main square with a bowl of pasta is hard to beat! After lunch, we'll take a walking tour of the village with its pastel houses stacked up the hillside and fishing boats bobbing in the river. We'll continue through one of the most scenic roads on the island to our next destination – Alghero, where we will spend the next two nights. With its fortified walls and towers that surround the old town built under Catalan rule, it is known as the "little Barcelona". We'll take a short walking tour of this beautiful town with its medieval main square, Piazza Civica, showcasing the famous Duke of Abis' palace and the 16th-century Santa Maria Cathedral. Dinner is at our hotel tonight. **B/D**

Day 16: CASTELSARDO

After breakfast, we'll drive to the ancient town of Castelsardo for a walking tour. Overlooking this picturesque city sits Castello dei Doria, the 11th-century castle that gives the town its name. It is wonderfully preserved and houses the famous Museo dell'Intreccio (entrance not included). The nearby Maria's Basilica is famous for the so-called Cristo Nero (Black Christ), carved from wood. After returning to Alghero, the afternoon is free with an opportunity to arrange a boat tour or swim in the famous crystal waters of the Mediterranean. We will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant tonight. **B/D**

Day 17: ALGHERO – CAGLIARI

A long but rewarding day today! We'll begin our journey South, with our first stop at Bonorva to visit the huge Necropolis of Sant'Andrea Prius, one of the largest in the Mediterranean. We'll continue to lunch at a local farm where the owner will share his knowledge about the farm and his traditional home-grown food. After lunch, we'll travel to Torralba to visit the magnificent Nuraghe Santu Antine. Dating back to 1600 BC, this ritual fortress is composed of a central tower surrounded by a fortified court and three side towers disposed as a perfect triangle. We'll walk through the beautifully preserved corridors inside the fortress to truly appreciate this ancient building. Finally, we'll arrive in Cagliari in the early evening, where we will spend the next three nights. There are plenty of options for dinner nearby. **B/L**

Day 18: CAGLIARI

Today, we'll discover the scenic coastline of the Sulcis Region, from Fontanamare to Porto Flavia. As we drive along this amazing road, the mountain's rocky face has a stunning purple colour, contrasting with the surrounding greenery. The cliff-face port of Porto Flavia is a masterpiece of mining engineering. Now abandoned, the fascinating site was dug into the cliffs 50m above sea level. The southward coast from Buggerru is panoramic and full of little paradises, such as the beach of Cala Domestica, dominated by a Spanish tower, and the mining village of Nebida, suspended between the sea and the mountains beyond. There will be free time for lunch (own cost), and plenty of stops for panoramic photos on the way back to Cagliari. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **B/L**

Day 19: CAGLIARI

This morning we'll walk the beautiful Cagliari Medieval district, overlooking Golfo degli Angeli. Founded by Phoenician traders, the city has preserved soaring towers and sections of the city walls that once encircled its medieval Castello district. It's also home to one of the Mediterranean's largest and most important Phoenician necropolises. We'll walk through Saint Augustine, Piazza Matteotti and Via Roma. We'll visit the 17th-century cathedral, known for its ornate Baroque interior, grand towers and magnificent bastions. This part of the town is known as 'Castello', a once impregnable fortress that offers excellent panoramic views over Cagliari. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we'll visit the ruins of the ancient town of Nora. Founded by the Phoenicians, then ruled by the Punic and the Romans, Nora is at the end of a beautiful promontory southwest of Cagliari. The Romans made the town wealthy and beautiful, adding a theatre, several thermal baths and stunning mosaics. After a full day, return to the hotel in the early evening. **B/L**

Day 20: CAGLIARI DEPARTURE, or EXTENSION TO MALTA

Our time in Sardinia concludes after breakfast. For those continuing to Malta, you'll transfer to the airport for a lunchtime flight to Valetta. For those returning home, you'll have some free time before your afternoon flight. **B**



Unique Islands of the Mediterranean: **Malta Extension**

October 2027 | 6 Days

Cost to be confirmed

Single Supp: Additional

Excludes flight from Cagliari to Valletta

Day 1: VALLETTA

We'll arrive from Cagliari in the early afternoon and transfer to our hotel for a five-night stay. Our hotel is in Sliema, a ferry ride across the harbour from Valletta. Dotted with charming cafes and shops, Sliema is a vibrant neighbourhood that oozes local charm, away from the busy cruise port. Dinner is at the hotel tonight. (A Blue Dot host does not lead this extension. Experienced local guides will accompany the group during all inclusions.) **D**

Day 2: VALLETTA

Malta's capital, Valletta, is a fortified city between two stunning natural harbours on a hilly peninsula. When UNESCO named Valletta a World Heritage site, it described it as 'one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world', with 20 monuments within an area of 55 ha. This morning, we'll explore its key sites on foot, including the Upper Baraka Garden and St John's Cathedral. To best appreciate the famous harbour, we'll travel on a "fregatina", the traditional fishing boat of Malta, to the medieval city of Birgu. We'll return in the late afternoon to freshen up before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 3: SLIEMA & MARSAXLOKK

This morning, we'll explore Sliema with a stroll on the waterfront promenade before heading to Marsaxlokk, a pretty bay-side fishing village, for a short boat trip. Dotted with charming fishing boats, it's a fabulous spot to wander with your camera and enjoy lunch (at your own cost). In the afternoon, we'll return to Sliema, where you have an afternoon free to relax and enjoy Mediterranean life at its best. For those interested, your guide can organise a "Valletta by night" tour, which we recommend. **B**

Day 4: GOZO

Today, we'll take a short ferry ride to Malta's second-largest island, Gozo. Arriving at the quaint seaside town of Xlendi is the perfect coffee stop before continuing to the Basilica of Ta'Pinu. We'll continue to the island's capital city, Victoria, and the Ggantija Temples, one of the world's oldest known free-standing structures. Enjoy a fabulous seafood lunch at a local seaside village where the feast is so good. Dinner is not included tonight, as most will want to give it a miss! **B/L**

Day 5: VALLETTA

Today, we'll explore the historic sites surrounding Valletta. Stroll the cobble-stoned streets and enjoy the beautiful architecture of the Silent City of Mdina and its Glass factory. We'll see the stunning Mosta Dome, famous for its beauty and fascinating history, and the ancient Hagar Qim temples. The temple of Hagar Qim, excavated for the first time in 1839, dates to 3600 - 3200 BC. It stands on a hilltop overlooking the sea and the islet of Filfla. Weather permitting, we'll take a short boat ride to experience the beautiful light reflections and cave systems of the Blue Grotto. We'll meet for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant in the evening. **B/D**

Day 6: DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. **B**





Accommodation

Our hotels are carefully chosen to capture the local atmosphere and set you up in an ideal location. You can expect accommodation that comprises a mix of standard hotels, boutique-style hotels, and smaller, independently owned establishments. Below are sample hotels on this tour:

Ibis Styles Nice Vieux-Port, Nice, France
www.ibis.nice

Cagliari, Hotel Regina Margherita
www.hotelreginamargherita.com

Hotel Catalunya Alghero, Sardinia
<https://www.hotelcatalunya.it>

Hotel Solemare, Bonifacio, Corsica
<https://www.hotel-solemare.com>

Why Blue Dot?

Travel is more than just moving from one place to another; it is an opportunity to explore this vast planet, connect with its people and marvel at its beauty. We have established a group of loyal, like-minded travellers who share this feeling and have taken multiple tours with us. With Blue Dot, you'll experience

- Thoughtfully designed itineraries with unique experiences
- Small, inclusive groups with a maximum of 16 travellers
- The support of both an Australian tour leader* and experienced local guides
- Programs designed to meet the needs of mature-age travellers
- Hands on, personalised service including customised flight bookings
- Tipping included in your tour cost

*Australian leaders accompany groups with more than 10 travellers.

Blue Dot welcomes solo travellers

In fact, over half of our clients are solo travellers. We understand it can be daunting to travel on your own, and we'll ensure your travel is safe, inclusive and enjoyable. You can confidently join our groups, knowing that we bring solo travellers together to share the camaraderie of an unforgettable adventure.

Enquiries and bookings

A \$500 deposit is required to secure your booking.

For more information:

☎ 02 9906 5770

✉ enquiries@bluedottravel.com.au