

Unique Islands of the Mediterranean:

Corsica & Sardinia with Malta extension

Blue Dot Travel
Go somewhere different

September 2027 | 20 Days

\$17,490 per person, twin share

Solo Supplement: \$2,200

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.



Activity rating: Moderate

You should be able to maintain a steady walking pace, manage flights of stairs, stand at attractions for periods of time, and board and disembark transport independently

Thursday 2nd September DEPARTURE

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

Day 1, Friday 3rd September 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 Town area near the hotel before our group welcome dinner early in the evening at a local restaurant. Overnight: Nice **D**

Day 2, Saturday 4th September NICE – BASTIA

Today is unguided, and you are free to explore this gem of a city on your own. Stroll the beachfront promenade, visit the panoramic belvedere, the Cours Selaya markets, or the captivating Old Town. Grab an early bite to eat before we transfer to the airport for an evening flight to Bastia. On arrival, meet our Corsican guide and driver and check into our centrally located hotel. Overnight: Bastia **B**

Day 3, Sunday 5th September 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 views are well worth it), the marina, and the picturesque historic quarter. Bastia's pastel-hued facades – some restored, others beautifully timeworn – give the city an effortless charm. We'll return to our hotel in the afternoon to freshen up and conclude our day with dinner at Bastia's Old Marina. Overnight: Bastia **B/D**

Day 4, Monday 6th September CAP CORSE DAY TRIP

Today, we'll drive around Cap Corse, the rugged, scenic peninsula at the northern tip of Corsica, known for its winding coastal roads, hilltop villages, and dramatic sea views. We'll stop at Erbalunga, a delightful 16th-century seaside village, and several classic Corsican villages. Your guide will recommend one for a local lunch. On the way back to Bastia, we'll stop for a wine tasting, then dinner is at a local restaurant near our hotel. Overnight: Bastia **B/D**

Day 5, Tuesday 7th September BASTIA – L'ÎLE-ROUSSE

Leaving Bastia, we'll travel through the Castagniccia region, a tranquil, forested area of chestnut-covered hills, stone villages, and winding mountain roads—offering a glimpse of traditional island life far from the coast. Corsica is known for its excellent charcuterie, which we will sample at lunch today. Continuing to the laid-back coastal town of L'Île-Rousse, your evening is at your leisure. It's a beautiful spot for a swim in the sparkling Med. Overnight: L'Île-Rousse **B/L**

Day 6, Wednesday 8th September CALVI DAYTRIP

This morning we'll visit the hilltop village of San Antonino. This 9th-century medieval village is known for its winding cobbled streets and panoramic views, and our lunch spot has equally spectacular views! In the afternoon, we'll visit Calvi, with its impressive citadel and glamorous waterfront area. You'll have free time to wander before returning to Île Rousse. Overnight: L'Île-Rousse **B/L**

Day 7, Thursday 9th September L'ÎLE-ROUSSE – CORTÉ – PORTO

Today, we'll drive to the beautiful mountain village of Corté, with its citadel perched atop the rocky mountain crags. "Le Petit Train" will take us up the hill to old town, where we'll visit the fascinating Museum of Corsica. We'll continue on a scenic drive, showcasing Corsica's stunning nature, to Porto, surrounded by red granite landscapes. Dinner is at a local restaurant. Overnight: Porto **B/D**

Day 8, Friday 10th September PORTO – AJACCIO

Weather permitting, we'll take a boat trip to the World Heritage-listed Scandola Nature Reserve, with its stunning rock formations. We'll then drive through the Calanque de Piana, with its unique granite formations rising 400m above sea level, to Piana for lunch. Continuing along the coast to Ajaccio, we'll visit Napoleon's Birthplace Museum, followed by dinner. Overnight: Ajaccio **B/D**

Day 9, Saturday 11th September AJACCIO – SARTENE – PORTO VECCHIO

This morning, we'll explore the imperial city of Ajaccio. The birthplace of Napoleon, this bustling city is brimming with history, from the tangled streets of its old town to the local marketplace. We'll then drive to the Filitosa archaeological site, home to megalithic art and ancient olive groves. We'll continue to Sartène, which is often called "the most Corsican of Corsican towns" for its stone houses, narrow lanes, and strong sense of tradition. Finally, we'll arrive in Porto Vecchio for dinner and a three-night stay. Overnight: Porto Vecchio **B/D**

Day 10, Sunday 12th September PORTO VECCHIO SURROUNDS

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. We'll stop in the village of Zonza for an authentic lunch, then return to Porto Vecchio for an afternoon of relaxation in this laid-back yet stylish coastal town. Overnight: Porto Vecchio **B/L**

Day 11, Monday 13th September BONIFACIO

The ancient fortress town of Bonifacio, about a 30-minute drive away, sits atop limestone cliffs carved by centuries of endless waves. The best views are from the water, and this morning, we'll take a short boat trip around the coastline. We'll then take the local mini-train up to the high town to explore the city's fascinating citadel. You'll have free time to explore the winding laneways and local shops, before returning to Porto Vecchio in the evening. Overnight: Porto Vecchio. **B/D**



Day 12, Tuesday 14th September PORTO VECCHIE – ARZACHENA, SARDINIA

This morning, we'll take a one-hour ferry from Bonifacio harbour 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. This fishing village centres around the animated cafes and buildings of Piazza Garibaldi, named after Giuseppe Garibaldi, the father of Italian independence. We'll take a short walking tour, then visit Garibaldi's house museum before catching the ferry back to the mainland. Set in the Gallura countryside just outside Arzachena, tonight's hotel has a wonderful atmosphere and dinner that is the perfect introduction to local Sardinian cuisine. Overnight: Arzachena **B/D**

Day 13, Wednesday 15th September AGGIUS

This morning, we'll visit the "Giant's Tomb" necropolis at Coddu Vecchiu, which dates back to the Neolithic era (approximately 1600 BC). Next, we'll travel to Aggius to visit the MEOC Museum, which explores Sardinian traditions and culture from the 16th to 20th century, and the Museum of Banditry. Aggius was the epicentre of banditry in Gallura for about three centuries, and the museum is fascinating. We'll visit picturesque Tempio Pausania, known as the "city of stone", then return to Arzachena for dinner. Overnight: Arzachena **B/D**

Day 14, Thursday 16th September ARZACHENA – ORGOSOLO – BITTI

Today we'll travel to Orgosolo, in the heart of the Barbagia del Supramonte mountain area. Its hinterland is dotted with remnants of Sardinia's ancient inhabitants – domus de janas (giant's tombs) and nuraghes. Stroll through the narrow streets of the village, then continue to lunch with the local shepherds, who will share the "Cantu a Tenore" with us (a style of polyphonic folk singing characteristic of the area). We'll continue past scenic panoramas to the quaint village of Bitti in the North Barbagia region. Situated in the countryside, you can slow down and enjoy the natural beauty of the area, and your evening is free. Overnight: Bitti **B/L**

Day 15, Friday 17th September BITTI – BOSA – ALGHERO

This morning, we'll travel to the beautiful city of Bosa. 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 Alghero. The fortified walls and towers surrounding the old town were built under Catalan rule, earning it the nickname "little Barcelona". We'll take a short walking tour of this beautiful town, including its medieval main square, Piazza Civica, and the Duke of Abis' palace. Overnight: Alghero **B/D**

Day 16, Saturday 18th September CASTELSARDO DAYTRIP

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 Basilica of Maria is famous for the so-called Cristo Nero (Black Christ), carved from wood. After returning to Alghero, your afternoon is free with an opportunity to arrange a boat tour or swim. Dinner is at a local restaurant. Overnight: Alghero **B/D**

Day 17, Sunday 19th September ALGHERO – CAGLIARI

A long but rewarding day today! We'll begin our journey South, to 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 and traditional homegrown food. Next, 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. Finally, we'll arrive in Cagliari in the early evening, where we will spend the next three nights. There are plenty of dinner options nearby. Overnight: Cagliari **B/L**

Day 18, Monday 20th September CAGLIARI SURROUNDS

Today, we'll drive the scenic coastline of the Sulcis Region, from Fontanamare to Porto Flavia. Along this amazing road, the mountain's rocky face is a stunning purple, 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 south coast from Buggerru is full of panoramic stops, such as Cala Domestica beach with its Spanish tower and Nebida village, suspended between the sea and the mountains. There'll be plenty of photo stops on the way back, as we return to Cagliari for dinner. Overnight: Cagliari **B/L**

Day 19, Tuesday 21st September CAGLIARI

This morning, we explore Cagliari's medieval Castello district, perched above the Golfo degli Angeli. Founded by Phoenician traders, the city still boasts soaring towers, ancient walls, and one of the Mediterranean's most significant Phoenician necropolises. We'll stroll through the main piazzas and visit the 17th-century Baroque cathedral with its grand towers and sweeping views over the city. Lunch is in a local restaurant before we head to the ancient ruins of Nora – a Phoenician, Punic, and Roman site on a stunning coastal promontory, famed for its theatre, baths, and intricate mosaics. Overnight: Cagliari. **B/L**

Day 20, Wednesday 22nd September 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

6-day Malta Extension

\$3,500 per person, twin share

Solo Supplement: \$700

Excludes flight from Cagliari to Valletta

Day 1, Wednesday 22nd September 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, Thursday 23rd September 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, Friday 24th September 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, Saturday 25th September 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, Sunday 26th September 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, Monday 27th September 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 some of the hotels on this tour. Final hotels may change, and a complete list will be shared with you.

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

Hôtel Continental à Bastia, Corsica
www.hotelcontinentalbastia.com

Cagliari, Hotel Regina Margherita
www.hotelreginamargherita.com

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

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:

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