

THE TAVIGNANU

A gem of central Corsica



The Tavignanu Gorges :

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Just a stone's throw from the historic center of Corte, the Tavignanu gorges stand as one of the island's most breathtaking natural treasures. Carved by time and the elements, this spectacular valley stretches along the second largest river in Corsica, offering a wild and unspoiled setting, perfect for a getaway.



Looking for adventure?

In the following pages, discover 8 must-do itineraries that will lead you through the varied and stunning landscapes of the Tavignanu valley. Whether you are an experienced hiker, a budding explorer, or simply a nature lover, there is something for everyone: a contemplative walk, a family outing, or a sporty challenge. And for the most adventurous, a two-day

loop with an overnight stay in a mountain refuge offers a chance to immerse yourself fully in the heart of the corsican mountains. Hiking boots on, backpack ready, swimsuit in your pocket... All that's left is to follow the trail, refresh yourself in the crystal-clear pools, and let yourself be amazed by the magic of the Tavignanu.



The more daring can also try multi-pitch climbing on spectacular granite rock. A demanding activity, but safely accessible with the help of an experienced local guide.

HIKES

with complete peace of mind



CHOOSE THE RIGHT HIKE

Choose a hike which difficulty matches your physical abilities. Do not underestimate the ground that is sometimes steep.



CONSULT THE WEATHER

Check the weather before departure.
Phone : 32 50



TELEPHONE COVERAGE

Partial

THE MUST-HAVE



Glasses and caps



Adapted shoes



Health kit



IGN maps



Waterproof coat



Water and food



Lamp



Survival blanket



Garbage bags

THE RIGHT BEHAVIOUR



Stay on marked trails except special case



Fire is forbidden



Camp / bivouac are forbidden



Bring back your garbage



Keep control of your dog



Respect the fauna and flora

LEVELS OF HIKES

Based on effort, the technic, and the risk
ffrandonnee.fr



Easy



Quite easy



Slightly difficult



Fairly difficult



Hard

USEFUL NUMBERS*

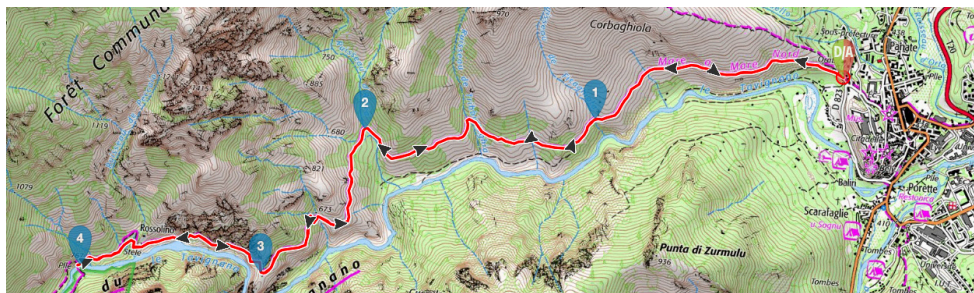
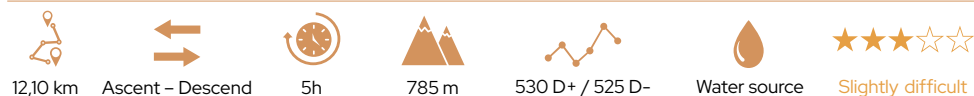
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- **TAXI JMG**
06 24 68 10 31
- **TAXI ETIENNE**
04 95 48 08 17 - 06 09 40 61 09
- **TAXI A PIETRA**
04 95 48 01 97 - 06 10 60 55 24



The Russulinu bridge

CORTE - RUSSULINU BRIDGE

From Corte, near the citadel, this iconic trail winds through the Tavignanu valley. This hike, not overly difficult but better suited to seasoned walkers, follows the old mule path running alongside the river.



The trail starts near the Citadel of Corte. In the curve at the end of the parking lot, a terrace offers a lovely viewpoint over the Tavignanu valley. To the right of this terrace, the trail begins near a sign indicating "Refuge A Sega." A few meters further, push open a makeshift gate to access the **orange-marked** trail.

- ➔ Reach a rest area called A Madonina, where there is a statue of the Virgin Mary, and the Ficaghjola stream. A small fountain offers refreshment (though it may dry up during hot weather). Continue for about 3 km to reach Antia.
- ➔ At the Antia stone hut and its namesake stream, continue the path for another 10 minutes uphill to reach a rocky slab offering a lovely viewpoint. Be careful not to get too close to the edge!
- ➔ Continue on the path to the right. The footbridge is approximately 1.3 km away.



Arrival at the Russulinu footbridge. The nearby spring is clearly visible. In summer, this is an ideal spot for a refreshing swim in the river. Return via the same trail.



For more details see the
Visorando card





The Antia Loop

CORTE - ANTIA / (RETURN ALONG THE TAVIGNANU)

A loop trail that begins on the Mare a Mare Nord route and returns along the Tavignanu river. You'll discover wonderful swimming spots, including the Antia Lake, a hidden gem with a 40-meter swim stretch just off the path.



7,58 km



Ascent



3h



671 m



295 D+ / 292 D-



Water source



Slightly difficult



The trail starts near the Citadel of Corté. In the curve at the end of the parking lot, a terrace offers a lovely viewpoint over the Tavignanu valley. To the right of this terrace, the trail begins near a sign indicating "Refuge A Segá." A few meters further, push open a makeshift gate to access the **orange-marked** trail.

- ➔ Follow the old mule path for about 3 km until the Antia hut and stream.
- ➔ Continue uphill for 10 minutes to a rocky viewpoint. Watch your step near the edge!
- ➔ Leave the marked trail and turn left to descend toward the river.
- ➔ Cross the stream to reach a fork about 150 meters further.
Two options:
 1. Turn right toward the river and discover the must-see Antia Lake.
 2. Continue left on the trail (marked on the map). More beautiful swimming spots are nearby.
- ➔ The trail then moves away from the river and climbs back toward A Madonina and the Ficaghjola stream. Continue back to the starting point.



Return to the parking area.



For more details see the
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The Arch of Ficaghjola

CORTE - LITTLE ARCH - A CASETTA

The first part of this hike follows the Mare a Mare trail from Corte. The trail then climbs toward a small granite arch, opened by the organizers of the "Périple de l'Arche" trail event. The loop ends via the Casetta (stone hut).



5,21 km



Ascent



2H35



758 m



386 D+ / 384 D-



Water self-sufficiency



Slightly difficult

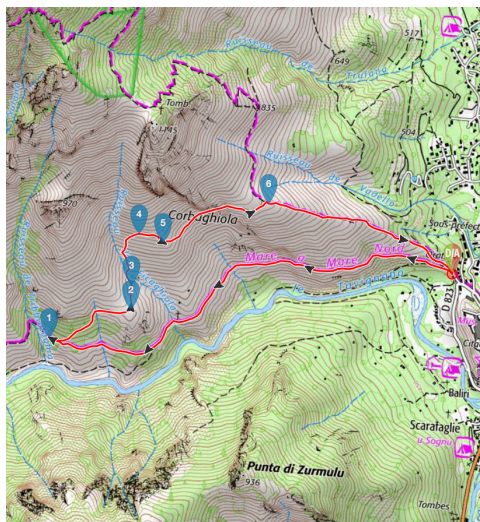


Identical start to the Mare a Mare Nord trail toward Russulinu. Follow the orange-marked path for 2.4 km after the makeshift gate.

- ➔ At point No. 1, leave the main trail and climb to the right. The unmarked trail is clearly visible.
- ➔ Reach a small plateau; turn left into the valley.
- ➔ The correct path is on the left near a partially collapsed sheepfold. Climb to the small Arch.
- ➔ After the Ficaghjola Arch, continue to the right to reach the ridge.
- ➔ From the ridge, enjoy a panoramic view of Corte and the Citadel.



Arrive at the Casetta and follow the path back down to the starting point.



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The Arch of Scandulaghju

CORTE - THE ARCH

Start from Corte on a challenging hike to the iconic Arch of Scandulaghju. This demanding route, with 1060 m of elevation gain, combines physical effort and discovery of an exceptional natural site.



8,26 km



Ascent – Descend



5h30



1462 m



1060 D+ / 1095 D-



Water self-sufficiency



Hard



Start marked by a wooden sign above the Mare a Mare trail.

- ➔ First ascent to A Casetta (+300 m over 1 km).
- ➔ From A Casetta, continue right, cross the slope, and climb under the pines to the Col de la Croix.
- ➔ At the Col de la Croix (1112 m), the cross is on the left.
- ➔ A steep climb (under 100 m) may require using your hands. After a flat section, continue to the right past rocks.
- ➔ Begin the 5th sustained ascent to "the Stick" pass (1400 m), marked by a small wooden cross. The view is nice. Descend briefly, then ascend gently to the Arch.



Reach the impressive granite arch. Continue a few meters for stunning views and photos. Return by the same path.



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The Two Valleys Loop **DAY 1**

A FRASSETA - CAPPELLACCIA SHEPHERD HUTS - ALZU PLATEAU - A SEGA REFUGE

This first stage plunges you into the Rotundu massif. From the Restonica valley, a trail climbs through a forest of laricio pines to the Cappellaccia huts, continues to the Alzu plateau, and ends at the A Sega refuge.

BE CAREFUL : YOU MUST BOOK YOUR OVERNIGHT STAY AT THE A SEGA REFUGE IN ADVANCE.

BOOKING : <https://pnr-resa.corsica>



8,95 km



Ascent



4H40



1644 m



735 D+ / 488 D-



Water source



Fairly difficult



From May: take the shuttle to the starting point (contact the Tourist Office for details). Departure from the shuttle stop at Frassetta.

→ The **red-marked** trail climbs through switchbacks. At a junction, follow the right-hand path toward Pianu Alzu.

→ Continue climbing past the Funtana Bianca stream (drinkable water). Keep climbing toward the shepherd huts.

→ Reach Cappellaccia huts (1647 m): great views of Monte Rotundu and Lombarducciu. Continue down to the Alzu plateau with in the background the mountains of the Niolu region, including the Paglia Orba.

→ At the Alzu huts, you may meet shepherds in summer. Continue to the old forestry house and descend toward the river and refuge.



Cross the footbridge to reach A Sega refuge (staffed from May to mid-October).



Departure: **Corte**

Start of the hike : **A Frassetta**



For more details see the
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The Two Valleys Loop **DAY 2**

A SEGA REFUGE - PONT DU ROSSULINU - CORTE

The second stage leads through one of Corsica's wildest and most preserved valleys: the Tavignano. Along the way, enjoy views of gorges and crystal-clear pools. Halfway, take a break at Rossulinu footbridge before continuing to Corte.



12,40 km



Ascent



4H35



1170 m



357 D+ / 1067 D-



Water source



Slightly difficult



From the refuge, cross the footbridge and turn left. The trail descends gradually through a dense forest of laricio pines and evergreen oaks.



After 2 hours, reach the Russulinu footbridge. Ideal spot for a break and water refill at the spring.



The landscape gradually changes, the larici pine forest gives way to more mediterranean vegetation, where holm oaks and maquis shrubs dominate.



Continue on the increasingly gentle trail, eventually spotting the Citadel of Corte perched on its rocky spur.



Arrive in Corte, near the Citadel parking area.



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The Matre Lake

STROLL & SWIMMING

BALIRI - U LAVU MATRE

This short walk leads down to the Tavignanu river, to the "Lavu Matre", an essential swimming spot in Corte. Many Cortenais have learned to swim here! It's perfect for a peaceful day with the family by the water. In summer, this spot is popular thanks to its largely shaded path.



1,52 km



Ascent – Descend



30 min



447 m



33 D+ / 32 D-



Water self-sufficiency



Easy



Start from the Baliri parking lot, follow the signs toward Punta di Zurmulu. Continue on the path until the fork located near the "Gite U Tavignanu" sign.



Take the path to the right, do not take the direction indicated by the gite sign. Continue along the path, which becomes shaded.



Continue to the right and follow the path to Lavu Matre, a bathing area. During the summer season, you can reach the second part of the lake located higher in the river for swimming pleasure.



Arrival at Lavu Matre, return to Baliri parking lot.

On the opposite shore, another path is accessible, either to choose another swimming spot to the left, or for the return to Corte but this one is much more exposed to the sun. We advise you to take the same route back to the parking lot as on the outward journey.



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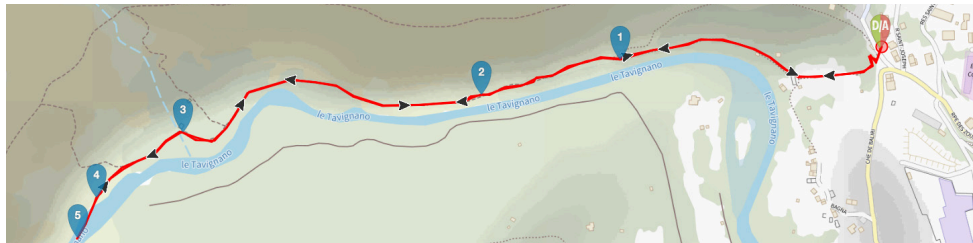
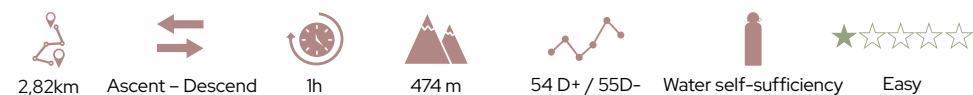


The Eel Lake & Black Lake

STROLL & SWIMMING

CORTE - LAVU MATRE - THE EEL LAKE - BLACK LAKE

This short walk, ideal during the summer season, runs along the left bank of the Tavignanu and offers several bathing spots. The path leads to Eel Lake. By swimming across it, you can reach the higher Niellu Lake (known locally as the Black Lake). This short walk offers a wonderfully wild and peaceful setting.



The starting point is not far from the Corte Citadel. In the bend at the end of the parking lot, you'll spot a terrace with a view over the Tavignanu valley. To the right of this terrace, the path descends to the foot of the sign indicating "Baignade Tavignanu / Lavu Matre". Do not take the hiking trail indicating the A Sega refuge, a few meters further on.

- ➔ Follow the path to the 1st fork.
- ➔ Head right, pass a gate, follow the path to the right of the low wall. Continue to the 2nd fork.
- ➔ At this point, the path overlooks the Lavu Matre, a lovely swimming spot. Continue to the right, through the shade of oak trees, then climb up to an old cottage.
- ➔ Head left near the cottage and continue along the path until you reach some rocks where the trail ends.
- ➔ Lean against the rocks to descend to the river. Walk a few more meters, to the right, and reach Eel Lake.



At the arrival, you can either land at Eel Lake, or continue swimming up the river to discover Black Lake.



For more details see the
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Discover all the accessible
hikes on **Visorando**.



For further information, contact the **Tourist Office of
Corsica Centre** at **04 95 46 26 70**