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Walking On Corsica (Cicerone International Walking)



Synopsis

The 'scented isle', or Corsica, is a paradise for walkers and leads to a memorable holiday. The stunning, time-tested, Mare e Monti, Mare-Mare Bord and Mare-Mari Sud long-distance walking routes, criss-crossing the magnificent island, are presented in this guide. A total of 26 days are spent on coast-to-coast routes through the rugged mountainous interior and the softer south, along with the exceptional coastal fringe. A supplementary section has a selection of 18 day-walks in prime spots, allowing you to explore the towering forests, gushing cascades, beautiful isolated coves, aromatic maquis and spectacular river gorges. Top scenery and unspoilt nature are unavoidable! A fantastic range of comfortable hostels and well-run hotels ensure the walker is never far from their overnight stop and the enjoyment of some excellent catering. With its informative color maps and photographs illustrating the guide, its PVC cover and valuable content this is the long-distance walker's ultimate guide to the randonn es of Corsica.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Ah, the scented Isle...loved by French gourmands and Italian sun-seekers but, most of all, by walkers. Around 10,000 a year tackle the GR20, one of France's more technically demanding long distance footpaths. But only a relative few take the paths less travelled, through the forests and along the coast. Gillian Price has laid this magical island bare to walkers of all abilities. In her usual straightforward style, she provides a wedge of information in the front of the book, including a glossary of French and Corsican terms. It's worth mentioning (the book doesn't) that, as well as

heavily accented French, Corsicans speak a Genoese-based dialect which, in remote places, might be spoken as the first language. Most places have two names: the Corsu or Corsican names which often end in u, and the Frenchified names where the u translates to o. There are a couple of other small omissions. Gillian fails to point out that a massive influx of summer tourists means prices on the island almost double during July and August. Still, most of these peak-season visitors are beach blobs and some of the more remote walks described in the book will be quiet year round. Nor does she discuss the political unrest created by the independence movement on the island, possibly because this does not generally impact on tourists. Gillian has intentionally excluded the GR20 (covered in Paddy Dillon's Cicerone guide, GR20: The Corsican High Level Route) and instead offers three long-distance walks: the glorious 10-day Mare e Monti (sea and mountains) plus north and south versions of a coast-to-coast. These are infrequently walked, so a guidebook to back up dodgy signposting will erase many of the question marks along the way. Fairly obviously, these walks can be dissected into smaller chunks or blended with day routes described later in the book. My own favourite area, around Evisa with the Aitone cloud forest, rock pools and the Spelunca Gorge, joined together with bits of the Mare e Monti, could keep you happy for days on its own. For the day walker, 18 routes vary from a one-way cliff-top bumble from the pirate port of Bonifacio to the five-hour Paglio Orba loop in the central highlands though, unfortunately, many are linear. The routes are clustered in the north-west and south-east in the two Parc Naturels - fair enough as these are truly spectacular areas - and while the list of walks isn't exhaustive, it provides an excellent basis for planning a holiday. Once you're on the island, with the right maps and the scent of sun-baked mountain herbs floating up your nostrils, you might even cut loose and find your own way.' (Judy Armstrong, TGO May 2004)

After a degree in Anthropology and working in adult education, Gillian Price travelled through Asia and trekked the Himalaya. Eventually settling in Venice, she now works as a freelance travel writer. Gillian is steadily exploring all the mountain ranges and flatter parts of Italy, and has produced a series of outstanding guides for Cicerone. She is an active member of the Italian Alpine Club CAI and Mountain Wilderness.

I was interested in the shorter day walk part of the book but was disappointed overall. The information is somewhat generic and the number of day walks relatively small. Moreover, most of the day walk are covered in the general Corsica guides such as LP and RG. I would have expected a specialized guide to be able to be more helpful. Overall, I give 3 stars, since I have not looked

much at the long distance section and don't want to be unfair to the whole book, but the short walks section is 2-star by itself.

First time to this wonderful Island and am so excited to return someday in the not too distant future. Wonderful guide book, showing some of the best walks on the island, giving an accurate insight into the typical French way of life. Will definitely use again and also look at other books by the same author.

The book is okay at best. I am not sure what I was expecting but I read a book entitled, "Rose Cafe, Love and War in Corsica" and I seemed to have a better feel for the Island after reading that novel than I did with "Walking In Corsica". Perhaps, I just needed to be entertained a bit more than such a dry munching on bread crusts left in the afternoon sun kind of feeling after reading this book. It does have some good information especially on the hut to hut hikes and stuff you absolutely need to know or your trip could be ruined. However, I still left the book wanting to be encouraged more.

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