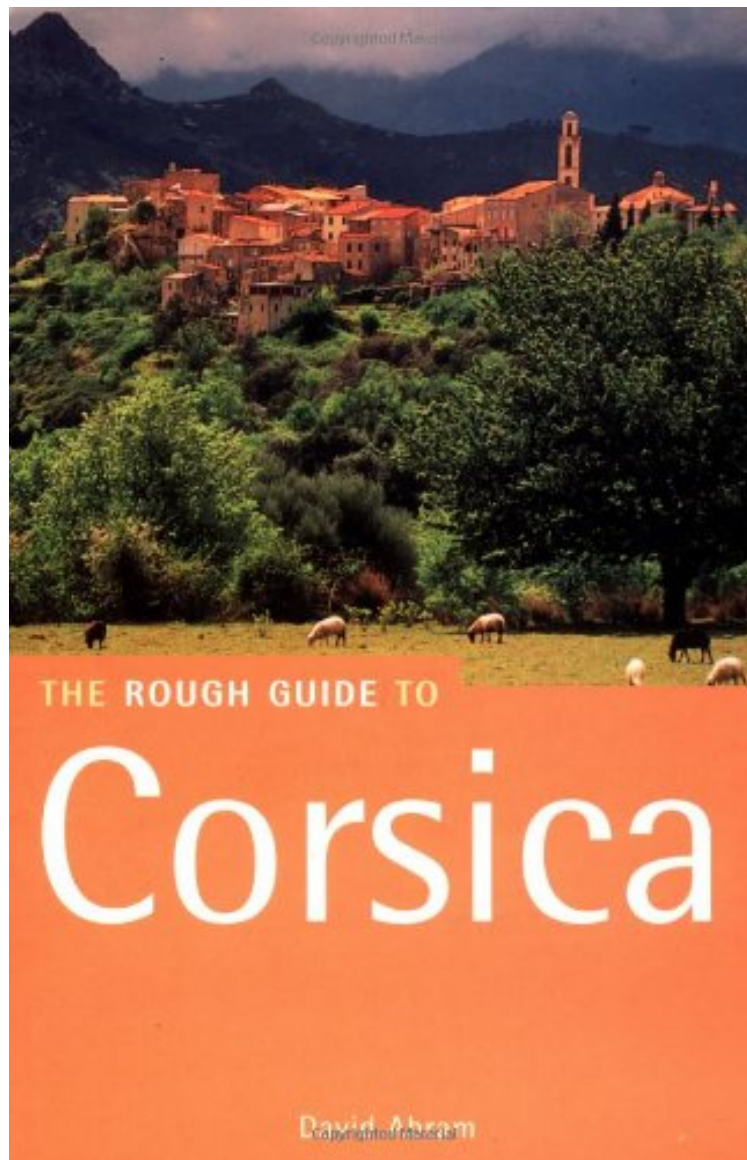


(Free read ebook) The Rough Guide to Corsica, 3rd Edition

The Rough Guide to Corsica, 3rd Edition

David Abram

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David Abram : The Rough Guide to Corsica, 3rd Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Corsica, 3rd Edition:

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. very useful and interesting By Mani Gal (manigal@hotmail.com) I travelled Corsica with a rented car. The book gave me almost all I needed - information about the attractions, historical background, cultural interesting articles, and tips about hotels etc... The tourist information offices know very little

how to help tourists - with this book they are almost not needed.² of 2 people found the following review helpful.
another excellent rough guide By Ben R. Like all Rough Guides, this is jam-packed with well-written, discerning travel advice. Also like the rest of the series, it has the best for all budgets. The reviews were incredibly accurate and up-to-date, and all were worthwhile. The cultural sidenotes are interesting, and the photos are much better than those in other guides. I didn't really check out other guides (not that there was a huge amount of choice), but I can't imagine how you could top this one. Go to Corsica, and take this book with you.¹⁴ of 14 people found the following review helpful.
You have no other choice - buy it! By Primoz Peterlin How many other guides to Corsica aimed at independent travellers, written in English can you name? Yes, Corsica is covered in each and every guide to France as well, but those 20 or so pages in a 500-pages book aren't what you really want, are they? It would be unfair to say though that Corsica: The Rough Guide is the best one simply because it's also the only one -- both the authors and the editorial staff has done a pretty decent job on this one. Recommended.

One of the Mediterranean's most accessible yet least-known islands, with some of its best beaches and most beautiful mountain scenery, Corsica is an increasingly popular destination, whether you're travelling with one of the specialist companies listed in the book or completely independently. Walking trails, detailed town write-ups and fully up-to-date hotel and restaurant listings are complemented by frequent nuggets of insight to make this the essential guidebook choice. The author, social anthropologist David Abram (India, Goa), is one of Rough Guides' most versatile writers.

Excellent coverage, -- Homes and Gardens Magazine, UK About the Author David Abram is an extremely well established travel writer and has co-authored several other Rough Guides including the Rough Guide to India, the Rough Guide to England and the Rough Guide to Goa. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Where to go Two hundred years of French rule have had limited tangible effect on Corsica, an island where Baroque churches, Genoese fortresses, fervent Catholic rituals and an indigenous language saturated with Tuscan influences show a more profound affinity with neighbouring Italy. During the long era of Italian supremacy the northeast and southwest of Corsica formed two provinces known as *Diqua dei monti* – this side of the mountains – and *Dila dei monti*, the uncontrollable side beyond. Today the French départements of Haute-Corse and Corse du Sud roughly coincide with these territories, and remain quite distinct in feel. Capital of the north, Bastia was the principal Genoese stronghold and its fifteenth-century old town has survived almost intact. Of the island's two large towns, this is the more purely Corsican, and commerce rather than tourism is its main concern, which makes it an attractive alternative to some of the southern towns. Also relatively undisturbed, the northern Cap Corse harbours inviting sandy coves and coastal hamlets such as Erbalunga and Centuri-Port – friendly fishing villages that provide hotel accommodation for the few tourists who make it up here. Within a short distance of Bastia, the fertile region of the Nebbio contains a plethora of churches built by Pisan stoneworkers, the prime example being the cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta at the appealingly chic little port of St-Florent. To the west of here, L'Île Rousse and Calvi, the latter graced with an impressive citadel and fabulous sandy beach, are major targets for holidaymakers – and their hilly hinterland, the Haute-Balagne, offers plenty of hilltop villages to explore, as well as access to the northern reaches of the vast Parc Naturel Régional, an astounding area of forested valleys, gorges and peaks. The spectacular Scandola nature reserve, a part of the northwest coast that lies within the boundaries of the park, can be visited by boat from the tiny resort of Porto, from where walkers can also strike into the magnificently wild Spelunca gorge and Forêt d'Aïtone – where you might spot the island's delicacy, wild boar, if you keep your eyes peeled. Sandy beaches and rocky coves punctuate the west coast all the way down to Ajaccio, Napoléon's birthplace and Bastia's traditional rival. Its pavement cafés and palm-lined boulevards are thronged with tourists in summer, most of whom take the opportunity to sample the watersport facilities of the expansive and beautiful Golfe d'Ajaccio. Slightly fewer make it to nearby Filitosa, greatest of the many prehistoric sites scattered across this, the most heavily visited, half of the island. Brash Propriano lies close to Filitosa and to stern Sartène, seat of the wild feudal lords who once ruled this region and still the quintessential Corsican town. More megalithic sites are to be found south of Sartène on the way to Bonifacio, a comb of ancient buildings perched atop furrowed white cliffs at the southern tip of the island. Equally popular Porto-Vecchio, the spot that has perhaps suffered most from the tourist boom, provides a springboard for excursions to the amazing beaches of the south, or alternatively to the oak forest of Ospédale, or even to the astounding Col de Bavella, where flattened pines spring from the bald granite needles. The eastern plain has less to boast of, but the Roman site at Aléria is worth a visit for its excellent museum, while to the north of Aléria lies the Castagniccia, a swathe of chestnut trees and alluring villages. Corte, standing at the heart of Corsica, is the best base for exploring the stupendous mountains and gorges of the interior, with the remote valleys of the Niolo and Asco a stone's throw away. Dominating these valleys, Monte Cinto marks the northern edge of the island's spine of high peaks: the experienced hiker could attempt the GR20, an epic trail that traverses this magnificent ridge, past Monte d'Oro and Monte Renoso, as far as Monte Incudine in the south. When to go Whatever kind of holiday you intend to take, the best times of year to visit Corsica are late spring and late summer or early autumn, when you're guaranteed sunshine without the stifling heat or crowds of July and August. The wild flowers carpeting the island in April and May make these delightful months to

come, and autumn is just as good for scenic colour – the Castagniccia in particular is a riot of russet tones at this time of year. Beach goers will be ensured a tan as late as October, and even if you plan a visit in the depths of winter you're unlikely to encounter much rain, though snow on the high mountains can restrict driving through the passes in January, February and March, and visibility is often obscured by mists. Crowds are only likely to be a problem in the major resorts such as Porto-Vecchio and L'Île Rousse, especially in August, when the whole of Italy and France take their annual holiday. In the more remote areas you should book accommodation in advance, for the simple reason that there is rarely more than a single hotel in any village. For most of the island, however, you can rely on finding a place to stay at any time.