

Responsible Travel Policy for French Living Corsica Holidays

Policy aims

To share the natural beauty of the unspoilt island of Corsica, its culture, language and traditions.

To allow guests to experience the island through the eyes of a local, rather than through the eyes of a tourist.

To broaden the travel knowledge of guests to encourage tolerance and understanding.

To nurture the sense of community by bringing strangers together to holiday.

Economic responsibility

Corsica Holidays is part of French Living and their charity of choice for the past 6 years is Mary's Meals. In the last two years we have donated £4000 to this charity.

Corsica Holidays supports the local community, such as a local pottery, essential oil distillery, winery and local outdoor farmers market in Ile Rousse.

All local staff are employed to undertake cleaning duties at the villa - linen, villa cleaning

Corsica is an island and there are very few national or international chains, so we contribute directly to the local economy. The main supplier we use is the vehicle hire company; we work with a small local operator rather than the rental firms located at the airport.

The accommodation consists of one villa which we built in 2008 on a piece of land that belonged to our family for generations.

We provide food and drink for most of the meals on the holiday. We always choose locally produced ingredients, local mineral waters and local wines.

There is no other guide than myself to accompany the group.

Environmental responsibility

All plastics, paper and bottles are recycled.

Local markets are used when possible to avoid over packaged grocery items.

The dangers of fire are discussed, highlighting the risks and problems of fire on the island created by tourists.

Care is taken to preserve water, particularly during the summer months. We take visitors to the local water reservoir and explain how water distribution is organised. They can see for themselves what resource is available for all to share and they naturally apply preservation reflexes when it comes to water. We encourage the use of reusable bottles, we make a point of filling containers of local spring water rather than using mineral water from shops.

The main dangers to the local environment are poor refuse management and energy wastage. We provide guidance to make sure our refuse is sorted in the most scrupulous way and disposed of appropriately. We also encourage energy saving, in particular whether to put heating on (house or swimming pool) or air conditioning, when it's not absolutely necessary.

If local projects with direct or indirect environmental benefits are identified, visits to such projects will be suggested and encouraged.

Social responsibility

Visits to local craftspeople on the island - pottery, essential oil distillery, winery and fruit farm...

Visit to Bonifato Forest - observe the preservation work carried by the forest rangers, their work to reduce fire risk and protect the wildlife and fauna.

Visits to restaurants open all year round are preferred as opposed to purely seasonal/tourist restaurants.

There is only one destination: the one we know so well, Corsica. I spend most of the week in the company of the group, so I can talk directly to the visitors and answer their questions. Corsica has had a complex history and I can talk about it at length.

Corsica is not an a tribal or religious society or a particularly fragile ecosystem where you must drastically respect certain codes. There are a few aspects of Corsican culture and traditions we will be talking about informally, but no cause for concern over potential negative impacts.

The only guide accompanying the group is me.

We only visit local projects. eg: we suggest visiting a village association where traditional basket making is taught. They also have an amateur dramatics section and they produce plays. All proceeds go towards the association which is a great community centre throughout the year.