

MEDITERRANEAN



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in the Mediterranean

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planning a snap for the 40 million travelers visiting our site each month.

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 40 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 479,000 hotels, 93,000 attractions and 580,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. "One piece of advice: Buy some **beach shoes**. The sand becomes incredibly hot, and you don't want to look like a moron running across the sand, desperate for some shade!"—TripAdvisor Member, Leamington Spa, U.K.
2. "Expect the evening to be cooler so pack a **light jacket** or **sweater**."—TripAdvisor Member, Antalya, Turkey
3. If traveling with kids, make sure they "wear a **hat** and **t-shirt**, and try to avoid the time of day when the sun is at it's strongest. Try having some **games** ready to play in the shade. Or have them make drawings and have **coloring books** to pass the time."—TripAdvisor Member, Antalya
4. "A **money & passport pouch** under your clothes is an absolute must!"—TripAdvisor Member, Ontario, Canada

Inside the MEDITERRANEAN

The storied Mediterranean stretches from the Strait of Gibraltar to the Middle East, with thousands of popular resorts dotted around its hems. The region's cold, wet winters give way to gorgeous hot, dry summers, cooled by trade breezes and local winds such as the Sirocco and the Mistral. Some of the world's most stunning coastline traces this vast sea, a much loved vacation playground since ancient times.

Twenty one separate states have their toes in Mediterranean waters. Some of the most popular holiday destinations are Spain's Costa del Sol, Costa Blanca and Balearic Islands, the French Riviera, the Italian Riviera, Greece and its 6000 islands and, increasingly, the Turkish Mediterranean. We'll focus on these current favorites: the Turkish hotspot Antalya, the off-the-beaten-path Italian island of Sardinia and its unassuming neighbor, the French isle of Corsica.

With so many destinations to choose among, there is a place in the sun for everyone from backpackers to billionaires.

Top VIEWS



THE MEDITERRANEAN'S BEST VIEWS



"The views from some of the vantage points near the **Cagliari Wax Museum** are breathtaking."—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Clemente Susini's Wax Anatomical Models, University of Cagliari, Piazza Arsenale, Cagliari, Sardinia, 39 070 675 7627

Drives through the gorges and over the bridges of **Köprülü Canyon National Park** are "a great way to cool off with stunning views."—TripAdvisor Member, Cirali, Turkey

Köprülü Canyon National Park, 49 kilometers northeast of Antalya

"Visit the **Chapelle de Notre Dame de la Serra**—the views of Calvi Bay and the mountains are absolutely stunning."—TripAdvisor Member, Lancashire, England

Chapelle de Notre Dame de la Serra, Calvi, Corsica

Where to PLAY



FAMILIES



"The kids will certainly love all the pools and waterslides at **Aquadream**. Everyone in the family can enjoy eating at one of the restaurants, doing some shopping or having a drink at one of the bars."—TripAdvisor Member, El Paso, Texas

Aquadream, Baja Sardinia, Costa Smeralda, Sardinia, 39 078 999 511

MiniCity is a "park is an open space that displays miniature buildings and models. It was great to see all of the many spectacular historic places in Turkey in miniature scale. It was like taking a trip around Turkey without having to get on a plane."—TripAdvisor Member, Antalya

MiniCity Culture Park, Arapsuyu Mah. 600 Sokak, Antalya, 90 242 229 4545

"The **main beach at Calvi** is great for young children. The sand is very fine and good for sandcastles, and the water is beautifully clear and shallow for quite a long way out."—TripAdvisor Member, Calvi

Calvi Beach, Calvi, Corsica

"It was like taking a trip around Turkey without having to get on a plane."

ROMANCE



"**Il Poetto**, the cross and delight of the capital of Sardinia, is an attractive and long beach. It's the place where youth get together. Full of nightlife, with numerous and lively kiosks that enliven the Cagliari evening."—TripAdvisor Member, Cagliari

Il Poetto, Cagliari, Sardinia

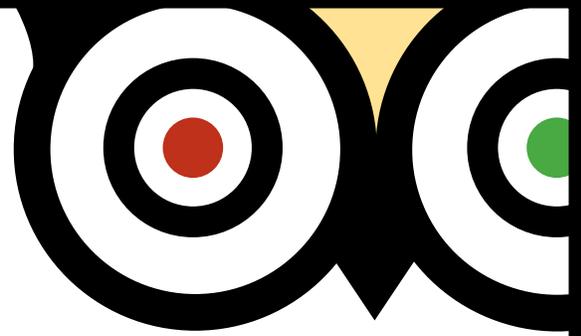
What could be more romantic than a waterfall idyll? "There are more than 20 waterfalls in the region. The most beautiful of these are the **Düden Falls** and the **Kursunlu Falls**."—TripAdvisor Member, Antalya

Düden Falls, 15 kilometers north of Antalya
Kursunlu Falls, 18 kilometers from Antalya

"Magnificent panoramas on the straits of Bonifacio, with the shores of Sardinia swimming in the mist. The **Reserve Naturelle** was laid out for hikes along a wild coast composed of small bays and beaches of fine sand, surrounded by a dense and fragrant bush. You'll be seduced by the beauty of untouched nature."—TripAdvisor Member, Pianottoli Caldarellu

Reserve Naturelle des Bouches de Bonifacio, Bonifacio, Corsica, 33 495 450 400

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

“**Maria Pia Beach** is 1.6 miles long and completely uncommercialized. White sand, hidden from the road by sand dunes and pine trees.”—TripAdvisor Member, Alghero

Maria Pia Beach, Alghero, Sardinia

“A great place to spend a day inside either escaping the heat or as a cultural trip. The **Antalya Archaeological Museum** has many halls and exhibitions of artifacts from prehistoric times throughout the ages.”—TripAdvisor Member, Antalya

Antalya Archaeological Museum, Konyaalti Caddesi, Antalya, 90 242 238 5688

“The **Gorges de la Restonica** are beautiful to see from the top. You can hike to the Haute Vallée and the Lac de Mélo, where you can swim if cold water suits you.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lyon, France

Gorges de la Restonica, Corte, Corsica



ADVENTURE

“Fall in love with windsurfing! At **Ocean Tribe**, I found a passionate atmosphere, nice people capable of conveying the techniques and passion for this sport, an ideal bay for windsurfing and a perfect school for me. I'd never surfed in my life!”—TripAdvisor Member, Lecco, Italy

Ocean Tribe Windsurfing Center, Via Lido 22 c/o Camping la Mariposa, Alghero, Sardinia, 39 347 222 7513

Köprülü Canyon National Park is “simply and stunningly beautiful. The small, twisting, winding roads up and through the mountains are a force to be reckoned with. But all the while, you can't help but take in the scenery. The whitewater rafting is straightforward and suitable for all the family (except teeny weenies, of course!).”—TripAdvisor Member, Yorkshire, U.K.

Köprülü Canyon National Park, 49 kilometers northeast of Antalya

“The most challenging hiking path in Europe, the mythic **GR20** remains unpredictable and beautiful.”—TripAdvisor Member, Corsica

GR20, Corsica

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 3,000,000 photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

“During the Pisan period the **Cittadella dei Musei** was outside of the city walls. It was restored and now houses the National Archaeological Museum, with Neolithic, early bronze Nuragic, evocatively reconstructed Phoenician-Punic and medieval collections.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cagliari

Cittadella dei Musei, Cagliari, Sardinia

“Turkey overflows with Greek and Roman ruins, and **Perge** is one of its better preserved archaeological sites. If you're in Turkey only for Antalya and its seaside resorts, Perge offers a taste of the ancient world without taking away too much beach time.”—TripAdvisor Member, Fair Lawn, N.J.

Perge, Antalya-Side Highway, 15 kilometers northeast of Antalya

“There are Bronze Age remains at **Filitosa**—standing stones with a hint of a face or a sword. Nobody knows anything about them. Very impressive, spooky even. The surroundings are very beautiful.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Filitosa, Sollacaro, Corsica, 33 495 740 091

“Evocatively reconstructed collections.”



RELAXATION

Sail to beautiful **La Maddalena**, which has “some great beaches and a nice little port, whose simplicity is a welcome respite from the slightly stifling atmosphere of Porto Cervo.”—TripAdvisor Member, London

La Maddalena, Sardinia

“There are two beaches in Antalya: the **Konyaalti Beach** and the **Lara Beach**. Both are very nice,” though Lara has smoother sand.—TripAdvisor Member, Antalya

Konyaalti Beach, Lara Beach, Antalya

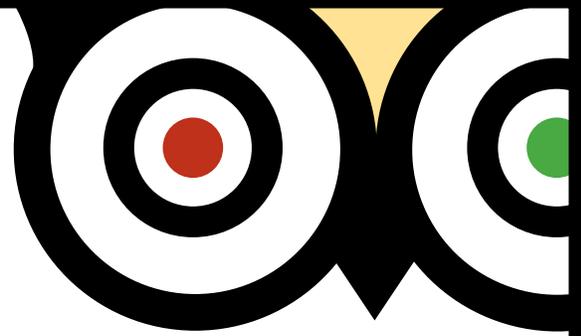
“The **Calanques** are a pure wonder. I have traveled quite a lot, and it's one of my favorite places. When you see them from the boat, you just stop breathing!”—TripAdvisor Member, Bodrum, Turkey

Calanche Cliffs, Corsica

“...a welcome respite.”

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



"Riding **The Little Green Train** is a good way for tourists to see the entire Island. It can be taken all over Sardinia and travels to areas not accessible by car or any other type of vehicle." Be sure to call for timetables or to charter off-calendar trips.—TripAdvisor Member

The Little Green Train (Il Trenino Verde), Sardinia, <http://www.treninoverde.com>

"Many tourists opt to use **public transportation** and supplement it with occasional **taxi rides** and/or **tours** in order to get the most out of their Antalya vacation."—TripAdvisor Member

"**Car rental** is probably the best option in Corsica, especially if you want to explore and then explore some more. There's always a view beckoning further on. For the best rates, you'd be wise to hire the car before arriving."—TripAdvisor Member

Want more information on the Mediterranean? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for the Mediterranean or any other destination you choose.

WHERE to eat



FAMILIES

Eldorado Tex-Mex offers "excellent prices in relation to quality—the dishes are good and abounding. Cheap and delicious!"—TripAdvisor Member

Eldorado Tex-Mex, Multiple locations, including Via Salvatore Petta 34, Olbia, Costa Smeralda, Sardinia, 078 923 222

"There is also a great Turkish restaurant called **Mehmet 7**," which serves authentic Turkish cuisine. "Delicious."—TripAdvisor Member, Munich, Germany

Mehmet 7, Atatürk Kültür Parkı, No. 333, Antalya, 90 242 238 5200

"We went to the **Via Marine** on four occasions and were more than happy each time. My husband is Italian and found the food extremely authentic. The pizzas were especially good."—TripAdvisor Member, Bournemouth, U.K.

Via Marine, 18, Rue Clemenceau, Calvi, Corsica, 33 495 650 630

"Cheap and delicious!"

ROMANCE

Opera Prima boasts an "elegant environment, where professionalism, courtesy and friendliness reign. The owners spoil us every time with their delicacies. Don't miss the rich cellar of the finest Sardinian and international wines."—TripAdvisor Member, Cagliari

Opera Prima, Via Campidano 9, Cagliari, Sardinia, 39 070 684 619

At **Vanilla Lounge**, "the food—steaks and chocolate fudge cake—was absolutely amazing, fresh and cooked to perfection."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin, Germany

Vanilla Lounge, Hesapçı Sokak, Kaleici, Antalya, 90 242 247 6013

Palm Beach is "a miracle! Very fine and exquisite food and a magical view on the beach in front of the lights of Ajaccio Bay villages."—TripAdvisor Member, France

Palm Beach, Route des Iles Sanguinaires, Ajaccio, Corsica, 33 495 520 103

"...courtesy and friendliness reign."

BUDGET

"**Al Solito Posto** is very inexpensive and ideal for families on a low budget. It has a huge variety of well-cooked spaghetti dishes, including about half a dozen vegetarian ones, as well as very fresh grilled fish."—TripAdvisor Member

Al Solito Posto, Via Principe Umberto 82, Alghero, Sardinia, 39 079 980 054

"Located in Kaleici, the historical part of Antalya, **Mermerli** offers many reasonably priced Turkish and Ottoman specialties, with fantastic views of Antalya."—TripAdvisor Member, Antalya

Mermerli Restaurant, Banyo Sok. 24, Kaleici, Antalya, 90 242 248 5484

U Minellu serves up "excellent wild boar stew, milk lamb/potatoes and a local dish I hadn't had before. The service was really prompt and the prices very reasonable."—TripAdvisor Member, Milan, Italy

U Minellu, Traverse de l'Église, Calvi, Corsica, 33 495 650 552

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“Not only is **Al Tuguri** probably the most romantic restaurant in Alghero, but the quality of food is truly outstanding. It specializes in Algherese/Catalan cuisine and caters to vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike.”—TripAdvisor Member

Al Tuguri, Via Majorca 113, Alghero, Sardinia, 39 079 976 772

“You could try **Stella’s Bistro** located along the tramway road across from the Karaoglu Park.” Italian cuisine is their specialty. “The atmosphere is very nice.”—TripAdvisor Member, Antalya

Stella’s Bistro, Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi 3/C, Antalya, 90 242 243 3931

Reserve an “excellent table with a view” at **Auberge de la Restonica**, “a culinary delight for the taste buds and the eyes, with a view over the tumultuous Restonica River. Everything was perfect: the welcome, the quality of the dishes—Corsican specialties of course—and wines.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vannes, France

Auberge de la Restonica, Route de Restonica, Corte, Corsica, 33 495 460 958

“...a culinary delight for the taste buds and the eyes.”

HIDDEN GEMS

“**La Botteghina** was wonderful! They use fresh, local produce and cook in the traditional style. The starter was a huge plate of cured meats and pecorino cheese—the best tasting meats I’ve had for ages. The service was very pleasant, the atmosphere was good and it was more modern than I’d expected. A very good find.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

La Botteghina, Via Principe Umberto 63, Alghero, Sardinia, 39 079 9738 375

“The place that made the best impression was **Alp Pasa** in Kaleici, the old part of Antalya. They serve their meals in the garden around the pool. I absolutely loved it.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kayakoy, Turkey

Hotel Alp Pasa, Barbaros Mah Hespaci Sk. #30, Kaleici, Antalya, 90 242 247 5676

“Steer away from the restaurants clustered at the top end of Place Pascal Paoli, the main street of Corte. Instead try **U Museu**, just off rue Colonel-Feracci. Lots of variety, including the usual standards, but also a range of Corsican cuisine. A bit of a clamber up from the town center, but well worth it.”—TripAdvisor Member, Nottingham, U.K.

U Museu, Rampe Ribanelle, Citadel, Corte, Corsica, 33 495 610 836

“A bit of a clamber... but well worth it”

SPECIAL EVENTS



Sip fine wines against the lush backdrop of the sultry Mediterranean at the **Porto Cervo Wine Festival**. Tastings and demonstrations from top wineries are rounded out with fashion shows and delicious food events throughout the weekend. (May 7–9)

Porto Cervo Wine Festival, Cervo Hotel, Porto Cervo, Costa Smeralda, Sardinia, 39 078 993 1612/606, <http://www.portocervowinefestival.com>

Classical performances take over the 2000-year-old, 20,000-capacity Aspendos Amphitheater overlooking the Mediterranean during **Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival**. This year’s schedule features *Aida*, *The Three Musketeers* and *Carmen*. (June 8–July 1)

Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival, Aspendos Amphitheatre, Antalya, 90 312 229 7625, <http://www.devoperabale.gov.tr>

Sit in on a jam session during **Les Nuits de la Guitare de Patrimoine**, a once humble musical get together that has grown into an internationally acclaimed guitar event, while still maintaining its intimate feel. (July 17–24)

Les Nuits de la Guitare de Patrimoine, Patrimoine, Corsica, 33 495 371 215, <http://www.festival-guitare-patrimoine.com>

Start your engines! The annual **Alghero Scala Piccada**, a 5K uphill car race, wows speed lovers with new drivers and rumbling engines. (September)

Alghero Scala Piccada, Alghero, Sardinia, 39 079 271 462, <http://www.scalapiccada.it>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

“The service at the **Lara Beach Hotel** was outstanding, as was the food. The activities were excellent. We can recommend the hotel warmly and will be traveling there again this year.”—TripAdvisor Member, Gosheim, Germany

Lara Beach Hotel, Kemeragzi Mevkii Kundu Bolgesi, Antalya, 90 242 352 3131

“**Melia Olbia** had everything we were looking for in a long beach weekend! The outdoor pool was great. They also have tennis courts, a gym and three restaurants. Our room was HUGE by European standards.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Melia Olbia, Geovillage Resort, Direzione Golfo Aranci, Olbia, Costa Smeralda, Sardinia, 39 078 955 4000

“The room at **Mariana** was significantly cheaper for two adults, plus a three-year-old and a baby, than other hotels. It has a fantastic new pool on the roof from which you have a great view of the mountains across the bay.”—TripAdvisor Member, England

Mariana Hotel, Avenue Santa Maria, Calvi, Corsica, 33 495 653 138

ROMANCE

“Gorgeous and stylish” **Miramare** provides “high quality on every level. During the evening, the candlelit atmosphere is charming. There’s also a small winter garden with a rich set of orchids.”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan, Italy

Miramare, Via Roma 59, Cagliari, Sardinia, 39 070 664 021

The **Delphin Palace** is a “great hotel, with great service and great food. All in all, it was a wonderful time and allowed us to relax. Great for couples, but also for families with children.”—TripAdvisor Member, Munich, Germany

Delphin Palace, Kemeragzi, Lara Beach, Antalya, 90 242 352 2552

“From the moment we arrived at **Hotel Les Mouettes**, the staff couldn’t have been friendlier and more helpful. The location overlooking the sea made it the perfect spot. We enjoyed the peaceful, quiet atmosphere.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Hotel Les Mouettes, 9, Cours Lucien Bonaparte, Ajaccio, Corsica, 33 495 504 040

“It’s a small hotel with big charm!”

BUDGET

“Live like a Sardinian in wonderful Alghero. **Big Fish** is located within walking distance of the beautiful old town and situated on the second floor of a normal Sardinian house. There are no crowds of tourists. You can experience the pure Sardinian life!”—TripAdvisor, Berlin, Germany

Big Fish, Via Togliattil5, Alghero, Sardinia, 39 340 694 7376

“I’ve stayed at countless different hotels (big and small), motels, pensions and hostels. **Mediterra Art Hotel** was by far the most memorable. It’s a small hotel with big charm! Intimacy and personal attention without losing comfort and style. The staff was friendly, helpful and fun to talk to.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Mediterra Art Hotel, Barbaros Mahallesi Zafer Sokak No. 5, Kaleici, Antalya, 90 242 244 8624

The **Hotel San Giovanni** has “rooms that are basic but clean and tidy,” as well as “fantastic food! It was 5-star cuisine in a 2-star hotel!”—TripAdvisor Member, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Hotel San Giovanni, Poute d’Arca, Porto-Vecchio, Corsica, 33 495 70 22 25

Have questions about the Mediterranean? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.



LUXURY

“Everything at **T Hotel** feels new and fresh. The food is fantastic, and the deluxe suite included all the necessities. The front desk was superb for recommending and even booking reservations.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

T Hotel, Via Dei Giudicati 66, Cagliari, Sardinia, 39 070 474 00

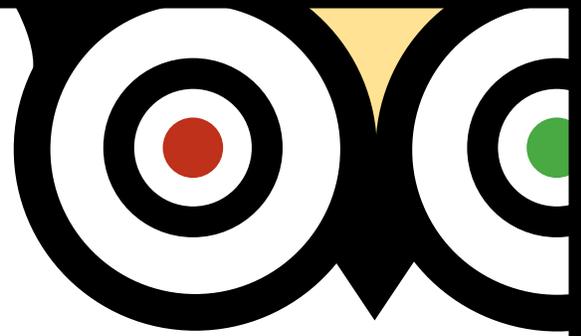
“What a fantastic hotel. The service, amenities and entertainment at **Barut Lara** were superb. Everyone we spoke to was thinking of returning or had already booked. Only one downside—I was so upset at leaving, I cried for most of the journey home!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Barut Lara Resort Spa and Suites, Lara, Antalya, 90 242 352 2200

“**La Villa** has great standards: The rooms are stylish and clean, huge and elegant, with anything you want ready for you. The setting is extraordinary, and you can spend days lying by one of the four pools. The one overlooking the harbor is breathtaking.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rome, Italy

La Villa, Chemin de Notre-Dame de la Serra, Calvi, Corsica, 33 495 651 010

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

Borgo Antico Hotel is “a very comfortable small hotel along the main beaches in a cute town on the northern Costa Esmeralda. Highly recommended for relaxing.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rothrist, Switzerland

Borgo Antico Hotel, Via La Petra Sarda, San Pantaleo, Costa Smeralda, Sardinia, 39 078 965 400

“Finding **La Paloma** essentially saved my vacation. I was simply looking for a place to escape. But with its small but excellently situated pool and pool bar, well-furnished and air-conditioned rooms and extremely reasonable prices, I found an attractive retreat that allowed me to relax and rejuvenate myself.”—TripAdvisor Member, Etterbeek, Belgium

La Paloma Pansion, Kilynçaslan Mahallesi Tabakhane Sokak No. 3, Antalya, 90 242 244 8497

“Nestled between gorgeous granite mountaintops and the rushing waters of the Restonica River, the **Hotel Dominique Colonna** was a perfect place to begin our time in Corsica. Our room was comfortable, clean, well-furnished and featured a balcony looking out over the river.”—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Georgia

Hotel Dominique Colonna, Vallée de la Restonica, Corte, Corsica, 33 495 452 565

“...allowed me to relax and rejuvenate.”

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