

GR20 CORSICA

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THE HIGH LEVEL ROUTE

by Paddy Dillon

CICERONE

JUNIPER HOUSE, MURLEY MOSS,
OXENHOLME ROAD, KENDAL, CUMBRIA LA9 7RL
www.cicerone.co.uk

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This guide includes the latest route changes, made in 2016, avoiding the Cirque de la Solitude. The Cirque is no longer part of the GR20 and its waymarks and safety aids have been removed. The route now crosses the shoulder of Monte Cinto.

Updates to this Guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website (www.cicerone.co.uk/852/updates), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time. We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to updates@cicerone.co.uk or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal LA9 7RL.

Register your book: To sign up to receive free updates, special offers and GPX files where available, register your book at www.cicerone.co.uk.

Front cover: Descending from Bocca Crucetta (Stage 4)

Mountain safety

Every mountain walk has its dangers, and those described in this guidebook are no exception. All who walk or climb in the mountains should recognise this and take responsibility for themselves and their companions along the way. The author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this guide was correct when it went to press, but, except for any liability that cannot be excluded by law, they cannot accept responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person using this book.

International distress signal *(emergency only)*

Six blasts on a whistle (and flashes with a torch after dark) spaced evenly for one minute, followed by a minute's pause. Repeat until an answer is received. The response is three signals per minute followed by a minute's pause.

Helicopter rescue

The following signals are used to communicate with a helicopter:

Help needed:
raise both arms
above head to
form a 'Y'



Help not needed:
raise one arm
above head, extend
other arm downward



Emergency telephone numbers

General emergency, for all services, tel 112

Police (*Gendarmerie*) tel 17

Ambulance (*Samu*) tel 15

Fire Service (*Pompiers*) tel 18

Mountain Rescue (*PGHM – Peleton de Gendarmerie de Haute Montagne*)

tel 04 95 61 13 95

Weather reports

(If telephoning from the UK the dialling code is 0033.)

Météo France, tel 08 99 71 02 20, www.meteofrance.com

Note Mountain rescue can be very expensive – be adequately insured.

u Piobbu is reached, within 1hr 30mins of leaving the Bocca a u Bassiguellu.

The PNRC **Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu** was perched at 1570m (5150ft), occupying the site of a former bergerie, on a tongue of sloping, open land surrounded by high mountains, overlooking a forested valley. It was deliberately burnt down in May 2019 and a replacement is planned. Hot meals, food supplies and drinks are on sale. A toilet and shower stand nearby. Hire tents and camping spaces are dotted around on the slope below the refuge. Water should be drawn from a source signposted 200m beyond the refuge.

STAGE 1B

Calenzana to

Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu (low-level)

Start	Calenzana
Finish	Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu
Distance	20km (12½ miles)
Total ascent	1610m (5280ft)
Total descent	295m (970ft)
Time	7hrs 45mins
Terrain	Some short, steep slopes of maquis at first, followed by broad tracks and a road later. A long climb on rugged forest paths leads finally to the refuge.
Maps	IGN 4149 OT and 4250 OT
Food and drink	Water may be found in streams in the Forêt de Sambuccu, but water from la Figarella Rivière should be treated. The Auberge de la Forêt at Bonifatu provides accommodation, meals, and basic food supplies. Water is available near the hotel and may be found in a stream on the ascent to the Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu. The refuge serves meals and sells provisions.
Shelter	Shade is sparse for the first half of the day, then there is more tree cover beyond Bonifatu.

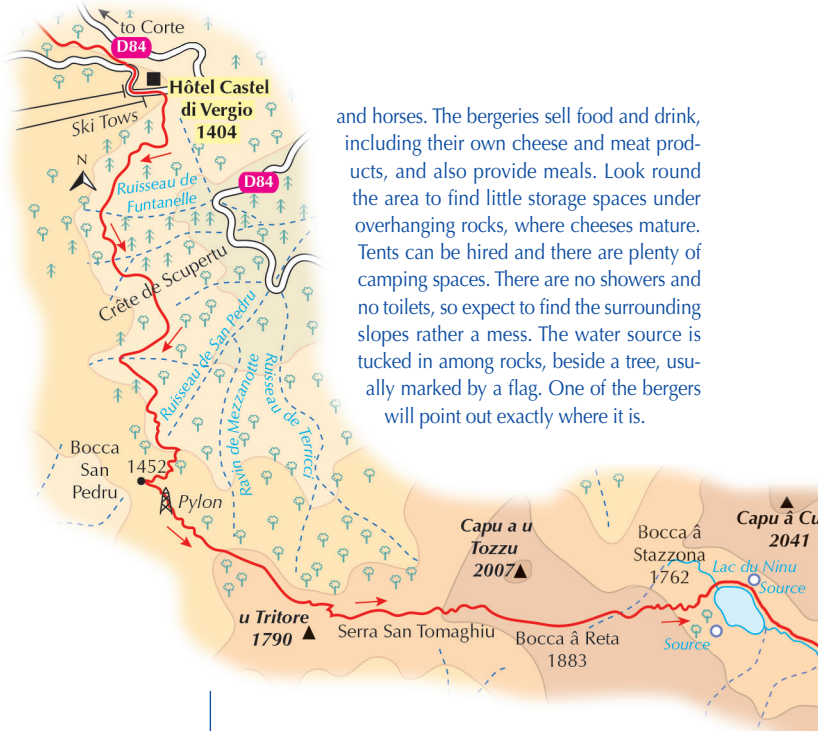
Climb out of the forest and follow a stony path further uphill. There is spiny broom on the ground, and the path is flashed in yellow, leading directly to the **Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu**.

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EXCURSION

*Ascent of Monte Corona from
Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu*

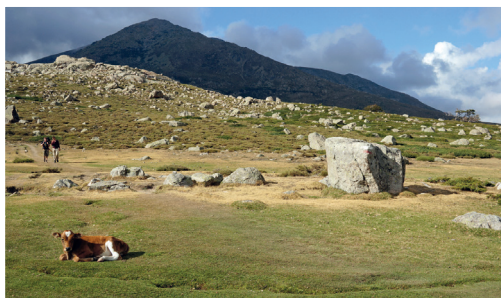
Start/Finish	Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu
Distance	5km (3 miles) there-and-back
Total ascent	575m (1885ft)
Total descent	575m (1885ft)
Time	2hrs 30mins there-and-back
Terrain	Wooded slopes give way to scrub-covered slopes, which can be rocky or stony in places, but are not particularly difficult.
Maps	IGN 4250 OT
Food and drink	There is no water on the ascent. The Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu serves meals and sells provisions.
Shelter	There is shade in the woods near the start, but the upper parts of the mountain are open and exposed to sun, wind and rain.

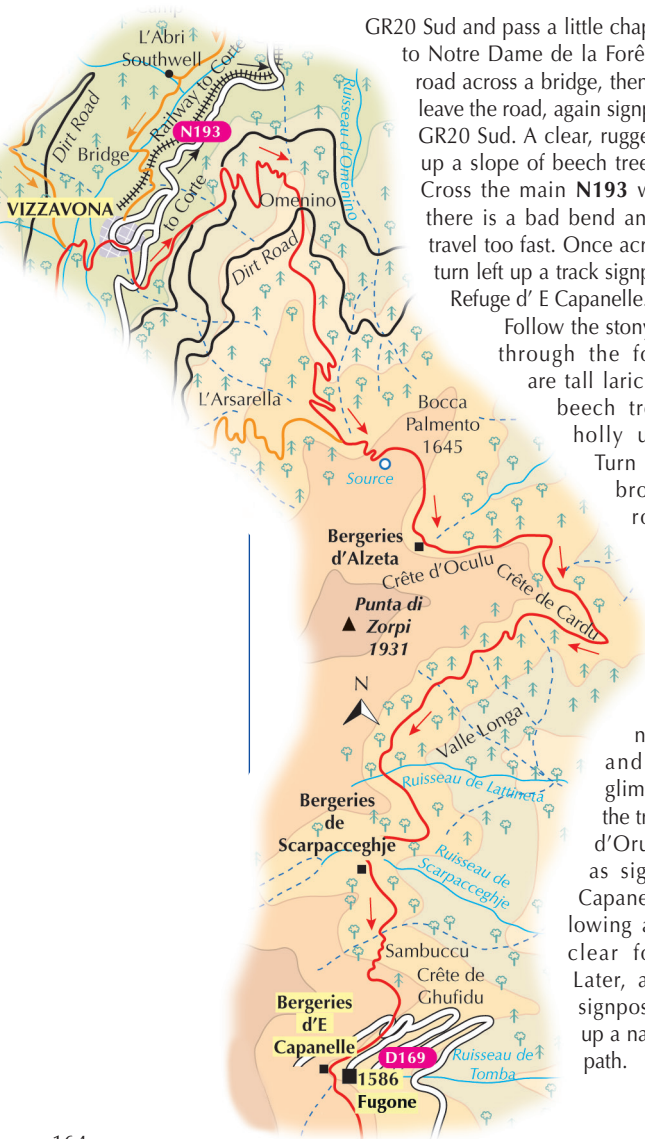


and horses. The bergeries sell food and drink, including their own cheese and meat products, and also provide meals. Look round the area to find little storage spaces under overhanging rocks, where cheeses mature. Tents can be hired and there are plenty of camping spaces. There are no showers and no toilets, so expect to find the surrounding slopes rather a mess. The water source is tucked in among rocks, beside a tree, usually marked by a flag. One of the bergers will point out exactly where it is.

On leaving the **Bergeries de Vaccaghja**, walk down a grassy, boulder-strewn slope and cross the level, grassy **Pianu di Campotile**. The Refuge de Manganu is visible ahead, but there is a climb up a short, steep, rocky slope to reach it, crossing the

*Trekkers on the
Pianu de Campotile
on the approach to
Refuge de Manganu*





GR20 Sud and pass a little chapel dedicated to Notre Dame de la Forêt. Follow the road across a bridge, then turn right to leave the road, again signposted for the GR20 Sud. A clear, rugged path leads up a slope of beech trees and pines. Cross the main **N193** with care, as there is a bad bend and some cars travel too fast. Once across the road, turn left up a track signposted for the Refuge d' E Capanelle.

Follow the stony track uphill through the forest. There are tall laricio pines and beech trees, with a holly understorey.

Turn left along a broader forest road, which is surfaced with concrete in a couple of places.

The forest is predominantly pine, and there are glimpses through the trees to Monte d'Oru. Turn right as signposted for Capanelle, still following a broad and clear forest track. Later, a GR20 Sud signpost points left up a narrower, stony path.