

# Corsican Marinas and Moorings

Corsica is a very popular yacht destination and has a serious shortage of berths, both for permanent and visiting users. I have prepared these notes from published sources and you will need to check and verify all the data. At the end of the notes I have added some web links that were too specific to have put them within the pages of Corsica Isula.

## Weather

Weather: [Météo France](#) tel 08 92 68 02; Seafax 01 39 28 00 28; minitel 3615 Météo; [Météoconsult](#) 3201 or tel 0899 70 11 11. The weather round Corsica's coasts can change very quickly, not least because the island is a mountain in the sea.

## Coast Guard

CROSS CORSE – the regional coast guard service: tel 04 95 20 13 63 – VHF 16 and by portable telephone, if you have a signal - 116. Its eleven stations are in Bastia, Macinaggio, Saint Florent and Calvi (Haute Corse); Cargese, Ajaccio, Porticcio, Propriano, Bonifacio, Porto Vecchio and Solenzara (Corse du Sud).

In the first half of 2004 there were about 300 sorties and over 700 people saved, plus, sadly, 19 injured, five deaths and two missing. Don't be fooled into thinking only about glorious red sunsets after sun drenched days messing about in boats... the Mediterranean can be as treacherous as any other ocean.

## Lifeboats

In France the voluntary Lifeboat organisation is the SNSM, somewhat the equivalent to the RNLI in UK. In Corsica, there are eleven lifeboat stations (7 in the south and 4 in the north). A boat in distress would normally contact the coastguard – CROSS CORSE – and they would have the responsibility to send out an SNSM boat, therefore direct distress contact should not be made with the local SNSM station directly.

Here are the ports, listed by town names in alphabetical order. Please note, I have used the English name 'Harbour Master's Office' for the French term 'Capitainerie' and 'Customs' for 'Douanes'.

## Ajaccio

### L'Amirauté – Port Charles-Ornano (Lat 44°55', 9N; Long 008°44', 7E)

**Situation:** The port is accessible day and night in all weathers; beware strong southerly and south-westerly winds, also the buoy at the port entry and the lack of alight. Dominant winds east and south west. The port offers the best shelter in the bay.

**Facilities:** 850 berths of which 160 for visitors (max length 35m); fresh water and electricity on the quay and pontoons. Toilet block: 11 WCs and 1 handicapped WC; 12 showers, sinks.

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 22 31 98; fax 04 95 20 98 08; VHF 9.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 51 75 10.

**Affaires Maritimes:** tel 04 95 51 73 13.

**Gendarmerie Maritime:** tel 04 95 51 75 22.

**Tourist Office:** tel 04 95 51 55 03 – [www.ajaccio-tourisme.fr](http://www.ajaccio-tourisme.fr).

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops on the port.

### **Port Tino Rossi (Lat 41°55', 1N; Long 008°44', 6E)**

**Situation:** Well sheltered, except with a mounting sea that enters the port; three basins facing east and northeast.

**Facilities:** 250 berths (max length 35m) of which 120 for visitors and 35 berths on the *Quai d'Honneur*; depth port/basins 10/12m; organised berthing at the end of the basin; fresh water and electricity on the quay and pontoons. Toilet block: 6 WCs and showers, sale of ice, washing machines, public (card) telephone; rubbish bins, fuel (tel 04 95 21 51 23; truck deliveries.).

**Management:** Chamber of Commerce tel 04 95 51 56 55.

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 51 22 72; port office tel 04 95 51 55 43; fax 04 95 21 93 28; VHF 9.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 04 95 51 71 51.

**Affaires Maritimes:** tel 04 95 51 75 10.

**Docks Office:** 04 95 51 71 51

**Gendarmerie Maritime:** tel 04 95 23 50 23.

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops on the port and in the nearby old town.

## ***Bastia***

### **Vieux Port (Lat 42°42', 2N; Long 009°27', 3E)**

**Situation:** Access to the port is via the opening NE; if arriving from the N, pay attention to ferries, cruise & cargo ships. Take care of westerly winds.

**Facilities:** 350 berths of which 40 for visitors; fresh water and electricity on the quay and pontoons. Depth 20 & 6m, summer basin 30m, outside jetty 25m. Toilet block: WCs and showers, telephone (card), launderette nearby, fuel nearby).

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 31 31 10; fax 04 95 31 77 95; VHF 9.

**Dock Office:** 04 95 31 07 15.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 51 75 10.

**Affaires Maritimes:** tel 04 95 32 84 60; fax 04 95 32 79 12.

**Gendarmerie Maritime:** tel 04 95 32 84 70.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 54 20 40 – [www.ville-bastia.fr](http://www.ville-bastia.fr).

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops on the port.

## **Port Toga**

**Situation:** North of the commercial docks, good shelter.

**Facilities:** 357 berths of which 150 for visitors; fresh water and electricity on the quay and pontoons. Depth 2.5m. Toilet block: WCs and showers, telephone, launderette nearby, fuel; 17t crane.

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 32 79 79.

**Dock Office:** 04 95 31 07 15.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 31 00 48.

**Affaires Maritimes:** tel 04 95 31 62 24.

**Gendarmerie Maritime:** tel 04 95 32 84 70.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 54 20 40 – [www.ville-bastia.fr](http://www.ville-bastia.fr).

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops round the port.

## ***Bonifacio***

**(Lat 41°23', 4N; Long 009°09', 8E)**

**Situation:** Right at the end of the 'fjord'; access is easy day and night and in any weather; the marina is protected from all winds.

**Facilities:** 450 berths of which 160 for visitors and 35 berths and moorings; large boats must book 48hrs ahead; fresh water and electricity on the quay and pontoons. Toilet block: 8 WCs and 24 showers (incl handicapped facilities); ship chandlers and repairs, slipway 40t crane; towing; sale of ice, washing machines, public (card) telephone; rubbish bins (incl used oil), fuel (tel 04 95 73 46 01, fax 04 94 73 05 50).

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 73 10 07, fax 04 95 73 18 73; VHF 9.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 51 71 51.

**Affaires Maritimes:** tel 04 95 51 75 10.

**Docks Office:** 04 95 51 71 51

**Gendarmerie Maritime:** tel 04 95 23 50 23.

**Tourist Office:** tel 04 95 73 11 88 – [www.bonifacio.fr](http://www.bonifacio.fr).

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops on the port and in the nearby old town above.

## ***Calvi***

**Port Xavier Colonna (Lat 42°34', 0N; Long 008°45', 7E)**

**Situation:** On the way in take care of the commercial quay (ferries) – pass it to port.

**Facilities:** 460 berths of which 200 for visitors (up to 55m) and fixed moorings (paying) outside 300m limit – 230 boats (private operator on 04 95 65 42 22, VHF 8); 'Quai d'Honneur' 5.5m, elsewhere 1.5 – 3.5m; fresh water and electricity on the quay and concrete pontoons. Toilet block: WCs and showers; ship chandlers and repairs, slipway 50t crane; towing; sale of ice, laundrettes nearby, public (card) telephone; rubbish bins; fuel.

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 65 10 60, fax 04 95 65 15 13; VHF 9.

**Dock Office:** 04 95 65 05 21.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 65 00 69.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 65 16 67 - [www.tourisme.fr/calvi](http://www.tourisme.fr/calvi)

**Affaires Maritimes:** tel 04 95 65 01 71.

**Gendarmerie Maritime:** tel 04 95 65 00 17.

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops on the port and in the nearby old town.

## ***Cargèse***

**(Lat 47°07', 8N; Long 008°35', 9E)**

**Situation:** Little fishing port in the bay of Sagone, protected by a breakwater of 210m. Access tends to be difficult in strong winds; difficult (if not impossible) by night because of moorings

**Facilities:** 235 berths of which 35 for visitors (difficult for catamarans, although mooring is possible outside the port NE, protected by rocks); fresh water and electricity on the quays and pontoons. Toilet block: WCs and showers; laundrettes nearby, public (card) telephone.

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 26 47 24.

**Tourist Office:** tel 04 95 26 41 31.

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops on the port and in the nearby old town.

## ***Centuri***

**(Lat 45°57', 9N; Long 009°21', E)**

**Situation:** The first port on the west coast coming from the Côte d'Azur; difficult to approach with winds from W or N; accessible by day, but not advised at night and in any case can only take small craft with shallow draught.

**Facilities:** considerable construction works are in hand, but there are fresh water and toilet facilities.

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 35 60 06, fax 04 95 35 65 81.

**Town Hall:** 04 95 35 60 06.

**Customs in Bastia:** tel 04 95 32 87 40.

**Affaires Maritimes in Bastia:** tel 04 95 32 84 60.

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops in the village.

## ***L'île Rousse***

**(Lat 42°38', 5N; Long 008°56', 3E)**

**Situation:** Port protected from northerly winds.

**Facilities:** 250 berths of which 90 for visitors (up to 55m) and mooring is possible in the bay (contact the Town Hall); boats over 12m should avoid the fishermen's port; fresh water and electricity on the quay. Toilet block: WCs and showers; sale of ice at the Harbour Master's Office, laundrettes in town, public (card) telephone; slip and crane; fuel.

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 60 26 51.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 65 00 69.

**Town Hall:** 04 95 63 01 80.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 60 04 35 - [www.ot-ile-rousse.fr](http://www.ot-ile-rousse.fr)

**Affaires Maritimes:** tel 04 95 60 05 59.

**Gendarmerie Maritime:** tel 04 95 65 00 17.

**Land facilities:** bars & restaurants by the port; bars, restaurants, shops a short walk from the port in town.

## ***Pianottoli***

**(Lat 41°28', 47N; Long 009°04', 34E)**

**Situation:** Port situated at the end of at the huge bay of Figari in a very well sheltered position; offers small boats a safe haven, even in bad weather, except in strong south westerlies.

**Facilities:** 170 berths of which 80 for visitors (depth from 1.5 – 5m) and mooring is possible in the bay but need to avoid the space reserved for the fire planes to load water; fresh water and electricity on the pontoons. Toilet block: WCs and showers; laundrettes, public (card) telephone; fuel in the port of Bonifacio.

**Harbour Master's Office:** Maison de la Mer - tel 04 95 71 83 57.

**Customs:** Bonifacio.

**Town Hall:** tel - 04 95 71 80 06, fax – 04 95 71 80 04.

**Affaires Maritimes:** Bonifacio.

**SNSM (lifeboat):** Bonifacio.

**Land facilities:** shops and a shuttle to the village centre.

## ***Porto***

**(Lat 46°16', 1N; Long 008°41', E)**

**Situation:** Port is small and on the little river, but well protected in bad weather, though difficult to enter and leave, especially with a westerly swell.

**Facilities:** 150 berths of which 30 for visitors (depths between 1.5 and 2m) avoid the fishermen's' port; fresh water and electricity on the quay. Toilet block: WCs and showers at the nearby camp site; sale of ice, laundrettes in town, public (card) telephone; fuel (06 08 72 14 84).

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 06 88 16 93 38, fax 04 95 26 14 12, VHF 9.

**Town Hall (Ota):** 04 95 26 10 05, fax – 04 95 26 14 12.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 26 10 55, fax – 04 95 26 14 25 - [www.porto-tourisme.com](http://www.porto-tourisme.com).

**Land facilities:** bars & restaurants by the port; bars, restaurants, shops a short walk from the port in town.

## ***Porto Vecchio***

**(Lat 41°35', 3N; Long 009°17', 2E)**

**Situation:** The port is at the end of the gulf; you pass two lighthouses, la Chiappa (port) and St-Cyprien to starboard where there's also a rock (Pecorella) with a turret. It's a bit tricky at night with shallow E and N.

**Facilities:** 450 berths of which 140 for visitors; mooring away from channels (very sheltered near the commercial docks; fresh water and electricity on the quay and concrete pontoons. Toilet block: WCs and showers; ship chandlers, slipway 50t crane; towing; sale of ice, washing machines at the harbour Master's Office, public (card) telephone; fuel (tel 04 95 70 21 41).

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 70 17 93.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 70 07 36.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 70 09 58 - [www.accueil-portovecchio.com](http://www.accueil-portovecchio.com)

**Affaires Maritimes:** see Bonifacio.

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops in town.

## ***Rogliano-Macinaggio***

**(Lat 42°57', 7N; Long 009°27', 3E)**

**Situation:** The port is high on the east coast of Cap Corse, well sheltered from W & SE winds; mooring is permitted behind the jetty, but beware strong winds; access is tough in strong winds.

**Facilities:** 590 berths of which 260 for visitors; fresh water and electricity on the quay. Toilet block: WCs and showers; ship chandlers, slipway 50t crane; towing; sale of ice, washing machines, public (card) telephone; fuel (tel 04 95 35 46 55).

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 35 42 57, fax 04 95 35 47 00, VHF 9.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 35 40 34 – [www.ot-rogliano-macinaggio.com](http://www.ot-rogliano-macinaggio.com).

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants, shops in town.

## ***Sant'Ambroggio***

**Situation:** Entry difficult in strong winds, mooring prohibited.

**Facilities:** 130 berths of which 30; fresh water and electricity on the quay. Toilet block: WCs and showers; laundrettes in town, public (card) telephone; slip and 15t crane; fuel.

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 60 26 51.

**Customs:** tel 04 95 65 00 69.

**Land facilities:** small summer resort: bars, shops & restaurants open in season

## ***Santa Maria Poggio (Campoloro)***

**Port de Taverna (Lat 42°20', 5N ; Long 009°32', 5E)**

**Situation:** Port on the east coast – only one of two in Corsica to get the EU Blue Pennant in 2004; access is easy in all weathers; the port is near the towns of San Nicolao, Cervione & Moriani-Plage.

**Facilities:** 470 berths of which 100 for visitors (up to 25m); mooring is not allowed; fresh water and electricity available. Toilet block: WCs and showers; sale of ice, washing machines, public (card) telephone; chandlers, slip and crane to 5t; fuel at Prunete (tel 04 95 38 01 83).

**Harbour Master's Office: Mairie of Santa Maria Poggio,** tel 04 95 38 07 61, fax – 04 95 38 07 46, VHF 9.

**Customs:** see Bastia.

**Town Hall:** 04 95 63 01 80.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 38 10 28.

**Affaires Maritimes:** see Bastia.

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants and shops in town s as above

## Solenzara

**(Lat 41°51', 4N; Long 009°24', 3E)**

**Situation:** One of the few ports in Corsica able to take big boats; safe entry day and night; one of only two ports to get EU blue pennant in 2004.

**Facilities:** 450 berths of which 150 for visitors; fresh water and electricity. Toilet block: WCs and showers; sale of ice, washing machines, public (card) telephones; chandlers; slip and 45t crane; fuel (via Harbour Master's Office).

**Harbour Master's Office:** tel 04 95 57 46 42, fax – 04 95 57 44 66.

**Customs:** see Porto Vecchio.

**Town Hall:** 04 95 63 01 80.

**Tourist Office:** 04 95 57 43 75.

**Affaires Maritimes:** see Bonifacio.

**Gendarmerie:** tel 04 95 57 40 17.

**Land facilities:** bars, restaurants and shops in town.

Some good links are:

- Frank Singleton, a yachting retired UK Met Office senior forecaster has published translations of Météo France's weather forecasting terminology as broadcast by the CROSS (or in the case of Corsica, CROSSMED) – the French Coastguard Service – on channels 79 & 80. You can find the information at <http://www.franksingleton.clara.net/french.html> and in addition you can read his Corsica log at <http://www.franksingleton.clara.net/medlog2.htm>.
- Plans of six Corsican marinas are available at <http://www.lyachtua.com/Medit-marinas/France/corsica.htm>. Those included are: Calvi, Campoloro (Taverna), Bonifacio, Macinaggio, Porto Vecchio & St Florent.
- Corsican Moorings: Bruno Papin has done a complete guide to the moorings round the entire coast of Corsica – free and otherwise – [http://perso.wanadoo.fr/corse/\\_private/plusbeauxmouillages.htm](http://perso.wanadoo.fr/corse/_private/plusbeauxmouillages.htm).
- French-English and English-French Online Sailing Dictionaries have been excellently produced by Ken Turner, a dinghy sailor and professor of Computing Science at Stirling University in Scotland. The French-English is at <http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/sailing/eng-fr.html> and the French-English is at <http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/sailing/fr-ang.html>
- Corsican Sailing League – <http://www.liguecorsedevoile.org>.

The information above, I have compiled in good faith, but some of it may be wrong and can change, so don't hesitate to check it, especially where safety is concerned. Also, though I am a dinghy sailor, I have no cruising experience. It would therefore be very helpful to me and others, if you would care to let me have corrections and/or improvements to this information.

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