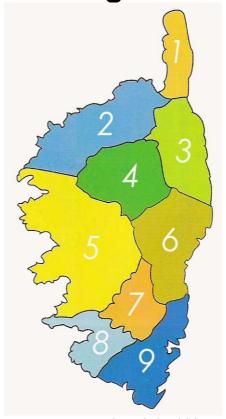
Corsican Villages and Towns



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 - 2 Balagne
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There are 360 villages in Corsica and this list covers about a third of them. It's amazing that so many have websites, but there are plenty of enthusiasts out there like me. Some of course are professional (though many times not better) done for the town hall, but in large part they are built by people who love their 'place'. I have been collecting this list for nearly three years and it's probably the most comprehensive there is.

Some of the sites are devoted to micro-regions, as shown above, or cantons (groups of communes), so if you can't find the village you are looking for, then look for the name of the surrounding district.

Afa (www.afavillage.fr.st) - a small site for Afa, a village about 12 kms from Ajaccio - it has been put together by four young men of the village.

Ajaccio 1 (www.ajaccio.fr) - this an excellent site – one of the best in this list among the public sector ones. It's regularly updated and packed full of information and links, unfortunately without an English version, but you'll manage to get around

Ajaccio 2 (www.ajaccio-tourisme.com) - this is the site of the municipal tourist office – a very good one, simply done and regularly updated and with the bonus of an English version. It helps you prepare your trip and has accommodation information.

Ajaccio 3 (www.aneti.com) - an information site about the capital. The site is helpful, but perhaps more once you're there, than helping you decide if you want to visit the capital.

Agnaronu (www.agnaronu.net) - a village near Porto Vecchio in the mountains of the Ospedale.

Albu (<u>perso.wanadoo.fr/morganti</u>) – this is the site of the Restaurant Morganti and the Hotel Tamarisk at the Marine d'Albu, a hamlet of the village of Ogliastru in Cap Corse, but it also covers the village.

Alta Rocca (<u>www.alta-rocca.com</u>) - a district in the south comprising Altagène, Cargiaca, Carbini, Levie, Loreto di Tallano, Olmiccia, Ste Lucie de Tallano, San Gavino di Carbini, Serra di Scopamène, Sorbollano, Zonza, Zoza.

Antisanti (membres.lycos.fr/antisanti/) - this is a nice small site about a small mountain village commune west of the Aleria, whose commune stretches, like many on the east coast, down to the plain by the sea.

Appietto (<u>www.appietto.com</u>) - a village near Ajaccio in the south; there are three webcams at different points of the village and there's a nostalgic look at the village through old post cards. A good descriptive site, not particularly set up for tourists.

Aullène (http://aullene.net) – a village in the Alta Rocca and this is a very good personal site by Sophie.

the Balagne 1 (www.balagne-corsica.com) - this is the coastal and mountainous microregion of the country where Calvi is situated in the north. This comprehensive site covers all aspects and has a description of its two towns and 31 villages.

the Balagne 2 (www.agencyshow.biz/corse/index) - here's another site, a little more idiosyncratic, but also with a wide coverage, by Emmanuelle Quilichini. Lots of links, a special section on the Haute Balagne. She plans an English version.

the Balagne 3 (Michele.castelli.free.fr)

Balagne à livre ouvert is the site of a local author who has written a historical set in the Balagne of the C18. It also covers the locality.

Bastia (<u>www.bastia-tourisme.com</u>) - a comprehensive site of the town - the capital of Haute Corse. Good information including maps and things like a list of shops by category, including for example a descriptive list of local foods and where they can be found in town. History, culture and all the rest, of course.

Bastia (www.bastia.fr) – the city's official site, packed with detailed information and loads of links. The economy, tourism and the rest.

Belgodere (perso.wanadoo.fr/belgude) - this is a delightful village of the High Balagne on a commanding mountain crest above the valley of the Regino. The new mayor, Lionel Mortini is full of projects (he's a shepherd) and the village has a free multimedia access point - the first in Corsica (call 04 95 61 39 40).

Bisinchi (<u>www.bisinchi.com</u>) - a delightful small village on the edge of the Castagniccia not far from Ponte Nuovo.

Bonifacio 1 (www.bonifacio.com) - this is a very comprehensive site and has subsections devoted to local businesses in this amazing cliffhanging town in the extreme south - the port for crossing to Sardinia.

Bonifacio 2 (www.planetepc.fr/bonifacio/millena.htm) - a personal site about this spectacular southern cliff-top town.

Bonifacio 3 (bonifacio.is.free.fr/2001b) - here are some colourful pictures by Régis Scotto of the southernmost Corsican town, taken in 2000 and 2001 - the link takes you to the latter.

Bozio (<u>www.bozio-centre-corse.com</u>) - here's a somewhat incomplete site about the Bozio micro-region to the east of Corte.

Calinzana/Calenzana (<u>www.calinzana-corsica-isula.com</u>) - this is a comprehensive site about one Corsica's llrgest villagesand the sart of the northern end of the GR20. You'll find stuff about the path, as well as hotels and other accommodation, history and many things to do.



Calvi 1 (<u>www.calvitravel.com</u>) - Calvi in the northwest used to be my town and it is very beautiful. A C13 citadel watches over a bay with 6km of beach and backed by 9000 ft mountains. A place with a rich past and a lively present.

Calvi 2 (www.tourisme.fr/calvi) - the official site of the town; though not a great site, it is helpful, but beware the English it's dreadful.

Calvi 3 - Calvi on CD Rom: an excellent guide has been issued by the municipal tourist office of Calvi. It is 4 languages including English and covers history & heritage, environment & nature, leisure, economy, music. There are also photos and you can download the Calvi accommodation guide. It's available at from omt.calvi@wanadoo.fr.



Canari

(<u>http://www.4600n200e.com/15665.html</u>) – a part of the site of Eric Chevreuil, a native of Canari, now a US resident and includes details of the family house to let. He also has a page on Corsicana, TX.

Cap Corse 1 (<u>www.destination-cap-corse.com</u>) - the efficient site of the *Communautés de Communes de Cap Corse* - a prize-winning site.

Cap Corse 2 (<u>www.internetcom.fr/capcorse</u>) - this is the finger at the north of Corsica, sometimes called the island within the island. The *Maison du Cap* is an association of many of the micro-region's villages.

Cap Corse 3 (www.pointeducapcorse.org) - this is a publication devoted to the top-most part of Corsica from Macinaggio in the east to Centuri in the west, especially focussed on the environment. A very nice site. You can download the publication in pdf form.

Cap Corse 4 (<u>sentierducapcorse.monsite.wanadoo.fr</u>) - this is a very handy site for anyone wanting to walk the *sentier des douaniers* of Cap Corse - a great walk in all seasons.

Cargese (<u>www.cargese.com</u>) - on the west coast Cargese has many Greek origins and its priest still celebrates mass in the catholic and the orthodox churches of the village.

Carticasi (carticasi.free.fr) - a nice site for a village NE of Corte.

the Castagnicia (www.en-castagniccia.com) - this is the stupendous mountain region in the north east that is covered in vast part by chestnut forests. It used to be very densely populated and is now very depopulated; there are gems of architecture, wonderful walks and great food delicacies to be had (great charcuterie made from chestnut eating pigs). The micro region is very significant in Corsica' history of the independence period when the monasteries were scenes of critical consultas - gatherings of the leaders - the Couvent de Casabianca for example was where Pasquale Paoli was declared general of the nation.

Ciamannacce (www.ciamannacce.cjb.net) - a small village with an interesting site. It is near Zicavo in the Taravu valley buried in the centre of the island. The next-door village of Palneca also has a site. You might like to compare them.

Corbara (<u>www.multimania.com/corbara</u>) - a Balagne village with a stunning Franciscan monastery.

Corse du Sud (www.corse-sud.net) - a German site with good illustrations.

 $\pmb{Corte\ 1\ (\underline{www.corte.tourisme.com})\ -\ the\ site\ of\ the\ ancient\ capital's\ municipal}}$

tourist office.

Corte 2 (perso.wanadoo.fr/devoted to the Corsica, the seat of beautiful mountain drawings.

martino/corte) - a site revolutionary C18 capital of the University and a town, with water colours and

Corte 3 (<u>www.a-rinascita.com</u>) - the local association for cultural, social, educational, sporting and environmental matters. An energetic lot, but their bulletin board is a bit out of date.

Corte 4 (<u>www.ciacomputer.com</u>) - a computer service company that offers a virtual visit of Corte and the Restonica.

Corte 5 (www.mairie-corte.fr) – an excellent site by the town hall that supplies all the basic facts about the town, its administration, associations and the like.

Costa & Occhjatana (<u>curagiu..free.fr</u>) - two small villages in the high Balagne, near Belgodere. The site also has a nice collection of Corsican proverbs and a good summary history. There's another site - see Occhiatana, below.

Costa Verde (costa-verde.net-corse.com) - this is the tourist office site for the region on the east coast includes the villages of Cervioni, Moriani-Plage, San Giovanni di Moriani, San Nicolao, Santa Lucia di Moriani, Santa maria Poghju, Santa Reparata di Moriani and Poggio-Mezzana and others.

Cozzano (cozzano.multimania.com) - a village in the High Taravu in Corse du Sud. A richly illustrated site of this mountain village. Dr Joe Ciccolini, who is the

site's *webmaestru*, is from the village and is a pharmacologist at the *Université de la Méditerranée* in Marseille.

Cruzzini (<u>www.tutti-inseme.net</u>) - the high valley of the Cruzzini in the south includes the villages of Azzana, Lopigna, Pastricciola, Rezza, Rosazia & Salice. The site is of the association 'All Together' that promotes local culture and history.

Dragouli (www.dragouli.com) - not a name many Corsicans will instantly recognise, this is the site of a large canton of 24 communes in the mountains of the Castagniccia: Aïti, Alando, Altiani, Alzi, Bustanico, Cambia, Carticasi, Castellari-di-Mercurio, Erbajolo, Erone, Favalello, Focicchia, Guincaggio, Lano, Mazzola, Pancheraccia, Piedicorte-di-Gaggio, Pietraserena, Rusio, San Lorenzo, Sant'Andrea-di-Bozio, Santa Lucia-di-Mercurio, Sermano & Tralonca. It has a small description of each as well as an interesting view of a traditional local house and a good description of the *paghjella* song form. It has lists of all the Corsican villages and a section on accommodation.

Eccica Suarella (perso.wanadoo.fr/eccica.suarella) - a village below the Prunelli Gorge between Bastelica and Ajaccio, famous for being near where Sampiero Corsu, the Corsican mountain hero, was ambushed and brutally assassinated by the d'Ornano family in the pay of Genoa, before he was decapitated and his hirsute head displayed on a pike at the entrance of Ajaccio.

Erbajolo (<u>jean.ottoviani.free.fr</u>) – this is a personal site by Jean Ottavani who comes from the village – right in the middle of Corsica at 750m, 20 kilometres from Corte.

Felce (<u>site.voila.fr/felce</u>) - this is a simple and effective site about this small Castagniccia village of 43 souls.

the Fiumorbu (corsica.fiumorbu.free.fr/accueil.htm) - an interesting mountainous microregion in the east, above Ghisonaccia. It is a well constructed personal site, built by Thierry Faivre largely around wonderful photographs taken either on walks or mountain bike trips: paths, flowers, ancient buildings, villages and mountain tops. It covers the villages of Solaro, Ventiseri, Serra, Isolaccio, Prunelli, Chisa, Poggio di Nazza, Lugo di Nazza, Pietrapola.

Ghisonaccia and the Costa Serena (www.ghisonaccia.net) - this (good) site is run by the municipal tourist office and is very practical and quick - it covers not only the town but the East Coast's Costa Serena.

Ghisoni (perso.libertysurf.fr/ghisoni/Ghisoni.htm) - the village is half way between Bastia and Ajaccio in the deep valley of the Fiumorbu. There is also a site for the local environmental/heritage group - *Macchja-Fiurita* (assoc.wanadoo.fr/mf.ghisoni).

Guagnu (www.ifrance.com/alainleca) - this is a passionately bilingual site (French & Corsican) - devoted to an island, its history, language and people, as well as Alain Leca's home village of Guagnu near Vico, in the Fiume Grosso valley and sacred to the memory of Dominique Leca, who continued to defy the French for 3 years after Pasquale Paoli had given in and gone into London exile. Like Guitera (below), Guagnu is a spa village.

Guitera les Bains (membres.lycos.fr/vutera) - at 650 metres in the Alta Taravu 50kms from Ajaccio - in the Regional Park.

Ile Rousse (<u>www.ot-ile-rousse.fr</u>) - the site of the municipal tourist office of Ile Rousse, the Balagne town founded by Pasquale Paoli in 1755 to provide a port outlet for the villages' olive oil and other commerce, avoiding Genoese-held Calvi.

La Côte Sauvage (www.multimania.com/ bruzzi) - here's a site for the South of Corsica - the wild coast of the Rocca Pina; the Tra Mare e Monte footpath and Bonifacio.

Lentu (www.multimania.com/oursat/) - this is a small village with an important place in Corsican history, in the northern interior of the island. This site is the work of secondary school students in Lucciana.

Loretu di Casinca (<u>loretu-di-casinca.monsite.wanadoo.fr</u>) a simple site about this little village on the east coast south of Bastia.

Lumiu (<u>www.mairie-lumio.fr</u>) - here's a town hall sponsored site for the village of Lumio that overlooks the bay, near Calvi in the NW.

Minerbio (<u>minerbio.free.fr</u>) - a hamlet of Barretali in Cap Corse; it goes from 23 people in the winter to 140 in the summer as the people with village origins come home to roost.

Moita (perso.wanadoo.fr/moita-corsica) - this is a village at 500m in the south of the Castagniccia in woods of oak and chestnut. This is a very attractive site that helps you get inside Corsica. The village is the home of the *Cunfraternita di a Sarra* brotherhood. The site has good material on traditional music and *A Mauresca* a traditional dance that imitates the fight between Moors and Christians.

Moltifao (<u>www.moltifao.fr.fm</u>) - a small village between Ponte Leccia and the Gissani, well placed for the Asco valley and mountain range. A simple site with a good range of photos and a guest photo page that will no doubt grow. This village inaugurated a series of open days in 2004 to show ancient aspects of the village – I hope they continue (<u>moltifau@wanadoo.fr</u>).

Monticello (monticello.online.fr) - this is a High Balagne village, perched above Ile Rousse, of which it has pretty much become a suburb, but the site is a delightful ongoing exercise book by the village school.

Morsiglia (<u>www.morsiglia.org</u>) - a village in the heart of Cap Corse, with a special section on wind and water mills. It's monastery is home to the Centre for Documentation and Studies of architecture, art, the environment & technology.

Murato (<u>freddi.multimania.fr.com</u>) - Murato Mon Village is a site by someone from this Nebbiu village famous for its Pisan polychrome church, Saint Michel. A big village well placed for Cap Corse, St Florent and Bastia. Also just outside the village is the best restaurant in Corsica for Corsican food: *La Ferme de Campo di Monte* (20239 Murato tel 04 95 37 64 39). The trouble is you may need to book a month ahead. They'll cater for you in New York, London or wherever. Amazing restored stone buildings up above the village where you can admire the mountains, looking towards St Florent and the church itself in the distance... and here is the church of San Michele:

The Nebbiu 1 (perso.wanadoo.fr/nebbiu) - this the site of the 'Nebbiu club' of this microregion in the basin of the Aliso river round the bay of St Florent. It is a good descriptive site and has a photographic inventory of local orchids.

The Nebbiu 2 (perso.wanadoo.fr/corse.genealogie) – this genealogy site also has a section on the Nebbiu, where its researches are based.

The Nebbiu 3 (perso.wanadoo.fr/histoire.du.nebbiu/sommaire.htm) – this excellent site on the history of the Nebbiu is rich in data about the monuments and other dramatic aspects of this beautiful micro-region in the north.

The (sporty) Nebbiu (perso.wanadoo.fr/corsica-aliso/Corsica-Aliso.htm) - this site is set up by a local sports shop and focuses on fishing, diving, mountain biking, hunting...in the Nebbiu.

The Niolu 1 (www.niolu.fr.st) - the Syndicat d'Initiative of the Niolu.

The Niolu 2 (perso.club-internet.fr/asniolu) - this is a good site for those who already have a desire to visit the 'most Corsican part of Corsica'. It has a section on the Niolu tourist office and its services; one on the Sports association of the Niolu (walking, climbing, canoeing, paragliding & skiing); one on the *Compagnie Régionale de Guides de Corse*, with a range of accompanied mountain walking tours from a 5-day trip (about £210) to the full GR20 trip in 14 days at about £500; the last section lists the names and addresses of the 10 *Haute Corse* members of the *Federation Française de Montagne et Escalade*.

Nonza (ggg.multimania.com) - a beautiful clifftop village in Cap Corse, famous for the story of its 4th century Saint Julie, whose breasts were cut off and flung over the cliff, where two springs appeared - and are there to this day.

Novella (www.chez.com/novella2b) - this is the site of Jean Padovani and his wife Genvieve. It is about Novella and has a lot of genealogical material about their family and those of other families of this Balagne village.

Occhiatana 1 (<u>corsicanostra.free.fr</u>) - an interesting personal guide to Occhitana, the Balagne village, with much else of interest to Corsophiles (also see Costa, above).

Occhiatana 2 (www.occhiatana.fr.fm) - A site by Ange Courbis - also with some info about other places in Corsica.

Ocagnano (<u>www.geocities.com/stephanieonthebeach/oca.html</u>) pictures by Stéphanie Catz of this village in the Casinca.

Occhjatana (<u>curagiu..free.fr</u>) - a charming small village in the high Balagne, not far from Belgodere.

Oletta (http://www.oletta.crose.fr/) – a new town site for this attractive place well situated between Bastia and St Florent in the Nebbiu.

Oletta (perso.libertysurf.fr/CRISTIANELLU) - this is a site about Oletta, a village in the Nebbiu and is quaintly an homage to the author's father, a fisherman.

Olmeta di Tuda (<u>perso.wanadoo.fr/genealogie</u>) - includes a history of this village in the Nebbiu

Olmeto (<u>www.olmeto.net</u>) - this is the very easy to use site of the municipal tourist office in this small Gulf of Valinco town.

Orezza (<u>www.corsorezza.com</u>) - a simple (and slow-loading) site that covers the 15 communes of the valley of Orezza in the Castagniccia. It has a map of circular walks in this magnificent place.

Palneca (www.multimania.com/palneca) - in the valley of the Taravu (see Taravu below), right in the southern middle of the island not far from Zicavu. Thick with information and pictures. The GR20 mountain path passes the village. A nice small section on 'vendetta'.

Pastricciola (pastricciola.free.fr) - a small village in the Cruzzinesi. The village is near an access point to the GR20 - NW of Bocognano and dominated by the Monte d'Oro. There is a good section on chestnuts and their uses + other Corsican plants. Passing tourists are free to collect their emails.

Pietracorbara (www.pietracorbara.net) - a very clean site about a village on the east coast of Cap Corse; there is all the information you might need including a few circular walks with maps you can print.

Pigna (<u>www.casa-musicale.org</u>) - not so much a village guide, but one to the culture of the place - the music, the arts and crafts and the hosterllerie run by the village cultural association.

Pinu (<u>www.mic.fr/users/~MDPINO/default.htm</u>) - a small commune on the west coast of Cap Corse made up of 15 hamlets. The Maire, Lucien Orsatelli is at your service.

Porri (<u>villagedeporri.free.fr</u>) - a small village of the Casinca, near Vescavato, south of Bastia.

Porticcio (<u>www.porticcio.org</u>) - Porticcio is a seaside resort on the Gulf of Ajaccio, but if that's what you like... It is well placed for excursions if you get fed up with buckets and spades.

Porto (www.porto-tourisme.com) - this is the site of the municipal tourist office of Porto a village on the west coast between Calvi and Ajaccio at the end of a deep cut valley. The places up behind it are stunning and the famous Calanches of red rocks in amazing shapes are just south. The site has all kinds of accommodation. To the north lies the Girolata nature reserve (http://www.wcmc.org.uk/protected_areas/data/wh/girolata.html)

Porto Vecchio (<u>www.accueil-portovecchio.com</u>) - a site for the far south region as well as the town. Well illustrated. The town is known as the City of Salt, for its saltern.

Prato di Giovellina (www.pratodigiovellina.com) - this is a comprehensive site built by Eric Sanchez, the ex-Maire (he's been succeeded by Jean-Pierre Graziani) of this small mountain commune between Ponte Leccia and Corte, away from the main routes. Eric hails from the village and is a computer whizz, hence not only is the site done with passion, but also with brio.

Propriano 1 (<u>www.propriano.net</u>) - a holiday resort in the gulf of Vallinco. This is a simple site that introduces the surroundings.

Propriano 2 (<u>www.propriano.info</u>) - lots of detail about Propriano, including business and finance as well as the tourism stuff

Prunelli di Fiumorbu - this is the big main village of the Fiumorbu and has commanding views down on to the East Coast. Sadly the Mairie's site has been squatted by some porn peddlars and there's nothing that can be done other than rebuilding an entirely new site – which they are doing; I'll add it when it's on line.

Quenza (<u>lucy.ukc.ac.uk/Janetpage/qpics/quen1.html</u>) - Dr Janet Bagg is a researcher at the University of Kent Centre for Anthropology & Computing and her fieldwork has been examining family, marriage and land in Quenza - a mountain village in the south - from C17 to date.

Quercitellu (<u>quercitellu.multimania.com/index.html</u>) - this is a village in the Castagniccia the secret area of chestnut forests and history in the northeast. An elaborate site has a special section on chestnuts, their history, cultivation, uses and recipes.

Rogliano- Macinaggio (<u>rogliano-macinaggio.monsite.wanadoo.fr</u>) - simple but useful personal site of this pair of seaside/interior villages in Cap Corse.

Saint Florent (perso.wanadoo.fr/saint.flo/) - a compact site about Saint Florent in north Corsica, just below Cap Corse and on the edge of the Nebbiu.

Sainte Lucie di Tallano (<u>www.sainteluciedetallano.com</u>) - a big southern mountain village in the in the Rizzanese valley, which leads down to Sartène. If you would like to visit a site campaigning against the building of a dam in this lovely valley go to <u>www.multimania.com/adre.</u>

Santa Maria Poghju (www.chez.com/bastia) - a site that is basically pictures of this village on the edge of the Castagniccia, taken by a rugby fan resident.

Sant'Ambroggio (perso.wanadoo.fr/dominique.verdera) - a (modern) village, part of the commune of Lumio in the Balagne that is home to a Club Med - one of two on the island.

Sartène (<u>www.sartene.net</u>) - there are many who say that Sartene is the most Corsican of Corsican places. Here's an efficient site for this small town.

Silvareccio (<u>silvareccio.free.fr</u>) - a Castagniccia village at 700 metres below the impressive mountain of San Angelo.

Speloncato (perso.wanadoo.fr/speloncato/) - this is a perched mountain village in the high Balagne - there is wonderful walking around here.

Surbudda (perso.club-internet.fr/ingargio/) - a simple site of this hamlet (pop 69) near Quenza in the Alta Rocca (south east), with photos, history and a short video.

Taravu (<u>www.taravu.com</u>) - this site is a newspaper - covering the southern valley of the Taravu, composed of 30 communes. Cork-oak, olives and wine are produced. One of the villages, Sollacaro was made famous by Dumas in *Les Frères Corses*. See also <u>www.gietaravu.com</u> another webzine, this one for craft products from the area.

Ucciani (<u>www.ucciani.fr</u>) - a C5 village 31 kms north of Ajacciu among ancient chestnut trees.

Valinco Gulf (<u>www.valincoweb.com</u>) - this is a good site for tourists wanting to visit this area surrounding the beautiful gulf of Valinco. Very good for those who love the area and want photos - there's a very comprehensive selection.

Vallecalle (www.chez.com/vallecalle) - a small village SW of Bastia in the Nebbiu on the way to St Florent.

Valle di Mezzana (<u>perso.club-internet.fr/jlv</u>) - this is a site by Jean-Louis Ventura about a village some 15 kms north of Ajaccio.

Venaco (<u>www.lerelais-venacais.com</u>) - *Le Relais* is the local association for social, cultural and economic development of Venaco and its surrounding. There's good tourist information on the site as well.

Vescavato (<u>www.multimania.com/vescavato</u>) - a village of the Casinca in the NE of Corsica. The site has a nice little section on the Confraternity as well as other aspects of the village.

Vico (<u>www.mairie-vico.fr</u>) - Vico is in the Cinarca micro-region in the south near Sagone. The site has holiday accommodation and details of many aspects of life appealing to tourists - culture, local artisans...

Zalana (<u>perso.club-internet.fr/francoi</u>) - this site of a small village hidden in the mountains to the east of Corte has recently been up-dated. Nearby Moita has a 'cello festival in June.

Zevaco (<u>www.zevaco.net</u>) – a small village in the valley of the Taravu to the east of Ajaccio.

Zigliara (commune.zigliara.free.fr) - 39 kms from Ajaccio, this village is well known for its spa.

Zuani (www.zuani.net) - old village photos and postcards of this village at the southern edge of the Castagniccia.

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