

Things to do in and around Algajola

Below please find a list of things which we enjoy to do while staying in Algajola. We hope you will enjoy your stay in Fiore di Lume!

*Kind regards
Karsten and Trine*

Bathing:

- You do not have to go far. Aregno Plage is 500 m away and this is one of the best beaches on Corsica.
- Snorkelling from the rocks at the north-east end of Aregno Plage. This is an ideal spot as you can go into the water from the sandy beach and swim along the rocks, where there are thousands of fish and even small octopuses. The rocks around the fortress of Algajola are also good for snorkelling with plenty of fish.
- When the wind is strong and the waves are high there is nothing like body-surfing at Aregno Plage. It is possible to rent everything for water sports on the beach: Windsurfing boards, body boards, water skis and scooters, kayaks – just as the diving school is located at the beach itself.
- Just south of Calvi (a few kilometres) if you follow the costal road towards Porto you come to a very beautiful beach in Golfe de la Revellatta. You can descend by car, but if you do not dare to challenge the bumpy non-paved road, you can park on the top and walk down.
While being there you should visit Notre Dame de la Serra. (***) from where there is a breathtaking view of the Calvi bay – and in clear weather even Cap Corse.
- The beach in the Calvi bay (in the Pinedes wood) is very friendly to small children. There are plenty of beach bars, and tennis courts can be rented in the tennis club.
- Ile Rousse also has a very nice beach, but as it is in the centre of the town it tends to get rather crowded in the high season. The town itself is definitely worth a visit too.
- Approximately 6 km further north of Ile Rousse you find the spectacular white sandy beach of Ostriconi.
- It is strongly recommended to visit the little town Galeria (*), which has another spectacular beach covered by fine, black pebbles. Galeria is 45 km away from Algajola and can be reached in 40 min. when taking D81 (past the airport). At the beach it is possible to rent kayaks and paddle up in the delta of the Fango River, which has a very rich wildlife and fauna.
While in Galeria you should take a drive approximately 8 km up along the Fango River (*). Park whenever you can just after you have passed the little community called Tuarelli and seek a way down to the river. Here you will find deep pools of crystal clear water and plenty of rocks from where you can jump into the cool water.
If you do not suffer from motion sickness and are not in a hurry the costal road back to Calvi is very, very beautiful. Otherwise take D81 back again.
- You can find similar fantastic river pools in the Asco river (ca. 45 min. away in a car).

Towns and villages in Balagne you should visit:

- Calvi (14 km). Visit the citadel and the harbour front. Continue up to see the view from Notre Dame de la Serra.
- Ile Rousse (8 km) - try the market in the morning with fresh fish, sausages and lots of other specialities.
It is also worthwhile to walk out to the lighthouse on the red islands, which have given the name to the city. The view up and down the coast is fabulous from here.
- Pigna (try the sunset from the small ecologic café, Casarella). Pigna has at least 10 “Artisan-shops” with pottery, paintings, jewellery, musical toys, delicatessen etc.
- St. Antonino (La Voute serves excellent Pizzas for lunch).
- Corbora. There is a small chapel in Corbora from which there is a magnificent view of the coast (follow the signs to “Chapelle Notre Dame de la Sept Douleurs” when you are in Corbora).

Longer (car) trips:

- Roundtrip to the small villages of Balagne (***). Especially St. Antonino (*) and Pigna are worth visiting.

- Trip to Calvi via Aregno – Cateri – stop to admire the view over the Calvi bay when you cross the ridge – Montegrosso (visit the old olive mill, U Frangu) - Zilia (visit the Alzipratu winery) – Calenzana.
- Trip to Corte (70 km, approximately 1 hour away from Algajola). Corte is Corsica's old capital. It has a very cosy old citadel and a historical museum. While being there drive into to Gorge de la Restonica and take a refreshing swim in one of the many natural pools of the river.
- Trip to St. Florent through the Agriate Dessert (57 km, 1 hour 15 minutes away from Algajola). Stop when you pass Col de Lavezzo and enjoy the view of the mountains of Corsica as well as Cap Corse.
- You can combine a trip to St. Florent with a visit to Bastia. In this case continue through Patrimonio, where you can stop for wine tasting and over the ridge of Cap Corse via N. 199. The descent towards Bastia offers a magnificent view of the lagoon south of Bastia. From Bastia it will take you 1 hour and 20 minutes to get back to Algajola via N.193.
- Alternatively you can continue from St. Florent up along the west coast of Cap Corse. You can make a complete tour of Cap Corse and back to Algajola in one day, but you should be willing to spend the best part of a day in the car. Otherwise just go up to visit Nonza and turn around here and go back the same way. This will already have given a fair impression of the beauty of Cap Corse.
- The bay of Porto and Girolata is protected as world heritage by UNESCO and classified as being among the 30 most beautiful costal areas in the world! (83 km, 2 hours and 30 minutes from Algajola via D.81). It is proposed to continue inland rather than going back along the cost. Continue via Evisa, Foret D'Aitone (stop here and take a very short walk down to see the waterfalls), Col de Vergio, Golo-canyon, Ponte Leccia and back to Algajola. This round trip (219 km) requires that you are willing to spend 6 hours driving, so you need to set a full day aside for this trip. The trip is never the less highly recommended, as it takes you through some of the most beautiful sceneries of Corsica.
- If you decide to spend a night in Porto the following local activities are recommended:
 - Renting a Dinky and sailing along the cost either south or north depending on the wind.
 - To continue a bit further south to visit Piana. This trip will take you through some of Corsica's most strange mountain formations called Les Calenche.
 - To get a ride up to Evisa (taxi or bus) and then hiking down through the Spelunca canyon to Ota. The hike itself will take 1½ -2 hours and the river offers refreshing pools just before you get to Ota.
- Bonifacio (215 km, 3 hours and 30 min. from Algajola) is absolutely also worth a visit, but to get there requires that you spend 7 hours in the car. The fastest route is via Ponte Leccia, Corte and Aleria. If you have the time a detour (2 more hours) over Col de Bavella is recommended. Alternatively Porto Vecchio is also worth a visit (you can for instance see how sea salt is being produced). One of Corsica's most famous and beautiful beaches, Palombaggia is found just south of Porto Vecchio.
- Ajaccio (152 km, 2 hours and 15 min. from Algajola via Corte). In stead of taking the car you could take the little train from Algajola to Ajaccio. It is certainly not faster – but it is an unforgettable experience! You can mount the train in the morning at 8:20 (according to the 2006 schedule), change train in Ponte-Leccia at 10:05 and end up in Ajaccio at 13:06. The train returns from Ajaccio at 16:44 bringing you back in Algajola at 21:19.
- Bastia (95 km via Ponte Leccia, 1 hour and 20 min. from Algajola) (77 km via St. Florent, 1 hour and 45 min. from Algajola).
- If you do not have a car the train from Algajola will take you to for instance Calvi, Ile Rousse, Bastia, Corte and even Ajaccio (if you have a full day to spend). The train ride is an experience in itself!

Jogging & walking:

- It is possible to jog or walk along the coast both in the direction towards Ile Rousse and Calvi.
- If you go west in the direction of Calvi you can either follow Avenue du Port down to the small port. If you follow the road all the way to the bottom you get to a small path (keep left of the last house on the road) leading back up across the train track to the road. This is an approx. 3 km roundtrip.
- You can also continue all the way to the marina of St. Ambroggio (8 km roundtrip). In this case you should also follow Avenue du Port in direction of the small port for a short while. Immediately before you meet the first house on your left hand you will find a small path leading along the coast through the maki all the way to St. Ambroggio. It is highly recommended to extend this hike and go all the way to Punta di Spanu – an exceptional natural reserve with a splendid view over the Calvi bay and the high mountains (15 km roundtrip from Algajola).
- If you go north in direction of Ile Rousse you can follow the road going through L'Escale and running in parallel with Aregno Plage. When the road stops (at restaurant A Rotta) you can continue on a number of paths leading through the maki all the way to Marine de Davia (approx. 6 km roundtrip).

Hiking:

- The closest hiking trail starts right behind Fiore di Lume and leads you to the peak you see, when you look straight up from the entrance of the apartment. There is a very fine view from the top.
- Another local hiking trail starts from the plane behind Aregno Plage. When going from Algajola in the direction of Ile Rousse on N 197 turn right just after Hotel Pascal Paoli. Follow the small road leading inland towards a camp site called Ranch Cantarettu City. Park the car (after you have passed the camp site) when you see the signs towards Pigna and follow the old mule path till you get there. From Pigna you can either return the same way after a refreshing lunch in one of the small restaurants you find there, or you can continue on another trail leading you via the Corbora monastery all the way up to St. Antonino. From St. Antonino a trail leads you to Algajola via Aregno.
- You can also walk to Ile Rousse via Corbora. The trail starts on your left hand shortly after you have turned off N197 in direction of Ranch Cantarettu.
- Hike in the Agriate desert from Ostriconi. Park the car for instance by the Auberge Domaine de l'Ostriconi on RN 1197. Follow the dirt road until you see the marking of the trail on your left hand. Follow this until you reach the coast and continue along the trail leading north (Sentier du littoral). Continue to the white sandy bay Cala di a Racisa where it is possible to bath. Return the same way but keep left when the trail divides into two almost parallel tracks. This hike is easy. It is approx. 15 km long and the roundtrip takes 4-5 hours. Starts and ends at sea level. Max. height is 110 m.
- Hike to Girolatta (***) (6.5 km, ca. 3 hours in total, start 269m - bottom 0m - end 269 m). Girolatta is located next to the Scandola reserve which since 1983 has been protected as world heritage by UNESCO. The village can only be reached by foot or by boat. Park the car at Col de la Croix (**), from where you have a splendid view of Golfe de Porto as well as Golfe de Girolata. (ca. 68 km, 1 hour and 30 min. from Algajola). The trail starts at Col de la Croix. After ca. 45 min. descend you reach the little deserted bay called Cala di Tuara. Take a swim before you for the next 60 min. pass Capu di Curzu till you reach the little community, Girolata. In season you will find a shop as well as several restaurants open here. Try for instance: Restaurant Bel Ombra, Tel : 04 95 20 15 67, Mobile : 06 89 61 70 68.
- Hikes in the Tartagine forrest. Go by car via Aregno, Cateri, Muro, Felicetto and keep right on D663 after Nessa. Go right on D63 just before you enter Speloncato (which is absolutely worth a visit). This narrow and winded road will take you over the mountains and into the Tartagine valley on the other side. You can park the car at the top at Bocca de a Battaglia (1 h away from Algajola) and take a 9 km round trip which will first take you down to Pioggiola and then Olmi before you mount back to the pass. There is a nice restaurant in the pass and the view is fantastic. This round trip which is marked with orange dots can be done in 3-4 hours (1128 – 758 – 1128 m).
Another very nice trip runs in the bottom of the Tartagine valley. Park the car at Bar des Amis in Capella. Follow the trail all the way to Maison Forrestiere de Tartagine-Melaja (Opening period: From 01/05/2011 to 30/10/2011. Tel. 04-95-35-68-73, (portable) 06-79-74-80-90). Try their excellent lunch before you return to Bar des Ami the same way you came. Ca. halfway you will pass an old Genovese bridge where the river forms a pool and you can take a refreshing swim. This roundtrip (12 km, takes ca. 4 hours. Return to Algajola via Belgodere.
- Hike to the glacier lake, Lac de L'Oriente (2061 m) (9 km, ca. 5 ½ hours in total, start 1040m – top 2061m– end 1040m. 1020 m height difference!) Park the car at Pont de Timozzo in Gorges de la Restonica, which in itself is worth a visit. You can swim many different places in the Restonica River. Restonica is ca. 80 km, 1 ½ hours away from Algajola. Corte is also worth a visit.
The ascent of Monte Rotondo is one of the most beautiful and impressing tours in Corsica. Due to the large altitude difference it is (one of) the most exhausting as well. The trail starts a little west of Pont de Timozzo at a mark which directs you to Lac de L'Oriente. At first it is a gravel road which later divides (take the right fork) and ends after some 30min where a marked path starts winding through a beautiful forest. After roughly an hour you reach the Bergerie de Timozzo, a farmhouse which still is in use. From the bergerie head up a wide ridge and later along the right side of the Timozzo creek. Shortly before you reach a cascade the trail crosses the creek and now starts winding up large granite steps. It finally reaches Lavu del'Oriente, the Orient Lake, at 2061m.
- Hike to the glacier lakes, Lac de Melo (1711 m) and Lac de Capitello (1930 m) (7 km, 3 ½ hours in total, 620 m in height difference). Park the car at Bergerie Grotelle in the upper end of Gorges de la Restonica. You can swim in Lac de Melo, but the water is very, very cold! Note! You should arrive early in the morning in the high season, as the parking capacity is limited.
- Hike, which requires you to be dropped off by car in the Asco canyon and picked up on the other side of the ridge in the Bonifatu Forrest. The trail starts at the upper end of the Asco canyon (**) (85 km, ca. 1 hour and 45 min. from Algajola). Follow the red/white markings of GR 20 for ca.5 km over a ridge (2148 m) and down on the other side to Spasimata (*). Here you can take a dive in the cold pools and enjoy a magnificent view. The trip continues downhill for another 5 ½ km (1½ hour) until you reach Maison Forrestiere in the Bonifatu Forrest. Before you descend from

Spasimata you can take a 100 m detour to visit Refuge Carozzu for refreshments. From the pick-up point at Maison Forrestiere there is only 28 km (30 min.) back to Algajola.

- You can obviously also just hike up to Spasimata from Maison Forrestiere and descend the same way.
- Another hike to the Bonifatu Forrest also requires drop off by car in Calenzana (18 km, 20 min. from Algajola) and subsequent pick up at Maison Forrestiere (28 km, 30 min. from Algajola). The trail is the first stage of the “Monti et Mare”.

Leaving Calenzana your route follows the famous GR20 along an old mule trail; you climb progressively up to the Ortiventi fountain, from where you can look back at Calenzana and the villages of the Balagne. You then drop down on to an old path known as the postman’s route, which cuts through the forest of Sambuccu. You pass a small Col before going gently down hill to reach the Figarella bridge. Once across the bridge you follow the left bank, and then a slight climb up to the ‘Auberge de la foret’. (9 km, 5 hours in total. Start 255m – top 580 m – end 540m).

- You can also try the second day trip of “monti et mare” starting at Maison Forrestiere in the Bonifatu Forrest and ending at Tuarelli by the Fango river. Again this requires transfer back to the starting point by taxi. At a nearby bridge you follow a forestry track that is known as the ‘chemin de ronde’, that gently climbs towards the south-west, passing the ruins of the house belonging to Prince Pierre. You then progress into a forest of maritime pines and green oak trees. At an altitude of 1200m you arrive at the Bocca di Bocassa. After approximately 3 hours of a very rewarding and relaxing section you arrive at Tuarelli rock pools, the perfect place for a laze on the sun baked rocks and a swim. You can also get a meal or a refreshment at Gite d’Etape Alzelli in Tuarelli (Dominique Leca : Tel. 04 95 62 01 75, mobile 06 10 77 31 92) before you return by taxi (36 km) to the car you left in Bonifatu. Taxies can be booked at: <http://taxi-calvi.com/index.php> Taxi Michel (Calenzana), has two 6 p. taxies. Price 150 EUR) or <http://www.taxicalvi-corse.com/>. Price 105 EUR. (17.5 km, 6 h effective walking (calculate with min. 7 hours including breaks), +620m altitude, -1050m)
- Finally, there are plenty of nice and easy hiking trails on the Revellata peninsula.

Mountain biking in the Agriate desert:

- Go by car to Casta (ca. 45 min. from Algajola). Rent mountain bikes at Relais de Salleccia (Tel : +33 4 95 37 14 60, Mobile : +33 6 67 99 35 90. Price: 17 EUR pr. day). Go through the Agriate desert ca. 12 km (1½ hour) till you reach the beach of Salleccia – one of the most beautiful and deserted beaches you can find in Europe. Continue 3 km along the coast to the beach of Loto before you return the same way back to Casta (2 h).
<http://www.hotel-corse-saleccia.com/relais-de-saleccia/bar-restaurant.php>

Boat trips:

- The nearest place to rent a boat is in St. Ambroggio (a few kilometres from Algajola in the direction of Calvi). If you are willing to spend a whole day (and the money) you can go as far south as to Porto (or at least Girolata south of the Scandola reserve depending on boat size) or north to St. Florent past the Dessert des Agriates with the beautiful Salleccia beach amongst other fantastic beaches which can only be reached by boat.
- Alternatively – if you wish to go to Scandola, Girolata and Porto by boat, you may take the car to Galeria (45 min.) and rent the boat from there. That will save you a good deal of sailing and leave you more time to explore the wonderful Scandola reserve. A semi-rigid boat for 6 persons with 50 HP will cost you in the order of 250 Euro pr. day (excl. petrol). NB! Such boats require a permit.
Boats should always be booked at least the day before.
- From Calvi it is also possible to take a tour boat from Colombo lines to Porto and back.
- If you like snorkelling you can take a ½-day or full day trip with one of the catamarans from Calvi, which will take you either south to Scandola or north to Salleccia.

Good restaurants:

- Algajola:
 - La Vielle Cave (04 95 60 70 09). Open from March to November. A very good restaurant with excellent value for money. Our favourite. It is necessary to reserve table in high season.
 - Le Chariot (04 95 60 70 49). Open March to November.
 - U Castellu (04 95 60 78 75). Open April to September.
 - A Rotta (04 95 60 74 85). (Placed in the north-east end of Aregno Plage. Open in summer season for lunch all days and for dinner certain days of the week. Very good fish here).

- La Piramide (04 95 60 70 43) (Placed across from the gas station 1 km from Algajola in the direction of Ile Rousse). Open all year round, but closed on Mondays.
- St. Antonino: La Voute (04 95 61 74 71). Open April to September.
- Cateri: Chez Leon (traditional Corsican cuisine), 135, route du Village 20225 Cateri (04 95 61 73 95).
- Pigna: A Casarella (04 95 61 78 08). Open April to September. Casa Musicale (04 95 61 77 31 - 04 95 61 76 57). Open all year.
- Ile Rousse: L'Escale (good spot for mussels), open all year, Le Grand Bleu, open April to September. Pasquale Paoli (1* in Guide Michelin).
- Lumio: Chez Charles (1* in Guide Michelin), open April to November.
- Calvi: U Fanale (restaurant gastronomique, very good and reasonably priced), Captains Resto, open April to September. Ile de Beaute.
- Corte: La Refuge in the Restonica canyon.

Shopping:

- Wine bought directly at the winery. For instance Clos Colombu in Lumio or Alzipratu in Zilia.
- Persillade, pistou, fig marmalade, honey, herbs.
- Charcuterie and cheese.
- Whisky (Altore) or Muscat bought on Route de Vin in the Patrimonio district.

Entertainment:

- Mini-golf in Calvi.
- Golf in Reginu (9 holes).
- Bowling (on RN 197 ca. 2 km from Algajola in direction of Ile Rousse).
- Polyfonic singing. Concerts are often held in churches in Calvi, Pigna or Algajola.
- Sailing. Boats can be rented in for instance St. Ambrosio, Calvi, Galeria or Porto.
- Glass bottom boat trips with Colombu lines from Calvi to for instance Scandola.
- Catamaran ½ day or full day trips up or down the coast from Calvi with snorkelling underway.
- Diving (Diving school at Aregno Plage).
- Wind, body and wave surfing from Aregno Plage.
- Kayaking from Aregno Plage or in the Fango River delta.
- Mountain biking in Balagne (bikes can be rented at Aregno Plage) or the Agriate dessert (bikes can be rented in Casta).
- Hikes on 4-wheeled motorbikes (Quads) in the Agriate dessert.
- Rafting or kayaking on the Golo or the Tavignanu rivers (white water rafting in April and Mai).
- Canyoning, for instance through the Fango river starting from Manso.