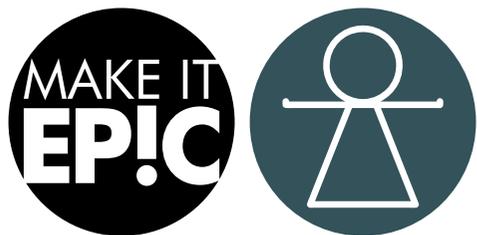




R I D E & S E E K

Split into 3 stages, each a week long on the islands of Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily, this is a journey through the history, food, architecture and traditions of these Mediterranean jewels. Mediterranean charm and hospitality is at the heart of this tour.



CORSICA, SARDINIA AND SICILY | (OCTOBER 09 - 31 | 2021)

3 Islands Overview

TOTAL DISTANCE:
1788km | 1111mi

ELEVATION:
24,878m | 81,621ft

DURATION:
23 DAYS
22 Nights



CORSICA



SARDINIA



SICILY



EXTRA LOOPS
ARE AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT THE TOUR
FOR THOSE WANTING
MORE DAILY RIDING AND
ELEVATION

Tours available from
1 WEEK



3 ISLANDS

GRADING:



STAGE 1 | CORSICA

| Ride Day | Destination | Distance (kilometres) | Elevation (metres) | Distance (miles) | Elevation (feet) |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 |  Bastia | 28 | 288 | 17 | 945 |
| 2 |  St Florent | 96 | 1151 | 60 | 3776 |
| 3 |  Calvi | 83 | 1062 | 52 | 3484 |
| 4 |  Porto | 82 | 1049 | 51 | 3442 |
| 5 |  Porticcio | 104 | 1790 | 65 | 5873 |
| 6 |  Propriano | 71 | 1398 | 44 | 4587 |
| 7 |  Bonifacio | 90 | 1760 | 56 | 5774 |
| STAGE 1 TOTALS | | 554 | 8498 | 344 | 27881 |
| STAGE 1 AVERAGES | | 79 | 1214 | 49 | 3983 |
| | | <i>7 ride days</i> | | | |

STAGE 2 | SARDINIA

| Ride Day | Destination | Distance (kilometres) | Elevation (metres) | Distance (miles) | Elevation (feet) |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 |  Santa Teresa | 47 | 645 | 29 | 2116 |
| 2 |  Castelsardo | 95 | 1610 | 59 | 5282 |
| 3 |  Alghero | 96 | 1640 | 60 | 5381 |
| 4 |  Cabras | 100 | 1556 | 62 | 5105 |
| 5 |  Buggerru | 108 | 1400 | 67 | 4593 |
| 6 |  Calasetta | 48 | 800 | 30 | 2625 |
| 7 |  Cagliari | 100 | 916 | 62 | 3005 |
| STAGE 2 TOTALS | | 594 | 8567 | 369 | 28107 |
| STAGE 2 AVERAGES | | 85 | 1224 | 53 | 4015 |
| | | <i>7 ride days</i> | | | |

STAGE 3 | SICILY

| Ride Day | Destination | Distance (kilometres) | Elevation (metres) | Distance (miles) | Elevation (feet) |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 |  Palermo | 35 | 380 | 22 | 1247 |
| 2 |  Trapani | 101 | 1442 | 63 | 4731 |
| 3 |  Selinunte | 104 | 389 | 65 | 1276 |
| 4 |  Agrigento | 108 | 1279 | 67 | 4196 |
| 5 |  Piazza Armerina | 106 | 1740 | 66 | 5709 |
| 6 |  Ragusa | 94 | 1500 | 58 | 4921 |
| 7 |  Siracusa | 92 | 1083 | 57 | 3553 |
| STAGE 3 TOTALS | | 640 | 7813 | 398 | 25633 |
| STAGE 3 AVERAGES | | 91 | 1116 | 57 | 3662 |
| | | <i>7 ride days</i> | | | |

| | | Distance (km) | Elevation (m) | Distance (miles) | Elevation (feet) |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| EPIC TOTALS | | 1788 | 24878 | 1111 | 81621 |
| EPIC AVERAGES | | 85 | 1185 | 53 | 3887 |
| | | <i>21 ride days</i> | | | |

TOTAL DISTANCE:
1788km | 1111mi

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24,878m | 81,621ft

DURATION:
23 DAYS
22 Nights

EXTRA LOOPS
ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE TOUR FOR THOSE WANTING MORE DAILY RIDING AND ELEVATION

Ride with us across 3 sun-kissed islands at the crossroads of the Mediterranean.



The beautiful Mediterranean Islands of Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily

The exceptional diversity of the islands is represented through the numerous civilisations and cultures that have left their mark. The amazing gastronomic variations, the strikingly rugged interior landscapes paired with stunning coastlines of white beaches and emerald waters, and locals with an incredibly strong sense of place. The Mediterranean charm is truly at the heart of this tour.

We ride from North to South beginning with Corsica, home of Napoleon. Its mountainous North contrasts beautifully with idyllic beaches and fishing villages. From here we head to Sardinia a land of towering cliffs, beach coves and unique history. Then finally to Sicily where rolling farmland, volcanoes and stunning coastline is littered with classical sites in exceptional settings.



First day guidance

For meeting at the start of each stage please come dressed in regular clothes. Look out for the guides at the appointed time in their Ride & Seek attire or simply ask at the hotel reception where to find the group and they will direct you accordingly. The usual first day format involves grabbing a bite to eat together and the guides talking about the tour. We then focus on fitting bikes and set a time to meet in bike gear for a warm-up ride before catching up for pre-dinner drinks with the rest of the group.

STAGE 1 – Corsica

Saturday 9th October – Saturday 16th October

For 3 Islanders and Stage 1 riders we will meet you at 12:00 at the Hotel Port Toga – www.hotel-port-toga.com/en/ – on Saturday 9th October in Bastia. The gateway airport is Bastia and it is a 25 minute taxi ride from the airport. The hotel is situated directly in front of the Bastia ferry port and so is also convenient if you choose to arrive by ferry.

If you are only riding Stage 1 the most convenient exit point is Figari airport which is a 20 minute taxi ride from Bonifacio. Those that are continuing to Sardinia will catch the ferry to Santa Teresa Gallura on the morning of Saturday 16th October. The ferry takes around 50 minutes.



STAGE 2 – Sardinia

Saturday 16th October – Saturday 23rd October

For those joining us on Stage 2 the official meet time is 13:00 on Saturday 16th October at the Hotel Corallaro – www.hotelcorallaro.it/en/ – in Santa Teresa Gallura. The most convenient airport is Olbia which is about an hour away from the hotel. Let us know if you require assistance with getting from the airport as we have a couple of good shuttle contacts to share. After you've settled into the hotel we'll go out for a welcome lunch in the town.

If you are leaving after Stage 2 you will stay in Cagliari on Friday 22nd October and we will arrange a shuttle to take you to Cagliari airport after breakfast on Saturday 23rd October.

STAGE 3 – Sicily

Saturday 24th October – Sunday 31st October

If you are joining us on Stage 3 we will meet you at 12.00 on Sunday 24th October at the Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa – www.piazzaborsa.it/en/ – in Palermo. The gateway airport is Palermo Airport which is about a 30-minute taxi ride. We offer a pick-up from Palermo airport if you arrive on the first day of the tour. When we meet we will either help you set up your own bike or fit you to one of ours. That evening you will have the chance to meet the rest of the group at dinner in the city.

Tour Conclusion

Sunday 31st October

The official end of the tour is after breakfast on Sunday 31st October. Our final abode is called the Hotel Livingstone which is situated on Ortigia in the city of Siracusa. We offer a shuttle to Catania airport after breakfast which takes around 55 minutes. We suggest not booking any flights before 12pm if you intend to use the complimentary shuttle. If you choose to stay additional nights in Siracusa we have a good taxi contact for getting to Catania at the end of your stay.

3 Islands

TOTAL DISTANCE:
1788km | 1111mi

ELEVATION:
24,878m | 81,621ft

DURATION:
23 DAYS
22 Nights

STAGE 1 - Corsica

- Ride along spectacular coastal roads.
- Discover the divine landscape of the Cap Corse.
- Sample the amazing charcuterie.
- Explore the beautiful and romantic town of Bonifacio.
- Marvel at the UNESCO listed Scandola Nature Reserve.
- Learn about the origins & significance of the Vendetta.

TOTAL DISTANCE:
554km | 344mi

ELEVATION:
8498 | 27,881ft

DURATION:
8 DAYS
7 Nights

STAGE 2 - Sardinia

- Experience a range of contrasting landscapes as we travel north to south.
- Ruminant over the enduring mystery of the nuraghi that dot the landscape.
- Dine on some of the finest seafood you'll eat anywhere.
- Sample the delights of the Cannonau & Vermentino wines.
- Marvel at the sound of the 4 tenors.

TOTAL DISTANCE:
594km | 369mi

ELEVATION:
8567m | 28,107ft

DURATION:
8 DAYS
7 Nights

STAGE 3 - Sicily

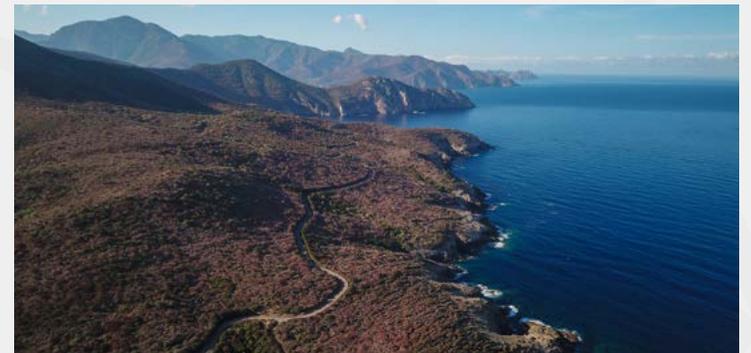
- Peel away the layers of history that define this ancient land.
- Gorge on the finest gastronomy in the Med.
- Explore the back streets of the bustling towns of Palermo, Siracusa and Ragusa.
- Dine in the shadow of the Temple of Athena.
- Visit the amazing archaeological sites of Selinunte & Villa Romana di Casale.

TOTAL DISTANCE:
640km | 398mi

ELEVATION:
7813m | 25,633ft

DURATION:
9 DAYS
8 Nights

CLICK to see the Ride & Seek website for details of tour dates and prices



We carefully select the places where we stay based on their personality and the hospitality of our hosts.

Each island is very diverse and this is reflected in the range of accommodations we have selected. Many have sea views and over the years the hoteliers have become personal friends. From 5 star luxury in Ortigia to a family run agriturismo in the Sicilian countryside our choices give a real sense of the character of the people and places we visit.



Hotel Ortigia, Sicily

A spectacular 5 star hotel in the heart of Ortigia the historic centre Siracusa. Overlooking the harbour it serves as a fitting end to our Island odyssey.

Hotel Calabona, Sardinia

Overlooking the Coral Riviera and with spectacular views of the heads this 4 star hotel provides a great base for exploring the enchanting town of Alghero.

Hostellerie De L'Abbaye, Corsica

Back in the 14th century this charming 4 star hotel was a monastery. Situated within easy walking distance of the historic centre of Calvi it has views of both the sea and the mountains.

Antico Convento Dei Cappuccini, Sicily

As the name suggests this is converted monastery in Ragusa that has been tastefully renovated into a lovely 4 star hotel. Right in the centre of the old part of the city it could not have a better position.

Hotel Genovese, Corsica

This refined 4 star hotel in the romantic town of Bonifacio provides a lovely finish to our ride in Corsica. With sweeping views and a perfect position to explore the town it is another great final hotel.

The 3 islands of Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily are so varied and rich in their history that taking a page to surmise their historic existence would be somewhat foolhardy! On tour we will experience this diversity in culture and history which ranges from Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arabic, Norman, Renaissance, Baroque and a complex modern relationship with their 'bigger brothers' France and Italy. So for this historic peek at the 3 Islands we will solely examine how these islands symbolise their own existence.

It is little wonder with this vast array of influences that both Corsica and Sardinia choose a symbol called 'La Testa di Moru' – the Moor's head which originates in the Kingdom of Aragon and was used in Sardinia after the Aragonese conquest in 1297. Four Moorish heads are separated by a cross of St George – it is called the 'Is Cuatru Morus' – the Four Moors. The Corsican version portrays a Moor's Head in black wearing a white bandana above his eyes on a white background. Previously the bandana covered his eyes but Paoli, the Corsica folk hero from the 18th century, wanted the bandana moved above the eyes to symbolise the liberation of the Corsican people. The symbol was practically banned after 1769, when France forced the Genovesi to sell the island to them to settle their debts. During this period under French rule, 1769–1789, Corsican patriots again used the version of the flag with blindfolded eyes, as a mark of protest. This was the era in which Napoleon grew up in on his native Corsica.

As for Sicily, it represents itself with the Trinacria, a fantastic symbol, which is the head of Medusa (a gorgon with a head of snakes), surrounded by three bent running legs, and three stalks of wheat. A complex symbol but what are they getting at? Sicily was known by the Romans as Trinacrium, meaning 'star with three points'. The three bent running legs represent the three capes of Sicily which are Peloro (Messina: North-East), Passero (Syracuse: South), and Lilibeo (Marsala: West). Supposedly Sicilians likened and compared them to a woman's legs! The three ears of wheat, surrounding the head of Medusa, represent the fertility of the land of Sicily. The central Medusa head in the middle of the Trinacria implies the protection of the island by the goddess Athena, the patron goddess of Sicily! A decidedly complex ancient symbol, perfect for us to find out more about on tour!

After this complexity, we chose the simple Tanit symbol to represent our travels on the 3 Islands. Tanit is a Punic and Phoenician goddess, one of the chief deities of the Phoenician people of Western Europe and was worshipped in Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica from around the 5th century BC onwards giving us a common theme! Her symbol is interpreted as a woman raising her hands and she is sometimes depicted with a lion's head, showing her warrior quality.



What our guests have to say...



After my 12 years of riding bike tours and adventures, and my second tour with Ride & Seek, I believe Dylan and his professional guides have the magic formula.

Every detail is covered and no request is too large, so all I needed to do was turn the pedals and enjoy the ride. I can't say enough about the route, food, wine, and accommodations, however, the icing on the cake is their knowledge of the local history and culture. Thank you, Dylan and team, and keep up the great work.

Ted V



The ride offered stunning scenery day after day as we rode from Bay to Bay and occasionally an inland mountain pass on mostly good road surfaces. The tour was well planned and ran without a hitch thanks to the fantastic guides. As per all Ride & Seek rides, the cuisine and wine was exceptional and enjoyed with good company.

Jo & Tony B



I am still coming down off the high from the Three Islands tour and, just like the Caesar tour, reminiscing how lovely life was on my bike, staying in exotic places with fine dining and being spoilt rotten by the Ride & Seek support staff.

Jeremy T

www.rideandseek.com



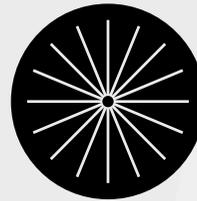
WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Go to our website at:

<https://rideandseek.com/tour/3-islands-corsica-sardinia-and-sicily/>

to find out more information, a recommended reading lists, testimonials and much more.

Alternatively, contact us at info@rideandseek.com or **+61 (0) 2 8007 3161**



R I D E & S E E K

3 Islands Overview