



### Local Currency

The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

Local banks can also exchange currency and are usually open from 9:00 a.m. - Noon and 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed on weekends. There is a foreign exchange kiosk located inside the port's terminal building.



### Office/Telephone Facilities

The main Post Office **8** (tel.: 95 21 13 60) is located downtown at 5 Cours Napoléon. The Post Office also provides a foreign exchange service.

Telephones are available in the terminal building, which is a short walk from the tender landing area. These phones can be operated by use of a credit card or local phone card. Instructions are displayed in five languages.

AT&T: 0800-99-0011 / MCI: 0800-99-0019 / SPRINT: 0800-99-0087



### Tourist Information

The main Tourist Information Office is located at 1 Place Foch along Place du Foch **4**, off of the bay front promenade south of the tender landing area, tel.: (04) 95 21 03 64. This office can provide written information and maps but very few of its representative speak languages other than French fluently.



### Transportation

Downtown Ajaccio is a short walk, approximately 1/4 mile (.5 km.), from the pier and terminal building. Taxis are available at the pier and downtown, but few drivers speak English. Fares within the city limits are metered.



### Useful Words

Yes • Oui No • Non  
Good Day • Bonjour  
Good Bye • Au Revoir Thank You • Merci  
You're Welcome • De Rien

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# Ajaccio

The city of Ajaccio is the cultural and political capital of the island of Corsica. Renowned as the birth place of Napoleon Bonaparte, Ajaccio's many squares and streets pay homage to the conqueror who never returned home. Located along Corsica's west coast, Ajaccio is a short drive away from hospitable beaches, soaring mountains, and unforgettable gorges. Visitors to the capital can walk along the quaint streets of its old town, stroll along the city's waterfront promenade, or venture out of the city and take in some of the island's unique natural beauty.



*Corse*, as it's pronounced in French, is as geographically diverse as many large countries, claiming more than 600 miles of coastline, large pine forests, and a mountainous continental divide topped with winter ski resorts. Corsica is home to other natural wonders, including the Prunelli Gorges and Les Calanches, a colorful spectacle of red granite mountains that tower above the aquamarine waters of the Mediterranean. The mountains of Les Calanches are said to change color with the movement of the sun. Mediterranean cultures have praised the island's natural beauty for centuries. As early as the 6th century BC the Greeks referred to Corsica as 'Kalliste', *the beautiful*.

Many native Corsicans retain an air of independence, regardless of the island's long history of occupation and foreign rule. The official language is French, however, the population of almost 260,000, speak their own language, an unusual mixture of Italian and French called Corsu. A common symbol seen throughout the island is the Moor wearing a headband. This is the symbol of independent Corsica, and many locals support a political platform of independence from France.



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**1** **Cathedrale** is Ajaccio's 16th century cathedral located in the old city. The Cathedrale is dedicated to 'La Madonuccia', or *Little Madonna*, the city's patron saint who is thought to have protected the residents from black plague epidemics. It houses the painting by Eugène Delacroix, *Virgin of the Sacred Heart*. Located to the right of the main entrance is Napoleon Bonaparte's baptismal font, where he was baptized in July of 1771.

**2** **Maison Bonaparte**, located on the Rue de Letizia just off Rue Saint Charles, was the house where Napoleon was born and raised. A plaque above the entrance signifies Napoleon's birth on August 15, 1769. On display are family portraits, period furniture and memorabilia.

