

2. Itinerary from Marina di Scarlino

Elba Island, Capraia and Corsica



1 week



about 158 miles

Marina di Scarlino - Portoferraio	22 miles
Portoferraio - Capraia	28 miles
Capraia - Macinaggio	20 miles
Macinaggio - Bastia	17 miles
Bastia - Marina di Campo	36 miles
Marina di Campo - Porto Azzurro	14 miles
Porto Azzurro - Marina di Scarlino	21 miles





DAY 1 • MARINA DI SCARLINO – PORTOFERRAIO

Must-see places in **Portoferraio** certainly include its historic center with colorful buildings bordering the dock; Boutiques, little shops, fish restaurants, lounge bars: you will certainly find something for you. Behind and to the sides of the dock of Portoferraio, there are still ancient Medici fortifications and splendid walls that surround the town. Forte Falcone is the most imposing structure, Forte Stella with its lighthouse is the most romantic, and Torre dellaLinguella or del Martello is the symbol of the port, as it welcomes sailors arriving on the island. The discovery of the Medici fortresses not only offers the sight of fortifications kept in excellent condition, but also breathtaking views of Portoferraio and the whole inlet on which the port town rises. If youprefer overnight in midstream you can reach the beaches: Le Chiaie, Sansone or La Biodola.

DAY 2 • PORTOFERRAIO – CAPRAIA

The **Island of Capraia** is in the Strait of Corsica, and, since it measures 19 square kilometres, it is the third largest island in the Tuscan Archipelago. The island has about 300 inhabitants, and at a distance of 54 km, the furthest from the mainland, is actually nearer Corsica than Italy; There are two populated areas on the island: the port and the small town, that is also the oldest part, behind the Fort of San Giorgio. Capraia is considered geological paradise because it is the only volcanic island in the Archipelago. The sea bed in Capraia is much loved by snorkelers and deep sea divers, because there is a great amount of Posidonia rich in groupers, dentex and gilthead bream. There are also many cetaceans in this area, and for this reason the Pelagos International Sanctuary of Marine Mammals has been created, and is the largest protected sea area in Europe.

DAY 3 • CAPRAIA – MACINAGGIO

Macinaggio is considered the liveliest centre on the Cap Corse peninsula, frequented mainly by yachtsmen and sailors who use its marina. Old traditional fishing boats still dock here and a small auction is held in the morning where fresh fish is sold. The village is most famous for one of the region's most precious gems, the Tamarone beach. This long ribbon of fine white sand encloses a magnificent, crystal-clear Caribbean sea. If you like walking, we recommend walking part of the Sentiero dei Doganieri, in particular the section from Macinaggio to Barcaggio (4 hours). The route is suitable for everyone. There are no refreshment points. Along the coast there are bays and small beaches where you can swim or relax. This section of the Sentiero dei Doganieri succeeds masterfully in combining a passion for walking with a passion for the sea.



DAY 4 • MACINAGGIO – BASTIA

Divided into three neighbourhoods, Place Saint-Nicolas, Terra Vecchia-Vieux Port and Citadel, **Bastia** is a town perched on a cliff, full of narrow streets, an old harbor teeming with fishing boats and a popular Mediterranean atmosphere.

Impressive in size, surrounded by palm trees and bourgeois palaces, framed by a statue of Napoleon Place Saint Nicolas is a must-see on a visit to the city. Very lively throughout the summer season, this emblematic place in Bastia has many bars, cafés and restaurants.

Citadel: built on a rocky promontory in 1380, thanks to the idea of a Genoese governor, the citadel contains a maze of picturesque alleyways, adorned with warmly coloured palaces and delightful little restaurants overlooking the sea. The Old Port is another iconic place in the city. Located in the heart of the old town, between the Citadel and Place du Marché, this picturesque district is the perfect place to enjoy an ice cream while strolling along the water. Rich in history, the port retains all its authenticity and offers tourists an inimitable setting: here you will find many small cafés, bars, restaurants and shops, in an entirely pedestrian environment during the summer months.



DAY 5 • BASTIA – MARINA DI CAMPO

On the way between Bastia and Marina di Campo, sighting the island of Elba, we recommend a stop in Pomonte at the wreck of the Elviscot: located about 150 mt. from Pomonte beach, is probably one of the most visited wrecks in Italy. It lies at a depth of just -12 mt. on the south-west side of the Oglieria rock. Its proximity to the coast, the near absence of currents and the shallow depth at which it lies make the dive suitable even for less experienced divers and snorkelers.

On the eastern side of Cavoli, you can go and discover the splendid Grotta Azzurra.

The beach at Marina di Campo is the longest on Elba island (1300 mt). The picturesque old town with its watchtower and pine forest frame the beautiful bay.





DAY 6 • MARINA DI CAMPO – PORTO AZZURRO

There are interesting places to see along the south coast. Here are some of them: Cala di Punta di Mele lies between Ripa Nera and Cala dell' Ongio and it can only be reached by sea. It is a pebble beach surrounded by majestic white granites overhanging the crystal-clear sea. Cala di Punta della Contessa is a small beach nestled between the more famous Laconella and Lacona. The beach is topped by the remains of an old World War II bunker. Lacona is a long beach of fine golden sand, unique in the entire Tuscan Archipelago, which has preserved intact some dunes. There are many bathing establishments and water sports facilities on the beach. We recommend a visit to Capoliveri, a small town with unusual and characteristic architecture makes you feel as though you are in a medieval town, with its narrow, picturesque alleys.

From June to September until 00.30 a.m., there is a bus service connecting Capoliveri with the beaches of Naregno, Straccoligno, Madonna delle Grazie, Morcone, Pareti, Innamorata, Lido di Capoliveri, Lacona and Marina di Capoliveri.



DAY 7 • PORTO AZZURRO – RIO MARINA – MARINA DI SCARLINO

The charming fishing village of **Porto Azzurro** is in the center of the Gulf of Mola, the most welcoming bay on the east coast of the Elba Island. In Porto Azzurro, you will find the mighty Fortress of San Giacomo built by Don Garcia de Toledo in 1603 on the top of the promontory that dominated the town, taking up the structure of the fortress of Antwerp. Today, it's a prison and can only be partially visited. The village developed at the foot of the fortress. Walking through the small streets of the historic center, you can admire the Church of the Madonna del Carmine and the adjacent Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Mary, both from the 18th century. Near to the village, about 1 km away from the center, you can visit the Little Mine, a small-scale reconstruction of the mine and the activity that once took place there. Once at the site, a small train takes you on a 250-meter route in a tunnel to observe the interesting elements of life in the mines, from the various stages of mining to the great variety of minerals obtained.

Rio Marina was once looked upon as the Iron Capital of the Island of Elba. The mines and the port in Rio Marina were used for extracting and transporting the iron mineral that, even today, with its sparkling reddish colour it is typical of more or less the whole town. All the old mines are on the eastern side of Elba. Today these mines, after the last one closed in 1981, has given way to tourism, and in Rio Marina the buildings that were once part of the mines have been made into museums: Museum of Minerals, Mining Art and the Historical Archive of the Mines of Elba. Return to Marina di Scarlino.