

## CORSICA AND MONT BLANC

Part 1: Corsica 11 - 23 June / Part 2 Mont Blanc 24 June - 5 July 2025

Do one part or both!

This trip is a grand opportunity to combine a Mediterranean island visited by relatively few with a continental massif visited by thousands.

### PART 1: HIGHLIGHTS OF CORSICA

Corsica belongs to France, but is staunchly independent, including its own ancient language. It is a mountainous island. We avoid the arduous "G20" trail by selecting two alternatives which are less crowded and less demanding.

**Leader:** Astrid Brauksiepe

**Price:** \$3995

(based on a minimum of 10 participants and subject to currency fluctuations)

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Flights and transport to / from the start and finish points.
- Airport transfer fees.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal incidentals, excursions, and entry to attractions.
- Drinks



DAY	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
Day 1 Wednesday 11 June	The group gathers in Porto Vecchio after flying to Figari Sud Corse airport (lots of flight connections from mainland Europe) or taking a ferry from Toulon, Nice, or Marseilles. It is also possible to reach Porto-Vecchio by public bus from Bastia (3h) or Ajaccio (3h) ( <i>own arrangements</i> ).	Porto Vecchio

**You need to be in Porto Vecchio by early evening.**

Porto Vecchio is an ancient town in southeast Corsica that dates back to ancient times. The city is built on a cliff and offers some spectacular views over the sea and its old port. The city centre is very romantic with medieval streets and many cafeterias and eating places. The city is one of the most popular in Corsica and thousands of passengers disembark at its ancient port every year to spend their vacation.

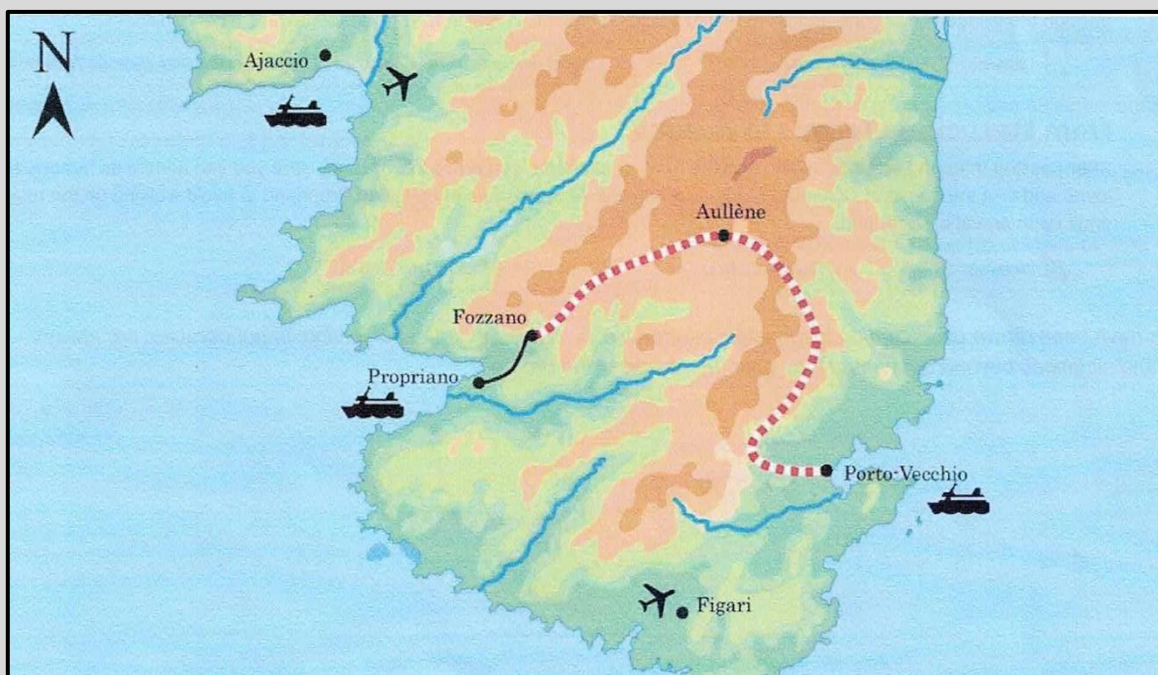
Initial gathering and briefing at 8.00 p.m.

**MARE A MARE (SEA TO SEA) SOUTH TRAIL: PORTO-VECCHIO TO PROPRIANO  
(6 days, 5 nights)**

This mid-mountain hike is an emblematic and not-to-be-missed itinerary criss-crossing the southernmost part of the Corsican mountains, from Porto-Vecchio in the east to Propriano in the west, through the Alta Rocca, the “Land of the Lords”. It traverses paths still only used by a few shepherds. The grey-green of the maquis, the holm oaks and the emerald of the Laricio pines will imbue you day after day with the scents and colours of what is commonly known as the Corsican soul.

Moderate: Path with few technical difficulties

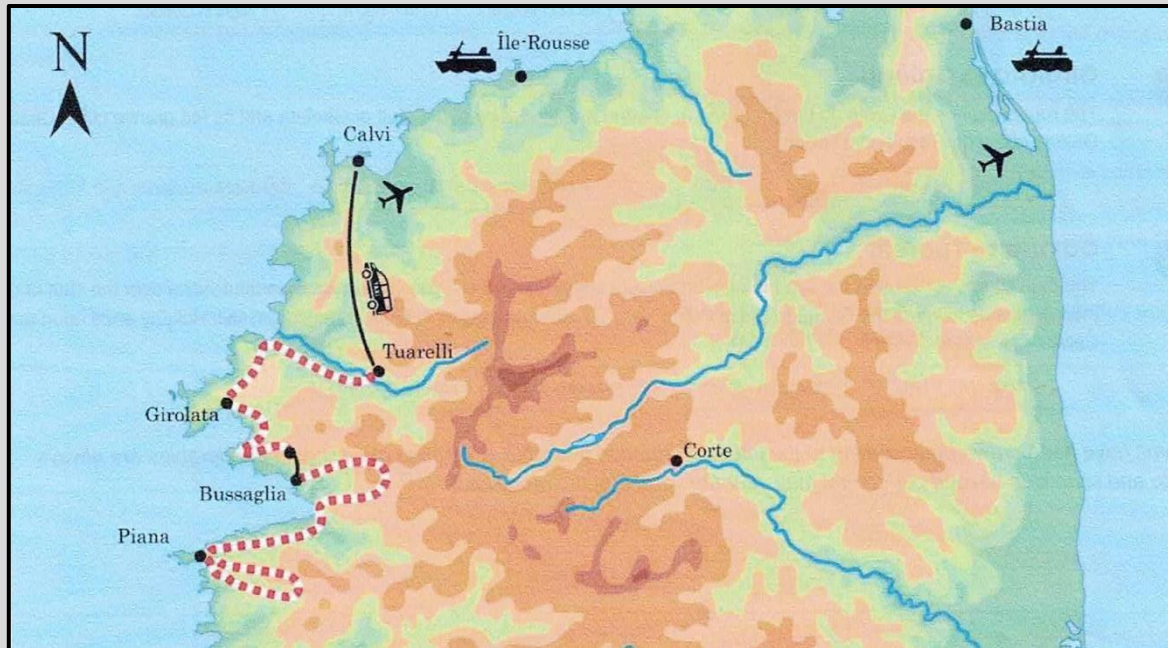
Daily luggage transfer by vehicle: You only need to carry your personal belongings in a small day pack. Continental breakfast and 3-course dinners included. Dinner in Porto-Vecchio not included. Accommodation in dormitories and a hotel. Times given are actual walking times, not including breaks.



Day 2 Thursday 12 June	<b>Porto-Vecchio to Cartalavonu.</b> Leaving behind the blue waters of the far south, you will discover Corsica's interior, with its many villages. You will cross the Ospedale Forest, replete with maritime pines. Distance:15 km. Duration: 5h Ascent +1130m. Descent -100m.	Cartalavonu
Day 3 Friday 13 June	<b>Cartalavonu to Levie.</b> Depart for the Alta Rocco ad its highlands, where the views of the Ospedale, the Gulf of Valincu and the Aiguilles de Bavella are superb. The village of Cabini and its Pisan church will enchant you. Distance: 12 km. Duration: 5h Ascent +670m. Descent -1120m.	Levie
Day 4 Saturday 14 June	<b>Levie to Serra di Scopamena.</b> Leaving Levie, the route passes the archaeological site of Cucuruzzu, then climbs to the village of Quenza. Discover the hamlet of Ghjalicu, an ancient transhumance site, before heading for Auliene or Serra di Scopamena. Distance: 18 km. Duration: 6h30m Ascent +900m. Descent -630m.	Serra di Scopamena
Day 5 Sunday 15 June	<b>Serra di Scopamena to Sainte Lucie de Tallano.</b> A long descent through chestnut and oak trees to the Rizzanese River and its pools. After the Tighjarellu Pass, the route passes through the village of Altagene and on to Sainte Lucie de Tallano, a region renowned for its olive oil and mills. Distance: 10 km. Duration: 4h Ascent +570m. Descent -800m.	Sainte Lucie de Tallano
Day 6 Monday 16 June	<b>Ste Lucie de Tallano to Fozzano.</b> After passing through Loretto di Tallano and the ruins of Altanaria, you arrive in Fozzano. Here you can admire its famous 15 <sup>th</sup> century tower and visit the house of Colomba, Merimee's heroine. At 3 p.m. transfer by taxi to Ajaccio. Distance: 12 km. Duration: 4h30m Ascent +710m. Descent -720m.	Ajaccio
Day 7 Tuesday 17 June	<b>Rest Day in Ajaccio</b> Ajaccio was the birthplace of Napoleon. We recommend a walk along the Sentier Des Cretes overlooking the city and the Gulf of Ajaccio. The views of mountains and sea are spectacular.	Ajaccio
<b>MARE E MONTI (SEA AND MOUNTAINS) TRAIL: PIANA TO CALVI (6 days, 5 nights)</b>		
From the village of Piana, perched on the west coast, the hike starts in the UNESCO site of the Calanches de Piana, which plunge into the Gulf of Porto. You then follow the coast to reach the villages of Girolata, Galeria and finally Calvi. The agenda includes the jagged coastline and high mountains of the Corsican Regional Park, untrodden coastal and mountain paths, and the Scandola Nature reserve.		

Moderate: Path with few technical difficulties.

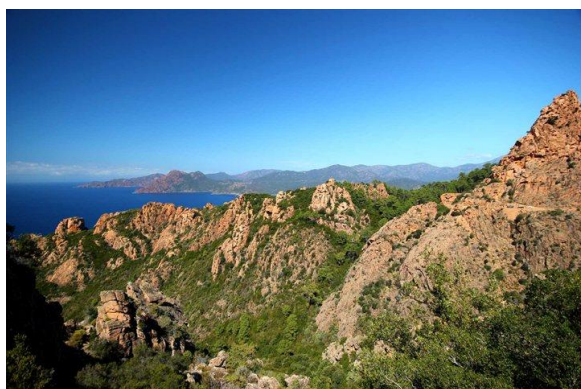
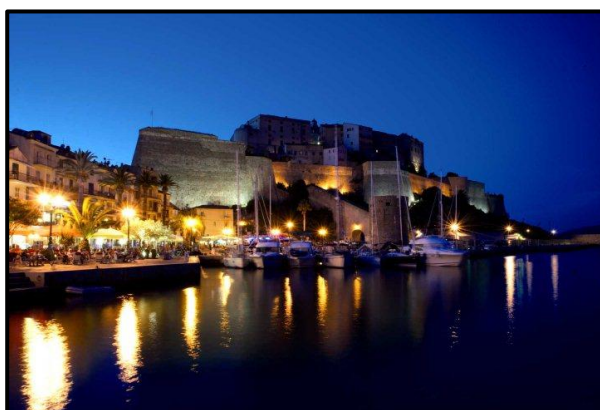
Daily luggage transfer by vehicle (except no access to luggage at Girolata). You only need to carry your personal belongings in a small day pack. Continental breakfast and 3-course dinners included. Dinners in Piana and Porto not included. Accommodation is a mix of double/twin rooms and dormitories, Times given are actual walking times, not including breaks.



<p>Day 8 Wednesday 18 June</p>	<p>Your journey begins at the bus station in Ajaccio. We take the 10.15 a.m. bus to the village of Piana (1h30m). <b>Piana to Porto.</b> The path rises through the maquis. Beautiful views over the Gulf of Porto as you cross the creeks. The path then plunges gently down towards the sea to reach the Porto marina. Distance: 12 km. Duration: 4h30m. Ascent +140m. Descent -540m.</p>	<p>Porto</p>
<p>Day 9 Thursday 19 June</p>	<p><b>Porto to Serriera.</b> You will leave Porto and cross the Vitrone Ravione, with its red porphyry walls, before arriving at Capu San Petru, a superb rocky lookout point overlooking Serriera and the surrounding area. Arrive at Serriera via the Lonca Forest road, Distance: 10 km. Duration: 6h Ascent +900m. Descent -850m.</p>	<p>Serriera</p>
<p>Day 10 Friday 20 June</p>	<p><b>Serriera to Girolata.</b> Early morning transfer to reach the village of Partinello. The route leads through fragrant scrubland down to the seafront, winding along the jagged coastline before climbing back up to Bocca Groce. There is an exceptional view of the Scandola Nature Reserve, one of Europe's major natural sites, offering an explosion of colours</p>	<p>Girolata</p>

	and landscapes. Follow the balcony path to Girolata, a small fishing hamlet inaccessible by road. Distance: 13 km. Duration: 5h30m Ascent +710m. Descent -890m.	
Day 11 Saturday 21 June	<b>Girolata to Galeria.</b> The route reaches the Crete du Lucciu (697m), offering a unique view of the Gulf of Girolata ad its red granite cliffs. Descent to Galeria along the Tavulaghju Stream. Distance: 11 km. Duration: 6h Ascent +780m. Descent -750m.	Galeria
Day 12 Sunday 22 June	<b>Galeria to Tuarelli.</b> The path climbs up through the scrubland, past ancient sheepfolds, where you can admire beautiful views over the Gulf of Galeria. It then descends towards the Fangu to reach Pote Vecchju. After arriving to Tauarelli, transfer to Calvi. Distance: 9 km. Duration: 4h Ascent +320m. Descent -240m.	Calvi
Days 13 and 14 Monday 23 June Tuesday 24 June	Travel Days: <i>Own arrangements.</i> Those going on to Part 2 should make their way to Chamonix. Fly out of Calvi or travel to Bastia and take the ferry to Genoa. A detour via Milan is an option.	Your choice

The Citadel at Calvi



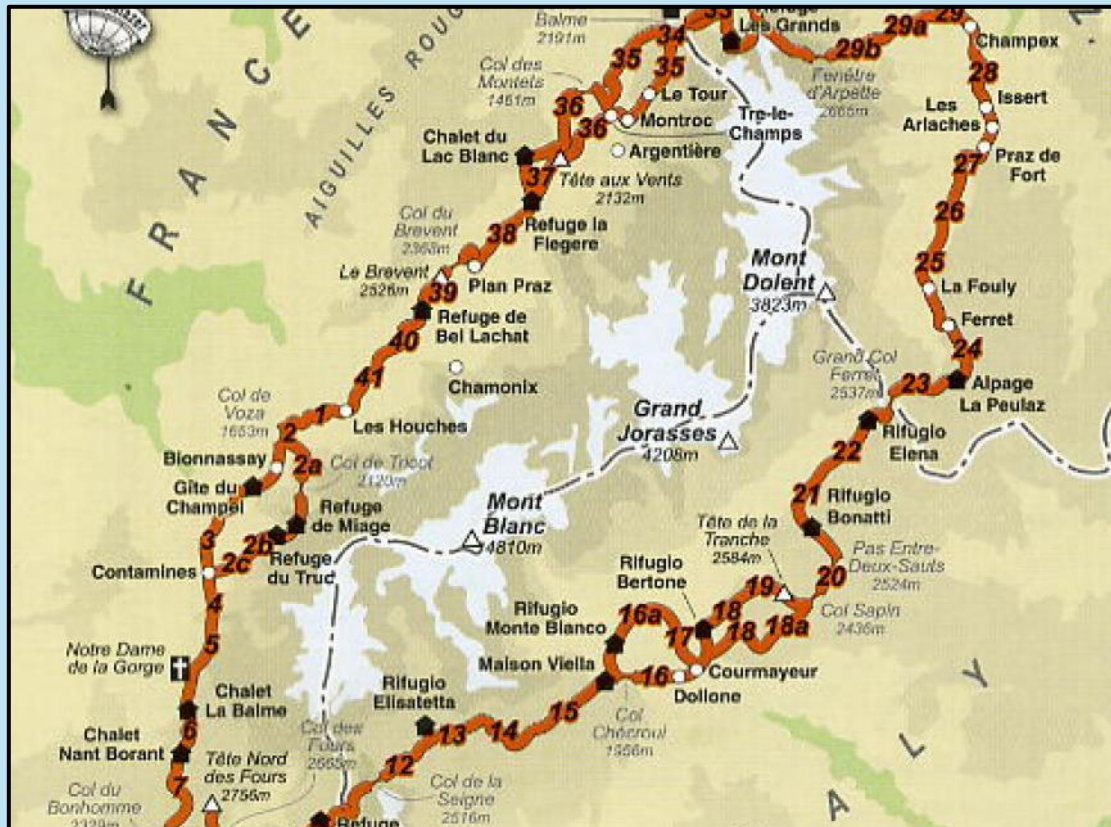
Les Calanques de Piana

## PART 2: CIRCUIT OF MONT BLANC

(10 days, 9 nights)

The circuit of Mont Blanc has it all: Panoramic trails through three different countries will take you through the Montagne de la Saxe, Col Checroui and Col des Fours – just stunning!

Already celebrating its bi-centenary, this trail was travelled for the first time in 1767 by Horace-Benedicte de Saussure, who even then was accompanied by mules and guides. Comfortable lodges and hotels will give you plenty of time to contemplate the magnificent vistas in the evening after a nice hot shower!



Moderate. 4-6 non-consecutive hours of walking per day.

An average of 12-15 km of walking and 1000m of climbing per day.

Accommodation is in lodges, refuges, and hotels. 5 nights in twin-share rooms, 4 nights in small dorms. Luggage transported, so you only carry a day-pack.

All meals provided in refuges. Half board in hotels.

**Leader:** Phillip Donnell

(accompanied by a certified mountain guide who knows the area perfectly).

**Price per person:** \$NZ3995

(based on a minimum of 10 participants and subject to currency fluctuations)

Price does not include:

- Flights and transport to / from the start and finish points
- Airport transfer fees.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal incidentals, excursions, and entry to attractions.
- Drinks

DAY	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
Day 1 Tuesday 24 June	Gather in Chamonix. You need to be there by early evening Initial gathering and briefing at 8.00 p.m. From Geneva Airport there is an express shuttle to Chamonix. You may also reach Chamonix by train or by bus.	Chamonix
Day 2 Wednesday 25 June	We make our way from Chamonix to Les Houches, where we meet in front of the Bellevue cable car at 9.30 a.m. <b>Les Houches to Miage Refuge.</b> We climb up Col de Voza then cross beneath Bionnassay Glacier. We descend through the Miage alpine meadow to this peaceful hamlet below the stunning Dômes de Miage. Duration: 5h. Ascent: +1109m. Descent -914m.	Miage Refuge
Day 3 Thursday 26 June	<b>Miage Refuge to Bonhomme Refuge.</b> We enter Les Contamines Montjoie Nature reserve along the old Roman road. Beaufortain Range appears as we reach Col du Bonhomme. Maybe we'll see ibexes grazing around before night. Duration: 6h. Ascent: +1300m. Descent -500m.	Bonhomme Refuge
Day 4 Friday 27 June	<b>Bonhomme Refuge to Elisabetta Refuge.</b> After a beautiful descent in the Vallée des Glaciers, we enter Italy through Col de la Seigne. Mont Blanc summit dominates the Val Veny, its glaciers and the limestones pyramids: Here is the realm of marmots in a mineral world. Duration: 6h. Ascent: +960m. Descent -998m.	Elisabetta Refuge
Day 5 Saturday 28 June	<b>Elisabetta Refuge to Bertone Refuge.</b> A morning walk along Lac Combal at the foot of the huge Miage glacier. Val Veny is precious and offers amazing views of Mont Blanc summit and sharp pinnacles. We pass through Courmayeur and then get to Bertone, a haven of peace. Duration: 6h. Ascent: +1100m. Descent -1200m.	Bertone Refuge
Day 6 Sunday 29 June	<b>Bertone Refuge to Elena Refuge.</b> A spectacular day facing the heart of the Mont-Blanc range on a panoramic trail: the mythic Grandes Jorasses, Triolet and Pré-de-Bar glaciers are on the menu today. Duration: 5h. Ascent: +704m. Descent -631m.	Elena Refuge
Day 7 Monday 30 June	<b>Elena Refuge to La Fouly.</b> We leave the Italian Ferret Valley crossing Grand Col Ferret, where we'll enjoy the amazing view. We descend through the alpine meadow of La Peule to the charming village of La Fouly for our first night in Switzerland. Duration: 5h. Ascent: +624m. Descent -1100m.	La Fouly
Day 8 Tuesday 1 July	<b>La Fouly to Trient.</b> Short bus transfer to Champex. Ascent to the Bovine mountain pasture and its panoramic view of the Rhône Valley and the canton of Valais, with the Oberland in the background. Duration: 5h. Ascent: +900m. Descent -700m.	Trient

Day 9 Wednesday 2 July	<b>Trient to Tréléchamps.</b> Climb to the Col de Balme to admire the Mont Blanc massif on the French side. Descend into the Alpes de Charamillon, at the foot of the Tour Glacier. Duration: 5h. Ascent: +900m. Descent -800m.	Trelechamps
Day 10 Thursday 3 July	<b>Tréléchamps to Lac Blanc Refuge.</b> Ascent via the Aiguilles Rouges Reserve to the renowned Lac Blanc Refuge and its fantastic panoramic view. Duration: 5h. Ascent: +900m. Descent -0m.	Lac Blanc Refuge
Day 11 Friday 4 July	<b>Back to Chamonix.</b> Grandstand departure on a balcony path facing Mont Blanc, then a descent to Chamonix. We finish at 2 p.m. Regular and free bus to Chamonix. Duration: 4h. Ascent: +0m. Descent -700m.	Chamonix
Day 12 Saturday 5 July	Trip concludes. Own arrangements. From Chamonix you can travel to Geneva and depart by plane, train or bus.	

## Booking Conditions

1. Participants agree to all terms and conditions by signing the Registration Form.
2. Phillip Donnell and *Footsteps Walking and Travel Club* are not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, pandemic, defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in carrying out any of the arrangements of the trip. Everyone participates entirely at their own risk. The separate waiver form must be completed.
3. We reserve the right to cancel the trip if minimum numbers don't eventuate. In such an event, all monies paid will be refunded. The minimum number for this trip is eight.
4. *Footsteps* reserves the right to make any modifications to the trip that may be necessary. The walks undertaken each day are determined by group consensus, but as far as possible we endeavour to meet your personal preferences.
5. The trip fee includes subsidisation of the leader/driver administrative and travel expenses, as well as a gift of appreciation/gratuity.
6. Registrations close on **1 March 2025**, or earlier if all the spaces are filled.
7. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first come's basis on receipt of the Registration form, Waiver form and passport scan. A deposit of \$500 per person is paid at the time of registration. The balance of the trip fee is due to be paid by **1 May 2025**.
8. Our preferred method of payment is internet banking to Footsteps, Kiwibank 38-9002-0435674-03. Please write your surname and the name of the trip in the reference box.
9. Cancellations: If you need to cancel your registration for any reason, you must advise Phillip in writing as soon as possible. Full refunds are given up to 90 days prior. Following that, refunds are by negotiation. Travel insurance can cover you for unexpected changes of plan that have a valid reason. If you find a suitable replacement person, cancellation fees MAY be waived.
10. Personal travel insurance is compulsory. It is recommended that this includes Covid cover

***Registration and waiver forms are below.***



## ***Footsteps Walking & Travel Club of Aotearoa New Zealand Corsica/Mont Blanc 2025: Trip Registration Form***

Complete and send this (along with a passport scan and the waiver form) to our postal address (see base of page) or scan and email. The deposit required is \$500 per person. Our preferred payment method is internet banking into Kiwibank 38-9002-0435674-03 (with your surname/name of trip in reference column).

Your full name(s) and please underline or highlight your preferred first name(s):

Postal Address:

Day/Night phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Date(s) of birth:

I wish to complete (tick as appropriate):  Part 1 (Corsica)  Part 2 (Mt.Blanc)

Are you comfortable in close contact with like-minded travellers with all the give and take needed for harmony? Please extend your answers overleaf or on separate paper, or by email.

Specify any dietary requirements, allergies or medical conditions:

Contact person in NZ for any emergencies : name, address, contact phone numbers, email and the relationship to you. In the event of any emergency, this is the sole person you are authorizing us to liaise with.

I/We have read the trip information and booking conditions. I / We enclose the deposit of \$500pp. I / We agree to pay the remainder of trip costs by the due date.

(signed and dated by each person registering):

***Send (with passport scan and waiver form) to :***

**Footsteps, 3/B Te Arawa Place, Welcome Bay, Tauranga 3112. Email: [footstepsanz@gmail.com](mailto:footstepsanz@gmail.com)**

**FOOTSTEPS WALKING & TRAVEL CLUB OF AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

**RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FORM**

**PROVIDER:** Footsteps Walking and Travel Club (Phillip John Donnell)("Footsteps")

**PARTICIPANT:**

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("the Participant")

I, the Participant, release and forever discharge and hold harmless Footsteps from all and any liability, claims, demands and damages, of whatsoever kind or nature, whether foreseeable or otherwise, either at law or in equity, which arise or may arise from the services and activities provided and arranged by Footsteps.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Waiver discharges Footsteps from any liability or claim that I may have against Footsteps in respect of personal injury, illness, medical treatment, death, property loss or damage, and otherwise howsoever, resulting from the services and activities provided and arranged by Footsteps. I hereby waive all such rights and remedies.

I accept that I participate in the services and activities entirely at my own risk.

I acknowledge and accept that this Release and Waiver:

- (a) Extends to and covers all contractors, agents, volunteers and employees of Footsteps; and
- (b) Binds the executors, administrators, successors, attorneys and assigns of both parties.

Signed by the Participant:

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