

**DISCOVER
CAPRERA**

**TRAIL
N. 06**

**MINI HIKE GUIDE
TO
POGGIO ZONZA**

**La Maddalena Archipelago
National Park**



DESCRIPTION

LET YOURSELF BE INSPIRED BY NATURE

The trail to Poggio Zonza, in the heart of Caprera, offers an exciting opportunity to visit the sites inhabited in the past by shepherds from Corsica, first permanent residents of Caprera since the end of 1600. The so-called "antiche case corse" (old Corsica style homes), what is left of them, are the only trace remaining of their wild and modest way of leaving furtively nestled in the vegetation and the granitic rocks.

Taking the paved road to Arbuticci, turn right at the crossroad toward Poggio Rasu, and in 450 meters you will be at the beginning of the trail that goes up a steep slope, through a magnificent grove of Arbutus, "noble" essence of the Mediterranean shrub and nearby old houses.

Once over the top of the hill, the view is breathtaking...stop, enjoy and continue downhill to Capriona fountain. From here, turning left, following the paved road for a short distance and take the trail back as marked by the directional signs. Nearby, right at the bottom of the hill, you will find the ruins of a "casa corsa" (Corsica style house) that once belonged to the Zonza family, now extremely deteriorated. The toponymy attributed to the area derives from the family name. The walk ends, through a sparse pine wood, enjoying an impressive scenery over the Moneta strait and La Maddalena island.

TECHNICAL FEATURES

 hr 0.50

 65 m

 2.3 km

 Easy

 Panoramic/historic

 Trail marked by directional arrows and cairns

HISTORIC FACTS

The name "Antiche Case Corse" or literally Old Corsica Houses in La Maddalena Archipelago, refers to the ruins of a few buildings erected between the 17th and 19th century. The definition of "Corse", (literally "from Corsica") is relative to the origin of the majority of the inhabitants, "immigrants" from the "Bonifacio" (coastal town in Corsica) area. The so called "old Corsica houses" of La Maddalena and Caprera, the few existing ruins, provide evidence of an anthropic phenomenon perhaps unique in the Mediterranean that has been defined as seasonal agricultural-pastoral settlement with over-seas semi nomadic activities. The scientific definition synthesizes the habit of the Bonifacio shepherds to dwell for ten months of the year in "intermediate Islands" and then travel back to the South of Corsica for the two warmer months. The houses built of stone and dirt, with a covering of beams, probably made out of Phoenician Juniper, were very small: one or two approximately quadrangular rooms, about 25-35 square meters, with narrow entryways and, only in some cases, a window; the furnishings had to be minimal, with space in the center for the fire directly on the floor, around which they all slept; a well and an oven were built in stone not far from the house.