

A CASA DI ROCCAPINA

Exhibition-show and nature trails

Between sea and mountain, a mysterious stone lion watches over ROCCAPINA

First there is this lion, immense and enigmatic. According to legend, once upon a time there was a powerful lord who was suffering from unrequited love. "Your heart is made of stone, you'll turn into a stone lion!" Science provides a different explanation, evoking tafoni, rocks hollowed out by the elements, then transformed by humans who used them as places in which to hide, to live and eventually to die.

Close to the lion there is a road, a mountain pass, people, people getting on with their lives; the sea is present too, sometimes wild, bringing us tales of shipwrecks and hidden treasure.

Visit the restored former roadman's house at Roccapina, and listen to Jane, "the lion's daughter" who will tell you the whole story. Here bandits come face to face with prehistoric men, the charcoal burners meet Barbary pirates and a bear emerges from the stone...



I am the lion's daughter.
I know
all of his secrets,
all of his mysteries.
Shall I reveal them to you?
If the answer is yes,
rendez-vous at...
A CASA DI ROCCAPINA

Visitors will be fascinated by the exhibition-show inside the former roadman's house, restored by the French Coastal Protection Agency

A French Coastal Protection Agency site run by the General Council of South Corsica



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Pick up an audio guide as you go in : "Roccapina, so many years have passed since I last saw you...". A voice, Jane's voice... tells the story of Roccapina: all around a large scale model of the site, photographs and objects recall those who lived here, in this very house, as well as those who passed through, right up to today's visitors, shepherds, roadmen, customs officers, tourists...

Then we take a giant leap into the darkness out of which a lion, an elephant, a bear and other creatures emerge. The storm wakes them up from their long stony slumber... and the lion roars again !

Upstairs, other scale models give us clues to help us answer questions such as : how did nature create extraordinary tafoni formations like the Roccapina lion and elephant ? How did humans use these tafoni formations over the years ?



From prehistoric shelters to today's hiker's refuges, tafoni converted into "orii" have been used as family homes, tombs in which to bury the dead, fortifications during periods of unrest or huts allowing shepherds to stay close to their flocks. In front of the scale models, four windows provide a view of the surrounding area. The legends of Roccapina recount its pirates and shipwrecks... A strange and fascinating world that Jane reveals to you over the course of the visit.

But who exactly is Jane ? "I am the lion's daughter" ... You will have to wait until the end of the visit for her secret to be revealed.



Two trails allow you to continue the visit outside:

The oriu trail, "u caminu di oriu", forms part of the visit to the roadman's house.

A short, 20-minute walk with an audio guide, allows visitors to experience first hand the amazing world of the tafoni, including the reconstructed Roccapina oriu.

The viewpoint trail, *u caminu di a punta* which is free to access, is a 45-minute descent into the Corsican maquis (scrubland): here visitors can discover treasures that were for many years covered by vegetation – abandoned orii ; as well as a cave beneath the elephant and a viewpoint that provides a splendid panorama of the surrounding area.



A casa di Roccapina is located on national road n° 196 between Sartène and Bonifacio (South Corsica)
 Entrance fees : Full admission fee : 2€ ;
 Discounted admission fee : 1€

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