

THE ECOTOURIST CHARTER

The natural beauty of Bonifacio and its surrounding area is exceptional but fragile. However long your visit, whether a hiker, camper or hotel guest... you are key to its preservation. Environmentally-conscious and respectful behaviour will guarantee your children the opportunity of experiencing the same beauty that you are discovering in the Natural Reserve of les Bouches de Bonifacio (RNBB). So please help us to conserve our landscape by following these Eco Guidelines:

To use smartphone apps

'I Scarpi' for walks and 'Monument Tracker' for Southern Corsica. To download brochures and tourist maps from www.bonifacio.fr in order to reduce paper usage or if hard copies are necessary, to donate to their cost at the Bonifacio Tourist Office.

To respect the beaches by

Using biodegradable sunscreens instead of oils which form a surface film that hampers algal and seagrass photosynthesis ; not burying cigarette stubs or other waste in the sand where they may be mistakenly ingested by birds looking for food – so I will bring my own tin to put them in ; taking ALL my rubbish home to prevent plastic entering the water where it can be confused with food by dolphins and turtles and choke or strangle them to death. In 2003 Corsica introduced a plastic bag ban for supermarkets, and I will bring my own rubbish bag for that purpose at the Touristic Office.

To respect the maquis by

Following the hiking trail paths in order not to destroy the bordering plants that are particularly fragile during summer months ; not picking any wild flower nor taking any animal or insect. The Highly Protected Species list is very long and includes orchids and tortoises ; not driving outside the designated zone when driving 4-4 or quad-biking and so avoid crushing plants and eroding soil.

To respect the sea by

Fishing only in authorised zones and following the rules set by the RNBB ; respecting catch quantity and minimum size rules. Anyone breaking these laws risks a fine and confiscation of their equipment, boat included; taking care when in a boat not to anchor in seagrass or algae essential for fish reproduction; taking care when diving or snorkeling not to fin on seagrass beds or any sea plant that could be damaged; respecting the ban on collection of any animal, plant, shell or rock; when on a boat, emptying bilge tanks only into the waste reservoirs provided in ports; respecting others when jet-skiing and, bearing in mind this sport can be particularly noisy by reducing speed when approaching land to avoid disturbing any animal living or nesting there – including other visitors seeking tranquillity and calm.

Campers are requested to

- respect the land on which they camp and to camp only in one of the many sites around Bonifacio. Wild camping or bivouacking is not allowed anywhere on the island. Breaking this law risks a fine of €1500 under article L116-2 of the Road Code
- recycle waste wherever possible and to leave nothing behind. After any excursion – including a visit to the Lavezzi Islands, all waste and packaging must be taken home for proper disposal
- to use the many rubbish and recycling bins provided by the Council
- to dispose of used batteries in the bin provided at the Tourist Office
- to return any unused medication to the pharmacy and never to throw them in the bin.

To use water sparingly.

It is the most precious gift to be preserved, not wasted! South Corsica often suffers from water shortage;

To pay attention to the risk of fire

To only light a fire or camper barbecue in areas designated for them ; to never throw away a cigarette butt or any glass that may trigger a fire by solar magnification.

Sustainable Tourism is the choice for the future!