

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | SATURDAY, 1 JUNE 2013

Town on a cliff

We only saw parts of Bonifacio as we drove through from the ferry yesterday, so today we were determined to check this place out more thoroughly. We headed off, down the 3 km slope from our caravan park to the foot of the citadel. It was a really pleasant way to go, but we both realized that at the end of the day we would have to climb all that way back up!

The sun came out as we entered the town. Bonifacio has a gorgeous sheltered port and a towering bluff on which the imposing citadel is located. Both the port and the citadel were already alive with activity when we arrived.

We took the steps up to the citadel, slinging the seats of our bikes over our shoulder. The view from the top was outstanding. There were white cliffs and the beautiful blue sea for as far as the eye could see. We, and the town, were sitting on one huge long cliff. A number of houses have been built on parts of the cliff that have been undercut. They looked very precarious perched over this precipice. This all looked even more frightening later when we walked along the cliffs opposite.

The town's walls and embattlements are still intact and with such an astonishing location, it is a sight to behold. Inside the walls the streets were like a maze. Interestingly some of the streets were quite wide. We quickly lost ourselves cycling around looking, listening and bumping along the cobblestones. We enjoyed one moment when we stopped to listen to a kids choir practicing in the local church.

It was soon time to eat, so we rode down to the harbour area and bought some pizza. We sat on the edge of the wharf and thoroughly enjoyed the moment - beautiful view, sunshine and tasty food. It was really very pleasant.



Then it was time for some exercise as we found the very rocky path up to the top of the cliffs opposite the citadel. With our bikes clattering along beside us we certainly got a number of sniggers from many of the walkers who could not see why we would want to take our bikes up to these heights.

The walk up was worth it. Around each and every corner a new vista opened up and we were able to take lots of snaps of the town in the distance. It is just so amazingly and precariously perched on these cliffs.

We watched the many cruise boats below ferrying tourists around the waters. We even saw a large jet take two low runs along the cliff face.

Bonifacio was both a total surprise and a glorious delight. We would rate this place as one of the best we have seen. Despite having to heave ourselves on bikes back to the caravan park our first impressions of Corsica have been extremely positive.

Tomorrow we tackle some of Corsica's infamous roads.

NARROW ROADS A fellow camper told us that he had been to Corsica some 30 years ago. "Not much has changed - its still frontier country and the roads have not



been upgraded at all except they are 20cm higher where new bitumen has been added. They are still just as narrow as ever."

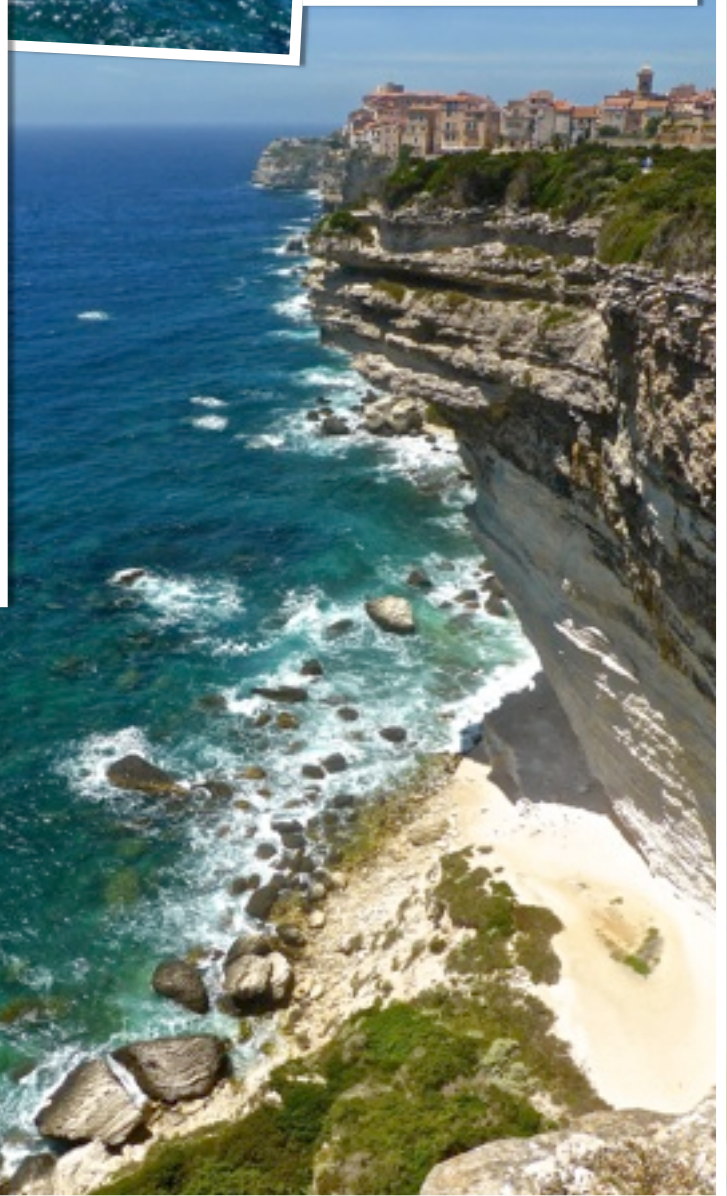
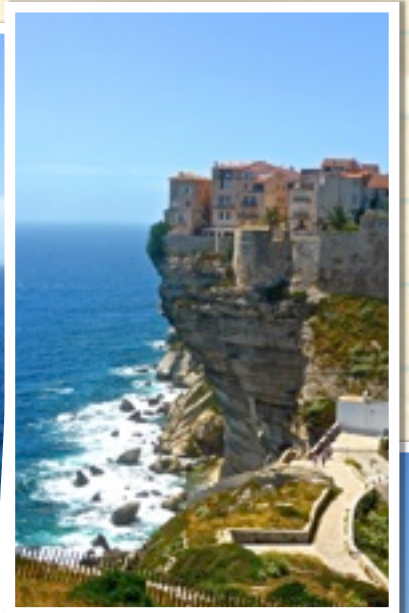
I hope this is not a warning of what we might expect to come when we explore more of Corsica.

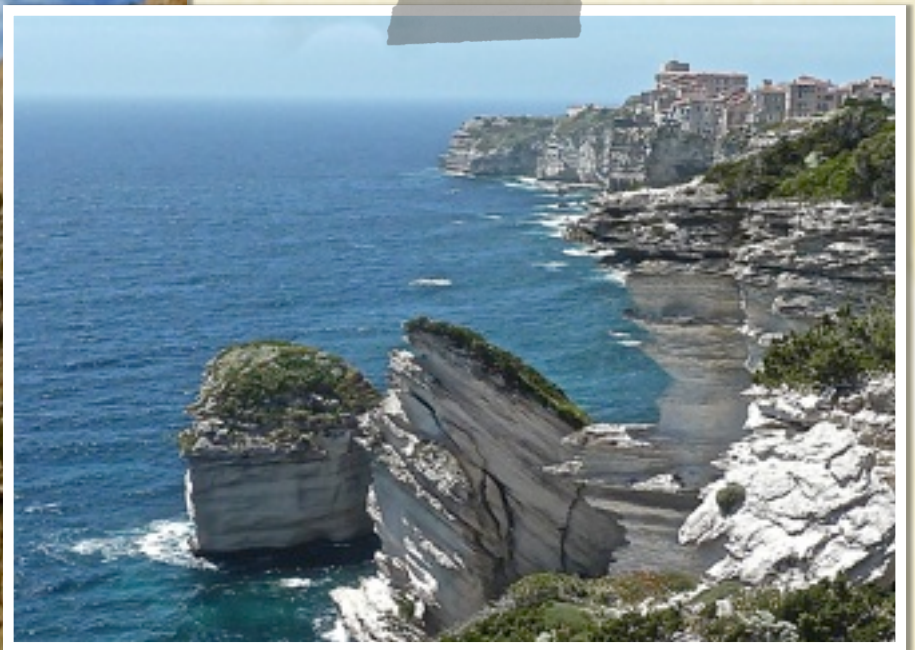


OLD SIGNAGE Although much of the old signage has been destroyed through time a small number of ancient signs can still be found around Bonifacio. This one gives the actual date when the building and the street was completed. I think!



PHOTOS





MAUSOLEUMS

WE SAW QUITE A FEW MAUSOLEUMS IN ITALY. BONIFICIO'S RATHER LARGE CEMETERY IS SITUATED ON THE TOP OF THE CLIFFS WITHIN THE OLD CITY WALLS. NOT A BAD PLACE TO HAVE YOUR FAMILY BONES DEPOSITED!!

