

Travel Guide | Sardinia

UNLOCKING EUROPE'S MOST SPECTACULAR DESTINATIONS

EXCLUSIVE
INSIDER TIPS

Welcome to Sardinia

Nestled amidst the azure embrace of the Mediterranean Sea, Sardinia extends an enchanting invitation to those seeking a harmonious fusion of untouched beauty and ancient history. As you embark on a journey curated by Ormina Tours, our insider knowledge will help to create an itinerary that spans Sardinia's ancient traditions and contemporary splendour. Ancient ruins dot the landscape, testament to a rich history dating back to the Nuragic civilization, inviting exploration akin to a time-travel odyssey. From prehistoric marvels to sun-kissed beaches, each locale narrates a tale of Sardinia's enduring legacy. Ormina Tours invites you to embrace discovery and embark on an extraordinary journey through Sardinia with us, a destination where history dances with beauty, promising an odyssey through the timeless allure of the Mediterranean gem.

WHO SHOULD VISIT

Sardinia beckons to discerning travellers seeking an authentic escape, where untouched landscapes and a rich history unfolds away from bustling crowds.

Sardinia is an ideal haven for history enthusiasts, beckoning those with a penchant for uncovering the ancient stories etched in its landscapes. Independent travellers seeking off-the-beaten-path discoveries will find solace in the island's unspoiled beauty and authentic charm. For families seeking a unique blend of relaxation and exploration, Sardinia emerges as an idyllic retreat. Whether it's discovering ancient ruins together or enjoying snorkelling adventures along pristine coastlines, the island provides a curated experience for all generations.

Sardinia is the perfect haven for open-minded wanderers yearning to explore an unspoiled Mediterranean jewel.

WHEN TO GO

Sardinia beckons exploration throughout the year, with each season offering a unique experience. The peak season is from Jun-Aug, with temperatures ranging from 28°C - 32°C, perfect for beach enthusiasts, yet can be hot for those who primarily want to sightsee. Shoulder seasons, Mar-May and the

second half of Sep-Oct, unveil the island in full bloom, with pleasant temperatures and vibrant local festivals. This is the ideal time to visit, all while benefiting from lower costs. While it is possible to visit in the low season, Nov-Feb, we do not recommend this. If you do decide to visit, you will be met with cooler weather, many accommodations will be closed and archaeological sites offering reduced hours.

HOW TO GET THERE

PLANE: To reach Sardinia, air travel is the optimal choice. The island is served by 3 major airports (Cagliari, Olbia, and Alghero). For a well-rounded exploration, we recommend you start your journey in Cagliari and conclude in Olbia.

FERRY: The island is well-connected by ferries from the Italian mainland. The ferry ride duration can vary, with crossings from ports such as Genoa, Livorno, and Civitavecchia taking around 7-9 hours. Ferries are also available from neighbouring islands, providing diverse travel options.

CAR: Guests can easily explore the island by renting a car upon arrival with the flexibility of picking up at one airport and returning to another, allowing for a seamless road trip. While driving in Sardinia

is generally not difficult, the island's winding roads and limited English speakers in some areas may present challenges. For a hassle-free experience, Ormina Tours recommends arranging private transfers.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- > There is a stark contrast in accommodation styles between the north and south of Sardinia. While the north boasts resort-style hotels with all-inclusive amenities, the south offers a charming array of renovated historic buildings and boutique accommodations.
- > As a relatively new destination for international tourism, Sardinia has less developed tourist facilities and lower levels of English proficiency. With no main freeways, expect longer driving times on winding roads.
- > For those seeking an extended island-hopping adventure, ferry trips from Sardinia to Corsica are available, offering a unique blend of Mediterranean cultures. Important to note that most flights out of Corsica go only to France.



Regional Highlights

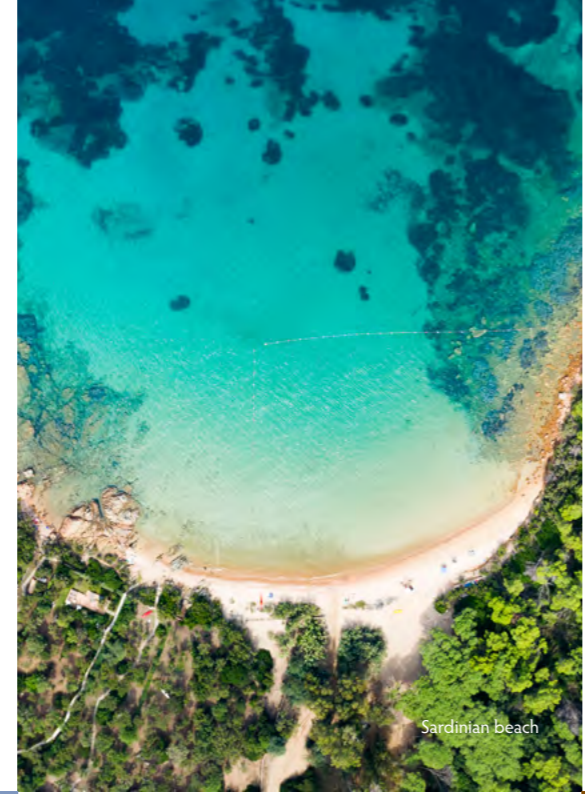


Top Experiences

EXPLORE PRISTINE SARDINIAN BEACHES

Sardinia is spoilt for choice when it comes to pristine beaches, with Tuerredda and Chia Beaches in the south serving as delightful starting points. The beaches are scattered around the island and can sometimes require some walking to access. There are also an abundance of places to enjoy snorkelling, with some locations needing to be accessed by boat.

 Family friendly



Sardinian beach

ANTIQUITY UNVEILED AT NORA

Journey into antiquity at the archaeological ruins of Nora. First settled by the Phoenicians and subsequently the Carthaginians and Romans. Here, there is a well-preserved amphitheatre still used for concerts. You will also find preserved mosaics, baths, the forum, temples, and villas, making for an intriguing journey back in time. The history of Nora combines with the fine seaside setting making this a worthwhile stop.



Bosa, Sardinia

CAPTURE BREATHTAKING VIEWS ATOP BOSA

The colourful village of Bosa hugs the banks of the river Temo and climbs the hillside to the 12th century Malaspina Castle. Bosa was once known for its leather-making industry. The old tannery buildings now house shops and restaurants. Climb the slopes of the Serravalle hill to the castle for sweeping views over the town and river and enjoy lunch or a gelato on your descent.

 Family friendly



Neptune's Grotto

VENTURE INTO NEPTUNE'S SUBTERRANEAN WONDER

Discover the enchanting Neptune's Grotto off the coast of Alghero. A subterranean marvel of stalactites and stalagmites and an inland lake, this sea cave, shaped by nature over millennia, invites you to wander through its mesmerising formations and echoes of ancient tales.

 Family friendly

UNCOVER SECRETS OF ANCIENT BARUMINI

One of the most unique features of Sardinia's landscape are the Bronze Age stone towers and walls of the nuraghe. Built around the 12th century BC, these megalithic monuments are dotted across the island. The complex at Barumini is the finest example. It was given status as a UNESCO World heritage Site in 1997. Visitors can explore the fortress by passing through tunnels carved into the walls.

 Family friendly



Su Nuraxi di Barumini

ORGOSOLO'S STREETS ALIVE WITH ART

Explore Orgosolo's vivid streets, adorned with captivating street art narrating the region's history as a hideout for outlaws. The murals, initiated by a local art teacher, were an attempt to redirect local children away from crime. Today, various artists continue to enrich this evolving outdoor gallery, reflecting Sardinia's modern expression.

 Family friendly



Orgosolo, Sardinia

SAIL TO MADDALENA'S ISLAND PARADISE

Cast off to the Maddalena Archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its natural beauty. Explore hidden coves, pristine beaches, and azure waters as you relax on a boat trip amongst this island paradise. The archipelago consists of 7 primary islands, mainly Maddalena and Caprera, which are connected by an artificial isthmus.

 Family friendly *age dependent*



Maddalena Archipelago

CORSICAN MARVELS AWAIT IN BONIFACIO

Known as one of the most scenic cities in Europe, it is worth making the short crossing to Bonifacio on the French Island of Corsica. This medieval town perched atop dramatic cliffs has a picturesque Old Town, with a 9th-century citadel. Enjoy one of its many exquisite dining options amongst its winding cobblestone streets, or on the marina at the base of the cliffs.

 Family friendly

LUXURY SHOPPING IN COSTA SMERALDA

Indulge in a luxurious shopping experience amidst Costa Smeralda's glamour. Explore high-end boutiques and local markets, where each treasure reflects the unique charm of Sardinia's most exclusive destination.

 Family friendly



Sardinia Regional Discovery

Ormina Highlights & Inclusions

- > 7 nights in exquisite 4 and 5-star hotels.
- > 7 breakfasts (B), 1 lunch (L).
- > Guided walking tours of Cagliari and Alghero.
- > Excursion to the ancient town and archaeological ruins of Nora.
- > Guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Su Naraxi di Barumini.
- > Wine tasting and light lunch at a local winery.
- > Visit charming Sardinian towns of Bosa and Castelsardo and beautiful beaches of Tuerredda and Costa Smeralda.
- > Boat excursions to Neptune's Grotto (ferry) and to the Maddalena Archipelago (small group sailing yacht).
- > Deluxe VIP transfers as indicated including airport transfers on arrival and departure.
- > Note: hotel city taxes, if applicable, are not included.

DAY 1 Cagliari

Welcome to Cagliari, Sardinia's capital. Cagliari, located on the Bay of Angels, is an ancient, fortified city that has seen the rule of civilisations for over 5000 years. Transfer to your hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

STAY 3 NIGHTS: Hotel Villa Fanny 4-star or similar

DAY 2 Cagliari (B)

Enjoy a half day morning walking tour of the historic medieval Castello with its ancient fortifications, 14th century towers and town hall. Visit Piazza Palazzo, The Cathedral of Santa Maria, The Bastion of St Remy, Royal Palace and the bustling marina quarter with its tangled streets, bars and restaurants.

DAY 3 Cagliari – Nora – Chia beach – Cagliari (B)

A full day private excursion visiting Nora, the oldest village in Sardinia, for Carthaginian and Roman archaeological ruins dating to the 8th century BC. Afterward, enjoy the afternoon at Tuerredda beach with time for an independent lunch at their beachfront restaurant and to swim before heading back to Cagliari.

DAY 4 Cagliari – Su Naraxi di Barumini – Bosa – Alghero (B, L)

Enjoy a guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Su Naraxi di Barumini. The defensive structures date to 2000BC and consist of circular towers of truncated cones built of stone. Continue to one of Sardinia's most renowned wineries for a cellar tour, tasting and light lunch. Afterward, enjoy a brief stop in the colourful village of Bosa before arriving in Alghero.

STAY 2 NIGHTS: Smy Carlos V Wellness & Spa 5-star or similar

DAY 5 Alghero (B)

Enjoy a guided tour of the medieval fortified town of Alghero. Known as 'Little Barcelona' for its Catalan influence, the town boasts a striking Gothic-style historic centre with the Church of St Francis and Santa Maria Cathedral. Stroll the narrow lanes, walk the old town walls before embarking on a boat to Neptune's Grotto.

DAY 6 Alghero – Castelsardo – Baja Sardinia (B)

Depart for the Costa Smeralda region with a stop in Castelsardo, considered one of the most beautiful villages in Italy.

STAY 2 NIGHTS: Club Hotel Baja Sardinia 4-star or similar

DAY 7 Baja Sardinia – Maddalena Archipelago – Baja Sardinia (B)

Enjoy a full day excursion with a small group sailing boat to the Maddalena Archipelago (weather permitting) consisting of 7 major islands featuring beautiful clear waters, wind-blown granite coastlines and significant wildlife.

DAY 8 Baja Sardinia – Olbia (B)

A private departure transfer to Olbia or to the ferry port if you are continuing with us to Corsica.

Twin Share per person from \$5,595 AUD

UPGRADE OPTIONS

- > Upgrade to a seaside 5-star hotel in Costa Smeralda: recommended – Cervo Hotel Costa Smeralda Resort (Porto Cervo), Cala Di Volpe (Porto Cervo) or L'Ea Bianca Luxury Resort (Arzachena).
- > Incorporate a cooking class in Cagliari to learn the secrets of mastering the local gnocchi like pasta dish 'Maloreddus'.
- > Extend in the south to stay at the exclusive Faro Capo Spartivento 5-star lighthouse hotel in Chia or to a resort in Villasimius for its popular beaches.
- > Extend to stay in Orgosolo to visit its famous political murals, Mamoiada's carnival mask stores and/or to experience life as a shepherd with lunch.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
Extend a few days to experience Corsica's magnificent cliffside town of Bonifacio.



Preferred Hotels



CAGLIARI – Hotel Villa Fanny, 4-star

Nestled in Cagliari's tranquil Stampace neighbourhood, Villa Fanny is a hidden gem amidst Sardinia's capital. This Art Nouveau villa, with 19 thoughtfully designed rooms, offers a serene escape while ensuring easy access to the historic centre and landmarks like the San Remy Bastion. Enveloped by a Zen Garden and overlooking the city's botanical garden, this historic villa seamlessly blends Art Nouveau elegance with contemporary design.



BAJA SARDINIA – Club Hotel Baja Sardinia, 4-star

Along the dazzling shores of Costa Smeralda, Club Hotel Baja Sardinia beckons with understated luxury. Enjoy an enviable location, adorned in Mediterranean elegance. The rooms offer breathtaking sea views and a sense of coastal sophistication. Indulge in exquisite dining, unwind by the azure waters, and let the charm of Sardinia unfold in this idyllic coastal retreat.

Stay somewhere spectacular

Indulge in the extraordinary as Ormina Tours presents a curated selection of Sardinia's most captivating hotels. These handpicked gems go beyond a place to rest your head. They embody the essence of local charm, boast stunning vistas, and come with that exclusive Ormina touch.

Our local insider knowledge ensures an unparalleled experience, to connect you with the best, so that you can immerse yourself in the beauty and authenticity of Sardinia.



ALGHERO – Villa Las Tronas, 5-star

Perched on its own private promontory, Villa Las Tronas is a spectacular escape surrounded by the bay in the medieval town of Alghero. Formerly a royal residence until the 1940s, the Villa transformed into a 5-star haven in 1961, preserving the aristocratic charm. Named after its pulpit-like rock formations, it offers a serene spa, private piers for swimming, and saltwater pools with stunning Gulf views. This enchanting hotel in Sardinia promises an exclusive retreat away from typical resort-style accommodations in Alghero.



CHIA – Faro Capo Spartivento, 5-star

Perched on the rugged southwestern coast, the Capo Spartivento Lighthouse, erected by the Italian Navy in 1854, underwent a captivating transformation into an exclusive 5-star hotel. This unique hotel offers a spectacular setting at the edge of a cliff, and boasts modern amenities, including an infinity pool, jacuzzi tubs, and crystal gazebos for scenic meals. Guests can descend a spiral staircase to the wine cellar for tastings or enjoy a private cinema experience.



OLIENA – Su Gologone Experience Hotel, 4-star

This romantic retreat, cocooned within a national park, is an upscale haven with 68 individually decorated guestrooms adorned with plush comforts. Immerse yourself in the epitome of tranquillity with a spa day, relishing massages and facials, or indulge in outdoor bliss at the pool and fitness centre. Su Gologone restaurant offers a culinary journey amidst lush gardens, promising an alfresco dining experience.



Bonifacio, Corsica



Bonifacio Marina

Sardinia's Blue Zone

Situated at the core of the Mediterranean, Sardinia, the second-largest island, preserves a distinctive cultural isolation that distinguishes it from the rest. With turquoise coastlines adorned with archaeological wonders, it has become a cherished destination for Italian families. However, it's not just the captivating landscapes that make Sardinia unique; it is recognised as one of the world's five "Blue Zones," regions where people live remarkably longer and healthier lives.



Nuoro Province



Ancient Sardinian masks

A taste of Corsica

Bonifacio, located on the French Island of Corsica, is one of the most scenic cities in Europe. Perched dramatically atop white limestone cliffs at the southern tip of the French island of Corsica, it is the island's oldest town. Sailing into the harbour beneath the town sitting high above on the dramatic cliffs is the most stunning way to first experience the town.

Enhance your Sardinian escape with our exclusive 2-night Bonifacio upgrade. Immerse yourself in the medieval charm, historical wonders, and coastal beauty of this Corsican gem. Book now and embark on a journey where history, culture, and natural wonders converge in this enchanting corner of the Mediterranean.

Extend your stay

ADD-ON RECOMMENDATIONS

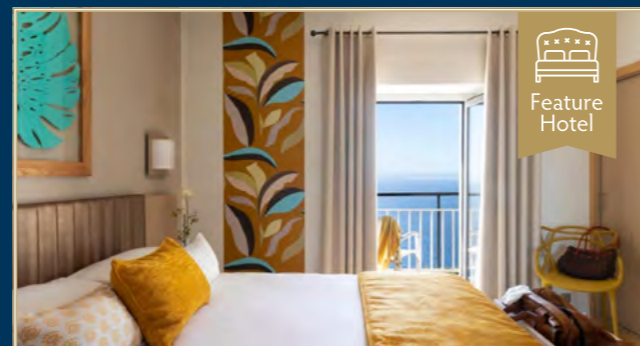
Bonifacio, Corsica Extension (3 Days)

- > Stay 2 nights at the boutique **SantaTeresa Hotel** or similar.
- > Discover the French Island town as you wander through cobbled streets and uncover the town's rich maritime history including the historic citadel, where ancient walls echo tales of centuries past.
- > Embark on a picturesque cliffside walk offering panoramic views of the Mediterranean.
- > Dine in one of the many harbourside restaurants, where delectable Corsican cuisine meets the gentle lull of the sea.
- > Return ferry tickets between Santa Teresa di Gallura (Sardinia) and Bonifacio (Corsica).
- > Deluxe VIP port transfers.

Priced from \$990 pp.

INSIDER TIP ★★★★★

Add in the Bonifacio upgrade before your stay in Costa Smeralda for a more seamless journey.



Feature Hotel

SANTATERESA HOTEL BONIFACIO

STAY **2** NIGHTS

- > A charming hotel occupying a former 19th-century mansion.
- > Located at the edge of Bonifacio's peninsula, guests can revel in the aking panoramic views of the sea and cliffs.
- > With 40 r meticulously designed ooms and suites, including options for reduced mobility.

WHAT IS A BLUE ZONE?

Anthropologists introduced the term 'Blue Zone' in 2005 to describe regions with statistically significant concentrations of centenarians—individuals who have reached the remarkable age of 100 years or more. With only five Blue Zones identified worldwide, this concept encompasses characteristic lifestyles and environments associated with the world's longest-living individuals, offering unique insights into the secrets of longevity.

WHY IS SARDINIA CLASSIFIED AS A BLUE ZONE?

The Blue Zone in Sardinia was the first identified Blue Zone - a cluster of villages in the mountains of the Nuoro province. The island's traditional lifestyle, rich family connections, laughter, and moderate exercise contribute to its unique status as "the place where people live the longest in the world."

Exploring the Sardinian lifestyle offers insights into the keys to longevity. A traditional diet rich in plant-based foods, accentuated with lean meats, goat's milk, and local wine like Cannonau, sets the foundation. Family connections, laughter, and regular exercise in the scenic hills further contribute to the island's exceptional well-being.

DISCOVER SARDINIA'S BLUE ZONE FOR YOURSELF!

Embark on an extraordinary journey with Ormina Tours' Sardinian Discovery, where you can immerse yourself in the secrets of the Blue Zone. Upgrade your experience to witness firsthand the traditional lifestyle, enjoy the local cuisine, and explore the factors contributing to Sardinia's longevity. Join us in uncovering the secrets of a healthier, happier life in the captivating landscapes of Sardinia.

Extend your stay

ADD-ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Blue Zone Extension (3 Days)

- > Stay 2 nights at the **Su Gologone Experience Hotel** 4-star.
- > Private Guided Tour to Sardinia's Blue Zone including:
 - > Meeting with a local Centurian.
 - > Visit the artisanal workshop where the Masks of the Ancient Mamuthones are produced.
 - > Wine tasting lunch in a local winery.
 - > Visit Orgosolo for a guided tour of the famous street art.
- > Leisure time in San Pantaleo to explore the hamlet known as "the village of artists".
- > Deluxe VIP transfers.

Priced from \$2,250 pp.



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