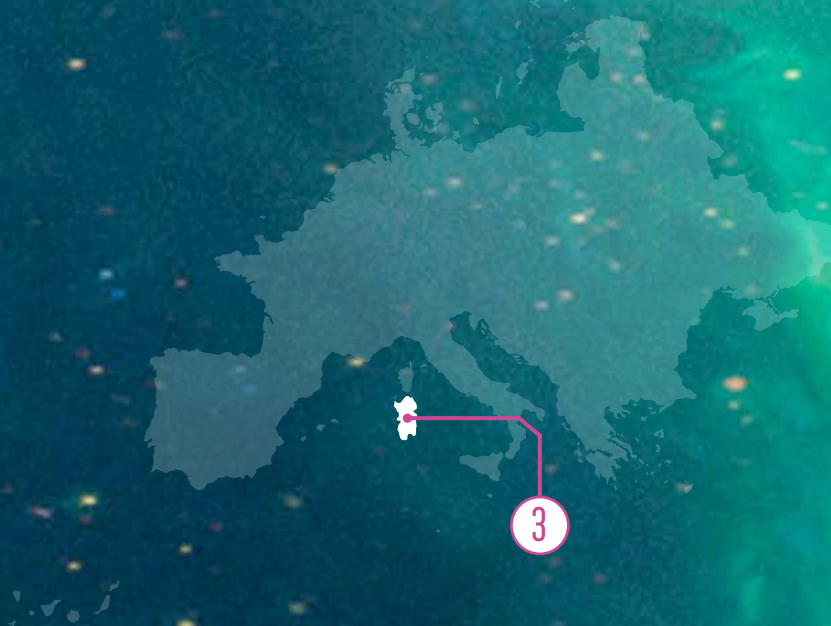




EU Sky Route  
star tourism

## Sardinia - Italy



Route 1: Stones, Stars and Paths: from tradition to big science  
Route 2: From research to history, from Earth to sky from tradition to big science

# Route 1

## Sardinia - Italy

### Overview

Discover Sardinia's archeology, astronomy and natural life on this unique SkyRoute adventure from INAF: Stones, Stars and Paths: from tradition to big science. Your adventure takes you to this beautiful part of the world with plenty of opportunities to study the local area and the wider universe. From Neolithic villages to planetariums in the park and back again.

### Astronomical delights

#### Sardinia Radio Telescope

Take a guided tour of this internationally-acclaimed radio astronomical site and meet with researchers and technologists working at this high innovative project, state of the art in radio astronomy research. You will be introduced to an alternative way to observe the sky, compared to more traditional, optical astronomy, and you will discover the mysteries and the charm of the "invisible" universe.

### Memorable sites

#### Neolithic foundations

Explore Pranu Mutteddu, a unique funerary site from the Neolithic Ozieri culture, which dates back to between the 3rd and 4th century BC. The site is dotted with charming 'domus de janas,' translated as 'fairy houses,' tombs cut into rocks. There are also 20 menhirs, mysterious thick standing stones often with anthropomorphic shapes, some lined up from east to west potentially for primitive sun worship – a popular practice at the time. Your visit will also explore the practice of ancient position astronomy.

#### Barumini Nuragical Site

Dating back to the late 2nd century BC, this ancient defensive structure is the finest and most preserved example of this form of prehistoric architecture in the world and, for this reasons, it has been declared Unesco World Heritage. It consists of circular defensive towers in the form of truncated cones, an archaeological site which is a pleasure to explore and to photograph.



### Endless landscapes

#### Sardinia Miniature Park

Discover the nature, the history and culture of Sardinia at this interesting attraction park. As you stroll through the park you will encounter charming miniature replicas of some of Sardinia's most significant structures and monuments in incredible detail. The venue also features a museum of astronomy and planetarium, developed under supervision by INAF-OAC, with exhibits exploring gravity, the observation of celestial bodies, artificial satellites and launchers and telescopes.





# Route 1

## Sardinia - Italy

### Climb to Giara di Gesturi

This high and steep-sided basaltic plateau, within the Giara Regional Park occupying 16 square miles, was formed some 2.7 million years ago when volcanic lava covered older sedimentary rock. The average height of the plateau is 1,800 feet and it can only be accessed in a few places, known as 'Scalas'. The landscape here is dotted with shallow depressions filled with water all year round and 350 plant species. It is also home to the largest surviving population of the Giara Horse.

### Places to stay



#### Night 1

**Hotel Domu Antiga**, Gergei. Via 4 Mori, 08030 Gergei

This typical Sardinian old house has been refurbished in a fascinating style, with a furnished library and free wifi connection. Breakfast included

#### Night 2

**Hotel Su Nuraxi**, Barumini. Viale Su Nuraxi, 09021 Barumini

Very close to the Barumini Nuragical Village, this hotel has ten rooms, free parking space, a large garden and a gourmet restaurant. Breakfast included

### Places to eat



#### Day 1 lunch

Su Nuraxi, viale Italia 30, 09040 Sant'Andrea Frius

#### Day 1 dinner

Da Tzia Matilda, Via Marconi 66, Gergei

#### Day 2 lunch

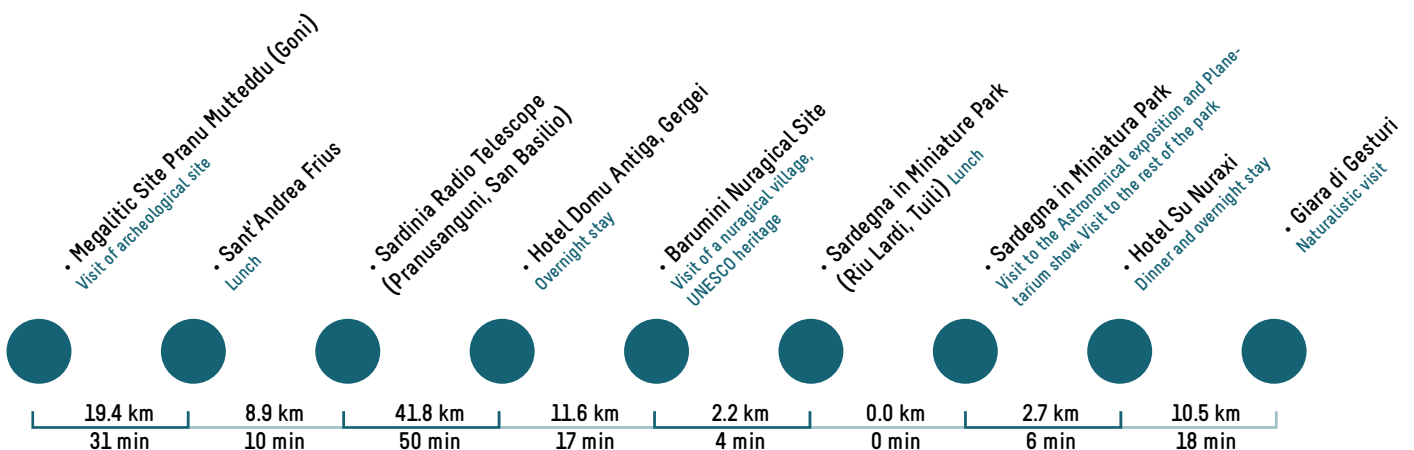
Hotel Su Nuraxi, Barumini

#### Day 2 dinner

Restaurant of the Sardinia in Miniature Park

### Itinerary

The best way to get around your SkyRoute destinations is by car. Distances travelled are as follows:



# Route 2

## Sardinia - Italy

### Overview

From research to history, from Earth to sky from tradition to big science

Discover Sardinia's archaeology, astronomy and natural life on this unique SkyRoute adventure from INAF: From research to history, from Earth to sky. Get to know this beautiful part of the world with plenty of opportunities to study the local area and the wider universe. From Bronze Age villages concealing long-forgotten clues to the past to planetariums celebrating Sardinia's darkest skies, explore ancient preserved settlements and learn about the very latest in optical astronomy with some of the pioneers in this field.

### Astronomical delights

#### Sardinia Radio Telescope

Take a guided tour of this internationally-acclaimed radio astronomical site and meet with researchers from this fascinating project. This 64 metre diameter paraboloid radio telescope, an international facility of the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF), the state of the art of the radio astronomy technology. The tour, presented by INAF-OAC researchers, includes a presentation of the project with an explanation of the differences between radio and optical astronomy and a presentation of the innovative technology projects related to this instrument.

#### Starry skies

A visit to Lanusei takes you to the astronomical observatory of Mount Armidda. This facility boasts high quality equipment and some of the darkest skies in Europe – the ideal combination for astrophotography and observation. It's also home to an impressive planetarium, for a thrilling presentation about our universe.

#### INAF headquarters

The SkyRoute includes a visit to the INAF-OAC headquarters, with access to experts in the field as well as fascinating astronomic relics from the past. Take a guided tour of an historical Optical Instruments Museum, visit high tech technology laboratories, take an astrophysics lecture in the public auditorium and sit back and enjoy a planetarium show. There are plenty of attractions for visitors of all ages including lab activities for children.



### Memorable sites

#### Neolithic foundations

Your visit to Lanusei takes you to the archaeological site of Nuraghe Seleni. Take a stroll through a beautiful oak wood to discover this long-forgotten settlement with excavated hut circles and two granite-block giant communal burial chambers dating back to the late Bronze Ages. It is also home to a fine example of a nuraghe, an ancient megalithic edifice symbolic of Sardinia and its distinctive culture.



# Route 2

## Sardinia - Italy

### Archaeological site of Serbissi

Dating back to the late 2nd century BC, this ancient defensive structure is the finest and most preserved example of this form of prehistoric architecture in the world and, for this reasons, it has been declared Unesco World Heritage. It consists of circular defensive towers in the form of truncated cones, an archaeological site which is a pleasure to explore and to photograph.

### Nuraghe Arrubiu

The Arrubiu is one of Sardinia's most important and prominent nuraghe structures. It is the only pentalobate fortress discovered to date and features a keep standing 16 metres tall surrounded by a curtain wall, with five towers and an outer ring of walls. Inside are seven towers forming three walled enclosures. Excavations on the site date the settlement to between the mid and late Bronze Ages and confirm that the Romans made good use of it.

## Endless landscapes

### Long-lost Gairo

On the journey from Lanuseo to Osini you can visit the original abandoned village of Gairo, known as Gairo Vecchio or Old Gairo. This old commune was left to crumble back in the early 1960s after repeated flooding led to the limestone buildings starting to collapse. It was rebuilt as Gairo Sant'Elena two kilometres up the hill but the original structures still dotting the landscape are serene and beautiful, slowly decomposing, yet preserved in beautiful surroundings with the original village lanes and cobbles tempting you to explore.

## Places to stay



### LANUSEI

[Hotel Villa Selene](#)

Località Coroddis - 08045 Lanusei

[Hotel Belvedere](#) Via Umberto I, 22, 08045 Lanusei

### ORROLI

[Domus Birdi](#)

Viale Giorgio Murgia, 9, 08100 Orroli

[Hotel Castellinaria](#)

loc. Perdu Accraxiu, 08030 Orroli

### VILLASALTO

[B&B Teresina](#)

Via Milano 5, 09040 Villasalto

### MANDAS

[B&B Antica Locanda Lunetta](#)

Via Roma 10, 09040 Mandas

### CAGLIARI

Plenty of lodging opportunities



# Route 2

## Sardinia - Italy

### Places to eat



#### Ristorante Belvedere

Via Umberto I, 22, 08045 Lanusei

#### Ristorante La Pineta

Vico 1 Don Orione, 4, 08040 Arzana

#### Ristorante Hotel Castellinaria

loc. Perdu Accraxiu, 08030 Orroli

#### Ristorante Paolo Perella

Corso Repubblica 8, Villasalto

#### Ristorante Su Nuraxi

Viale Italia 30, 09040 Sant'Andrea Frius

Plenty of opportunities in Cagliari

### Itinerary

