

DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Location:

The archaeological site of Su Nuraxi is located in south-central Sardinia, close to the Barumini and the Tullili villages, in the Marmilla area of Sardinia (in the Province of Medio Campidano).

Coordinates: 39°42'21"N; 8°59'26"E

Description:

Su Nuraxi is a nuragic archaeological complex located in Barumini. It consists in a central Nuraghe (which is the name of the main type of ancient megalithic edifice found in Sardinia, developed during the Nuragic Age, and nowadays the symbol of Sardinia and its distinctive culture) and a surrounding nuragic village.



The oldest part of the Nuraghe consists of a central tower with three superposed chambers (18.6m high) and was built in blocks of basalt between the seventeenth and thirteenth centuries BCE. Later, during the Late Bronze Age, four towers joined by a curtain wall with an upper balcony (no longer extant) were built around the central tower, all communicating with an inner courtyard served by a well.

The complex at Barumini, which was extended and reinforced in the first half of the 1st millennium under Carthaginian pressure, is the finest and most complete example of this remarkable form of prehistoric architecture.

The site is managed by the Fondazione Barumini Sistema Cultura. Very close to the site, another important site to visit is the Old Casa Zapata, in which there are wonderful ruins of another Nuraghe construction, plus many ancient objects, a small folklore museum and a Launeddas one, related to one of the most ancient and typically Sardinian music instruments in the world.

Less than 20 Km from Barumini, in Villanovaforru area, there is the important territorial Museum Sa Corona Arrubia (<http://www.sacoronarrubia.it/museo-sa-corona-arrubia/info-e-contatti/>).

Moreover, this amazing archaeological site lies at the foot of the "Parco della Giarra di Gesturi", a naturalistic plateau famous for its beautiful landscapes, its uncontaminated nature and the presence of particular small wild horses.

Protection category:

The archaeological zone of Su Nuraxi was discovered and brought to light by the archaeologist Giovanni Lilliu during the Forties and Fifties and because of its uniqueness has been enrolled in Unesco World Heritage List in 1997 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/833>).

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Accessibility of the resource (universal):

Due to the particular nature of the site and the presence of corridors, tunnels and stairs, the site is not easy accessible to people with reduced mobility, especially disabled and elderly people. Children are allowed, but under parental control.

Since the visit essentially occurs outdoor, in rainy days, for security reasons, the archaeological zone may not be accessible or only partially accessible. Comfortable and anti-slip shoes are strongly recommended. It is usually possible to get an English speaking guide.

2. Resource Signaling:

Outside.- Due to the extreme importance of the site, plenty of road signs indicate how to reach the resource.

Indoor.- The visit is allowed only in presence of a guide, so the internal itinerary is "forced" and does not need to be deeply signaled.

3. Level of accessibility:

Outside.- The Su Nuraxi site is easily accessible by car. Public transport (in particular ARST bus from Cagliari and Oristano), arrive to the Barumini village, from which the Su Nuraxi site is reachable with a 10-15 min walk. Their timetable usually do not allow a day trip (bus time are triggered by the working hours and not by the tourist needs). Some local tour companies can organize a minibus for a minimum of 6 person, but information are not easily accessible from abroad.

MARKETING

1. Marketing profile:

Due to great importance of this resource, the marketing plan is diversified. The Barumini stop is a must in almost every tourist package in Sardinia operated by tour operators and/or Travel Agencies. Onlien information and the absence of need for booking in advance allow individually itineraries. The presence of lots of interesting other resource in the surrounding area facilitate the presence of great number of tourist

2. Information available of the resource

All the important information can be found online in the web site of the managing Foundation www.fondazionebarumini.it. In the same website, it is possible to download the map of the resource, with useful information about the archaeological site, and the linked museum, together with all the most useful information regarding the accommodation in the surrounding area, and an "Information Fact Sheets about Barumini".

VISITS

1. Capacity of the establishment:

On average, the Su Nuraxi site attracts about one hundred thousand (100,000) of visitors per year, especially during the spring and summer period, with peaks of 12,000-13,000 presence per month in July or August.

2. Schedule and Availability for visitors:

The site is open all days of the year. To visit the Nuraghe of Barumini, a guided tour is obligatory. The guided tour lasts more or less one hour and usually there are departures every 30 minutes. The opening hours of the site vary from period to period (9.00 -16.00 in December-March; 9.00-19.00 in April-June; 9.00-19.30 in July-August; 9.00-18.30 in September; 9.00-16.30 in October-November) and reservation is recommended for school and large groups.

3. Admission:

The admission fee for the guided tour is 10,00 €, reduced to 7,00€ for under 18 children and kids or for organised groups or groups of friends composed at least of 20 (twenty) people. A further reduction is provided for very young people (7 to 12 years old). The admission is free for 0-6yrs old children, for disabled visitors and their guest or helper, for teachers leading school groups in accordance with the percentage established by law of 1 for 15. In some case, a nighty tour is possible, by appointment only; in this case the admission fee is 13,00€

4. Limitations:

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TOURIST RATING OF THE RESORT

1. Hierarchical level of resource:

• **Level 3:** With exceptional Attractive and of great significance for the international tourist market. Capable to motivate by itself an important stream of visitors.

2. Tourism demand:

The site is visited each year by different kind of people. During the school period, (September – May), visitors are mainly composed by school groups, in particular from local schools. From March to October, small or large groups of tourists come to visit the site. They are mainly European (three-quarters), with a predominance of Italian, English, French and German (in order).

The archaeological site of Barumini is a famous and well established tourist-attracting site. Being a World Unesco Heritage, it is able to attract people in Sardinia by itself.

It is not directly related to astronomy, but it is interesting to analyze the link of astronomy with the ancient history of this particular island, which is strongly based in the pre-nuragic and nuragic culture