

Hiking in Sardinia with donkeys

8 days / 7 nights

A superb 6-day itinerary through unspoiled nature, where you can see animals in the wild and discover ancient archaeological sites. Your walking will be accompanied by Sardinian donkeys who will carry your belongings. The Sardinian donkey is patient, tireless, but endangered.

Discover the magnificent scenery of the primary forests, where you can meet deer, but also, with a little luck, sheep, horses and birds of prey.

The paths used during this trip are, for many, the trails that were used for transhumance and exchanges. You will surely have the opportunity to get in touch with shepherds and the inhabitants of the small villages.

You can swim frequently in translucent waters (waterfalls, gorges, sea), and you will enjoy a virtually car-free circuit in the countryside.

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Jerzu

Arrive at Cagliari airport, which is located in the south of Sardinia. From here you will be transferred by bus to the municipality of Jerzu. Our accommodation is in an inn with private room and bathroom. Once settled, there will be a presentation of the week's program, dinner and an overnight stay in the inn.

We will also meet the Sardinian donkeys that will accompany us on our walk. If the weather permits, we will walk with the donkeys towards a chalet belonging to the forest wardens. From this mountain we can see all the hiking we will do during the week.

Walking time: 2h

Height difference: 100m



Day 2 - Jerzu to Ulassai

Departure from Jerzu in the morning towards the hills famous for the production of Cannonau wine, one of the secrets of Sardinian longevity! Then we will walk on to the Tacchi valley of Ogliastra.

The walk continues onto high cliffs, through oak forests and Mediterranean scrubland, with sweeping views of the surrounding

area and of the sea.

There will be an opportunity to meet a herbalist and to get to know the different local wild plants and their uses.

Evening and dinner in the village.

Walking time: 6h

Height difference: 400m



Day 3 - Ulassai to Taccu di Osini

We start today's hike by visiting the Ulassai caves at the height of the village, taking a path with sea views, that meanders on the mountainside.

We will pass by the open-air museum at the small village of Ulassai, to admire the works of Maria Lai, an internationally renowned local artist, as well as those of other artists.

We will have the opportunity to see the canyon of Saint Giorgio, nestled in the middle of a rocky mountain in the middle of forests and we will sleep in an inn in the middle of the countryside. In the evening, before dinner, we will learn how to make the famous Sardinian ravioli "Culurgonis".

Walking time: 6h

Height difference: 400m



Day 4 - Osini to the Forest of Mont'Arbu

In the morning we leave for Serbissi's Nuraghe, one of the most beautiful fortresses of the Ogliastra, dating back more than 4000 years. It is spectacular for its views and for its cave.

Then we descend into the picturesque valley of Gairo Taquisara, crossed by the small green train of Sardinia. We will stop for lunch in a cuile, a typical Sardinian shepherd's hut.

We cross the dense forest of Niala, enjoying the sound of rivers and birds to finally reach the heart of the Mont'Arbu forest where we will stop in a forest house.

Possibility of swimming in the river near the forest house.

Walking time: 7h

Height difference: 600m



Day 5 - Montarbu to Perda Liana

We continue our journey among the old green oaks, going up alongside the Rio Ermolinos to cross the imposing Tonneri cliff. The route culminates in the imposing summit of the Margiana Pubusa.

Like the former transhumance shepherds, we head towards one of the most important symbols of Sardinia, Perda é Liana, a limestone tower, used by the first Sardinians as a pagan site.

Finishing our journey with the donkeys, we leave the Gennargentu mountains to reach the small village of Santa Maria Navarrese on the east coast (transfer by bus) where we will have dinner and sleep.

Walking time: 6h

Height difference: 600m



Day 6 - Santa Maria Navarrese to Perda Longa

We get up early in the morning and leave for an excursion that follows a scenic path. The path runs along the coast to Perda Longa, a huge rocky needle overlooking the sea. Its name means "long stone" in Sardinian.

Walking time: 2h30

Height difference: 200m

We have lunch on site in a restaurant with a superb panoramic terrace.

Possibility of swimming in the crystal clear waters in the middle of the rocks.

In the afternoon we leave for Monte Oro, a rocky plateau and an ideal place to admire the beautiful views.

Walking time: 2h30

Height difference: 400m



Day 7 - Santa Maria Navarrese to Cagliari

This morning we take the bus to Baunei, a small village 25 minutes from Santa Maria Navarrese. From here we go up to the top of the Golgo plateau with its small church. It is one of the most famous and beautiful excursions: it starts from the Golgo area and ends at Cala Goloritzè: we spend the morning and early afternoon on the beach. Return to the hostel (Ostello) and departure by bus to Cagliari.

Dinner and accommodation in Cagliari.

Walking time: 4h

Height difference: 700m



Day 8 - Cagliari

Transfer to Cagliari airport marks the end of this unforgettable journey through Sardinia's natural landscapes.

Additional information

TARIFFS

Price from 1245 euros per person.

OPTIONS

INCLUDED

Return bus transfer from Cagliari Airport to Jerzu

Your accommodation

Meals, including "Sardinian picnics" at lunch, made with organic and local produce

The guide and an attendant for the donkeys

NOT INCLUDED

The visit of the Serbissi nuraghe, the caves and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Ulassai or the visit of Goloritze

Wine at the evening meals

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Intermediate, between 3 and 7 hours of walking depending on the day, with a maximum altitude difference of 700m per day.

CARRYING

A donkey will be carrying your bags

ACCOMMODATION

Sardinian inns, or at the inhabitant's home for authentic encounters

SIZE OF GROUP

From 5 people

DEPARTURES

May, September and October

DEPARTURE

Bus transfer from Cagliari airport to the village of Jerzu.

DISPERSION

Cagliari, bus transfer from your hotel to the airport.