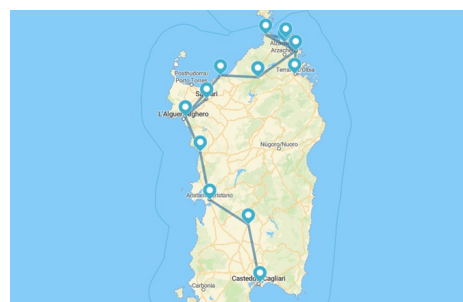




Italy (Sardinia), 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route from the Emerald Coast (Costa Smeralda)

This interesting trip will allow you to discover one of Europe's most treasured paradises. If you are the adventurous type and want to see on your own the best destinations on the Italian island of Sardinia, the second largest of the Mediterranean, then this is the Tour for you. Leave your watch at home, just bring a map and the desire to discover the secrets of the "Kingdom of Sardinia", a unique place dotted with beautiful landscapes in its interior and stunning, fine sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters. You have a vast selection of stunning coastlines to choose from, from the sands of the Costa Smeralda and the archipelago of La Maddalena to the beautiful coastlines on the north of the island, the Sinis peninsula, the wild Costa Verde and the photogenic beaches to the south. A true delight in the middle of the Mediterranean! With the freedom of your rental car, you will be able to discover, at your own pace, thousands of years of history and unique places that link travellers to the different influences of the past. Sardinia treasures an important historical past that you can appreciate at sites such as the Ruins of Tharros (Sinis peninsula) and the Su Nuraxi (Barùmini) complex, in its medieval villages and impressive cities such as Alghero, Sassari, Bosa and Cagliari. The Tour winds through natural treasures that encourage you to enjoy outdoor activities and water sports. Dare to tour Sardinia and discover its more traditional side, centenary customs and picturesque festivals, as well as its more modern and glamorous destinations, meccas for the "jet set" elite since the sixties. During the whole holiday you can enjoy delicious gastronomy while raising a glass of excellent wine and sipping local spirits. Set sail for the turquoise and emerald island and find out why it is the last temptation of the Mediterranean.



**Departure date:** Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Dublin, Shannon, Cork

## Travel details

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## DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - OLBIA - EMERALD COAST

Flight departure from the city of origin to the Italian town of Olbia, one of the main gateways to the island. Arrival and rental car pick-up. Get ready to enjoy the idyllic Costa Smeralda! Olbia offers travellers a nineteenth-century city centre dotted with charming sights and points of interest such as the ruins of the Roman aqueduct, the church of San Simplicio, the lively Corso Umberto I, and the church of San Paolo, known for its multicoloured Arabesque dome... Bursting with shops, wine bars, trattorias (typical restaurants) and lively piazzas, Olbia is a modern town with excellent infrastructure and one of the most affordable options to explore this exclusive part of the coast. Made fashionable in the sixties by Prince Karim Aga Khan, the privileged Costa Smeralda has become THE place for the "jet set" to rest and spend their summers. Take advantage of the first night in Sardinia to see coastal resorts such as stylish Porto Rotondo, Porto Cervo or Baia Sardinia. Situated about 30 minutes' drive from Olbia, these exclusive places have become the private paradises of the rich and famous. See their sophisticated settings, the string of yachts moored in their harbours, the magnificent mansions, elegant boutiques, famous restaurants and luxurious hotels. (Note: If you are interested in culture, we recommend visiting the National Archaeological Museum of Olbia, which is home to artefacts from the nearby Nuragic sites, as well as booty from local shipwrecks). Overnight stay in Olbia.

## DAY 2 · EMERALD COAST - CAPO D'ORSO - PALAU - MADDALENA ARCHIPELAGO - SANTA TERESA DI GALLURA - EMERALD COAST

We continue exploring the beautiful and exclusive Costa Smeralda. Our first stop will be Palau. On the way, you can stop in Arzachena, to visit the Tomb of the Giants of Lu Coddhu Ecchju and the Necropolis of Li Muri; you can also see Capo d'Orso, famous for its Bear Rock (122 metres high), a gigantic cavity that has been moulded by the wind and rain over the centuries. Capo d'Orso provides magnificent views of the islands of La Maddalena and northern Sardinia. From here we head to Palau, only 5 kilometres away. In this popular summer destination you can hop on the "Tren Verde" that travels through an attractive Mediterranean reserve surrounding Palau. Another option is to take the car ferry to the island of La Maddalena. Once a fishing village, today it lives off local crafts and the sale of typical products such as corals or Sardinian filigree. (Note: Tour not included). The main square is home to the column commemorating the victory of Garibaldi against the French in 1793. You can visit his house-museum on the neighbouring island of Caprera. (Note: Car and passenger ferries depart every hour from Palau to La Maddalena island in the centre of the archipelago bearing the same name. The journey takes about 15 minutes. A 20 km panoramic road lets you drive around the island and reach its beautiful beaches and bays. The island of La Maddalena is connected by bridge to the island of Caprera. Another symbol of the archipelago is the famous "Rosa beach", on Budelli island). On the way back to Palau, we continue the Tour towards the charming seaside town of Santa Teresa di Gallura, passing through granite landscapes and Mediterranean vegetation. Situated on the northernmost point of Sardinia, the town offers travellers beautiful beaches, historic sites such as Torre di Longonsardo and lively spots such as Piazza Vittorio Emanuele. You can take a swim in the nearby coves of Capo Testa and enjoy a view of the French island of Corsica. Overnight stay on the Costa Smeralda.

## DAY 3 · EMERALD COAST - TEMPIO PAUSANIA - CASTELSARDO - ALGHERO

Set off for inland Gallura. A landscape of red mountains and cork oak forests awaits you behind the wheel. Our first stop is the Tempio Pausania and its small old town dotted with mansions built entirely out of granite. We continue enjoying a route sprinkled with beautiful villages and quiet stretches of coast. We then head to Castelsardo, one of Sardinia's most magical towns. Of medieval origin and dominated by an imposing castle, the village is perched atop a promontory made of volcanic rock that stretches into the sea. Built as a fortress in the 12th century by the aristocratic Doria family from Genoa, the village is formed by narrow, steep and picturesque alleys. The town is surrounded by beautiful beaches. After this pleasant stop, we continue the Tour. The day ends with a visit to beautiful and lively Alghero, which still has a Spanish feel, a reminder of when this land was part of the Crown of Aragon. (Note: The city's link with the Crown of Aragon dates back to the 14th century. Today its inhabitants speak a variation of Catalan and celebrate the Song of the Sibyl at Christmas, a tradition that is also typical in Mallorca). The city, protected by a fifteenth-century wall with seven towers, has many attractions such as the Cathedral, the Palau Reial and the Church of St. Francis. Its old town, which is found around piazza Civica, is one of the best preserved on the island. And if you want to find out about the history of the city, head to the Tower of San Giovanni. The Port and the beautiful sands of "Bombarde", "Lazarretto" and "Lido" will allow you to relax and enjoy the sea, the sun and the good atmosphere. Overnight stay in Alghero.

#### DAY 4 · ALGHERO - CAPO CACCIA (NEPTUNE'S GROTTO) - SASSARI - ALGHERO

After wandering around the tourist and port city of Alghero, we suggest you a trip to the promontory of Capo Caccia (declared a Marine Nature Reserve) to visit the Blue Grotto. Perched above the sea and with a picturesque lighthouse at one end, from Capo Caccia you can take in stunning views of Alghero, especially from the Foradada viewpoint. (Note: There are two ways to get to Neptune's Grotto, famous for its stalactites and stalagmites reflected in the crystal-clear waters. The first option is to take a boat from the port of Alghero. Another alternative is by land, driving to Capo Caccia and parking your car. The grotto is a popular attraction. If you don't want to have any problems parking, set off first thing in the morning). From there, you can reach the grotto by walking down the 656 steps of the "Escala de Cabirol" (Goat's Steps) or the "Escala de Corzo" (Deer's Steps), which are carved in the rock itself and run down the cliff face to the entrance of the grotto. Don't forget, you will have to go back up the 656 steps to get to your car. Neptune's Grotto is a carefully protected natural site, that is why only guided visits are possible. Check visiting times in advance to make sure you get a place. (Tour not included). On the way back to Alghero, you can visit Nuraghe di Palmera. After lunch, we drive to Sassari, located about 20 minutes from Alghero, today defended by only 6 of the original 36 towers that once protected the city. It is one of Sardinia's most important cities. It is a place with a strong character that the Pisans, Genoese and Aragonese unsuccessfully attempted to claim. The Sanna Museum is the perfect place to discover the history of the region and that of the Nuragic civilisations, the people before the Phoenicians. Other places of interest are the Romanesque Cathedral of St Nicholas, the Ducal Palace, the Fontana del Rosello, the medieval temple of San Pietro di Silki and La Marmora street, one of Sardinia's most elegant avenues and home to residences and promenades of the seventeenth century bourgeoisie. (Note: If you have time, about 18 kilometres away is the Basilica of the Holy Trinity of Saccargia (12th century), one of the island's Romanesque masterpieces). Overnight stay in Alghero.

#### DAY 5 · ALGHERO - BOSA - ORISTANO

Head for Bosa, one of the most beautiful medieval places in northern Sardinia. With the freedom of our rental car, we can visit, at our own pace, Sardinia's spectacular coastline with hidden coves and magnificent sandy beaches alternating between dunes, steep cliffs and Mediterranean vegetation. A journey in which the beaches and the beautiful landscapes play the starring role. We see Bosa on the horizon, which is dominated by the impressive castle of Malaspina, an almost impregnable fortress that belonged to the influential Tuscan family of Malaspina. (Note: The views from the castle battlements over the town of Bosa are magnificent). This ancient Phoenician settlement on the estuary of the Temo River, the only navigable river in Sardinia, captures travellers with its picturesque alleyways, pastel houses, delicious wines and culinary offerings to tantalise all five senses. You will be able to purchase its famous fine jewellery and precious lace from its traditional shops. If you have time and feel like taking a dip, head to the beach of Bosa Marina, just a few kilometres from the centre. We continue traversing the island heading to the south, towards Oristano, a city with an important history and a charming old town. Two examples of its exceptional cultural heritage are the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta and the Antiquarium Arborense. Just a few minutes' drive from Oristano, you will find the sands of Torre Grande, where the largest Aragonese tower in Sardinia is located. We end the day by toasting with a "vernaccia di Oristano", one of Sardinia's most famous white wines. Overnight stay in Oristano.

## ● DAY 6 · ORISTANO - RUINS OF THARROS (SINIS PENINSULA) - SITE OF "SU NURAXI" (BARUMINI) - CAGLIARI

To the west of Oristano lies the Sinis peninsula where you can find some of the best beaches on Sardinia, as well as historical sites such as the ancient city of Tharros, located between Capo San Marco and the hill of Su Murru Mannu. The materials of the ancient city were reused in Oristano during the Middle Ages, but vestiges still remain in their magnificent original setting. (Note: Check the visiting times and the possibility of a guided tour. Tour not included). Near Tharros is San Giovanni di Sinis, one of the oldest churches on the island. And the best way to discover Sardinian prehistory is to visit "Su Nuraxi", the most important Nuraghe site on the island declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. You will be amazed by the megalithic "royal palace" whose ruins conceal centuries of history. (Note: The original site dates to 1500 BC. It is recommended to visit the museum first, in order to fully understand the visit to the archaeological complex. The site is to the west of Barùmini. We suggest taking the motorway whenever possible from Oristano to Cagliari). Beach lovers can set off from Oristano for the beautiful Costa Verde, where you will find some of the wilder and quieter beaches. One of the finest is the beach of Piscinas, a splendid sandy area sheltered by mobile sand dunes up to 50 metres high covered by thick typical Mediterranean shrubland. The impact on reaching the sand after the island's green interior is truly incredible. It is as if a desert stretches out in front of the sea! An image that continuously changes due to the mistral wind. (Note: This secluded beach is accessed by unpaved road). We end the day in Cagliari, the island's capital and Sardinia's largest city. Overnight stay in Cagliari.

## ● DAY 7 · CAGLIARI

Protected by the Gulf of Angels, the island's capital dates back to Phoenician and Roman times and is a prosperous port and important trading centre of the Mediterranean. Cagliari is a great place to discover prehistoric Nuragic civilisations and to reach the beautiful beaches of the south. Its Castello, of medieval origin and that gives the name to the walled district, introduces travellers to an interesting past and an outstanding artistic and cultural legacy. The city has many points of interest, most of them close to the old town, including the bastion of Saint Remy, the Towers of the Elephant and San Pancrazio, the Cathedral of Santa Maria, the Regio Palace, the Archaeological Museum, the National Art Gallery, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Villa of Tigellio, the botanical gardens and the sanctuary of Bonaria... Its Italian influenced architecture, its churches of different styles and the narrow streets of the Spanish neighbourhood bestow the city with a unique identity. There is also an underground city that you can discover on a guided tour. Cagliari is also the perfect destination to enjoy the sea, sun and good weather. The outskirts of the city are home to numerous glorious sandy beaches such as Poetto, Capo Carbonara marine reserve in Villasimius, Costa Rei, Chia Bay and Santa Maria di Pula... And for nature lovers, close to the city is the Regional Park Sette Fratelli-Mount Genis, one of the largest on the island and natural habitat of the Sardinian deer. There you will be able to see the famous "Devil's Chair", so named, because, as legend has it, Lucifer, after being expelled from Paradise, engraved the profile of his chair on the rock. Overnight stay in Cagliari.

## ● DAY 8 · CAGLIARI - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Costa Smeralda.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Costa Smeralda.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Alghero.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Alghero.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Oristano.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Oristano.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cagliari.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Cagliari.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

✗ Accommodation taxes in Sardinia direct payment in facility.

✗ Possible toll charges.

✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

Olbia



Costa Smeralda



Palau



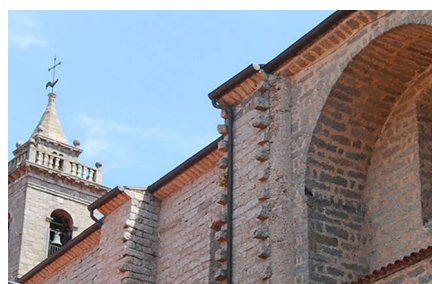
Parco Nazionale Arcipelago La Maddalena



Santa Teresa di Gallura



Tempio Pausania



Castelsardo



Alghero



Sassari



Bosa Oristano



Oristano



Barumini



Cagliari



## Important remarks

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- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- Suggested round-trip ferry rides are optional and not included in the final price. If you intend to take the car on a ferry, please let the rental company know at the time of pick-up to receive authorisation. Depending on the conditions agreed to in the rental contract and the company you choose, you might be charged a fee payable at the destination.