

Travelling around Sardinia by public transport

2008 Update

SARDEGNA





REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

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(Autonomous Region of Sardinia)

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Travelling around Sardinia

Discovering Sardinia by public transport is an original idea, and despite certain complications, it can offer pleasing surprises and awaken unexpected sensations.

The means of public transport that connect the island are mainly buses and trains. There are also ferries that link the mainland to the islands of Asinara, San Pietro and La Maddalena.

The road network is lacking and in many areas out-of-date: there are no superhighways, and technically not even any highways. This lack of efficiency is reflected in the low maximum speed limit of 90 km/h. When travelling by bus, this results in travel times that are less than ideal, with lengthy trips taking place at inconvenient hours of the day.

With regard to rail travel, the situation is not much different. In Sardinia, the railways of Trenitalia proudly reject any electrical upgrades and double track lines, leading to imaginable consequences in terms of inconvenience and travel time.

Under the auspices of the regional Sardinian transport company ARST Gestione F.d.S. s.r.l., Sardinian Railways have been in operation since June 16, 2008. The line crosses forests, ravines, mountain passes of extreme beauty, while going over evocative bridges and through tunnels. This said, the train should not be considered an easy way to get from place to place, since timetables and travelling times are often discouraging as well. Nonetheless, the train provides a unique opportunity to discover the most hidden parts of the region.

If despite these drawbacks you are still determined to discover the island in greater depth, this is the guide for you. It is dedicated to those tourists with the spirit of true travellers. To those who cannot content themselves with just seeing, but who also want to understand.

Important things to know

The public transport system within Sardinia consists primarily of buses and trains, along with some sea and internal air links.

- **The public rail system**, run by the company Ferrovie della Sardegna, is made up of one main line that connects Cagliari to the ports of the north, the cities of Carbonia and Iglesias, as well as some narrow-gauge railways.

Completed around 1883, the main railway is known as the “Dorsale Sarda” (Sardinian Backbone) and runs from south to north, connecting Cagliari to Porto Torres, one of the main points of maritime traffic where passengers and merchants arrive and leave the island. Despite the distance of around 250 kilometers, travelling time is about four hours (the average cost for a second-class ticket is about 15 Euros).

At Decimomannu, a town 19 kilometers from Cagliari, the line branches off toward the west. It takes an abrupt turn, passes the junction of Villamassargia, and arrives in the mining city of Carbonia and the city of Iglesias. Travelling times can take longer than an hour for a trip of less than 70 kilometers (the price for a second-class ticket is around 4 Euros).

Past Oristano (about 100 km from Cagliari) and Macomer (about 150 km), the Dorsale Sarda intersects with the narrow-gauge railway line of Nuoro-Macomer-Bosa, whose station is next to that of Trenitalia.

Throughout the year, the narrow-gauge railway lines only provide connections from Macomer to Nuoro on weekdays, with a travelling time of about 75 minutes. On Sundays and holidays, two bus routes that run from Nuoro to Macomer replace the train line. The Macomer-Bosa route is provided by the touristic train “Trenino Verde della Sardegna”, which runs on Saturdays and Sundays from June 28 to August 31.

The Ferrovie della Sardegna railway company also provides the opportunity to hire an entire carriage for the organisation of personalised trips on the narrow-gauge railways.

For more information, call 800 460220 (toll free) or visit www.treninoverde.com. Beyond Macomer, the line continues northwards until it reaches the Porto Torres terminal, merging with the Chivliani and Sassari train junctions on the way.

The “Troncone Gallurese” line starts from Chilivani heading in a north-westerly direction, continuing for around 80 kilometers until it reaches the Golfo Aranci maritime port via Olbia.

From Cagliari, it takes about 5 hours altogether, and a second-class ticket costs around 16 Euros.

In Sassari, the main line intersects another narrow-gauge railway called the Alghero-Palau line. Trains for this line depart from an area to the side of Trenitalia station. In this case, Ferrovie della Sardegna provides regular connections only for the Alghero-Sassari leg. From here, the line branches into



two: one going to Sorso and the other bound for Nulvi. On Sundays and holidays, the Sassari-Sorso line does not provide service, while the Sassari-Nulvi line is replaced by buses from June 16 to September 7. Travelling time is 35 minutes for the Alghero-Sassari route, and another 50 minutes from there to Nulvi.

It takes 15 minutes to get from Sassari to Sorso.

Ferrovie della Sardegna also provides the opportunity to continue on from Nulvi and get as far as Tempio and Palau with one of the tourist lines of the “Trenino Verde della Sardegna”. The connection to Tempio only runs on Thursdays between June 19 and September 4.

The tourist line that continues from Tempio towards Palau only operates on Fridays in the period between June 25 and September 5. Travelling time is 80 minutes to get to Tempio from Nulvi, and another 90 minutes to reach Palau. For more information, call 800 460220 (toll free) or visit www.treninoverde.com.

The railway network is completed by the narrow-gauge lines that join Cagliari to Arbatax and Sorgono. For those who want to use these lines, they should leave from Cagliari, take Line 1 of the “Metropolitana Leggera” (light railway) from piazza Repubblica, get off at via Gottardo in Monserrato and board the narrow-gauge railway train, first towards the junction at Mandas and then towards either Arbatax or Sorgono. However, the journeys are regular up to Mandas-Isili only, taking around 100 minutes, and in the summer the Mandas-Isili leg is replaced with a 20-minute bus ride.



The longest tourist line in all of Italy stretches from Mandas to Arbatax. The Trenino Verde departs twice a day, in the early morning and early afternoon every day except for Tuesdays, in the period between June 14 and September 13. The complete distance of the journey from Cagliari to Arbatax is 160 kilometers, and the travelling time is about five hours.

The Mandas-Sorgono line operates from June 14 to September 13 and does not offer regular departures. The service must be booked on request for no less than 30 adult paying passengers. Reservations can be made by calling 070 580246.

Both for the Mandas-Arbatax and Mandas-Sorgono routes, Ferrovie della Sardegna provides a bus/tram service to Cagliari (with terminal in piazza Repubblica), connecting with the first departure and last arrival in Mandas. For more information, call 800 460220 (toll free) or visit www.treninoverde.com.

- The public transport system for roads is run by ARST (Azienda Regionale Sarda Trasporti, or Sardinian Transport company), which is the region's main operator with 160 lines in total. Tickets can be purchased from ticket offices in the stations, newsagents, and other licensed sellers. Travelling times are quite long even for direct connections and become even longer in the case of lines with intermediate stops (i.e. Cagliari-Nuoro: around 150 minutes for 175 kilometers; Cagliari-Oristano: around 120 minutes for 100 kilometers).

In addition to the Ferrovie della Sardegna Bus Lines, with 107 bus routes (regular and seasonal), five other urban lines operate in the city of Alghero. The F.M.S. (Ferrovie Meridionali Sarde, or South Sardinian Railway) has 84 regular and seasonal lines operating in the Sulcis Iglesiente province, six of which run in the cities of Carbonia and Iglesias. The entire bus network service is completed by 68 private operators that control 138 routes in total.

Many private car hire companies connect the small towns with the closest regional capitals and Cagliari. These services are carried out by minivans and minibuses, marked with the initials N.C.C. (“Noleggio con conducente,” or Hire with driver).

Those interested in this service should contact the operator directly. On request, the operator will pick passengers up at their homes. The private car hire companies cannot use the bays reserved for taxis or the bus stops designated for licensed bus services.

- Internal air connections between Sardinian airports are limited to a single Cagliari-Olbia flight with Meridiana Airlines. Daily round trips are only provided during the winter season and are suspended from June to September.
- The network of sea connections between Sardinian ports largely involves the smaller islands of San Pietro, La Maddalena and Asinara. Voyages to the island of San Pietro are made frequently, either by Saremar



Ferries, with departures from Portovesme and Calasetta, or by Delcomar, with departures only from Calasetta. The voyage takes about 30 minutes.

Connections from Palau to the isle of La Maddalena are provided by Saremar and Enermar and take about 20 minutes.

Since July 22, 2007, the Delcomar ferry company has provided a regular link between Porto Torres and the island of Asinara, with three daily departures and a travel time of about an hour. Some of the Tirrenia ferries departing from Cagliari and Olbia make a stopover at the port of Arbatax before continuing on to the Italian mainland.

Let us now take a closer look at which services and transport opportunities you will find if you are leaving from or arriving at Sardinian seaports and airports.

What you can find

In the port of Cagliari

Upon landing in the port of Cagliari, you will find a well integrated system of services as well as the opportunity to reach every destination easily, whether those within the city itself or in the rest of the island. The ARST bus station and the Ferrovie dello Stato (Italian Railways) railway station can be found at a short distance from the mooring.

The maritime station is found at the center of the port, in the blue building where the port Authority is also situated.

There are two entrances to the building, one to the east side and one to



the west. Through the first, on the right hand side, passengers can find a bar/tobacconist's, and on the left the Autoassistance car hire company (tel. 0706848874; www.autoassistance.it), along with toilet facilities, including those for the disabled. A member of staff, recognizable by their blue uniform, can be asked for the key to the facility.



As there are no taxi ranks immediately outside the building, taxis can be contacted on 0706655 and 070400101.

The ticket office for information on the Tirrenia ferry company, the most important of the maritime transport operators between Cagliari and the continent, once located close to the maritime port itself, is found today outside the port, at about 300 meters on the left, back facing sea, in via Riva di Ponente 1. The ticket office is open on weekdays from 8.30 am to 1.20 pm and from 3.30 pm to 6.50 pm, and on Saturdays from 8.30 am to 12.20 pm and from 3.30 pm to 6 pm, Sundays and holidays in the afternoon, from 4 pm to 6 pm. The telephone number is 070666910.

The closest public Police force offices are the Comando Provinciale dei Carabinieri “Cagliari-Villanova” (the Provincial Headquarters of the Carabinieri) in via Nuoro, 9 (tel. 07066971) and the State Police station, in via Molo Dogana (tel. 070605151).

At about 200 meters from the maritime station, the island’s main railway and bus stations are found, both overlooking piazza Matteotti. They can be reached on foot along via Roma (heading left with back towards the sea).

The ARST bus station is open from 4 am (departure time of the first bus), until around 10.00 pm. For information about lines, times and fares call free on 800865042 or visit the site www.arst.sardegna.it.

Past the first entrance on the left of the façade, there is a waiting lounge in which can be found, as well as the ARST offices, a newspaper kiosk and the Atlassib Italia, a company that provides international road transport for passengers and goods. For information about the service call 070680213 or visit www.atlassib.it.

Continuing along the façade, past the private car hire firm Hertz (tel. 070651078 and 070668105), there is a second entrance, through which the left luggage service (open every day from 5 am to 8.30 pm), the ARST ticket/information office, open every day from 5 am to 9 pm and a travel agent are found. Its agency is licensed to provide any type of reservation or ticket and is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to

8 pm; on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm; tel. 0708564025.

The same entrance also leads to a fast food restaurant which is open all day until 10 pm.

On another side of piazza Matteotti the Ferrovie dello Stato railway station can be found.

The main entrance of the building leads to the Trenitalia ticket and information office (call center: 892021, operating every day from 6 am to 8.45 pm; www.trenitalia.it), and a branch of the Sanpaolo bank with a cash point.

Past the hall, a bar/tobacconist's can be found on the right and opposite a newsagents and a stationery/bookshop.

Further on, on the right, there are toilet facilities, including those for the disabled.

On the left there is a small chapel (where mass is celebrated every Saturday at 8 pm and every Sunday at 11 am); further on, a unisex hairdresser's, a waiting lounge and the railway Police office (whose switchboard operator can be reached on 070657689) can be found.

In piazza Matteotti, right in front of the station entrance, there is a taxi rank (taxis can be contacted on 0706655 and 070400101) and one of the main terminals of the urban transport bus network called CTM, (Consorzio Trasporti e Mobilità – Cagliari urban Transport Company) (tel. 07020911; www.ctmcagliari.it). CTM provides connections within the city, with the suburban areas and Poetto beach. Tickets cost 1 Euro and can be used on the entire network for 90 minutes after being stamped. They can be purchased at the ticket office or from sellers that display the CTM mark.

Tickets can also be purchased on board, with an added cost of 52 cents.

In Cagliari-Elmas airport

Cagliari's Mario Mameli airport is one of the main links of Sardinia's transport system and accounts for more than half of the air traffic, both arriving and departing from the island. It is located in Elmas, a small town about ten kilometers from Cagliari. The new air-terminal, opened in 2003, spans across three floors: the first is designated for national and international arrivals, the second for departures and the third is mostly dedicated to offices. Getting off the plane and entering the airport, at the exit from the area reserved for passengers, there are two offices for passengers whose luggage has been lost or damaged (tel. 3357858148 for Airone flights and 3351232436 for all the other companies).

Those who land with a national flight and leave the reserved area for the arrivals hall, will find a cash point (Banca di Cagliari) immediately on the right; in a central position, between the national and international gates, you can find a snack bar/newspaper kiosk and toilet facilities (including those for the disabled and infants).

Carrying on towards the left side of the building, there is both a post office with a cash point (tel. 070240510) and the "oversized luggage" office.

Also on the left of the arrivals area, there is space reserved for the offices of the following private car hire companies:

- A.M. Service, tel. 070240569 and 3356954835 - www.amserviceonline.it
- Auto Europa, tel. 070240101 and 3486539051 - www.autoEuropa.it
- Autonoleggio Buget, tel. 070241149 - www.bugetautonoleggio.it
- Autonoleggio Matta, tel. 070240050 and 3482546934 - www.autonoleggiomatta.it
- Autonoleggio Pinna, tel. 070240276 and 3395396688 - www.autonoleggiopinna.it
- Autonoleggio Pintauro, tel. 070240345
- Autonoleggio Ruvoli, tel. 070240323 - www.ruvoli.it
- Dollar Thrifty, tel. 070212096 e 3939011843 - www.thrifty.it
- Easy Car, tel. 800939293 and 3939705465 - www.easycar.it

- Euro Rent, tel 070241093 and 3357611533 - www.rent.it
- Mida Rent, tel. 0702110271 - www.midarent.com
- Sardinia, tel. 070240444 and 3358006760 - www.autonoleggiosardinia.it

The Lost & found office is located in the same area (open from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 12 pm and from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm; tel. 0702109733), along with toilet facilities, including those for the disabled, and a small emergency room belonging to the Red Cross (tel. 070241344).

Leaving the arrivals area of the air terminal, about 100 meters away to the right, five other private car hire companies can be found:

- Avis, tel 070240081 - www.avisautonoleggio.it
- Europcar, tel. 070240126 - www.Europcar.it
- Hertz, tel. 070240037 - www.hertz.it
- Maggiore, tel. 070240069 - www.maggiore.it
- Sixt, tel. 070212045 - www.sixt.it

The second floor of the air terminal, which can be accessed from the arrivals area either by the elevators or the lift, is reserved for departures and holds the ticket offices of the operating companies in the terminal, 42 desks for check in, a little chapel, a large shopping area and the VIP lounge. There is also a "Sala Amica" (friendly room) that welcomes passengers who need special assistance within a comfortable environment.

The ticket/information offices of the carriers operating within the terminal are on the far right of the building, straight after the check in area. Directly opposite there are also toilet facilities, including those for the disabled.

Carrying on to the opposite side of the terminal, the VIP lounge can be found on the right, which offers passengers with business class tickets, as well as their own check in area, the opportunity to wait for the flight in greater comfort (fridge facilities, coffee machine, snacks, flight information monitor).

Past the VIP lounge entrance there are toilet facilities, including those for the disabled and infants, a cash point (Banca Nazionale del Lavoro) and, past the entrance to the reserved area on the right, there is another cash point (Banca di Cagliari).

On the left there is a typical Sardinian food and wine shop, a perfume and gift shop and a local ceramic and handicraft shop.

In the same area, on a slightly raised floor, the business area can be found, taking up about 800 square meters. It also holds both a space for conferences, covering three rooms and six offices for temporary use, for those who need to organise business conventions and meetings. The business area is joined to the restaurant on the second floor by an exclusive passageway. For more information on the services, reservations can be made by completing the form on line at www.sogaer.it/richiesta_info/info, or by fax on 070211211.

At the bottom of the staircase that leads to the business area there is a small chapel where mass is celebrated every Sunday at 9.30 am.

Continuing in the same direction, past the toilet facilities, you arrive in the shopping area, separated by automatic sliding doors. Here there is a cash point (Banca di Sassari), a clothes shop, a jeweller, a newsagent/bookshop, a fast food restaurant, a chemist's and a bar, which opens in accordance with the first departure and closes with the last.

The third floor of the air-terminal, as well as offices for the state Authorities and air companies, holds a large refreshment area, where there is a pizzeria and a bar with an open terrace (for information and reservations call 0702110343).

On each floor services for the disabled are clearly indicated.

The building holds offices for all of the Police forces: Carabinieri (tel. 070240049), Guardia di Finanza (Financial Police) (tel. 070240100), Polizia di Frontiera (Border Police) (tel. 070210141), and also the Fire brigade' offices (tel. 070240336).

Connections between the airport and the city are provided by an efficient bus shuttle service that gets to piazza Matteotti in about 10 minutes. Here the ARST bus station and the Ferrovie dello Stato railway station can be found.

The shuttle service departs regularly at the following times: 8:45 am; 9:15 am; 9:45 am; 10:15 am; 10:45 am; 11:15 am; 11:45 am; 12:15 pm; 12:45 pm; 1:15 pm; 1:45 pm; 2:15 pm; 2:45 pm; 3:15 pm; 3:45 pm; 4:15 pm; 4:45 pm; 5:15 pm; 5:45 pm; 6:15 pm; 6:45 pm; 7:15 pm; 7:45 pm; 8:15 pm; 8:45 pm; 9:15 pm; 9:45 pm; 10:15 pm; 10:45 pm; 11:30 pm.

For information call free on 800865042 or visit the site www.arst.sardegna.it.

At the exit to the air terminal there is also a taxi rank (the switchboard operators are available at the numbers 0706655 and 070400101): the average cost for a standard journey to Cagliari is around 15-20 Euros.

Travelling from Cagliari to

Places of historical and archaeological interest

Barumini (59 km) can be reached with the ARST bus service. Travelling times are around 90 minutes (for information on routes, times and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it).

Bosa (170 km) has no direct links from Cagliari. It is necessary to reach Macomer by train, which takes about 2 hours or with the Logudoro Tours coach service (tel. 079281728; or visit: www.logudorotours.it). The remainder of the journey towards Bosa is provided by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service (call free on 800460220; or visit www.ferroviesardegna.it). Bosa can also be reached from Macomer with the touristic line (Trenino Verde della Sardegna), which only runs at weekends in summer and takes about two hours (for information call free on 800865042 or visit www.treninoverde.com).

Dorgali (210 km). The connection is provided by ARST through the line Cagliari-Nuoro, with travelling times of 2,5 hours for the direct train to Nuoro and then an extra 45 minutes for the Nuoro-Dorgali leg (for information on routes, times and connections call free on 800460220 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it).

Goni (58 km). The connection is operated by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service, via Senorbi. The travelling times are around 70 minutes for the Cagliari-Senorbi route and 40 minutes from Senorbi-Goni (for information about lines, times and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Guspini (66 km) can be reached directly with the ARST bus service, with travelling times of around 90 minutes (for information on lines, hours and

connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it). Guspini can also be reached by train, with a change at San Gavino – taking around 50 minutes travelling time (for information on lines, hours and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), followed by a 20 minute journey on to Guspini with the ARST bus service.

Laconi (83 km). Direct connections are provided by the ARST bus service and take about two hours (for information about routes, times and connections call free on 800865042, or visit www.arst.sardegna.it) and by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service (for information about lines, times and connections call free on 800460220 or visit www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Nora (41 km). Direct connections between Cagliari and Pula (a village close to Nora) are provided by the ARST bus service in around 45 minutes (for information on lines, times and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it). The archaeological site of Nora is about 2 kilometers distance from the Pula bus stop, reachable with the local coach service Follesa. (For information on lines, times and connections call 0709209026 or visit www.follesa.com).

Orroli (66 km). Direct connections are provided by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service, with travelling times of a little less than 2 hours (for information on lines, times and connections call free on 800460220 or visit www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Tharros (110 km) does not have direct connections with Cagliari and therefore it is first necessary to reach Oristano by train with travelling times of around 80 minutes (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or alternatively with the ARST bus service in around 2 hours (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). With the coach services Logudoro Tours (tel. 079281728; www.logudorotours.it) and Turmotravel (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it) the travelling times are about 80 minutes, but the journeys are less frequent. Further connections towards San Giovanni di Sinis and Tharros are provided by the ARST bus service taking around 35 minutes. This final connection runs in summer, operating exclusively between July 1 and August 31.

Protected sea areas

Asinara (Porto Torres port of embarkation, 252 km). The island can be reached by train with travelling times of around 4 hours (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or with the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service up to Sassari (call free on 800460220 or visit www.ferroviesardegna.it), with travelling times of more than 3 hours.

Further connections to Porto Torres are provided by the ARST bus services (for hours and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it) and by the Logudoro Tours coach service (tel. 079281728; www.logudorotours.it) in around 30 minutes.

La Maddalena (Palau port of embarkation, 298 km) has only one direct connection provided by the Turmotravel coach service (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), running once a day, with travelling times of around 6 hours. If there are no connections, it is necessary to reach Olbia from Cagliari by train, with travelling times of around 4 hours (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it) or with the Turmotravel coach service around 4.5 hours. In winter Meridiana airlines connect Olbia to Cagliari in around 30 minutes (for information visit www.meridiana.it). Further connections to Palau are provided by the ARST bus services (call free on 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) with frequent journeys and travelling times of about one hour.

Palau can also be reached from Cagliari by train, even though travelling times are quite long. Upon arriving at Sassari with the standard railway line, the journey continues on to Nulvi with the Ferrovie della Sardegna narrow-gauge railway. The connection from Sassari to Nulvi is also provided by the Anglona Tour coach service (tel. 079576266; www.anglotour.com).

The touristic line (Trenino Verde della Sardegna) also leaves from Nulvi, but only runs in summer on some days of the week (free phone 800460220; www.treninoverde.com).

Orosei (212 km) has no direct connections. The ARST bus service provides a connection to Nuoro in about 2.5 hours, and follows on to Orosei in an extra 50 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

San Giovanni di Sinis (109 km) has no direct connections and therefore it is necessary to reach Oristano by train, which takes about 80 minutes (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it) or by the ARST bus service (free phone: 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), taking about 2 hours. Alternatively, the connection is also operated by the coach services Logudoro Tours (tel. 079281728; www.logudorotours.it) and Turmotravel (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), both taking about 80 minutes but running less frequently. Further connections towards San Giovanni di Sinis are provided by the ARST bus service and take about 35 minutes. This last connection only operates in summer between July 1 and Aug 31.

Tavorola (Porto San Paolo port of embarkation, 263 km) does not have direct connections: first it is necessary to go to Olbia by train, which takes about 4 hours (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or alternatively with the Turmotravel coach service (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), with a travelling time of about 4.5 hours. In winter Meridiana airlines connect Cagliari to Olbia in about 30 minutes (www.meridiana.it), while further connections to Porto San Paolo are provided by the ARST bus service, taking about 20 minutes (free phone: 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Villasimius (57 km). Direct connections are provided by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of around 90 minutes (for information on lines, times and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it).

Baths

Fordongianus (113 km). The most comfortable way is first to get to Oristano by train, with travelling times of around 80 minutes (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). Alternatively, there is the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), which takes about two hours, as well as the coach services Logudoro Tours (tel. 079281728; www.logudorotours.it) or Turmotravel (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), which both take about 80 minutes, but run less frequently. Further connections to Fordongianus are provided by the ARST bus services and take about 40 minutes. The same company also operates a direct line from Cagliari, but it runs only once a day and has a long travelling time of 3 hours and 15 minutes.

Sardara (52 km). Frequent direct connections are provided by the ARST bus service (free phone: 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) and take about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Turmotravel (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it) makes the same connection in about 50 minutes, but runs less frequently.

The other provincial capitals

Carbonia (64 km) can be reached by train in a little more than an hour (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), and by the Ferrovie Meridionali Sarde bus service in two-hour travelling time (free phone 800044553; www.ferroviemeridionalisarde.it).

Iglesias (53 km) can be reached by train in about an hour (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or on www.trenitalia.it), and by the Ferrovie Meridionali Sarde bus service in about 60-80 minutes (free phone 800044553; www.ferroviemeridionalisarde.it).

Lanusei (145 km) can be reached by the ARST bus service in about 4 hours (for information on routes, times and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it).

In summer, Lanusei is also connected to Cagliari by the Ferrovie della Sardegna (Sardinian Railways) trains, with the Cagliari-Monserrato-Mandas public transport route and the touristic route (Trenino Verde) which continues from Mandas to Arbatax. However, this option requires up to 7 hours travelling time (to which waiting in Mandas for the train must be added). For further information, please call free on 800460220 or visit www.treninoverde.com.

Nuoro (176 km) can be reached by train in about 3.5 hours (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 and on www.trenitalia.it), by the ARST bus service (call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it) and Ferrovie della Sardegna (call free on 800460220 or visit www.treninoverde.com), both of which cover the distance in 2.5 hours (direct route). The Turmotravel coach service takes about 3 hours (for information on connections and times call 078921487 or visit www.turmotravel.it).

Olbia (260 km), the capital city of Gallura, can be reached from Cagliari by train in about 4 hours (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service in about 4.5 hours (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it). In winter Meridiana flights connect Olbia to Cagliari in about 30 minutes (information on www.meridiana.it).

Oristano (93 km) can be reached by train in about 80 minutes (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the ARST bus service in about 2 hours (free phone 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it), by the Logudoro Tours bus service (tel. 079281728; www.logudorotours.it) and the Turmotravel coach service – though services are less frequent – in about 80 minutes (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it).

Sanluri (43 km) can be reached by train in about an hour getting off at Sanluri Stato station (for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 and on www.trenitalia.it), by the ARST bus service in about one hour (call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it), by the Ferrovie



della Sardegna in about 100 minutes (free phone number 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it) and by the Turmotravel coach service in about 40 minutes, but with less regular journeys (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it).

Sassari (210 km) can be reached by train in about 3.5 hours (for information on lines/routes, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), and by the Ferrovie della Sardegna non-stop bus service in more than 3 hours (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Tempio (244 km) has no direct connections. The easiest way to reach this town of Gallura is travelling to Ploaghe by train (about 3.5 hours; for information on lines, times and connections call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), then continuing with the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service for about an hour (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it). In the case that there are no available connections, Tempio can be reached from Olbia or Sassari. From Olbia (which is connected to Cagliari by train, the Turmotravel coach service and, in winter, by Meridiana Airlines) Tempio can be reached by the ARST bus service in about 80 minutes (for information on lines, times and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it). In summer Tempio can also be reached from Sassari with the Ferrovie della Sardegna railway lines in about 4 hours (free phone 800460220; www.treninoverde.com).

Tortoli (141 km) can be reached by the ARST bus service (call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it) in about 3 hours. In summer Tortoli is connected to Cagliari also by the Ferrovie della Sardegna, with the Cagliari-Monserrato-Mandas public transport route and the touristic line which continues from Mandas to Arbatax. However, this option requires travelling times of up to 7 hours (to which waiting in Mandas for the train to leave must be added). For further information, please call free on 800460220 or visit www.treninoverde.com.

Departure points

Railway connections

All Trenitalia lines leave from Cagliari, at piazza Matteotti station. The narrow-gauge railway lines, run by the Ferrovie della Sardegna, leave from via San Gottardo station, in Monserrato, which is connected to Cagliari by the Metropolitana Leggera – light railway – (line 1), whose terminal is in piazza Repubblica.

Road transport

Connections operated by ARST, Ferrovie Meridionali Sarde and Turmotravel coach services leave from the bus station in piazza Matteotti. The Ferrovie della Sardegna buses leave from piazza Repubblica.

Piazza Matteotti and piazza Repubblica are connected through line 31 by the CTM, the public transport bus service in Cagliari. The journey takes about 10 minutes.

Notes

Both the incoming and outgoing trains in **Oristano** stop at the station in piazza Ungheria, 3. The ARST and Turmotravel bus terminal is situated at the bus station in via Cagliari.

The train station and the ARST bus station in via Cagliari are connected by the local city bus lines “circolare verde” and “linea azzurra”. The journey takes about 10 minutes.

In Oristano there are also two taxi ranks: one in piazza Roma (tel. 078370280) and the other at the railway station (tel. 078374328).

In **Nuoro**, all railway connections stop at via Lamarmora station. Ferrovie della Sardegna, ARST, Turmotravel and Deplano buses all stop at the new bus terminal in viale Sardegna, which is connected to the railway station by the city bus line 3. The journey only takes a few minutes. In Nuoro there is a taxi rank in Corso Umberto (tel. 078922718).



What you can find

In the Port of **Porto Torres**

The port of Porto Torres is about 30 kilometers from Sassari and 250 kilometers from Cagliari. The commercial port, near the town center, is now under restoration. In the meantime, passenger ships land at the industrial port which is 2 kilometers from the built-up area. This port does not offer many facilities, except for a bar and a newsagent's which also sells local handicrafts. Nearby, located in a dark-coloured building, you can find the ticket-information office of the Grandi Navi Veloci Ferries (tel. 079514477), open from Monday to Wednesday, from 8.00 am to 12.30 pm and from 4.30 to 7.30 pm, on Thursdays and Fridays from 9.00am to 12.30 pm and from 5.00 to 10.00 pm, on Saturdays and Sundays from 8.00 to 10.00 am. The Tirrenia ticket office (tel. 079517020) is open from 8.30 am to 1.00 pm and from 3.00 to 8.30 pm, and on Sundays and public holidays from 4.45 to 8.20 pm. There is a restaurant/bar just outside the port, on the left facing the built-up area.

All shipping lines provide a bus shuttle service for all passengers without a car. It stops at the commercial port, near the Aragonese tower.

In the commercial port, as well as two bars (one of which is also a tobacconist's and a newsagent's) there is a car rental, Rent 24 (tel. 079516318), and one of the Delcomar Ferries ticket offices, which provides three daily trips to the island of Asinara (tel. 0781857123; www.delcomar.it).

In the large square there are also the companies that organise sightseeing trips around the gulf: Impretours (tel. 079508042), Le Ginestre (tel. 079513493 and 330960387) and Rais del Golfo (tel. 079508009). Other operators, especially those which organise "fishing tours" can be found along the docks.

Past the big square in the commercial port and keeping to the right, halfway down the Alti Fondali Pier, you can find the Moby Lines mooring, whose ticket information office is situated in a white building, open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7.00 to 11.00 am and from 4.30 to 7.30 pm, on Tuesdays from 8.00 to 11.00 am and from 6.30 to 10.00 pm, on Wednesdays from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm and from 4.30 to 7.30 pm, on Saturdays and Sundays from 7.00 to 10.00 am (for information and bookings, please call 199303040, or visit www.mobyline.com).

The commercial port is close the town center and can be easily reached on foot. The town is connected to the most important cities of Sardinia by the railway network and the bus companies in charge of such routes.

Trains stop near the port (for information and bookings, please contact the Trenitalia call center at 892021, or visit www.trenitalia.it).

Trains bound to Cagliari are connected with the morning ferry arrivals and the evening departures. The journey takes about 4 hours.

The commercial port of Porto Torres is also the bus terminal for the bus services ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) and Ferrovie della Sardegna (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), which, through to the road junction of Sassari, give passengers the chance to go anywhere around the island.

In Porto Torres the Digitur bus service (tel. 079262039; www.digitur.it) is in charge of the connections to Alghero, Bosa and Santa Teresa di Gallura, while Logudoro Tours connects Porto Torres to a few towns in the center of Sardinia.

There are also good taxi services in town, with their ranks in Corso Vittorio Emanuele (tel. 079514052) and in piazza XX Settembre (tel. 079510439).

The average cost for a drive to the center of Sassari is about 25 Euros.

In Alghero-Fertilia airport

Alghero's airport "Riviera del Corallo", which has recently been extended with a new arrival lounge, is about 15 kilometers from the town center and 35 kilometers from Sassari. The air terminal structure is made of a long corridor, along which several shops and offices can be found.

Outside the arrival area, on the right, you can find: the Lost and Found office (for EAS Airlines please call 079935034; for the other companies, please call 079935282, 079935219 and 079935011) and the ticket office of the following airlines: Ryanair, Volare Web, Air Italy and Air Dolomiti, open from 6.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 3.00 to 9.30 pm (tel. 079935282). Close by are the Polizia Municipale (the Police) station, a cash-point (Banco di Sardegna), a bar with a tobacconist's, a newsagent's, local handicrafts and food and the ARST ticket machines.

In this area there is a gift shop and a clothes shop. On the left, going towards the departures, is a bar selling newspapers, the Polizia di Stato station (tel. 079935044), an area with several agencies and another gift shop, which also sells Sardinian handicrafts and pottery.

On the other side of the corridor, heading towards the departures, you can find the information center of the Ente Provinciale per il Turismo in Sassari (the Provincial Authority for Tourism in Sassari), which is open everyday from 8.30 am to 1.00 pm and from 3.30 to 10.00 pm (tel. 079935150), and provides information on the local tourist attractions. It does not provide reservations or other direct services for tourists.

Past the information center are the following private car hire offices:

- Avis, tel. 079935064 - www.avisautonoleggio.it
- Dollar Thrifty, tel. 079935188 - www.thrifty.it
- Europcar, tel. 079935032 - www.Europcar.it
- Eurorent, tel. 0792016072 - www.rent.it
- Hertz, tel. 079935054 - www.hertz.it
- Maggiore, tel. 079935045 - www.maggiore.it

- Mida Rent, tel. 079936061 - www.midarent.com
- Ruvioli, tel. 079935125 - www.ruvioli.it
- Sardinia by car, tel. 079935060 - www.autonoleggiosardinia.it

The following private car hire offices are outside the airport, in the paying car park which is opposite the arrivals area:

- A.M. service, tel. 3356014360 - www.amserviceonline.it
- AutoEuropa, tel. 079936060 - www.sbc.it
- Easy car, tel. 0789597014 - www.easycarspa.com
- Sixt, tel. 079936046 - www.e-sixt.it

Going further on the right side of the corridor, you can find a Red Cross emergency room open 24 hours a day (tel. 079935221), toilet facilities, including for the disabled, the Airone ticket office and Lost and Found office (open from Monday to Friday from 7.30 to 9.00 am and from 2.00 to 4.00 pm (tel. 079935034), the Carabinieri station (tel. 079935041) and other toilet facilities.

Right outside the arrivals there is a taxi rank (tel. 0799892028). The average price for a drive to the center of Alghero is about 20 Euros, or 35 to Sassari. On the right, about 100 meters from the airport exit is the bus terminal, where the following bus lines can be found:

ARST (Azienda Regionale Sarda Trasporti), for connections to Alghero, Sassari and Porto Torres and other possible links to the main centers of Sardinia (for information on lines, times and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it). Tickets can be purchased from the electronic ticket machines inside the airport or on board;

The Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service connects the airport to the main towns of the province of Sassari (for information on lines, times and connections free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it);

Deplano Bus Lines, for connections to Nuoro (tel. 078430325; www.redentours.com);

Logudoro Tours Bus Lines, for connections to Macomer, Oristano and Cagliari (tel. 079281728; www.logudorotours.it).

At the same location the city buses stop, which can be taken to reach Alghero city center easily. The Ferrovie della Sardegna station, in particular, is the narrow-gauge railway lines terminal for trains bound to Sassari (for information on lines, times and connections call free on 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Travelling from Sassari to

Places of historical and archaeological interest

Barumini (178 km) has no direct connections from Sassari. It is recommended to reach Sanluri by train (it takes more than 3.5 hours), then continue with the ARST bus lines (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), for 30 minutes, or with the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus lines for about an hour (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Bosa (88 km) is connected to Sassari by the ARST bus service (for information on lines, times and connections call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it), and the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it). The journey takes about 2 hours.

Dorgali (158 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to get to Nuoro by train, which takes more than three hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service, with a travelling time of about two hours (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), or by ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) in around 3.5 hours. Further connections to Dorgali are provided by the ARST bus service and the journey takes about 45 minutes.

Laconi (160 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to go through Oristano, which can be reached either by train, in around 2.5 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it) or by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service (for information call free on 800460220 or visit www.ferroviesardegna.it). The journey to Laconi lasts around 100 minutes and is provided by the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Goni (215 km) has no direct connections from Sassari. It is necessary to reach Sanluri by train; it takes approximately 3.5 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). It is possible to continue to Senorbì, with a journey of around 40 minutes, by both the ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) and the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus services. The connection to Goni takes about 40 minutes and is provided by Ferrovie della Sardegna (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it). In case there are no available connections, it is recommended to go to Cagliari and start the journey to Goni and Senorbì from there.

Guspini (165 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach San Gavino by train, which takes approximately 3 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). The journey then continues with the ARST bus service and lasts about 20 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Nora (247 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Cagliari either by train (the journey lasts about 3.5 hours. For information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), with a travelling time of more than 3 hours (direct route). From Cagliari the journey lasts about 50 minutes and is provided by the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). The archaeological site of Nora is two kilometers from the bus stop in Pula. This distance is covered by the Follesa bus service, with a journey of around 15 minutes (for information on lines, connections and times please call 0709209026 or visit www.follesa.com).

Orroli (185 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Sanluri by train, with a travelling time of about 3 hours and a half (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). It is possible to continue the journey to Senorbì, with a travelling time of about 40 minutes, by the ARST and Ferrovie della Sardegna bus services, though both take an extra 40 minutes (for information please call free on 800460220 or go to www.ferroviesardegna.it). In the case there are no connections, it is best to get to Cagliari and, from there, reach Orroli via Senorbì.

Tharros (137 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Oristano by train, with a travelling time of around 2.5 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or alternatively by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service, with a travelling time of about 2 hours (for information please call free on 800460220), or go to www.ferroviesardegna.it). Further connections to San Giovanni di Sinis (from where Tharros can be easily reached on foot) are provided by the ARST bus service and they take about 35 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). This connection operates from July 1 to August 31.



Protected sea areas

Asinara (Porto Torres port of embarkation, 29 km). The connection is provided by both ARST (for information on times and connections please call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it) and Logudoro Tours bus services, with a travelling time of about 30 minutes.

La Maddalena (Palau port of embarkation, 141 km) has no direct connections. The easiest option is to travel via Santa Teresa di Gallura and then continue to Palau. The ARST bus lines provide the Sassari-Santa Teresa di Gallura line, with a travelling time of around 2.5 hours, and the Santa Teresa di Gallura-Palau line, with a travelling time of another 40 minutes

(for information on times and connections please call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it).

In summer Palau can also be reached from Sassari by the narrow-gauge railway line bound to Nulvi. One of the tourist lines (the Nulvi-Palau line) of the Trenino Verde della Sardegna (Green train of Sardinia) leaves from this small village. It only operates on Thursdays, in the period from June 19 to September 4 (free phone 800460220; www.treninoverde.com). The Sassari-Nulvi connection is also provided by the Anglona bus service, with a travelling time of about an hour (tel. 079576266; www.anglonatour.com).

Orosei (159 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to get to Nuoro by train (the journey takes more than 3 hours; for information on lines, times and connections please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service, with a travelling time of 2 hours (for information call free on 800460220 or visit www.ferroviesardegna.it), or alternatively by the ARST bus lines, with a travelling time of around 3.5 hours (for further information call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it). The connection to Orosei is provided by the ARST bus service, and the journey takes about 50 minutes.

San Giovanni di Sinis (135 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Oristano either by train, with a travelling time of around 2.5 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service, with a travelling time of about 2 hours (for information please call free on 800460220 or go to www.ferroviesardegna.it). The journey to San Giovanni di Sinis (from which Tharros can be easily reached on foot) is provided by the ARST bus service and it takes about 35 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). This connection only operates from July 1 to 31 of August.

Tavolara (Porto San Paolo port of embarkation, 107 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Olbia by train, with a travelling time of around 2 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), or alternatively by the Turmotravel coach lines (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), with a travelling time of about 90

minutes. Further connections to Porto San Paolo are provided by the ARST bus service, and the journey takes about 20 minutes.

Villasimius (261 km). If there are no direct connections, it is necessary to get to Cagliari by train, with a travelling time of around 3.5 (for more information please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it). In this case the journey takes more than 3 hours (direct route). Further connections to Villasimius are provided by the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), with a travelling time of about 90 minutes.

Baths

Fordongianus (109 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Abbasanta by train, with a travelling time of around 2 hours (for information on times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). Further connections to Fordongianus are provided by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of about 30 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Sardara (162 km) has no direct connections. The easiest way to reach it is to travel to San Gavino by train, which takes about 3 hours (for information on times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). From here it is possible to choose whether to travel with ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus lines (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), or the Mereu coach service (free number 800254541; www.autoservizi.com). The journey takes approximately 15 minutes.

The other provincial capitals

Cagliari (215 km) can be reached either by train in about 3 hours and a half (for more information please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it) or by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service (free number 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), with a travelling time of more than 3 hours (direct route).

Carbonia (235 km) can be reached directly by train in over 5 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it).

Iglesias (220 km) can be reached directly by train in over 5 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it).

Lanusei (183 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Nuoro by train, with a travelling time of over 3 hours (for information on routes, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the ARST, with a travelling time of about 3.5 hours (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) or alternatively the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus services, with a travelling time of less than 2 hours (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it). Further connections to Lanusei are provided by the ARST bus lines and the journey takes about 80 minutes.

Nuoro (123 km) can be reached either by train in over 3 hours (for information on routes, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or with the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service in about 2 hours (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), or the ARST bus service in around 3.5 (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Olbia (104 km) can be reached directly by train in about 2 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it) with both the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) and the Turmotravel coach lines (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it) in about 90 minutes.

Oristano (124 km) can be reached directly either by train in about 2.5 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it) or by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it) with a travelling time of around 2 hours.

Sanluri (170 km) can be reached directly by train in approximately 3.5 hours (for further information please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it).

Tempio (72 km) can be reached directly by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service in around 80 minutes (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it). In summer Tempio can be also reached from Sassari by the Ferrovie della Sardegna narrow-gauge railway line, with a travelling time of around 2 hours, though with only one trip per week, on Thursdays (free phone 800460220; www.treninoverde.com)

Tortoli (186 km). There are no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Nuoro by train, in over 3 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus lines, with a travelling time of 3 hours (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), or alternatively by the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). Further connections to Tortoli are provided by ARST and the journey takes 2 hours and 40 minutes.



Departure points

Railway connections

Both Trenitalia and Ferrovie della Sardegna narrow-gauge railway lines leave from piazza Stazione station.

Road transport

The ARST and Ferrovie della Sardegna bus lines, as well as the Turmotravel coach lines, leave from via XXV Aprile bus station.

The Anglona Tours coach lines leave from via Tavolara.

It is possibile to go from a terminal to the other in a few minutes' walk, or by the city bus line 1. The journey takes a few minutes (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 0792638047 or visit <http://217.141.156.245>).

The Sassari radio taxi service is available at these phone numbers: 079251515 and 079260060.

Notes

As for the departure points in Oristano and Nuoro please see pages 33-34.

What you can find

In the port of **Olbia Isola Bianca**

The port of Olbia welcomes you with the largest maritime station on the island. The structure, composed of many different circular buildings that intersect, has a small tower at the center. There are two entrances, one next to the ferry mooring and the other further inland near the car park.

Passing through the entrance in front of the docks and going past the taxi rank, the departures area can be found, accessible only for passengers with a standard boarding card. Here there is a useful information and assistance point which supplies any guidance on transport towards all the main centers of the island. The office can be reached on the number 078924696 but is not allowed to provide hotel reservations or other travel agency services.

On the right there is a panoramic waiting lounge, a left luggage service (open every day from 6 am to 12 pm and from 4 pm to 10 pm) a cash point (Banca Sanpaolo) as well as toilet facilities, including those for the disabled.

On the left hand side you can find a shop with a bar selling local handicrafts, tobacco products and gifts. Continuing towards the exit of the reserved area, past a typical Sardinian food shop and on past the security check, there is a hall, surrounded by the airport offices.

On the left hand there is a large Sardinian art and local handicrafts shop, the state Police office (tel. 078928585) and the Masala&Pintus shipping company (tel. 078926354).

Still further on, the local radiotaxi cooperative's offices can be found (tel. 078926852 and 078924999; email: transervices@tiscali.it) near which it is

also possible to hire minibuses, buses and cars with drivers. The cost for a taxi ride to the city center is around 10 Euros.

On the left side of the hall, as well as a cash point (Banca di Sassari), the ticket/information offices of the companies operating in the port are found:

- Grimaldi Lines (tel.0789200126; information and reservations center 081496444; www.grimaldi-ferries.com), open from 7 am to 12 pm and from 5 pm to 10 pm;
- Moby lines (information and reservations office 199303040; www.moby-lines.it), open from 7 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 pm to 10 pm;
- Tirrenia (information and reservations center 892123 www.tirrenia.it) open from 8.30 am to 1.30 pm and from 4.45 pm to 10.50 pm;
- Di Maio Lines (information and reservations center 848151818; www.dimaiolines.it), open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 8 pm;
- Snav Grandi Navi Veloci (tel. 07899200084; www.snav.it), open from 8 am to 12 pm and from 4.30 pm to 10.30 pm.

To hire a car or a motorcycle, the Sun Lines car hire company can be found to the side of the exit towards the parking area (tel. 078950885, 3482609881). In the exit corridor there is also a small emergency room. On the first floor of the maritime station a panoramic pizza restaurant can be found (for information and reservations call 078922667).

Carrying on about 40 meters from the maritime station exit, to the right of the parking area, the bus terminal can be found. In the port of Olbia the following ferry companies operate:

- ARST, Azienda Regionale Sarda Trasporti – Sardinian transport company – for information on lines, times and fares please call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it and the Turmotravel coach company (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), for connections to Cagliari and the main towns of the island;
- Deplano (tel 0784295030; www.deplanobus.it), for connections to Nuoro and the Ogliastra region;
- Nicos Group (tel. 078954203; www.nicosgroup.it), for connections to the Gallura region.

In the opposite direction, about 50 meters from the maritime station, there is an ASPO bus shelter (Azienda servizi pubblici/Public Services Company). Line 9 connects the port to the city center and the Ferrovie dello Stato station in a few minutes. Tickets, that cost 80 cents, can be purchased from kiosks and licensed sellers (for information on lines, frequencies and times please call 0789553856 or visit the site www.aspo.it).

In Olbia airport

The airport lies 4 kilometers from Olbia and consists of a large building on two floors and a smaller building, situated a few meters from the exit to the arrivals area, where there is a terminal for car hire companies.

Just outside the airport, to the right on one of the building's corners, besides the airlines ticket offices operating at the airport (open all day from 6 am to 8 pm), you can find the Ciasardinia tourist portal information desk. It supplies any tourist information and is also licensed to make direct reservations as well as providing other travel agent services (tel. 0789563444; www.ciasardinia.com).

Not far from here you can find: the Aeroviaggi tour operator's office (tel. 0917434111; www.aeroviaggiclub.it), the Asara car hire company, which also provides car rentals with drivers (tel. 3488060336), the Starwood hotel company welcome center (www.starwooditaly.com) and a cash point (Banca di Sassari). Through the corridor along which the air terminal spans, on the right, you can find: a luggage shop, toilet facilities (including those for the disabled), the cash points of the Banca di Sassari and Intesa-San Paolo and a shop which sells both typical Sardinian food and artwork.

On the left hand side, near the exit to the air terminal, there are the offices of the road transport companies Nicos Group (tel. 078966837), Star Service (tel. 078967555), Sardegna Transfer (tel. 0784295030), Sun lines (tel. 07892609881) and Turmotravel (tel. 078921487), a parapharmacy and a toyshop.

Further along the corridor you can find the Carabinieri station, a help point for baggage that has been lost or damaged (one for all air carriers: tel. 0789563456; email: lost&found@geasar.it), an optician's, a small emergency room (tel. 0789563457) and the State Police. In the middle of the terminal there is a bar/pizzeria/restaurant with 170 seats (for information and bookings call 078968924).

Before getting to the departures area, still on the left hand side of the building, the following shops can be found: an ice cream shop, a playground area, a women's underwear shop, a large bookshop covering an area of 380 square meters, a jeweller's, a tobacconist's, a clothes and gift shop, as well as another clothes shop.

On the first floor of the building, which can be easily reached by elevator or lift, past an area with offices, there is a Banca Intesa-Sanpaolo cash point and branch. The airport also holds a section of the University of Sassari, where the Degree in Economics and Tourism Business is taught. The section has a lecture hall of 250 seats.

The offices of Police forces in the airport can be reached on the following numbers: Carabinieri 078968774; Polizia di Frontiera (Border Police) 0789641059; Guardia di Finanza 078969496; Fire brigade 078969502.

Outside the airport, in front of the parking area, there is a left luggage service, which is open every day from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm. This service is exclusively reserved for passengers that are departing or transferring. It costs 5 Euros (more information is available by the information desk).

The city center can be reached by taxis, which wait by the right pavement near the exit to the arrivals area. They can be contacted on the numbers 078922718, 078969150 and 0789609056 and the average fare for a journey is about 15 Euros.

The airport is connected to the city and the Ferrovie dello Stato station by the ASPO buses, through lines 2 and 10, that run regularly and have a travelling time of around 15 minutes. Tickets cost 80 cents and can be

purchased from newsagents and licensed sellers (for information on lines and frequencies please call 0789553856 or visit the site www.aspo.it).

Also to the right of the exit to the arrivals, past a bar with an open terrace, there is a bus terminal and a building that holds the offices of the following car hire companies:

- A.M.Service, tel. 078968884 - www.amservicee.it
- Auto Europa, tel. 0789642030 - www.sbc.it
- Avis, tel. 078969540, booking center 06452108391 - www.avisautonoleggio.it
- Dollar Thrifty, tel. 078966003 - www.thrifty.it
- Easycar, tel. 0789642426, free phone 800939293 - www.easycarspa.com
- Ellepì, tel. 078969055 - www.ellepirental.com
- Europcar, tel. 078969548 - www.Europcar.it
- Eurorent, tel. 078968524 - www.Eurorent.com
- Hertz, tel. 078969389 e 078966024, booking center 199112211 - www.hertz.it
- Maggiore, tel. 078969457, booking center 848867067 - www.maggiore.it
- Mida Rent, tel. 0789645233 - www.midarent.com
- Pinna, tel. 0789641109 - www.autonoleggiopinna.it
- Ruvioli, tel. 078969733 - www.ruvioli.it
- Sardinia, tel. 078969367 - www.autonoleggiosardinia.it
- Sixt, tel. 0789645108, booking office 199100666 - www.e-sixt.it
- Smeralda express, tel. 078969192
- Targarent, free phone 800980100 - www.targarent.it

Next to the car hire terminal there is a reserved area for buses which connect the airport of Olbia to the other towns of Sardinia. The following bus and coach companies provide regular departures from the air terminal:

- The ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) and the Turmotravel coach company (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it) for connections to Cagliari and the island's main towns;
- The Deplano coach Lines (tel. 0784295030; www.deplanobus.it) for connections to Nuoro and the Ogliastra region;
- The Nicos Group coach Lines (tel. 078954203; www.nicosgroup.it) for connections to the Gallura region.

In the port of **Golfo Aranci**

In the port of Golfo Aranci, 20 kilometers from Olbia, there is a small maritime station with a Pro Loco (Golfo Aranci town council organization providing services of different kinds) tourist information office (tel. 0789616090), as well as a small local handicrafts shop and the ticket offices of the following ferry companies:

- Tirrenia (information and booking center: 892123; www.tirrenia.it)
- Corsica Ferries (tel. 199400500; www.corsicaferries.it).

In the square opposite the ferry mooring point, there is a parking area reserved for taxis, a bar/tobacconist's selling typical Sardinian food, a newsagent's and a local handicrafts shop. The toilet facilities, including those for the disabled, are found in a small neighbouring building.

Continuing in the direction of the touristic port, a few meters from the commercial port, there are 2 snack bars and a cheese seller that gives the opportunity to sample island food products.

From the port of Golfo Aranci, the island's different town can be reached by bus or by train. The ARST bus stop is located in front of the docks (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). Tickets can be purchased at the port's bar/tobacconist's, or with an added cost on board the bus.

The railway station of Golfo Aranci is situated on the road of the same name, 200 meters from the port heading towards the railway Police station. Apart from the automatic ticket machines, the port does not have many facilities.

In any case, the port is very close to the built-up area, which is easily reachable on foot. Further down via Libertà, about 200 meters away, there is a tourist information office, and after another 200 meters, a Branch of Banco di Sardegna and a cash point can be found.

In the town several car hire companies operate. Addresses and telephone numbers are clearly advertised in the port.

In the port of **Santa Teresa di Gallura**

All sea connections to Corsica leave from Santa Teresa di Gallura, which is one of the most northerly centers of Sardinia and is about 60 kilometers from Olbia. In front of the ferry mooring point, there is a small maritime station with a waiting lounge and ticket offices of the ferry companies operating in the port. There is also a newspaper kiosk, a tobacconist's / souvenir shop and a bar with toilet facilities, including those for the disabled.

Moby Lines ticket-information office can be contacted on the numbers 0789751449 and 0789754884.

Saremar ticket office is licensed to make hotel reservations and any other travel agent service, and operates at the AMS offices – Sardinian Maritime Agencies. It can be contacted on 0789754156 and 0798754788.

In the building there is also a Police station (tel. 0789754269).

Right outside the maritime station, it is possible to walk along the port or enter the tunnel that goes up to the town center.

In the first case, after about 100 meters, you get to the taxi rank (tel. 0789754286 and 0789754422) and docks of the tourist port. Here, several boats that go on sightseeing tours of La Maddalena archipelago are moored. They can be contacted in the port itself.

The tunnel can also be reached on foot. It leads towards the bus terminal, about 400 meters from the port. The following bus and coach lines provide regular departures:

- ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) and Turmotravel (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), for connections to Cagliari and the main towns of Sardinia;
- Deplano (tel. 0784295030; www.deplanobus.it), for connections to Nuoro and the Ogliastra region;
- Nicos Group (tel. 078954203; www.nicosgroup.it) for connections to the Gallura region;
- Digitur (tel. 07962039; www.digitur.it), for connections to Porto Torres and Alghero;
- Ferrovie della Sardegna (free phone 8004600220; www.ferroviesardegna.it) for connections to Tempio.

In the port of **Palau**

The port of Palau, a touristic center situated 40 kilometers from Olbia, has a small maritime station with a bar-tobacconist's, which sells newspapers and souvenirs. Within the structure there is a cash point (Banco di Sardegna) and the ticket-information office of the following ferry companies operating in the port:

- Saremar (tel. 0789709270, information and booking center 892123; www.saremar.it) for connections to the isle of La Maddalena;
- Enermar & Dimaiolines (booking center 899200001; www.enermar.it) for connections to the isle of La Maddalena and Genoa;
- Delcomar (information office 0781857123 and 3453683626; www.delcomar.it) for connections to the isle of La Maddalena;
- M.F. Maddalena Ferries (information center 0789735468) for connections to the isle of La Maddalena.

In the same structure there is the Europcar hire company (tel. 0789709599), and an information booking office for sightseeing tours of La Maddalena (tel. 0789737112, 0789735419, 3473016832, 3477322777 and 3356273108).

Other operators can be contacted directly in the touristic port, which is a few meters from the commercial port.

The town provides an efficient taxi service (tel. 0789709218), with a reserved rank in front of the maritime station.

Right next to the port there is an area reserved for buses which connect Palau to the main towns of Sardinia. The following companies operate there:

- ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) for connections to Olbia and other towns of Gallura;
- Ferrovie della Sardegna bus lines (free phone 800460220; www.ferrovie-sardegna.it), for connections to Tempio Pausania;
- Nicos Group (tel. 079670613; www.nicosgroup.it) for connections within Gallura;
- Turmotravel (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it) for connections to Olbia and Cagliari.

In addition, the Trenino Verde line (the Ferrovie della Sardegna tourist railway service) operates from June 25 to September 5. It leaves from Palau Marittima railway station, which is a few paces from the commercial port, and arrives at Tempio. The service only runs on Fridays, with two departures a day: one in the morning and one in the late afternoon. There is no further connection to Sassari, since the touristic line Tempio-Sassari, running from June 19 to September 4, only departs on Thursday afternoons. For information on lines, times and fares, call free on 800460220, or tel. 07080246; www.treninoverde.com).



Travelling from Olbia to

Places of historical and archaeological interest

Barumini (228 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Oristano either by train, with a travelling time of about 3 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service in approximately 3.5 hours (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it).

From Oristano Nuragus can be reached by the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) in 1.5 hour and from here the connection to Barumini is provided both by the ARST and Ferrovie della Sardegna bus services (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Bosa (137 km) can be reached by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of about 3 hours and 15 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Dorgali (102 km) can be reached by the Deplano coach service in about 2.5 hours (tel. 0784295247; www.deplanobus.it).

Laconi (209 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Oristano either by train, with a travelling time of about 3 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021, or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), which takes about 3.5 hours. Further connections to Laconi are provided by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of around 100 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Goni (264 km) has no direct connections from Sassari. The fastest way is to reach Sanluri by train; it takes approximately 3.5 hours (for information and

bookings, please call 892021, or visit www.trenitalia.it). The Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service provides further connections, first to Senorbi (with a travelling time of about 50 minutes) and then from here to Goni, with another 40 minutes travelling time (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it). In the case there are no available connections, it is recommended to reach Cagliari and start the journey to Goni with the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus lines.

Guspini (214 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach San Gavino by train; it takes approximately 3 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). From here further connections to Guspini are provided by the ARST bus service and the journey lasts about 20 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Nora (297 km). There are no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Cagliari either by train (the journey lasts about 4 hours. For information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), with a travelling time of around 4.5 hours. In winter Meridiana flights connect Olbia to Cagliari in about 30 minutes (www.meridiana.it). Further connections to Pula are provided by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of around 45 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

The archaeological site of Nora is two kilometers from the bus stop in Pula. This distance is covered by the Follesa bus service (a private concessionaire of the city public transport). For information on lines, connections and times please call 0709209026 or visit www.follesa.com.

Orroli (235 km). There are no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Nuoro by train, with a travelling time of about 3.5 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the ARST bus service, which takes 2.5 hours (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), or alternatively by the Fratelli Deplano coach service (tel. 0784295030; www.deplanobus.it) with a travelling time of 2 hours and 15 minutes. Further connections to Orroli are provided by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus service with a travelling time of about 3 hours (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Tharros (186 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Oristano either by train, with a travelling time of around 3 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service, with a travelling time of about 3.5 hours (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it). Further connections to San Giovanni di Sinis and Tharros are provided by the ARST bus service and the journey takes about 35 minutes (free number 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). This connection operates from July 1 to August 31.

Protected sea areas

Asinara (Porto Torres port of embarkation, 126 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Sassari by train, with a travelling time of about 2 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the ARST bus service (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), or alternatively by the Turmotravel coach service (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), both of which take about 90 minutes. Further connections to Porto Torres are provided by both ARST and the Logudoro Tours coach service, with a travelling time of about 30 minutes (tel. 079281728; www.logudorotours.it).

La Maddalena (Palau port of embarkation, 43 km). Direct connections are provided by the ARST bus service with a travelling time of an hour (for information on routes, times and connections please call 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it). Another connection is provided by Turmotravel coach service, though only in summer. The journey takes 45 minutes (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it).

Orosei (87 km). Direct connections are provided both by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of 2.5 hours (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), and by the Deplano coach service, with a travelling time of around 3 hours (tel. 0784295030; www.deplanobus.it).

San Giovanni di Sinis (185 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Oristano either by train, with a travelling time of around 3 hours (for information and bookings, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service, with a travelling time of 3.5 hours (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it). Further connections to San Giovanni di Sinis are provided by the ARST bus service and the journey takes about 35 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). This connection only operates from July 1 to August 31.

Tavolara (Porto San Paolo port of embarkation 12 km). Direct connections are provided by the ARST bus service with a travelling time of about 15 minutes (free phone 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it).

Villasimius (280 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to get to Cagliari either by train, with a travelling time of around 4 hours (for information on lines, times and connections please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service in about 4.5 hours (tel. 078921487 or visit www.turmotravel.it). In winter Meridiana flights connect Olbia to Cagliari in about 30 minutes (information on www.meridiana.it). Further connections to Villasimius are provided by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of about 80 minutes (for information on lines, times and connections please call free on 800865042 or visit www.arst.sardegna.it).



Baths

Fordongianus (158 km) has no direct connections. The easiest way is to reach Abbasanta by train, with a travelling time of around 2 hours (for more information please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). Further connections to Fordongianus are provided by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of about 30 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it)

Sardara (212 km) has no direct connections. The easiest way to reach it is to travel to San Gavino by train, which takes about 3 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it). From here it is possible to choose whether to travel with the ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) or the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus lines (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it) or the Mereu coach service (free phone 800254541; www.autoservizi.com). The journey takes approximately 15 minutes.

The other provincial capitals

Cagliari (260 km) can be reached either by train in about 4 hours (for more information on lines, times and connections please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it), with a travelling time of about 4.5 hours. In winter Meridiana flights connect Olbia to Cagliari in about 30 minutes (www.meridiana.it).

Carbonia (285 km). The most comfortable way to reach it is by train, in around 5.5 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it).

Iglesias (270 km). The most comfortable way to reach it is by train, in around 5.5 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it).

Lanusei (168 km) has no direct connections. It is necessary to reach Tortoli by the ARST bus service, with a travelling time of about 4 hours (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it). Further connections to Lanusei are provided by the Ferrovie della Sardegna bus lines and the journey takes about 40 minutes (for information, call free on 800460220 or visit www.ferroviesardegna.it).

Nuoro (103 km) can be reached by train in over 3 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it), by the ARST bus service in 2.5 hours (free number 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), or alternatively by the Deplano coach service, in 2 hours and 15 minutes (tel. 0784295030; www.deplanobus.it), or by the Turmotravel coach service, with a travelling time of about 2 hours (tel. 078921487; www.turmotravel.it).

Oriстано (174 km) can be reached either by train in about 3 hours (for information on lines, times and connections, please call 892021 or visit www.trenitalia.it) or by the Turmotravel coach service, with a travelling time of 3.5 hours.

Sanluri (219 km). Direct connections are provided by Trenitalia. Trains stop at Sanluri Stato station, with a travelling time of about 3.5 hours (for information on routes, times and connections call 892021 and on www.trenitalia.it).

Tempio (50 km). Direct connections are provided by the ARST bus service. The journey takes about 100 minutes (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Tortoli (165 km). Direct connections are provided by the ARST bus service. The journey takes over 4 hours (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it).

Departure points

Railway connections

All Trenitalia trains leave from the station in via Giacomo Pala, 10.

Road transport

The ARST buses leave from Corso Umberto I station. Sometimes they stop at the maritime station in the Isola Bianca port, and at the airport.

The Turmotravel, Deplano and Nicos Group coach lines leave from the maritime station of Isola bianca and sometimes also from the airport bus terminal.

The ARST bus station, the airport and the passenger terminal at the Isola bianca port are connected to each other by the Aspo, the company in charge of Olbia public transport, through lines 9 and 10, with a travelling time of around 15 minutes. From the bus station, the train station can be reached on foot.

Notes

As far as the departure points in Oristano and Nuoro, please see pages 33-34.

What you can find

In the port of **Arbatax**

The port of Arbatax does not have many facilities, since the new maritime station is still to be completed. The ferry mooring is a few paces from the built-up area, where it is quite easy to get to shops and services for tourists.

Heading to the built-up area, on the left, you can find a handicrafts shop and the offices of the companies which organize sightseeing tours in the Orosei Gulf (tel. 0782667059 and 3394034841), along with a small tourist information center (tel. 3398992939).

On the right, there is the old Ferrovie Complementari della Sardegna station, which now holds the Pro Loco office (the town council organization providing services of different kinds).

Arbatax is connected to Cagliari and the other main towns of Sardinia by the bus services ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it) and Ferrovie della Sardegna (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), whose bus stop can be found in via Lungomare.

From June 14 to September 13 the Ferrovie della Sardegna tourist line "Trenino Verde" (free phone 800460220; www.treninoverde.com) travels along an evocative route deep in the greenery. It runs daily (except for Tuesdays) to Mandas and from there goes on to Monserrato-Cagliari, with departures at 7.50 am and 2.35 pm.

In Tortoli airport

The small airport of Tortoli overlooks the famous beach of Orri and is about 2 kilometers from the city center. It only provides essential facilities such as a newsagent's-bar (with tables outside in the summer) and a local handi-crafts shop, open according to arrival and departure times.

Tortoli can be reached by taxi (tel. 3391602132 and 330281908).

The average fare for a drive to town is about 5 Euros, that increases to 20 for Lanusei.

Tortoli is connected to Cagliari and the other main towns of Sardinia by the bus services ARST (free phone 800865042; www.arst.sardegna.it), which stops in piazza Cavour and piazza Fra' Locci, and the Ferrovie della Sardegna (free phone 800460220; www.ferroviesardegna.it), stopping at the courthouse, in front of the Primary school and in piazza Fra' Locci.

From June 14 to September 13 the Ferrovie della Sardegna tourist line "Trenino Verde" (free phone 800460220; www.treninoverde.com) travels along an evocative route deep in the greenery. It runs daily (except for Tuesdays) to Mandas and from there goes on to Monserrato-Cagliari, with departures at 8.00 am and 2.45 pm.

In the port of Portovesme

Portovesme is an industrial town, about 80 kilometers from Cagliari, with a port from which ferries to the isle of San Pietro leave.

The maritime station is located in a light-coloured building, where you can find the Saremar ferries ticket office (tel. 0781509065; information on lines, times and fares on www.saremar.it; for bookings call 892123), toilet facilities, including those for the disabled, a waiting lounge, a bar-restaurant, open every day from 5.30 am to 10 pm.

On the right of the mooring point, there is also a snack bar-tobacconist's, which also sells newspapers.

Transport to the other towns of Sardinia is provided by the Ferrovie Meridionali Sarde bus service (free phone 800044553; www.ferroviemeridionalisarde.it), which has a bus stop on the left hand side of the square, facing the maritime station. Buses travel from here to Carbonia, Iglesias and Cagliari; tickets are available in the port's bar.

In the port of Calasetta

The town of Calasetta, about 100 kilometers from Cagliari, has a small and well equipped tourist port.

In the square facing the mooring point, the ticket-information offices of the ferry companies operating in the port are located:

- Delcomar (tel. 0781857123 and 3453683626; www.delcomar.it)
- Saremar (tel. 078188430; for information and bookings call 892123 or visit www.saremar.it).

In the square opposite the port there is a bar-restaurant-pizzeria (tel. 078188934), a travel agent's, open on weekdays from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 4.00 to 8.00 pm (tel. 0781898011), along with the toilet facilities, without those for the disabled.

Connections to Cagliari, Carbonia, Iglesias and many other southern towns of Sardinia are provided by the Ferrovie Meridionali Sarde bus service (free phone 800044553; www.ferroviemeridionalisarde.it). The bus stop is located a few meters from the port, and tickets can be purchased in piazza Stazione, 1.

Before setting out on your travels

Whichever method of transport you choose, it is good to have at least an idea of your passengers' rights in order to face with better knowledge those little inconveniences that can sometimes ruin even the most pleasurable of holidays.

By ferry

Whether arriving or leaving Sardinia, or travelling to and from the small islands of San Pietro and La Maddalena with the ferry, you might find yourself inconvenienced by cancellations or delays of the departure and damages to your luggage or vehicle.

If the operator cancels the departure, or the ship does not leave, not due to the fault of the company (if, for example, an unforeseen damage occurs or there are adverse weather conditions) the passenger has the right to a full refund of the ticket price, but without compensation for damages (clause 402 Nav. code).

In the case that the cancellation of the departure occurs due to the fault of the operator (for example because the crew does not show up at the embarkation or the ferry company has neglected the necessary administrative procedures), if there are subsequent departures with other ferries of the same operator, the passenger has the right to take a later departure and to claim compensation for any possible damages that may have occurred (clause 408 Nav. code). If the departure is delayed, the passenger has the right to board and lodging during the delay (if included in the passenger's ticket).

In voyages that last less than 24 hours, after 12 hours delay, the passenger can decide to cancel his/her ticket and has the right to a full refund of the ticket price. With voyages in Mediterranean ports lasting over 24 hours, after 24 hours delay the passenger can choose not to wait any longer. Similarly, if the voyage starts and finishes outside Europe or in countries bordering the Mediterranean, after 48 hours delay passengers can also decide not to wait for their voyage (clause 404 Nav. code).

In the event that it is impossible for the passenger to travel, or if they are forced to renounce their journey, through no fault of their own, or if a member of their family, with whom they were meant to travel, is responsible, the passenger should contact the operator before the departure and has the right to a 75% refund of the ticket price. If the passenger fails to do this, the ticket is not refundable (clause 400 Nav. code). It is advisable to look carefully at the terms and conditions of the operators, which may have different regulations and therefore different penalties.

If, during the voyage or in the course of embarkation procedures (for example when going up or down the stairs), the passenger experiences an accident or injury, in principle, the operator is responsible and must give compensation for the damages caused, unless the operator demonstrates that his employees were not responsible (clause 409 Nav. code).

The responsibility to watch over luggage, on the other hand, lies on passengers, unless they prove that their losses or damages were caused by the operator itself. However, the operator is responsible for damages to locked luggage and should demonstrate that the losses and damages do not result from its negligence.

When the operator is responsible for damage to locked luggage, the refund cannot exceed 6,19 Euros/kg (luggage weight), unless the passenger has made a declaration of higher value. A declaration of value is, as the word itself suggests, a declaration through which the passenger, before the embarkation, indicates to the operator that their luggage value is higher than the legal limit. In such a case the refund due is equal to the declared value. A declaration of value does not require the operator's consent or acceptance because, according to law, it must submit to it.

The declaration of value is particularly appropriate when travelling by car or motorcycle. As this does not concern luggage, the regulations for the transport of goods is applied and it states that the operator's refund cannot exceed 103,29 Euros for each loaded good (clause 423 Nav. code). In the event that during the voyage the car or motorcycle are completely destroyed or only damaged, the operator will be liable to pay a total amount of 103,29 Euros. For this reason it is strongly recommended to go to the operator's office before the departure with a declaration and a duplicate copy that includes personal details, the brand, model and number plate, ticket number and the vehicle's value. One copy will be given to the operator, that will have signed the document, and the other copy will be held on to by the passenger. It is important not to overestimate the value of your goods because the operator could always prove that the actual value is inferior to that declared. In this case the operator will only be liable for the actual value of the good. If, however, the passenger proves to have intentionally overestimated the declared value, the operator will not be liable to pay any refund whatsoever.

All possible damages, either to luggage or vehicles, must either be claimed in the presence of the captain, or through a written reservation that is to be handed to the personnel of the ferry company, as long as evident or easily identifiable damages are involved. If, on the other hand, a less evident damage is involved, and cannot be checked immediately but needs accurate inspection, it will have to be reported to the operator within 3 days from the delivery of the good.

It is necessary to bear in mind that without filing a formal complaint, the passenger is not eligible for compensation (clause 412, Nav. Code). In the particular case of vehicles, the law will assume that all vehicles have been returned in good condition (until proved otherwise – clause 435, Nav. Code).

If a complaint has been filed and all attempts to obtain compensation for damages in a friendly manner fail, legal action against the operator must be initiated within six months of damage to persons, luggage and other items (vehicles included). For luggage, the statute of limitations expires one year after restitution. Beyond this point, there is no legal recourse left.

By plane

Our first suggestion for airline passengers is to look over the poster detailing passengers' rights, which serves as a practical handbook and is displayed in all Italian airports. The ENAC, or National Civil Aviation Authority, is responsible for ensuring that these regulations are followed. If you believe the regulations have been violated, visit www.enac.italia.it and fill out the complaint form. Among the most frequent problems for airline passengers is denied boarding due to overbooking, or the refusal to transport one or more passengers on a given flight despite the fact that they are in possession of a valid ticket and confirmed reservation, and that they have followed all the carrier's rules and regulations regarding check-in.

Denied boarding can have a number of causes, but the principle reason is the carrier's acceptance of reservations that exceed the capacity of the aircraft. If one is denied boarding, the law (in this case, Regulation EC No 261/2004) provides for various options.

To start with, it is useful to evaluate how urgent timely arrival at the destination is, and whether the passenger is willing to renounce his or her right to board that flight. As a matter of fact, the carrier is required by law to verify if there are volunteers willing to trade their boarding pass for certain benefits. These benefits might include financial compensation, travel vouchers or other services. In this case, one should know that the minimum compensation required by law for each case of denied boarding is as follows: 250 Euros for all routes less than or equal to 1500 km, 400 Euros for flights that take place between European Union countries and are longer than 1500 km, and for all other routes between 1500 and 3000 km, and 600 Euros for longer routes.

To avoid dissatisfied passengers, the carrier will most likely be willing to pay a higher compensation to volunteers who solve the problem by relinquishing their seat.

On the other hand, if the passenger does have a particular urgency to arrive at the destination and there are no volunteers willing to relinquish their

reservation, he or she should avoid being among the last passengers to arrive for boarding. These passengers are the ones who are usually denied boarding, as the aircraft is already full.

If you are denied boarding by the carrier, please know that getting angry will serve no purpose whatsoever. In fact, the law allows the carrier to deny boarding to passengers even if they do not agree to give up their seat, as long as the carrier promises to provide them with adequate assistance and financial compensation as previously mentioned.

A passenger who is denied boarding, whether voluntarily or not, can start off by deciding not to travel with that carrier. In this case, they must be reimbursed within 7 days for the complete price of the ticket. Otherwise, the passenger can decide to take an alternative flight to the same destination as soon as possible, or rather on a date of his or her choosing, but depending on available seating.

If the destination city has more than one airport, and the carrier offers a flight to an airport other than the one reserved for, the carrier is responsible for all costs incurred in getting the passenger to the original destination airport, or to another agreed upon destination.

The law also provides you with another kind of material assistance, which consists of meals and beverages in a quantity appropriate to the delay, arrangements for a hotel (including transportation from the airport to the hotel and back), and two telephone calls, faxes or e-mails, at the carrier's expense.

In order to obtain compensation for denied boarding, it is not necessary to demonstrate that one has suffered damages. The compensation is due for the simple fact that the passenger did not board the plane and it must be paid immediately, in cash, by money transfer or bank check, unless the passenger agrees to accept travel vouchers or other services instead. Nevertheless, the possibility for the passenger to demand compensation for maximum damages remains, but this must be demonstrated and specifically quantified.

After denying boarding, if the carrier offers the passenger the opportunity to reach their destination with another flight and arrival time does not exceed the original itinerary by more than 2 hours for routes less than or equal to 1,500 km, 3 hours for EU routes longer than 1,500 km and all routes from 1,500 to 3,000 km, or 4 hours for all other routes, the lump sum of compensation can be reduced by 50%.

Another problem that can occur in air transportation is the cancellation of flights, which is different from denied boarding because the plane itself does not depart, instead of a determined group of passengers. The remedies prescribed by law (Reg. EC 261/2004 in this case as well) are the same as those for denied boarding: alternative flight, material assistance and financial compensation (according to the amounts outlined above). Financial compensation is not due if the carrier informed the passenger of the cancellation at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled departure date.

Likewise, compensation is not due if the communication was made between 2 weeks and 7 days before the scheduled departure date, and the carrier offered boarding on another flight that departs no more than 2 hours before the scheduled departure time and arrives at the final destination less than 4 hours after the originally scheduled arrival. Compensation is also not due if the cancellation was communicated less than 7 days before departure, but the passenger was offered the possibility to board another flight that departs no more than one hour before and arrives no more than 2 hours after the arrival time of the original flight.

The financial compensation is not due if the carrier can demonstrate that the cancellation was caused by exceptional circumstances that are not its fault (for example, the cancellation is decided by the air traffic controllers for reasons of safety or air traffic congestion).

Delays are among the most common inconveniences that occur.

Flight delays are a very serious problem, especially because of the increase in air transport. If the passenger is forced to wait before being able to depart, even for hours, the air carrier cannot be held responsible.

The passenger is very unlikely to receive any compensation for damages caused by flight delays. Furthermore, it is difficult to give evidence of any real damage, apart from the simple inconvenience of having to hang around for long hours.

In some cases, however, judges have decided the passenger subject to such an inconvenience has the right to compensation, but this is a matter that should be entrusted to a lawyer upon returning home.

Therefore, in this case, the first suggestion is to stay calm: complaining to the airport's personnel will not help the flight to depart.

According to law (the same reg. EC 261/2004) the passenger has specific rights in the event of flight delays, but only if the delay is of a certain length (for two hours or more in the case of flights of 1500 kilometers or less; or for three hours or more in the case of all intra-Community flights of more than 1500 kilometers and of all other flights between 1500 and 3500 kilometers; or for four hours or more in the case of all flights exceeding these distances). In such a case, the air carrier shall not pay the flat rate, but passengers shall be given food, refreshments and, in the case of a long delay, hotel accommodation.

Other common discomforts include loss or damage to the luggage, as well as delays in its return.

If the passenger's luggage does not turn up on the baggage conveyor belt, the first step to take is to go to the Lost & Found office which is situated in all airports: in most cases lost luggage is eventually found. In the event that luggage is lost, damaged or destroyed in air transport provided by a Community air carrier (the vast majority of operators flying within Europe are Community airlines), and in international air transport between countries where the Montreal Convention of 1999 is applied, the law (reg. EC No 889/2002) makes a distinction between checked and unchecked baggage (this regulation is also applied in Italy as well as elsewhere within the EU).

With regards to checked luggage, the air carrier is considered responsible, even though there is no fault in its conduct, unless there is a defect in the baggage itself (ie. the breaking of a fragile object not properly wrapped inside the luggage).

If on the other hand unchecked luggage (or hand luggage) is involved, the air carrier is liable to pay a compensation only if the passenger proves that the damage results from the carrier's negligence. When the carrier is found responsible, the highest compensation that can be received is about 1035,00 Euros. This amount can be exceeded only if the passenger has signed a special declaration of value, during check in operations at the latest, with the required additional payment.

Another solution is to insure your luggage with one of the insurance companies in the airport that provide this service (usually they can be found at the desks where suitcases are wrapped in cellophane), even though it is recommended to look carefully at the insurance conditions before signing a contract.

In the event that the luggage return is delayed, the carrier is responsible, unless it gives evidence that the delay does not result from its negligence. In this case the responsibility for damages caused by the delay of luggage return cannot exceed the amount of about 1035,00 Euros.

In all cases of damage, delay, loss or destruction of luggage during the flight, the passenger must lodge a written complaint as soon as possible. In the case of damage to checked baggage, the passenger must write a complaint within seven days; in the case of it being delayed, within 21 days from the moment it is returned.

When flights take place in non-EU countries, or in countries that have not signed the Montreal Convention of 1999, the air carrier is responsible for losses or damages to checked in luggage, unless it proves that it is not the result of its negligence. When the carrier is held responsible, the passenger has the right to compensation of up to 17,60 Euros/kg of loaded weight. Even in this case, this amount can be exceeded only if the passenger has signed a declaration of value, during check in operations at the latest, with the required additional payment. As for the loss or damage to hand luggage, the passenger must give evidence that the carrier was responsible, and will have the right to the flat rate compensation of about 343,60 Euros.

To find out if your air carrier is an EU Community airline, or if the Montreal

Convention of 1999 applies, please read the ticket carefully, because rules and regulations are indicated in the terms and conditions.

A final mention must be made, while touching wood, to the unfortunate event of an accident taking place and a passenger being seriously injured or wounded, or even, in the worst case, a death occurring. In this case, if the carrier is a EU Community airline, or if the matter concerns international transport between countries where the Montreal Convention of 1999 applies, the carrier must, in any circumstance, provide compensation up to about 103500,00 Euros per passenger – without being given the chance to justify itself, even when the damage does not result from its negligence. For damages exceeding such an amount, the carrier is not liable if it proves that it is not responsible. The carrier must pay an advance in proportion to the damage caused within 15 days from the time the person with the right to compensation is identified. In the case of death, the advance cannot amount to less than about 16560,00 Euros.

If the air carrier proves that the passenger is responsible for damages, compensation is either not given or the amount is reduced.

In the case that international flights are not subject to the Montreal Convention of 1999, the air carrier is no longer liable if it proves that it is in no way responsible for the passenger's death, wounds or injuries. When the carrier is responsible, the amount of compensation is limited to about 103500,00 Euros per passenger.

By bus

All journeys within the island, whether by bus or other road vehicles (such as taxis), are subject to the terms and conditions of the operator, which is the company in charge of the service.

Anyone, provided seats are available, has the right to travel by public transport upon their simple request.

Laws assuring the rights and obligations of the traveller are clearly indicated on the passenger's ticket.

Tickets often refer back to a text that can be consulted in the operator's or travel agents' offices, a document that should be read before purchasing a ticket, even if sometimes it is not easy to get hold of.

The operator must carry out the transport service that it is in charge of, and is held responsible for the safety of the passengers from the moment they get on the bus to the moment when they get off.

As well as paying for the price of the journey, the passenger must cooperate by looking after his own safety during the journey, strictly following the indications given by the operator and behaving with caution.

The possession of the ticket, even if it does not show the name of the passenger, identifies the passenger as the person who has the right to travel on board. Tickets issued with special conditions (for example, with the fare only applicable to certain people) cannot be handed over to other passengers without the operator's consent.

The price is established according to fares that have been approved by the public administration. If the cost of the journey has not been previously agreed upon, it can be calculated with reference to existing or already used fares.

If a passenger boards without a ticket, or fails to stamp it in the machine, he can be forced to get off the bus and fined according to the operator's terms and conditions.

In the event that a bus fails to depart or the journey is interrupted, and this interruption is not the fault of the operator or passenger, the contract is rendered null and void and the operator must refund the ticket. In this case, if the journey has been interrupted, the cost of the distance covered should be deducted from the sum that the operator owes the passenger. If on the other hand the driver is responsible for missed departures or interrupted journeys, the passenger is entitled to compensation for damages.

In all of these cases, the operator is not obliged to provide other modes of transport nor give passengers board and lodging.

In the case that the passenger decides not to turn up for the departure, or

to interrupt their journey, the terms and conditions can authorise the operator to retain all or part of the ticket price.

If the passenger experiences an injury during the journey, unless the operator can prove that all appropriate measures have been taken to avoid it, it must pay full compensation for damages.

The passenger has the right to take one or more items of luggage with them gratis, but animals can only travel with the driver's consent.

Luggage is counted as the personal belongings of the passenger; as far as the number of items, their weight and dimensions are concerned, they are subject to the operator's terms and conditions, or to custom; unless otherwise agreed the passenger cannot carry objects with a business purpose.

The operator must look after the passenger's goods and is held liable for damages caused by their being lost, stolen or damaged. The responsibility can be repealed, and usually the terms and conditions establish that the damage caused can only be compensated up to a certain sum of money. There is also a law restriction which distinguishes between loaded and hand luggage. Luggage that is loaded is entrusted to the supervision of the operator (which, for example, loads it in the places specially provided on board the vehicle), while hand luggage is left to the responsibility of the passenger.

In the first case, the compensation due cannot exceed the sum of 6,20 Euros per/kg of loaded weight. Any damage caused to hand luggage can be compensated for only if the passenger proves that the operator is responsible, and can be compensated only up to the sum of 1007,09 Euros.

When damages are evident, it is necessary to report them immediately to the operator. Otherwise, the claim must be sent as soon as the damage has been discovered, no more than eight days after the journey has finished. In order to have due verification from the operator, it is necessary to send it a written complaint. Action against the operator must be taken within a year, starting from the moment of arrival, from the day the damage occurred, or from the moment the operator fails to return the loaded goods.

In the case of delay, the operator is responsible and must compensate the passenger for damages, except when it is caused by an unforeseen or unavoidable event (i.e. bad weather conditions, or a road accident for which the driver is not to blame).

It is especially difficult to provide the judge with evidence of damages caused by delays. Damages that result from missed appointments (exams or business meetings) are not usually compensated. Passengers are expected to prepare for a delay, thus finding alternative ways to avoid missing their appointments.

In the operator's terms and conditions, the responsibility for the delay can be repealed in part or ruled out altogether.

By train

It is important for anyone travelling by train to know that, according to the operator's terms and conditions, the railway transport service is available to all travellers upon request.

Railway transport terms and conditions for persons and luggage are available in all stations. Special assistance is provided for disabled passengers, and it must be arranged by telephone. Tickets must be purchased from either the automatic machines, travel agents, in the station itself, or on the internet before boarding. Tickets can be purchased on board only when they are not available at the station.

It is necessary to stamp the ticket before boarding. In the case the passenger fails to do so, or travels without it, they must pay 25 Euros in addition to the ticket price.

If tickets are not used, they can be changed or reimbursed. In the case of reimbursement, one fifth of the ticket price is deducted by the railway company. Bookings, on the other hand, cannot be refunded.

The railway operator is liable for any injuries caused to the passenger, unless

it proves that the accident on board, or while getting on and off the train, was not its responsibility.

The transport of luggage is always under the passenger's responsibility, and they are entitled to carry one or more items with them without charge, as long as it does not disturb other travellers and is not oversized. With an additional payment bicycles can also be carried.

Pets can usually travel for free, with the exception of dogs, for which half the regular fare must be paid.

Any damages to luggage can be verified with a record written by a member of the railway staff, who will give a copy to the passenger.

Acknowledgements

All the information covered in this guide has been gathered from the exact locations, following a specific method of research.

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