

ISOLA ROSSA

SITE

Isola Rossa is located in Gallura, in the municipal territory of Trinità D'Agultu and Aglientu which stretches on the Asinara Gulf for 32 km, from Isola Rossa to Cala Serraina, and towards the hinterland along a hilly zone, bordered by the municipalities of Aglientu, Aggius, Badesi and Viddalba.

BACKGROUND

Trinità D'Agultu was came into being in the 18th century as a farming village, inhabited by shepherds and farmers mostly coming from Aggius. However, there are traces of human presence in the area going back to prehistoric times. The village proper first developed around the churches of S. Pietro Martire and Santissima Trinità – whence its name – and then spread towards the south-east, on the slopes of the hill, where land for building was cheaper than on the plain, which was still mostly used for farming. In the last few decades, from being essentially a farming village, Trinità has increasingly developed as a tourist destination.

The hamlet of Isola Rossa lies about 4 km from the village of Trinità d'Agultu. Traditionally a landing point thanks to a sheltered inlet which served as harbor, it originated in the early 20th century as a fishermen's village close to the Aragonese Tower, and kept its original identity until the early 1970s when it started becoming a popular seaside resort. Tourism thus became one of its major economic resources, also thanks to its geographic location midway between some of the most famous tourist resorts on the North-western (Alghero, Stintino, Castelsardo) and North-eastern coasts (Santa Teresa di Gallura, Costa Smeralda). The village met tourist demand by building various tourist and residential structures, the marina and various facilities – supermarkets, restaurants, sports facilities, boutiques, boat rentals – which partly undermined its naturalistic and landscape value. Within the village stretches the most popular beach, Isola Longa, framed by the cliffs of Li Bicchi Rossi on one side and by those close to the lookout point on the other. By turning at a crossroads just before reaching the village, you can reach La Marinedda beach, featuring a string of coves amidst red granite rocks.

NOTABLE FEATURES

The Aragonese Tower

Built around 1595, the tower stands on a headland about 35 m above sea level, and belongs to what was once the coastal defense system against Saracen raids. Over time, it also became a lookout post against smuggling between Sardinia and Corsica. This monument is not easily accessed, since it has only one entrance, located about 5 m above ground.

The island

The name of the coastal village of Isola Rossa comes from the red islet lying about 400 m from the coast, right in front of the settlement, with its distinctive dark pink porphyric granite rocks.

CONTEXT

Trinità d'Agultu lies about 2 km from the coast and has a population of about 2,000. The town's territory has an extension of 136 km², and includes the outlying districts of Paduledda, Isola Rossa, Vignola Lu Colbu, Costa Paradiso, and Nicolaeddu. It acts as the hinterland hub for the coastal territory. Ancient routes link it to the Lower Coghinas Valley and to the towns of Aggius and Tempio Pausania. The main town is located 365 m asl and looks out over a large expanse of sea.

The whole municipal territory of Trinità D'Agultu and Aglientu has been listed as an area of special public interest under Law 1497/39. The first stretch of coast in the northerly direction is mostly indented, low and rocky. On this side the territory stretches into a tongue of land forming a peninsula on the sides of which lie two bays: the beach of Isola Rossa to the west and that of La Marinedda to the east. At a short distance from the shore lies the islet known as Isola Rossa, which is 400 m in length, 200 m across and rises to 29 m. The islet, named for the color of its porphyric rock, also gives its name to the old fishermen's village. Moving further north the coastline becomes high and rocky, with cliffs reaching 214 m (Mount Tinnari) and deep *ria inlets*, one of which is the mouth of the Pirastru stream, which has formed a marsh and a beach of grey and red porphyry pebbles. The territory has been declared a Nature Reserve by Regional Law 31/89, including the village and marina of Isola Rossa.

The whole area is served by the coastal road, State Road 200, which runs parallel to the coast. The whole municipal territory falls today within the new province of Olbia-Tempio.

THEME

Isola Rossa, which was came into existence as a fishermen's port and village sheltered by the rocky headland, has gradually turned into a summer tourist resort. In addition to the overall renovation of the built stock and public spaces, the village needs greater integration with the surrounding territory, better access and stopover facilities and higher quality services, in view of the criticalities tied to seasonal tourist flows. Possible themes for consideration include the upgrading of all public spaces, also by exploiting residual free spaces, the renovation of waterfront, definition of a comprehensive street furniture project. Other themes are those concerning accessibility and stopover, and involve a new layout for the access point to the village from Corso Trinità, the creation of parking areas close to the beach, near the Aragonese Tower and behind the Red Rock, the aim being to encourage pedestrian use of the village. The village's relationship with the surrounding environmental system can be explored by developing new proposals for access to and enjoyment of the beaches and cliffs, including proposals for light infrastructure, in particular as regards refurbishment of the waterfront, of the "Marinedda" beach and the pedestrian paths linking it to the village. Besides the criticalities concerning the whole village, and its environmental system, more specific points have been identified: the project for a square with underground car park, perhaps multi-storey, in the vacant area at the beginning of the Dettori waterfront promenade, which handles most of the traffic from Corso Trinità; the regeneration and expansion of Piazza Belvedere, by demolishing private buildings standing on public land; strengthening of the physical and sensory links between the village and the Aragonese Tower and creation of green areas and equipped playgrounds for kids and young people.

Proposals should refer to the goals, guidelines and criteria of the RLP. The present suggestions provided are in no way binding to competitors who are free to supplement and integrate them with other considerations deriving from the study of the village and its relations with the surrounding context.

