A world as you want

Rough Guide to Sardinia
Olbia has 40’000 inhabitants; through its harbour „Isola Bianca“ and the airport „Costa Smeralda“ many international routes. The economy is based on fishing, breeding of mussels and food-industry, as tuna-processing. Olbia is also called the “shopping centre of Gallura”, which is the name of the North-Eastern part of Sardinia.

In most cases Olbia is only the arrival and departure point for a holiday in Northern Sardinia. But this town has some nice things to visit, for example Corso Umberto I. In this street, which leads from the harbour to Piazza Margherita, there are several boutiques and shops. In the Piazza, the heart of Olbia, cafés and ice-cream shops are a nice place to have a break.

Not far from Olbia there are the beach areas of Pittulongu, Capo Ceraso and Porto Istana. Here visitors can find beautiful beaches and enjoy the marvellous view of the majestic “island of Tavolara”, a huge granite rock mountain that stands out 600m over the sea level.

Golfo Aranci

A long time ago Golfo Aranci was only a small fishermen village. When in the 60s the harbour for ferry boats was built, this place started developing very quickly. Several ferry boat companies (for both goods and passengers-transportation) have their own docks in the harbour of Golfo Aranci.

Nowadays, despite other places which seem uninhabited during winter, in Golfo Aranci live about 2’000 people throughout the year. Some of them are fishermen and can be watched while repairing their nets in the harbour. From Capo Figari visitors can enjoy a beautiful view on the Gulf of Olbia and the “island” Tavolara. For those who want to go swimming, the beaches of the areas Cala Moresca, in front of the small island „Figarolo“ at the end of the village Golfo Aranci and the beaches Cala Sassari, Cala Banana or Pittulongu along the panoramic route of Olbia may be suitable.

Golfo di Marinella

In the Golfo di Marinella, North-West from Golfo Aranci you will find a long and white sandy beach. According to an old tradition this sand has curative therapeutic properties. There is a good choice of bars and restaurant and a lot of entertainment possibilities. The biggest part of the beach is occupied by the hotel complex Abi d’Oru. Golfo di Marinella has been known as a holiday location long time before other places but was developed only in the past years by building new and better infrastructures. Famous people who want to escape from the exposure in the Costa Smeralda often chose this small holiday place.
Porto Rotondo

It is also called the “little sister” of Porto Cervo but, from the geographical point of view, it does not belong to Costa Smeralda. However, the style and architecture is very similar. Porto Rotondo was built by the noble brothers Delle Rose from Venice. Some topographical names and architectural features refer to Venici, for example the name Piazzetta San Marco, and some small canals with wooden bridges are like miniatures of those present in Venice. Porto Rotondo has a nice and modern yacht harbour with 630 mooring places, which represents a good alternative when, during summer, the harbour in Porto Cervo is too busy. The place has a lot to offer, with several boutiques and shops, bars and restaurants.

North Sardinia – Gallura

The Costa Smeralda belongs to the municipality of Arzachena, it is part of the region of Gallura (which is the name of the North-Eastern region of Sardinia) and of the district of Olbia-Tempio. Besides the fantastic beaches and the sea that gleams in all shades of blue and green, the typical landscape of the Gallura is characterised above all by granite, cork and vineyards.

80 percent of Italian cork comes from Sardinia, especially from the region of Gallura because it has the biggest extension of cork oak forests. At Calangianus there is the only specialised school for cork manufacturing and cultivation in Italy. Many souvenirs, like postcards or bottles of the typical “Mirto” liquor are produced from it. Cork is also an isolating material for walls and pavements. Only high quality cork is used to make corks to close wine bottles.

Granite is the typical stone of the Gallura. The erosive action of the wind, rain and sea water have shaped the rocks, creating very peculiar rocks. Some examples are the natural sculptures in Capo d’Orso close to Palau (bear-shaped rock) and the rock garden of Capo Testa close to Santa Teresa di Gallura. Natural caaves were used by the shepherds as a shelter. The strong mistral wind that blows from France continues to create new shapes.

During a trip through the countryside many vineyards can be noticed. This is where the delicious white Vermentino vine is cultivated. In the Gallura there are several famous vineyards. Some of them are: Cantina del Vermentino – Monti, Cantina Gallura – Tempio Pausania, Tenute di Capichera – Sant’Antonio di Gallura, Cantina Sociale – Berchidda.
The history of this paradise on Earth started in 1961 when two English Gentlemen, John Duncan Miller (banker) and Patrick Guinness (brewer), went for a trip with their yacht along the Sardinian coasts. They were fascinated by the sea water colours, from crystal-clear to emerald-green, the marvellous sandy beaches and the beauty of the untouched Sardinian nature. Once back home, they excitedly reported about this place to a friend. They persuaded him to go there too and see the beauty of the island himself. This friend was the Ishmaelite prince Karim Aga Khan, a smart, cultured man, religious leader of more than 15 millions Ishmaelites. He ran the risk and created a consortium in 1962. This is how the first consortium, “Monti di Mola” became Costa Smeralda: this name “Emerald Coast” is due to the beautiful colour of the sea. Costa Smeralda quickly became one of the most popular places among the international Jet-Set.

Jaques Couëlle, one of the most famous architects of the sixties and member of the Costa Smeralda Consortium, built the 5-star hotel Cala di Volpe in the most beautiful bay of the whole coastal area and created a new architectonic style which was called the „neo Sardinian“ style. From that moment on, for all the projects that were to be realised and for all the structures that were built, great attention to environmental impact had to be paid. The buildings were inserted in the natural landscape without destroying or modifying it too much. All the buildings are low, some have little towers, with arcade windows and doors, staircases and pink or white painted walls. Natural materials like granite, clay and wood, especially juniper, were used as well as natural colours like brown, ochre, yellow, pastel colours, rock- grey or white.

The development of the Emerald Coast went on very quickly: Luxury hotels, villas, apartment-areas, entire villages and yacht harbours were built. In 1964, the airline company Alisarda (nowadays Meridiana) was established to connect the island of Sardinia to continental Europe. Then in 1977 the 18-hole Pevero Golf course was built. The Costa Smeralda Consortium, with more than 2000 members (hotel owners and owners of holiday villas and apartments), were very attentive in trying to avoid that any “environmental sin” was committed while constructing new buildings. That is why all the new building projects had to have their approval.

**Porto Cervo**, is located in the centre of a 55 km long beautiful coastal landscape and is regarded as the main place of interest of the whole Costa Smeralda. This small town was created like a village of fishermen by the architect Luigi Vietti and offers everything people may desire. The yacht harbour „Marina di Porto Cervo“ has more than 700 mooring spaces and is one of the largest and best equipped in the whole Mediterranean sea.

The little white church “Stella Maris” is also very well-known. It is located on the promontory that divides Porto Cervo Marina from Porto Cervo. The church cherishes many precious artworks, for example an organ that dates back to the 16th century and the altar which shows the famous Madonna of El Greco (this is a donation by the Thyssen family). The meeting point of Porto Cervo is the piazzetta. No cars are allowed in the town centre.
Beaches
Along the whole coast of this area, beautiful beaches are lined up like pearls on a chain:

− Spiaggia del Principe (named after the Prince Aga Khan)
− Capriccioli
− Liscia Ruia / Petra Ruia
− Pevero
− Cala Granu
− Liscia di Vacca

All beaches are public and anyone can enjoy their beauty. In order to arrive at the bathing bays sometimes it is necessary to walk a little. Some of the beautiful beaches are accessible only by boat.

We suggest you following hotels from www.CharmingSardinia.com around Costa Smeralda

Cala di Volpe – Costa Smeralda

Romazzino – Costa Smeralda
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel-costa-smeralda/romazzino.html

Pitrizza – Costa Smeralda
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel-costasmeralda/pitrizza.html

L’Ea Bianca Luxury Resort – Cala dei Ginepri

Colonna Pevero Hotel – Porto Cervo

Il Piccolo Golf – Porto Cervo
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel_costa_smeralda/piccolo_golf.html
PLACES AROUND OLBIA-COSTA SMERALDA

**Costa Dorata**
This beautiful spot located between Olbia and the lovely village of San Teodoro is a fantastic place for relaxing moments. Here you will find nice beaches and just opposite the beach there is the magnificent Island of “Tavolara”.

**Baja Sardinia**
This holiday location is not part of the Consortium Costa Smeralda – but its style and atmosphere are very similar. Close to a semicircular white, fine sandy beach, hotels, holiday apartments, small villas as well as a small shopping mall located around a small stone-paved piazza are to be found. Cosy cafés for a nice break under the sun. At the entrance of the village there is the Acqua-Dream water fun park.

**San Pantaleo**
This small village is located in the countryside, only a few kilometres away from the coast, surrounded by majestic granite rocks. It is very typical and its location is breathtaking.

**Arzachena**
It is a lively small town and the administrative centre of Costa Smeralda. Do not miss “Il fungo”, a mushroom-shaped granite rock block, easy to find following the road signs.

**Cannigione**
Cannigione is located along the Western shore of the Gulf of Arzachena. It was an old fishermen village and today a seaside tourist resort with a fisher and a yacht harbour.

**Palau**
This small town is famous because it is the departing point for the excursions to La Maddalena island, located just in front of it. It is also part of the nature park of the archipelago of La Maddalena, which is composed of 7 islands. Besides, Palau is known for the bear shaped granite rock (see picture) which is located about 5 km east from the centre. This rock sculpture is the erosive action of the wind and water throughout millions of years.

**Island-Archipelago**
La Maddalena is the main island and it is connected to the island of Caprera. Other islands of the archipelago are: Santo Stefano, Spargi, Budelli, Razzoli, Santa Maria. In summer there are boat trips to the uninhabited islands. Crystal clear water, fine sand and virgin nature promise a relaxing beach day. The whole archipelago has become a protected area in 1997.
We suggest you following hotels from www.CharmingSardinia.com around Olbia-Costa Smeralda

**Don Diego** – Costa Dorata  
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel_costa_dorata/hotel_don_diego.html

**Sporting** – Porto Rotondo  
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel_porto_rotondo/hotel-sporting.html

**Pellicano d'Oro** – Pittulongu  
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel_olbia/pellicano_oro.html

**Arathena** – San Pantaleo  
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel_san_pantaleo/arathena.html

**Petra Segreta Resort & Spa** – San Pantaleo  

**Stelle Marine** – Località Mannena  

**La Casitta** – island Santa Maria  
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/villa_la_maddalena/villa_la_casitta.html

**ValKarana** – S. Antonio di Gallura  
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel_costa_smeralda/hotel_valkarana.html

**Su Lithu** – Bitti  
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/hotel_bitti/hotel-su-lithu.html
WHERE TO GO

Porto Cervo
- Restaurant “Gianni Pedrinelli”, Località Piccolo Pevero
- Restaurant “La Mola”, Località Piccolo Pevero
- Restaurant / Pizzeria “La Briciola”, Località Liscia di Vacca
- Pizzeria “Dante”, Località Sottovento
- Restaurant “Il Pescatore”, Vecchio Porto

Baia Sardinia
- Restaurant “La Rocca” (around 3 km outside the village)
- Restaurant “Casablanca” (Club Hotel)
- Restaurant “Azzurra” (Piazza)
- Restaurant “Grazia Deledda” (on the road to Arzachena)

Porto Rotondo
- Restaurant / Enoteca da Giovannino, Piazza Quadrata
- Restaurant “La Loggia”

San Pantaleo
- Restaurant “Giagoni”, Via Zara, 1

Cannigione
- Restaurant “Entro Fuori Bordo”, Lungomare 8

Palau
- Restaurant “Da Franco”, Via Capo d’Orso, 1

Golfo Aranci
- Pizzeria / Restaurant “D’Andrea”, Via Baia Caddinas

Pittulongu
- Trattoria Rossi

Olbia Stadt
- Restaurant “Gallura”, Corso Umberto 145
- Restaurant “Da Bartolo”, Viale Aldo Moro, 133
- Restaurant / Pizzeria “La Sosta”, Via Talenti, 27

NIGHT LIFE

Porto Cervo
- Disco “Sopravento” und “Sottovento”
- Disco “Pepero Club”
- VIP-Disco “Il Billionaire”
- “Finger’s Club” at Cervo Tennis Club with Jet-Set people

Forte Cappellini
- “Phi Beach” the place to be at the Costa Smeralda

Cala Granu
- “The Nikki Beach” well known bar at the beach front of Cala Granu

Baia Sardinia
- Disco “Ritual”, special location surrounded by Granite landscape

Porto Rotondo
- Country-Club, Monte Maiore

Poltu Quatu
- “Smaila’s” bar located at the hidden harbour Poltu Quatu
Along the scarcely inhabited Western coast of the Gallura region, between Santa Teresa and Valledoria, there are two holiday villages: Badesi Mare and Isola Rossa.

Badesi Mare is located along a 8 km long sandy beach, which extends on one side to the red porphyry-rock of Isola Rossa and, on the other side, almost uninterruptedly, to Castelsardo. It is surrounded by an untouched nature which consists of a setting of dunes, pine trees, vineyards and Mediterranean maquis, with its unique scents. Quite and silent places can be found here also during the high season.

Badesi is an old fishermen village on the mountain side, above the plains of the river Coghinas and with a wide view over the Gulf of Asinara. It's not a typical tourist place but there are all shopping facilities as well as a bank, a post office, bars and restaurants.

Isola Rossa is a picturesque place founded by the fishermen of the Gulf of Asinara. The characteristic island with red rocks is famous for the majestic guardian tower, the beautiful beach, the harbour and the beach promenade.

Beaches Badesi Mare, Sa Marinetta (Isola Rossa), Spiaggia "Coghinas" (Valledoria), Spiaggia "Li Cossi" (north-east of Isola Rossa), Monte Tinnari (with rose coloured pebbles) and other beautiful beaches are to be found along the coast. There are many small bays with white sandy beaches and crystal clear sea water. When you are driving through the main road, it is worth it doing a detour and explore this area.
Badesi – Isola Rossa

Places around Badesi & Isola Rossa

Valledoria The holiday village of Valledoria is located on a bay between Isola Rossa and Castelsardo. The river "Coghinas" flows towards the "Golfo dell'Asinara". Around the mouth of the river Coghinas there is a Laguna and a large, white, sandy beach.

Castelsardo This little town is located about 20 km west of Badesi. You should not miss a visit of the historic old town and the Genoese fortress. It’s a picturesque little town with granite houses and buildings located on a promontory within the fortress Castello dei Doria. Castelsardo is famous for its baskets. In the small streets you can see old ladies weaving baskets and selling their products. The well known elephant-shaped rock “roccia dell'Elefante” is not far from Castelsardo. It is a 10 m high rock, shaped as an elephant by the wind erosion.

Trinità d’Agultu While the coastal places get crowded in summer in the countryside the typical gallurese village Trinità d’Agultu still offers peacefulness.

Tempio Pausania Was once the main town in the area of Gallura and is still the “main town of the granite”. It is located at the feet of the Mount Limbara.

Santa Teresa di Gallura is a town on the very north of Sardinia. It is a lively holiday place and from here several ferry boats leave to Corsica many times a day. Four kilometres west of Santa Teresa there are the rock gardens of Capo Testa.

We suggest you following hotels from www.charmingsardinia.com

Valle dell’Erica Resort – Valle dell’Erica – S. Teresa di Gallura
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/wellness_hotel/hotel_valle_dell_ericca.html

Capo d’Orso – Palau
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/wellness_hotel/hotel_capo_d_orso.html

La Coluccia – Conca Verde

Park Hotel Cala di Lepre – Palau
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/wellness_hotel/hotel_cala_di_lepre.html

Marinedda Thalasso & Spa – Isola Rossa

Relax Torreruja – Isola Rossa
http://www.charmingsardinia.com/sardinia/wellness_hotel/hotel_relax_torreruja.html

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Beach The water is generally very clean: small bays, divided by rock formations and fjords, are typical of the North-Eastern Coast, especially the Costa Smeralda. The areas of Palau – S. Teresa Gallura – Capo Testa are famous for their bizarre rock sculptures created by wind and weather during millions of years.

Bus/Taxi Public buses are more frequent during the main season (June – September). The hotel reception will call a Taxi for you.

Car rental CharmingSardinia.com will help you renting a car. Please follow this link http://res.rent.it/sites/EN/Default.aspx?l=EN&siteid=13-30B8E139

Drinking water Water is very precious in Sardinia. Tap-water is generally drinkable, if not indicated differently. However, we recommend to use bottled water for drinking. There is “frizzante/con gas” (sparkling) or “naturale/senza gas” (still mineral water).

Flight Costa Smeralda Airport is in Olbia. Please click HERE to book a flight.

Golf The Pevero Golf course in front of the Cala di Volpe hotel is one of the most beautiful golf courses of the world. It’s a 18-hole-course, handicap 36. Please click HERE

Markets Typical Italian markets where you can get fruit, vegetables, fish, cheese but also clothes, shoes, leather articles, household and handcraft articles. They take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.:
Monday Dorgali
Tuesday Orosei
Wednesday Olbia in Via Roma, Arzachena, La Maddalena
Thursday Santa Teresa di Gallura, Dorgali
Thursday San Pantaleo – Piazza
Friday Palau, Santa Teresa di Gallura, Orosei, Nuoro
Saturday Olbia in Viale Aldo Moro
Sunday Tempio Pausania

Shopping Usually the shops are open as follows:
Morning 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Evening 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and in tourist areas during high season shops are often open from 6 p.m. until midnight.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Souvenirs
Baskets, products of cork, wooden sculptures or caved patterns on furniture, ceramics, hand-woven Sardinian carpets, embroidery, golden jewellery and leather articles.

Sardinian wines are among the best in Italy. The Romans called Sardinia “a swimming vineyard”. You can find good Sardinian wines in every supermarket.

Sports
You can play tennis or rent bikes in most of the hotels. In addition the Tennis Club of Porto Cervo offers following activities: Tennis, Squash, Fitness room. Telephone 0789 93 11 11. **Horseback riding** and **scuba diving** places are possible to find in the surrounding areas of the hotels.

Tips
Normally tip is included. However, every employee of the hotel will be pleased to receive a further recognition. In the restaurants, if not especially indicated, tips are not included and you are expected to give about 10% of the amount of the bill.

Traffic rules
It’s compulsory to fasten the seat belt.

There are no highways in Sardinia. The speed limit on the “superstradas = SS” the fast roads is 90 km/h and the urban speed limit 50 km/h.

Be aware of animals (sheep, goats, cows) on the road, especially in the mountain regions.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SARDINIAN SPECIALITIES</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carta da Musica</td>
<td>very thin flat bread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pane Frattau</td>
<td>Carta da Musica with tomato sauce and fried eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zuppa Gallurese</td>
<td>a kind of “Lasagne” bread with broth baked in the oven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gnocchetti Sardi</td>
<td>small noodle “Gnochetti” wit tomato sauce and pieces of meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravioli alla Ricotta</td>
<td>Ravioli filled with fresh ricotta-cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcetto</td>
<td>suckling pig (about 6kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capretto</td>
<td>small goat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnello</td>
<td>Lamb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orata, Spigola, Cernia, Dentice, Pagello, Triglie, Ricciola, Sarago</td>
<td>gilthead, sea brass, brass, sea bream, red sea bream, red mullet, other local fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aragosta</td>
<td>Lobster crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arselle</td>
<td>Venus clams (white)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vongole</td>
<td>small Venus clams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cozze</td>
<td>black mussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottarga</td>
<td>Dried fish eggs which are served with spaghetti or with celery as starter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinzimonio</td>
<td>Raw vegetables consisting in tomatoes, celery, radishes, carrots served with a dip from olive oil, lemon juice and salt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seadas</td>
<td>Sweet dessert: “pastry bag” foiled with fresh Pecorino cheese, fried and served with a spoon of honey or sugar on top.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOCAL DRINKS

Dry white wines
- Torbato, Cala Viola, Terre Bianche, Funtanaliras, Vermentino, Seleme, Giogantinu, Ladas und Balari lightly sparkling

Dry red wines
- Thaora, Rosé di Alghero, Filieri rosato

Red wines
- Cannonau, Monica, Tanca Farra, Filieri, Terre Brune, Santa Cristana Abbaia, Nepente

As an aperitif you may have “spumante“ or “frizzante“ which is a dry sparkling white wine. Vernaccia is a kind of dry Port wine as aperitif; the Moscato is a sweet wine and among the dessert wines there is Malvasia di Bosa or Malvasia di Alghero which is a kind of “Vin Santo“ sweet white wine for after meals, ideal as a digestive.

The most popular of the liqueurs produced on the island is the Mirto, red (berries) or white (leaves) made from the myrtle bush.

The well-known Filu e Ferru is another good digestive. It is the Sardinian “grappa“ and it is very strong. “Fil e Ferru“ means a “peace of wire“.

„Mallureddus“ and „Culurgiones“ typical Sardinian pasta
„Dolci Sardi“ Sardinian sweets

Variety of Sardinian cheese, dry sausage, typical bread and wine
INFORMATION

Are you looking forward to your **holiday in Sardinia**? Do you want to spend some beautiful and unforgettable days on this wonderful island?

Book here and now with [www.charmingsardinia.com](http://www.charmingsardinia.com), your online specialist for luxury holidays in Sardinia.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information on our hotels: please write to [booking@charmingsardinia.com](mailto:booking@charmingsardinia.com)

The *CharmingSardinia.com* headquarter opening hours are from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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