

ITALY - SARDINIA WEST COAST MOUNTAINS & SEA

8-days / 7-nights inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** walk from Santu Lussurgiu to Sinis Peninsula and Cabras



Walk from the black mountains of Montiferru to the sea and along the Sinis wetlands to discover beaches, bays, headlands, ancient ruins and historical sites. This gentle self-guided inn-to-inn walk embraces the wild and romantic beauty of Western Sardinia, through areas of scented Mediterranean maquis and crossing a diverse and remarkable terrain. The Sinis is a nature reserve home to thousands of pink flamingos and a wealth of other birdlife, especially in the spring. Be rewarded with dramatic views and opportunities to explore highlands, lowlands and coastlines.

Sardinia is the second largest island in the Mediterranean and has a mild climate along the coasts, plains and low hills and a continental climate on the interior plateaus, valleys and mountain ranges. During the year there are approximately 135 days of sunshine, with some rainfall in the winter and autumn, with some showers in the spring. The island experiences mild winters and hot summers along the coasts.

The flavours are shaped by the mountains and the sea; enjoy regional cuisine rooted in the area and accompanied with local wines and liquors. The journey is quiet and far removed from any busy resorts, the terrain is rugged in parts, with cliffs on the coast, interspersed with white sandy beaches, grass covered dunes and panoramas embracing the coast and seaside blues.

Departs: **Saturdays** from 3 April to 19 June 2027 and from 28 August to 9 October 2027
All departures from 20 June to 27 August 2027 are on request only.
Non-Saturday departures are available for an additional cost. Please ask for details.

Cost from: **\$1750** per person twin share

High season supplement: \$360 (for departures from 3 July to 27 August 2027)
Single room supplement: \$560 Solo traveller supplement: \$865

Includes: 7 nights' ensuite accommodation in 3-4-star hotels; 7 breakfasts; baggage transfer between accommodation; taxi transfers on Day 3, welcome briefing/call; digital route notes and maps on GPS App emergency telephone assistance.

Not included: Local transport on arrival / departure, all lunches and dinners, local taxes (around €20 per person), personal expenses, drinks, or any admission to museums/archaeological sites.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on (03) 5750 1441 for details or reservations

Difficulty: This tour is graded as **Easy to Moderate** as the terrain is generally easy on tracks and good footpaths with walking times of between 3 and 7 hours per day. The longest day is mainly downhill on tracks and back roads. There is a little flexibility on a few days to adjust the distance walked. In summer, warm temperatures can make the routes more difficult.



Access: There are regular flights with low-cost airlines from many European countries to Sardinia and daily flights to Alghero from Pisa, Milan and Rome. Other major carriers fly to the capital Cagliari and there are (limited) train and bus connections between major centres.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Santu Lussurgiu

Arrive at the hotel by mid-afternoon (ask about airport transfer, at extra cost, if required). Allow time to explore the narrow streets and alleyways of this old medieval town of 3000 inhabitants, halfway between Oristano and Bosa. Santu Lussurgiu has centuries-old narrow streets which wrap around the head of the valley and cling to the steep hillside.

Day 2: Santu Lussurgiu / San Leonardo Circuit

walking @ 12km

Depart Santu Lussurgiu with a short steep walk, ascending about 300 metres. Follow roads and agricultural tracks that take you up to San Leonardo where you can enjoy panoramic views en route. Spend time exploring the village, as Sunday is a market day and then visit the clear spring where you can *'take the waters'*. There are numerous places to get something to eat and drink. A mix of roads, tracks and paths will get you back to Santu Lussurgiu. You should have time to divert up to the viewpoint above the town where a statue of Christ overlooks the village and to walk down through the maze of narrow streets to look at the churches and find a bar at the centre of the village for some well-earned refreshment.

Day 3: Santu Lussurgiu – Santa Caterina di Pittinuri / Is Benas

walking @ 24km

First hop into a taxi for a short ride to the mountain, the start of today's walk. The route initially traverses high ground with views down to the coast then descends all the way from the top of the Montiferru Mountains to Santa Caterina di Pittinuri on the coast; it is all downhill. Follow good tracks with gentle gradients passing through oak forests, olive groves and quiet pastures. The last hour is on level minor roads taking you to the quiet bay at Santa Caterina. If time permits you may like to walk the footpath to the village of S'Archittu (which owes its name to the natural arch along the nearby coast), one hour each way. From Santa Caterina di Pittinuri you are transported by taxi to Is Benas, for your overnight stay

Day 4: Is Benas – Putzu Idu

walking @ 17km

The 'Is Benas' lagoon is home to a large colony of Grey Herons and Pink Flamingos (in season). From there, follow a beautiful cliff-top track that winds along to the beach of Su Pallosu. The track continues along the cliff leading to 'Capo Mannu', the lighthouse and ancient Spanish watchtowers and into Putzu Idu, a village located on a stretch of coast often frequented by sailors and surfers.

Day 5: Putzu Idu – San Giovanni di Sinis

walking @ 20km

The day starts at the limestone cliffs of Su Tingiosu, which stretch for some six kilometres. and provide habitat for many birds. The cliffs end in the beautiful quartz beaches of Is Aruttas and Mari Ermi where rice-sized grains of quartz form the white beaches. There are plenty of beach front cafes along this stretch for refreshments before heading inland, crossing low hills of arable land with fields of artichoke and wheat, to arrive in San Giovanni di Sinis.

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Day 6: Tharros and Capo San Marco

walking @ 14km

Set off from your hotel walking across fields and alongside the lagoon to San Giovanni. Beside the narrow peninsula of Capo S. Marco a leisurely hour's walk takes you from the hotel to the ancient Basilica Paleocristiana di San Giovanni di Sinis V Secolo, a church dating back to 470AD.

Here you join the main tourist track to the site of Tharros that has evidence of occupation from the 8th Century BC through to the 10th Century AD, by Phoenicians, Punics and Romans - an interesting site mostly dominated by Roman-era ruins. We suggest you take an hour to explore and for a stop in the café which will set you right for a loop around Capo San Marco using the smaller footpaths that skirt the coastline. Pass the watchtower before walking along secluded beaches and back to the cafes and restaurants of San Giovanni.

You can spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing on the beach, walking further along the coast or just head back to the hotel.

Day 7: San Giovanni di Sinis – Cabras

walking @ 14km

A morning walk leads you out of San Giovanni to Cabras, the main town of the Sinis. You walk along artichoke fields, Vernaccia grape vineyards, olive groves and past the Cabras Lagoon, the largest in the area, famous for shoals of grey mullet and Bottarga, the cured roe of mullet. Perhaps try some of these local specialties for lunch.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast – airport transfers or additional accommodation can be arranged at extra cost.



Outdoor Travel offers walks - guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals - in most parts of Europe including in **Tuscany, Umbria, Piedmont**, the **Amalfi** or **Cinque Terre** Coasts or the **Dolomites** in Italy. In Spain we offer walks in **Catalonia, Andalucia** and the **Alpujarras Mountains** or along the **Pyrenees** between France and Spain; in France choose **Provence, Burgundy** or the **Dordogne**, the **Vermillion Coast, Corsica, Burgundy, Alsace**, the **Loire Valley**, and the wild **Cevennes**. Coastal walks are available along the beautiful **Dalmatian Coast** of Croatia.

For long distance routes, in France and Spain see the **Way of St James** or **Camino de Santiago** from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. In Italy consider the **Via Francigena**, the pilgrims' road to Rome, or in England Wainwright's famous, challenging **Coast to Coast** walk.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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