



Nuoro & the East

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Best Places to Eat

- » La Locanda (p173)
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- » Agriturismo Nuraghe Mannu (p190)

Best Places to Stay

- » Agriturismo Guthiddai (p211)
- » The Lemon House (p213)
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Why Go?

Nowhere is nature such an overwhelming force as in the wild, wild east, where the Supramonte's imperious limestone mountains roll down to the Golfo di Orosei's cliffs and startling aquamarine waters. Who knows where that winding country road might lead you? Perhaps to deep valleys concealing prehistoric caves and *nuraghi* (Bronze Age fortified settlements), to the lonesome villages of the Barbagia steeped in bandit legends, or to forests where wild pigs snuffle amid centuries-old holm oaks. Neither time nor trend obsessed, this region is refreshingly authentic.

Outdoor action is everywhere: along the coast where you can drop anchor in a string of pearly white bays, up in the cliffs where you can multi-pitch climb above the sea, on old mule trails best explored by mountain bike, and at peaks and ravines only reachable on foot. True, the Costa Smeralda attracts more celebrities, but we think you'll agree that the real rock stars and rolling stones are right here.

When to Go

Mamuthones wearing shaggy sheepskins and beastly wooden masks run riot in Mamoiada during February's carnival festivities. For seasonal colour, visit in spring for wildflowers or autumn for foliage. Room rates nose-dive in low season, the best time for hiking, cycling and climbing without the heat and crowds. Come in summer for lazy beach days and water sports.

August is festival time, with pilgrims flocking to the exuberantly folkloric Sagra del Redentore in Nuoro and Festa dell'Assunta in Orgosolo.

Nuoro & the East Highlights

- 1 Walk on the wild side in the **Gola Su Gorropu** (p187). Europe's Grand Canyon
- 2 Drop anchor at the hidden coves and secluded beaches of the **Golfo di Orsei** (p184), lapped by brilliant aquamarine waters
- 3 Take a scenic drive along the serpentine **SS125** (p186) for captivating views of the mountains and Med
- 4 Marvel at the mysterious nuraghe ruins of **Tiscali** (p188) high in the limestone Supramonte
- 5 Leave the world behind as you explore the weird highland plain of the **Altopiano del Golgo** (p194)

