Alghero & the Northwest

Why Go?
Inspiring natural beauty goes hand in hand with history and urban charm in Sardinia’s northwestern corner.

The obvious belle of the ball is the coastline with its brilliant sandy beaches, heedy cliffs and hidden rocky coves. But head inland, and surprises await – architectural and archaeological gems litter the sun-bleached countryside, a string of Pisan-Romanesque churches testify to glories past, while tumbledown ruins tell of prehistoric times.

A history of foreign rule has left an indelible mark on the area, not only in bricks and mortar but also in spirit. Alghero, the northwest’s main gateway and a one-time Catalan stronghold, has a distinctly Spanish feel, while Sassari owes its cosmopolitan outlook to its past as a Genoese colony. In many ways, the entire area seems less Sardinian than other parts of the island, less rural and less reserved, but no less enchanting for it.

Road Distance (km)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>km</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alghero</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castelsardo</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porto Torres</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sassari</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stintino</td>
<td>17</td>
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Best Places to Eat

- Trattoria Lo Romani (p121)
- La Botteghina (p121)
- Agriturismo Sa Mandra (p126)
- Agriturismo Porticciolo (p129)
- L’Antica Hostaria (p138)

Best Places to Stay

- Hotel El Faro (p209)
- Angedras Hotel (p208)
- Tanina B&B (p209)
- Villa Las Tronas (p208)
Alghero & the Northwest Highlights

1. Diving into Caribbean-coloured waters at the Spiaggia della Pelosa (p131).
2. Revelling in dreamy sunset views on Alghero’s sea walls (p115).
3. Spotting albino donkeys on the rocky wilds of the Parco Nazionale dell’Asinara (p131).
4. Escaping the crowds and enjoying great walking in Le Prigionette Nature Reserve (p127).
5. Heading out to the Capo Caccia headland to explore the fairy-tale Grotta di Nettuno (p128).
6. Seeing where prehistoric cavepeople lived in Ozieri’s Grotta di San Michele (p141).
7. Wandering Castelsardo’s medieval lanes and looking over to Corsica from the impregnable hilltop castello (p133).
8. Getting into the festive swing at the Cavalcata Sarda (p138), Sassari’s great headline festival.