



Olbia, the Costa Smeralda & the Gallura

Includes ➔

Olbia.....	145
Golfo Aranci.....	150
San Teodoro.....	151
Costa Smeralda.....	153
Porto Cervo.....	153
Santa Teresa di Gallura.....	159
Porto Pollo & Isola Dei Gabbiani...	162
Palau.....	162
Parco Nazionale dell'Arcipelago di la Maddalena.....	163
Tempio Pausania.....	166

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Agriturismo Agrisole (p146)
- ➔ Li Mori (p152)
- ➔ Jaddhu (p157)
- ➔ I Frati Rossi (p154)
- ➔ Agriturismo Saltara (p159)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ B&B Lu Pastruccialeddu (p211)
- ➔ Hotel Panorama (p209)
- ➔ B&B Petite Maison (p212)
- ➔ Agriturismo Ca' La Somara (p211)

Why Go?

Costa Smeralda evokes Sardinia's classic images: pearly-white beaches and weird, wind-whipped licks of rock tapering into emerald seas. The stretch of dazzling coast that the Aga Khan bought for a pittance in the 1960s is today the playground of millionaires and A-listers. Come summer, the scandal-hungry paparazzi haunt the marinas, zooming in on oligarchs cavorting with bikini-clad beauties on yachts so big they eclipse the sun.

A few kilometres' drive inland and you could be on another island entirely: here vine-striped hills roll to deeply traditional villages and mysterious *nuraghe* (Bronze Age fortified settlements), silent cork-oak woods and granite mountains. Immune to time and trends, the hinterland is a refreshing contrast to the coast. Hide away in a country *agriturismo* (farm stay) for a few days to appreciate a very different version of the good life.

Further north the Gallura coast becomes wilder, the preserve of the dolphins, divers and windsurfers who splash around in the startlingly blue waters of La Maddalena marine reserve.

Road Distance (km)

Olbia	22			
Porto Cervo	18	25		
Santa Teresa di Gallura	27	49	45	
San Teodoro	49	27	52	76
Arzachena				
Olbia				
Porto Cervo				
Santa Teresa di Gallura				

OLBIA

POP 54,850

Often ignored in the mad dash to the Costa Smeralda, Olbia has more to offer than first meets the eye. Look beyond its industrial outskirts and you'll find a fetching city with a *centro storico* (historic centre) crammed with boutiques, wine bars and cafe-rimmed piazzas. Olbia is a refreshingly authentic and

affordable alternative to the purpose-built resorts stretching to the north and south.

History

Archaeological evidence has revealed the existence of human settlement in Sardinia's northeast in the mid-neolithic period (about 4000 BC), but Olbia was almost certainly founded by the Carthaginians in the 4th or



Olbia, the Costa Smeralda & the Gallura Highlights

1 Hang out with the bronzed, beautiful and superamous on the **Costa Smeralda** (p153).

2 Island-hop around the **Parco Nazionale dell'Arcipelago di La Maddalena** (p163) and dive into its jewel-coloured waters.

3 Lounge on the frosty white sands of **Cala Brandinchi** (p152), nicknamed 'Little Tahiti'.

4 Explore the endless cork forests around **Tempio Pausania** (p166).

5 Go with the wind and take to the wild waters off **Porto Pollo** (p162).

6 Swap the glamour of the coast for the haunting silence of **Lago di Liscia** (p158).

7 Clamber the weirdly sculptured boulders of **Capo Testa** (p161).

8 Taste crisp Vermentino whites and rich Cannonau reds in contemporary winery **Cantine Surrau** (p155).