



Nuoro & the East

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Why Go?

Nowhere else in Sardinia 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 Bronze Age *nuraghi*, 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, upon the cliffs where you can multi-pitch climb above the sea, on old mule trails best explored by mountain bike, and atop peaks and ravines only reachable on foot. True, the Costa Smeralda attracts more celebrities, but the real rock stars and rolling stones are right here.

When to Go

- Bonfires and masked dancers fill Mamoiada's streets during the Festa di Sant'Antonio Abate in January.
- In June, explore the magnificent cliffs and coves of Golfo di Orosei before temperatures and prices soar.
- Tackle the classic Selvaggio Blu trek or ride the *trenino verde* through Sorgono's vineyards in September.

Nuoro & the East Highlights

- 1 Gola Su Gorropu** (p199) Walking on the wild side in Europe's Grand Canyon.
- 2 Golfo di Orsei** (p191) Dropping anchor among the hidden coves and secluded beaches of Sardinia's most magnificent bay.
- 3 SS125** (p202) Taking a scenic drive along this serpentine road for captivating views of the mountains and the Med.
- 4 Tiscali** (p200) Marvelling at mysterious nuraghic ruins high in the Supramonte's limestone mountains.
- 5 Altopiano del Goglio** (p201) Leaving the world behind as you explore this weird highland plateau.

