



GOLFO OROSEI

TOUR OF THE ARTISANS



Between the Supramonte, the sea and the traditions of Dorgali

This itinerary crosses one of the most distinctive areas of the central-eastern Sardinian coast, where the landscapes of the Supramonte of Dorgali meet the Gulf of Orosei.

During the quad tour, the route alternates between natural canyons, ancient nuraghi, pristine beaches and artisan workshops where traditional craftsmanship is still practiced today.



CODULA DI OSALA

The first stop takes you to one of the most distinctive natural settings along the coast of Dorgali: Codula di Osala, a deep limestone valley that descends from the Supramonte mountains to the sea.



WHAT TO NOTICE

In the Sardinian language, the term “codula” refers to a gorge or canyon carved by water.

Codula di Osala has historically represented a natural boundary between the territories of Dorgali and Orosei.

Here, the landscape changes rapidly: from the white limestone rocks of the Supramonte, the route reaches a coastal wetland area where Rio Osala forms small pools before flowing into the sea.

This watercourse is part of the natural water system of the Supramonte of Dorgali, a karst territory shaped over time by erosion.

During the route, you can observe:

- limestone cliffs shaped by wind and water erosion
- Mediterranean vegetation with mastic trees, juniper and rockrose
- reeds and typical coastal wetland vegetation
- the contrast between the green valley and the blue waters of the Gulf of Orosei

LOCAL INSIGHT

The codulas of the Supramonte are ancient natural pathways that were used for centuries by shepherds and charcoal makers to reach the sea or move between the inland plateaus.



DONKEY ENCOUNTER

A simple and authentic pause that reflects the historic bond between the people of the Supramonte and their traditional working animals.



WHAT TO NOTICE

Before the arrival of modern vehicles, donkeys were essential to everyday life in the countryside of Dorgali.

They were used to transport firewood, wine and agricultural products and to travel along the rocky trails of the inland areas.

During this stop, you can get close to the animals, pet and feed them and experience a slow, genuine moment in contact with the rural spirit of inland Sardinia.

LOCAL INSIGHT

The Sardinian donkey is a breed that was historically widespread across the island and is particularly well adapted to rugged terrain and long mountain routes.



NURAGHE GULUNIE

Overlooking the sea and surrounded by Mediterranean vegetation, Nuraghe Gulunie tells the story of ancient Sardinia, connected to the control of the coast and natural routes.

WHAT TO NOTICE

The nuraghe is located about 36 meters above sea level, in a strategic panoramic position between the coast and the inland areas.

It is a single-tower structure built of basalt, dating back to the Bronze Age, between the 15th and 14th centuries BC, during the height of the Nuragic civilization.

Its location was not chosen by chance: from here, it was possible to control the coastal landing points, the mouth of the Osala River and the routes connecting the sea to the Supramonte mountains.

By observing the landscape, the reason for this choice becomes immediately clear:

- wide views over the Gulf of Orosei
- natural control of the valleys
- proximity to water sources
- quick access to the beaches of Osala and Cala Cartoe

The route toward Dorgali passes through these coastal areas, among pale sand, juniper trees and wind-shaped rocks.

LOCAL INSIGHT

— — The Nuragic civilization developed thousands of towers throughout Sardinia. Even today, the island preserves the highest concentration of megalithic architecture in the western Mediterranean.



SCENIC PASSAGE: OSALA AND CARTOE



Without stopping, the route passes alongside two of the most iconic beaches in the Dorgali area.

WHAT TO NOTICE

Osala Beach features dunes, Mediterranean vegetation and crystal-clear waters.

A short distance away, Cala Cartoe opens into a small cove protected by limestone hills.



This part of the coast is famous for the striking contrast between:

- the mountains of the Supramonte
- Mediterranean forests
- light-coloured beaches
- the deep waters of the Gulf of Orosei

During the quieter months, the landscape retains a remarkably wild character.

LOCAL INSIGHT

The Gulf of Orosei is one of the most spectacular stretches of coastline in Sardinia, known for its limestone cliffs and the many sea caves shaped by karst processes.





THE BEEHIVE

In the heart of Dorgali, this stop tells the story of one of the most deeply rooted traditions of Sardinian agriculture: honey production.



WHAT TO NOTICE

The area between the Supramonte and the coast offers extraordinary botanical diversity that directly influences the flavour of local honeys.

Here you can taste different varieties, including:

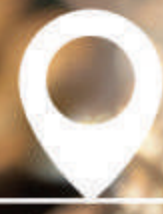
- wildflower honey
- asphodel honey
- products made from honey and beeswax, such as liqueurs, candies and cosmetics

Asphodel, a plant widespread in the Mediterranean landscapes of Sardinia, blooms in spring and helps create delicate, aromatic honeys.

Beeswax is also part of the local tradition and is used to create decorative objects and handcrafted gift items.

LOCAL INSIGHT

Corbezzolo honey, made from the flowers of the strawberry tree, is one of Sardinia's most distinctive and unusual honeys. Rare, aromatic and naturally bitter, it reflects the wild character of the island's Mediterranean scrubland.



RUIU FILIGRANA

Sardinian filigree is one of the most refined expressions of the island's craftsmanship, passed down through generations.

WHAT TO NOTICE

In Gianna Ruiu's workshop, manual craftsmanship remains at the heart of the process.

The filigree technique consists of intertwining extremely fine silver or gold threads, which are hand soldered to create intricate and delicate decorations.

Many pieces of jewellery are inspired by the traditional style of Dorgali:

- Sardinian buttons
- traditional pendants
- symbols connected to pastoral and Mediterranean culture

Alongside historical forms, contemporary creations reinterpret ancient motifs in a modern way.

During the demonstration, you can observe an extremely precise craft involving pliers, microsoldering and almost invisible details.

LOCAL INSIGHT

Dorgali is one of Sardinia's best-known centers for the art of filigree, alongside other historic artisan hubs on the island.



PELLETTERIA FARA



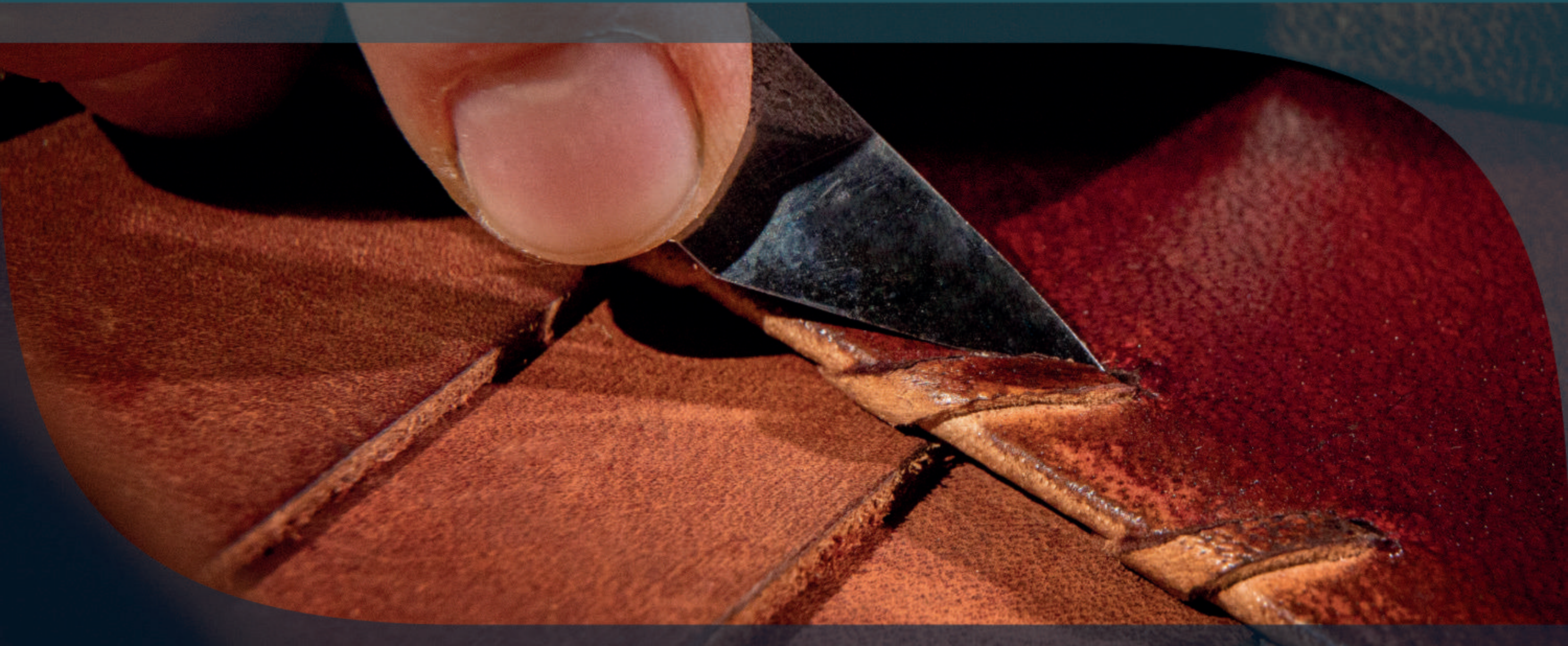
This stop offers the opportunity to enter the world of traditional leather and wood craftsmanship, still practiced by hand using artisanal techniques.

WHAT TO NOTICE

In the workshop, the work is carried out using manual techniques that require experience and precision. Bags, belts, wallets and accessories are created by hand, from cutting the leather to the final stitching.

Alongside traditional objects, there are also products with a more modern design. Woodworking is another important part of local craftsmanship.

Among the most distinctive items are decorated Sardinian cutting boards, often made using Mediterranean wood varieties. The atmosphere retains the typical rhythm of artisan workshops: natural materials, working tools and small-scale production.



LOCAL INSIGHT

Dorgali has long been a village of artisans: leatherworkers, knife-makers, jewellers and weavers have helped shape its artisan identity for generations.

APERITIVO AT SAN GIOVANNI SU ANZU

The tour concludes with a final stop in one of the most evocative places in the Dorgali countryside.



WHAT TO NOTICE

The rural church of Saint John the Baptist, known as San Giovanni Su Anzu, stands just outside the town of Dorgali, surrounded by olive trees and Mediterranean vegetation.

Here, the atmosphere changes completely from that of the coast: the landscape becomes more intimate, rural and peaceful.

During the aperitivo, you can enjoy local products connected to the area's gastronomic tradition, often accompanied by Sardinian wines and typical specialties.

The simplicity of the church and its surroundings reflects the strong connection between popular religious traditions, the countryside and the community life that characterises many inland Sardinian villages.

LOCAL INSIGHT

Sardinia's rural churches were historically gathering places during religious festivals, community meetings and periods of pastoral transhumance.



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