



Necropolis of Is Pirixeddus

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Topography of Sant'Antioco

The island of Sant'Antioco is in the south-west of Sardinia, the largest island in the archipelago of Sulcis, chosen by the Phoenicians due to its position and natural port. The island has an area of about 88 square kilometres with a length of about 19 kilometres. The territory consists of volcanic rocks, mainly basalts and trachyte, and limestone and is connected to the main Island by an isthmus, partly natural and partly due to the work of man (fig. 1) There are few streams and rivers, mostly torrents.

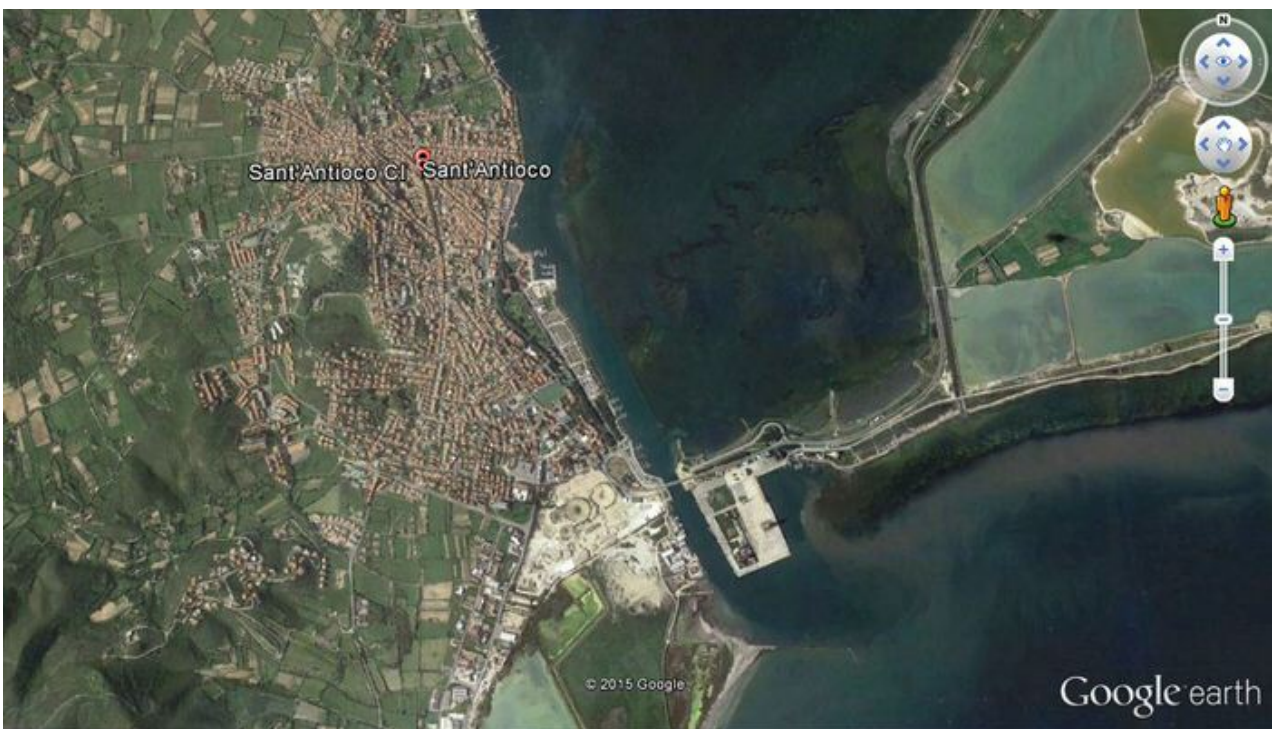


Fig. 1 - View of the town of Sant'Antioco. The isthmus connecting the minor island to the main one (from Google Earth) is very evident

The island is in a strategic position, on the south-west edge of a region rich in minerals as the Sulcis-Iglesias is, for which it is a natural sea access (fig. 2).



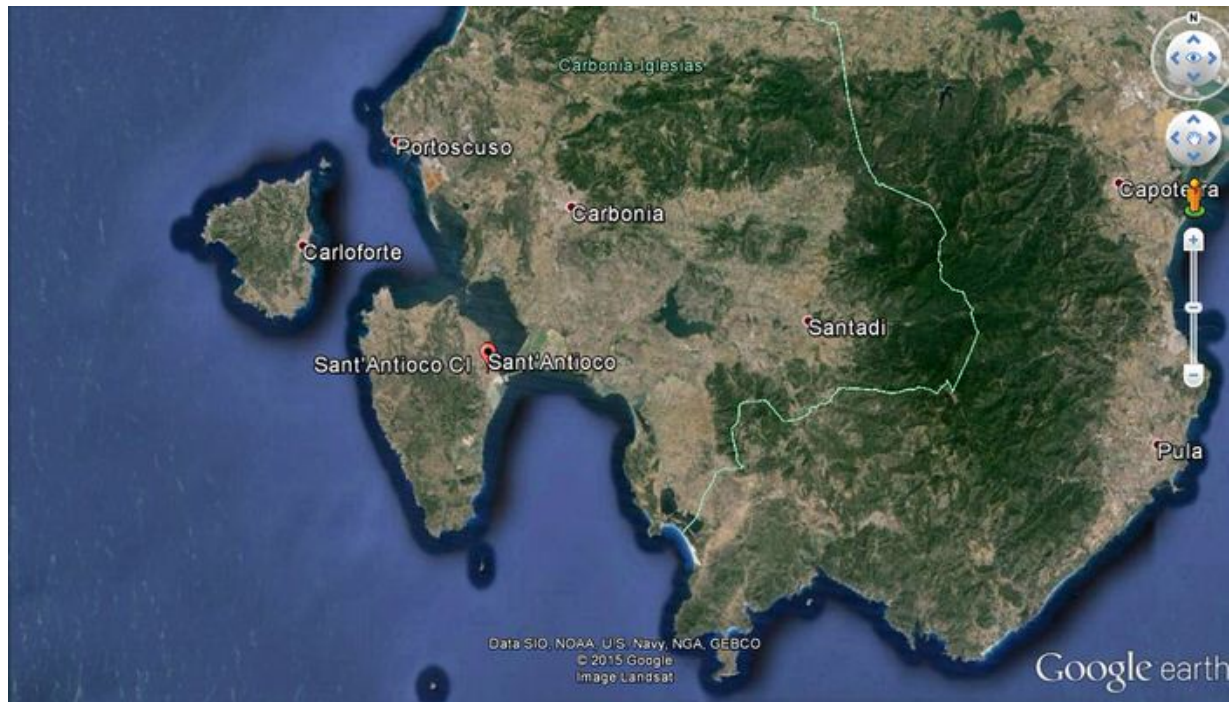


Fig. 2 - View from above of the island of Sant'Antioco, Carloforte and the province of Carbonia Iglesias (from Google Earth)

Sulky, the ancient name for the current Sant'Antioco, was founded on it. The name, according to recent studies, may have existed prior to the arrival of the Phoenicians and therefore was probably of Nuragic origin, or native in any case. The native presence is clear from the remains of a multi-sided Nuragic tower where the Phoenician city was built. In addition to the port of Sulky there is also the port of *Maladroxia*, controlled by another Nuraghe, along the east coast of the island, whose name derives from the Phoenician *Malat Rosh*, literally the "Cape Refuge", a critical landing site in order to have secure access to the only arable valley in the southern part of the island, the *Canna* valley and to the creek named very significantly Portu 'e su Trigu, or rather the "Port of grain" (fig. 3, dominated by another nuraghe, *Grutti Acqua* (fig. 4)



Fig. 3 - Map showing the different names and Nuraghe in the area (from <http://www.lacanas.it/2012/02/21/un-sistema-nuragico-di-dimensioni-gigantesche-con-tanto-di-laghetto/>)



Fig. 4 - Remains of the Nuraghe Grutti Acqua

(from <http://www.comune.santantioco.ca.it/cms/component/phocagallery/category/67-nuraghe-gruttiaacqua.html>)

The island was known from ancient times for its tuna fishing plants, probably of Phoenician origin, one in the north, opposite the island of San Pietro, between the *Spiaggia Grande* and the cliff known as *Mangiabarche*; the other further south, in front of Cala Sapone, an inlet on the western side of the valley of Cannai (see fig. 3).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Cinzia Olianas

■ Bibliographic abbreviations

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Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a