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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Port and coastal towers of Arbatax

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The archaeological complex of S'Ortali 'e su Monte

In *San Salvatore*, not far from the sea and beaches of Orri, you have the archaeological area of *S'ortali 'e su Monte*. This is a real monumental complex formed by *domus de janas*, *menhirs*, one nuraghe and two tombs of giants, extending over about 8000 m² on a granite hill dominating the nearby coastal plain.

The presence of the *domus de janas* and *menhirs* proves that the area was already inhabited in really ancient times, from the Late Neolithic Period (3200-2800 B.C.). The underground tomb, dug into the northern side of the hill, has a vestibule leading, through a hatch, into a pseudo-rectangular cell with a double niche (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Domus de janas in the archaeological area of S'Ortali e su Monte (photo by C. Nieddu).



Fig. 1 - Domus de Janas in the archaeological area of S'Ortali e su Monte: detail of entrance to the inner chamber (photo by C. Nieddu).

Several menhirs also belong to the Neolithic period; they are of the aniconic, proto-anthropomorphic type. Some menhirs and a bedrock with cups are also visible alongside the country church of San Salvatore (fig. 2) and their presence could be connected to the underground tomb dug into a granite rocky spur behind the church. This *domus de Janas* has two longitudinal cells preceded by a vestibule.



Fig. 2 - The country church of San Salvatore (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The Nuragic site of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* has a single tower nuraghe dating back to the Middle Bronze Age, i.e. 1500-1400 B.C. circa, but used up to the period between the final part of the Bronze Age and the early Iron Age, about 900 B.C. (fig. 3), surrounded by an antemural that incorporates three towers, a village with several huts (fig. 4) and two giants' tombs (fig. 5) for the buried dead that had been inhumation.



Fig. 3 - The nuraghe of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 4 - Structures of the village surrounding the nuraghe of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* (photo by C. Nieddu).



Fig. 5 - The exedra of the tomb of giants of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* (photo Unicity S.p.A.).

■ Credits

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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