



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Port and coastal towers of Arbatax

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology

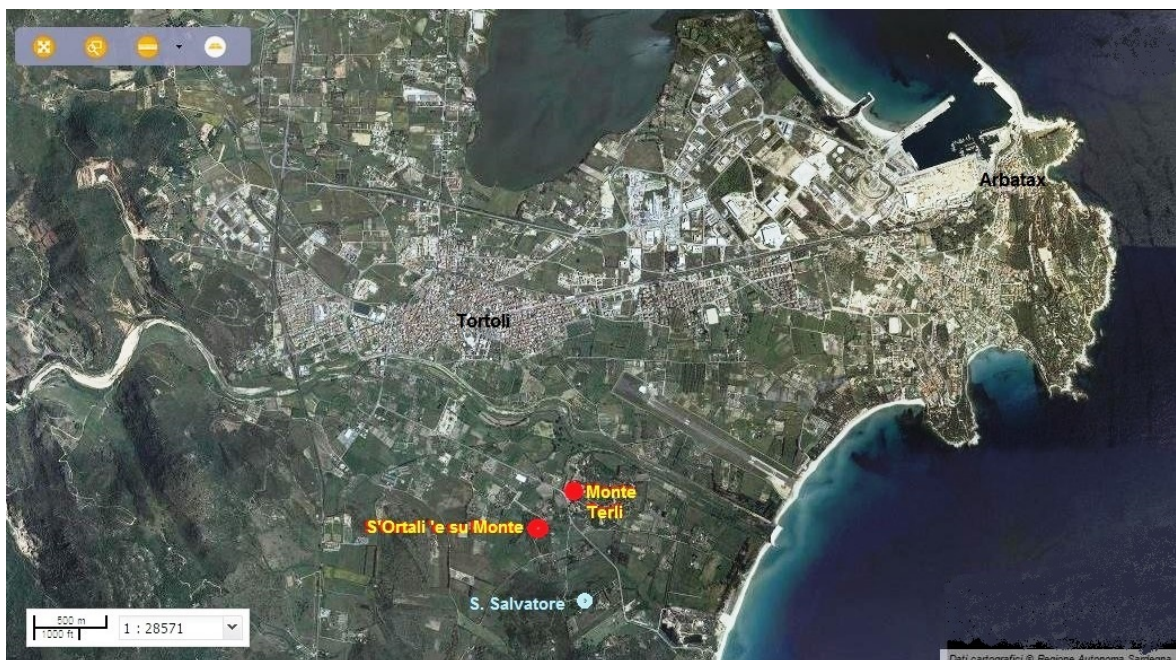


## ■ The territory in the Pre-Nuragic Age

The plain of Tortoli-Arbatax, thanks to its favourable position near the sea, hence the possibility to farm, breed animals and fish, was conducive to human settlement in all ages (fig. 1).

The Neolithic Age (IV–III Millennium B.C.) was proven by *menhirs* (*Orrì*, *Pèrd'e Fà*, *Sa Sèrra 'e Sa Pira* and by the bethel of *Pèrd'e Fà*) and by the numerous *domus de janas* dislocated in different parts of the area (San Salvatore; Monte Terli, Monte Attu, Cèa).

The zones with traces of Neolithic settlements are located in two environmental bands: a hilly one with granite hills like Monte Attu (81-99 metres above sea level) or lower like Monte Terli (30 metres a.s.l.), S'Ortali 'and Monte (26 metres a.s.l.), San Salvatore (30 metres a.s.l.), Perda Longa (20 metres a.s.l.) and Sa Serra 'e sa Pira (57 metres a.s.l.); and a coastal plain (*Orrì*).



**Fig. 1** - The main archaeological sites of Tortoli-Arbatax (from Sardegnaoportale; reworked by M.G. Arru).

Of these communities we still have the tombs (*domus de janas*) and elements which can be connected to the so-called megalithic religion, such as *menhirs* (fig. 2), cup-shaped boulders, sacrificial stones, schematic petroglyphs (fig. 3). However, there are no remains from living quarters.



**Fig. 2** - The alignment of *menhirs* of Perda Longa - Tortolì (from Archeo System 1990 a, p. 66).

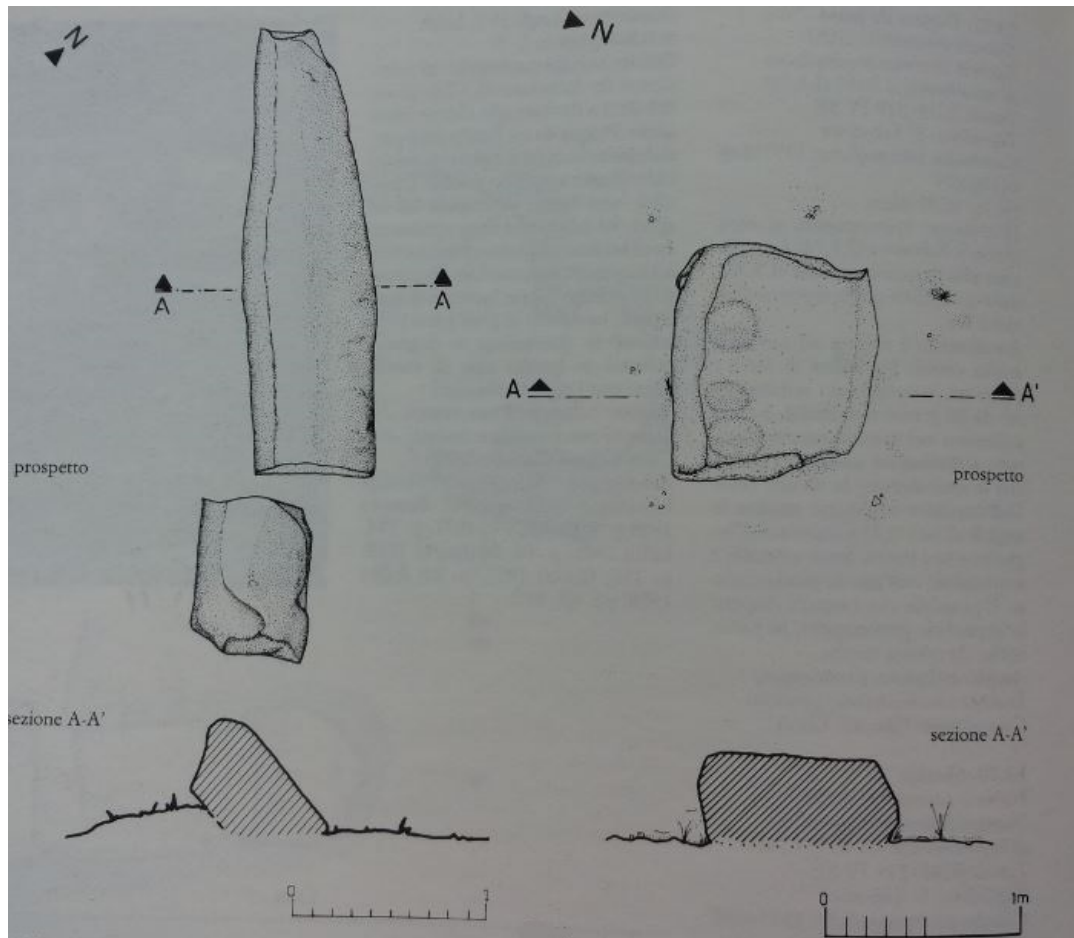




**Fig. 3** - The rock on the beach of Orrì with the anthropomorphic petroglyph (from Archeo System 1990 a, p. 69).

The archaeological complex of San Salvatore is structured around the country church of the same name and includes: two *domus de janas*, three aniconic *menhirs* and a cup-shaped boulder (fig. 4). Of the two *domus*, dug into a rocky granite spur, the former has been badly damaged by several collapses and its plan is not easy to read; the other, a few metres away, has a trapezoidal plant vestibule which leads to two longitudinal cells.





**Fig. 4 - Menhir and cup-shaped boulder from the site of S. Salvatore (from Archeo System 1990 b, p. 88).**

The underground necropolis of Monte Terli has eight *domus de janas*: four dug in isolated boulders on the west side and four on a wall with no easy access (fig. 5).





**Fig. 5 - *Domus de janas* di Monte Terli (da ARCHEO SYSTEM 1990 b, p. 67).**

At *S'Ortali 'e su Monte*, the archaeological area with the nuraghi and the tombs of giants also has a *domus de janas* (fig. 6) and some *menhirs* (fig. 7). 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. 6** - The *domus de janas* of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* (photo by C. Nieddu).



**Fig. 7** – Menhirs of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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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