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REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Port and coastal towers of Arbatax

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The pond of Tortoli

The pond, to the north-west of Capo Bellavista, is an irregular, circular closed basin covering a surface of 290 hectares and is surrounded by other small basins; a long dune belt separates it from the sea (fig. 1). Its only tributary is the Rio Girasole and it fluctuates between a metre and a metre and a half in depth. It has two outlets to the sea in the eastern part, with modern *lavorieri* traps¹ for fish and exchange of water.



Fig. 1 - Aerial view of the pond of Tortoli
(from <http://www.alimages.it/report/2006a/06ago3/agosto3.html>).

With lush vegetation, formed mainly by rushes, it is home to several bird species such as cormorants (fig. 2), ducks (fig. 3), gulls and, in winter, the Peregrine Falcon (fig. 4).

¹ The “lavoriero” is a trap system placed in communication channels between ponds and lagoons; it imprisons fish during their migration towards the sea.



Fig. 2 - a specimen of common cormorant , *Phalacrocorax carbo*
(from https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phalacrocorax_carbo#/media/File:Phalacrocorax_carbo.jpg).



Fig. 3 - A specimen of sea duck, *Edredone comune*
(from https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somateria_mollissima#/media/File:Bristol.zoo.common.eider.arp.jpg).





Fig. 4 - A specimen of *Peregrine Falcon* (from A.a.V.v. 2007, p. 106).

The "*Sulpicius Portus*" mentioned in the *Geography* of Ptolemy (II century A.D.)² is believed to be right here.

The pond is currently used for fish farming. Besides adding value to the local fish produce, activities linked to aquaculture, breeding mussels, eels, sea bass, sea bream and prawns are performed here, respecting the environment and maintaining the area's ecological and natural balance.

² The *Sulpicius Portus* is mentioned and placed geographically by the *Cosmography* by Claudius Ptolemy (II century A.D.) contained in the work *Geography*: this reports the coordinates of about 8000 different locations in the world known of at the time. Mastino, Ruggieri 2001; Angius 1833-1856.

■ Credits

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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