



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Necropolis of Sant'Andrea Priu

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Ancient roads

Two main roads ensured internal connections between the island's major ports during the Roman Era: *Karales* (Cagliari), *Turris Libisonis* (Porto Torres) and Olbia.

The former is the longitudinal road that lead from *Karales* to *Turris Libisonis*, known with three names on the milestones: *a Turre*, *a Turre Karalis* and *a Karalibus Turrem*.

From this, a second road branched off to Olbia, passing by the *mansiones of Hafa* (Mores) and *Luguidonis castra* (Nostra Signora di Castro - Oschiri).

Thanks to the directions in the *Itinerarium Antonini* and the finding of several milestones, experts have been able to hypothesise that the point from which the road named *a Karalibus Olbiam* began was close to the northern limit of the town of Bonorva. It was already built in the Republican era, but only gained economic importance during the Imperial era, especially starting with the Severan Era (end of 2nd to beginning of 3rd century A.D.), as shown by the large number of milestones found, that show the continuous renovation work carried out still at the end of the 4th century A.D. (figs. 1-2).





**Fig. 1** - Milestone from Mura Menteda, Bornova Archaeological Museum  
(Photo by M.G. Arru).

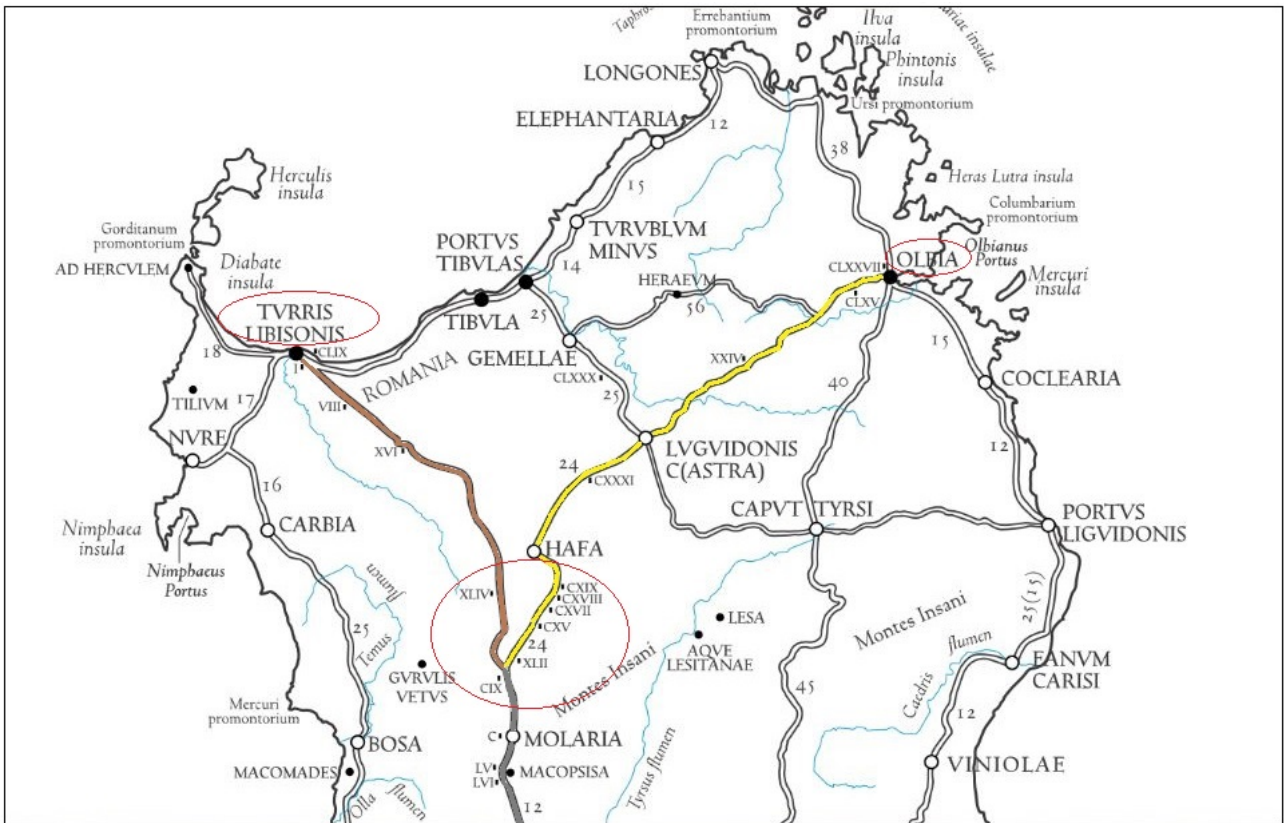




**Fig. 2** - Milestone from the area of Rio Badu Pedrosu, Bonorva Archaeological Museum (Photo by M.G. Arru).

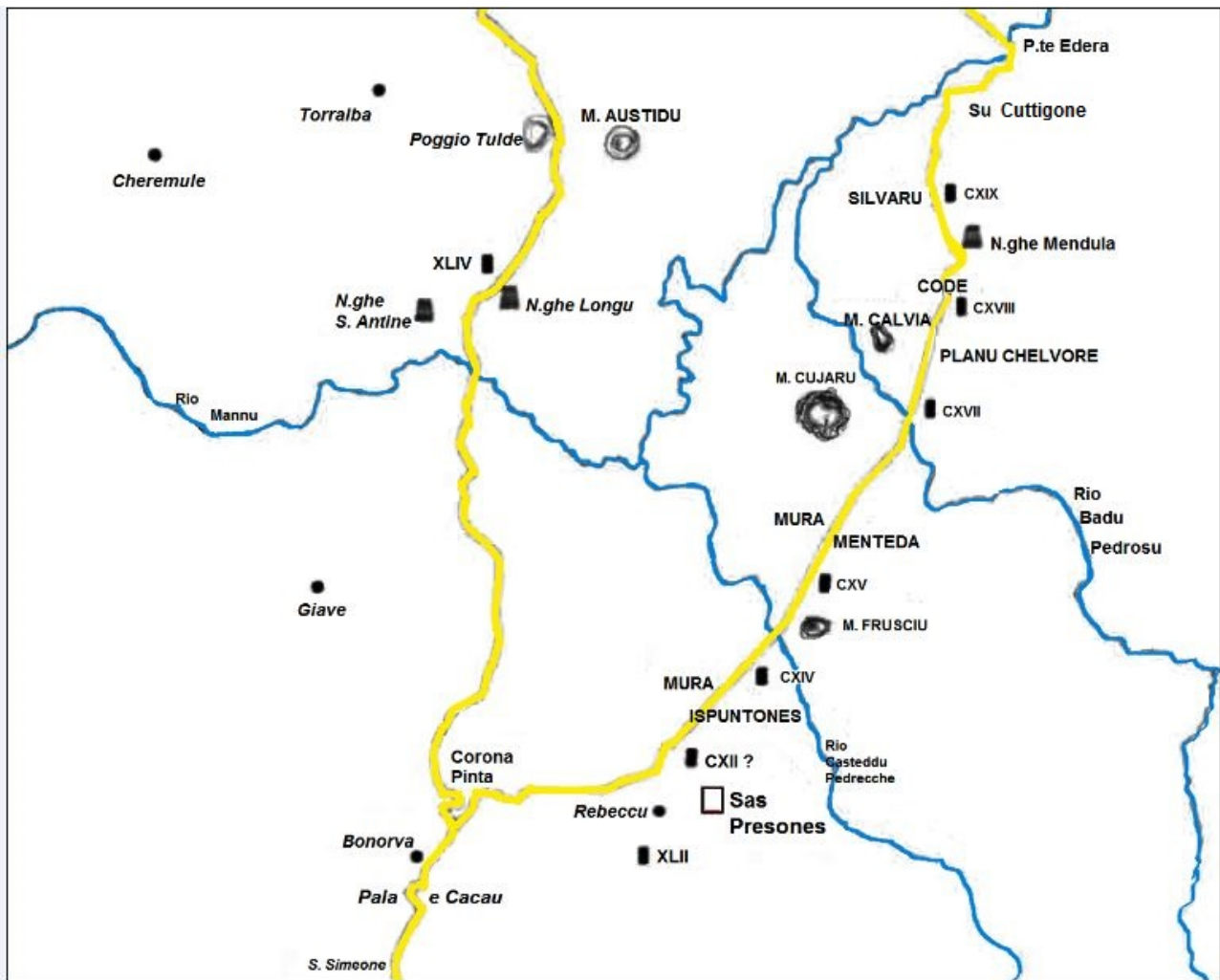
In spite of the difficulties due to the loss of most of the milestones and the disappearance of the roads, it is still possible to identify the itinerary, that wound for 65 miles, i.e. 96 km according to calculations (fig. 3).





**Fig. 3** - Detail of the map of Roman roads in Sardinia. Roman numbers indicate the numbering on the road milestones (by Mastino 2005, p. 340, fig. 37. Reprocessing by M.G. Arru).

Once past Bonorva, the road for Olbia went eastwards following a track that crossed the modern road for Rebeccu near to the church of San Lorenzo. It continued in a north-east direction, leaving Monte Frusciu on the right, to reach Mura Menteda; it then went east of Monte Cujaru, over the Rio Badu Pedrosu, between Monte Calvia and Planu Chelvore, downhill towards Code and Silvaru on a route almost straight north, and after a diversion towards Cuttigone, it went over the Riu Mannu, and towards Hafa (Mores). The road route for *Turrus Libisonis* divided from the Cagliari-Olbia road north of Bonorva and continued on towards the Santu Antine nuraghe, then towards Poggio Tulde and alongside Monte Arana, before heading for Turrus (fig. 4).



**Fig. 4** - Map with location of the fork in the road for *Karalibus Olbiam*  
 (By Mastino, Ruggeri 2009, p. 557, fig. 3. Reprocessing by M.G. Arru).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru and Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

## ■ Bibliography

BELLI E., *La viabilità romana nel Logudoro-Meilogu*, in *Il nuraghe S. Antine nel Logudoro-Meilogu* (a cura di A. MORAVETTI), Sassari 1988, pp. 330- 395.

CAPRARA R., *La necropoli di S. Andrea Priu. Sardegna Archeologica. Guide e Itinerari*, 3, Sassari 1986.

IALONGO N., SCHIAPPELLI A., VANZETTI A., *L'edificio termale di Sas Presones, Rebeccu, Bonorva (SS)*, in *Ricerca e Confronti 2006. Giornate di studio di archeologia e storia dell'arte*, a cura di S. ANGIOLILLO, M. GIUMAN, A. PASOLINI, Cagliari 2007, pp. 199-210.

MASTINO A., RUGGERI P., *La viabilità della Sardegna romana. Un nuovo praetorium a Sas Presones di Rebeccu a nord della biforcazione Turris - Olbia?*, in *Παλαιά Φιλία. Studi di topografia antica in onore di Giovanni Uggeri*, a cura di C. MARANGIO E G. LAUDIZI, Galatina 2009, pp. 555-572.

MASTINO A., *Storia della Sardegna antica*, Nuoro 2005.

TARAMELLI A., *Fortezze, recinti, fonti sacre e necropoli preromane nell'agro di Bonorva (Prov. di Sassari)*, in *Monumenti Antichi pubblicati a cura dell'Accademia dei Lincei*, XXV, 1919, coll. 765-904.

TETTI V., *Appunti sulle strade romane nella zona di Bonorva (Sassari)*, in *Studi Sardi*, XXIII, 1973-74, pp. 191-211.



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



**REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA**  
**REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA**

## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



UNIONE EUROPEA

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