



UNIONE EUROPEA



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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Giants' tomb site of Thomes: description

The megalithic collective burial of S'Ena 'e Thomes (figs 1-2), a dolmen structure with arched stele, is a remarkable example of Nuraghic funerary architecture.



**Fig. 1** - View of the tomb from above (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



**Fig. 2** - Hypothetical reconstruction of the monument (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

Although only a few artefacts have been found, mainly various ceramic shapes known in the Bonnanaro Culture (pan, cup, rounded bowl, multiple-foot vase, olla), its construction dates back to the Middle 1 Bronze Age (about 1600-1500 B.C. circa) Overall, the grave is more than 16.20 metres long. The entrance to the tomb faces south. The semi-circular exedra is marked by slabs driven vertically into the ground at the front, decreasing in size towards the centre, which delimit the enclosed ceremonial space suitable for accommodating the funeral rites (fig. 3).



**Fig. 3** - Exedra (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The impressive arched stele located at the centre, with a height of over three metres and a width of at least two, carved from a single block, with a curved profile on top, surrounded by a frame in relief and a transverse listel, constitutes the most interesting element of the burial site (fig. 4).





**Fig. 4** - Arched stele (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

On the lower side, a square hatch opens, with rounded corners, which gives access to the funeral chamber (fig. 5), built by using granite slabs placed knife-wise into the ground, on which a row of stones rests and above which the roof was positioned, obtained by employing large slabs placed horizontally on the orthostats. Of these, three were still in their original position whilst two others were found upside down at the side of the grave. The floor of the room, affected by illegal break-ins, probably consisted of stone tiles.



**Fig. 5** - Inside the burial chamber (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

It was excavated and restored in the late seventies of the last century.

The excavation work brought to light a few artefacts which document attendance of the monument, or at least of the area where it stands, from the Bronze Age until Roman Times and the Middle Ages (3rd century B.C.-6th/7th century A.D.).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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