



To discover Sardinia

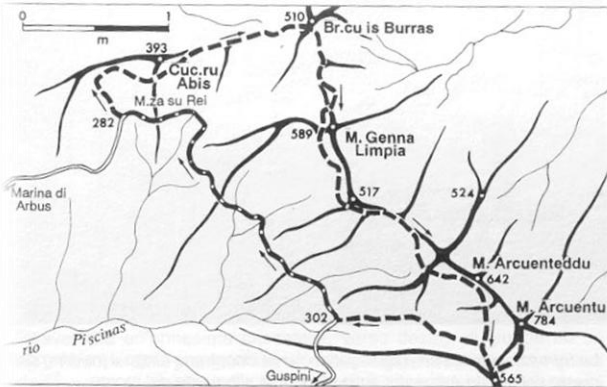
For a holiday to remember, do not miss our excursions!

Tour 3: Tower of the Corsairs, Monte Arcuentu

Path length: 3 hours to go up and down for 1 hour (excluding stops) Elevation gain: 450 m

Distance: 5 km round trip Difficulty: E (some steps of rock sometimes slippery)

Maps: IGM 1:25.000 225 IV NO



A short trek that takes place zigzag between the crests of one of the most unique mountain landscapes of the island,

between volcanic rocks from the most incredible, like some enormous walls. Deprecated 's rise in the presence of children or in case of rain, because the soil at the top tends to be slippery. The sun beats relentlessly all the way, except at the top. The ascent to Monte Arcuentu, is an almost mystical. the path is short (about 7 km) but intense, and for the difference that the unique charm of this majestic fortress which dominates the surrounding area assuming the role of real geographical reference. The deer live now firmly on the slopes and the top of this magical mountain, characterized by a series of pinnacles and volcanic rocks turriformi. Its summit offers a magnificent 360 degree view of the surrounding territory, the wild Costa Verde westward to the vast plain of Campidano, to the mountains of Gennargentu eastward

The route starts in the mule, which run along the bottom of the mountain, with the slopes pretty sweet, then move on to a more challenging, but very rewarding, allowing you to walk between huge walls of basalt, which overlook gullies originated by the flow of lava.

The top of the mountain is covered with luxuriant vegetation unusually for the area, you will be greeted by a cool forest of oaks, and visit the place that was the home for several years, Fra 'Lorenzo, a monk from the monastery of Sant capuccino 'Ignatius of Laconi, who chose it as a place of hermitage.

Castle Arcuentu or Erculentu, located 785 meters above sea level, which once belonged to the judge of Arborea. The area in which is located the castle of Arcuentu is popular for centuries, Mount Arcuentu lamps have been found to cup and shell type Punic, was discovered a closet containing numerous Roman coins and in Tzei resort, situated on the slopes Mount Arcuentu, was discovered a Roman settlement with cemeteries, including three tombs with vascular kits.

Given the location of the fortress, located on the border between the Judge of Arborea and the Judge of Cagliari, the historian Francesco Cesare Casula suggests that it could be a very important castle for the defense of res giudicata. On the slopes of Mount Arcuentu, in a particularly fertile period in Judicial, stood the village of Bidda Tzei. The first document mentioning the castle dates back to 1164 Arcolento: it is a pledge that the court grant-Barisone I de Lacon-Serra, he, together with the castle of Marmilla to the Republic of Genoa City, in exchange for ' help and the money borrowed in the unlikely event of his investiture imperial Re nominal Sardinia. The judge, in order to obtain the Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa the title of Rex Sardiniae, was entrusted to the Genoese. In 1164, he was crowned King of Sardinia in exchange for nominal 4000 marks of silver advanced by the Municipality of Genoa. In 1172, the castle of Arcuentu, along with those of Marmilla, was still occupied by the Genoese as collateral for their loans. Following the death of Barisone I of Arborea, became a judge's son Peter I de Lacon-Serra. In 1189, Peter, in exchange for the extinction of the debt his father, he asked his creditors Genoese citizenship. So by 1192, the castle of Arcuentu, together with that of Marmilla, returned to the possession of sovereign Arborea, following the fate. The castle became a monastery Arcuentu Vallombrosano. There is no precise data on the year in which they were the transformation of the castle into a monastery, it is certain that in 1066 St. Giovanni Gualberto sent in Sardinia and Corsica, Domino Arteo Bortichi with 10 monks who have founded three monasteries, two of them named after St. Michael and the third to Our Lady of Drova.

