

u3a York Trip to Sardinia May 2026

It was goodbye to grey skies as we arrived at Olbia in the North East of Sardinia to warm, sunny weather to be met by Pauline, our tour manager and our coach driver who took us to Cannigione and our first hotel.

After breakfast the next day we were off through some of the beautiful small villages of the Costa Smeralda to Porto Cervo, an exclusive seaside area and then continued further up the coast for a coffee stop at another beautiful bay where the opulence was less overwhelming.

The next day we were off to France! With an early start to the port of Santa Teresa di Gallura we took the ferry across the Strait to Bonifacio at the southern tip of Corsica. After immigration and a short walk we were in the beautiful old town with cobbled, narrow streets, old buildings with a distinctly French flavour. After a guided tour we enjoyed spectacular coastal views from its walls before a stroll back to the quayside for the return ferry.

Our visit the next day was inland to the cork growing region of Sardinia and the Cork Museum to learn about traditional growing, harvesting and processing of this remarkable natural material.

We travelled next via Castelsardo to Alghero on the north west coast to our second hotel and later enjoyed a traditional Sardinian evening dinner in a family-run Agriturismo where we dined on fresh produce in a lovely old farm building. After a morning tour of the lovely old town of Alghero with its narrow, winding streets and alleyways and some seriously forbidding city walls we left for Capo Caccia and a family-owned wine and olive oil estate in the area renowned for Cannonau and Vermentino wines. Our guide was the owner of what she described as a boutique winery being positioned between two much larger vineyards. Naturally there was tasting of her delicious wines and olives with appropriate cheeses.

The next day was free time and after a day of wandering around, having coffee and snacks, reading books and taking a swim we were ready for another day. After breakfast we drove through the lush green Valley of the Nuraghe where the landscape is dotted with tall, (about 20m), conical dry stone block towers. Thanks to our excellent guide we learned that they were built about 1600 BC by the Nuraghic civilisation and are thought to be dwellings, food stores and defences. The one we visited was the Nuraghe of Santu Antine which consisted of a high central tower surrounded by three bastions. After yet another

delicious lunch we took a short tour of the picturesque town of Bosa on the Temu river and its 12th century cathedral and then it was back to our hotel for the last time.

Our tour manager and coach driver were much appreciated but it is truly not possible to finish without thanking Sheila, our group leader, for this tour and for the many others she has organised over the years.