

Sardinia
July 9-13

Sardinia is a great getaway for a weekend of sun and relaxation. While the towns were somewhat disappointing compared to other regions of Italy, the beaches, especially around Cala Gonone, are the best I have seen in Europe (though friends who have been to southern Corsica may take issue with this). And I will never complain about a weekend of Italian cuisine.

We had four days for this trip, but if you can make the flights work, you can easily stick to the north or the south of the island and do a shorter 2 or 3-day weekend. (Flights do not go every day to and from Paris and Alghero/Cagliari, so it takes some advance planning). As you will see, we fell into a pattern of staying the night on one place, spending the whole next day there, then driving to the next destination in the early evening. That seemed the best use of our time, given our tight schedule, as we used those couple of hours between when the sun is fading and when it's appropriate to eat dinner (those hours most people call "nap time") for driving.

Date	To	Flight/Train/Hotel Details
Thurs, July 9	Paris to Alghero, night in Alghero	<p>From Paris (Beauvais) (BVA) to Alghero (Sardinia) (AHO) Thu, 09Jul09 Flight FR1711 Depart BVA at 21:35 and arrive AHO at 23:50</p> <p>Hotel Angedras (http://www.angedras.it/default.asp?ver=en) Via Frank, 2 - 07041 Alghero (SS) - Italy Tel +39 0799735034 Fax +39 079974928 info@angedras.it</p> <p>Reception is 24 hours, 1 double room = €95 including breakfast for 2 people.</p> <p>The hotel was a bit far from the center of town, but still walkable (a bit more than 20 minutes) and very comfortable and reasonably priced.</p>
Fri, July 10	Day in Alghero, night at Hotel Su Gologone	<p>Hotel Su Gologone http://www.sugologone.it/inglese/index.htm Loc. Su Gologone - 08025 OLIENA (NU) - SARDEGNA - ITALIA Telefono 0039 0784 287512 - 287552 - Fax 0039 0784 287668 gologone@tin.it</p> <p>CLASSIC ROOM, 2 people, €210, including breakfast</p> <p>We spent the day in Alghero then drove across the island to the little resort oasis of Su Gologone. There's no town, but the hotel complex has all you need: a fabulous restaurant that serves what is widely considered to be some of the best food on the island, a large swimming pool, an outdoor café, evening entertainment. It's a bit of a splurge but a worthwhile one.</p>

Date	To	Flight/Train/Hotel Details
Sat, July 11	Day at Su Gologone, drive to Cala Gonone in the evening	<p>Hotel Blue Marino http://www.hotelbuemarino.it/ Via Vespucci, 8 08022 Cala Gonone – Dorgali Tel 0784.920078 Cell 347.7713099</p> <p>Price: €109.25 euro</p> <p>Again, we spent the day where we had spent the night, and went on a hike from the hotel to the archeological site of a Nuraghic village and nearby caves. In the evening, we drove only about 45 minutes to the seaside town of Cala Gonone.</p> <p>Hotel Blue Marino was nothing special, but it was well-situated for enjoying the town without too much noise.</p>
Sun, July 12	Day in Cala Gonone, drive to Villasimius in the evening	<p>HOTEL STELLA D'ORO Via Vittorio Emanuele, 25 09049 - Villasimius (CA) Tel +39.070.791255. Fax +39.070.792632. E-Mail: hotel.stelladoro@virgilio.it http://www.villasimius.org/strutture/stelladoro.asp</p> <p>Sunday we took an all-day boat excursion to numerous beaches, many of which are only accessible by boat. This was definitely the highlight of our trip. We were lucky to find a fast boat with very comfortable seats to lay out on and only a couple of other customers.</p> <p>In the early evening, we drove over some spectacular green mountains to the south and stayed the night in Villasimius, not far east of Cagliari. Hotel Stella D'Oro was central and cheap but not so clean and extremely basic; I would spend a bit more next time for more comfortable accommodations.</p>
Mon, July 13	Drive to Cagliari, lunch in Cagliari	<p>On Monday we drove along the coast near Villasimius, spent some time at the Costa Rei beach (crowded in July, but beautiful), and stopped frequently on the way to Cagliari to take in the spectacular coastline and turquoise water. We had lunch (and of course gelato) in Cagliari and explored the old part of the city for a while before heading to the airport.</p> <p>From Cagliari (Sardinia) (CAG) to Paris (Beauvais) (BVA) Mon, 13Jul09 Flight FR4831 Depart CAG at 17:05 and arrive BVA at 19:25</p>