



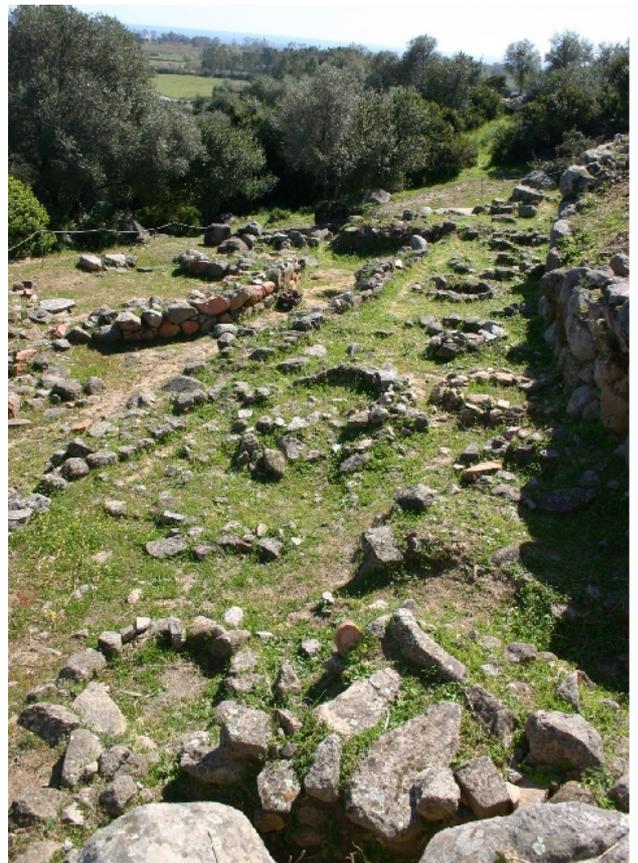
The area of **S'Ortali e su Monti (Tortoli)** is a peculiar archaeological site composed by a set of diverse historical buildings and structures dated from 3500 BC to 900 BC. However, some of the buildings have been in use probably till the early Middle Ages.

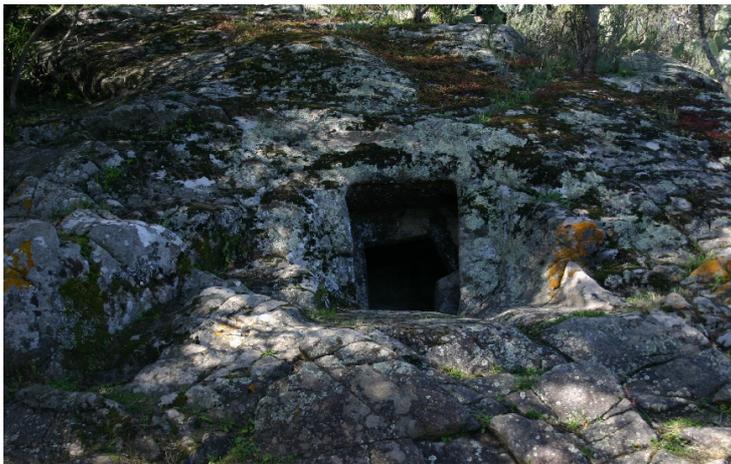
The **Nuraghe complex** dates back to 1500 BC but – as shown by the finding of a burial site – it has been used till Roman times.

The structure has an irregular-elliptical shape and it is composed of one central tower and other three at the corners.

An imposing architrave supports the entrance of the building. On top of that, a triangular window allows for the lighting of the main room and it helps in reducing the weight of the masonry on the lintel. Interestingly, the block of rock used for the entrance was previously part of a series of menhirs placed in the nearby hill (see on the map) which dates back to 2700-1800 BC.

In the surroundings outside the Nuraghe 's walls, archaeologists found the remains of many huts and a silo used for the storage of wheat. These elements – including the finding of several millstones – seem to confirm that the inhabitants of the village were mostly farmers and had a wheat-based culture.





A **“Domus de Janas”** (Sardinian name for “House of fairies” or “House of witches”) has also been discovered close to the Nuraghe. These caves are a type of pre-Nuragic (Neolithic) chamber tombs carved into the rock by ancient Sardinian populations over 5000 years ago. Usually, these tombs are carved into granite, limestone or basalt rocks and might have either one or more circular rooms all linked to a central chamber. Most of the Domus de Janas discovered in Ogliastra are

simple both in terms of structure and internal decorations. However, in the northern part of Sardinia, archaeologists discovered many rich and sophisticated Domus. Some of these clearly reproduce the environment of a real house and they are decorated with columns, roof beams, wood door frames, seats and false doors meant to represent a gateway to the afterlife. Furthermore, these tombs were also endowed with many funeral artefacts such as vases, figurines, necklaces, utensils and weapons.

On the same hill of the menhirs’ site, you can observe another example of a typical Nuragic construction, i.e. the so-called **“Giants’ grave”** (Italian: Tomba dei giganti, Sardinian: Tumba de zigantes/gigantis). These megalithic collective-tombs were particularly diffused in the whole island during the Bronze Age. There are two types of Giants’ grave: the “slab type” (or “dolmen type”) and the “block type”. The first is composed by a large central stele (which in some cases can reach a



height of 4 meters) with a carved door that leads to the chamber tomb. The second has a similar structure but the rock slabs and the central stele are replaced by walls composed of finely shaped rock blocks and an architrave at the entrance of the chamber tomb. The Giants’ grave of S’Ortali e su Monti falls in the first category. The central stele has been carefully worked and shaped while the other slabs on its sides are uncut. Behind the central slab, part of the remains of the chamber tomb are still visible.