

9 Pre - Decoding Upper Pleistocene in Sardinia (Western Mediterranean)

Excursion Leaders: Orru et al.

Length of trip: 2-3 days

('A' trips should aim to end in Rome on July 12th, 'B' trips are all one day –Sunday 16th July and 'C' trips start in Rome on Friday 21st July 2023)

Draft Itinerary:

Preliminary cost per head: 500 €

Accommodation arrangements: Hotel

Proposer Contact Details:

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Description.

The Corsica-Sardinia massif is a biogeographic hotspot. Paleogeographic and evolutionary studies demonstrate the existence of a high rate of regional endemism, both nowadays and in the past, as the result of a complex geological history and a long paleo-biogeographic evolution (Palombo, 2006, 2018; Oggiano et al., 2009). During the LGM, Sardinia and Corsica formed a single island in the center of the western Mediterranean.

This field trip shows geological, geomorphological, and paleontological features starting from Cala Mosca – Cagliari, where the Locus Typicus of the Tyrrhenian stage (Issel, 1014) was instituted, and allows to analyze the stratigraphic sequences of MIS 5 (Orrù et al., 2011, Andreucci et al., 2010; Ulzega & Hearty 1986).

The sites with dwarf mammoth footprints (Pillola & Zoboli 2017) and the fossil remains of the insular vertebrate faunas of the Middle-Late Pleistocene (Malatesta 1970; Melis et al., 2001, Palombo & Rozzi, 2014, Palombo & Zedda, 2020), will then be visited, as will the traces of Homo sapiens colonization (Sondaar et al., 1995; Palombo et al., 2017). The field trip will continue with a vista to the Gulf of Orosei, where the most continuous and well preserved of the Mediterranean tidal notches will be observed (Antonioli et al., 2018). It will be a geological excursion through the spectacular seascapes and coastal landscapes of Sardinia, it runs through beaches, lagoons and dune fields interrupted by imposing cliffs.



Tidal notch of MIS 5.5 in the Gulf of Orosei (estern Sardinia)