

Nuraghe-megalithic edifice of Sardinia

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The article presents an amazing part of Sardinia's culture, the structures that for many edges served Sardinian people and now are fascinating our eyes and imagination.

On the Mediterranean island of Sardinia, the southern Italian-neighbor of the French Corsica, stand extraordinary megalithic constructions known as *nuraghi*. They are stone towers, quite similar to the Scottish brochs. In its most simple expression nuraghe has the shape of a circular tower, with vertical truncated-conic profile.

But what sets the Sardinian structures apart from all others, is the fact that in their construction and number, they supersede all others. Their era of construction is roughly dated from 2300 to 500 BC.

The use of the nuraghi has not been determined: they could have been religious temples, ordinary dwelling ruler's residences, military strongholds or meeting halls [1].

The typical nuraghe was constructed without grout, using the dry stone method. It was built using very thick stonework, consisting of dry-big stones sometimes rough, sometimes carved, which are placed in horizontal superimposed rows, in tighter and tighter circles from the bottom upwards. In the upper part of the tholos, the stones were normally dressed with care, to ensure a perfect fit, and to make sure that rain did not enter the inner structure.

The entrances are usually south facing, but some are built with east or west facing entrances. The entrances are built using two piers and a lintel with a small window above the lintel.

Access to the tower was almost always through an entrance at ground level, though some have raised entrances. On entering, there was normally a long passage to a ground floor chamber.

Usually on the left was the beginning of the spiral stairway within the wall, though the oldest nuraghi sometimes have the stairway beginning inside the chamber and not starting at ground level.

In some cases the access was raised six meters, suggesting a wooden ladder was used to reach upper structures [2].

When nuraghi were built with a single tower there were often other towers built close by and they were connected to each other by large thick walls with walkways on the top of them. The complex nuraghi were built in this way: the so-called bilobati with two extra towers; the trilobati with three extra towers; the quadrilobati with four extra towers and the pentalobati with four extra towers [3].

The number and the location of the towers and the courtyards varies depending on the kind of the stone and the nature and morphology of the land. So, every nuraghe is a unique archaeological site that may be similar to other nuraghi but never the same.

Bibliography:

1. Ardito Fabrizio, *Sardinia eyewitness guide*, Dorling Kindersley, 2005, p. 5.
2. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuraghe>
3. <http://encyclopedia.farlex.com/Nuraghe>