

SARDINIA'S NURAGHE (“nur rog ee”)

compiled by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – August 31, 2021

During 1987-1992 my wife and I were fortunate to reside on the beautiful Italian island of Sardinia, in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, while as a McDonnell Douglas Field Service Representative I supported the local airline named Alisarda. Given our long stay in Sardinia, we had many opportunities to explore its countless wonders. During casual drives through the countryside, amongst the many other geographical marvels we saw, we would quite often see a nuraghe that was explorable without any restrictions. Following are some interesting facts about nuraghes, as quoted verbatim from a web site.



(A Typical Nuraghe)

The Nuragic civilization makes up for an important part of Sardinian history. Unfortunately there are no written records – and as such, no easy-to-verify information – about the Nuragic civilization that lived in Sardinia in the Bronze Age. These people were responsible for the construction of roughly 7000 nuraghi – truncated conic structures of basalt blocks coming from extinct volcanoes and put together without any mortar – between 1500 and 400 BCE.

The first nuraghe built in Sardinia, the protonuraghe, had an irregular shape and rarely were more than 10 meters tall. The main building had a circular plan inside, and a variety of corridors led to smaller rooms; they also had a terrace.

What we now see for the most part is the tholos nuraghe, which have a cone shape and had two or more floors inside. The complex version of tholos saw the construction of a main tower with further elements added to it at subsequent moments.

The Nuragic civilization was a highly organized, tribal state whose wealth came from the mining of metals of which the island was rich. People were divided in clearly defined social classes, where the majority was shepherds, farmers and craftsmen. Soldiers and landowners were the aristocracy; whereas the priests were the depositories of medicine, religious rituals and ruled the villages.

