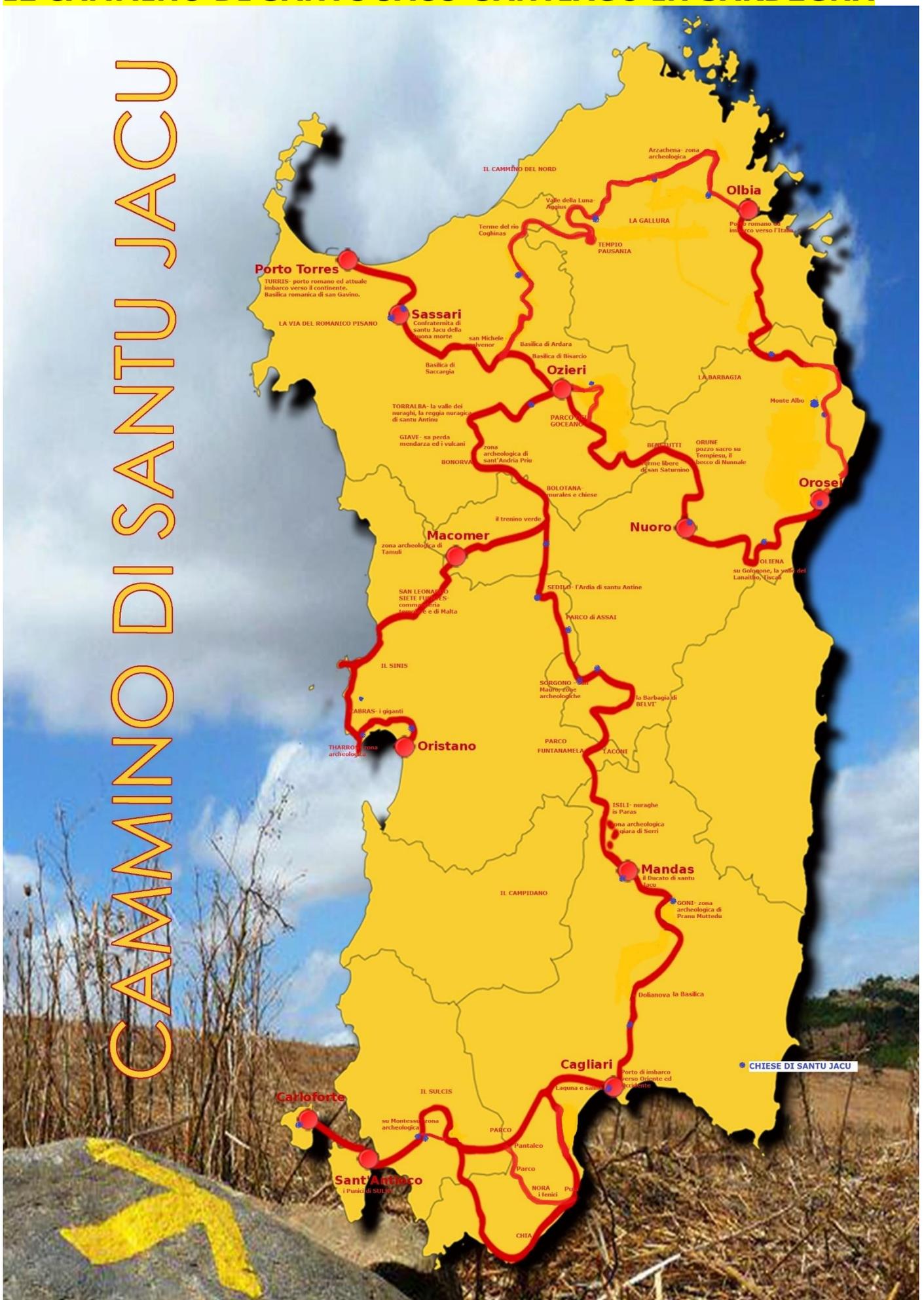


# IL CAMMINO DI SANTU JACU-SANTIAGO IN SARDEGNA

## CAMMINO DI SANTU JACU



**History:** "Salió el glorioso Apostolo Santiago del puerto de Iaffa y vino a la isla de Cerdeña; y de allí a España ... " "The glorious Apostle St. James left the port of Jaffa and came to the island of Sardinia; and from there to Spain ... " Armenian Breviary compiled for the Patriarch of Jerusalem, 1054.

Although the historical testimonies of a presence of the Apostle James the Greater in Sardinia are few and mainly attributable to the text cited from the Armenian Breviary, dated to 1054 and to the documents of Sant'Antioco, the devotion of the Apostle is widely spread in Sardinia and it is still present today in more than thirty churches. It's present in popular culture, both as a protector from lightning, with Saint Barbara, and as a protector of a happy death, accompanying souls towards the Milky Way, as evidenced by the Jacobean Confraternity still existing in Cagliari and Sassari. In fact, there was a credence that it was the hooves of his white horse to produce thunder and lightning and the same Saint was called Boanerges, son of thunder, for his impetuosity, as by the popular sardinian invocation:

"Santa Barbara e Santu Jacu, bosu portais is crais de lampu; bosu portais is crais de celu; non tocheisi fillu allenu ne in bidda ne in su sartu;

Sainte Barbara and Saint James, you who have the keys to lightning; you who have the keys of heaven, do not touch the children of others either in village or in countryside.

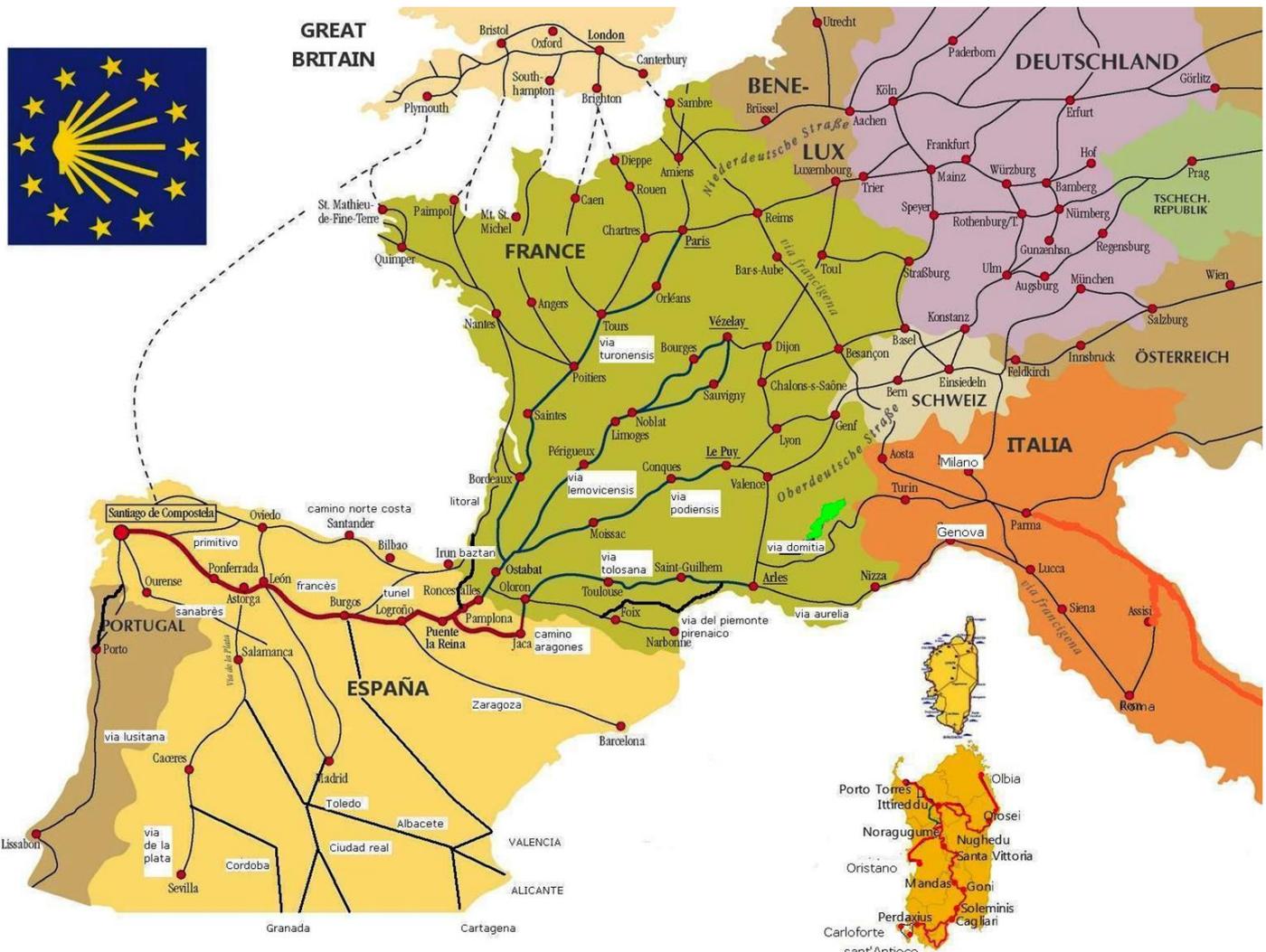
Instead, the figure of Santiago Matamoros is present only in Mandas in the marble bas-relief of the high altar, commissioned by the Spanish Duke who ruled at that time over almost a third of Sardinia.

### **The Way of Santu Jacu - Santiago in Sardinia**

The project to create the Way of St James in Sardinia saw the light at the end of 2009, thanks to the commitment of a group of people who had already travelled the Camino in Spain. Our idea is linked to a number of municipalities, whose patron is St. James Major (Santu Jacu in Sardinian), who had gathered in the framework agreement to give greater prominence to their historical, artistic and cultural heritage. At the D. H. Lawrence Literary Festival in December 2010 in Mandas, the Way of santu Jacu was presented to the public in the presence of authorities and journalists. In October 2012 we finalized the first "light" waymarked with yellow arrows and stylized shells and Jacobean stickers in urban centers. The Autonomous Region of Sardinia, after the official presentation at the Forum of Cultural and Religious Tourism of Galtelli in November 2012, declared it a regional way, inserting it as the backbone of the network of tourist, cultural and religious itineraries of the island (11/12 / 2012). Today, our Camino touches almost all the municipalities, where there are churches or ruins of Santu Jacu, but also includes prehistoric and archaeological sites, natural beauties, forests and natural parks, volcanic areas, some mining areas, Romanesque basilicas, the most important cities and the characteristic villages lost in the heart of Sardinia, combining in a single path seas and mountains, cities and countryside, well-being and poverty, different languages, dialects, customs and traditions that coexist on this island which is "almost a continent". It is an itinerary that can be travelled walking, biking and on horseback, which continues to be verified over time and improved, modifying the most inaccessible stages, because it concerns about 100 municipalities in different areas of the island, with all that this entails. We are raising funds to stabilize the waymarked, while the opening of accommodation at pilgrim prices, public and private, continues (regional agreement with the municipalities of 7/11/2013 and national agreement with the public domain of 2016).

The complete Way covers approximately 1.400 km, of which 460km along the central way between Cagliari and Porto Torres; 142km from Bolotana to Oristano (Sinis variant); 257 km from Porto Torres to Olbia (Northern route - in preparation); 105-150 km from Cagliari to Sulcis plus the islands of San Pietro (60 km) and Sant'Antioco (62 km); 134 km from Olbia to Orosei and 163km from Ozieri to Orosei (variants of Goceano and Barbagia).

This new Camino is now in the Jacobean society in Europe, working closely with the Jacobean associations in the world, the Xunta of Galicia, the Xacobeo, the Archbishop of Compostela, beyond Federation of the Associations of Friends of the Spanish and French Way and the various local and national parts of the Jacobean world.



The voluntary work of the friends of the Camino continues and involves the edition of a printed multilingual guide, while the reference website already exists ([www.camminando.eu](http://www.camminando.eu)), from which all the notes necessary to follow it can be downloaded for free; opening other accommodations and shelters; a local presence of contacts to inform pilgrims and walkers and assist them.

As the concepts of soft mobility, sustainable tourism and a return to nature, take up more and more space, the Way of Santu Jacu, even if it is sometimes hard because the Sardinian land is rough, is a unifying element to make known the culture of this Mediterranean island, part of Europe and ties to Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

The proverbial sardinian hospitality is doing the rest, with municipal, parish and family welcome to friends of the way, which are the fundamental aspect to overcome a certain vision of the "summer tourist to be plucked".

In the meantime, we are carrying out the daily task : spreading this path by participating in Jacobean initiatives in the world, such as the World Congress of Valencia 2012, in Poland in September 2013 , in Burgos in 2014, which was followed by the World Congress of Jacobean Associations in June 2015 in Santiago de Compostela, as full-fledged Italian association; the various national and european association conferences; responding to dozens of inquiries and information; helping the development of travel; correcting our mistakes. It is a long job, which is bearing the hoped-for results: after the appreciation of the explorers and the first pilgrims, the annual presences have greatly increased. Already now, the Way of Santu Jacu leaves its mark!



## Useful information

### Credential

To walk the way and be recognized as pilgrims, it must first obtain the Credential. To request it, contact by mail the Friends of the Way of Santu Jacu Association, [amicisantujacu@gmail.com](mailto:amicisantujacu@gmail.com) or contact the referrals in Cagliari, Porto Torres, Olbia, Sorgono, Mandas, Tempio Pausania, Aggius, sant'Antioco, in Sardinia and Cernusco sul naviglio (Milan). Santu Jacu patches and T-shirts are also available.

### Accommodations

The welcome is guaranteed through various formulas, which can satisfy the different needs of those who travel along it: the basic reception in parishes, municipal and private houses; the hotels and B & B. A complete list of available accommodations can be consulted and freely downloaded from our website: <http://www.camminando.eu/wordpress/>

### Waymarked

The symbols used for the itinerary are the classic yellow jacobean shells and arrows, painted by hand, or the special stickers in urban centers.



### Cartography – GPS-GPX tracks

All the information and maps necessary to travel the Santu Jacu Way are available on the website of the Friends of the Santu Jacu Way Association, for the various sections of the Way: [www.camminando.eu](http://www.camminando.eu)

The GPS tracks are freely downloadable from the site in the pages indicated above and are also available for free on Wikiloc: <https://it.wikiloc.com> under the heading CSJ amicisantujacu

### Testimonium

Even in Sardinia, as elsewhere, simple tools were needed such as the Testimonium to be able to count the presences, to know who comes to follow it and to give a certificate that is a reminder and a testimony of the journey.

For now, they are issued as a certificate of passage in Mandas (Testimonium Mandarenensis), Sant'Antioco (Testimonium sancti Antiochi), Cagliari, Porto Torres, Olbia and Oristano (Testimonium Sancti Jacobi).



GOOD WALK IN THE SARDINIAN LAND!!!