

Directions :

from Ajaccio - RT 40 then D 268
from Porto Vecchio - D 859/RT 40 then D 59

Entrance fee

Open from 1st April to 31st October
During winter: audio-guided tours (pay)
for groups may be booked in
advance: + 33 4 95 78 48 21
Opening Times :
April, May, October: 9.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
June 'til September: 9.30 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Fast entry to the site is 2 hours before closing time as
the complete tour takes 2 hours.
Pay audio-guides are available in French, German,
English and Italian.

Contact : Maison d'accueil,
Pianu di Livia
archaeological sites
Tel. : +33 (0)495 784 821

Learn more:

musée de l'Alta Rocca
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de Peretti, 20170 Levie
Tel. + 33 (0)495 780 078
Bookings and visits
Tel: +33 (0)495 780 075

Website :

<https://www.isula.corsica/patrimoine>

Instagram :

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Interior of the *casteddu* (hill fort), recesses to west

**TO FIND MORE:
THE ALTA ROCCA MUSEUM**

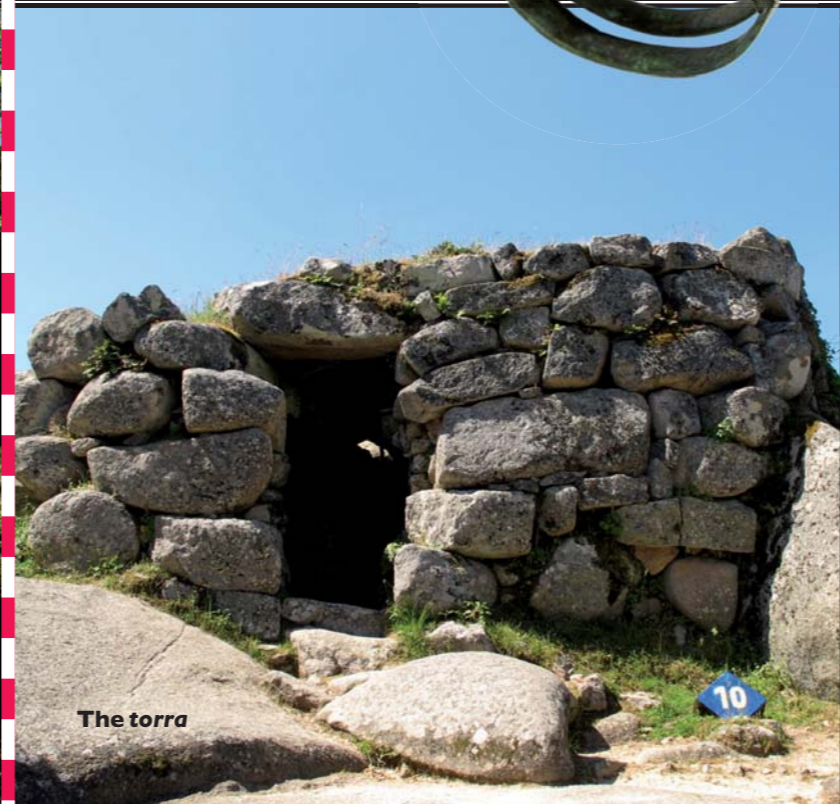
The Alta Rocca Museum, listed as a *musée de France*, is in the centre of the village, roughly 7 km from the archaeological site. Items on display come, in the main, from digs in the Alta Rocca region, and chronologically trace the history of the region's settlers from the first known (8th millennium BC) right up until the Middle Ages. You can also admire one of the two most ancient human remains discovered in Corsica, the Dame de Bonifacio (6570 BC) and, a skeleton of the now extinct Prolagus (or "rabbit-rat"), as well as a reconstruction of an Iron Age burial chamber.



Restored vase



Site entrance



The torra

STUDY, PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

The study and maintenance of the sites, as well as preservation and restoration works are carried out by archaeologists appointed by Corsica's regional government.

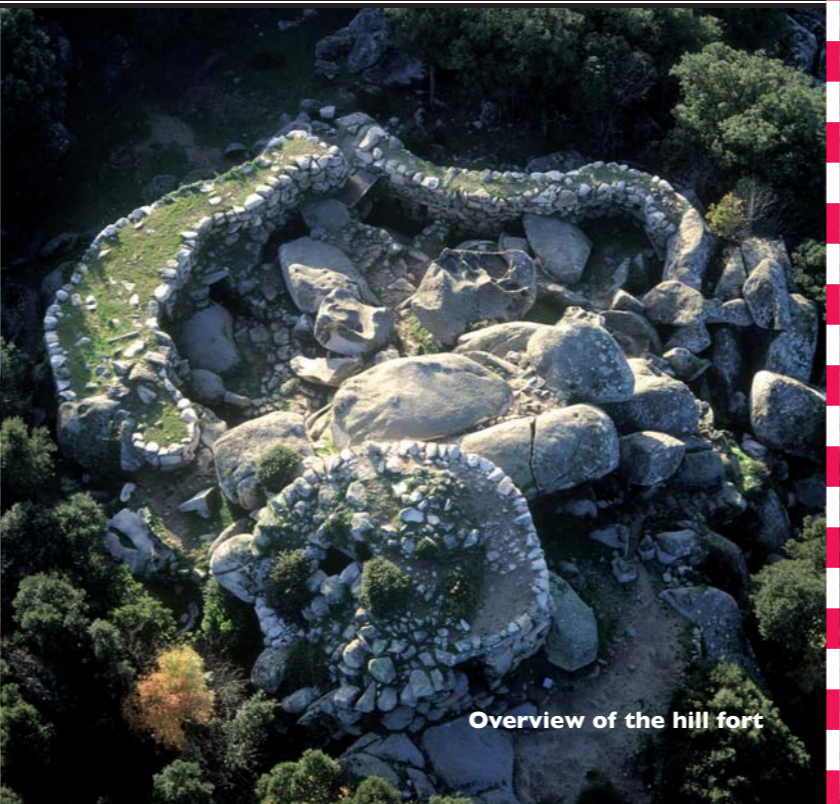
To the untrained eye, ancient monuments can seem indestructible. After all, these imposing classical remains have survived until the present day. However lichens, roots, rain water gullying and acidity, the load from

Climbing the walls and tower are forbidden for safety reasons and for the protection of the site



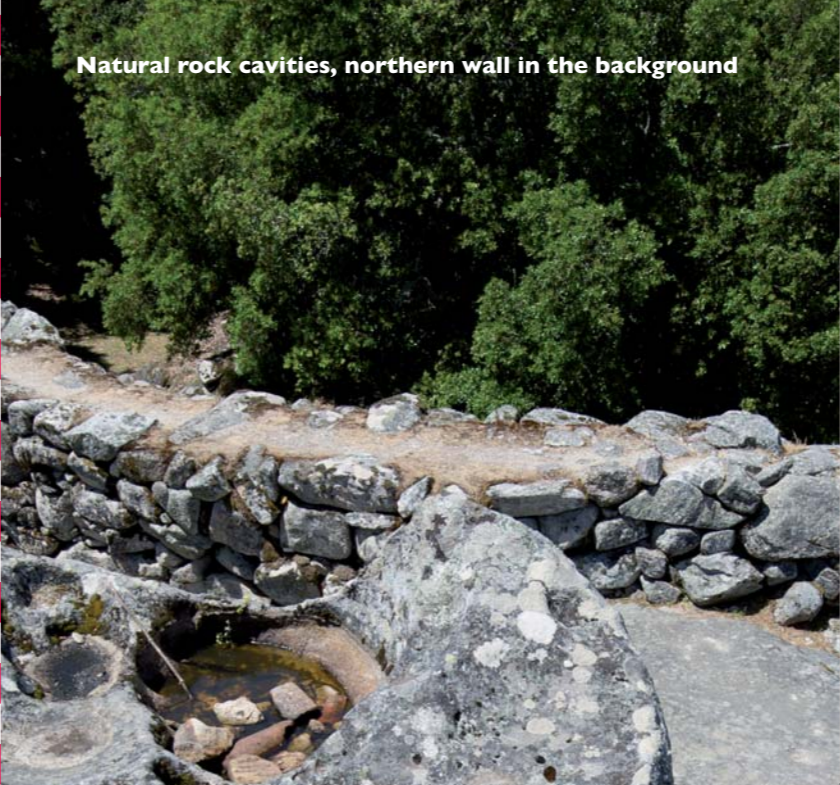
superposed stones, as well as miniscule earth tremors, animals and humans (and even the removal of soil during excavations) all perpetually take their toll. Any solutions envisaged to reduce these damaging effects could well entail further risk to the site, and drastic measures are thus to be avoided. Archaeologists appointed by the *Collectivité territoriale de Corse* (Corsica's regional government) concert their efforts primarily on the everyday upkeep and maintenance of the sites, including readapting them, as well as studying and evaluating conservation and restoration projects.

Bronze bracelet on display at the Alta Rocca Museum



Overview of the hill fort

Natural rock cavities, northern wall in the background



SITE DISCOVERY

The existence of Cucuruzzu was first remarked upon in 1959 by archaeologist Roger Grosjean, better known for his work at the prehistoric sites of Filitosa (near Sollacaro) and Cauria (near Sartène). The site was hidden under dense vegetation when he began work to clear and excavate in 1963. François de Lanfranchi took over the project in 1964 and work continued well into the 1990's. Their endeavours brought to light the rich archaeological heritage of the Alta Rocca region and to date their work forms the crux of all knowledge of the region. The site was acquired by the state in 1975 and listed as an historic monument in 1982, being added to the list of the 100 most important historical sites of communal value in the Mediterranean in 1982. It was handed over to the *Collectivité territoriale de Corse*, in 2003.



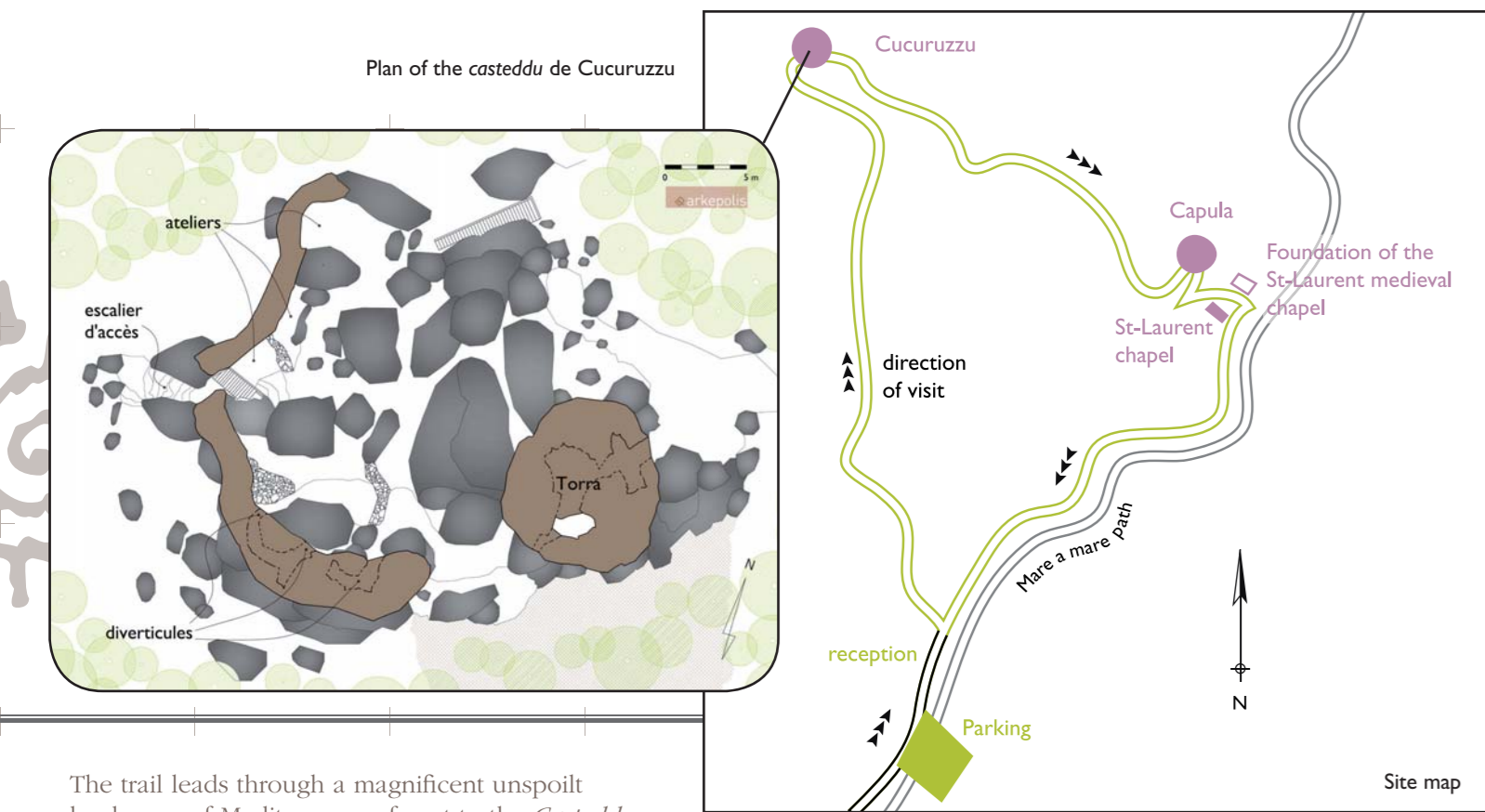
Remnant of a bronze belt

U FILU DI A RICERCA

In 1959 l'archeologu Roger Grosjean, chì li rivene in particolare a nomina di i siti di a Filitosa (Suddacaru) è di Cauria (Sartè), mintuveghja u situ di Cucuruzzu. In 1963 pulisce u locu è principia i prima scavi di u situ ricupartu tandu d'una arburatura zeppa. In 1964 u studiu hè ripigliatu da Francescu de Lanfranchi chì cuntinuarà è allargarà è so ricerche sinu à l'anni 90. Isi travagli anu messu à palesu u patrimoniu archiulogicu maiò di l'Alta Rocca è ripresentanu oghje l'essenziale di a cunniscenza di u rughjone. U situ, acquistatu da u statu in 1975, classificatu munumentu storicu in 1982 pò scrittu nantu à a lista di i 100 siti d'intaressi cumuni à i paesi di u Meditarraniu fù trasfiritu à a CTC in 2003.

**• CUCURUZZU •
LATER PREHISTORIC SITE**





The trail leads through a magnificent unspoiled landscape of Mediterranean forest to the *Casteddu* de Cucuruzzu, one of the twenty or so *casteddi* (hill forts) discovered in Corsica, for the most part in the south of the island. Occupying a rocky granite spur overlooking the northern slopes of the Levie plateau, the ensemble dates from the Bronze Age (2nd – 1st millennium BC). The village, arising from a number of natural terraces and stone huts enclosed by a protective wall, extended below and to the northeast of the *casteddu* (cannot be visited).

Arruchjendu una foresta mediterranea ind'una inturnianza prisirvata, scruparate u Casteddu di Cucuruzzu, chì face parte di a vintina di Casteddi scuparti pà u più in lu meziornu di a Corsica. Hè statu arrizzatu à l'età di u bronzu (2u è 1a millenarii nanzu à Cristu) nantu à un imbuleghju graniticu assistatu supranendu u pughjale à u nordu di u pianu di Livia. Da sottu à u casteddu, à u nordeste, une poche di lenze naturale è di grotte sò state occupate, criendu un paese accintu da un muraglione (senza accessu).



On the Cucuruzzu trail

CASTEDDU

Huge changes took place at the end of the 2nd millennium BC, both on the technical front, as well as economically and socially. Communities were organised into a hierarchy, and the population grew rapidly as the presence of the *casteddi* would seemingly confirm. These stronghold headquarters served both as protective havens and communal granaries. The best known are those at Araghju, Cuntorba, Foce and Balestra, Torre and Tappa.

The entrance to the *casteddu* lies amidst a massive split granite boulder, either side of which are megalithic stone walls, 5 m high and some 3 m thick, whose smooth rounded stones form an arched curvilinear enclosure, and whose alcoves were probably reserved for daily chores (such as pottery, weaving, and butchering). To the left of the entrance pottery and the remains of grain have been found in recesses that no doubt were used for storage.

CASTEDDU

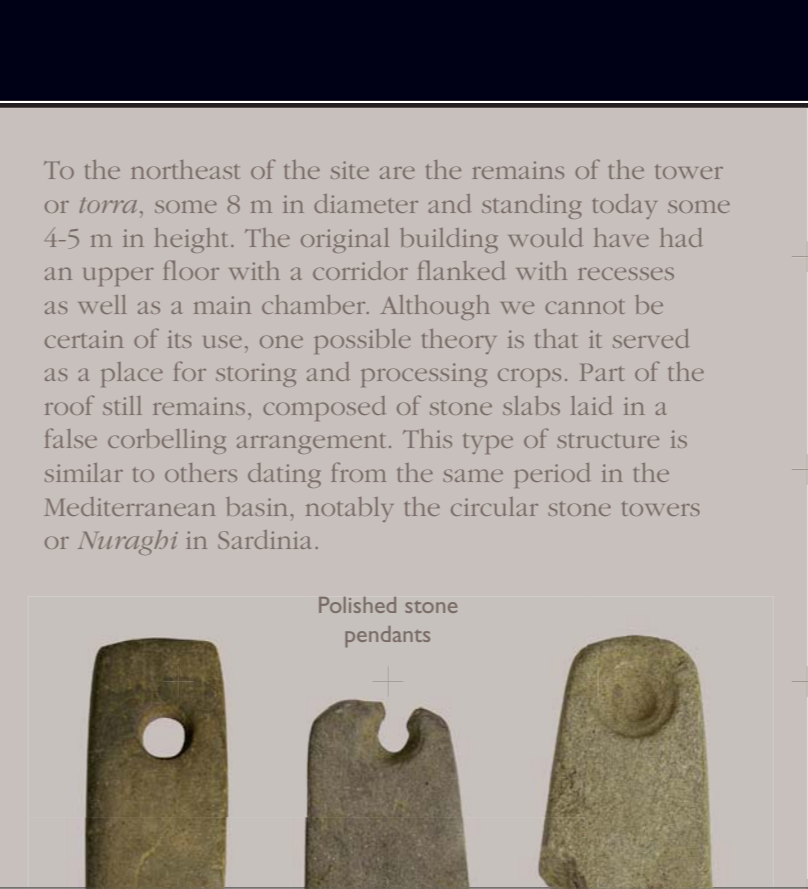
À a fine di u 2 du millenariu nanzu à a nostra epica venenu e trasformazione tecniche, economiche è suciale... E cumunità si ierachizeghjanu, una crescita demografica pare accitata chì a custruzziopne di i Casteddi ne testimuniaghja. Issi munumenti, punti di cuntrollu di i tarritorii sò a tempu rifugi cumunitarii. I più famosi sò quelli d'Araghju, di Cuntorba, Foce è Balestra, di Torre è di Tappa...

Pà a spaccatura d'un pitronculu di granitu massicciu, l'accessu à u casteddu: hè intundatu da un accintu fattu di muraglioni megalitichi curvi alti di 5metri è larghi di 3. Loghje chì avaranu ghjuvatu à e faccende d'ogni ghjornu (pignule, tissitura, macellu...) ci sò state assistate. À manca di l'intrata, firmava tarraglie è resti di biada inde uni pochi di ritiri chì ci avaranu allucatu a robba.



From here, and without having to climb to the top of the monument, there are sweeping views to the east of the Bavella "needles" and the Incudine and Cagna mountains

Senza coglie si à nantu à u munimentu, i visitanti sò invitati à fighjà ver di e muntagne à livante, cù "i furchi" di Bavedda, l'Alcudina è Cagna



Polished stone pendants

À u nordeste di u munimentu supraneghja a Torre, una torra d'ottu metri di diamitru chì ne ferma trà 4 à 5 m d'altezza. In quelli tempi ci sarà statu un pianu cù un curridore affiancatu di diverticuli è una pezza maestra. Òn si sà ancu da veru à ciò ch'ella ghjuvava. Si pò tene l'ipotesi d'un locu da allucà è da trasfurma a manghjusca. Una parte di a cupertura fatta à tighjone acconcie in falsa curnice hè stata prisirvata. Issu gennaru di custruzione s'assumiglia à l'archititture di u mediatarraniu di quelli tempi, in particolare i nuraghi sardi.



Saint Laurent chapel (XXth century)

CAPULA / SAINT-LAURENT SITE

A little further on, as you come to the end of your tour, you can make out the rock base of the mediaeval San Larenzu Chapel whose original stones were used to construct the more recent building just 10 m away.

To complete your tour, a visit to the local museum is highly recommended where you can admire a collection of everyday tools and instruments used by the region's prehistoric and protohistoric communities, including the inhabitants of Cucuruzzu.

U SITU DI CAPULA / SAN LARENZU

Par istrada, vultendu, si vedenu affiurà più in là i fundamenti di a capella medievale di San Larenzu chì e so petre anu ghjuvatu à arrizzà una capella più ricente à una dicina di metri.

Da fà la compia a visita, òn si pò cà arricummandà a visita di u museu dipartimentale. Da vede: l'attrazzi nicissarii à a vita cutidiana di e cumunità pristoriche è protostoriche di u rughjone, è frà elle Cucuruzzu.



Capula

Twenty minutes further you will be able to discover the Capula fortress remains, which date from the Middle Ages. Small fragments of the statue-menhir which stands below the fort were reused in the mediaeval stone masonry

Capula
À vinti minuti più luntanu, si ghjunghje à u situ furtificatu du Capula, munimentu custruitu à a Medietà; à u pede ci si pò vede una stantara aduprata à pezzi in la muratura medievale