

# Grotta Donini

Grotta La Donini,Donini,Grotta Luigi Donini

Create: 2023-03-09 20:49:54	Update: 2023-10-14 09:16:06	Print: 2026-02-11 05:02:02
Country: Italia / Italy    Region: Sardegna    Subregion: provincia dell'Ogliastra / Province of Ogliastra    Town: Urzulei		
Difficulty: difficult	Grading: v5 a3 V	Total time: 3h15
Approachtime: 10min	Tourtime: 2h30	Returntime: 35min
Altitude entry: 700m	Altitude exit: 550m	Delta Altitude: 150m
Canyon length: 900m	Highest rapell: 50m	Amount rapells: 6
Transport: on Foot	Rock type:	Drainage area: km²
Season:	Orientation: North	Best Time:
Rating: ★ 4.8 (10)	Info: ★ 2.8 (5)	Belay: ★ 2.7 (7)
<b>Warnings:</b> <i>Road to the entrance parking lot at least officially closed</i> According to the signs, the road to the entrance parking lot is closed to public traffic. This ban is apparently not controlled. During our visit, we were even approached by a vehicle from the Corpo Forestale dello Stato, which also ignored us in a friendly manner.		
<b>Specialities:</b>		
<b>Gear:</b> Ropes: 2x50m, 1x30m		
<b>Summary:</b> (machine translated) Secluded, scenic surroundings; Beautiful eroded limestone rocks inside the cave. Many beautiful sinterings (stalagmites, stalactites, basins); Counts among the top ten canyons of Sardinia. 50m final waterfall; Use good waterproof lamps and warm neoprene; Enter only in very stable weather; Can be combined with Cordula Orbisi (almost the same way back); Inox stances; Cold water; Some slippery places; Orientation not always easy. Exposure: North; stream from Grotta Donini flows into Rio Flumineddu like Cordula Orbisi.		
<b>Hydrology:</b>		

**Access:** (machine translated)

From Arbatax take the SS125 north (Olbia) to the town of Lozzorei; after the Esso gas station turn left onto the SP56 (Via Milano); follow the road for a long time; at the fork turn right towards Urzulei; follow the main road (SP37) for about 15 km, drive through Urzulei, up the mountain to Urzulei and then turn left onto the SS125 towards Dorgali. Now follow the mountain road until you reach the rock face that can be seen from afar (there is a prominent building on the right) - Turn left here. Follow the asphalt road for about 1 km (under the prominent rock wall around the mountain), then the road becomes an off-road track for 21 km (you are on a plateau) - from here it is about 40 min. (to the parking entry). At the first fork keep right and at the fork with signs (sprayed writing) keep left. After the fork, the road goes down, after two prominent bends, you will cross a crossing (dried streambed). After the crossing, follow the main course of the road through the wooded area (passing a house with a sign "Grotta Donini/Orbisi" ) for a long time until the exit of the paved road where there is a turnaround area with 2 trees in the middle. Park here (780m).

From Dorgali take the SS125 in the direction of Passo Genna Siliana. After the mountain pass continue for a few kilometers until, after several rockfall galleries, an asphalt road branches off to the right. Follow this road under rocky walls until you reach a plateau. Here keep right and drive north on a sand road. The road is just passable with normal vehicles - but the bottom plate should not be too deep. A destroyed bridge has to be bypassed in the streambed. After a few kilometers you will see a fenced off building on the right - Campos Barginos. Continue straight on for about 2km until you see an information board on the right about caves in the streambed of Codula Orbisi - parking for several cars. \nMan can also continue down until , if you are not afraid of the steepness of the paved road. Where the pavement then stops, large area to park the car - 2.5 km from Campos Barginos(782m above sea level).

**Approach:** (machine translated)

From the car park/turning point, go uphill a little on the right, past the fenced-in property with a striking round building with a wooden roof. Descend to the Cordula Orbisi stream, which you will reach shortly (750m). In the streambed, after about 5 minutes, look out on the right for the small entry hole (1x 1m) (during our climb under a fallen tree) (hourglass + 2 Inox glued anchors).

For the upper parking lot: follow the path marked with cairns and secured with ropes until you reach the dry streambed, then descend for about 15min in the streambed. After a wider passage, the streambed narrows somewhat - the very inconspicuous cave entrance is located on the orographic right side of the stream about 2m above the streambed below a large tree.\nFor the lower parking lot: Up the hollow in an easterly direction (left hand a sheepfold with the typ. On the left hand side a sheepfold with the typical dwelling of the shepherds, a kind of "Tiki" made of wood - Sedda Ar Baccas) and arrived at the top, follow the clear tracks beyond down into the streambed. Follow the creek for about 100m downhill to the left (about 5 min.), then you will reach the entrance to the cave described above.

**Tour:** (machine translated)

After the narrow, dry rappel into the cave (7m) DO NOT follow the red rope, but turn right through the small passage to the next dry 10m rappel. Now it is important not to lose your nerve but to follow the passage on the right, which first rises slightly and then quickly leads down into the narrow/low water channel. Now you come across some beautiful sinter pools. After a short time you can stand upright again. You come to a larger break where there is a fixed rope on the right. Use it until you reach the rappel anchors from where you rappel about 17m. (Note: It is possible to follow the fixed ropes further and visit the upper part of the cave - we did not go there). Rope descent in the pool. Once in the pool, there is a longer swimming passage (to the left). After that there are several pools and swimming passages interrupted by walking and downclimb passages (be careful, partly slippery). At the next break you have the possibility to build a removable rappel, with which you can get to the Inoxstand of the approx. 8m rappel. Note: Possibly also jumpable. Rope descent in the pool. After the pool (right) comes a hall with block chaos and downclimb. Shortly the grotto narrows and you are faced with another short drop of about 10m with beautiful washed out round pools. Once in the pool, you continue through a rock window (hole) into the cave. A few more swimming spots follow until you see daylight again. Here (at the exit of the cave) you meet two nice rappel points, once 3m jump not advisable -, followed by the highest rappel of the tour 50m in nice deep pools. Before the 50m abseil there is a fixed rope for ascent with ascenders, which we did not use. Last but not least, one ropes left from a tree about 15m into the last elongated pool before the tour ends at about 550m.

**Return:** (machine translated)

After the last pool, turn left over the small rocky ridge to the exit of the Cordula Orbisi. From the point left up over steep, easily climbable rock (marked cairn). Here the gravel field reached after a short time, follow right, slightly ascending (cairn) to the open ridge. Then continue to follow the ridge and the now increasingly visible path uphill. After about 20min you reach the gravel road that you follow past a fountain / watering hole to the starting point / parking lot.

**Coordinates:**

Parking at Entry [40.1651 9.4876](#)

Canyon Start [40.1669 9.4897](#)

Parking Entry and Exit [40.1632 9.4869](#)

Canyon End [40.1728 9.4913](#)

## Reports:

2025-06-05 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini Canyon unique. En effet un canyon souterrain et non une spéléo. Seule l'entrée et les premières minutes sont un peu étroites, puis des espaces ouverts et une direction claire. De belles zones de baignade et un son magique. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html>)

2025-05-16 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html>)

2025-05-05 | Stephanie Krause | ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ |📖🌟|📍★★★★|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Everything in good shape so far :) Nice cave, long swims in the cold water. 📖 More speleo than canyoning. Not very difficult to find your way around the cave. There are not really any branches to get lost. However, there is no cell phone network anywhere outside! Not on the entire high plateau. The whole 12km from the road is dead. Be sure to keep navigation/maps and emergency plans in mind. The cell phone quickly becomes useless ;) (machine translated)

2025-03-31 | Alex Arnold | ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ |📖|📍★★★★|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Top

2025-03-31 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html>)

2025-03-28 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini Ras (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html>)

2025-03-20 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini Magnifique canyon !Amarrages OK.Attention aux cairns : il y en a partout sur tous les GR, ne pas s'y fier. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html>)

2025-03-20 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini DC, amarrages RAS, l'eau est bien fraîche mais rien d'insurmontable. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html>)

2024-12-25 | Felix | ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ |📖🌟🌟🌟|📍🌟|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Access free no signs found that road closed Very nice wooden canyon which was relatively warm compared to the outside temperature Easy to find the way back thanks to the many cairns (machine translated)

2024-12-25 | Felix | ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ |📖|📍🌟|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

No signs found that road is closed Cave nice and warm compared to the outside temperature Way back superieure marked with little stones (machine translated)

2024-10-22 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Low |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini Last pool and anchorages ok. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html>)

2024-07-08 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Low |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini Très beau - Fait à 2 en 5h, avec l'option rappel jusqu'en bas. Retour 1h30 (30 mn de descente pour rejoindre le bas de la vallée, puis montée en traversée sur la droite pour rejoindre le GR qui mène à la voiture - eau glaciale, mais retour très chaud il faisait 40° - bivouac possible à proximité). A noter plusieurs petits rappels non mentionnés dans les topos. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html>)

2024-05-31 | System User | |📖|📍|🌊 Low |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini Je pense que c'est le truc majeur de la