Grotta Donini

Grotta La Donini,Donini,Grotta Luigi Donini

Create: 2023-03-09 20:49:54	**Update:** 2023-10-14 09:16:06	**Print:** 2026-11-10 02:11:20
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 (12)	**Info:** ★ 2.7 (7)	**Belay:** ★ 2.8 (9)

Warnings:

Road to the entrance parking lot at least officially closed

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.

Specialities:

Gear:

Ropes: 2x50m, 1x30m

Summary: (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.

Hydrology:

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 Bargios. 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 Bargios(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:

2026-01-02 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini Fortement conseiller de remonter la rivière souterraine une fois la galerie des gours terminer,pour cela simplemente suivre la mc aux plafond (qui est un peu fatigué),Il est possible de remonter le réseau et d y passer facilement 1h de plus et les concretions sont vraiment belles !Attention aux colonies de chauves-souris dans les gros volumes finauxSinon équipement ok ! (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html)

2026-01-01 | MirkoT | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
At the entrance there was a nice flow of warm air. Inside the Cave water not freezing, but that in the long swim you feel the not so warm temperature. Once-in-a-lifetime tour, especially for the pools toward the end that see sunlight coming in. Top colors. Okay weapons. One of the best grips on the rock. (machine translated)

2025-10-13 | Kanyon Kerke | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
The cave and is absolutely great! However, we couldn't get away from the last parking lot at the turnaround. When it starts to rain, the last part is as smooth as glass. We couldn't get up the mountain in a normal car and had to spend the night there and wait until the road dried out again. Better not to drive too far and park at the first parking lot. (machine translated)

2025-09-25 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Donini Tout passe nickel. Première session en nage évitée (niveau d’eau bas) les deux autres sessions ok. Vasques propres et pas puantes. Cordes MC en place. Descente par la C50 (cordes de 70+40 suffisant). La vasque d’arrivée est pourrie. Retour évident sur la gauche. Il fait 18 sur le plateau. Piste d’accès ok. Pas de panneau interdiction. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21721/observations.html)

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
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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