

Dear Everybody,

this is an update, devoted to several (relevant) practical issues; a short final circular will be sent shortly before the Conference.

Please note that updates will also be shown on the web site, even before these are communicated by the final circular.

TRANSFERS

- 1) You have now communicated the details of your arrival (flight number and origin, scheduled landing, number of passengers) and required transfer service; you have received or will soon receive the scheme of our transfers (cost can vary depending on the use of taxis or minibuses).
- 2) Shortly before the conference we will communicate a telephone number at which you can contact the drivers in case of troubles; at the same time we will also give a telephone number at which one of the organizers will be available for the same.
- 3) If you have not required the transfer service, we assume you will take care of it by yourself, e.g. that you rent a car or move by public buses. In case you just forgot, you can see if there is some empty seat in one of our taxis or minibuses; we are sorry the general plan cannot be modified at this stage (but of course you can ask for an additional private taxi, also through the Hotel).
- 4) Transfer for departure (June 1) will be organized in the course of the conference; we have however noted your travel details.
- 5) It may be good to note how to access the schedule of public buses, either for those who will use these to reach Dorgali or for private local excursions (also by accompanying persons). These are given below, but be ready to discover schedules are not convenient.

Basically you have two options:

(A) the Deplano company linking Olbia airport to Nuoro (from June 1 there will also be a direct line from Cala Gonone to Olbia airport), see www.deplanobus.it in general (here you will also have, later on, the schedule of the direct service mentioned above) and for this line <http://www.deplanobus.it/modules.php?name=Linee&op=listlinesarticles&secid=2> (to reach Dorgali and Cala Gonone through this you will need a connecting bus or a taxi from a nearer point than Olbia).

(B) you have the ARST regional bus lines; here several routes may be of interest (also in case you land at Cagliari or Alghero airport – in this case a shuttle will take you to Sassari), such as:

- Olbia – Nuoro <http://www.arstspa.info/514.pdf> (“Olbia IB” is the ferry terminal)
- Cala Gonone – Nuoro <http://www.arstspa.info/520.pdf>
- Dorgali – Siniscola <http://www.arstspa.info/521.pdf> (connects to line 514)
- Sassari – Nuoro <http://www.arstspa.info/9341.pdf>
- Cagliari – Nuoro <http://www.arstspa.info/9342.pdf>

General infos about ARST routes are at <http://www.arstspa.info/n.html> or on the main page at http://arst.sardegna.it/orari_e_autolinee.html which links to Google maps.

IF YOU TRAVEL BY CAR

The floods this winter damaged some bridges on the eastern coast (including one bridge between Oliena and Dorgali). Albeit circulation has been restored along these roads, it is possible that some construction works will be done in spring; this could lead to road being interrupted again to allow for works. All this to say that you should pay attention to any deviation (usually signaled by yellow panels) and closed road (“strada interrotta”) signs that may appear on your way.

If you enter into Dorgali, consider that roads there are rather narrow; you should better park on the main road (this may require some small payment if you park on blue lines) without entering into the narrower streets.

Upon arriving in Cala Gonone just follow the indications for Hotel Palmasera (not the Palmasera beach, where the road ends in a parking), the Aquarium, and Cala Fuilli; you will find the Hotel on the left (sea side) just before the first bend of the road. In any case, follow the main road from Dorgali and upon arriving in the village, just before getting to the old part, turn right in front of the camping and the “Carabinieri” station, and go on for about one km. (There is also a shortcut, which you might find on a detailed map, but this is the simplest way.)

TALKS PREPARATION

- 1) The final (tentative) program will be communicated shortly prior to the conference. Those who will be scheduled to talk on Monday will be warned well in advance.
- 2) A final communication concerning the length of your talk should be sent about two weeks before the conference.
- 3) We are very sorry that – albeit we have a nice conference room – no blackboard (or any other color) or OHP will be available. Thus the visual support for the talks should be available on a computer file to be projected through a beamer. Preferred format is PDF, as this produces no problem on any system and is not sensitive to the PC/MAC divide.
- 4) If you do not like to prepare slides on your computer, we suggest you prepare slides as for OHP and then scan them producing a PDF file. A printer/scanner will be available for last moment changes in this sense at the conference, but it would be appreciated if this is used only for emergency situations.
- 5) If for any reason you have special needs for your talk please let us know. This means both the need of using some special format (here PowerPoint or any proprietary software IS considered a special format), or if your talk includes some live simulation and hence a robust RAM and/or special programs to be installed (which will result in using your own computer), or if however you need to use your own computer for the talk (in this case we will determine the slot in such a way to minimize the hassles of changing computer).
- 6) Please have your file ready on a USB stick for transfer to the conference computer before the session in which you are scheduled to speak. You can of course also send these by mail before the conference.

COMPUTERS, INTERNET, ETC.

- 1) The Hotel provides internet access from the lodge; there is no access from the rooms (albeit of course it is possible that some rooms will see the router). We expect their router is sized for tourists use, not for a full bunch of scientists making heavy use of the internet, so be prepared to have a less than optimal line. (We hope this will push participants to spend more time in discussion among themselves than on the internet.)
- 2) There will be no conference computers (apart from the one used for talks).
- 3) There will be a slow (ink jet) printer to be used for secretarial purposes.
- 4) Organizers will be travelling or at the conference site shortly before the arrival day; this might result in non-immediate answer to e-mail messages in the 22-25 May period.

EXCURSION & OTHER NON-SCIENTIFIC MATTERS

There is a full day excursion planned for Wednesday (this might change for meteo reasons).

The standard excursion from Cala Gonone consists in reaching the beautiful beaches along the Golfo di Orosei by a boat trip; this will be booked on an individual basis once there, so there is no need to decide about your participation in advance. Also, people could go for different options, such as reaching these beaches by walking (in this case please have good hiking shoes with you – mountain boots are not needed, at least for the simplest routes, but these are stony paths), or going elsewhere e.g. in the nice villages in the interior, or taking some hike excursion on the nearby mountains; a number of local agencies do organize these. If you are there with a car you will have a good choice of destinations.

The Hotel has a standard-size swimming pool and a garden.

The beach is easily (and quickly) reached from the hotel through a foot-path; the hotel has a reserved portion of the beach (albeit in May there should be no crowd problem!) with shades etc. Accompanying persons, having more time over the day, may like to reach other nearby beaches; if you have a car and hence your accompanying persons can explore several options, we recommend you collect information at the local Tourist Office, which is located on the same road as the Hotel (the low building in front of the main bus stop).

Local products are bought in the several supermarkets existing in Cala Gonone; note that going to Dorgali would not produce any advantage for anything related to tourist articles.

For weather forecast, see either <http://meteo.repubblica.it> or www.meteo.it ; usually they give forecast for one week.

Finally, it is a tradition in SPT conference to have a farewell party on last conference day; we trust we will keep this tradition with a wine & cheese party on Saturday afternoon.

See you soon in Cala Gonone !

Giuseppe

(5 May 2014)