

Peter & Anne Holidays

Cycling, walking and rock climbing in Ogliastra, Sardinia

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Mountain biking in Ogliastra, Sardinia—Rally di Sardegna

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The 2nd edition of the [MTB Rally di Sardegna](#) will be held in Ogliastra, Sardinia 7-12 June 2009. Since we live in Ogliastra and Peter [mountain bikes](#) here (both [documenting trails](#) and [racing](#)), and we're keen that Ogliastra, Sardinia gets better know as a mountain biking destination as well as for its [road cycling](#), [walking](#) and [climbing](#), we approached the Rally's organisers and offered to be the contact-point for English-speaking participants, just as we are the the [Giro di Sardegna](#) week-long road cycling event in April. We do this for free—we don't get paid, and you pay the MC Sardegna and not us. We think this is a great opportunity to develop mountain biking in Ogliastra and Sardinia, and in particular to take forward initiatives such a [T-track](#).



We will help English-speaking participants sign up, organise their travel to Ogliastra for the race, help with pre-stage briefings, and generally help you sort out any problems and enjoy the event to the full. Peter plans to ride the event, at least some of the stages, which are all within 45' by car of [The Lemon House](#). The MTB Rally is organised by the Moto Club di Sardegna, which for years has organised the off-road motorcycle Rally of Sardinia. For full details and entry forms, see [their web site](#). The first edition of the Rally di Sardegna - Mountain Bike Internazionale was held in the province of Nuoro in 2008, with 27 athletes and their families/friends/accompaniers. The event, held mostly on unmade roads, forest tracks and old mule tracks, is about endurance rather than extreme technical difficulty, with the 2008 edition covering in five consecutive days 370km and 10 000m of climbing. You can download stage profiles [here](#). For most participants the aim is just to finish, but there are also world-class bikers, such as the Czech champion Radoslav Sibl, Ironbike winner in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, who won the men's race in 2008. The women's race in 2008 was won by Katia Tomatis from Piemonte in Italy, who was second among the women and 26th overall in the 2008 Iron Bike.



Above—Peter racing at the Sardinia UDACE regional MTB championships 2009. See more photos of mountain biking in Ogliastra, Sardinia [here](#).

The Rally can be ridden as an individual or as a two-person team. Each day you are assigned a start time (in reverse GC order), and you get points according to how you do against the overall stage's target time (10 point penalty for each minute outside the target time), and against the winner's time over the central "special stage" section of the stage (1 point for every second of delay over the best special stage time, the special stages accounted for about half the overall distance and height gain in 2008). If you finish outside the maximum (cut-off) time, or don't wear a helmet, or miss a control station, you get a big 10000 point penalty. To get the overall finisher's jersey, you have to avoid getting 30000 penalty points (special stage points excluded). You can see the 2008 stages with distances, profiles and target times [here](#). Riders must have a racing licence and mountain bike. Accompaniers can have an accompanier who drives an accredited vehicle.

In 2009, the event will have 5 stages, Monday 8 - Friday 12 June, with the final prize giving and dinner on Friday 12 June and departures the day after. The organisation will be based in Tortoli, and the final day's stage will finish there.

In Tortoli the organisers provide a place in a camp-site for a tent (you can also leave bike boxes there), and riders and accompaniers will camp there, except for a couple of stages which start and finish in one of the surrounding mountain villages where the riders will camp. You should plan to arrive in Ogliastra by the night of Saturday 6 June, so that on Sunday 7 June you can complete the sign-on and take part in the prologue at 1700. You can find details of how to get to Ogliastra [here](#) - if you don't want to hire a car, and intend to use public transport to get here, it is best to fly to Cagliari or Olbia. Getting here by bus from Alghero is more difficult than from the other two airports, and we don't recommend flying to Alghero.

Race entry costs €600 if you sign up by 31 Dec 2008, €700 after this date, and €400 for accompaniers, and this includes: For riders: race entry, feeding stations, camping spot, dinner, breakfast, showers, and luggage transfer (max 30kg) between campsites. You have to provide your own tent. For accompaniers, the entry fee covers your accreditation for you and your vehicle (you get a special sticker for your car), camping spot, dinner, breakfast, showers, services. Accompaniers must provide their own vehicle. If you don't want to sleep in a tent at the base camp in Tortoli, you can rent a bungalow (if available) or stay in a B&B/hotel, paying yourself. Extra nights before or after the period covered by the entry

fee (Sunday 7 dinner - Saturday 13 breakfast) can be paid directly to the campsite, and the cost for these extra nights will be published in due course.

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