

## DECIMOMANNU AIRBASE SARDINIA, ITALY *Exercise STAREX 2012*

**Dates now confirmed:**  
**Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May**



The Italian Air Force airbase of Decimomannu, located on the island of Sardinia, is a front-line NATO training facility used primarily since 1979 for the Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT) of various NATO air force fighter aircraft. It also hosts the Italian Air Force's annual STAREX flying exercise, held over a 2 week period in May.

This is a large event involving most operational units in the Italian Air Force, and some army aviation elements. In the recent past those participating have included: 4° Stormo EF.2000; 5° Stormo F-16A/ADF; 6° Stormo Tornado IDS; 9° Stormo AB.212ICO; 15° Stormo HH-3F; 32° Stormo AMX 2; 36° Stormo EF.2000; 37° Stormo F-16A/ADF; 46a Brigata A. KC-130J; 46a Brigata A. C-27J; 50° Stormo Tornado ECR; 51° Stormo AMX 3; 61° Stormo MB.339CD.

NATO participation has included AWACs and JBG.32 Tornado ECR/IDS.

In 2009 the Israeli Air Force also participated in this Italian 'Red Flag-type' exercise.

Unfortunately our request to spend 2 days on Decimomannu airbase was declined as only bona-fide members of the media are allowed on-base during STAREX. So, we enjoy 4 days off-base logging and photographing from 7 locations around the perimeter: <http://www.scramble.nl/airports/index.html> As this is a popular flying exercise, there will also be Italian and other European enthusiasts present.

Previous STAREXs have comprised a mission each morning and afternoon, involving 30 aircraft on each 'wave'.

Accompanying us will be English-speaking "Giovanni", a well-respected, Italian aviation journalist and photographer.

Based at the nearby civil airport of Cagliari are units of the Carabinieri (A109A, AB206 and AB412); Aviazione Dell 'Esercito (AB205A); Guardia Di Finanzia (A109A, AB412 and NH500); and 670 Squadriglia Collegamenti (AB212); we will be requesting visits to each of them, on the Friday. To be confirmed.

We fly on the scheduled services of Alitalia from London's Heathrow Airport, via Milan, to Cagliari; where we stay 5 nights at the Hotel Grillo on a bed and breakfast basis in Assemini – only 2kms from the airbase; and have chartered a local coach for the whole of our time on the island, giving us the flexibility of moving around the various spotting/photography positions about the base at our ease.

## PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local)

### DAY 1: SUNDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> MAY

Between 05:30 and 06:10 please meet your Ian Allan Tour Manager, and fellow enthusiasts, at London's Heathrow Airport, in Alitalia's check-in area which is located on the "Departures" level of Terminal 4. We recommend you check-in no later than 2-hours prior to departure: i.e. 06:10.

✈ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 4 Flight: AZ 229 Departs: 08:10  
✈ Milan, Linate Arrives: 11:05

On arrival we follow the signs for Transit Passengers and proceed to the departure gate of our flight to Sardinia.

✈ Milan, Linate Flight: AZ 7150 Departs: 12:55  
✈ Cagliari Arrives: 14:20

Meeting our local driver, we drive the few miles to the Hotel Grillo in Assemini, 2kms from Decimomannu airbase. We stay 5 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. Its excellent facilities include on-site restaurant, bar, pool and gym. Website: <http://www.hotelgrillo.net/>

### DAYS 2 - 5: MONDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> - THURSDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> MAY

Four days on the base's perimeter photographing aircraft from the 7 spotting and photography sites, as shown on Scramble's website: <http://www.scramble.nl/airports/index.html>. These are known to the local police/security forces who visit them but do not move people along.

Each day our chartered coach will be used to transfer members of the group around the various vantage points as necessary.

### DAY 6: FRIDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> MAY

Departing the hotel at 08:30 we hope to visit the various military units located at Cagliari airport (to be confirmed).

In the afternoon we check-in with Alitalia for our flights back to London; latest check-in time is 13:15.

✈ Cagliari Flight: AZ 7151 Departs: 15:15  
✈ Milan, Linate Arrives: 16:35

On arrival we make our way to the departure gate of our onward flight to London.

✈ Milan, Linate Flight: AZ 238 Departs: 17:55  
✈ Heathrow, Terminal 4 Arrives: 19:05

Whilst waiting in Baggage Reclaim we take the opportunity to bid each other Ciao, until we meet again.



COST PER PERSON	TOUR: 227213
From £ 798.00	Based on sharing a twin bedded room on a bed and breakfast basis
From £ 170.00	Single room supplement
On request	Land only: does NOT include any flights (please speak with one of our consultants before booking)

### **TOUR PRICE INCLUDES**

- Flights on the scheduled services of Alitalia from London's Heathrow Airport
- UK and Italian Airport Taxes & UK Passenger Service Charge; currently £148.90 (subject to change)
- All transfers and transportation by air-conditioned charter coach, as stated
- 5-night's hotel accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- Continental breakfast each morning
- Services of an English-speaking guide
- Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager
- Coach driver's gratuity

### **NOT INCLUDED**

- Meals, except as stated above
- Travel insurance (for UK residents only) – see General Information
- Visas: not required by UK/EU Passport holders – see General Information for details
- Personal expenditure, e.g. telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc.
- Additional tips and gratuities

**Payment for Ian Allan Aviation Tours**

A deposit of £250.00 per person should accompany your Booking Form, with the balance due 10 weeks prior to the tour's departure. Please see your Booking Confirmation/Invoice for the exact date. Please note that a reminder of the payment date will not be sent.

**Tours Affected by World Events or Unforeseen/Unplanned Circumstances**

In an ever-changing world, events may occur immediately before or during a tour that result in cancellations or changes to the tour itinerary. For example, an increase in security may result in any approved visit to Decimomannu airbase being cancelled by the Italian authorities.

Ian Allan Travel Ltd cannot be held responsible for the tour being cancelled, or affected, due to world events or circumstances beyond our control.

**Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Consular Advice**

The FCO's consular service is a major operation. Every hour of every day consular staff around the world are advising and helping British nationals. We suggest you visit [www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo](http://www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo) for up-to-date passport, visa and security information on the destination you intend visiting.

In addition, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) provide an Information Line, telephone: 0901 201 505 (calls currently charged at 51p per minute).

**Passports and Visas**

Citizens of the UK are required to be in possession of a Full UK Passport which must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of your return to the UK.

Non-UK/EU citizens should contact the Italian Embassy in their country of residence for specific information and instructions.

**Baggage Regulations – Alitalia - Departing London's Heathrow Airport**

**Checked Baggage:** Alitalia will transport 1 piece of 'checked' baggage per person free of charge, up to a maximum weight of 23kg (50lb).

**Cabin Baggage:** for travel out of London's Heathrow Airport you may take 1 carry-on bag (and 1 personal item). Your main piece of hand baggage can be up to the dimensions of 55cm x 35cm x 25cm (21.7in x 13.78in x 9.8in), including handles and wheels. You must be able to lift the bag into the overhead locker unaided. Carry-on baggage must be stowed in carry-on compartments of the aircraft, under a seat, or in an overhead locker. Your bag must also fit into the bag gauge, available at the check-in area. All larger-sized items must go in the aircraft's hold.

Limited quantities of liquids are allowed as hand baggage but must be carried separately through security in a clear plastic, zip-top or re-sealable bag that does not exceed 20cm x 20cm (8 inches x 8 inches), or quart size. Individual containers must not exceed 90ml or 3 American ounces, and items must fit in the bag comfortably and the bag must be completely closed. The bag can only contain: shampoo, suntan lotions, creams, toothpaste, hair gel and hair spray, perfumes, cosmetics such as mascara and lip gloss, water and other drinks, soups and syrups and other items of a similar consistency.

Hand baggage can include: Electronic equipment including mobile phones, digital cameras and MP3 players (such as iPods). Laptops must be removed from the bag for x-ray. Prescription medicines in liquid form, e.g. diabetic kit.

At security all remaining items should be placed in the tray provided for screening, e.g. car keys and fobs, cash, solid food, books, newspapers, cigarettes and tobacco, belts and shoes. Pushchairs and walking aids are permitted but must be x-ray screened. All wheelchairs will be subject to search. Please note, you may be subject to a hand search by the security team and required to remove footwear to be x-ray screened.

Once in the departure lounge passengers may purchase certain items in any shop and take it onto the aircraft as normal. Passengers may be subject to a secondary search at the departure gate before boarding. Any items not on the approved list will be removed.

As baggage regulations can change with little warning, due to security requirements, you are strongly advised to contact the airline for the latest information nearer to the time of your departure.

### **Meals**

Meals are not normally included in the price of our tours unless they are included within the room rate as we realise that not everyone wants three meals a day. Also, hotel meals can be expensive and we have found it is better to allow each person to decide for themselves. This tour includes continental breakfast.

In-flight meals when included within the cost of the air ticket form part of the tour price, however some airlines (primarily European carriers) now only serve refreshments for which they charge accordingly.

### **Health Requirements**

There are currently no known mandatory or recommended precautions required for travel to Sardinia. However, we strongly recommend that you consult your local doctor or health centre for the latest information.

### **Climate and Dress**

The weather should be warm and sunny during our visit with temperatures in the low 70<sup>o</sup>sF. We recommend you take summer items of clothing and a jacket for the cooler evenings.

### **Travel Insurance**

For citizens of the United Kingdom only, Ian Allan Travel Ltd can provide competitive and comprehensive insurance cover for the duration of your tour. However, if you do not wish to take out our insurance, you must ensure that comparable or greater cover is taken. The number of your Insurance Policy should be written, if known, on your Booking Form at the time of making the reservation, but no later than the date when final payment is due. A copy of the policy must be forwarded to Ian Allan Travel Ltd.

Individual insurance policies are arranged through CoverMore Insurance Services Limited; the premiums for which will vary according to your circumstances. Full details are available on request.

### **Wheelchair Assistance at Airports**

Anyone requiring wheelchair assistance at airports must have this service requested and confirmed in advance. Airlines and/or airports can no longer provide this service without prior confirmation, therefore, please annotate your booking form accordingly.

### **Flexible Itinerary**

We are very happy for enthusiasts to take time away from the printed itinerary to pursue their own interests so long as they inform the Tour Manager. It will be the individual's responsibility to ensure that they re-join the group in the hotel at the stated time on the day of departure.

### **Land Only Price**

For enthusiasts who would prefer to join the tour in Sardinia (instead of flying from the UK with the main group), we are happy to quote a 'Land Only' price on request. This price will not include any flights whatsoever, and you are strongly advised to contact us before making your own flight arrangements in the event that there has been a change to the published itinerary.

Please note that the 'Land Only' price is based on you meeting the tour at the hotel on Sardinia, and does not include the arrival airport-hotel transfer; however, should your arrival at Cagliari Airport coincide with that of the group, a seat will be offered if available.

### **Flight Timings & Connecting Travel Arrangements to Departure Airport**

All flight departure and arrival times are correct at the time of preparing each itinerary, however, airlines change times with little or no prior warning. In practice such changes are only a few minutes either way and the final itinerary will show the actual times. Clients making their own arrangements to get to the departure airport by air, rail, coach etc., should bear the above in mind if purchasing non-refundable or non-changeable tickets. Ian Allan Travel cannot be held responsible for any changes to flight times, and any privately arranged travel tickets to the airport becoming invalid.

### **Pre-departure**

For connecting flights from UK regional airports please call Ian Allan Travel on 01932 255627 for the latest special offers.

**Airport Hotel and/or Car Parking** - we can offer special rates for the above at most UK airports, please ask for details.

**Meet & Greet Car Parking:** from your home or overnight hotel, simply drive directly to Terminal 4 to specially signposted Drop Off area outside Departures, parking in the furthest lane. Here you will be met by a chauffeur and your car will then be taken to an off-airport, secure, car park while you walk a few yards into the terminal! On your return the chauffeur and your car will be waiting for you at the same place you dropped it off. Simple and very convenient. Recommended by our Tour Managers – please call for details.

**Pleasure Flights – Disclaimer**

Should you decide to undertake any pleasure/sightseeing flights which have not been offered or sanctioned by us, Ian Allan Travel Ltd will not be held liable for any injuries or death resulting thereon.

\* \* \*