GR 222 ®

MALLORCA

Llevant, Pla i Tramuntana

Ruta Artà -Lluc





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GR 222[®]

Llevant, Pla and Tramuntana

MALLORCA





To get up to date information on the signposted sections before starting the route, consult the official Website of the Ruta de Pedra en Sec: www.conselldemallorca.net/mediambient/pedra

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Ruta Artà-Lluc

Hiking trail through the Sierras de Llevant, Pla de Mallorca and Serra de Tramuntana

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INTRODUCTION





The GR 222 connects the Llevant range and its natural park with the central part of the Tramuntana range, declared a World Heritage. The itinerary offers hikers many different landscapes, some of them truly unique such as the almost untouched coast of the Llevant peninsula, Caimari.

The route is suitable for everyone. It begins in the Artà mountains with gentle slopes and the highest point is at the Soldiers' Encampment at 383 metres. Further ahead it skirts the coast and then turns inland to the Pla de Mallorca plain. The final stretch takes you up and over the Coll de sa Batalla at 578 metres, the last significant milestone on the walk.

Apart from valuable natural environments, you will also encounter enclosures, dry-stone walls, windmills, springs and an important architectural and historical heritage. Worth noting are places such as the necropolis at the Punta des Fenicis, the Betlem hermitage and the Lluc sanctuary, the final point of the tour .

THE TRAIL TODAY

At present 46 kilometres of the Artà-Lluc route are open and signposted, 39 of these are part of the main itinerary and 7 form an alternative version of the route.

The hiker can walk part of stage 1 between Coll des Racó and Cala Estreta; stage 2 from the S'Arenalet d'Albarca beach to Betlem; the section of stretch 3 from Colònia de Sant Pere to the Son Serra de Marina houses; the sections of stage 5 between Selva and Caimari, and Caimari and Lluc Sanctuary; this is as well as the route from Son Serra de Marina to Can Picafort.

Consell de Mallorca is not responsible for the potential limitations of the path or other problems which could arise in sections which are in the planning phase and not signalled. Likewise, Consell de Mallorca is not responsible for the information which may be provided by other guides, publications or Websites.



HIKE RATING SYSTEM (MIDE)

MIDE is a system of communication used by the hiking community to grade and circulate information about the technical and physical demands of routes. Its aim is to unify ratings of the difficulty of walks to enable each hiker to make the choice that best suits them.

		Background information
<u>୍</u>	Time required	
4	Total ascent	
	Total descent	
	Distance	
G	Type of route	

Rating information



Terrain. Difficulty of the terrain

- 1 The terrain is not risk free
- 2 There is more than one risk factor
- 3 There are various risk factors
- 4 There are a considerable number of risk factors
- 5 There are many risk factors



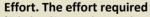
Route. Difficulty of orientation en route

- 1 Paths and cross roads are clearly marked
- 2 There are paths or waymarks indicating the route to be followed
- 3 Requires the precise identification of geographical features and use of the points of the compass.
- 4 Requires techniques of orientation and navigation off the path
- 5 Navigation is interrupted by obstacles that have to be bypasse

Ground surface. Difficulty posed by the ground surface



- 1 Walking on smooth ground
- 2 Walking on bridle paths
- 3 Walking on rocky paths with a gradient or rough ground
- 4 Use of one's hands to keep one's balance is necessary
- 5 Some stretches need to be climbed





(Calculated in accordance with MIDE criteria for the average hiker with a light load) $\,$

- 1 Up to 1 hour actual walking time
- 2 Over 1 hour and up to 3 hours' actual walking time
- 3 Over 3 hours' and up to 6 hours' actual walking time
- 4 Over 6 hours and up to 10 hours' actual walking time

The MIDE system is recommended by the Spanish Federation for Mountain and Climbing Sports (FEDME), Aragon Mountaineering Federation (FAM), the Civil Protection Agency of the Government of Aragón and other organisations. For more information, go to: www.euromide.info







 $oldsymbol{6}$

Blue tit



Seagull



Goldfinch



African stonechat

Serin



White wagtail



Redstart



Ruta Artà - Lluc
GR 222

STAGE 1

Coll des Racó - Cala Estreta

STAGE 2

S'Arenalet d'Albarca - Betlem

STAGE 3

Colònia de Sant Pere - Casas de Son Serra de Marina

STAGE 5

Selva - Caimari

STAGE 5

Caimari - Lluc

VARIANT

Can Picafort



STAGE 1

COLL DES RACÓ - CALA ESTRETA



MIDE,

→ Coll des Racó, road to Cala Torta (230 m)

35 min

15 min

→ Cala Estreta (4 m)

45 min

Coll des Racò	Coll des Pi	Torrent de ses Voltes	Cala Torta	Cala Estreta
Q	1 h 55 min	Λ		1
/	42 m]	1
/	269 m	P		2
<u></u>	7.387 m	\$		2
C →	Point to poi	nt		



DESCRIPTION OF THE ITINERARY

The walk starts at the Coll des Racó, by the opening leading to the public estate Sa Duaia-Es Racó that is located on the right-hand side of the Artá – Cala Torta road. Continue the gentle descent on a forest path leading through an area full of strawberry trees.

Shortly after you ignore a trail that branches to the right and walk past another opening in the wall to find yourself at a crossroads. Choose the one to the right and continue to descend, leaving other trails behind that again branch out on your right, until you arrive at a restored lime kiln.

Right in front you can see the conical shape of the Puig de s'Esquerda. Surrounding you are the effects of the large forest fire in August 2013 that vegetation is slowly recovering from. To your right and in the shade of the Puig Negre hill is another restored lime kiln. Continue walking through a crop field at the bottom of the Na Corna, a small elevation that you walk past on its northern slope with the Duaia de Baix houses to your left.

Now you arrive at the Ses Voltes torrent, slotted in between the Puig

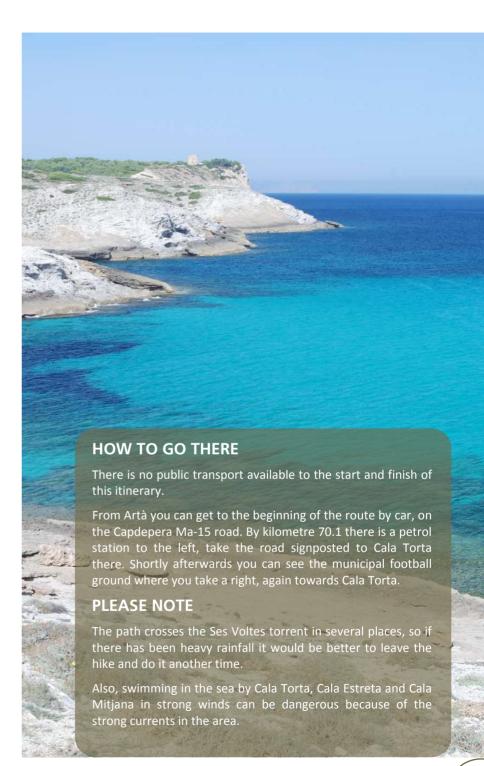


de la Senyora, Puig Figuer and Puig Redó hills. You end up crossing this torrent a number of times, surrounded by fan palms and grass, as you come across sheds and threshing floors that bear witness to the area's agricultural past.

After this stretch you

find a forest path that leads to Cala Torta, together with the remains of a well and a drinking trough. Walk towards the sea on the left hand side of the sandy area until you reach the water. Have a quick dip if the weather allows. You can see the trail continue to the left of the beach where a gently inclining path emerges to take you to Cala Mitjana. Right in front you can see the Fallaró d'Albarca and the Matzocs tower.

Walk across the sandy area and follow the tarmac road that takes you to Cala Estreta, where the route ends.



(13)

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Strawberry trees



Strawberry trees are small trees with reddish bark and leaves similar to bay leaves that can reach a height of up to three metres. Their wood was used for carbon production in the past, but also to carve pipes and other items for the home.

The round, red fruits are red and take a full year to mature, so in autumn they are found on the trees together with its white, bell-shaped flowers. The fruit is edible, but should not be eaten in any greater quantities since they contain a level of alcohol that can lead to intoxication and subsequent symptoms such as headache.

2 Sa Duaia - Es Racó



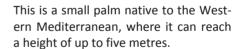
This is a public estate covering a total area of 472 hectares. It was created by purchasing parts of the two properties by the same name for conservational purposes. The main point of interest here is the nature itself; even though massive forest fires have affected it in the past there are numerous endemic species here: Balearic St. John's wort for example, with small sticky leaves and an easily spotted yellow flower. Also found here are Cat thyme and Balearic milkvetch, two species that grow in cushion-shaped, spiky shrubs, protecting themselves against wind and animals.

3 Limekilns

These cylindrical structures were used to burn calcareous stone and produce quicklime, which was later used as a disinfectant, to whitewash houses and in construction work as an ingredient of the mortar used in various kinds of stone buildings.

Today we can see a cavity inside of them known as *olla* or 'the pot' with clay walls. The stones where placed inside this space leaving a hole in the middle that was always kept full of firewood, so the burning was constant. The whole process could take between ten and fifteen days.

4 Dwarf fan palm



The dates are used in traditional medicine against diarrhoea, but it is the leaves that are used the most. They are dried and made flexible using sulphur. Afterwards they are plaited and woven into various objects, such as hats, baskets, bags and brooms. The weaving industry used to be large, employing many workers in the villages of Artà and Capdepera.



14⁾

b Hermann's tortoise

This is one of two species of tortoises that live on Mallorca. Both species are protected by law and it is forbidden to capture them.

Hermann's tortoise is very common in the region, but even so the population is strongly affected by forest fire. Mostly because of the tortoise's habit of hiding inside its shell when it senses danger.



It is cold blooded just like other reptiles and during winter it hides under the ground to hibernate. During the rest of the year you can see it eating all over the shrubland, or perhaps basking in the sun during the early morning hours to activate its vital systems.

6 The 'camamil·la'

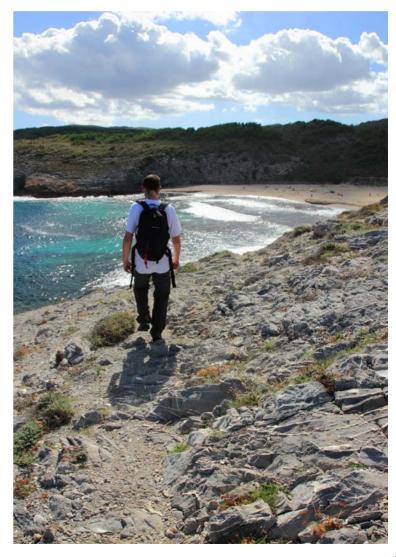


This small bush is endemic to the Balearic islands and you can find it everywhere: from the coastline to the highest points of the island. The plant is round with ashencoloured leaves and only reaches a height of around half a metre. It is very aromatic and towards the end of May the abundant yellow flowers create entire carpets over the landscape. In traditional medicine it has been used as a digestive aid in form of herbal tea. They are also hung in wardrobes as an insect repellant and the plant is one of the ingredients of the famous 'herbes', the most popular liqueur on the island.

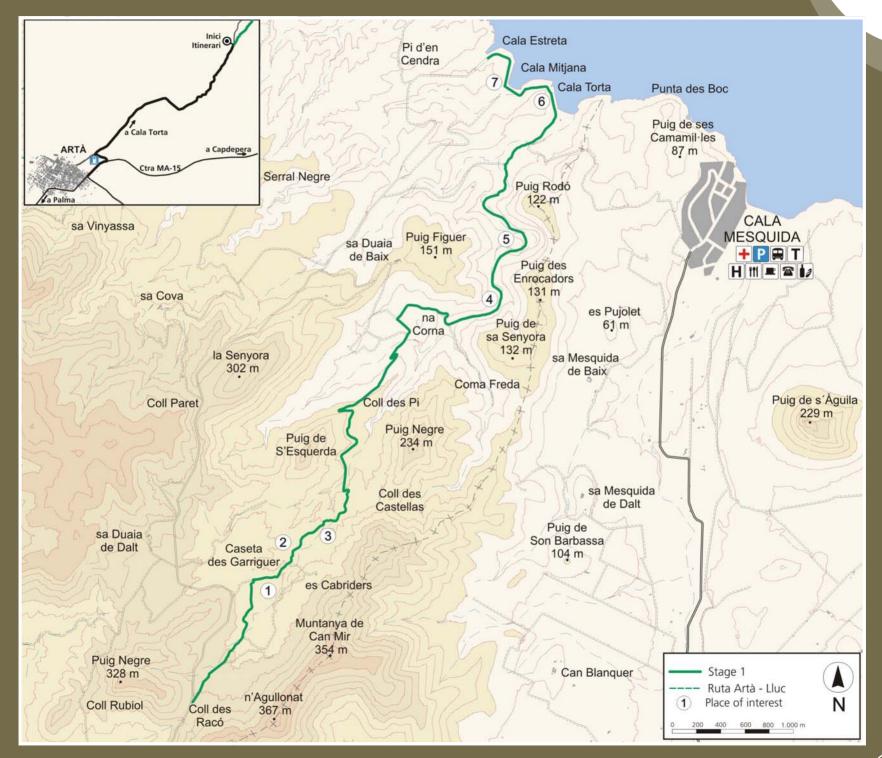
Cala Torta

Cala Torta, Cala Mitjana and Cala Estreta

The strong northerly winds that dominate in the area have shaped these sandy expanses, delimited by rocks of great geological interest. Near the coast is the sandstone: *marès*. It is made up by grains of sand, the remains of fossilised dunes that were present 2.5 million years ago when sea level was higher. Older still are the grey rocks that experts call 'calcareous loams', and the pink ones known as 'dolomites'; they were created around 150 million years ago.

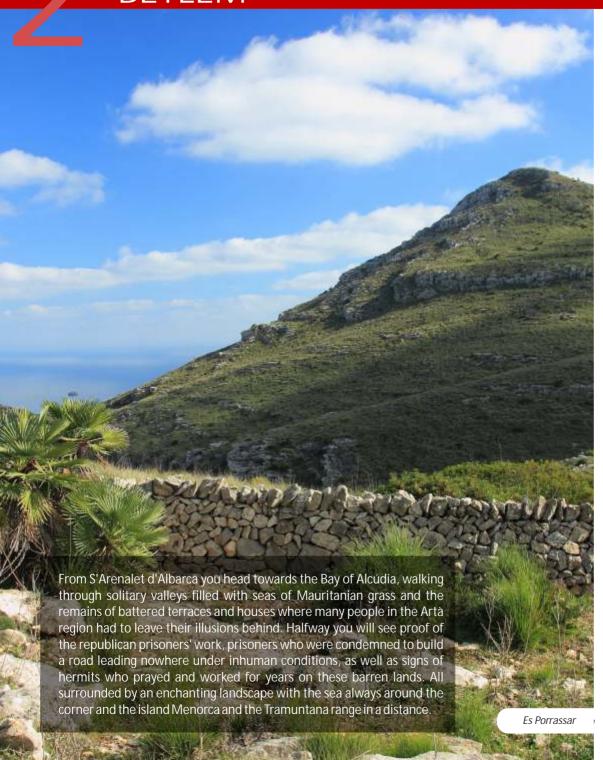


(16)



(19)

S'ARENALET D'ALBARCA BETLEM



STAGE 2

S'ARENALET D'ALBARCA - BETLEM



MIDE,



DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

The stage begins at the S'Arenalet d'Albarca refuge, walking in a southerly direction. A bit further along you cross the Penya Roja torrent and keep following a forest path that ascends steeply and take you past the Oguers house.

Nearby is the spring Font des Oguers where you can stop to fill up your water bottle before you ascend up the skirt of the Puig de sa Font mountain. This is where you reach the large watershed S'Esquena Llarga, with the conical shape of Porrassar to one side and the Puig de sa Tudossa in front; the latter is impossible to miss because of the antennas that crown the top. The vegetation in the area is low, which makes it a great place to look out over the coastline. On clear days you can easily spot Menorca from here.

Once the climb is over you arrive at the Camí des Presos (Prisoners' Road), ignoring the right-hand branch where you can return to S'Arenalet d'Albarca by the Camí d'en Mondoi, and instead continuing to the left until you come near the Esquena de sa Bassa. Here you take the old bridle path that runs parallel to the Prisoners' Road. Later on you cross the latter to start walking towards the Soldiers' Encampment, the ruins of which mark the beginning of the descent towards S'Alqueria Vella d'Avall by the northern slope of Puig des Corbs, with the S'Alqueria Vella de Dalt houses as a backdrop in the valley.

The terrain becomes flatter; you cross the torrent and walk past a water wheel and two buildings. The first one houses an olive press. A few metres further on you come to a crossroads where you can choose either to visit the interpretation centre for the Península de Llevant nature park to the left, or to continue along the route, to the right. The route leads you past what remains of the S'Alqueria settlement, buildings that have been harshly treated by abandonment and forest fires.



Shortly thereafter the path becomes flat and barren, with a few noteworthy landmarks such as the S'Alzina Mestre, a portly tree that surprisingly survived the fire, and the prominent rocks Sa Beca and Baba Jussifà that tower above the mountain crest to your left.

You start descending with the Bay of Alcudia to the north, Betlem in the foreground and the Tramuntana range further away, in the background. Walk past the little opening between the walls and you will find yourself by the drinking trough at the Can Capellà spring, half hidden among reeds and grass.



Alzina Mestre

From this point on the route continues over the mountain slope and you walk between small pine trees and 'gatoves' until the trail crosses a much wider path near the so-called Hort de S'Ermita. Here you can choose to make a detour to the left to quench your thirst and enjoy the shade of large plantain trees by the S'Ermita spring, or perhaps to visit the Betlem Hermitage, not far away.

The main itinerary, however, continues to the right towards Pas des Grau. The path is narrow and you find it after you have walked past the side of a limekiln and another opening in the wall. From here onwards the path becomes narrower and the descent faster. You leave behind a dam that protects against the torrent and come to a fork in the road where you take the right-hand path, towards the sea. This path takes you near the estate houses and the Betlem barracks, then it reaches the road between Colònia de Sant Pere an Betlem, which is where the itinerary ends.

HOW TO GO THERE

There is no signposted connection to the first stage; to get to the starting point you have to go to S'Alqueria Vella and from there walk in the direction Es Verger and S'Arenalet d'Albarca, signposted as an itinerary of the Península de Llevant natural park. This adds another 2 hours and 40 minutes to the excursion

PLEASE NOTE

In the S'Arenalet d'Albarca shelter, in the campsite next to it or in the Caseta des Oguers shelter.

(22)

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 S'Arenalet refuge

This is the old summer residence of the Albarca owners, also known as the Master's house or *Casa des senyors*. These days it shelters hikers. It is located only a few metres from the S'Arenalet d'Albarca beach where the dune system is in good condition, thanks to its relative isolation, and shows an abundance of sea holly and sea spurges.



S'Arenalet d'Albarca

2 Caseta des Oguers

A construction that used to give shelter to the so-called *oguers*, in charge of donkeys, horses and mules on the Albarca estate. It has now been converted into a shelter for hikers.

3 Font des Oguers

The Font des Oguers spring has a drinking trough and as such it is useful, but the spring itself has been distorted and changed by the use of modern materials around it. Even so, it is a good place to fill water bottles and for various hydrophilic plants to grow. These are species that live in areas with an abundant water supply: reeds with stems that end in a very sharp point; maidenhair, fine and with a very dark stem; and water brickweed with rounded leaves and small, blue flowers.

4 Camí des Presos

This road was constructed in order to build an anti-aircraft defence battery on the Puig de sa Tudossa, a project that was never finished and that hundreds of republican prisoners worked on from dawn till dusk between 1941 and 1943.

Near the road you can see various remnants related to its construction, such as water tanks and forges where tools were repaired.



5 Campament des Soldats

This is where the republican prisoners were kept in a prison camp for forced labour while they were building the Prisoners' Road, together with their guards.

It consists of a bailey surrounded by four buildings for the troops and their officials, a storage room and some stables. The prisoners were first kept in tents and then in barracks with roofs made of grass. They survived in terrible conditions and were very insufficiently fed .



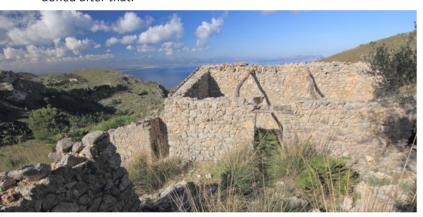
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6 Establits de s'Algueria Vella

All the small houses, walls and water tanks in ruins that you see along the way are what remain of an agricultural colony that was founded here in 1880 by the Homar family, taking up 400 hectares of land owned by various estates in the area.

The settlement was created during a time of great population growth, taking advantage of a new law exempting new farmers from taxes for some years and also from having to do their military service. This latter condition was also extended to sons and workers.

It took a lot of effort to create vineyards and fields of fig and almond trees, and the return was very limited. The timeframe for the advantages granted by the law came to an end, and they were all abandoned after that.



S'Alqueria Vella d'Avall waterwheel



This water wheel is from the 19th century and was used to water the estate gardens. A horse was led around and around and the force was used, through a system of cogs, to move a chain inside a tube that pumped up water from the well.

8 S'Alqueria Vella d'Avall olive press

You can visit this small building if you ask the information centre to open it for you and inside you can take a look at all the items were used in olive-oil production. There is an olive-oil press featuring large stones that ground the olives, again powered by a horse, a large kettle where water was heated to add to the resulting paste and a mechanical press where it was squashed until the oil was extracted. Afterwards, the oil would be decanted into large sinks.



(27)

9 S'Alqueria Vella d'Avall and Parque Natural de Llevant

The old estate houses, public since 2000, now make up the information centre for the Península de Llevant natural park. It stretches over 1,400 hectares of land and offers not only the Ruta Artà-Lluc, but also many other itineraries that let you explore its environmental, historical and ethnological values.



▲ Buidlings of s'Alguería Vella d'Avall

10 Sa Beca and En Baba Jussifà



Popular imagination has transformed these two stones into a couple of legendary characters. On if them is the *beca* or hood that a monk lost as he was running like a madman, trying to escape the demons that were attacking him; the other one is the petrified figure of a Saracen who refused to abandon his land when the Christians came. Full of pain and hatred, he turned himself into stone so he could stay here century after century.

En Baba Jussifà

11 Font de s'Ermita

This spring is also known by the name Font de na Bernadeta after the small chapel dedicated to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, or Our Lady of Lourdes, found next to it.

It was previously used to power a flour mill located at the Hort de S'Ermita, just by the path. Legend has it that the spring appeared from the tears of the hermit Macari, known for his devotion and miracles, who was praying here asking for help to resist the temptations of the devil.



12 Ermita de Betlem

The hermitage was founded in 1805 on top of the remains of the Biniagolfa farmstead. The farmstead had been abandoned earlier when its inhabitants were captured by pirates.

The hermits of the Sant Antoni and Sant



Pau orders were established on these wild and harsh lands, and they had to cope with very difficult conditions. The austerity and extreme poverty ended up killing some of them, but once this initial stage of dearth was over the community remained here up until only a few years ago. This was, and still is, a peaceful haven that has endured through the ages.

(29)

13 Sa Devesa de Ferrutx



The lands you walk over used to form part of the Devesa de Ferrutx, a large property that the Kings of Mallorca used as a private hunting ground during the 14th century. Big fans of falconry, they repopulated the area with partridges, hares and pheasants as well as deer and wild boar. All animals were protected by law.

14 Betlem

The houses on the Betlem estate were built during the 19th century. They are uninhabited and the land is not farmed. Near them are the Betlem barracks that belong to the coastal battery on the other side of the road. They are also abandoned.





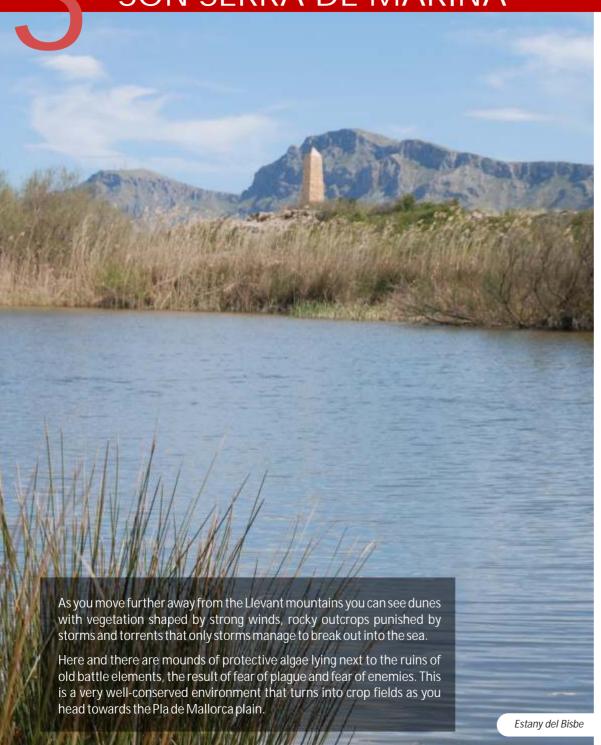
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COLÒNIA DE SANT PERE SON SERRA DE MARINA





STAGE 3

COLÒNIA DE ST. PERE - SON SERRA



MIDE,

20 min

→ Camí de s'Estanyol, Colònia de St. Pere (5 m)

→ Road Ma-12, near the Cases de Son Serra (40 m)

45 min

55 min

Colònia de Sant Pere	S'Estanyol	Torrent de na Borges	Cases de Son Serra de Marin
ø	2 h	lack	1
/	76 m		1
/	37 m	g ^r	2
<u></u>	7.250 m		2
C	point to poin	t	





DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

The route starts next to the marina in Colònia de Sant Pere, on the S'Estanyol road. From here you head west and walk next to the tarmac road until you get to a hollow known as Es Clot where the route turns right, following the coastline among tamarisks and limonium. You walk past the S'Estanyol housing development by the sea.

Beyond the inhabited area there is a stream, normally dried up, and you can make out the ruins of a dry-stone barrack: Sa Quarentena. It was used to control disembarkations during epidemic times. Continue along the sandy stretch of Sa Canova but use the area marked by poles to avoid damage to the dune system. There are a number of wooden walkways to your right that you can use if you want to get closer to the sea.

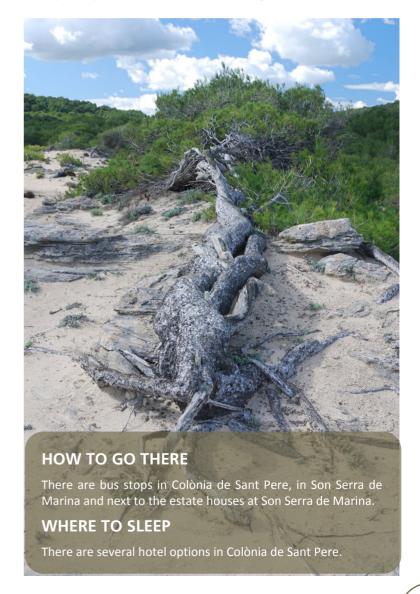
Nearly where the dunes come to an end you can see two leading light towers to the left — you have now arrived at the small wetland area S'Estany del Bisbe. On the other side is a parking area for the village Son Serra de Marina and to its right the street Joan Frontera Riera. This street runs parallel to the sea. Follow it until it crosses the street Virgen de Guadalupe. Take a left and continue along this road until you exit the village, and this is where the Camí de la Mar commences (without tarmac). Follow this path through the pine grove Son Serra de Marina without turning off onto any of the branching paths that appear on both sides.

Barraca de sa Quarentena and sa Canova



Keep walking through the fields; after a very pronounced turn in the road you arrive at the estate houses Son Serra de Marina. Walk around them to the right until you come across a tarmac path.

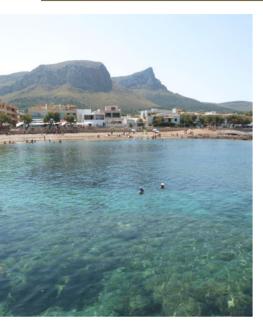
Do not take the trail branching off to the right, instead you walk between the property garden and the chapel until you see a cross-roads where the right-hand path leads you to the Artà – Alcúdia road (Ma-12), and this is where the itinerary finishes.



(37)

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Colònia de Sant Pere



A population centre that was created through an agricultural colonisation plan set up by the Spanish government towards the end of the 19th century. The government wanted to promote subdivision of marginal land, which in this case was destined for vineyards and almond trees.

At the time a small, square village was built, but from the 60s and onwards it was developed more and more to become a tourist centre.

2 Sa Canova



▲ Lírio de mar

Vegetation along this stretch of sand is conditioned by salinity, winds and a mobile substratum, which force different species to adopt different strategies to survive. An example of such a strategy is to make sure they have an extensive root system to stay on the dunes and get hold of nutrients and water, both very scarce in this environment.

You come across species like beach grass, a grass of large dimensions with rolled-up leaves located near the coastline. Behind it are plants with pretty flowers such as the sea holly with its spiny-toothed leaves and purple flowers; the sea lily with large, white flowers and the strongly-scented houseleek with yellow flowers.

3 Algae

In spite of their public name they are higher plants with roots, stems, leaves and fruit. They create large underwater meadows that provide habitats for numerous species of fish, shellfish and sponges. This is one of the Mediterranean's treasures and they are exclusively found here.

Autumn and winter storms gather their leaves on the beaches in great quantities. They are beneficial to beach conservation, protecting them from the continuous beating of waves.



4 Leading light towers

Along this stretch you come across some of the 28 leading light towers that were built by the military along the coastline between Colònia de Sant Pere and Alcúdia.

They are sandstone structures originally painted white with red numbers at different heights. Nearest the beach there was one every 1,240 metres and behind each of these was another, 200 metres further inland. This setup was used by submarines for torpedo practice during military operations carried out between 1941 and 1970.



(39)

5 Estany del Bisbe



This is a small wetland area named after Bernat Torrella, the first bishop (bisbe) of Mallorca and owner of the area at the beginning of the 13th century.

The wetlands cover a little over eight hectares and are located at the mouth of the Na Borges torrent. This torrent is longer than 40 kilometres, making it the longest watercourse on the island.

It is a fantastic area for bird spotting surrounded by various types of plants adapted to life at the edge of the water: tamarisks, with small leaves and white or pink flowers, and reed grass, tall and thin.

6 Son Serra de Marina

This housing development by the coast features straight roads and no hotels. It is a place where locals and foreigners alike come to spend the summer. Construction began as early as 1955 on the lands of the Son Serra estate. In the sales contract the owner of the estate demanded that certain moral regulations be complied with: prohibiting men and women to swim in the sea together, or using improper bathing attire.



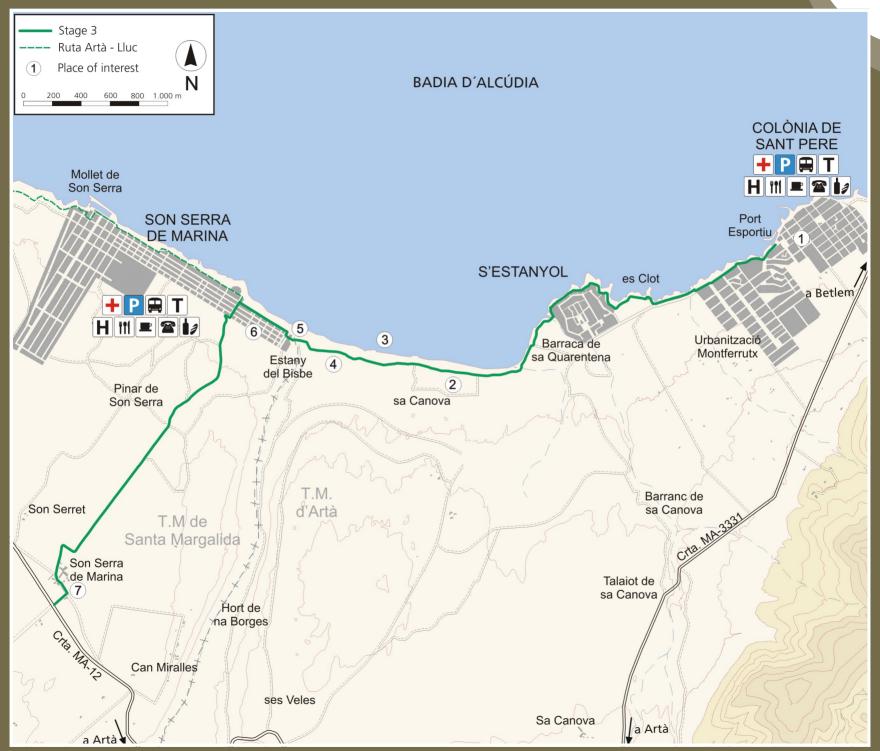
Son Serra de Marina estate houses

These houses were the centre of a subdivided property during the first half of the 20th century and later they became the centre of a small village with widely dispersed houses. The inhabitants had a school and attended mass in the chapel.

The group of houses consists of the owner's dwelling with a defence tower, a modernist garden and a neo-romanesque chapel from 1912 dedicated to St. John the Baptist. All this surrounded by various outbuildings for agricultural and livestock use, among them a flour mill with a cylindrical tower.



40)

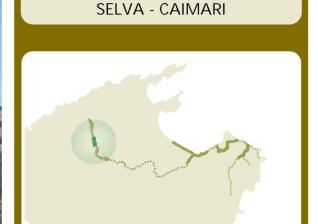


42)

SELVA E CAIMARI



STAGE 5



MIDE,



ITINERARY DESCRIPTION



The starting point for this stage is Font de Valella, next to the road leading from Inca to Lluc (Ma-2130), situated just past the first houses in Selva.

We set off from here along the Camí Vell leading from Caimari to Inca, a track running parallel to the aforementioned road and which takes us to Pla de sa Font de Camarata and, after a short uphill climb, to the Moscari road (Ma-2131), which we cross with care.

Next we make our way along des Penyal and Son Arnau streets, bringing us to the

houses with the same name and back onto the Camí Vell between Caimari and Inca. The route takes us past the back of the municipal cemetery before joining the Ma-2130 road at the bend known as Volta des Jurat. From here we can catch our first glimpse of Caimari, with its mountains in the background. The most striking of these are the 571 metre Puig de n'Escuder, with its characteristic cone shape, and Puig de n'Ali, which rises up 1,031 metres, making it the highest in the municipality.



Torrent del Pont d'en Blai

After the bend, we continue along the Camí Vell, following a stretch that has recently been restored by the Consell de Mallorca (Mallorca regional government) and Selva Town Council. A little further on, a charming small stone bridge takes us across the stream at Pont d'en Blai, accessed via a small flight of stone steps we will find on our right.

From here on our route runs parallel to the Ma-2130 road, bringing us easily to the entrance to Caimari. Just before completing our route, a tarmacked fork road, duly signposted and situated on our right, leads us to the Ethnology Park, site of various examples of traditional constructions associated with life and work in the mountains.

On returning to our route, we will come to the first houses in the village and the end of our itinerary.



46)

PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Selva



The town of Selva, with a population of just under two thousand, nestles on a hill presided over by the sturdy parish church, dedicated to *Sant Llorenç* (Saint Lawrence) which houses several Majorcan Gothic treasures such as the reredos depicting the scene at Calvary, by Gabriel Mòger, or the painting dedicated to the Verge de la Mercé, the work of artist Rafel Mòger, both dating back to the second half of the 15th century.

The origins of this town are rooted in the ancient Moorish farmstead known as *Xilvar*, which the King Jaume I granted to Pere Nunis and Pere Lai, noblemen who fought in the conquest of Majorca that began in 1229.

2 Font de Camarata



This is a spring accessed via a flight of steps and featuring a fountainhead covered by a semi-circular dome. The water flows through a channel to the Font des Rentar fountain, situated some one hundred metres further along in the direction of Inca, which features a drinking trough and washing places covered by a portico and enclosed by an iron railing.

3 So n'Arnau

A house divided into two wings surrounding a courtyard or *clastra*, dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. Particularly worthy of note are two splendid entrance gates topped by with semi-circular voussoirs and corbels featuring painted tiles.

The recess housing a statue of the Virgin and Child, an inscription that reads 'AVE MARIA' and the Lluc coat-of-arms that can be seen among the painted tiles, remind us that this was once the Sanctuary inn that provided accommodation for pilgrims.



4 Caimari Ethnology Park

Visitors to the park will discover traditional constructions associated with the trades that formed part of the economic activity of the Serra de Tramuntana mountains until well into the 20th century. Highlights to look out for include a coal yard, a typical *barraca* or drystone hut and a coal furnace, as well as a limekiln, a snow cellar and a *coll de tords* or thrush hunting ground.



48)

5 La Creu



Just before entering Caimari, on the other side of the Inca to Lluc road, stands the wayside cross, built in 1888 and the work of the sculptor Llorenç Ferrer.

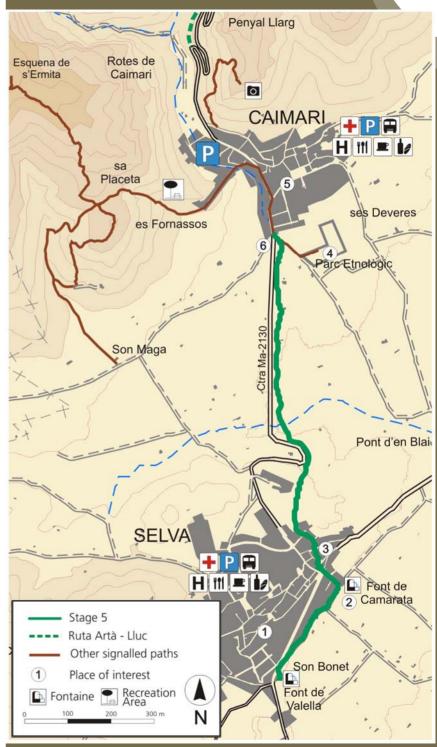
Neo-gothic in style, it features three steps and a hexagonal stone column. The capital with the cross bears the date and the name of its patron, the presbítero Pau Morro Pons.

6 Caimari



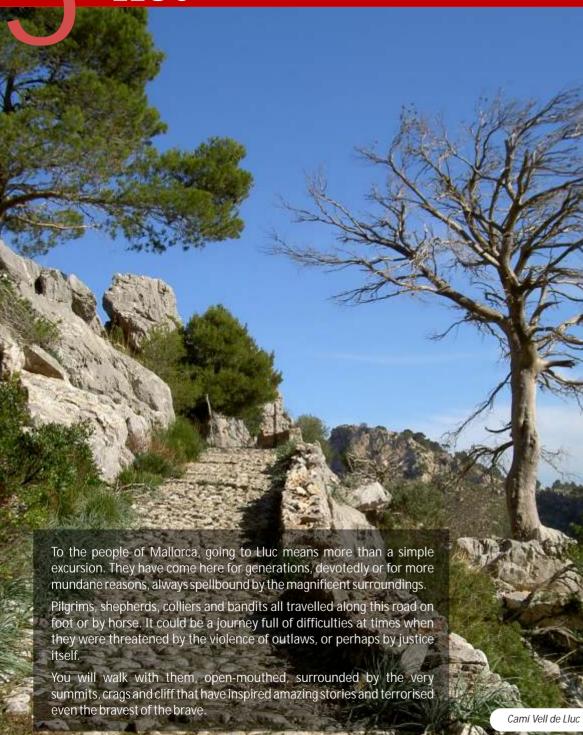
The village of Caimari is renowned throughout Majorca for its olive oil and a popular festival in honour of this product is held here each November. This event also commemorates many other traditional trades that the inhabitants of this village once worked in, such as charcoal making or snow collecting, which can still be remembered by the locals.

This well-conserved town boasts several examples of fine architecture, particularly the late 19th century Church of La Immaculada Concepció, the Son Albertí houses, around which the village sprang up, and l'Església Vella, the earliest church dating back to 1732.



50

CAIMARLE



STAGE 5

CAIMARI - LLUC



MIDE,





DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE



Son Canta i Puig de n'Escuder

The route begins at the Rotes de Caimari viewpoint, crossing a landscape dominated by the Rotes terraces and olive groves that cover the lower parts of the hills Puig de n'Escuder and Sa Creu.

From there the path leads on into the Tramuntana range; first it skirts around the crag known as La Filosa de la Mare de Déu and then approaches the Ses Mosqueres torrents. Further ahead it crosses the main road and leads you to the tiered Costa Llarga path.

Once the stone-paved stretch is behind you and some metres after the Son Canta houses, the Camí Vell de

Lluc continues straight ahead, but you take a trail that branches to the left instead. This trail runs parallel to the road and this way you avoid the traffic hazard.

Shortly after you find yourself in the Coveta Negra recreational area. As you walk under the road bridge you come across the stream bed by the same name and now you are on communal land.

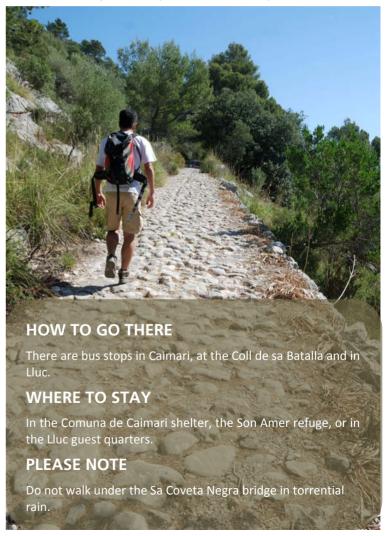
The route takes you past some charcoal production floors and a crag with a memorial plaque in remembrance of an unfortunate accident that took place there some years ago. Continue walking, ignoring the trail that forks left. You are now on a very steep forest trail that you follow until you arrive at a mountain pass that you cross and again find the Camí Vell de Lluc, where you continue the ascent.

This stretch, known as 'Sa Llengonissa' is paved with stones and takes you to Sa Bretxa Vella, a marvellous lookout point with a view of the Tramuntana range and the Pla de Mallorca plain. Straight afterwards you come to the Guix houses that unfortunately have been replaced by modern buildings. After the dried-out spring by the same name you arrive at the Coll de sa Batalla and the Lluc road.

Once you walk across the Guix bridge and the petrol station area you find yourself in the housing development Urbanització des Guix. Here you leave the Camí Vell de Lluc, take a right and continue to the end of the street where a lane begins on the pavement to take you to the shelter via the public estate Son Amer.

When you are in the garden behind the building you can see the stone-paved path descending down to Lluc. Shortly afterwards you cross a forest path, surrounded by holm oaks, and see the Molí de Lluc mill on the other side of a small torrent.

Arriving at the Lluc road you will have to make your way across; on the other side of the road there is a pavement where you can safely walk along the road for a hundred metres or so, until you come to the Creu des Barracar with the Can S'Amitger houses on one side and the Plaça dels Peregrins square on the other. On that square is the Lluc Sanctuary, the final point of the itinerary.



(55)

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Rotes de Caimari



This is the name of the terraced slope that you can see west of the Lluc road. They formed part of communal land in the Selva municipal district, divided and sold between neighbours during the first half of the 19th century.

To make them suitable for farming the owners built more than 74 kilometres of terraced walls, walls separating the properties, access roads and shelters. The result was this spectacular scenery, declared patrimony of cultural interest in 2008.

2 Puig de n'Escuder



Stories tell us that there was once a fortress on top of this hill and that the last rebel muslims hid here after the island had been conquered.

Amet, a young Saracen shepherd who had converted to christianity and been baptised Lluc met one of them when he returned from the market in Inca. He fled best he could and hid inside a cave, but was discovered from above by the Saracens, who lowered one of their band members inside a large clay pot tied to a rope.

The pot broke when it hit the rocks and the person inside fell dead down into the shepherd's hiding place.

- Are you ok? came a call from above.
- You can come down, I'm fine! answered the young man, pretending to be the attacker.

One by one they lowered themselves down, all meeting the same fate as the first. They say that if you go looking you can still find the clay shards from the pots in front of the cave.

3 Filosa de la Mare de Déu

Next to the path you can see the large rock known as Cavall Bernat or Filosa de la Mare de Déu.

Legend has it that the Virgin Mary used to spin thread here, but whenever she heard anyone approaching she would hide in the nearby caves; one day, in haste, she left the spinning wheel – *filosa* – behind and when she came back it had turned into stone.



4 Camí Vell de Lluc

The importance of the Lluc Sanctuary began with the discovery of an image of the Virgin during the 13th century and turned this path into a road of pilgrimage travelled by thousands of pilgrims.

As can be expected and due to its importance in popular culture, the Sanctuary is the staging place for a number of stories, legends and miracles known all over the island.

The road was built at the end of the 19th century and only partly followed the old paths,



which means that it is still possible today to walk the old bridle path as well as the *camí nou*, new road, wider and despite its name from the beginning of the 18th century and much older than the present road.

56

5 Sa Bretxa Vella and el Salt de la Bella Dona



Sa Bretxa Vella is a narrow pass made by explosives when the 18th century road was built. Further down the present road follows the same line as the old road and this is the setting for the legend of the Salt de la Bella Dona.

According to this legend a demon tricked a collier and convinced him that his wife was unfaithful to him. The collier was furious at this betrayal so he threw her down the cliffs and continued to the sanctuary. Once he arrived at the church he fell to the ground, startled and trembling, as he saw his wife praying in front of the altar. The Virgin Mary had saved her from a terrible death.

6 Coll de sa Batalla



In the beginning of the 17th century the upper class on the island was divided into groups who fought between themselves and protected bandits who committed crimes and acts of villainy as per their instructions.

Some of those bandits were hiding in these mountains. The gang was from Selva and their leader was the priest Mateu Ferragut, also known as Boda. Around the year 1618 they had a massive run in with the law at the place that since then has been known as Coll de sa Batalla (Battle Coll). The bandits were destroyed, fourteen of them were executed, but the killings still continued, now motivated by vengeance, and the authorities were slow to respond.

7 Son Amer

This land, previously called Puig Ferrer, has been owned by the Mallorcan Regional Government since 1999. The main house of the estate is located on top of a hill, 548 metres high, and has an excellent panoramic view of the Lluc valley. It has been converted into shelter where you can eat and spend the night.

On the property there are numerous remains of charcoal production. There are also a number of springs: the Puig Ferrer that used to power the Lluc mill; the Son Amer that powered the mill on the estate itself; and the S'Ermita spring by the building that used to be occupied by the Sant Antoni and Sant Pau hermits.



8 Lluc watermill

A clever construction that was originally intended to grind wheat using the Puig Ferrer water source. The Order of the Temple authorised its construction in 1302 and towards the end of the 17th century a sawmill was installed to provide beams and other elements needed to construct a basilica at the sanctuary. At the beginning of the 20th century a bandsaw was added together with a new flour mill with a vertical wheel, restored in 2011 and 2014.



(59)

9 Creu des Barracar



This cross is one of the seven steles representing the delights of Mary that accompanied the pilgrims on the climb up to Lluc. It is carved in calcareous stone in renaissance style and on the medallion, upheld by two angel faces, you can see a representation of the Ascension on one side with the Virgin Mary and the twelve apostles' faces; on the other side are six figures symbolising the Adoration of the Magi.

10 Creu de Ca s'Amitger



This is a reproduction of the original gothic cross, presently exhibited in the Lluc museum, where you can see the coats of arms of the king, the University and the soldier Gregori Sallambé as well as a representation of the Ascension and the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, surrounded by apostles.

11 Lluc Monastery

The Lluc Monastery is the most important sanctuary on the island and dates back to the discovery of an image of the Virgin during the 13th century.

The basilica was constructed during the 18th century by the sculptor Jaume Blaquer,



presenting architectonic elements from different epochs. Behind the main altar in the chapel is the central niche with the statue of the Virgin, visited by thousands of pilgrims every year.

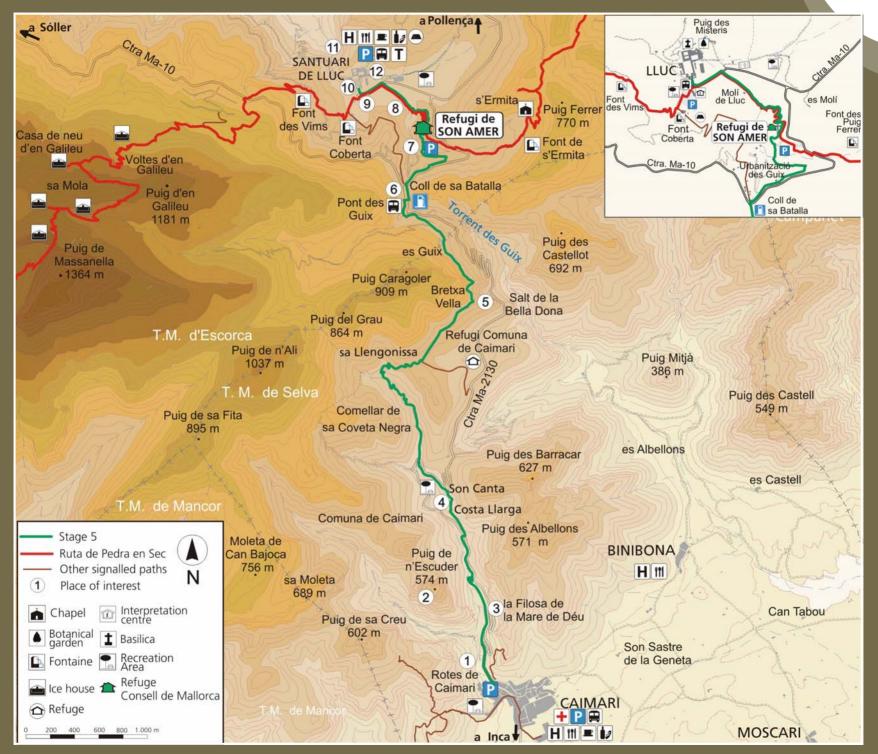
One of the main attractions is the Choir School, known as 'Es Blavets', which sings in honour of the Virgin and has done so since the 16th century. At Christmas one of them sings the Sibil·la, a medieval prophecy of the end of the world that has been declared part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

12 Es Porxets

These were originally designed as lodgings for pilgrims and their mounts, built at the beginning of the 13th century using donations made by devotees. The building takes up almost the entire western side of the Peregrines' Square. The front is a corridor resting on stone pillars where the structure repeats itself in sections; this is where animals would eat and sets of stairs led to the upper floor.



60



62) (63)

CAN PICAFORT



VARIANT CAN PICAFORT

MIDE.





DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE



This excursion departs from stage 3 towards Son Serra de Marina where the Joan Frontera Riera and Virgen de Guadalupe streets intersect: walk towards the waterfront instead.

Then walk parallel to the coast, direction northeast between the village and the sea, towards the Mollet de Son Serra. Once you leave the village behind you see a wooden barrier that stops vehicles from entering. The path that begins here takes you through a sandy area to S'Estany, a small wetland area shaped by the mouth of the Son Real torrent.

After walking through it, by the edge

of the sea, you pass a machine-gun bunker and continue until you reach Es Serralot, an expanse of fossilised dunes covered in junipers.

Still by the sea you come to the remains of the Barraca des Civils barracks with a hut on the right and further on you see the Llarge de Son Real point with the remains of another building and another machine-gun bunker.

You now enter a little juniper copse with the En Casat sandbeach in front. Walk past the beach, to the left of a fence that is there to protect the dune system. After this, to your right, is the Es Patró point and from here you continue through the Son Real pine woods. At the end of the woods there is a leading light tower, the remains of past naval manoeuvres. 75 metres from the coast you can see the Porros islet and to the left, further inland, there is another tower located on the Son Real public estate.



Further on you walk through Ses Pedreres where sandstone (*marès*) quarrying has left a chaotic labyrinth of holes, gravel hills and deep wheel tracks behind. After comes the Fenicis point with its necropolis, exceptional views over the bay and the sand at Ses Azutzenes, full of sea daffodils that scientists know by the name *Pancratium maritimum*.

The final stretch takes you to the Son Bauló beach, behind which lies the housing development by the same name, the start of the village Can Picafort.



(67)



POINTS OF INTEREST

1 S'Estany

A small wetland area located at the mouth of the torrent Son Real. A watercourse that during times of very intense rain actually manages to break through the sand barrier and open up into the sea, which makes it difficult to cross. Around it are many species of shrubs, noteworthy are the tamarisks with their copper-coloured bark, used in the past to prepare hides; the so-called 'chastity trees' because of their capacity to calm sexual appetites; and reeds with long, thin stalks, of a smaller dimension than the better-known canes.



2 Machine-gun bunkers



Military defence buildings that were built in stone and cement along most of the bay during the Second Spanish Republic (1931-1939).

3 Juniper woods

Along the entire detour, behind the semi-mobile sand and parallel to the coast you will se an extensive pine wood with many junipers. Sometimes the wind has uprooted them and they have fallen over, or their roots are uncovered by the negative effect of people walking off the indicated paths. They stand in the company of strawberry trees, buckthorn, wild olives and myrtles, forming a near-impenetrable *garrigue*, habitat for many species and of great ecological importance.



4 Illot des Porros

The Porros islet is located some hundred metres from the coast and features the remains of a necropolis, harshly treated by storms, that was used from the 4th century BC up until Roman times.





Black Death on Mallorca was buried here in 1348. This outraged the inhabitants of Santa Margalida to such an extent that they managed to have the corpse exhumed and buried elsewhere. This decision helped spread the disease and in the end caused the death of half the people in the village and a third of the island's inhabitants. This was the beginning of a long time of hardships for the people of Mallorca.

68)



5 Son Real

This was one of the largest properties in the area and in 2002 the Balearic Government purchased 395 hectares for public use. It contains several archeological findings and among the houses are a chapel and outbuildings used for farming and livestock. Some of them have been converted into an interpretation centre.



b Son Real refuge

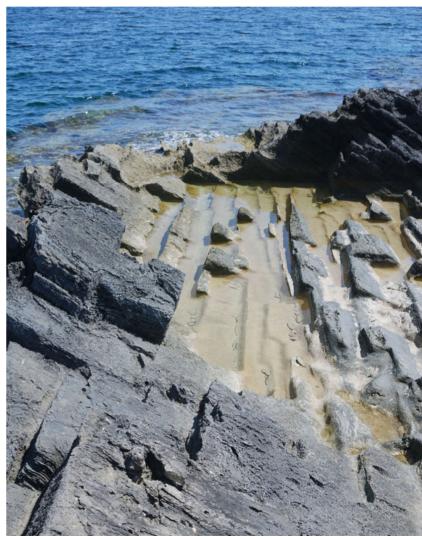


The Son Real refuge, located very near your route, is small and located in the previous estate owners' recreational home.

Ses Pedreres

Marès or sandstone is a soft stone created by sedimentation of dunes. It is easy to cut and has often been used when building houses, enclosures and other constructions.

On both sides of the path you can see the remains of its exploitation, with holes and cracks from quarrying with visible sedimentation layers. Stones that could not be used were left behind and a repetitive pass of wagons made deep wheel tracks on the roads.



70 (71



8 Punta des Fenicis

This monumental necropolis was used from the Iron Age up until Roman times. More than a hundred graves are preserved, covered with slabs. The oldest ones have a square or round floor while those from the 5th century BC are shaped as horseshoes, possibly a shape reflecting the main buildings of the *Talayot* period, when they were used to bury members of the higher, or aristocratic classes.

9 Can Picafort

This village is located on the lands of the estates Son Bauló and Santa Eulària. The origin of the village was two barracks that stood there at the end of the 19th century. One of them was owned by Jeroni Fuster, known as Picafort, and the name is now used for the entire area.

The development process started in 1908 when plots were sold to influential members of the area who had summer residences built there, one-storey houses, some of them still standing. This continued until today's village was consolidated, with more than 7,000 inhabitants and a fair few hotels.



The Necropolis of Son Real

72



74)

Montpelier cistus



Mauritanica grass



Рорру



Sawfly orchid



Balearic sarsaparille

Further information GR 222

Refuges

Other accomodation

How to go there

Recommendations

FURTHER INFORMATION



Refuges

Son Amer refuge

Management: Consell de Mallorca

Beds: 52; 6 dormitories (24-bed room, 8-bed room, two 6-bed room

& two 4-bed room)

Facilities: food service, toilets, showers, electricity, hot water, heat-

ing, Wi-Fi, phone, chimney, sheet and towel rental

Adapted access

Bookings can be made at the website:

www.conselldemallorca.net/mediambient/pedra

or by telephone at the Refuge Information Service:

(+34) 971 17 37 00

Comuna de Caimari refuge

Management: Municipality of Selva

Beds: 8

Facilities: bathrooms, fireplace, electricity and water

Non-adapted access

Information and booking: (+34) 971 515 006 / refugi@ajselva.net

S'Arenalet d'Albarca refuge

Management: the Balearic Government

Beds: sleeps 22 people; 3 double rooms and 4 rooms with 4 beds

(bookings are taken per room)

Facilities: bathrooms, equipped kitchen, hot water, fireplace, sheet

and towel rental, transport of food and water

Non-adapted access

Information and booking: (+34) 971 177 652 / refugis@ibanat.caib.es

Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 2 pm

Es Oguers refuge

Management: Govern Balear

Beds: sleeps 10 people; 2 double rooms and 2 triple rooms (the

whole shelter must be booked)

Facilities: bathrooms, equipped kitchen, hot water, fireplace, nondrinkable water, sheet and towel rental, transport of food and water

Non-adapted access

Information and booking: (+34) 971 177 652 / refugis@ibanat.caib.es

Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 2 pm

Son Real refuge

Management: Govern Balear

Beds: 8

Facilities: bathrooms adapted to people with reduced mobility, kitchen, fireplace, shower, non-drinkable water, sheet and towel

rental, transport of food and water

Adapted access

Information and booking: (+34) 971 177 652 / refugis@ibanat.caib.es

Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 2 pm

Hort de Son Serra

Management: Fundació Maria Ferret. Scouting and guiding on Mal-

lorca

Beds: 45 bunks and 60 tent spots on the campsite

Facilities: kitchen, dining room, bathrooms and showers

Information and booking: (+34) 971 725 168 /

ww.fundaciomariaferret.org/



Other accomodation

Mallorca Hotel Guide. Official website of the Mallorca Hotel Business Federation for on-line reservations:

www.mallorcahotelguide.com

Search for agrotourism establishments in the Balearics. Associació Agroturisme Balear:

www.topfincas.com/es/

How to go there

By bus:

Public Transport of Mallorca: www.tib.org

Recommendations

Wear appropriate footwear and clothing

Bear in mind that in summer, the temperatures can be very high. Avoid walking at midday. Take with you and drink large amounts of water to keep you from getting dehydrated.

Do not light fires.

Do not leave litter behind.

Respect your surroundings and leave everything just as you found it.

Keep to the signposted paths.

If you are walking alone, take a mobile phone with you.

Leave gates just as you found them.

All dogs must be kept on a lead.

If you are riding a bicycle or horse, respect hikers and do not ride at speeds that might put other users in danger.

Do not build cairns of stones

Take care when swimming; on beaches without lifeguards there may be dangerous currents.

In torrential rain avoid walking near the Ses Voltetes torrent (stage 1) or road tunnels along the route

If you notice that a signpost is missing or that there are any other defects, please inform the Trail Management at pedraensecsenderisme@conselldemallorca.net or on telephone no. 971 173 700.

Phone 112 in the case of emergency