



Lucmajor

Walking Tours

Mallorca

08



Recommendations

- Only undertake those excursions for which you are physically capable.
- Always let someone know where you are planning to walk, for example: hotel concierge, friends or family.
- It is not recommendable to walk alone.
- Make sure of the meteorological conditions, adverse weather can become a risk factor.
- Wear the correct clothing, and adequate footwear. Always take warm clothing, and a waterproof.
- Take plenty of water, dehydration can cause headaches. And sufficient food provisions. Sometimes a route can take longer than you think.
- A small first-aid kit is useful.
- Do not wander off the paths or routes; you may be trespassing private lands.
- Extra caution on hunting days, where routes may cross shooting grounds. (Information in any tourist office).
- Do not light fires.
- Respect the environment, without leaving a trace of your passing through. Leave gates as you found them, and do not leave any rubbish.
- Do not frighten the animals (example: sheep, goats, etc.), they may run away into danger
- Do not pick the flowers; they are pretty seen along the way.
- And above all, do not do anything dangerous! like trying to get from one walk to another across unknown ground.

Walk N° 1

Llucmajor – Camí de Binificat – Font des Pèlec (Fountain) – Llucmajor

Walking time	2 h (2 h 15 min back to starting point)
Distance	8,5 km
Grade	Easy



Short version:

Llucmajor – Camí de Binificat – Camí des Pontarró – Camí de Son Ponç – Llucmajor.

Walking time	1 h 45 min
Distance	7 km

This beautiful circular route traverses quiet country lanes between the low wooded hills of Llucmajor's surrounding countryside; through bucolic scenes of farmlands and orchards, unchanged since the centuries save for some renovated houses and several newer and rather splendid dwellings of latter years.

The walk begins by the town's Institute or school (where we can park a car), and leaves Llucmajor along the Camí de Gràcia, a wide tarmac lane signposted to "Agroturisme Son Sampol", bordered by almond orchards and open fields. Soon we pass an old stone cross monument on the corner of the Camí de Sa Creu de ses Dones on the left, and keeping straight ahead, we pass another lane, the Camí des Coix Carro, signposted to Algaida, also on the left. Some 200m further along (12 min) we keep to the right at the fork, along the Camí de Binificat,

a narrower country lane running between open fields, and bordered by blackberry hedges, convolvulus, thistles, wild fennel, and carob trees, among others. There is also a good view over left towards the mountain of Randa. Pass the Camí de Son Sampol at 20 min on the right, and now we keep ahead between sweet smelling honeysuckle and wild asparagus. We pass another turn-off to "Villa Sampol" at 28min. keeping to the main route. The mountain of Randa now seems a little closer on the left.

At 45 min we pass an un-named lane, and almost immediately a second lane called Camí des Pontarró both on the left. The short version goes left up the first un-named lane to come up onto the Camí de Son Ponç, and left again to return to Llucmajor. The main route however, continues ahead, passing one or two elegant entrances, and shortly after (50 min) turns



right, opposite a gate on the left, down a rough tarmac lane that appears to end at a gate with a tall palm tree. Walking down here towards the low wooded hills, we will soon discover that the narrow lane bears sharp right just before the gate, and continues back towards Llucmajor. We pass one or two dilapidated windmills, some old farmhouses, to keep ahead along the main track ignoring any offshoots.

At 1 h 10 min we come to the Font des Pèlec or Pèlec's Fountain, an ideal picnic spot by a small stream, with plenty of shade under the trees, where a freshwater spring flows all year round. It is thought that in prehistoric times this was a great swamp area with lagoons and many fountains, with names that from those times such as 'Pontarró'.

To continue, we keep ahead towards Llucmajor through more open fields, with the Randa

Mountain now on the right. At 1 h 20 min, just where the lane begins a gentle descent, there is a good view of the Puig de Ses Bruixes, or Witches' Mountain, and the Galdent Sierra, beyond to the right – scenes of other walks in this book

Keeping to the main route, the lane widens and soon comes to an end at the road from Llucmajor to Porreres – the Ma-5020 – where, a turn right will bring us back into Llucmajor just by the roundabout to Campos, by the windmill restaurant, at 1 h 55 min. To return to starting point (if we left our car at the school), we go immediately right from the roundabout, along the Avinguda de Ramon de Sant Martí, and follow the sign to Algaida straight ahead, soon veering left to come back to our starting point at 2 h 15 min.

Walk N° 2

Llucmajor – Camí de Gràcia – Camí Vell de Gràcia – Santuari de Gràcia (Sanctuary) – Llucmajor.

Walking time	2 h 20 min
Distance	4,6 km
Grade	Easy, but with an outward ascent of some 200 m in total.



An idyllic walk this, up through the woods towards the Sanctuary, thus affording shade on a hot day, with some of the best panoramic views to be had – extensive vistas down over Llucmajor and its surrounding countryside, the Levant Plain, across the enormous bay of Palma, the south coast stretching from the southernmost point towards Palma, and on clear days, the magical Isle of Cabrera floating on a blue horizon. A magnificent reward for relatively little effort!

This walk begins as for Walk 1, from the school, and follows the Camí de Gràcia for some 20 min. before turning up left along the narrower lane called Camí Vell de Gràcia (the Ancient Route to Gràcia), heading straight up towards the mountains of Randa. The route begins a gentle ascent, between various dwellings and homesteads, and almond fields; however, we should be prepared for a cacophony of barking dogs to accompany us along this stretch, which would otherwise be a peaceful country lane. Fortunately, this soon comes to a stop, as the way soon leaves the houses behind, dipping gently at 35min., snaking its way towards the hills. Soon we pass the Camí des Putxets on the left, and shortly after, a large signpost with information for walkers indicates the start of

the ascent up to the monastery, with a further ascent of 150 m, up the Camí de Ses Voltes, or “Zig Zag Lane”.

Now on a fairly shaded route, the way begins to wind up through tall pines, with ever increasing panoramic views opening up on each bend, the higher it gets, the more spectacular the views, over Palma Bay, the Plain, the coastline, and Cabrera Island. Also visible are the hills near Felanitx with the Sant Salvador Sanctuary and the Santuari Castle standing out distinctly on the Levant Plain.

At 1 h 10 min, we pass a small grotto on the left, and another few minutes will bring you up to the wide entrance to the Santuari de Gràcia, (1 h 15 min) sheltered under an impressive rocky overhang, where the track levels out, and where we can enjoy a picnic whilst admiring the magnificent panoramas to be had from this viewpoint of over 350 m above sea level.

To return, we retrace our steps back down the hill, and turn right at the bottom to return along the same Camí de Gràcia back into Llucmajor coming back to starting point after 2 h 20 min.



Walk N° 3

Llucmajor – Camí de Son Mendívil – Camí Vell d'Algaida – Camí de Ses Pedreres – Galdent Restaurant – Camí de Galdent – Llucmajor.

Walking time	1 h 45 min
Distance	6,7 km
Grade	Easy gentle ascent



Short version:

Llucmajor – Camí de Son Mendívil – Caminal de Galdent – Llucmajor.

Walking time	1 h 15 min
Distance	6,1 km

Another lovely country walk leaves Llucmajor in a northerly direction towards the rocky hills of the Serra de Galdent, passing by the unique restaurant of Galdent set inside a huge natural cave, before circling back to town. This walk also boasts far-reaching views down over Llucmajor and the coastline.

We begin the walk from the Plaça de Fra Jeroni Boscana (on the ring road from Algaida) where a windmill without asps sits in the centre of the roundabout. Facing north, we go left, along the Camí de Son Mendívil, signposted to the "Restaurante Galdent", and continue out of town towards the low hills along a wide country lane, bordered by blackberry bushes and wild fennel – there may be a fair amount of traffic

at this stage. Soon out of town, the panorama widens, and open fields of almond trees and carobs border the way, with outlying chalets and plots of land with the occasional vineyard.

We pass one or two offshoots, the Camí del Comellar at 20 min and soon after the Camí de Son Conill, both on the left. Keeping to the main route, straight ahead, we soon come to the Caminal de Galdent (30 min), where the short version turns right to follow a narrow earthy track, passing by some old abandoned farmhouses and an old well, coming out just above the cemetery to go right again onto the Camí de Galdent and back into Llucmajor. The main route however, continues straight ahead for some 100 m more, and veers right to follow



the Camí Vell d'Algaida (the Old Road to Algaida, also signposted to "Restaurante Galdent".

This starts to ascend gently, and there is now much less traffic. At 40 min, turn right again, to come onto the Camí de Ses Pedreres, a narrower lane rising gently towards the hills of the Serra de Galdent, now much closer. Still passing several homesteads, we soon rise up high enough to appreciate the lovely panoramic views down right, over Llucmajor with its enormous church tower, and the coastline, and on clear days the Isle of Cabrera is plainly visible from here. At 1 h, we pass the entrance to the Galdent restaurant, where we might want to stop for a meal in unique surroundings inside the cave – the restaurant is cool and dark, inviting on a hot

day! – although now it is only open at weekends (at the time of writing).

To return, we continue past the restaurant and follow the lane as it now veers right, descending gently through the countryside. Keeping to the main route, ignoring all offshoots, we eventually draw nearer to Llucmajor. Later, we pass the Caminal de Galdent at 1 h 30 min where the short version rejoins the main route, and soon after we pass by the huge cemetery of Llucmajor. Walking now on a much wider lane, another few minutes will bring us back to starting point at the Plaça Fra Jeroni Boscana after 1 h 45 min and a round trip of 6,7 km.

Walk N° 4

Llucmajor – Camí de Gràcia – Camí de Son Ponç – Camí Vell de Montuïri

Walking time	2 h 30 min
Distance	9,6 km
Grade	Easy gentle ups and downs.



Alternative short walk:

Llucmajor – camí de Gràcia – camí de s'Aresta – Can Pancuit – Llucmajor

Walking time	2 h
Distance	7,5 km

NOTE: This is a one-way walk; we will need to arrange to be picked up at the end of the walk, at km. 5,9 marker on the Ma-5017 road (from Randa to Montuïri), unless we decide to return on foot, making this a walk of some 19 km in total.

Just a quiet country walk, in one direction, between low hills, farmlands, open fields and with quite a bit of shade on the latter half. Along here, peace and tranquility are guaranteed, and woodlands combine with open stretches and far-reaching views making this, in short, a very pleasant walk for almost any time of the year.

The walk begins at the same starting point as for Walks 1 and 2, along the Camí de Gràcia,

and keeps left at the fork (12 min). Pass the Camí Vell de Gràcia on the left at 20 min (Walk n° 2), and the Agroturisme (Rural Hotel) of Son Sampoli at 30 min. We keep ahead on the main route, watching out for the occasional vehicle, and at 35 min the Camí de S'Aresta goes off left towards a recreational and picnic area. Our main walk continues ahead, among fewer houses and chalets, and the way becomes more tranquil, with rolling countryside off to the right and the mountain of Randa on the left.

At 55 min we pass the top end of the Camí des Pontarró on the right (short version of Walk n° 1), and continue ahead, through quiet countryside, rounding the end of the Randa Mountain, now much closer. The way begins to undulate



through peaceful bucolic scenes, with gentle ascents and descents, passing by the odd farm, with sheep and pigs grazing and grunting in the fields, and if we turn to look back from time to time we will enjoy the far-reaching views back towards Llucmajor and the pine-covered hills. At 1 h 10 min pass the Camí de Son Ponç on the right; here we can see some lovely pinewoods over left below the mountain of Randa. The way winds on, up and down between the hills, and becomes more shaded as we enter the woods, now beyond the end of the mountain.

At 1 h 35 min the tarmac ends, and the route continues along a stony earth track between various farms and dispersed homesteads. Soon we can see the distant mountains of the Serra de Tramuntana range, distinguishing its three highest peaks – the Puig Major, the Puig de

Massanella and the Puig Tomir. Having now come right round the end of the Randa Mountain and beyond, the way levels out, passing open fields, then begins a gentle descent towards the central Plain and the village of Montuïri. At 1 h 45 min the track veers left and then right, and a few minutes later we pass the turn-off to Son Sastre on the right, just where the main route bends slightly to the left to then continue ahead, gently uphill again.

Another sharp bend to the left at 1 h 55 min will bring us to a panoramic view down over the village of Montuïri, after which the way begins its gentle descent, the Randa Mountain now well behind. All of this area is known as an ANEI (Area Natural de Especial Interés) or Natural Area of Special Interest.

At 2 h we keep ahead at a crossroads of tracks, having come out of the wooded area and now walking through open countryside once again. We pass by one or two elegant residences, and later an old abandoned farm on the left, winding down this last bit of track to come onto the road between Randa and Montuïri – the Ma-5017 – by the 5,9 km marker, after 9,4 km of walking. Hopefully, our transport will be waiting to pick us up, unless we enjoyed ourselves so much that we have decided to return on foot!

Walk N°. 5

Llucmajor – Puig de Ses Bruixes (Witches' Mountain) - Llucmajor

Walking time	2 h 15 min
Distance	7,1 km
Grade	Easy, but with a steepish ascent. Summit not recommendable for those who suffer vertigo.



At the eastern end of the three peaked Serra de Galdent lies the Puig de Ses Bruixes, at a height of over 300 m above sea level. From its exposed summit, not only can we see Llucmajor and its surrounding countryside and coastline – scenes of all the walks in this book – but almost the entire island of Mallorca. Looking fiercely opposed to our intentions as we consider its jagged triangular peak from our starting point, this is a surprisingly easy, although steepish, ascent up the North Slope to its rocky summit.

The walk starts from Llucmajor's cemetery where there is ample parking, and we head off north, directly towards the Serra de Galdent, along the Camí de Galdent (return route of Walk 3). Keeping ahead, we pass the Camí de Buniferri on our right. Further on, we turn right

(12 min), to follow the Camí de Ferrutxelles, a quiet country lane, pretty in spring, with the odd dwelling hidden away behind the hedges and an occasional barking dog alerted by our presence. Soon we come to the end of the tarmac to cross the Camí des Puig, (our return route comes from the left here), and we continue along the Camí de Ferrutxelles, now a stony track.

Walking along here, we have a really good view of our destination, the Puig de Ses Bruixes (or The Witches' Mountain), and we can appreciate its unusual shape. From this point it looks nigh on impossible to climb, yet as we round the base of the mountain, its features seem to soften. At 25 min we go to the right (the left turn here leads to some houses at the foot of the mountain). Still on the Camí de Ferrutxelles,



we descend gently to soon join onto the Camí de Son Saleta, a wide earthy track, where we turn left.

Interestingly, there is an ancient water channel running along on the right hand side of the track. In olden days this used to carry water from the Randa Mountains to Llucmajor, distributing water to every household. Its sides were obviously built up later on, but now it is in disuse. The Puig de Ses Bruixes is now much closer, and its shape is continually changing, now much less intimidating. The sandy track veers

left (opposite a closed-off track) and heads towards the pine trees at the base of the long northern slope of the mountain. Soon we have a view of the Randa Mountain on our right.

At 40min. a rough path slopes up left. This is not very obvious, but it does join on to our ascending path higher up. You can take this route, if you see it, but it is clearer to continue along the main track for another few minutes, where we will see the more obvious start

of the ascending route on the left, opposite a large open water deposit. We turn up left here to follow the trail, wide at first but soon narrowing as it begins to climb the slope. We are among tree heather, cistus bushes, pampas grass and pine trees. Shortly, the path veers up sharp right (it is here where the other path joins on), you might see some thoughtfully placed stone arrows on the ground at this point. The path becomes narrow and steep, and we already have some wonderful views opening up all around, especially towards the hills of Randa.

After going through a gap in an old stone wall, the path veers sharp left, by a cairn. We are already at an altitude of over 200m. Following the narrow twisting path, we climb steeply, guided by the cairns, through thick pampas grass, cistus and the odd wild olive.

On coming up to a rocky escarpment the trail veers left to follow around it, and then we cross a levelish rocky area, here the route is not so well waymarked with just a sporadic cairn or two. We soon arrive at a large cairn in front of a rock wall – it is from this point that we begin our descent on return from the summit. But first we must climb the rocky slope (this last section is not recommendable for those who suffer from vertigo) to follow a rocky route, negotiating some high boulders, although not technically difficult as there is still a 'path' of sorts among the big rocks, to come up onto the summit of the Witches' Mountain at 359 m above sea level (1 h 25 min).

What a wonderful panorama awaits us! There are views on all sides! All of Lluçmajor below us, its countryside and coastline, with the Isle of Cabrera on a distant horizon, the wide Bay of Palma, and the sprawling white City of Palma. To the east we can see the mountains of Felanitx, and the Randa Mountains. To the north, almost

the entire range of the Serra de Tramuntana is visible from here, stretching up to the Formentor peninsula, and the wide bay of Alcúdia, even the Artá Mountains (depending on the weather conditions of course). We need to spend some time up here to take it all in!

Legend has it that this mountain was guarded by some witches that lived in a cave nearby. When the mule drawn carts used to take the route around the base of the mountain, the witches used to mount the mules making it difficult for them to continue, unseen by the mule drivers. The local inhabitants made this known to the king, Jaume I, who went personally to the mountain in a mule drawn cart accompanied by an altar boy. The king managed to get his cart right up the hill, where he planted a huge cross. Meanwhile, the altar boy, petrified with fright, jumped off the cart at the bottom and hid on a low hill opposite. That is why the low hill below the Puig de Ses Bruixes is called Puig de s'Escolà, or Altar Boy Hill., and this mountain was named the Puig de Ses Bruixes (Witches Mountain). After the brave action of the king, the witches appeared no more.

Our descent begins by climbing back down the boulders to the large cairn at the base of the rocky slope, some five minutes below the

summit. Looking carefully, we can see a small red three way arrow painted on the rock here near the cairn. From this point, we turn sharp left, just below the rock wall, to follow a narrow path. This descends quite steeply down through the trees, there are some loose sections of gravel, but it is an easy descent. In just ten minutes we will come down onto a tarmac lane, where we turn left.

At the bottom of the lane, we go left again onto the Camí des Puig, and walk along here until we come to the intersection where we crossed to follow the Camí de Ferrutxelles on our outward route. So now, turning right, we retrace our steps along the Camí de Ferrutxelles, coming back shortly to the Camí de Galdent. A left turn will bring us back to the cemetery and the car park after a round trip of 6,9 km at 2 h 15 min.



Walk N° 6

S'Estelella – Es Racó de S'Arena (S'Estanyol) – Vallgornera (Cala Pi) – S'Estelella

Walking time	2 h
Distance	8,8 km
Grade	Easy coastal walking, rocky in parts.



Short version:

Es Racó de S'Arena – Torre de S'Estelella – Es Racó de S'Arena

Walking time	1 h
Distance	4,6 km

Let's go south now, and discover Lluçmajor's beautiful coastline with its seaside resorts, attractive bays and inlets, and miles of unspoiled virgin cliffs. Leaving Lluçmajor by the Ma-6015 (signposted S'Estanyol) we turn right at the seafront where there is ample parking by the marine.

The walk starts here, near the pretty bay of Es Racó de S'Arena (Sandy Corner Bay). We continue past the boatyards until the tarmac finishes and follow the wide sandy track towards this delightful hidden treasure of a beach – mostly unknown to tourists – where we will see an information board, and continue along to the beach itself. In summer, this is an idyllic spot, a wide sandy bay mostly devoid of madding crowds; in winter however, it presents a completely different picture; due to its exposure high seas can devour the beach leaving piles of washed up seaweed, and we may even have to wade across to the other side to continue the walk.

Coming to the opposite side we can see many paths up the low sandy slopes. It is probably best to take the narrow sandy paths that follow the contours above the beach, dipping and rising up towards the trees. We come up to a wide sandy track, passing one or two signs to 'Faro' (Lighthouse), keeping ahead where the track divides at first, and left later, between two small houses, we soon come to the lighthouse (15 min) perched on the rocks. Here we can enjoy some superb views; the Isle of Cabrera directly ahead balances on a blue horizon, and to the left a wide panorama sweeps around the bay of S'Estanyol with its row of seafront chalets, the marina, the port and the distant beaches of Colònia de Sant Jordi. To the right, a wild stretch of virgin coastline rises towards the higher cliffs of Cala Pi, today's destination.

We follow the track, or along the rocks, to come onto the wild headland, where scrubs and low twisted pines lean inland, sculptured by the constant sea winds. We can already see the watchtower of S'Estelella ahead in the



distance. The route follows this immensely beautiful stretch of coast, away from all signs of civilization, contouring around the many little bays and inlets. If it's summer, we might like to take a dip in one of them – if it's winter we can contemplate the high waves rolling in fast and foaming over the rocks – quite spectacular!

At 25 min after passing a house hidden back in the scrubs, we go through a gap in an old stone wall and continue along, eventually coming to the Watchtower of S'Estelella (30 min). This watchtower was originally built in 1577 by the constructor Simó Carrió, and it is situated on what is known as the 'Serral des Corral' at 6 metres above sea level. Initially it had a main chamber encircled by masonry and a terrace. It also had a parapet with slit windows for shooting, which were later closed off and the parapet modified by building a circular platform with protection for the marksmen. The top part of the tower is cylindrical while the bottom part is conical, with a diameter of 7,64 metres at its base, and 6,65 metres around the top terrace,

and it is 9,2 metres high. The watchtower was restored by the Lluçmajor Town Council in 1984.

To continue, we leave the watchtower to walk along the wide open track, to follow the route as it encircles the various inlets, gradually rising to a higher level. Some beautiful views capture our attention along here, the abrupt cliffs are riddled with caves and sculptured rocks due to the constant action of the sea and the relentless assault of the waves upon the sandstone.

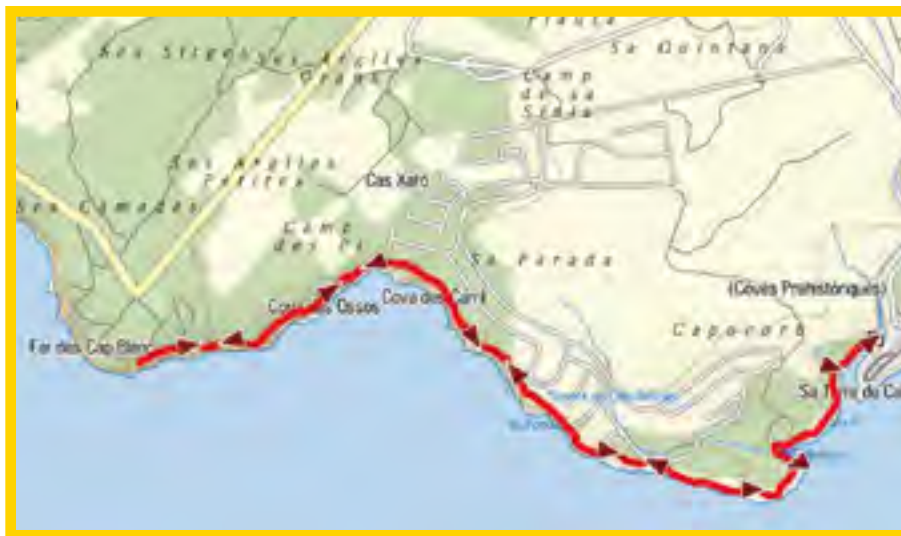
At 50 min we go through a gap in another stone wall to follow along the cliff tops, soon arriving at some padlocked gates (1 h) where the Vallgornera residential estate begins. There are some rough stone steps over the wall to the left of the gate for any who wish to continue, although it is still a fair way to Cala Pi's bay.

We retrace our steps now, enjoying the coastal views, always different on the return trip, to arrive back in Sandy Corner Bay, coming back to S'Estanyol after 2 h.

Walk N° 7

Cala Pi – Cap Blanc – Cala Pi

Walking time	4 h
Distance	10,9 km
Grade	Easy, with an initial short ascent up the cliff.



Another excellent coastal walk in Lluçmajor allows us to focus on the flora and fauna; seagulls and cormorants, thrushes, rock lizards, perhaps herons and other migratory birds in spring or autumn, and kingfishers... all have been spotted in Cala Pi Creek, as well as many interesting varieties of plant life, including wild thyme and rosemary scrubs, wild olive and the occasional tamarind tree.

The walk begins at the steps down to the wide creek at Cala Pi. Descend to the beach and cross over (after a storm this beach can also be washed away and we might have to cross on planks), and walk alongside the boathouses. Some fifty metres before the end, we turn up right behind the last fisherman's house, coming up onto its flat roof to find some rough steps that climb the cliff. Once at the top, we should leave a marker of some sort, as this point is easily missed on the way back, then we turn left to follow the

Short version:

Cala Pi – Cala Beltran – Cala Pi

Walking time	1 h
Distance	1,9 km
Grade	Easy, with a short ascent up the cliff.



cliff path. Soon it descends a little gully, then rises again before going through a gap in an old stone wall. Do stop and turn around just beyond the wall for the best view of the beautiful Cala Pi creek, although recent overdevelopment has somewhat ruined its charm. We walk on, past scented shrubs, and soon we will have a good

view across the creek to the Cala Pi watchtower on the opposite cliff top.

Because Cala Pi is a narrow inlet between high cliffs, thus making it of difficult access, this tower was the last watchtower to be built in Lluçmajor. The tower was finished in 1663 by

the master builder Joan Pons, and it is situated at 19,5 metres above sea level. Its conical base measures 9,95 metres in diameter, and its top terrace has a diameter of 8 metres. The tower is 10,20 metres high. Access was by rope ladder, and the entrance was built of sandstone, not very common in watchtower construction. Today some of that entrance is missing. The watchtower was restored by the owners, with the help of the architect Antoni Alomar, in 1970.

At 20 min we keep left just before a group of shady pines, and meet a wide track that rounds the cove of Cala Beltran; end the short walk here, exploring the many crisscross paths around the edge of the wild and pretty creek. Legend has it that the infamous pirate Red Beard used to disembark in this hidden cove to carry out his pillaging. The water in the tiny cove is usually clear and inviting in summer, but do not attempt to swim when there is a heavy swell, the force of

the waves coming in between the narrow rock walls is tremendous.

To continue the main walk, we round the cove of Cala Beltran on the wide track through the trees (there is a short cut marked by a cairn which dips down and up the opposite side), coming out onto the open cliffs on Capocorb Point (30 min). We now go to the right to follow the rocky cliffs between rock pools, just making our way along the different levels, enjoying the sea breeze, the magnificent coastal views, and watching the cormorants dive for fish. On a clear day, the Isle of Cabrera is very magical on the deep blue horizon.

When we arrive at the point where two lonely tamarind trees stand by some rock pools, we should climb onto a higher level to continue along the high cliff tops. Soon we should find the easily followed path that rounds the bay of

Cala Carril. The route goes through gaps in one or two dry stone walls, and eventually we will reach the boundary fence of Cap Blanc, once a military zone, in 2 h. Here there is a notice with the following text: "Zona Militar. Stop", although this artillery division has long since been dismantled, allowing us to go on and visit the watchtower of Cap Blanc (the White Cape). This watchtower has an impressive dominion over the south coast and the Cabrera archipelago. It was built by Antoni Genovard, a stone mason from the mediaeval town of Sineu, in 1579. Like all watchtowers, this was constructed without foundations upon a thick solid conical base, then in cylindrical form. It is 10 metres high and 4,13 metres wide at the highest point. Access was by rope ladder, now it is by an iron ladder, and inside there was a cupboard and a fireplace. The terrace was originally circular, and used to be covered over. This watchtower was restored some fifty years ago.

Further on stands the Cap Blanc lighthouse (restricted area). The word 'Faro' in Spanish (lighthouse in English) comes from the name of the Egyptian isle of Pharos near Alexandria in the Mediterranean sea, where the Egyptians built an enormous tower with fire on its highest point to warn and guide the ships coming in to the Port of Alexandria, as this could be seen from a great distance. Since then, all lighthouses are named 'Faro' in the Spanish language, as this their mission: to warn ships of danger.

All of the lighthouses in Mallorca, except for the one at Porto Pi, were built during Isabel 2nd's reign, that is to say, during the second half of the 19th century, due to the government of the time's interest in maritime navigation, and the existing technical means available. The rotary system had already been known for over a century, but not so the optical system. Oil was

used and a powerful source of light was needed to provide sufficient intensity. It was thanks to a French scientist, Agustin Fresnel (1788-1827) who devised a system of lenses and mirrors that provided an intense but constant light. The Mallorcan lighthouse mechanisms were provided by French opticians.

The Cap Blanc lighthouse was built in 1863; it has a range of 15 nautical miles (28 km) and is 12 metres high.

Returning from Cap Blanc, we can enjoy different views on the return, among them the huge 'Cova dels Ossos' (the Cave of Bones), and many other smaller ones at the foot of these impressive cliffs. But taking care along the high cliff edge! We come back to Cala Pi after 4 h.

NOTE: The area we are in was one of the most important smuggling areas around the coast early on in the 20th century. Most of the products came from the ports of Marseille or Genova, or from the African coast. Tobacco was smuggled in more than anything else.

Smuggling had a very solid structure; from the nobility, who financed the operations, to the patrons who transported the goods, and the peasantry who hid the goods and distributed them. The smugglers were hidden among the population, thus ensuring a provision of goods at a very reasonable cost. The Carabineers were responsible for persecuting the smugglers up until 1939, although bribery was rife and the merchandise was landed and distributed anyway. In later years, other products such as sugar, flour, coffee and other foods were smuggled in to a starving post war population.



Flora

Asphodelus aestivus - Small fruited asphodell



Barlia robertiana - Giant orchid



Cistus albidus - Grey leaved cistus, rock rose



Cistus monspeliensis - Narrow leaved cistus



Calicotome espinosa - Thorny broom



Ceratonia siliqua - Carob tree, Saint John's bread



Merendera filifolia - Merendera



Erica arborea - Tree heather



Erica multiflora - Mediterranean heath



Euphorbia - Spurge



Olea europaea var. Silvestris - Oleaster



Papaver rhoeas - Poppy



Ficus carica - Fig tree



Limonium sp. - Sea lavender



Rosmarinus officinalis - Rosemary



Pinus halepensis - Aleppo pine tree



Pinus pinea - Umbrella pine tree



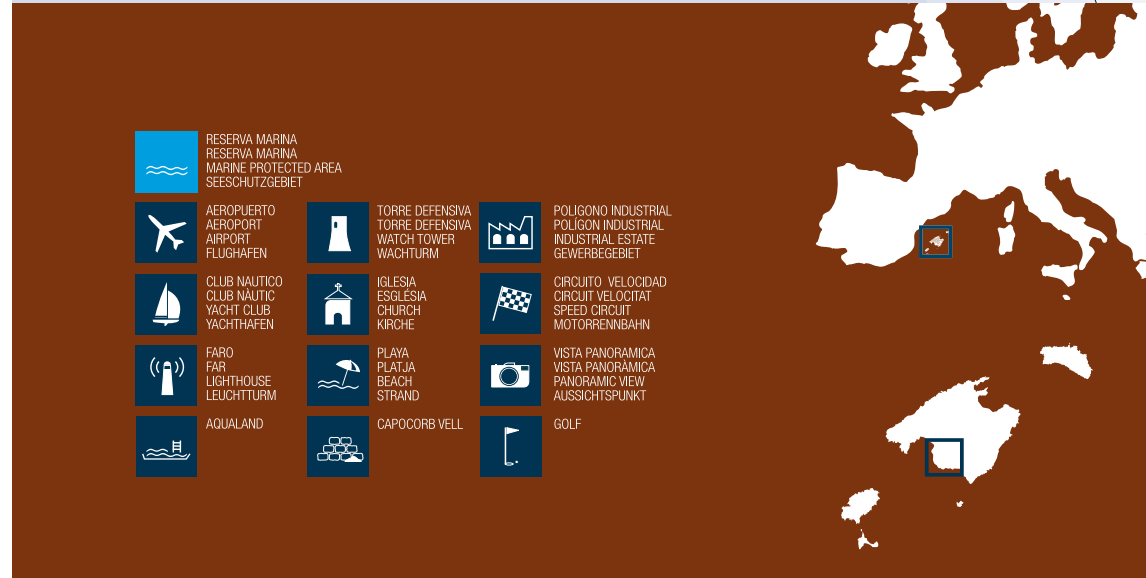
Pistacia lentiscus - Mastic tree, lentisc



Prunus dulcis - Almond tree



Punica granatum - Pomegranate



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