

# Magical Mallorca - La Serra de Tramuntana

14 days - 12 days hiking - 4 different accommodations

The western part of Mallorca is a surprisingly quiet and traditional landscape of beautiful villages, small bays, steep mountains and orchards. A surprisingly quiet and beautiful area, separated from the crowded beaches by a limestone mountain range, the Serra de Tramuntana.

The Serra de Tramuntana were recently declared a World Heritage Cultural Landscape by UNESCO.

Walks are from one picturesque village to another, along coastal cliffs, above idyllic beaches or right through the mountains, crossing vast private estates with orange, almond and olive trees.

La Ruta de Piedra Seca (Dry-stone Route) runs from Port d'Andratx in the south west of Mallorca, all the way to Pollenca in the north west, following ancient cobbled paths through the Tramuntana mountain range. The name "Piedra Seca" is due to the many constructions that are made of stone, without mortar.

Whilst walking the Dry-stone Route you'll discover the natural dry-stone landscapes of the Tramuntana



mountain range as well as man-made dry-stone features, such as walls, terracing, fountains, shelters, snow houses, etc. Additionally the route goes through many interesting historic remains. Hikers will be enchanted by the traces of myths and legends; experience the traditions, customs, gastronomy, craft work and skills of the region; and above all, see the diverse and dramatic landscapes from the coast, bays and cliff faces to the rugged, remote terrain of the high sierra.

**Dates:** April / May - October / November

**Grade:** Moderate with intermediate options

## **Fast facts trip highlights**

- An area that has truly been undiscovered and not touristy
- La Ruta de Piedra Seca
- Enjoy wonderful local cuisine and wine
- Lovely beaches
- 4 Charming accommodations in 13 nights



### **Day 1 - Arrival at Palma de Mallorca**

Meeting at the airport and transfer to Sant Elm, (45 mn) a sleepy fishing village in the far south west of the island at the beginning of the Serra de Tramuntana, the range we will explore during the trip. Briefing followed by a welcome dinner.

Night in Sant Elm.

### **Day 2 - Sa Trapa monastery**

Starting by foot from the village we'll have great views of the remains of the Sa Trapa monastery and breathtaking views of the coast and Dragonera island.

Night in Sant Elm.



### **Day 3 - Natural Park of sa Dragonera**

The island of Sa Dragonera is, geologically, the continuation of the Majorcan Serra de Tramuntana. The most common vegetation is wild olive trees and rosemary, which is very abundant. The island is a "Bird Protection Zone" and we should see puffin, cormorant, virot, common seagull and red seagull. And also peregrin falcon, the falcó marí, the kestrel and the little owl.

A 15 mn boat ride leads us to the Island.

Night in Sant Elm.

### **Day 4 - Walking and Wine Tasting - Andratx**

This is a stunning walk, which gives us a real flavour of Mallorca and includes high peaks, incredible rock formations, torrents, turquoise seas, deserted beaches, and a sophisticated little port to finish off with!

After a short transfer we are welcomed at the delightful Bodegas Santa Catarina where we enjoy a visit of the wine cellars and tasting of some delicious wines, and then a fabulous and relaxing picnic set up on tables among the vines with wonderful views over the valley. Altogether a very memorable day!

Night in Sant Elm.

### **Day 5 - Valdemossa - Puerto Soller**

Transfer to Puerto Soller where we'll stay for 4 nights.

A fantastic day out exploring a small corner of "old" rural Mallorca. We'll do a tour around the charming little farming museum of La Granja followed by a delightful walk. This walk takes us through ancient holm



oak woods, with fabulous views of the coast and beautifully kept terracing, and a fascinating insight into ancient Moorish agricultural techniques. We stroll around the cliff-side village of Banyalbufar before a mouth-watering lunch served by one of our favourite little restaurants. Then, we'll follow the scenic road along the coast until the picturesque village of Valldemossa. In this beautiful setting we'll walk through the village and visit the Carthusian Monastery where the Polish composer Frederick Chopin and the French writer George Sands lived in 1838.

Night in Puerto Soller

#### **Day 6 - Deia to La Muleta on the GR221**

This walk between Deia and the Port of Sóller is a delightful, gentle and relatively easy walk. The walk gives us a glimpse of some of the backyard activities of sleepy rural life in Mallorca, as we meander down lanes and tracks across beautiful farmland and is part of Stage 3 of the GR221 or Dry Stone Route.

Night in Puerto Soller

#### **Day 7 - Coastal hike from the Mirador de ses Barques to Cala Tuent**

This is an excellent, and stunning coastal walk. A delightful bonus to the walk is that we pass the fine old finca Balitx d'Avall (now a restaurant and hotel), tucked away in a valley lined by terracing with olive trees.



Here we can stop, enjoy a freshly squeezed orange juice (from the farm's own produce) and lap up the atmosphere of one of Mallorca's old rural enterprises. Then we'll continue to Cala Tuent and we'll have a short transfer to Sa Calobra and El Torrent del Pareis, from where we'll get a ferry back to Puerto Sóller, a fabulous way to end a beautiful day's hiking!

Night in Puerto Soller

#### **Day 8 - Cùber reservoir to Biniaraix**

This spectacular walk has fantastic views all the way, and can be tackled from either end! Downhill is pretty easy with the added benefit of being able to enjoy the views ahead all the way. Our starting point is the Cùber reservoir, which we walk alongside enjoying the open mountain scenery and following an easy track into the woods and along the paths of the Ofre estate. This is an excellent spot to see birds of prey - particularly the Black Vulture, which can often be seen circling overhead.

A detour to the summit of L'Ofre, offers spectacular 360° views from the top. We can see right over to the Bay of Palma, as well as the Bay of Alcudia and the east of the island. Continuing on our route down into



Sóller, we enter a stunning gorge, the Barranc de Biniaraix where we begin our spectacular and steep descent via an ancient cobbled pilgrim's path. We'll go back to Puerto Soller by the single track electric train which runs between Palma to Puerto Sóller.

Night in Puerto Soller

### **Day 9 - Castle Ruins and Panoramic Views**

A fabulous circular walk taking in one of the island's most historic sites, the ruined Castell d' Alaro. We start from the Plaza de la Vila in Alaro and walk gently up the S'Estret valley on easy track surface, before climbing steeply and steadily up and out of the head of the valley on a rocky path through the woods. We



arrive at a spectacular surprise view of the Vall d'Orient: the picturesque village of Orient and a fertile valley oasis surrounded by great mountain peaks. We'll walk to the ruins of Alaro Castle, with stunning views and lunch at the very rustic Es Verger "lamb restaurant ».

Night in Puerto Soller

### **Day 10 - Lluc Monastery**

This is one of the most rewarding stages of the GR221 with spectacular scenery and views. We start the walk from the Cubér reservoir. One of the many highlights of this fabulous walk is a series of ancient snow-pits (where snow was collected to make ice) that we pass along the way, showing us yet more of the island's rural history.

Lluc Monastery is a tranquil oasis high in the Tramuntana mountains, and has been the destination of pilgrimages for hundreds of years. If we get there before 5pm, we can even hear the choir boys' afternoon practice session. The boys' choir of Lluc (known as the "Blauets" or "Blue Boys" due to the colour of their cassocks) is one of the oldest of its type in Europe, having originated in 1531.

Night in Lluc monastery

### **Day 11 - Puig Tomir**

This peak reaches a height of 1,103 metres and is a steep ascent with precipices and cliffs. On this, one of the most emblematic excursions of the Tramuntana mountains, you will see the remains of ancient snow houses, vultures, falcons and magnificent views, all accompanied by the aroma of wild chamomile.

We'll take the minibus to get to Puerto Pollenza where we'll stay for 3 nights.

Night in Puerto Pollenza



### **Day 12 - A remote circuit on the Victoria Peninsular**

The Victoria Peninsular is a very lovely part of the island and so much less frequented by walkers than other parts. This is one of our favourite walks - it offers a very special combination of remoteness, bays with turquoise waters, breathtaking views of the Bays of Alcudia and Pollensa and the Formentor peninsular.... This is a very different experience to walking in the Tramuntana, and no less spectacular. Night in Puerto Pollensa

### **Day 13 - Boquer Valley, Formentor cap and Caves of Campanet**

Today we head up to Puerto Pollensa for a delightful, easy and classic walk through the Bóquer valley to Cala Bóquer, a pretty shingle beach, which is only accessible by foot. The valley is rich in bird life, so we may get to see black vulture, Eleonora's falcons, buzzards, peregrine falcons and kestrels. We'll take a picnic with us, which we'll have on the beach. We'll drive to the Formentor cap at the extreme North East point of Mallorca. On the way back to Palma we'll stop and take a tour of the impressive Caves of Campanet.



Night in Puerto Pollensa

### **Day 14 - departure**

Morning transfer to the airport, about 1 hour 1/2

- 4 nights in Sant Elm - <http://hostaldragonera.es/?lang=en>
- 5 nights in Puerto Soller - [http://www.hotelmariasoller.com/hotel\\_marina.php?id=1](http://www.hotelmariasoller.com/hotel_marina.php?id=1)
- 1 night in Lluc monastery - <http://www.lluc.net/eng/>
- 3 nights in Puerto Pollensa - <http://www.hoposa.es/English/Hotels/Hotel-Bahia-Puerto-Pollensa>