



# NATURAL ROUTES OF FERRERIES

itineraries and lookout points



**Govern  
de les Illes Balears**

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DE MENORCA**  
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## PROLOGUE



If you ask me to distinguish Ferreries from any other place, I would tell you that there are many things that make it truly special. In essence, it would be its people, but there are many other aspects that have given it a personality all its own. They include its natural heritage, an asset that the Town Hall felt was worth sharing, hence the guide I am now pleased to present to you. This is an action that fits in perfectly with the town's commitment to the environment, to the development of sustainable tourism and to environmental conservation.

Apart from the peace and quiet emanating from the streets of the old quarter of Ferreries, which just beckons you to walk through them, the geographic features of the township encourage you to wander beyond the village to discover the wild, rugged nature of the northern coast, sculpted by the Tramuntana wind, along the congeniality of the landscapes to the south, which are more touched by the hand of humans.

With this purpose in mind, the publication you are holding aims to guide you in the adventure of discovering the natural wealth of the town and to share with you the most noteworthy features of one of the best-preserved parts of Menorca, a landscape that is an example of sustainability where the millennia-old interaction between man and nature has given it a unique character.

Due to being laid out by experts, you will be able to get to know the routes as well the most representative aspects of the landscape – the geology, botany and historical and ethnological tourist attractions – along with its toponymic richness and even the legends it has inspired.

I thus encourage you to walk and venture through these routes, to peer carefully from the lookout points and to feel nature profoundly in order to get to know and value the richness of our landscape and to discover the magic of the many spots it offers us, step by step.

Manuel Moneris Barberá  
*Mayor of Ferreries*

## INTRODUCTION

Walking is the best way to get to know and discover a region. With each step you can observe details and features that are otherwise easy to ignore. It is even possible to capture the shift in seasons as the species and habitats reflect the passage of time and change and adapt to the environment around them. Even though the best way to discover a region might be to venture into hidden-away areas and get off the beaten path, it is also true that this is the best way to get a more comprehensive, realistic vision of it. Itineraries usually follow pre-established routes designed to showcase the most representative features of the region. But this representative function can become even more important when the itinerary follows an ancient or historical route. Then visitors are more likely to get to know the natural environment and the footprints left by man in that region. This is the ideal combination: man, nature and their interaction. It is ideal to learn both positive and negative lessons, but all lessons are good ones. These premises, the interaction between man and nature, become even more important in the Mediterranean region. Here, man, nature and landscape have coexisted hand in hand for centuries, even millennia. We can hardly disassociate the Mediterranean landscape from the human influence, so much so that many Mediterranean environments depend to a greater or lesser extent on human activity. The five itineraries collected in this brief guide bring together all of these arguments. The township of Ferreries is the one that boasts the best-conserved natural heritage on Menorca. The reasons are both historical and cultural, but especially social. Its fine state of conservation has to do not only with pristine environments and landscapes; instead, the hand of man is omnipresent at different levels of intensity in all the itineraries, ranging from contemporary constructions and structures to ones with the utmost historical and ethnological value. Other times this imprint is in the guise of a subtle organisation of the landscape. However, all of these anthropic



influences can also be observed in nature in detail, even with species and habitats that we may regard as the most representative and exclusive of the island's biodiversity.

If the itineraries are for walking, stopping and observing, the lookout points are not only observation points but also spots for reflection and analysis. By offering a sweeping view of the region and its landscape, it is easier to get a picture of the reality and the organisation of the land. For all of these reasons, this brief guide aims to be yet another contribution to help readers discover and fall in love with one part of Menorca, an island that many people view as a paradigm of millennia-old human activity and conservation of the biodiversity. And we hope that it remains so for many years to come.

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FERRERIES

The township of Ferreries is the only one on the island where in just a few metres, practically crossing a street or road, you go from the siliceous lands of the Tramuntana (northern part of the island) to the calcareous lands of the Migjorn (southern part of the island). This is the main reason for the diversity of landscapes which surround it and can be found throughout the entire township; for this reason and others, its natural environment is one of the best conserved on Menorca. Within the island's current division into townships, the township of Ferreries is the one that expresses the duality of the two Menorcas the most clearly because of its crosswise position: the siliceous lands and rugged terrain of the north, and the calcareous lands and flatter terrain (albeit only in appearance) of the south. Virtually each of these parts accounts for 50% of the area covered by the township. The best way to give a brief description of the natural environment on this part of the island is precisely by referring to this separation between north and south.

What is known as the Tramuntana on Menorca is the northern part of the island. Geologically it can be separated from the rest of the island by an imaginary dividing line that runs from the port of Mahon to Cala Morell. To the north of this dividing line, impermeable siliceous materials predominate, with areas of Jurassic calcareous soil. It is actually a mosaic of different geological substrates, a unique feature in the entire Balearic Islands. As an outcome of this diversity of materials and the influence of the Tramuntana wind, the northern coast of the island has a carved-out, rugged appearance, quite different to the gentler and more uniform appearance of the southern coast. Further inland, the landscape of the Tramuntana is made up of small elevations and depressions that give it a soft, undulating look. The Tramuntana of Ferreries shows all these features, plus it is the most rugged area with the most important set of elevations on the island. On the coastline, the stretch of coast running from Cala en Calderer to Cala des Alocs is a good example of the irregular, rugged profile. The coves and bays

reflect the gullies and small ravines that reach down the sea, each of them with their seasonal streams. This abrupt and rocky land can be explained by the fact that for centuries the agricultural activity has primarily consisted of extensive grazing, often taking advantage of the natural vegetation. Precisely the structure of the vegetation compared to the distance to the coast and the influence of the Tramuntana is a perfect way to quickly explain the vegetation, the landscape feature that has conferred the most identity on it, along with the influence of man. What predominates along the coastline are plants which are adapted to the direct impact of the sea. These plant species have developed strategies to tolerate salinity and the drying effect of sea salt, which is further aggravated by the Tramuntana wind. These plants must also survive in somewhat barren, rather undeveloped land. For all of these reasons, thick-leaved plants such as dwarf statice, manchineel trees and corn chamomile predominate, always forming thin, disperse vegetation. A few metres back, although still heavily influenced by the wind, there tends to be a more varied plant community: the Balearic milkvetch, a group of endemic species which grow as small, rounded, thorny bushes accompanied by other small plants, most of which are also endemic and often take advantage of the shelter and protection that this plant offers. The Balearic milkvetch community is regarded as one of the island's botanical treasures as it is unique in the world. Even further inland, this coastal vegetation gradually becomes thicker and transforms into scrubland. These are shrubby or wooded plant



communities, primarily made up of woody plants with a significantly different composition depending on the kind of soil in which they grow or their degree of development. In the coastal areas which are the closest to the sea, Mediterranean buckthorn and shrubs tend to predominate. This vegetation, too, is impacted by the Tramuntana wind and often has a streamlined, aerodynamic appearance. It does not tend to be very thick and there are clearings in the plant stands where a wide variety of herbaceous plants grow. Further inland, in moderately fertile lands, this vegetation tends to become wild olive trees, take on a more arborescent appearance and thicken. In the most favourable situations with deeper, cooler soil, holm oak groves appear, which can occupy considerable land areas on this part of the island.

In the more barren land, especially those that come from *pedra de cot*, the predominant plants tend to be heather scrublands, a thick, uniform plant which is often impenetrable and encompasses a few shrub species. However, this uniformity is often only apparent, since the soil is very thin and during the winter becomes filled with woody plants that cannot grow there. Here, communities of small plant species are formed, which are like a little universe of dozens of species per square metre.

Wherever these coastal areas are degraded, they have suffered from some kind of alteration; likewise, transitional plant communities can be found on abandoned farmlands such as spots of Mauritania grass, pine groves or formations of other pioneer species.

All around the Tramuntana you can also see other plants related to



more specific environments, such as the aquatic environments around streams and coastal wetlands, where herbaceous plants that grow in the summer tend to prevail, along with tamarisk. In more rupicolous areas or in sandy areas on the coast (sand and dunes), you can still see more specific, specialised vegetation, often with numerous endemic species as well.

All of this is joined by the influence of man after centuries and centuries of land use for farming and grazing, and use of the coastal areas for firewood, coal and other resources. These have led to plant communities in ruderal environments, cultivated fields, edges of walls and the middle of olive tree groves, which is also a characteristic, fundamental part of the plant landscape. All of this together forms the mosaic of the known plant landscape.

In the Migjorn, at first glance the plant landscape seems more uniform. And it partly is. The geology is significantly simpler. This part of the island is made of a calcareous platform from the Miocene with a marine origin (called *marès*). Since this is a drainage material, the vegetation that predominates tends to be from drier environments, even though the soils tend to be thin, they often show a high degree of fertility, which explains the prevalence of farming in this part of the island. But this *marès* platform is not exactly uniform; it is furrowed with ravines, especially in the central part of the island. The ravines are karstic formations which are extremely interesting from the





standpoint of landscape and ecology. They are a good example of what is known as inverted relief. These depressions are protected from the Tramuntana wind, and in their deep bottom soils the most important ones have a permanent water course. Precisely the Migjorn in the township of Ferreries is delimited by two of the most important ravines on the island: the Algendar on the west and the Albranca on the east. Between these two ravines there are several two smaller ones (Trebalúger, Binissaid, Canal d'en Curt, etc.) which make this part of the township a succession of (interfluvial) depressions and ridges which is traditionally known as the Migjornet, or little Migjorn, in contrast to the greater Migjorn, which covers a broader, more uniform expanse located between Albranca and Sa Vall ravines, the latter the source of name of the town of Ferreries.

Thus, from the outside the Migjornet appears to have a uniform landscape made up primarily of soils used for farming, with stands of wild olive trees and brambles which follow the line of the dry walls or indicate a rocky outcropping, rendering the lands unfit for farming. In their midst there are also other more extensive wooded areas with wild olive trees, pines or holm oaks which become larger as they get closer to the coast. The name marina (scrubland) may derive precisely from the fact that the woody vegetation there forms a continuous strip running parallel to the coast. The ravines and gullies are the breaks in this uniformity which wend their way through the landscape

like gigantic breaches. The vegetation changes at their walls and feet; it becomes lush, especially in the shaded side, to such an extent that the island boasts lush, cool holm oak forests. In the lower-lying ones, like Algendar, Trebalúger and Albranca, the presence of streams even further enhances the luxuriance of the vegetation, yielding riverbank woods with elms, silver poplars and laurel trees. The vertical walls of the ravines also display the best representation of rupicolous flora, plants that specialise in growing in the chinks of cliffs, most of which are endemic to the islands.

The footprint of man is also present in the ravines, albeit often harmoniously. Throughout the centuries, man has taken advantage of the deep, cool soils at the bottom of the ravines, mainly to cultivate fruit trees; the majority find these ravines to be a perfect place to grow sheltered from the wind and in the cool atmosphere of the ravine. However, the ravines are sinuous and narrow; they are often overrun with floods and suffer from severe cold in the winter. For this reason, the structure of the cultivated lands inside them is different, often in the guise of terraces on the bottom or in crop fields delimited by thick walls like fortins (small protective walls) to stop and draw from the flood waters. Still we must also mention the entire ethnological heritage related to water management, including canals, sinks, breakwaters, locks, water mills and more, constructions and structures that also help to generate new habitats and diversify the existing ones.



## SANTA ÀGUEDA - ELS ALOCS

**Distance:** 25.4 km

**Cumulative slope:** 270 m

**Approximate time:** 5 hours 30 minutes

**Point of departure:** former rural schools of Santa Cecília

**Point of arrival:** Cala dels Alocs

The Tramuntana in the township of Ferreries is one of the parts of Menorca with the highest landscape interest because of its rugged terrain and the conservation of its natural assets.

This itinerary runs through the northernmost part of the township of Ferreries in a route that runs perpendicular to the coast, which enables us to see how the landscape changes depending on the influence of the sea and how mankind has made use of the lands and the natural resources over the centuries. Therefore, this route clearly illustrates the majority of the aspects and elements that give the landscape of the island its form and character: the geology, the relief, the vegetation, the land use and the distribution of spaces depending on how they are used.

This all varies depending on two recurring conditions on the island: the influence of the Tramuntana wind and the distance from the sea. Thus, in this itinerary you can see how the closer we get to the coast the fewer crop lands and the more forest vegetation there are.

**Geology:** Siliceous materials from the Triassic (Buntsandstein) known locally as *penya de cot*. Towards the end of the route, near Alocs, you can see other materials like schist.

**Relief:** This is one of the most rugged parts of the island, with mountains with peaks like Son Bruc – Santa Àgueda and Milocar de Binidelfà. These elevations include deeper soil and more developed land depressions.

**Landscape:** What predominates is a well conserved mosaic landscape. The crop lands are located on the lower-lying areas and plains, with deeper soil. On the elevations and wherever the rocky substrate still predominates, the forest vegetation still remains but with other uses, mainly the utilisation of natural resources such as extensive grazing, firewood, coal, etc.

**Vegetation:** The natural vegetation is made primarily of coastal areas of heather and holm oak trees wherever the land is not being used for farming. White pine forests and stands of *Mauritania* grass are also common, with some differences from the ones outlined previously. In this part of the island, the stands of wild olive trees are more limited to small groves (called *mitjans*) which are located on the crop lands. Along the temporary water courses (called *torrents*), you can also see stands of more hydrophilic plants, such as tiny groves of tamarisk, meadow plant communities (rushes, moist brome stands, etc.) and brambles.

**Ethnological heritage:** Just like all over the island, the ethnological heritage is diverse and abundant. On the one hand you can find an entire stretch of dry walls which delimit the crop lands and grazing areas (called *tanques*) or the walls used to halt erosion (*encadenats*). There are also other more important constructions for more specific purposes, such as the ones meant to serve as a refuge or resting area for livestock or field workers, including cabins, and the structures aimed at channelling surface water, which are particularly important here because the land is impermeable, such as irrigation channels, intakes, bridges, etc.



**1. Former rural schools of Santa Cecília.** The very point of departure of the route is a fine place of interest for observing a part of the landscape of the region. If you look southward, you can see the extensive flat lowlands (plains) which extend from the feet of Son Bruc to the slopes of Son Bell-lloc. They are crisscrossed with streams and irrigation channels which help to drain the surface water. These plains are surrounded by the characteristic elevations of this part of the Tramuntana. In addition to Son Bruc, other high points include the Tripoli of Santa Teresa and, further in the distance, Puig d'Ugell, which stands isolated in the midst of Pla Verd, also known as Pla Erm. Looking in the opposite direction, northward, you can see Santa Àgueda mountain, with the famous castle from the era of Al-Andalus atop it. This siliceous elevation is the northernmost point of a mountain range whose southernmost point is near Ferreries (Sant Pere and Sant Francesc). In this view in the other direction, you can easily see how these elevations predominate over the forest vegetation.

**2. So n'Abatzer barriers.** From this point you can see the features of the western side of Santa Àgueda mountain in better detail. Since there is a great deal of sunshine here, vegetation common to dry atmospheres and poor soil predominate, including wild olive trees (noticeable by the greyish tones of their leaves) with small, somewhat undeveloped stands of holm oaks, as well as pine groves. In these more wooded stands, what predominates is low-lying vegetation such as rockrose and Mauritania grass.

**3. Views of Binidelfà.** Our third stop enables us to get a sweeping view of the location of a farm in the Tramuntana and the layout of the constructions comprising it. Binidelfà is located at the far eastern side at the feet of the Milocar mountains, an orientation that is sheltered from the Tramuntana and far from the danger of flooding. The set of constructions is made up of the houses of the farmers and owners (casat), which are located at the highest points, while a little further down are the constructions for the livestock (the cowshed, the stables and the hayloft).

**4. Binidelfà bridge.** At this point, almost flush with the barriers at the entrance to Binidelfà, you can get a more detailed view of the small valley where this farm is located. You can also catch close-up glimpses of the stream and the vegetation that characterise these seasonal water courses. What usually predominates on the banks is brambles with vestiges of tamarisks. The latter serves an important role in a gallery forest as it helps to conserve the banks of the stream and regulate the impact of the floods. The streambeds usually have more herbaceous vegetation which is often used as fodder; therefore, many of these streams have entrances for livestock.

**5. Es Coll des Vent.** Located on the other side of the small valley of Binidelfà, the road heading towards Alocs breaks the last elevations of the Milocars making what is known as a coll de vent, because it helps to channel the winds, especially the Tramuntana. This is an excellent lookout point over this small valley and provides an interesting view of the northern slope of Santa Àgueda mountain. Unlike the western side (point 2), here you can see how the shady location encourages well developed forest vegetation, primarily holm oak groves and coastal areas with heather, which are nonetheless quite wind-swept. You can also see several towers and stretches of the wall of Santa Àgueda castle.

**6. So n'Ermità barriers.** Located on the dirt path which leads to Cala des Alocs, one first interesting stop is located where the road to So n'Ermità and Santa Gibet turns off. At the foot of the former you can catch a glimpse of the northern slopes of the Milocar mountains which still show the damage from the fire that besieged this spot in August 2006. Just like other formations of this name, there used to be a sleeping place of mountain shepherds on the cliffs facing south. In addition to the clear interest of the landscape, its ecological interest is also important because of the high concentration of species.

**7. Heather scrublands.** Heather scrublands are some of the most characteristic plant formations in Menorca's Tramuntana, especially on the sandy siliceous soils that result from the decomposition of pedra de cot. It is a plant community with a uniform size which can become permanent and stable, one that grows quickly and is made of a few shrub species which can become thick vegetation, rendering it difficult to cross.

**8. Mauritania grass slope.** Mauritania grass slopes are another plant formation characteristic of the island. The majority of them are a result of the degradation of permanent vegetation, such as heather scrublands, often through man's actions. Mauritania grass is a common graminaceous plant on the islands with a pioneering, colonising behaviour. It establishes itself quickly in lands that have been altered by forests or deforestation. At the same time, this plant used to have several uses for the peasantry. The leaves were used to make braided flax, and the tender parts could be consumed as fodder by the livestock. One way to maintain and renew the Mauritania grass stands was to burn them every so many years.

**9. Alocs bridge.** Two streams pour out to the sea in Cala des Alocs cove. The most important one on this route in terms of the sheer amount of water it contributes is the one that descends from the Pregondo canal, the depression between Es Milocar and the Santa Gibet scrublands. The ecological importance of this stream can be seen in this bridge that crosses it. Hence you can see the wooded vegetation on the banks made up of tamarisks and chaseberries (alocs in Catalan), which lend their name to this cove.

**10. Cala des Alocs.** The end of the route in Cala des Alocs enables you to see one of the best conserved landscapes in the island's Tramuntana. To the west are the greenish cliffs of Sa Muntanya Mala, and the tallest one is called Anticrist. To the east, the cove is enclosed by black schist cliffs.

## FERRERIES - EN FIDEU RAVINE

**Distance:** 10.8 km

**Cumulative slope:** 150 m

**Approximate time:** 3 hours

**Point of departure:** urban nucleus of Ferreries

**Point of arrival:** Cova des Moro

This itinerary suggests a fascinating route which starts in the town of Ferreries and heads south to climb up to Son Mercer de Dalt and from there follow the entire rural route until Cova des Moro, one of the most interesting archaeological sites on the island. One of the most fascinating aspects of this itinerary is that much of it runs through what is known in Menorca as an esquena, that is, the high point between two ravines, technically an interfluvial area. At different points throughout the route, you can catch great views of the two most important ravines on the island: Trebalúger, which starts in Ferreries valley, and Albranca, which starts in the lands of Tirssec and Sa Mola.

Initially, the landscapes may seem monotonous and uniform, but they actually are not. This southern part of Menorca, known as the Migjornet, is an extensive flat area full of details that reveal to us how over the centuries man has taken advantage of the natural resources and lands without having profoundly harmed the island's natural heritage.

**Geology:** What predominates in the geology is sandy calcareous materials from the Miocene with biological origins, known locally as marès, which is the primary and most often used raw material in the constructions on the island.

**Relief:** The relief in this area is fairly flat, with the only exception being the climb to Son Mercer, the access to the esquena between two ravines along which most of the route runs.

**Landscape:** On this itinerary, it is easy to distinguish two kinds of landscapes. On the one hand, in the steepest part are the forest stands which cover the bottoms of the ravines and gullies. Along the rest of the route, the landscape that can be seen is the typical, characteristic landscape of the Migjorn on the island: crop and pasture lands delimited by dry walls (tanques) between and among them. Where the rocky substrate crops out or the soil is thin little groves of wild olive trees and brambles are formed, known as mitjans, which are one of the basic essences of the landscape of the Mediterranean mosaic so common to the island.

**Vegetation:** In addition to the typical plant communities of crop lands and ruderal environments (edges of roads, sides of crop lands, altered soils, etc.), on this itinerary it is easy to see fine examples of Menorcan wild olive groves and Balearic holm oak forests. The former are low, dense woody formations where the wild olive trees are accompanied by other, shorter shrubs and especially vines. Holm oak stands are the tallest, sparsest kind of forest when they are mature. They grow in a shadier, cooler environment. Both are stable plant communities which can last for centuries.

**Ethnological heritage:** Around the Migjorn region of the island, the ethnological heritage, especially dry stone constructions, are plentiful and varied, ranging from stretches of dry and encadenat walls to cabins, cowsheds and traditional livestock housing.



**1. Sa Rovellada or Tirassec bridge.** At the starting point and lowest-lying part of the itinerary, this bridge over the Migjorn Gran motorway affords interesting views of the beginning of Trebalúger ravine. Just like other ravines, this one starts on the inland plains and gathers the surface waters from the impermeable siliceous soils of the Tramuntana. Thus, looking north from the bridge you can see the siliceous mountains which envelop Ferreries valley. Towards the south you can clearly see how the ravine, carved out from the calcareous marès platform, gradually takes shape. In the distance is Trebalúger stream, which around here is known as Sa Rovellada (or rusty stream) because of the ferrous waters, into which many springs pour.

**2. Tirassec holm oak forest.** The first part of the path up to Son Mercer is a slope that runs through a mixed forest of pines and holm oaks. With a brief stop, it is easy to appreciate the most important characteristics of these forest stands. Their main component is holm oaks, a slow-growing tree that can live for centuries and, in favourable conditions, can become a permanent, stable community. However, in order for a holm oak forest to form, other plant communities are also needed, such as pines and coastal area with heathers, which stabilise the soil and provide the shade needed for the young holm oak trees.

**3. Lookout point.** This switchback on the climb to Son Mercer provides one of the most interesting, complete views of the urban nucleus of Ferreries and its entire geographic environs. From here you can see how the old village nucleus was built at a certain height in the valley, protected from the moist, cold atmospheres of the valley floor and from the most direct impact of the Tramuntana wind. A more detailed description of the landscape that can be seen from this point can be read on page 28 of this guide.

**4. Barranquell barriers.** Son Mercer de Dalt farm has the unique feature that the patrician homes (propietari) and the overseer (pagès) are separated by several hundred metres. This is the outcome of a reform which took place in the first third of the 20th century. From here you can see the owner's houses with their gardens, as well as the peasants' houses and all the additional constructions which were used to house and manage the livestock: cowsheds, stables, pigpens, chicken coops, etc. Here, the buildings are rather large because this is a farm that also underwent a modernisation process throughout the last quarter of the 20th century.

**5. Brambles and watering troughs.** The consequence of the size of the farms on the islands (called llocs) and the organisation of the farm and grazing lands into plots delimited by dry walls (tanques) is the proliferation of other constructions or structures used for livestock husbandry. One of them is watering troughs, which, just as in this case, were usually located at places where animals passed through or intersections of walls so that different grazing points could be used. Here you can also see a community of thorny, woody plants, a bramble patch, characteristic of the edges of paths and somewhat warm soils in the inland part of the island.

**6. Son Mercer de Baix barriers.** The presence of barriers or corners in a rural pathway tends to be indicative of a change in estate or ownership. In this case, they signal the boundary between Son Mercer de Dalt and Son Mercer de Baix. This is also a good point for observing several interesting elements. Just a few metres before reaching it you can see traditional livestock housing, a fascinating dry stone construction in the shape of a stepped pyramid which in the past was used to shelter sheep. Right on the other side of the barriers to the right is an interesting view of Trebalúger ravine, which at this point is much better formed than at the start of the route.

**7. Hort de Son Mercer de Baix.** After passing the houses of Son Mercer de Baix, the pathway begins a descent to the bottom of a small ravine, a gully, which we shall discuss more fully in the next point. But here, where the path crosses it, it is easier to see how these small valleys were used by the peasants. On the rocky, barren lands in this part of the island, the gullies were the best place to cultivate more demanding or delicate crops, such as fruit trees or vegetables. Here you can still see how in this part of the gully there is a plethora of walls and constructions meant for a more intensive land use.

**8. Gully.** This same gully that we passed at the previous point is now larger and deeper and has more pronounced bases and walls. Here you can even see more developed vegetation common to cool atmospheres and deep soils. This latter aspect has also led this area to be used to grow crops.

**9. Cova des Moro.** The end of the route offers us two stopping points of extraordinary interest just a few metres apart, although their interest stems from very different reasons. The first is one of the most interesting archaeological sites on the island. It is popularly known as Cova des Moro, since the most visible part is a burial naveta, part of whose top is still conserved. In the same place there are informational panels explaining the features of this site.

**10. En Fideu ravine.** Moving forward a few metres to the east, you can see the second point of interest in this area, an outstanding lookout point over Albranca ravine, which here affords views of Sa Canaleta and Son Fideu farms, the latter the more visible of the two. For this reason, this stretch of the ravine is known as En Fideu ravine.

## CAMÍ REIAL (Ferreries-Algendar ravine)

**Distance:** 10.2 km

**Cumulative slope:** 180 m

**Approximate time:** 3 hours 30 minutes

**Point of departure:** urban nucleus of Ferreries

**Point of arrival:** Algendar ravine (Sant Antoni de s'Aranjassa)

The ancient pathways, especially the ones that have been used continuously for centuries, which have served as the primary communication routes yet have also conserved their initial layout and configuration, are often the best hiking routes to get to know the characteristics of the land thoroughly and in detail. The limitations in the means and materials for building them, as well as the need to make them practical and easy to maintain, mean that the layout of these ancient pathways adapts to the land while they also accumulate a large number of structures and mechanisms that enable them to operate.

The old Camí Reial which ran from Mahon to Ciutadella along the southern part of the island is a good example of these features. The stretch between Ferreries and Algendar ravine was able to be conserved in its original guise thanks to the fact that in the first half of the 20th century a new road was opened to provide access to Algendar ravine. For some years now, groups of volunteers from Ferreries have worked on a painstaking, respectful restoration of the old pathway, which today is one of the most interesting, attractive hiking trails on the island.

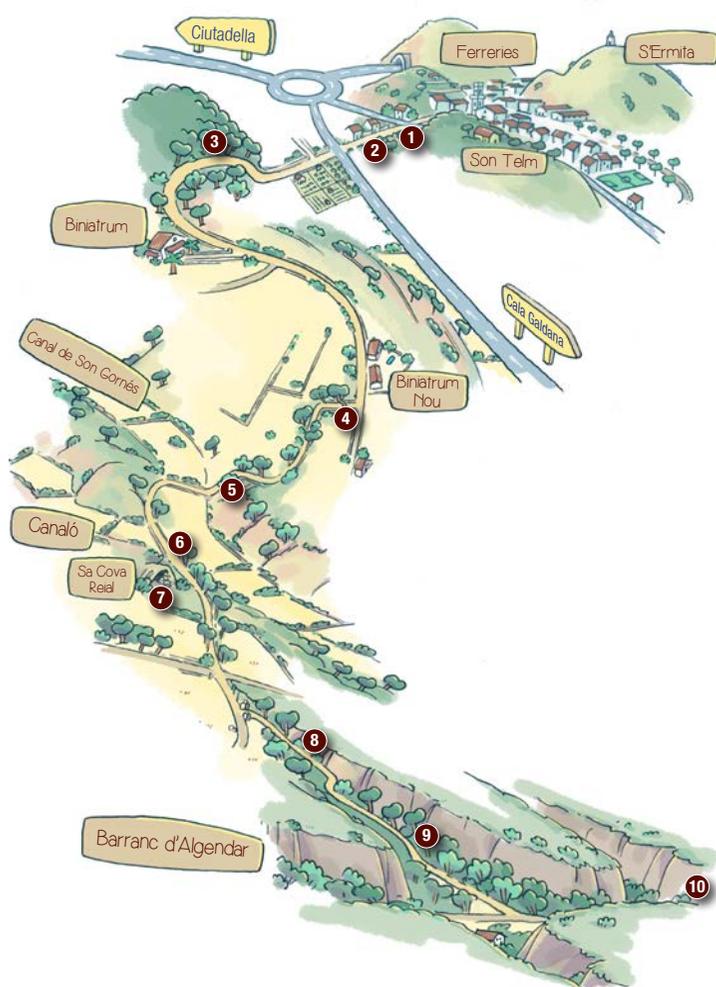
**Geology:** What predominates in the geology is sandy calcareous materials from the Miocene with biological origins, known locally as marès, which is the primary and most often used raw material for the constructions on the island. Only in the initial stretch of the route is there a small area with siliceous materials (penya de cot).

**Relief:** The zone through which this itinerary runs is relatively flat and not very rugged, but the fact that the pathway crosses several ravines and gullies means that it is relatively irregular, alternating ascents and descents.

**Landscape:** Most of the route runs through farm lands, so what predominates is the Mediterranean mosaic landscape, although its crosswise direction through ravines and gullies means that you can see greater landscape diversity. On the initial stretch you can also see a landscape with rural and periurban areas, most notably the family vegetable gardens in the area of Biniatrum.

**Vegetation:** One of the main features of this itinerary is the painstaking recovery of the Camí Reial, which has enabled wooded vegetation of vast landscape value to be conserved, consisting of wild olive trees, shrubs and holm oaks. In the initial stretch in the area of Biniatrum, you can also see a holm oak grove growing on well conserved siliceous soils.

**Ethnological heritage:** The ethnological heritage is truly important and plentiful. Along the entire route you can see all sorts of structures used to facilitate the transport of both people and livestock, including pavements, narrow mountain passages, watering areas, wells and livestock paths, as well as other constructions associated with the nearby farms, including cabins, cowsheds and stables.



**1. Coll Llis.** At this point you can see a small old neighbourhood in the town of Ferreries separated from the main urban nucleus, where you can glimpse some interesting features. Before reaching it, the pathway crosses a coll de vent, with a clear distinction between the kinds of vegetation that grow depending on their orientation. On the southern slope, vegetation with shrubs and wild olive trees prevails, with vestiges of an old Barbary fig grove. On the northern side, the vegetation is more wooded and lush, and you can see the first steps in the regeneration process of a holm oak grove. Going a bit further one, at the Son Tèrm barriers you can see several ornamental trees. The first are a pair of field elms, which mark the entrance to the road, and a little further on are several stone pine specimens which used to form a line all along the road, typically Mediterranean ornamentation.

**2. Es Pouets.** Here you can see one of the most popular architectural elements in Ferreries. In the past, it was most likely one of the many public watering areas located along the Camí Reial. Despite its name ('Els Pouets' means 'little wells'), more than wells it is a series of small fountains or springs which were fed by the subterranean waters of the calcareous platform located behind it. The constant coolness of the water can also be noted by the presence of certain plant communities, such as an important patch of damson plums and other herbaceous plants, which indicate a certain degree of permanent moisture in the soil.

**3. Biniatrum holm oak forest.** At this point on the route, the itinerary crosses a small area of siliceous lands (penya de cot) at the foot of a small mountain covered with mature holm oaks. From the pathway you can see the main features of these holm oaks in siliceous lands, known as alzinars de brucs (heather holm oak grove). They are shady wooded stands with an undergrowth of herbaceous plants along with some shrubs like myrtus and vines. Among the herbaceous plants, the most prominent are butcher's broom and Mauritania grass.

**4. Son Gorneset.** At the highest part of the route, when you have left behind the road for vehicles and have passed the exclusively pedestrian part, you can see the main characteristics of the old pathway. Its width is irregular, with dry walls that follow the irregularities of the land and a paved central part, mainly on the slopes. However, the part that perhaps stands out the most in its current state is the arborescent vegetation covering it in the guise of a gallery, which makes it even more attractive. The trees include wild olives, Mediterranean buckthorns and especially large shrubs, which are known as woody fleabane stands when they reach this arborescent habitat.

**5. Costa des Nesplers.** This is another part of the Camí Reial, which stands out for the way this stretch of the old pathway adapts to the lay of the land. The walls that delimit it form a straight line, but within it is a zigzag pavement to help travellers navigate the steep slope. At the end of the slope is Son Gornés gully, a small ravine with deep soil. Since the slope is facing north, it is relatively shady and thorny brambles naturally appear. These plants are sometimes used as a base to graft fruit trees, like medlars ('nespler' in Catalan), a practice that used to be carried out here, hence the name of the coast, Costa des Nesplers.

**6. Sa Perdiu Blanca well.** At this other point, the Camí Reial crosses a small gully which descends from La Beltrana, right where it joins Son Gornés gully. These points where waters converge tend to have deeper, cooler soils, so you can often see the remains of the ancient orchards of Algendar Vell, as well as a small aqueduct, sinks and watering places. The place is known as Sa Perdiu Blanca (the white partridge) well because according to an old legend, a spell which involved a white partridge happened here. The presence of cooler atmospheres and soils can also be seen in the vegetation, such as the holm oak grove and other cool-dwelling plants including periwinkles.

**7. Cova Reial.** This is another point along the Camí Reial where you can best see some of the characteristic plants of sunny calcareous rocky places. The outcropping of the rocky substrate, which faces south, creates a dry atmosphere with little soil where only some specialised plants can grow. They include mountain balm, a plant used for medicinal purposes which the people of Ferreries come to gather precisely in this spot. Other interesting ones are hyssop and felted germander, which are endemic to the Balearic Islands.

**8. Barbicans.** In contrast to the dry rocky places in the previous stop, here, where the pathway begins to enter Pas d'en Revull, the cliff walls face north. They are also the tallest and straightest, and they curve inward, forming what is known as a barbican. In these shadier more rupicolous atmospheres, we can see several endemic plants, including Balearic cyclamen, a plant that is related to the garden cyclamen.

**9. Pas d'en Revull.** This is one of the spots with the highest landscape interest on the island. It is a small gully that has been deeply carved into the cliff and has been used as one of the routes to access Algendar ravine for centuries. The body of the calcareous cliff forms a narrow passage with cool, shady areas.

**10. Sant Antoni de s'Aranjassa.** At the end of this route, you can find one of the most famous spots on Menorca. It is the classic entryway to Algendar ravine through which one of the streams with permanent running water and one of the highest concentrations of biodiversity on the island, in addition to an extremely dense and interesting ethnological heritage.

## CALA GALDANA - CALA MITJANA

**Distance:** 1 km

**Cumulative slope:** 60 m

**Approximate time:** 30 minutes

**Point of departure:** Carrer del Camí de Cavalls  
(Cala Galdana housing estate)

**Point of arrival:** Cala Mitjana beach

One of the most famous features of the southern coastline of Menorca is its coves with their white sand beaches. These inlets are always associated with a ravine or gully which stretches down to the coast. The central part of the island's southern coastline is where we can find the most important coves, since it is also the place with the most numerous and largest ravines. Between the coves there tends to be an elevated, flat surface, the esquena or interfluvial area between the two ravines shaping it. This short but interesting itinerary suggests a route running through two of the most famous coves on the island practically parallel to the coastline. It follows the route of the Camí de Cavalls and crosses one of these esquenas. Despite the fact that it is short, it boasts a high diversity of natural atmospheres, ethnological features and views with outstanding landscape value. It is one of the areas in Menorca where you can best appreciate how the presence and conservation of a practically all natural wooded vegetation did not hinder it from being used by man in a sustainable way.

**Geology:** Just like most of the island's southern part, the geological materials are sandy calcareous materials from the Miocene with biological origins, known locally as marès, which is the primary and most often used raw material for the constructions on the island. In this zone, you can also find the finest sand formations, known as pedra viva, which were the most sought after to produce lime.

**Relief:** The profile of this itinerary can be divided into two parts in terms of the relief. The first one, running as far as Cova de ses Taronges, is practically flat, while the second one, the descent to Cala Mitjana and Cala Mitjana, has more slopes, although they are not difficult.

**Landscape:** Since this is a short route which mostly runs through forested areas, many of the landscapes which can be seen do not have sweeping perspectives, yet they are nonetheless interesting in the details they offer, especially in the vegetation and structure of the composition of the plant communities. However, towards the end of the route the views of Cala Mitjana and its entire coastline are some of the best on the island.

**Vegetation:** The predominance of forest vegetation on this route can be seen from the very start with stands of white pine with a shrubby understory of coastal areas of rockrose and heather. Where the soil is deeper and cooler you can see holm oak groves, which actually predominate in the descent to Cala Mitjana. On this beach, too, you can also see plant communities that grow in sandy coastal soils which are currently in a sound state of conservation.

**Ethnological heritage:** Even though this route runs through a forested area, its ethnological heritage is important and features lime ovens, the cabins of the lime ovens and charcoal burners, and the mud wallows for pigs carved into the cliff. They all serve as testimony of the activities performed in these scrublands in the Migjorn.



**1. Holm oak grove.** The holm oak groves of the Balearic Islands, primarily on Mallorca and Menorca, are regarded as plant communities common to these islands. In the southern part of Menorca, this plant community is more frequent in the central area, where it finds favourable conditions in the ravines and gullies that run into the sea. And one example is the forest that can be seen at this point. Without leaving the trail, you can see how it has lush, cool vegetation which creates a pleasant atmosphere that you can only appreciate when you enter it. Holm oaks, trees that can live for centuries, grow in a micro-climate that is appropriate for other plants which also prefer cool shade and organic soils.

**2. Lime oven.** The abundance of plant materials as fuel and the existence of the raw material to make lime, marès stone, led many coastal areas in the southern part of the island to become veritable factories of quicklime, which is often considered to be very high quality. The structures used to make this material were lime ovens, such as the one that can be seen at this spot on the itinerary. To learn more about their structure and functioning, you can check the specific publications of the “Quaderns de Folklore”.

**3. Scrubland with rockrose.** Rockrose is a shrub-like plant characteristic of the Mediterranean region. Its ecological function is essential in the succession of plant communities where there is any sort of alteration, such as a fire or deforestation, or when cultivated lands are abandoned and become wooded vegetation. Rockrose has a pioneering behaviour; it easily colonises altered, somewhat unstable lands. It is associated with other shrubs and herbaceous plants which together form this low vegetation with a clear variety of species that over time, in the right conditions, can give rise to other more stable plant communities such as wild olive groves, holm oak groves or savin groves.

**4. Mud wallows.** In the past, another way of using the coastal areas was extensive grazing with different kinds of livestock. Often the draft animals or young calves (heifers) were the ones that spent the most time

in the scrubland, taking advantage of the natural fodder that grew there. Where the holm oak grove is the largest there also tended to be pigs to eat the acorns. Both needed watering places, but the pigs needed them close to the ground and larger so they could wallow in them. Hence, in these scrublands you can see these artificial mud wallows carved into the cliff, which are proof of how man can also create interesting habitats, since over time they have turned into temporary mud wallows.

**5. Cala Mitjana lookout point.** In order to reach this point of interest, you have to turn off it around a few hundred metres from Camí de Cavalls, but it is wholly recommended given the views it affords of Cala Mitjana beach and its entire bay. This is one of the best lookout points to observe how these southern coves on the island open up to the sea as the endpoint of a ravine or gully, and how all around them the vegetation and the landscape are organised around their proximity to the sea and the cove.

**6. Cova des Ses Taronges.** At this point you can see a good example of the use of natural materials (a cave and a barbican) as a residential area for workers on the coastal area and as the location for other temporary stays. Around it you can still see the remains of an old silo field along with other constructions that were added to make better use of the shelter offered by the cliffs.

**7. Cala Mitjaneta.** This small beach, which was not always there, is perhaps one of the most attractive on the island. In addition to being sheltered and quiet, it has the charm of always boasting clean waters. It is easy to see that it is atypical because it is not directly associated with any gully; instead, it is more like a spot where sand accumulates.

**8. Slope with pine trees.** The white pine is a coniferous tree that grows quickly and has a pioneering behaviour. It takes advantage of open, dry or altered areas (from fires, felling or winds) to grow quickly and

form forest stands which compete with other plants when young. As the pines age, their own shade prevents new ones from being born (they need sun to germinate and grow properly), but this encourages the growth of other plants, like holm oaks and wild olives. However, in certain extreme situations, such as these dry, barren slopes affected by sea tempests, the pine groves may become permanent.

**9. Dune system.** Sand as a soil or substrate for growing is not very conducive for plants. The water runs off quickly and the wind stirs it up and dries it out. Nonetheless, some plants have adapted to this hostile medium of life, and the beaches retain their sand thanks to these plants. Their roots and vegetation act as barriers that hold the grains of sand, which gradually form dunes. Even though they are adapted to extreme conditions, dune vegetation is sensitive to other alterations, such as too many humans treading on it, so it is necessary protect them in systems which delimit the zones where people should walk to reach the beach.

**10. Cala Mitjana.** The end of this itinerary is one of the most famous and prized beaches on the island, which is nestled between cliffs and has a considerable sandy area. Precisely what helps to maintain it is the extensive accumulation of posidonia remains which are there during much of the winter. The fact that this is one of the beaches where this phenomenon is the most intense explains the extensive sandy plain.

## FERRERIES - SANT ANTONI DE RUMA

**Distance:** 11 km

**Cumulative slope:** 310 m

**Approximate time:** 4 hours 30 minutes

**Point of departure:** urban nucleus of Ferreries

**Point of arrival:** Sant Antoni de Ruma

The route followed by this itinerary enables you to see first-hand the part of the island with the most rugged, varied relief. From the lowlands and plains of the urban nucleus of Ferreries it heads north along Camí de Sant Patrici, a stretch of Camí d'en Kane and Camí de Ruma. Thus, it runs from urban and periurban areas to more agricultural lands with different degrees of land use, until you can see other more natural and wilder areas on the last stretch. Throughout this entire route you can see the views of the central part of the island, the most rugged part. Initially the views are from below, from the feet and bottom of the elevations. But in the second part the views offer more distant perspectives and enable you to see the main elevations on the island at eye level. In the last part, the itinerary once again descends a slope to enter Serra valley, one of the most striking and well conserved valleys on the island.

**Geology:** Along the entire route you can find two kinds of geological materials: reddish siliceous sandstone from the late Triassic (pedra de cot) on the lower parts of the initial stretch and materials from the Carboniferous period (turbidites) in the Ruma massif in Serra valley.

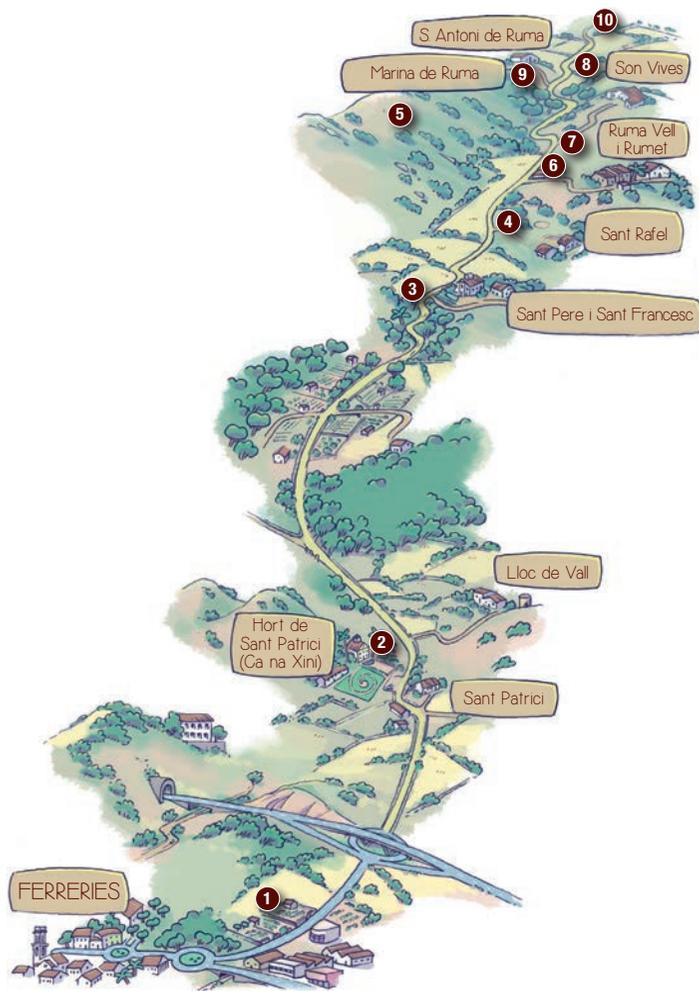
**Relief:** The entire region stands out for the elevations and geographic features that characterise this part of the island. It affords outstanding views of S'Enclusa mountain from different perspectives, as well as its entire chain. On the highest part there are views toward the Son Bruc

massif and Santa Àgueda castle. These same formations can be seen from another perspective when the itinerary enters Serra valley to reach Sant Antoni de Ruma.

**Landscape:** The landscape changes radically along the route, from an urban and highly anthropised landscape in the initial part to agricultural mosaic landscapes in the middle and final parts. In the last stretch after Camí de Ruma, you can also see extensive forest vegetation stands, most notably the ones on the northern slope of S'Enclusa and especially the coastal area expanse of Ruma and Son Bruc, one of the largest and best conserved coastal areas with heather on the island. For this reason, this part of the landscape has a wilder, more natural appearance.

**Vegetation:** At the beginning of the itinerary, in the farm land, you can easily see the wild olive groves atop the hills which delimit the outskirts of the fields. As you go draw closer to the mountains, the wooded stands of holm oaks and coastal areas with heather become lush and larger. At the highest point, atop Ruma, the most prominent feature is the populations of Balearic Jerusalem sage, an endemic plant with yellowish vegetation.

**Ethnological heritage:** Because of the characteristics of the soil and the rugged terrain, this may not be one of the parts of the island with a high concentration of traditional structures; however, there is no dearth of walls, cabins and other structures aimed at farming steeply sloped lands.



**1. Ses Pletes.** At the first stop on this itinerary you can see how man radically influences the landscape. While still in a periurban setting, here on the one hand you can see a zone with a high degree of urbanisation in the Ferreries industrial estate, while on the other you can see an area of family vegetable plots which, though relatively recent, still conserve the traditional features of this form of sustainable, low-impact land use. Just behind them you can see a small sample of the mosaic landscape. The crop and pasture lands are surrounded and carved out by small tree stands of wild olives and other woody plants (between the wild olive trees).

**2. Son Patrici estate.** After Sant Patrici farm, right as the road continues straight ahead another estate appears with quite different features. Today it is used to cultivate grapevines and as a rural hotel. However, all you have to do is notice the architecture of the houses and the gardens around it to see a style that stands out from the majority of farms on the island. It has a clearly colonial look, and the gardens were originally romantic. Hort de Sant Patrici is, indeed, an estate with a fascinating history and is well worth a visit.

**3. Coll des Vent.** Once you have passed the pronounced coast of Sant Pere you reach Coll des Vent, one of those places where the air is constantly in motion in one direction or the other because of its elevated location. It is an interesting place to make a stop and look backwards to catch excellent views of the northern slope of S'Enclusa mountain. Though exposed to the Tramuntana, its shady orientation fosters dense, uniform vegetation made up primarily of a stable, permanent coastal area with heather with smatterings of holm oak groves, especially on the lower part. In contrast, towards the crests where the orientation faces the sun, the vegetation clears out and white pines become more prominent.

**4. Sant Rafel.** Just a few metres from Coll des Vent, where the path dips a bit near the barriers of Sant Rafel, if you look eastward there

is a view that shows a good example of what the massif of Ruma is like. This flat, earthy elevation is furrowed by deep gullies with steep slopes which make it difficult to use this land for farming. However, over the centuries man has managed to use it sustainably by building unconnected stone walls that follow the curves of the slope. These isolated walls which do not delimit farm or pasture lands, are known as encadenats.

**5. Ruma scrubland.** The formation of cliffs of reddish siliceous sandstone dating from the Triassic are not very favourable for agricultural use. The lands are barren, poor, flooded in the winter and extremely dry in the summer. Thus, these areas have traditionally been left as forest zones. The Ruma coastal area (part of the Son Bruc massif) is one of the most extensive on the island, with the unique feature that it is not just a simple elevation but a system of small elevations and depressions with extraordinarily diverse habitats and environments. Thus, there you can see extensive coastal areas with heather, holm oak forests in the gullies and dry rocky places at the highest points.

**6. Semi-natural meadows and Balearic Jerusalem sage.** At the highest part of Ruma, the Tramuntana bears a strong influence, a major factor that limits the crops and the development of arborescent vegetation. Yet at the same time the soils are relatively deep and fertile. Since ancient times, these circumstances have encouraged Ruma to be considered a prime agricultural zone, especially for cattle. What predominates there is perennial herbaceous vegetation (brome stands) which can be used as fodder. Some plants have adapted to situations involving the constant presence of livestock. One of them is the Balearic Jerusalem sage, an endemic shrub to Mallorca and Menorca which is easy to identify by the vegetation covered with a thick layer of yellowish fuzz and by its pink flowers on tall spikes which blossom in the springtime.

**7. Tramuntana coast.** Starting at this point on the Camí de Ruma, the final stretch before entering Serra valley, there is an excellent and little-known view of much of the island's Tramuntana coast. On days with favourable weather conditions, you can see past the Cap de Cavalleria to the cliffs of Pregonda. From here you can catch sweeping views of the carved, rugged profile of this part of Menorca's coastline, and from the colours of the landscape it is also easy to see the geological diversity and the way that the vegetation and man have used it differently.

**8. Serra valley.** Because of its remote location far from the main roadways today, this valley is one of the least-known on the island, even though precisely this isolated location has most likely enhanced its conservation. It is a depression that is clearly limited by the Son Bruc massif, Santa Àgueda, Ruma and the mountains of the Serra, so that its sole way out is to the north. Inside it is crisscrossed by the streams and irrigations channels which drain these elevations around them and converge in the main water course, Salairó stream, creating deep, fertile soils. There are also isolated hills, and on one of them you can see Sant Joan de Serra farm.

**9. Sant Antoni de Ruma.** Sant Antoni de Ruma farm is located in one of the most unique spots with the highest landscape value on the island. Located atop a small hill, like a promontory inside Serra valley, on one side it is surrounded by the thick scrublands and holm oak groves of the Son Bruc massif, while on the other it is enveloped by the slopes of Mauritania grass of Son Vives. A splendid view of the valley opens up before it.

**10. Salairó stream.** The end of this itinerary is located at a stream at one of the far ends of Serra valley. This water course, which has had permanent running water for many years, is the one that pours out on Binimel-là beach and is known as Salairó stream. It is one of the most important streams in the island's Tramuntana.

## SANTA ÀGUEDA CASTLE



The location of a structure meant for defence or shelter atop this elevation can in no way be a coincidence. It is a relatively isolated mountain which easily affords good views of all four cardinal points. It is also an excellent lookout point, and it is worth making a description of each direction.

Looking eastward, from here you can see an interesting view of Serra valley **(1)** in the foreground (see the itinerary on page 8). Just like the elevations that delimit it, further on you can see the lands of the Tramuntana in the township of Es Mercadal. Worth noting is the gently undulating shape of the land on this part of the island, and in particular the inland plains of Es Martinells or Binimel·là and Salairó **(2)**, which are regarded as the most fertile, productive lands on the island.



Looking southwards from Santa Àgueda castle what you see in the foreground is the Son Bruc **(1)** massif and the entire Serra **(2)** scrubland. This is one of the most important formations of reddish siliceous sandstone on the island, not only because of its height and size but also because it is one of the largest, most interesting wooded areas on the island. It has the unique feature that it is not a mountain with all its slopes inclined but instead truly a massif with small valleys and elevations, all covered by a thick layer of vegetation, primarily coastal areas with heather and holm oak forests. Beyond Son Bruc you can see the mountains of S'Enclusa and Sa Torre, right next to the town of Ferreries, and on days with good visibility you can also see the extensive flatter and more homogeneous area of the Migjorn.



In the northern view, what you see in the foreground is the small valley of Binidelfà **(1)**, which is delimited to the north by Es Milocar **(2)**, which even today retain clear evidence of the fire that besieged it in 2006. To the right you can see another elevation in the guise of a massif, where the houses of Son n'Ermità are easy to see. Unlike Milocar, here the substrate is earthier, Palaeozoic and better for farming. Where the plateau of So n'Ermità **(3)** ends you can find Cala en Calderer, one of the most attractive, isolated beaches in the island's Tramuntana side. Beyond this beach you can see the ruggedly carved coast as far as Cap de Cavalleria **(4)**.



Towards the west, the view from Santa Àgueda is quite different. On the extreme right you can clearly make out the northern coast of the township of Ciutadella, most prominently Algaiarens valley and the whitish, calcareous cliffs of Cala Morell **(1)**. If you look to the left, the landscape becomes flatter and more uniform, a feature of the western side of the island, but what stands out in the foreground is the rugged terrain of the Sa Muntanya Mala **(2)** area, as well as the series of small mountains and hills near Alforí. Even closer are the elevations that delimit the zone of Es Pla Erm (also known as Pla Verd) **(3)**. Within this inland valley you can see the solitary Ugell hill **(4)**. This western view is rounded out with glimpses of the last elevations in the S'Enclusa mountains, the furthest of which is a conical mountain known as the Tripoli of Santa Teresa **(5)**.

## S'ERMITA



What is known today in Ferreries as S'Ermita or S'Ermita mountain is a relatively recent construction which was built in around the mid-20th century on one of the elevations on the coastal area of Son Morera. The choice of this spot was exactly right since it affords outstanding views of both the urban nucleus of Ferreries and other parts of the island. Looking eastward, what stands out the most are the elevations of Son Arro **(1)** and the upper part of Granada **(2)**; between them is the slender mountain of Ses Fonts Redones **(3)**. In reality, it is all the same chain or massif which makes for an interesting inland plateau. To the left you can see the coastal areas of Santa Rita **(4)**, another relatively elevated wooded area, just like the previous one.



If you look northward from S'Ermita you can see a mountainous landscape. On the one hand, to the right are the slopes and elevations of Sa Terra Roja and Ruma **(1)**, whose lands are covered with low vegetation including Mauritania grass and stands of wild olive trees mixed with crop and pasture lands. They are relatively fertile and productive soils. If you turn left, the Ruma plateau gives way to a small valley through which part of the ancient Camí d'en Kane **(2)** (see the itinerary on page 11) crosses. This depression is delimited to the west by the large S'Enclusa **(3)** mountain, which can be seen in close detail from the S'Ermita lookout point. Next to it is another mountain which is practically its twin, Sa Torre **(4)**.

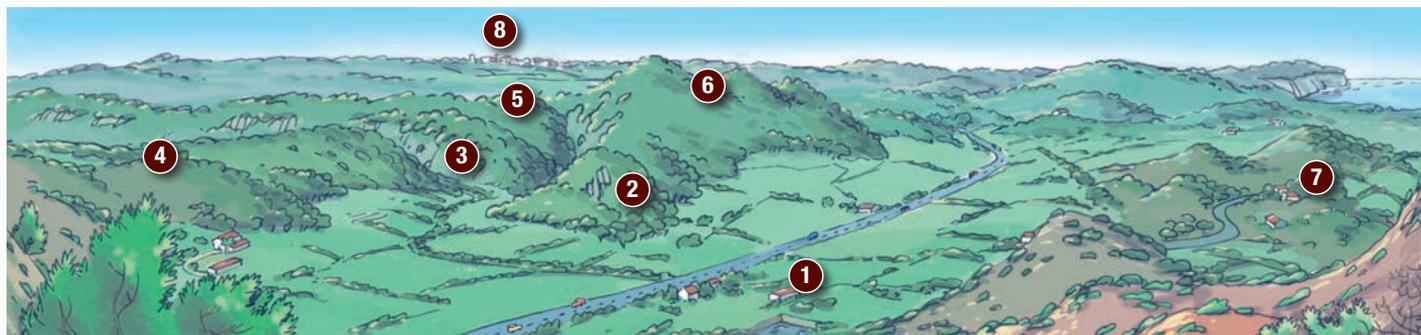


If you look west, what you can see the most clearly from S'Ermita is Ferreries valley and especially a detailed glimpse of the urban nucleus with its white houses and red tile roofs. The view enables you to see how the town is nestled in this depression and how the elevations around it have conditioned its growth. The old part of town is located practically at the feet of Son Telm **(1)**, and it is also bounded to the north by Moli de Baix **(2)** and Ses Rotes **(3)**. The presence of Sa Rovellada **(4)** stream is what limited its growth to the south because of the insalubriousness of the wetlands, which periodically flood. The extreme left side of this westward view is marked by the beginning of Trebalúger **(5)** stream, which collects the waters from the extensive area around Ferreries.



The southern view from S'Ermita, just like in other lookout points, is more uniform and flatter. What it shows us is an extensive view of the greater Migjorn as far as the town which bears its name **(1)**. On days when the visibility is good, you can even see the ravines and gullies that break up the homogeneity of the marès platform **(2)**. As a whole, this lookout point affords views of the traditional landscape on the southern part of the island, a succession of crop fields, stretches of dry walls and stands of natural vegetation which spread practically as far as the coastline. Only on the extreme eastern part of this view can you see a discontinuity or fault **(3)**, which is the result of the division of the two Menorcas: the Tramuntana with its more rugged and irregular siliceous soils, and the Migjorn, which is more uniform and flatter.

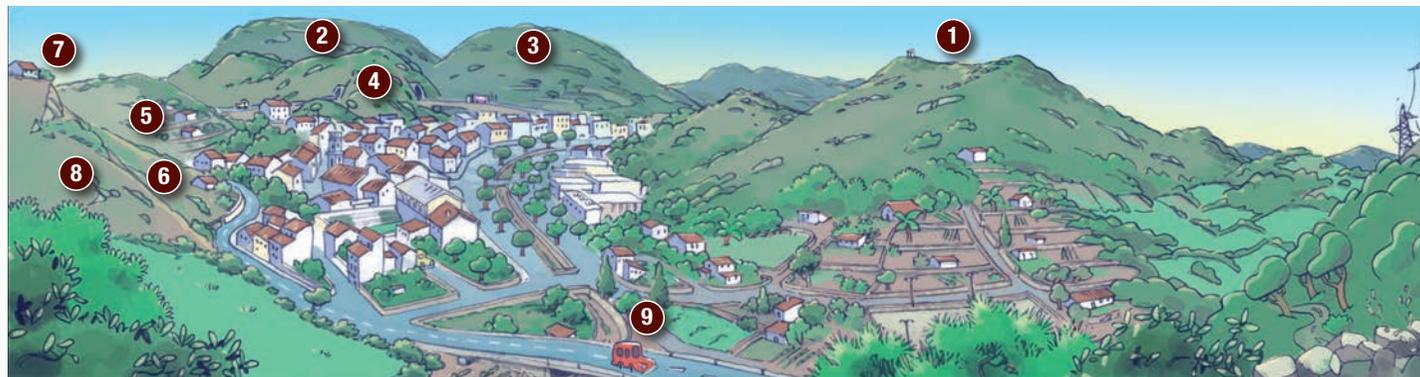
## S'ENCLUSA



From this lookout point located on one of the crests of the S'Enclusa mountains, specifically the rise between Sa Torre and S'Enclusa mountains, what you can see is an extensive scenic view of one of the most important inland valleys on the island, known as Pla Erm or Pla Verd **(1)**. Originally, these inland depressions must have been large wetlands and marshes, but over the centuries man has drained them to make the deep, fertile lands made of fluvial materials farmable. However, for a long time they were unhealthy areas not very recommendable for living. For this reason the farms and country homes, especially the oldest ones, were located around the valley at a certain altitude. What stands out in the centre of the valley is the isolated elevation of Puig d'Ugell **(2)**. Near it you can see an opening where the stream that crosses the plains runs: this is the start of Algendar stream **(3)** (see the itinerary on page 4). In addition to the S'Enclusa mountains themselves, the valley is also delimited by other elevations, such as the coastal area and slopes of Son Bell-lloc **(4)**, Sa Muntanya **(5)**, the coastal area of Santa Bàrbara **(6)** and the garrigue of Binissuès **(7)**. Looking further west you can see how the landscape changes radically: it all becomes flatter and more uniform, with a larger presence of constructions and a denser stretch of dry walls **(8)**. This is a feature of the western side of the island, where the flatter and more fertile calcareous soils have encouraged more intensive, continuous farming.



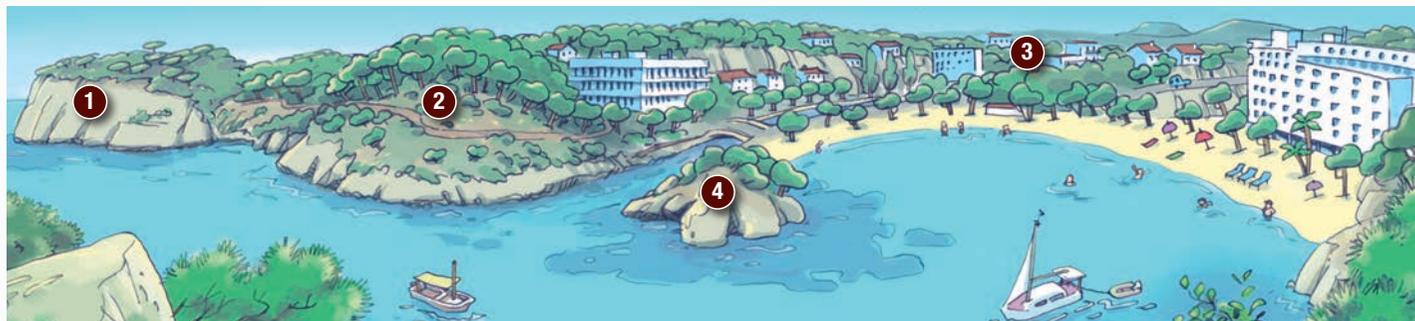
## SON MERCER



This lookout point is part of one of the itineraries in this guide (page 12). Located at one of the switchbacks along the trail leading up to Son Mercer, it is one of the best places to catch sweeping views of the urban nucleus of Ferreries and its entire geographic environs. It offers a different, fascinating perspective from what you can find at another nearby lookout point: S'Ermita **(1)**. In this case, the perspective faces northward. The twin mountains of Sa Torre **(2)** and S'Enclusa **(3)** are in front of you, and in front of them are other lower elevations, such as Ses Rotes **(4)**, a place in which terraces were carved into the slope of the hill long ago to be used as family vegetable gardens. The same land use can be seen as well at the feet of Molí de Baix and part of Coll Llis **(5)** and the slopes of San Telm **(6)**. With its farmhouses located on the crest of a hill **(7)**, which used to be a military barracks during the British era, Son Telm forms the western edge of the lookout point, and on its end are two masses of calcareous cliffs known as Ses Galeres de Son Telm **(8)**. Towards the east is S'Ermita mountain, which signals the western boundary of the view. From this lookout point it is easy to see how this *pedra de cot* formation has an irregular shape with crests and depressions crossed by small streams that drain it and feed Sa Rovellada **(9)** stream, which in turn forms the beginning of Treballúger ravine.



## CALA GALDANA



For years, this has unquestionably been one of the most famous and often visited lookout points on the island. It offers the best views of one of the most picturesque coves in the Balearic Islands, which even today, despite the urbanisation process it has undergone, still retains much of its charm. The perspective extends from the Bèrrecs cliffs of Santa Anna **(1)** to the west to the nearest and easternmost boundary of the same beach. The landscape around it is typically Mediterranean and maritime. Forest stands of pine trees which stretch down near the sea **(2)** contrast with the whites and ochres of the marès cliffs of the coast. The most immediate surroundings near the beach are more complex. Just like other coves, it is associated with the best-known cliffs on the island, Algendar ravine **(3)**, reaching down to the sea. With its stream of permanent running water, over thousands of years it has been responsible for the current shape of the landscape, which makes it such a tourist asset. It is not difficult to see how much of the tourist constructions are located on alluvial soils carried by the stream and how the shape of the beach is nothing other than the accumulation of sediments from both the stream and the sea, fostered by the presence of S'Illot **(4)**.



## CALA MITJANA



The Cala Mitjana lookout point is not as well-known as its counterpart in Cala Galdana (page 29), but it does afford interesting views over this famous neighbouring cove which has quite a distinct landscape. This lookout point is also part of one of the itineraries through nature contained in this guide (page 17). It is a good observation point that truly offers close-up perspectives which enable us to better analyse the landscape around us. The westernmost point is delimited by the forest stands of pines and holm oaks **(1)** which descend the slopes practically as far as the coastline. Only a narrow strip of cliffs, the ones that receive the direct impact of the waves, shows a surface with little vegetation. The more direct the southern orientation and therefore the drier the atmosphere is, pines **(2)** become the predominant vegetation, as can be seen in the space between Cala Mitjaneta and Cala Mitjana. On this latter beach, the presence of north-facing slopes once again encourages vegetation common to cooler zones: holm oak groves **(3)**. Unlike Cala Galdana beach, here there is no deep ravine with a stream to carry sediment into the cove, so the beach looks quite different, with the same accumulation at the bottom of the gully or small ravine but on a smaller scale. In this case, what most helps to conserve the beach is the dune vegetation **(4)** and the remains of posidonia, which covers the beach during the winter and creates something like a web that retains the sand.

The far eastern side of the view is delimited by the cliffs that close the cove and protect it from the llebeig, or southeast wind.



## SANT PERE



Climbing atop the coast of Sant Pere is a recommendable outing because it has some of the most interesting and illustrative views of the more inland areas of the township of Ferreries. This same lookout point is part of one of the itineraries through nature contained in this guide. The views offer glimpses and perspectives of part of Ferreries valley **(1)**, and especially the northern slope of S' Enclusa mountain **(2)** and the entire chain that spans from there northward to the Tripoli of Santa Teresa. As a whole, what it reveals is one of the most mountainous, rugged landscapes on the island, a characteristic which has made it difficult to farm the lands yet that has also encouraged the conservation of habitats and more natural vegetation. Here the atmospheres are shady and cold in the winter; springs and verinals are frequent, and it is thus the source of some of the most important streams on the island. At the feet of the northern slope of S' Enclusa is the starting point of two streams that feed some of the most important ravines on the island. To the right, directly across from the houses of Marcona, there is a series of springs that are the origin of Algendar stream, **(3)** which later descend the ravine of the same name and pour out into Cala Galdana (page 29). On the left there is another stream that ends up converging with the others until they become Sa Rovellada stream **(4)**, which later descends Trebalúger ravine and finally pours out into the cove of the same name.





MENORCA



## ITINERARIES

### 1 SANTA ÀGUEDA - ELS ALOCS

**Distance:** 25,40 km

**Cumulative slope:** 270 m

**Approximate time:** 5 hours 30 minutes

### 2 FERRERIES - BARRANC D'EN FIDEU

**Distance:** 10,80 km

**Cumulative slope:** 150 m

**Approximate time:** 3 hours

### 3 CAMÍ REIAL (Ferrerries-Barranc d'Algendar)

**Distance:** 10,20 km

**Cumulative slope:** 180 m

**Approximate time:** 3 hours 30 minutes

### 4 CALA GALDANA - CALA MITJANA

**Distance:** 1 km

**Cumulative slope:** 60 m

**Approximate time:** 30 minutes

### 5 FERRERIES - SANT ANTONI DE RUMA

**Distance:** 11 km

**Cumulative slope:** 310 m

**Approximate time:** 4 hours 30 minutes

## LOOKOUT POINTS

1 CASTILLO DE SANTA ÀGUEDA

2 S'ERMITA

3 S'ENCLUSA

4 SON MERCER

5 CALA GALDANA

6 CALA MITJANA

7 SANT PERE