

MOUNTAIN WALKING IN MALLORCA

About the Author



Paddy Dillon is a prolific walker and guidebook writer, with over 90 guidebooks to his name and contributions to 40 other titles. He has written for several outdoor magazines and other publications, and has appeared on radio and television.

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<i>The South West Coast Path</i>	<i>Walking on Lanzarote and Fuerteventura</i>
<i>The Teesdale Way</i>	<i>Walking on La Palma</i>
<i>The Wales Coast Path</i>	<i>Walking on Malta</i>
<i>Trekking in Greenland</i>	<i>Walking on Tenerife</i>
<i>Trekking in Mallorca</i>	<i>Walking the Galloway Hills</i>
<i>Trekking in the Alps</i>	
<i>Walking and Trekking in Iceland</i>	

MOUNTAIN WALKING IN MALLORCA

50 ROUTES IN MALLORCA'S TRAMUNTANA

by Paddy Dillon

CICERONE

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Front cover: Following the rocky crest of Penyal des Migdia (Walk 25)

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DOWNLOAD THE ROUTES IN GPX FORMAT

All the routes in this guide are available for download from:

www.cicerone.co.uk/949/GPX


as GPX files. You should be able to load them into most formats of mobile device, whether GPS or smartphone.

When you go to this link, you will be asked for your email address and where you purchased the guide, and have the option to subscribe to the Cicerone e-newsletter.

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Map Key

	main route		lighthouse/telecoms mast
	alternative route		church or hermitage/ cemetery/cross
	start point/finish point		archaeological site
	start/finish point		ruined castle/watchtower
	alternative start/ finish point		bunker/stone cattle pen
	dual carriageway		snowpit
	main road		stream/gorge
	local road		lake
	paved track		marshland
	dirt track		water source/well or drinking trough
	footpath		cave
	high-tension line		hotel
	town boundary		restaurant
	limit of protected area		museum
	parking area		information centre
	village centre		tourist office
	building/ruin		hospital
	forest		viewpoint
	brushwood and meadow		point of interest
	farmland/rock		bus stop
			picnic site



0 0,5 km

Mountain safety

Every mountain walk has its dangers, and those described in this guidebook are no exception. All who walk or climb in the mountains should recognise this and take responsibility for themselves and their companions along the way. The author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this guide was correct when it went to press, but, except for any liability that cannot be excluded by law, they cannot accept responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person using this book.

International Distress Signal *(emergency only)*

Six blasts on a whistle (and flashes with a torch after dark) spaced evenly for one minute, followed by a minute's pause. Repeat until an answer is received. The response is three signals per minute followed by a minute's pause.

Helicopter Rescue

The following signals are used to communicate with a helicopter:

Help needed:
raise both arms
above head to
form a 'Y'



Help not needed:
raise one arm
above head, extend
other arm downward



Emergency telephone numbers

The standard European emergency number 112 can be used to call the police, ambulance, fire service or mountain rescue.

There are two professional mountain rescue teams: one from the fire service, or Bomberos (tel 080 or 112), and the other from the *Guardia Civil* (tel 062 or 112).

Weather reports

TV stations and Mallorcan newspapers carry daily weather reports. For hourly forecasts, check www.eltiempo.es/baleares

ROUTE SUMMARY TABLE

Start/Finish	Distance	Time	Ascent	Descent	Page
Sant Elm, es Capdellà, Calvià, Galilea and Puigpunyent					
Walk 1	20.5km (12½ miles)	6hrs	620m (2035ft)	620m (2035ft)	41
Walk 2	9km (5½ miles)	3hrs	370m (1215ft)	370m (1215ft)	44
Walk 3	13km (8 miles)	5hrs	570m (1870ft)	500m (1640ft)	48
Walk 4	9km (5½ miles)	4hrs	770m (2525ft)	770m (2525ft)	54
Walk 5	19km (12 miles)	6hrs	810m (2660ft)	810m (2660ft)	57
Walk 6	9.5km (5¾ miles)	3hrs 30mins	630m (2065ft)	630m (2065ft)	61
Walk 7	10.5km (6½ miles)	4hrs 30mins	850m (2790ft)	850m (2790ft)	64
Walk 8	4km (2½ miles) or 10km (6¼ miles)	2hrs or 4hrs	500m (1640ft) or 880m (2890ft)	500m (1640ft) or 880m (2890ft)	67
Walk 9	23km (14¼ miles)	8hrs	1030m (3380ft)	1030m (3380ft)	71
Walk 10	8.5km (5¼ miles) or 9.5km (6 miles) or 12km (7½ miles)	3hrs or 3hrs 30mins or 4hrs	400m (1310ft)	310m (1015ft)	75
Walk 11	11km (6¾ miles)	4hrs	520m (1705ft)	520m (1705ft)	80

Start/Finish	Distance	Time	Ascent	Descent	Page
Banyalbuñar, Esporles, Valldemossa and Deià					
Walk 12	13.5km (8½ miles) or 17.5km (11 miles)	5hrs or 6hrs 30mins	860m (2820ft) or 1020m (3345ft)	860m (2820ft) or 1020m (3345ft)	85
Walk 13	24km (15 miles)	8hrs	920m (3020ft)	920m (3020ft)	89
Walk 14	9.5km (6 miles)	3hrs 30mins	650m (2130ft)	440m (1445ft)	96
Walk 15	8km (5 miles) or 9.5km (6 miles)	3hrs or 3hrs 30mins	370m (1215ft) or 420m (1380ft)	370m (1215ft) or 420m (1380ft)	101
Walk 16	13km (8 miles) or 15km (9¼ miles)	5hrs or 5hrs 45mins	635m (2085ft) or 820m (2690ft)	635m (2085ft) or 820m (2690ft)	104
Walk 17	10.5km (6½ miles)	4hrs	610m (2000ft)	870m (2855ft)	109
Walk 18	13.5km (8¼ miles)	5hrs	500m (1640ft)	500m (1640ft)	114
Sóller, Port de Sóller, Fornalutx and Biniaraix					
Walk 19	6km (3¾ miles) or 7.5km (4¾ miles)	2hrs or 2hrs 30mins	280m (920ft) or 300m (985ft)	280m (920ft) or 300m (985ft)	121
Walk 20	8km (5 miles) or 10km (6¼ miles)	3hrs or 3hrs 30mins	300m (985ft) or 400m (1310ft)	300m (985ft) or 400m (1310ft)	124
Walk 21	Mirador de ses Barques/ Cala Tuent	3hrs or 3hrs 30mins	330m (1080ft) or 480m (1570ft)	730m (2395ft) or 880m (2885ft)	128
Walk 22	Port de Sóller	6hrs	750m (2460ft)	750m (2460ft)	132
Walk 23	Sóller	7hrs	1200m (3935ft)	1200m (3935ft)	137
Walk 24	Fornalutx	5hrs	800m (2625ft)	800m (2625ft)	141
Walk 25	Km37.6 on the Ma-10 road	4hrs	610m (2000ft)	610m (2000ft)	145

Start/Finish	Distance	Time	Ascent	Descent	Page	
Bunyola, Orient, Alaró and Santa Maria						
Walk 26	Bunyola	12.5km (7¾ miles)	4hrs	470m (1540ft)	470m (1540ft)	151
Walk 27	Bunyola	14.5km (9 miles) or 8.5km (5¼ miles)	4hrs or 2hrs 30mins	750m (2460ft) or 640m (2100ft)	750m (2460ft) or 640m (2100ft)	154
Walk 28	Orient/Santa Maria	13km (8 miles) or 14km (8½ miles)	3hrs 30mins or 4hrs	100m (330ft) or 200m (660ft)	420m (1380ft) or 520m (1705ft)	158
Walk 29	Alaró	15.5km (9¾ miles) or 14km (8¾ miles)	4hrs 30mins or 4hrs	700m (2295ft)	700m (2295ft)	162
Walk 30	Orient	16km (10 miles)	7hrs	800m (2625ft)	800m (2625ft)	166

Cúber and Tossals Verds

Walk 31	Font des Noguer	11km (7 miles) or 9.5km (6 miles)	4hrs 30mins or 4hrs	600m (1970ft) or 470m (1545ft)	600m (1970ft) or 470m (1545ft)	173
Walk 32	Font des Noguer	11.5km (7 miles)	4hrs 30mins	500m (1640ft)	500m (1640ft)	177
Walk 33	Font des Noguer	8km (5 miles)	5hrs	600m (1970ft)	600m (1970ft)	181
Walk 34	Font des Noguer/Alaró	14.5km (9 miles)	5hrs	350m (1150ft)	880m (2890ft)	184
Walk 35	Font des Noguer/Lluc	16km (10 miles)	6hrs	660m (2165ft)	830m (2725ft)	191

Start/Finish	Distance	Time	Ascent	Descent	Page	
Santuari de Lluc, Escorca and Caimari						
Walk 36	Escorca/Sa Calobra	7km (4½ miles)	5hrs	50m (165ft)	640m (2100ft)	199
Walk 37	Coll de sa Batalla	13km (8 miles)	5hrs	820m (2690ft)	820m (2690ft)	204
Walk 38	Lluc	10.5km (6½ miles)	5hrs	750m (2460ft)	750m (2460ft)	207
Walk 39	Caimari	12km (7½ miles)	5hrs	900m (2950ft)	900m (2950ft)	212
Walk 40	Caimari	16.5km (10¼ miles)	5hrs 30mins	630m (2065ft)	630m (2065ft)	217
Walk 41	Lluc	19km (12 miles)	8hrs	950m (3115ft)	950m (3115ft)	222
Walk 42	Mossa gate/Lluc	17.5km (10¾ miles)	5hrs or 5hrs 30mins	420m (1380ft)	450m (1475ft)	228
Walk 43	Lluc	9.5km (6 miles)	3hrs	250m (820ft)	250m (820ft)	233

Pollença, Formentor and Alcúdia

Walk 44	Lluc/Pollença	19.5km (12 miles)	6hrs	330m (1080ft)	760m (2495ft)	239
Walk 45	Mortix gate	7.5km (4¾ miles) or 10km (6¼ miles)	4hrs or 3hrs	300m (985ft)	300m (985ft)	246
Walk 46	Pollença	5.5km (3½ miles)	2hrs	275m (900ft)	275m (900ft)	250
Walk 47	Port de Pollença	9.5km (6 miles)	5hrs	450m (1475ft)	450m (1475ft)	253
Walk 48	Formentor car park	8km (5 miles)	3hrs	350m (1150ft)	350m (1150ft)	258
Walk 49	Cala Figuera car park	10km (6¼ miles)	3hrs 30mins	400m (1310ft)	400m (1310ft)	261
Walk 50	Bar s'Illot, La Victòria	13km (8 miles)	5hrs	700m (2295ft)	700m (2295ft)	264



There are splendid bird's-eye views of Pollença on Walk 46

INTRODUCTION



Walkers descend carefully to the top of Cingles de Son Rul. Ian (Walk 17)

Mallorca is the largest of the Balearic Islands, basking in sunny splendour in the Mediterranean between Spain and Algeria. It has been a favourite destination for sun-starved northern Europeans for many decades. While beach holidays remain popular, more and more visitors seek the quieter pleasures of rural Mallorca, especially taking opportunities to explore the island's most rugged mountain range, the Serra de Tramuntana.

In the high mountains there is more shade among the evergreen oak and pines, with cooling breezes to temper the heat of the sun. Away from the bustling resorts the pace of life in the mountain villages is more sedate and relaxing. Almond and orange

trees burst into blossom and vineyards yield heavy bunches of grapes. Kid goats bleat plaintively, often unseen among the undergrowth, while bongling bells alert shepherds to the location of their free-range sheep and cattle. Every so often, emerging from the forests, walkers discover the sun-scorched façades of palatial country mansions, wayside *ermitas* (hermitages) and little *casetas* (huts). In a sense, the visitor who is prepared to walk can forget everything they've ever heard about Mallorca, and start afresh by making new discoveries every day, around every corner.

As walking became more and more popular over the years and guidebooks proliferated in many

languages, the island authorities began to purchase some extensive rural estates, protecting them from development and marking paths and tracks for walkers. In due course they turned their attention to the creation of long-distance walking routes, which are still gradually being pieced together.

SERRA DE TRAMUNTANA

Serra de Tramuntana translates as 'Mountains of the North', and they form an incredibly rugged range stretching all the way along the northern flank of Mallorca. The Paratge Natural de la Serra de Tramuntana, or Nature Area of the Serra de Tramuntana, was designated in 2007, covering an area of approximately 625 square kilometres (240 square

miles). In 2011 it became a World Heritage Site, due to its importance as a cultural landscape. Although the mountains are predominantly limestone, the coastline often features a complex mix of rock types. Pine forests and extensive holm oak woodlands abound, with cultivated areas featuring olive groves, citrus groves and nut groves. Terraced slopes near the towns and villages produce abundant crops, while bare, rocky mountainsides are colonised by tough plants that form dense maquis, or patchy garigue formations. These rugged mountains form the backdrop for walking in Mallorca.

Around 90% of the Serra de Tramuntana is private property, and many regular walkers can tell tales about access problems. On the other hand, every few years extensive



Looking towards Mallorca's highest mountains from Puig d'Alaró (Walk 29)

mountain estates come onto the market and some of these have been purchased and opened to the public. Some of the most notable acquisitions and recreational areas, from west to east, include: Finca Galatzó, Sa Coma d'en Vidal, Son Fortuny, Planícia, Son Moragues, Cúber, Binifaldó and Menut. There are plenty of places where walkers are welcome, or at least tolerated.

The provision of the long-distance GR221 allows walkers to trek all the way through the Serra de Tramuntana. Although many stretches of the GR221 are included in this book, they do not run consecutively, nor always in the same direction. For full details of the GR221, described in its entirety as a long-distance route, see *Trekking in Mallorca* by Paddy Dillon, published by Cicerone.

BRIEF HISTORY OF MALLORCA

Mallorca has been inhabited for more than 6000 years, when the earliest settlers lived in caves, hunted and kept animals, made stone tools and employed certain rituals when burying their dead. Around 4000 years ago, stone buildings and large towers, or *talaiots*, were constructed, suggesting highly organised societies working together for the common good, while clearly engaging in serious disputes with their neighbours.

The Carthaginians established trading posts and often recruited local people to defend them. Most of the



Pine trees are common in the mountains of Mallorca

ports on the island had their origins around this time. The Romans invaded Mallorca in 123BC, but much of their work was later destroyed by Vandals from North Africa. After the breakup of the Roman Empire, the Byzantine general Belisarius dealt with the Vandals, and the Balearic islands were linked with what is now Tunisia. As part of the Byzantine Empire, Mallorca again became a trading post protected by military might.

Arab raids commenced in AD707. Arab settlers profoundly influenced the development of agriculture. The legacy of these times is recalled in placenames – *bini* means 'house of', as in Binibassi and Biniaraix. In the

High on na Pòpia, looking towards the lighthouse on Cap de Llebeig (Walk 1)



The western extremity of Mallorca contains the sizeable town of Andratx, the lovely village of s'Arracó, the bustling resort of Port d'Andratx and the quiet little seaside village of Sant Elm. The mountains are small and never reach as high as 500m (1640ft), and while they are quite rugged, they are also criss-crossed with paths and tracks that allow most parts to be explored. A ruined Trappist monastery occupies a remote valley in the mountains, proving to be a popular attraction for walkers (Walk 3). The cliff coastline is formidable, although there are beaches and rocky coves that are fairly easy to access. Sant Elm offers a ferry connection with the splendid island of sa Dragonera (Walk 1), which looks like a miniature mountain range.

Higher and more remote mountains rise further inland, with Mola de s'Esclop (Walks 4–6) and Puig de Galatzó (Walks 7–9) being

particularly prominent; the latter rising to 1027m (3369ft). In recent years, the extensive estate of Finca Galatzó was made public, allowing both mountains to be climbed from a beautiful valley. In earlier years, they were usually climbed from another public estate, Son Fortuny above Estellencs. Motorists who climb these mountains often have to retrace steps to their cars, but walkers who use buses can traverse both mountains and finish far from where they started.

Other fine walks include one from the town of Calvià to the hilltop village of Galilea (Walk 10), with an option to continue to Puigpunyent. (There is a route from Galilea to Puig de Galatzó.) Another route from Puigpunyent climbs the old mountain road of Camí Vell d'Estellencs, descending along the old Camí de Superna to return to Puigpunyent (Walk 11).

WALK 1

sa Dragonera

Start/Finish	Calo Lladó, sa Dragonera
Distance	20.5km (12¾ miles)
Total ascent/descent	620m (2035ft)
Time	6hrs
Terrain	Mostly old roads and tracks, with easy paths, despite the steep slopes
Map	Alpina Tramuntana Sud
Refreshment	Plenty of choice at Sant Elm, drinks available on the Margarita ferry
Transport	Buses serve Sant Elm from Andratx and Port d'Andratx. For the Margarita ferry, tel 629 606 614 or 639 617 545. For the WaterTaxi, tel 638 779 001. The Bergantin and Jumbo II offer day-trips only.

The island of sa Dragonera can only be seen from the western parts of Mallorca. It appears as a dragon-back ridge with a sharp edge and rocky peaks. It has been protected as a natural park since 1995 and is currently equipped with four trails that allow a thorough exploration – although walking all of them in a day is a big undertaking. Countless numbers of lizards will dash out of your way all day!

Buses serving Sant Elm stop on the Plaça de na Caragola, where a very short walk leads down to the ferry landing. The landing on sa Dragonera is at Cala Lladó. Walk up to the information centre and spare a few moments to learn about the natural history of the island, and to study maps showing the layout of the trails. These are numbered from 1 to 4 and are signposted at crucial junctions. This walk takes in all four trails, but it can be shortened, making a good excuse to return for another trip.

- Itinerari 1 – na Miranda – 1.2km circular
- Itinerari 2 – Far de Tramuntana – 1.7km one-way
- Itinerari 3 – Far de Llebeig – 4.5km one-way
- Itinerari 4 – Far Vell – 3.8km one-way



walking up a stony track and passing through a gateway at **es Tancat**. The winding track climbs, passing a little house and eventually reaching the gap of **Coll Roig**; a viewpoint at 98m (322ft).

Keep climbing and an amazing, tightly zigzagging path rises at a gentle gradient, despite the steepness of the bushy slope. It reaches the crumbling lighthouse of **Far Vell**, on the summit of **na Pòpia**, at 349m (1145ft).

A **watchtower** was constructed on na Pòpia in 1581, and then demolished in 1850 to make way for the lighthouse of Far Vell, which was in a poor position as it was sometimes obscured by mist. In 1910 two more lighthouses, Far de Llebeig and Far de Tramuntana (see below), were built and Far Vell was allowed to fall into ruins.

Admire the length of the island and the cliff coast of western Mallorca, then retrace

Leave the information centre to reach a point where tracks intersect and signposts list all the trails and destinations. Turn left to follow *itineraris* 3 and 4 along an old tarmac road, later passing a gate, turning a sharp bend, then reaching a junction and another signpost. Turn right for *itinerari* 4 to Far Vell,



Cala Lladó is the start and finish of the walk on sa Dragonera

steps all the way down to the old tarmac road. If time is limited, turn left to return to Caló Lladó.

Turn right along the road, as signposted for *itinerari* 3 to Far de Llebeig. Simply follow the road as it rises gently, passing a small reservoir. Later, when a signpost indicates a path on the right, it is worth a very short diversion along it to see a ruined limekiln. The road later has a wall alongside, where a cliff drops to the sea, and a lighthouse can be seen ahead.

The road is very bendy as it approaches the lighthouse, which is **Far de Llebeig** (the light is operational but the buildings are derelict), and there is also the option of taking a short path down to the left to look at a watchtower, **Torre des Llebeig**, which can be entered by those with the nerve to climb a 16-rung ladder.

Retrace steps all the way back to **Cala Lladó** and consider if there is enough time to walk further. Turn left to follow *itinerari* 2 for Far de Tramuntana, passing toilets and rising along a stony track through woods. Pass a signpost, and note its position for the return. The track leaves the woods and descends to yet another lighthouse; **Far de Tramuntana**. This is also the closest of the three lighthouses to Mallorca.

Once again, retrace steps, but when the signpost is reached that was noted on the outward journey, turn left down a path with steps on a wooded slope. A track continues, passing a crenellated tower. Reach a **viewpoint** and picnic area at **na Miranda**, then follow the track down past cultivated terraces to return to **Caló Lladó**. Any remaining time can be spent admiring a tiny botanic garden.

WALK 2

Port d'Andratx and Pintal Vermell

Start	Footbridge, Port d'Andratx
Finish	Bus stop, Sant Elm
Distance	9km (5½ miles)
Total ascent/descent	370m (1215ft)
Time	3hrs
Terrain	Fairly easy roads, tracks and paths, but one path needs care to locate
Map	Alpina Tramuntana Sud
Refreshment	Plenty of choice at Port d'Andratx and Sant Elm
Transport	Buses serve Port d'Andratx and Sant Elm from Andratx

The forested hills between Port d'Andratx and Sant Elm are popular with walkers. The following route is not signposted or waymarked, but it has long been considered the first stage of the long-distance GR221 trail. It is an easy linear walk, with the summit of Pintal Vermell offering fine views in the middle, and there are bus services at either end.

Leave the head of the bay at **Port d'Andratx** by crossing a humped footbridge over a river at **s'Aulet**. Follow a broad palm-fringed promenade past the Club de Vela boatyard and a marina. Turn right as signposted for Mon Port, up Carretera Aldea Blanca. Turn left at a crossroads along Carrer de Cala d'Egos, again signposted for Mon Port. Keep right when the road forks, as left is for the **Mon Port Hotel** and a striking windpump.

Pass old olive terraces and avoid a road climbing steeply on the right, rising gently into pine forest instead. Watch for a steep and stony path on the right, often worn to bedrock. (The road could be followed uphill, but it is very convoluted.) The path climbs straight uphill, clipping three bends on the road. **Take care at weekends, when mountain bikers tend to hurtle down the path, making the road a safer option.** It is possible to switch between the road and the path at all three bends, as well as one more time where the path and road cross each other.

The path finally reaches a track junction on the gap of **Coll des Vent**, at 163m (535ft). **There are a couple of ruined limekilns nearby and views back to Port d'Andratx.** Turn left to follow a track away from the gap, keeping right at two junctions that appear soon afterwards. The track runs gradually downhill on a forested slope, reaching another junction around 110m (360ft). Keep right again, but note that a left turn leads down to a rugged little beach at Cala d'Egos.

Follow the track uphill, climbing steeply at times, and keep left at a junction where there is a *sitja*. When a higher junction is reached below **Puig d'en Ric**, turn left to climb further, passing back and forth beneath a pylon line. Cross a high crest where there is a view north-east to Mola de s'Esclop; the mountain rising beyond the village of s'Arracó.

Pas Vermell offers an easy route past a sheer cliff face

