

Self-Guided Walking on Majorca

Trip Code: SGTT

Version: SGTT Self-Guided Walking on Majorca





HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk on the historic Pilgrims Path and watch Black and Griffon vultures soar at Cuber
- Explore the beautifully traditional Majorcan villages of Deia and Fornalutx
- Spend two nights in the tranquillity of Lluc Monastery high in the Serra de Tramuntana
- Immerse yourself in the history of Palma and relax on the sandy beach

AT A GLANCE

- Self-guided
- Max altitude 1126m
- 6 days hiking
- 2 nights stay at Lluc Monastery
- Friday and Sunday departures
- Join at Alcudia/ End in Playa de Palma

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 7 Breakfasts
- 7 nights Hotel

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

With 300 days of sunshine a year, Majorca has been popular with regular holidaymakers since the 1960's. But while many people come to this 'jewel of the Balearics' for sun, sea and sand, there's far more to this fantastic island than just its beaches. Rising precipitously from the Mediterranean, the rugged range of the Serra de Tramuntana runs the length of Majorca's north-western coastline and offers great hiking on well signposted trails amongst spectacular scenery. Sheltered coves, pretty villages, traditional hospitality and great, fresh food add to what is definitely a winning combination for anyone looking for a week of walking in the sun. We have put together a great one-week self-guided holiday which will showcase the very best of the island with a choice of walks and a selection of fantastic 3 and 4 star hotels where you can rest and relax after your days' activities.

With the first 2 nights in Alcudia, there's the chance to hike to a viewpoint for views across to Menorca, to stroll around Alcudia's atmospheric old town and to discover the pretty town of Pollenca. Then, the focus turns to hiking in the Tramuntana, with 2 nights at the historic and tranquil Lluc Monastery; the perfect location in which to appreciate a simpler way of life. Exploring Majorca's mountainous spine, you may even be lucky enough to spot griffon and black vultures as you hike beside Cuber Reservoir. As your week draws to a close you will return to the coast to spend 2 nights in the bustling seaside town of Port de Soller to enjoy coastal hikes and hidden bays, before catching the retro railway to a final evening in the Playa de Palma. Here you can enjoy a guided tour of the islands capital, Palma, relax in one of the many cafes or walk to the beautiful village of Fornalutx.

Is this holiday for you?

This trip is ideal if you are looking for a challenging week of walking in the warmth of the Mediterranean sun. Walking an average of 5-6 hours and ascending no more than 900m a day on rocky paths your routes will take you to traditional villages, stunning peaks and along rugged coast. We have designed this trip specifically to allow you the opportunity to experience all aspects of a destination; enjoy the many restaurants and facilities of the popular tourist resorts, relax on hidden coves away from the hustle and bustle, and find solitude in the Tramuntana Mountains. And staying in 3* and 4* accommodation along the way you are sure to have the desired comfort to relax after a busy day of exploring.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Arrive in Alcudia, settle into your hotel and explore the old town.

Arrive in Alcudia and check in at your hotel, your home for the next two nights. The pretty old town and port of Alcudia lie at the northern end of the Bay of Alcudia which is separated from the Bay of Pollenca to the north by an unspoiled 7 kilometre-long peninsula. Your hotel is located on the coast at the quiet end of Port d'Alcudia. This is the perfect location for exploring both the old town and the peninsula on foot. Depending on your arrival time you can choose to stroll along the coast, pick out a beach-side café, or relax by the hotel pool after your journey.



Accommodation

Hotel

DAY 2

Walk on Alcudia's peninsula and be rewarded with fantastic coastal views and explore the old town.

Today's walk will take you along one of the most beautiful paths stretching between the bays of Pollenca and Alcudia. Your route begins along the coast and after a couple of kilometres leads up into a pine scented forest. From here, you ascend to a rocky col where you'll discover stunning views out to sea, across to the rocky range of the Serra de Tramuntana and even across to Mallorca's smaller neighbour, Menorca. Descending from the col you approach the hidden Platja des Coll Baix, one of Mallorca's best and quietest beaches. Your route continues along winding paths returning you to your hotel. Along the way you have the option to take a detour to the old town.

It's highly recommended to take a stroll through the maze of quaint streets that make up Alcudia's old town. Surrounded by a high wall (which has a partial walkway) this is a real highlight of Mallorca with colourful shops and enticing restaurants. This fortified town dates back to the Romans and has a vibrant history with Vandals, Byzantines, Arabs and Catalan Christians all conquering the island and leaving their mark on the architecture.

Meals: B



Accommodation



Ascent 690M



Descent 820M



Time 6 hours



Distance 15KM

DAY 3

Follow the famous GR221 Pilgrims path and discover the tranquillity of Lluc Monastery.

Your day begins with a short transfer to the outskirts of the pretty town of Pollenca, a picture perfect Mallorcan town, tucked between the hills on the edge of the Serra de Tramuntana. Your route follows the historic Pilgrims Path (GR221) along the ancient cobbled path through agricultural land, accompanied by views of the high summits of the Serra de Tramuntana, and through shaded oak forests, passing the starting point for the popular route to summit Puig Tomir. One of the highest point of the island Puig Tomir (1103m) offers hikers a unique perspective of the island and a bird's-eye view of the bays of Pollenca and Alcudia to the north-east. The final leg of your route continues towards Binifaldo leading you into the tranquil oasis of Lluc Monastery where you will stay for the following two nights.

Meals: B



Accommodation Hotel



Ascent 600M



Descent 220M



Time 4-5 hours



Distance 13KM

DAY 4

Discover the birdlife of Cuber Reservoir and walk through the mountains to Lluc.

Today you'll take a transfer up to Cuber Reservoir which sits beneath the island's highest peak, Puig Major (1445m). Here, you will begin a fantastic walk back through spectacular mountain scenery to Lluc. Sheltered by rocky peaks, this part of the Tramuntana provides a safe haven for birdlife, so be sure to take your binoculars with you. Amongst the more dramatic birds you may be lucky enough to see are griffon vultures and black vultures which are only found on Mallorca. There are also booted eagles, ospreys and Eleanora's falcons, not to mention smaller birds such as the colourful hoopoe and striking blue rock thrush. This fantastic spot has seen the birdlife flourish and you will have plenty of time to savour it before picking up the Pilgrims Path and heading back towards Lluc. The trail leads through open mountain scenery, grassland and forest and climbs to cross two prominent passes, the Coll des Prat and the Coll de Telegraf (1126m) before making the long descent to your accommodation at the monastery.

Meals: B



Accommodation Hotel



Ascent 600M



Descent 890M



Time 5-6 hours



Distance

DAY 5

Ascend the L'Ofre Pass, reach the top of Es Cornador and walk through the Biniaraix Gorge.

Returning to the Cuber Reservoir today you will ascend the L'Ofre Pass where you will be greeted by

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possibly the most spectacular panoramic view of the week across the Serra de Tramuntana. You will soon wind up to Es Cornador peak from where you can see down to Palma and its beautiful beaches below, a perfect resting stop before you continue along the trail to Soller. Your route will take you along the panoramic path through the popular Biniaraix Gorge. This deep running gorge is home to some impressive drystone engineering as the path winds its way through the steep-sided gorge. The path has provided the link between Lluc Monastery and Soller since the 14th century and today it will take you through sweet-smelling orange plantations and down to this pretty town with its traditional Mallorcan architecture. You will have time to explore the town and enjoy refreshments. Feeling refreshed you will take the traditional old tram to Port de Soller and your hotel for the evening.

Meals: B



Accommodation



Ascent 300M



Descent 990M



Time 4-5 hours



Distance 12KM

DAY 6

Discover Deia, a favourite amongst artists and hike along the rugged coast to Soller.

Today's walk starts in the artist's village of Deia via a short transfer. This small coastal village is one of the prettiest on the island and has famously attracted artists, musicians and those in search of a bohemian lifestyle since the 19th century. Most notably English writer Robert Graves, author of 'I Claudius' resided here with poet Laura Riding and Helen Walsh's 2014 book 'The Lemon Grove' was set amongst the quaint streets and rugged land of Deia. It is the villages unique culture and traditions which have seen Deia awarded World Heritage status.

You will have plenty of time to explore the quaint streets before your walk leads you out Deia and along the dramatic, rocky coastline towards Soller. The landscape is diverse along this stretch of coast and you will find many quiet coves and places to sit back, relax and soak up the Mallorcan sun. Along the way you will pass a welcoming finca high above the Soller valley- its flourishing garden is the perfect spot to enjoy a cool drink and delicious slice of cake before continuing on to Port de Soller's lively promenade. We recommend the fresh orange juice; the island produces fantastic oranges and the juice is sure to be fresh!

Meals: B



Accommodation Hotel



Ascent 300M



Descent 430M



Time 5 hours



Distance 12KM

DAY 7

Choose from a selection of walks in or around Palma.

You have a selection of options today to allow you to get the most out of your time in Mallorca's culture

rich capital, Palma. Your first option is to take the retro-railway which will take you on a delightful journey through the colourful valley of oranges into bustling Palma. From here you can walk along the promenade to the beach at Playa de Palma, the perfect spot for relaxing with a good holiday read, taking a refreshing swim or simply watching the world go by with a cup of coffee.

Alternatively you may opt to stretch your legs on a longer walk through the olive groves, almond trees and fragrant orange groves of the fertile Soller Valley. As well as producing fantastic fresh produce for the whole island, this valley provides the location for a beautifully fragrant walk from Soller to the village of Fornalutx, which is known as one of the prettiest village in Spain, with its mountain charm, groves of oranges and lemons and traditional red-roofed stone buildings. You will have time to explore the village before returning to Soller and taking the retro-railway to Palma.

Finally, if you would prefer you can immerse yourself in the history of this magnificent city by strolling through the lively alleyways and visiting the impressive cathedral (payable locally). When you have finished exploring you can take the short bus journey to Playa de Palma to enjoy some time on the beach too.

Meals: B





Ascent 10M



Descent 40M



Time
3-4 hours



Distance 13KM

DAY 8

Departure Day.

Depending on your flight time you will have time to enjoy a relaxed breakfast and a final stroll along the seas front before your onward journey.

Meals: B

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Luggage transfers
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Welcome briefing
- Transfers to/from your walks as per itinerary
- Train fare with nostalgic 'red lightning train' from Soller to Palma
- An orange ice cream in Soller

What's not Included

- Tramway fare from Soller to Pt. Soller approx. EUR 5 per person
- Travel insurance
- Travel to Alcudia
- Travel from Playa de Palma
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist Taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan (lunches)
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit, about the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook and all your relevant documents no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start date. We will send your documents using signed for courier so that you can track your package and know that they are safely on their way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our sales team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker so please remind them to pack it before you set off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start date, please do inform our sales team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts at your hotel in Alcudia. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a land only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Palma de Mallorca Airport with many departures from regional UK airports.

If you are flying to Palma de Mallorca Airport you can travel via public transport to Alcudia, the journey takes approximately 1-2 hours. From the airport take the shuttle bus to Palma Bus Station from where you can take the bus to Pt Alcudia. For more information please visit www.tib.org. Alternatively, it is possible to take a taxi from the airport which costs approx. 80 euros.

Your trip ends in Playa de Palma from where you can take the bus to Palma de Mallorca or alternatively take a taxi for approximately 25-30 euros.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the opportunity to enjoy dining in one of the local restaurants.

Food & Water

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Like most Mediterranean countries Majorcan cuisine is a delicious array of locally produced fresh vegetables, fruits, olives and nuts. Food on the island is simple, clean and tasty with continental style breakfasts consisting of fruits, fresh breads and pastries including the popular Emsaimada, a sweet coiled pastry filled with anything from custard to fruit or even sliced sobrassada sausage.

Along your route you can enjoy a picnic with a view of delicious or sampling the local tapas in a café. Our tip: if you would like a mixture of different Tapas, then just ask for a Tapas Variadas! As you would expect seafood is a popular ingredient on the island with a favourite dish being Caldereta de Llagosta, a pleasant stew made with lobsters caught between Majorca and Menorca. Vegetarians are well catered for on the island with vegetables in abundance, a particular tasty dish is Tumbet, similar to ratatouille. Other popular dishes are hearty rice soups and pork lion in a yummy Majorcan sauce.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

We have hand selected a great selection of 3* and 4* hotels for you on this trip, all selected for their great locations and hospitality. All of the hotels offer comfortable bedrooms, and great communal areas including a restaurant and bar area. The hotels all offer a great buffet breakfast to fuel you on you hikes and some also have a pool area for you to cool off after a day on the trails.

We have also included 2 nights in the peaceful Lluc Monastery so that you can enjoy the relaxation of the mountains as the day draws to a close and the tourists retreat to the resorts on the coast. The monastery is simple and traditional in style with 81 rooms and beautifully manicured gardens perfect for unwinding in the late day sun, as well as a bakery, café, bar and restaurants where you can find a great meal for all budgets. We suggest the lamb which is particularly good in the mountains.

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation in Alcudia or Playa de Palma before or after your trip if you would prefer to explore this fabulous island a little more. Please refer to the dates and prices tab for further details or speak to one of our sales team.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your hike. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the UK Government website.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however, getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking 5 to 6 hours for consecutive days on rugged paths. Some of the routes are along the coastal clifftops requiring head for heights to enjoy the fantastic views.

Climate

The Balearic Islands have a typical Mediterranean climate with mild winters and hot summers making it the perfect spring or autumn getaway when temperatures are around 25-30 degrees and a welcomed breeze from the sea and the mountains remain cooler for walking. In the summer the islands become extremely hot with temperatures reaching up to 35+ degrees while winters are mild on the islands it also bring periods of strong winds and rain, particularly in the mountains.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '<u>Travel Aware</u>' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at <u>travelaware.campaign.gov.uk</u> and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: <u>www.travel.state.gov</u> for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Snowball Oranges by Peter Kerr
- One Mallorcan Summer by Peter Kerr
- I Claudius by Robert Greaves
- The Lemon Grove by Helen Walsh

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our <u>Travel Insurance</u> page for further information and to get a quote.

■ Power bank

Equipment Information

Self Guided Equipment List

■ Hiking boots with good grip soles
■ Functional base layer
■ T-shirts
■ Hat
■ Windproof jacket
■ Fleece / extra layer
■ Long/short hiking trousers
■ Hiking socks
■ Waterproof Jacket
■ Waterproof Trousers
■ Rucksack (approx. 20 I)
■ Small first aid kit for your rucksack
■ Sunscreen
■ Water bottle or hydration pack
■ Camera (batteries/memory card)
■ Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)

- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics
- Walking poles
- Headtorch & spare batteries
- Your self-guided route notes

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from <u>Cotswold Outdoor</u> - our 'Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers. >> Find out more

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

This trip is available for departures on Fridays and Sundays throughout the dates listed.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

We have included 2 nights staying in Lluc Monastery high in the Tramuntana Mountains allowing you to immerse yourself in the tranquility of this special mountain range.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 18/05/2024 and the trip is subject to change