

A pilgrimage path Caimari-Santuari de Lluc

>Caimari-Son Canta	40 minutes	difficulty Media
>Son Canta-El Barracar	5 minutes	difficulty Media
>El Barracar-Bretxa Vella	30 minutes	difficulty Media
>Bretxa Vella-Cases del Guix	10 minutes	difficulty Media
>Cases del Guix-Coll de Sa Batalla	10 minutes	difficulty Media
>Coll de Sa Batalla-Font Coberta	20 minutes	difficulty Media
>Font Coberta-Santuari de Lluc	5 minutes	difficulty Media

Description of the route:

This perfectly-signposted route mainly meanders along the ancient cobblestone and stepped road that leads to the Lluc Monastery, known as the Camí Vell de Lluc. However, the original trail has undergone numerous modifications, so that some sections of it disappear under the current Ma2130 road.

This route will transport you along a road of miracles and legends, nearly always bearing relation to Virgin Mary, the patron saint of Majorca. Your journey will begin by leaving the town of Caimari on Calle de Nostra Senyora de Lluc, which is also the Inca-Lluc Ma2130 road. In not-so-distant times, you could have found inns here that housed the pilgrims before starting their final climb to the sanctuary.

Where the road goes into its first curve to the right, leave the asphalt to take the first section of the old road, which has remains of the original cobblestones even today, crossing through dense forests of aleppo pine trees (*Pinus halepensis*), and holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*).

Here you can enjoy one of the most emblematic sceneries of Majorca, with the slope of the mountain festooned with a sea of olive trees and terraced in levels with the dry-stone plots of land, created in times immemorial, with the aim of converting hostile lands into a space suitable for crops.

After flanking the Penya de Cavall Bernat boulder, arising to the right of the road, cross the road, climbing along a narrower section known as Costa Llarga, until reaching the houses of Son Canta, also on the right.

Keep going up along the same road till you come across the houses of El Barracar, which were the property of the Lluc Sanctuary for many centuries, serving as an inn for the pilgrims. From here, you will embark on the longest paved section, where the path and the road are often intertwined. At this point, on days with good visibility, travellers will have the chance to enjoy one of the best views imaginable over Pollença Bay.

Ahead, after crossing a barrier to the left of the road, once again follow the former road, known along this section as the Camí de Sa Llonganissa (Sausage Road), due to the curve it traces.

This path ascends in the direction of Bretxa Vella, an artificial corridor built in 1708, to reach the houses of Es Guix, whose name proceeds from gypsum mining that was done in the region.

Now you will leave the path to the left that climbs to Puig de Massanella to go down a

section of the Camí Vell de Lluc, bypassing the Font des Guix, until you reach the road again, at Coll de Sa Batalla, today occupied by a petrol station.

At this point, you can return to Caimari on the regular bus line if you like, as there is a bus stop across from the petrol station.

TIB information (Transporte de las Illes Balears (Transport on the Balearic Islands)): : 971 177 777

After going by the petrol station, at the crossroads of the Sóller and Lluc-Pollença road, you will take the paved road located between two roads that cross the Es Guix housing complex and will lead you, passing by the Font Coberta, to the Lluc Sanctuary.

In Lluc, you can return to Caimari on the regular bus line if you like.

The Lluc Sanctuary

The discovery date of the image of the Virgin Mary of Lluc, Majorca's patron saint, is placed around the year 1239. According to legend, the image of the Lluc Virgin, dark and small, was found between the rocks by a shepherd and a nun, who took it to the Hermitage of Sant Pere. The next day, when they went to worship her, she had disappeared and they found her once again in the same exact location where they had originally found her. This miracle happened several times and is why a small oratorio was raised here, in order to venerate the Virgin.

Since the 13th century, from all the island villages, the islanders have traditionally made pilgrimages to the Lluc Sanctuary along different routes that converge in three main roads: Sóller, Pollença and Caimari.

An inn was built for accommodating the pilgrims in the 16th century and, in 1662, construction was started on the current church. It was finished in 1691 with the completion of the façade.

Between 1908 and 1914, spurred on by the festivities celebrating the 25th anniversary of the pontifical crowning of the Virgin, reform works were executed on the Sanctuary, consisting of enlarging the hostel, the interior design of the church and the construction of the Rosario Monumental, commissioned to Majorcan architect Guillermo Reynés, with the collaboration of renowned architect Gaudí. The Els Blauets children's choir lives there at the present time.

Advice for hikers

The places you are going to visit have an ecological and cultural value. To make the most of them and so that next generations can still enjoy them too please follow the following steps: • Follow the signs of the recommended routes and do not leave the path. • Campfires or cigarettes can lead to a fire. • Most of the recommended paths go through private properties. Always take your dogs on a lead to prevent them running after cattle. • Do not uproot plants or flowers. • Throw your rubbish in the containers provided. • Camping is not authorised. • Loud noise could alter the peace and quiet of a place. Be considerate. • Wear appropriate shoes. • Do not underestimate weather conditions. • All paths aforementioned are public so please leave the gates as you found them. • In some of the suggested routes there is the possibility of going back to Caimari by public transport. Check timetables beforehand on TIB 971 - 17 77 77 • Emergencies phone 112 • Fire brigade in Majorca 085



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|  | Area de pic-nic |  | Iglesias y ermitas |
|  | Museo |  | Gasolinera |
|  | Posesión |  | Zona de camping |
|  | Hotel, hostel, agroturismo |  | Jardín botánico |