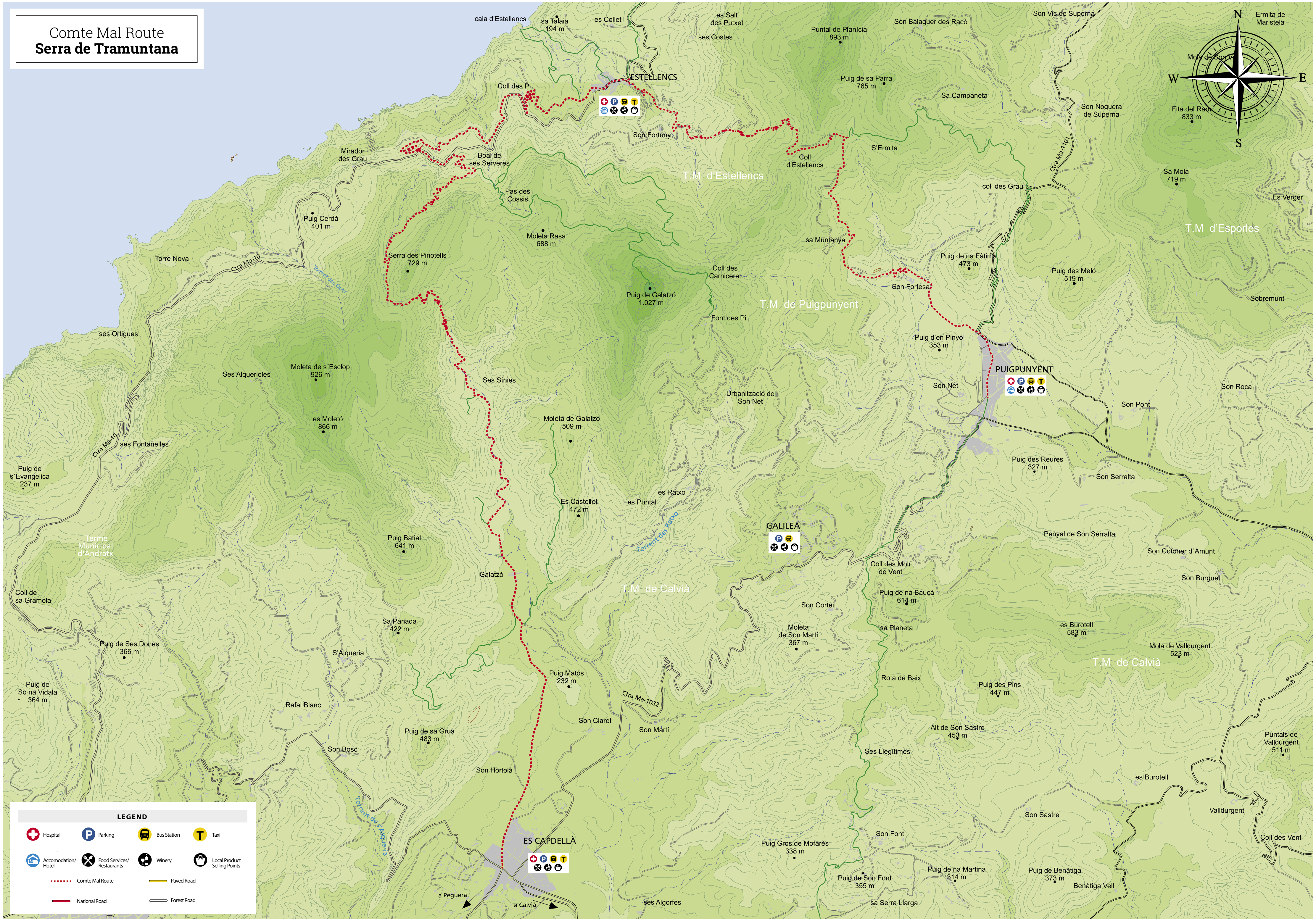
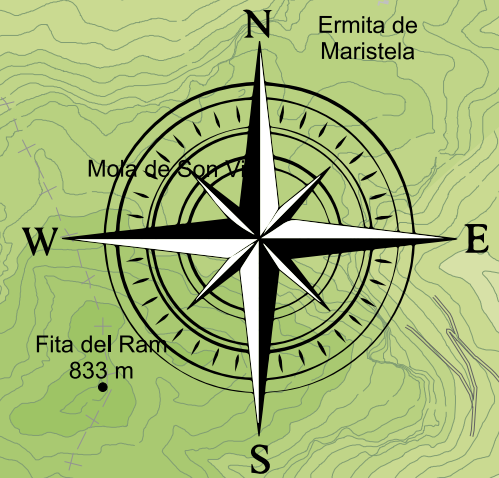


Comte Mal Route  
Serra de Tramuntana



LEGEND

Hospital

Parking

Bus Station

Taxi

Accommodation/  
Hotel

Food Services/  
Restaurants

Winery

Local Product  
Selling Points

Comte Mal Route

Paved Road

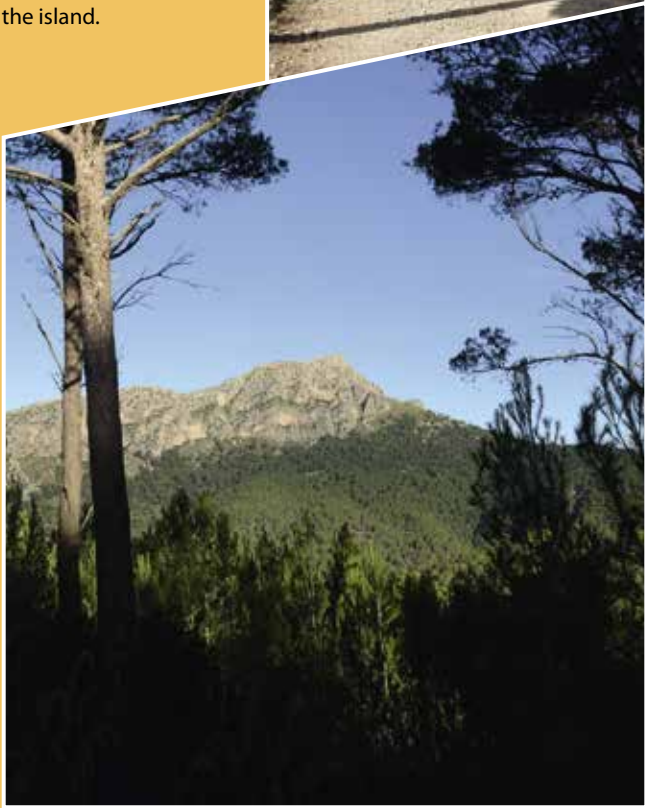
National Road

Forest Road



Galatzó

Galatzó is a mountain with an impressive geology, varied flora and fauna, and a history that goes back to the first inhabitants of the island. It is also the setting of one of the most interesting legends in Mallorca: the legend of Comte Mal [Count Evil]. Behind the legend lies a dark episode of history. During the 17th century, throughout the Mediterranean, a fratricidal strife between houses, lineages, families and clans was intensified. A confrontation between the most powerful families in Mallorca fighting violently over economic and social control. Such is the historical context in which settings, characters and facts recalling that century have survived in the collective memory of the island.



Traditional songs of Mallorca

Both Rafel Ginard and Andreu Ferrer collected in Mallorca the folk song about Count Arnau, which comes from Catalonia and blends in with the legends about Comte Mal. They explain that women farmers sing that song while working, or while picking olives, one replying to the other as in a dialogue, and both saying, like a prayer, the refrain 'Mother of God, help me'. Here is an excerpt:

– Are you staying up all alone, loyal wife? (twice)

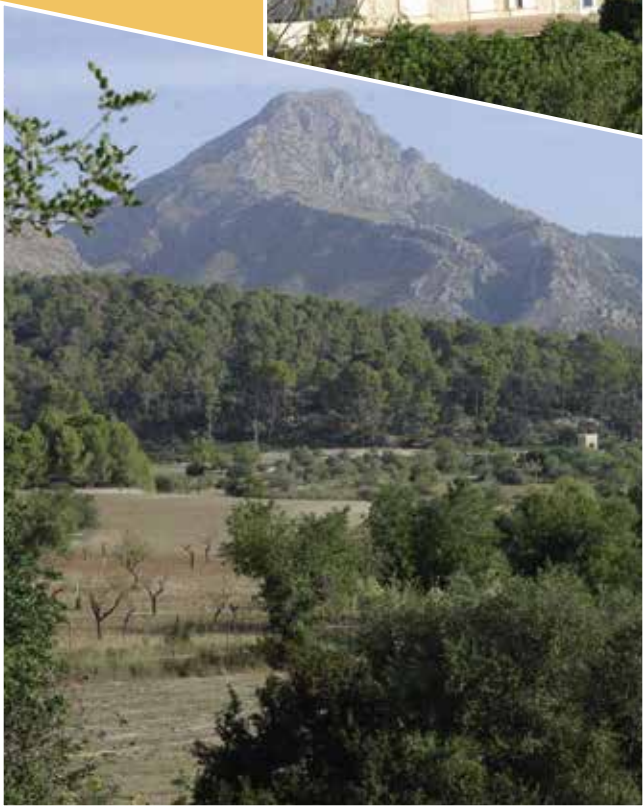
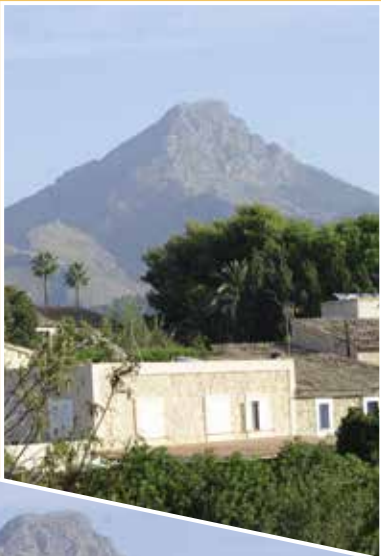
– I am not staying up all alone, dear Count Arnau.

I am not staying up all alone, oh God assist me, Mother of God, help me.



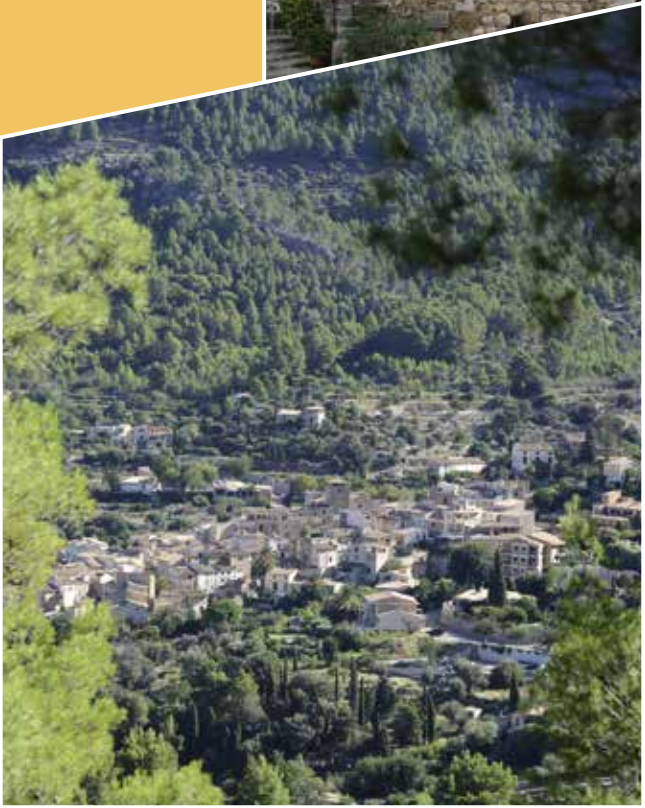
Es Capdellà

Es Capdellà, in the municipality of Calvià, is part of the western lands of Mallorca, also called Paríatge because, historically, the kings of Mallorca and the bishop of Barcelona shared its government. The municipalities of Calvià, Estellencs and Puigpunyent, and the respective Galatzó, Son Fortuny and Son Nét estates, converge at the top of Galatzó. This fact is always very present in the popular perception of the mountain. Galatzó has been incorporated in the modern perception of the landscape more through legend than through the descriptive account made by romantic travellers.



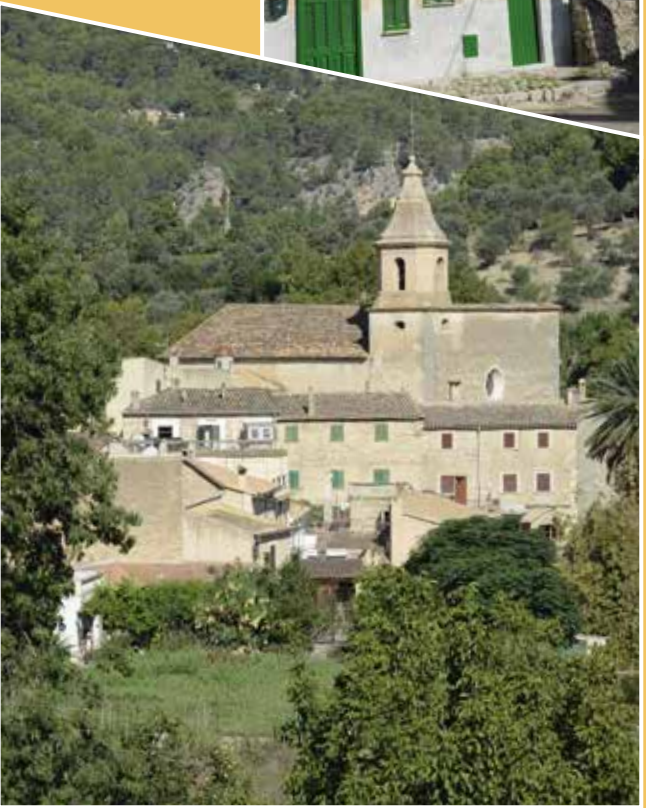
Estellencs

Estellencs is a small municipality with 400 inhabitants raised over a set of dry stone walls overlooking the sea. The belfry of the St John the Baptist church, built in the 17th century over the old sixteenth century guard tower, is noticeable. The road that goes from Andratx to Banyalbufar divides the town in two. In the upper part we have s'Arraval, with steep streets, stairs and paving stones. Down below is the other half of the town, with the path to the cove and the port of Estellencs.



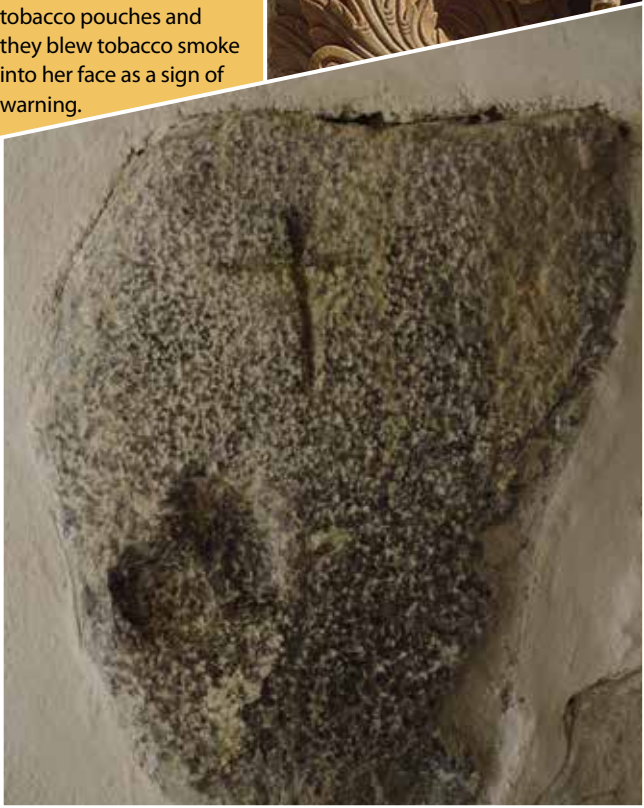
Puigpunyent

It includes three small population centres: Puigpunyent, Galilea and Son Serralta. The hamlet of Galilea at the foot of Galatzó, a picturesque village that attracted great painters - Angela von Neumann and John Ulbricht, amongst others - comprises the only ice house preserved inside a village. The silhouette of Galatzó, with its puig punxent [sharp peak], gives its name to the municipality. Puigpunyent includes estates of great renown such as Son Nét, converted into a luxury hotel, and a torrent that crosses the town and fills it with murmurs and waterside trees: poplars, elms, ash and plane trees.



The heart of Comte Mal

Comte Mal became an orphan early in life. His father, the first Count of Formiguera, died when he was only a child and left him one of the largest fortunes in Mallorca, but also lawsuits, disagreements, quarrels and enemies, a feud with the people of Santa Margalida. Comte Mal believed in his own justice, in other words he took justice in his own hands. Antoni Comelles hounded him, he wanted to kill him. When out hunting, he had to protect himself with his gang of bandits, he had to take improvised paths and go in through the backdoor. The countess was not safe either. One afternoon while taking a stroll with her servants, Comelles' gang forced her to walk among a row of bandits armed with pistols and tobacco pouches and they blew tobacco smoke into her face as a sign of warning.





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Departament de Sostenibilitat i Medi Ambient  
Telf: (+34) 971 173 700  
pedraensecscendens@conselldemallorca.net  
<https://caminsdepedita.conselldemallorca.net>

**Consell de Mallorca**



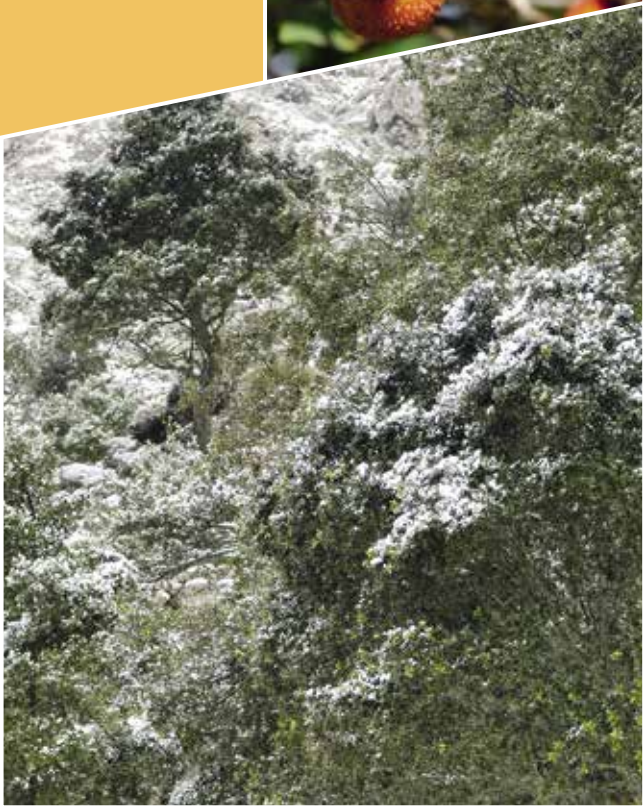
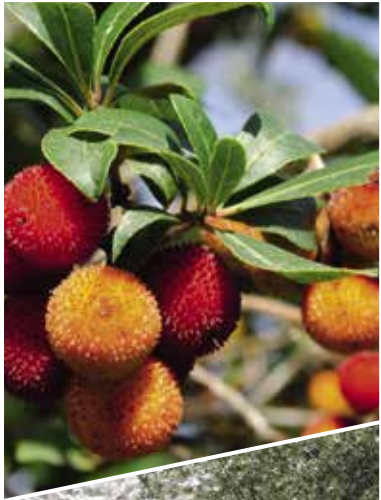
The network of Emblematic Mediterranean Mountains consists of nine complex living mountains located around the Mediterranean Sea, in France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Albania. The respective territories are working together on common challenges:

- Preserving patrimonial values from endogenous and exogenous threats
- Sharing positive experiences and good practices and increasing international recognition

of experiential slow tourism across hinterland areas of European Mediterranean Mountain regions. By enjoying these journeys, visitors have a chance to explore the areas' singularities and the activities offered by local providers. These are journeys where nature and culture meet, and the experience with body and soul is such that it generously conveys the emblematic character of the territory.

Holm oak groves

Holm oak groves are the most emblematic forest complex of the Balearic Islands. They are typically made of dark and humid woodland, because of the thickness and density of the holm oak (Qercus ilex) treetops that limit the passage of sunlight. The cool and humid atmosphere, especially in summer, conditions the plants that grow there. Amongst these plants we can find pa porci (Cyclamen balearicum), strawberry trees (Arbutus unedo), laurustinus shrubs (Viburnum tinus), and a wide variety of mosses, fungi and lichens.



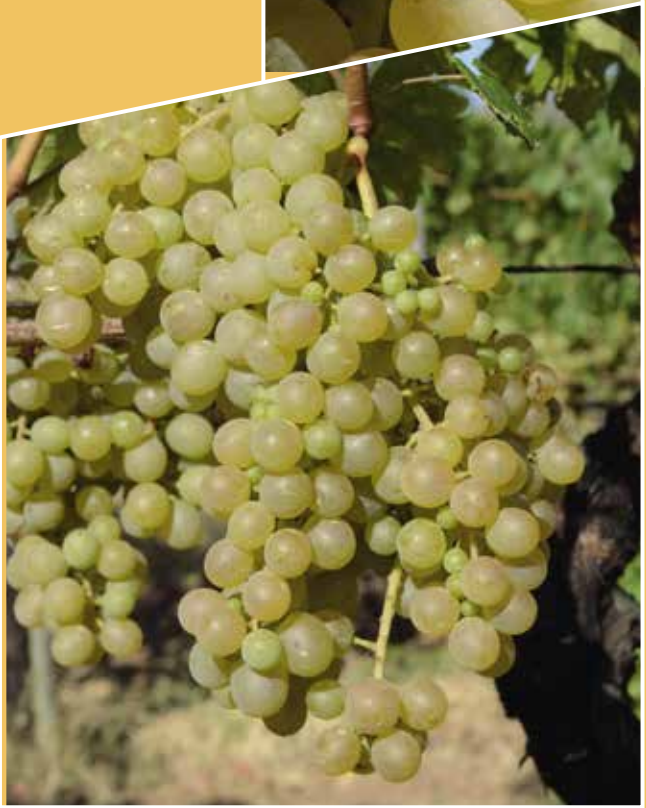
Sitja

Theophrastus said that the best charcoal is made from the closest wood, such as holm oak and arbutus. The best charcoal comes from trees in their prime and conveniently topped. Charcoal is used to smelt ore in iron and silver mines and also by blacksmiths. Charcoal burners select the smoothest billets because they must be laid as close as possible to optimise the smouldering process. When they have reached the opening at the top of the sitja, they set it alight and prod the sides with a pole called burjó or bessonador.



Malvasia

Vineyards acquired a lot of prestige thanks to the production of Malvasia wine, which was exported all over Europe. Now, people are replanting these vines and the famous Malvasia wine produced in Banyalbufar and Estallencs is one of the gems of the designation of origin 'Serra de Tramuntana-Costa Nord regional wine'. Vegetable gardens offer other products such as the famous cluster tomato, which was exported to Barcelona. From the 1920s to 1930s, gardens and vineyards brought much economic prosperity to these mountain villages, until the civil war.



Prehistoric sites

From the first Bronze Age settlements with naviform structures (1700-1100/1000 BC), (naviform structure of Ses Sinies, Cova d'en Batiat and Puig de Caragol) the access to and control of the permanent freshwater springs played a crucial role in the shaping of the landscape. The settlements were laid out systematically next to the Galatzó torrent, which acted as the main channel of communication. The talaiotic (1000/900-123 BC) and post-talaiotic sites (talaiotics of S'Argolla, Puig de Caragol) are located in the plain and on the hills that surround it, which provide good control over the territory.





Departament de Sostenibilitat i Medi Ambient  
Consell de Mallorca

Comte Mal Route  
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