



| Information about the mountain | |
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| Name of the mountain | Serra de Tramuntana |
| Country | Spain |
| Region | Illes Balears – Balearic Islands |
| Altitude | 1.445 m (Puig Major) |
| Surface area | 835 km ² |
| Surface of protected area | Natural Reserve Area: 61.961 land hectares; UNESCO World Heritage: 30.745 ha (Core area); 83.505 ha (Core area + Buffer area) |
| Name of local organization in charge of management | -Consell de Mallorca -Govern de les Illes Balears |
| Number of municipalities | 19: Alaró, Andratx, Banyalbufar, Bunyola, Calvià, Campanet, Deià, Escorca, Esporles, Estellencs, Fornalutx, Lloseta, Mancor de la Vall, Pollença, Puigpunyent, Santa Maria, Selva, Sóller and Valldemossa. |
| Institutional recognition | <div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Picturesque Setting: Decree 984/1972: by the Spanish government, 19-04-1972 (in accordance with a 1930 Spanish Heritage Act)- Item of Cultural Interest: under the new Spanish Historic Heritage Act. 1985- Inclusion in Natura 2000 Network, including today 29 Zones of Special Protection for Birds (ZEPA) and Sites of Community Importance (SCI): 20-04-2004- Mallorca Land Management Plan: 23-12-2004- Natural Protected Area - Plan for the Regulation of the Tramuntana area's Natural Resources: Decree 19/2007 (under a Council of Government Agreement of 16-03-2007).- UNESCO Declaration of World Heritage Site, in its capacity as a Cultural Landscape. 28-06-2011 |
| Contact details | |
| Website | https://caminsdepedra.conselldemallorca.cat |
| Address | C/ General Riera, 111. 07010 Palma, Balearic Islands |
| Telephone number | (+34) 971 17 37 00 |
| E-mail | pedraensecsenderisme@conselldemallorca.net |
| Project details | |
| Project web-site & social media | www.emblematic.interreg-med.eu & www.emblematic-med.eu  @EMbleMatIc.MED  @EMbleMatIc_MED  @emblematic_med  EMbleMatIc |



Serra de Tramuntana

When you gaze upon the Serra de Tramuntana, standing majestic guard over the Mediterranean Sea, you will succumb to the magnetism of Mallorca's pride and joy.

The Serra de Tramuntana, the island's most prized possession, rises up in all its majestic splendour on the north-eastern side of Mallorca. This privileged natural setting has been shaped by man over centuries, using stone as one of its key features in the form of innumerable dry stone walls that shaped in form of terraces its often steep rocky slopes. The outcome is an incredible cultural landscape, essence of history, tradition and centuries of wisdom, and awarded recognition by the UNESCO in 2011, as World Heritage Site. It features towns, villages and hamlets that captivated and inspired artists and travellers, old mountain paths and tracks along which the Ruta de Pedra en Sec now runs, places with strong spiritual associations like Lluc valley, and a wide range of culinary delights, all alongside the Mediterranean's blue waters. This combination of attractions helps to explain why the Serra de Tramuntana exerts such a fascinating influence on all those who enter its confines in search of its soul.



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Proud Local People

Serra de Tramuntana is the pride of its local residents and of Mallorcans. With the tourism boom and progressive abandonment of farming activities, a growing interest emerged in keeping this area alive. Initiatives were developed to make sure that its cultural and natural values are handed down to future generations and visitors. Some involve the restoration and conservation of dry stone landscapes and the promotion of local products. Other strive to preserve its history and identity, such as the epic battles between “Moors and Christians” that are re-enacted with fierce enthusiasm by the townsfolk of Sóller and Pollença: a feature of the island’s intangible heritage that is keenly upheld.

Reputation

The Serra de Tramuntana—whose peaks and slopes are visible from almost all points of the island—is very dear to the Mallorcan people’s hearts. It is a place for outings and hikes and for enjoying the natural beauty of its paths and public spaces. With the Serra de Tramuntana’s inclusion on the UNESCO’s list of World Heritage Sites in 2011, it has become increasingly well known to visitors and appreciated by them. It is easy to understand why first-time visitors to the Serra feel as if they have discovered a totally unexpected side to Mallorca: a hidden treasure of outstanding natural and cultural importance, with stunning mountain vistas and inland scenery.

Legends and Myths

The Serra’s history is full of fascinating religious, magical and superstitious deeds. Over the years, those which were unexplained gradually became shrouded in mystery and legend, like the apparition of the Virgin Mary at Lluc, where she has been worshipped for centuries, or the divine aid that the townsfolk of Sóller received when they ward off a pirate attack in the valley in 1561. One particularly deep-rooted legend concerns the Puig de Galatzó area, where the ghost of the Comte Mal or Evil Count is said to have been eternally condemned to wander, thus atoning for atrocities that he committed when he was alive. You might well come across him, astride a black horse surrounded by flames.

Power of Inspiration

This fascinating scenery has been a source of inspiration for artists and intellectuals alike. Archduke Ludwig Salvator of Austria fell in love with the beauty of its coastline in 1867, and he gradually bought up most of the estates between Valldemossa and Deià, commissioning the construction of tracks and vantage points with breath-taking panoramic views of the sea. The pianist and composer Frédéric Chopin and writer George Sand spent just one winter at La Cartoixa Monastery, but it was enough for this conclusion to be reached: “Valldemossa... Everything the painter or the poet can dream, nature has created in this place”.

Picturesque Landscape

The Serra de Tramuntana is a cultural landscape of outstanding importance. Nature has gradually shaped peaks, valleys, inaccessible cliffs, remote little coves and unique spots like Sa Foradada peninsula, pierced by an incredible hole. With tireless effort and patience, man has left his mark on the Serra de Tramuntana, creating a backdrop of almost unique proportions, dotted with charming towns, villages and hamlets, inspirational narrow little roads and streets, and endless dry stone walls crowned with ancient olive trees, arranged as if was a landscape deliberately conceived to draw all eyes.

Particular Ecosystem

This mountain range is the area of greatest natural value in Mallorca. It is an ‘island within an island’, giving rise to the emergence of unique life forms. For instance, nine species of orchids and over ten species of ferns are endemic to these mountains. On its crags, plants exclusive to the Balearics can also be found, generally large strikingly coloured flowers, while holm-oaks are the most common woodland trees there, forming large forest areas, particularly in wetter places. As for its fauna, unique species of birds also seek refuge there, such as the black vulture, osprey (which nests on its coastal cliffs), and Eleanor’s falcon, which is native to the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean Cultural Identity

The people of the Serra de Tramuntana have a large cultural inheritance, handed down orally in Catalan from generation to generation, and associated with farming and livestock practices and the harvesting of natural resources. In this way, some of the Mediterranean’s most typical products are made in this region, such as olive oil and wine, together with a wide selection of traditional Mallorcan gastronomic produce. At the same time, it also stands out for its extensive cultural heritage and festivities, including religious, pagan and commemorative events with roots that go back centuries.

Sustainability and Anthropogenic Environment

One of the most invaluable features of the range are dry stone structures, built in parallel with the development of technical skills in order to help man survive in a hostile environment, leading to an almost perfect symbiosis between nature and the work of man. Traditional water collection and distribution systems, dating back to Islamic times, are combined to singular effect with crops grown on hillside terraces and pits for collecting snow, built at a later date. Another important feature is its network of traditional mountain tracks (the original transport links between villages, estates, farmland and grazing areas), which today make up the Ruta de Pedra en Sec for hikers.

Historic Places

Over the centuries, human occupation, left a succession of imprints on the land, including those of its early cave-dwellers, remains from the Islamic period and farms built after the Christian conquest of Mallorca, some of which are now towns or villages. Nestling amid the olive groves are big rural estate houses once owned by feudal lords. The coastal watchtowers, whose lookouts alerted the population to pirate raids, and other formerly impregnable defensive towers and fortifications, like Alaró Castle, all bear witness to a history full of fascinating tales and anecdotes. Neither must Lluc Shrine be forgotten, a place of pilgrimage and religious and cultural symbol for the island.