



**SANTA EULÀRIA**  
Natural diversity · Ibiza

## **New Hiking Routes to Explore in Santa Eulària des Riu**

With kilometres of stunning rural and coastal scenery Santa Eulària des Riu has always been famed for its hiking. Connecting to nature and enjoying the stillness, scenery and quiet calm of the Ibizan countryside whilst exploring the fascinating history by foot is a popular pastime. For 2022 three new hiking routes have been developed to capitalise on the increasing popularity of walking as a holiday activity.

Developed by the municipality the new routes join the already-existing miles of paths, secondary roads and paved tracks that form 20 hiking and biking routes of varying lengths and difficulty for visitors to enjoy. All routes can be downloaded at <https://visitsantaeulalia.com/en/experience/hiking-routes/> where the PDFs feature maps, information on difficulty and the names of restaurants and 'Hotels with Charm' along the way.

### **New Routes**

#### **The Coast Route**

The 12.1km Coast Route follows the coast from the municipality's main town to one of the most popular resorts in Ibiza; Es Canar, before heading inland and weaving through rural countryside to complete the loop. Taking in some of the area's best beaches and sea views the three-hour gentle stroll is suitable for all abilities. Starting in the elegant town of Santa Eulària the hike takes in the imposing Town Hall, which dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the popular pedestrianised shopping street of San Vicente where many of the town's lively and popular restaurants can be found. Along the route there are numerous spots for cooling off with Es Niu Blau and Cala Pada providing sheltered swimming coves backed by typical Ibizan pinewoods. The authentic fishing huts at Cala Pada offer a glimpse into traditional life from bygone times.

As one of the most historical region's in the island there is a wealth of archaeological points of interest. The S'Argamassa aqueduct dates back to the late Punic / Roman period of 1CE and is thought to have channelled water over its 400 metre course to a fish factory on the coast.

In sharp contrast the furthest point on the route is the Punta Arabi hippy market. In existence since 1973 and started by genuine hippies who relocated to Ibiza the 500-plus stalls have now become a

national institution known throughout the globe. A popular tourist attraction the market sells jewellery, handcrafted leather goods, vintage clothing and trinkets.

### **The Great Route**

For visitors looking for a challenge the 62km Great Route showcases some of the region of Santa Eulària des Riu's most jaw-dropping scenery and history. With a medium difficulty rating and completion time of 15 hours the hike can be divided up into stages to be made more manageable.

Starting in the main town the hike takes in the virgin cove of Cala Espart with its emerald waters before weaving inland to the village of Jesús with its whitewashed villages and church which dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and built by the Franciscans. En route to the next village of Santa Gertrudis which sits in the middle of the island is a perfect example of the traditional dry stone wall construction. Rebuilt in 2018 to strict traditional methods such is the importance of these walls that they have achieved UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status.

The route then picks up the Labritja Sightseeing Path which was designated in 2018 and features over 16km of heritage sites including the towers of Can Jaumet, Rieró and Montserrat and the Atzaró wellspring.

The route then takes in the hippy markets of Las Dalias, which started life as a 1950s dance hall before becoming the central meeting point for the hippy movement, and Punta Arabi. Circling back towards Santa Eulària with the Punta S'Església and the excellent seascape looking towards the bay and marina. Legend has it that this was the first church of the town and that many years ago after mass on the first Sunday in May the entire church came crashing down without claiming a single victim. Since then, the date has been enshrined as the municipality's most important bank holiday!

### **River Route**

As a celebration of the Balearic Islands' only river the River Route is a 3km easy route following this historical lifeline of the region. Starting at the 19<sup>th</sup> century Town Hall in Santa Eulària the route then includes the Sala Barrau – the gallery dedicated to the painter Laureano Barrau y Buñol who came to Ibiza in 1912 and was captivated by the light which he captured prolifically throughout his work.

Following the direction of the water walkers can then see the Es Broll des Pou de Baix – one of the main water sources - located at the end of the waterfront and facing the sea before strolling down the promenade and enjoying the views of the crystal-clear sea. Many visitors aren't aware that one of the reasons the waters around Ibiza are so prized and protected is due to the Posidonia grass. This natural phenomenon is so crucial to marine biodiversity that it was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 1999.

Following the direction of the river the path moves inland towards the Moli de Baix, one of the last mills of the region and protected from on high by the canon at the Puig de Missa, and the Pont Vell I Sa Font d'en Lluna an 18<sup>th</sup> century bridge.

Taking in farmland which would have been irrigated by three channels that ran from the river to the first fortified church in the region walkers can keep an eye out for flora and fauna and in the spring and summer months the wildflowers are particularly pretty. For keen photographers the lookout point is the perfect spot to take pictures of Puig de Missa, the fields and orchards, river and Pont Vell Bridge. The route then climbs up to one of Santa Eulària's des Riu's most recognisable and historic landmarks. Perched on top of a mound that overlooks the sea is the Santa Eulària church and accompanying Ethnographic Museum. Rebuilt in 1565 after it was left in ruins from a Turkish pirate attack the church boasts the largest porch of any in Ibiza and a fortified tower to ward off and provide defence against pirate attacks. Around this church the first village started to form in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the 300-year-old Ethnographic Museum tells the story of settlement and farming and life of early-civilization in Ibiza.

For further information about Santa Eulària des Riu, please visit: <http://visitsantaeulalia.com/en/>

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**Note to editors:** Santa Eulària des Riu comprises the townships of Jesús, Puig d'en Valls, Santa Gertrudis de Fruitera, Santa Eulària des Riu and Sant Carles de Peralta. It also includes an impressive stretch of coastline with more than 20 beaches as well as rural farmland.

It was the cradle of the hippie movement on the island and home to numerous artists from all over the world. In the year 1912, the well-known painter Laureà Barrau remarked that, *"Everything here is more beautiful than I could have imagined. A painter's entire life can be found here."*