

Holiday with a religious connection

The monasteries, retreats, churches and sacred places of Northern Mallorca.

Part 5: Two days in Pollenca - walking the pilgrim trail; exploring the town.



The long trail up Puig de Maria – a high hill overlooking Pollenca, with a former nunnery on top.

The Puig (hill) de Maria, more formally known as 'Santuari de la Mare de Déu del Puig' (the Sanctuary of the Virgin of the Hill) is a large hill that overlooks the town of Pollenca.

The walk is fantastic for witnessing stunning views of Majorca's countryside and the local towns of Pollenca, Port de Pollenca and Alcudia, not to mention it is a great workout for the legs. It takes around 40-45 minutes to climb to the top, where there is a lovely monastery/nunnery and restaurant to stay for a meal, or a quick drinks stop.



The trail begins on the main road skirting the town of Pollenca.



As the trail winds upwards through housing, it isn't long before panoramic views of the town of Pollenca are viewable.



As you progress higher up the trail, the location of the town of Pollenca, set among the high mountains, becomes apparent.



We reach the top at Puig de Maria.

Construction on the site first began in 1348 to beg the Virgin for protection from the Black Death. The majority of the buildings date to the 15th Century. Their principal use over the years has been as a pilgrim church before turning to their current use as a hostel following the departure of the last nuns in 1988.



Inside the chapel at Puig de Maria.



The 14th century image of the Virgin Mary in the altar space.

Nowadays there are no nuns at Puig de Maria, although it is maintained as a religious site and there are 12 rooms available for overnight stays. There is a café with space to sit inside and out.



The outdoor part of the café at Puig de Maria where we had coffee and cakes.



One of the local cats came to say hello at the outdoor café.



The refectory where the nuns at Puig de Maria would have eaten.



A panoramic view from the top of Puig de Maria.



On the way down – we're glad we chose a cloudy day – the climb and descent would have been too much in 35 degree heat!



At last – we celebrate our achievement in a bar in the village square of Pollenca, with beer and tapas.

Two days later, we returned to explore other sights in the town of Pollença.



On a different (sunnier) day we explored more of Pollença. The Museum of Pollença is located in the old cloister of the Dominican monastery and was built between 1588 and 1616; the Dominican friars were there until 1836.



The church of Mount Sion in Pollença – a Jesuit institution. This attractive baroque church, located near the base of the steps up Calvari, was built by the Jesuits in the late 17th century. The church's convent is today the home of the Town Hall. Next door is a school which used to be the Jesuit College.



The former Jesuit college in Pollença, now a school.

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