

The Ice House Trail

3 days in the saddle and two nights in the wonderfully atmospheric Monastery at LLuc



This trail demands a little more stamina than the Pilgrim Trail as well as confidence and experience. Combine it with a day or two sight-seeing and a little bit of relaxation as part of a week in Mallorca or just stay in Alcudia or Pollenca for one night before and after to make a short break.

Day 1

Starting from the stable in Pollenca Bay at 9am, you will prepare your horse for a three day trip and then ride by road to Pollenca town. Tie up your horse near the historic Roman Bridge whilst you take a break in a near by bar. From here it is a short way to the old road to LLuc. Soon you will be off-roading on gravel and earth tracks, along the river bed and through ancient holm oak forests, as you climb steadily towards the monastery, where you will be staying.

You will find charcoal burning platforms from the days when charcoal was an essential commodity on Mallorca. And you will see smaller ice houses where compacted snow would have been stored after being carried down from the larger snow caves higher up in the mountains, to the towns for use in summer. You will stop for lunch along the way at a beautiful finca, where the owner cooks with the best of local produce and serves it to her guests in her home.

At the end of your first day you will see the magnificent monastery coming into view. You will take your horse to a lush field, un-tack and feed them. Take a break yourself and look around the monastery grounds, or go straight to your simple and comfortable room to relax. Each has a private shower room – but be prepared to make your own bed! An excellent typically Mallorquine menu awaits you in the Monastery restaurant.





Day 2

After breakfast the next day, groom your horse and tack up for the journey towards the peak of Galileu. Your guide will have organised a picnic lunch for you to carry with you. Your horse will now take you on an exhilarating journey up steep tracks to what feels like the top of the world. In fine weather you will see the most stunning views of the Mallorcan coast line. You will break for lunch near an abandoned house and see an enormous ice cave dug into the earth and lined with stone. Stop to explore and rest before riding back along the ice man (or Navar's) route. They carried the ice in wooden containers and barrows over the same rough and often steep ground where you will ride.

Return by one of two routes your guide will let you choose. Either down a beautifully restored stone stairway (which is part of the recently completed Rota de Piedra en Sec) where you will need to dismount and walk as it is slippery under hoof for your horse; or alternatively across the same softer ground that you crossed in the morning.



You will return to the Monastery, taking your horses back to their green field, where you will be well into the routine of un-tacking and feeding them. Your party may choose to dine on this second evening at Lluc in the more informal circular bar restaurant on the outer edge of the monastery site, where the food is very good.

Day 3

After breakfast the next day, groom your horse and tack up for the downward journey home and notice the horses smarten their pace as they return to their most familiar territory. At first you will take a different route through what looks like an enchanted wood, eventually returning to a familiar landscape and the shallower inclined of the Tramuntana. Stopping again in Pollenca, you will enjoy an excellent Mallorcan lunch such as paella with wine – served in a small bar frequented by local people. Now the final ride back to the stables where you will complete your third day's riding at about 6pm.

