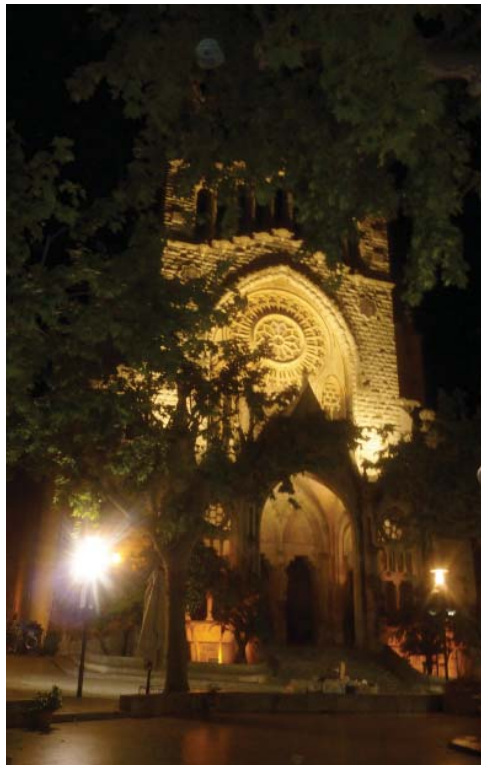


# The Stone Way

3 days in the saddle and three nights staying in different locations



This is a spectacular trail for the ardent adventurer. It includes dinner and a night's stay in the Finca C'as Sant and a glimpse of Soller itself on the evening before the ride begins. The route takes in one whole section of the 'Routa de Piedra en Sec' or the Stone Way and you will travel through the Barranc de Biniaraix and reach the Coll de L'Ofre. There are views to the sea in several directions and steep mountain sides. After first staying at the Refuge at Tossals and then at the monastery at Lluc, you will make a more gradual descent through the montains and forests to Pollenca.

## The day before

You will need to be at the stables in Pollenca Bay at 3pm the day before departure. You will need to pack your saddle bag and make sure that you have grooming kit packed for your horse before going by mini-bus to Soller – about an hour and a half's journey. Your horses will have been carried by trailer or horse box to the Finca C'as Sant, where they will be waiting for you. Arriving at the beautiful small hotel on the edge of Soller, you may want to take a stroll into town (about 10 minutes walk) for a look around and an aperitif in the charming square before returning to the hotel for a pre-arranged dinner. You will spend a comfortable night in a serenely beautiful Finca with bedrooms containing 18th century furniture surrounded by orange groves, before rising early for breakfast and setting off on your trail.





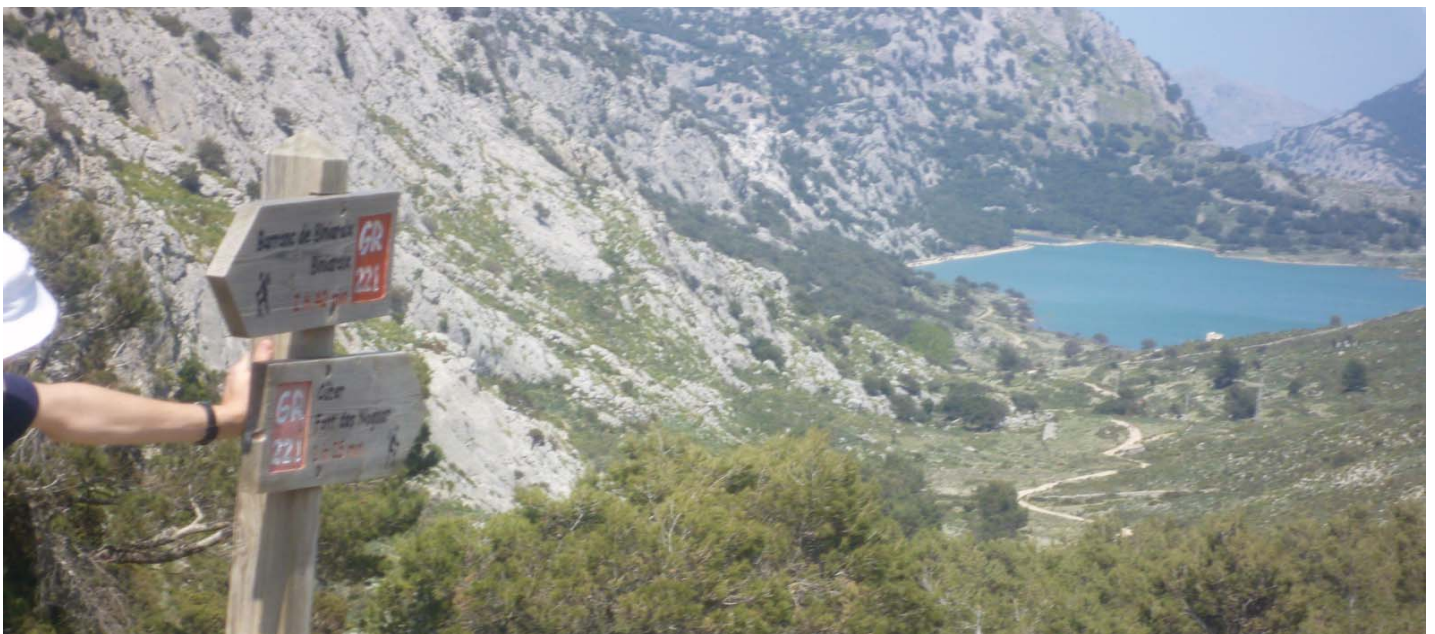
### Day 1

The Finca C'as Sant is a few hundred yards from the start of the trail. The first part of day's ascent is very steep and will involve frequent stops to rest the horses before a stop for a picnic lunch. Much of the upward climb is on a steep paved path. It will take you through the picture perfect village of Biniaraix and the famous and spectacularly beautiful Barranc de Biniaraix. The path is scented with orange blossom and you climb, there will be fantastic views of the coastline and the sea. The landscape changes constantly and is stunningly beautiful. The path eventually changes to clay with steep drops to the side before winding towards the Coll de L'ofre, which comes suddenly into view. A water channel runs close to the path providing drinking water for the hard-wrking horses when they want it.



After passing through the Coll, the landscape open out into a wide valley as you approach the Gorg Blau reservoir and take a path towards it and then beside it. Following around its perimeter to the right you eventually reach a picnic spot and another place to take a break before completing the final stretch of the journey, towards Tossals Verds. The first section is a flat path which runs beside a water channel carrying water between Gorg Blau and its sister reservoir Cuber. The path then becomes more challenging, partly wooden, stony under hoof and climbing steeply again before descending into the beautiful setting of the Refuge at Tossals Verds, which looks wonderfully welcoming after a hard day's riding

There are often charming donkeys to share the horses' field, which includes a shelter for tying up, grooming and feeding. At the Refuge you can order water, wine, beers, coffees and a few spirits before being served a communal set meal shared at trestle tables with the other guests. You will sleep in a dormitory so try not to snore too much! There are separate men and women's toilet and shower rooms.





## Day 2

Breakfast is again served communally, after which it's time to saddle up for day 2, packing a picnic lunch prepared by the Refuge. Notice particularly how the ground cover changes from scented pine and thick undergrowth to bare mountain side with tiny wild flowers. Having seen many smaller ice houses along your way, today you will visit an enormous snow house close to a long abandoned building called Galilea's house. This would have fed the smaller ice houses with compacted snow from the mountain tops in winter, ready to be carried down to the towns for use in summer.

Admire the astonishing views of the coastline before beginning your descent 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 because it is a little slippery under hoof for your horse. Then continue riding through the varied landscape until you reach the monastery at Lluç and your horse reaches its lush green field. You will be well into the routine of un-tacking and feeding your horse now. Your party may choose to dine on this second evening in one of two excellent restaurants at the Monastery.





### Day 3

After breakfast on the final day groom your horse and tack up for the downward journey home and notice the horses' sense of excitement as they return to their most familiar territory. You will ride down hill now through ancient holm oak forests on paths which are a mix of clay, gravel and stone. You will pass under the steep north-facing crags of Tomir and see charcoal burning platforms and more ice caves. Eventually you will pass through a river and see the landscape soften as you follow canter tracks towards the town of Pollenca. 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 second day's riding at about 6pm.

