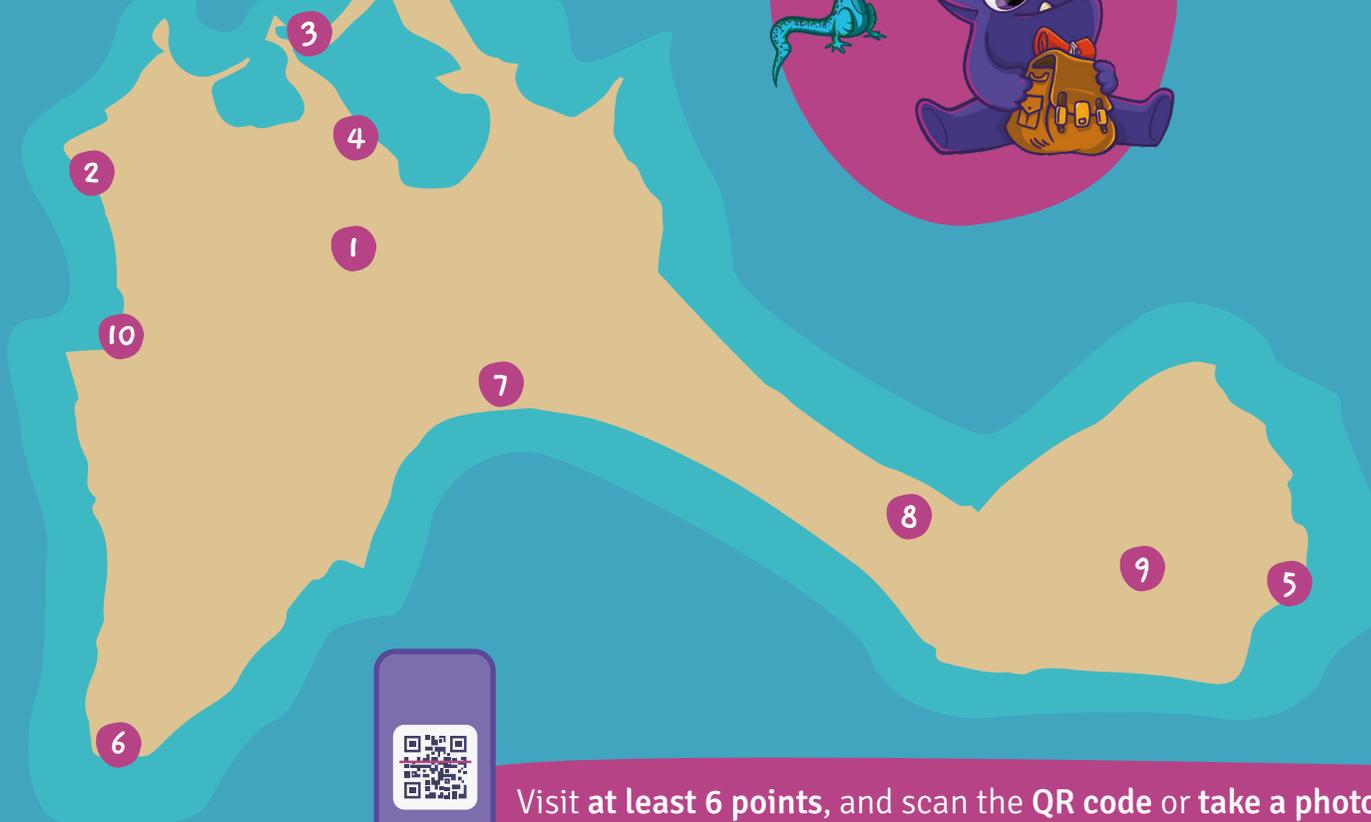




Take part in the gymkhana

FORMENTERA FAMILY GYMKHANA

Discover Trobi and Tana's
favourite spots



- 1 Sant Francesc Xavier
- 2 Punta Sa Gavina
- 3 Camí de Sa Guía
- 4 Camí des Brolls
- 5 La Mola Lighthouse
- 6 Es Cap de Barbaria Lighthouse
- 7 Torre des Pi des Català
- 8 Camí de Sa Pujada
- 9 Molí Vell de La Mola
- 10 Cala Saona



Visit at least **6 points**, and scan the **QR code** or take a photo of each place to claim a **free gift** at any Tourist Office



1 SANT FRANCESC XAVIER

At the end of the first quarter of the 18th century, the Chapel of sa Tanca Vella was already too small for a progressively growing population. For this reason, a request was made to the Archbishop of Tarragona, Manuel de Samaniego, to build a new church, who authorised the works that lasted from 1726 to 1738.

Apart from its function as a religious temple, the building was intended as a defensive fortress, at a time when the memory of piracy was still very present. It consists of a single rectangular nave, with two-metre-thick walls that support the barrel vault, above which is the rector's house. The door of the church is covered with iron plates, as well as being protected by a porthole, which can be accessed from the choir.

It was declared a site of cultural interest, in the typology of historical site, in 1996.

What do the 3 crosses on the front of the church mean?

2 PUNTA SA GAVINA

A defensive tower, linked to the island's history and to the pirate incursions. The defensive watchtowers found around the Pityusic Islands are conical structures with a circular base, constructed between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries to guard against the approach of the foreign and pirate vessels that plagued the islands at that time.

The towers were normally fortified with battlements and machicolations. One tower is located at Punta Sa Gavina, in the municipality of the island of Formentera, within the Can Marroig estate on a cliff top where it surveys the Western coast.

It is a conical, two-storey building, with a platform and a parapet. There is no door at ground level, nor does it have permanent artillery fixtures.

Use your research skills to find out which area was guarded from this tower

3 CAMÍ DE SA GUÍA

This route starts in the port town of La Savina and traces the island's salt-making past. We will start from the salt mines, the main source of income before the arrival of tourism, passing through Sa Sequi, the channel that was built to provide an outlet to the sea for the stagnant waters of Estany Pudent. Continuing along the "Camí Sa Guía" path, we will enjoy a landscape of junipers, characteristic bushes of the island, dune vegetation and turquoise waters.

We can also see a well with a square hole and a chapel with a rectangular base, built with a stone wall, lime mortar and beach sand, closely related to the exploitation of the salt mines. It served as a water reserve for the workers and when the rainwater reserve was exhausted it was also used for the steam engines that were used in the extraction of salt. Although the date of construction is unknown, it is thought to date from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

The first beach we come across is Cavall d'en Borràs, unique for its crystalline waters that give it the appearance of a natural swimming pool. Next is the famous Ses Illetes beach, characterised by the small islands that give it its name. If you are up for it, you can continue walking along Es Trucadors, the long stretch of sand where the east and west sides of the island meet. It is a path that intersperses wooden walkways, sand and rocks, with the sea on both sides. When you reach the end, you will see the neighbouring island of S'Espalmador, the natural continuation of Formentera.

Along the Camí de Sa Guía you will find the well, discover its position and its name

4 CAMÍ DES BROLLS

For nature lovers, the island of Formentera holds incredible surprises everywhere you turn. For a start, its strategic location (halfway between Europe and Africa, and right in the middle of the world's main bird migration routes) makes the island an important focus for European bird life.

The island also has its own highly distinctive ecosystems. Green routes' and observing the bird and plant life.

How many of the birds included in the Formentera catalogue of bird species have you seen?

5 LA MOLA LIGHTHOUSE

The lighthouse was built on the orders of Queen Isabel II between 1859 and 1861, and based on a design by Emili Pou. It opened on 30 November 1861. The lighthouse is located in the highest and most remote part of the island, 192 metres above sea level. In 1970, its oil lamps were replaced by electrically-powered lighting. It is said that the island of Formentera and its La Mola lighthouse inspired Jules Verne to write his novel "Off on a Comet".

Jules Verne was deeply fascinated by the island of Formentera, and particularly by its shape. Flat, and with a gradient reaching to the cliffs of la Mola, it seemed to him like the launching pad of some kind of vessel. A commemorative plaque dated 1978, placed near the lighthouse, recalls that the writer used La Mola as the setting for his novel, and that the lighthouse must also have provided the inspiration for his work "The Lighthouse at the End of the World".

Find the monolith that stands opposite the lighthouse – what does it commemorate?

7 TORRE DES PI DES CATALÀ

This is one of the four defensive towers found on Formentera. They were built between 1762 and 1763 at sites determined by the then General Captain of the Balearic Islands, Francisco de Paula Bucarelli y Ursúa, and designed by the military engineer José García Martínez. All these structures had a defensive role, and served mainly as watchtowers until 1867.

They are conical, three-storey buildings, with a circular base. The ground floor provides the largest space, and was used as a gunpowder store; it also contained the old stone stairway that led to the main room. The hole in the wall of this room has been retained to provide an entrance for visitors.

(Between November and May, visits can be arranged by prior appointment by sending an email to: patrimoni@conselldeformentera.cat)

Explore the tower and find out which building system was used to prepare for a possible invasion

8 CAMÍ DE SA PUJADA

To discover the origins of what is wrongly referred to as the "Roman road", we must travel back in time to the medieval period. At this time, around the year 1200, a tiny group of Augustinian monks landed at the port of Es Caló de Sant Agustí (an event which gave the port its name), and established a monastery on the La Mola plateau (a site probably chosen for safety reasons), where they lived.

However, they needed to travel down to the plain for supplies, and to do so, they used this road, El camí de Sa Pujada, as it was the shortest route. They also used it to collect water at Es Pou des Verro, in Es Caló, between the urban centre and the ancient quarries in the area. Oral tradition links the well with the watering hole used by the livestock belonging to the Augustinian monks.

Although all this seems to relate to the dim and distant past, in fact this road was still used as a route to the rest of Formentera until 1920, when the present road was built.

Your mission here is to find out why the Camí de Sa Pujada was also known as the Roman Road

9 MOLÍ VELL DE LA MOLA

In a territory as small as the island of Formentera, where life has been strongly influenced by land and marine resources, it is often difficult to draw the line between cultural and natural values. This is demonstrated by the richness of our ethnological heritage, which constitutes a comprehensive catalogue of sustainable ways to exploit the various natural resources available. One outstanding feature of this wide-ranging heritage is the flour mills.

The existence of the flour mills is linked to the important role played by wheat in the history of Formentera. This cereal was a staple food for the island's population, and grinding the grain into flour was carried out by what were known as molins. The Molí Vell de la Mola is one of the three windmills whose existence was documented in the 18th century. Its metal machinery is engraved with the date 1778, believed to be the year when the mill was built.

This windmill is open to the public.

Become a historian, and find out in which important era of the island's history this windmill was built

10 CALA SAONA

The west coast of the island is dominated by cliffs, both high cliffs (Cap de Barbaria) and step cliffs, i.e. rocky cliffs that rise 5-10 metres above sea level (between Punta de la Pedrera and Punta de la Gavina). However, between the cliffs there is a small natural bay of great scenic beauty and transparent waters. This is the beach of Cala Saona.

Cala Saona is a beach much appreciated by visitors to the island, especially by families, as its clear waters are shallow. It also has a charming landscape because the beach is framed by small cliffs, which shelter a large number of well-maintained dry docks, which are the huts that shelter the small fishing boats.

Can you tell us when they were declared a place of cultural interest as a place of ethnological interest?

6 ES CAP DE BARBARIA LIGHTHOUSE

This project was designed by Rafael Soler. Before the 1967 General Plan, the local sailing community had long been calling for a lighthouse to be built in this part of the Pityusic Islands. The building is typical of lighthouses constructed during the 1970s.

It was opened on 15 June 1972. In 1995, new lighting was installed, supplying photovoltaic energy, but the original optic was retained. The lighthouse was looked after by the resident technicians of the La Mola lighthouse, until the latter was decommissioned. The Barbaria lighthouse is the Balearic Islands' southernmost lighthouse.

Thanks to its appearance in various audiovisual productions, including Julio Medem's film "Sex and Lucía", as well as several TV adverts, the lighthouse has become one of Formentera's major tourist attractions. Its setting, among the rocks in the least populated spot on the island, lends it a unique character.

A visit to Cova Foradada is a special experience.

See if you can find out which coast can be seen across the sea from Cova Foradada



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