

08

## Sant Josep East

A chapel with a view

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Setting out from the old church in charming Sant Josep, this walk takes you along sleepy country lanes into classic Ibicenco countryside with a couple of ancient wells and springs en route. After refreshment at a bar that hosts live music on Saturday afternoons, we climb through a deep forested valley with scant sign of human habitation to a solitary chapel which boasts one of the most outstanding views on the island. On the return we lead you down along quiet dirt roads and narrow lanes to the church where you started. This is a long walk with a steep and challenging ascent, and is best undertaken outside high summer.



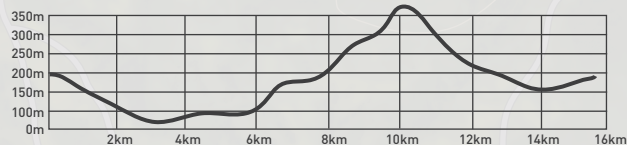
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### CLIMBS



## GETTING THERE

- A** Sant Josep's church is on the main street in the centre of town. There is plenty of parking dotted around in back streets and dirt parking areas, all free of charge. Buses run regularly throughout the year from Ibiza Town and Sant Antoni.

## THE WALK

- Starting in the church square walk over the main road at the pedestrian crossing, turn left and then right after a few metres. There is a cafe called Es Racó Verd on the corner here. Follow the asphalt road, slightly uphill at first, for 300m.
- 50m after you pass a carpark on your left, turn left down Camí de sa Font des Verger. This is a small asphalt lane and you should follow downhill, past buildings at first, then into the countryside.
- Walking more or less downhill for about 1km you arrive at a point where the road levels for a while. Just a few metres after it starts climbing gently look for the steep rocky path that leads down to Font des Verger. It is on your right next to a bicycle route sign.

## NOT TO MISS

### Font des Verger

Every year, just as the sun is setting on the feast of Santa Maria (5th August), a folk dance and celebration was traditionally held at the source of this natural spring in this special valley. In preparation, apples are picked from trees bordering the small stream and sold as a kind of ritual to give luck and prosperity over the coming year. Quiet and peaceful at any time of year, this has been a meeting point for many centuries.

- After visiting the spring continue on the asphalt lane in the same direction, and after about 1km you will reach a junction. Stick to the road you are on by taking the right fork. You will see a bicycle route sign.
- After a further 700m you meet a T-junction with another asphalt road. Turn left and walk over the high stone bridge. Just after the bridge you will see a large well in a field on the left. Walk into the field to explore.

- 6 After the well, keep walking along the road and around two sharp bends. 100m after the bends turn onto a dirt road on the right. You should now follow this for about 1km, ignoring turn-offs and driveways.
- 7 When you meet a slightly wider dirt road go left and follow the immediate bend to the right, then continue straight ahead to the main road where you will find our pitstop, Can Jordi.
- 8 After refreshment at Can Jordi, walk a few metres to your right along the main road and cross over carefully next to the bus stop. Walk up the road opposite, which quickly turns into a dirt road. Follow this as it slowly curves to the right and brings you to a small section of asphalt road slightly elevated and next to the main road. Follow this for about 100m and then turn left onto a small asphalt lane. You will see some refuse bins here.
- 9 Now you have a 1.5km section on asphalt. Stick to the road and it will gradually start to ascend. When the asphalt gives way to dirt ignore the two driveways on the right, walk on the natural continuation of the road, roughly straight ahead. Ignore the track on the left.
- 10 Soon you walk over the top of the hill towards a beautiful and heavily wooded valley. Keep following the dirt road for roughly 700m until you meet a T-junction with low stone terraces in front of you. Go right here and then after 150m go left onto a rocky dirt road that heads uphill. Soon it will turn into a track.
- 11 After 300m you reach a small clearing. Look right and join the pathway that heads downhill. This pathway goes around several bends and changes into a track and then back into a path. After 500m you rejoin the track you were on before. Go right and uphill.
- 12 Soon the track turns into a wide path and you reach a fork on a level area with a large finca off to the left. Take the right fork.
- 13 After 150m on this path you reach another track. Go right, then, after a few more metres, right again onto a dirt road heading uphill. Remember this junction as this is the start of a there-and-back route up to Sa Capelleta.

- 14 Walking uphill on this dirt road, after about half a kilometre the dirt road ends at a driveway of a house. Go right to join the steps and then the pathway that will take you up the final climb to Sa Capelleta. At the first level area look left for the cross. Then go right and walk up the steep rocky path to the chapel.

## NOT TO MISS

### Sa Capelleta

This little chapel, placed on the top of a 388m peak and in the middle of a thick pine forest was built by one Vicent Serra, a native of Sant Jordi. Before going to North Africa to fight in a colonial war he made a solemn vow that if he came back alive he would build a small place for prayer on this lofty summit. Upon his safe return he eventually made good this promise, and the chapel stands here to this very day. He apparently died from a heart attack, aged 74, just five days before its consecration on 29 May, 1919.







- 15 Once you have visited the chapel make sure you scramble down the rocks in front a short way. From here you can see way out to the coast and across to Formentera.
- 16 After all this, retrace your steps to the junction we asked you to remember in direction 13. When you reach this point, do not turn off the dirt road, but keep going downhill on the same road.
- 17 After about half a kilometer of descent you will go around a fifth sharp bend on this road. On this particular bend you should see gates to a house on your left as well as a dirt road that heads uphill. Join this dirt road. You will also see a sign for Sa Capelleta and two telegraph poles.
- 18 After 150m keep following the dirt road as it bends to the left, past a threshing circle, and almost back on itself. Continue down into the valley ignoring a right turn.
- 19 The dirt road will lead you along this pretty valley for about 300m. When you reach the asphalt road turn left. Look out for Pou d'en Benet, a very old well on the right after a few metres.
- 20 Walk gradually downhill on this lane. After 500m turn onto the first asphalt lane on the right. It is just where the previous road turns uphill slightly.
- 21 After about 400m turn right onto another asphalt road and walk past the cemetery which will be on your right.
- 22 Follow this road as it sweeps left around a large field of almond trees, and then after about 300m slips between buildings into the main street in Sant Josep.
- 23 When you reach the main street go right along the wide elevated pavement and past the shops and restaurants to the church square where you started.

## THE PITSTOP

Can Jordi

Situated about halfway on the route this is the perfect place to rest up before you take on the long climb to Sa Capelleta. If you happen to visit on a Saturday afternoon you will be greeted by live bands and locals. Expect *tostadas* with local cheese or cured ham and cold draught beer. 971 800182. No website.