

CA'S CURIAL

FINCA • TURISMO

Miradors de s'Arxiduc

20th Hiking Route around Sóller



Mirador des Pi

From the Western corner of the Hotel, descending some deteriorated, anonymous steps. After **"Es Vantage point d'es Pi"**, a very exposed path and some benches that are sheltered by the cornice, leaving behind on the left a refreshment area which we will visit later. At a forking of paths, select the option on the left. Then, immediately at another fork follow to the left. From the chapel, go up a few stairs that leave is at the same refreshment area we passed before. Going up along the slope, linking to the same path as before. Continue to the left until we reach the same fork; this time disregard the option on the left (which we selected before to go to the Chapel) and continue until Miramar M on the right. After a few minutes and disregard the deviation that descends on the left, go up some steps made of sticks. Situated at **"Els Pontets de Sa Font Coberta"**; bridges between which a rushing stream flows, look for other steps made of sticks situated near the same stairs as we have just gone up. After a staggered path which rises via the cornice (**Coves de Ponent**), the route reaches the monastery of Miramar. If we are looking at the sea, walk to the right until finding a horseshoe-shaped vantage point. From there follow **"Es camí d'es Guix"** which goes down on the left. After another vantage point, we reach a fork which is hard to spot; disregard the path that goes down on the right and go straight down in the shade of the helm oak grove via an unmarked path. After an area with debris, cross a water course. Go straight on and link up with a marked path that must be followed on the right. After **"Es Vantage point d'es Creuer"**, go down a path which is very exposed. After around 10', we reach **"Camí de Ses Vinyes"**, a paved track that goes down to **Caló de s'Estaca**. Then retake the same track until reaching the property of **s'Estaca** which we recognise from its white colour. Carry on along camí de **ses Vinyes**, after some barriers and beautiful properties, we reach an asphalt track which must be descended until reaching **sa Marina de Valldemossa**, the goal of the route.

The route starts at a modern building which is raised at the same place where in 1873, the **Archduke** had an old inn built popularly known as **Ca Madò Pilla** for visitors who wished to discover said spots. In the interior of the hotel is the **s'Hostatgeria Vantage Point** and a few metres away from the establishment, on the other side of the road, **Camí de sa Muntanya** starts which would take us to the elegant **d'es Tudons vantage point**. Half a kilometre after the chapel of **Beat Ramon Llull**, our route will meet the beautiful property of **Miramar**, an enigmatic enclave which, despite being situated near the road, lies unnoticed, hiding away in the lushness of its beautiful gardens.

From the western corner of Hotel we start our journey. A low wall conceals the start of the path. Before passing above the stake, an indication already warns us about the hazardous nature of the route. To avoid risks, and unless a qualified guide accompanies us, it is vital to start the route directly from **Miramar**. Of particular note is the great abandonment of the area as it is a highly frequented place despite the fact that its access was closed after causing an accident. After going over the stone wall, we discover a staggered path in a poor state of repair which will take us to the first vantage point. Alongside the hotel terrace, the start of the path runs on a paved stretch, in a very poor state with a gentle downward slope. At this time, after some fallen pine trees which make the thoroughfare difficult, we are presented us with the first vantage point. The **d'es Pi** or **d'es Corb Vantage Point**, as the **Archduke** called it, dominates the worrying slopes of **Son Galceran** from **Marina de Valldemossa**; the goal of our route, to **el Guix** where the **archduke** took his famous baths. With panoramic views as vertiginous as they are breathtaking, at our feet and to the west, we will see the estate of **s'Estaca**; standing out for its white colour on the green of its malvasía vineyards and the blue of the sea, was acquired by the **Archduke** between 1873 and 1876. At present this Sicilian-style structure is known for having been one of the summer residences of the well-known US actor Michael Douglas. From the vantage point, looking back over the same steps, we resume the path and we immediately meet two options; disregarding the path that diverts to the right, marked by small obelisks, we select the option on the left which diverts to a dangerous path. the trajectory continues in a straight line, in reality is **Camí de Sa Torre** which flows over a delicate thoroughfare underneath another vantage point which we will not be able to behold as it is situated on the private property of the hotel. Exposed to the abyss, we go along a long precipice. A cable tied to the rock will help us not to fall headlong into the abyss. If you suffer from vertigo, it would be best not to carry on. We go down the dangerous path which winds between pines trees that fight to be straight. Soon, to the north, we view **Sa Foradada**; this promontory which looks like a prostrate dragon and discreetly viewing us, in the light of **Capella de Ramón Llull**, ever present at the beautiful spots of the **Archduke**. In the meantime, we carry on walking against this vertiginous backdrop until the path has made ground up the mountain and after some steps we come across **"Els predissos de sa font de s'Hermitanet"** which are sheltered by a small cave. A few paces later, at the summit of an imposing crag, the **Chapel of Ramón Llull** emerges, one of the jewels in the legacy of heritage bequeathed to us by the **Archduke**.

A stone bridge crosses the void as far as the rock. After the surprise of finding such a notable construction in this vicinity, we are overwhelmed by disappointment when we see the deplorable state of the monument; a bolt of lightning partially destroyed it in 1975. The cupola has been lost and the walls are in a very poor state of repair. The building was created to commemorate the sixth centenary of the foundation of **Miramar**. The first stone, brought on purpose from Bugia, was set up on January 21st 1877. This small oratory, circular in shape, was covered by a chronic roof and a shrine decorated by mullioned windows. The base of the monument can be gone round very carefully throughout its perimeter, though the railing is very rusty and incomplete. A marble statue of the Majorcan thinker presided over the interior space, decorated by a lot of detail. In the refreshment area of the chapel, we take advantage to have a rest surrounded by a memorable scenario. We recover the path we have left behind us and at a fork on the right we go up the little path that rises at the base of a holm oak. Between scrubland, pines trees and cliffs, **Camí de Sa Torre** runs along **Comellar de Sa Rota** where the path takes in a lush helm oak grove. If we look upwards, in the distance we will then see the landmark houses of **Miramar**, arranged on a cliff, oriented seawards. Once left on the right the remains of **Pedrisos de s'Entreforc** and immediately after ruling out another path which diverts to the left, we will enter the beautiful property of **Miramar** to behold **Pontets de Sa Font Coberta**, built by the **Archduke**, constituting one of the most representative examples of the **hydraulic heritage of Sierra de Tramuntana**. Said construction consists of thirteen bridges arranged transversally along a series of terraces. Referring to each of the 12 disciples and Jesus Christ, they were built to be able to cross the stream of **sa Font Cuberta** and thereby be able to cultivate the terraces of the two parts of the stream.

When coming down other steps made of sticks, we again move away, just for a few moments, from the beautiful property of **Miramar**. After crossing a holm oak area, the route follows a steep ascent via **Ses Coves de Ponent** in which the route rises along a cornice, on some steps which were excavated in the same rock and whilst we leave behind incredible views in the blue of the sea prevails, beholding a low relief which represents the figure of **Ramon Llull**. Sculpted by **Carrara marble**, it was laid in 1877 and it is in a delicate condition today. Once we have reached the summit of the cliff, we will be situated right opposite the houses and gardens of the **Miramar** property, today reconverted into a museum. Entering the **Miramar Monastery** will require a previous visit to its museum.

At this place in 1276 **Jaume II** founded, at the behest of **Ramon Llull**, an oriental language school for those missionaries who were trying to convert the Moslems from North Africa to Christianity. Centuries later it was the favourite property of **Arxiduc**. On **Ses Coves de Ponent** and alongside a pool of water that remains dry the majority of the year there lies **Vantage point del Guix** which affords clear views of the area of the same name and **Sa Foradada**. From the vantage point, if we look towards the north, between the silvery green of the olive grove we can make out another vantage point; **"The Vantage point of sa Ferradura"** gets its name from its unique horseshoe-shaped design. You can get there via spacious cart path closed by a metallic grate. To the west of this latter vantage point, lies **Camí d'es Guix** or of the sea, which with amazing views over **Sa foradada**, goes down supported by some retaining walls which support the path. After a few five minutes, we leave behind the **"Vantage point of all Vantage points"**, so named by the **Archduke** because from it various others can be discerned, though at present the lushness of the vegetation prevents us from doing so. This path comes out after a few minutes into the helm oak grove, then at a fork which is hard to see, the route abandons the amazing path **d'es Guix** or **de la Mar** which keeps diverting to the right descending and which for around 40' would take us to the sea near a quarry from which plaster was extracted. Within the thickness of a cool helm oak grove and without any path after once again getting around the same stream which further above goes round **Pontets de sa Font Coberta**, the route is finally incorporated into **Camí nou de s'Estaca** which derives further above at the base of the **chapel**. Next the **Creuer Vantage point** is presented to us on a crag surrounded by pine trees. The construction, in the form of a prism, has some steps on its front part, whereby its upper part is accessed and it offers some other beautiful panoramic views.

Henceforth vegetation eats up the path, or what remains of its, and the route, on occasions very exposed, starts a sharp descent to the west on a stony, slippery path.

We pass by the final vantage point on our path the **Es Figueral Vantage point**, endowed with a very simple design and in quadrangular shape which dominates the **Miramar** coast. The layout gradually improves with the aid of a few parapets, made using the dry stone walling technique.

More than a hiking route, it could be described as a cultural route that tours the beautiful spots of Archduke Lluís Salvador d'Habsburgo-Lorena I Borbó (1847-1915). A noble of the Habsburg Lorena Dynasty, he was a great adventurer who, with his two sailing ships Nixe 1 and Nixe 2, became an explorer of the world. A great aficionado of the humanities and sciences, in 1867 whilst visiting Mallorca, he was bowled over by the beautiful spots in this area of the Majorcan coast. After a few years, he returned to Mallorca to acquire various properties in which he ordered the construction of an extensive network of former paths, vantage points, huts and refuges so that walkers could get to know this beautiful place. You'll be surprised when seeing the magnificence and greatness of the whole and the state it is in. What's more, we will get to know s'Estaca and es Caló, two places which are unique owing to their own charm. We will complete the day in the little valley of Sa Marina, a distant coastal town.



Duration	Difficulty	Slope	Alternative return
2 h 30"	Difficult	575 m	

Tips and recommendations:

Owing to the technical difficulty involved it is vital for us to be accompanied by a qualified guide. A route very suited to hot summer days as we will walk in the shade of a cool holm oak grove and we'll be able to take a dip in the crystal-clear waters of es Caló de S'Estaca.



Possessió de s'Estaca

After an era, **Camí Nou de s'Estaca** ends and comes out onto **Camí de Ses Vinyes** which presents itself in the form of a paved track and at the next curve we run into an enticing path **"És camí de la mar"** which starts on the right and which would take us along the **d'es Guix** area as far as **Sa Foradada**. We leave this option for another occasion and after a comfortable descent via said asphalt track we discover a seaside village which will captivate us. **Es Caló de s'Estaca** was the shelter of fishermen for years, though today they have been converted into summer homes. The image as a whole seems to have been frozen in time, external to the rest of the world. In this coastal area survival was never easy and man, depending on his resources and the sea, was devoted to fishing or agriculture, also seeking some additional benefits in estraperlo, a clandestine activity which is firmly rooted in the area. It would not be possible to abandon these spots without taking a bath in its crystal-clear water and enjoying the peacefulness of the spot. Following the same route we return to the crossroads of **Camí de ses Vinyes** and after ascending a few paces more, we are surprised by the property of **s' Estaca** where, alongside the path, there lies a large rock which indicates to us an inconspicuous path which, on the other side of the path, reascends the mountain, disappearing into the helm oak grove. It is called **Camí de sa Barrera de sa Marina** which, after several further vantage points and an intense ascent, would take us back to the same road where we started our walk. We disregard this option and follow the new **Estaca** track. This final part of the route will undoubtedly prove to be one of the most comfortable on our journey. After an adobe wall, we bid farewell to the landmark property of **s'Estaca** and its beautiful **malvasía** vines. Then we run into some metallic barriers which we cross on the right. After **ses Cases d'es Sementer de sa Garrovera** we run into a beautiful, stand-alone **possessió (former rural estate)** which in 1898 also formed part of **Arxiduc**. It is currently a residential villa; its name **Sa Font Figuera** derives from a rushing stream which flows between the houses of the property and the sea. Whilst the walls **d'es Teix** are raised in the background with its alpine majesty, over a cliff, another vantage point will draw our attention; it is **Erassa vantage point**. After two lime kilns, **Camí de Ses Vinyes** runs out into the road of **Port de Valldemossa** which we descend until reaching our destination.



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Return to roots

