

GR 221 - STAGE 5

CAN BOI - MULETA

The stage runs from the municipality of Deià to Sóller through some of the loveliest scenery in the Sierra de Tramuntana. All along the route there are numerous examples of the area's ethnographical and architectural heritage: large areas of terraces of olive trees in Sóller and Deià, the hamlet of Son Coll, the estate buildings of a number of different possessions, the chapel of Castelló and the Cap Gros lighthouse.

As far as the natural heritage is concerned, mention should be made of the Muleta juniper wood, which is unique in the Sierra, as well as the lithology of the Can Bleda area, with its outcrops of gypsum which was quarried and used in the lime kilns.

STAGE PROFILE

STARTING POINT: refuge of Can Boi (125 m)

FINISHING POINT: refuge of Muleta (110 m)

GRADE: easy

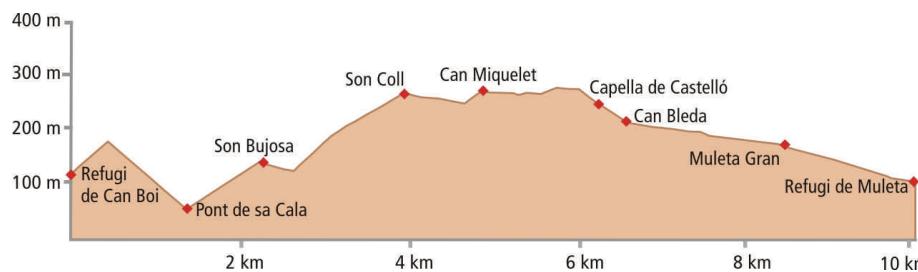
TIME REQUIRED: 2 h 45 min



LENGTH: 10.107 m

TOTAL ASCENT: 362 m

TOTAL DESCENT: 385 m



DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

STAGE 5

This route sets off from the Can Boi refuge, along Carrer del Bisbe Simó Bauzà, and then follows the slope of Carrer de la Costa d'en Topa and Carrer d'Es Porxo, where Deià Town Hall is to be found. After going past the council offices, you come to the main road (Ma-10) from Deià to Sóller. The beginning of the path Camí de sa Cala, also known as Sa Vinyeta, is just on your left; it goes past the village school and crosses the lane to Cala Deià three times before reaching Ses Passadores, where a little bridge over the Torrente Major stream takes you back to Deià along the Camí des Ribassos path.

However, here, you take the path to the right. This is the Camí de sa Pesta, which climbs gently up near the houses of Son Bujosa and then back to the main road (Ma-10). Walk along this road for about five hundred metres, taking great care as traffic can be heavy.

On reaching the small group of buildings near the caves of Can Puigserver, you leave the main road and turn off into a path on the right, which at first is quite steep but then levels off slightly between the olive trees. After a short climb, you come to the hamlet of Son Coll, with the Font de ses Mentides spring nearby.

Continue along the path, until a series of short bends, called 'Es Gravet' takes you as far as Sa Plana and the Era de Can Prohom. From there, there is a view of the valley of Sóller, with the Penya des Migdia mountain in the background. Now you are in the municipality of Sóller; go on past the seigneurial houses of Son Mico and Can Prohom; just in front of the chapel of Castelló, take the path to the left and continue until you join the main Deià to Sóller road again, very near the houses of Can Bleda. Just to one side begins the Camí de Son Sales path, but your route takes you north along the main Deià to Sóller road, where again you must remember to be very careful; after a short distance, take the turning on the right that leads to the Bens d'Avall housing estate.

Turn off onto the path at a point in the road where there is a very sharp bend; go past a turning that leads off towards Canons de Muleta and carry on in the direction of Muleta Gran. Before getting as far as that, take the forest trail on your left, which, leads on into a bridle path which then takes you across the strip fields of sa Rota Gran. First, walk past a water cistern, and then after leaving a lime-kiln behind, you will reach the Muleta refuge.



PLACES OF INTEREST

1. Deià



Located on the north-western slopes of the Sierra de Tramuntana mountain range, Deià boasts a privileged setting, between the sheer rock faces of Puig des Teix and the blue waters along Mallorca's north coast. Its beauty has made it one of the best known tourist spots on the island and it has been visited by artists from all over the world, some of whom are now at rest in the cemetery.

The town has its origins in the farmstead "Addaya", which the king granted to Nunó Sanç, and he in turn to the Cistercian La Real monastery. Built in the surroundings of the Teix mountain, places of note include the parish church of Sant Joan; the nearby cemetery; the water supply system, with fountains, wash-houses and mills; and the houses, which conserve interesting aspects of vernacular architecture of the Sierra de Tramuntana.

2. Can Boi

These buildings are in the town of Deià, at Carrer del Clot, number 5. They were acquired by Deià Council, who transferred them to the Consell de Mallorca in 2001, so that they could form part of the chain of refuges of the Dry Stone Route. The property consists of the house and the olive-oil mill. The mill conserves many of its original features: the olive press, the furnace and the granaries. It has been open to visitors since it was restored by the Consell de Mallorca.

3. Ca l'Abat

Here once stood the house and buildings of the original Son Muntaner estate; in 1619, it was acquired by the Cistercian monks of Sant Bernat de la Real, who built a new house on the site of the old one and enlarged the property, so that it became one of the most important in Deià. The disentailment of church lands obliged the monks to abandon the estate once and for all in 1834.

However, the buildings still retain a major part of their architectural interest, in particular the defence tower, which is separate from the rest of the buildings; the remains of the enclosing wall, near the old path of Camí de Son Coll; the olive oil mill; and the private chapel, where mass is still heard on Sant Bernat's feast day.

4. Son Coll

After the conquest of Mallorca, King Jaume I granted the farmstead of Deià to Nunó Sanç, who made this part of it over as a fief to Pere Mató, so that it was originally known as na Matona. Over time, the estate was continuously divided up until it became just the hamlet of Son Coll, where over fifty people still lived at the beginning of the 20th century. Nowadays, the houses still preserve all their past charm.

5. Camí des Grau

This path, which today is also called the Camí "de Son Coll" and "de Castelló", is a good example of the bridlepaths in the Sierra de Tramuntana. It also used to be called Camí "de Dalt", to distinguish it from the royal path from Deià to Sóller via Llucalcari, which largely follows the route of what is today the road from Deià to Sóller, with some variations. It was the main access to the houses at Son Coll until 1911, when the road of Can Miquelet was built.



6. Son Mico

This *possessió*, is the result of a division of Can Prohom and was first recorded in 1692. The three storey façade and the main entrance with its round arch are of particular interest.

7. Can Prohom

This *possessió*, or manor house, takes its name from the Estades Prohom family, who were its owners for centuries. It used to be part of Castelló, together with the estates of Alconàsser, Muleta, s'Heretat, es Gallicant, etc. Olive oil production was its source of income, although there is a large holm-oak wood which was used intensively for charcoal making. The houses adjoin those of Son Mico, forming one architectural whole. The main entrance and the stone benches on either side are worthy of note.



8. Capella de Castelló

This chapel is dedicated to Our Lady of the Roses; it was built in the 17th century by the people of Castelló, with the help of Sóller University, so that they would no longer need to go down to the town to attend mass. In 1722, the post of maintenance worker was created to ensure the upkeep of the chapel. For a time, there was also a grammar teacher to teach the children of the area their letters. The chapel entered a state of decadence at the end of the 19th century, to the point that its very structure was threatened. In 1910 a great restoration was carried out, paid for by the owners of Can Prohom, which returned it to its original condition.

However, over time, neglect and the unsuitable state of the ground have led to the roof collapsing and the walls suffering deterioration. The inclusion of the chapel in the Dry Stone Route Project and its transfer to the Consell de Mallorca will facilitate its future restoration.

9. Muleta Gran



The buildings are particularly significant because of their imposing defence tower, as well as the olive-oil mill. This *possessió*, or estate, has been divided up several times, thereby creating, amongst others, the estates of Muleta de Ca s'Hereu and Muleta de Cas Avinyons. It was one of the great olive growing estates of the valley, although, in the 1980s, a major forest fire, which lasted two days, destroyed a

large part of the olive groves and the juniper bush thickets.

10. Savinar

This area is of special interest because there is a large tract of prickly juniper (*Juniperus oxycedrus*), a tree-like shrub typical of the coast but only to be found in this particular spot in the Sierra de Tramuntana. It is a stopover site for birds at migration time and different species of birds of prey and seabirds can be observed.

11. Limekiln

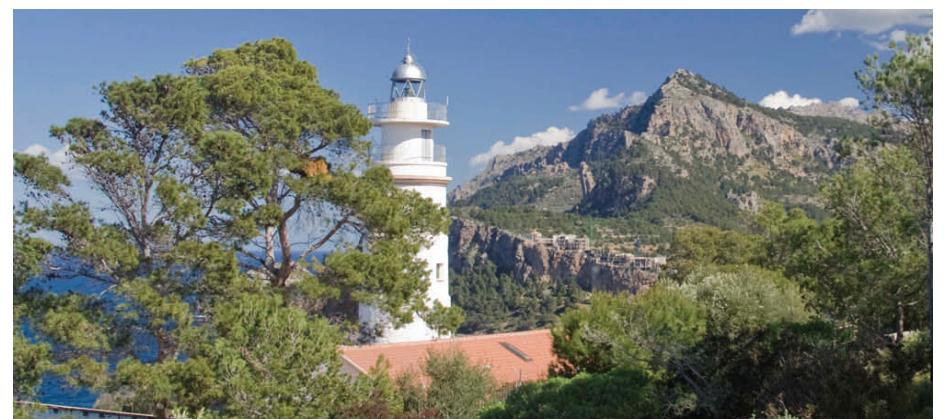
Such kilns were used to produce quicklime by firing limestone at high temperatures. What can be seen today is the chamber, called "olla" or "clot" in Mallorcan, inside which lumps of limestone were carefully laid, leaving a hole, or "boca", through which to pass the bundles of firewood.

12. Refuge of Muleta

The refuge is housed in what used to be the Muleta telegraph station, which was in use between 1911 and 1956. When no longer needed for its original purpose, it was transferred to Sóller Town Council, who in turn signed an agreement with the Consell de Mallorca for it to be used as a refuge.

13. Far des Cap Gros

This lighthouse was built between 1842 and 1850 at the initiative of Sóller Town Council and was later incorporated into the state lighthouse service. It underwent alterations in 1870, in accordance with plans designed by the engineer Llorenç Abrines. The tower is twenty metres high and its light has a range of eighteen nautical miles. It was originally built in order to guarantee the safety of the ships that at the time would call in at Port de Sóller, the port of exit for many goods that were exported for the French markets, oranges from the Sóller valley in particular.





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MAR MEDITERRÀNIA

