

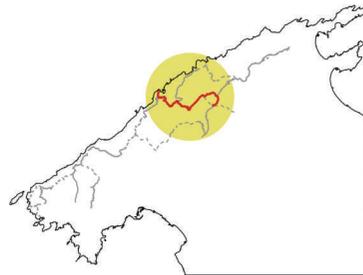
# GR 221 - STAGE 6

## MULETA - TOSSALS VERDS

### STAGE 6

The route takes in the valley of Sóller, the barranc, or ravine, de Biniaraix, the Ofre, Cúber and Almallutx valleys, and links the Muleta refuge with that of Tossals Verds.

Comparatively speaking, this area boasts the greatest concentration of dry stone constructions in the whole of Mallorca, with spectacular dry stone paths and terraces of olive groves, which makes this section of the Trail an unmatched example of dry stone heritage. Nature lovers will find this walk to be hugely interesting not only because of the variety, but also because of the intrinsic natural importance, of the species of flora and fauna that can be seen.



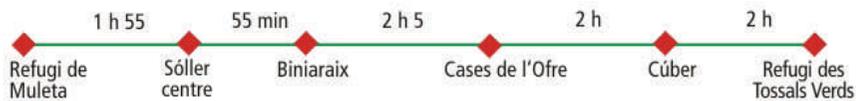
### STAGE PROFILE

STARTING POINT: refuge of Muleta (100 m)

FINISHING POINT: refuge of Tossals Verds (525 m)

GRADE: difficult. Owing to the height difference between Coll de l'Ofre (900 m) and Sóller (30 m), this stage is easier and faster from Tossals Verds to Muleta way.

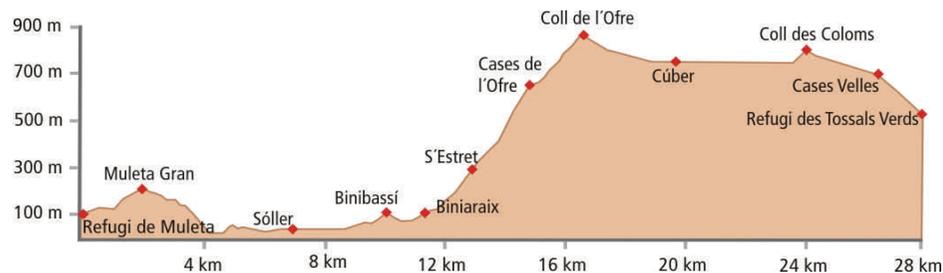
TIME REQUIRED: 8 h 55 min



LENGTH: 27,913 m

TOTAL ASCENT: 1,111 m

TOTAL DESCENT: 696 m



### DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

The first part of the route - that is until you get near the houses of Muleta - coincides with the last part of Stage 5: the other way round.

Setting off from behind the Muleta refuge, pass the lime kiln and the water cistern, and continue in the direction of the houses of Muleta Gran. You can choose whether to pass close to the estate buildings or take the marked path that goes round them.



Next, you skirt the olive groves of Cas Avinyons and Muleta de Ca s'Hereu, and then go past the end of the path on your left that leads down to the d'en Repic beach and continue the path of the Camí de Binidorm, which ascends so that the walker can enjoy some surprising views over the valley of Sóller.



Then you reach another fork in the path: the right hand fork leads to Can Bleda, while the left hand fork, which is your route, takes one to Sóller. After arriving in the town, you embark on the urban stage of the walk, along the Camí del Camp Llarg, Carrer del Cetre, Carrer de la Mar and Carrer Bauçà, Plaça de la Constitució, Carrer de la Lluna and Carrer de la Victòria, then Avinguda d'Astúries. After crossing the stream, near the municipal football ground, turn to the right along the

Camí des Murterar; then take the path to your left so as to cross the stream once again.

A few metres further on, there is a path crossroads: take the turning to the right, which at first is suitable for vehicles but which then narrows and becomes a proper footpath.

On reaching the hamlet of Binibassí ignore the path that leads to Fornalutx, and walk downhill towards the gardened area of l'Horta de Biniaraix, which you enter after crossing the road from Sóller to Fornalutx.

## PLACES OF INTEREST

### 1. The orange trees of the valley of Sóller

The numerous springs in Fornalutx and the valley of Sóller meant that *irrigation farming* could become widespread in the area. From local records, we know that there were orange trees in the valley in the 14th century and that by the 16th century orange growing was important enough to warrant the proposal of a tax on oranges. By the 19th century, the exportation of oranges mainly to France had become a large-scale business, which meant that many olive groves were turned into terraces of orange trees and the irrigation system was extended.

### 2. Sóller

The town of Sóller, in the centre of the valley, at an altitude of about 30 m, was already settled in the time of Moorish rule. One of its most distinctive features are the grand houses built towards the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th, paid for with money made by emigrants from the town. Many were constructed in the Modernist style, which was also used in the design of the façade of parish church of Sant Bartomeu, the Bank of Sóller and Can Prunera.

### 3. Binibassí

The hamlet of Binibassí, situated between the municipalities of Sóller and Fornalutx, is of particular interest because of the 16th century houses of the same name and their sturdy defence tower. An entrance with a round arch and beautifully cut voussoirs leads into a cobblestone courtyard. Under the eaves of the roof there are painted tiles, and to the north, near the path, there is a watermill driven by the water channelled from the Font de Binibassí spring.

### 4. Biniraix

The hamlet of Biniraix, with about a hundred inhabitants, is just a few kilometres from the centre of Sóller, and has a privileged position halfway up the valley, at the foot of the Camí del Barranc path. It stands on the site of what used to be a Moorish farmstead which Jaume I made over to the Bishop of Girona after the conquest of Mallorca. Of special note are its cobbled streets, the wash house and the houses of Cas Don.

In Biniraix, go through the square and leave the hamlet by the Camí de Sant Josep path. Near the wash house, you will see on your left the Camí des Marroig, which you ignore, and carry on in the direction of the Barranc de Biniraix.

The path now climbs up between the peaks of ses Solanes and es Cornadors, going past the turn-offs to both the Camí de Can Fenasset and the Camí Vell paths. You will come to this path again after walking through the narrow ravine up the mountainside called s'Estret and past the houses at Can Silles.



Walk up past the rock face near the Salt des Cans waterfall to reach the l'Ofre estate, and then a further

gentle climb takes you on up to the Coll de l'Ofre pass beneath the summit of the mountain of the same name, from where there is a view of Puig Major and the Cúber reservoir.

After going through the Binimorat farm and skirting the Cúber reservoir on its northern shore, you will come up against the barrier of the Cúber mountain range, which you will not need to cross, as the route takes you alongside the Ma-10 road. A little further on, after climbing over a wooden stile, you can go over to the Font des Noguer spring, to replenish your supply of water, although your route carries on close to the road, where you can see the water channel that diverts water from the Gorg Blau reservoir to that of Cúber.



Follow this channel until, on a bend, you come to the beginning of the climb up to the Coll des Coloms. On reaching the pass, your path takes you down the slope, leaving to the left-hand side the path leading to the Font des Prat spring and then a little further on, on the right, the path leading to the houses of Tossals Verds, via Sa Coma.

From there on, the path carries straight on down the slope until it reaches the Tossals Verds refuge and you only need to make sure you ignore two paths to Mancor on the left, and another one to Pou de sa Coma on the right.



## 5. Camí del Barranc de Biniaraix

The Barranc de Biniaraix ravine is the natural means of communication from the valley of Sóller to the valleys of l'Ofre, Cúber, the monastery of Lluc, Orient and the Pla de Mallorca. The path is almost 3,5 km long and was officially declared a protected Monument as being a Place of Cultural Interest in 1994. There, can be found most of the features that define the bridle paths of Mallorca: fords with *passadores* (stepping stones), stretches of cobbled way with *ratlletes* (diagonal drainage channels), and a central course of stones to reinforce the path, *escopidors* (parapets), *marges* (retaining walls), etc. After years of neglect, in 1987 restoration work started, carried out by the School of *Margers* (Wallers) run by the Consell de Mallorca, the body that since then has been responsible for the maintenance of the path.



## 6. Barranc de Biniaraix

This ravine is bordered by es Cornadors to the south and by the western end of the Son Torrella range to the north. Its slopes, organized into agricultural smallholdings, have been intensively terraced, mainly for the cultivation of olive trees. It is also a good example of the integration of dry stone structures into the natural environment. This building technique made itself indispensable for agricultural purposes, as well as to mark property boundaries, and to resolve problems of refuge and shelter, water supply, access, etc.

## 7. Cúber reservoir



Created in a natural depression, the Cúber reservoir has an area of 59.3 ha and a maximum capacity of 4.6 hm<sup>3</sup>. Originally designed to produce electricity, it was converted to supply the city of Palma with drinking water. Cúber reservoir also receives water from the nearby Gorg Blau reservoir, which is at a slightly lower altitude. The water is pumped up to certain height and then gravity makes it run down an open channel over 5 km long to Cúber.

## 9. Es Molinot

A structure in the form of a tower can be seen not very far from the Camí de Mancor path: these are the ruins of an old flour mill and its water supply channel. Next to this, although it cannot be seen from the trail, remains the base of another of these mills. The existence of mills in the Almallutx area was recorded as long ago as the 13th century and some must have had their origins in times of Moorish rule.

## 8. Camí d'Almallutx

Mankind settled in the valley of Almallutx in ancient times; there he found water in abundance and extensive plateaux where to grow his crops. The warm, wet summer climate encouraged transhumance on a small scale. The flocks of sheep spent the winter on lands further south and in summer they were moved to the mountains. In this context, the Royal Path, Camí Real d'Almallutx was of major importance in bygone days and is well documented in the 14th and 15th centuries.

What remains of the original path is a good example of what mountain paths used to be like in olden times, often with sections adapted to the terrain, very roughly hewn cobbles, etc.

## 10. Ses Cases Velles

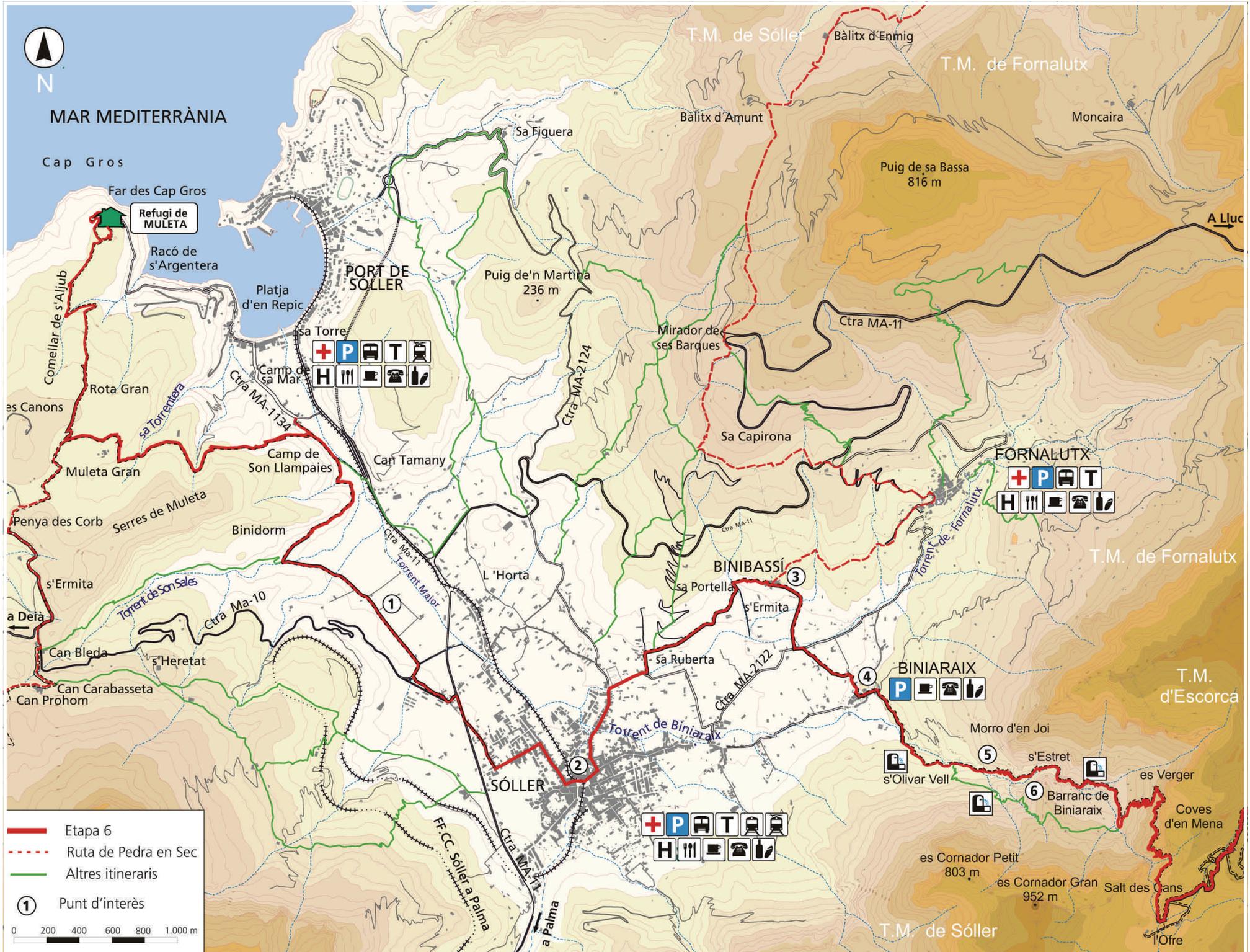
There were the original buildings of the Tossals Verds estate, and architecturally speaking are simple two story structures with gable roofs.

## 11. Refuge des Tossals Verds

This lies at an altitude of 525 metres, on the publicly owned estate of the same name, property of the Consell de Mallorca since 1986. It has room for up to 30 hikers and it is ideally placed for numerous walks, overnight hikes, and climbs such as up to the top of Puig des Tossals Verds (1,115 m) for example.

The buildings of the refuge date back to the 19th century and once boasted an olive mill, the parts of which were found in the ground during restoration work and can now be seen near the garden.





MAR MEDITERRÀNIA

Cap Gros

Far des Cap Gros

Refugi de MULETA

Racó de s'Argentera

PORT DE SOLLER

Puig de'n Martínia 236 m

Bàltx d'Amunt

T.M. de Sóller

Bàltx d'Enmig

T.M. de Fornalutx

Moncaira

Puig de sa Bassa 816 m

A Lluç

Comellar de s'Ajub

Rota Gran

Camp de sa Mar

Camp de Son Llampaiés

Can Tamany

Binidorm

Mirador de ses Barques

Ctra MA-11

FORNALUTX

T.M. de Fornalutx

BINIBASSÍ

sa Portella

s'Ermita

sa Ruberta

BINIARAIX

T.M. d'Escorca

SOLLER

Morro d'en Joi

s'Estret

es Verger

Barranc de Biniraix

Coves d'en Mena

es Cornador Petit 803 m

es Cornador Gran 952 m

Salt des Oans

T.M. de Sóller

l'Ofre

0 200 400 600 800 1.000 m

