



Walk 22: ROUND PUIG D'EN GAT

Distance: 9km/5.6mi; 3h

Grade: quite easy, except for a steep climb up a rough path about halfway through the walk; ascent/descent of about 200m/650ft

Equipment: lightweight walking boots, picnic, water; see also page 10 (top)

How to get there and return:  or  to/from Sant Carles

Alternative walk: If you're a bit adventurous, you can explore the paths on Puig d'en Gat (see map) for the old Arabic beehives. Some of the woodland paths are partly overgrown, so wear long trousers!

The mysterious pillars in the Socarrat Valley (see photograph on page 101) puzzled me decades ago, when I first discovered them and wrote about them in the first edition of this book. Before long, readers of Ibiza's local newspaper told me what they were. This walk presented me with another puzzle when I first did it years ago; I came upon several sarcophagus-like structures in the woods around Puig d'en Gat. A friend on the island solved this mystery for me, but now the problem is finding them again, and I have to admit failure on my last visit...

Whether you find them or not, it's a lovely walk, partly through woods. You'll also cross cultivated areas, where you'll see many of the island's typical fruits and flowers (even bananas, something of a rarity on Ibiza). And if you're lucky, you'll find the old Arabic beehives on the hillsides of Puig d'en Gat. These beehives are several hundred years old and are slowly disappearing from the landscape.

We start off as in Walk 21. **Begin at bus stop** by the **parish church in Sant Carles** (drawing on page 98). Opposite the church is a **bank**, where you head downhill (west-northwest) on an asphalt lane, with banana plantations, orchards of carob and almond trees, and lovely little gardens bursting with vegetables. Ignore a track to the right where the road bends sharp left. After another 200m/yds the road curves left (**20min**). Walk 21 turns off right here on a wide track, but for this walk keep to the lane, heading east. Then the land bends right (northwest) and comes to a crossroads with an asphalt country road.

Go straight across and follow a motorable track on the far side, heading northwest in a dead-straight line. Soon you pass transformer house No 3. Carry on until the track ends (**1h**), then head northeast uphill on a footpath, keeping to the left of a fence. The path follows

an old wall, and the last part of the climb is a bit of a huff and puff. But soon the path runs into a wide track leading to a villa nearby on the left. Follow the track (surfaced at first) down to the right, enjoying a good view to the coast at Es Figueral. As the track winds south-east, you will pass an old threshing floor on your left. Then you reach the county road you crossed earlier. Follow it to the left (hardly any traffic; it's a great cycling route) for 500m/yds, to a crossing track.

Turn right and follow this track south, past some beautifully planted fields (ignoring two turn-offs right to farms) until you reach the PM810. Then walk (*carefully!*) south on this main road for the last 700m, back to **Sant Carles (3h)**.

Arabic beehives on Puig d'en Gat. A tube of wood inserted into the beehives encouraged the bees to build their combs as they did in trees in the wild.

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