



13 DEIA (CA'N PUIGSERVER) • SON COLL • SOLLER

See also photograph page 97

Distance: 8km/5mi; 2h35min

Grade: easy, after an initial ascent of some 180m/590ft

Equipment: stout walking shoes, suncream, sunhat, picnic; warm clothing and windproof in cold weather

How to get there and return:  or  (Timetable 8); get off the bus or park east of Deià, near Ca'n

Puigserver (the KM60.2 marker on the Ma-10). Motorists can return by taking a bus back to your car (Timetable 8).

Shorter walk: Font de Ses Mentides. 4.5km/2.8mi; 1h30min. Grade/ access as main walk.

Follow the main walk to just past Son Coll hamlet, and go left at the bottom of the wide stone steps to the SPRING; return same way.

This walk follows a very picturesque route through the mountains down into the pretty Sóller valley. After sampling the panoramic sea views, the fresh mountain air, and the splendid descent into Sóller, I'm sure you will want to discover more of Mallorca on foot.

Begin the walk in Deià at KM60.2

ON THE MA-10. Walk up the slope opposite the wide gates of Ca'n Puigserver. Walk up the steep track for just under five minutes and then (soon after a bend to the right and opposite a house) turn left, up a rocky path marked by a cairn. You are now on the old wayfarers' route from Deià to Sóller, extensively used before the Ma-10 was built. Keep ahead on the easily-followed path, and soon you will begin to get some excellent coastal views — do turn to admire them from time to time. At about 30min come to a little cluster of houses known as Son Coll; the trail passes between them. Five minutes later, you can make a short detour to visit the Font de Ses Mentides (Picnic 13), a mountain spring with a small stone seat: go left at the bottom of the wide stone steps, and descend some rather more ancient steps for a couple of minutes to find it.

Back on the main route, cross over a tarmac lane and continue ahead. Go through a gateway, after which the path descends gently through the woods, gradually veering away from the coast. If you're walking here in spring, you will see violets,

scarlet pimpernel, clematis, daisies, wild orchids, wild gladioli, and many other plants common only to the Balearics. Go through a couple more gates (at the second one there is a signpost back to Deià), and continue down onto a wider track, where you veer right, coming down to a wide gate. Go through, coming immediately onto the front patio of Son Mico (1h30min), a large old Mallorcan mansion, now converted into a rural tourism property. You can visit the interior of this huge house, full of antique farming implements. And while you're here, why not sample some freshly-squeezed orange juice, or some home-made Mallorcan sweetcakes and pastries?

Then continue ahead, past the front of the house and down some ancient cobbled steps, from the top of which there is a lovely view



Sóller tram (above) and the lovely woodland path from Ca'n Puigserver



down over the Sóller basin, with the high mountains rising in the background. You pass a pretty 13th-century CHAPEL, now almost completely in ruins. Take the narrow path directly in front of the chapel doorway, and walk alongside drystone walling. Later, when the way widens, keep ahead, with lovely olive groves below. The route is now quite obvious, turning left further down, and then right (where the words 'SOLLER' and 'DEIA' are engraved in the stone wall). Later you descend some wide stony steps. (At the top of these steps, there is an old rusty sign nailed to a tree on the left, and a wide track heads off left just here — it leads to an excellent picnic spot on a pine-shaded grassy mound after some 20m/yds.)

At 2h you will have your first impressive views of the beautiful

Sóller valley, surrounded by the island's highest peaks — including the Puig Major, the triangular summit of L'Ofre, and the Serra d'Alfàbia. A few minutes later, you cross above the 'wild-west' mountain railway, just above a tunnel. The path descends gradually into the valley, becoming a wide track further down.

At the tall square house standing on its own on a corner, turn down left, and come out onto the MAIN SOLLER/PALMA ROAD almost opposite the PETROL STATION (2h30min). If you are taking the bus back, go left down the main road, then take the first right after the petrol station. This brings you to the Plaça Àmerica (see Sóller plan on page 95) and the bus stop. Alternatively, walk into Sóller centre, and head right uphill to the RAILWAY STATION (2h35min).

