

9 THREE WALKS NEAR THE VALLEY OF EGYPT

Walk a: Sant Llorenç to Binimatzoc (7km/4.5mi; 1h40min; easy)

Walk b: Sant Llorenç to Ejipte (2.75km/1.7mi; 50min; easy)

Walk c: Sant Llorenç and Puig Menor (6km/3.7mi; 1h35min; moderate)

Equipment: comfortable footwear, sunhat, suncream, raingear, picnic, plenty of water

Access/return: drive along the Camí d'en Kane until you are nearly level with Alaior. You will come to a crossroads where one turning is to Alaior and the other is signposted to Camí de Binixems. Follow the latter road for about 3 kilometres (2 miles), when you will come to a junction with the Camí d'en Rossi on the left. Either park here or continue along the Camí de Binixems for another 500m/yds until you are nearly at the church of Sant Llorenç and you will see a small clearing on your right. Park here or beside the church (but avoid on Sundays).

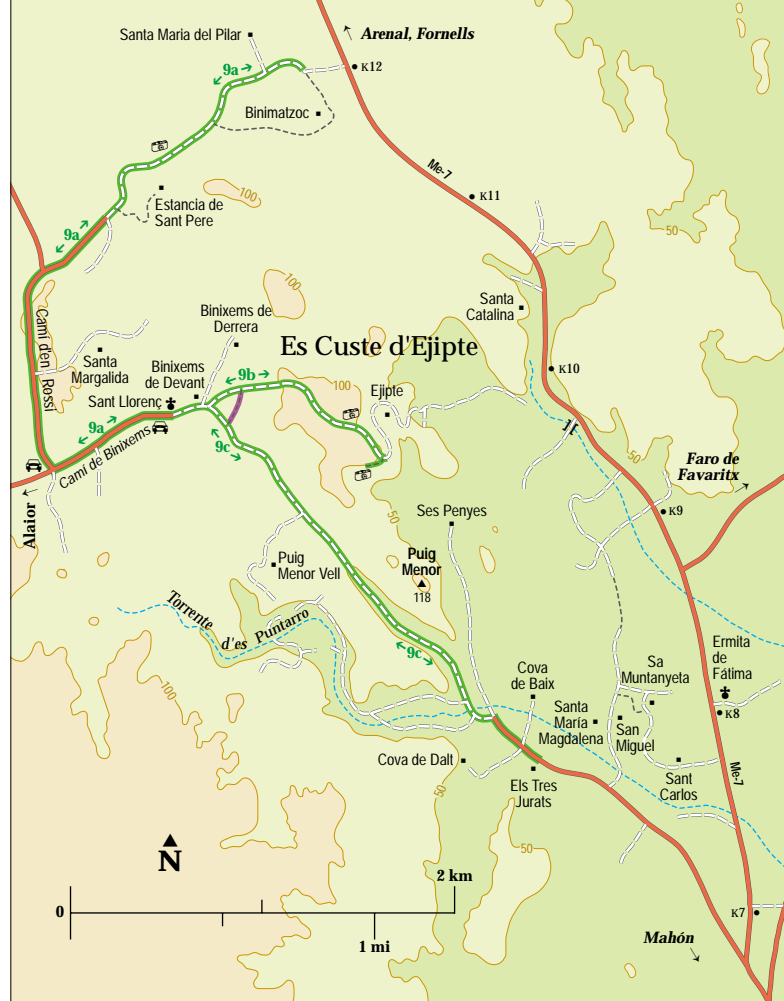
Start **Walk a** at the little church of **Sant Llorenç** by walking to the junction with the Camí d'en Rossi and turning along this road. Follow it until you arrive at a Y-junction (**15min**), where you turn right. The tarmac ends (**23min**) and you go through a track, keeping left at a fork in 50m/yds. In three minutes go through another gate.

The path loops round the bottom of the hill below the ESTANCIA DE SANT PERE for ten minutes, before you go through a gateway (**36min**). Three minutes later fork left to avoid BINIMATZOC farmhouse, and in four minutes go through a gate. Your path now goes through trees. At the next fork go right, ignoring a gateway on the left. Soon you will have a good view over the last field before the Me-7 road, and unless you are going to pick up transport there, little is to be gained by walking further (**50min**).

Retrace your steps now. Ignore the gateway on the right, walk through woodland for a couple of minutes, then go through a gate and, four minutes after that, turn right at a T-junction where the path on the left goes to Binimatzoc farm. In three minutes go through another gate (**59min**). On top of a hill on your left you can see the farm of SANT PERE, and your track will loop round the bottom of the hill.

After ten minutes, when you are about three-quarters of the way round the loop, you go through yet another gate. In three minutes ignore a path on the left which goes to the farm and bear right (**1h13min**). A minute later you pass through a final gate and the track becomes a metalled lane. In eight minutes keep straight ahead at a junction, ignoring a road to the right, on what is now a wider road.

You pass the entrance to ESTANCIA DE SANTA MARGALIDA in another seven minutes (**1h29min**) and after a similar interval you will come to the junction with Camí de Binixems. Turn left for 500m/yds to arrive at **Sant Llorenç** (**1h40min**).



Start **Walk b** by making your way to the little church (*ermita*) of **Sant Llorenç** and continue along the lane for five minutes, until you come to a crossroads beside the farm of BINIXEMS DE DEVANT. Go straight ahead, following a track through a gate and across a field. (If the gate is locked, continue to walk downhill for 100m/yds, and go through a gap in the wall on your left. Walk up the right hand side of the field and join a path. Follow it across the next field. At the top it will bend left and go downhill. Cross a field at the bottom, to join the track mentioned above. Turn right. Mark this junction carefully for you will need it on your return.)

After about 15min you will come to another locked gate. Climb over the wall to the right of it. As you go forward now,

you will see the **Ejpte** farmhouse on your left and, just before the track bends sharply left to begin to descend, the valley of **Ses Penyes**. The hill of Puig Menor stands out on the right. Do not follow the track downhill, but continue to walk round to the right, for the view over the **GORGE (25min)**.

Turn round now and retrace your steps. After 15 minutes you should see on the other side of a little field the path that will, if necessary, take you up and round to the right and bring you back to the gap in the wall, where you turn right. Otherwise keep on ahead until you come to the crossroads at Binixems. Keep straight ahead to return to **Sant Llorenç (50min)**.

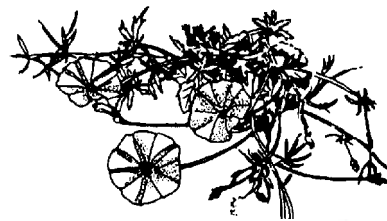
The Ejpte farmhouse in Es Custe d'Ejpte



Start Walk c at the church of **Sant Llorenç** and continue along the lane for five minutes, until you come to a crossroads beside the farm of **BINIXEMS DE DEVANT**.

Turn right and follow the lane downhill. In ten minutes pass the entrance to **PUIG MENOR VELL** farm on your right. At the bottom of the hill ignore a farm entrance on the right, and in 100m/yds turn left at a T-junction. Walk beside a stream for another 100m/yds, then turn right. Pass between the farms of **COVA DE DALT** (Upper Cova) and **COVA DE BAIX** (Lower Cova) and lastly that of the three Councillors — **ELS TRES JURATS**. Can you see the rocks that gave the farm its name on your right in solemn contemplation (**45min**)?

The rest of the road from here to its junction with the Me-7 has little of interest, and unless you are intending to pick up transport there I recommend you turn round now and retrace your steps uphill back to **Sant Llorenç (1h35min)**.



Right, from top to bottom, some Menorcan flora (see page 18): convolvulus, fig, olive, juniper and Pistacia lentiscus