

Mallorca Hiking

PRIVATE GUIDED WALKING · SERRA DE TRAMUNTANA

An honest, practical guide to walking Mallorca's UNESCO mountain range — signature trails, route grading, the GR221, Walk & Wine, and local guidance from thirteen years on the trail.

WELCOME

Why we walk the way we do



NINA HARJULA
FOUNDER & HEAD GUIDE

Mallorca has a thousand paths. We have been walking them for thirteen years, and we still haven't run out of favourites.

When I founded Mallorca Hiking in 2013, the intention was never to herd thirty strangers behind an umbrella or race against a stopwatch. It was to do something smaller, quieter, and properly run: private walks for one party at a time, guided at their own natural pace, on trails where you can actually hear the breeze through the holm oaks.

The Serra de Tramuntana is a UNESCO World Heritage cultural landscape, but first and foremost it is a living, working mountain range. Its dry-stone paths were cut centuries ago by muleteers, charcoal-burners, and the snow-gatherers who climbed the high summits after winter storms to pack ice for the city of Palma. Walking these trails with someone who knows the history, the flora, and where the cool shade falls at two in the afternoon turns a simple hike into an experience you remember for years.

Whether you want an easy amble through ancient olive terraces ending with a chilled glass of Malvasia, or a rugged ridge hike above the cliffs of Sa Dragonera, we take care of the route planning, safety, and timing so you simply turn up, lace your boots, and walk.

We look forward to walking with you.

NINA HARJULA & THE MALLORCA HIKING GUIDE TEAM

PRIVATE BY PRINCIPLE

We only run private walks booked exclusively for your party. That means the day belongs to you: your preferred start time, your walking cadence, and your personal interests. No mixed groups, no waiting for strangers.

OVERVIEW

Contents & How to Use This Guide

Guide Contents

04–05 · Feature: The Serra de Tramuntana	Spread
06–07 · Feature: The GR221, Explained	Spread
08 · What a Private Walking Day Looks Like	Page 08
09 · How We Grade Walks (Easy to Difficult)	Page 09
10–11 · The Walks Lookbook: 8 Signature Routes	Spread
12 · Walk & Wine: Son Puig & Banyalbufar	Page 12
13 · When to Come: The Honest Calendar	Page 13
14 · Where to Base Yourself: Sóller, Valldemossa, Deià	Page 14
15 · Practical: Kit List, Footwear, Booking	Page 15
16 · Back Cover: Booking & Sister Perks	Page 16

How to Use This Guide

1. **Check the grading scale first (p. 9):** Walking in Mallorca is rarely flat. Match your party's stamina and balance to our honest Green, Blue, Red, or Black levels before picking trails.
2. **Align with the seasons (p. 13):** The Tramuntana writes its own weather. Spring brings flowers, autumn brings warm seas, winter brings crisp stillness, and summer asks for dawn starts.
3. **Select your signature day (pp. 10–12):** Browse our lookbook routes or consider Walk & Wine. Every private itinerary can be adjusted to your wishes.
4. **Get in touch directly (p. 16):** Message Nina on WhatsApp or email with your travel dates, group size, and where you are staying. We handle the rest.



ANCIENT TERRACED OLIVE GROVES NEAR FORNALUTX

FEATURE · UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

The mountain that writes its own weather



THE DRAMATIC LIMESTONE BARRIER OF THE SERRA DE TRAMUNTANA DROPPING TOWARDS THE NORTH-WEST COAST

A jagged limestone spine running ninety kilometres from Andratx in the south-west to the lighthouse of Cap de Formentor in the north-east, rising to 1,445 metres at Puig Major.

To most holidaymakers, Mallorca means white sand beaches and sheltered coves. But turn your back on the sea and the Serra de Tramuntana rises like an ancient stone fortress, commanding almost the entire western coast. It is a genuine mountain range that creates its own microclimate — banking cool clouds along its peaks while Palma swelters in the heat, trapping mountain breezes in narrow limestone ravines, and feeding cold freshwater springs that continue to run long after the lowlands have turned amber.

What makes walking here genuinely different from anywhere else in Europe is not just the dramatic topography, where 1,000-metre cliffs drop straight into cobalt waters, but the intimate coexistence of raw mountain wilderness with two millennia of human handiwork.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

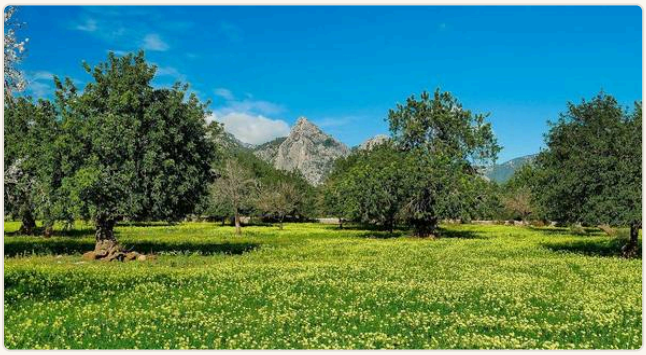
Dry stone, ancient olive trees & silent woods

> *"A col is just a col until someone points out the seventeenth-century snow pit, or explains why the olive trees are gnarled like weathered hands."*

In 2011, UNESCO declared the Serra de Tramuntana a World Heritage site under the Cultural Landscape category — recognizing that this range was not sculpted by geology alone, but by centuries of human ingenuity working with scarce water and vertical rock.

The craft that built this mountain world is *pedra en sec*: dry-stone masonry constructed without a single trowelful of mortar, held purely by gravity, stone selection, and the friction of interlocking rock. Terraces called *marjades* climb impossible precipices, transforming barren cliffs into fertile groves of gnarled olives and sweet oranges.

Cobbled donkey paths — *camins de ferradura* — zigzag up sheer rock walls where modern roads still cannot venture. As you walk with our guides, the silent woods slowly reveal the traces of the people who shaped this landscape: circular charcoal-burners' platforms (*sitges*), domed limestone kilns (*forns de calç*), and deep stone-lined pits where the *nevaters* packed winter snow into blocks of ice to carry down to Palma through the night.





Walking with a private guide transforms what would otherwise be a strenuous rocky trek into an intimate story of island culture, botany, and living heritage.

THE DRY STONE ROUTE · GR221

The GR221, explained

Around 130 kilometres, eight days of walking, and approximately nine thousand metres of total ascent: Mallorca's iconic long-distance mountain traverse.

The *Gran Recorrido 221* (Dry Stone Route) threads the entire spine of the Tramuntana, linking ancient bridleways, mule tracks, and mountain passes between Port d'Andratx in the south-west and Pollença in the north. Begun in the 1990s by the Consell de Mallorca, it restored long-forgotten paths that once connected remote villages before motor roads existed.

The Eight Stages at a Glance

STAGE	ROUTE & CHARACTER	DIST.	ASCENT
01	Port d'Andratx / Es Capdellà to Estellencs · Wild southwest ridges	15 km	+600 m
02	Estellencs to Esporles · Coastal pine woods & historic fincas	14 km	+500 m
03	Esporles to Valldemossa · The ancient Camí de sa Coma d'en Busquets	10 km	+580 m
04	Valldemossa to Deià · The Archduke's clifftop bridleway	12 km	+620 m
05	Deià to Sóller · Gentle coastal path, olive groves & Can Prohem	10 km	+310 m
06	Sóller to Tossals Verds · The great Barranc de Biniaraix staircase	15 km	+950 m
07	Tossals Verds to Lluc · High karst alpine passes & snow houses	15 km	+850 m
08	Lluc to Pollença · Holm-oak forest descent into the northern valley	17 km	+250 m

Do you need to walk all eight days? Honestly, no. Many clients stay in one comfortable village base (such as Sóller or Valldemossa) and choose three or four of the best individual stages as private day hikes, skipping the connecting sections of tarmac road.

GR221 INSIDER PERSPECTIVE

The stages worth your legs — and how to walk them

The Stages Worth Your Legs

Deià to Sóller (Stage 5): The gentlest stage of the entire route. Mostly downhill on ancient cobbles through olive groves, with the sea on one side, mountain cliffs on the other, and cold freshly squeezed orange juice at Can Prohem finca. Ideal for any walker.

Barranc de Biniaraix (Stage 6): The true architectural set-piece of the GR221: a theatrical limestone gorge climbed via two thousand hand-hewn stone steps, with terracing rising like an ancient Roman amphitheatre above mountain streams.

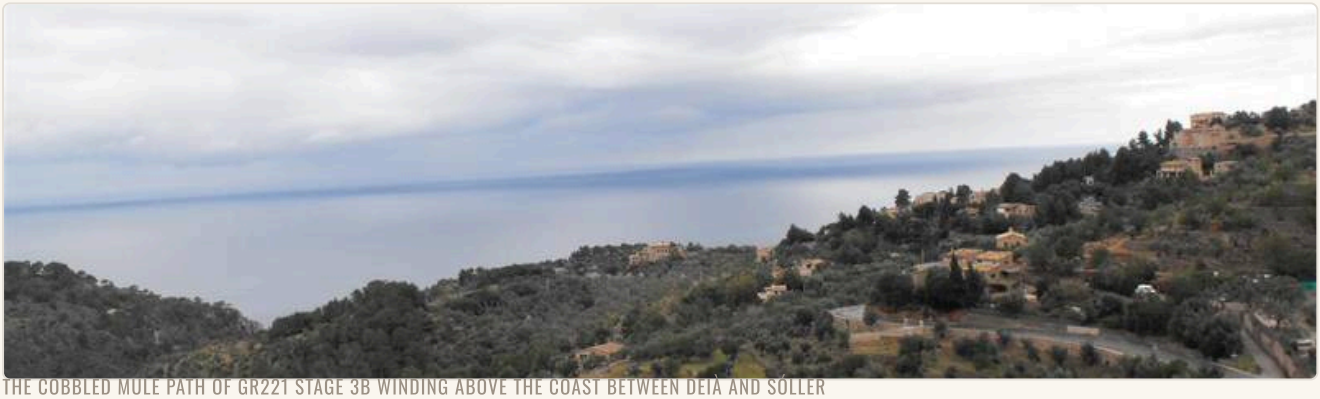
Es Capdellà to Estellencs (Stage 1): The raw, lonely south-west. Quiet tracks across the historic Galatzó estate, past restored charcoal huts and a working stone well, over a windy col to a remote clifftop village.

Guided, Self-Guided, or 50/50?

The main trails are marked with wooden signs and red paint, but navigation can become tricky on high cols in sudden fog.

What a private guide adds is total peace of mind: flexible pacing, secret scenic variants, sheltered plan-B routes when high winds strike, and the living stories behind the landscape.

The 50/50 Option: For confident hikers, we often guide the demanding high mountain days (e.g. Barranc de Biniaraix to Tossals Verds) while you walk the gentler valley stages independently.



THE COBBLED MULE PATH OF GR221 STAGE 3B WINDING ABOVE THE COAST BETWEEN DEIÀ AND SÓLLER

Luggage Transfer Along the GR221: You don't need to haul a 15-kilogram backpack over mountain ridges. Our sister service **Mallorca Luggage Transfers** moves your suitcases reliably from hotel to hotel or refuge each morning, leaving you unburdened with just a light daypack.

BEHIND THE SCENES

What a private walking day actually looks like

No whistles, no name badges, and no twenty strangers waiting while someone buys an ice cream. Here is how a guided day with Mallorca Hiking actually unfolds.

01 **The Rendezvous**
We meet directly at your hotel or rendezvous at the trailhead parking. We confirm exact timings, weather outlook, and gear the evening before by WhatsApp or email so there is zero guesswork.

02 **Your Natural Pace**
Because the walk is exclusively yours, the pace matches your rhythm. If you want to stop to photograph wild bee orchids, admire a panoramic sea view, or take a breather on a steep switchback, we pause. Nobody is rushed; nobody is left trailing behind.

03 **Intelligent Route Flexing**
If knees start complaining halfway through a descent, we adapt and take a gentler shaded mule track. If the group feels energetic, we add an extra peak lookout or a detour to an ancient cave. The itinerary bends around you.

04 **The Weather Plan-B**
Mountain weather can turn quickly. If high gusts make an exposed limestone ridge unsafe, we do not simply cancel your day — we move the hike to a sheltered inland valley, a sunlit forest trail, or a coastal path on the protected lee of the island.

05 **What is Included**
A fully qualified local guide dedicated exclusively to your group, tailor-made route design and estate permits, full civil liability and accident insurance, deep local natural and cultural interpretation, and dependable recommendations for post-walk lunches and dinners.

REAL CLIENT FEEDBACK

[NINA: real review here or delete this block — e.g. a brief quote from a verified guest regarding their private guiding experience in the Tramuntana]

GRADING SYSTEM

How we grade our walks

A simple four-colour system inspired by ski runs — so you know exactly what a day on the trail will demand of you before you lace up.

Good walking in Mallorca is rarely flat. Distance alone does not tell the full story. Every route in our portfolio is carefully evaluated on five criteria: steepness of climbs and descents, actual moving time, ground underfoot (scree, jagged karst limestone, or smooth cobbles), required cardiovascular stamina, and exposure or easy scrambling over rocks.

GREEN · EASY

UP TO 3 HOURS · UNDER 350 M CLIMB

Manageable for anyone in reasonable physical shape. Trails may have brief steep sections and uneven cobblestones underfoot, but distances are modest.

Signature Example: *GR221 Stage 3B (Deià to Sóller) · 10 km · +310 m*

BLUE · MODERATE

3 TO 4 HOURS · 300 TO 500 M CLIMB

Some sustained climbs, rough stony donkey tracks, and occasional easy stepping over rock. Requires comfortable walking stamina and good footwear.

Signature Example: *Sóller to Can Prohem Circuit · 6 km · +350 m*

RED · CHALLENGING

4 TO 5.5 HOURS · 500 TO 800 M CLIMB

Steep ascents and descents over rough, rocky terrain. May include cliff-edge paths or light scrambling. Suitable for active, regular walkers with good balance.

Signature Example: *Circuit out of Valldemossa & Archduke's Bridleway · 11 km · +550 m*

BLACK · DIFFICULT

5+ HOURS · 800 M+ CLIMB

Our longest and most demanding mountain days. Steep karst rock, loose scree, sustained elevation gain, and exposure. Requires high mountain fitness.

Signature Example: *Torrent de Pareis Gorge or Puig des Teix Traverse · 14 km · +850 m*

Unsure which grade fits your party? Tell us what you normally walk at home and what shoes you will be wearing. On a private walk we can easily fine-tune the day's route to ensure everyone enjoys every kilometre.

SIGNATURE ROUTES · PART 1

The Walks Lookbook



CHALLENGING NORTH WEST

Archduke's Bridleway & Valldemossa

11 km · 4 hours · +550 m climb

A Tramuntana classic: ancient olive terraces, shaded holm oaks, and the restored 19th-century clifftop bridleway with views plunging towards Deià.

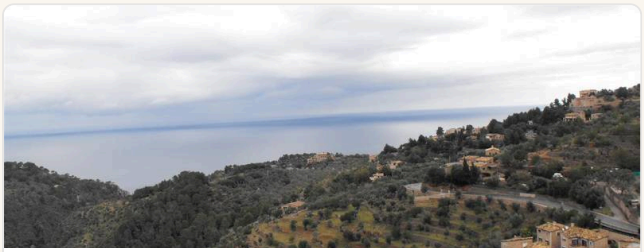


CHALLENGING SOUTH WEST

Monastic Wandering from Sant Elm

8 km · 3 hours · +400 m climb

Rocky coastal climb out of a quiet fishing village to the ruined Trappist monastery of Sa Trapa, with the island of Sa Dragonera filling the panorama.



EASY NORTH WEST

GR221 Stage 3B: Deià to Sóller

10 km · 3 hours · +310 m climb

Cobbled paths winding through centuries-old olive terraces, coastal clifftops, and cold freshly squeezed orange juice at Can Prohem finca.



MODERATE NORTH WEST

Sóller to Can Prohem Circuit

6 km · 2.5 hours · +350 m climb

A brisk climb above Sóller crossing the 1912 electric railway into endless olive groves, rewarded by valley views and fresh almond cake on the terrace.

SIGNATURE ROUTES · PART 2

The Walks Lookbook



EASY NORTH WEST

Alaró Castle: Moors & Christians

8 km · 3 hours · +350 m climb

A steady walk through the quiet Orient valley to a ruined 10th-century fortress, followed by legendary slow-baked lamb at rustic Es Verger.



MODERATE SOUTH WEST

Mountain Peaks & Turquoise Bays

10 km · 3.5 hours · +450 m climb

From S'Arracó over the rocky crest of Es Tres Picons to the quiet shingle cove of Cala Egos, finishing on the chic waterfront of Port d'Andratx.



MODERATE NORTH WEST

Hike to Puig de Tossals Verds

6 km · 3 hours · +300 m climb

Follow the old snow-gatherers' path from Cúber reservoir to the 1,118 m summit trig point, flanked by Puig Major and Massanella.



MODERATE NORTH WEST

Circuit around Sóller & Villages

10 km · 3 hours · +300 m climb

A gentle amble through citrus orchards to Biniaraix and Fornalutx — two of the most beautifully preserved stone villages in Spain.

WALK & WINE

Vineyard trails & private cellar tastings

A morning walk through olive terraces and holm-oak woods, finishing on foot at a private family estate for a cellar visit and local delicacies. Zero driving worries.



BODEGA SON PUIG, CULTIVATING VINES SINCE 1597

Featured Bodega: Son Puig (Puigpunyent)

Nestled at the foot of Puig de Galatzó, Son Puig is a handsome 16th-century manor house where the Alabern family has cultivated vines and cherries across seven hectares for generations. You reach the estate on foot, stroll past the historic chapel into the vineyards, and settle into the stone cellars for an unhurried tasting.

Two Walking Approaches:

· *The Long Way (WW-01):* 12 km · 3.5 h · +450 m · Challenging. Through ancient charcoal tracks and Son Fortesa olive terraces.

· *Calvià Approach (WW-02):* 8.5 km · 3.5 h · +250 m · Moderate. Panoramic climb from Calvià village along high terrace tracks.

The Three Cellar Tastings

Short Visit + 2-Wine Tasting
Cellar tour & tasting of 2 estate wines with fresh artisan bread & Son Puig extra virgin olive oil. ~45 min–1 h.
€45 pp (21% VAT included)

Guided Cellar + 3-Wine Tasting & Artisan Cheese
Full guided tour of cellar and gardens, 3 estate wines paired with crackers and local artisan cheeses. Up to 1.5 h · groups 5+.
€60 pp (21% VAT included)

Guided Cellar + 4 Wines & Full Mallorcan Tapas Feast
A complete tour of the cellar and gardens, 4 different wines and cold finger-food tapas (Iberian ham, cheese, coca de trampó or vegetable, pamboli, nuts, ensaïmada… depending on the season). Maximum 2 h · groups 8+.
€85 pp (21% VAT included)

Also available: Banyalbufar Malvasia Walk (WW-04): An 8 km shaded hike along the historic Camí des Correu ending at a small family bodega for crisp Malvasia whites over the ancient sea terraces. **€48.40 pp, 21% VAT included** (groups 5+).

SEASONAL GUIDE

When to come: the honest calendar

People book their flights first and ask about mountain weather afterwards. Here is the version we give our friends.

Spring · March to May

The undisputed premier walking window. Temperatures hover between 18°C and 22°C, freshwater springs run freely, and hillsides explode with wild bee orchids, gladioli, and deep-pink Mallorcan peonies. Every single trail on our list is in prime condition. Guides and mountain refuges book out weeks ahead.

Autumn · September to November

Arguably the guides' personal favourite. From mid-September the intense summer heat breaks, afternoon light turns long and golden, and the sea remains warm enough for an invigorating swim after the hike. Late autumn rains fill the ravines, bringing the spectacular Torrent de Pareis country to life.

Winter · December to February

Crisp, glass-clear high-pressure days. From late January, millions of almond trees blossom across the lower valleys in soft white and pink. High peaks above 800 metres can hold snow and ice, but valley and coastal walks like Deià to Sóller, Alaró, and Sant Elm are quiet, empty, and sublime.

Summer · June to August

High limestone ridges bake under the midday sun. We do not guide exposed mountain summits during summer afternoons. Instead, we start at first light (7:30 am), stick to deep oak shade and coastal breezes, and finish by lunchtime with a swim or a cool Malvasia tasting.

Month-by-Month Snapshot

MONTHS	CONDITIONS	WHAT IT IS ACTUALLY LIKE ON THE TRAIL	RECOMMENDED ROUTES
Dec – Feb	12–16°C · Crisp	Glass-clear air; almond blossom breaks late Jan; quiet, empty trails.	Sóller Villages, Alaró, Sant Elm
Mar – May	17–23°C · Ideal	The peak window. Wildflowers bloom; springs flow; perfect walking temps.	Archduke's Trail, GR221, Walk & Wine
Jun – Aug	27–32°C · Hot	Midday heat is intense. Early dawn starts; tree-shaded paths; swim finishes.	Banyalbufar Wine, Deià Coastal
Sep – Nov	19–25°C · Superb	Warm sea for post-hike swims; golden light; great conditions for ridges.	Puig de Tossals Verds, GR221 Stages

LOCATION GUIDE

Where to base yourself

Pick the wrong base and half your holiday evaporates in mountain hairpin bends. Pick the right one and great trails start ten minutes from your breakfast table.

Sóller · The Working Valley Town

Set in an amphitheatre of citrus groves ringed by the highest peaks on Mallorca. It has a vintage tram clanking down to the port, a 1912 electric train to Palma, a covered market, and real town life that belongs to its residents first.

Best for: A full week of varied hiking. Direct access to Biniaraix, Can Prohem, the villages loop, and central GR221 stages, with abundant dining.

Valldemossa · The Jewel Box

Perched high at 430 metres: cobbled alleys, green shutters, Charterhouse of Chopin and George Sand, and warm *coca de patata*. Day-trippers crowd the main lane from 11 to 3, but evenings are peaceful and magical.

Best for: 2–3 days of atmospheric walking. Direct access to the Archduke's Bridleway and connecting GR221 stages towards Esporles or Deià.

Deià · The Clifftop Haven

The famous artists' village clinging to a terraced limestone crag above Cala Deià. Beloved by Robert Graves, poets, and musicians. Quiet, refined, with honey-coloured stone fincas and dramatic coastal paths.

Best for: Couples seeking quiet coastal luxury, dramatic sunsets, and immediate trailheads along the coastal paths towards Port de Sóller or Llucalcari.

Port de Pollença · The Northern Bay

Where the mountain spine dips into the sea at the Cap de Formentor peninsula. Flatter sea-level base with an unhurried pine-walk promenade, excellent seafood, and wide open views over Pollença bay.

Best for: Walkers combining sea cliffs with northern trails: the Bóquer Valley bird sanctuary, Talaia d'Alcúdia, and the high pilgrimage path to Lluc.

Palma · The City Base

A real city by the sea, with the widest choice of places to stay, a rich cultural life (the Gothic cathedral, old-town lanes, museums, markets) and the beach on your doorstep. It is also the best connected: the train to Sóller, buses to Valldemossa, Deià and the rest of the Serra, and the airport only minutes away.

Best for: Mixing hiking with culture, dining and sea. Easy day trips to the Serra by public transport, with a wide range of accommodation for every budget.

Nina's Recommendation for a Week's Trip: Split your stay between Valldemossa (2–3 nights) and Sóller (4 nights). Walk between them on foot via Deià on the GR221, while **Mallorca Luggage Transfers** transports your suitcases directly from reception to reception.

PRACTICAL INFO

Everything you need before you book

What to Bring & The Footwear Rule

The limestone terrain in the Tramuntana is rocky, sharp, and uneven underfoot. Good footwear is fundamental to your safety.

STRICT FOOTWEAR RULE

We strictly require sturdy hiking boots, walking shoes, or trail-running shoes with good lugged rubber grip. **No sandals (including hiking sandals), no thin city fashion trainers, and no flip-flops.** Guides reserve the right to turn away guests with inadequate footwear without refund for safety reasons.

- A 20–30 litre daypack per person
- At least 1.5 to 2 litres of water (reusable bottle or reservoir)
- Valid ID or passport (required by Spanish regulations)
- Sun protection: hat, high-factor sunscreen, sunglasses
- Lightweight windproof or waterproof jacket
- Quality wool or synthetic walking socks (no pure cotton)
- Foldable walking poles (strongly recommended for descents)

Pricing, Languages & Cancellation

GROUP SIZE	TOTAL, 21% VAT INCL.
1–5 people (private group)	€338.80 / group
6–8 people	€65.34 / person
9–15 people	€56.87 / person
16–18 people	€54.45 / person

Prices include private guide and accident insurance. Transport & food excluded.

GUIDING LANGUAGES (7)

All walks are guided in English. We also guide in **Swedish, Finnish, Spanish, Catalan, German and French** (subject to guide availability).

CANCELLATION POLICY IN BRIEF

More than 60 days before: 100% full refund. Within 60 days: 50% refund. Within 10 days: no refund.
Weather Guarantee: If we cancel due to severe mountain weather, you receive an immediate 100% full refund or free reschedule.

How to Book: Simply email info@mallorcahiking.com or WhatsApp +34 699 906 009 with your dates. Once confirmed, we send a secure credit card link or proforma invoice.

Mallorca has a thousand paths.
We know the ones worth taking.

Private guided day walks, tailor-made walking holidays, and Walk & Wine outings across the Serra de Tramuntana.

WHATSAPP / PHONE: **+34 699 906 009**
EMAIL: **INFO@MALLORCAHIKING.COM**
WEB: **MALLORCAHIKING.COM**
OFFICE: **AVENIDA GABRIEL ROCA 12, 07014 PALMA DE MALLORCA**

GUEST PERKS & SISTER COMPANIES

Palma Bicycle Tours
Explore Palma's historic old quarter, cathedral, and waterfront on quality city bikes with local guides. Mallorca Hiking guests receive a **10% discount**.
palmabicycletours.com

Mallorca Luggage Transfers
Door-to-door luggage delivery between hotels, fincas, and mountain refuges along the GR221 and throughout Mallorca. Walk light.
mallorcaluggagetransfers.com