

# **S**cenic pecial, ensational ierra Tramuntana



## SPECIAL Serra de Tramuntana

## INVESTMENTS

## Council of Majorca investing millions in municipalities

Via the Council of Majorca local development department.

The Council of Majorca's local development department has invested 33 million euros in the island's municipalities. This record sum has been injected into local economies in order to create employment and boost the activities of small to medium-sized businesses.

This investment has been made over the past

year, the Council never previously having made such a high investment. Councillor Joan Font says of it that most of the money has enabled jobs to be created or maintained and has benefited smaller businesses.

The first investment, one of ten million euros, was under the Special Plan, which replaced the former

Plan for Works and Services. The current spending is totally different to that of the previous plan, which drew on aid from other administrations.

On top of the ten million have been added 20 million from the Council's 2015 surplus and which have been aimed at economically sustainable investments. Priority has



Councillor Joan Font at the presentation of the investment plan.

been given to long-term projects which are a burden on town hall budgets, such as infrastructure for water supply.

The Council is therefore meeting a commitment to the municipalities and to job creation by undertaking this investment, the fruits of which will begin to be realised in March and which will continue until September. By the end of the year, proof of the 33 million euro investment will therefore be evident.

## VALLDEMOSSA

## The town will take over Costa Nord

An agreement with the regional government will enable the use of the estate for cultural events.

Valldemossa town hall has asked the Balearic government to cede Costa Nord to it in order that it can stage cultural and social activities. Mayor Nadal Torres says that this will give more impulse to the Visit Valldemossa project that has been set in motion by tourism councillor Jaume Salvà.

The mayor believes that Costa Nord will provide a strong means for promoting Valldemossa, following two years which have proven to be very important in a tourism sense for the municipality.

The most recent council meeting was unanimous in approving the request by which Costa Nord will be ceded free and for an indefinite period. All indications are that the government will have no objections.

One of Valldemossa's most outstanding cultural assets is without doubt its network of public ways, some of which form part of the dry-stone route. The town hall is putting a great deal of effort into adapting these ways so that they are a further ingredient for the growing mountain tourism market.

Other projects that the town hall has undertaken



The Visit Valldemossa project was presented at Costa Nord. It is one to highlight the tourist, cultural and heritage potential of Valldemossa.



Nadal Torres, the mayor of Valldemossa.

over the past year have been designed to improve residents' quality of life. These include the recovery

### A great deal of effort is being spent on adapting public ways.

of surplus water from the Na Mas spring, the installations of individual and computerised water meters, renovation of the Casal de Joves, adaptation for the future municipal archive and storage construction in the cemetery area.

## PUIGPUNYENT

## Successful water-saving campaign is continuing

A local development officer is assisting in economic and tourism promotion.

Puigpunyent town hall will continue with its successful water-saving campaign this year. Mayor Biel Ferrà says that the figures have been very positive. Despite more meters and users, water consumption in 2016 was lower than in 2015.

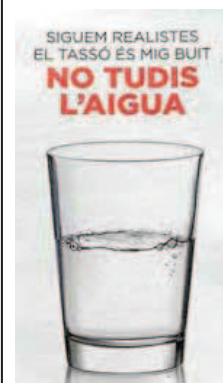
Two years ago, Puigpunyent reached an agreement with the regional environment ministry for desalinated water supply. This has been by tanker trucks, and the supply has meant that the aquifers are not exhausted and that the quality of aquifer water has im-



Puigpunyent's mayor Biel Ferrà says the door to door saving water campaign has managed to lower consumption even though there are more subscribers.

proved. As record demand for water is again anticipated this year, the town hall intends to continue buying in desalinated water, although the mayor expects this to be 40% less than last year.

On a separate theme, the town hall is sharing a local development officer with other municipalities in the Tramuntana "mancomunitat". This officer spends a day and a half each week on developing economic and tourism activities in the municipality



## SPECIAL Serra de Tramuntana

**Mercedes Garrido** – Council of Majorca's councillor for land and infrastructure**“All citizens should sense the values of the Tramuntana”**

Mercedes Garrido, her department is responsible for everything related to the UNESCO declaration.

We all know that the Tramuntana is a beautiful place, but the declaration goes far beyond landscape values.

Mercedes Garrido is the Council of Majorca's councillor for land and infrastructure. The Tramuntana World Heritage Consortium falls under her department, and it is responsible for everything related to the UNESCO declaration that was made in 2011.

We all know that the Tramuntana is a beautiful place, but the declaration goes far beyond landscape values.

That's right. The Tramuntana is not a World Heritage Site solely because it is beautiful. It is because of the way that the people who lived and worked there improved the landscape.

The declaration is in the category of cultural landscape and that means the almost perfect symbiosis between nature and humanity. An example of this is

the dry-stone work. Walls, terraces were built in order to cultivate the land and this work today gives the Tramuntana its spectacular landscape.

**What initiatives are the Council of Majorca undertaking?**

Those that we have launched in recent months are to do with the promotion of the Tramuntana's values to the whole of Majorca's society. Even if municipalities are not in the

**The Council of Majorca has announced that the Soller Tunnel will be free to all drivers from 1 September**

mountains, all the island's people need to sense these values. There is, therefore, an educational programme for schools in order to take the principles of the Unesco declaration to the youngest members of society.

The Tramuntana offers products that are basic in the Mediterranean diet.

There is promotion of the Serra de Tramuntana brand for food products from the region. This was an initiative of the Soller Cooperative, and we are now concluding the drafting of the regulations that govern the use of this brand.

**Does the Unesco declaration serve to further promote tourism?**

Most certainly. One of the pillars of Unesco is to promote tourism through world heritage. Neverthe-

less, we have to tread carefully. We appreciate that the Tramuntana offers a world of magnificent opportunities, but we don't want to end up saturating the mountains, as this could mean losing some of the values that contributed to the declaration. The tourism we are seeking is sustainable tourism that respects the land and the environment.

**Why is it important that the Tramuntana is a World Heritage Site?**

Above all, it is in order that it should be conserved and preserved as we know it. Let us not forget that it has acquired this status because of its values, and these must be protected. The landscape has to be improved but it



General view of the entrance to Soller's tunnel.

cannot be destroyed by, for instance, someone wishing to construct an urbanisation near Lluc. The Tramuntana has to be shown love and protection, because the declaration is a recognition of the whole of Majorcan society.

**Soller Tunnel, free from September**

The Council of Majorca has announced that the Soller Tunnel will be free to all drivers from 1 September.

This is the result of the Council's decision to take the tunnel out of the hands of the company which has had the concession for twenty years.

The Council will pay compensation, estimated at 15.4 million euros, in order to "end a great injustice which has meant that Soller has been separated from the rest of Majorca by one of the most expensive toll roads in Spain," says Mercedes Garrido.



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## SPECIAL Serra de Tramuntana

## SOLLER

## The Tramuntana mountains, a means of promoting the valley

The town hall giving value to tourist routes for the whole year.

Soller occupies an especially strategic part of the Tramuntana mountain range. At the heart of the mountains, Soller is in great demand as a point of departure for tourists discovering the Tramuntana's unique landscape by following the mountains' ways and paths.

In developing hiking for both tourists and residents, the town hall has launched a project to add value to some hiking routes that are already available while also offering new alternatives with paths that need only minor adjustments.

These are routes for all types of walker, including the family group, which are being promoted via tourist



General view of the Soller Valley with the Tramuntana in the background.

information offices and in local hotels. The initiative intends to make the Soller Valley an area to be enjoyed throughout the year.

The Tramuntana combines heritage, culture, economies, tourism and na-

ture: five highly important aspects that assist with the promotion of both Soller and the mountains. The town hall is therefore deeply committed to promoting, conserving and preserving the area.

## DEYA

## Access to Cala Deya will be much easier after upcoming works

The town hall is taking steps to ensure water supply.

In order to provide an improved tourism image and enhanced quality of life to residents, Deya town hall is undertaking a series of projects.

Mayor Magdalena López explains that work on improving access to Cala Deya will begin shortly. This will be for a walkway and a roundabout that will stop jams of vehicles heading towards the cove.

During the last tourism season, water supply was one of Deya's main problems. Gesba, the water company, needed to bring in water by truck in order to supply a population which quadrupled at the height of the summer.



Magdalena López, the mayor of Deya, outlines the developments.

### Deya's Town Hall has a mini-desalination plant project

The town hall requested the creation of a storage facility with

funding from the tourist tax. This proposal was, however, not accepted. One of the projects is the building of a mini-desalination plant to guarantee supply, and the mayor expects that this will be ready during the period of the current town hall administration.

## FORNALUTX

## Commitment to being one of Spain's prettiest villages

The town hall is distributing a video to promote everything that Fornalutx offers - from agriculture to tourism.

Fornalutx is now on the list of some seventy Spanish villages selected by the association of the "Pueblos más bonitos de España". Mayor Antoni Aguiló explains that Fornalutx is the only village in the Balearics to be classified among the "prettiest".

Its inclusion followed a request and then various audits of aspects such as the population size, the architectural heritage and cleanliness. "The commitment is great, because we have to comply with the required rules, but it has meant that we have improved aspects such as cleaning through the purchase of new vehicles."

Representatives from Fornalutx went to the Fitur international tourism fair, where recognition of inclusion on the list of prettiest villages was made, and to coincide with this a promotional video was presented. This tells the story of For-



Fornalutx is a municipality with a spectacular architectural heritage.

nalutx throughout the year.

It contains scenes of daily life with a particular emphasis on agriculture and the cultivation of oranges and olives.

Tourism promotion is not overlooked as there are flashes of Fornalutx's architectural heritage and culture.

With this in mind, work has started on the Can Xoro Museum. The upper

floor is being renovated and new toilet facilities are being built for people with reduced mobility. The work is expected to take four months.

As for investment under the Council of Majorca's plan, this is being directed towards work for upgrading water infrastructure. Included in this is the building of a well at the entrance to the car park.

## BANYALBUFAR

## Commitment to hiking, tourism and heritage

Four months ago, Banyalbufar began to benefit from the opening of the Camí de Planícia, something which the mayor, Mateu Ferrà, states has judicial recognition as well as an economic benefit for the municipality and for the whole island. He adds that it is positive for people who are highly respectful of the environment.

The mayor says that various projects related to the mountains and under the auspices of the Council of Majorca and the Tramuntana Consortium are being undertaken. These include improved access to the Camí des Correu and Camí de la Font de la Vila as well as new hiking routes.



Mayor Mateu Ferrà and the Torre des Verger, which is 50% owned by the municipality thanks to a free donation by the title holders. Right: an Arab mill.

With regard to the promotion of Banyalbufar's heritage, the mayor explains that the town hall is looking to improve and maintain the Torre des Verger "so that everyone can enjoy it" while also recovering the Arab mills and extending the Casa de la Vila (the town hall building).

Tourism in the municipality will shortly recommence - it is an important commercial activity - and the mayor also observes that projects for boosting local development are under way with the help of the Council of Majorca.



SPECIAL Serra de Tramuntana

ESPORLES



The torrent was able to cope with the recent heavy rain because of cleaning work.

Water infrastructure being given maximum priority

New hydraulic installations and the maintenance of the torrent top the list of immediate priorities for Esporles town hall. Mayor Maria Ramon says that a storage facility is being built in the Son Tries area for water from three springs which until now

has been lost. This investment is part of the Council of Majorca's special plan for financially sustainable investments and will mean that a quarter of supply needs is covered. In addition, there is renovation of the network for water supply and for rain and

sewage water in Plaça Balanguera and the calle Estricadors.

Another major project in the past few months has been the cleaning of the torrent by participants from the youth guarantee project. Such was the work done that there were no incidents during the recent periods of heavy rain.

The cleaning of the torrent will continue, this time by people aged over 30, over the next few months.

CAMPANET

Sustainable investment and participative budgets

Sustainable investments are signature ones for the administration at Campanet town hall. Mayor Magdalena Solivellas points, for example, to the adoption of LED lighting, including that of the football ground, as a means of contributing to greater energy efficiency.

Commitment to recycling will continue through the introduction of the so-called "red bag" system from the start of April (this limits the volume of non-recyclable waste). This will reinforce the 55% recycling currently achieved through the door-to-door system.

The town hall's website has been modified in order that it can include the project for participative budgets, one in which residents can take part in deciding the use of 50,000 euros allocated to this form of citizen participation.



The administration is prioritising environmental aspects.



The town hall has published guides to the churches in four languages.

On tourism promotion, two brochures in four languages for visits to the parish and Sant Miquel churches have been very well received.



Beautiful small villa with pool in a quiet location in the outskirts of Sóller — Ref: SO1271. 850.000 €



Very nicely renovated apartment with terrace in Sóller — Ref: SO2713. 215.000 €



Large modernistic townhouse with garden in the centre of Sóller — Ref: SO1542. 480.000 €



Apartment with community pool in privileged location in Port de Sóller — Ref: PS2622. 295.000 €



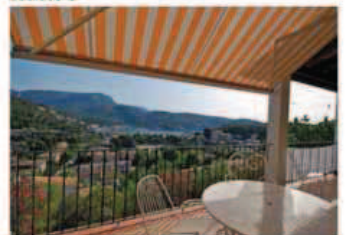
Chalet with guest cottages, garage and pool in Sóller — Ref: SO1233. 735.000 €



House with incredible views to the coast of Deià Ref: SO1434. 850.000 €



Nicely renovated apartment in the centre of Fornalutx — Ref: FO2411. 175.000 €



Nice and bright flat in the Port de Sóller with great views to the harbour — Ref: PS2760. 370.000 €



Sunny new built villa with pool and garage in Port de Sóller — Ref: PS1582. 1.450.000 €



Beautiful traditional Finca in best location in the outskirts of Sóller — Ref: SO1767. 1.650.000 €



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## SPECIAL Serra de Tramuntana

## ESTELLENCES

# A gateway to the mountains that suffers constant blockages

Estellencs is calling for urgent and necessary investment for the road from Andratx in order to avoid road closures.

Estellencs is one of the Tramuntana municipalities which acts as a gateway for numerous hikers as well as offering a special magic with its cobbled streets, gastronomy and hotels.

Mayor Tomeu Jover says that from the start of March until the end of the tourism season there can be up to 4,000 vehicles a day, while there are certain days when the number can reach six thousand.

Given these numbers, it is



obvious that the latest road closure - that of the Andratx road that was caused by a damaging rock fall - has caused a good deal of outrage among Estellencs residents.

The mayor explains that this is a far from uncommon situation. "We are tired of calling for important and necessary investment in order to put a stop once and for all to road closures caused by rock falls."



From March until the end of the tourism season, Estellencs deals with some 4,000 vehicles per day.

He adds that many residents need to travel daily to Andratx and so at present are obliged to make a long detour.

In addition, all the tour-

ism from Andratx has been lost, and this despite Estellencs being "one of the natural gateways to the Tramuntana".

Urgent work is currently

being undertaken to re-open the tunnel onto which a massive rock fell last month, but Jover warns that there will be a continuing problem.



**Overlooking Puerto de Sóller,**  
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**Price 2,850,000 €**

**Spectacular beach front villa**  
in Puerto de Sóller, approx. 465m<sup>2</sup> living area, large living/dining room with open-plan kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 5 en suite bathrooms, huge terraces, Mediterranean-style garden with pool and orange grove. Only 20 metres to the beach. Perfect for a large family!  
**Price 2,490,000 €**

**Fantastic views**  
over the valley of Sóller, cosy Majorcan stone house with approx. 180 m<sup>2</sup> living area, on a plot of approx. 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> with pool and sun terrace, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sitting room with fireplace, 2 roof terraces, air conditioning, central heating, sunny location.  
**Price 1,350,000 €**

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**Typical Majorcan stone house**  
in wonderful area of Sóller, 5 minutes walking distance from the centre, approx. 120 m<sup>2</sup> living area, 2-3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen/diner with fireplace, front garden of approx. 50 m<sup>2</sup> and flat garden of approx. 400 m<sup>2</sup> with parking 15 metres from the house.  
**Price 550,000 €**

**Sun flooded apartment**  
overlooking Puerto de Sóller, approx. 50 m<sup>2</sup> living area, living/dining with open-plan kitchen, nice bathroom, bedroom, huge sun terrace with views over the bay, community pool and parking.  
**Price 279,000 €**

**Cosy flat**  
in the centre of Sóller, approx. 60 m<sup>2</sup> living area, 2 bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, shower bath and 2 balconies, air conditioning, nicely refurbished. Guest studio.  
**Price 195,000 €**

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## SPECIAL Serra de Tramuntana

## Shirley Roberts of Soller Web – A story of the Tramuntana

The west coast of Majorca has a uniqueness not given to many places. It is a UNESCO heritage site in honour of the Moorish influence of the past on the water collection of the area. The Tramuntana Mountains in all their glory are the backdrop to this outstanding location. They run the whole west coast from Estellencs to Formentor keeping the secrets of the past and the promises for the future in this never to be forgotten landscape. Water is the key to sustainable life and tourism on this island and the collection of water was the first priority of the Moors when they inhabited this land centuries ago. They carved out the mountains to make olive terraces and created dry stone water channels throughout the mountains to collect every drop of rain that fell. This is the gift of generations past to us today and why we live in a green and pleasant land where water is plentiful and the sun shines.

The West coast of Majorca incorporates Estellencs, Banyalbufar, Valldemossa, Deya, Soller, Fornalutx, Escorca, Pollensa and Formentor. This represents almost half the island of Majorca and many of our mountain towns and villages. The City of Soller has been designated by UNESCO as the Cultural Centre and it is the large heart of the whole area. All other towns on the list have wonderful qualities and their own special claims to fame but it is to Soller that many people go to start their adventures on the North West coast of Majorca.

**Estellencs**

Our journey starts in Estellencs under the watchful eye of the Galatzo mountain. This area of outstanding natural beauty has many fans. They see this is the heart of rural Majorca without any of the commercial trappings that are found a few miles away. The mountain behind and the rocky cove below from which to have that all important cool down is what Estellencs does best. The woodlands around the area are recovering from the forest fire that devastated parts of this region a few years ago. The rebirth and growth of the new forest is a delight to behold and a once in a generation opportunity to see the phoenix rise from the ashes.

**Banyalbufar**

Banyalbufar has four small

## West to North West...



mountains to itself and sits in the heart of craggy natural beauty. It is open to the sea from the Puerto de Canonge and the pine walks of the area make this a favoured place for locals and visitors. The coves and inlets of the area and the stunning walks make this a place that everyone wants to keep to themselves like a 'best kept secret'.

**Valldemossa**

Valldemossa rises from the road with its turrets gleaming and a sense of excitement as you arrive in a busy, bustling place. This place is on the map because of its stunning location and beauty in the heart of the Tramuntana and thanks to Chopin. The Monastery of Valldemossa housed the composer Chopin and his wife for a brief time and that created a bond which will never be broken. Chopin is played in the museum each day and pilgrimages are made by those who love his music. Valldemossa is famous for being the birthplace of Santa Catalina Thomas who is a Saint of Majorca. Her image is to be found on the entrance to many local houses as a sign of welcome to the visitor. This is also the place you must eat the local Coco de Patatas – this is a sweet bun made with potato flour and sprinkled with icing sugar. This is a delicacy to have with coffee round these parts. Valldemossa claims to be the best baker of these on the island.

**Deya**

The road from Valldemossa to Deya hugs the coastline and makes it one of the journeys of the world for its glorious sunsets and fantastic mountain and sea views. Deya is the village that has many books already written about it. The people, their rock and roll lives and the history make this a

very special place. The incomers outnumber the residents and the common language is English. Deya was the spiritual home to so many artists, writers and creative people from the 1930's onwards and continues to be today.

Many famous people have homes here and the summer is full of them and their friends just enjoying this natural place. The mountains unfold you as the sun goes down and the night life of Deya comes into its own. Café Society, impromptu music and dancing and a general appreciation of all the good things that life has to offer is contained in this place. A trip to the cemetery of Deya reads like a 'who's who' – so many people came, made their lives here and left their mark before staying forever.

**Soller**

Soller has a train that links it on one of the most picturesque train journeys of the world to Palma. The journey through the Tramuntana is an expert feat of engineering and tunnels. The descent into Soller has everybody marveling about how it happened. The train stops at a look out point as it enters the Soller Valley and passengers are allowed to get off to take pictures. From that point it is hard to see how the train will ever get down the mountain – it does – every time. The Soller Tram is waiting for the train and will take you in its old fashioned way through the back gardens of Soller and down to the sea. A throwback to the past and to the trams links with San Francisco and Portugal before they arrived here. The City and the Port are linked in a way that no other place on the island is. There are many places in Majorca which have inland towns and ports but it is only in Soller that the transport links allow them to be one place.

Puerto Soller is the playground of the City and is a civilised beach resort. The yachts set sail every day taking their private day charters off for the highlight of their holiday. The sea is the vast playground of Puerto Soller with many caves and coves waiting to be discovered. Some restaurants such as Foradada – near Deya are only accessible by sea and become a magical lunch stop on the yacht trips. In the other direction the sea takes you the easy way to Sa Colobra and the gorge which is the starting point for so many tortuous walks through the mountains.

The Repic Beach of Puerto Soller hosts the fine dining of the area with all the great restaurants spilling out to the beach terrace. The Santa Catalina side of the resort has the pleasure of watching as the day's catch of Soller prawns are brought in by the fishing fleet and sold at the waters edge before most being taken off in refrigerated lorries to the excellent restaurants of Palma and beyond.

**Fornalutx**

Fornalutx is a village above Soller which has earned the title 'Prettiest Village in Spain' on a number of occasions. It is nestled in the dip in front of the highest mountains of Majorca and is aptly named Fornalutx which translates to 'oven of the sun'. It is always hotter there than in Soller in the summer and colder in the winter. The unrivalled beauty of Fornalutx and its situation in the Tramuntana has earned it a place on many posters advertising Spain worldwide.

To stroll its cobbled streets or relax with a cool drink in the square is a must for a holiday in these parts. The hamlet of Biniraix just down the road from Fornalutx is best known

for its location as the starting point for the walks to the Puig de Massanella along the Barranc de Biniraix. Walkers have long known about this wonderful place and it is a 'must do' walk on the Tramuntana list. A circuitous driving route through the outskirts of Soller brings you to the road entrance to Biniraix which is so narrow that often people drive on. They can't believe that the gap is really the road entrance to this lovely place.

**Escorca**

Escorca is the place in the heart of the Tramuntana between Fornalutx and Pollensa which is mainly mountains. It is sparsely inhabited apart from a few roadside stops for food and refreshment. There are many more sheep in Escorca than people that is until you come to Lluc. The drive over the mountains towards Pollensa is a stunning journey and one where you are at one with nature for the whole route.

The Monastery of Lluc is centred here and it is a place of pilgrimage and huge historical interest. The Black Madonna is found in the Chapel in Lluc and the Blauets sing at mass every day. The choir school is world famous and on special days in the church calendar this isolated place in the mountains is visited by thousands to listen to the music and take part in the mass. Lluc offers hospitality and accommodation here in what used to be the priests rooms and part of it has become a rural hotel.

**Pollensa**

The road from the mountains leads on to Pollensa and Puerto Pollensa much loved by holiday makers. This is a favoured area of English speaking families who return year after year for their children to have their bucket and spade

holidays in the wonderful welcoming resorts of this part of the island. The increase in cycling as a sporting and holiday activity has also centred on the flat terrain of the area between Pollensa and Alcudia. The racing teams from many countries set up their training camps here in the winter and beautiful autumn and winter days are spent enjoying their sport.

**Formentor**

Formentor is on the northern most point of Majorca and the end of the west of the Island. The road which links the Port of Pollensa to Formentor was built by the clever engineer - Antonio Parietti who also designed the road to Sa Colobra - much beloved of cyclists. Formentor is the beautiful place where the winds meet and its own micro climate comes into play. The rich and famous make their way to the beauty and isolation of this glorious place or just simply turn up on your yachts. The end of the island it may be but it is the beginning of many a wonderful holiday and a special place for lovers.

The Tramuntana is the cement that holds this whole area together. The towns, villages and the City of Soller share much but they are all proud independent places that consider what they have to offer to the visitor is unique. Many of the places on our list have their own town halls and their own mayor and this is very important in the way they view themselves. UNESCO recognised this as a major feature when the area was created a Heritage Site. The respect for the labours of the past that has created the Majorca you see today is clear in the desire that the people have to continue the improvements that can be left for the next generation.



## Incident display

Find out what roadworks and maintenance tasks are taking place on roads across Mallorca. If you want to know which route is best for you to take and the current condition of the road, check out the incident display.

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