



8

na PÓPIA

After a small boat trip from Sant Elm or the Port of Andratx you will land at the dock of Es Lledó. Once here, head to the island's small information centre. Once you have passed the centre, keep going along the road northwards until you reach a crossroads. On the right is the road to the Far de Tramuntana lighthouse, opposite is the path to the Cova des Moro and to the left is the paved roads to the Far de Llebeig lighthouse, which is the option to choose.

You pass under one of the houses in the park and a short distance after, head off the paved path along a road that appears on your right, which leads to the valley of Coll Roig. Soon afterwards, a gate without a barrier leads you into a crop field surrounded by a wall. This is known as Es Tancat, and inside it the path winds between terraces of almond trees and carob trees, always with the impressive Puig des Far Vell or Na Pòpia on your left.

You will pass a hut and after at Coll Roig, you will come to another gate, with a vantage point over the Tramuntana Sea. From here you take the Camí des Far Vell, first along the east side of the mountain, and then on the south side, in spring it is common to

find seagull nests in this area, and the birds try to dissuade visitors from coming to close with their low flying. The vegetation here is very dense thanks to the island's protection and the recent extermination of rats.

As you climb, the view broadens out and to the left is the Puig des Aucells, with reddish rock, that you will just glimpse at one of the bends. Immediately afterwards, you pass by the Caseta des Coloms. Despite its name, it was a refuge for the watchmen of the now disappeared watchtower of Na Pòpia, a structure begun in 1580, which was knocked down in order to build the lighthouse.

Finally, you reach the summit of the Puig des Far Vell, situated at an altitude of 352 metres above the blue sea on the north side. You will see the remains of the lighthouse, with the tower, very damaged due to the impact of lightning, and the other buildings which are in an advanced state of deterioration.

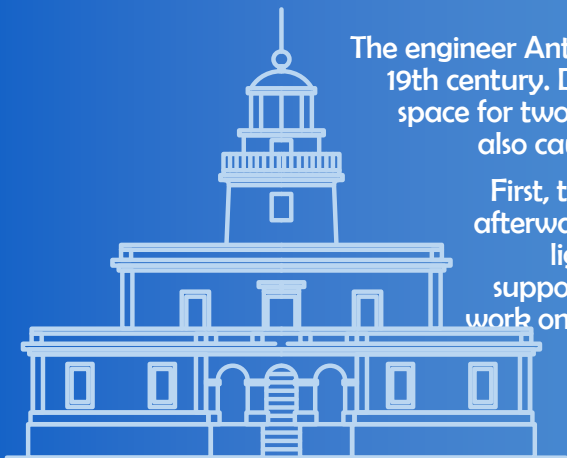
After enjoying the impressive view over the Mediterranean and getting your breath back, you head back to the route's starting point along the path you came down, the only possible way back.

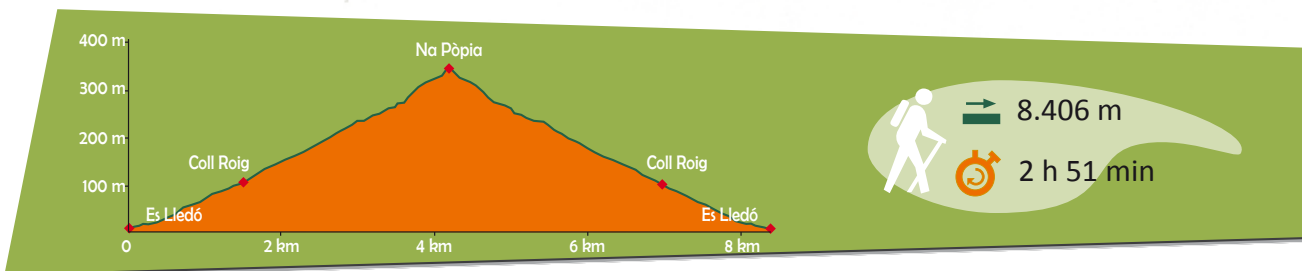
EL FAR DE NA PÒPIA

The engineer Antonio López designed the structure midway through the 19th century. Designed with a neoclassical style, the building has living space for two families of lighthouse. Its role was to guide boats, but it also causes an impact due to its size and the beauty of its lines.

First, the path was built, and the work lasted for three months, afterwards common prisoners worked on the construction of the lighthouse, watched over by the army, with the invaluable support of the bishop at the time, who kindly allowed them to work on Sunday in order to speed up the conclusion of the work.

The light was visible for more than fifty miles, however the fog that often shrouded it made it advisable to abandon the lighthouse and replace it with two lighthouses located at lower heights. So, in 1910 the light was switched out forever.





na Pòpia

Palma

Start / End: Dragonera,
Es Lledó (2 m)

Distance: 8.406 m

Time required: 2 h 51 min

Difficulty: medium

**Net increase
in altitude:** 361 m

**Net decrease
in altitude:** 361 m

Not suitable for: prams for children,
wheelchairs

* For this route, please contact
Sa Dragonera Natural Park

8

na PÒPIA

MONK SEALS

As you enter the port of the island of Sa Dragonera, you will see a small cave on the left that is known as the Cova des Vell Mari. The name is a reminder of the fact that “vell mari” or monk seals were found on the island until halfway through the last century.

This species, one of the ten most threatened on the planet, lived and bred for many years in the coves and on the beaches of the Mediterranean coast. However, human pressure led the species to look for isolated caves, preferably ones with underwater access.

There are currently only a few remaining specimens scattered around countries such as Greece, Morocco and Mauritania. However, there is an international action plan which is carrying out a lot of work in order to prevent the species' extinction and to encourage its recovery in protected areas.

