

6 GUARDS, GUARDS!

Fort de Marlborough has been reinstated as a tourist attraction and they've built a new car park above **Cala de Sant Esteve**; all this improvement results in a delightful 'pocket' sized walk taking in the infamous **Torre d'en Penjat** execution tower and the beautiful **Cala de Sant Esteve**. Unfortunately the buses still only run as far as **Es Castell** so bus users face an extra 1.7 kilometres of pavement and lane walking to arrive at the car park.

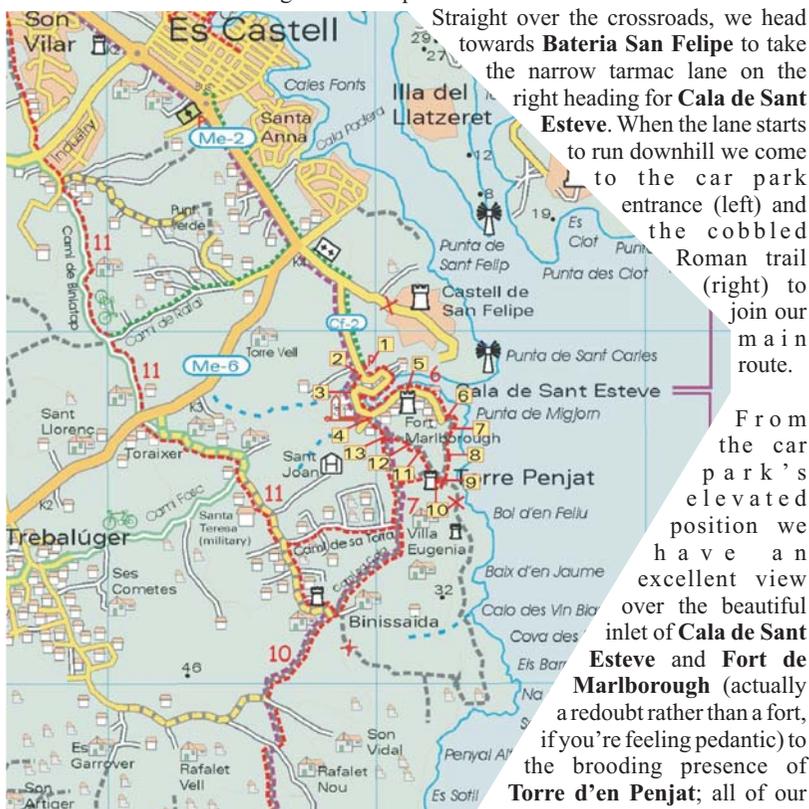


*Panhandle circular

Access by bus: To **Es Castell** terminus on the main ME-2 road and then walk south-east along the road.

Access by car: ME-2 through **Es Castell** and straight over the **Sol de Este** crossroads. Then take the narrow lane right for **Cala de Sant Esteve** and turn into the **Fort de Marlborough** car park.

Bus users head along the ME-2 pavement to the **Sol del Este** crossroads.



Straight over the crossroads, we head towards **Bateria San Felipe** to take the narrow tarmac lane on the right heading for **Cala de Sant Esteve**. When the lane starts to run downhill we come to the car park entrance (left) and the cobbled Roman trail (right) to join our main route.

From the car park's elevated position we have an excellent view over the beautiful inlet of **Cala de Sant Esteve** and **Fort de Marlborough** (actually a redoubt rather than a fort, if you're feeling pedantic) to the brooding presence of the **Torre d'en Penjat**; all of our

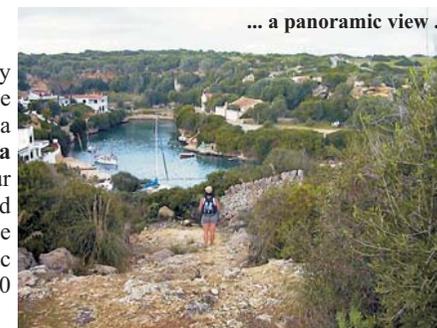
walking route is laid out ahead of us - a unique tableau.

From the car park (Wp.1 **0M**) we step over the narrow lane to come onto the Roman trail (Wp.2) signed to 'Fort de Marlborough'. We drop down the steep boulder-laid trail to emerge onto the lane again at the head of the *cala* (Wp.3). Strolling along the lane beside the inlet, we swing left by house N°50 (Wp.4, and our return route) to walk up past **Fort de Marlborough** (Wp.5 **8M**) and curve round above a mini football pitch (**12M**) to come up towards the lane's end.

Now our navigational skills are called into use as we leave the tarmac (Wp.6) to go left down concrete steps onto the limestone slabs and start curving round the headland on a stepped ascent through the old quarrying area, the **Torre d'en Penjat** coming into view ahead as we come up onto the sloping plateau (Wp.7 **14M**).

We follow a brown ribbon of a path running inland of the cliffs, keeping left at a path junction to pass on the seaward side of old stone walls dividing the plateau; farming has long ceased in this area, resulting in a natural habitat for flora and fauna, particularly butterflies. Fissures in the cliffs are eroding the headland so later walkers may need to move further inland as we come up to a path junction (Wp.8) where we go front right towards the tower. Coming through the remains of a building we climb steadily to a junction (Wp.9 **22M**) in front of a gated cave below the tower. Going left we climb up to the weathered metal steps of the **Torre d'en Penjat** (Wp.10 **24M**), where, from its weathered non-maintained appearance it gives the feeling that the local residents are choosing to ignore the tower in the hope that its notorious history will also disappear.

Leaving the tower we drop down to the junction (Wp.9) beside the gated cave, this time continuing straight ahead across the disused meadows and tumbled sections of stone walls to arrive at a T-junction of faint paths (Wp.11); amongst these walled meadows and *pistacia* bushes it is all too easy to wander aimlessly off track. Going left, right leads to a dead end, we curve right to squeeze through a cistus hedge (Wp.12) followed by a second squeeze hedge and a broken down wall as we keep to the worn path to emerge onto the **Camí de Sala** (Wp.13).



Navigation is now simplicity itself as we head down the rock and cobbled trail (N) to a panoramic view of the **Cala de Sant Esteve** before our trail drops steeply down and left below cliffs before dropping us onto the tarmac lane alongside house N°50 (Wp.4).

Now we have a short stroll to start of the **Roman Trail** (Wp.3) for its stiff climb, or a rather gentler ascent along the tarmac lane, back to the car park.