

Cultural Route

of Santa Eulària des Riu

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A place where everyone
lives in harmony



SANTA EULÀRIA
Natural diversity · Ibiza

Santa Eulària des Riu is graced by some of the loveliest coves and beaches anywhere in Ibiza. Yet, above and beyond its clear waters and fine sands, our locality expresses its character through its unique traditions, remarkable architecture and charming rural landscapes, all forged over the course of centuries. The following cultural route takes you through our municipality, allowing you to discover the singular heritage that defines and differentiates us from other corners of the Mediterranean, revealing the history that has shaped who we are today.

This sightseeing tour guides you round the most representative points of interest in Santa Eulària. It is comprised of 14 stops in all and can be done in one or two days, depending on the amount of time you devote to each place. You can travel by car, motorbike or even bicycle, if you so desire – it is easy to combine all or part of our municipality's cycling routes n°1, n°5, n°7, n°10, n°11 and n°12.

Whichever mode of transport you chose, you will encounter wonderful examples of traditional Ibicenco architecture like farmhouses and churches; wells, defensive structures, fields of carob, fig and almond trees; fertile valleys, mills and water channels; legends and elves, paths trod since Antiquity, the sole river in the Balearics, wooded hills fragrant with pine and juniper, and the aromatic herbs used in our traditional liqueur, *Hierbas Ibicencas*.

As you embark upon this journey through our past, you will also have the opportunity to indulge your palate, thanks to the numerous restaurants featuring traditional Ibicenco fare that dot the way. Here you will find welcoming rest stops where you can savour our region's oldest recipes and encounter genuine Ibicenco hospitality – the perfect complement to your “incursion” into the history and heritage of Santa Eulària des Riu, a road trip that will reveal all the secrets our land has to tell you.



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The most iconic symbol of our municipality, the architectural complex on Puig de Missa, marks the start of our cultural itinerary through Santa Eulària des Riu. This enclave is not the headliner of our tour by chance: its church, cemetery and small cluster of homes embody the very origins of our town.

Perched at the top of a hill that rises 52 metres above sea level, it is indeed a high-profile church that has long been a landmark for travellers arriving to town by way of the Eivissa road. Even in the days of the Barbary pirates, the sight of cannons jutting out from the defence tower warned raiders that it would not be easy to take this town's flourmills, its farm animals or its harvest stores.

Puig de Missa, one of the outstanding examples of fortified churches in Ibiza and Formentera, was built in the 16th century on the ruins of a church that had collapsed following a pirate attack. The nave inside displays a notable baroque altarpiece from the San Millán church in Segovia, brought to Ibiza by the Marquis of Lozoya in order to replace the former altarpiece, destroyed during the Spanish Civil War (August 1936).

The view from Puig de Missa affords a spectacular panorama of the coast, the mouth of the river and the surrounding hills, the perfect counterpoint to the architectural beauty of the church's cubic forms. After visiting the church, we recommend that you wander through the charming streets that wind down the hill, a delightful setting that was officially declared a Picturesque Landscape in 1952.

VISITING HOURS

From May to October from 10 am to 2 pm.

MASS

Sundays and holidays at 11 am (year round).

CURIOSITIES

The church of Santa Eulària has the largest porch (called a *porxet*) of any church in Ibiza. Comprised of two rows of arches, it was added in the mid-17th century along with two lateral chapels that were meant to reduce the defensive look of the church, in light of the fact that pirate attacks, while not eradicated, were on the wane.

01



The next stop on our cultural tour through Santa Eulària is located just 200 metres from Puig de Missa church: the Ethnographic Museum of Ibiza. Set in a 300-year-old farmhouse that is also a national heritage site, the museum showcases a complete ethnographic collection and allows the visitor to discover the defining characteristics of the island's unique rural architecture, one of its key heritage assets.

Renowned architects such as Le Corbusier, Erwin Broner and Josep Lluís Sert applauded the ingenious architectural solutions used in the island's country dwellings together with the long-standing tradition that spawned such practices. We recommend that you spend some time during your visit to quietly explore this excellent example of Ibicenco rural architecture, where you will find the *porxo* (living room), the kitchen, the wine cellar, the oil press, the well and the cistern; while, on the second floor, we find the *cases de dormir* (bedrooms) and the *porxet* (balcony).

The rooms of the farmhouse contain the museum's permanent exhibition, which includes clothing, jewellery, household utensils, work and farming tools, musical instruments, weapons and items for personal grooming.

VISITING TIMES

From 1st October to 31st March: Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm; Sundays from 11 am to 1:30 pm; closed on Mondays and holidays and from 20th December to 20th January.

From 1st April to 30th September: Mondays to Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm and from 5:30 pm to 8 pm; Sundays from 11 am to 1:30 pm; closed on holidays.

02

CURIOSITIES

Can Ros has its own winepress, located inside a cave that opens into the bedrock. It also has the honour of being the birthplace of Father Antonio Guasch i Bufí (1879-1965), a Jesuit priest and linguist who learned to speak and write in 12 languages in addition to being a scholar of the Guaraní language.



The next stop on our route is within easy walking distance of Can Ros. A short stroll of 700 metres will bring us to another of Santa Eulària's valuable heritage assets: the old Molí de Dalt, whose name in Catalan means "upland mill". Located in a farmhouse nestled at the foot of Puig de Missa and set right on the banks of the only river in the Balearic Islands, this watermill is one of four that existed in the municipality. It was used to grind grain, an activity that brought prosperity to the town for many, many years.

The visit to Can Planetes River Interpretation Centre complement our previous experience at Can Ros in that we can view the most characteristic elements of Ibicenco architecture. Moreover, we will be able to observe at first hand the workings of a watermill, which was carefully restored in 2011 after four decades of disuse. Even today, the system of canals that once connected the mill house with the river is still visible as well as the water channels that irrigated the riverside fields and orchards. We can learn more about the Santa Eulària's milling past by reading the centre's informative panels together with those installed along the walkway that connects this area to the next stop on the route: Pont Vell.

VISITING TIMES

1st April to 30th September: Mondays to Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm and from 5:30 pm to 8 pm; Sundays from 11 am to 1:30 pm; closed on holidays

Rest of the year: Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm; closed on Sundays, Mondays and holidays.

03

CURIOSITIES

Each of the town's mills had a specific timetable for the use of river water. In the case of Can Planetes, the grinding wheel was operative on Mondays and Fridays, from dawn to dusk. The water from Santa Eulària's river was used to grow rice toward the end of the 19th century, a practice that was later banned in an attempt to curtail the spread of diseases transmitted by mosquitos.



A footpath called the River Route connects Can Planetes with Pont Vell by means of a self-guided walking tour that wends its way past old fields, orchards and the riverside foliage. Along the way, we will also discover a few tall tales that form part of local lore. One of these legends tells how Pont Vell, or the Old Bridge, was built in a single night by the devil in exchange for the mayor's promise to hand over the soul of the first living creature to cross the bridge. This turned out to be none other than a cat, cleverly released from a bag by the chief magistrate himself. In actual fact, this stone bridge measures 88 metres and was built in the 18th century, although its fourth archway was added in the 19th century. The inhabitants of Sant Eulària des Riu used the Old Bridge to get to the mills and the town centre until 1927, when the present-day bridge became the main thoroughfare in an attempt to safeguard the riverbed.

Even today, Pont Vell continues to be a magical place and the haunt of one of the most peculiar characters in Ibicenco mythology: the *fameliar*. This little imp is bald with an oversized head and possesses an inexhaustible supply of strength and energy. These assets can be of great use to any farmer who finds him, provided that the imp doesn't bring the farmer to ruin through his voracious appetite. To find a *fameliar*, one must go to Pont Vell on the night of June 23rd (the *nit de Sant Joan*), and search under its archways for an herb that blooms for only a few hours right before dawn. If this herb is found, it must be quickly picked and put in a black bottle, whence the goblin will emerge whenever summoned by the farmer, demanding *feina o menjar*, that is, "food or work".

04

CURIOSITIES

In 1744, the Spanish Inquisition sent an unfortunate man from Santa Eulària to jail for insisting that he had a *fameliar* in his possession, as did many other farmers in the area.



The Santa Eulària waterfront takes us to our fifth point of interest, which is located right on S'Alamera Boulevard. Here, the settings and landscapes we visited on our previous stops are recreated on canvas, and peopled by the actual islanders who inhabited them in the first half of the 20th century. The Ibiza of that bygone era comes to life in the artwork of the Barcelonese painter Laureà Barrau i Buñol (1863-1957), who first visited the island in 1912. Trained as an artist in France, Italy and Argentina, his work was influenced by the picturesque movements of historicism, eclecticism and naturalism.

From the moment Laureà Barrau i Buñol came to Ibiza with his wife, Berta Vallier, he was captivated by the island's light, its colours and its customs. He gradually began to spend more and more time on the island until, finally, he decided to move here permanently. As of 1931, Barrau's work focused increasingly on Santa Eulària and its people, a tribute to the place he would call home until his death in 1957. His widow opened a small museum in the house they owned on Puig d'en Missa, known for many years as the Barrau Museum.

In 2014, the Town Hall opened the Barrau Gallery on s'Alamera Boulevard, where part of the artist's oeuvre is on permanent display. Barrau frequently portrayed his beloved wife as well as local residents from the village and its environs. He loved to pluck scenes out of daily life and reproduce the landscapes that met his eye, ultimately leaving a vital legacy to the place that never ceased to inspire him.

VISITING TIMES

In the summer season from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 2.30 pm and from 4 pm to 8 pm. Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. In winter season, from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 2.30 pm. Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

CURIOSITIES

There are still families that preserve drawings of their forebears, sketched by Barrau for one of his beautiful paintings, which can be viewed both at the Barrau Gallery in Santa Eulària and at the Museum of Terrassa in the province of Barcelona.

05



From this point on, our cultural tour through Santa Eulària des Riu moves out from the town centre to the greater municipality, for which reason we will continue in or on our vehicle of choice, be it car, motorbike or bicycle. The sixth stop takes us to the village of Jesús, located just outside of Ibiza town and home to one of the island's greatest artistic treasures: the Osona altarpiece.

To view it, we go to the village church, built at the end of the 15th century by the Franciscan Order with the aim of providing religious services for the fishing families who lived outside the city walls. The church and its convent were dedicated to Our Lady of Jesus, but were ceded some decades later to the Dominicans, who also abandoned it, fleeing the constant pirate raids to live safely behind the walls of Dalt Vila.

Even back in those tumultuous years, the jewel of the church, its Osona altarpiece, had already been installed in the presbytery, having been brought to the island in the early 16th century. Comprised of 25 tableaux, it was painted in the Valencian workshop of Rodrigo and Francisco de Osona in 1498 and depicts the Nursing Madonna. Standing 7.5 meters high and spanning a width of 5.10 meters, the altarpiece pertains stylistically to the Late Gothic period. Yet, its execution and composition display elements inspired by the early Italian Renaissance, known as the Cinquecento, whose best-known exponents were Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo.

06

MASS TIMES

From Mondays to Sundays at 8.30 pm (except Tuesdays). Sundays and holidays at 12 noon. July and August from Mondays to Fridays at 8.30 pm and Saturdays and Sundays at 9 pm.

CURIOSITIES

Contrary to custom, the porch is not positioned in front of the main entrance of the church, but rather to the left. This anomaly is due to the fact that it was not added until the 19th century.





Just a few minutes' drive from Jesús stands the only windmill in Ibiza to preserve its grinding mechanism fully intact: the mill at Es Puig d'en Valls. On this stop, we can further expand our understanding of rural Ibiza, building on what we have previously learned at Can Planetes and Can Ros. The Pitiusan Islands (Ibiza and Formentera together) had up to 40 functioning flourmills, with the one at Puig d'en Valls being one of the last to be built. This visit allows us to see first-hand the mechanism that powered these windmills, where wheat, barley and maize were ground until almost the mid-20th century.

The mill has a cylindrical floorplan with thick walls that rise to a height of seven metres. It is divided into three storeys. The top of the tower is fitted with a wooden framework that rotates on a stone drum that guides the blades according to the direction of the wind. The blades, in turn, activate a wheel which, by means of another gear (lantern), transfers the movement of the blade axis to a vertical axis, which then triggers the flywheel and grinds the grain. Both the mill blades and the antennae, together with the machinery, were restored by the Island Government.

Near the top of the building, there are some small windows that allowed the miller to determine which way the wind was blowing and thus orient the blades to best advantage. When the wind was strong enough, the miller could grind up to 150 or even 200 kilos of cereal per hour, which is why it was so important to make the most of favourable meteorological conditions.

07

VISITING TIMES

In summer season, from Tuesday to Sunday from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm.

CURIOSITIES

The mills on the Pitiusan Islands are different from those on Majorca and Minorca in that they are not attached to a house. The only two exceptions to this custom are the Can Pep Simó mill in San Antonio and the Salt Mill in Formentera.



Our next stop marks the geographic centre of the island. Here, just one kilometre outside the Santa Gertrudis town centre, we find Gatzara Well, one of the many wells that dot the Ibizenco countryside and coastline. The Gatzara well is known to have existed in the 17th century because it is referenced in surviving documents in connexion with the dances that farm folk used to hold here in honour of Saint James, whose feast day is 25th July.

The word *gatzara* in Catalan means “uproar”, “racket”, “bedlam” – in short, the pandemonium that ensues when a group of people come together to celebrate a happy occasion. The name may also have been acquired because Gatzara Well was an important meeting point for farming families, who lived widely scattered across the countryside. For this reason, a trip to the well entailed much more than just going to fetch water: it meant seeing neighbours, exchanging gossip, catching up with friends, etc. Today, the well's defining quality is silence, though it is not hard to imagine days gone by when, in addition to water, it supplied social cohesion and moments of joy.



08

CURIOSITIES

In its earliest days, the door of the well faced the road that runs alongside it. Later, the door was repositioned to face away from the road. Superstition was the driving factor behind this change in that funeral processions used to travel along the same road *en route* to the cemetery.



Construction began on the Santa Gertrudis church in 1785, following the division of the Pitiusas into parishes by Manuel Abad y Lasierra, first Bishop of the diocese of Ibiza. This bishop, whose statue stands by the church, assigned the 136 houses that stood in the centre of the island to the parish of Santa Gertrudis, hoping thereby to attract more families, whom he reckoned would want to settle in the area once it had its own parish church.

Building on the church finished in 1797, although since then several elements have been added, such as a side chapel extending out from the nave – which gives the structure an L shape – and a bell tower, built in 1899. When you visit the church, don't forget to notice the original wooden altarpiece from the 18th century and the front porch, atypical due to its small size and the fact that it is the only one on the island that lies level with the edifice. The church's namesake is Saint Gertrude of Helfta (Eisleben, Germany, 1256 – Helfta, Germany, 1302), a Cistercian Benedictine nun and mystical writer, also known as Gertrude the Great.



Sculpture depicting Bishop Abad y Lasierra
Manuel Abad y Lasierra was the first bishop of Ibiza, appointed in 1783

09

MASS TIMES

In winter, Mondays to Fridays at 7 pm; Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 12 noon and 7 pm. In the summer season, Mondays to Fridays at 8 pm; Saturdays at 9 pm and Sundays at 12 noon and 8 pm.

CURIOSITIES

The Santa Gertrudis church is the only one on the island whose choir is reached by an outdoor staircase rather than an indoor one. Additionally, its façade displays four crosses instead of the habitual three.



The next stop on our route lies 12.5 km from the village of Santa Gertrudis and again features water as its main attraction. This simple rustic wellspring appeared on the historical record in 1765, when the engineer Josep García Martínez included it for the first time on a map of Ibiza. Located at the foot of a hill known as Mont d'Atzaró, the waters of this fountain have long irrigated local farmsteads, famed for their fertility.

This well is not a fancy ornamental site, but rather an unassuming piece of island culture that will show you how farmers optimized the supply of fresh water that sprang from its depths. Other elements contained within this heritage ensemble are the *safareig* (a water cistern built at ground level), a laundry basin with an old inscription warning against washing wool, irrigation channels that carried water to the fields, and the ruins of an oil press, part of which was built using the *opus spicatum* technique in which the stone or brick was laid in a fishbone pattern.

From the place where the fountain is located, you can also see two inland towers: the tower of Can Rieró and that of Montserrat, which pertain to a ruined house.

If you feel like stretching your legs, why not take a walk along hiking route nº 2, which passes right by this fountain?

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CURIOSITIES

Legend has it that Atzaró Fountain is one of the few wellsprings on the island that never runs dry. A good day to go there and see for yourself is 24th June, the festivity of St. John, when local residents get together to celebrate with traditional well dances (*ballades de pou*).



Atzaró Fountain is eleven kilometres away from a small natural port called canal d'en Martí, located next to Punta d'en Valls. This natural harbour has been used since Antiquity to shelter the boats of local fishermen, although its easy accessibility also allowed Barbary pirates to disembark when they came ashore to plunder salt, provisions and jewels.

In addition to the characteristic boathouses that line this charming inlet, canal d'en Martí has also provided us with archaeological finds thanks to the visible remains of seashells, which you will notice piled up on the red earth just to the right of the cove. These accumulations of sea snails from the *Murex brandaris* (or spiny dye-murex) and the *Murex trunculus* species remind us that, during Ibiza's Roman period, the island enjoyed an important level of commerce based on the extraction of purple dye.

This pigment, so sought after in Antiquity, was obtained from a gland found in the snails. It actually became more expensive than gold given that 9,000 snails had to be opened in order to obtain just one gram of purple dye. It was for this reason that the use of this colour was restricted during much of history to kings, nobles and high clergy.

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CURIOSITIES

Legend has it that the purple dye industry originated in the city of Tyre (Lebanon) when, one fine day, the Phoenician god Melkart was strolling by the seashore with the nymph Tyrus at his side. Along the way, a dog walking with them bit into a snail and its mouth immediately turned purple. The nymph Tyrus became so captivated by the deep hue she told Melkart she would not become his lover until he presented her with a dress of the same colour.



Our next stop, the well called Pou d'es Lleó, is just a stone's throw from Canal d'en Martí. (Just for the record, in popular usage, the well's name (Pou d'es Lleó) is commonly used to designate the cove you have just visited.) In any case, the unusualness of this well will undoubtedly pique your curiosity. Its current placement, embedded in the rock of a little seaside cliff, makes it difficult to imagine there was ever a time when it provided fresh water to both local residents and the fishermen who plied the area.

The well did not always occupy this odd location; in fact, it was not even on the coastline but sat several metres back from it. But, at some point, the terrain that separated it from the sea broke off, sheering back the coastline and repositioning the well at the water's edge. Originally, the well was also furnished with a drinking trough for animals and even had a second opening in the nearby forest from which water could be drawn.

The first mention we have of the well's existence dates back to 1642, when it was referenced in a document under the name *Pou d'en Lleó*, that is "well of Lleó" the sobriquet then in use for all those whose surname was Torres. Like other wells on the island, it became a meeting place during summer festivals with local residents gathering here every 8th August to dance and celebrate the Saint Cyriacus festival.

CURIOSITIES

12

According to island lore, a long, long time ago some farmers found a corked bottle next to the well. They opened it and out popped a *fameliar*. This imp, like all other *fameliars*, devoured any and all food in sight unless he was given work to do. The farmers tried, without success, to get rid of him by sending him off to wash black wool until it turned white, to count all the stars in the firmament, to count the hairs on a cat...all in vain until they came up with the idea of bidding the *fameliar* to fill up the well with saltwater and, when it was full, to change it back into fresh water... and then to change it back into saltwater again and so on and so forth for evermore. And that is how they finally rid themselves of the *fameliar*.



To get to the next stop on our tour, you go back to the cove at canal de Sant Martí, cross it and take the signposted road to Torre de Campanitx, also called Torre d'en Valls. This tower was built in 1763 as part of a general defensive strategy to protect the island against raids by Turkish pirates. The initiative was implemented at a time when Ibiza had only four towers: two at Salinas, one adjoining the Sant Antoni church and one adjoining the Santa Eulària church. The Campanitx tower was meant to guard the eastern stretch of coast on which it stands.

The tower's present appearance is the fruit of later reconstructions, because, in 1846, it was blown to bits when its reserve of gunpowder – a quintal, equalling 100 kilos – accidentally exploded. The explosion was probably triggered by a lightning bolt that struck during a storm, although rumour always had it that the “accident” was a settling of scores between the local men and the tower-keepers, who were terrible petticoat chasers.

Because piracy was eradicated in Ibiza in 1830, by the mid-19th century, watchtowers had begun to lose their *raison d'être*. For this reason, the tower was not rebuilt until 1982, when it was restored using stone and lime mortar. The structure consists of two storeys, with the entrance door on the second floor so that access is gained by means of a ladder which can be withdrawn after entry. A spiral staircase built into the interior wall leads to a rooftop platform from which the keepers would take up their vigil. In days gone by, stores of gunpowder and provisions were kept on the ground floor.

13

CURIOSITIES

This location affords an excellent panorama of Tagomago islet as well as the eastern coast of Ibiza. In the past, when tower guards spotted the approach of a pirate ship, they sounded the alarm by blowing into a conch shell or sending out smoke signals.

CHURCH OF SANT CARLES DE PERALTA



Cultural routes of Santa Eulària



We wrap up our cultural route with the final church left to visit in this municipality: Sant Carles de Peralta. This simple church was built in the late 18th century to provide religious services for the 80 families who worked the land between the Mala Costa sierra and Sant Carles – and in hopes of attracting more settlers to the area.

Dedicated to Saint Charles Borromeo, this church is considered one of the island's most harmonious in terms of its shapes and silhouette. On the outside, it features a rectangular body covered by a sloping roof, while on the inside, the nave is capped by a barrel vault and lined with seven chapels. Its entranceway is adorned by an elegant arcaded porch, which was added at a later date. In 1936, many of its original elements were destroyed, including the double-bodied altarpiece from the reredos, the carvings from the chapels, and the canvases and books from the parish archive. One surviving confessional booth from the 19th century can still be admired.

If you would like to continue your cultural visit through Sant Carles, don't miss the nearby well, known as Pou de Peralta, or the old farm museum, Es Trull de ca n'Andreu, which contains an oil press from the late 18th century. You might also want to take some refreshment at one of the village cafés and see for yourself why the Archduke Luis Salvador heaped praise on the beautiful scenic hills that surround the church.

MASS TIMES

In summer, from Sunday to Saturday at 8 pm; Sundays and holidays at 12 noon. In winter, from Sunday to Saturday at 7 pm; Sundays and holidays at 12 noon.

14

CURIOSITIES

Both sides of the church door were reinforced by a metallic layer to keep pirates and other enemies from getting inside. Outside, right in front of the main façade, stands a centenarian carob tree that featured in one of the engravings drawn by the Austrian archduke Luis Salvador.





Other
points
of
interest



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

SANTA EULÀRIA

1. Teatro España

This old dance hall from the early 20th century has today been renovated as a theatre. For decades, it was the primary leisure venue for local residents.

2. Palacio de Congresos

This civic centre opened its doors to the public in 2008. Its design was inspired by the island's traditional architecture.

3. River Route

This self-guiding walkway wends its way along the Santa Eulària River and makes a perfect outing for families.

SANT CARLES

4. Es Trull de Ca n'Andreu

This old farmhouse contains within it all of the traditional elements used in agricultural life, including an oil press.

5. Font de Peralta

This old well is located just outside Sant Carles and was first referenced in 1620.

6. Acueducto de s'Argamassa
These remains of a Roman aqueduct, measuring 425 metres, was built in the 1st century CE.

7. Las Dalias Market

This famous hippie market has been an island fixture for over 30 years.

ES PUIG D'EN VALLS

8. Molí de s'Olivera

This mill was once used to extract water and today serves as a cultural centre.

JESÚS

9. Can Pep Simó

This unique residential area, inspired by Ibicenco dwellings, was planned and promoted by the Catalan architect Josep Lluís Sert in 1964.

SANTA GETRUDIS

10. Sculpture depicting Bishop Abad y Lasierra (First Bishop of Ibiza, appointed in 1783)

We highly recommend that you include in your route some of the traditional Ibicenco restaurants you will find on your way. Many of them are listed in our guide, Tradition à la Carte, which you can download at the following link: <http://visitsanta-eulalia.com/acerca-de-santa-eulalia/descargas/>

IBIZA ISLAND



-  Monuments
-  Church
-  Petrol Station
-  Tourist information
-  Panoramic

Cultural routes of Santa Eulària

