INTRODUCTION

The island of Menorca is special, with an outstanding collection of archaeological, architectural and cultural monuments. Its rich history is a consequence of its place as an enclave strategically located in the heart of the western Mediterranean.

It has been colonized by a number of different civilizations, all contributing to its unique culture, ever since it was first inhabited from the third millennium B.C. onwards. There are a number of monuments that reflect the island's fascinating history, from the enigmas of the talayotic culture to the rich legacy left by the British during the 18th century, namely the Naveta des Tudons, the talayotic settlements Torre d'en Galmés and Trepucó, the tower in Fornells, Fort Marlborough and the Lazaretto.

Come and find out more about them!



MENORCA *cultural*

Fundació Foment del Turisme de Menorca

Camí des Castell, 28
07702 Maó (Menorca)
Tel. (+34) 971 157 800
info@menorca.es

www.menorca.es

MENORCA *illes balears*

DL: ME 15 - 2018



@Eneko Garcia

CULTURAL VISITS

NAVETA DES TUDONS



The Naveta des Tudons is the most emblematic monument of the talayotic culture, both for its excellent state of conservation as well as for being a type of monument found nowhere else in the world.

The naveta is a construction of large stones assembled without any mortar, built in the shape of an upturned boat. Its use was a burial chamber. It consists of two levels, one above the other, with a passageway to access both levels.

It is believed to have been in use from about 1400 to 900 B.C. Evidence of over a hundred individuals has been discovered with the chamber, as well as bone and metal funerary artefacts, and ceramic vessels used in funeral rites.

Carretera Maó-Ciutadella, Km 40 - Ciutadella

TORRE D'EN GALMÉS

The talayotic settlement Torre d'en Galmés is located on a hilltop, from where it would have dominated the whole surrounding area.

There are three talayots still in existence, as well as a number of circular dwellings, rainwater collecting systems, several burial caves and a taula area, where a small bronze statue of the Egyptian god Imhotep was found.

The settlement was in use from about 2000 B.C. up to the medieval Christian conquest in 1287. It is reckoned that at its height, between 1100 B.C. and the second century B.C. there would have been up to 900 people living here.

The visitor's centre at Torre d'en Galmés - located a few hundred metres before the site entrance - is well worth visiting. There is a new audiovisual display describing the prehistoric remains, helping to understand the historical context and appreciate the uniqueness of this spectacular archaeological site.

Carretera Alaior- Son Bou - Alaior





TREPUCÓ



Trepucó covered almost 50 000 square metres, and was one of the largest talayotic settlements in Menorca. Although nowadays there is only a small area of the original settlement still visible, it is considered one of the most emblematic sites of the talayotic culture.

Among the monuments still in existence today, two of the original four talayots can still be seen, along with the taula area, some remains of dwellings and some of the walls surrounding the settlement containing remnants of two square towers. There are also some of the 18th century star-shaped fortifications located by one of the talayots.

There is evidence that the settlement was destroyed during the second Punic War (2nd century B.C.). It seems to have been abandoned quite hastily; consequently, excavations have uncovered a number of household utensils in a very good state of conservation (all artefacts are now in the Museum of Menorca).

The first archaeological excavation was headed by British archaeologist Margaret Murray in 1931. Further excavations by the Museum of Menorca took place in the 1980s and in 2010

Camí de Gràcia-Trepucó - Maó

FORT MARLBOROUGH

Fort Marlborough was built by the British between 1720 and 1726, during the first British domination. It is a magnificent example of military engineering of its time, because of its good state of conservation.

Located in Cala Sant Esteve (Es Castell), its purpose was to guard the entrance of the port of Mahón. The fort was dug out of the rock and was accessed through a tunnel leading to a network of underground galleries and passages. From the upper level of the fort there are magnificent panoramic views over the mouth of the port.

There are special technological effects about the history and characteristics of the fort, describing the upheavals of the 18th century and the legacy of the British in Menorca.

Cala Sant Esteve - Es Castell





TORRE DE FORNELLS



There a number of coastal watch towers in Menorca, dating from the 16th century. Then at the start of the 19th century, several Martello towers were built, for military purposes. One of the best preserved defence towers is the one in Fornells. It was built by the British between 1801 and 1802, to guard the mouth of the bay and to prevent, or at least delay, any enemy landings.

The truncated cone-shaped tower is built of stone and is reinforced with blocks of limestone. It consists of a water tank, a store room for food and ammunition, an upper level for the soldiers, and a flat roof for an artillery piece.

There is an exhibition in the tower describing the context in the early 19th century, enabling the visitor understand the soldiers' day to day life as well as the tower's architectural features.

Punta de la Torre - Fornells

LAZARETTO

The Lazaretto was built between 1793 and 1807, and was operative ten years later, providing a location for placing in quarantine those sailing into the port of Mahón, who might be carrying contagious diseases.

Throughout the 19th century it was one of the most important lazarettos in the western Mediterranean; however it was not to be used for much longer. The last ship in quarantine docked here in 1919, and soon after the place closed down.

The buildings are now listed as a heritage site Bien de Interés Cultural. For many years the place was used as a summer holiday residence for civil servants of the Spanish Ministry of Health. The School of Public Health of Menorca has been held here every year since the 1980s. Ownership was transferred to the island council Consell Insular de Menorca in 2015, when Lazaretto was opened to the public. One of the first measures taken was to organise guided tours. Cultural, educational and touristic events will be taking place in the near future.

Illa de Llatzeret - Port de Maó

