Talayotic
MENORCA
MENORCA IN PREHISTORY

The earliest traces of human occupation date from 2100 B.C. Since that time up to the arrival of the Romans in 123 B.C., the island’s Prehistory unfolded in various stages. One of Menorca’s most emblematic buildings, found only on the island, are the “navetas”, collective burial monuments containing up to a hundred individuals together with their grave goods, like the Es Tudons naveta near Ciutadella, with remains dating back mainly to the 9th century B.C. The “talaiots”, conical dry stone towers, were built between 1000 and 700 B.C. Their main purpose was to keep watch over the surrounding area, as well as to provide a focal point for the communities living around them. During this time, known as the Talayotic period, burial caves were dug out of the cliffs in coves and ravines like the Calascoves necropolis in Alaior. The oldest are small, rounded or oval-shaped and are located in high places that are difficult to reach. The post-Talayotic period started in 650 B.C. This was the time when the “taula” sanctuaries, Menorca’s most unique and distinctive constructions, were built. The enclosures are built on a U-shaped layout with a concave front. They were used for human and soil fertility rituals, involving the sacrifice of domestic animals, wine libations and the symbolic breakage of amphorae.

Evidence shows that fire played a ritual and symbolic role in all these monuments.

The circular houses built in the settlements were about 75-79 square metres in size. The largest known dwelling of this kind is the “Círculo Cartailhac” in the Torre d’en Galmés settlement in Alaior and dates from the 2nd century B.C. The occupants cooked, did their weaving, made cheese and milled cereal all under the same roof. The houses consisted of a central patio area, rooms with dividing doorways, a fireplace and a larder. They were built from large blocks of stone and the roof was made of wooden beams, earth and small stones. The building attached to one side of the houses is known as the hypostyle room because of the huge interlinked stone slabs forming the roof and held up by pillars. It was used as a store.

The islanders made their own handcrafted pottery using rudimentary ovens and they also produced bronze tools and utensils. They did not use coins for trading and they left no markings or rock paintings. They had no use for gold or silver as their most valuable items were made of bronze and iron. In their earliest period they built strong trading relations with Central Europe and later with commercial cities along the Mediterranean coast.
CHAPTER 2
PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENTS
BINISSAFULLET TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Location: Carretera Sant Lluis - Binissafüller
Town: Sant Lluis
Owned by: Private
Parking: Not available

39°50'46,08' N 4°14'04,16'' E

BINISSAFULLET
TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Binisafullet is a small Talayotic settlement in the shade of wild olive trees and is very interesting for the variety of remains preserved there. At the centre of the site stands a circular talaiot, to the east of this are the remains of a hypostyle room and to the south-west is the taula enclosure, still in its original position due to restoration work carried out in 1992, when the building was also the subject of an archaeological dig. Work on the site uncovered the remains of a large number of Punic amphorae used to bring wine to the island, plus the bones of young lambs and kid goats, as well as evidence of a great bonfire, all connected to rituals that were held in the 3rd and 4th centuries B.C.
THE TREBALÚGER TALAIOT
Location: Residential area of Trebalúger. Carretera Es Castell - Sant Lluís

Town: Es Castell

Owned and managed by: Private

Parking: Not available

39°51'21,00" N 4°16'28,93" E

THE TREBALÚGER
TALAIOT
A Talayotic period settlement (1000-700 B.C.) the centrepiece of which is a spectacularly large talaiot; it is 28 metres in diameter at its widest point. It has an elliptical layout and was built on a high rocky outcrop on the site of an earlier structure from the Naviforme period dating from 1350 B.C., with the bases of the pillars still preserved inside. At the front of the monument, near the entrance, you can see the remains of a ramp that led up to the top of the talaiot. Around the outside you can see the walls of a polygonal structure, also from the Talayotic period, which has been affected by the lime kiln built over it at a later date.
TREPUCÓ TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Location: Camí de Gràcia - Trepucó
Town: Maó
Owned by: Consell Insular de Menorca (Government of Menorca) and Maó City Council
Managed by: Fundació Destí Menorca.
Telephone: 902 929 015
Website: www.menorca.es
Parking: Available

39°52'25,83“ N 4°15'57,94” E

DON’T MISS THIS

TREPUCÓ TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
TREPUCÓ TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
The settlement of Trepucó is one of the largest on the island, covering an area of around 49,240 square metres. Today, only a small part of the site can still be seen, the two oldest buildings, the talaiots (1000-700 B.C.). Other remains include parts of the wall, two square towers on the west wall, the taula enclosure and traces of dwellings from the post-Talayotic period (650-123 B.C.).

The taula enclosure is one of the biggest on the island, despite having been subjected to what, by today’s standards, would be considered clumsy restoration work. This is one of the sites excavated around 1930 by Margaret Murray, a British archaeologist who was a pioneer of scientific research on Prehistoric Menorca.

The houses are perfectly visible on the west side of the settlement, due to excavation work carried out several years ago. They are multi-lobed with a central patio area and several rooms arranged around the outside. Looking at the settlement, it is easy to see that there was a clear division between the communal area (between the large talaiot and the taula) and the domestic area.
The houses near the smaller talaiot seem to have been abandoned at short notice, meaning that the archaeological dig uncovered excellently well-preserved domestic implements, now on display in the Museum of Menorca.

The larger talaiot and the taula stand at the centre of a star-shaped fortification built during the 18th century.
BINIPARRATXET PETIT TALAYOTIC HOUSE
BINIPARRATXET PETIT TALAYOTIC HOUSE

Location: Gardens at Menorca Airport. Carretera de Sant Climent

Town: Maó

 Owned and managed by: AENA

Parking: Available

39º51'56,89" N 4º13'41,45" E
One of the interesting things about this monument is that in 1995 it was moved and rebuilt because of runway extension work at Menorca airport. The project was promoted and sponsored by AENA, the Spanish airport authority. The monument originally stood in the Talayotic settlement of Biniparratxet Petit in the south-eastern side of the island, near the town of Sant Lluís. It is currently open to visitors in the gardens of the airport complex.

It is a typical post-Talayotic dwelling in a good state of preservation and dating from the last stage of the island’s Prehistoric era. The house has a central patio and 5 pillars marking out a series of domestic areas for various purposes: handling food, stores and water collection systems. In fact, the ground in the patio area contains tanks for storing water and waste items from the house.
The house is entered through a door with a lintel that was put back in place when the monument was moved. The move also included the building that normally stands alongside this type of house, known as the hypostyle room and consisting of an enclosure with a roof made from huge stone slabs supported by pillars. Four of these slabs plus a stone monolith can still be seen today. The archaeological dig found evidence that the house was abandoned in the 1st century B.C. and that it was occupied once again in the medieval Islamic period.
THE TORELLÓ TALAIOT
Location: Carretera Maó - Sant Climent

Town: Maó

Owned by: Private

Parking: Available

39º52'51,51" N 4º13'13,76" E

THE TORELLÓ TALAIOT
The Torelló settlement was one of the largest in the municipal area of Maó. It is especially well known for the spectacular talaiot (called the Talaiot of Torellonet Vell) which is interesting because at the top of the tower you can still see the original doorway and the lintel above it, both of which date from the Talayotic period (1000-700 B.C.).

Unfortunately, the structure was damaged by the triangulation station and the airport approach lights that were placed on the tower platform. An archaeological dig carried out on the site in the 1980s unearthed lamps dating from the period of Imperial Rome plus the remains of fine Roman pottery.

Of all the structures identified in the settlement, the most interesting are a second talaiot (much smaller in size); the foundations of several houses; a couple of artificial caves; plus a water collection system formed by tanks or cisterns and channels.
THE CORNIA NOU TALAIOTS
Location: Camí Vell de Sant Climent (access via Calle Cumióla, POIMA)

Town: Maó

Owned by: Private

Parking: Not available

39º52'54,20" N 4º14'01,08" E

THE CORNIA NOU TALAIOTS
Cornia Nou is a settlement dating from the Talayotic period (1000-750 B.C.) with two well preserved talaiots of different types. The oldest and most spectacular is circular and measures around 26 metres in diameter, an impressive monument. It has a building in the facade with access at ground level; an inside passageway climbs up to a set of steps leading up to the upper platform of the talaiot. The other talaiot is considerably smaller and has a distinctive feature of a passageway covered with stone slabs crossing its diameter and joined to a wall. Excavation work carried out in 2007 uncovered the remains of pottery items dating from the post-Talayotic period in the 3rd century B.C. Plus, near the site there is a large Islamic necropolis with burial chambers carved out of the rock, which supports the hypothesis that rural settlements from the Muslim occupied the sites from the Talayotic period.
Location: Finca Sa Torreta. S’Albufera des Grau Nature Park

Town: Maó

Owned by: Private

Parking: Not available

39º57’58,84” N 4º14’33,99” E
This is one of the few Talayotic settlements identified on the north coast of Menorca. It stands in a beautiful natural landscape. The talaiot is the stepped type and you can still see the taula enclosure and the remains of various dwellings. Compared to others of its kind, the taula enclosure is quite small. The taula is still intact, with some pilasters standing and part of the facade in good condition. It was excavated around 1930 by Margaret Murray, a British archaeologist who pioneered scientific research on Menorca’s Prehistoric era and documented the various objects linked to the rituals held in these enclosures during the post-Talayotic period (650-123 B.C.), including evidence of fire, the remains of the bones of lambs and kid goats, plus amphorae for wine.
The oval-shaped talaiot was built just behind the enclosure, on top of the highest point in the settlement, giving it exceptional views over the surrounding countryside. The remains of at least four domestic areas were found next to both structures.

Near the settlement, going towards the beach, you can see the remains of a much older burial site, known as a triple faced tomb, dating from between 1600 and 1300 B.C.
TALATÍ DE DALT TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Location: Carretera Maó - Ciutadella, km 4
Town: Maó
Owned and managed by: Private
Parking: Available

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39º53'36,89'' N 4º13’00,11” E

TALATÍ DE DALT
TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Talatí de Dalt is one of the island’s most significant prehistoric settlements. It consists of various monuments: an elliptical-shaped conical talaiot, a taula enclosure, an area with dwellings and some caves.

The taula enclosure at Talatí de Dalt is one of the largest and most beautiful in Menorca. It has an unusual arrangement, as the pillar and its capital are leaning against the side edge of the centre T, probably because they fell over accidentally. In the 1960s, an archaeological dig documented the characteristic objects used in the rituals held at these sites in the post-Talayotic period (650-123 B.C.), including evidence of fire, the remains of the bones of lambs and kid goats, plus amphorae for wine.
Another distinctive feature of the settlement is the set of houses belonging to the same period, still with their stone roof slabs pointing towards the centre and supported by pillars. The dwellings date from the 2nd century B.C.
SO NA CAÇANA
Location: Carretera de Torralba. Cala'n Porter - Alaior

Town: Alaior

Owned and managed by: Private

Parking: Available

39°53'08,84'' N 4°09'41,31'' E

SO NA CAÇANA
This site dates from the Talayotic period (1000-700 B.C.) and remained occupied until the arrival of the Romans. It contains up to ten large structures. At first it was thought to be a settlement but archaeological excavation work uncovered up to three taula enclosures, which suggested it was more like a sanctuary and ceremonial site that may have been used by more than one community.

The main features of the site are the central monument, the entrance to which was closed off in the 1st century B.C., and the taula enclosure on the west side. The capital of the taula has not survived, but you can see an unusual pilaster at the back. Also of interest are the niches in the perimeter wall. Archaeological excavation work inside the enclosure has uncovered evidence of the rituals carried out in this type of enclosure.

There is also a necropolis in the area, comprising two natural caves and three underground burial chambers.
TORRALBA D’EN SALORT TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
TORRALBA D’EN SALORT
TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT

Location: Carretera de Torralba. Cala’n Porter - Alaíor

Town: Alaíor

Owned and managed by: Fundació Illes Balears

Telephone: 971 760 646

Website: www.fundacioillesbalears.com

Parking: Available

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39°54'44,36'' N 4°09'52,00'' E
A prehistoric settlement dating from the Naviforme period (1700-1400 B.C.), in which the foundations of a circular cabin can still be seen. The main features are two talaiots, the taula enclosure, a hypostyle room, some caves dug out of the ground and the remains of other buildings used as dwellings.
The taula and its enclosure are among the largest and most beautiful on the island. The building dates from the 4th-3rd centuries B.C. and was used for worship up until the 2nd century A.D. It is built on a horseshoe-shaped layout with separate areas inside. The T of the taula consists of two huge blocks of stone, one vertical and the other horizontal, beautifully finished and standing nearly 4 metres tall. Various excavation works carried out on the site have revealed the remains of a fire, wine amphorae plus evidence that kid goats and young lambs were ritually killed and eaten. Other finds include ritual objects such as an altar, a terracotta image of the Punic goddess Tanit, the bronze figure of a bull and bronze hooves belonging to the figure of a horse. These items are on display in the Museum of Menorca and provide the most compelling evidence to support the notion that the taula enclosure was a place of worship. The settlement had its heyday during the time of Punic trading expansion, towards the 1st century B.C.
TORRE D'EN GALTRES TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Location: Carretera Alaior - Son Bou

Town: Alaior

Owned by: Ministry of Culture

Managed by: Fundació Destí Menorca

Telephone: 902 929 015

www.menorca.es

Parking: Available

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39º54’11,14” N 4º06’56,73” E

DON’T MISS THIS

TORRE D’EN GALMÉS
TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Torre d’en Galmés is the largest settlement in Menorca, covering 66,240 m². Its hilltop location made it the ideal spot for keeping watch over the land on most of the island’s south coast. In chronological terms, it was occupied from the Naviforme period (1700-1400 B.C.), and you can still see an underground chamber from this period near the area where water was collected, right through until the late Roman era, although some remains have been found from the Islamic era (12th century A.D.).
The site consists of a public area, with three talaiots (1000-700 B.C.) standing on top of the hill, plus the taula enclosure next to the middle talaiot, dating from the post-Talayotic period (650-123 B.C.). The capital of this taula was re-used as a tombstone in the late Roman or medieval period. An archaeological dig carried out in 1974 unearthed a bronze Egyptian figure of the god Imhotep, now displayed in the Museum of Menorca together with other ritual objects found on the site. The figure was most likely acquired between the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C.
On the south side of the hill are circular houses from the same period, with rooms separated by radial walls that converge on a central patio area with a water tank. On the side of each house are outbuildings that were used as storerooms or larders, and that still preserve the stone roofing slabs supported by pillars. The largest house is the one known as the “Círculo Cartailhac”, dating from the 2nd century B.C. and excavated in 2008. There is also a rainwater collection system formed by cisterns or tanks of different sizes carved out of the rock. The whole settlement was probably enclosed by a perimeter wall that connected the houses to each other following an irregular layout.
THE BINICODRELL DE DARRERA
TALAYOTS
Location: Finca Binicodrell de Darrera. Camí de Sa Malagarba
Town: Es Migjorn Gran
Owned by: Private
Parking: Available

39°56'39,70" N 4°02'47,27" E

THE BINICODRELL DE Darrera TALAYOTS
According to ancient texts, Binicodrell was a large Talayotic period settlement (1000-700 B.C.). Today, only two talayots remain, of which the northern one is in a better condition; it has a zigzag shaped access ramp leading inside, although researchers disagree on whether it was built at the same time as the talayot. The southern talayot, on the other hand, is quite dilapidated.

You can still find fragments of pottery on the ground, dating from various eras: Talayotic, late Punic, Roman and Islamic. Inside the protected area of the site there is a necropolis.
SON MERCER DE BAIX NAVIFORME
SETTLEMENT
Ubicación: Finca Binigaus Nou. Carretera Ferreries - Es Migjorn Gran
Población: Es Migjorn Gran
Titularidad: Privada
Aparcamiento: No habilitado
39°57'17,04" N 4º00'20,41" E

SON MERCER DE BAIX
NAVIFORME SETTLEMENT
The settlement consists of a set of boat-shaped stone dwellings known as naviformes, which gave their name to a long Prehistoric period in the island’s history (1700-1400 B.C.). Seven dwellings have been identified in all, with two different types, five horseshoe-shaped and two square. Although most of them are small, the settlement is spectacular for the strategic position it occupies overlooking the ravine of Son Fideu and for one of its buildings, the Cova des Moro. The settlers lived off the land around and in the ravine, which was also their route to the sea.

The Cova des Moro is the only known naviforme that still has its horizontal stone roof slabs in place, supported by three vertical pillars. The outer wall is very regular and built with very well-squared stones. The roof of this type of building would normally have been made of wood, mud and branches, which did not survive the passage of time. In this case, part of the roof has been preserved; it was restored in 2002 after collapsing in the late 1990s.
Excavation work carried out on the settlement unearthed a number of bronze items, now on display in the Museum of Menorca. They include a small ingot, fragments of slag, a chisel and a bracelet, showing that the people who lived here knew how to make bronze.
Location: Carretera Maó - Ciutadella, km 39
Town: Ciutadella
Owned by: Private
Parking: Available

39º59'10,06" N 3º55'26,11" E

TORRE TRENÇADA
TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Torretrencada is a Talayotic settlement (1000-700 B.C.) that was occupied until the Roman conquest in 123 B.C. Several of its monuments can still be seen. They include the talaiot, a set of artificial burial caves dug out of the rocky ground and burial chambers carved in the rock, probably dating from the high medieval period. The taula is one of the most beautiful on the island, with a reinforcement pillar at the back, but all that is left of the surrounding wall is a section underneath the modern dry-stone wall. The site dates back to the post-Talayotic period (650-123 B.C.) and was used by the community for performing rituals.
TORRELLAFUDA TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Location: Carretera Maó - Ciutadella, km 37

Town: Ciutadella

Owned by: Private

Parking: Available

39°59'58,24" N 3°55'28,92" E

TORRELLAFUDA
TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Torrellafuda is a Talayotic settlement (1000-700 B.C.) set in an area of great natural beauty, near extensive areas of grazing pasture and underneath a small holm oak tree, giving the whole site a special atmosphere. The tour consists of a pleasant walk taking in the various monuments.

A circular talaiot stands at the highest point of the site, which must have been completely enclosed by a perimeter wall, which, judging by the sections that still survive today, would have been fairly high. The taula enclosure underneath the holm oak trees dates from the post-Talayotic period (650-123 B.C.). The pillar and its capital have toppled over and lie broken on the ground, but a huge pilaster still stands in its original position. The site was partially excavated in the 1960s and evidence suggests that it was last occupied in the 1st century A.D.
MONTEFÍ TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Location: Camí Vell. Ronda Sur
Town: Ciutadella
Owned and managed by: Consell Insular de Menorca
Parking: Available

40º00'15,15'' N 3º51'45,53'' E

MONTEFÍ TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Montefí is a Talayotic settlement (1000-700 B.C.) that was occupied until the Roman conquest in 123 B.C., although the site may have been occupied at other times during the island’s early Prehistoric era. It must have been one of the largest settlements near Ciutadella harbour. Today, three talaiots survive, each one with its own distinctive architectural features. You can also go into some of the artificial underground caves in the large necropolis.

When the Ronda Sur road works were underway in 2005, remains of a post-Talayotic (650-123 B.C.) storage area were unearthed, with water tanks, cisterns and channels carved into the rock.

Next to the talaiot at the entrance there is a “pont de bestiar”, a 19th century local construction used in connection with livestock farming.
SON CATLAR TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Location: Carretera Ciutadella - Son Saura

Town: Ciutadella

Owned and managed by: Private

Parking: Available

39º57'07,38" N 3º52'26,91" E

SON CATLAR TALAYOTIC SETTLEMENT
Son Catlar is a large Talayotic settlement (1000-700 B.C.) occupying an area of 42,420 m² and occupied until the Roman conquest in 123 B.C.

The oldest buildings you can see today are the circular talaiots standing on the highest part of the settlement, all with their own distinctive architectural features. A cyclopean masonry enclosure wall dating from the post-Talayotic period (650-123 B.C.) runs nearly 900 metres around the site; together with the talaiots built along its length, it is the most impressive part of the settlement. This is the only prehistoric wall still preserved in its entirety, and is a prime example of Talayotic building methods; the square towers adjoining the wall were built at a later date.
The taula enclosure is from the same period and is very large, but the T has been broken and the capital has not survived. The site was partially excavated in 1923 but the results of the dig are not known. Inside the settlement you can see the foundations of many houses beneath the vegetation. Alongside the path that runs round the wall, on the eastern section you can see a monolith with an anthropomorphic carving.
CALESCOVES NECROPOLIS
Location: Carretera Sant Climent - Cala’n Porter

Town: Alaor

Owned and managed by: Private

Parking: Available (access on foot)

39°51'53,49'' N 4°08'48,70'' E

CALESCOVES NECROPOLIS
An emblematic and spectacular prehistoric necropolis, both for its setting and for the large number of tombs in it. They take the form of a set of cavities excavated from the rock walls of the ravines and coastal cliff faces (about 90 altogether), used by local communities to bury their dead. Several types of cave have been documented. The necropolis was used for about 1000 years, from the 11th century B.C. up until the Romans took control.
In the Roman era, despite no longer being in use as a necropolis, a series of inscriptions on the cave walls testify to their use as a place of pilgrimage, as can be seen in the famous Cova deis Jurats. Calescoves was also a major anchorage point, especially between the 4th century B.C. and the 6th century A.D., with ships arriving from powerful trading nations along the Mediterranean coast.
THE RAFAL RUBÍ NAVETAS
Location: Camino de Rafal Rubí. Carretera Maó - Alaior

Town: Alaior

Owned by: Private

Parking: Not available

39º54’28,49” N 4º11’27,27” E

THE RAFAL RUBÍ NAVETAS
THE RAFAL RUBÍ NAVETAS
The Rafal Rubí navetas are two tombs of the same type as the Naveta des Tudons, but these are smaller and are unusual in that they are very close to one another. They are group burials with a perforated stone slab at the entrance to the inner chamber, which is split into two levels. Of the two navetas, the east one is in better condition, as the front was restored in the late 1960s, when an archaeological dig was also carried out during which burial goods were found, including pottery items, rhomboid-shaped bronze pendants and part of a torc. The west naveta was excavated in 1977 and the human remains found in the upper chamber were dated to 904 B.C.

The items found are on display in the Museum of Menorca.
Ubicación: Urbanización L’Argentina. Carretera Mahón - Alayor
Población: Alayor
Titularidad y gestión: Ayuntamiento de Alayor
Aparcamiento: No habilitado

39°54’55,96” N 4°10’42,77” E

BINIAC - L’ARGENTINA NAVETAS
Biniac has two circular burial navetas that were used around 1400 B.C. and are from an earlier period than the long rectangular constructions like the Es Tudons and Rafal Rubí navetas. The east naveta was built on bedrock and has only one oval-shaped chamber, accessed via a perforated stone slab. Several slabs that had fallen over were found inside. The west naveta is also oval-shaped and the wall on the south side has a dry stone covering, a modern era addition.
Location: Carretera Maó - Ciutadella, km 40
Town: Ciutadella
Owned by: Private
Managed by: Fundació Destí Menorca
Telephone: 902 929 015
Website: www.menorca.es
Parking: Available

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40°00'22,77" N 3°53'36,39" E

DON'T MISS THIS

ES TUDONS NAVETA
The Es Tudons naveta is Menorca’s most famous burial monument and is a type of tomb found only on the island. It was built using the Cyclopean technique, meaning that medium sized stones were used and they were fitted together using a dry stone walling method, with no mortar. During an archaeological dig carried out in the 1960s, led by Menorcan archaeologist Maria Lluïsa Serra, the jumbled up skeletons of a hundred individuals of both sexes and all ages were discovered, many of which were dated as being from the 9th century B.C.
Inside the naveta. You can see how it is split into two levels separated by stone slabs.

View of the upper chamber of the naveta, showing the different types of stone used to build it: smaller and evenly-shaped for the walls and large flat slabs for the roof and the upper floor.

Detail of the holes that have appeared over time in the naveta roof, which consists of flat stone slabs.

View of the entrance door from inside the lower chamber. You can see the stone slabs separating the two floors.

Some of the burial goods found in the naveta during archaeological excavation work. They are on display in the Museum of Menorca in Maó.
Despite being jumbled together, the bodies were still accompanied by the personal items they had been buried with: bronze bracelets, bone buttons and some bronze weapons. Also found were small pots, pottery vases and a carved bone stopper, which was part of a container holding the hair of some of the dead, a common burial ritual in this period. The shape of the naveta is similar to an upturned boat (“nave” in Spanish), hence the name given to this type of monument. The main entrance of the naveta leads to a small passageway that runs towards the upper chamber and also to a second entrance leading to the lower chamber. The middle floor and the upper roof are both built from huge stone slabs that act as beams. Visitors are not permitted to go into the naveta or climb onto it for safety and conservation reasons.
The Es Tudons naveta and the S’Amador well.

Two young gentlemen were courting the same girl and they were both such gentlemen that she couldn’t choose between them, which made things rather difficult. So, to help her decide, they agreed to undertake an enterprise befitting such ardent admirers and such a lovely girl: one of them would build a stone naveta, made from chiselled and squared stone, on the Tudons plain; the other would drill a well very close by until he found water. The first one to complete his task would marry the girl.

Building a stone naveta like the one at Es Tudons is a true work of giants; and to drill a well in the countryside around Ciutadella, where the rock is hard and the water so deep down, you need courage and valour. The two suitors, like good friends and despite being obsessed with their task, spent every evening with the girl.

Each day they would toil away at their work: one clutching his drill and the other collecting and carrying stones that he would cut and square and then place on the naveta he was building.

On each trip to and from the pile of stones, he would pass his rival and ask how work was going. When he brought back the last stone he couldn’t see his rival. He peered into the well and asked the same question as usual; the other suitor replied from deep inside the well that he had just found water. A flash of jealousy blinded the naveta builder and in his fury he threw the stone he was carrying into the well.

That evening, only one suitor went to the girl’s house, the one building the naveta.

The missing suitor was found the next day, lifeless inside the well, squashed by a squared block of stone. The other young man was never seen again. The naveta is still unfinished to this day, with one stone missing.

The well is still known as the Drilled Well or the Lovers’ Well and if you look at the shaft, it has spiral grooves, as if the well had been gouged out or drilled by giants. It can be found at the halfway point between Ses Arenes, Son Quart and Ses Anoixes.
Location: Cala’n Blanes residential area (junction of Tramuntana Street and Gregal Street).
Ronda Norte. Carretera de Torre del Ram
Town: Ciutadella
Owned and managed by: Ciutadella Town Council
Parking: No designated area (parking available on the streets of the residential area)

40°00’22,77” N 3°53’36,39” E

TORRE DEL RAM BURIAL CHAMBER
This is an underground construction dug into the rock or subsoil and used as a burial chamber. The Torre del Ram site features an elongated chamber, one of the types of tomb used during the Naviforme period (1700-1400 B.C.). The chamber measures almost 9 metres in length, with a bench raised up from the ground along the entire perimeter. Access is via a stepped corridor.

A couple of engravings were found on the walls inside the burial chamber, featuring a schematic representation of boats and other as yet unidentified figures.
CALA MORELL NECROPOLIS
Location: Residential area Cala Morell. Ronda Norte

Town: Ciutadella

Owned and managed by: Ciutadella City Council and Consell Insular de Menorca

Parking: Available

40°02'59,07" N 3°52'56,04" E

CALA MORELL NECROPOLIS
Cala Morell is a small natural harbour on the north coast of Ciutadella and the site of a beautiful necropolis. A set of fourteen artificial caves have been excavated in the rocky walls of a small ravine and formed one of the largest and most spectacular prehistoric burial sites on the island. It was used as a cemetery from the Naviforme era (1700 B.C.) up until the 2nd century A.D.
CALA MORELL NECROPOLIS
The oldest caves are small, circular spaces with a semi-spherical ceiling, while the later ones are larger and more impressive. They imitate the circular houses of the post-Talayotic period (650-123 B.C.) with areas separated by pilasters, steps and pillars. Some of them even have small patios in front of the entrance. The most spectacular cave of all has classic architectural motifs carved into the facade.
MUSEUM OF MENORCA
Location: **Pla des Monestir**

Town: **Maó**

Owned and managed by: **Balearic Islands Government**

Telephone: **971 35 09 55**

Parking: **Not available**

€

39°53’27,88” N 4°15’39,78” E

**MUSEUM OF MENORCA**
The museum contains a wide-ranging collection illustrating the history of human occupation in Menorca through its buildings. The most interesting rooms are the ones on prehistory, ancient history and 18th century Menorca.

The Prehistory rooms contain the most important finds from archaeological digs carried out in Menorca, including bronze figures unearthed in taula enclosures, burial goods from the largest tombs plus domestic implements.
There is also a room on Menorcan traditional trades and crafts plus a large collection of 18th and 19th century engravings and paintings. The museum is based in the living quarters of the Franciscan monks who occupied the monastery, set in a lovely 18th century cloister.
MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF CIUTADELLA
Location: Pla de Sa Font
Town: Ciutadella
Owned and managed by: Ciutadella City Council
Telephone: 971 380 297
Website: www.ciutadella.org/museo
Parking: Not available

€

40°00'16,51" N 3°50'16,46" E

MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF CIUTADELLA
The museum collection is based on a general theme, with a permanent exhibition on the history of Ciutadella from the Prehistoric age through to the Muslim era. It regularly holds temporary exhibitions to show particular historic periods not covered by the permanent exhibition, aspects of anthropology or new acquisitions and collections. The Municipal Museum of Ciutadella is where all the finds from archaeological digs carried out in the municipal area are stored, most notably material from Cova des Càrritx, Cova des Mussol and archaeological finds unearthed in the town.
The museum also runs guided tours and a series of educational workshops for schoolchildren.
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