



ENG

# DISCOVER INCA

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of the city



**GUIDED TOURS  
TO INCA'S HERITAGE**



Ajuntament d'Inca





# Visit to the prehistory of Inca: Talaiot de s'Ermita

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The archaeological site of Son Ravenet ("de s'Ermita" or "puig de ses Talaies"),<sup>36</sup> can be situated chronologically within the Talayotic and Post-Talayotic era (900-123 BC). In around 900 BC, some significant novelties are documented in the prehistoric societies that lived in the Balearic Islands. Traditionally, this new situation was interpreted in terms of the arrival of new settlers (invasion hypothesis), but since the mid-1990s archaeologists have believed that the changes that gave rise to the new situation were slow changes brought about due to internal reasons. Of these reasons, we should highlight the growth in population, the close relationships established with other peoples of the Mediterranean and changes in the way of relating to the environment, among others. This phase is named after the 'talayots', huge constructions made using the dry-stone technique, with large cyclopean stones and a tripartite structure, found on the islands of Mallorca and Menorca. The word '*talayot*' comes from the Spanish word "*atalaya*", meaning "watchtower".

These monuments may form part of villages, in contrast to those of the Bronze Age, because now the buildings are grouped together and not dispersed as in the former. In addition to 'talayots', there were other cyclopean monuments, such as tombs, hypostyle rooms, 'table shrines' (only in Menorca)... These constructions had several different functions. The outside was a watchtower from which one could monitor the community terrain and communicate with other nearby settlements. The inside was used as a communal space where several activities were carried out, such as

the skinning and distribution of animals or different meetings. The building of the 'talayots' and other talayotic monuments involved great effort, and this relates them to an attempt to erect symbols to claim the territory inhabited by different communities, at a time when the islands had a very large population (in relation to their way of living). Quite probably, the help of the entire community was needed to construct these buildings, as well as the use of various techniques, both for transporting the large stones and for raising them. Another important change is the houses. In the Bronze Age, 'navetas', or boat-like structures were large houses built with cyclopean stones. In this period, the houses no longer have this monumental size and it would appear that they are not public elements either, but rather that they have much more privacy. It seems that the societies we refer to had a hierarchized structure in which certain people had more power and wealth, and that they were able to bequeath this preeminent position to their descendants.

The Son Ravenet site is one of the 30 that are in the municipality of Inca. It is located in the residential area of s'Ermita, on the top of a small hill, with ample visual control of the territory. The structural remains, which are visible today, are a circular 'talayot' (which is in a very poor condition) and a square 'talayot', joined by a cyclopean wall, which is also in a poor state of repair. The construction system of these structures is typical of the era, double-faced cyclopean dry-stone technique, making it very solid. Because of the lack of scientific research carried out on Inca's archaeology, we do not have very detailed information regarding the functionality and relationship of this site with the other 'talayotic' sites in the municipality. Even so, its location, in a place with a commanding view of the terrain, and the visual networks that can be established with other 'talayotic' points such as Son Sastre, Son Vivot, the Inca mount site, would seem to suggest the idea that the main purpose of this site was to surveillance of the territory.

Practically no research has been carried out on Inca's archaeology, but several requests for permits to carry out archaeological digs at the Son Ravenet site have been located in the General Administration Archive, such as the one filed by Bartolomé Ensenyat in the year 1969, for example. In spite of the fact that these permits were requested, there is no record of any archaeological intervention having been made, as the authorisations or reports on archaeological interventions have not been found. Thus, the

archaeological site of Son Ravenet is a location that could provide highly significant knowledge on prehistoric Inca and Mallorcan prehistory in general. Therefore, research projects should be created that could provide new scientific data, and educational materials should be adapted and created so that society can enjoy this heritage.











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