

History of the Algaida Municipal District

The municipal district of Algaida covers an area of 87.61 km² and is located in the south-east of Pla de Mallorca. It borders the municipal districts of Santa Eugènia, Sencelles and Lloret to the north; Llucmajor to the south; Montuïri to the east and Palma to the west.

It has three towns: Algaida, Pina and Randa.

The region has been populated since ancient times and remains from the pre-Talayotic period have been discovered, although most sites correspond to the Talayotic period, between 1400 and 123 BC. Of note are the remains of Sa Serra-Punxuat, Sa Casa Nova de Pina, Can Felet and Son

During Muslim rule there were two farmsteads named Algaida, located close to that of Castellitx, around which lived a significant number of dispersed population.

After the Catalan Conquest in 1229, as stated in the 13th-century Llibre del repartiment (properties record book), most of the territory belonged to the monarch. Shortly after, the new settlers built a church, which in 1249, in the papal bull of Innocent IV, appears as the church of Castellitx. As of this moment and until the 15th century, the parish was known as Castellitx, as was the entire administrative division that is known today as

At the end of the 13th century, the dispersed population of the region of Castellitx was concentrated in the ancient farmsteads of Algaida, which became the main settlement, Pina and Randa. By comparison, other

farmsteads, such as Es Rafalet and Castellitx, lost population numbers. During the 14th century, the town of Algaida became established and at the start of the 15th century, a change in ownership occurred between the church of Castellitx and that of Algaida.

Agriculture was the main economic resource of the district and continued as such until the middle of the 20th century.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, the population basically comprised labourers who worked on the large estates of Es Rafalet, Albenya, Castellitx, Formiguera –today Son Mesquida–, Malesherbes, Son Coll, Son Reus, Son Munar, Son Maig, etc. During this period the parish church of Algaida was built and the monumental crosses were erected.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the town of Algaida underwent a significant transformation, demographically and from an economic, political, social and urban planning viewpoint. Agriculture was still the main economic activity in the 19th century, despite other important artisan professions: millers, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.; small processing industries: potteries, spirits production, etc., and third sector activities such as hostels and public lodgings around the Manacor road. At the end of the 19th century the railway line reached the town from Felanitx (1897).

As of the second half of the 20th century, with the arrival of tourism, the town's economy underwent a transformation process. Around the Manacor road, making the most of the old hostels, a series of restaurants appeared, which the district has become famous for. Similarly, the Gordiola glass factory, the Alorda leather factory and at the end of the 20th century, the Modelmón furniture factory, were all established. During this period, industries were created, including the Bonisa shoe factory, the Randa tannery, Amengual wines in Pina, together with various leather production workshops for shoes, and a number of small construction companies.

Natural Landscape of the Algaida Municipal District

The municipal district of Algaida is the largest in the region of Pla de Mallorca and the twelfth of the island. It is a reasonably flat district, apart from the mountainous area to the south, which borders the municipal district of Llucmajor, where the Puig de Randa is located –with a height of 548 metres- and the hills of Son Reus, Galdent, Son Roig, Son Redó and Puig d'en Bord. The Randa mountain range and its surroundings are of outstanding natural beauty -forests of pine trees and holm oak, and garigue- and it has been declared an Area of Special Natural Interest (ANEI).

In the north of the district there are two different areas: the west. with poor, highly subdivided land, which is mainly dedicated to almond groves, and the east -the area of Pina-, with fertile land for growing crops and

To the west are the hills of Xorrigo and Son Gual that separate Prat de Sant Jordi (Palma) from areas of fine land –Sa Comuna, Marina, Ses Malloles, Es Tancat Prim-, where there are pine forests and garigue and plantations of almond, fig and carob trees.

Lastly, the east of the district is an area of good land for crop growing.

The Towns: Algaida, Pina and Randa

Area of the Municipal District: 87.61 km² **Population**: 5.971 inhabitants (2018)

Terrain:

Puig de Randa: 547 m Algaida (town square): 192 m Pina (town square): 155 m Randa (fountain): 305 m

The first documented information about the towns can be found in the Llibre del repartiment of 1232. As previously mentioned, it refers to two farmsteads with the name Algaida, granted to the Knights Hospitaller; three with the name of Pinna, granted to Roberti de Tarrachona, and one called Arrenda, which was given to A. Garcie. The names Algaida and Randa come from Arabic, meaning "forest" and "laurel", respectively, and according to linguist Joan Coromines, the origin of the name Pina could be the Latin pinna, meaning "rock" or pinella, meaning "water deposit".

Places of Interest in the District

Parish Church of Algaida

Dedicated to Saint Peter and Saint Paul. It appears to have been built on top of a previous religious construction, most likely a small church or chapel similar to that of Castellitx. The nave, with pointed arches and ribbed vaulting, was built during the 16th and 17th centuries. The presbytery, with a barrel vault, is also from the 17th century, and the Roser chapel was built during the 18th century. The bell tower, with a square plan and a belvedere, is on the right of the main facade. The temple has a very impressive Baroque high altarpiece with a beautiful Gothic carving of Mare de Déu de la Mamella. It also houses the Gothic altarpiece of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, which originally stood in the church of Castellitx, and the tomb of humanist Father Bartomeu Pou i Puigserver (1727-1808) who was from Algaida.

Crosses of Algaida

These are monumental stone crosses at the entrance of the town. They stand on a pedestal or base with steps and are of different types.

In Algaida there are five crosses, erected between the 16th and 18th centuries: the Cross of Massot on Ribera street; the Cross of S'Hostal d'en Gi or Traginers on the road from Algaida to Pina; the Cross of Colomer on Colomer street and the Cross of Can Vicó on the intersection of Palma and

Church of Castellitx

This is a small 13th-century church that was the titleholder of the district of Castellitx –the old name of the Algaida district– until ownership passed to the church of Algaida at the beginning of the 15th century. It has a single nave in three sections. The presbytery and the first section, built in the 17th century, have a barrel vault. The other two are covered by a pitched roof supported by a diaphragm arch. The main doorway has a rounded arch decorated with diamond-shaped bosses. Attached to the main facade is a porch with a pitched roof supported by an octagonal pillar.

The Castellitx church is dedicated to Mare de Déu de la Pau (Our Lady of Peace), of which there is a 15th century carving, and on the Tuesday after Easter Sunday, Pancaritat is celebrated, literally Bread for Charity.

Parish Church of Pina

This church is dedicated to the Saints of Medicine, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian. It was built during the 19th century, partly using the previous structure from the end of the 16th century or beginning of the 17th century. Its main motivator was Father Gabriel-Marià Ribas from Pina. The church has a single nave with two side chapels, a transept and square apse. It is covered with a barrel vault and the transept is dome-covered. Below the presbytery there is a crypt dedicated to Saint Placidus. Two square towers stand, one on either side of the facade, crowned by stone images of Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian. Of note are the paintings on the vaulting and chapels, which have an interesting iconographic narrative. These are works by Vincenç Matas (1828-1887), among others.

Municipal District Sencelles Lloret Santa Eugènia Pina Palma Montuïri Algaida Llucmajor

Sa Quarterada street. On the outskirts of Algaida there is another cross called the Cross of Binicomprat (or Cross of the Old Cemetery or of the Apestats, literally the Plague-Stricken), located in the garigue on the Binicomprat Estate, which marks the location of an old grave of victims of the 17th century plague. Lastly, on the road to Palma, near the milestone that separates the district of Palma from that of Algaida, is the Cross of the Garriguer or Ses Costes de Xorrigo.

Windmills of Algaida

There are 17 windmills in Algaida, all privately owned. Apart from the Sa Talaieta windmill, which has only a tower, all of them have a base that was originally used as a dwelling and storehouse. Of note are the windmills of: Xina on Ribera street; S'Aljub, Gasparino –or Fosca– and Barrera on Sa Tangueta street; Sant and Mostatxet on Sa Quarterada street; Pau on Can Carrintar street: Sa Punta on the corner of Campet street with Cabrit i Bassa street; Bosso and Roig on Sol street; Boi on Nou street; Nofre and Nou -of which only the tower remains—on Colomer street; Mulet o Falconer on the Porrassar road, and Andreu on Cavallers street.

Punxuat

This is an estate located in south east of the municipal district of Algaida, which is mentioned in the Llibre del repartiment (13th century). A defence tower and a building remain. This building has a series of pointed arches that could have been a chapel or cellar, or a basement for storing wine and

This is an Arabic ganawat, which literally means "canal". The area is cobbled, and a building protects the water outlet and public wash-house.

Franciscan Convent of the Filles de la Misericòrdia (Sisters of Mercy)

Founded in 1856, this is the founding convent of the order. It co buildings on either side of a street that are joined by a small bridge.

Cross of Pina

This is just at the entrance to the village, on Sineu street, close to the fountain gardens. It dates from the 19th century.

Windmills of Pina

Of note, among others located in the surrounding area of the village, is the windmill of Pina, on Sant Plàcid street, in the village centre.

Parish Church of Randa

The church was built during the last third of the 18th century. It is dedicated to the adoration of the Immaculate Conception and to the Blessed Ramon Llull. The church has a single nave covered with a barrel vault and four side chapels between the abutments. The bell tower has a square plan.

Fountain of Randa

This is an Arabic hydraulic construction (a ganawat, meaning "canal"). It supplies the public wash-houses, which are covered by a porch. The water flowed along a canal to the hamlet of Llucmajor.

Cross of Randa

This is also known as the Cross of Coremer. It is located a few metres from the fountain, on the intersection of Creu street and Font street. It was erected sometime between the 16th and 17th centuries.

Windmills of Randa

The windmill of Xim is on Església street at the entrance to Randa from Algaida.

Hermitage of Sant Honorat

This is located on the Puig de Randa facing south, above a large cave that covers the Sanctuary of Gràcia (Llucmajor). It was founded during the 14th century by Arnau Desbrull.

Sanctuary of Nostra Senyora de Cura (Our Lady of Care)

Built on Puig de Randa, it is linked to Ramon Llull because this is where the Blessed Majorcan was enlightened. The small chapel covered by a barrel vault, was built in the 17th century. Of note there is an image of Mare de Déu de Cura, a Gothic-style stone carving by Santanyí (15th to 16th century). Built on to the church is the Aula de Gramàtica (Grammar Room) of the old 17th century Cura school, which currently houses an interesting museum.

Fiestas and Traditions

Cossiers of Algaida

The dance of the Cossiers is of unclear origin. It is a very old tradition that was first documented in the 14th century. The dancers include a lady, six cossiers and a devil, who at the sound of the chanter and tambourine. perform dances called Mestre Joan, Els reis, L'obriu-nos, Flor de murta, Dansa nova, Mercansó and Titoieta. Also accompanied by shwams, they dance Les bombes, a processional dance; L'oferta -performed inside the church on the Saint's Days of Honoratus and Jaume- and La mort del dimoni, the end of *Titoieta*, when the lady defeats the devil. The cossiers dance on 16 January, Saint Honoratus's Day, the patron saint of winter in Algaida and in summer on 24 and 25 July, during the Fiestas of Saint James.

This is a traditional fair that is held the Saturday before Saint Lucas, in October. It lasts half a day. Currently, part of the fair includes handicrafts, fair trade and food stalls.

Celebrada a mediados del mes de septiembre, destaca por incluir en su programa la Muestra de productos artesanos y gastronómicos de los Conventos y Monasterios de Mallorca.

Calendar of Fairs and Fiestas of Algaida, Pina and Randa		
Date	Location	Activity
Every Friday	Algaida	Market in the town square
Every Tuesday	Pina	Market in the town square
Segundo sábado de cada mes	Algaida	Mercado PAM. Productos ecológicos, agroalimentarios y artesanía local
15 January	Algaida	Bonfires and popular torrada
16 January	Algaida Randa	Saint Honoratus, patron saint of winter
16 January	Pina	Saint Anthony bonfires and popular <i>torrada</i>
17 January	Pina	Saint Anthony
Saturday after 16 January	Randa	Bonfires and popular <i>torrada</i> for Saint Honoratus
Varying (February / March)	Algaida Pina	Carnival Procession Fancy dress competition. Fiesta of Camestortes
Easter Monday	Algaida	Castellitx Awards ceremony
Easter Monday	Algaida	Castellitx Fiesta of Our Lady of Peace
Último fin de semana de mayo	Algaida	Feria de artesanía y de oportunidades
First Sunday in July	Pina	Summer fiestas of Pina
19 to 26 July	Algaida	Fiestas of Saint James, patron saint of summer
25 july	Algaida	Saint James Cossiers dance
Last Sunday of August	Randa	Summer fiestas of Randa
Segundo sábado de septiembre	Algaida	Algaid'Art. Arte en las calles, exposiciones, música y talleres
Segundo o tercer sábado de septiembre	Pina	Feria tradicional y muestra de productos de conventos y monasterios de Mallorca
26 September	Pina	Fiesta of Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian
October, Saturday before Saint Lucas	Algaida	Traditional Fair. Stalls with fair trade goods and cooperative initiatives. Stalls of companies with the Baleares Product eal

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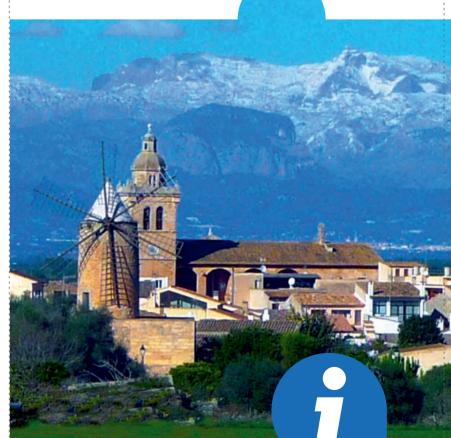
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