

## **Easter Week Museum**

The seafaring character of the city of Valencia, together with the devotion of its inhabitants to Easter Week, are the main reasons for bringing together in an artistic centre the collection of banners, images of Virgins and Christs, thrones, platforms, sculptural groups from the parishes, posters, photographs and souvenirs, as well as traditional costumes from the festivals held in the Poblados Marítimos that process through the streets of the neighbourhood. Among the heritage on display are works by important sculptors such as Mariano Benlliure, Bernardo Morales, Carlos Román, Vicente Salvador and Inocencio Cuesta, among others. The exhibition also includes a panel showing the evolution of this religious festival over the years. What is perhaps most striking is the exhibition of costumes of biblical characters.

The visit helps to understand all the events that take place in the churches and in the streets of the Poblados Marítimos.

Located in the warehouses of the old rice mill, in a typically seafaring neighbourhood, this museum is also known as “Casa-Museo Salvador Caurín”, after the man who was the mentor and president of its Junta Mayor for many years. The museum is also a cultural centre where temporary exhibitions, conferences, Easter music concerts and bugle and drum band competitions are held.

The museum justifies its existence since the Semana Santa Marinera is the big festival of the neighbours of Grao, Canyameler and El Cabanyal, celebrated in their parishes, in their streets and in their homes, in which they relive the moments of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In spring, the whole neighbourhood begins to prepare to relive a legacy that has been passed down from generation to generation.

The first written records of the processions that commemorated Easter Week in València date back to the beginning of the 18th century, in Grao, where undocumented records date back to the times of San Vicente Ferrer, in the 15th century.

Initially, the images that took part in the processions represented the Nazarene, Christ and his Sorrowful Mother. This trilogy of images represents the clearest manifestation of the relationship between Easter Week and the sea. In the suffering of the Nazarene, carrying the cross on his way to Calvary, the sailors were represented as they endured the storms in their boats. The Dolorosa depicted the pain of the women waiting for news of their husbands who knew they are in the midst of a storm. And the Christ showing the image of the most painful and cruel death, nailed to the cross, to whom they entrust themselves, praying for their relatives drowned at sea.

This festivity has other singularities such as “the biblical characters”, “the trenca de perols”, or “the prayer of the Christs on the seashore”, among others.

During the first quarter of the 20th century, new brotherhoods appeared and the organisation of three processions began, in which all the groups of the festival participate together.



Procession on the beach. Source: <https://www.guiarepsol.com/es/viajar/nos-gusta/semana-santa-marinera-en-el-cabanyal-valencia/>



Easter Week in the memory. Source: <https://www.semanasantamarinera.org/>



Interior of the museum. Source: <https://www.visitvalencia.com/que-hacer-valencia/cultura-valenciana/museos-en-valencia/casa-museo-semana-santa-marinera-salvador-caurin-alarcon>