1. LAS ARENAS SPA

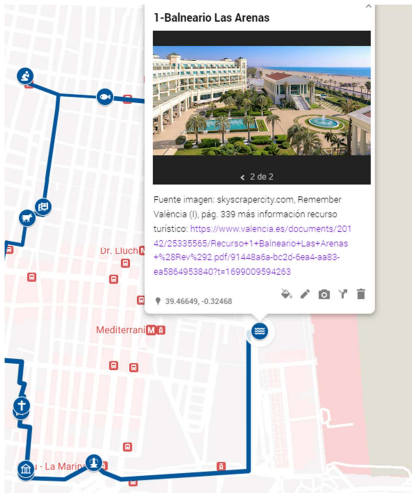
TOURIST ROUTE AROUND CABANYAL-EL CANYAMELAR-CAP DE FRANÇA

GENERAL MAP OF THE ROUTE



SITUACIÓN DEL RECURSO TURÍSTICO





A historical landmark in the city of Valencia, it is the most emblematic building on the seafront. Antonio Zarranz Beltrán promoted the initial project, carried out in 1888, which envisaged simple facilities with the aim of meeting the needs of Valencian bourgeois society, so that they could take the sea baths recommended by doctors. The quality, the good service, the music and the distinguished atmosphere formed by the social elite stood out. There was an entrance fee and it included various services: changing rooms, showers, picnic area, restaurant, swimming pool, children's play area including a small circuit for minicars and a private beach area. All of this was entertained by the Pueblo Nuevo del Mar band which offered evening concerts.

In 1917, two buildings inspired by classical temples designed by F. Iranzo were built, which housed leisure rooms and spaces for taking hot seawater baths.

In 1922 the floating pavilion designed by the Valencian architect José María Manuel Cortina Pérez was inaugurated, considered one of the most important of Valencian modernism and characterised by an imaginative and imaginative architecture in which he mixed Gothic, Romanesque, Byzantine and Islamic elements. The pavilion consisted of a wooden structure in the shape of a cross, painted white and with blue details, with a central dome from which, by means of several staircases, direct access was gained to the sea. It was set up and dismantled every season, and served as a café in its last days, attended by waiters in bow ties who served iced coffee, meringue milk and "el nacional" (butter and coffee). It was badly damaged by a storm and was never put up again.

The 1934 pools were the first in Europe to have both seawater and freshwater. The imposing diving board was depicted on a poster designed by Josep Renau for the inauguration. They are included in the DOCOMOMO International Register (Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement, an international organisation created with the aim of inventorying, disseminating and protecting the architectural heritage of the Modern Movement). Gutiérrez Soto's complete project consisted of a platform with a passageway, solarium, stands, bar and dance floor. In rationalist or functionalist style, of which the architect is one of the national references, it combines rationalism with naval references. The Spanish Swimming Championships were held here in 1935 and 1957. In the 1960s, the diving board collapsed with bathers on its two platforms, causing fatalities and other serious injuries.

PICTURES



Photo 1: Balneario Las Arenas in the memory. Source: skyscrapercity.com, Remember València (I), p. 339



Photo 2: 'Barraquetes' and clotheslines. In 1929, 'les barraquetes' and its famous clotheslines for bathing clothes, next to the spa. Source: https://www.lasprovincias.es/Valencia- ciudad/columnas-clasico-20200816095923-nt.html



Photo 3: The disappeared pavilion over the sea of Las Arenas. Source: Valenpedia (Las Provincias).