

# 1. ESTACIÓ DEL NORD

### **ERNEST HEMINGWAY TOURIST ROUTE**

## **GENERAL ROUTE PLAN**

- 1. Estació del Nord
- 2. Plaça de Bous
- 3. Hotel Metropol
- 4. Edificio de Correos
- 5. Ajuntament de València
- 6. Hotel Reina Victoria
- 7. Hotel Inglés
- 8. Café El Siglo
- 9. El Micalet
- 10. Café Ideal
- 11. Hotel Vincci Palace
- 12. Hotel Royal



Entry point to the city and starting point of the route. Hemingway travelled to València on numerous occasions for both work and pleasure. For work, because as correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance (NANA), he covered the Civil War and València, at that time, was a place of great political and military activity as it became capital of the Republic in 1937. For pleasure, because it is known that he visited to see the bullfighting.

The station is one of the few places that the American author explicitly mentions. In his posthumous work *A Moveable Feast*, he says that he arrived at the Estació del Nord 'aboard a wooden train'. In that same novel, in which he narrates his bohemian years in the French capital, he writes: 'We were living with great economy and not spending any money except for necessities in order to save money to go down to the *feria* at Pamplona in July and to Madrid and to the *feria* in València afterwards' where, he continues, he arrived at the Estació del Nord in a city where they 'drink wine from a bota'.

On his travels on 'that wooden train', which he cites in *A Moveable Feast*, he could also see the 'orange groves and rice fields' he mentions in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940), a novel set in the mountains of Guadarrama, in which he follows an American soldier fighting for the Republican side and in which he reflects his idealism and disenchantment with war and politics.

Records show that the author was in València more than a dozen times between 1925 and 1959.



Managed by the Compañía de los Caminos de Hierro del Norte de España, the station was inaugurated years earlier, in 1917. In the modernist style with decorations inspired by Valencian agriculture, with references to oranges, flowers and typical tiles, during that period the building designed by architect Demetrio Ribes became a key point for transporting troops, refugees, supplies and journalists.

Despite all the time that has passed, the Estació del Nord looks the same as when Hemingway passed by there as it preserves its original structure and many of the decorative elements from the time, such as the ceramic mosaics, central clock and great foyer with its high ceiling.

Comprehensive restoration work began in 2025. The asbestos roof of the canopy has been removed in favour of a zinc roof with a central skylight, and original details such as the orange and flower ornamentation are being restored.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Address: 24 Xàtiva Street.

# **ACCESSIBILITY**

Access: Accessible via ramps and no steps.

**Parking:** Spots reserved for PRM nearby at 4 El Convent de Jerusalem Street and 25 L'Ajuntament Square.

#### **IMAGES**



Façade of the Estación del Norte with the Plaza de Toros to the left

