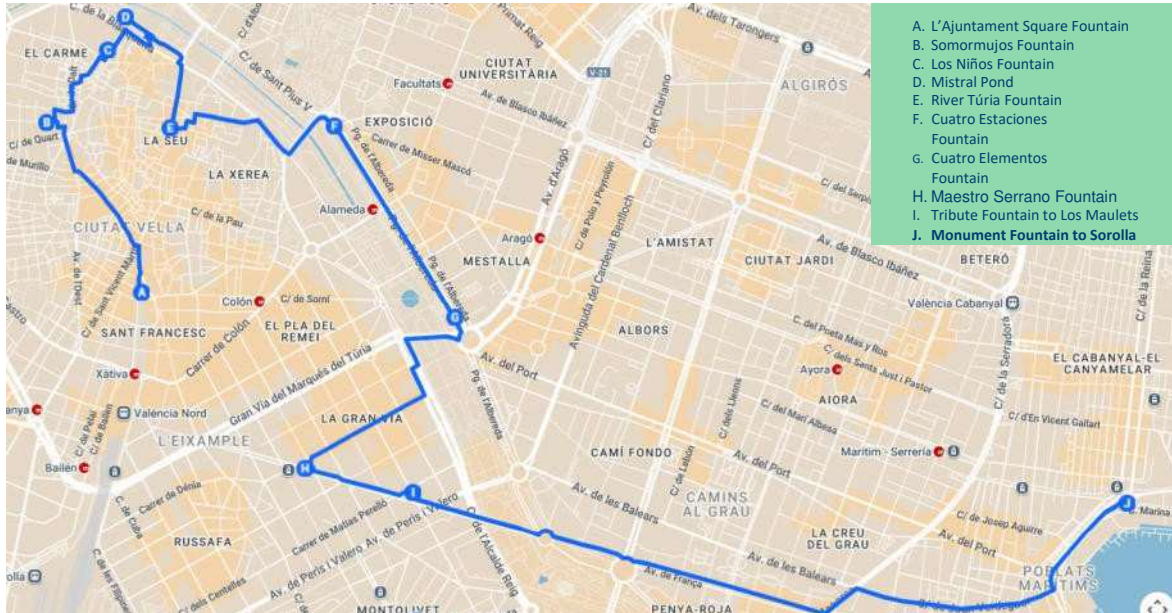




MONUMENT FOUNTAIN TO SOROLLA

ORNAMENTAL FOUNTAIN TOURIST ROUTE

GENERAL ROUTE PLAN



Joaquín Sorolla (1863-1923) painter, author and sculptor, contemporary of Blasco Ibáñez (1867-1928) and Mariano Benlliure (1862-1927), favourite sons of València, were connected by their artistic activity and strong bonds of friendship, also united by their ideological commitment to the society of the time. The three were related to the Poblets Marítims.

Many of Sorolla's paintings represented seaside scenes from València. Proof of this is that Professor Josep Vicent Boira recently discovered his studio on Eugènia Viñes Street, close to the Pòsit Progrés de Pescadors building.

Following the artist's wishes, the monument to Sorolla was built on the beach near Casa dels Bous and Pòsit Progrés de Pescadors, incorporating the marble bust donated a year earlier by sculptor Mariano Benlliure. It was promoted by the Circle of Fine Arts and València City Council, which in 1925 would commission architect Francisco Mora, author of buildings including El Mercat de Colom, the Palacio de la Exposición or the Council building itself.

The first stone for the sculpture in his memory was placed on 7 March 1932 at La Malva-rosa beach, painted so often and so admirably by the maestro. It comprised a semicircle of 10 Tuscan columns on a white and rodono stone pedestal, accessible via ramps and easy steps with some stairs, joined by a entablature with the text "*Valencia a Sorolla*" (València to Sorolla), all with views over the Mediterranean sea.

The columns were acquired by Sorolla to build a

palace of fine art, designed in 1919 by Goerlich in El Remei and which was never erected due to lack of resources. It would eventually be inaugurated on 31 December 1933 between the former Termas Victoria baths and the Nuestra Señora del Carmen Asylum at an event attended by Sorolla's son, Mariano Benlliure, Valencian Minister of Industry and Trade Ricardo Samper, the mayor of València, architects Mora and Goerlich, and a large audience that had gathered. A decade after his death, the people of València finally settled their debt with one of their most illustrious sons.

Flooding in 1957 destroyed the monument, which remained in ruins for several years.

In 1963, it was moved to La Armada Española Square, now La Setmana Santa Marinera Square, but only the bust remains. The current location, however, has no direct connection with the sea, key to evoking and remembering both Joaquín Sorolla and his paintings.

The current monument was improved in 1974 with gardens, spouts, lighting and a pool, also adding the main door frame from the building demolished in the late 1960s, designed by architect Mora, which housed the headquarters of Banco Hispano Americano, now Banco de Santander, on Les Barques Street. At Goerlich's request, this door frame was dismantled and relocated behind Sorolla's bust to give greater importance to the monument. The dedication reads: "JOAQUIN SOROLLA BASTIDA 1863-1923 AÑO 1974".

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: La Setmana Santa Marinera Square.

ACCESSIBILITY

Access: Accessible pedestrian square with no steps, tram stop nearby.

Parking: Spot reserved for PRM in at La Barraca Street.