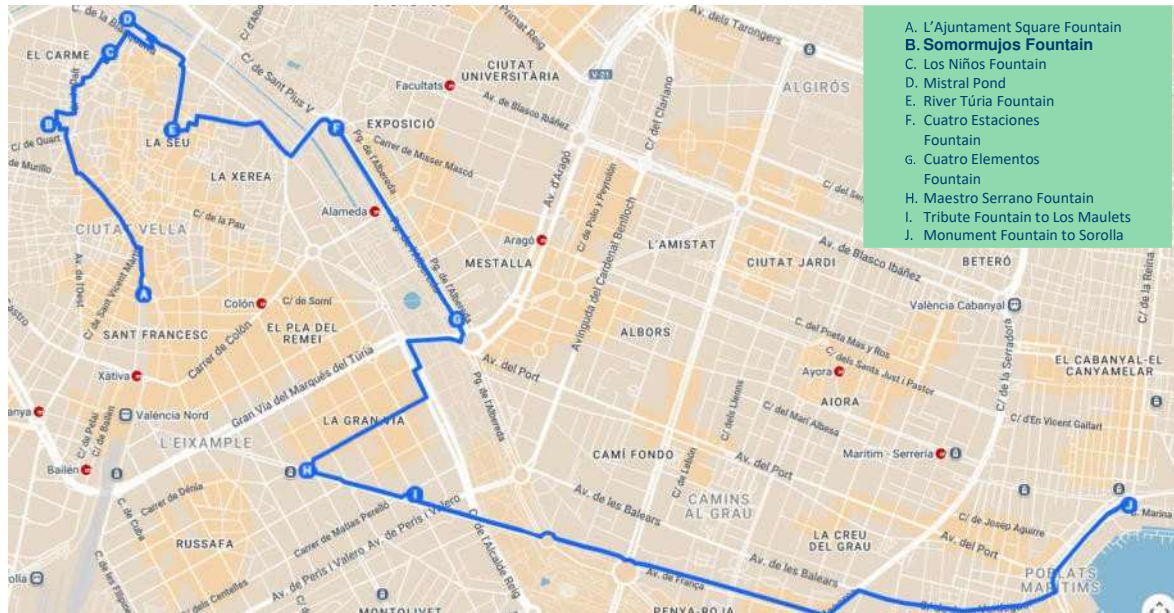




# SOMORMUJOS FOUNTAIN

## ORNAMENTAL FOUNTAIN TOURIST ROUTE

### GENERAL ROUTE PLAN



This fountain was installed in July 1878 on L'Albereda promenade, an area formerly known as "El Plantío", in the middle of a roundabout with benches between L'Albereda and L'Exposició bridge.

The municipal architect designed the extension of this promenade in 1862 in response to increased population and visitors, on one hand, and to the scarce area dedicated to city gardens on the other. The design included two fountains: Somormujos and Cuatro Estaciones.

When the roundabout was removed to make way for traffic towards El Doctor Moliner Street, the fountain was moved to this new area in El Carmen, created from the remains of the Casa de la Misericordia, which was demolished in 1967. Its current name is Vicent Iborra Square, in honour of the former Spanish businessman, politician and chairman of València Club de Fútbol.

It is a large, cast-iron fountain made in 1862 at the Parisian workshop of Barbezat y Cía, in the town of Val d'Osne near Paris, which stands on a stone pedestal.

It consists of two plates, the top shell-shaped plate pours water onto the larger, bottom plate. The second plate in turn pours water through eight masks into a ground-level pond. And it is all surrounded by a small iron railing.

Decorative elements between the two plates include two *somormujos* (great crested grebes, web-footed birds commonly found in the wetlands of València) that give the fountain its name. The birds are accompanied by decorative plants and animals, such as frogs and turtles.

Great crested grebes are typical of the lake found at El Saler, elegant with a long body, slender neck and a long, pointed beak. Their stunning plumage stands out in summer, with black at the top of the head and two groups of crest-like feathers standing out.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Address:** Vicent Iborra Square

## ACCESSIBILITY

**Access:** Accessible pedestrian square with no steps.

**Parking:** Spot reserved for PRM nearby at Sant Dionís Street.