

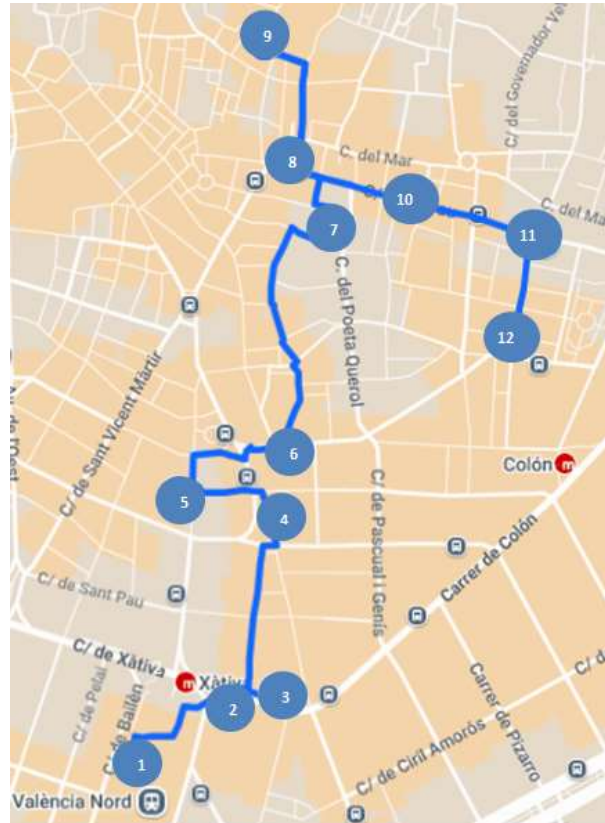


# 3. HOTEL METROPOL

## 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



In one of the rooms of Hotel Metropol, 23 Xàtiva Street, Hemingway was the protagonist of one of the most peculiar and surreal incidents attributed to him. A friend of Orson Welles, they both shared a passion for bullfighting, but their relationship was rather complex and conflictive. It is said that, in one of the rooms of the now-defunct hotel, and with alcohol involved, Welles and Hemingway participated in a most reckless act that also reflects both of their characters.

A very young and theatrical Welles was holding a cigarette in his mouth when Hemingway, a great fan of weapons and risk, impulsively shot it as proof of his aim and bravery. Although nobody was injured, the incident scandalised hotel management and both were kicked out.

Friends, colleagues or rather rivals, this would not be the only incident between the two as in 1937 they got into a fight with chairs, said Welles in an interview, because he told Hemingway that the lines of the script for the documentary *The Spanish Earth* were too long and complicated. Hemingway didn't like the criticism, or assessment, and the two ended up brawling although, according to Welles, who lent his voice to the documentary produced by the Contemporary Historians company, they ended up laughing and going out for a drink together.

Inaugurated in 1931, the building is by architect Francisco Almenar Quinzá and, during the Civil War, it became the headquarters of the Soviet embassy and the NKVD, the Soviet secret police prior to the KGB. Once of the most luxurious hotels of the time and with guests including Bertolt Brecht, it was a meeting point for leading cultural and political figures. It was also the venue for the



2nd Congress of Anti-Fascist Intellectuals and base of the Ministry of Public Education. Following the war, it was adapted to other uses.

Only the façade remains in 2025 and the building is home to offices and commercial premises.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Address:** 23 Xàtiva Street.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

**Access:** Accessible via ramps and no steps.

**Parking:** No spots reserved for PRM nearby.

### **IMAGES**



Hotel Metropol façade in 2025

