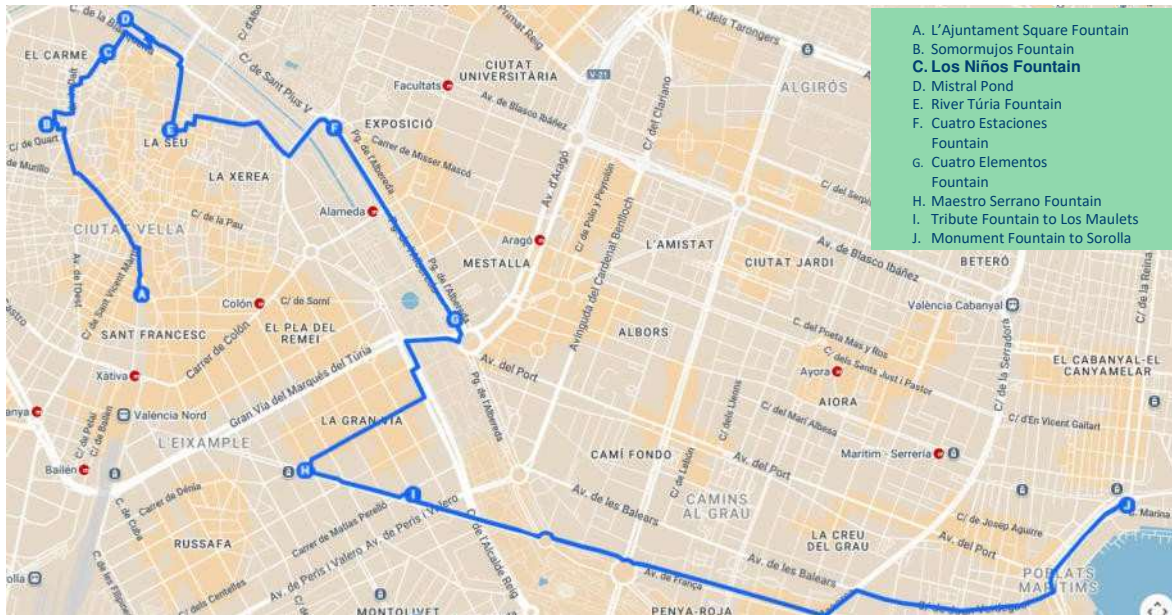




LOS NIÑOS FOUNTAIN

ORNAMENTAL FOUNTAIN TOURIST ROUTE

GENERAL ROUTE PLAN



The Gothic palace of Aguilar, barons of Alaquàs, was demolished in 1946, a building that stood next to the church of Santa Cruz or Del Carmen. A small garden was created on the plot and the fountain was inaugurated during the July fair in 1962. Classed as a monumental work, it is a bronze reproduction of Mariano Benlliure's De los Niños fountain; the 1911 plaster original is on display at the Fine arts Museum in València.

The original bronze fountain is located in Cadiz, with copies of the sculpture found in Solares (Cantabria), Alameda de Osuna (Madrid) and Genovés Park in Cadiz (now disappeared), proof of the popularity of this work.

A group of eight nude children playing is represented at the centre of the fountain; one is pushed into the water. It is a dynamic scene that gives a sensation of movement. The artist demonstrated his mastery of the relief technique, creating depth and perspective by playing with high and low relief. The overall ensemble is harmonious and all the figures fit together perfectly.

The various movements, positions and expressions of each figure ensure that the public must stop and carefully observe each one; they represent all possible child-like reactions: laughter, surprise, fear and curiosity.

On the back you can see a bronze relief with Benlliure's profile and the text '*Valencia a Mariano Benlliure*', a tribute to the sculptor himself. His face was created by Sorolla for the square that bears his name and was previously

called La Pilota Square. Sorolla created the relief of Mariano Benlliure at the same time as Mariano Benlliure created the one of Sorolla, both were honoured in a double tribute by the city where they were born, dedicating the street and square with their names, sculpted on plaques with the respective mid-relief portraits of their profile.

The sculptor belonged to a family of artists and he attended a local artist's workshop at the early age of five. One year later, he submitted his first sculpture '*Frascuelo entrando a matar*' to a competition. He did not learn at a school, he was self-taught, learning by observing and from the work of all the trades related to sculpture.

A short distance from El Carme Square is the museum dedicated to José Benlliure who, along with his brothers Mariano, Blas and Antonio, form an international family of artists from València.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: El Carme Square, 1 El Pare d'Òrfens Street.

ACCESSIBILITY

Access: Pedestrian square with low steps on the side of El Pare d'Òrfens Street. One-way street.

Parking: Spot reserved for PRM nearby in El Pare d'Òrfens Street at the height of the fountain and another at 8 La Blanqueria Street.