

3. PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT STEPHEN and BAPTISMAL FONT OF SAINT VINCENT FERRER



SAINT VINCENT FERRER ROUTE

GENERAL ROUTE PLAN

1. Miracle del Mocadoret Square
2. Cathedral, chapel and throne
3. Parish Church of Saint Stephen
4. Dormitories
5. Santa Mónica Square
6. Statue of Saint Vincent Ferrer on Pont del Real
7. Convent of Preachers
8. Statue of Saint Vincent Ferrer in Tetuan Square
9. Birthplace El *pouet*
10. Tiles of 37 La Mar Street
11. Church of Corpus Christi
12. Basilica of Saint Vincent Ferrer
13. Saint Vincent Ferrer Dominican School



A Valencian ceramic altarpiece in the *socarrat* style by Jaime de Scals was installed on the exterior wall to the left of the entrance to this parish church. It reads: '*El año 1350 fue bautizado en esta Iglesia parroquial de San Esteban y bajo el patronazgo de la ciudad, un niño que había de ser San Vicente Ferrer, Patrón de la misma ciudad y del Reino de Valencia*' (In 1350, at this parish church of Saint Stephen and under the patronage of the city, a child was baptised who would become Saint Vincent Ferrer, patron saint of this city and of the Kingdom of València). This was one of the first parish churches erected in the city after definitively returning to Christian hands. The Ferrer family home was inside its district and he was therefore baptised here.

Construction of the current building began in 1472 and abundant Baroque decorative elements were incorporated inside during the second half of the 17th century. Legend has it that when the family went to baptise Saint Vincent on 22 January there was a dispute about his name, which the priest resolved by deciding he would be called Vincent as it was the day of the festivity of Saint Vincent Martyr. It houses a chapel that conserves the baptismal font –a large, marbled stone basin– the back wall features a Baroque wooden altarpiece with life-sized images of Saint Vincent Ferrer and Saint Louis Bertrand, in polychrome wood, by Carmelo Vicent. On one of the side walls you can see twin canvases by José Vergara; one



depicts Saint Vincent and Saint Bruno appearing to the father of Saint Louis Bertrand, and the other shows the dream of Saint Vincent's mother.

Many significant figures from València were baptised in this font, including Dominican friar Saint Louis Bertrand (1526-1581), a relative and profound devotee of Saint Vincent, whose birthplace can be found in the same square as the parish church. Nowadays, every 22 January, day of Saint Vincent Martyr, the Dominican friar's baptism is remembered with a festivity called '*Bultos de sant Esteve*'. People dressed in 17th-century fashion represent various figures who, according to popular tradition, took part in the ceremony with a procession from his birthplace in La Mar Street, and they bring a child to be baptised at this church.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: Sant Esteve Square.

ACCESSIBILITY

Access: pedestrian street, no steps.

Parking: three parking spaces reserved for people with reduced mobility in the same square.

