

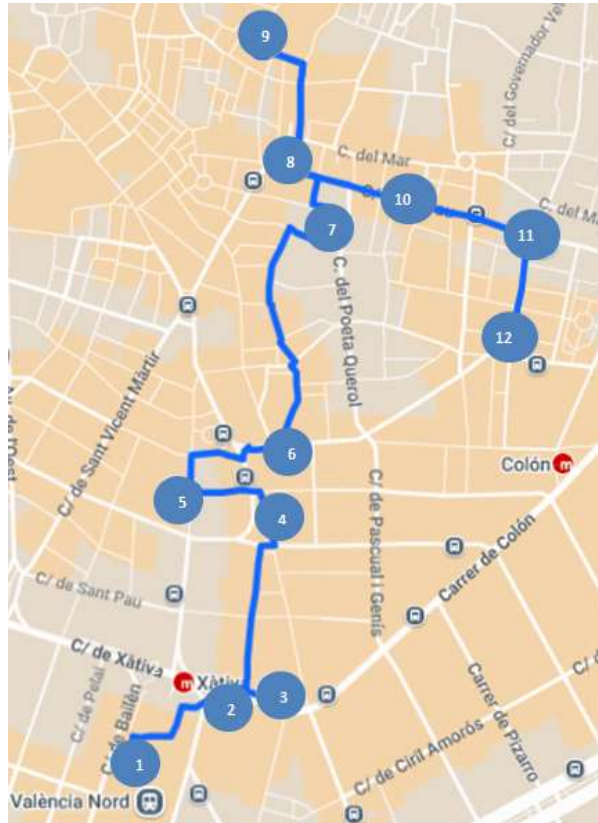


# 6. HOTEL REINA VICTORIA

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



During the Civil War, important correspondents stayed at the Hotel Reina Victoria. As did bullfighters, before and after this historic period, so by combining both, it was the perfect establishment for Hemingway to feel comfortable. In one of its rooms that he shared with his first wife Hadley, he wrote the first lines of his most famous work, *The Sun Also Rises*, the novel that launched him to international fame. It was 21 July, his 26th birthday, when he sent his father a letter from Edificio de Correos, in L'Ajuntament Square saying 'I have 60,000 words'. A novel he continued writing in Madrid and Paris. The date coincides with the 1925 July Bullfighting Fair.

In an interview with George Plimton, originally published in *The Paris Review* in 1958, he revealed: '*The Sun Also Rises* I started in València on my birthday, July 21. Hadley, my wife, and I had gone to Valencia early to get good tickets for the *feria* there which started the twenty-fourth of July. Everybody my age had written a novel and I was still having a difficult time writing a paragraph. So I started the book on my birthday, wrote all through the *feria*, in bed in the morning, went on to Madrid and wrote there.' That bed was in Hotel Reina Victoria on 4 Les Barques Street, corner with Pérez Pujol Street and is the city's oldest hotel. The building was erected in 1910 for residential use and as offices from Río de Plata bank by Valencian architect Luis Ferreres Soler but was converted into a hotel in 1913.

The fact that he overcame the obstacles to writing a novel in València during the *feria* makes the city a source of inspiration that is, directly or indirectly, present in his successful literary career. Hemingway also wrote chronicles for the *Toronto Star* from the rooms of this hotel, where he described



bullfighting with true fascination. From then, Hotel Reina Victoria would be one of his leading hotels in València, as it also was for bullfighters such as El Cordobés, Manolete or Aparicio, photographer Robert Cappa or poet Federico García Lorca.

During his time in València in 1937, he stayed in this hotel with Martha Gellhorn, who inspired María, the protagonist of *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. In this novel, Hemingway refers to the bustle of the city and a detail that is very unique and distinctive of València: marching bands. 'Never did we go to València. Never did we lie in bed together and hear a band pass in València', he wrote. Everything suggests that he is referring to the band competition held in July, during the *Feria de Julio* when Hemingway visited to see the bulls, and during which the bands marched through the city as a prelude.

A small plaque at the entrance recalls Hemingway's time at the hotel.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Address:** 4 Les Barques Street.

## ACCESSIBILITY

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

**Parking:** Spot reserved for PRM in 25 L'Ajuntament Square.

## IMAGES

