

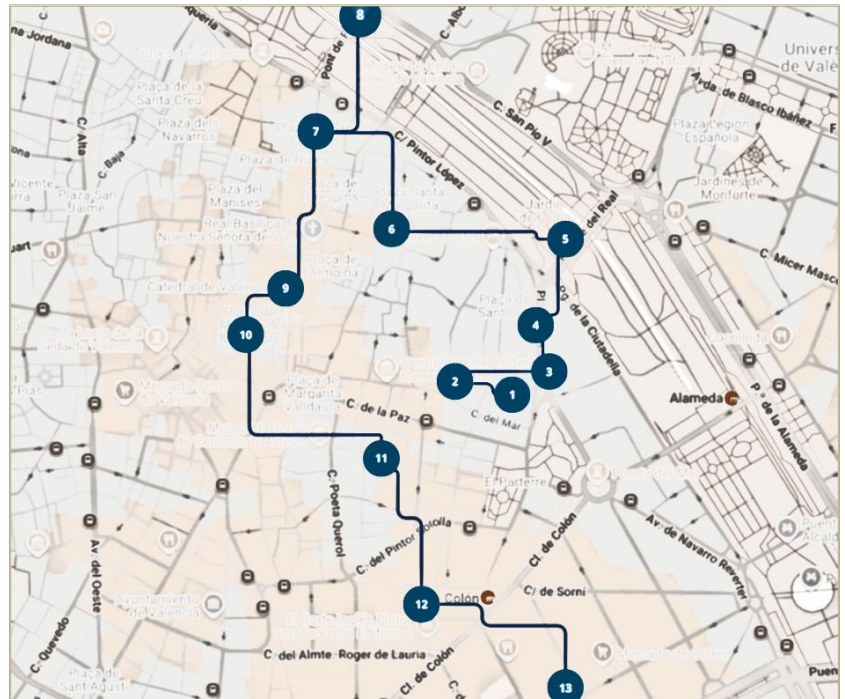
6. PARISH CHURCH OF SANT ESTEVE AND BAPTISMAL FONT

SAINT VINCENT FERRER ROUTE



GENERAL ROUTE PLAN

1. Birthplace El *pouet*
2. Ceramic Altarpiece La Mar Street
3. Convent of Preachers
4. Statue of Saint Vincent Ferrer in Tetuan Square
5. Statue of Saint Vincent Ferrer on Pont del Real
6. Parish Church of Sant Esteve
7. Dormitories
8. Santa Mònica Square
9. Cathedral, chapel and throne
10. Miracle del Mocadoret Square
11. Church of Corpus Christi
12. Colegio Imperial Niños Huérfanos
13. Basilica of Saint Vincent Ferrer



According to tradition, there was a church where this building stands, where the daughters of El Cid (1094-1104 approx.) awaited their future marriage and where his body was kept when he died during the Moorish siege of València. Later there appears to have been a church, reconverted into a mosque, and then a church again under James I (source: *Escolano and the general chronicle of Spain and of El Cid*, in a book by Nieves Munsuri Rosado).

The current building was extended in 1472, adding an arcade that elongated the central nave, this can be seen from Sant Esteve Square, from which some angles in the façade can be seen. 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, they bring a child to be baptised at this church.

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.

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.

PHOTOS

