



# 6. PLATJA DE LES ARENES

## ERNEST HEMINGWAY TOURIST ROUTE

### GENERAL ROUTE PLAN

1. Antigua Estación de El Grau
2. Estación Marítima
3. Antiga Grúa Portuària
4. Restaurante La Pepica
5. Merenderos
6. Platja de Les Arenes
7. Centro Cultural L'Escorxador
8. Museo del Mar – Casa dels Bous



There's nothing that attracts a foreigner more when they visit València than the beach. And Hemingway was no different. He mentions this natural space on several occasions. He would go there by bus, according to *Death in the Afternoon*, or tram, as he describes in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, to 'swim' and 'eat'.

In this same novel, he describes one of the most typical and traditional images of the time: 'Ten yokes of oxen dragging a boat with sails out of the sea in the morning with the line of the small waves breaking on the beach. That is València.'

The sea is constant in the US author's work. It is curious, for example, that in *The Old Man and the Sea*, set in Cuba and 1953 Pulitzer Prize winner, he describes the sea and the fishermen with a very Valencian patina. For example, he speaks of 'la mar' and the sea. And he justifies: 'Which is what people call her in Spanish when they love her. Sometimes those who love her say bad things of her but they are always said as though she were a woman.'

Private correspondence that emerged following his death includes a letter written to his friend Waldo Peirce, in which he speaks of his visits to the beach: 'València is the best 7 bull fights in 7 days (...). Swim in between in the Mediterranean at Grau. Ride out on the tram, dodge tuids in the water. It's damned stupendous at the beach or in the city to eat a melon washed down with a real cold jug of beer.'

Other natural spaces praised by Hemingway in his work are L'Albufera and the rice and orange fields around El Saler. Set during the Civil War, in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, he describes, without naming them, what could easily be the farmlands on the outskirts of the city when he talks of orange groves and rice fields.



In a war passage, April 1938, he says: 'Driving through the immense rice fields of L'Albufera and through the famous orchard, so green, of exuberant richness, on the way to the front, I realised why people eat well in Valencia. There are no richer lands in all the world.'

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Address:** Neptú promenade, unnumbered

### ACCESSIBILITY

**Access:** Beach accessible via ramps and no steps.

**Parking:** Spots reserved for PRM nearby along the promenade.

### IMAGES

