

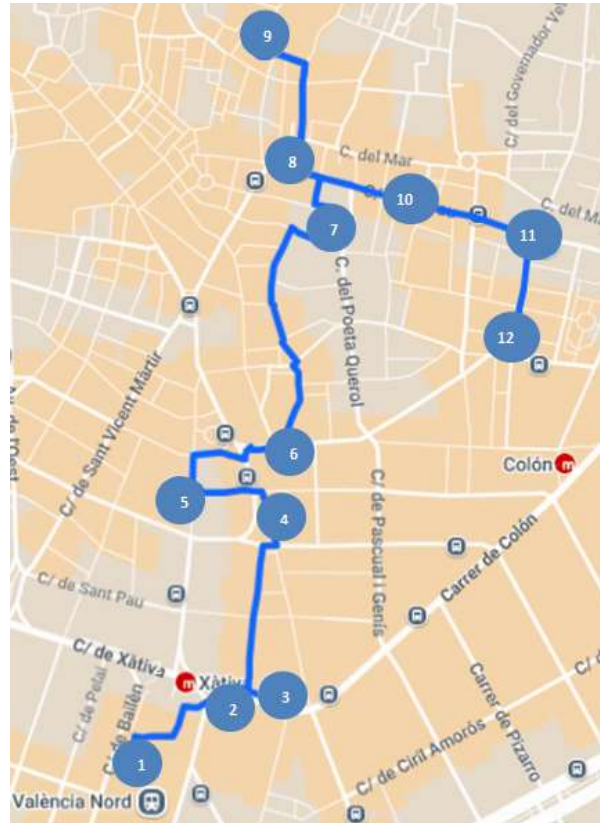


9. EL MICALET

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 Vincii Palace
12. Hotel Royal



El Micalet, the Cathedral bell tower, is one of the city's most important monuments. It's impossible not to visit or stop in front of it if a person, especially a foreigner, is walking the streets of València despite the war atmosphere of the time.

On one of his trips, Hemingway read a chronicle about a suicide from El Micalet, an event that was not unusual at that time. He used and referred to it in a satirical poem about author Dorothy Parker: 'An old man called Valentín Magarza jumped from the Micalet tower at the age of eighty and, according to a Valencian newspaper, was completely destroyed on the ground. His granddaughter had said he was just a nuisance and he was getting old.' He captured this idea, somewhat modified, in this 1933 *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place*, a story published in Scribner's Magazine and later included in the Winner Take Nothing collection. A reflection on the human condition, the story takes place in a Spanish café late at night. For the characters in the story, the café is a refuge from the 'nothing' they feel in their life.

El Micalet became the command post for the Special Defence Against Aircraft (DECA) during the Civil War. Bombing alerts were coordinated from the top of the tower through a network of air raid sirens that were activated when enemy aircraft were detected, allowing the population to take shelter in time. It was also used as a propaganda symbol of the time.



In the Valencian Gothic style, El Micalet is not only an architectural witness of the past, but also a symbol of the resistance and resilience of València. From the top, which rises 63 metres, you can enjoy one of the best views of the city. But for that you have to climb its 207 steps.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: La Reina Square, unnumbered.

ACCESSIBILITY

Access: Accessible via ramps and no steps.

Parking: Spot reserved for PRM at 28 Les Avellanes Street.

IMAGES

