



1. CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TOURIST ROUTE THROUGH SOUTHERN VILLAGES – LA PUNTA

TURISMO DE BARRIOS

GENERAL MAP OF THE ROUTE



LOCATION OF THE TOURIST ATTRACTION



AJUNTAMENT DE VALÈNCIA

HISTORY

Proudly known by the residents of La Punta as the "cathedral of the huerta," the Church of the Immaculate Conception began construction in 1908 under the direction of architect Francisco Mora Berenguer. However, some parts of the building, such as the bell tower, designed by Mauro Lleó Serret, were added much later (**photos 1, 2, 4, and 5**). It was elevated to the status of parish in 1942. Built in Baroque style entirely with brick, it features a basilica plan with three aisles of three bays, a central nave higher than the side aisles, and a transept that does not protrude from the floor plan. There are three chapels on each side between the buttresses, and the dome stands out with glazed tiles and an octagonal lantern. Various altars house statues of St. Anthony of Padua, Archangel St. Michael, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Joseph, Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of the Helpless, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Anthony the Great. In the neoclassical sanctuary, a niche between four columns holds a sculpture of the Immaculate Conception (**photo 3**).

Built with the collaboration of all the residents of La Punta and situated on the road that historically connected the central area of the scattered population with La Punta Beach, the church occupied a strategic point in the ancient Punta d'En Silvestre, mentioned since the 14th century. For centuries, this area was a dispersed settlement of huerta (orchard) lands irrigated by the Rovella irrigation canal and structured around the old El Saler road, now Jesús Morante Borrás Avenue.

Nevertheless, urban transformations in recent decades have dramatically altered the old huerta landscape. The construction of the El Saler motorway in the 1970s, which divided the town in two and reinforced the barrier already created by the railway, led to the disappearance of homes and cultivated fields and was traumatic for La Punta. This period even saw the cessation of the town's festivities for 15 years. Later, La Punta Beach vanished during the expansion of the city's port, and more recently, large-scale urban projects such as the Logistics Activities Zone and the Oceanogràfic have been established on this territory, sparking significant social controversy.

Nonetheless, the residents of La Punta strive to maintain their unique identity. The festivals of Purísima and San Miguel are celebrated on the last Sunday of August and the first week of September, featuring emblematic events such as the Entrà de la Murta (the entrance of myrtle, an aromatic herb that spreads through the streets) with the participation of numerous huertano horses, the all i pebre competition (refer to the El Palmar itinerary for more on this typical Valencian dish), and the general procession on Sunday night, which runs along the paths of the entire district. Particularly striking is the sight of this procession crossing the El Saler motorway via an elevated walkway, the only pedestrian access to the church from La Punta's main urban area (photo 10). Also significant are the festivities dedicated to Our Lady of the Forsaken in May, held one week after those in Valencia.

On our journey to the second stage of the itinerary, we can observe typical village houses and even some traditional barracas (**photos 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11**) that remain on both sides of Jesús Morante Borrás Avenue, formerly the beginning of the road from Nazaret to Oliva until the railway construction severed it, nullifying its original function.

In the cultural life of La Punta, its music band, the Ateneu Musical L'Horta de La Punta, stands out. At the beginning of the last century, La Punta already had its own music band, which was notable given that the surrounding villages did not have one.

Thanks to an article by Julio Navarro published in a festival booklet, we know the names of several musicians from that band, as well as one of its directors, Tio Micalet Soler, a member of the València Municipal Band. It seems that this was a fairly active band that played at village festivals in the surrounding area, dances, and some charity events.

The band dissolved before the Civil War due to disagreements that arose among some of the musicians. During the post-war period, in the 1950s and 1960s, the music band was reformed with Manolo "Fusteret" as its director.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: Camino de La Punta a la Mar, 29

Telephone number: 963 56 42 48

Schedule: Satudary 19 h, Sunday 11 h.

ACCESSIBILITY

Access: Accessible via ramps. There are steps at some points.

Parking: There is no formally designated parking nearby





PHOTO 1. The Church of La Punta in 1921, still without the bell tower it currently has (valenciablancoynegro.blogspot.com).



PHOTO 2. The Church of La Punta today



PHOTO 3. Interior of the Church of the Immaculate Conception (photo: Facebook page of the parish Purísima Concepción La Punta)





PHOTO 4. Main facade. Ceramic panel dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and bust of Don Ranulfo Roig Pascual, the first parish priest of the church



PHOTO 5. The church seen from the footbridge that connects the two parts of the town





PHOTO 6 and 7. Barracks of La Punta



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PHOTO 8. Building from 1911 at the intersection of Jesús Morante Borrás Avenue and Caminot Street.



PHOTO 9. La Punta around 1920, with the uncovered Acequia del Oro parallel to the road leading towards Pinedo and El Saler (skyscrapercity.com).



PHOTO 10. Procession of the festivals of the Immaculate Conception and Saint Michael (photo: Facebook Festes de València)



PHOTO 11. Casal of the falla de La Punta, located in a house built in 1907.

