



1. PRIMITIVE CENTRE OF LA TORRE

TOURIST ROUTE THROUGH SOUTHERN VILLAGES- LA TORRE-FAITANAR

GENERAL MAP OF THE ROUTE



LOCATION OF THE TOURIST ATTRACTION



HISTORY

The origin of La Torre is in an area of orchards irrigated by the Favara irrigation ditch, around the old royal road from Valencia to Xàtiva (which coincided with the current Giménez y Costa Street) and the new Royal Road of Madrid (current avenue of the same name) built at the end of the 18th century.

Until the 20th century, La Torre was a rural area consisting of farmhouses, agricultural houses, and huts. The standout feature is the La Torre building itself, which gives the town its name -the tower- (**photo 1**), located on the current Avenida Real de Madrid. It is a four-story quadrangular building with a crenellated top, originally built in the 14th century as one of the watchtowers of the orchard, extensively remodeled in the 18th century.

By the late 19th century, only the La Torre building and a few other structures existed along the royal road (**photo 2**), alongside the Molí de Pala (now disappeared, near the Gàbia irrigation ditch), and the Rosario chapel at the beginning of the Assagador de la Torre (also disappeared), along with various farmhouses in the orchard (photo 3).

However, its proximity to the Royal Road of Madrid and the establishment in 1890 of a horse-drawn tramway from Valencia to Catarroja by the Sociedad Pascual Carles y Cía., electrified in 1911 and later complemented with a bus line, led to the appearance from the early 20th century, especially along the road, of two-story houses (some with interesting modernist facades) and other noteworthy buildings. These are traditional "village" houses with a rear courtyard and a pitched roof covered with Arab tiles (**photos 6 and 7**).

The flour factory building of San José (1910) also stands out (**photos 4 and 5**). It initially started as a rice mill and later became a flour and chocolate factory, currently housing a school for disabled individuals. It still preserves the chimney of the steam engine that once existed in this complex, visible from the rear street of the building.

Other notable buildings along the same avenue include the warehouse of what was once a large furniture factory, featuring a shrine of the Virgin of the Helpless on its façade, and the Public Works maintenance building, both built in the 1920s. The parish church of Our Lady of Grace, consecrated in 1943 and another point of interest on this route, was built near the intersection of the Royal Road of Madrid with the Alba Road.

From the 1950s onwards, La Torre experienced significant urban growth to accommodate many families from the Valencian inland regions and other provinces of Spain.

This growth was further complemented by the construction, in the early 21st century, of Sociópolis: a project aimed at integrating the orchard irrigated by the Favara irrigation ditch with a sustainable urban environment. Affected by the economic crisis, it is not yet fully completed, although its extensive gardens and urban orchards established on the old orchard can be enjoyed, along with different rural estates described in another stage of this route.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: The following streets are particularly interesting: Royal Road of Madrid Avenue, Hellín Street, Giménez y Costa Street, and Alba Road.

ACCESSIBILITY

Parking: There are several disabled parking spaces throughout the urban area, including Royal Road of Madrid Avenue (numbers 15, 59, and 64), Hellín Street (number 8), and Concepción Arenal Street.





PHOTO 1. La Torre, the historic construction that gives its name to the town.



PHOTO 2. The bell tower of La Torre church seen from the Veterano neighborhood.



PHOTO 3. Urban core of La Torre in Municipal Cartography 1929-1945. It includes:

- 1: La Torre.
- 2: Rice mill.
- 3: Pala Mill (disappeared).
- 4: Rosario Chapel (disappeared).



PHOTO 4 and 5. The rice mill of La Torre.





PHOTO 6 and 7. Traditional Valencian houses on Royal Road of Madrid Avenue.

