



2. PERELLONET GOLA

TOURIST ROUTE THROUGH SOUTHERN VILLAGES – EL PERELLONET

 TURISMO DE BARRIOS

GENERAL MAP OF THE ROUTE



LOCATION OF THE TOURIST ATTRACTION



AJUNTAMENT DE VALÈNCIA

HISTORY

The Perellonet Gola is a canal built in 1903 that connects the waters of Lake Albufera with the sea (**photos 1 and 2**). This *gola* (throat, in Valencian) is one of three existing ones (along with those of Pujol and Perelló, the latter being natural) that, with the existing gate system, allows the water level of the lake to be regulated, which is of great importance for rice cultivation. In any case, seawater is never allowed to enter the lake, so its water remains fresh.

The golas are also crucial for the passage of marine fauna, among which eels and their offspring, known as elvers, stand out, both highly valued by fishermen for their gastronomic use.

In the gola, fishermen moor their boats in a small port and gather at the fishermen's guild (founded in 1929), in a building also near the gola that was constructed in 1959 (**photos 3 and 4**). Fishing is carried out using rods, nets of various types (such as the *monot*, specially designed for catching elvers) (**photos 5 and 6**), or also using a method called "*rall*", which is almost disappearing. This method involves throwing a special net from the shore or from shallow waters. The *rall* is a circular net with lead weights attached around its perimeter, and a central rope from which it is pulled to retrieve it after being thrown by hand (**photos 7 and 8**). The net sinks due to the weight of the leads and forms a bag that traps the fish swimming in the area. Not only eels and elvers are caught, but also other species such as sea bass, sea bream, *mullet* (*llissa* in Valencian, *mújol* in Spanish), and crab.

It is said that Perellonet was the first village outside the Basque Country where elvers were fished for human consumption. Previously, due to their abundance and low value, elvers were used as feed for livestock. Raimundo Azpiroz, founder of Angulas Aguinaga, followed in the footsteps of his father Marcelino, an elver fisherman on the Oria River in Guipúzcoa, and began searching for other places where elvers could also be caught.

In an interview with Azpiroz in 2008, he confirmed that *"In Spain, the first place where elvers were discovered was in Perellonet (Valencia) in 1940, where we made a contract for 5 pesetas per kilo to take all the quantity available during the winter. Two years later, we went to the Ebro Delta, then to Asturias on the Nalón River, a few years later to the Miño River in Galicia. And outside of Spain, in Portugal, where we taught fishermen how to catch elvers because they were unfamiliar with it, also in France where we brought in large quantities, and Morocco."*

Elver fishing is now considered a tradition passed down from parents to children. It is a complex and tiring activity that requires a lot of dedication, as elver capture is done early in the morning and especially in winter, the optimal time to catch a large quantity.

To become a member of the Fishermen's Guild of El Perellonet, one must be the child of a fisherman. Another requirement is to have been registered as a resident in the village for at least 5 years. In the building where this association is located, lotteries are held to allocate each member their work shift. Around 45 members share the fishing shifts during fixed hours, from 18:00 to 06:00.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: End of the Sotavent Street.

ACCESSIBILITY

Access: Unurbanized area

Parking: There are various reduced mobility parking spaces throughout the urban area, including Marqués de Vallterra Fishermen's Group (number 22, accessible), Gavines Avenue (number 13, accessible), and Sotavent Street (number 1).



PHOTO 1 and 2: The Perellonet gola



PHOTO 3 and 4: The headquarters of the Fishermen's Guild



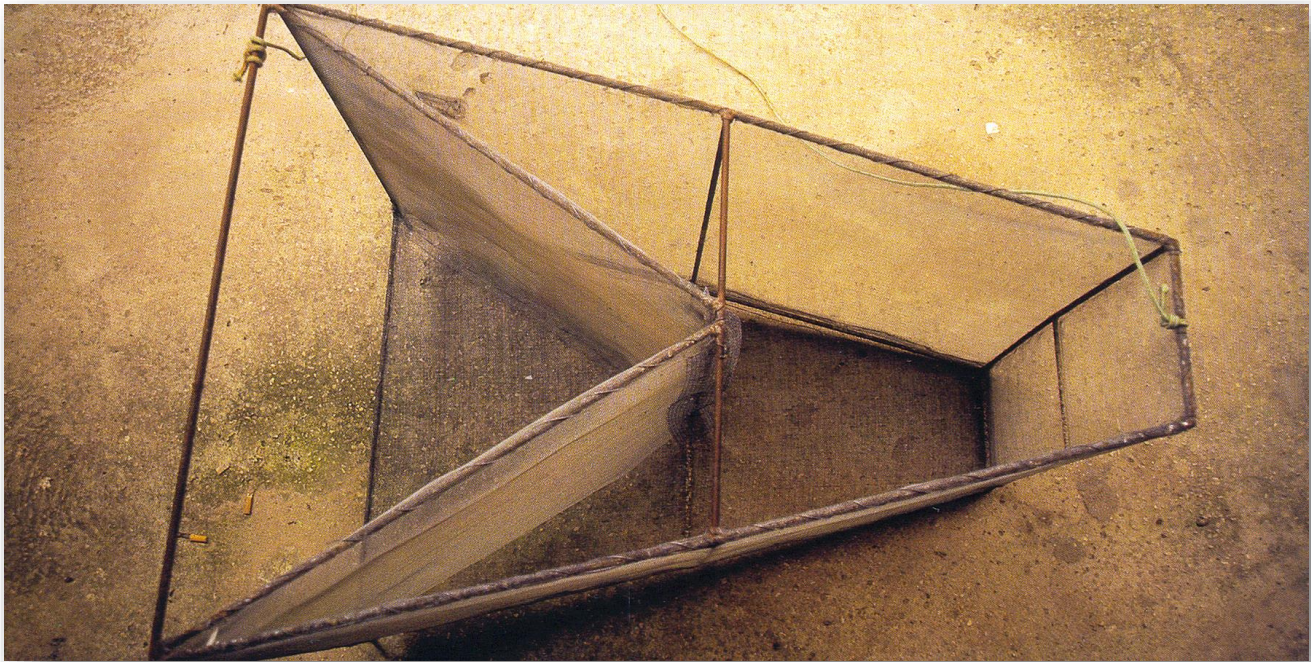


PHOTO 5 and 6: Monots for eel fishing (photos: bluehertz.com/albuferavalencia, <http://fundacionlaposta.org/>)





PHOTO 7 and 8. Rall fishing (photos: <https://blocdebotibolera.blogspot.com/>)

