



3. THE HOUSES AND BARRACKS OF EL PALMAR

TOURIST ROUTE THROUGH SOUTHERN VILLAGES- EL PALMAR



GENERAL MAP OF THE ROUTE



LOCATION OF THE TOURIST ATTRACTION



HISTORY

Until the severe fire that took place in 1885, most of the constructions in El Palmar were "barracas" (valencian huts). The Valencian barraca is an ancient architectural typology characteristic of the entire Valencian territory between the Segura and the Ebro rivers, especially in irrigated areas. These were built with adobe walls (mud mixed with straw, shaped into bricks, and air-dried), whitewashed with lime to enhance appearance and durability. They featured steeply pitched roofs constructed with a framework of wood and intertwined reeds, covered with a vegetal layer of "borró" (a type of cane) and other local plant materials like "*mansega*," "*senill*," "*cisca*," or rice straw, which needed periodic renewal to maintain their good condition.

A second reason for the almost complete disappearance of the thirty or so barracas that survived the El Palmar fire was the developmentalism that, from the 1960s onward, led to their replacement with modern buildings and restaurants catering to the village's new culinary specialization. Despite this, a few barracas still stand today, notably those found on Albufera and Francisco Monleón streets, such as the barraca of Tío Pepe el Sereno (recently restored and sometimes incorrectly referred to as the Barraca dels Arandes) and the barraca of Tío Colero (**photos 1, 2, 3, and 4**).

Other notable constructions include the wharf located at the intersection of Camino de la Trilladora del Tocayo and Calle Santíssim Crist de la Salut, marked as a point along the route (**photos 5 and 6**): here, boats used to arrive with freshly harvested bundles of rice for threshing, the process of separating the grain from the straw.

A pleasant path alongside a canal leads from here to the building of Trilladora del Tocayo, distinguished by its chimney (**photos 7 and 8**). Declared a Cultural Heritage site, the València City Council acquired it in 2020 to convert it into a social center and cultural space.

Until the mid-20th century, boats laden with bundles of rice arrived at the wharf, where modern machinery was used for threshing, separating the valuable rice grains and using the straw to fuel a steam engine that powered the thresher. The smoke from combustion exited through the chimney. Afterwards, the harvested rice was spread out for drying on the open ground and once dried, it was stored in a granary. However, with the arrival of modern harvesting machines that replaced the threshers, they fell into disuse.

Walking through the urban core of El Palmar, along its canals and nearby rice fields (**photo 9**), visiting Plaza de la Sequiota, enjoying the sunset, boat rides, wildlife, and its rich gastronomy, will complete our visit to this unique place.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Threshing Machine of Tocayo

Address: Camino de la Trilladora del Tocayo

Telephone number: 693 544 747

Email: info@fundacioassut.org

Schedule: Monday to Friday, scheduled visits. Weekends and holidays: from 11.30 to 14.30 h. to 16.00 h. to dusk.

ACCESSIBILITY

Parking: There are several PMR (persons with reduced mobility) parking spaces throughout the urban area, with the closest one located at 21 Francisco Monleón Street.





PHOTOS 1 and 2. *Barraca* of Tío Pepe el Sereno



PHOTOS 3 and 4. Barracas on the streets of El Palmar





PHOTOS 5 and 6. Wharf





PHOTOS 7 and 8. Threshing Machine of Tocayo (lower photo: Fundació Assut, <https://fundacioassut.org/>)



PHOTO 9. Rice fields of El Palmar

