



# 2. PRIMITIVE CORE OF BENIFARAIG

TOURIST ROUTE THROUGH NORTHERN VILLAGES - BENIFARAIG



GENERAL MAP OF THE ROUTE



LOCATION OF THE TOURIST ATTRACTION



## HISTORY

The origins of Benifaraig trace back to a farmhouse founded between the years 1092 and 1102, with clear Arabic roots reflected in the town's name. There are two versions regarding its meaning: according to Alcover, "Beni-" means "son of," and "-faraig," whose meaning is more debated but could signify "prohibition, anger, or charm." On the other hand, according to Escolano, it is derived from Abenalfarache, the name of the chief magistrate of al-Qadir, the king of València in 1086 under the protection of El Cid.

This farmhouse was conquered by King James I and given to the knight Ximén Pérez de Arenós in 1241. Ten years later, he donated it to the Knights Templar until their dissolution, after which it passed to the Order of Montesa. Subsequently, it belonged to the Pallarés family, the Marquis of Chova, and the Marquises of Mirasol. When the feudal system was abolished in the 19th century, Benifaraig gained independent municipal governance. In 1900, this settlement was finally annexed by the city of València, becoming part of its municipal territory.

Regarding the typology of the primitive core, it is observed that the main axes form a cross, typical in agricultural settlements, utilizing pre-existing roads as a base. Predominantly, there are two-story single-family houses with a courtyard, with some transformations due to the passage of time.

Along the proposed route through Ferrer y Bigné Street, and Santísima Cruz Street, it is worth highlighting various buildings and points of interest in Benifaraig:

- Casa de la Torreta: an ancient watchtower now used as a residence, located at 53 Ferrer y Bigné Street **(photo 4)**.
- "El Pati" house located at 3 Massamagrell Street **(photo 5)**.
- Cross of Benifaraig, displaying two dates: March 21, 1913, marking the construction of the cross replacing the previous one, and July 22, 1939, indicating reconstruction after the Civil War. It is situated at 42 Santíssima Creu Street, next to a former school now converted into a residence, where the original separation between boys' and girls' areas can still be observed, with the latter's original door intact **(photos 7 and 8)**. The cross was erected by the families who live in front of it, and it is located on private land.
- Former convent, now a residence, at the intersection of Guardamar del Segura Street and Ferrer y Bigné Street **(photo 9)**.

Within the population core of Benifaraig, but belonging to the municipal district of Alfara del Patriarca, we also find Casa de la Serena. In this parish, we also encounter typical customs of villages north of Valencia, closely linked to bull-related traditions, where the famous "bous al carrer" (bulls in the streets) are traditionally held, and the "paella de fetge de bou" is prepared—a dish made from liver, endive, and butchery, whose origins date back to the 16th century.

There is also a strong passion for Valencian pelota (a traditional sport), with its practice being a tradition on Ferrer y Bigné Street. The historical centre of Benifaraig was declared a Local Heritage Site in 2015 under the "Catalog of Protected Goods and Spaces" of the General Urban Development Plan of the city of Valencia.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Address:** C/ Santíssima Creu, C/ Venta del Moro. C/ Ferrer y Bigné, C/ Guardamar del Segura, C/ Poliña, C/ Bonrepós, C/ Massamagrell, C/ Alqueria de Chilet, Plaça de Vicent Torregrossa Valls (Retor)

## ACCESSIBILITY

**Parking:** Disabled parking spaces are available at the following locations: C/ Ferrer y Bigné 15, Plaça Vicent Torregrossa Valls (Retor), 1, frente a la iglesia, C/ Santísima Cruz 13, C/ Venta del Moro 17, C/ Ayacor 1

**Access:** Accessible square and access to the church enabled for wheelchairs.





**PHOTOS 1 and 2.** Maps of Benifaraig from 1821 and 1882, part of the historical cartography of Valencia



**PHOTO 3.** Cartographic map of Benifaraig, 1929-1945



**PHOTO 4.** House of La Torreta, ancient watchtower in Benifaraig





**PHOTOS 5 and 6. House "El Pati"**



**PHOTOS 7 and 8. Cross of Benifaraig**







**PHOTO 9.** Building of the old convent