



*Dénia*  
Historical and  
Monumental Heritage



# Dénia

Modern day Dénia is the heir of very diverse cultures. The Iberian, Roman, Islamic and Christian civilizations left their mark which we can discover by means of its monuments, museums, archaeological ruins and neighbourhoods. We recommend that you discover Dénia by exploring each of its zones:

**Stroll through the city centre**, where the main street of Dénia is located, C/ Marqués de Campo, with its terraces, shops and buildings of historical interest. The adjacent streets invite you to explore the Municipal Market, the old Raisin Warehouses, the Square: Plaza del Convento, the Church: Iglesia de San Antonio, etc.

**Then walk around the Historical City Centre**, where you will find the Town Council, the Church: Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Loreto, the Ethnological Museum, etc.

**Climb the steps to the Castle** and discover its towers, walls and of course, its Archaeological Museum.



In the exterior, Les Roques neighbourhood will astonish you with its narrow streets and its low level houses.

Explore Dénia's Fishermen neighbourhood: Baix la Mar, whose typical streets invite you to breath fresh air and relax.

**Stroll around the city's seaside façades with terraces next to the sea**, the Climate Monument, the Anchor Monument or the *Bous a la Mar* (Running of the Bulls into the Sea) Monument, the former Atarazanas (Dockyard) Buildings, the Cervantes Esplanade and the Lonja (Fish Market), and watch the small fishing boats come and go.

**After you have explored the Historical Centre**, we recommend that you visit Dénia's lovely beaches, the Montgó Natural Park and other exceptional natural environments.

# History

## 5th - 1st Century B.C.

### IBERIAN AGE

Archaeological ruins in Mt. Montgó:  
l'Alt de Benimaquía and la Penya de l'Aguila.

## 1st B.C. - 6th Century A.D.

### ROMAN AGE

The City of Dianium: the redistribution centre of products originating from North Africa and Italy. Sertorium established his naval base in Dénia in the 1st Century B.C. Important strategic and commercial port.  
1st Century A.D. Dianium became a Roman Municipium.  
2nd Century A.D. During the first half of the century, the city reached its maximum splendour.

## 6th - 8th Century

### BYZANTINE / VISIGOTH AGE

From 552 to 624 A.D., Dénia formed a part of the Byzantine province of Spania, which represents Dianium's continuity in the Roman world.  
The Visigoths settled in this zone in the 7th Century.  
In the Visigoth age, we highlight the establishment of the Episcopate in Dénia which reported to the Diocese of Toledo.

## 8th - 13th Century

### ISLAMIC AGE

The Islamic Daniya.  
Importance of Dénia's Port, source of its major urban development: the Dénia Port was selected as the construction site of the new dockyards for the Caliph's naval fleet.  
11th Century: Muyaheed seizes control of the Dénia Port's Navy from the zone's troops and is proclaimed Emir.  
1086 A.D.: Dénia is converted into a Taifa Kingdom.

## 13th - 16th Century

### MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN AGE

1244: Christian conquest of Dénia by Pere Eiximen d'en Carròs (sent by King Jaime I the Conqueror)  
14th century: King Pedro III of Aragón appoints his cousin, Alfonso of Aragón as 1st Count of Dénia.  
15th century: Juan de Trastámara transfers the county of Dénia to a Castilian family: Sandoval y Rojas. In 1487, Diego Sandoval y Rojas is appointed as the 1st Marquis of Dénia

## 16th - 18th Century

### MODERN AGE

1580: Miguel de Cervantes disembarks in Dénia following his captivity in Algeria.  
1604: The N<sup>o</sup> Sra de Loreto or Augustine Barefoot Nuns Convent is founded.  
1609: Expulsion of the Moriscos (converted Muslim Christians).  
17th century: Dénia receives the title of city.  
18th century: Construction of the Church: Iglesia de La Asunción and remodelling of the Church: Iglesia de San Antonio.

## 19th Century

Economic splendour due to the Raisin Trade.  
Raisin exports to major European cities.  
Construction of the Dénia-Carcante Railway.  
Production of over 400,000 quintales (hundredweight) of raisins by the end of the century.

## 20th Century

Early 20th Century: Attack of the Grape Phylloxera pest on the grapevines of Dénia.  
Development of Agriculture, Industry and Toy Production  
Complete opening of the city's main street: Calle Marqués de Campos.  
60's Decade: Development of Tourism and the Fishing Industry.



# The Castle

## Its History

### ROMAN AGE

Structures dating back to the Roman Age have been identified in the eastern section of the castle (Galliner Tower).

### ISLAMIC AGE

The castle was divided into two concentric premises: The lower premise was called Al-bacar and was used as a pasture zone and stable for animals. The Alcazaba or “Arab Palace” was located in the upper premises. The Medina or “Arab City” was located in the external part of the castle (southern area).

### CHRISTIAN AGE

In 1304, King Jaime II obliged the inhabitants of Dénia to move inside the fortified city walls, which constituted the Vila Vella (Old Town), which endured as the city centre until the Spanish War of Succession (18th Century).

In between the 16th and 17th Centuries in the upper section of the current Governor’s Esplanade, a temporary residence was built for the 5th Marquis of Dénia, also Duke of Lerma and Royal Favourite of King Felipe III.

At present where the Palau (Palace) was subsequently located, we can observe the ruins of the Palau Vell or “Old Palace” (14th Century) which can be identified in the walls and in the 5 semicircular towers integrated in these walls, which are located next to the Archaeological Museum.

The ruins of the Palace of the Marquis of Dénia (16th Century) border the stone room, the gallery (both comprise the current Archaeological Museum) and the ruins of its “Imperial” flight of stairs characterized by its inverted “T-shape”.

The castle ceased to have a defensive-military function in the 19th Century when it was transferred to private ownership, who dedicated it to raisin cultivation (with terrace embankments in the Vila Vella area), which subsequently returned to public use in the 20th Century.

The castle has undergone serious damage during the successive wars whose marks have mingled their history in its walls, towers and rooms.



## The Castle

### ACCESSES

Avda. Cid.

Access stairways next to the Town Council (Ayuntamiento) of Dénia

**TIMETABLES.** Daily (except 25/12 and 1/01)  
Information about timetables and prices in Dénia Tourist Information Office:

[www.denia.net](http://www.denia.net).

Tel. 96 642 23 67 – 96 642 34 20.



### 1 City Gate. (12th C.)

Access Gate to the castle. It has a barrel vault ceiling and exterior pointed arches with Almohad style.

### 2 Red Tower. (16th C.)

Built in the local sandstone with a reddish colour.

### 3 Watch Tower

Originally an Arab tower but extensively remodelled in the 16th-17th Century. It was used to house the Guard Corps jointly with an underground room.

### 4 Council Tower. (15th C.)

It is undoubtedly the most relevant fortress wall perimeter of the Medieval town, which was used as the meeting point for the former Town Council. In its interior, note its Gothic room with groined vault ceiling.

### 5 Old Town. (14th C.)

An outdoor area with the ruins of Medieval houses that belonged to the city founded at the beginning of the 14th Century following orders by King Jaime II.

### 6 Bastion

Defensive Bastion (13th Century), which had the largest size and best defensive position of the entire castle; it controlled the entrance to the Old Town by its main gate.

### 7 Bastion Gate

Islamic origin. It connected the Al-bacar with the Islamic Alcazaba. It has 3 arches from 3 different Ages; we highlight its Arab Horseshoe Arch.

### 8 Governor's Palace

Archaeological Museum. Premises with 190 m2 (17th Century) which comprised part of the Palace complex of the Marquises of Dénia.

### 9 Stone Road. (14th C.)

Main street of the Old Town which connects to the upper premises of the Palace.

### 10 Diamond Point. (17th C.)

Defensive Bastion with a Renaissance style and an angular form.

### 11 Galliner Tower

Part of the base which appears to have been built with the local "tosca" sandstone in the Roman Age.

### 12 Mig Tower (11th C.)

It has a rectangular Islamic structure, which was rounded in subsequent Renaissance interventions. It has an interesting access gate in an elbow shape with an Almoravid style (12th Century).

### 13 King's Gate

This was one of the historical entrances to the old town (East access) which connected to the Port and raval del mar (Maritime neighbourhood).

### 14 Interpretation Centre.

## Archaeological Museum

Located in the Castle interior in the ruins of the Governor's Palace.

It displays the evolution of the city since its origins until the 18th Century. It is laid out in 4 rooms corresponding to the Iberian, Roman, Islamic and Christian Ages. We highlight the balsam jar which represents the god, Mercury (2nd Century B.C.), the collection of Islamic bronze statues or the Andalusian ceramic artefacts which were locally produced or imported.

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## Ethnological Museum



**C/ Cavallers.** Historical City Centre.

Located in a typical 19th Century Bourgeoisie house, it exhibits the evolution of the Raisin Trade in the 19th Century and its effects on the city's development. The main rooms are located on the first floor where you may observe the luxurious clothing and precious antiques. Decorated with Isabelline furniture from the reign of Queen Isabel II (1843-1868), the salon has a polychrome ceramic tile floor from Manises.

In the upper floor, we can explore the Raisin industry: the plantation, drying and blanching of the grapes, as well its maritime export to American and European markets.

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**NOTE:** Linked to the Raisin Trade, we can find buildings located in the historical city centre where the former Raisin Warehouses are located such as the "Almacén de Morand" in C/La Mar and the English Cooperative Wholesale Society in calle Cándida Carbonell on the corner of Plaza del Convento. The initials, C.W.S. are still conserved in the grilles of three of its windows.

## Toy Museum and "L'Estació" (The Station) Art Centre

**C/ Calderón.** Both are located in the former Dénia-Carcaixent Railway Station.

Ground Floor: "L'Estació" Art Centre with Temporary Exhibits. Please query exhibits.

First Floor: Toy Museum. It displays a fascinating sample of the toy production in Dénia since its origins (1904) until the 60's decade.

The earliest industry manufactured lithographed tin toys; then wooden toy factories were subsequently founded as well as metal toy factories which were the delight of children of that age; the sector reached a total of over 40 factories, a dense network of small workshops and diverse complementary industries which configured the Dénia map where the toy was

the engine of the majority of its economy. The traditional toys (sail boats, carriages, lorries trains, etc.) coexist with other novelties imported from the Disney Factory.

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# Places of Interest

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

### **Ruins of the city walls of Daniya-La Medina and El Forti.**

At the end of the Avenue: Paseo Saladar, in front of the Tourism Office, you may observe part of the Northeast wall of the Muslim Fortress (Forti) of Daniya, which has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.

It formed part of the Arab City Neighbourhood (arrabal de la medina). There is documentation about the existence of a tower with a rectangular base, from the Northeast angle of the premises, where large rammed earth walls join, with a deep foundation, bench and wall with a width of 1.85m.

The Arab City Neighbourhood known as "rabad amir" in Arab sources, has a trapezoidal layout. It occupied a 12 hectare space southeast of the Medina and was enclosed with a solid wall. It was connected to this wall by means of a bridge.



In one of the angles of the maritime façade, there was a now demolished tower: Torre d'En Carròs which signalled and controlled the Port space.

## RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

### **Church: Iglesia de La Asunción**

Plaza de la Constitución, next to the Town Council.

It is a very moderate Baroque style (18th Century), which underwent subsequent remodelling.

It was erected in the site where the ancient San Roque Sanctuary, Hospital and several houses were discovered. It suffered major damage during the Spanish War of Independence and the Civil War and was rebuilt in 1939.

It has a Latin Cross floor plan inscribed in a rectangle. In the exterior, we highlight the worship niche which is located above the Roser Chapel



doorway, which contains a modern image of Sant Roc (St. Roque). In the interior of Church, note the images of the Virgin Mary, a polychrome image of the Assumption -, and on both sides, St. Vicente Ferrer and St. Vicente Mártir, the two Patron Saints of Valencia.

**Timetable.** Within the liturgical activities schedule.

### **Church: Iglesia de San Antonio.**

Plaza del Convento. It corresponds to an architectural complex from by the Convento de San Antonio de Padua (Convent of St. Anthony of Padua) -a Franciscan Order Foundation in the 16th Century -, the church was built many years later (first half of the 17th Century) and the Square (17th Century). This complex suffered serious damage in the Spanish War of Succession, the War of Independence against the French and the Civil War.

It has a doorway with a Doric order, where we highlight the worship niche



which contains a modern image of St. Anthony of Padua. It has a floor plan with a Latin Cross shape, inscribed in a rectangle with a nave and 8 lateral chapels.

The vertical section is arranged with pilasters of a Doric order on pedestals. In its interior, we highlight its large enamelled cross with Biblical scenes which decorate the main altar.

Of the rest of the Convent premises attached to the Church, only the ruins of the cloister and façade remain. Timetable. Within the liturgical activities schedule.

### **The Convent and the Church: La Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Loreto o Iglesia de las Agustinas (Our Lady of Loreto) or the Augustine Nun Church.**

Calle Loreto. Historical City Centre. Only the church can be visited since the Convent is a foundation of cloistered Augustine nuns (1604).

It was inaugurated by initiative of the Nobleman Francisco Sandoval y Rojas - Marquis of Dénia, Duke of Lerma



and Favourite of King Felipe III- which was attended by the King of Spain, Felipe III.

The architectural complex is comprised by the Church, cloister and the south wing of the cloister. The exterior is austere and moderate. In the main altar, we find the altarpiece: "Santísima Sangre" (Holy Blood). The image of Virgen de los Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows), is a contemporary Wood image sculpted in melis (yellow pine) wood in early 1941.

**Timetable.** Within the liturgical activities schedule.

### CIVIL BUILDINGS

#### Town Council.

Plaza de la Constitución. Historical City Centre. Although its origin dates back to the 17th Century, we currently observe the result of a major refurbishment which took place in early 19th Century. We highlight the equilibrium of its façade made with the local "tosca" sandstone, with six solid semi-circular arches.

In its main façade and on the façade of the street: calle hospital, there are two Roman inscriptions originated from the Forum of Dianium, as well as the two pedestals from the same Age located in the access stairways to the C/Hospital.

#### Les Drassanes or Antiguas Atarazanas (The Old Dockyards).

Located in the Port in the Square: Plaza de les Drassanes. It is currently used for private purposes (hotel).

Their origin dates back to the 13th Century when King Jaime I donated the lands to the Templar Knight, Guillermo de Cardona, to build the installations required for the seafarer population. It was used for the construction of ships and underwent a major refurbishment in the 18th Century.

Building with a rectangular floor plan, with two-sloped Arab tile roof.

### LOCAL STREETS, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND NATIVE SETTINGS.

#### Street: Calle Marqués de Campo.

The city's main street as well as business and shopping centre of Dénia. It is named after the Marquis Jose Campo, an important celebrity of the 19th Century who carried out major improvements in the city.

Among its buildings, we highlight the one located in nº 17, the former "El Comercio" Hotel (presently a restaurant), built in 1888, with 3 floors. Note its façade decorated with ceramic tiles from Portugal with polychrome and geometric motifs. In the interior, we highlight the elegant stair case, the ironworks, the decorative elements of the floor and baseboard tiles, the central patio's skylight, and the indoor carpentry work.

Also worthy of attention is the building located in nº 7 of this street (on the corner with nº 11 of the street: calle Diana), built at the end of the 19th Century and remodelled in the 20th where we are amazed by the quality of its materials, balconies, handrails, etc.

#### The Cervantes Esplanade.

Noted for its typical Palm trees, it is located in front of the Maritime Façade of Dénia. It is named after the famous Spanish author, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, who disembarked in Dénia following his captivity in Algeria in 1580. The Bust of Cervantes was erected in homage to him at the end of the promenade. In this esplanade, we find Summer and Spring street market stands with handicrafts and artisans during the afternoon-evening (daily in Summer and on holidays and weekends in Spring). In front of the Cervantes Esplanade and semi-concealed by the vegetation, we find the Climate Monument represented by a woman in homage to the mild climate of, Dénia, whose yearly average temperature is around 20°C.



## Baix la Mar or Fishermen's Neighbourhood

This sailors' and fishermen's neighbourhood arose in the 16th century, where we highlight its narrow streets and low-level houses with Mediterranean colours. This neighbourhood has always been linked to the sea since it was surrounded with dock warehouses and maritime trade businesses until the 70's decade. The majority of its streets are pedestrian zones, note its small squares: "Sant Antoni" and "La Creu". The latter square is interesting because of the stone cross which gives its name to this square and the religious panels of the 18th Century.

In the route between both squares, there is a play-

mobile sculpture which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the shooting of the film, John Paul Jones, in Dénia. The maritime façade of the Baix la Mar neighbourhood is also a zone for strolls and terraces with views of the small local port: El Portet –at the end in the North Jetty, there is the Anchor Monument which renders homage to the fishing tradition of Dénia; it was discovered in its waters. A few meters away, there is the "Bous a la Mar" (Running of the Bulls into the Sea) Monument, a holiday which has been declared of national tourist interest which is celebrated in July.

## Places of Interest



### Les Roques Neighbourhood

This neighbourhood was built in the outskirts of the castle throughout the 19th and 20th Centuries. It is one of the city's oldest districts where part of the Medina was located in the Islamic Age. It does not have monumental buildings but we highlight the overall characteristics of its simple and popular Mediterranean architecture. We recommend a visit to the streets: C/ Hospital, San Francisco, San Cristóbal, Guante and Salto.

**Historical City Centre.** The area formed by the streets: Calles Cavallers, Loreto, Sant Josep, Major and adjacent streets are famous for their Noble Estate Houses, the majority built from the 19th Century until the early 20th Cen-

tury. The Arab Marina extends through Les Roques neighbourhood as well as this zone. Note the width of some of the doors of the old Noblemen's Houses, since in former times, the rear part of the houses are where the inhabitants entered with their carriages (Example: In the alley streets of San Pascual and San Antonio)

Calle Cavallers is one of the oldest "fora mur" or "extramuro" (outside the city wall) streets of the neighbourhood with well conserved Noble Estate Houses. The city's Ethnological Museum address is nº1. In the adjacent Calle Major, a plaque displays the birthplace home of the Dénia Historian, Roc Chabàs.

Calle Loreto is a pedestrian street where the Convent and the Church: Iglesia de Nª Sra. De Loreto are located as well as a great place for the local "tapas" (Spanish snacks).

### OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

#### Visit the local and street markets:

**Municipal Market.**

C/Magallanes, from Monday to Saturday mornings. External offer: Monday and Friday.

**The "Lonja" (Fish Market).**

Port of Dénia. Arrival of fishing boats in the afternoon, auction and subsequent sale.

**The weekly Street Market.**

Monday mornings in the Explanada Torrecremada.

**The Antique and 2nd Hand Objects Market (Rastro).**

Friday mornings in the Explanada Torrecremada.

**The Street Market in Spring and Summer.** Maritime façade (in front of Bellavista Str.) during the afternoons-nights of Spring (weekends) and Summer (daily).

**Enjoy Dénia's lovely beaches:** In LAS MARINAS, long sandy beaches: Punta del Raset, Les Marines, Les Bovetes, Els Molins, L'Almadrava (sand and boulders) and Les Deveses.

In LAS ROTAS: The sandy beach: La Marineteta Cassiana and the rocky coves: El Trampolí, la Punta Negra and Arenetes.

**Explore the paths in the Montgó Natural Park,** with over 650 plant species; you may discover diverse caves and even climb the summit at a height of 753 m. Besides Dénia, you will find other natural environments with conditioned trails.

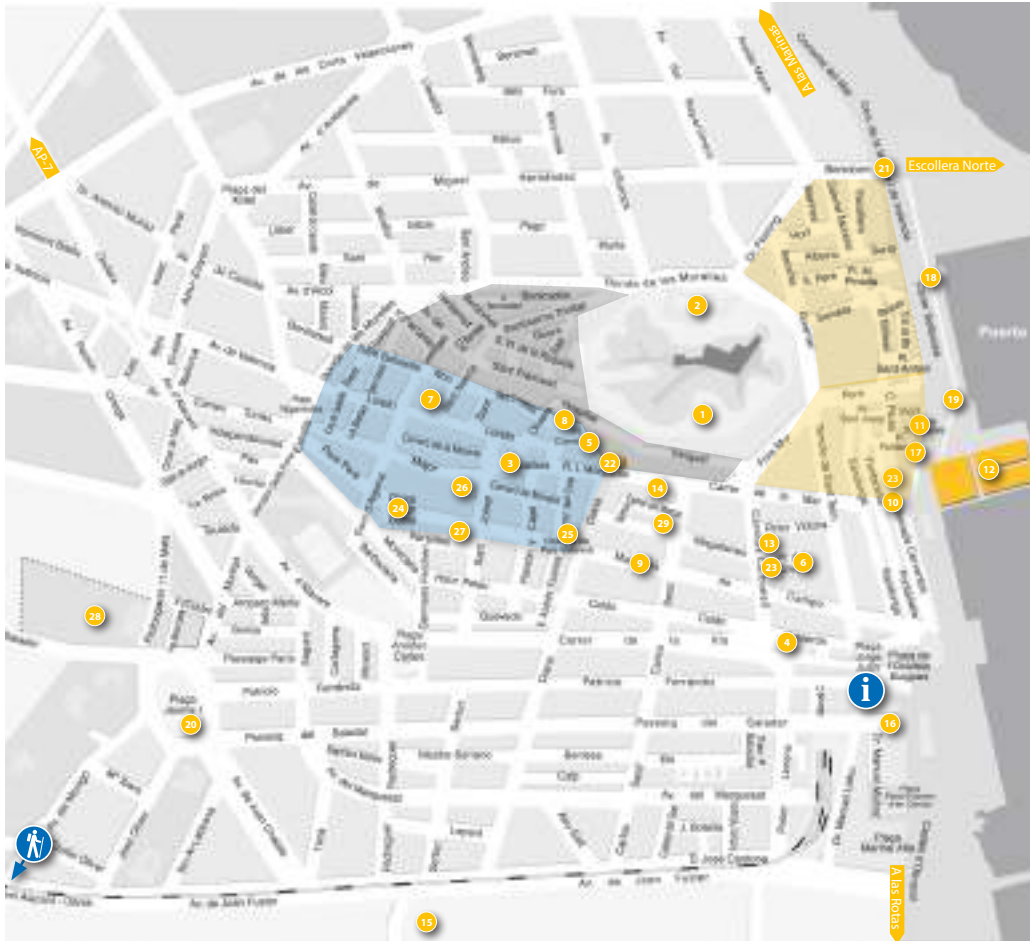
**Visit the Sanctuaries (Ermitas) of Dénia** scattered around the municipality and outside the Historical City centre. The Sanctuary: Ermita del Pare Pere, linked to the life of the religious frair usually remains open. The "Ermitas de Conquesta" (Conquest Sanctuaries) (14th-16th Centuries) include: Ermita de San Juan, Santa Paula and Santa Lúcia. They usually remain closed except on the Patron Saint's day, when the pilgrimage is celebrated as well as religious and recreational events.

**Visit the Yacht Ports.** The local Yacht Port: *El Portet* (North Jetty), the Nautical Club and *Marina de Dénia* (South Jetty).

**In addition:** Cultural activities, and festivities throughout the entire year, nautical and land sports, health spas and a gastronomy which will astonish you with typical dishes such as the seafood paella ("arroz a banda") the red shrimp of Dénia, sea urchins, dried octopus, etc.



**Additional information in the Dénia Tourist Information Office or by means of its web page: [www.denia.net](http://www.denia.net).**



## **i** Tourist Info Dénia

- 1 Castle
- 2 Archaeological Museum
- 3 Ethnological Museum
- 4 Toy Museum and L'Estació Art Centre
- 5 Iglesia de La Asunción (The Assumption Church)
- 6 Iglesia de San Antonio (St. Anthony Church)
- 7 Convento de Nuestra Sra. de Loreto (Our Lady of Loreto Convent)
- 8 Town Council
- 9 Calle Marqués de Campo (Main Street)
- 10 Cervantes Esplanade
- 11 Las Antiguas Atarazanas or Les Drassanes
- 12 La Lonja (The Fish Market)
- 13 Former "CWS" Raisin Warehouse
- 14 Almacén de Morand (Old Raisin Warehouse)
- 15 Interpretation Centre of Montgó Natural Park
- 16 Ruins of Islamic City Walls
- 17 Climate Monument
- 18 Anchor Monument
- 19 Bous a La Mar (Running of the Bulls into the Sea)
- 20 Monument to King Jaime I
- 21 Sun Monument of Dénia
- 22 Bust of Oculist Buigues
- 23 Bust of Miguel de Cervantes
- 24 Bust of Tenor Cortis
- 25 Bust of Juan Chabás
- 26 Roque Chabás Plaque (birthplace home)
- 27 Juan Chabás Plaque (birthplace home)
- 28 Torrecremada Esplanade  
(weekly Street Market and Antiques Market)
- 29 Municipal Market

- Baix la mar neighbourhood
- Les Roques neighbourhood
- Historical City Centre



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