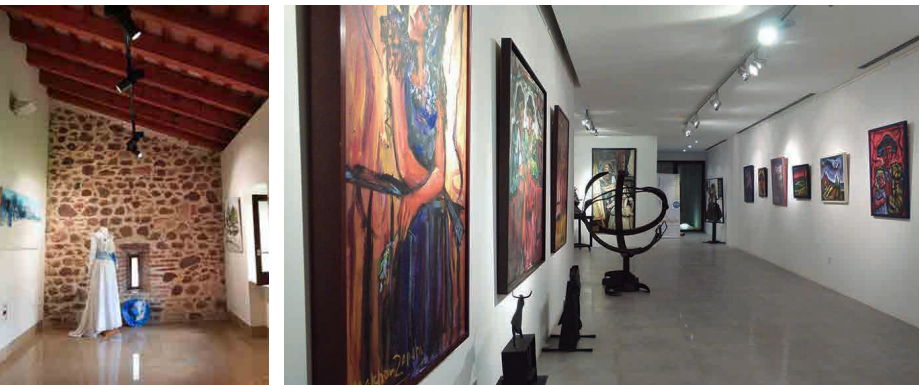




# Benicàssim

Visit our sites of cultural interest

Benicàssim lives and breathes culture. Enjoy getting to know our specialized museums, our art galleries, our theatre and auditorium, our foundations... Four you to know where culture lives.



EMERGENCY 112  
LOCAL COUNCIL 964 300 962  
LOCAL POLICE 964 303 500  
GUARDIA CIVIL 062  
BENICÀSSIM TOURIST INFO "CASA ABADÍA" (MAIN)  
Santo Tomás, 74 - 76. 12560 Benicàssim (Castellón).  
Tel.: (+34) 964 300 102 - 964 300 962 Fax: (+34) 964 300 139  
www.turismobenicassim.com

turismo@benicassim.org - benicasim@touristinfo.net  
TOUR AND KIDS, REGION OF VALENCIA PRODUCT CLUB FOR  
FAMILY HOLIDAYS www.tourandkids.com

## BENICÀSSIM AUDIO GUIDES

The council makes an audio guide service available to all visitors which can be downloaded from  
[www.turismobenicassim.com](http://www.turismobenicassim.com)  
The audio guide is available in 6 languages (Spanish, Valencian, English, French, German and Italian).

USEFUL  
INFORMATION



## SITES OF CULTURAL INTEREST

### CARMELITE MONASTERY

More information about the church and sacred museum:  
(+34) 964 300 950 / [www.desiertodelaspalmas.com](http://www.desiertodelaspalmas.com)

### INTERPRETATION CENTRE TORRE DE SANT VICENT

Address: Avenida Ferrandis Salvador, 1  
Tel: (+34) 964 300 102 / [turismo@benicassim.org](mailto:turismo@benicassim.org)  
Check schedules at: [www.turismobenicassim.com](http://www.turismobenicassim.com)

### BENICÀSSIM MUNICIPAL THEATRE FRANCESC TÀRREGA

Tel: (+34) 964 303 169 In business hours.  
Tel: (+34) 964 300 962 / [teatre@benicassim.org](mailto:teatre@benicassim.org)  
Address: Plaza de la Constitución, S/N  
Timetable: Doors are opened one hour before show starts.

## EXHIBITION ROOMS

### MELCHOR ZAPATA CULTURAL CENTRE

Address: C/ Santo Tomás, 9 12560 Benicàssim.  
Tel: (+34) 964 300 962 (Ext. 268 269)  
and (+34) 964 304 565  
Fax: 964 302 605 / [cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org)

### SALA ESCENA (MUNICIPAL THEATRE)

Address: C/ Bayer, 31.  
Tel: (+34) 964 303 169 and (+34) 964 300 962  
[cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org)

### SALA ABADÍA (TOURIST OFFICE)

Address: C/ Santo Tomás, 74-76  
Tel: (+34) 964 300 102 / [turismo@benicassim.org](mailto:turismo@benicassim.org)

### "PEPE FALOMIR ALMELA" AMPHITHEATER

Address: Paseo Marítimo Bernat Artola, s/n  
Tel: (+34) 964 300 962 (Ext. 268 269) and  
(+34) 964 304 565  
Fax: 964 302 605 / [cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org)

### ESPAI DE LA MÚSICA MESTRE VILA

Address: C/ Los Dolores, 132  
Contact: Tel: (+34) 964 300 624 (ext. 242)  
Public opening hours: From 4 pm to 9 pm.

### CASA DE LA CULTURA

Address: C/ Médico Segarra, 4  
Tel: (+34) 964 300 962 (Ext. 248 268 269)  
[cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org)  
Timetable: Mornings, 9:30 am to 2pm. Afternoons,  
4pm to 9pm. Saturdays, 10 am to 1pm.  
Activities: Municipal Centre for Adult Education (FPA)  
Benicàssim WIFI (wireless education) / Municipal  
school transport / Municipal Language School

## BEACH LIBRARIES

### Espai Cultural de la Mar Villa Ana

Address: Paseo Pilar Coloma, 35.  
Tel: (+34) 964 300 962 (ext. 268 269) [cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org)  
Check schedules at: [www.benicassimcultura.es](http://www.benicassimcultura.es)

### Biblioteca del Mar Heliópolis

Address: avenida Ferrandis Salvador (frente C/ Xert)  
Tel: (+34) 964 300 962 - 964 304 565 (ext. 268 269)  
[cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org)  
Check schedules at: [www.benicassimcultura.es](http://www.benicassimcultura.es)

TOURISM APP  
BENICÀSSIM



Play Store

INTERPRETATION CENTRE  
TORRE DE SANT VICENT



[www.turismobenicassim.com](http://www.turismobenicassim.com)

Printed on recycled paper.

Please use the paper recycling bins.



# history and culture



Benicàssim



# history and culture

## Enjoy our history and sites of cultural interest

Benicàssim began as a Moorish fiefdom dependent on Montornés Castle (11th century) and was made up of various farmsteads scattered about what is now Benicàssim. In 1242 it became the property of Pedro Sanz, personal scribe to King Jaime I, in payment for his services during the Spanish Reconquista.

## Route of the Villas, dreamlike architecture and magnificent gardens

Villa Pilar, the first of Benicàssim's villas, was built at the end of the nineteenth century, in 1879. Over time, with the construction of more and more villas, the wealthy classes of first Valencia and, later, Castellón, would transform the town into one of the first tourism destinations along the Spanish Mediterranean coast.



EDICIÓN 12/2020



# BENICÀSSIM HISTORICAL-ARTISTIC HERITAGE

Benicàssim boasts a wealth of historical and artistic heritage. It has the architectural grouping of the Town Hall buildings, St. Thomas’ Church, the Modernist houses in its old town, the Lord’s Fountain, the early twentieth-century villas and St. Vincent’s Tower. The blend of the old and the new, of tradition and modernity, and all bathed in the rays of the Mediterranean sun, is a delight for the senses.



### TORRE SAN VICENTE

Built in the 16th century and located to the far south of the Bernat Artola seafront promenade, it was once one of eighteen such look-out posts that guarded the coast of the entire Castellon province. In its past, this region has lived through troubled times with incessant pirate raids. In particular, Olla de Benicàssim cove was one of the preferred anchoring spots of pirates and Berbers, which is why St. Vincent’s Tower was built here, on the order of the courts of Monzón. The Torre de Sant Vicent Interpretation Centre currently has an interactive exhibition space dedicated to explaining the historical context in which the Sant Vincent and Sant Julià watchtowers were built, showing various aspects related to piracy and the Kingdom of Valencia coastal defence system between the 16th and 19th centuries.



### SANTO TOMÁS DE VILLANUEVA CHURCH

The parish church was built under the auspices of the valencian erudited Don Francisco Pérez Bayer. The neoclassical style of the period embodied the principles of architectural rationalism, which can be seen in the straight lines, balance, and lack of baroque ornamentation typical of other Valencian churches. Its columns and capitals are typical of the Enlightenment period, as is its architectural layout. Construction began in 1769 and ended towards the end of 1776. It was dedicated to St. Thomas of Villanueva in November 1781. Inside, besides its purely formal ornamentations, we find paintings by Camarón, a painter born in Segorbe. Its layout is rectangular with just one nave in the form of a Latin cross, but without any side chapels. The nave is divided into three sections, with transept, presbytery and alter end. At the foot of the church in the first section is the high choir, which shares access with the bell tower. Outside stands out its rectangular façade.



# CARMELITE MONASTERY

### OLD MONASTERY

The old Desierto de las Palmas monastery is located on a flat bit of land between two ravines, some 500 metres from where the current monastery stands today. It was built between 1697 and 1733. In 1783 a series of torrential rains and landslides severely compromised the structure of the building. The Discalced Carmelite monks were forced to abandon it in search of a more secure site. Today, while visiting its ruins, the visitor can enjoy one of the most charming and evocative sites in the entire Desierto de las Palmas natural park. Against the backdrop of the Mediterranean sea, these reminders of times gone by reveal a serene beauty that evokes the simplicity and sanctity that was lived there for the best part of a century.



### NEW MONASTERY

After the old rooms were abandoned, work began on the new monastery at its current site between 1784 and 1791. The sober and elegant structure of the monastery was determined by the Order of the Carmelite Monks and St. Teresa of Jesus; the different rooms are arranged around the church, found at the physical centre and heart of the architectural ensemble. Positioned around the temple are the rooms and common areas, including both the Religious Community and the Spirituality Centre. Surrounded by orange tree orchards and gardens, and backing onto Mount Bartolo, it is

set in extraordinary natural surroundings and looks out over the valley that descends into Benicàssim town. This monastery offers a wonderful vantage point far removed from the hustle and bustle of the town below. Among the religious figures who lived there is Brother Antonio de Jesús María, a Carmelite monk who, among other things, is remembered for his study of aromatic herbs, which led to his distilling and selling the well-known Carmelite Liqueur.



# CARMELITE MONKS MUSEUM AND WINE CELLARS

### SACRED ART MUSEUM

Perhaps the characteristic that most defines the Desierto de las Palmas natural park is the enormous effort made to conserve and raise awareness of its rich natural and cultural heritage. It can be seen in countless initiatives, including this museum. In 1971, two rooms were opened by way of forerunner of what the museum would eventually become, in which the most important works of the convent were put on display. The museum was so well-received by the public that the monks decided to extend the project, bringing together pieces of special artistic value at the time housed in various different convents of the Order. The Province of Discalced Carmelite Monks of Aragon and Valencia retains ownership, together with these convents, of the works on display. In recent years, the incorporation of new works into the collection has increased exponentially, as too have the efforts to restore the pieces that need it. Today the museum houses a truly unique collection, both in quantity and quality. The works on display hail from places far removed in both time and space. There are ceramics, paintings, sculptures, metalwork, etc. from various regions of Spain, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, etc. Of special interest is the eighteenth-century ceramic altarpiece inscribed with the Carmelite Prayer, which is possibly one of the largest pieces to have come out of the Count of Aranda’s Royal Factory in L’Alcora.



### CARMELITE WINE CELLAR MUSEUM

A distillery and wine cellar where the typical Carmelite Muscatel liqueur and wine are still made today using traditional methods, as well as a large variety of other liqueurs and table wines. The visit begins in the “Bottle Museum”, where all the different bottles that have been used over the ages are on display. This is followed by a collection of the old utensils and machinery used by the Carmelite monks to make the liqueur.



### MONTORNÉS CASTLE

Former Muslim defensive system built in the 11th century. This fort was conquered by The Cid in 1094, but later recovered by the Muslims to be definitively incorporated to Christianity by Jaime I in 1233. At the moment it is possible to contemplate its ruins integrated in the Desert de les Palmes Natural Park.