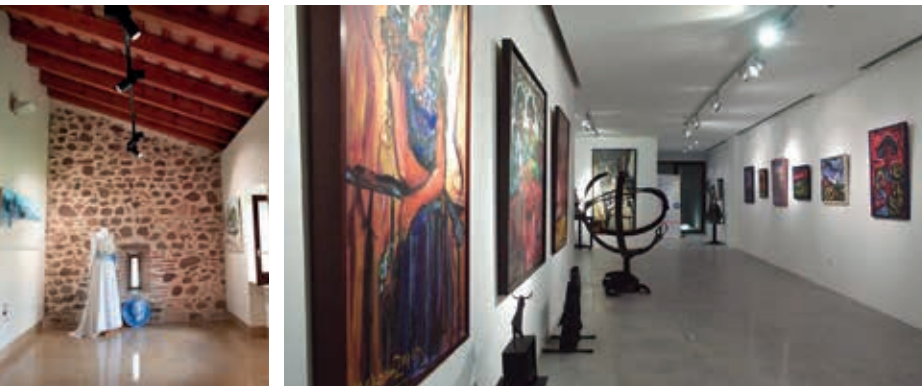




# Benicàssim

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...For you to know where culture lives.



## USEFUL INFORMATION

### TOURIST INFO BENICÀSSIM CASA ABADÍA

(CENTRAL)

C/ Santo Tomás 74-76 12560 Benicàssim (Castellón)  
Tel. 964 300 102 [www.turismo.benicassim.es](http://www.turismo.benicassim.es)  
[turismo@benicassim.org](mailto:turismo@benicassim.org)



### TOURIST INFO BENICÀSSIM TORRE DE SANT VICENT (HIGH SEASON)

Paseo Marítimo Bernat Artola s/n

### TOURIST INFO BENICÀSSIM HELIÓPOLIS (HIGH SEASON)

Av. Ferrandis Salvador s/n

### GUIDED TOUR OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Fun is just a step away! Discover Benicàssim on one of our amazing range of tours, delving into the town's culture, rich landscapes and most emblematic places. Enjoy this unique experience led by top experts.

#### Benicàssim kids

Join the group of young pirates seeking out hidden treasure in Sant Vicent Tower, or become a detective who solves a mysterious case in Parc del Trenet.

Tickets can be bought at Tourist Offices and online at [www.turismo.benicassim.es](http://www.turismo.benicassim.es). Payment only available by bank card.

### BENICÀSSIM AUDIO GUIDES

Benicàssim local council provides an audio guide service available in different languages that can be downloaded from the Benicàssim Tourism website [www.turismo.benicassim.es](http://www.turismo.benicassim.es) or the APP Turismo Benicàssim.

EMERGENCY 112 · LOCAL COUNCIL 964 300 962 · LOCAL POLICE 964 303 500 · CIVIL GUARD 062

## SITES OF CULTURAL INTEREST

### CENTRE D'INTERPRETACIÓ TORRE DE SANT VICENT

Av. Ferrandis Salvador, 1  
Tel. 964 766 814 - [www.turismo.benicassim.es](http://www.turismo.benicassim.es)

### PALACETE MUNICIPAL VILLA ELISA

P.M. Pilar Coloma, 6  
[www.turismo.benicassim.es](http://www.turismo.benicassim.es)

### TEATRE MUNICIPAL FRANCESC TÁRREGA

Pl. de la Constitució s/n  
Tel. 964 303 169 // 964 300 962  
[teatre@benicassim.org](mailto:teatre@benicassim.org) - [www.benicassimcultura.es](http://www.benicassimcultura.es)

### CARMELITANO BODEGAS Y DESTILERÍAS

Calle Bodolz, 12  
Tel. 964 30 08 49 [www.carmelitano.com](http://www.carmelitano.com)

### MONASTERIO DESIERTO DE LAS PALMAS

Iglesia / Museo de Arte Sacro CV 147, km 9  
Tel. 964 300 950 // [www.desiertodelaspalmas.com](http://www.desiertodelaspalmas.com)

### EXHIBITION ROOMS

### SALA ESCENA (TEATRO MUNICIPAL)

C/ Bayer, 29  
Tel. 964 303 169 // 964 300 962  
[cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org) - [www.benicassimcultura.es](http://www.benicassimcultura.es)

### SALA ABADÍA (OFICINA DE TURISMO CASA ABADÍA)

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

### ANFITEATRO PEPE FALOMIR ALMELA

P.M. Bernat Artola s/n  
Tel. 964 300 962 [cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org)

### ESPAI DE LA MÚSICA MESTRE VILA

C/ Los Dolores, 132  
Tel. 964 305 823

### CASA DE LA CULTURA

C/ Metge Segarra, 4  
Tel. 964 300 962 Ext. 248/268  
[cultura@benicassim.org](mailto:cultura@benicassim.org) - [www.benicassimcultura.es](http://www.benicassimcultura.es)

### SEA LIBRARIES

### ESPAI CULTURAL DE LA MAR VILLA ANA

P.M. Pilar Coloma, 35

### BIBLIOTECA DEL MAR HELIÓPOLIS

Av. Ferrandis Salvador (C/ Xert)  
Tel. 964 300 962 Ext. 248/268  
[www.benicassimcultura.es](http://www.benicassimcultura.es)

TOURISM APP  
BENICÀSSIM



CENTRE D'INTERPRETACIÓ  
TORRE DE SANT VICENT



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# 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, Castellon, would transform the town into one of the first tourism destinations along the Spanish Mediterranean coast.



EDICIÓ 11/2022

# 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.



## THE TOWER OF SANT VICENT

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 Vicent 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.

## 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.

## 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.

