

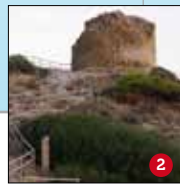


Cultural Sights



'TOSSAL DE LA CALA' IBERIC REMAINS

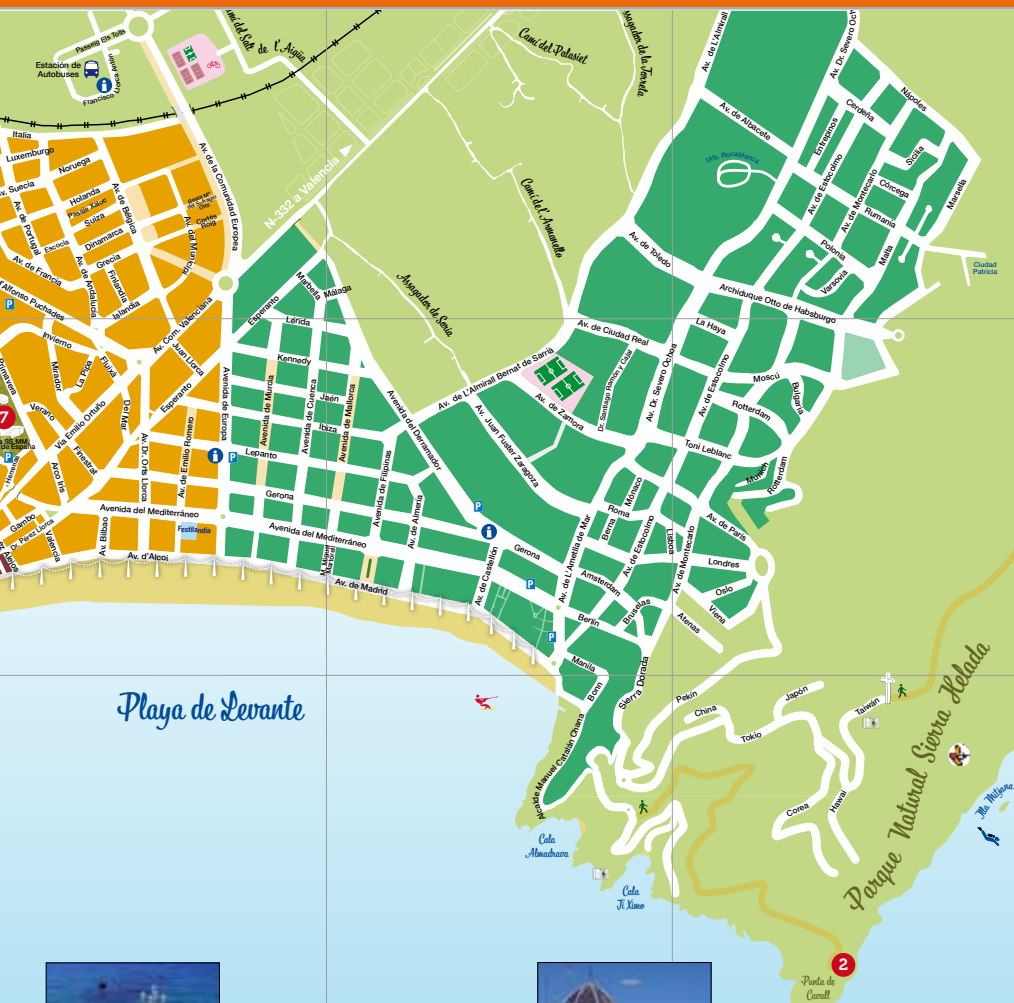
At the very end of Poniente Beach, you can find the Iberian settlement of El Tossal de La Cala. The hill at the end of Benidorm bay was settled in the late Iberian period (3rd to 1st Century B.C.). You can get to the restored area by going to the end of Poniente beach and following the signs from the Cala junction. You can also find a little hermitage devoted to 'La Virgen del Mar' with wonderful views over the beaches, town and inland mountains.



'CAVALL' PEAK & 'MORALES' TOWER



Other remains from bygone times that have been declared as Cultural Assets are the 16th century watchtowers 'Punta del Cavall' (or Seguró), and 'Morales' (or Escaletes) used by sentries who scanned the horizon to give early warning of the frequent pirate raids. You can find the first one in the Sierra Helada mountains and the second one on the roadside of N-332 road, next to 'La Cala' area.



THE CASTLE VIEWPOINT

On top of the rock separating the two beaches was the fortress built to defend the people from the algerian pirates raids during the centuries XIV, XV and XVI. Afterwards the castle was abandoned and nowadays you can only see rests of the walls on the rocks of the viewpoint, also known as 'The Balcony of the Mediterranean'.



'SAN JAIME' CHURCH

Church of 'Saint James' dedicated to the patron saint of the town, is set at the very top of the Old Town on a hill called Canfali. It is a Neoclassical building, built in the 18th Century with the typical blue Mediterranean dome. Inside you'll find a statue of the Virgen del Sufragio, the well-loved patron saint of Benidorm. The Virgin has her own small chapel containing the little wood sculpture which, as the story goes, was found on a boat adrift on the high seas.



L'AIGUERA PARK

Designed by the architect Ricardo Bofill, is a long green park in neoclassical style, separating the old quarter from the newer buildings. The two amphitheatres are used

for shows and cultural events mainly on summer. The park ends at the Bullring and a fairground site where attractions are set up for the many 'fiestas'.



BENIDORM TOWN HALL

At the entrance to the Parque de L'Aigüera a very different monument greets visitors: The new Town Hall, colloquially known as the 'floorscraper'. The unique

structure has aroused the interest of many architects and a lot of people come to visit it. The building is like a bridge which acts as a doorway to the green zone 'L'Aigüera' park. It juts out over the road and you can walk underneath it. This 'horizontal skyscraper' is supported by four pillars. The glass façade is covered with thick slats with the names and surnames of the over 60,000 inhabitants of Benidorm on the year when its construction was finished.



PONIENTE BEACH PROMENADE

Work of architects Carlos Ferrater and Xavier Martí Galí, represents a radical innovation to traditional promenades. Its design

recreates shapes of cliffs and waves, projected to generate areas of light and shadow, convexities and concavities with platforms at different levels creating different surfaces that can be used as recreational, leisure and meditation areas.



DISCOVERING THE OLD TOWN

From the late 19th century, Benidorm has only kept its layout, but it is worth wandering through its narrow streets. The "Paseo de la Carretera" delimits the Old Town. A good way to discover the Old Benidorm, would be starting the walk at the beginning of Levante Beach, from "Plaza del Torrejón" (Tower Square), next to the Tourist Info Office, and walk up through "Carrer dels Gats" (Cats street), a narrow street with steps and designs on the floor, made out of cobbles, crowned by small archways holding pots with colourful blooms. On top of this alley we come to the 18th century Neoclassical Church of "San Jaime". At the left, the "Plaza de San Jaime" has a viewpoint over the Levante beach. An archway leads you to "Plaza Castelar", and "Plaza del Castell", where the Castle used to be, and where nowadays you will find the Castle Viewpoint, one of the most typical sights of the Mediterranean. Some cannons recall the events that took place during the war of independence against Napoleon's army. In 1812, the French Army started the proceedings to get the title of "City of the Emperor" for Benidorm, but the British fleet bombed the Tower of Piera ("Castle"), and took the French away. Following the balustrade, you will find, "La Señoría" square, where Benidorm pay tribute to seamen died in the sea. Finally, next to the stairs that lead to the "Paseo de Colón", you will find the "Condestable Zaragoza" street, a local hero in the war of Cuba.



MARITIME CULTURAL CENTER

Entrance is free to this small house containing an exhibition of model ships and other nautical exhibits, such as fishing boats, anchors and

knots to remember the great maritime ventures of the Benidorm seamen done in the past.