

**Description:** A stroll around the streets of the old town of Blanes. It is best to follow this route on foot, since some of the streets are pedestrian areas. The route goes along the Passeig de Dintre, the streets Carrer Ample, Carrer Nou and Carrer Raval, and the squares Plaça de la Verge Maria and Plaça dels Dies Feiners.

*The route is flat except for Carrer Nou, which leads up to the parish church.*

Some points of interest along the route:

**23. Daily fruit and vegetable market, known simply as 'la plaça'**, with all the seasonal varieties of the market gardens of Blanes and its area.

**24. Font de la Mina Cristal·lina ('Fountain of the crystal mine')**, a public fountain built in 1854 and recently restored.

**25. Tordera House:** a Modernist-style house situated at nº 26 of the street, built in 1908 by a family of indianos (emigrants who made their fortune in the Caribbean colonies in the late 19th C.)

**26. Casa de la Vila (Town Hall)**, built in the late 16th C. Its present-day appearance derives from a renovation carried out by the architect Martí Sureda from 1866 onwards.

**Carrer Ample:**

**27. Houses of several of the town's eminent families:** Ruyra House (nº 10), Oms House (nº 7), Miralbell House (nº 9), Balliu House (nº 11). The new Municipal Exhibition Hall occupies the ground floor of the Oms House.

**28. Images of Saint Bonós and Saint Maximia**, the co-patron saints of the town. The arcade supporting the images is from the 15th C., and is an example of the porches that this street had in the past. This point is popularly known as 'les Voltes', 'the arches'.

**29. Gothic fountain**, built during the 15th C. by request of the Viscountess of Cabrera and the town's tanners' guild. It is an exceptional example of Gothic civil architecture, with an octagonal plan, gargoyles and the coat of arms of the feudal lords at the top.(\*)

**30. Orench House.** This house, at nº 34, dates from 1926 and is representative of the constructions of the architect Francesc Folguera.

**Carrer Nou:**

**31. Group of medieval houses.** Especially notable is nº 12, with a rounded-arch doorway with wedge stones and a keel-arched Gothic window with small arches.

**32. Ensemble formed by the parish church and the old Palace of the Viscounts of Cabrera.** The church is an example of 14th-century Gothic. The façade and the belltower remain from this period: the rest was reconstructed after the Civil War. Of the Viscounts' Palace, -which was built from the 15th C.- onwards adjoining the church, the outer walls remain.(\*)

**From the Plaça de la Verge Maria to the Plaça dels Dies Feiners:**

**33. Plaça de la Verge Maria.** Until a few years ago, this square held the fish market. You can still see the porches and stalls in one of the houses. You can also see the Mont or Verge Maria gateway, one of the entrances to the old walled town of Blanes.

**34. In Carrer de la Verge Maria there are the stalls of the present-day fish market**, which is still known as 'el Portal' in memory of its original location.

**35. Plaça dels Dies Feiners ('Workday Square').** In medieval times this was the marketplace. It is interesting to study the old façade of the Town Hall, which has a large rounded-arch doorway with wedge stones, crowned by an old municipal coat of arms and decorated with contemporary sgraffito work.

**Other possibilities:**

• You can visit the Antiga chapel, situated in Carrer de l'Antiga, possibly the oldest church in Blanes.

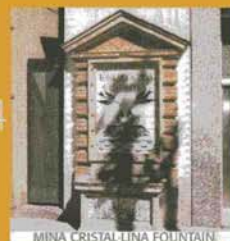
• Further up Carrer de l'Antiga is the Hospital de Sant Jaume, built in 1913.

• From here you can take Carrer Anselm Clavé to visit the Cemetery. Its oldest part is notable for the hemispherical domes of the church, painted in oriental style, and also the alley opposite, with several pantheons of architectural interest.

• One final option is the visit to the Sanctuary of Nostra Senyora del Vilar. This sanctuary, situated in the middle of the wooded area of the municipal district, has a magnificent doorway and an equally spectacular porch, both constructed after the Civil War on the lines of the original church. The figure of the Virgin is a 13th-C. woodcarving, although local tradition says that it was discovered in the year 1012. The easiest way to get here is by car. Take the GE-600 road towards Tordera, and at the halfway point you will see a signpost to the sanctuary to your right.



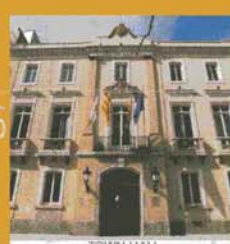
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET



MINA CRISTAL·LINA FOUNTAIN



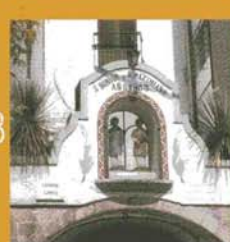
TORDERA HOUSE



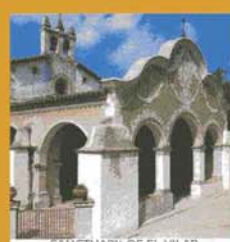
TOWN HALL



STATELY HOMES



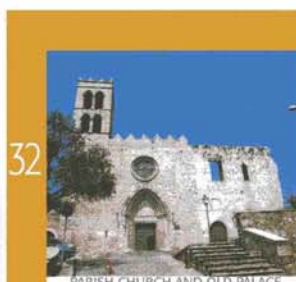
IMAGES OF SAINT BONÓS AND SAINT MAXIMIA



SANCTUARY OF EL VILAR



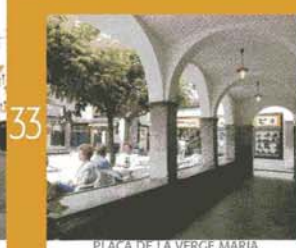
L'ANTIGA CHAPEL



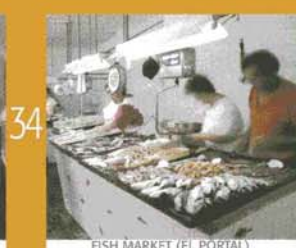
PARISH CHURCH AND OLD PALACE



CASA ORENCH



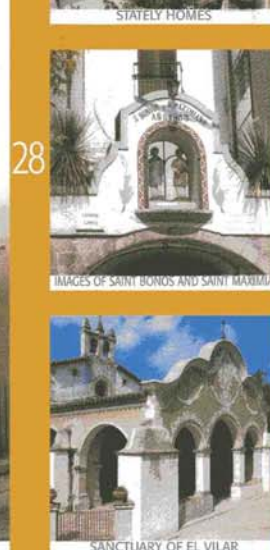
PLAÇA DE LA VERGE MARIA



FISH MARKET (EL PORTAL)



GOTHIC FOUNTAIN



SANCTUARY OF EL VILAR

23

24

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