



1. PARISH CHURCH OF JESUSET DE L'HORT

TOURIST ROUTE THROUGH SOUTHERN VILLAGES - EL PALMAR



GENERAL MAP OF THE ROUTE



LOCATION OF THE TOURIST ATTRACTION



HISTORY

In a historically much larger Albufera than today, El Palmar was an island that, since ancient times, housed more or less permanent accommodation for fishermen who supplied fish to the city of Valencia. In fact, in Jaume I's *Llibre del Repartiment*, a farmhouse in l'Alcúdia, located on the island of El Palmar, was donated, and the monarch established favorable conditions for fishing in the lake.

This fishing, besides being for the consumption of Valencians, was also destined for export to Castile or Aragon, as described by the historian Escolano in 1611 (*Second part of the First Decade of the History of Valencia*). The scholar highlighted that one of the most prized species for consumption was eel, and estimated that around a thousand fishermen worked at that time on the lake, temporarily housed in a group of barracks on the island of El Palmar **(photo 8)**.

Even at that time, the lake level was regulated *"by a marvelous and delicate device of wooden gates, with such a design that those who work can easily release or receive the amount of water they want, according to the necessity and benefit,"* in a regulation that historically has always pitted farmers (especially rice growers, who gradually reduced the lake area to gain farmland) against fishermen (interested in maintaining water levels and fish). This conflict, noted by Cavanilles in 1797, was masterfully described by Vicente Blasco Ibáñez in his well-known novel *"Cañas y barro"* (1902), popularized in 1976 through a television series.

According to the *Geographical-Statistical-Historical Dictionary* by Pascual Madoz (1845), fishing families alternated their residence between Russafa (local tradition also mentions Catarroja and Silla) and seasonal stays in El Palmar, where they lived in barracks: *"According to tradition, the name El Palmar derives from a palm tree that existed at that point when the first huts were built; there are no proper neighbors there; its houses and barracks belong to 109 fishermen by profession [...] but when, due to storms or the flooding of the Albufera lake, El Palmar becomes an island or for any other reason they cannot work, they abandon that settlement and retreat to Russafa or their orchards where they are neighbors, and where they have their wives and families."* This fact is supported by an old popular song:

"The life of the fisherman
also has its song:
on Saturday towards home
and on Monday towards El Palmar."

During that time, Madoz recorded the existence of *"a church dedicated to the Child Jesus, served by a priest who is chosen and paid by the royal patrimony solely to celebrate Mass, as it is responsible for that territory."* This first church, or rather chapel, must have been built before 1761, as it appears on the topographical map of Albufera by Juan Bautista Romero.

The current church dates back to 1895 and is located in Sequiota Square, in the center of the town **(photos 1, 2, and 3)**. It features a bell gable and a clock, and its dedication (Child Jesus of the Orchard, *Jesuset de l'Hort* in Valencian) comes from an image that existed in the Convent of la Corona. José Cots founded a brotherhood named after it in El Palmar. Its image presides over a tiled altarpiece inside the church, where there is also a notable image of the Virgin of the Helpless **(photos 4 and 5)**. The church was under the parish of Pinedo until 1942, when it became an independent parish.

The patron saint festivals of El Palmar include primarily those dedicated to Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, patron saint of students, celebrated as the youth festivals at the end of July; those of the Immaculate Conception, also in July; and those of Christ of Health, at the beginning of August, notable for their procession with Latin sailboats across the Albufera on August 4th and a procession through the town streets on August 6th **(photos 6 and 7)**.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: Square of the Sequiota, 14.

Telephone number: 96 162 01 57

ACCESIBILITY

Parking: There are several disabled parking spaces (PMR) throughout the urban area, with the nearest one located at 10 Redolins Street.





PHOTOS 1 and 2. Sequiota Square with the Church of Jesuet de l'Hort

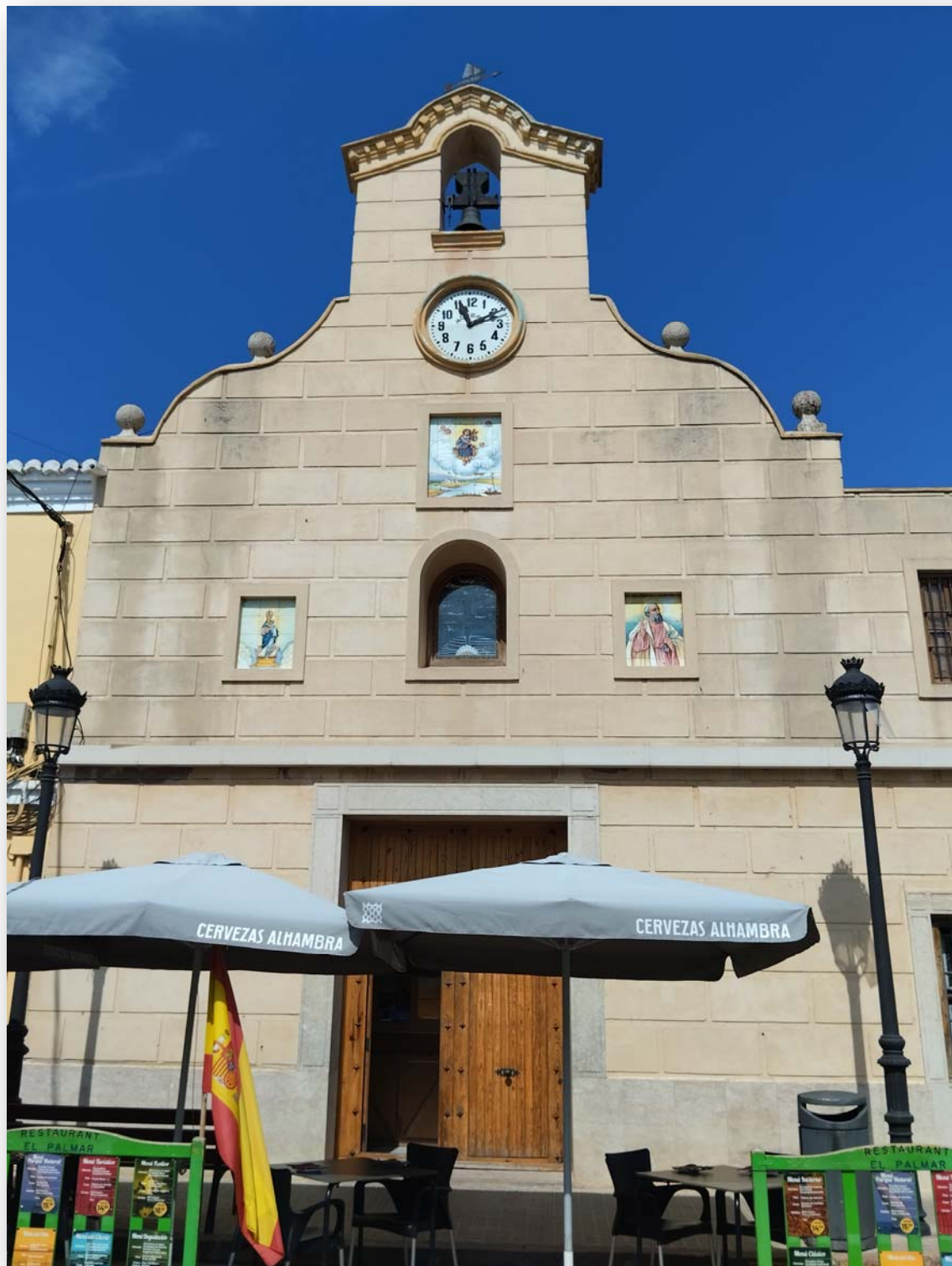
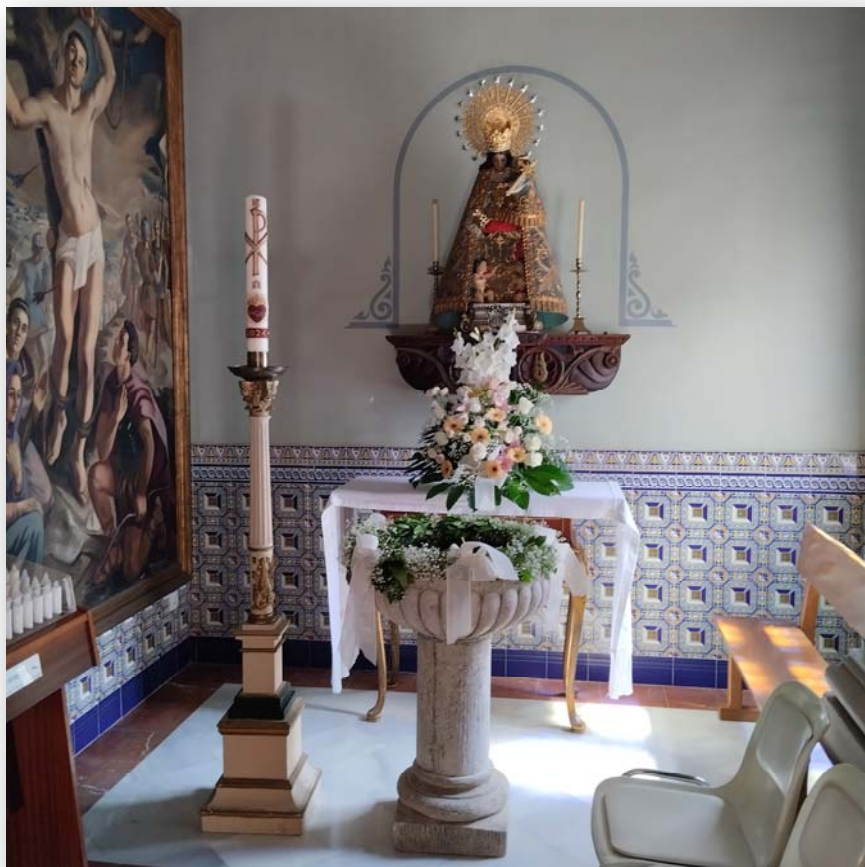


PHOTO 3. The facade of the Church of Jesuet de l'Hort



PHOTOS 4 and 5. Interior of the Church of Jesuet de l'Hort





PHOTOS 6 and 7. Crist de la Salut (Christ of Health) festivities in 2018 (photos: Valencia Fiesta y Tradición, <https://valenciafiestaytradicion.com/>)



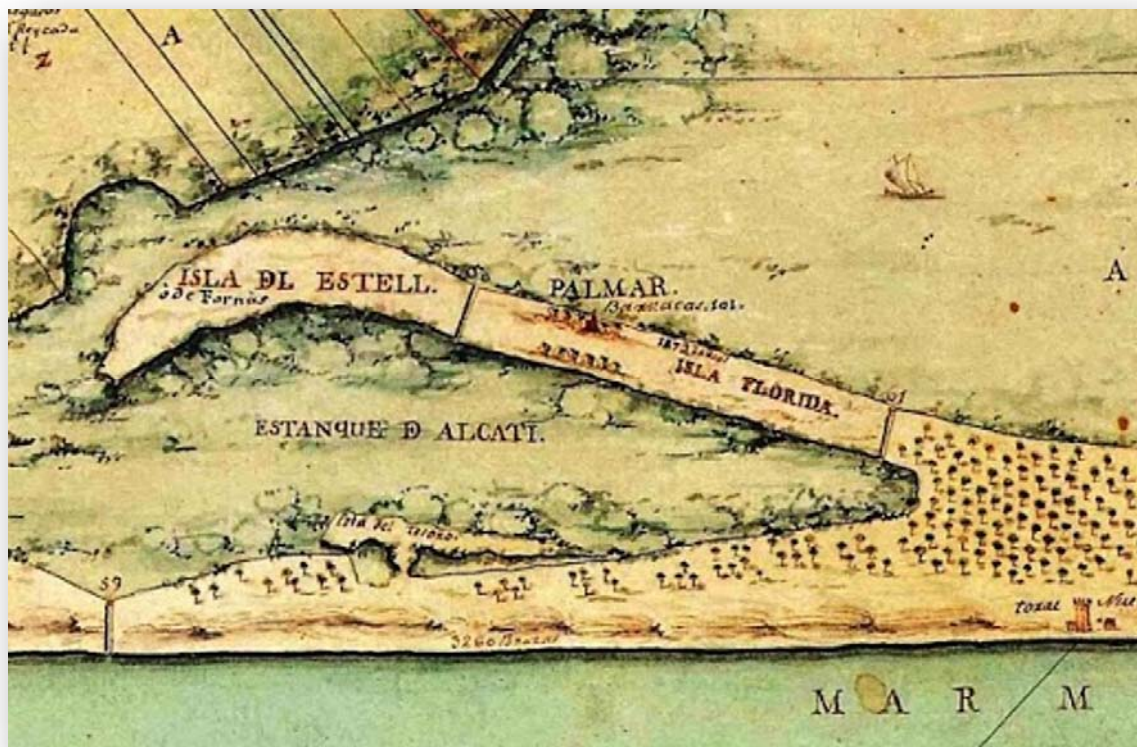


PHOTO 8. El Palmar in the topographical map of Albufera de Valencia by Juan Bautista Romero