



The city was founded in the mid 13th century when King *James I* granted royal permission for the settlement perched on the top of La Magdalena Hill to move down to the plains. This move, which local tradition dates as taking place on the third Sunday of Lent in 1252, gave rise to the founding of *Castellón de la Plana*, an event which is commemorated each year during *La Magdalena Festival*.

#### LLEDÓ BASILICA

This temple stands on the site where the holy image was uncovered by a ploughman at the base of a honeyberry tree in 1366. Particularly worthy of note is the entrance to this Neo-Classic temple, with a façade dating back to 1572 and featuring a semi-circular arch, topped by a graceful niche housing an image of the Virgin Mary carved by Manuel Rodríguez in 1970.



#### ETHNOLOGY MUSEUM

A traditional period stately home with a plain, ornament-free rectangular façade and a large lintelled door, home to the municipal collection made up of more than 2,500 objects, including a superb range of early 20th century toys.



#### HUERTO SOGUEROS (Sculpture)

'Les Cordeliers', which stands in this centrally-located square, is a bronze and fibreglass sculpture-fountain that pays tribute to the figure of the knife sharpener. It is 14 metres high and 16 metres in diameter and is the work of the Castellón-born artist Juan Ripollés.



#### EACC

The *Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castelló* opened in 1999 and since then has provided a space for dissemination and debate of the latest artistic trends and styles.



#### PLAZA SANTA CLARA

This small outdoor square was once the site of the local market. In the centre stands the Foundational Monument, a large stone that represents the founding of the town by King James I of Aragón.



#### MUSEU DE BELLES ARTS

Opened in 2001, the new building housing the *Museu de Belles Arts de Castelló* has received various architecture prizes.



#### RIBALTA PARK

In 1868 the Town Council decided to construct a promenade named after the artist Ribalta. Over the years it was gradually extended and transformed into the park as we know it today.

#### AUDITORI I PALAU DE CONGRESSOS AND RAFALAFENA PARK

The *Auditori i Palau de Congressos de Castelló*, with its characteristic design of asymmetrical volumes, has placed Castellón firmly on the map as a venue for conventions and congresses. Space and light are the focal points for this project, together with the park that surrounds the centre. This is one of the city's principal green lungs.



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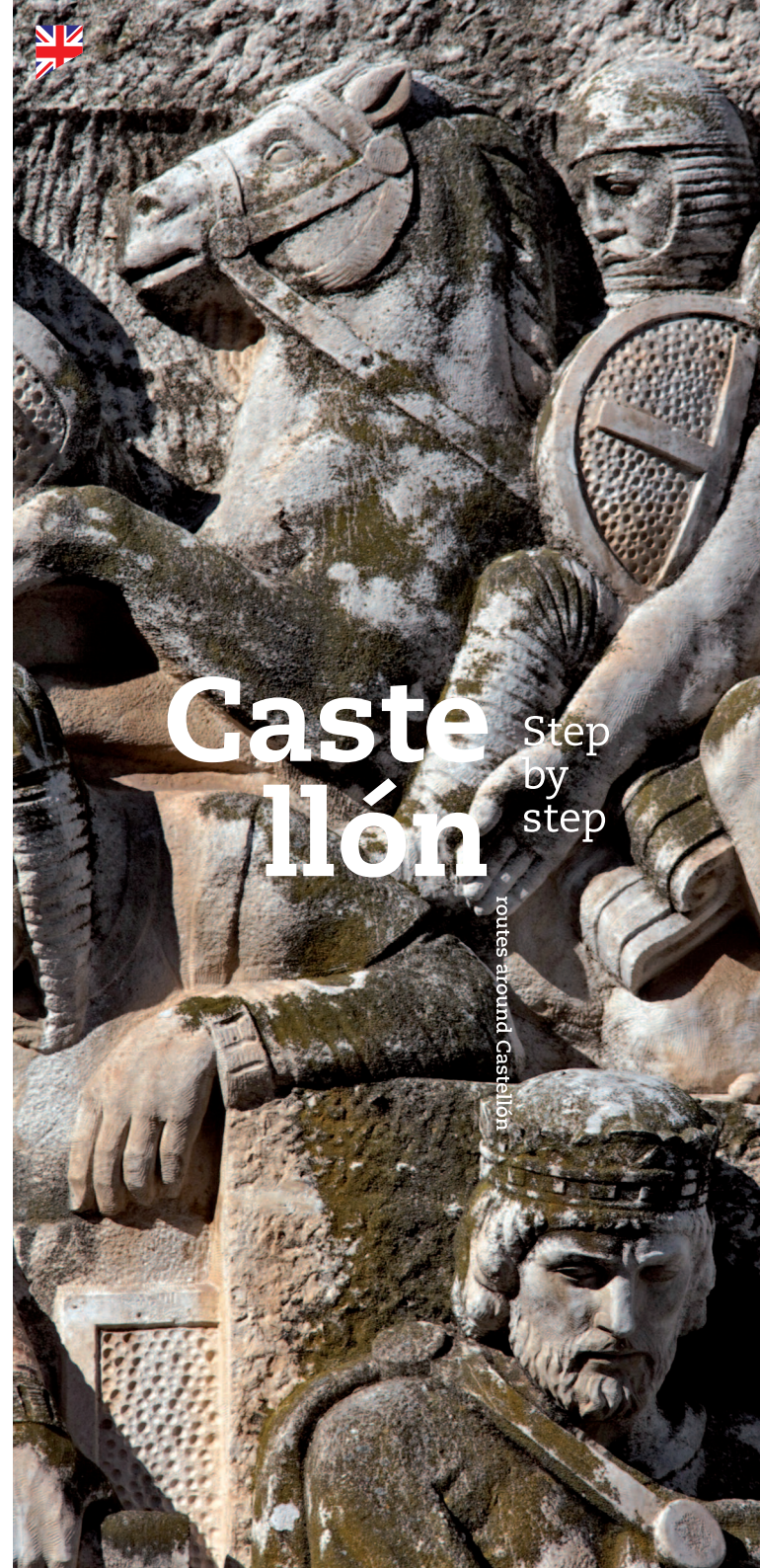
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# Castellón

Step by step

routes around Castellón







## Castellón step by step

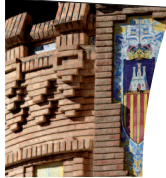
### LA FAROLA

The city bears only a fleeting testament to Modernism. However, the 1929 monument known as La Farola - or streetlamp - built in 1929, is one of its best-known landmarks. It is surrounded by several eye-catching historicist Modernist buildings.



### THE POST OFFICE

The Post Office is an administrative building built in the Modernist style in 1932 and is the work of architects Demetrio Ribés Marco and Joaquín Dicenta Vilaplana. The project programme is divided into three floors and has rounded corners, generating a solid and imposing effect.



### CASINO ANTIGUO

This building is situated in one of the city's prime locations. The society was founded in 1814 under the name Casino de Castellón and originally occupied a mansion on Calle Caballeros. In 1876 it changed its name to Casino Antiguo and moved to its current location. The former headquarters were completely remodelled in 1922, giving the building its current appearance.



### PRINCIPAL THEATRE

Opened in 1894, the construction of the Principal Theatre, with its Neo-Classical exterior, was part of a series of projects aimed at renewing the city of Castellón in the late 19th century. Today, following extensive restoration work in its structures, the theatre has recovered its original Italian-style appearance. The magnificent ceiling paintings and the stage entrance, as well as the magnificent drop curtain, combine to make this one of the city's most eye-catching buildings.



### CITY HALL

Work on this building began in the late 17th century and was completed in the early 18th century. This is a fine three-storey building, featuring a classical Italian style. It boasts a superb Tuscan-style façade, the lower section of which includes a seven arch arcade. It conserves a number of sculptures, paintings and friezes from the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Asset of Cultural Interest**



### EL FADRÍ BELL TOWER

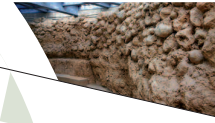
A curious building dating back to the mid 15th century and one of the landmarks of the city. This is a free-standing tower with an octagonal floor plan rising up some 60 metres. Divided into four sections, housing the clock chamber, the clergyman's cell, the bell ringer's home and the bell chamber.

**Asset of Cultural Interest**



### LIBERAL WALL

The stretches of the only walls still standing in the city of Castellón de la Plana were erected in 1837 over the existing medieval walls, after the city was laid siege to by the Carlist troops in July that same year. Around 1855, and once the dangers of war had passed, they were demolished, only to be re-erected during the II Carlist Wars.



### ALÇAMENTS TOWER

The remains of the Alçaments Tower are currently housed in an underground museum-educational centre, which is accessed by Plaza de las Aulas. They were only recently discovered and are the only significant remains of the city's medieval fortifications. The surviving section of the tower corresponds to the base of one of the gates in Castellón's city walls.



### THE HEMP EXCHANGE

This Baroque style building was built in the early 17th century to house the hemp exchange, which at the time was an important commodity. Today it forms part of the Jaume I University, which restored the building, turning it into a centre for the city's cultural and educational development. In 1984 it was declared a historic and artistic monument.

**Asset of Cultural Interest**



### CONCATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARÍA

This church, which dates back to the 12th century, has a chequered history. It was rebuilt in the 14th century following a series of fires and demolished in 1936. Fortunately, the three doors of the original Gothic church were saved, together with a number of decorative elements. The interior houses an 18th century image of the Immaculate Conception, as well as a number of Baroque figures, paintings by Ribalta and Oliet, as well as several superb gold and silver objects and other ornaments.

**Asset of Cultural Interest**



### CENTRAL MARKET

A striking building dating back to the first third of the 20th century, housing a market selling traditional Valencia produce, including fresh vegetables, fish and shellfish. The market was remodelled in 1985 and a number of improvements were made, including alterations to Plaza Santa Clara including the addition of an underground car park.

