

Emigration from Tossa to the Americas started very early,

even before the Free Trade Act (1778), and was present all through the Americas, albeit mainly concentrated in three areas: the River Plate, the Viceroyalty of Nueva Granada (what is now the coasts of Colombia and Venezuela) and the islands of the Caribbean (Cuba and in particular Puerto Rico). Tossa de Mar was the Catalan location with the highest percentage of individuals who emigrated to Puerto Rico throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Other countries in the Americas, like Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Uruguay and Honduras, were also destinations for merchants from Tossa, without whose sacrifice and effort the singular and emblematic urban development of the town's Eixample would not have been possible. An air of legend surrounded these characters on their return, although not all of them were successful in their plans to make their fortune. Tomàs Vidal i Rey, the wealthiest and most philanthropic of all of them and Abraham Canals, someone from Tossa who "lost his trunk in the Strait of Gibraltar" represent the two faces of the American adventure in Tossa de Mar.



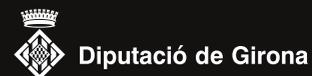
CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

A cooperation project in the field of the cultural, educational and tourist heritage of Europe, aimed at developing and promoting one or more routes based on a historical route, a cultural concept, a figure or phenomenon of transnational importance and significance for understanding and respecting shared European values. This can be a physical route or a network of heritage sites. A total of 33 cultural itineraries dedicated to various cultural heritage topics (architecture, art, prehistory, historical figures, religious routes, traditional cultures, etc.) currently have this title from the Council of Europe.



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ROUTE OF THE INDIANOS IN TOSSA DE MAR



ABOUT US

The **Network of Indiano Municipalities** was created to research, identify and publicise the material and immaterial heritage of the Indianos in Catalonia. With this aim, we offer a range of routes you can follow in all of the municipalities that comprise this body.

We also aim to develop a common project to make it possible to create **instruments that foster knowledge of the history and culture shared by the municipalities** and by the Americas. This project will also help contribute to the recuperation, conservation and dissemination of the Indiano legacy in the municipalities that comprise the network.

The network comprises Catalan municipalities that have an Indiano tradition and fulfil the following minimum requirements: a historical justification, the presence of material elements and the organisational capacity of the municipalities.

The network comprises the following municipalities:

- Arenys de Mar
- Begur
- Blanes
- Calonge-Sant Antoni
- Distrito Sant Andreu - BCN
- Lloret de Mar
- Palafrugell
- Sant Pere de Ribes
- Sitges
- Torredembarra
- Tossa de Mar
- Consorcio de PT Costa del Maresme



ROUTE OF THE INDIANOS IN TOSSA DE MAR



1. Casa de Cultura

The former hospital for the poor or hospital of Sant Miquel is the greatest legacy from a native of Tossa to their town. Tomàs Vidal i Rey made most of his fortune in Guatemala, where there are records of him living as early as 1745 and where various businesses made him the richest man in Tossa. Once he had returned, instead of having a grandiose colonial mansion built like other Indianos, he had his old family home repaired and dedicated all of his fortune to a hospital for poor patients. His grateful fellow townspeople addressed him with the title Don, made him their children's godfather and a witness at their weddings and were amazed by the customs he had acquired in the Americas like the gold adornments on his buttons, buckles and dress sword. Sadly, soon after expressing his desire he died, in 1764. His will was executed meticulously by his nephew and executor Grau Vidal Ferro who founded the new hospital in 1765 with building work finishing in 1773. The hospital building has two stories and is in the baroque style with a central cloister and the Chapel of Sant Miquel on the left side of the building. Vidal i Rey, who paid 17,250 lliures for its construction, is buried in the crypt in the middle of the chapel.
Avinguda del Pelegrí, 8-10

5. Hotel Diana

Up to now, no documentary or historical evidence has been found that enables us to link the origin of this building with the Indianos. Nonetheless, its modernist style is comparable with that of other Indiano buildings in the country. The hotel Diana or house of Joan Sans i Moré (1906) is by the modernist architect Antoni de Falguera i Sivilla. Joan Sans, who made a fortune trading cork in Andalusia, commissioned the construction of a residence on the town's Passeig Marítim on the site of a typical fisherman's house that was in ruins. The style and some elements of the building are very close to the style of Antoni Gaudí, especially on the façade overlooking the sea. The green trencadis decoration using broken tiles is the most characteristic element. On the ground floor there are three adjoining rooms connected by doors with polychromed windows, and an open-air patio with decorative tiles and three-leaf doors with stained glass windows. The palm trees give the architectural ensemble a colonial touch.
Plaça d'Espanya, 6



6. Església Parroquial de Sant Vicenç (Parish Church of Sant Vicenç)

Towards the middle of the 18th century, a majority of Tossa's council approved the construction of a new church, as the old parish church had become too small for a location that had spread outside its walls. Construction was supported by the townspeople, but work came to a halt and it was necessary for Vidal i Rey to help by giving an interest-free loan. Some merchants who had grown rich in the Americas also participated in the financing of the façade, the retable of Saint Sebastian and the interior paintings of the church.
Pou de la Vila, 6

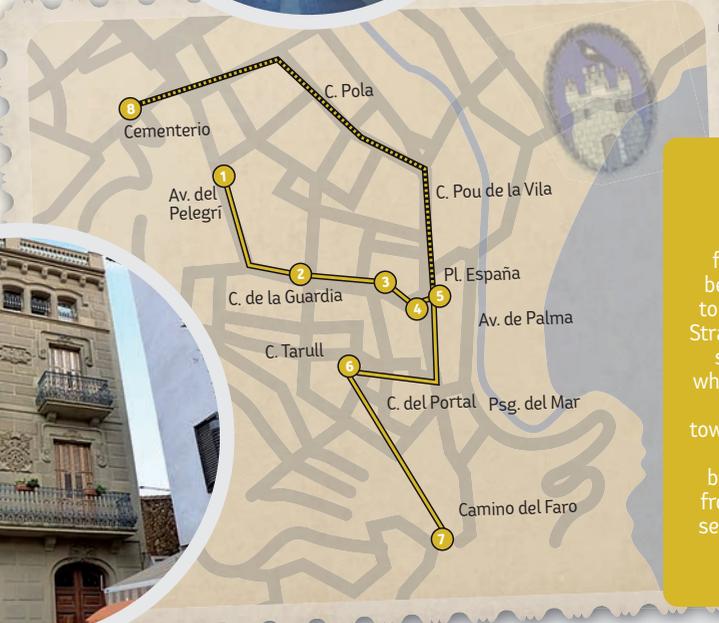
2. Eixample del Segle XVIII (Eighteenth-century Eixample)

The strong influx of capital from overseas and the growing population during the second half of the 18th century enabled the construction of the Eixample or expansion of the small fishing village that Tossa had been until then, favoured by the economic level achieved by merchants and sailors. The Eixample was developed on the land of the Mas Rabassa farmhouse and of the apothecary Benet Esteve-Moré. It is the area between Carrer de l'Estolt, Carrer Sant Josep, Carrer Sant Antoni, Carrer la Guàrdia, Carrer Pou de la Vila and the promenade behind Carrer del Socors. Carrer del Socors and Carrer de la Guàrdia became the central spine. All of the urban fabric is arranged around the church.
Carrer de la Guàrdia



3. Casa Esteve-Llach

The casa Esteve-Llach, of one of Tossa's most emblematic Indiano families, was built by the second generation Indiano Joaquim Esteve-Llach i Bordas. His father, Grau Esteve-Llach i Rabassa, was a landowner and ship's pilot from Tossa who devoted his life to sailing and to trading with the Americas. He died in Uruguay in 1834, where he was buried, although he had his embalmed heart sent to Tossa along with a collection of exotic animals.
Carrer de la Guàrdia, 6



7. «Es Xalet d'en Bram»

Fortune did not favour everyone who left for the Americas, as in the case of Abraham Canals, who followed the footsteps of his brother Jaume, who had become rich in Cuba, but he was unsuccessful and had to return. On route, he "threw his empty trunk in to the Strait of Gibraltar". Back in Tossa, he missed the Atlantic so much that he found the best spot on the cliff from which to overlook the majesty of the sea and he started digging into the solid rock to make a viewpoint. The townspeople mocked the unfortunate Bram and, seeing him working with pick and shovel, said that he was building himself a house. But Bram was not mistaken; from this spot you can enjoy one of the most charming sea views of the Costa Brava, with crystal-clear waters in all of the shades of green and blue.
Camí del Far



8. Cementiri Municipal (Municipal Cemetery)

The tomb of the Indiano Pau Moreu i Gelpí who died in Barcelona in 1887 can be found in the municipal cemetery. Following his wishes, his heirs had his remains moved to Tossa where he was born and from where he had set sail as a young man to make it in the Americas.
Carrer Miramar

4. Casa "Mequedà"

The "Mequedà" house or house of the Ferrer ladies (1905), with an emblem representing trade in the middle of the façade, is another example of the intense commercial activity in Tossa in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Some members of the Ferrer family from Tossa travelled to the Americas in the middle of the 19th century and, having made their fortune in the household goods business, they settled in Barcelona where they continued to do business. At the start of the 20th century they invested capital in rebuilding old houses in the town where they were born and where they would come to spend the summer. Can Mequedà is one of them, the old house of can Crema on Carrer del Socors is another, and outside the centre, the Xalet de Sant Jaume, which opened in the 1920s, is another.
Plaça d'Espanya, 7

