



INDIANA VILLAGE

The arrival of the first sailors from Blanes to various points in Spain's American colonies in the last third of the 18th century started an intense process of migration from this town. This process continued throughout the 19th century, focussing on Cuba and Puerto Rico where people from Blanes developed an important commercial network. After years of privations and hard work, many returned having achieved their goals.

Some traces of their philanthropy are preserved in the town, such as the former hospital building, the Colegio Blandense school and the record of their donations to the Church of Santa Maria and the Chapels of l'Esperança and el Vilar. Their architectural legacy is very significant, with buildings that were constructed as main residences or summer houses, and their economic legacy is also very important, the most important example of which is the Caves Mont-Ferrant winery, as is their cultural legacy, most notably the writers Josep Cortils i Vieta, Agustí Vilaret and Joan Ribas i Carreras.

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 48 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 AMERICANS

BLANES

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 i Sant Antoni
- ◆ Lloret de Mar
- ◆ Palafrugell
- ◆ Sant Pere de Ribes
- ◆ Sitges
- ◆ Torredembarra
- ◆ Tossa de Mar
- ◆ Consorci de Promoció Turística Costa del Maresme: Caldes d'Estrac, Canet de Mar, El Masnou, Mataró, Sant Pol de Mar, Tordera i Vilassar de Mar



1. THE MONASTERY

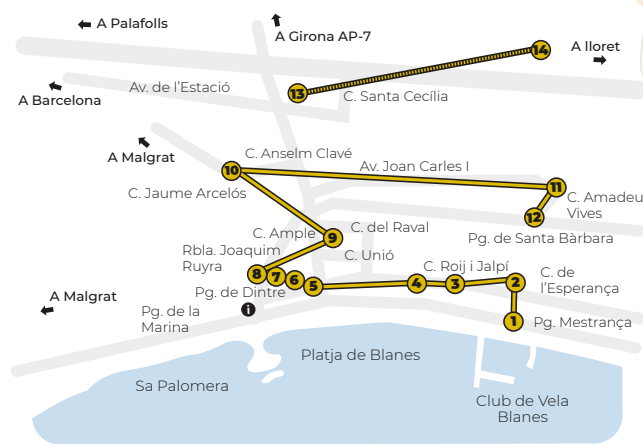
The Massó family were the administrators of the Verdaguer family's estates in Puerto Rico and amassed a considerable fortune. Aurora Massó Verdaguer married the cultural activist Joaquim Casas Carbó. The couple bought the former Capuchin monastery of the 16th century and in the 1920s they commissioned a careful restoration to the architect Isidre Puig Boada.



2. CAN GALET

Bonaventura Puig Torrent accumulated one of the most notable fortunes of anyone from Blanes, thanks to the "Café de la Marina" which he established in Havana. In 1895 he returned from Cuba on the J. Jover i Serra steamship, apparently with a Cuban wife and a daily income of five pesetas. He built one of the most luxurious houses on Carrer Esperança, which became one of the streets with the most Americans in the town.

LOCATION MAP



3. CAN PANXÓ GORDO

Built in 1902 by Francesc Vieta Ribas, it formerly had the characteristic patio overlooking the sea with a large palm tree. The daughter, Margarita, married the first-born son of Villa Juanita, Joan Puig Mora, also a whitish man who had become rich in Cuba.



4. CAN NONELL

House from 1899. Among the richest Americans in Blanes were the banker brothers Josep and Francesc Nonell. In 1885, together with other partners, they founded the Casa de Cambio, Giro y Administración in Havana. They also obtained the exclusive concession for the National Lottery tickets in that city. They opened the Nonell banking in Barcelona where they received transfers of Catalan funds to Cuba. The writer Josep Maria de Sagarra spent some summers there in the 1950s.



5. CAN MASSÓ

The Verdaguer-Massó family were landowners who built a fortune running a large sugar plantation in Guayama (Puerto Rico). Much of this fortune was inherited by Obdúlia Verdaguer and her husband Fèlix Massó, with whom she had five children. Their eldest daughter, Felisa, married Santiago Garriga of Barcelona.



6. CAN BITLLOCH

From Passeig de Dintre, head up Carrer Bellaire. At number 37 you will find the house of the Bitlloch family. Joan Bitlloch i Isern emigrated from Blanes to Cuba. Like most of the Catalans who settled there, he worked hard as an assistant in a shop. When he returned to Blanes, he had this house built next to the house where the writer Josep Cortils i Vieta was born (Blanes, 1839-1898), who emigrated to Cuba at the age of 14.



7. CA LA TERESINA SAVOIA

Built in 1903, it was the home of the married couple formed by Teresa Ferrer - from the Ferrer "Savoia" family with business in Cuba - and the prestigious doctor Joaquim Albareda. It was probably built with the money of her first husband, son of the Americans Massó.



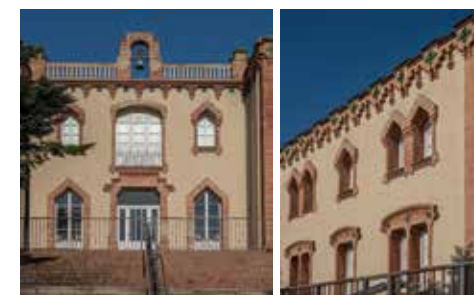
8. CA L'ANDREU

Josep Andreu Ferrer was a managing partner of the commercial house Bitlloch y Cia., which was the owner at the end of the 19th century of the Estancia Gloria, in Puerto Rico. This house was the summer residence of the poet Joan Maragall in 1904 and 1906.



9. CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA

Aurora Massó Verdaguer, fulfilling the bequest of 150,000 pesetas by her father, the Indiano Fèlix Massó, commissioned Antoni Gaudí to make two thrones for the parish Church of Santa Maria, which were destroyed during the Spanish Civil War. Her brother Claudi donated an artistic metal chandelier to the church.



10. HOSPITAL ASIL SANT JAUME

Indians from the town, including Joan Burcet, Vicenç Coma i Ferrer or the merchant Miquel Ferrer i Torras, who had settled in Cuba were involved in the construction and running of the Hospital de Sant Jaume. The original building, opened in 1913, comprises three wings with multiple doors and windows framed by large tiles.



11. FORMER COLEGIO BLANDENSE

The Americans of Blanes were also involved in the foundation of the Colegio Blandense school. Some of them were still living abroad, such as Josep Dotras, Josep Fàbregas, Tomàs Pou, Manuel Boada and Joan Linàs in Cuba, Josep Canonge in Buenos Aires and Segimon Fàbregas in Montevideo. Joan Furquet, who was resident in Blanes, was also involved.

12. MONT-FERRANT WINE CAVES

Upon returning from Puerto Rico Agustí Vilaret was the driving force behind the Caves Mont-Ferrant winery, the first in the country to make cava. The Caves Mont-Ferrant are no longer active in Blanes, but the brand is still marketed.



13. CEMETERY

In the cemetery's main avenue, many family tombs of Americans from Blanes are preserved, most in the neo-Gothic style. These include ones belonging to lines such as the Massó and Vieta families.



14. EXTENSION SANCTUARY EL VILAR

From far away, emigrants made donations to the embellishment of the sanctuary of el Vilar. An inscription on the columns that support the balustrade of the presbytery, which is now no longer there, recorded this: "Ysla de Cuba año de 1877" (Island of Cuba 1877).

