



AMERICANS VILAGE

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, hundreds of Sitges boys took part in one of the most important waves of migration from Catalonia to America. Already in medieval times Sitges had a seafaring trade in the Mediterranean that from the last quarter of the 18th century onwards found a market in the Americas to export the Malvasia wine and muscatel produced in the town itself, as well as the wines and brandies from the interior of the Penedès, and in the 19th and 20th centuries the footwear produced in the town. The seafaring and commercial tradition as well as the care taken in the elementary schooling of the children allowed the Sitgetans who went to America in their ships to see the possibilities of establishing businesses which in turn were centres for importing and exporting Catalan products on the one hand, and overseas products such as coffee, cocoa, sugar, cotton, chocolate, tobacco, etc. on the other. The first establishments spread along the American coast from Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico, to quickly concentrate in Cuba (especially Santiago and Guantánamo) and Puerto Rico. Some remained there, maintaining the continuity of their well-known commercial activities, such as the Andreu Brugal i Facundo Bacardi rum producers. Those who returned to their hometowns are what we call Americans. They took part in the industrial development of Catalonia and played a leading role in the urban transformation of the town, with the sale and purchase of vineyards and plots of land and the construction of buildings. The houses of the wealthy Americans make up a large part of the sample of neoclassical, eclectic, modernist and rationalist buildings in Sitges' architectural heritage. This is an artistic legacy that must be preserved and made known.

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

SITGES



ABOUT US

The **Network of Indianos 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. OLD CENTRE

We suggest starting your visit to Sitges from the bastion in front of the parish church from where you can see the sea where the sailing ships anchored and the beach from where Sitges wines, muscatel and malvasias were exported from to America. A few meters away there is the Historical Archive, a center where the documentation and testimonies of the Sitges Americans are kept. Now, fully immersed in the historical context of the Americans, we do not leave the old quarter, where we can admire the façades of the town hall and the church – with the town clock – which the capital of the Indianos helped to fund. Nearby are also the houses of Aleix Vidal Quadras (C/ de la Davallada, 12), Manuel Jacas (Port de n'Alegre, 2) and Manuel Vidal Quadras (Port de n'Alegre, 9), and the Vidal Quadras Coxeres* (Baluard Vidal y Quadras), all neoclassical constructions built between 1852 and 1856. *(similar to a parking lot).

2. PASSEIG DE LA RIBERA



After passing in front of the Cau Ferrat and Maricel museums, carry on to Passeig de la Ribera on the seafront where you can see houses from a variety of eras and in a variety of styles. At number 3, the house of Josep Barnet stands out, a businessman who founded the Viejo Vapor steamship service in Santiago de Cuba. Known as Villa Lola, the house was demolished and an exact copy of the original was built. At number 17 is the house that Antoni Serra, one of the founders of Vichy Catalán, commissioned the architect Salvador Vinyals to design. Other notable buildings are the houses of Isabel Ferret (no. 29), Marina Planas (no. 22), Simó Llauredó (no. 20) and Francesc Robert (no. 18).

LOCATION MAP



3. CARRER DEL BONAIRE

As you follow carrer de Bonaire, you can admire an eclectic group of houses among which stand out that of the American Francesc Julià (no. 26), who made his money in the sugar and coffee trade, which has been converted into a hotel. If you follow carrer Parel·lades you will find notable houses such as la Vilanova (no. 11). Part of the way along carrer de Sant Pau (no. 24), is a building designed by the architect Elies Rogent for Agustí Amell, who made his fortune in Aguadilla (Puerto Rico) with various import and export businesses.

4. PLAÇA DEL CAP DE LA VILA

The house of Bartomeu Carbonell, at number 2 in the square, is one of the best examples of the buildings of the Americans of Sitges. Modernist elements stand out in the work of the architect Ignasi Mas i Morell, such as the balconies and especially the clock tower, with colourful trencadís decoration made from broken tiles. On Carrer Major (no. 24) is the house of Bartomeu Misas, the first president of the Agrupació Catalanista party and a notable local politician. Other buildings in the area include the houses of Antoni Almirall (carrer de l'Aigua, 17) and Francesc Ferret (carrer de Sant Francesc, 1).



5. CARRER DE SANT BARTOMEU

Now follow carrer de Sant Bartomeu where, straight away at number 1 you will find the house of Joan Amell, the brother of Agustí and father-in-law of Francesc Julià, with whom he founded the Amell, Julià i Cia company in Puerto Rico. The Ballester house, at number 8, the house of Daniel Robert, at 24, the house of Joan Robert in the eclectic style at no. 28 and the house of Josep Carbonell (no. 26) are other examples of houses of Americans you will see as you head up towards carrer d'Artur Carbonell.



7. CARRER DE L'ILLA DE CUBA

If the name of this street is already an obvious reference to the land that gave new horizons to the life of these entrepreneurs from Sitges, the buildings found here, all of which are very beautiful and sumptuous, are evidence of the success some of them achieved in their business overseas. The modernist Villa Avelina, of Bonaventura Blay, at number 35, by the architect Buhigas Monravà, is one of the most spectacular. The house of Josep Carbonell at no. 34 is also worth mentioning, as is that of the businessman from the drinks industry Manuel Planes at number 21 and, at no. 2, the 20th-century house of the landowner connected to the sugar industry Francesc Bartés, who died in Havana.



9. CARRER DE FRANCESC GUMÀ

On the corner of Carrer Jesús and Carrer de Francesc Gumà is the Villa Rosa, the former residence of Jaume Hill, which is in an eclectic style. If you follow this street, you will find the house of the merchant and shipowner Pere Carreras at number 23, a fine example of a modernist building featuring exuberant decoration with sculpted floral motifs on the façades. The Casino Prado (no. 6-14) was founded in 1871 by the Americans and today still promotes activities for the townspeople. Nearby are the houses of Pere Catasús and Josep Planas (Carrer de Sant Isidre, 31 and 33) and it is not far to Villa Anita, which belonged to Josep Ferrer i Torralbes (Carrer de Santiago Rusiñol, 33).



6. CARRER D'ARTUR CARBONELL

You are now heading to Villa Havemann, located at number 11, a tower and chapel designed by Josep Domènech Estapà. On the same street are Villa Subur (no. 23) and Villa Remei (no. 25) with sgraffiti and wrought iron balconies, a sign of the modernism of el Garraf.

10. RAILWAY STATION

The Carrer de Francesc Gumà i Ferran, which honours the American from Vilanova who promoted the Barcelona-Vilanova-Valls railway, leads directly to Sitges station. This building dates from 1881, when the first stretch of this line opened thanks to the investment of the Catalans living in Cuba, many of them from Sitges, who provided a third of the capital.



11. MARE DE DÉU DEL VINYET

We suggest an extension to the welcoming Sanctuary of the Mare de Déu del Vinyet on the outskirts of the town, a place of worship for the people of Sitges since the Middle Ages. The Americans would entrust themselves to this virgin before travelling to the New World. Inside there is a retablo dedicated to Saint Elmo, the patron saint of sailors.



12. CEMETERY OF SANT SEBASTIÀ

The route ends with a visit to the cemetery of Sant Sebastià, which still preserves the distinctive tombs built for some Americans such as the grave of Manuel Vidal Quadras (1856) by Alejandro Mariotti, the grave of Antoni Serra Ferret (1901) by Josep Reynés and the grave of Jaume Brassó Mainés (1923) with an especially noteworthy sculpture by Pere Jou.