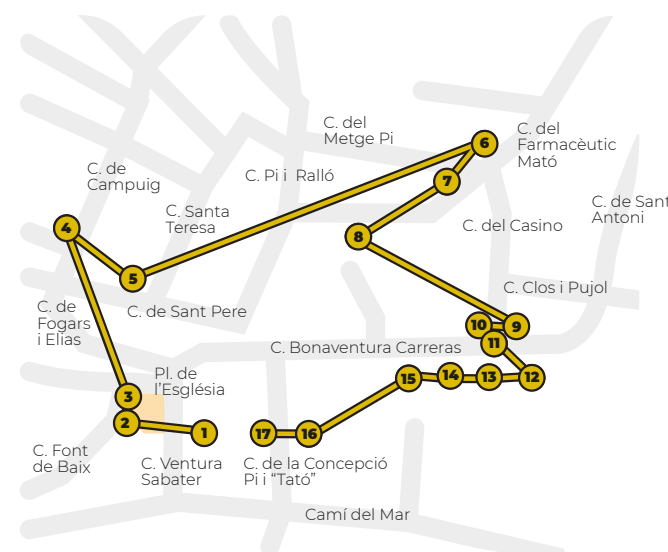


## INDIANA VILAGE

Within the urban fabric of the beautiful municipality of Begur, in the Baix Empordà, we find an exquisite cluster of Indian houses dating from between 1860 and 1887. At that time, a quarter of the population - 500 young, adventurous men - had gone to "do the Americas", especially to Cuba, the mythical pearl of the Caribbean. Among the causes of the mass exodus were two quite important economic ones: the phylloxera plague, which ruined agriculture, and the fall in the price of coral, following the discovery of large deposits in Italy.

In addition to having the magnificent buildings that we will see on the Indian route built, when they returned, the Indians of Begur invested in the cork industry and local coral farmers. The Indian houses in Begur are nineteenth-century in style, with a strong colonial feel, and are characterised by their porticoed galleries with mural paintings.

## LOCATION MAP



## BEGUR IS TRANSFORMED. A HISTORIC PERIOD THAT HAS LEFT ITS MARK

The Fira d'Indians (Indians fair) celebrates the close relationship between Cuba and Begur, which derives from the emigration of many people from Begur to Cuba through the 19th century.

On their return to the town, the ones who had prospered in their business built ostentatious houses that still decorate the streets of Begur. They were the people popularly known as americanos who tried to recreate their lifestyle from Cuba and left us a varied cultural legacy. On the first weekend in September, Begur is transformed, reliving this historical period which has left a profound imprint on the town and our identity.

For three days the streets and squares are home to a market for overseas products, samples of crafts, musical performances, theatrical sketches, habaneras, street performances and a wide variety of cultural activities: guided tours with theatrical re-enactments, exhibitions, interviews, lectures and workshops for children and adults, among many other activities.



## INTERPRETATION CENTER OF THE INDIANOS WORLD

Throughout the 19th century, more than 500 people from Begur crossed the Atlantic in search of fortune on the American continent. This footprint means that Begur has an Indian legacy with a high historical and architectural value. The Interpretive Center of the Indians of Catalonia in Begur assumes the function that requires equipment of these characteristics "it is a municipal, non-profit, permanent facility, at the service of society, open to the public and its purposes are the "education, conservation and study of the heritage inherited from past generations". It is an immersive space in the Indian heritage to awaken the five senses. Visitors embark on a journey into the Indian universe of Catalonia, a symbol of the memory of this characteristic historical period, and becoming a point of reference and a must-see within the architectural and cultural tour that make up the set of buildings Indian women throughout the Catalan territory

The visit is complemented by the heritage route to the Indian houses of Begur through an audio guide system. The enormous heritage wealth preserved together with the interpretation center make Begur considered an Indian capital par excellence. Entry to the CIIC-Begur and the visit to the Heritage Route with audio guide are free. Tours are also offered for organized groups and educational centers.

The municipality is postulated as the Catalan capital of the Indian legacy and every first weekend of September, Begur is transformed to relive that historical period.

## 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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## 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

## ROUTE of the INDIANOS

# BEGUR





## 1. CASA DEL SR. PUIG

This house was built in 1872 by Sebastià Puig i Carreras. It is a stately mansion with a very sober main façade, but it has a veranda and a garden (visible from Plaça Esteve i Cruaños) with a genuinely Indiano aesthetic, featuring frescos of a foreign landscape typical of the colonial houses. // Núm. 2\*

## 2. CASA TÉRMENS

This house has a ground floor with a single storey above it. It used to belong to Santiago Mauri Carreras, who opened a textile shop in Santiago de Cuba supplying the Spanish military. On his return, he first lived in Barcelona and later settled in Begur, where he died two years after construction of this house, which dates from 1869, was completed. // Núm. 1\*



## 3. CITY HALL

This building dates from 1902, a few years after the largest return of people to Begur from the Americas, and although the first owner was not an Indiano, the house features many elements in the Indiano aesthetic. Although it has a very sober main façade, displaying only a few features of the neoclassical style, the interior is very interesting. // Núm. 4\*



## 4. CASA BONAVENTURA CANER BATAILER

This house was built in 1866 by Bonaventura Caner Batailler who emigrated from Begur to Cuba in 1845 and on his return, invested his fortune in the cork industry. The top of the door and the garden fence feature ornamentation with the initials of the owner and the year of construction. // Núm. 7\*



## 5. CASA PACO FONT

This house dates to the start of the 20th century and is regarded as the last Indiano house built in Begur. Its modernist influence is apparent in the trencadis decoration using broken tiles on the door and window frames. It was the property of Francesc Font who emigrated to Ponce (Puerto Rico) in 1889 to make his fortune. // Núm. 8\*



## 6. CASA CAN SORA

Built in 1870 by the Cama Martí family, who made their fortune in Havana (the initials J.C. can be seen on the entrance gate). Restored frescoes can still be seen on the walls of the outside patio, which faces the street, depicting Romantic landscapes that evoke the Americas. // Núm. 16\*



## 7. CAN PETU (CASA PERE PONT)

Pere Pont Puig who had this house built, emigrated to Ponce (Puerto Rico) where he dedicated himself to trade. On his return to Begur in 1889, he had this stately house built to live in with his wife, Joaquina Carreras, and their family. // Núm. 17\*



## 8. CASA RAMON SILVESTRE DARDER

This was built in 1887 by Ramon Silvestre who, with his brothers Josep and Joan, emigrated to Cuba between 1835 and 1840. It was common for an Indiano to leave his imprint on the house, and his initials can be seen on the lintel of the doors, bars and balconies. // Núm. 18\*

## 9. CASINO CULTURAL

This cultural centre, known as the Casino, was founded in 1870 as a place for leisure and entertainment, hosting balls, festivities in honour of the town's patron saint, theatrical performances and other events. It was built using the stone from the demolished defence tower at Mas Carreras (no. 10), and was an initiative of the Indianos. It is known as the "Casino Vell" (old casino) or "Casino del Senyors" (casino of the gentlemen) // Núm. 19\*



## 11. INDIANOS WORLD INTERPRETATION CENTER

In the *Escoles Velles* building we find this immersive space where visitors go on a journey to the colonial universe of Catalonia. C. Bonaventura Carreras, 11. // Núm. 33\*



## 12. CASA JOSEP PI CARRERAS

The house was built (1860) by Josep Pi Carreras, who went to Cuba following in the footsteps of his brother Pere. The two brothers opened a bakers and a shop selling foodstuff called *La Industrial* in Havana, where they later moved into the cork industry, importing it from the Girona area. // Núm. 21\*



## 10. CASA MAS CARRERAS

This majestic house was built during the 19th century by Josep Carreras i Frigola, a merchant from Begur who emigrated to Santiago de Cuba in 1831. This sumptuous mansion, built in the colonial Indiano style, used to have a 16th-century defensive tower, which was demolished during the last quarter of the 19th century to build the "Casino dels Senyors". // Núm. 10\*



## 13. CASA PERE ROGER

This is one of Begur's most impressive houses. The rear façade, with a double gallery overlooking the garden is one of the town's most emblematic elements. The house was bought in 1859 by Pere Roger Puig from the Indiano Josep Carreras Frigola (owner of Mas Carreras). In 1832, when he was just 18 years old, Roger emigrated to Havana where he founded a tobacco factory called "La Rosa". // Núm. 22\*

## 14. CAN PI

Pere Pi Carreras and his brother Josep emigrated to Cuba and opened a shop selling foodstuffs, a business they complemented with imports and exports relating to the cork industry. This house still has one of the characteristic features of Indiano houses: a kitchen garden in the southern part. // Núm. 23\*



## 15. CASA VICENÇ FERRER BATAILER

Vicenç Ferrer Batailler emigrated to Santiago de Cuba in 1856, aged just 17. While he lived there, he worked in the tobacco industry, traded in flour, and worked in various shops and companies. On his return from Cuba (1887), Ferrer rebuilt the family house, adding the rear gallery, and murals in the bedrooms. His initials (V.F.B.) can be seen in the fence separating it from the street. // Núm. 24\*



## 16. CASA PERE CORTADA SABATER

Pere Cortada was born in 1815 and started his American adventure in the mid 1830s, along with his brothers Manuel and Josep. Their destinations were Santiago de las Vegas and Matanzas, where they worked in trade. The murals decorating the whole of the main floor are an outstanding feature of this house. // Núm. 28\*



## 17. CASA DE JOSEP FORMENT

This house was built in 1866 by Josep Forment i Pi (his initials J.F.P. are visible in the railing of the main balcony). The rear façade can also be seen from Plaça Esteve i Cruaños. He emigrated to Havana in 1845, where he spent nearly 20 years. He returned, with an excellent social standing and got married for the second time, to a woman 26 years younger than him as was customary among the Indianos. // Núm. 29\*



\*It corresponds to the numbering of the route of the heritage elements of Begur.