Malgrat on foot

urban route
INTRODUCTION

This guide will help us discover the centre of our town with a route that can easily be covered on foot. Malgrat de Mar is flat and thanks to this it is pleasant to walk round the town centre, and people usually get around on their bikes. The only high part of the municipality is the Castell hill, situated right in the centre of the town (although it used to be on the outskirts of the municipality). The Castell neighbourhood is currently connected to the town centre with a steep lift, which takes visitors from the heart of the town to the centre of Castell Park.

Why not come and visit the most emblematic buildings in Malgrat de Mar, and discover the different architectural styles that were used in each of them?

In this guide you’ll find very detailed information on the 10 most important heritage areas in the municipality. The guide was prepared jointly with the Malgrat de Mar Municipal Archive. This guide aims to offer you a glimpse of the history of these buildings, as well as their uses over the years. The photographs will also transport you back to the time when the buildings were constructed, or otherwise, to the years nearest to their construction, as some of the buildings have been with us for centuries.

For more information, you can visit our website, where you’ll find more details. Through the QR code you can easily access to it. We hope you’ll enjoy with this route across the History of Malgrat de Mar.
1. New Schools & Teachers’ Houses

**HISTORY**
This site was built by the Barcelona architect Juli M. Fossas Martínez (1834-1904), and the schools were opened on 28 August 1927 by the Mayor Lluís de Caralt i Fors. They were initially known as the ‘Escoles Noves’ (New Schools) and during the Franco era they were renamed ‘Escoles Nacionals’ (National Schools). The Nuestra Señora de Montserrat Mixed School Association which joined up the boys’ and girls’ school was formally established in 1964. The second floor of the main building housed the Municipal Library from 1970 to 2000.

**ARCHITECTURE**
The school has three blocks: a central one and two side blocks, where the boys’ and girls’ classrooms used to be, respectively, each with their own playgrounds. The building is an interesting site that is reminiscent of the classical style - with capitals, cornices, mouldings and also some Art Nouveau elements (the door inside the lobby), like decorative ceramic elements, artificial stone and sgraffito on the façade stand out, amongst others. The main façade of the teachers’ houses is situated on Carrer de Ramón Turró. They currently house the Personal Services Area.

2. Old Hospital and Chapel

**HISTORY**
The hospital was built thanks to the property Hug Descolomer left in his will in 1441 and was governed by the staff at the parish church of Sant Genís de Palafolls. The hospital was designed by architects Joan and Dionís Torres, who also designed the church of Santa Maria d’Arenys. The nuns of Sant Josep de Girona lived there from 1892 to 1970. Later on, in 1982, the therapeutic community moved here. Its function as a hospital still lasts until the present day. The chapel is currently used as an exhibition hall and for cultural purposes.

**ARCHITECTURE**
The building has two blocks. One of them is used as a hospital, with a ground floor and first floor, and it has a simple façade with a row of balconies. The other, the chapel, in the Gothic style, is made up of a nave with a polygonal apse, with ribbed vaults and two keystones, and the statues of saints who were doctors, Sant Cosme and Sant Damià, and also Sant Pere (Saint Peter). In the Arcs passage, between the Old Hospital and the building next door, we see three arches that possibly belonged to old rooms in the hospital.
3. Ca l’Arnau Villa

**HISTORY**
Joan Arnau Majoral built this Modernist house as a family home in 1914. Later on it was bought by some residents from Tordera and finally, in 1998, it was bought by the Malgrat Town Council. In 1999 the building was completely refurbished and then housed the Municipal Music School. It currently houses Malgrat Turisme SL and the Department of Culture of the Malgrat de Mar Town Council.

**ARCHITECTURE**
The house was designed by the Modernist architect Joan Amigó i Barriga (1875-1958) and resembles some other of his works, such as the Pavillard house in Badalona. With a rectangular floor plan, some of the elements that stand out are the curved lines and the shape of the building: the cornice on the walls, the openings and the shape of the compound roof, stucco mouldings on the façade, sgraffito and decorative plant motifs with stone, glazed ceramics, etc. The entrance on Bellaire street preserves its stone porch with floral motifs and ironwork on the grille. Ornaments on the ceiling and tiled walls are preserved inside.

4. Castle Tower

**HISTORY**
It is a defensive construction, documented in 1382 and connected with the Castle of Palafolls. Later on it was used as a watchtower against pirates and in the 17th century it housed a coastal battery and suffered considerable damage. The Carlists attacked the site in 1836, and during the Civil War, between 1936 and 1939, the tower was partially modified for military uses. The castle tower is currently the only designated Property of National Cultural Interested in Malgrat de Mar. The last time the site was worked on was in 2002, when the Castell Park was remodelled and the tower was renovated: consolidation, improvement and accessibility works were carried out.

**ARCHITECTURE**
The tower, with a round floor plan and a diameter of around 5 metres, is the only part that remains from a 14th century fort-castle, built with middle-sized rough stones, mixed with pieces of tiles or lime mortar. Going by its size, it was probably part of a larger construction.
Malgrat on foot
urban route

carrer del Carme
carrer de Mar
av. del Bon Pastor
carrer de Sant Esteve
c. de Passada
Ramón Turró
c. de les Escoles
Malgrat on foot
urban route

1. av. del Bon Pastor
2. c. de Passada
3. c. de Ramón Turró
4. carrer del Carme
5. c. de les Escoles
6. c. de les Escoles
7. c. de les Escoles
8. carrer de Mar
9. carrer de Sant Esteve
10. i
HISTORY
The building was erected in the second half of the 16th century as a fortified house for the Clapers family. In the 18th century it was bought by a Barcelona family, Mercader, which joined the counts of Bell-lloc in the 19th century. In 1886 it housed the Malgratense Casino. In 1926 it was bought by La Malgratense Working Consumption Cooperative which renovated it and turned it into an important cultural centre, with a café, ballroom, library and reading room. After 1939, the Cooperative continued to operate but only as a shop. The building was purchased by the Town Council in 1991 and it was refurbished completely and turned into the Cooperative Municipal Library in 2000.

ARCHITECTURE
A house with a ground floor, first floor and attics. It is worth noting its hall with stone voussoirs and noble coats of arms, its balconies and sentry boxes on the corners. In the mid-19th century, in the building’s main area, five solid brick arches were built supporting a passageway at the same height as the first floor.

HISTORY
The daily market was quite disorganised until the late 19th century. People selling meat and fish would set up their stalls wherever they could and when the weather was bad they often took shelter the halls and entrances of the houses. In 1890 Camil Oliveras Gensana (1840-1898), classmate and colleague of Antoni Gaudí, drafted the report supporting the project and the construction work started a year later. Later on, in 1926, a roof was built over the passage, which was exposed until then. The so-called Peixateries Velles (Old Fish Shops) were refurbished in 1968 to make room for other kinds of stalls. The fish, meat and legume stalls were there until 14 July 1991, when they were moved to the new Municipal Market.

ARCHITECTURE
The initial project included an open-air passage, like the current one, which separated the butchers’ stalls - which were situated next to the Town Hall - from the fish stalls (where the original stones from the fish stalls are still preserved). This 250 m² space fit a total of 12 stalls where fish, meat and cooked legumes were sold.
HISTORY
On 15 August 1913 the Town Hall building was opened, according to the plans drafted by the Barcelona architect Antoni de Falguera i Sivilla (1876-1947). This new building replaced the old Casa de la Vila, situated in Carrer de Passada, next to the vicarage. During 1952-1953 a series of renovations were carried out and in 1991 the interior of the building was remodelled, with the construction of the new main entrance stairs.

ARCHITECTURE
Modernist building with a Catalan roof, fully remodelled, where the ceramic mosaic and wrought iron stand out. The building, however, is slightly contained and balanced, which reminds us of the Catalan ‘Noucentisme’ movement of the early 20th century. The façade is divided into three blocks. In the centre, the main balcony stands out, covered with a canopy. At the top of the central block there is a gable with holes, covered with a green mosaic. On both sides there are two symmetrical blocks with two windows on either side, finished off with skylights framed with semicircular arches and green ceramics.

HISTORY
The construction of a church started in 1559, on the site of an old chapel dedicated to Sant Antoni Abat. In 1761 the first stone of the current parish church in Malgrat was laid, dedicated to the patron saint Nicolau de Bari. The first construction period and the design were the work of three architects: Tramuja, Ivern and Trillas. The second construction period was taken over by Esteve Bosch and Jaume Valls.

ARCHITECTURE
The current building belongs to a very common style during the Modern era, which appeared with the Il Gesù Church in Rome. The church has a Latin cross floor plan, with a central nave and two side naves, separated by thick pillars and a dome on the crossing. The nave is quite large, and that is why it is called the Cathedral of the Coast. Also of note is its Neoclassical façade with an undulating cornice and a large front doorway with classical lines where you can find the image of Sant Nicolau de Bari. The incomplete solid octagonal bell tower rises up to the left of the façade, also built in the 18th century.
**HISTORY**

It was designed by Esteve Rocafort i Carreras. The father of Josepa de Garriga Anglada, the widow of can Sala, asked permission to build the house in 1909. In 1928 it was sold to Francesc Serra i Bonet, and in 1942 to the Oliveras-Riera family. After 1982 the building was designated a cultural property. After serious degradation, in 2007 it was bought by the Malgrat de Mar Town Council, which promoted its refurbishment and restoration, together with the adjoining building, which used to house the Bombay hotel and the current municipal archive. It currently houses the Tax Office of the Barcelona Provincial Council.

**ARCHITECTURE**

The tower stands out because of its composition and decorations: the layered cornice on the walls finished off with ceramics and curves; framed and decorated openings, and stone relief with rich floral motifs; façade covered with stucco mouldings, horizontal, and sgraffito relief strips. The fantastic ironwork on the undulating rails and the octagonal tower, with a circular roof, covered with colourful mosaics, also stand out.

**HISTORY**

La Pilona is a real symbol in Malgrat de Mar and it is the most important remnant from the mining period in the municipality.

There used to be an iron mine in the mountain near Can Palomeres. In 1909 a French company established the Malgrat Iron Mine Society, which invested a large amount of capital to solve the infrastructure problems that made previous exploitation attempts fail. An aerial transport system was built, from the mountain to the sea, with cables attached to metal towers, on which mine carts full of iron travelled along 1.5 km. The material was transported straight to the ships’ holds from La Pilona, which is 450 m from the beach. On 12th November 1911 the first of 21 cargoes took place. When the World War started in 1914, the mines were closed for good. La Pilona is built on a solid brick base. Its structure supported an elongated platform where the pulleys for the cables to turn round were situated.