

The *Indiano* legacy of Lloret de Mar



History of Lloret



ANCIENT TIMES



THE IBERIANS. 250 BC

Iberian settlements: Montbarbat, Puig de Castellet and Turó Rodó.



966

Document in which the earliest mention of the name Loredo is found. It comes from the Latin name Lauretum, which means a place where laurel trees grow.

THE ROMANS. 2ND CENTURY AD

Roman burial chamber with cremation tombs.



11TH CENTURY

Castle of Sant Joan.



17TH CENTURY

Coasting trade in the Mediterranean. Sailing from port to port along the coastline from Lloret to Cádiz. All sorts of goods were transported: coal, firewood, fish, cork, wineskins, hazelnuts, fruit...



1812-1869

Construction of 150 tall ships on Lloret's beaches.



1898

Loss of the colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines; many émigrés return to Lloret.



1778

Start of the construction of tall ships. The Decree of Free Trade with America by King Charles III of Spain permitted the construction of ships on any beach in Catalonia with the goal of sailing to America.



1840-1880

Most intense period of emigration from Lloret to America, especially Cuba.



1919

Holiday destination for members of Barcelona's high society.



1950

The first tourists from abroad begin to arrive.



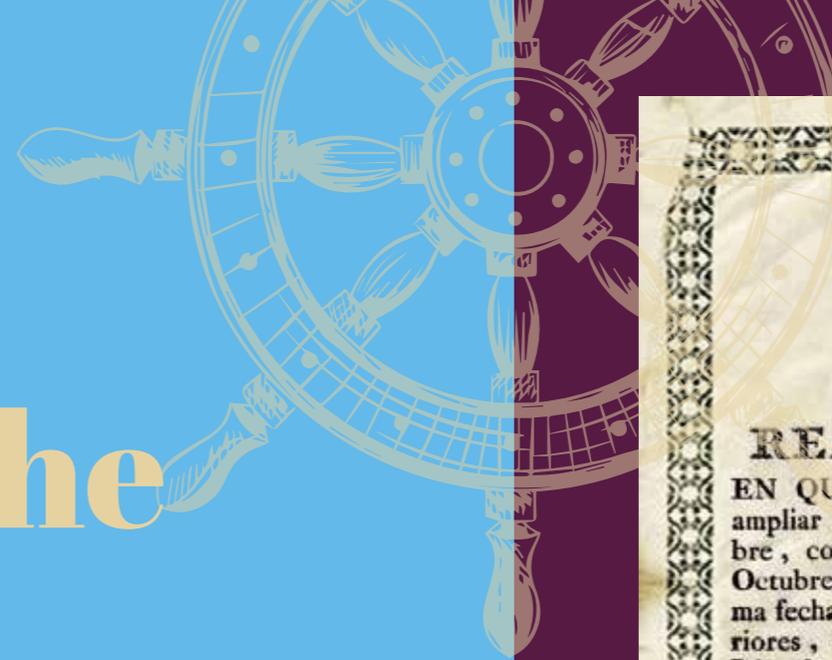
Before tourists discovered the beauty of Lloret de Mar's beaches and coves, the town already had a close relationship with the sea, firstly as a fishing village and later on through overseas trading.

In the mid-18th century, there were many seafarers in Lloret who set sail for America to seek their fortune. In Catalonia these fortune seekers were generally known as *indianos*, but in Lloret de Mar they were called *americanos*.

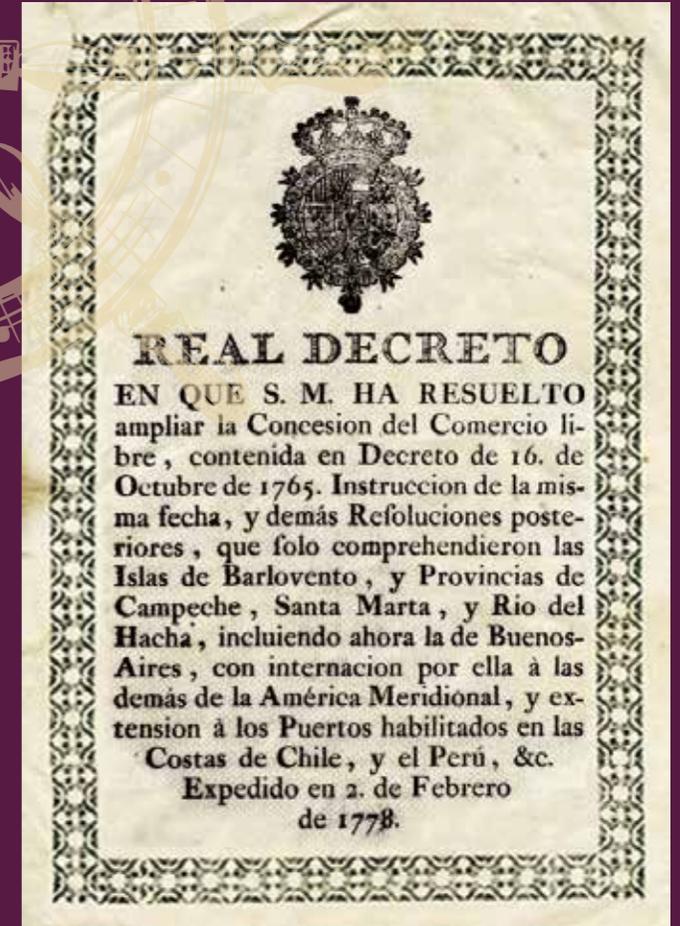
Lloret de Mar and the *americanos*



The enactment of the Decree of Free Trade with America by King Charles III of Spain in 1778 was the final push that many needed to embark on this adventure. This was the time when large ships were built on Lloret's beaches, ready to set sail for America.

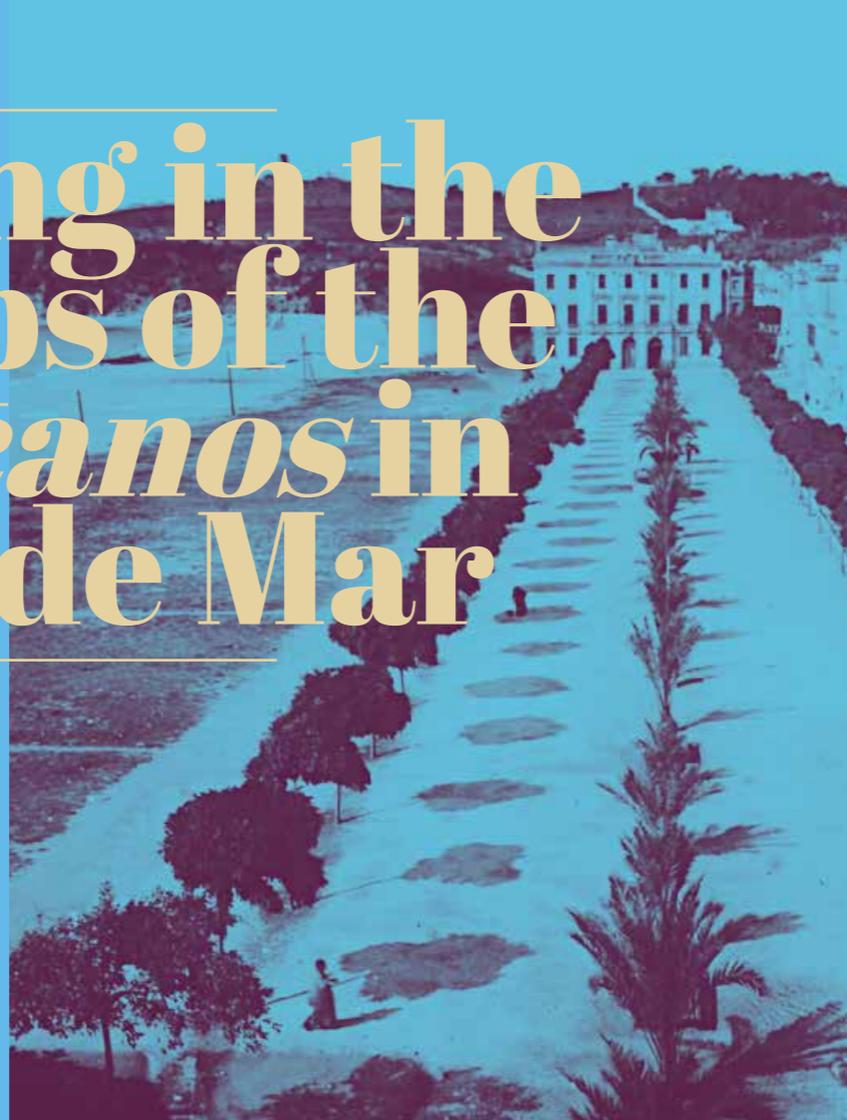


The ships took between four and six months to complete the voyage to Santiago de Cuba, Havana, Montevideo and Buenos Aires, etc., loaded with wines, oils, fabrics, salt, flour and other goods. They made the return voyage to Catalonia laden with cotton, fine woods, furs, sugar, tobacco, coffee, rum and *tasajo* (dry-cured beef), among other goods.



REAL DECRETO
EN QUE S. M. HA RESUELTO
ampliar la Concesion del Comercio libre, contenida en Decreto de 16. de Octubre de 1765. Instruccion de la misma fecha, y demás Resoluciones posteriores, que solo comprehendieron las Islas de Barlovento, y Provincias de Campeche, Santa Marta, y Rio del Hacha, incluyendo ahora la de Buenos Aires, con internacion por ella a las demás de la América Meridional, y extension a los Puertos habilitados en las Costas de Chile, y el Perú, &c.
Expedido en 2. de Febrero de 1778.

Following in the footsteps of the *americanos* in Lloret de Mar



INDIANO ROUTE OF LLORET DE MAR

- 1 Casa Garriga (Maritime Museum)
- 2 Passeig de Jacint Verdaguer
- 3 Town Hall
- 4 Church Of Sant Romà
- 5 Parish House
- 6 Chapel of the Holiest Sacrament
- 7 Can Font
- 8 Modernist Cemetery





This red-sanded promenade flanked by palm trees recalls the colonial essence of Havana.

Passeig de Jacint Verdaguer and Lloret Town Hall

Two buildings from the indiano period stand at either end of the promenade: the neoclassical-style Town Hall, designed by the architects Martí Sureda and Félix de Azúa, unveiled in 1872; and the Maritime Museum, once the home of Enric Garriga i Mataró, dating from 1888.



This was once the home of Enric Garriga i Mataró, who emigrated from Lloret to Cienfuegos (Cuba) and made his fortune in the construction materials sector.

Maritime Museum

Today it's a museum that explains the history of Lloret's close association with the sea, from fishing to coastal and overseas trading.

The émigrés often maintained a close relationship with Lloret and invested in the town, whether on their return or from afar. One such case was the Parish House and Church of Sant Romà, whose refurbishment was funded by the indianos.

Parish House and Church of Sant Romà

The architect Bonaventura Conill i Montobbio was commissioned to carry out the project, which included sculptures by Josep Llimona and Enric Clarasó.

The construction of the Chapel of the Santíssim Sagrament (Holiest Sacrament) was funded by Narcís Gelats from his home in Havana.



Can Font

This indiano house dates from 1877 and belonged to Nicolau Font i Maig, an indiano who made his fortune in Cuba. It boasts interesting modernist features, such as the entrance, and is now a house-museum that shows what the indiano houses of that period were like.



Sant Pere del Bosc

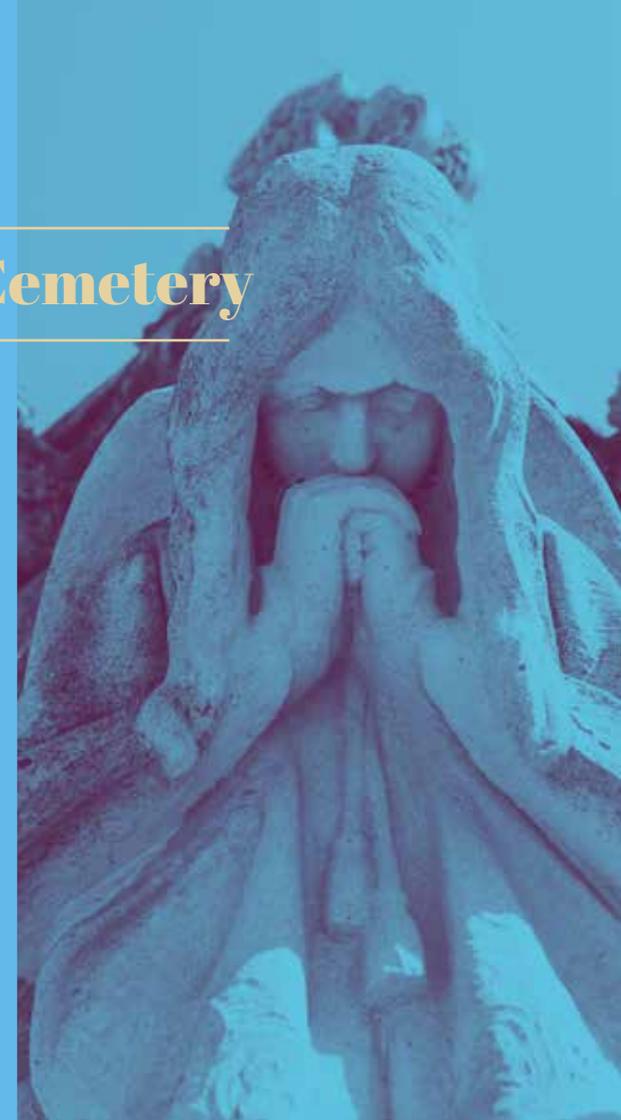
This ancient Benedictine monastery was purchased by Nicolau Font i Maig by power of attorney from Havana, making the most of the ecclesiastical confiscation law of 1855. Later on, he commissioned the architect Josep Puig i Cadafalch to extend the property, turning part of it into a residential home. Today it's a private site that houses a hotel and restaurant.



The *indianos* wished to display their economic power not only in life (through donations and the construction of large houses) but also in death.

Modernist Cemetery

Accordingly, they invested significant sums of money in family vaults designed by leading architects of the time, such as Antoni Gaudí and Josep Puig i Cadafalch. The Modernist Cemetery of Lloret is a shining example of 19th century funerary art in Catalonia and forms part of the European Cemeteries Route.





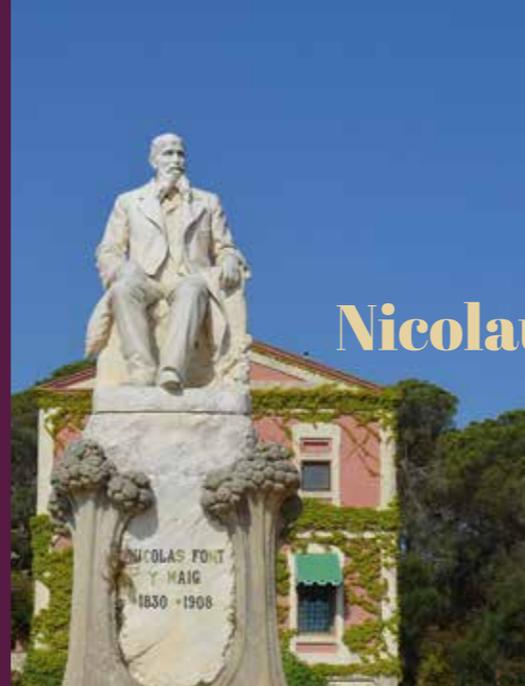
Carrer de Vidues i Donzelles (widows And Maidens)

This street reminds us of a curious fact related to the *indianos*: when they returned from America these newly wealthy men, getting on in age, would often marry young maidens whom they obliged to sign a prenuptial agreement stipulating that they would not remarry in the event of being widowed. As such, when their husbands died they become wealthy, young widows.

The Banker of Cuba, Narcís Gelats

Narcís Gelats settled in Cuba in 1860. He was later sent by his family to the USA, where he studied banking. On completing his studies he made Havana his home. Together with his brother Joan and his uncle Josep Durall i Maig, he founded Banco Gelats in 1876. It was one of Cuba's leading banks, serving as the bank of the Holy See in the country. Later on he founded a shipping company and was the chairman of the companies La Tropical and Havana Clearing House. He was well known for the donations he made, especially to educational and charity institutions, both in America and Catalonia.

In Lloret he funded the works of the Chapel of the Holiest Sacrament of the Church of Sant Romà.



Nicolau Font i Maig, “Count of Jaruco”

A native of Lloret (1830-1908), Nicolau Font i Maig headed to Jaruco (Cuba) at the request of his uncle and returned home a very wealthy man. He was popularly known as the Count of Jaruco but he didn't accept the noble title since it went against his Catalan nationalist convictions and because he felt it was absurd to have to pay fees in Madrid to become a count.

A story is told about Nicolau Font wishing to place gold coins on the flooring of the Chapel of Sant Pere del Bosc. The *indiano* had already refused to pay fees to become a count and was now lodging a request with the Royal Household to lay gold coins on the chapel floor. The problem was that it was forbidden to step on the face of the king or on the national coat of arms, since this was considered an insult to the crown. The reply that arrived from Madrid was that the coins should be placed vertically and not horizontally, which entailed using a much larger number of coins. Nicolau Font abandoned the idea.

La Lliberada was a lady from Lloret who lived in the 19th century and who featured prominently in the local press. She married a native of Blanes called Miquel Ferrer who had made his fortune in Cuba. The couple had no children and she was widowed at a very young age. Breaching the prenuptial agreement she'd signed with her husband, she remarried. Her second husband was younger than her and even richer than her first husband.

The provocative *La Lliberada*





CONSTANTÍ RIBALAIGUA, THE COCKTAIL KING

Constantí Ribalaigua arrived in Cuba in 1914 and became the owner of El Floridita, one of Havana's best-known bars, in 1918.

His was the first bar in Cuba to import a Flak Mak ice-crushing machine from the USA.

History of the daiquiri

This enabled him to perfect his daiquiri recipe, leading to the creation of the Daiquiri Floridita. Ribalaigua would crush the ice and store it in an insulated box with holes pierced in the bottom to keep the ice dry. He applied his unparalleled expertise in combining flavours: he took one and a half fluid ounces of rum, a teaspoon of sugar, the juice of half a lime and (his secret ingredient) five drops of Maraschino liqueur, serving the mixture in a pre-chilled wide-mouthed glass. The result? The Daiquiri Floridita had just been born.



Daiquiri recipe

THE “DAIQUIRI FLORIDITA” OR DAIQUIRI FRAPPÉ

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cl of white Bacardi
 - 1 teaspoon of sugar
 - 1 teaspoon Maraschino liqueur
 - The juice of 1 lime
 - Crushed ice
- Place in the blender and serve frappé

Daiquiri - ORIGINAL RECIPE

- 42 ml white rum
 - 7 ml lime juice
 - 1 teaspoon of sugar
- Combine in a cocktail shaker with ice



Place the ingredients in the blender.



Add crushed ice up to just over the level of the liquid and blend for 10 seconds until the ice is frapped, like a sorbet.



Once in the glass (Martini glass), the Maraschino liqueur is poured over the ice and the glass is decorated with a mint leaf and a straw.



El Floridita soon became known as the “Daiquiri Cathedral” and Constantí Ribalaigua as “The Cocktail King”, thanks to having made the daiquiri fashionable the world over and for having invented the frozen daiquiri. His illustrious clientèle included Ernest Hemingway.

Variations with fruit: use the same quantities, adding pieces of strawberry, peach, banana, pineapple, cherries, mango, etc. Don't use too much fruit because the cocktail will be too sweet. As a general rule, use the equivalent of three medium-sized strawberries.



Exploring Lloret's *Indiano* History

A MUST-SEE ATTRACTION

Santa Clotilde Gardens

The labyrinthine, *noucentista*-style Santa Clotilde Gardens, dating from 1919, are situated in Cala Boadella and were the brainchild of the Marquis of Roviralta, who commissioned the landscaper Nicolau Rubí i Tudurí to bring his idea to life. Rubí i Tudurí had already designed important gardens in Barcelona, including those of the Royal Palace in Pedralbes or those of Turó Park.

PRE-ARRANGED GUIDED TOURS AND OTHER OPTIONS



INDIANOS ROUTE

Guided tours of the heritage sites of Lloret related to the town's *indiano* history. The tours end with a daiquiri tasting at Can Font.



CAN FONT

Tour for groups (up to 15 people) of this *indiano* house-museum with important modernist features. Find out how the *indianos* lived and discover some curiosities from the period.



GUIDED TOURS OF SANTA CLOTILDE GARDENS AND THE MODERNIST CEMETERY

If you're keen to find out about the history of Santa Clotilde Gardens and the Modernist Cemetery, this tour will give you plenty of historical insight into the period and these cultural sites in particular.



DAIQUIRI WORKSHOP

Learn about the history of the daiquiri and how to prepare it in this customised workshop led by a professional cocktail maker.

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de mar
make it yours

www.lloretdemar.org

central-turisme@lloret.org 

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