

ROUTE 3 through the **SAN FRANCISCO** esplanade, **MALECÓN**, plaza de las **FLORES**, plaza de **SANTA CATALINA**, plaza **MAYOR** and plaza de **SANTA ISABEL**



Paseo del Malecón



Plaza de las Flores



Plaza de Santa Catalina

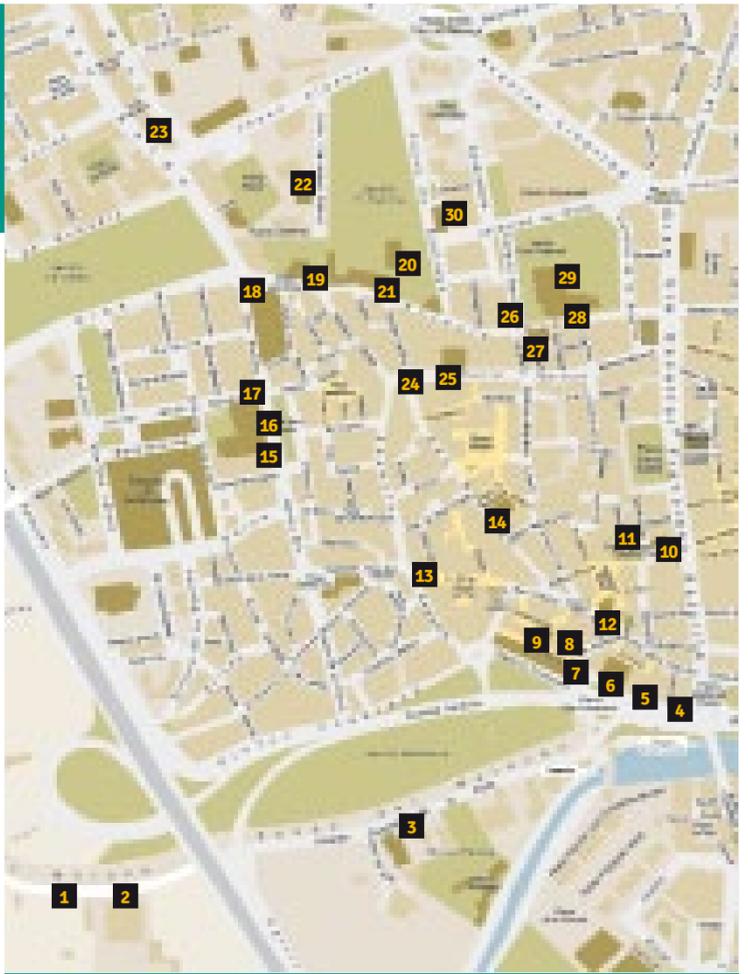
We begin on the great esplanade of San Francisco, named after the Franciscan convent established there in 1280 by royal decree. The convent survived unchanged until it was burned down in 1931. Adjacent to the convent was the Codorniu house, which was demolished in the 1960s to facilitate construction of the monumental entrance to the Malecón garden. Until quite recently, the garden was privately-owned, for its interior consisted of a kitchen garden, while another part of it was the garden of San Francisco convent and La Purísima College.

Construction of the promenade, or Malecón, we see today began in the 18th century, and it was originally conceived as a retaining wall designed to contain the waters of the Segura River. It immediately became a popular place to stroll, beginning at Verónicas Market and Almuñí Palace.

Passing through narrow streets we come to Plaza de las Flores, named originally in the Middle Ages as Plaza de las Carnicerías. Its original purpose was abandoned at the beginning of the 19th century, when it was transformed into a public space for the sale of flowers, as its name suggests. It is now a popular place for meeting and relaxing.

We now come to Plaza de Santa Catalina, which from 1614 was the setting for royal proclamations. On this square we find Santa Catalina church, the interior of which houses a beautiful Francisco Salzillo sculpture and the Ramón Gaya museum.

The Plaza Mayor is much more recent, dating from the final years of the 20th century. Finally, we arrive at Plaza de Santa Isabel, named in recognition of the fact that it was built on the site of the convent dedicated to Santa Isabel. In 1835 the plaza was opened and transformed into a garden.



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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 Clarisas Capuchinas convent | 12 San Pedro church | 22 Regional Handcrafts Centre |
| 2 Marist Brothers School | 13 El Pilar Hermitage | 23 Old Hermitage of San Anton |
| 3 Murcia Park | 14 San Nicolás church | 24 Old House of the Misericordia Brotherhood |
| 4 Victoria Building | 15 San Andrés church | 25 Díaz Cassou House |
| 5 Zabálburu Building | 16 Jesús church | 26 Los Nueve Pisos House |
| 6 Almuñí Palace | 17 Salzillo Museum | 27 San Miguel church |
| 7 Verónicas Market | 18 Agustinas Descalzas Monastery | 28 San Esteban church |
| 8 Arab Wall | 19 City Museum | 29 San Esteban Palace |
| 9 Verónica Old Church | 20 Bullfighting Museum | 30 Pasos de Santiago church |
| 10 Santa Catalina church | 21 Old Saltpeter Factory | |
| 11 Ramón Gaya Museum | | |

ROUTE 4 through plaza de la **CIENCIA**, the old **ARTILLERY** Barracks, **FLORIDABLANCA** gardens and the **AUDITORIUM** and Convention Centre

We begin at Plaza de La Ciencia, antechamber to the Museum of Science and Water. This is a place for educational relaxation, providing information regarding the elements and forces of nature: the sun, the Earth, planets, constellations, winds, etc.

Behind the museum we come to the old Artillery Barracks, located on Calle Cartagena and dating from 1921. Built in the colonial style, it is composed of six large pavilions surrounding a great square patio. After the military reforms of the 1980s, the barracks were taken over by Murcia City Council. Opposite the façade of the Carmen church, founded in 1451 and rebuilt around 1720, we find the beautiful Floridablanca garden, named after José Moñino, Count of Floridablanca and minister to Carlos III.

Segura river



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|------------------------------------------|----|
| 1 Malecón footbridge | 12 |
| 2 Museum of Science and Water | 13 |
| 3 Old Artillery Barracks | 14 |
| 4 Nuestra Señora del Carmen church | 15 |
| 5 Archicofradía de la Sangre Museum | |
| 6 Los Molinos del Río Hydraulic Museum | |
| 7 Puente Viejo or Puente de los Peligros | |
| 8 Puente Miguel Caballero | |
| 9 Puente Nuevo | |
| 10 Floridablanca Gardens | |
| 11 Puente del Hospital | |
| 12 Vistabella footbridge | |
| 13 Puente de Vistabella | |
| 14 Auditorium and Convention Centre | |



Vistabella footbridge

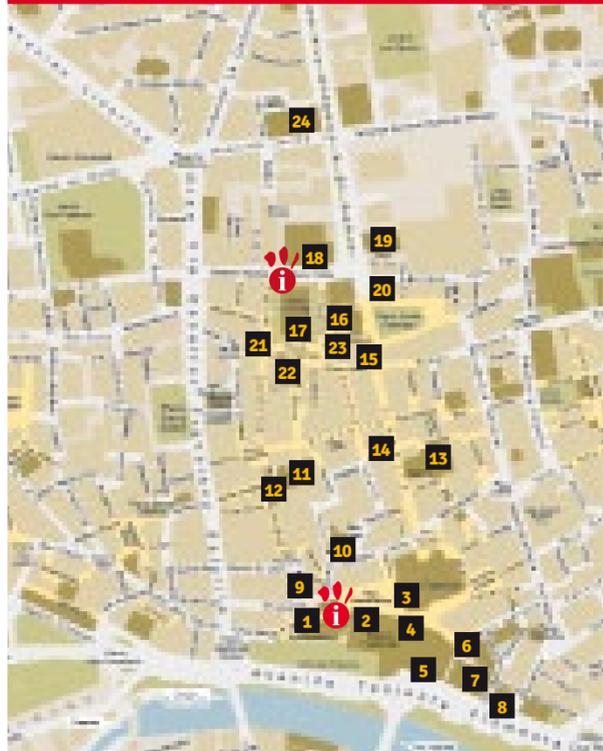
Finally, downriver, we arrive at the Victor Villegas Auditorium and Convention Centre, the most important venue for cultural, social, economic and scientific gatherings in the Autonomous Community of Murcia.



Old Artillery Barracks

THROUGH MURCIA'S PLAZAS

ROUTE 1 through **GLORIETA DE ESPAÑA**, plaza del **CARDENAL BELLUGA**, plaza de los **APÓSTOLES**, plaza **CETINA**, plaza de **SANTO DOMINGO** and plaza **JULIÁN ROMEA**



Plaza de Santo Domingo

We are in the oldest part of the city, where the Alcázar Mayor castle, mosque and Prince's House were located during the Muslim period. Today the representatives of the city's political and religious administrations are also located in this area.

We begin our route at Plaza de la Glorieta, one of the best-known squares in the city, where the City Hall and Episcopal Palace are located. It is dominated by a statue of the bishop and soldier Cardinal Belluga. Continuing along Calle del Arenal, we arrive at the square which bears his name. Over time, the original baroque design of this square has undergone a number of modifications, with the addition of homes built in the eclectic and modernist styles, as well as the contemporary design of the new City Hall building. This is a space for both worship and relaxation, framed by the main façade of the cathedral.

To one side of the cathedral we access Plaza de los Apóstoles, which takes its name from the door of the southern wall of the cathedral. Next door is the old San Fulgencio seminary, now the home of the School of Dramatic Arts, and the old San Isidoro Theological College, now a secondary school.

Nearby is the Plaza de Cetina, the home of the press, for it was here that towards the end of the 19th century a number of newspapers

were established: La Paz, La Verdad and El Levante Agrario. Continuing a little farther, we come to Plaza Santo de Domingo, the site of the market during the Middle Ages, with its imposing ficus tree and the façade of Santo Domingo church. Next to the church, one passes through the Santo Domingo arch to Plaza de Julián Romea, where the theatre named after the famous actor has stood since it was inaugurated by Queen Isabel II in 1862.

Plaza del Cardenal Belluga



ROUTE 2 through plaza de la **UNIVERSIDAD**, plaza de **EUROPA**, plaza de **SANTA EULALIA** and plaza de **SAN JUAN**

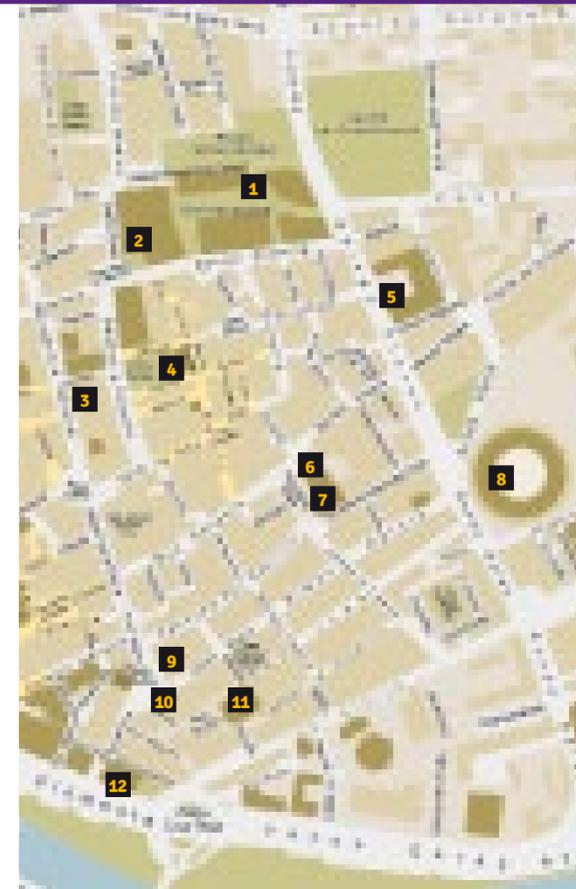
We begin at Plaza de la Universidad, recently remodeled in order to remove the obstacles that impeded its visibility. Some thirty columns are arranged in a crescent. This is an important meeting place for students, who gather in front of the main façade of the La Merced University.

Nearby we find Plaza de Europa, on one of the busiest streets in the capital, where a wide range of pubs and bars attract thousands of young people every day of the year.

Continuing a little farther, we come to Plaza de Santa Eulalia. Here we find a sculpture erected in 1899 to honour the religious sculptor Francisco Salzillo. Also located on this plaza is one of the medieval gates to the city, the remains of which have been conserved and form part of a museum. In this Arab museum visitors can observe the remains of the medieval wall.

Coming to the end of this route, we arrive at Plaza de San Juan, dominated by San Juan Bautista church, which can officially claim to be Murcia's first parish, for there has been a church on the site since 1248, when Fernando III financed the construction of a chapel by the Order of Saint John. Until quite recently, the middle of this square was decorated with a Tuscan order column topped by a cross and set upon a multicolored marble pedestal. Today, the square is the setting for refined bars offering local specialities.

La Merced



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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 University | 7 Arab Wall |
| 2 La Merced church | 8 La Condomina bullring |
| 3 San Lorenzo church | 9 Old Post Office Building |
| 4 Planning Department Building | 10 Floridablanca Palace |
| 5 Museum of Fine Arts | 11 San Juan Bautista church |
| 6 Santa Eulalia church | 12 La Convalecencia (University of Murcia Rector's Office) |



Plaza de San Juan

Plaza de Santa Eulalia



The Murcia we see today, the Murcia of the 21st century, is the heir to a great past. The streets, monuments, buildings, river they all form an indelible part of the city of Murcia. And while the passage of time has left its mark, the city conserves in the hearts of its inhabitants the best possible testament to its history. In the 21st century, Murcia continues to cultivate its history and traditions far beyond those dates when we celebrate important events such as Holy Week, Corpus Christi or the pilgrimage to Fuensanta. Murcia is open every day, ready to welcome those who wish to learn more about us.

Tourist Information Office
 Plaza Cardenal Belluga. Edificio Ayuntamiento.
 30004 Murcia. Spain
 e-mail: informacion.turismo@ayto-murcia.es
 Tel.: 968 358 749 • Fax: 968 358 748

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