

Municipal Park



ELX
DOS PATRIMONIS DE LA HUMANITAT



turisme d'elx

Ajuntament d'ELX



- Entrance
- Picnic area
- Children's playground
- Pond
- Parking
- Bicycle Parking

PLAÇA DEL PARC

PASSEIG DE L'ESTACIÓ

PLAÇA DE LES CORALS

MUNICIPAL PARK

With an area of 14 acres, it is one of the most important landmarks of the Elx Palm Groves. It is made up of a group of ancient farming palm orchards, where pomegranates, almond trees, olive trees and other crops were grown, and that gradually formed the present park. The most distinguished owner of some of the orchards is the Blessed Virgin of the Assumption, patroness of Elx, who received the Hort de la Mare de Déu and the Hort del Real by donation from Dr. Caro - hort is the Valencian word for "orchard". Amongst many other species, its gardens have date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*), the indisputable queen of Elche's landscape, Elche's poplars (*Populus euphratica*), plane trees, jacarandas, bougainvilleas, rose bushes, petunias, marigolds, begonias, hydrangeas, ficuses, cypresses and several types of palm trees. There is also a 5,000 m² arboretum with fruit trees, tropical conifers and poplars.

Passeig de l'Estació. Opening times: Summer, 7.00 – 24.00 h. Winter, 7.00 – 21.00 h.

1 The Tourism Office

The Tourism Office is located next to the south entrance to the park in an old electric transformer built in the 1950s in a Moorish Revival style, common of architecture from this period. It was enlarged in 1991 with another section in its south side. Plaça del Parc, 3. Monday- Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed January 1st, May 1st and December 25th. Telephone (+34) 966 658 196 info@turismedelx.com

2 Tourist train (Trenet)

The Tourist train makes a tour around the Municipal Park, the Children's Traffic Park, the Avenida del Ferrocarril Avenue and part of the historical centre. Reservations: (+34) 966 613 147.

3 The Bandstand and the Dovecote

Both built in the 1980s, the Bandstand was constructed to look like the original 1920s bandstand in La Glorieta Square which was demolished in the sixties. On Sundays, the Municipal Music Band performs concerts for many fans. The Dovecote cylindrical tower is located on the left of the Bandstand and, apart from being a refuge for the many pigeons that flutter by, it brings to mind the original name of the orchard (of the *Colomer*, which in Valencian means dovecote).

4 Espai d'Art (Art Space)

The Paseo de la Estación avenue was opened in 1884. It was named that way because the avenue ended at an old and charming train station until the railway was moved underground in the 70s. In 1902 it was converted to an elevated boulevard but at the beginning of the sixties this space was demolished and it acquired its present appearance, with a garden area next to the Municipal Park. The Art Space (Espai d'Art) is also located in this street, it is an open air contemporary sculpture museum with works of Pablo Serrano, Ernesto Knörr, José Díaz Azorín, José Luis Sánchez, Amadeo Gabino Úbeda and the local Sixto Marco. The Art Space (*Espai d'Art*) is the result of the collaboration between the Ajuntament d'Elx (Town Council) and the municipal company PIMESA with the aim of collecting samples from the various aesthetic trends of contemporary sculpture.

5 Visitor Centre

It was built for the regional exhibition of industry, handicraft and agriculture in 1946, in an orientaling style and is unique for using domes as the only structural element. Its round shape and its white exterior have earned it the popular name of "el huevo" (the egg). It was used as Archaeological Museum

until its removal to the Palacio de Altamira (Altamira Palace) in 1984. In 1965 the bust of the Dama of Elche (Lady of Elche) was on display here for 14 days in its first comeback to its place of origin. After that, it housed the White Palm Museum and an exhibition hall. Since 2003 it has been the Visitors Reception Centre. There you can find a complete introduction to the town, offered through tactile screens and an audio-visual showing. Opening hours: Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed January 1st, May 1st and December 25th. Telephone (+34) 966 658 178

6 Restaurant

The Restaurant "Dátel de Oro" has an exceptional location, surrounded by the gardens and palm trees of the Municipal Park. Passeig de l'Estació, s/n. 03202 Elche. Telephone (+34) 965 453 415 restaurante@datildeoro.com

7 Rotonda

Is a superb scenario in the open air where cultural, festive and social events are held. On Sundays there are puppet shows and plays for the children.

8 Molí del Real and Acequia Mayor

An old flour mill from the 18th century, although it possibly has an Islamic origin. It was once fueled by the waterfall running from the Reservoir main irrigation channel (Acequia Mayor), an exceptional work of hydraulic engineering that brings water channeled along a distance of almost five kilometres in order to irrigate and cultivate the land. Several irrigation ditches branch from the main channel to water the orchards surrounding the old town.

9 Hort de Baix

One of the entrances to this area is a spectacular stone staircase, one of the visitors' favourite places to take photos. In summer nights it becomes an open air area for parties, with a stage and a dance floor in the middle surrounded by small ponds.

10 Hort del Xocolater

Although it is part of the same group of orchards it is not integrated into the municipal park, this is because it is owned by CAM (Mediterranean Savings Bank). Every July the International Festival of Independent Cinema is held amongst its palm trees with showings in the open air; as well as the performances of the "Ancient Settlers Association" Living Crib, which take place every year at Christmas time.

11 Ashlar Arch

BOTANICAL VARIETY

The date palm, which used to be part of the agricultural system is the most common species and is now accompanied by several ornamental species such as:

Bismarck Palm (*Bismarckia nobilis*)



Is endemic to western and northern Madagascar where they grow in open grassland. The genus is named for the first chancellor of the German Empire Otto von Bismarck and the epithet for its only species, *Bismarckia nobilis*, comes from Latin for 'noble'.

It has a grey trunk with circular crevices. The trunk is between 30 and 45 cm in diameter, slightly wider at the base. In its natural habitat they can grow up to 25 metres high, but it does not usually grow higher than 12 metres when planted. The almost round leaves are huge when mature and may attain over 3 metres in width. They are divided at a third of their length in 20 or more rigid sprouts of leaves, also divided at the ends. The petioles are 2-3 metres long and their colour is white or cinnamon. The almost spherical leaves at the top are 7'5 metres wide and 6 metres high.

Elche's poplar (*Populus euphratica*)



It is a species of the poplar family endemic to eastern Asia, but it was introduced in these areas and has already become common in this town in particular. As a matter of fact, its scientific name indicates that: *Euphratica* refers to the region of Euphrates River, in the south west of Asia. It is a beautiful ornamental tree in the family *Salicaceae*, a family of trees and bushes generally found at riversides, which includes around 300 species. It is an introduced species, ecologically speaking, that is to say, it is native of a very different area to the area where it finally settled. It is believed that it was introduced by the Arabs in northern Africa and south of Spain. Botanically speaking, it is a tree that can grow 10 to 15 metres high (it can very rarely reach 20 metres in height), although here it does not usually grow over 8 metres; it has a smooth grey bark at the beginning and becomes very cracked later. The trunk tends to branch from the base which produces large bushes.

African Tulip Tree (*Spathodea campanulata* Beauv.)



It belongs to the family Bignoniaceae and is native to tropical Africa, very much planted throughout the tropics. It grows between 7-25 m tall and is planted extensively as an ornamental tree in many countries. It is much appreciated for its very showy reddish-orange or crimson (rarely yellow), campanulate flowers. The open flowers are cup-shaped and hold rain and dew making them attractive to many species of birds. This is a very cold sensitive tree, in Spain it is only planted in the Canary Islands and in some Mediterranean coastal areas.

Arboretum



In the arboretum, specimens of *Roystonea regia* (Cuban Royal Palm), *Dipsis decayri* (Triangle Palm), or *Levistonia decipiens* can be found amongst other tree and plant species.