



Acueductos

Aqueducts

ENG





La Vall d'Uixó Water Path

“Acueductos” - Set of aqueducts

On this route we will follow the path of the old irrigation ditch, called “*Mayor*”. It collected the water from the “*Font de Sant Josep*” (Saint Joseph’s Spring), which sprang from the cave of the same name. Although the presence of humans has been documented since the end of the Upper Palaeolithic period, approximately 16.000 years ago, the historic nucleus of la Vall d'Uixó began to develop in Andalusian times, when a series of agricultural farms, a kind of small villages, were set up along the valley. The urban growth allowed the progressive grouping of the farms, firstly around the historical parishes, “*The Angel*” and “*The Assumption*”, which later became the “*Poble de Dalt*” and the “*Poble de Baix*” (Upper settlement and Lower settlement) respectively, and finally in the 19th century, into a single urban nucleus.

Photos: left side - the Alcúdia arch and, in the background, the image of Mount of Pipa (courtesy image from Joaquín Gil).

Below right, soda bottles, a siphon and an advertisement from the old “*Gras*” soda factory (collection of Manuel Francesc Navarro del Alar)

“Conjunto de Acueductos” - Set of aqueducts of Saint Joseph and L’Alcúdia

We are at the bottom of the “*Aigualit ravine*”, next to “*Alcúdia*”, one of the Andalusian agricultural estates that gave rise to la Vall d’Uixó. Two aqueducts were built so that the ditch, that collected the water from the “*Coves de Sant Josep*” (Cave of Saint Joseph), could cross the ravine.

The largest one, known as “*Saint Joseph Bridge*”, is surely a late Roman construction, as it can be appreciated on the two semi-circular arches located on the sides of the ravine, as well as in the construction technique used. The three central pointed arches are the result of a major reconstruction, around the 14th century.



Next to this aqueduct is located another one, smaller in size and with a single semi-circular arch. It was built in medieval times. Both formed a hydraulic system used a long time ago to operate the grain mills, which presence has been attested since the conquest of Jaime I. This whole system was in operation until the 1950s.

Finally, to the south of this whole set, we find an industrial factory from the early 20th century, known as “*La Fábrica de la Luz*” (Light Factory), which served as a power station until the 1930s. Later, it was used as the “*Gras*” soft drink factory. The municipal archaeological museum is expected to be set up here.

Photos: above, the “*Saint Joseph’s Bridge*” in the early of the 20th century.

You can see two water devices moved by the children, through hemp ropes, that make them turn. (Image from the book “*El Pasado*” (The Past).

The image on the right shows a possible sketch of the aqueduct when it was built. (Drawing by José Enrique Puchol)