

# a Handfull OF Blanes

Nature trailing in Blanes



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## a Handfull OF Blanes

A handfull of Blanes is a **clues game** thought for children between 8-12 years old. It is an activity to be carried out by all the family, and enjoy your time off whilst discovering Blanes. The younger children will be able to solve the hardest tasks with the aid of their parents. This is a chance to tour Blanes Centre and learn about its environment, flora and fauna.

**Have fun** get a free ticket to the Marimurtra Botanical Garden and receive a gift from Blanes Town Council. When you have completed the simple task, just **hand in your answers** at the main Tourist Office, located at Plaça de Catalunya or at the Marimurtra Botanical Garden and pick up your free gifts.

Take the opportunity of visiting the Marimurtra Botanical Garden, one of the most important in the area, for its botanical interest and its scenery.

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### Route

Here is a plan of the route you need to follow:



Let's start at **Sa Palomera**,

emblematic rock in the middle of Blanes Bay. From the stone walkway which leads us there, look over to your right. There are some rocks where a group of **cormorants** usually sunbathe, especially in summer.



Marine cormorants are fishers, swimmers, divers and excellent at flying. We can distinguish them from seagulls because of their dark feathers.

Observe the habits and mark the correct answer:

- A. They hunt other birds in the air
- B. They look for earthworms
- C. They dive and spearfish

Note in the drawing that the cormorant has four webbed fingers. What do you think is the point of having this membrane in between the fingers?



Detail of the cormorant's leg

- A. To swim faster
- B. To walk faster
- C. To hold their balance

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If we continue along the path marked on the route we take the promenade until we reach a **sculpture** sitting on a bench on the promenade. This represents the founder of the Marimurtra Botanical Garden.

Look for the plaque on the ground and answer: Who was the founder of the Marimurtra Botanical Garden?



Continue along the Passeig de Mar to the **Sardana monument** and there we can see four Washingtonia palm trees from Mexico which grow very high when they are adults.

Palms live in warm places. Look at the Washingtonia Palm from Mexico and tick the correct answer:

- A. The leaf is shaped like a lance
- B. The leaf is shaped like a fan
- C. The leaf is shaped like a heart







Pass by the pond with the cannons and then by the pond which is full of papyrus. Just ahead of us we find a lawn where there is a good example of a Canary palm tree.



Now we can **compare** the leaf of this palm tree with that of the Washingtonia palm tree from Mexico, which you already know.

Look at this palm tree and tick the correct answer:

The leaf of the Canary palm tree is:

- A. Different from the Washingtonia palm tree from Mexico
- B. The same

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In this same area we can see three Mediterranean **dwarf palms**. This type of palm tree is the only wild type of palm tree in Catalonia

Look at the petiole, the base of the leaf that joins it to the trunk, and tick the correct answer:

- A. They are full of spikes
- B. They have drops of essential oils
- C. They are very short



Detail of a Mediterranean dwarf palm leaf

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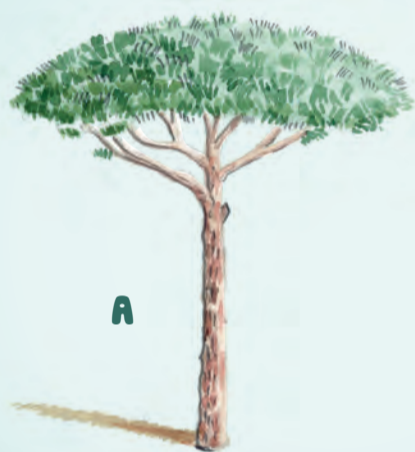
Carry on walking until you reach the "Frare" monument, a monk that represents the character in a narrative by a writer closely linked to Blanes, whose name is mentioned in the monument.



Who is the writer?

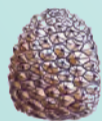
From this square we can see **different** examples of Aleppo Pine and Stone Pine

Take a good look at the pine trees in front of you and the ones in the drawing and fill in the boxes:



A. This is called

B. This is called



This type of pine cone is from  and contains many edible pine nuts



This type of pine cone is from  pine tree

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From the **monk monument** we continue walking towards the end of the promenade, where we find a **fountain** in which there is a plaque of fifteen blue tiles which represents Virgin Carmen with Baby Jesus on her left arm.

The **Roman numerals** at the top represent the year in which the fountain was made.



Can you tick what year the following numerals represent: MCMXLII?

- A. 1568
- B. 1943
- C. 1958
- D. 1703

Here is a clue **CM=900**

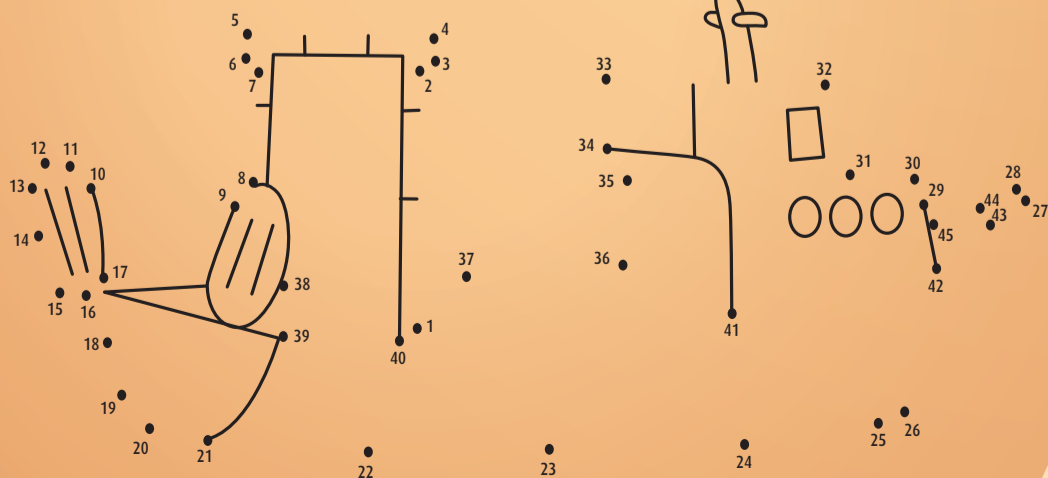
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It is time to approach the port. You'll see different types of boats depending on the type of fishing they do. There are some that do trawling. These are called **'quillats'** and are used to catch species that live on the seabed.



Watching them you will see that it is striking that on both sides they have iron gates which help to keep the **nets** open on the seabed.

Join the numbers and colour the 'quillat' boat and point out the gates used for trawl fishing



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Just behind the port you will find Saint Anna's headland. On these **cliffs** you will see many 'pita' cacti. When they bloom they have very thick shoots, that can reach 10 meters high and at its upper end it develops a more or less pyramidal group of flowers.



Now you have to finish the draw of the 'pita' flower

At this point **you've finished working!** Walking along the Blanes coast, you've learned a few things about nature and about Blanes. We hope you had a good time. And don't forget to pick up your prizes at the Marimurtra Botanical Garden or at the Tourist Office in Blanes at Plaça de Catalunya.

**See you soon!!**