



THE MANRESA OF SAINT IGNATIUS

A guide to discover the
city of Saint Ignatius



MANRESA
Cor de Catalunya

A city with soul











The monumental Baroque façade of the Cave, at the southern entrance of Manresa is one of the legacies of Ignatius of Loyola's stay in the city. The city that Ignatius experienced was one at the height of its Gothic splendour.

The city of Saint Ignatius

During eleven months (1522-1523) Ignatius of Loyola settled in the city of Manresa. In this way the city influenced the trajectory of a person who would end up being universal. It was a time of great changes: for the first time someone had travelled around the world; the Mediterranean was a point of conflict between Muslims and Christians; the crisis affecting the Church would bring about Protestant Reform. After abandoning his political and military life to engage in meditation and contemplation, Íñigo, as he was known, undertook a pilgrimage from his hometown, Loyola, to Jerusalem. He passed through Montserrat and stayed over in Manresa where, according to his own words, he had a series of mystical experiences that would be key in the writing of his most influential work: the *Spiritual Exercises*. Various Manresan families took him in and looked after him when he became ill during his penitence. Ignatius found many places in Manresa where he could dedicate himself to the solitude and seclusion of his new spiritual life.



Key to services

-  Tourist attractions with services
-  Tourist attractions without services
-  Tourist attractions with guided tours
-  Outdoor visits
-  Parks and nature trails
-  Entrance fees
-  Opening hours
-  Contact
-  Access with public transport
-  Accessibility

Index

- The city of Saint Ignatius
- A guide to discover the city of Saint Ignatius
- The Manresa which welcomed Ignatius (16th century)
- The Ignatian legacy in Manresa (16th-21st centuries)
- The 22 Ignatian sites
- Other important sites of the Ignatian legacy
- Map
- Tourist Information



Toni Galera

The key role that the city took in the confection of the thoughts and deeds of Ignatius has been recognised by the Society of Jesus, who have adopted the terms *Manresa* and *Cardener* to name many of their facilities, buildings and programmes linked to this religious order, which is present worldwide. Following in the footsteps of Ignatius of Loyola through Manresa, we move between two eras. On the one hand, that medieval and Gothic city which Ignatius got to know, with the Basilica of la Seu, the Interpretation Centre of Balç Street and the Manresa 1522 Exhibition: all these form part of the city where Ignatius lived. On the other hand, we can experience the city of modern times which was influenced by the saint, namely the sanctuary of the Cave and the Regional Museum (the former College of Saint Ignatius), which specialises in Baroque art. To mark the 500th anniversary of the pilgrim's visit to Manresa, several cultural and festive events have been organised throughout the year. Some of them consist of the celebration of Saint Ignatius festivities in July in the Historical Centre; the series of concerts of contemplative music, "The Sounds of the Path"; Manresa 2022 Forum, a programme of Ignatian conferences concerning the cities of the future and Ignatian values; and the Pilgrims' Trail, a walk open to the public from Montserrat to Manresa following the Ignatian Way. The recent revival of interest in local wine and food tasting is another interesting option.

The visit to the 22 sites will not only allow you to follow in the footsteps of Ignatius, but it will also let you discover the Manresa where he lived (in 1522) and the growth of the city during the following centuries, influenced by the presence of pilgrims. It comprises a series of exceptional and unique places, which maintain a close relationship with Saint Ignatius to this very day.



Detail of the alabaster altarpiece by Joan Grau inside the Cave.



Genís Seguí

The Small Cave, a stunning example of an Ignatian site.

A guide to discover the Manresa of Saint Ignatius

This guide will help you to discover the landmarks of the Ignatian Manresa following different itineraries. It comprises an introduction to the Gothic and Baroque Manresa and brief descriptions of each of the 22 Ignatian sites. Amongst these, five are especially worth visiting due to their displays of Ignatian objects and the different activities which are available. In each case, basic information is given on practical questions. During the visit you will find signs indicating where you should go and giving information about the site and its link with Saint Ignatius. The guide also includes a passport which can be completed with the stamps from the five essential sites of the Manresa of Saint Ignatius. Once the passport has been filled in, the owner will **receive a certificate that allows them to enjoy various benefits and discounts in the city.**



Toni Galera

Saint Ignatius' bowl.



Jordi Play

The antechamber, sanctuary of the Cave.



Jordi Play

The baroque façade of the Cave.

The Manresa which welcomed Ignatius

(16th century)

Íñigo López of Loyola, son of a noble Basque family, was born in the small town of Azpeitia (Guipúscoa) in 1491. A royal messenger, he was wounded in the battle of Pamplona between the armies from the Spanish Basque Country and the French Basque Country. As a result of a spiritual crisis, he decided to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. On the way to Barcelona, he stopped in Montserrat, where he received his first spiritual enlightenment. Various circumstances made him postpone his trip. He stayed in Manresa, where he was taken in by a group of devout women who would become known as *Íñigues*.

At that time, Manresa had left behind its medieval splendour. The city was just recovering from the combined effects of the Black Death, cycles of poor harvests and the fifteenth century Civil War which had caused a deep demographic and economic crisis in the country.

Manresa, however, remained one of the most important cities of Catalonia, because of both its craftsmen, as well as its thriving agriculture, with fields irrigated by the 26-km Sèquia canal, which had been built 150 years earlier to bring water from the River Llobregat. In the city, there were various religious orders: Carmelites, Dominicans, Poor Clare Sisters and Cistercians.

The town planning comprised a series of irregular, dark and poorly ventilated streets. At the same time, these streets were full of popular expressions and religious beliefs, visible through niches, crosses and small chapels scattered everywhere, in addition to the important number of convents, hermitages and churches. Of all the religious buildings, the most remarkable was the Basilica of Santa Maria de la Seu.

Ignatius had neglected his appearance to such a point, that he was popularly known as the man in the sack-cloth because he only wore a simple tunic.

Many of these sites were areas of prayer for Ignatius. The future saint received spiritual counselling from different people: Joan Botocavi, canon of the Basilica of la Seu; Galceran Perelló, the Dominican friar from the Preachers convent where he probably also coincided with the popular Blessed Maria of Saint Dominic; and Alfonso of Agurreta, prior of Saint Paul. In some of these places, he experienced mysteries and revelations, as related by witnesses of the time. According to the autobiography of the saint, it was next to the river Cardener where he had his divine revelation known as the Great Illumination. Ignatius lived as a poor pilgrim, staying mainly in the Santa Lucia Hospital. He ate little and fasted a lot. He had neglected his appearance to such a point that he was popularly known as the man in the sack-cloth because he only wore a simple tunic.

He spent his time taking care of the sick and feeding the poor, apart from continuing his pilgrimage throughout the city. This experience and the mystic episodes he had, contributed to transform his whole being and led him to write the *Spiritual Exercises*.



Views of Montserrat from Manresa.



The Well of the Hen.



The Old Bridge with the Basilica in the background. 7

One of the sites dedicated to the worship of Ignatius: the Tort Cross.

The Ignatian legacy in Manresa

(16th-21st centuries)

Over the years, Ignatius maintained correspondence with various people who had helped him during his stay in Catalonia. Once his work had culminated with founding of the Jesuits in Manresa, the places that he had visited as a Pilgrim started to be worshipped.

During the process of canonisation which concluded in 1622, many witnesses, both direct or indirect, recounted anecdotes, facts and mysteries associated with the saint.

Some of these were the product of folklore, such as the legend of the Well of the Hen. The increase in the number of pilgrims led the City Council to bring about the founding of the Jesuits. The Jesuits had had their permanent residence in Manresa since 1602 and they had promoted the construction of two emblematic buildings of the Baroque period: the Cave and the aforementioned Saint Ignatius College (which is now the Regional Museum). The Jesuit presence was conditioned by different social and political figures, a fact that meant that the order underwent a number of expulsions due to its influence and power.

Currently, the Cave has become an international centre of Ignatian spirituality. It welcomes visitors from around the world who stay for periods of meditation, training and *spiritual exercises*. Several artists including Joseph Beuys and Fernando Prats have found inspiration in Saint Ignatius for their creations which have left their mark on Manresa.

Javier Vidala



Balç Street: handcrafted urban network born from medieval splendour.

Jordi Play



The cross in memory of Beuys shows the impact of Saint Ignatius on contemporary artists.

Toni Galera



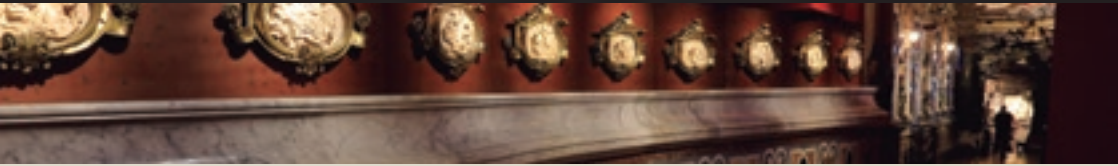
Stained windows dating from 1909 from the H. J. Maumejean workshop in Barcelona.

Jordi Play



Details of the Baroque façade of the Cave.

22 Ignatian sites



1 The Sanctuary of the Cave



The river Cardener is characterised by its natural caves dug into the rock by the power of the wind and rain. These caves were inhabited by hermits during the sixteenth century. Ignatius chose one of them to pray in and according to tradition, started to write the *Spiritual Exercises* there. At the end of the sixteenth century, pilgrims began to worship in this place. At first, they placed a cross inside and closed the cave with a door. Subsequently, a small chapel was built in 1603. Gradually, the number of visitors grew and during more than four centuries, the site became more and more important with the addition of new buildings. Nowadays the complex is known by the name of the Cave, and it comprises the Sanctuary of the Cave and the International Centre of Ignatian Spirituality (formerly the Retreat House). The latter originally dates from 1894 and is the work of Joan Martorell. The building was renovated between 2012 and 2014 and it is now home to the Jesuit community who live there permanently. After the refurbishment of modern times, the sanctuary is now divided into four areas: the church, the reception area, the antechamber and the Small Cave. The whole set of buildings represents a good example of Jesuit architecture and especially of Catalan Baroque art. In addition to its evident artistic value, it is clearly a symbol for the members of the Society of Jesus as it is considered to be the place where the ideas of its founder took shape and flourished.

External view of the Cave

The Baroque lateral façade

An impressive example of Baroque theatricality, it was conceived as a way to close an empty space. It consists of three sectors, the Small Cave, the antechamber and the church sanctuary. Its structure comprises three levels: a simple basement; a central part with Ionic pillars and vousoired windows (including an entablature at the top with figures representing fauna and flora) and an upper part with musical angels and elliptical oculi. It dates from the seventeenth century and is the work of Joan Grau and Francesc Grau.



The Church façade

It is an exceptional example of Jesuit and Catalan baroque architecture thanks to the movement of its elements and its decoration in the form of a Baroque altarpiece. At the centre, a niche can be found with the sculpture of the saint holding a pen and the *Spiritual Exercises* book framed by Corinthian columns. Above the statue, the Rosette oval symbolises divine enlightenment.



The inside of the Cave

The Church

Built between 1750 and 1763, it is formed by a single nave with interconnecting lateral chapels, connected by an upper platform with a lattice. The decoration was not finished until the mid-nineteenth century, because of the expulsions which the community underwent. On the sides, the sculptures of the Society of Jesus can be found. The main altar is presided by an image of the Virgin Mary and above this, the Holy Trinity with the saints Ignatius and Francis Xavier on each side can be seen.



The Reception Area

We can find the door dating back to 1625, through which the Small Cave could be accessed until 1900, and the marble banister from 1900 covering most of the rock walls of the Small Cave. We can also see the nine medallions with alabaster relief by Josep Sunyer (1720) showing episodes from the life of Ignatius in Manresa.

The Antechamber

Until the nineteenth century, this place was dedicated to worship, but with the construction of the church, it became the entrance hall to the Small Cave. It was decorated between 1906 and 1919 by the Jesuit painter, Martín Coronas, who directed the modernist style refurbishment with a certain eclecticism and varied decoration for the floor, the walls and the ceiling. This choice of decoration reflects a communicative function: it is the space that prepares us to enter into the most spiritual place of the whole collection of buildings. This idea is conveyed through the iconography of the walls: the stained glass windows and the mosaics of the pseudo

windows; between the windows there are six medallions explaining episodes from the life of the saint whereas the family coat of arms and weapons found on the floor bear witness to the former profession of Ignatius.





The Small Cave


It is the heart of Saint Ignatius' legacy. It consists of a cave which was formed by the erosion of the River Cardener. In the seventeenth century, it was decorated with an alabaster altarpiece made by Joan Grau, showing Saint Ignatius writing the *Spiritual Exercises* in Manresa. The stucco found on the side of the river dates from the eighteenth century.



The Sanctuary of the Cave of Saint Ignatius

 From October to February: from Monday to Saturday: from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 6 pm
Sundays: from 10 am to 12 pm and from 3 pm to 6 pm
From March to September: from Monday to Saturday: from 10 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 7 pm
Sundays: from 10 am to 12 pm and from 4 pm to 7 pm
On other holidays, please contact us for more details concerning opening times

 Contact us for admission prices. Guided tours available.

 938751579 · santuari@covamanresa.cat
www.covamanresa.cat

2 Regional Museum (the former college of Saint Ignatius)



It was founded in 1625 thanks to private donations and also the Town Council who donated the former hospital of Saint Lucia so that the Jesuits could set up another school. This would be the second school of the Society of Jesus after the Bethlehem school in Barcelona and the predecessor of the Jesuit schools in Gracia and Sarria (Barcelona). In 1750 it was extended to its present size and the current building was renovated in the nineteenth century. A central courtyard connects the different wings of the building. It consists of a square with an arcaded neoclassical-style cloister in the centre. The Jesuits managed the school until 1892. José Pignatelli was a pupil there, who would later restore the Society of Jesus to its former glory. The reputation of the school grew due to its strict discipline and it became

one of the preferred educational centres of wealthy families throughout Catalonia. In his memoirs, the writer Josep M. de Sagarra explains that his father, who was a student of the school, endured the "Siberian cold" of Manresa because, "Jesuit education was still an advocate of the austerity which marked the era of the Counter-Reformation." After the departure of the Jesuits in 1901, the town School of Arts and Crafts was opened. Throughout the twentieth century, the building has also been used for other functions, such as military barracks, a laboratory and a library. Finally, in 1941 the Historical Archive and Museum of the city was created there.

Regional Museum of Manresa PILGRIMS WELCOME CENTRE

🕒 Open daily from 10 am to 6 pm
Visits to the galleries
Saturdays: from 10 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 8 pm
Sundays: from 10 am to 2 pm
From Tuesday to Friday: visits by appointment only

€ 3€

📞 938741155 · museu@ajmanresa.cat
www.museudemmanresa.cat



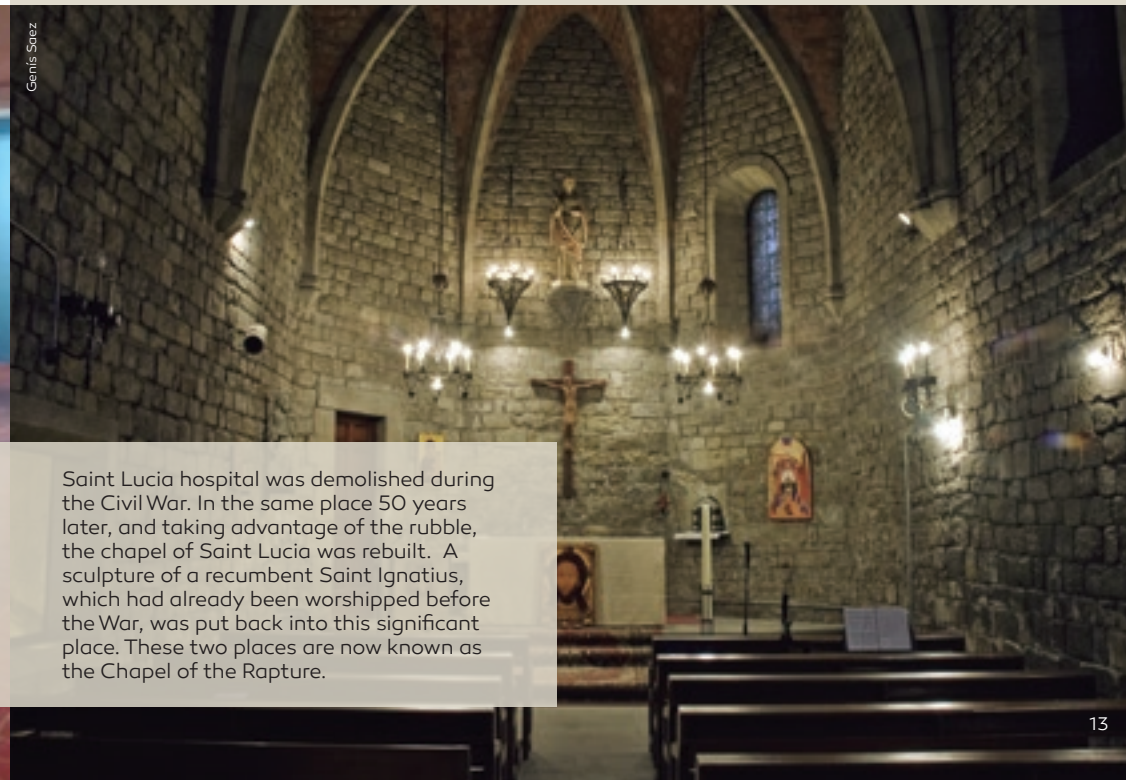
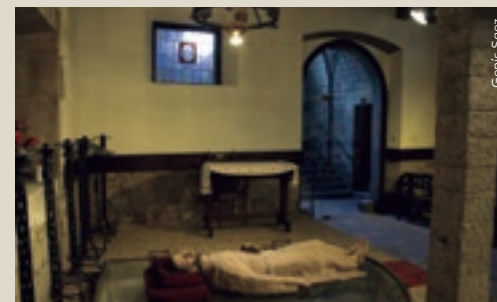
The museum conserves an important collection of baroque altarpieces produced in Manresa during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. All these altarpieces were conceived as an object of devotion by the churches of the city following the Council of Trento (1545-1563); when all Parishes were asked to renew their liturgical material according to the new criteria. This fact caused an increase in demand and, in

turn, the increase in the number of workshops throughout Catalonia, and close to home, the birth of the school of Manresa. Among the most important craftsmen were the Grau, Sunyer and Padró families. From the post-Ignatian period, there are collections dedicated to the War of the Spanish Succession, the painter Viladomat and the French War.

3 The Chapel of the Rapture

🗺️ 🚶 🚗 (former Hospital of Saint Lucia)

The hospital of Saint Lucia, dating back to medieval times, was known as the hospital of the poor or the destitute. In the sixteenth century, hospitals were not health centres, but places which provided food and shelter to pilgrims, passers-by, the poor, the homeless, the mentally ill and abandoned or orphaned children. Therefore, they took in people of little means or people who were passing through. The hospital of Saint Lucia was the first place, and indeed the main one, where the pilgrim stayed during his 11 months in Manresa. Ignatius would eat with the poor and helped to look after the sick, thus practising his vows of poverty and helping the less fortunate. According to witnesses, while singing Mass, the Pilgrim underwent a spiritual rapture and remained for eight days and eight nights motionless on the chapel floor.



Saint Lucia hospital was demolished during the Civil War. In the same place 50 years later, and taking advantage of the rubble, the chapel of Saint Lucia was rebuilt. A sculpture of a recumbent Saint Ignatius, which had already been worshipped before the War, was put back into this significant place. These two places are now known as the Chapel of the Rapture.



Toni Galera

4 The Canyelles Family

   Home

When he first came to Manresa, after staying at the Saint Lucia hospital, Ignatius also stayed for a few days on the ground floor of this house in Sobrerroca Street. He was taken in by one of his followers, Miquela Canyelles. According to tradition, the pilgrim slept in the space between the front door, the staircase and the interior patio.



Jordi Martínez

5 The Well of the Hen

On Sobrerroca Street we can come across a well that reminds us of a miraculous story which according to local folklore took place in 1602: a fourteen-year-old girl was looking after her stepmother's hen, when suddenly the animal ran away and fell into this well. The hen drowned and the girl was so frightened of her stepmother's reaction, that she begged Saint Ignatius to bring it back to life. According to tradition, this is exactly what happened. In the eighteenth century a small adjacent chapel was built with an altarpiece inside which explained the legend. The city continued to remember this miraculous event for many years after by drinking the holy water from the well.




Javier Vieda

6 Balç Street

It is a good example of medieval Manresan urban layout, consisting of narrow, irregular, poorly lit and poorly ventilated streets which had been built to fit the topography of the city. It is a unique place, formed by a structure of porched galleries which connected several houses. We can still find a water well, old doorways, storerooms and huddled together buildings which form a dark and cramped street where a medieval atmosphere can still be perceived. It currently houses the Interpretation Centre of Balç Street where visitors can discover an audio-visual experience which will reveal what Manresa was like at the time of Peter IV of Aragon.

Interpretation Centre of Balç Street

 Saturdays: from 10 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 8 pm
Sundays and public holidays: from 10 am to 2 pm
From Monday to Friday: visits by appointment only

 5€ general admission / 4€ reduced admission

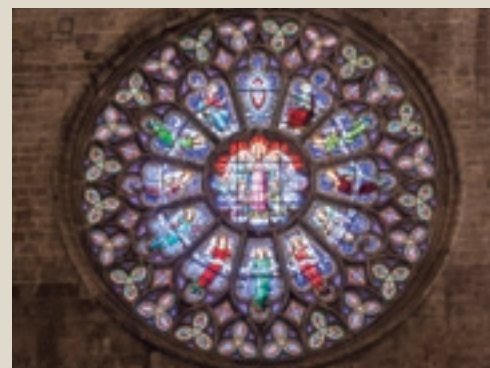
 938721466 · carrerdelbalc@ajmanresa.cat
www.manresaturisme.cat/carrerdelbalc



The chapel of San Antonio Abad, where Ignatius often prayed, was funded by the Guild master shoemakers and currently houses the chapel of Saint Joseph. One of the sculptures displayed in the same chapel bears witness to this fact.

The Basilica of la Seu, situated on the Puigcardener Hill, is the most emblematic icon of Manresan architecture and was one of the principal sources of inspiration for Saint Ignatius during his stay in the city.

7 The Basilica of la Seu



The Gothic Basilica of Santa Maria de la Seu, built on the Puigcardener Hill, is the principal architectural and artistic icon of the city. Highlights include a set of altarpieces from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries; a museum (with many valuable objects), stained glass windows, the Romanesque cloister, the 50-metre high bell tower, the three main doors and a spectacular system of buttresses and arches supporting the vaults. The imposing construction began in 1328, directed by the master builder Berenguer de Montagut, the artífex of Santa Maria del Mar in Barcelona, and it was finished in 1488. When Ignatius arrived in 1522, only the basic form of the basilica, the head, the nave and the lateral chapels had been built. After this, the bell tower, the Blessed Sacrament chapel and the façade on the west was completed. Built on a single floor, and 30 metres high and 33 metres wide, it is the second widest Gothic church in Europe, after the Cathedral of Girona, and represents one of the best examples of this artistic period.

Built thanks to the contributions of the various Guilds, the faithful and the Town Council, the Basilica of la Seu is a reflection of the medieval splendour of the city: an era of economic prosperity that turned it into one of the most important towns in Catalonia. The Seu was visited by Ignatius on the same morning he came to the capital of the Bages region. The pilgrim from Loyola came daily and prayed in the chapel of San Antonio Abad, which is currently that of Saint Joseph. According to the autobiography of Ignatius, in Manresa his advisers included the Canon of the Seu, Joan Bocotavi, a very spiritual man preaching there, who in order to overcome the demons which tormented him, was told one day in Confession, “to write down everything he could remember.”

The Basilica of Santa Maria of la Seu

🕒 From Monday to Friday from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm and from 4 pm to 7 pm
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 10.30 am to 2 pm and from 4 pm to 7 pm
Seu Museum: Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm
*The museum is not wheelchair accessible.

€ Contact us for information concerning admission prices.

📞 938721512

8 The Chapel of Saint Ignatius the Sick



The Amigant Family used to take care of the sick in another house they owned called the “Little Hospital”. Ignatius stayed there twice, because Angela Seguí the matriarch of the family, helped him on many occasions. She would later form part of the group that attended the *Spiritual Exercises* which Ignatius gave in the Chapel of Saint Lucia.

🕒 Every day from 10 am to 8 pm



Ferran Fajó

In 1703 the “Little Hospital” became a place of worship: the Chapel of Saint Ignatius the Sick. An oil-painting is conserved inside which shows the Amigant family caring for the pilgrim. This site has recently been restored.

9 El Carme Youth Hostel (the former convent and church of El Carme)



During the fourteenth century, the Carmelite fathers erected a Church on the highest hill of the town, the Puig Mercadal, the Gothic temple, El Carme. With the financial support of Alfonso the Benign, the works began in 1322 under the direction of Berenguer de Montagut. The church was 75 metres long, 22 wide and 36 high. The construction of the baroque altarpiece of the high altar in the seventeenth century brought together artists such as the painter Pere Cuquet.

The convent and cloister were renovated in the neoclassical style in the eighteenth century. After the secularisation of the Carmelites, in 1835 the convent was turned into a school. In 1849 it was converted into military barracks, a function that it would keep until 1965. It was demolished during the Civil War and during the demolition work, some ceramics, decorated in green and manganese, were discovered. They can currently be admired in the Regional Museum of Manresa. Several capitals and keystones are also on display in the Manresa 1522 Exhibition: Ignatius’ city. In 1990 it was made into the Youth Hostel it still is today. According to tradition, it was one of the sites where Ignatius worshipped.



Jordi Piny

The mysterious light

According to local tradition, on the 21st February 1345, a ray of light came down from Montserrat and illuminated the Church of El Carme. This fact was used to bring an end to the dispute which had arisen between the City and Bishop of Vic following the construction of the Sequia Canal. This canal, which had been necessary to alleviate the severe drought that Manresa was undergoing, had to pass through lands belonging to the Bishop of Vic, who was not keen on the idea. After the appearance of the mysterious light, the Bishop retracted and allowed the construction work to resume. People in Manresa continue celebrating this legendary episode with a big popular festival and a spectacular medieval fair, the Hoe Fair, which takes place during the weekend following the 21st February.



Genís Saez

10 Amigant House



Former Renaissance style residence of the Amigant family, a noble lineage, who took care of Ignatius. Above the doorway the family coat of arms can be seen, comprising two arms which are joined by a handshake, accompanied by two gold stars, symbols of friendship and good fortune.



Toni Galera



Genís Saez

Sant Domènec Square (the former Convent of the Preachers) Manresa 1522. Ignatius' city



The huge monumental convent of Saint Dominic (also known as the Convent of the Preachers) included the church of Saint Peter the Martyr, demolished in 1936 during the civil war. Joined to the walls of the current Conservatory Theatre, it was an eclectic building that had begun to be built in the fourteenth century but was not finalised until the mid-eighteenth century. Inside, the Chapel of the Rosary lodged a valuable altarpiece by Joan Grau dating from 1644.

During the eleven months that he remained in Manresa, Ignatius stayed at least twice in the convent of the Preachers. Run by the Dominican friars (or Preachers), it occupied part of Sant Domènec Square, which is now part of the current Conservatory Theatre.

As Ignatius explains in his own autobiography, he experienced some of his most critical moments during his stay in Manresa, with serious doubts, severe penance and fasting that made him become so seriously ill, that he even thought about the possibility of committing suicide.

The convent was also the scene of his most intense experiences with visions and enlightenments which strengthened Ignatius' faith and culminated his personal transformation which took place in the city.

Ton Galera



In the Convent of the Preachers, Ignatius underwent a series of intense experiences that allowed him to culminate his personal transformation which had taken place in the city of Manresa.



Genís Saez

During the last months of 2015: **Manresa 1522. Ignatius' city**

Installed in the arcades of the former cloister (currently the Conservatory Theatre), the interpretation centre, Manresa 1522 shows what the city was like in the early sixteenth century when the future founder of the Society of Jesus came to visit it. It also offers an overview of all the main places in the capital of the Bages region which still preserve the memory of Ignatius' legacy. It also exhibits some original objects that come from places which Ignatius saw and got to know directly while he was in the city, such as the Convent of the Preachers and the former El Carme church.

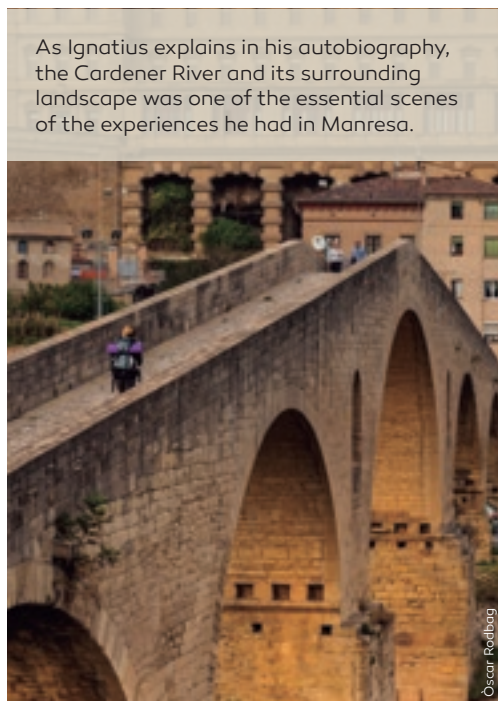


Jordi Rodó

12 The Tower of Saint Catherine



The chapel and convent of Saint Cristobal and Saint Catherine were located on the hill of Saint Catherine, on the right bank of the Cardener River, close to the road leading to Igualada and Marganell. From the thirteenth century to the fifteenth century, there was a small community of women canonesses of Saint Augustine, who depended on the Basilica of la Seu. In 1502, the Manresa council restored the chapel, but its community had been lost forever. It was probably the first place that Ignatius found when he arrived in Manresa. During the First Carlist War (1833-1840), the chapel was demolished and the current circular defence tower was built in its place, with a permanent garrison equipped with cannon artillery.



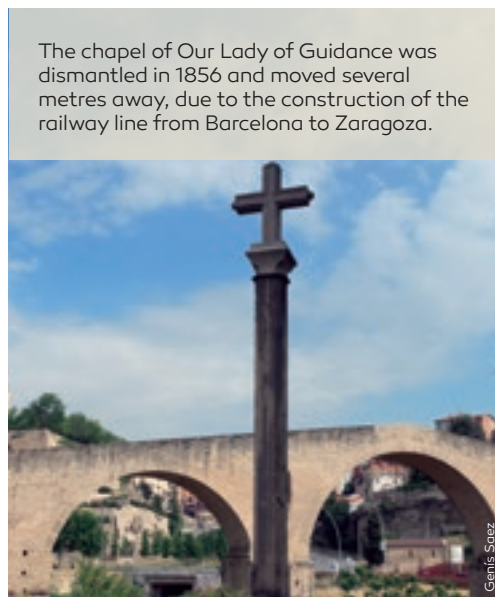
Oscar Rodó

13 The River Cardener and the Old Bridge



This is a medieval bridge (eleventh century) which crosses the river Cardener at the entrance to the city. Rebuilt and transformed several times throughout its history, it has eight semi-circular arches, it is 132 metres long, 3.70 metres wide and has a maximum height of 25 metres above the river. It connects with the old road, through Castellgalí, which led to Montserrat. Ignatius crossed this bridge when he reached Manresa. Next to the bridge, there was the old Molí Nou, owned by the Council, which was sold in the nineteenth century and converted into a textile factory which is no longer there. The small waterfall located under the main arch is known as the "bullidor" (the "boiler") and is associated with many legends.

As Ignatius explains in his autobiography, the Cardener River and its surrounding landscape was one of the essential scenes of the experiences he had in Manresa.



Genís Saez

14 The Cross and Chapel of Our Lady of Guidance



The chapel and cross of Our Lady of Guidance were situated next to the Old Bridge, at the entrance to the city on the road which came from Montserrat. As the patron saint of messengers, devotees would pray there before going on their journey. According to tradition, on reaching Manresa, the pilgrim had an apparition of the Virgin Mary who encouraged him to continue his penance. During his stay, the cross was one of the places of worship which the future saint would visit the most.



Jordi Rodó

15 Beuys Cross



Popularly known as Beuys cross, the Manresa Hbf Cross is a monument erected in 1995 in memory of Joseph Beuys' stay in the city while paying tribute to Saint Ignatius of Loyola. After visiting the Cave, Beuys presented the exhibition Fluxus Manresa in 1966 in Düsseldorf, which was inspired by Ignatian spirituality. In 1994, two Danish disciples of the artist (the sculptor Björn Norgård and the composer Henning Christiansen) created the event Manresa Hauptbahnhof and Norgaard sculpted this cross, which was installed a few months later near the Old Bridge.

Beuys dissected the Christian cross and gave it a new shape and a new meaning, in order to turn it into an element of union and intersection and not of division and separation. The monument tries to reflect this reworking, through a symbolic mixture of art, science and religion.



Jordi Rodó

16 Chapel of Saint Mark



In this small fifteenth century Gothic chapel, Ignatius would pray and according to some witnesses, it was also the site of one of his spiritual visions. The church was built following instructions of the City Council and has a shield of Manresa carved on the upper part. At that time it was guarded by the Guild of tanners which was the most important of the period.



Gemis Saez

When he left Manresa, Ignatius left behind his “escudella” (a wooden soup bowl made from olive tree wood) in this house. The family held on to this object until the summer of 2008, when they donated it to the Jesuits so that it could be put on display in the Cave.

17 Tort Cross



It is situated next to the country house of the same name, close to the royal road to Barcelona which runs through the village of El Pont de Vilomara. Dating back originally to the XIV century, the cross was a place of worship for Ignatius. According to several witnesses, he had several visions there and spent some time at the Cross following his Great Illumination. From Tort Cross, a part of the old Paradise Valley can be admired, some of the green meadows watered by the last parts of the Sèquia. Canal.



Jordi Roca

18 The Light Well



After the experience started by the German artist, Joseph Beuys, the Chilean artist, Fernando Prats undertook a project called: “From the Cardener to Antarctica (2001-2004)”. Prats sought to transport the essence of spirituality from its origins in the River Cardener (where Saint Ignatius had his Great Illumination) to Antarctica. In order to do this, he covered the inside of the Cave with paper and tape in order to capture the essence of

the place and he transported this paper to Antarctica where it was buried under the ice. At the same time in Manresa, he dug a 15-metre deep well near the river Cardener, and physical evidence of Antarctica was deposited inside. The hole represents the will to arrive at the source of every inspiration. This well is covered by a lid in a spiral with a total of 117 names of people from different eras engraved on it. All have one thing in common: their encounter with mystical experiences at some point of their life. The artistic monument is known as the Light Well.

19 The Hermitage of Saint Paul



Built in 1308, it was initially under the patronage of Saint Mark and Saint Barbara. The leper hospital moved there in 1322. In 1412 it was donated to some hermits from Montserrat, who dedicated it to Saint Paul. In the fifteenth century a community of monks from Valldaura settled there and it became a Cistercian priory, linked to the Monastery of Poblet. In 1522 Ignatius of Loyola started to visit the Hermitage and he became friends with the prior, Alfonso de Agurreta, whom he defined as a “very spiritual man”. Ignatius tried to see him again after returning from the Holy Land, but Alfonso had already died.



Jordi Roca

Jesuit tank: a hydraulic engineering invention which collected water from the Sèquia canal. It was probably built in the eighteenth century on instructions of the Society of Jesus in order to irrigate that part of the city when the convent of Saint Paul was acquired by the College of Saint Ignatius in 1700.



Gemis Saez

20 The Convent of Saint Clare

This is a medieval convent which was occupied by a community of Poor Clare Sisters. It was a place which Ignatius would pass by on his way to Viladordis. According to tradition, he would sit on the stone steps of the Romanesque entrance to listen to the nuns sing. Cloistered Dominican nuns lived there from the seventeenth century. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Manresan architect Alexandre Soler i March designed a new structure for the western façade in a modernist style.

21 The Culla Cross

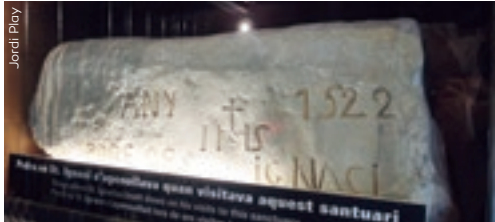


The Culla Cross dated from 1413, is located near the farmhouse of the same name and marks the entry point to the city when coming from Barcelona. In the sixteenth century, when Ignatius of Loyola was in Manresa, the Culla family was one of the richest. According to tradition, Ignatius would go there to ask for alms as well as spending time praying and meditating at the foot of the cross. It is also said that he might have had other visions or revelations at this site.



Toni Galera

The former farmhouse is now the Head Quarters of the Regulatory Council of the Pla de Bages Denomination of Origin as well as being used to teach school children about the environment and the agricultural world.



Jordi Play

Saint Ignatius prayed kneeling down on the entrance stone, which is currently preserved inside the church with an inscription recalling the fact.

22 Santa Maria de la Salut Sanctuary

Built in the tenth century, Santa Maria de la Salut was a church located outside the city walls and often visited by Ignatius. This enclave is situated in a place where the current paths of Saint James and Abad Oliva intersect with the Ignatian Way. The Marcetes is a medieval farmhouse close to the sanctuary. The owners looked after the shrine and according to tradition, would often give alms to Ignatius. He thanked them by giving them a piece of his belt, which was later used as a relic placed inside a silver sculpture. Unfortunately, the sculpture disappeared during the civil war.



Jordi Play

In the XVI century, Viladordis was an independent town made up of scattered farmhouses and a Romanesque church surrounded by crops and woodland. One of its unique features is that the Sèquia canal passes through its land. The new three-floored parsonage was built in 1878 next to the church, which obstructs the view of the façade of the old rectory. When the building works were being carried out, medieval tombs were discovered in the ground.

Other heritage sites which were contemporary to Saint Ignatius' stay



The Sèquia Canal

The Sèquia is a medieval canal built in the fourteenth century to bring water from the river Llobregat from Balsareny to Manresa. It covers a distance of 26 km and was designed by the engineer Guillem Catà. It is considered to be one of the leading hydraulic engineering works of the medieval era in the whole of Europe. It only has a difference in height of 10 metres along the entire route, which is extraordinary if the rudimentary means of the time are taken into account. Along its route, many places of natural, historical and architectural interest can be visited. Arriving at Manresa, it divides into various branches, one of which forks towards Viladordis and Saint Clare, two of the places which Ignatius frequently visited. More information: www.parcdelasequia.cat



The New Bridge

Crossing the River Cardener, at the location of the Manresa cemetery, it is one of the best preserved medieval bridges in Catalonia. It was built in the early fourteenth century under the instructions of Berenguer de Montagut, who also designed the churches of La Seu and El Carme. With a considerable length, it initially consisted of nine arches and connected with the royal road that went from Manresa to Lleida.



The City Walls

The old wall that surrounded the city of Manresa reached its maximum perimeter during the fourteenth century. Various parts still remain today: the Sobrerroca Gateway (still preserving one of the entrance towers from the royal road to Barcelona), Europa Square, the wall next to El Carme and the section of the Saint Ignatius Way, known as the Jaffa Wall, which is located just under the Basilica of Santa Maria de la Seu.



Sobrerroca Street and Gateway

This medieval street was the place where many wealthy and noble families used to reside. In a corner of the street stands one of the two towers that used to flank the ancient gateway to the city. This was one of the eight gateways of the city walls and it had a double function: to allow entry and exit as well as being used as a checkpoint.

The tower, with a square base, was built between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It has recently been restored and the inside can be accessed.

Other heritage sites of the Ignatian legacy



The Former Town Council Hall

It was built in the space formerly occupied by the “House of Commons”, the name given to the former Town Council. It was designed between 1661 and 1685 with the idea of carrying out the same functions. The possibility of creating a diocese in Manresa also put forward the idea of it being the bishop’s residence. However, despite these plans, it eventually became the Courts and the Prison. Built in a late Renaissance style with a Baroque façade, it is sober but elegant, and is believed to have been inspired by the Palace of the Government of Catalonia due to the arrangement of its windows and central niche. The city coat of arms over the main door was made by the sculptor Joan Grau, in 1671.



Major Square and the Town Hall of Manresa

The present square was built in the eighteenth century. It was formerly made up of two small squares, that of the Spicemakers and that of the City, separated by a block of houses in the middle. Taking advantage of the demolition which took place in 1713 during the War of Succession, the square was enlarged in order to be able to satisfy the new and popular custom of holding street festivals. The current Town Hall dates back to the same time and was constructed by Joan Garrido. It follows a similar structure to a Baroque stately home, with some Gothic influence visible in the arched porches over the entrance.



Baroque stately homes

Manresa conserves several Baroque stately homes built by local well-to-do families during the eighteenth century. Their former owners had acquired their wealth thanks to commerce, manufacturing and renting out farmlands. These stately homes can be easily identified by their large doorways for horses and carriages, their symmetrically designed windows and balconies and by their large central courtyard with a staircase leading to the first floor. With two more floors, the exterior of the houses had a very minimalist look about them. The insides, on the other hand, were much more elaborate with Baroque decoration and paintings.

The main stately homes are:

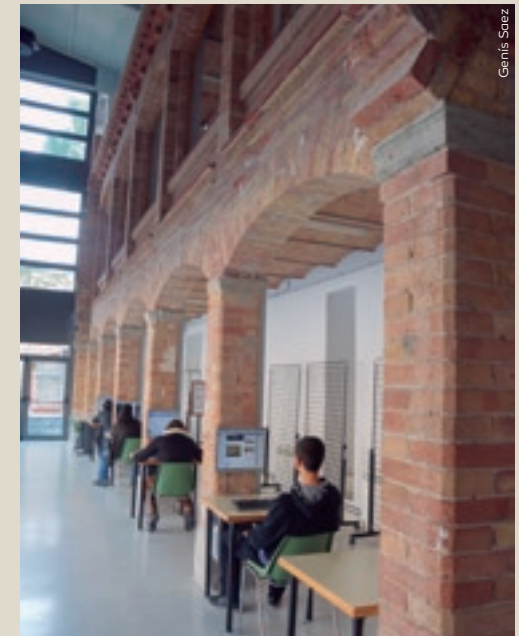
Asols House: a mansion built in 1789 and recently restored (2007), it conserves some of its original decoration on the main façade.

Oller House: built in the Plana de l’Om with a central courtyard covered by a dome and a lantern, it was also restored in 2007.

Suanya House: built in 1774, it was recently renovated and the top floor extended.

Torres Argullol House: built in 1773 as indicated by the inscription on the balcony. The interior rooms were decorated with murals in the nineteenth century.

The House of the Grau sculptors: it was probably once the residence and workshop of this important family of Baroque sculptors. Today it hosts the conference and exhibition rooms donated to Manresa City Council.



The former church and convent of Saint Bartholomew

Located on Corcó hill, the chapel of Saint Bartholomew, documented from the end of the thirteenth century, took in the Capuchin Friars when they settled in Manresa in 1582. The monks decided to build their own convent next to the church. In the seventeenth century, the proximity to the Cave of Saint Ignatius led to a long conflict with the Jesuits, when the Capuchin friars claimed that Ignatius had also been present in some of the caves beneath their convent. In 1676 the new Saint Bartholomew chapel was opened, but was abandoned by the Capuchins in 1835, during the confiscation. In 1863, the church passed into the hands of the Sisters of the Poor until 1936 when it was demolished during the Civil War. Before becoming the current community centre of the Escodines neighbourhood, the building of the former convent was also used as a charitable asylum, military barracks, a shelter for refugees and a prison.

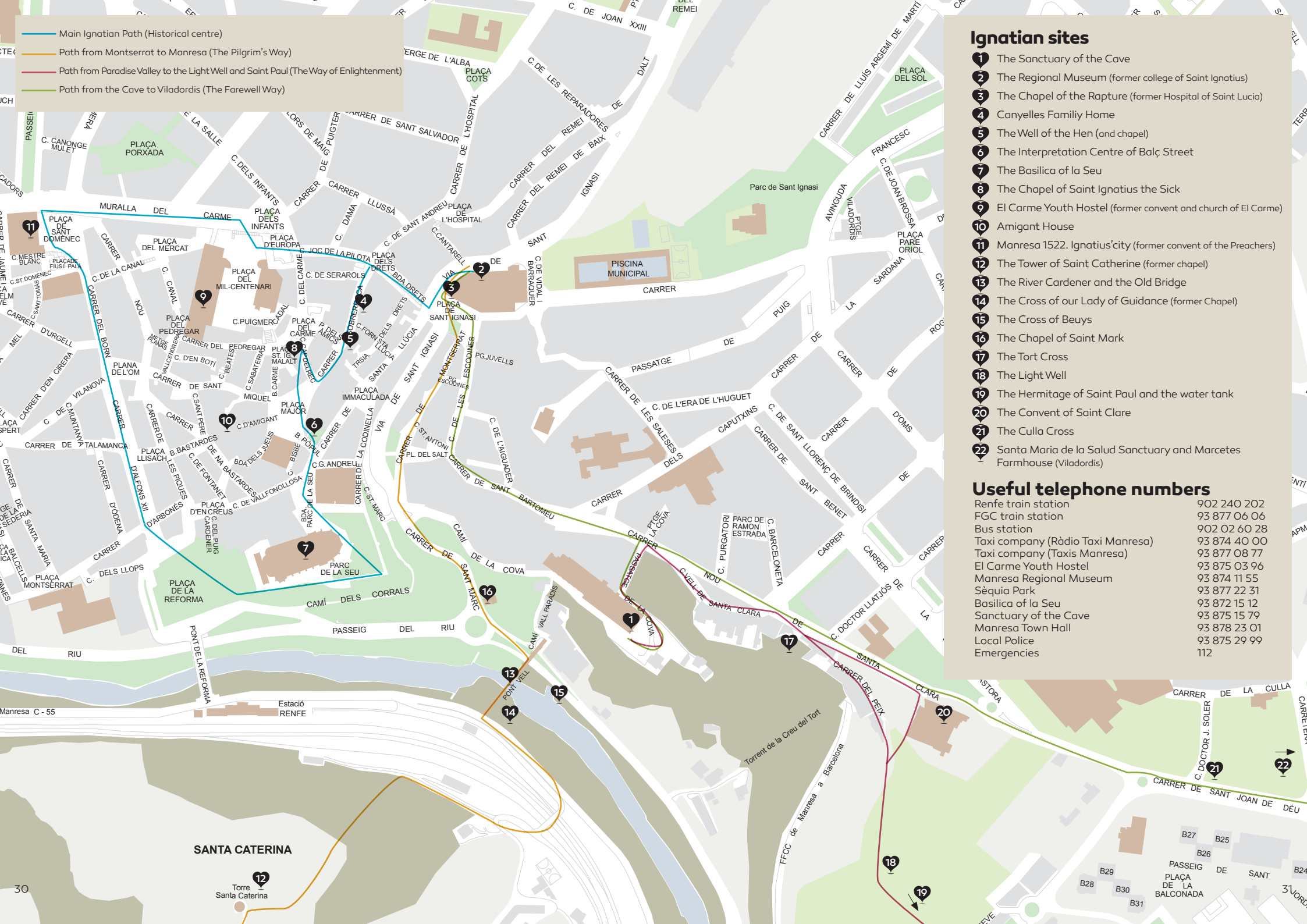
- Main Ignatian Path (Historical centre)
- Path from Montserrat to Manresa (The Pilgrim's Way)
- Path from Paradise Valley to the Light Well and Saint Paul (The Way of Enlightenment)
- Path from the Cave to Viladordis (The Farewell Way)

Ignatian sites

- 1 The Sanctuary of the Cave
- 2 The Regional Museum (former college of Saint Ignatius)
- 3 The Chapel of the Rapture (former Hospital of Saint Lucia)
- 4 Canyelles Family Home
- 5 The Well of the Hen (and chapel)
- 6 The Interpretation Centre of Balç Street
- 7 The Basilica of la Seu
- 8 The Chapel of Saint Ignatius the Sick
- 9 El Carme Youth Hostel (former convent and church of El Carme)
- 10 Amigant House
- 11 Manresa 1522. Ignatius'city (former convent of the Preachers)
- 12 The Tower of Saint Catherine (former chapel)
- 13 The River Cardener and the Old Bridge
- 14 The Cross of our Lady of Guidance (former Chapel)
- 15 The Cross of Beuys
- 16 The Chapel of Saint Mark
- 17 The Tort Cross
- 18 The Light Well
- 19 The Hermitage of Saint Paul and the water tank
- 20 The Convent of Saint Clare
- 21 The Culla Cross
- 22 Santa Maria de la Salut Sanctuary and Marcetes Farmhouse (Viladordis)

Useful telephone numbers

Renfe train station	902 240 202
FGC train station	93 877 06 06
Bus station	902 02 60 28
Taxi company (Ràdio Taxi Manresa)	93 874 40 00
Taxi company (Taxis Manresa)	93 877 08 77
El Carme Youth Hostel	93 875 03 96
Manresa Regional Museum	93 874 11 55
Sèquia Park	93 877 22 31
Basilica of la Seu	93 872 15 12
Sanctuary of the Cave	93 875 15 79
Manresa Town Hall	93 878 23 01
Local Police	93 875 29 99
Emergencies	112



Passport to visit the essential sites of the Manresa of Saint Ignatius

Fill in the card with the five stamps and you will enjoy discounts and special offers in the city!



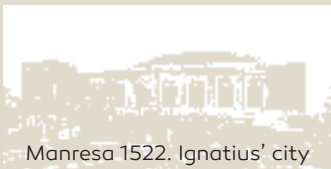
The Basilica of la Seu



The Cave



Balç Street



Manresa 1522. Ignatius' city



Regional Museum

Tourist Office

From 16th September to 31st March:

From Monday to Thursday: from 10 am to 2 pm

Fridays and Saturdays: from 10 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 7 pm

Sundays and public holidays: from 10 am to 2 pm

From 1st April to 15th September:

From Tuesday to Saturday: from 10 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 7 pm

Mondays, Sundays and public holidays: from 10 am to 2 pm

Guided tours

Apart from the itineraries which have been designed so that visitors can follow them without the need of a guide, Manresa Tourist Office also offers a wide range of tours:

- Guided tours along the Ignatian paths.
- Guided tours: "Manresa, the heart of Catalonia", a visit to the most emblematic places of the city.
- Customised tours: visits to the Basilica of la Seu, to the Cave, to the medieval Manresa...

The visits can be carried out from Monday to Sunday, by appointment or by booking one of the scheduled visits at:

www.manresaturisme.cat

Manresa Tourist Office

Plaça Major 10

08242 Manresa

938784090

turisme@ajmanresa.cat

www.manresaturisme.cat

Cover photo: Toni Galera | Design: E2S

