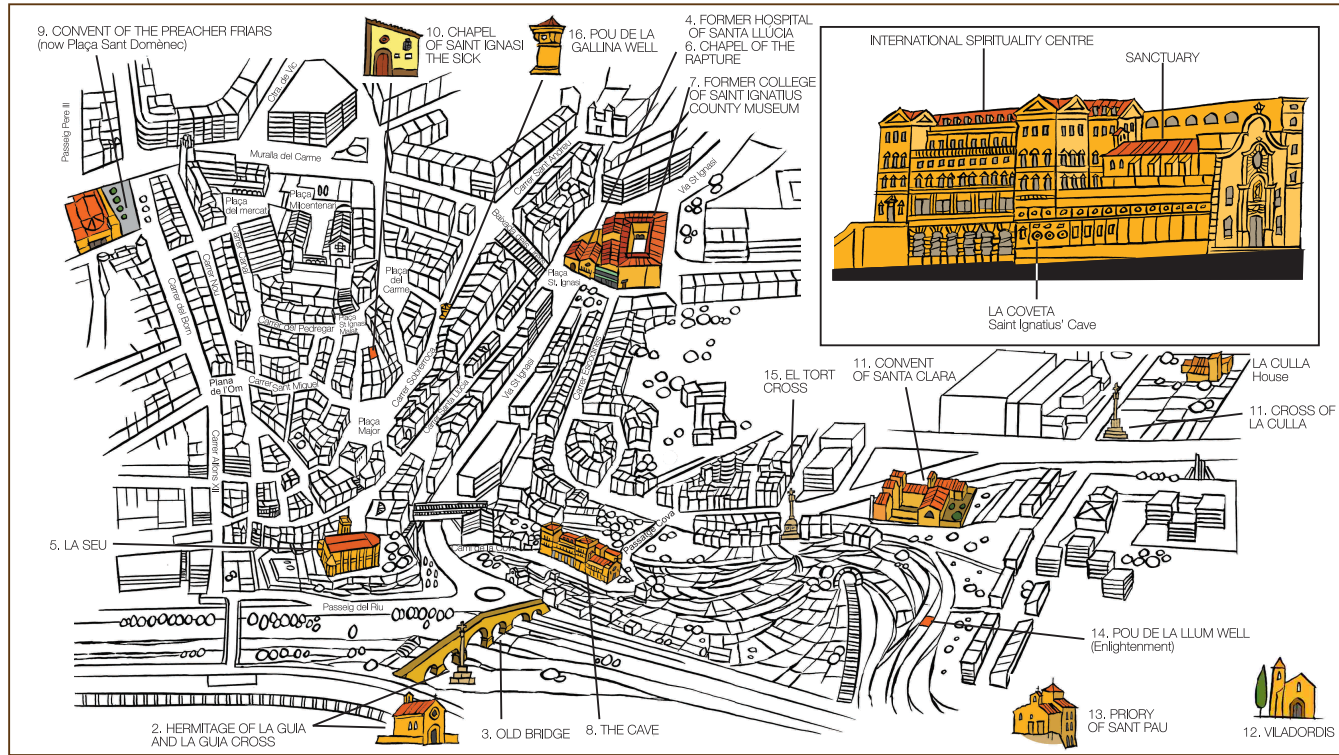


SITES ON THE MAP OF MANRESA

WHAT CAN YOU SEE IN SAINT IGNATIUS' CAVE?



1522, IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA IN MANRESA, THE MAN IN THE SACK-CLOTH.



WHO WAS IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA?



Íñigo López de Recalde was the son of a noble family. He was born in the little Basque village of Azpeitia, in 1491. Educated in Arévalo (Ávila), he entered the service of the kings of Castile. A good diplomat and soldier, he received a serious leg wound while defending the city of Pamplona. While he was recuperating, he read, which made him decide to make a radical change in his life and set out on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He left to embark in the port of Barcelona.

On the way to this city, he stopped at the monastery of Santa Maria de Montserrat. From here, he went to Manresa, where he lived for eleven months, which were decisive in his spiritual transformation. As he himself related, it was in this city where he had the mystical and spiritual experiences that inspired him to write his major work: the Spiritual Exercises. Finally, he embarked in Barcelona and sailed to the Holy Land.

On his return, he decided to study. First in Barcelona, and then in Alcalá de Henares and Salamanca. He was imprisoned a number of times by the Inquisition, until he left for Paris.

He continued his studies in Paris, where he formed a group of ten companions, which, within a year, made plans to go to the Holy Land and become missionaries. If this was not going to be possible, they had considered placing themselves at the orders of the Pope. Having been ordained as a priest, and in light of the impossibility of going to Jerusalem, they placed themselves at the service of Pope Paul III. In 1540, they founded the Society of Jesus, and Ignatius was chosen to be the first Superior General. He continued as such until his death in 1556, at the age of 65.

In 1609, Pope Paul V beatified him, and in 1622 he was proclaimed a saint.

WHAT DID HE DO?

Based on his experiences in Manresa, he wrote the book *Spiritual Exercises*, a method for searching for the will of God that consists of devoting a period of 30 days of silence to meditation and reflection. During this time, the devotee takes a look at their own life and is invited to follow the model of life of Jesus, to commit to and practise solidarity.

He founded the Society of Jesus, a new religious order. Besides the vows of obedience, poverty and chastity of this new order, he added that of obedience to the Pope.

He devoted himself to two extraordinary tasks: teaching and missions, especially in America and Asia, alongside the very poorest.

Today, the Society of Jesus is one of the religious orders with the most members. Jesuits are people with extensive education, willing to carry out their task under the most difficult and diverse conditions.



1522, IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA IN MANRESA, THE MAN IN THE SACK-CLOTH.



1. MONTSERRAT

After an entire night of vigil, Ignatius of Loyola gave his clothes to a poor man and went down to Manresa. It was Tuesday 25 March 1522.



2. LA GUIA HERMITAGE AND LA GUIA CROSS

He stopped to pray at the La Guia Hermitage. It was a holiday that day and there was a gathering being held.



3. OLD BRIDGE

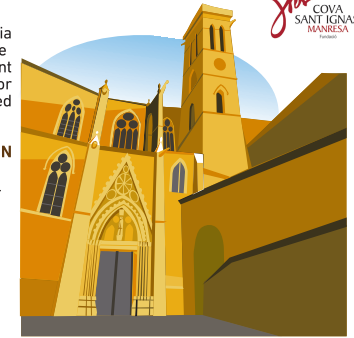
Crossing the old bridge, and in front of the Saint Mark Chapel, he climbed to a mediaeval Manresa encircled by walls.

4. FORMER HOSPITAL OF SANTA LLÚCIA

He was taken in at the Santa Llúcia hospital for the poor, outside the city walls. It was here that he spent most of the time, helping care for the poor and the sick. He dressed in a sack-cloth and had a very dishevelled appearance. People knew him as: **THE MAN IN THE SACK-CLOTH**. Today it is the site of the Chapel of Rapture.

5. LA SEU

He went to the liturgical offices of the La Seu church, where he contemplated the Madonna of the Dawn. He sought alms and shared them among the poorest.



THE RAPTURE

One evening, in the hospital chapel, he fainted, the so-called "Spiritual Rapture", and stayed for eight days and eight nights motionless on the ground. It was during this time that he had visions of what he had to do from then on.

6. CHAPEL OF THE RAPTURE AND 7. FORMER SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE (NOW THE MUSEUM)

The Santa Llúcia hospital and chapel were torn down in the Spanish Civil war in 1936. Today there is the so-called Chapel of the Rapture, rebuilt with stones from the original building. To the rear is the present museum, the former Saint Ignatius College.



8. THE CAVE

He would often retire to meditate, pray and write in one of the natural caves on the banks of the Cardener river. It is here that we find the present la Cova Church and the Spirituality Centre.



9. CONVENT OF THE PREACHER FRIARS

In what is now Plaça de Sant Domènec there was a Dominican friary, where he was taken in for some weeks. Here he suffered great doubts and depression and he fell ill.

The friary was pulled down in the nineteenth century and the Conservatoire theatre was built in its place. The Church of Sant Pere Màrtir was torn down in the Spanish Civil War in 1936.



10. SAINT IGNATIUS THE SICK

The Amigants were a wealthy family accustomed to housing the sick in a separate building that they called the Hospitalet. They took him in and cared for him on two occasions, as did the Canyelles family, in their home at Carrer Sobrerroca, 30.

This Hospitalet is now the Saint Ignatius the Sick Chapel, which stands at the foot of the steps of the Church of the Carme, very near Plaça Major.



11. CONVENT OF SANTA CLARA, THE CROSS OF LA CULLA

12. VILADORDIS.

13. PRIORY OF SANT PAU

He often went to Viladordis. On the way, he sat before the Monastery of Santa Clara monastery to listen to the monks chanting, and following the path to the Cross of La Culla cross, he went down to the Church of La Salut in Viladordis, where he retired to pray and meditate and where he also spent entire nights in prayer. On other occasions he went to Sant Pau, a Cistercian priory on the banks of the Cardener river. The prior was in charge of the Santa Llúcia hospital and was also Ignatius' teacher.



14. POU DE LLUM WELL / THE ENLIGHTENMENT AT THE CARDENER

On the journey to Sant Pau, he had the so-called "Enlightenment at the Cardener". As he explained, his mind was supernaturally enlightened, and this led him to understand many things and helped him find, once and for all, the path that he had to follow. All of this could have taken place at the "Pou de Llum" well, near the el Tort cross, where he went to give thanks after this event.



15. THE EL TORT HOUSE AND CROSS

Alongside this cross marking the municipal boundary was the house where he was often taken in and offered hot broth, in a bowl that is still conserved. Ignatius of Loyola left Manresa, from Les Marçetes, towards the Pont de Vilomara bridge, in late February 1523.



16. EL POU DE LA GALLINA WELL

THE LEGEND

On Carrer Sobrerroca there was a well where, in 1602, a chicken fell in and drowned. The little girl looking after the chicken, afraid of her stepmother's reaction, prayed to Saint Ignatius to bring it back to life. According to the tradition, this happened.