



10. THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE FORSAKEN

HOLY GRAIL URBAN ROUTE

GENERAL ROUTE PLAN

1. The clock-keeper's house
2. Royal Monastery of the Holy Trinity
3. Museum of fine arts of València
4. Del Real Gardens
5. Convent of Saint Dominic
6. Royal College-Corpus Christi Seminary
7. Silk Exchange
8. Serranos Towers
9. Palau dels Borja
- 10. The Basilica of Our Lady of the Forsaken**
11. L'Arquebisbe Square
12. Cathedral



The Basilica of Our Lady of the Forsaken: the heart of devotion

Next to València Cathedral, in the iconic La Mare de Déu Square, you can find the Basilica of Our Lady of the Forsaken. Built in the 17th-18th centuries, this baroque church is dedicated to the city's patron saint; although Her dress is more recent, Her image dates back to the 15th century.

Devotion for Our Lady of the Forsaken began thanks to a profoundly human event. On 24 February 1409, Father Joan Gilabert Jofré intervened to defend a mentally ill man being mistreated on the street. That gesture led to a pioneering initiative: a hospital was created to house and care for the marginalised and vulnerable.

Backed by King Martin I of Aragón and Pope Benedict XIII, an asylum was founded under the Holy Innocent Martyrs and, on 1 June 1410, a hospital was inaugurated with the name *Hospital d'Innocents, Folls i Orats* (Hospital of the Innocent, Fools and Madmen), under the protection of the Virgin.

Dated 1414, the image of the Virgin is surrounded by tradition and legend: it is said to be the work of angels. In 1416, King Alfonso V the Magnanimous approved that the sculpture should incorporate two innocents among the folds of its tunic, linked to the biblical story of Herod,

reinforcing its protective symbolism.

A link to the Holy Grail

As well as coinciding in time with the relic's arrival in the city, the basilica holds a replica of the Holy Grail in the *coveta*, a small chapel behind the altar.

It was a gift from the Archbishop of València, Cardinal Carlos Osoro, and is displayed on a reproduction of the original base, lost during the Spanish Civil War. The base also holds a relic of Saint John Paul II, who used the Holy Grail during his visit to València in 1982.

