



## 2. ROYAL MONASTERY OF THE HOLY TRINITY

### 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



#### **Royal Monastery of the Holy Trinity: queens, female authors and cultural hub**

On the banks of the old Turia riverbed stands the Royal Monastery of the Holy Trinity, one of the city's most unique gothic sites. Its history is profoundly marked by the prominence of women and its role as a cultural hub, making it a must-place to stop on the Holy Grail route.

A Trinitarian convent was founded next to San Guillem Hospital in the 13th century. However, its use changed in the 15th century thanks to María of Castile, who decided to expel the monks and set up a female monastery in its place, belonging to the Order of Saint Clare.

The connection with the Holy Grail stems from this queen, who acted as regent during the absences of her husband, King Alfonso V the Magnanimous. This couple moved the royal reliquary along with the Holy Grail to the Royal Palace of València, keeping it in the palace chapel. With deep roots linked to this place, the queen used the monastery as a spiritual retreat and even had her own cell there.

The queen felt such affection for this place that she asked to be buried in the cloister upon her death in 1458. Centuries later, in 1957, her remains were dressed in a new habit of the Order of Saint Clare, respecting her wishes.

Isabel de Villena gained importance under the queen's protection as the monastery's third abbess from 1463 to 1490. Beyond her work managing the monastery, she was one of the important voices of the Golden Age in València. Her work *Vita Christi*, published in 1497 under the patronage of Isabella the Catholic, offered an innovative, humanist view that contrasted with the dominant vision of the time. Her literary relevance ranks her alongside the poet Ausiàs March.

During her period as abbess, the monastery became an important cultural centre linked to intellectuals such as Jaume Roig. This space has also welcomed other leading figures over the centuries. The Bankers' Chapel houses the crypt of the Santángel family; one of its members is Luis de Santángel, a key figure in promoting the journey of Christopher Columbus.

The monastery also hosted María of Aragon, daughter of King Ferdinand the Catholic, who took her vows in 1484. Her unidentified grave managed to avoid desecration during the French invasion.

Today, the Royal Monastery of the Trinity is not only testament to the religious and cultural past of València, but also an essential place for understanding the historical and symbolic journey of the Holy Grail, closely linked to the monastery and to the spirituality of the city.