



5. CONVENT OF SAINT DOMINIC

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



Convent of Saint Dominic: Royal Chapel

The Royal Chapel —also known as the Chapel of Kings—, a treasure of the late Valencian gothic period, can be found in the Convent of Saint Dominic. Designed as a royal pantheon, this space holds stories that connect art, power and memory.

Alfonso V the Magnanimous ordered the construction of the chapel as a place of eternal rest for him and his wife, Maria of Castile. But fate would have it that neither rest here: the king, who died in Naples, was later taken to the monastery of Poblet, while the queen rests in the nearby Royal Monastery of the Holy Trinity.

The funerary nature of the space is reinforced by the use of dark stone from Sagunto, wrapping the chapel in a sombre, solemn atmosphere. Designed to house the royal sarcophagi, the arcosolia remain empty, a reminder of the unexpected fate of this place.

Work was directed by architect Francesc Baldomar and tradition states that a little window in the wall allowed him to observe construction progress without being seen, a detail that adds an almost legendary touch.

The history of the chapel took a new turn in the 16th century when Charles I assigned it to



Mencía de Mendoza. A patron and key figure in the Renaissance, Doña Mencía financed a wonderful marble tomb for her parents, enriching the artistic heritage of the place. Her efforts led to the monastery housing the *Triptych of the Passion*, attributed to the workshop of El Bosco, which is now on display at the Museum of Fine Arts of València.

The chapel has another tie to the history of Valencian art: since 1850, the remains of artist Joan de Joanes rest in its crypt, one of the great names associated with depictions of the Holy Grail.

Today, this space invites you to delve into a story where architecture, art and personal stories intertwine, offering a new perspective of the historical and cultural context surrounding the Holy Grail in València.

