



7. SILK EXCHANGE

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



Silk Exchange: an icon of golden splendour

The Silk Exchange of València is one of the great symbols of the city's economic splendour during its Golden Age. Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996, construction began on this masterpiece of Valencian civil gothic architecture in 1482 and it became the heart of the Mediterranean silk trade.

At its peak, València was a hub of the silk industry with thousands of looms and merchants whose prestige was reflected in this majestic building.

It is organised into various spaces that unveil its significance:

- The Columned Hall or Contract Hall, an iconic space where helical columns rise like palm trees, evoking the wealth and vitality of trade.
- The Consulate of the Sea, in the renaissance style, headquarters to the court entrusted with regulating trade activities.
- The Orange Courtyard, a haven of light and peace amidst the commercial hustle and bustle.



- The Tower, with a chapel on the ground floor, reminiscent of the close ties between business and spirituality at the time.

A space that was also a spiritual refuge

Besides its original function, the Silk Exchange has been host to key moments in the history of the city and the Holy Grail. One of the most significant events took place during the Spanish Civil War. In 1939, due to damage suffered by the València Cathedral and other temples, Holy Week celebrations took place in this building.

For those days, the former market was transformed into a space of seclusion and solemnity. The Holy Grail was taken from the Columned Hall to the sound of the overture of *Parsifal*, by composer Richard Wagner, in a scene loaded with symbolism.

This proves that the Silk Exchange is capable of adapting to the needs of each moment in history. From trade hub to spiritual space, its history reflects the pulse of València and the close ties between civil life, culture and tradition.