



9. PALAU DELS BORJA

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



El Palau dels Borja: the pope's family home

Palau dels Borja, currently home to the Valencian Parliament, is one of the great symbols of València's power and international projection during its golden age. This palace was home to the dukes of Gandia, who belonged to the influential Borja family, whose mark reached as far as the heart of Rome itself.

A family that produced two popes who were decisive in the history of the Church: Calixtus III and Alexander VI. Their rise to papacy put València in a privileged position in the Christian world at a time when the city was at its peak... and with the Holy Grail already part of its heritage.

One of the most striking aspects of the palace is its façade: extraordinarily wide, yet shallow. At the time, a family's grandeur was measured by the visible frontage of its residence and the Borja family knew how to turn this into a declaration of power. They resorted to leading architects, such as Pere Compte, who is also author of the València Silk Exchange.

The building has had many lives over the centuries. After the decadence of the Borja family, it was used as a military headquarters, silk factory, grain store and even an opera house. Between 1936 and 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, it became headquarters to the

Republican Government in València.

The latest refurbishments have revealed even older traces: the remains of a Roman home with mosaics, proof that the ancient Vía Augusta once ran along this area.

The Borja's influence in Rome not only strengthened their power, it also catapulted València on the international stage. With two Valencian popes running the Church, the city gained exceptional relevance at a time when the Holy Grail had already arrived and was consolidating its position as one of the city's most significant symbols.

Today, the Palau dels Borja helps visitors to understand how politics, religion and social standing were interwoven at a key time in the history of València and the Holy Grail.

