

Catalonia, 1714 - A tour of places associated with the War of Succession and the Baroque era

Guies turístiques de Catalunya

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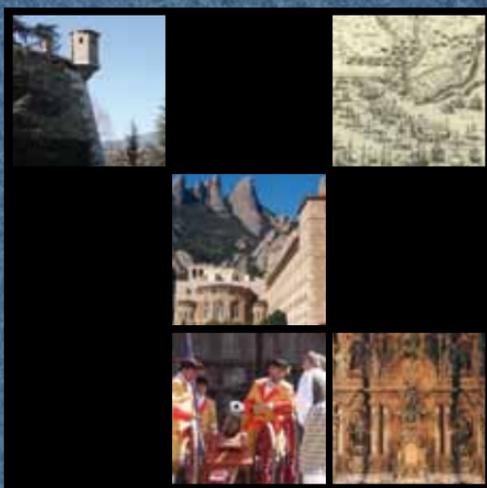


 Catalan
Tourist Board

 Generalitat de Catalunya
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 Museu d'Història
de Catalunya





CATALONIA, 1714

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WITH THE WAR OF SUCCESSION
AND THE BAROQUE ERA

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Cardona. Sentry box

Presentation

We have pleasure in presenting this tourist guide which takes visitors to the main sites in Catalonia where the War of Succession took place (1702-1714). This war, which had repercussions for the whole of Europe, was the leading conflict of the Baroque era and is seen here from a Catalan viewpoint. Besides this guide, the General Directorate for Tourism has set up several other major routes through Catalonia under the guidelines and recommendations of the Strategic Plan for Tourism in Catalonia (2005-2010) which seeks to recover Catalonia's historical heritage and share it with those who visit us. They are devoted to: the Pyrenean Counties, the Way of Saint James and the Frontierland Castles. All enable tourists to discover the great variety of Catalonia's natural and human landscapes by highlighting both tangible and intangible features of its heritage – everything from great historic buildings to places where historic events occurred and where key personages of history and legend left their imprint.

This, then, is the spirit that inhabits this new guide – one of the collection entitled “Guies turístiques de Catalunya” – published by the General Directorate for Tourism. It permits visitors to explore the history of Catalonia in the modern era as reflected by the events of the War of Succession and the settings where they occurred. Not only will they learn more about a war that had far-reaching consequences for Europe, but they will acquire a complete overview of the Catalan 18th century – its complex society and the splendours of Baroque art – while enjoying the diverse attractions of our towns, villages and countryside.

The guide also has its place among the nation-wide third-century commemorations organised by the Catalan government – the Generalitat – through the work of the commission *Catalunya 2014*, whose remit is to revive and disseminate the memory of the War of Succession and the way it affected Catalonia's political and institutional structures. Another upshot of these com-

Catalonia and the War of Succession

The War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1715) was a milestone in Catalan history. Catalonia's defeat on 11 September 1714 led to the abolition of its constitution and government institutions and its disappearance as a State. The same happened to the other realms of the Crown of Aragon. These events have become a part of the collective memory and the first law passed by the Catalan parliament after its re-establishment in 1980 declared 11 September as the date of Catalonia's national holiday (or "Diada").

The death of Charles II of Spain (1700) sparked off a conflict between the Bourbon and Habsburg dynasties which soon evolved into an international war with direct or indirect repercussions throughout Europe and beyond. The proclamation of Duke Philip of Anjou, a grandson of Louis XIV, as the successor to the Spanish throne under the name of Philip V aroused the hostility of the majority of European courts. The Grand Alliance of the Hague, formed in 1701, declared war on the States under Bourbon rule the following year. One year later Archduke Charles of Austria, the second son of Emperor Leopold I, was proclaimed King of Spain in Vienna under the name of Charles III.

Philip V summoned a full meeting of the Catalan Parliament (1701-1702) at which he made major concessions. However anti-French and anti-Bourbon feeling was rife in Catalonia and the latest French invasions had fanned the flames. During the following years this feeling evolved into a clandestine political movement to which the Bourbon monarchy's repressive policies and reports about early developments in the international war gave new momentum.

Catalan society gave widespread support to the Habsburgs, who had upheld the country's constitution. One of the leading pro-Habsburg groups was the Barcelona bourgeoisie, which identified strongly with Britain and the Low Countries, both in political matters (parliamentary rule) and in the economic field (commerce and industry). A decisive role was also played by the minor nobility and wealthy farmers of the Vic Plain (the *Vigatans*), whose fighting spirit had been honed by recent conflicts with French troops.

In 1705 the Genoa Treaty between Britain and representatives of the Catalan resistance was signed. It gave rise, during the following months, to the disembarkment of the allied armies in

memorations is the "1714 Route", a cultural itinerary set up by the Museu d'Història de Catalunya based on the buildings directly related to the war which it runs: the Museu Rafael Casanova in Moià, Cardona Castle, the Tower of la Manresana in Els Prats de Rei, the University of Cervera, and the Seu Vella in Lleida.

The "1714 Route" is also part of the Plan for the Implementation of Intangible Tourism Resources in Catalonia and of a promotion campaign entitled "Rebellious Catalonia" which relates to resources from the period between 1500 and 1740. Other routes under this Plan focus on Witches and Bandits, Pirates and Corsairs, the War of the Reapers, Moriscos, and Baroque art.

In short, this guide attains several objectives. By helping to revive and disseminate Catalonia's historical memory through visits to sites to do with the War of Succession and the legacy of the Baroque era, it heightens our own citizens' understanding and awareness of their country's historical, architectural, cultural and symbolic heritage. It also creates new opportunities to stimulate tourism in the hinterland and to support the initiatives launched by various municipalities in order to draw attention to sites associated with the War of Succession. And finally it offers visitors to Catalonia, especially those interested in cultural tourism, new insights into little known attractions spread all over the country which will make their trip more enjoyable.

We invite you, then, to travel back in time in search of a period when Catalonia was struggling to safeguard its personality and institutions, a period full of surprises, where new discoveries will await you round every bend in the road. This route offers the pleasure of exploring a cultural and architectural heritage of the highest quality and the charm of a land that is pursuing a model of sustainable, varied, and highly distinctive tourism based on its own identity and its image abroad.

Directorate General for Tourisme

Barcelona, rebellions all over Catalonia, and the proclamation of Charles III as King of the Catalans. Thus a new front, amounting in effect to the first Spanish civil war, had been opened up in the international war. Against this background, the meeting of the Catalan Parliament summoned by and presided over by Charles III in 1705-1706 epitomized the Catalan preference for negotiated settlements.

The Battle of Almansa (1707) led to the Bourbon occupation of Valencia, Aragon and the westernmost regions of Catalonia. Philip V abolished the privileges of the kingdoms of Valencia and Aragon by right of conquest (*derecho de conquista*), a decision which had a decisive effect on the actions undertaken by the Catalans in the ensuing years.

Though the allies clearly had the upper hand in the international war, two factors helped to undermine their political cohesion. One was the change in British policy after the Tories took power in 1710: the Conservatives were in favour of withdrawing from the war in exchange for major commercial concessions in Spanish America, which Louis XIV and Philip V showed willingness to consider. The other was the death of Emperor Joseph I, the brother of Charles of Austria, which led to the latter being proclaimed emperor under the name of Charles VI. For the other allied states, the prospect of the same monarch at the head of both the Germanic empire and the Hispanic monarchy was almost as daunting as the enlargement of Bourbon domains which had originally triggered the war. Consequently, in 1713 they signed the Treaty of Utrecht acknowledging Philip V as King of Spain and receiving substantial territorial and economic concessions in exchange. The Catalans, on the other hand, were abandoned to their fate.

In July 1713, while allied troops were withdrawing from Catalonia and handing the territory over to the two Bourbon monarchies, Catalan parliamentary deputies met and decided, to the surprise of the various European courts, to go on fighting. Politically this marked the beginning of a republican period. The Conference of “Els Tres Comuns” (the Catalan government, or Generalitat; the Barcelona city council, or Consell de Cent; and the Military Estate) took over the reins of government, organized defence and supplies, and sent ambassadors to the capitals of Catalonia’s former allies.

Nonetheless, the balance was clearly uneven. The Catalans had only two strongholds, Barcelona and Cardona, and a few thousand

men, most of them civilians from Barcelona who were members of the Coronela, an urban militia. The Bourbon troops, at the height of the conflict, numbered over 90,000. In view of all this, Barcelona’s fourteen-month resistance to the siege had an impact on public opinion in Europe and reopened the political debate in Britain.

While Barcelona was under siege, a wave of military terrorism was unleashed all over Catalonia, similar that inflicted on Valencia in previous years. Rebellion, or mere disobedience, met with collective penalties, such as the temporary stationing of troops in towns and villages, while all over the country whole towns were sacked and burnt and indiscriminate killings took place. The methods used included *diezmo de horca* – killing one of every ten men arrested – or executions carried out *sin estrépito de justicia*, in other words without a trial that would have left documentary evidence. This regime based on military terrorism remained in force beyond 11 September 1714, and indeed far beyond the publication of the Decree of Nueva Planta in Catalonia (1716), and acted with a harshness unusual in peace-time.

The fall of Barcelona was also followed by organized repression by the Real Junta Superior de Justicia y Gobierno (Royal High Council of Justice and Government), which was active in nearly all spheres: it abolished Catalonia’s government institutions, imprisoned the officers and sub-officers of the resistance forces, commanded the soldiers, banished churchmen and other groups, took charge of the police, confiscated the property of pro-Habsburg civilian ring-leaders, prohibited arms, demolished castles, built fortresses to dominate the main towns and cities (such as the Ciutadella in Barcelona), closed the universities, destroyed items of symbolic value, and so on.

This systematic repression drove over 25,000 people into exile, most of them Catalans. They came from all classes of society and settled mostly in the lands ruled by Emperor Charles VI: Italy, Austria and Hungary. Everywhere they formed distinct social groups, preserved their traits of identity, and tried to maintain links with the resistance within Catalonia.

Finally the Decree of Nueva Planta set up an absolutist regime, modelled in form only on the Castilian mode of government. The new government of Catalonia had a threefold base: the Captain General, who wielded supreme authority and was in command of the troops (for a whole century the garrison never numbered

fewer than 25,000); the Real Audiencia, made up of Castilian and pro-Bourbon Catalan judges, which maintained public order through a territorial network of *corregidores* and *alcaldes*; and the Superintendencia, which raised taxes. The new authorities maintained all existing taxes, which were diverted into the Superintendencia's own coffers, and introduced new taxes – such as the cadastre, or land tax – which multiplied the amount paid by the Catalans in direct taxation by 7.3. They also levied indirect taxes.

Even so the resistance movement remained active, both at home and in exile, and advantage was taken of successive international wars to re-open discussions about the “Catalan case”. Thus, during the War of the Quadruple Alliance (1718-1720), the guerrilla action led by Pere Joan Barceló, “Carrasclat”, was stepped up, and those in exile undertook numerous political initiatives designed to influence public opinion. The pattern was repeated after the outbreak of the War of the Polish Succession in 1734. By the late 1740s, however, resistance had inevitably given way to a vaguer feeling of nostalgia for Catalonia's constitution, which endured for over a century. This idea was still alive in the 1830s when Catalonia's cultural rebirth, the *Renaixença*, got underway, and Catalan political nationalism emerged.

Thus Catalonia's defeat in the War of Succession meant the abolition of its laws and political institutions and the imposition, *manu militari*, of the principle of right of conquest. But the ultimate goal – that of destroying the Catalan nation – was never attained and three hundred years later Catalonia continues to lay claim to its national and historic rights.

Agustí Alcoberro i Pericay

Director of the Museu d'Història de Catalunya

A route round Catalonia as it was during the War of Succession and the Baroque era

This route explores Catalonia as it was three hundred years ago by focussing on the events of the War of the Spanish Succession. This conflict of international scope had decisive consequences for modern and contemporary Catalonia: it led to the loss of its rights and freedom and brought a new phase of social and economic development to a temporary standstill. The events and sites of the war are presented against the historical, social and cultural background of the era, notably Baroque art and the new ideas that were undermining the foundations of the old European society.

The route comprises ten itineraries for discovering places and events that are crucial to the understanding of the War of Succession in Catalonia. Each route concentrates on one or more *vegueries* (Catalan territorial divisions – each pertaining to a chief magistrate – that date back to the Middle Ages and were abolished by the winners of the war). The itineraries in turn are divided into stages which link together the places of greatest relevance to the war. For each of these places there is an account of the main events that took place there, the chief personages involved, the architectural heritage of the period, and other places of interest in the surrounding area. For certain stages particular highways are recommended, but visitors may like to stray off the beaten path to explore the fascinations of side-roads. In either case, pleasant surprises will lie in store.

Catalonia and warfare in the modern era

Artillery technology evolved in the modern era, as did methods for attacking and besieging strongholds. The result was a form of warfare based on new military strategies. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Catalonia became a theatre of operations for several European armies and suffered especially severely from the ef-

fects of 'modern warfare'. Its geopolitical role at the time should be viewed in the light of the age-old struggle between the Spanish and French monarchies for military and political supremacy in Europe. Yet the two powers joined forces to subjugate Catalonia in the course of the War of Succession (1702-1714).

Chronology of the wars fought in Catalonia in the modern era: 1640-1814

Date	Event
1618-1648	Thirty Years' War
1648	Peace of Westphalia
1640-59	War of the Reapers and War of Separation
1659	Treaty of the Pyrenees
1688-1697	Nine Years' War
1702-1714	War of the Spanish Succession
1716	Decree of Nueva Planta in Catalonia
1725	Treaty of Vienna
1789-1799	French Revolution
1793-95	War of the Pyrenees
1808-1814	Napoleonic Wars

A war for the control of Europe

In 1700 Charles II, the last Habsburg king of Spain, died without an heir and his succession gave rise to an international political dispute involving two pretenders: Archduke Charles of Austria (called Charles III by the Catalans) and Philip of Anjou (Philip V of Spain). The dispute triggered a war between the European powers: on the one hand the alliance set up under the Treaty of the Hague (the Dutch Republic, Great Britain, Portugal and the Austrian Empire) and on the other, the Bourbon monarchies of France and Spain. Within the kingdom of Spain, the War of Succession (1702-1714) was a confrontation between Castile and the Crown of Aragon, first and foremost Catalonia.

In 1705 Catalan supporters of the Habsburg dynasty reached an agreement with Great Britain (Treaty of Genoa) for the provision of military aid. Henceforth the international war was to become a long Iberian civil war. In October of the same year, Habsburg forces,

headed by Archduke Charles of Austria, entered Barcelona and the population proclaimed him King Charles III. The kingdoms of Majorca and Valencia followed suit by rebelling against the Bourbon king Philip V and swearing allegiance to Charles III. But in 1707 Bourbon troops defeated the Habsburg army, first at the Battle of Almansa and then at the Battle of Lleida. This marked a turning point in the war, despite later major Habsburg victories in the Catalan hinterland: the Battle of Almenar (1710), that of Els Prats de Rei, and the Siege of Cardona (1711).

In 1711 Charles III inherited the crown of the Austrian empire.

This led the European powers to sign the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) which put an end to the War of Succession and ratified Philip V as King of Spain. From then onwards Catalonia fought on alone against the Bourbon armies. On 11 September 1714 Bourbon troops launched their final assault on Barcelona. Once the capital had fallen, the only place in Catalonia which still held out was Cardona, which surrendered on 18 September. As a result of the War of Succession, Catalonia was occupied by the Bourbon armies and its institutions were abolished. Under the Decree of Nueva Planta (1716), Catalonia was subjected to the institutions and laws of Castile.

The deplorable history of the Catalans...

This small book of approximately a hundred pages, published in London in 1714 and printed by J. Baker, shows the interest and admiration felt by British society, and Europeans in general, over the conflict that arose in Catalonia during the War of Succession. It highlights the heroism and tenacity of the Catalan people in defending their freedom and institutions against the Bourbon occupation.

The Catalan National Holiday

Each year on 11 September Catalonia celebrates its National Holiday (Diada) to commemorate Barcelona's resistance to the Bourbon siege which lasted from 1713 to 1714. Homage is paid to those who upheld Catalonia's institutions and freedom during the War of Succession. Associations, private individuals, institutions and political parties lay floral tributes on the monument to Rafael Casanova and at the Fossar de les Moreres. The Diada is a day for action and protest featuring political meetings and demonstrations. Many people drape Catalan flags over their balconies and the Catalan national anthem, "Els Segadors", is played at memorial ceremonies.

Charles of Austria

Archduke Charles of Austria, born in Vienna in 1685, was the second son of the Austrian emperor Leopold I and Eleanor of the Palatinate. He was a pretender to the Hispanic crown during the War of Succession, when he received support from Catalonia, Valencia, Majorca, Sardinia, Sicily and Naples. He was crowned in Barcelona in 1705 under the name of Charles III and set up his court in Barcelona. On 1 August 1708 he was married in Barcelona Cathedral to Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel. In 1711, on the death of his brother Joseph I, he became Emperor of the Holy Roman-German Empire under the name of Charles VI and had to return to Vienna. Following his death in that city in 1740, he was succeeded by his daughter, who became the Empress Maria Theresa I of Austria.



Archduke Charles.
Museu Palau Mercader
(Cornellà de Llobregat)

Philip of Anjou

Philip V of Spain (Philip of Anjou) was born in Versailles (France) in 1683. He was the grandson of Louis XIV and Maria Theresa, the sister of King Charles II of Spain, and was the first king of the House of Bourbon to inherit the Spanish crown (1700). In 1701 he was married in Figueres to Maria Luisa of Savoy. After her death he married Elizabeth Farnese in 1714. He pursued centralist policies aiming at uniformity, similar to those implemented in France, and this caused the realms of the Crown of Aragon to support the other claimant, Archduke Charles of Austria, when the latter landed in Barcelona in 1705. After ten years of fighting, Philip V was victorious. He abolished the Catalan government institutions and constitution and, under the Decree of Nueva Planta, promulgated in 1716, set up a new system of centralist, military government that imposed the Castilian language and law. He died in Madrid in 1746.



Philip V.
La Seu d'Urgell
city hall

The opposing sides

The War of the Spanish Succession opposed two very different armies. The pro-Habsburg forces, who supported Archduke Charles of Austria, comprised troops from Great Britain, the Low Countries, the Austrian empire, Portugal, Italy, Catalonia and other parts of the Crown of Aragon. Catalan soldiers constituted a minority and many of them were mountain fusiliers (known as *Miquelets*) and cavalry soldiers. The Habsburg army deployed up to 25,000 men in the Catalan interior. The Bourbon forces, on the other hand, were made up of French and Castilian regiments, the French being predominant. Italian and Irish regiments also fought for the Bourbon cause. By the time the war ended in 1714, the Bourbon army in the Catalan hinterland numbered over 60,000. The War of Succession was also a Catalan civil war in which the *Vigatans* and *Miquelets* who supported the House of Habsburg, fought against the pro-French *Botiflers* (also nicknamed *gavatxos*, *agavatxats* or *renegats*).

Progress and repression

In the 16th and 17th centuries, after the crises and pandemics of the Middle Ages, Catalonia's population grew slowly but steadily and by the early 18th century the country was fully recovered. The war reversed this trend. Despite the 1714 debacle, however, and the change of regime, Catalonia revived and the progress initiated in previous decades was soon resumed. This demographic and economic recovery had to do with the growth of agriculture and increasing specialisation. Vineyards multiplied and wine was turned into brandy to supply both domestic and foreign markets (though until 1778 Catalonia was not allowed to trade freely with the Americas). Evidence of the prosperity of the period is provided by the characteristic *masies* (manor-farmhouses) to be found virtually all over Catalonia, many of which are virtually unaltered three hundred years later. Agricultural and commercial expansion was matched by a rise in industrial output, primarily in the textile sector – cotton, wool and silk – and the manufacture of paper, glass and other products. The wars that broke out at the end of the century – in North America (1779-1783), against France (1793-1795) and Great Britain (1779, 1796 and 1800) – temporarily slowed down progress once more.

Chronology of the War of Succession in Catalonia

1700 Death of King Charles II of Spain

Philip of Anjou is proclaimed King of Spain.

1701 Philip V swears to uphold the Catalan constitution

The Catalans accept Philip of Anjou as their king and he swears before the Catalan parliament in Barcelona to abide by their constitution.

1705 The Pact of the *Vigatans*

A group of citizens of the city of Vic (*Vigatans*) agree to rise against Philip V. They send emissaries to Genoa to meet with representatives of the Great Alliance of the Hague and create an anti-Bourbon alliance.

1705 The Treaty of Genoa

In the presence of Mitford Crowe, the plenipotentiary of the Queen of England, the emissaries from Vic undertake to provide military support when the Anglo-Dutch army disembarks in Barcelona with Archduke Charles of Austria. After the bombardment of the city, the population join the revolt and swear allegiance to Archduke Charles.

1706 The Crown of Aragon sides with the Archduke

The Catalan parliament acknowledges the Archduke as King Charles III. Valencia and Aragon also rise to support him. In July he enters Madrid but the Bourbon army's advance forces him to withdraw.

1707 The Battle of Almansa

Bourbon troops defeat Habsburg forces on 25 April and Aragon falls to the Bourbons.

The Battle of Lleida

In October Lleida is taken by Bourbon troops after a long and bloody siege. The new city government closes the Cathedral (Seu Vella) and puts it to military use.

1708 The Siege of Tortosa

In July the Bourbon army under the Duke of Orléans defeats the Habsburg army after a month-long siege and fighting in Tortosa. The Bourbons take control of the Ebro front.

1710 The Battles of Almenar, Saragossa, Brihuega and Villaviciosa

In the wake of the allied victories at the Battles of Almenar and Saragossa, Charles III enters Madrid once more but the allies are defeated at Brihuega and Villaviciosa in the subsequent Bourbon offensive and he has to retreat to Catalonia.

1711 The Bourbon siege of Girona

At the end of January, a large French army commanded by the Duke of Noailles conquers the city of Girona and places it under the authority of Philip V.

1711 Battles in the Catalan hinterland: Els Prats de Rei and Cardona

Large areas of Catalonia fall to Philip V. Emperor Joseph I dies and is succeeded by his brother, the Archduke Charles, who has to leave for Vienna. This causes a reversal of British policy: Britain is reluctant to reinforce the Austrian empire and its economy has much to gain from peace. Bourbon troops under the Duke of Vendôme and Habsburg forces commanded by Marshal Starhemberg clash at Els Prats de Rei. In November and December the Bourbons besiege Cardona Castle, which puts up heroic resistance.

1713 The Treaty of Utrecht

Philip V is recognised by the allies but loses Gibraltar (occupied in 1704), Minorca, Sicily, Sardinia, Naples, Milan and Flanders. In July the siege of Barcelona commences.

1713 The Convention of L'Hospitalet

In June the Count of Königsegg, representing the Habsburg supreme commander, Starhemberg, reaches an agreement with the Bourbon Marquis of Grimaldi, representing the Duke of Popoli, over the evacuation of imperial troops from Catalonia.

1713 Meeting of Catalan parliamentary deputies

At the beginning of July the Catalan Parliamentary deputies meet in Barcelona and declare all-out war on Philip V.

1713 The Bourbon occupation of Tarragona

In July the Bourbons occupy the city of Tarragona and the allied army retreats to territories held by imperial forces. Repression against Catalan resisters is unleashed.

1713 The expedition led by the Deputy of the Military Estate

In August a military expedition led by the Catalan Deputy of the Military Estate and General Rafael Nebot sails from Barcelona in a bid to persuade the whole country to rise against Philip V and form a large resistance army to break the Bourbon siege of Barcelona. The expedition is a failure.

1714 The final battles. The siege and fall of Barcelona and Cardona

Until the summer, Catalan troops in the interior fight off the Bourbon offensive alone, scoring victories at Talamanca and in other scattered engagements. The Siege of Barcelona is reinforced by the arrival of Berwick. On 11 September the city falls after resisting valiantly. Agreements are reached but subsequently violated. On 18 September Cardona Castle, the last bastion of Catalonia's freedom, surrenders.

1716 The Decree of Nueva Planta

All Catalonia's institutions and its constitution are abolished and a new legal framework is imposed.

1717 The University of Cervera

Philip V signs the decree setting up the University.

1725 The Treaty of Vienna

Emperor Charles VI of Austria and King Philip V of Spain agree to grant amnesty to the losers of the war and return confiscated property.

The fall of Barcelona and Cardona in 1714 was a watershed in the history of Catalonia. The Catalan system of government had been founded on the principle of a pact between the king and the country's representatives, and on individual and collective rights. The dissolution of the Crown of Aragon sought to make Catalonia disappear, not merely as a political entity, but socially and culturally as well. The Decree of Nueva Planta (1716) abolished its most emblematic institutions: its government (the Generalitat) and Barcelona city council (the Consell de Cent). Unified, absolutist Spain had been born. The new regime forced radical changes in political, fiscal, social, cultural and linguistic structures. The seven Catalan universities were abolished and replaced in 1717 by a single new university in Cervera; the Catalan language was banned from official and written use, and from justice and education. Over 25,000 people went into exile.



Decree of Nueva Planta



Barcelona. Ceramic panel
"The chocolate party". Museu de
Ceràmica, Palau Reial de Pedralbes

a social and cultural revival in the 18th century, despite political and linguistic repression.

Renaissance, Baroque and Neo-classical art represent to some extent the social changes of the modern era: the idealism and classicism of the Renaissance (16th century) were succeeded by the theatricality of Baroque art (17th-18th centuries) and the rationalism of Neoclassicism (late 18th century). Of these three styles,

the one that left the deepest mark on Catalonia was Baroque art, fuelled by the Counter Reformation born of the religious conflicts that shook Europe. After the splendour of the Middle Ages – the Romanesque and Gothic styles –, Baroque art brought a new period of artistic creativity to the regions covered by our route. Though much of the Baroque heritage was destroyed in the numerous armed conflicts that Catalonia experienced between the 18th century and the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), splendid achievements of Baroque art (and often Renaissance and Neoclassical art as well) can be admired all along the itineraries in this guide in different types of buildings (churches, mansions, and so on), and in sculptures and paintings, especially church altarpieces.

The society of the Enlightenment and Baroque art

The modern era, from the Renaissance to the Age of Reason (1500-1800), was a time of remarkable discoveries in Europe. The 18th century was the century of Enlightenment, yet the light of reason was in sharp contrast to the darkness of political absolutism. Ideas underwent sweeping changes that transformed society, notably in the French Revolution (1789). The Enlightenment movement forged ahead and reason and science dominated the world of ideas. In Catalonia it stimulated learning through the establishment of private institutions, such as the Junta de Comerç, and academies, such as the Acadèmia dels Desconfiats. The latest Enlightenment trends reached Catalonia, which experienced



Cadaqués. Detail of
the Baroque reredos
in the church
of Santa Maria

The Route and its itineraries

Itineraries	Former <i>vegueria</i> or <i>sòtsvegueria</i>	Main points of interest
1 Barcelona: “Let the nation die a glorious death”	Barcelona Vallès	Barcelona Sant Boi de Llobregat
2 Round the Vic Plain and Lluçanès: The Revolt of the <i>Vigatans</i>	Vic Lluçanès	Vic Centelles Lluçanès
3 Along the Llobregat Valley: Repression and resistance	Manresa Berga Moia	Manresa Sallent Gironella Berga Talamanca Moia
4 Great armies in the hinterland: The duel between Starhemberg and Vendôme	Cervera Els Prats de Rei	Cardona Solsona Els Prats de Rei Cervera
5 Through the Terres de Ponent: The plains of discord	Lleida Balaguer Tàrraga Agramunt	Lleida Balaguer Almenar
6 The Pyrenean front: The mountains up in arms	Puigcerdà Pallars Aran	Castellciutat La Seu d’Urgell Puigcerdà Sort
7 Through the lands of Girona: Unrelenting defence	Girona Besalú	Girona Hostalric Olot
8 Along the Costa Brava: The maritime frontier	Girona Besalú	Roses Figueres
9 Through the Camp de Tarragona: Guerrillas and <i>Sometents</i>	Tarragona Montblanc	Tarragona Torredembarra Montblanc Capçanes
10 Through the Terres de l’Ebre: The southern front	Tortosa	Tortosa Miravet



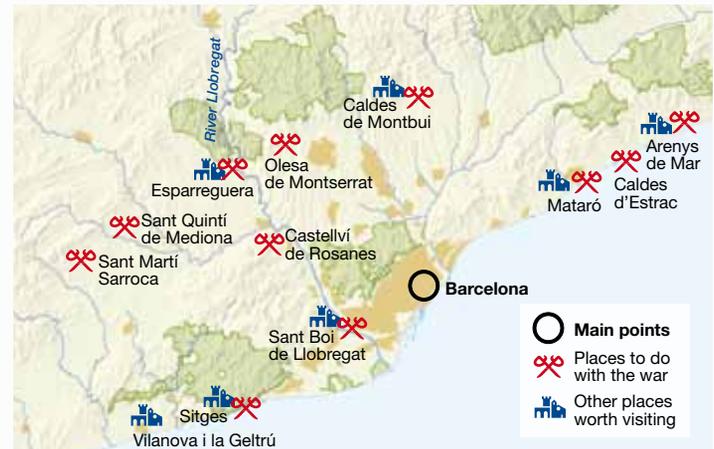
ITINERARIES

Barcelona:

“Let the nation die a glorious death”



Rafael Casanova, wounded and brandishing the flag of Saint Eulalia,
by Antoni Estruch i Bros. Fundació Caixa de Sabadell



Map of the itinerary

Barcelona

The war in Barcelona

Barcelona, Catalonia's capital, was the city worst affected by the War of Succession. The most important and dramatic events took place there during its conquest by the Bourbon army, which culminated on 11 September 1714. On 22 August 1705, after the British and the Catalans had signed the Treaty of Genoa, a large allied

This route takes us to the main sites in the *vegueries* of Barcelona, Penedès and Vallès which have associations with the War of the Spanish Succession. It calls to mind the main event of the war in Catalonia – the siege of Barcelona by Bourbon forces in 1713-1714 – but also includes places in the adjoining municipalities where fighting occurred and the most outstanding Baroque and Renaissance buildings in the area.

Suggested itinerary

The Barcelona itinerary can be done in two main stages. The first concentrates on the Catalan capital: the main sites in the city to do with the war and its rich modern-era heritage. The other runs along the Garraf and Maresme coasts on either side of the city. A short distance inland from Barcelona there are other localities worth visiting which also played a key role in the conflict.



Engraving showing the siege of Barcelona, 18th century. Du Bosc (ICC)

On 22 October 1705, Archduke Charles of Austria entered Barcelona and on 7 November he swore to uphold the Catalan constitution and was proclaimed king under the name of Charles III. In December he summoned the Catalan parliament to a meeting at the Palau de la Generalitat. He undertook to boost Catalonia's economy and to retrieve the lands lost to France under the Treaty of the Pyrenees (1659).

fleet commanded by Lord Peterborough and Georg von Hessen-Darmstadt landed near Barcelona. Initially the city authorities had put themselves at the service of Philip V and set up the *Coronela* (an urban militia) to protect it from attack by the Habsburg supporters; but in September 1705, with assistance from about a thousand *Vigatans*, the allied army defeated the Bourbon forces at the battle of Montjuïc and began bombarding the city from the fortress of Montjuïc. The allied troops lay siege to Barcelona, causing the viceroy of Catalonia, Fernández de Velasco, to surrender on 9 October.

At the beginning of April 1706, a large Bourbon force made up of over 20,000 men, headed by Philip V in person and the counts of Toulouse and Tessé, set up a base in Sarrià from which to prepare the attack on Barcelona. The city was defended by close to 10,000 men: members of the *Coronela*, the regiment of Catalan Royal Guards, volunteers, and British, German and Dutch soldiers. On 19 April the Bourbons attacked the fortress of Montjuïc and from there opened fire on the city. A week later a large British fleet under Admiral John Leake succeeded in landing at Barcelona and forced the Bourbon army encircling the city to flee in disarray. Philip V went to France and returned to the court in Madrid after crossing the border in Navarre. Barcelona became the home of King Charles III's court until May 1711, when he became Emperor of the Holy Roman-Germanic Empire following the death of his brother, the Emperor Joseph I. The Queen, Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, remained in Barcelona as governor until 1 March 1713, when a British fleet conveyed her and many members of the court to imperial territory.

The Treaty of Utrecht (11 April 1713) and the evacuation of the imperial forces provided for under the Convention of L'Hospitalet (22 June 1713) marked the start of one of the most dramatic phases in Barcelona's history.

The Duke of Popoli, the commander-in-chief of the Bour-

bon armies, prepared to launch the final offensive against Catalonia with an army of 25,000 French and Spanish soldiers massed along the borders of Aragon and Valencia.

The Catalan authorities tried to stir up revolt all over Catalonia. The Deputy of the Military Estate embarked with cavalry and infantry from the port of Barcelona and landed at Arenys de Mar, from where he travelled all over Catalonia recruiting men for a great army to break the siege. The plan failed: the anti-Bourbon rebellions in the Catalan hinterland and the victories scored by the resistance army under the Marquis of El Poal did not suffice to offset the numeric superiority of the Bourbon forces.

Lieutenant General Antoni de Villarroel headed the defence of Barcelona during the siege; the Duke of Popoli was the commander of the Bourbon army. In the early stages the Bourbons seized monasteries, convents and farms around Barcelona with a view to tightening the siege. By May 1714 large-calibre French cannons had arrived and the systematic bombardment of the city commenced. The guns aimed, not at the fortifications, but at the civilians and their houses. A large French fleet under the orders of Admiral Jean-Baptiste du Casse bombarded the city from the sea and imposed a naval blockade.

On 6 July the Duke of Berwick replaced the Duke of Popoli as commander-in-chief of the Bourbon armies. He brought French reinforcements with him. By then some 47,000 soldiers were laying siege to Barcelona and approximately 40,000 more had occupied the rest of the country which, at the time, had barely half a million inhabitants. Berwick decided to breach the walls between the bastions of Santa Clara and the Portal Nou, on the side closest to the River Besòs, where the Passeig de Lluís Companys, Arc de Triomf and Parc de la Ciutadella are now located. He opened fire on the walls and, after suffering numerous casualties, ordered his troops to attack the bastion of Santa Clara on 13 August. After two days of fierce fighting, the position was taken by the Catalans. The Bourbon troops continued their bombardment for

“Let the nation die a glorious death!”: these words, spoken by Manuel Ferrer i Sitges, the Deputy of the Military Estate, at the meeting of deputies held in Barcelona in July 1713, were the signal for all-out resistance. The Bourbon army besieged Barcelona for thirteen long months, until the final defeat came on 11 September 1714.

It is estimated that the **siege of Barcelona** caused some 22,000 casualties – 7,000 on the Catalan side and 15,000 in the Bourbon side. Approximately 30,000 cannonballs hit the city, completely destroying one-third of it and seriously damaging the rest.

The Bourbons took all the leading pro-Habsburg officers captive, except those who managed to flee to imperial territory. The repression was systematic: many Catalans were executed, among them General Josep Moragues, who was captured several months later attempting to board a ship to Majorca. Soon the La Ribera district was partially demolished and in its place the Ciutadella – a fortified citadel to guard and control the city – was built two years later. All the institutions and rights of the city of Barcelona and Catalonia were abolished and a new military administration, which imposed the language and laws of Castile, took shape under the royal decree of **Nueva Planta** (1716).

a few more weeks. The effectiveness of the naval blockade and the failure of the Marquis of El Poal and his troops to break the siege left the city in a desperate situation. Stocks of gunpowder were running low and food was scarce. On 11 September 1714, after the parliamentary deputies had turned down another call for surrender from the Duke of Berwick, the overall assault began and Bourbon troops entered the city through the Bretxa Reial, between the bastions de Santa Clara and the Portal Nou. The attack lasted all day and fierce combats took place in the streets. The most serious clashes were located round the Convent of Sant Agustí, the bastions of the Portal Nou and Sant Pere, and the Palau Reial Nou. At last a majority of the city councillors, who had gathered on the bastion de Sant Antoni, decided to surrender.

Visiting Barcelona

Many ancient buildings which have associations with the war or are built in the Baroque style then in vogue have survived. Most are in the Ciutat Vella district, which marked the city limits at the time. During the War of Succession one of the most important buildings in the city was the **Cathedral**, where the marriage between King Charles III and Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel took place on 1 August 1708. Though the great Cathedral itself was built in Gothic style in the 13th and 14th centuries, it has several major Baroque features inside, such as the tomb of Saint Oleguer and numerous altarpieces, one of which is dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy, the city's present-day patroness. The most important of

the buildings facing the Cathedral is the **Casa de l'Ardiaca**, which is currently an archive (Arxiu Històric de la Ciutat de Barcelona). The entrance courtyard has numerous Renaissance features. Alongside it, overlooking Carrer del Bisbe, is the **Palau Episcopal**, the residence of the Archbishop of Barcelona, which was altered in the second half of the 18th century. Carrer dels Comtes de Barcelona, on the other side of the Cathedral, leads to the mid-16th-century **Palau del Lloctinent**, behind which lies the Plaça del Rei. Round the square stand the **Palau Reial Major**, the former residence of the Counts of Barcelona, and **Casa Clariana-Padellàs**, now the Museu d'Història de la Ciutat.

One of the greatest of Barcelona's large churches is the Gothic-style basilica of **Santa Maria del Mar**, in the La Ribera district. It was here that King Charles III attended his first thanksgiving mass after landing in Barcelona in October 1705. Behind it is the **Passeig del Born**, which already existed in the 18th century and where Villarroel prepared the Catalan cavalry's last attack in a bid to drive back the enemy artillery that was approaching the city. The nobles and wealthy merchants of La Ribera lived on **Carrer de Montcada**, and a number of mansions dating back to that time can still be admired there, notably Palau Dalmaes, the home of the pro-Habsburg merchant Pau Ignasi de Dalmaes i Ros, built between 1690 and 1710.

Alongside the Church of Santa Maria del Mar is the **Fossar de les Moreres**, the former cemetery where many of the victims of the siege were buried. An eternal flame and an inscription saying "**No traitor lies buried in the Fossar de les Moreres and, though**



Siege of Barcelona, 1714. J. Rigau (ICC)

On 11 September each year, those who fell defending Catalan freedom during the War of Succession are recalled at the **Fossar de les Moreres**. One was General **Josep Moragues**, who was executed in Barcelona on 27 March 1715. His head was placed in a cage at the **Portal del Mar** and was left there for twelve years to ridicule the Catalans who had so valiantly resisted the armies of Philip of Bourbon.

our banners are lost, it remains the urn of honour” recall the thousands of Catalans interred there during the Bourbon assault on the city in 1714.

We then walk through the Portal del Mar to **Pla de Palau**, the area where Barcelona’s commercial and maritime activity was once concentrated and where Charles III had his official residence, the **Palau Reial**. There was direct access from the palace to Santa Maria del Mar across a bridge. Another building on Pla de Palau which has survived to our own times is the **Llotja de Mar**, once the financial hub of medieval Barcelona. A performance of Antonio Caldara’s opera *Il più bel nome* (1708), dedicated to Charles III and his wife Elisabeth Christine, was staged here. The **Palau de la Duana Nova**, built in a classicizing Baroque style, also stands on Pla de Palau. It is now the residence of the Civil Governor.

We follow Passeig de Colom to **Parc de la Ciutadella**, which occupies the former site of the citadel built by Philip V for the purpose of dominating the city after the War of Succession. Nowadays the



Barcelona. *Miquelets* at the Fossar de les Moreres



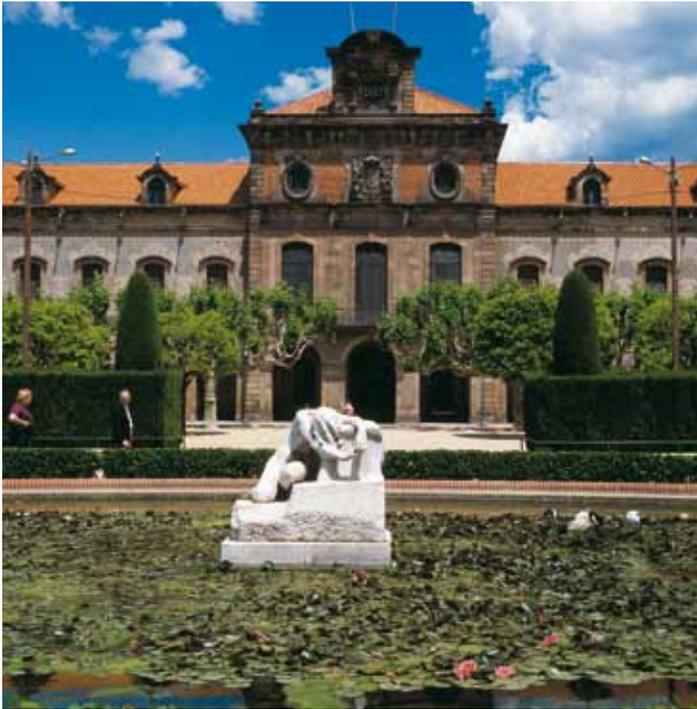
Map of Barcelona showing the Ciutadella, 19th century. Moulinier (ICC)

former arsenal is the home of the Catalan Parliament. Other interesting buildings that were once part of the citadel are the church and the governor’s palace (**Palau del Governador**), both designed by the pro-Bourbon military engineer Prosper Van Verboom.

The remains of the Convent of **Sant Agustí el Vell**, the scene of some of the fiercest fighting on 11 September, are located not far from El Born. After being severely damaged in the bombardment, the convent was pulled down when the citadel was built. In the mid-18th century a barracks for Bourbon troops was built there. This building currently houses a chocolate museum

(**Museu de la Xocolata**). Nearby is the Benedictine Monastery of **Sant Pere de les Puel·les**, where violent clashes occurred on 11 September. Afterwards the bodies of those who had resisted the siege were stacked high in the cemetery. The bastion of **Sant Pere** was located just north of here, along the present-day **Ronda de Sant Pere**. This bastion played a key role in the battle and it was here that the Chief Councillor of Barcelona, **Rafael Casanova**,

To make room for the Ciutadella, the Bourbon authorities ordered the demolition of part of the district of La Ribera. The remains of some of the houses can now be seen beneath the old El Born market. People who lost their homes were moved to a new district, **La Barceloneta**, built from the mid-18th century onwards on plans by Prosper Van Verboom.



Barcelona. The Catalan parliament

Rafael Casanova: a commemorative statue still recalls Barcelona's chief civil authority in 1714. Each year on 11 September thousands of Catalans lay floral tributes there in memory of those who defended Catalonia's freedom.

was shot down while brandishing the flag of Saint Eulalia, who was then the city's patroness.

The two buildings where decisions were taken about resistance to the Bourbon siege still stand today on **Plaça de Sant Jaume**, in the heart of Ciutat Vella. One is the present city hall (**Ajuntament de Barcelona**), then known as **Palau del**

Consell de Cent; the other was the **Palau de la Diputació de Catalunya** where the parliamentary deputies used to meet. It is still the home of the Catalan government (**Generalitat de Catalunya**). Very close by is the Baroque Church of **Sant Sever**, where Barcelona's wealthiest citizens used to worship. On the corner of the **Rambla** and **Carrer de la Portaferrissa** stands the **Palau Moja**, built in the late 18th century, and opposite it, the **Church of Betlem**, which dates from the 17th-18th centuries. A short way down the stretch of the **Rambla** known as **Rambla de les Flors** is the 18th-

century **Palau de la Virreina**, one of the finest achievements of Catalan Baroque civil architecture.

If we branch off the **Rambla** along **Carrer del Carme**, we come to the **Hospital de la Santa Creu**, where the wounded from both sides were taken during the siege of Barcelona. From 13 September onwards, after the Bourbon occupation, only the wounded from the Bourbon side appear in the lists of patients, which would indicate that the resisters were executed. Nowadays the old hospital complex houses the national library (**Biblioteca de Catalunya**) and the **Institute of Catalan Studies (Institut d'Estudis Catalans)**, in the former convalescent home). We set out along **Carrer de l'Hospital** and come to the mid-18th-century Baroque Church of **Sant Agustí Nou**. We then leave **Plaça de Sant Jaume** again along **Carrer de Regomir** in order to see the **Palau Vilana-Perlas**, which was the residence of King Charles III's general secretary, the prothonotary **Ramon de Vilana-Perlas**. Proceeding along **Carrer Ample**, we reach the **basilica of La Mercè**, with the 18th-century **Palau Larrard** standing beside it.

Montjuïc Castle, the scene of battles during the 1705 and 1706 sieges, is located outside the old quarter, on a strategic hilltop dominating the city and sea. It also played a key role in the defence of Barcelona in 1714. Other buildings with numerous Renaissance and Baroque features include the Church of **Sant Vicenç de Sarrià**, the Monastery of **Santa Maria de Pedralbes**, the church of **Els Josepets** in **Gràcia**, and the gardens of the **Laberint d'Horta**, laid out in the late 18th century.



Barcelona. Montjuïc Castle

Around Barcelona

The area surrounding Barcelona also boasts a large number of Baroque and Renaissance buildings. We confine ourselves to mentioning those localities which played a significant part in the War of Succession.

Rafael Casanova i Comes, Barcelona's Chief Councillor in 1714, lived in his family's ancestral home in **Sant Boi de Llobregat** – Can Barraquer – and died there in 1743. He is buried in the chapel of La Pietat at the parish church of Sant Baldiri (built in the first half of the 18th century). The municipal council and museum of Sant Boi have organised a route to visit places associated with him. On 11 September each year, various associations, institutions and political organisations lay wreaths in tribute to the role he played in upholding Catalonia's institutions and rights.

The castle of **Castellví de Rosanes** (Baix Llobregat) perches on a hilltop and is now in ruins. It was occupied by the pro-Habsburg colonel of fusiliers Miquel Santjoan on 13 January 1714. The next day Santjoan attacked Corbera Castle but it was recovered by the Bourbons a week later when Brigadier Diego González and his men attacked the rebels.

The village of **Sant Martí Sarroca**, 57 km west of Barcelona, went down in history as the first place to revolt (on 4 January 1714) against a new tax introduced by the Bourbon administration. From there the rebellion spread throughout Catalonia. The chief attrac-

tion of Sant Martí is its castle, documented as early as the 10th century, which remained a Habsburg stronghold until 18 September 1714, when it surrendered along with Cardona castle. On 10 January 1714 Brigadier Diego González of the Bourbon army, under orders from the Duke of Popoli, marched to the nearby town of **Sant Quintí de Mediona** at the head of 300 infantrymen and 300 dragoons and crushed the revolt which had started in Sant Martí and gathered momentum in Sant Quintí.

The Habsburg army had its headquarters in the town of **Olesa de Montserrat**. In the course of the war, 158 soldiers, most of them Germans, are known to have died there, chiefly between June 1711 and February 1712. In the past few years an event known as **Memorial 158** has been held around 11 September to commemorate those men who lost their lives for Catalonia. In mid-May 1714 the Marquis of El Poal summoned his officers to a war council in Olesa, where he also inspected the army of resistance before engaging in combat with Bourbon troops at **Esparriguera**. The most important building from that period is the 16th-17th-century parish church of Santa Eulàlia. Its Baroque belfry 64 metres high is one of the tallest in Catalonia.

At a distance of 33 km north of Barcelona lies the town of **Caldes de Montbui**, which rose against its Bourbon garrison at the beginning of January 1714, captured the soldiers, and had them imprisoned in Cardona Castle. On 13 January the Count of Montemar sent 1,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry to crush the revolt. They burnt the town down and executed the rebel leaders. Four months later Colonel Ermengol Amill's pro-Habsburg troops were attacked not far from Caldes by Bourbon regiments commanded by Vallejo y González and suffered numerous losses. The parish church of Santa Maria, which has a highly characteristic Catalan Baroque doorway, still stands as a legacy from this period.

Brutal repressive measures were taken against Sant Quintí de Mediona. Bourbon troops sacked and burned the village, setting fire to the 140 houses and killing everyone they found inside. The number of victims was estimated at 800. These punitive measures were intended as a deterrent to persuade other rebels to demobilise. Since 2008 the **festival of Mata-Degolla**, which features a reconstruction of the Bourbon massacre of 1714, has been held in the town.



Sant Boi de Llobregat. Parish church

Round the Vic Plain and Lluçanès: The Revolt of the *Vigatans*

By travelling southwest along the coast from Barcelona through the Garraf hills we come to **Sitges**, which has a 17th-century parish church – Sant Bartomeu i Santa Tecla – with a Baroque organ and seven Baroque altarpieces inside. In May 1714 Sitges was besieged by Catalan fusiliers under the Marquis of El Poal who were trying to march to Barcelona, which was then under siege. Further down the coast we come to **Vilanova i la Geltrú**, which has a mid-18th-century parish church dedicated to Sant Antoni Abat with an elegant Baroque belfry.

The city of **Mataró**, on the coast northeast of Barcelona, swore allegiance to Archduke Charles of Austria on 27 August 1705 and gave active support to the Habsburg side. It was at the port of Mataró that Archduke Charles disembarked when he arrived in Catalonia in 1705. His bride Elisabeth Christine also arrived there on her way to Barcelona to be married. The basilica of Santa Maria in Mataró dates back to that time. Further up the coast we come to **Caldes d'Estrac**, also known as Caldetes. On 11 August 1713 the municipality of Caldes d'Estrac was the scene of a battle between Catalan troops, commanded by General Rafael Nebot, and Bourbon forces. The Catalans were victorious. Beyond Caldes d'Estrac lies Arenys de Mar, where the expedition led by the Deputy of the Military Estate landed in August 1713. Shortly before this, in May, the pro-Habsburg colonel “Bac de Roda” defeated Bourbon forces which had seized two towers in the vicinity. Of special interest in **Arenys de Mar** is the parish church of Santa Maria.



Sitges. Hill and parish church

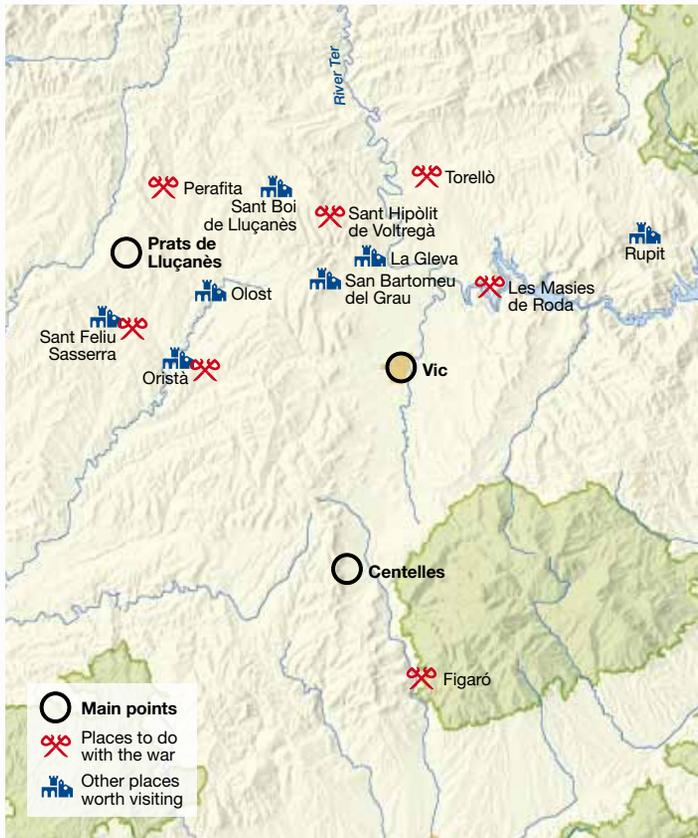


Vic. Plaça Major and city hall

Along this itinerary we can visit places in two Catalan hinterland regions – the *vegueria* of Vic and the *sotsvegueria* of Lluçanès – where events from the early stages of the War of the Spanish Succession were played out. The Vic Plain was the cradle of Habsburg sympathies in Catalonia, and it was here that the Pact of the *Vigatans* – which sparked off the first Catalan rebellion in favour of Archduke Charles of Austria – was signed. Not all the localities on the Plain took the same position, however: Centelles and Manlleu, for instance, sided with the cause of Philip of Bourbon. We will learn about the Bourbon repression in Lluçanès – one of the regions that suffered the cruellest reprisals in 1714 – and will have a chance to appreciate the region’s rural Baroque architecture and the urban Baroque style of the city of Vic.

Suggested itinerary

We advise dividing the itinerary into two stages. The first explores the Vic Plain from south to north, following the Congost del Figaró from Centelles to the River Ter. The second takes us to Lluçanès, a high plateau covered with the wooded countryside characteristic of the Catalan interior. The city of Vic links the two stages together and merits an extended tour in its own right.

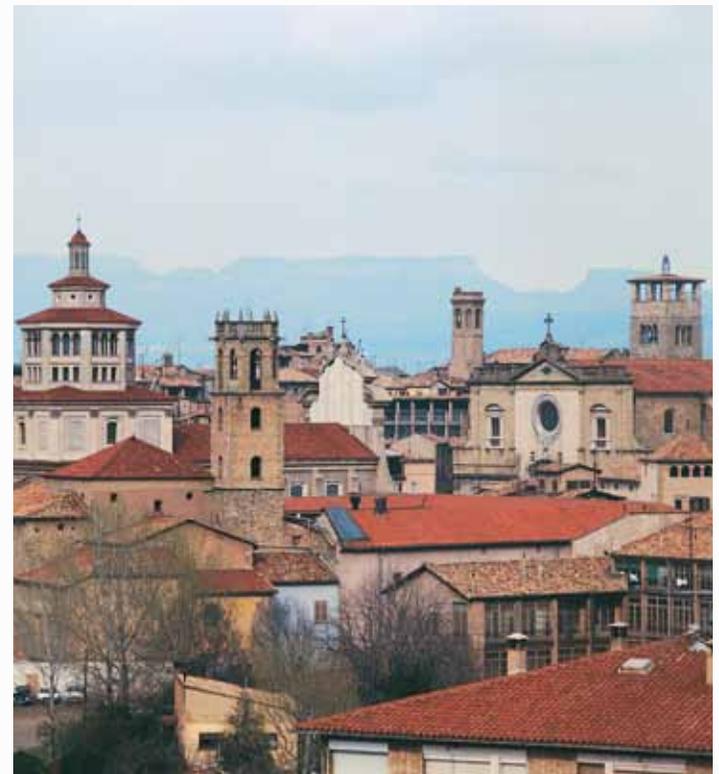


Map of the itinerary

exchange, undertook to uphold the Catalan constitution and to supply troops.

The Pact of the *Vigatans*, and the Treaty of Genoa, signed one month later, brought Catalonia into the War of Succession. On 22 August 1705 a large fleet carrying some 10,000 British and Dutch soldiers and a plentiful supply of arms reached the Catalan coast at Montgat. Also aboard were the pretender, Archduke Charles of Austria, and the English general Lord Peterborough. In November the pro-Habsburg *Vigatans* set up a new regiment: the Royal Catalan Guards. It had up to 900 men and took part in many of the battles in the War of Succession.

On 2 November 1713, Francesc Macià i Ambert, nicknamed *Bac de Roda*, a pro-Habsburg colonel from Vic, was hanged on Rambla de les Davallades in Vic. He had been betrayed by a friend who had gone over to the Bourbons.



Vic

Vic

The war in Vic

Vic was the scene of the first event in the War of the Spanish Succession to take place in Catalonia: the Pact of the *Vigatans*, concluded on 17 May 1705 at the chapel of Sant Sebastià (in the borough of Vic and the parish of Santa Eulàlia de Riuprimer). The signatories were members of the minor nobility and rural aristocracy – “*Vigatans*” is the name given to the inhabitants of Vic – and it proposed an alliance with the British and support for the Habsburg cause. This alliance was later ratified by representatives of the *Vigatans* and Queen Anne’s plenipotentiary, Mitford Crowe.

Under the agreement announced to the British in Genoa, the *Vigatans* pledged themselves to raise 6,000 armed men to pave the way for Archduke Charles to disembark in Barcelona. Britain, in

Vic was under allegiance to King Charles until 30 August 1713, when the pro-Bourbon Field Marshal Feliciano Bracamonte entered the city with a large army

and forced it to submit to the Bourbon king Philip V. The *Vigatans* had been defeated. The *Sometents* and fusiliers commanded by the Marquis of El Poal made several attempts to recover control of Vic in 1714.

The last verse of a poem about Bac de Roda
(The popular song about Bac de Roda
by J. Verdaguer)

“They kill me, not as a traitor
or as a robber,
but because I persisted in saying
‘may my homeland live for ever’.”



Vic. Chapel of Sant Sebastià de Sentfores

Visiting Vic

Few present-day Catalan cities have an architectural heritage as well-preserved as that of Vic. Being a cathedral city, it boasts numerous religious buildings which enrich the splendour of its urban architecture. Its associations with the period of the War of Succession are reflected in many elegant Baroque buildings. Among the most noteworthy features of this **Baroque heritage** are the façades of some of the houses looking onto **Plaça del Mercadal**, the **Casa de la Ciutat** (city hall) and the **Palau Episcopal** (bishop's palace). The many churches built in Vic during that period are a further manifestation of the presence of Baroque art.



Rupit

Though Vic itself has many handsome historic buildings, the place most directly connected to the War of Succession is the **chapel of Sant Sebastià**. Located 5 km west of the city and visible from the greater part of the Plain, this charming chapel is an essential part of the history of the war. The anniversary of the Pact of the *Vigatans* is commemorated there each year around 17 May, when a flame is lit (*Flama del Pacte dels Vigatans*). Then, during the **March of the *Vigatans***, held in Vic on the night of 10-11 September, the same flame is used in a symbolic burning of the Decree of Nueva Planta.

Around Vic

In the municipality of **Les Masies de Roda**, 10 km northeast of Vic, one can see a large manor-farmhouse (**masia de Bac de Roda**) which was once the home of Colonel Francesc Macià i Ambrert, better known as *Bac de Roda*, one of foremost heroes Vic



Masies de Voltregà. Shrine of La Gleva

provided to the War of Succession. From here we can travel on to the village of Rupit, in the heart of the Collsacabra massif, whose attractions include a magnificent old quarter, 16th and 17th-century houses, and Baroque chapels.

The **Shrine of La Gleva** rises above Les Masies de Voltregà, 12 km north of Vic. Though of medieval origin, it was extensively altered in the second half of the 17th century and was attacked by Bourbon forces in January 1714. The village of **Sant Hipòlit de Voltregà** was burnt and sacked by Bourbon troops during the same month. Of special note is its very large parish church, built in the second half of the 18th century. Continuing northwards, we come to Torelló, another town which was burnt down at about the same time. Nearby is the Shrine of La Mare de Déu de Rocaprevera.

Handsome manor-farmhouses (*masies*), characteristic of the agricultural growth of the 18th century, can be admired all over the **Vic Plain**.

Centelles

The war in Centelles

Centelles, unlike Vic, is remembered for having sided with Philip V during the War of Succession. However, the stance it took (along with Manlleu, the other town in the region that supported the Bourbons) reflects not so much a different political situation as the interests of the local governing classes and the rivalry between them. Moreover, it was not until July 1713, just before Bourbon troops invaded the Vic Plain, that Centelles switched allegiance in favour of Philip V.

Near Centelles, further down the River Congost, lies the borough of Figaró-Montmany, where the **Battle of the Congost**, the first clash between the *Vigatans* and the Bourbon troops, was fought (29 July 1705). The victorious *Vigatans*, led by Josep Moragues, gained control over the sole highway from Barcelona to the *vegueria* of Vic, which ran along the Congost. They had an accomplice in the person of the Count of Centelles, who was provided by the



Centelles. Baroque church of Santa Coloma

On 28 February 1714 a detachment of pro-Habsburg Catalan troops under Colonel Ermengol Amill occupied Centelles and set fire to about a hundred houses in retaliation for the town's collaboration with the Bourbons. Philip V later compensated the town by granting it the title of "fidelísima Villa" (most loyal town) and a series of privileges.

Lluçanès

The war in Lluçanès

Towards the end of the War of Succession, Lluçanès, which had always remained loyal to Archduke Charles of Austria, was punished with exceptional severity by the Bourbons. Three villages – Prats de Lluçanès, Sant Feliu Sasserra and Oristà – were burnt in 1714 in retaliation for the rebellion staged by local *Sometents* against the Bourbon government in January that year.

Bourbon forces set fire to Prats de Lluçanès twice in 1714 – in February and July – causing extensive damage: half the 180 or 190 houses were left uninhabitable.

Visiting Lluçanès

Prats de Lluçanès is the historic capital of the *sotsvegueria* of Lluçanès and the largest village in the region. Several Baroque buildings have survived from the period of the War of Succession, first and foremost the parish church of Sant Vicenç. Also of note are the churches of Sant Sebastià, Santa Eulàlia de Pardines (outside the main village), and Cal Bernat, one of the few houses to escape the 1714 fires.



Prats de Lluçanès. The Festa dels Elois

Viceroy Velasco with 6,000 *Sometents* to crush the rebellion but disobeyed orders. On 23 August an army of over 800 *Vigatans* set off with the intention of occupying the Barcelona plain, while the great Anglo-Dutch fleet with Archduke Charles of Austria on board was besieging Barcelona. The Count of Centelles was one of the first to swear allegiance to Archduke Charles of Austria.

Visiting Centelles

During the War of Succession, Centelles was the seat of an earldom. The Counts of Centelles – the Blanes family – had moved from the castle of Sant Martí de Centelles to the town itself in the early 16th century. Their mansion – **Palau dels Comtes de Centelles** – dates from that period, as does the main square (Plaça Major) that stands round it. The layout of Centelles was drastically altered in the 16th century. The chief Baroque building is the parish church of Santa Coloma, dedicated to the town's patroness. A festival – **Festa del Pi de Centelles** –, documented as far back as

1751, is held in the church every year on the saint's feast day, 30 December. The participants fell a pine tree and bring it to the main square, where they dance with it. Then they take it into the church and hang it upside down in front of the high altar.

The most remarkable of the many manor-farmhouses around Centelles is **El Cerdà de la Garga**, which was completely remodelled in the 18th century. It was the birthplace of Ildelfons Cerdà i Sunyer (1815-1876), the city planner who designed Barcelona's Eixample district.



Centelles. The Festa del Pi

Prats de Lluçanès was a leading centre for the production and distribution of woollen cloth in the 17th and 18th centuries. The carters who delivered the cloth were sometimes referred to as *elois* in Catalan, in honour of their patron Saint Eligius (Eloi in Catalan). Hence the traditional festival held on 24 and 25 June each year in Prats de Lluçanès: the **Festa dels Elois**.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, many of the Romanesque churches in Lluçanès were enlarged or rebuilt in the styles then in fashion: Baroque and later Neoclassicism. The most interesting are the Church of Sant Boi de Lluçanès, that of Santa Maria d'Olost – which is exceptionally large and has two belfries –, and that of Sant Bartomeu del Grau.

The unspoilt Lluçanès countryside is studded with **large manor-farmhouses** (*masies*) which were entirely rebuilt in the Baroque period. They include La Cortada de Merlès (Santa Maria de Merlès), the ancestral home of certain leading Habsburg supporters, and Casa Castellnou (Perafita), built on the ruins of the home of the Puig de Perafita family, which was burnt to the ground by Bourbon forces. A monument to Jaume Puig de Perafita, who headed the Revolt of the *Vigatans*, stands in his native village of Perafita.

Oristà and Sant Feliu Sasserra, the other two villages burnt down by Bourbon troops in 1714, nevertheless preserved some buildings of considerable historical significance. In **Oristà** the ruins of



Sant Boi de Lluçanès.
Parish church

The bandit **Perot Rocaguinarda** became popular well beyond Catalonia's borders. Miguel de Cervantes, the author of *The Ingenious Hidalgo Don Quixote de La Mancha* (1615), devoted a few pages of his novel (Part II, Chapter 62) to him. During the War of Succession his exploits were still remembered in the region.



Oristà. Rock face of Els Tres Còdols. Inscriptions referring to Perot Rocaguinarda

Mas Rocaguinarda, the birthplace of the famous bandit Perot Rocaguinarda (16th-17th century), can still be seen and on a nearby rock face – Els Tres Còdols – one can see contemporary inscriptions referring to him. Also of interest in the village of Oristà are the 18th-century parish church of Sant Andreu and the pottery museum (Museu de Terrissa Catalana).

Sant Feliu Sasserra boasts an interesting building in civil Renaissance style, the Casa del Consell i Jurats del Lluçanès, which was the headquarters of the *sotsvegueria* of Lluçanès until it was abolished under the Decree of Nueva Planta (1716). It is now the town hall (Ajuntament). On the feast of All Saints, a festival called the **Fira de les Bruixes** recalls the trials for witchcraft which took place in the village and all over the region in the 16th and 17th centuries.



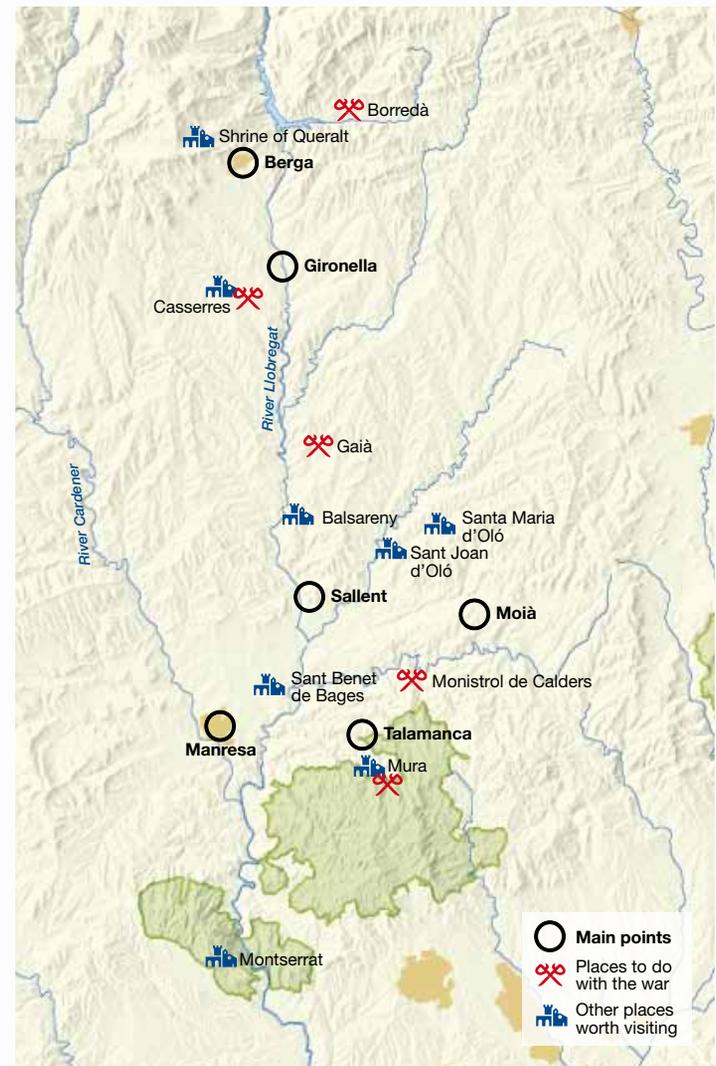
Manresa. La Seu and the Pont Vell

Along the Llobregat Valley: Repression and resistance

This itinerary runs through the part of Catalonia's interior occupied by the *vegueries* and *sotsvegueries* of Manresa, Moià and Berga. On the way we will discover towns such as Manresa and Sallent, which suffered severely when Bourbon troops inflicted the so-called "scorched earth" strategy on them. We will also visit the scenes of battles including the Battle of Talamanca, and the targets of certain guerrilla attacks by the Marquis of El Poal at the end of the war, such as Gironella Castle. The itinerary will take us to the birthplace of the most famous of the Catalan personalities involved in the conflict: Rafael Casanova, the Chief Councillor of Barcelona, who was born in Moià. We will visit four major shrines and monasteries, all with major Baroque features: Montserrat, the Cave of Saint Ignatius, Sant Benet de Bages and Nostra Senyora de Queralt.

Suggested itinerary

The itinerary runs along the valley of the River Llobregat and has Manresa as its focal point. The first stage takes us from Manresa to Berga, in the Pyrenean foothills, via other towns and villages



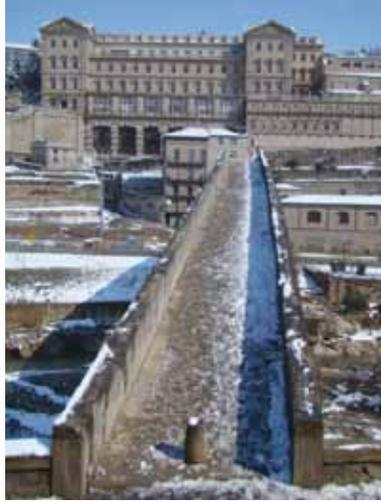
Map of the itinerary

on the river banks, many with factory settlements that arose from Catalonia's 19th-century economic boom. The second stage takes in three religious destinations as we drive up the river from the Monastery of Montserrat to that of Sant Benet de Bages, via the Cave of Saint Ignatius in Manresa, which overlooks the River Cardener, the main tributary of the Llobregat. The third stage takes us from Sant Benet to Talamanca and Moià up another of the Llobregat's tributaries, the River Cardener. From Manresa we can link up with another of our itineraries by travelling along the Cardener valley to Cardona.

Manresa

The war in Manresa

Manresa was one of the first Catalan cities to swear allegiance to Archduke Charles and many of its leading citizens, such as the Infantry General Ignasi Picalqués, sided openly with the Habsburgs. It cooperated closely with the Habsburg army, providing ammunition and supplies and raising troops, notably during the engagements at Els Prats de Rei and Cardona in the autumn and winter of 1711.



Manresa. Cave of Saint Ignatius

Manresa suffered especially severe reprisals during the War of Succession. Its pro-Habsburg stance was punished out of all proportion.

On 4 September 1714, one week before the fall of Barcelona, another key event took place in Manresa. The Marquis of El Poal and his fusiliers occupied the city and attacked the Bourbon garrison, manned by the Neapolitan regiment of La Basilicata, which took up positions in three religious houses – El Carme, Sant Domènec and Sant Francesc – and in the church of La Seu. The next day the Marquis's army stepped up the assault and captured the city. The Catalan fusiliers entered La Seu, where most of the Bourbon garrison had taken refuge. The interior was severely damaged and then entirely gutted by fire. When news arrived that

The fire of Manresa. On 13 August 1713 a large Bourbon force made up of four battalions of Spanish guards and twelve companies of grenadiers commanded by General José de Armendáriz set fire to Manresa. A total of 522 buildings were affected, including the town hall, the Church of El Carme, and some gunpowder mills, which helped spread the fire. This act of repression was a clear demonstration of the Duke of Popoli's determination to set an example and spread terror so that other towns and villages in central Catalonia would submit peacefully. Some of them did indeed swear allegiance to Philip V as a result.



Towns burnt during the War of Succession

same day that the Count of Montemar was coming to assist the besieged Bourbon garrison, the Marquis of El Poal withdrew his forces.

Visiting Manresa

Manresa has an interesting **Baroque heritage** which can be admired by following a tourist route that includes the Casa de la Ciutat (city hall), the Edifici dels Jutjats (courthouse), the Cave of Saint Ignatius, the regional museum and several Baroque mansions. Manresa also has an imposing Gothic basilica, **La Seu**, with noteworthy Baroque features such as the crypt (18th-century decorations), the silver caskets containing the relics of the city's patron saints (17th century), and the tombs of Canon Mulet (1719) and the Count of Eck.

Manresa offers an **"Ignatian route"** devoted to Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Company of Jesus. It takes in the **"Cave of Saint Ignatius"** – the mother house of the Jesuit order, comprising several buildings with important Baroque features – and other sites associated with the saint in the city and its surrounds.



Montserrat. The Shrine



Sant Fruitós de Bages. Southern courtyard of the Monastery of Sant Benet de Bages

Around Manresa

The Shrine of **Montserrat**, a centre of devotion which draws pilgrims from near and far, is located 30 km south of Manresa. The Monastery of Santa Maria de Montserrat was founded in the 9th century but contains numerous elements of Catalan Baroque art. Though Napoleon's armies set fire to it in 1811 (it was restored in the mid-19th century), in the preceding Baroque age it had under-

Christian Friedrich Graf von Eck, **Count of Eck**, was the general in charge of the Habsburg forces commanded by Marshal Starhemberg. He was sent to govern and defend Cardona Castle during the Bourbon siege of 1711. He died in Manresa in 1712 from a wound received at the Battle of Cardona. His tombstone can still be seen today in a corner of the cloister of La Seu in Manresa.



Manresa. Tombstone of the Count of Eck

gone unprecedented growth and numerous transformations. The basilica itself and the monastic buildings surrounding it are especially remarkable. One of the churchmen most actively engaged on the Habsburg side was the Abbot of Montserrat, Benet Sala i de Carmany, who was also the Chief Inquisitor, and bishop of Barcelona.

The Romanesque Monastery of **Sant Benet de Bages** lies 6 km northeast of Manresa in the borough of Sant Fruitós de Bages. Nowadays it is part of the Món Sant Benet, a major tourist and cultural complex. The Monastery, which has recently been restored, has retained important Baroque elements from the period when it depended on the monastery of Montserrat, to which it was annexed in 1593. In the 17th and 18th centuries it underwent considerable expansion and sweeping changes. A new residence for the abbot was built, along with new monks' quarters over the cellar, and large courtyards along the southern edges of the complex. The church and crypt were totally refurbished and a new reredos was made. In the *Modernista* (Catalan Art Nouveau) period the reredos was converted into furniture and has survived in that form.



Sallent. Casa Museu Torres Amat

Sallent

The war in Sallent

During the War of Succession, Sallent was the most important town on the Bages Plain after Manresa. The existence of waterfalls on the River Llobregat gave rise to pre-industrial activity which facilitated its growth and development. The townspeople sided with Archduke Charles of Austria and sent *Sometents* to combat the Bourbon army. In August 1713 – just after Manresa was burnt down by Bourbon troops – Sallent suffered the same fate.

A division of the Bourbon army reached Sallent in January 1714 and prepared to sack and burn the town to punish it for supporting Archduke Charles. The people gathered at the gate opposite the bridge to defend it but failed to keep the Bourbon soldiers out. Many then took refuge in the church.

Some 60 Catalans died in the **Bourbon assault on Sallent** in 1714. Others, including the mayor, Bernat Coromines, and Francesc Alzina, a town councillor, were stabbed to death. Rafel Conangla, a notary born in Sallent, was hanged on the main square in Manresa in retaliation.

In view of the number of *Sometents* it supplied to the cause of Archduke Charles and the retaliation unleashed against it by the enemy, Sallent probably ranks third in the present-day region of Bages – after Cardona and Manresa – in terms of the role it played in the war. After Manresa, which suffered extensive fires in July 1713, Sallent offers one of the clearest examples of the attacks and other repressive measures to which Bourbon troops subjected the Catalan civilian population.

Visiting Sallent

One of Sallent's most interesting legacies from the time of the war is the **Casa-Museu Torres Amat**, a large, opulent mansion originally built in the 17th century. Two well-known brothers were born there: Fèlix Torres i Amat (1772-1847), bishop of Astorga and a distinguished man of letters, and Ignasi Torres i Amat (1768-1811), a librarian who compiled a dictionary of Catalan writers (*Diccionario de escritores catalanes*), completed by Fèlix in 1836. The furniture and other items preserved inside the house give visitors a good idea of what the home of a wealthy Catalan family was like in the late 18th century.

Around Sallent

On the road to Berga we can stop at **Balsareny Castle**, built in Catalan Gothic style (14th century), which has a chapel containing a Baroque side altar. The countryside around **Gaià** (Bages), 16 km north of Sallent, is dotted with farmhouses and was the scene of one of the bloodiest episodes in the War of Succession in Catalonia.

The Pregones Wood massacre. On 25 January 1714, a group of fusiliers under Colonel Ferrer, along with local *Sometents*, killed nearly 700 pro-Bourbon soldiers by slitting their throats in the woods surrounding the house of Pregones (Gaià). Most belonged to the Leon regiment and had been captured on 11 January in Balsareny and imprisoned in Cardona Castle.

Gironella

The war in Gironella

On 11 March 1714, Gironella Castle, which was held by Bourbon forces, was attacked by the Marquis of El Poal and his mountain fusiliers. Of the castle itself, which stood near the church overlooking the Llobregat valley, only a few stretches of wall and the lower part of the tower remain.

Around Gironella

The parish church of **Casserres** – Nostra Senyora dels Àngels, 7 km southwest of Gironella – is of great interest on account of its magnificent 18th-century Baroque reredos. Close to the church stood the mansion of the aristocratic Marimon family, which distinguished itself by the staunch support it gave to the Bourbon cause during the War of Succession. Works of Baroque art and architecture can also be admired in the villages of L'Espunyola (Church of Sant Martí de Correà) and Montmajor (Churches of Santa Maria de Sorba and Sant Sadurní).

A play entitled *L'onze de setembre i Gironella* is staged in Gironella every year on 11 September. It tells about some volunteers from the town who were in Barcelona during the 1714 siege and is performed on the rocks below the old bridge over the Llobregat.



Gironella. Performance of *L'onze de setembre i Gironella*



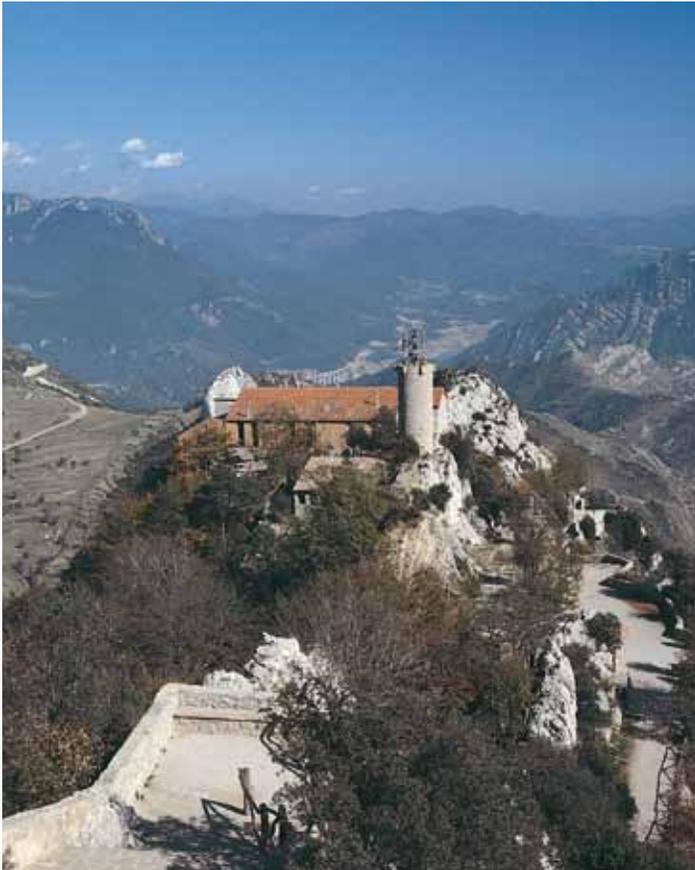
Berga. Castle of Sant Ferran

Berga

The war in Berga

Berga performed no especially heroic exploits during the War of Succession. In mid-1707 there was a rising in favour of Philip V but the town remained loyal to Archduke Charles until July 1713. Certain leading citizens, on the other hand, were active supporters of the Bourbons. On 29 June 1713 the town's military governor, Colonel Francesc Puig i Sorribes, was assassinated. Soon afterwards Berga's pro-Bourbon militia besieged the pro-Habsburg garrison in the castle, which surrendered six days later. Subsequently Berga sided with Philip V and the garrison was occupied by the pro-Bourbon Granada regiment.

Nowadays the **Castle of Sant Ferran** is the main surviving evidence of the events of the War of Succession in Berga. It is of medieval origin but extensive alterations were carried out in the 17th and 18th centuries to turn it into a barracks. Colonel Francesc Puig i Sorribes was the governor.



Berga. Shrine of Nostra Senyora de Queralt

Talamanca

The war in Talamanca

On 13 and 14 August 1714, a month before Barcelona capitulated, the Catalan army scored its last victory over Bourbon troops in the borough of Talamanca. The fighting took place on sloping ground between the castle and village of Talamanca to the south, and a house known as Mussarra, across the municipal boundary with Monistrol de Calders, to the north.



Talamanca. Castle

Antoni Desvalls i de Vergós, Marquis of El Poal, was the commander-in-chief of the Catalan army, which consisted of all the regiments of mountain fusiliers and regular troops that had continued to defend the Habsburg cause ever since the evacuation of the imperial armies in 1713. On 13 August he was at Talamanca Castle with about 2,500 men after occupying the castle and village when a large Bourbon army – over 3,500 men, including 1,500 dragoons – commanded by Field Marshal Count of Montemar arrived.

The Battle of Talamanca was the Catalan army's last victory over Bourbon troops. It left some 680 wounded and dead.

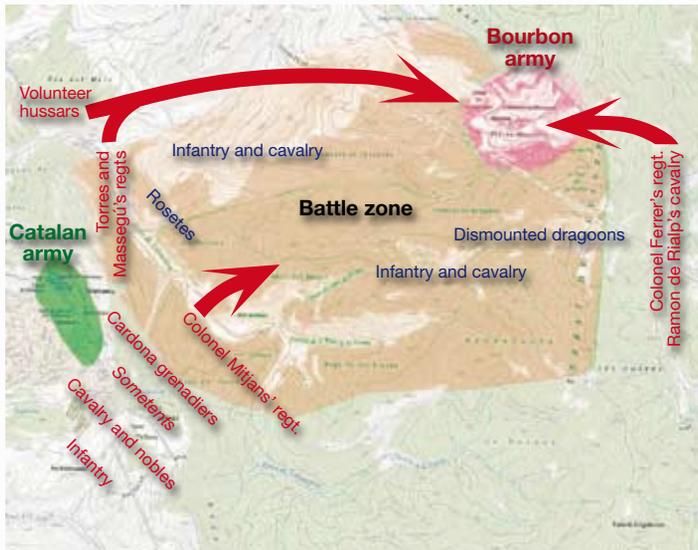
The Bourbons set up their base at Mussarra and sent their infantry down the steep hillside towards the river with a view to attacking the Catalan army. The regiments of mountain fusiliers commanded by the Marquis of El Poal engaged with the Bourbon infantry and

Visiting Berga

The Baroque parish church of **Santa Eulàlia**, built in the second half of the 17th century on the site of the old Church of Sant Pere, is another legacy from the same period. It stands on Plaça de Sant Pere, the main venue of Berga's "**Patum**" festival, which has been included in the UNESCO World Intangible Heritage.

Around Berga

The Shrine of **Nostra Senyora de Queralt** rises 5 km to the north-east of Berga. The present Baroque-style church, built in the 18th century, houses a statue of the virgin (Mare de Déu de Queralt) which is much venerated by local residents. Twenty kilometres east of Berga is the picturesque mountain village of Borredà where, on 6 March 1714, Catalan troops under the Marquis of El Poal clashed with Bourbon forces commanded by the Marquis of Bus, who lost a large number of men in an ambush.



Map of the Battle of Talamanca

dragoons along the river. A fierce battle ensued which lasted until the following day, when the Catalans defeated the Bourbons and pursued them as far as Sant Lorenç Savall.

Around Talamanca

The itinerary for visiting the village and battleground departs from **Talamanca Castle**, crosses the river and climbs up to the house of **Mussarra** (borough of Monistrol de Calders). It is clear from the lay of the land that guerrilla warfare took place here. In **Monistrol de Calders** one can visit the Baroque parish church of Sant Feliu.

From Talamanca we drive southwards for 12 km to **Coll d'Estenalles**, in the midst of the **Natural Park of Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac**, where Catalan fusiliers under the Marquis of El Poal fought Bourbon troops in May 1714. Near the village of **Mura**, within the Park boundaries, one can visit a spectacular manor-farmhouse carved out of the rock, **El Puig de la Bauma**, which is now a holiday farmhouse. Some spectacular groups of **giant wine vats** (18th-19th centuries) can be seen in the Montcau valleys, between Talamanca and El Pont de Vilomara i Rocafort, in the midst of the fields and far away from human habitation. Their presence points to the importance of vineyards in the economic development of the area after the war.

Moià

The war in Moià

The memory of the War of Succession has remained very much alive in the town of Moià because a key personage in the conflict was born there: Rafael Casanova i Comes, who was Chief Councillor of Barcelona when the Bourbons occupied the city on 11 September 1714.

Rafael Casanova was born in a wealthy Moià family around 1660. As a young man he studied law in Barcelona and by 1686 he was practising there as a doctor of law. In 1706 he was appointed to Barcelona's third councillorship and one year later the Archduke Charles gave him the title of "Honorary Citizen of Barcelona". In 1713 he attended a meeting of parliamentary deputies and voted in favour of continued resistance to the army of Philip V. In November he was elected Chief Councillor of Barcelona. As such he also became commander of the Coronela, a militia made up of members of the city guilds. On 11 September 1714 he was wounded during the Bourbon assault on Barcelona.

Visiting Moià

Opposite the Casa-Museu Rafael Casanova stands the **parish church of Santa Maria**, Moià's foremost Baroque building, which has an imposing porchway and a majestic bell tower, both in Baroque style. The **house of the Piarist fathers**, a large square 17th-century building with a Baroque church and a small cloister, is another important construction from the same period. Each year Moià calls to mind the career of Rafael Casanova at its **Baroque Festival**, held around 11 September, at which several scenes are



Moià. Parish church of Santa Maria

The **Casa-Museu Rafael Casanova**, on the main square in Moià, is run by the Museu d'Història de Catalunya. It houses an interesting exhibition about the War of Succession and various facilities to do with the culture and history of the town, including a historical archive and a museum of prehistoric times.



Moià. Casa Museu de Rafael Casanova



Moià. Baroque festival

re-enacted: Casanova's election as Chief Councillor of Barcelona, the final meeting of the War Council, and the Bourbon attack on Barcelona on 11 September.

A good side-trip from Moià, which can be done on foot or by bicycle, is to **Casa de Marfà**, a house in the borough of Castellcir where the Marquis of El Poal, the commander-in-chief of the Catalan army in the hinterland, had his headquarters in February 1714. From there he waged guerrilla warfare against Bourbon troops travelling about the country who burnt a few houses in Moià. The excursion offers a chance to admire the magnificent scenery and the towering rock walls on which the house itself and the Church of Sant Pere de Marfà rest.

Around Moià

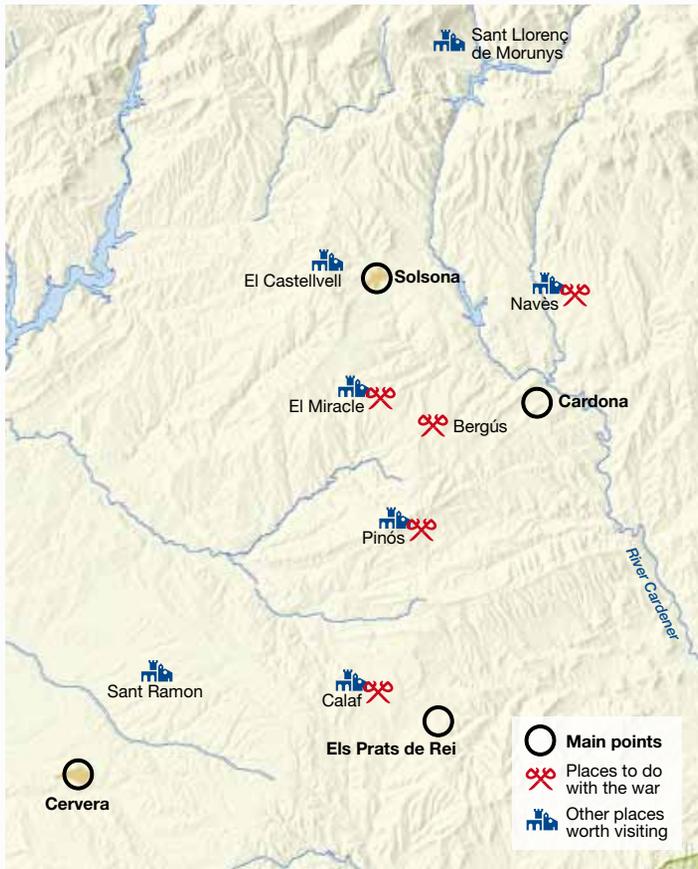
Santa Maria d'Olò lies 30 km west of Moià. Its prime feature is its parish church – notably the doorway and the two altarpieces – and the nearby hamlet of **Sant Joan d'Olò**, where three more altarpieces of great artistic value are preserved.



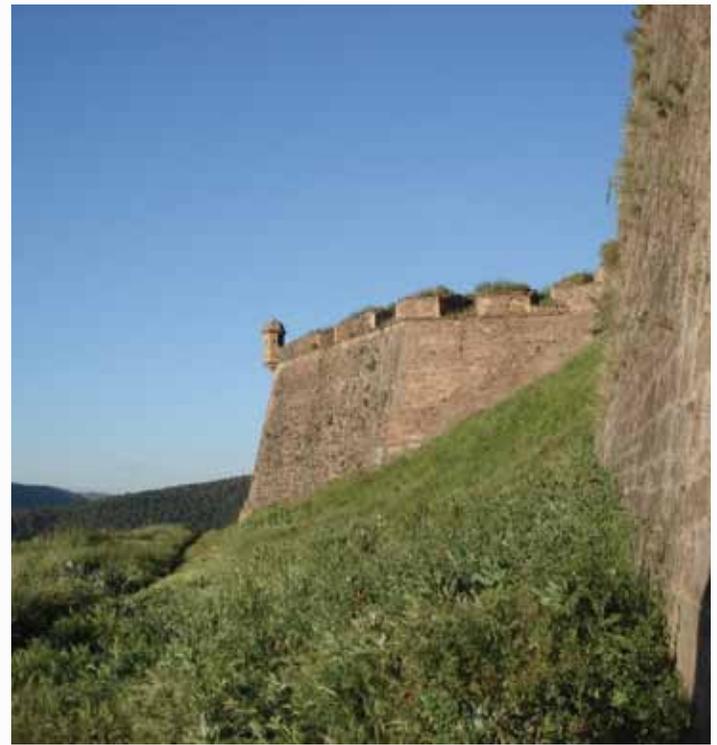
Cardona. View of the castle and the town

Great armies in the hinterland: The duel between Starhemberg and Vendôme

This itinerary enables us to discover the main settings of the War of the Spanish Succession in the part of the Catalan hinterland comprising the *vegueria* of Cervera and the *sotsvegueria* of Els Prats de Rei. The battles and sieges that took place here led to two major Habsburg victories: at Cardona and Els Prats de Rei. The legacy of the period can be divided into four categories: the



Map of the itinerary



Cardona. Detail of the fortress

Cardona

The war in Cardona

Few towns in Catalonia played a more decisive role in the War of Succession than Cardona. The castle was the last bastion to fall to Philip V after valiantly resisting numerous earlier Bourbon attacks. It capitulated one week after Barcelona, when the whole country was already controlled by the Bourbon army. Three events that occurred in Cardona were of special importance: the siege of November-December 1711; the siege of August 1713; and the castle's surrender, on 18 September 1714.

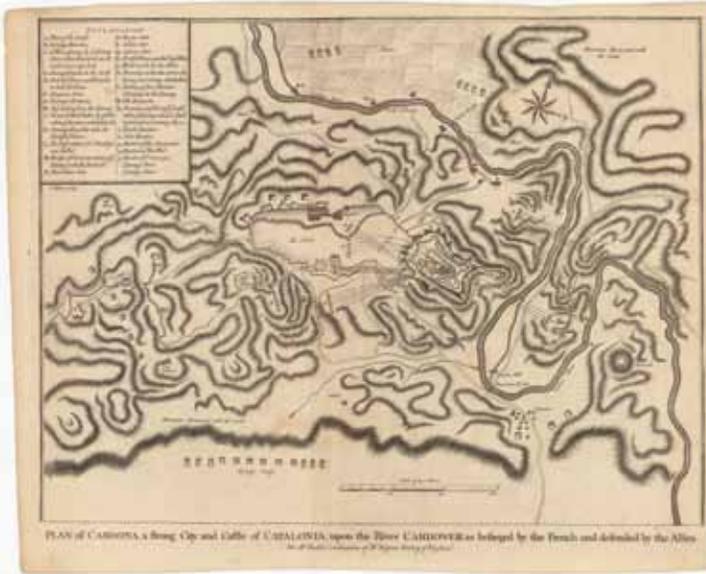
In the winter of 1711, Cardona Castle, an important bastion in the hands of Habsburg troops, held out against a terrible siege by some 25,000 Bourbon soldiers commanded by their lieutenant general, the Count of Muret, acting on orders from the Duke of Vendôme, the marshal of the Bourbon army. Manuel Desvalls i de Vergós was the governor of the castle and town at the time. The Bourbons entered the town on 17 November, carried off all the rations they could find and bombarded the castle for 34 days. On

military architecture of the modern age, exemplified by Cardona's towering fortress; Baroque religious architecture in Solsona, primarily Solsona Cathedral; Baroque and Neoclassical civil architecture in Cervera, notably its university building; and the former battlefield at Els Prats de Rei, now transformed into farmland.

Suggested itinerary

We recommend splitting the itinerary into two stages, each with Cardona as its starting point. The first runs northwards to Solsona via the Baroque shrines of Pinós and El Miracle, through lush farmland. From Solsona one can go on to Sant Llorenç de Morunys, on the edge of the Pyrenean foothills, where a striking reredos can be admired: the Altar dels Colls. The second stage takes us from Cardona to Cervera, via Els Prats de Rei, where we will discover the Calaf plateau and the rolling cornfields round the villages of the historical region of Segarra. Pinós shrine stands at the intersection of the two stages.

The first “world war”. The 16,000 troops who took part in the siege of Cardona were of eleven different nationalities: they included Catalans, Castilians, Frenchmen, Austrians, Germans, Swiss, Dutchmen, Britons, Irishmen, Italians and Portuguese. The Castilian forces also included soldiers born in the Americas.



Plan of the Siege of Cardona, 1711. Tindal (ICC)

18 December, Habsburg forces under General Guido von Starhemberg and Rafael Nebot arrived and broke the siege.

From then onwards, Cardona Castle, under the command of Colonel Desvalls, repulsed all Bourbon attacks till the end of the war. The Catalan army under the Marquis of El Poal (the brother of Manuel Desvalls) would sally forth from the castle and travel round the hinterland, attacking Bourbon garrisons and Bourbon detachments moving about the interior.

Cardona’s supplies and ammunition were severely depleted after it had resisted the long siege of 1711 and a violent assault in August 1713. It finally capitulated on 18 September 1714, this being one of the four conditions of the agreement over the surrender of Barcelona, which also permitted the officers and members of the garrison to go into exile.

Visiting Cardona

Cardona Castle, which is now run by the Museu d’Història de Catalunya, is an icon of the resistance of Catalan forces in central Catalonia. Part of it is now a Parador hotel. Besides its imposing fortifications, we can see a cross made of cannon balls on the bastion de Sant Llorenç which recalls the 1711 siege. Other interesting features of the architecture are the casemate, the covered way, and the collegiate church of Sant Vicenç, a gem of Catalan Romanesque architecture, which contains the marble tomb of Count Joan Ramon Folc I (1668). In the chapel of Sant Ramon Nonat we can admire the antependium and the reredos of Sant Ramon del Castell (1680).

A stroll round Cardona’s old quarter reveals many more traces of the War of Succession, including stretches of the old walls and houses that played an important role in the conflict. In the entrance to the town hall (Ajuntament), a lamp is kept lit as a reminder of Cardona’s resistance during the war. A monumental fountain (1914) on the Plaça de la Fira commemorates the bi-centenary of the fall of Barcelona and a bronze sculpture represents the siege of the castle in 1711.

A festival held around 18 September each year – *Aplec del 18 de Setembre* – calls to mind the historic events that occurred in Cardona during the War of Succession. A historically accurate reconstruction of the surrender of the castle is enacted, and is followed by a solemn torch procession and other festive and commemorative events.



Cardona. Eleventh of September Monument

Solsona



Solsona. Cathedral of Santa Maria and Bishop's Palace

The war in Solsona

Solsona swore allegiance to Archduke Charles of Austria in the autumn of 1705 and fought for the Habsburg cause until 1713. In March 1711 a regiment of Irish dragoons under General Henry Crofton occupied and sacked the city after defeating the Habsburg troops commanded by Starhemberg. However, the latter reconquered the city a few days later. In the winter it changed hands again, and it was from Solsona that many of the Bourbon troops who besieged Cardona Castle set out.

Visiting Solsona

Solsona's elevation to the status of cathedral city in 1593 extensively altered its layout and earned it a rich Baroque and Neoclassical heritage. The most outstanding features include: the Palau Episcopal (bishop's palace); the Cathedral façade and the altarpiece inside; the hospital of Pere Màrtir Colomé; the chapel of Sant Joan; the present-day city hall (Ajuntament); the Convent de les Monges; the Col·legi dels Escolapis; the Pont de l'Afrau (bridge) and the Portal del Pont (city gate).

In 1713 Solsona swore allegiance to King Philip V. The war damage had been extensive and only 200 of the original 500 houses were left standing. One of the consequences of the Bourbon victory was the loss of the Universitat Literària, founded in 1620, which occupied the Palau Llobera. It was shut down in 1717, when the University of Cervera was set up.



Cardona. Re-enactment of the events of 18 September 1714

In October 1711 approximately a thousand Bourbon troops under the Duke of Vendôme lay a cart track from Calaf to Cardona, via the Pinós Shrine, along which troops and artillery for laying siege to Cardona Castle could be moved. Some 8,000 Bourbon soldiers camped on the Pla de Bergús (Cardona), a point of crucial strategic importance in the war where all the great armies that approached Cardona Castle in the intention of attacking it pitched camp. The manor-farmhouse of La Garriga de Bergús overlooks this majestic spot.

Around Cardona

The shrine of Pinós (Pinós, Solsonès) lies in the very heart of Catalonia, 25 km southwest of Cardona. This local place of devotion consists of a Baroque church, a large manor house, and an inn. The church formerly contained a Baroque altarpiece made in 1709, but it was destroyed in 1936 in the Spanish Civil War. Also within the municipal boundaries are the chapel of Santa Maria de l'Avellana (Vallmanya) and the Church of Sant Pere de Matamargó. Navès, not far from Cardona but over the Solsonès border, was the site of a battle and has several chapels with Baroque altarpieces.



Pinós. Shrine of Pinós

Els Prats de Rei



Els Prats de Rei. Tower of La Manresana

The war in Els Prats de Rei

The Battle of Els Prats de Rei was one of the most important waged in Catalonia during the War of Succession. The greater part of both armies and their main commanders took part: on the Bourbon side, the **Duke of Vendôme**; and on the Habsburg side, **Marshal Guido von Starhemberg**, the supreme commander of the allied armies of Archduke Charles of Austria.

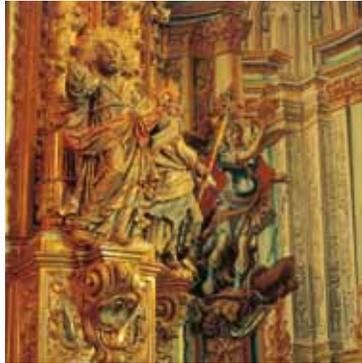
In the spring of 1711, Starhemberg's Habsburg army had succeeded in rallying its troops, stabilizing the front, and recovering part

Solsona has also left a fine legacy in terms of Baroque painting: Francesc Ribalta (1565-1628), a native of the city, is considered the founder of the Spanish school of painting. Other outstanding artists include Francesc and Antoni Bordons, who specialised in altarpieces, and Antoni Viladomat.

Around Solsona

Castellvell, though part of the borough of Olius, is just 2 km west of Solsona. Its castle, which belonged to the Viscounts of Cardona in the Middle Ages, acted as a fortified outpost in the defence of Cardona Castle during the War of Succession. Its defensive features have survived to the present day, despite its having been pulled down several times. Further west, at Pinell del Solsonès, we can admire the late 18th-century Church of **Sant Pere de Madrona**. The Shrine of **El Miracle** (Riner) stands 13 km south of Solsona. It consists of a Baroque church, a chapel, a Benedictine monastery, and several places providing accommodation. Inside the church is a large mid-18th-century altarpiece. Other features of Baroque art are to be found at nearby Llobera and La Molsosa.

The Duke of Vendôme, the commander-in-chief of the Bourbon armies, signed a decree in November 1712 ordering his troops to protect and respect the Shrine of El Miracle and all the religious who lived there.



Detail of the reredos by Carles Moretó in the Shrine of El Miracle (1744-58)



Sant Llorenç de Morunys. Baroque altarpiece of the Altar dels Colls

The town of **Sant Llorenç de Morunys** lies in the Pyrenean foothills, 25 km north of Solsona. The parish church contains a spectacular Baroque altarpiece, the **Altar dels Colls**, made by Josep Pujol between 1773 and 1784.

of the ground occupied by the Bourbons. The Bourbon army's main objective that autumn was to control the Calaf plateau so as to facilitate the final assault on Cardona Castle prior to advancing on Barcelona. The allied armies, on the other hand, needed to prevent this by strengthen their positions in the region and to keep up the supply of reinforcements, weapons, ammunition and rations to Cardona Castle, the main Habsburg bastion in central Catalonia.

Over 55,000 men of different nationalities took part in the **Battle of Els Prats de Rei**: 22,000 on the Habsburg side, and 35,000 on the Bourbon side.

In September 1711 the allied army was between La Manresana and Els Prats de Rei, while Bourbon troops, proceeding from the Lleida region and commanded by the Duke of Vendôme, were between Calaf, Els Prats de Rei and Sant Martí de Sesgueioles. Vendôme

The map of the Battle of Els Prats de Rei (published in London by Nicholas Tindal in 1733 in Rapin de Thoyras' *History of England*) contains references to manor-farmhouses, chapels and other buildings that still exist today.



ordered them to bombard and destroy the village of Els Prats de Rei and its walls. Then Starhemberg ordered the village to be occupied. Both armies maintained their positions and dug trenches round the village, which was bombarded by the Bourbons throughout the first week of October. In mid-November the fighting spread towards Cardona. Starhemberg sent a detachment there under the Count of Eck, who was to become the governor.

Map of the Battle of Els Prats de Rei. Tindal/Rapin (ICC)



Els Prats de Rei. Museu Municipal

In 1710, Irish troops fighting for the Bourbon cause under Count Daniel O'Mahony set fire to **Calaf Castle** after largely destroying its food supplies.

Visiting Els Prats del Rei

The features of that key battle that can still be seen include the **Tower of La Manresana**, the surrounding farmhouses and fields, and the centre of Els Prats de Rei. The Tower of La Manresana was a strategic observation point for the Habsburg army and Marshal Starhemberg set up his quarters at a farmhouse called Can Roca which stood just beside it. Nowadays the tower is run by the Museu d'Història de Catalunya. At the base of it information about the battle is provided, and the terrace affords views over the entire battlefield. The manor-farmhouse of Can Codina de la Quadra, which was occupied by Bourbon troops, is also located within the municipal boundaries.

In the village centre, which was badly damaged during the siege, we can admire: the Baroque Church of Santa Maria; a Gothic mansion which is now the town hall (Ajuntament); and the **Museu Municipal dels Prats de Rei**, where a copy of Tindal's map of the battle, some original cannon balls, and an eye-witness account of the siege written by a peasant are on show.

Around Els Prats del Rei

In **Calaf**, 5 km northwest of Els Prats de Rei, is the former home of Fr Jeroni Abadal, where the Duke of Vendôme lived throughout the three-month-long Siege and Battle of Els Prats de Rei. Other surviving contemporary constructions are the parish church of Sant Jaume – with its imposing belfry–, the Plaça Gran, the hospital, the castle, and many of the streets and buildings of the old quarter.



Cervera. University

Cervera

The war in Cervera

On 26 and 27 September 1701, before war broke out, Philip V stopped in Cervera, a town with a royal charter, on his way to Barcelona and was received with full honours. He ennobled the mayor, Ramon de Navès, and swore to uphold the town's privileges. In March 1702 he granted Cervera the title of city (after a large amount of money had changed hands). Thus Cervera had good reason to be grateful to him.

But when the war started in September 1705, Cervera proclaimed its obedience to Charles of Austria. This marked the beginning of a very difficult period and for seven years Cervera stood on the dividing-line between the two warring sides. At the end of July 1712, most of the population abandoned the city in search of safety. When they returned in mid-1713, they found the town virtually in ruins and decided to send two syndics to Madrid to plead for some major royal grants, such as the construction of a university.

On 14 October 1717 Philip V signed the decree setting up the **University of Cervera**. Prior to this he had abolished the seven existing Catalan universities located in Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, Solsona, Tarragona, Tortosa and Vic. Cervera became the sole institution of higher education in Catalonia until the Liberal Revolution of 1837, when the university was transferred to Barcelona. Numerous eminent personalities studied at Cervera. It reached its heyday in the late 18th century, when it had approximately 2,000 students.

Visiting Cervera

The University of Cervera is unquestionably one of the most imposing works of 18th-century Catalan civil architecture. The French military engineers François de Montaignu and Alexandre de Rez supervised the first stage of construction work, which was not completed till 87 years later, in 1804. The buildings stand round two courtyards, separated by the chapel, or main lecture hall, which contains a splendid 18th-century alabaster altarpiece. Both the inner and the outer façades are of note.

Cervera has other remarkable Baroque buildings as well, such as the Hospital Berenguer de Castellort (1733) and the city hall (Paeria). A collection of items related to the 18th-century University of Cervera can be seen in the **Museu Comarcal de Cervera**.

Around Cervera

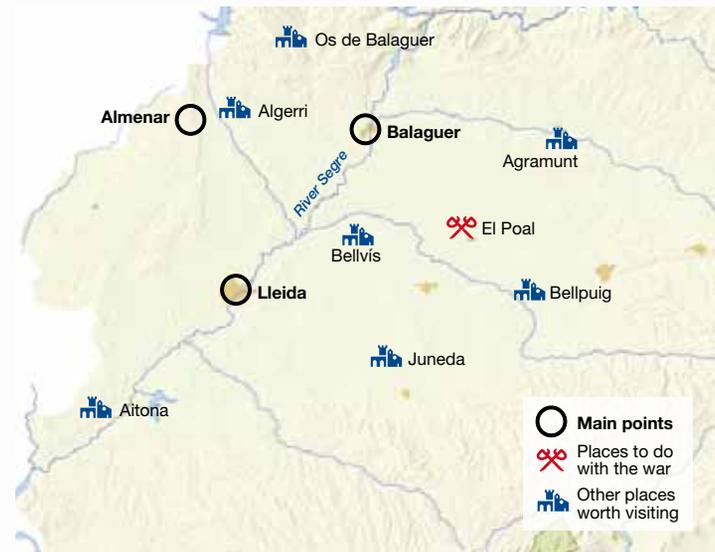
In the town of **Sant Ramon**, 15 km northeast of Cervera, stands the Baroque Monastery of Sant Ramon de Portell (17th and 18th centuries). Other nearby localities also offer interesting Baroque buildings (Guissona, Torà, Ivorra, Sanaüja, and Els Plans de Sió) or sites where key events in the war took place (Montfalcó Mural·lat - Les Oluges).



Sant Ramon.
Monastery of Sant
Ramon de Portell



Lleida. La Seu Vella (old cathedral)



Map of the itinerary

Through the Terres de Ponent: The plains of discord

The route brings us to the main scenes of the War of the Spanish Succession in the Terres de Ponent, the region that encompasses the historical *vegueries* of Lleida, Balaguer, Tàrrrega and Agramunt. The visit takes in the two most important cities in Western Catalonia during the war, namely, Lleida, under Bourbon rule from 1707, and Balaguer, under Habsburg rule until 1711. These lands constituted the frontier between the two factions during this period. The route concludes with the glorious victory of the Habsburg army at Almenar, in July 1710, which allowed Archduke Charles of Austria to stage an offensive across Aragon and arrive as far as Madrid.

Suggested itinerary

The flattest part of the itinerary can be followed in three stages. The first stage is devoted to visiting the rich historical heritage of the city of Lleida, the capital of Western Catalonia. The second stage takes us through the landscape of the fertile plain of Lleida passing through Almenar, the site of the main battle on our itinerary, as far as the city of Balaguer and its environs. The third stage will take us through the vastness of the inland plains, paying a visit to Bellpuig and Agramunt and the remaining villages on the itinerary.

Lleida

The war in Lleida

The city of Lleida pledged allegiance to Archduke Charles of Austria on 23 December 1705. Thereafter, a garrison of 2,000 Habsburg soldiers constituted the military garrison of the castles of La Suda and Gardeny, following the orders of Commander-in-Chief Heinrich von Hessen-Darmstadt.

Having defeated the Habsburg armies at the Battle of Almansa in April 1707, the Bourbon troops of the Duke of Orléans advanced towards Aragon and prepared to enter Catalonia. Bourbon occupation began in September 1707 in Lleida, which was the most important city in Western Catalonia and facilitated control of the entire western region. In mid-September, 30,000 Bourbon soldiers poured into the environs of Lleida and established camps of command and supply in Balaguer and Fraga, preparing to launch an assault on the city, which occurred on 12 October. Within a few hours, the Habsburg garrison was defeated, and the city dwellers and belligerents who could take refuge in the castle. Having conquered the city, the Bourbons launched the assault on the castle, which stood firm until 11 November, the day of surrender, following almost two months of siege. Meanwhile, British General Lord Galway, who had withdrawn his 8,000 soldiers from the environs of Lleida on seeing the enemy crossing the River Segre, endeavoured to draw closer to liberate the



Engraving showing the Siege of Lleida. Rémond/Massard, 1810 (ICC)

siege of the autumn of 1707. Some of these buildings are located on the hill of La Seu Vella, the set of monuments that dominates the city with the imposing Cathedral (La Seu Vella), La Suda Castle and its surrounding modern fortress.

La Suda Castle or the King's Castle, of Moorish origin, played a prominent role during the War of Succession. Within its walls, it housed the Habsburg garrison together with the refugee popula-



Lleida. La Suda Castle

tion, which withstood the Bourbon siege for two months. The lack of water and heavy bombardment led to the castle's eventual surrender in November 1707. Adjacent to La Suda, **La Seu Vella** of Lleida constitutes another piece of city heritage from the War of Succession. The Bourbon authorities turned La Seu Vella into a prison and, subsequently, from 1749, into a military barracks. The militarization of the neighbourhood of La Suda was complete. In the mid-18th century, a new cathedral, **La Seu Nova**, was built in Lleida, and was consecrated in 1781. Baroque in style with clear Neoclassical tendencies, it finally replaced La Seu Vella as the Cathedral of Lleida.

The **Convent of El Roser**, built during the second half of the 17th century and then known as the Convent of Sant Domènec, was burned down by Bourbon troops during the siege of 1707, killing most of the people who had taken refuge there. **Gardeny Castle**,

beleaguered city, which proved unsuccessful because they were vastly outnumbered.

The castle's surrender was inevitable because, in addition to the heavy Bourbon bombardment, the besieged were left without water and suffered a virulent epidemic of dysentery. Altogether, the battle brought about some 2,000 deaths between the two sides and left several thousands wounded and stricken.

The Bourbon conquest of Lleida implied possession of the western lands of Catalonia and the agricultural plains, where were para-

mount to the logistics of the army that would later attack the rest of Catalonia and its resistant capital, Barcelona.

Visiting Lleida

Lleida has conserved a number of important buildings that bear testimony to the events endured during the War of Succession, related to the battle and

At the **Battle and Siege of Lleida**, a Bourbon army comprising in excess of 19,000 soldiers under the command of the Duke of Orléans (14,000 of whom were French and the rest Spanish and Catalan) came up against 2,700 Habsburg soldiers (a third of whom were Catalan, and the rest English, Dutch and Portuguese) under the command of German Prince Heinrich von Hessen-Darmstadt, British General Wills and Dutch Lieutenant-Colonel Widders.



Lleida. La Seu Nova (new cathedral)

which crowns the other hill on the Segre River, southwest of the city, played a prominent role during the battle of 1707. The castle, belonging to the Order of the Knights Templar from the 12th century, had been fortified for wars of the modern era.

Around Lleida

Twenty-three kilometres southwest of Lleida lies the town of **Aitona**, which features the Baroque Church of Sant Antolí (18th century), around which a Baroque market is held every year in May. Twenty kilometres southeast of Lleida, in **Juneda**,

visitors can stroll through the arcaded houses dating from the 17th and 18th centuries and visit the Baroque Church of La Transfiguració del Senyor, built in the mid-18th century.

Twenty-four kilometres east of Lleida is the town of **Bellvís**. The **Firals de Bellvís**, a commemorative street-performance festival that runs in late July, transports visitors back to the 17th century, during the War of the Reapers, when the Spanish *tercios* (large infantry regiments) occupied Bellvís and Western Catalonia. Next to Bellvís is the village of **El Poal**, featuring Cal Castle, the birthplace of Manuel Desvalls and Antoni Desvalls (Marquis of El Poal), noteworthy Catalan army officers during the War of Succession.

Further away from Lleida, 38 km towards the east, lies the town of **Bellpuig**, which enjoyed a spell of prosperity during the 16th century. On one side of the Church of Sant Nicolau stands the mausoleum of Ramon Folc of Cardona-Anglesola, Duke of Cardona and Lord of Bellpuig. Made of Carrara marble, and Renaissance in style, it is the most majestic mausoleum in Catalonia.



Bellpuig. Mausoleum of Ramon Folc of Cardona-Anglesola

Balaguer



Balaguer. View of the town and the River Segre

The war in Balaguer

In 1706, the city of Balaguer was placed under the dominion of Archduke Charles of Austria, owing to the intervention of Antoni Desvalls i de Vergós, Marquis of El Poal. In early May 1710, Philip V left Madrid to conquer Balaguer. At that time, it was a military stronghold well protected by artillery and defended by quite a numerous garrison. It was expected that any attempt to lay siege would take a great deal of time and would give the allies time to receive reinforcements. On 16 May, some 23,000 Bourbon soldiers set up camp in front of Balaguer. Guido von Starhemberg, commander-in-chief of the Habsburg army, had reinforced the site's garrison. Bourbon troops came up against the flood waters of the River Segre, triggered by the thaw in the mountains and the rains, which made it extremely difficult to conquer the city. One of the bridges built by the Bourbons had been destroyed by the current, and it became so precarious that it was removed.

To overcome the difficulty posed by the presence of the river between the army and the fortress, the Bourbons, led by the Mar-



Balaguer. Shrine of El Sant Crist

quis of Villadarias, had to attempt the siege from the left bank of the River Segre, which meant that Balaguer could not be easily besieged while the allies controlled the bridge over the river. As the Bourbons drew closer, the allied artillery opened fire and returned to their positions weakened by lack of food and poor hygiene until they abandoned the siege. Balaguer's surrender to the Bourbon troops would have to wait another year.

Archduke Charles of Austria, on the counsel of General Stanhope and Marshal Starhemberg, moved his army to Balaguer. **Philip V** had also moved. This marked the first time in the war that the two pretenders came face to face on the battlefield. The Habsburg army comprised 19,000 soldiers while the Bourbon army contained 24,000 soldiers.



Plan of Balaguer town and castle in 1645 (ICC)

Visiting Balaguer

Balaguer is noted for its **old town**, which stretches between the River Segre and its medieval wall, crowned by the Church of Santa Maria and the Church of Sant Crist, and the vestiges of Formós Castle. Within the city, noteworthy features include El Mercadal, the arcaded square and focal point of the city, as well as other arcaded streets and squares within the city walls.

Other Baroque buildings include the Church of La Mare de Déu del Miracle, built in the early 18th century, and the Church of Sant Josep, the former church of the Discalced Carmelites, which only retains the façade.

Around Balaguer

Fifteen kilometres northwest of Balaguer is the town of **Os de Balaguer**, home to the Church of Sant Miquel and its magnificent Baroque façade. Its construction was completed in 1700, the year the monumental Baroque fountain of Sant Pitot was built, comparable to those of Bellpuig de les Avellanes, Castelló de Farfanya and Algerri.

Some 30 km east of Balaguer is the town of **Agramunt**. Worth seeing is the Ajuntament (city hall building), the Church of Santa Maria (featuring the retable from the Chapel of El Roser from the second half of the 17th century) and the Church of La Mare de Déu dels Socors (featuring a retable dating from the early 18th century).

Almenar



Map of the Battle of Almenar by Nicholas Tindal (*Continuation of Mr. Rapin's History of England, 1740*)

The war in Almenar

Almenar witnessed one of Catalonia's most important battles during the War of Succession. The battle took place on 27 July 1710, just after the Bourbon army gave up the siege attempt on Balaguer. With the retreat of the Bourbons towards Lleida, the Habsburgs made a forced night march and crossed the River Noguera Ribagorçana higher up, anticipating the passage of the Bourbon army. They occupied the town, emplacing a battery of cannons to prevent the passage of the Bourbons from below. The Habsburg army, under the command of the Austrian Field-Marshal Guido von Starhemberg and British General James Stanhope, which comprised Austrian, British, Dutch, Portuguese and Catalan battalions, confronted the Bourbon army, led by the Marquis of Villadarias. The artillery bombardment together with Stanhope's cavalry charge allowed them to defeat the Bourbons at last, making them flee hap-

In the course of the **Battle of Almenar**, the Habsburgs were on the verge of capturing Philip V, who was evacuated from the battlefield at the last minute by a squad under Brigadier José Vallejo. The dead and wounded numbered a thousand.

Stanhope, which comprised Austrian, British, Dutch, Portuguese and Catalan battalions, confronted the Bourbon army, led by the Marquis of Villadarias. The artillery bombardment together with Stanhope's cavalry charge allowed them to defeat the Bourbons at last, making them flee hap-

The **battle zone** at Almenar, on account of its geostrategic significance, was the scene of other conflicts in the course of history: a battle between El Cid and the Count of Barcelona in 1082, a siege during the War of the Reapers, and even combats in the airfield located on the highland during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).

hazardly. The victory at Almenar allowed Archduke Charles of Austria to pursue the offensive towards Saragossa, reconquer Aragon and enter Madrid.

Visiting Almenar

From the square of the **Church of Santa Maria d'Almenar**, with its slender 18th-century bell tower, the **battlefield** where the confrontation between the two great armies occurred on 27 July 1710 can be seen quite well. The square's viewing point affords a panoramic view of the River Noguera Ribagorçana, and the lofty highland of Fenollet, west of the village, prominent sites of the battle. North of the Fenollet highland and towards Alfarràs lies Pla del Sas, the place to which General Stanhope made his army climb in order to control the right bank of the river and confront the Bourbon troops.

Around Almenar

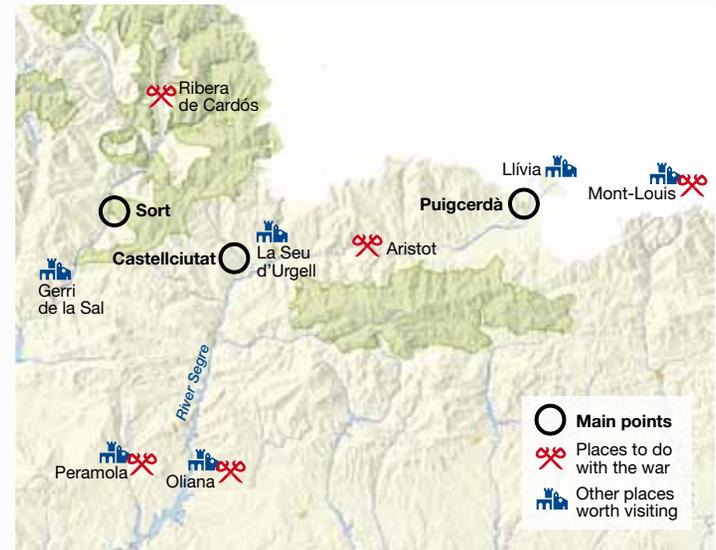
Ten kilometres east of Almenar is the village of **Algerri**. Noteworthy is the Church of Santa Maria, restored at the end of the 18th century, which features one of the largest Baroque façades in Catalonia and a retable inside.



Almenar. Bell tower of Santa Maria



Castellciutat (La Seu d'Urgell). Detail of the fortress



Map of the itinerary

Suggested itinerary

The route is divided into three Pyrenean stages, taking La Seu d'Urgell as its starting point. The first, to the south, brings us towards Oliana and Peramola following the course of the River Segre. The second stage brings us upriver to Cerdanya, retracing the Treaty of the Pyrenees, with the towns of Puigcerdà, Aristot, Llívia and Mont-Louis. Finally, the last stage takes us through Port del Cantó towards Sort and Pallars, the gateway to the highest peaks in the Catalan Pyrenees.

Castellciutat (La Seu d'Urgell)

The war in Castellciutat

The fortress of Castellciutat (now within the town of La Seu d'Urgell) played a key strategic role in obstructing the passage of the French armies towards inland Catalonia, a challenge for the Habsburg defence in the Pyrenean border region. At the end of the 17th century, the fortress became the centre of a modern military infrastructure, flanked by the citadel, Solsona tower and the Valira stronghold. The bastion was governed by one of the main heroes of the conflict in Catalonia, General Josep Moragues.

In 1710, Catalan troops fiercely defended the fortress against the attacks of a considerable corps of the French army. However, lack of food and ammunition forced Moragues to accept the sur-

The Pyrenean front: The mountains up in arms

The route brings us to the battle scenes in the region straddling the border and the Catalan Pyrenees, namely, the area that encompasses the historic *vegueries* of Puigcerdà and Pallars, where Habsburg resistance endured relentless Bourbon incursions. At the same time, it presents a type of military architecture characteristic of the period, which is typically French in style, i.e. the castle and fortress of Castellciutat (La Seu d'Urgell). The rugged landscape of the Pyrenean battlefield accounts for the difficulty encountered by both factions to sustain the subordination of the enemy.



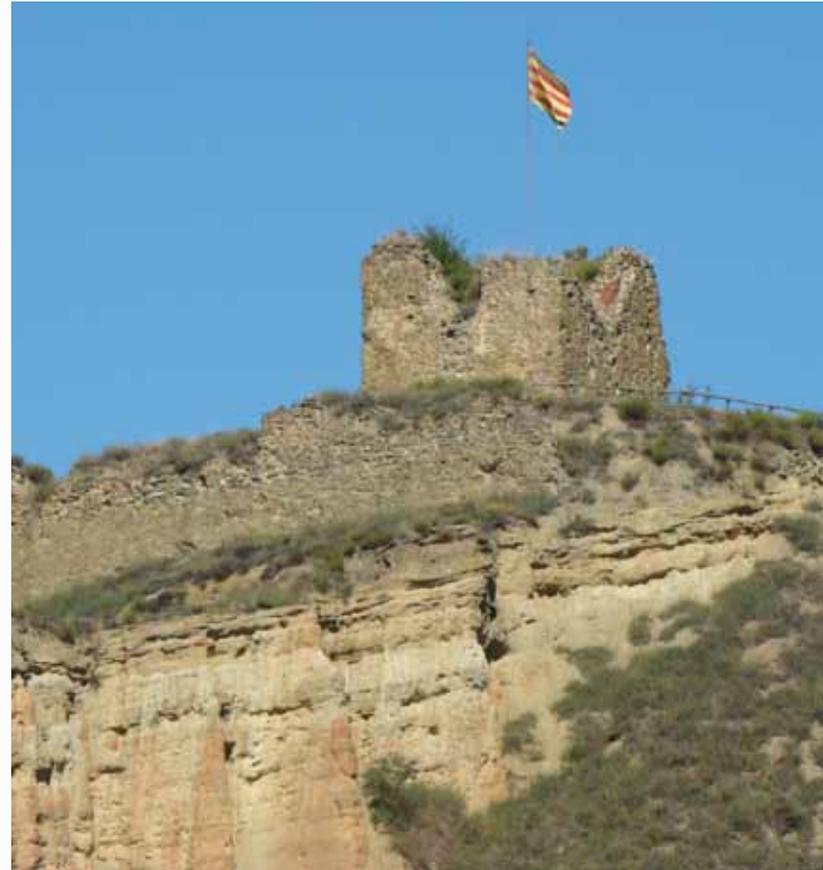
Castellciutat (La Seu d'Urgell). The fortifications of Castellciutat at the beginning of the 20th century. Photograph by Guillem de Plandolit (Arxiu Comarcal de l'Alt Urgell)

render of the fortress on 28 September 1713 following the siege of the Bourbon General Feliciano Bracamonte. The surrender, which affected the Habsburg garrisons of Castellciutat and Aristot, permitted the unhindered departure and exile of the garrison members. Moragues was pardoned and retired to Sort to recover. However, he would rapidly return to the battlefield in the inland area of Catalonia where he would struggle until the bitter end.

Visiting Castellciutat and La Seu d'Urgell

Now a hotel, **Castellciutat Castle** is the great Catalan fortress of the River Segre's upper valley. The former Castell de Ciutat, presumably Roman in origin, is perched on the hill known as Puig d'Urgell, a highly strategic location. The castle dominates the city of La Seu d'Urgell as well as one of the most important roads to the border. Belonging to the Counts of Urgell in the Middle Ages, and subsequently to the Viscounts of Urgell, it was made into a modern military infrastructure at the end of the 17th cen-

The fortress of Castellciutat was designed in the 18th century, in line with the style of fortresses in North Catalonia designed by the military engineer Vauban, adapting the fortifications to advances in artillery of the time.



Castellciutat (La Seu d'Urgell). Solsona tower

ture. During the War of Succession, it assumed considerable importance as it constituted the main Pyrenean bastion of Catalan resistance.

In the early 18th century, south of Castellciutat, the **Citadel** was built, enlarging the so-called White Tower. It is a fortress in the shape of two demi-bastions with its sides flanked by a hexagonal tower. **Solsona Tower, also built in the same period, is another peripheral fortification to protect and bolster the southern defence. Other architectural remains that exemplify the military function of the enclosure are the large fragments of wall and the five bastions, rebuilt in 1751.**

The most important building in **La Seu d'Urgell** is its majestic Romanesque **Cathedral**, the largest episcopal see in Catalonia. Its cloister was partially altered in the 17th century. The Church of

Sant Domènec houses the tomb of **Llorenç Tomàs i Costa**, one of the most distinguished priests for his service to Archduke Charles of Austria. The **Museu Diocesà** contains various Baroque works, noteworthy among which is the spectacular silver urn of Saint Armengol. A stroll through the city's **old quarter** will transport visitors back to the splendour of the Pyrenean capital.

Around La Seu d'Urgell

Twenty kilometres east of La Seu d'Urgell lies the town of **Aristot**, which has conserved the ruins of its medieval castle. The castle played a prominent role in the War of Succession when, on 20 October 1708, *Miquelets* and Catalan fusiliers defeated the Bourbon troops that were preparing to conquer it. Aristot Castle, also governed by General Moragues, surrendered to the Bourbon troops on the same day as Castellciutat, on which it depended. Forty kilometres south of La Seu d'Urgell is the town of **Oliana**, the birthplace of Ramon de Vilana-Perlas, Secretary of State and Cabinet Secretary of King Charles of Austria. Noteworthy buildings in the town include the Church of Sant Andreu, which dates from the second half of the 17th century and features a bell tower, the

town's most significant architectural element, and the Piarist convent, which dates from the second half of the 17th century and features a chapel dedicated to La Mare de Déu dels Àngels. Two kilometres west is the town of **Peramola**, which boasts an interesting historic centre with 17th- and 18th-century houses and streets. The town was burned down by the Bourbon troops in January 1714.



La Seu d'Urgell. Urn of Saint Ermengol.
Museu Diocesà

Puigcerdà



Map of
Puigcerdà,
1700 (ICC)

The war in Puigcerdà

The Treaty of the Pyrenees (1659), which partitioned the Catalan territory north of the Pyrenees from the rest of the Principality of Catalonia, had left the Pyrenean border vulnerable to possible French incursions. Therefore, Cerdanya was repeatedly occupied by the French until well into the 18th century. Puigcerdà had always played an important role in the Habsburg defence because it was the first Catalan town after Coll de la Perxa, one of the easiest passes across the Pyrenees and, as a result, one of the hotspots, together with La Jonquera pass. On 29 April 1707, Puigcerdà was besieged by the French, who were defeated by four units of *Miquelets*. On the following 13 September, the town, defended by a 400-strong Habsburg garrison, fell under the control of French troops because the efforts of General Moragues, the governor of Castellciutat, to send troops proved insufficient to expel the French from Cerdanya. The Bourbons established two fortifications in Puigcerdà and Bellver, which were demolished when the war came to an end in 1714.

Visiting Puigcerdà

During the War of Succession, the old town of Puigcerdà was enclosed within the citadel of Fort Adrià, formed by a pentagonal-shaped centre with five large bastions and a curtain wall by the front entrance. The other elements comprising the outer fortification were the parade grounds and the covered passages. The citadel had become quite obsolete in light of the military advances of the time. Therefore, the Bourbon administration decided to renovate the fortifications in Puigcerdà under the direction

With the **Treaty of the Pyrenees** (1659), signed between the French and Spanish monarchs, France achieved sovereignty over the Catalan territories of Rosselló, Vallespir, Conflent, Capcir and part of Cerdanya. Llivia was spared from the partition because the treaty stipulated that only villages were to be ceded. Given that Llivia was considered a town, it was therefore not ceded to French sovereignty.

of military engineer François Montaignu. Few traces remain from the Baroque period in Puigcerdà. Only the last section of the **bell tower of the Church of Santa Maria**, destroyed in 1936, and the Renaissance houses in Plaça Cabrinetty still stand.

Around Puigcerdà

Seven kilometres northeast of Puigcerdà lies the town of **Llivia**. Of particular interest is the oldest pharmacy museum in Europe, which features one of the most important sets of laboratory instruments dating from the 16th to 18th centuries. Also noteworthy are the Baroque medicine cabinets and the so-called blue ceramic jars from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Twenty-three kilometres northeast of Puigcerdà and located in French territory is the North Catalonia town of **Mont-Louis**, notable for its strategic and military value and its modern fortresses from the second half of the 17th century, the work of the military engineer Vauban. An interesting feature of Mont-Louis is that both the town and the citadel are protected by the surrounding bastions, walls and valleys. This fortress is part of the **Catalan Fortress Route** that joins the fortifications on both sides of the Catalan Pyrenees. Visitors to Mont-Louis can see interesting chapels with altarpieces, paintings and sculptures from the 18th century.



Mont-Louis. Fortress

In 1679, King Louis XIV of France commissioned the French military engineer Sébastien Le Prestre, Marquis of **Vauban**, to design a fortification that would allow the border demarcated by the Treaty of the Pyrenees to be defended. Hence the town bears the name of the king.

Sort

The war in Sort

During the War of Succession, Sort took the side of the Habsburgs. In 1707, Josep Moragues was appointed Habsburg governor of the fortress of Castellciutat, which guarded the access to Sort from Port del Cantó. General Moragues, a widower, remarried Magdalena Giralt, the daughter of a wealthy household and widow of the Lord of Bressui. In September 1713, on surrendering the fortress of Castellciutat to the Bourbon troops, Moragues retired for a period to the family home in Sort to recover before resuming the struggle against the Bourbon troops in the inland area of Catalonia.



Sort. Bust of General Moragues

Visiting Sort

Sort's old town is woven with narrow streets and old houses, nestling at the foot of the rocky hill where the ruins of **Sort Castle** lie. The castle was the former residence of the Counts of Pallars and, from the 15th century, the house of the governors administering the marquisate of Pallars on behalf of the dukes of Cardona. The castle was renovated in the 17th century. Among the oldest houses in the town, on the Carrer Major stands the **Casa dels Giralt**, lords of Bressui, with a commemorative stone portraying General Moragues. In Sort's Plaça Major and opposite the Church of Sant Feliu stands the **bust of General Moragues**, in commemoration of his association with the town of Sort.

Around Sort

Downstream from the River Noguera Pallaresa, we come to **Gerri de la Sal**, with its walled town, the Monastery of Santa Maria and the 18th-century Reial Alfolí (salt warehouse). Thirty kilometres north of Sort, within the Vall de Cardós, lies the hamlet of **Bonestarre**, where Casa Mill, birthplace of the distinguished Habsburg Colonel Ermengol Amill, is worthy of mention. Much further way from Sort, in the Vall d'Aran, in the municipality of **Es Bòrdes**, are the castle ruins of Castell-Ileó (*Castèth Leon*, in Aranese), originally occupied by the French and recovered in 1706 by the Habsburgs. In 1711, a Bourbon army commanded by the Marquis of Arpajon and the Marquis of Rozel established military occupation in the Vall d'Aran and seized Castell-Ileó. In 1719, the valley was invaded by French troops as a result of the War of the Quadruple Alliance and the castle was burned down and destroyed.



Girona. Cathedral



Map of the itinerary

Through the lands of Girona: Unrelenting defence

The route brings us to the main scenes of the War of the Spanish Succession around Girona, the region that encompasses the historic *vegueria* of Girona and part of the *sotsvegueria* of Besalú. Considering that Girona was besieged by the Bourbons and Habsburgs from 1710 to 1713, this is a region that resisted the onslaughts of the conflict from the outset almost until the very end, relentlessly defending the Habsburg cause.

Suggested itinerary

This itinerary takes in the greenest part of the *comarques* surrounding Girona, which form a fertile, mountainous and wooded landscape. The first stage of the itinerary focuses primarily on visiting the monumental city of Girona. From Girona we can venture further afield to take in the neighbouring towns and travel as far as Banyoles and its lake. The second stage will bring us as far as Olot, amid the volcanic Garrotxa landscape. The final part of our itinerary starts out from the fortress at Hostalric and continues through the woods of the mountains of Les Guilleries and Montseny.

Girona



Girona. The River Onyar with the Cathedral in the background

The war in Girona

Girona pledged allegiance to Archduke Charles of Austria on 12 October 1705. During the War of Succession, it was a city of sieges, twice beleaguered between 1710 and 1713. The first, which raged from December 1710 until the end of February 1711, placed the city under the control of Philip V, whereas the second, a harsh eight-month blockade, was the attempt to return the city to the Habsburg side, which did not prove possible.

Girona was besieged again in the spring of 1712. The Habsburgs, led by General Wetzel, endeavoured to recapture the city, defended by a Bourbon garrison of twelve battalions and two hundred horsemen under of the Marquis of Brancas. The siege dragged on and hunger struck, forcing the population to resort to eating the meat of horses, donkeys, dogs, cats and mice.

On 14 December 1710, the Bourbons, upon the orders of Marshal Duke of Noailles, prepared to conquer Girona with an 18,000-strong army, while the governor of Girona, General Ignasi Picalqués, had a 2,000-strong garrison. The city had well-prepared fortifications, but the following day, it was wholly besieged. At Christmas in 1710, the Bourbons began bombarding the city and the fortress of Montjuïc, which

guarded the entrance on the north side. Heavy storms and the rising of the River Onyar hampered the siege, which lasted until 1 February 1711 when the city surrendered to the Duke of Noailles. While the siege continued, considerable troops were mobilised throughout Catalonia to bring it to a halt; however, the Bourbon troops outnumbered them and emerged victorious.

In mid-December, the Habsburgs, with Starhemberg at the head, were on the verge of conquering the city; however, the arrival in early January 1713 of a large 22,000-strong Bourbon army commanded by the Duke of Berwick made the Habsburgs relinquish their designs and they retreated from the city, thereby bringing an end to an eight-month siege.

Visiting Girona

The city of Girona is noteworthy for its monumental heritage. It features several buildings that bear testimony to the War of Succession and has conserved many traces of the Baroque period. The face of the city changed considerably between the 16th and 18th centuries on account of the establishment of new religious orders with the Counter-Reformation and restoration of the main buildings.



Girona. The walls and the monastery of Sant Pere de Galligants



Girona. Church of Sant Feliu

Girona is an episcopal city, and this fostered the extraordinary growth of religious buildings. In addition to the main churches, during that period, the city was home to ten male and four female religious communities. Particularly worthy of mention among the city's extensive Baroque heritage is the imposing façade of the **Cathedral of Santa Maria**, preceded by its monumental staircase. The Cathedral, which features a combination of the Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles, is also noted for having the widest nave of European Gothic cathedrals.

Another important Baroque monument is the reredos-like façade of the **Church of Sant Feliu**, built in the early 17th century. The building, commenced in the 13th century, contains the **Chapel of Sant Narcís** (18th century). Inside, the relics of Sant Feliu and

Sant Narcís, patron saints of the city, are venerated. Other important buildings from this period are the **Church of Sant Martí Sacosta**, dating from the early 17th century, also notable for its sculpted façade, and the Church of Sant Josep in the convent of the Discalced Carmelites.

A tour around the city will reveal many other **civic Baroque buildings** such as the old Estudi General (University), the Hospital of Sant Llàtzer, the Hospital of Santa Caterina, the Hospici and Casa de Convalescència. Also of particular interest are some of Girona's noble mansions flanking the streets of the old town, especially on Carrer de la Força.

Girona's **walls** played a very significant role in defending the city in the two sieges endured during the War of Succession. After a recommended stroll through the old town and along the old city walls, beyond the walls we find the **fortress of Montjuïc**, built in the 17th century and the namesake of that of Barcelona, which played a noteworthy role in the two sieges.

Around Girona

A stone's throw from Girona, 6 km south, is **Fornells de la Selva**, notable for the fortified Church of Sant Cugat, built during the 16th and 17th centuries. Nine kilometres southeast, stands **Cassà de la Selva**, where the parish Church of Sant Martí is also noteworthy. Originating from the same period as the former church, it features a Renaissance façade.

Twenty kilometres north of Girona is **Banyoles**, a town plundered by the Bourbon troops of the Duke of Noailles in 1709. On the orders of Baron von Wetzel, it was recovered by the Habsburgs in 1712, who overthrew the defence the Bourbons had established on the town walls and the monastery. Among the various buildings

Fr. Josep de Vilamala, monk and sacristan of the Monastery of Sant Esteve de Banyoles, was the last president of the Generalitat de Catalunya before its abolition by the Bourbon monarchy (16 September 1714).

dating from the Baroque period the **Monastery of Sant Esteve de Banyoles** is notable. The relics of Saint Martirià, the patron of Banyoles, are housed and venerated in the monastery church, which also contains an 18th-century organ.

Hostalric

The war in Hostalric

During the War of Succession, Hostalric was home to one of the main Habsburg fortresses in the *comarques* of Girona. In August 1713, the expedition of the Deputy of the Military Estate, Antoni de Berenguer i de Novell, stopped at the fortress of Hostalric to reinforce the stronghold. The expedition sought to support the rebellion against the Bourbon invaders. The mission to uphold the Hostalric stronghold proved unsuccessful and, on 17 August 1713, Habsburg General Wallis surrendered the fortress of Hostalric to the Bourbon army. On 19 August, General Wallis took his German troops aboard the ships of British General Jennings, fully evacuating the imperial troops from Catalonia, just as General Commander Guido von Starhemberg had stipulated in the Convention of L'Hospitalet. The war was not yet over in Hostalric.

Visiting Hostalric

The town of Hostalric is strategically located on a hilltop on the left bank of the River Tordera, which overlooks the most traditional route that, in former times, stretched from Barcelona to France. **Hostalric Castle**, of medieval origin, was demolished in 1695 on the orders of the French Marshal Duke of Noailles. One year later, its reconstruction commenced according to the design

On 13 January 1714, during the anti-taxation revolt against the Bourbon administration which spread throughout Catalonia, the *Sometents* of the mountains of Les Guilleries defeated the Bourbon detachment in Hostalric, consisting of 740 soldiers and 130 horses. At the end of May, the Habsburg Colonel Ermengol Amill attacked the Bourbon garrison of Hostalric with his mountain fusiliers and managed to take a total of 135 mules.



Hostalric

of the military engineer Josep Chafrión. The current appearance of the military fortress corresponds to the reconstruction undertaken between 1719 and 1754. Most of its structure and defence system still stands today because a military garrison was in place until the 20th century. Today, following restoration work, the interior rooms play host to a restaurant.

Besides the castle, the town has approximately 600 metres of **walled precinct** with eight cylindrical towers that give it a fortified appearance. Of note at the far east end is the Tower of Els Frares, which controlled the entry to the town. Alongside, the Convent of Sant Francesc was built in the early 17th century. It is currently the town hall. The Tower of Ararà constituted another important watchtower in the town.



Hostalric. Walled precinct



Hostalric. Detail of the walls

Around Hostalric

Fifteen kilometres northeast of Hostalric is **Arbúcies**. The town endured a battle on 13 January 1714 between the rebellious *Sometents* in the mountains of Les Guilleries and a Bourbon regiment which was advancing towards Hostalric. The Bourbons, who were Walloons, were defeated. Even today the popular legend says: *Gent d'Arbúcies, gent d'astúcies, mata valons a cop de bastons!* (People of Arbúcies, astute people, kill the Walloons with a blow from your staff!) Visitors to the town can explore the Museu Etnològic del Montseny, located in the building known as *La Gabella*, a 17th-century manor house, which had been a food storehouse and inn during the 18th century.

Twenty-seven kilometres northwest of Hostalric lies **Sant Hilari Sacalm**. Also known as “The Town of One Hundred Springs” on account of its wealth of water, it is home to the country house **Mas Moragues**, the birthplace of General Moragues, hero of the War of Succession. A statue commemorating him stands in the town. Also within the town of Sant Hilari and the parish of Sant Martí de Querós, visitors can behold the ruins of **Mas Serrallonga**, the home of Joan Sala i Ferrer, alias *Serrallonga*, one of the most notorious outlaws in the history of Catalonia.

Twenty kilometres southwest of Hostalric, and on the boundary of the former *sotsvegueria* of Vallès, is **Sant Celoni**. The town witnessed a battle on 21 July 1714 between the mountain fusiliers of the Habsburg Colonel Ermengol Amill and a French military column. The sgraffito decoration adorning the Baroque Church of Sant Martí and the Church of La Mare de Déu de l'Esperança is particularly remarkable.

Olot

The war in Olot

The town of Olot joined the cause of Archduke Charles of Austria from the outset. The first important acts of war were perpetrated in Olot and other towns in the region of Garrotxa in the autumn of 1709. A 12,000-strong Bourbon army, under the command of the Duke of Noailles, occupied Olot on 11 October and the town swore allegiance to Philip V. On 22 October, the Bourbons abandoned the city and headed towards Camprodon via the hill of Capsacosta, where they were fought by 1,500 fusiliers and 3,000 Habsburg militiamen.



Olot. The volcano Montsacopa and the church of Sant Francesc

Rafael Planella, a wool-carder from Olot, popularly known as the “**Demon of Olot**”, played an important role in the resistance as an infiltrated spy among the Bourbon troops.

In March 1711, the Habsburg troops of General Rafael Nebot entered Olot and expelled the Bourbon army of the Count of Fienes, incurring 766 casualties. From late 1711 and throughout 1712, the passage of the two armies through Olot was a recurring phenomenon. The town had accommodated the Habsburg regiment of the General Duke of Ahumada. In July 1713, Olot was finally placed under the dominion of Philip V.

Visiting Olot

Olot, at the heart of the Garrotxa region's volcanic landscape, has conserved many buildings that testify to the time of the War of Succession. Of note is the **Convent of El Carme**, which features a 17th-century Renaissance cloister. The interior of the Church of Sant Esteve, built in the mid-18th century, houses the altarpiece of El Roser, a jewel of Catalan Baroque art. In the provincial museum, the painting *Christ Carrying the Cross* by El Greco is worthy of mention. The **Shrine of La Mare de Déu del Tura**, patron of Olot, having been destroyed by earthquakes in the 16th century, was rebuilt in the 18th century. The **Hospici**, which houses the regional museum and archive, is a late 18th-century building constructed with black volcanic stone and features a large, simple and extremely elegant inner courtyard with three arcaded galleries.



Olot. Detail of the altarpiece of El Roser by Pau Costa. Parish church of Sant Esteve

Dating from the same Baroque period is a number of splendid mansions. Particularly remarkable is Casa Trinxeria, the property of Josep de Trinxeria and his son Blai, who took diametrically opposed positions. Josep de Trinxeria was the spearhead of the *Angelets de la Terra*, a peasant guerrilla revolt against a new salt tax and the French occupation of Rosselló, whereas Blai was field marshal of the Bourbon armies during the War of Succession.

Around Olot

Ten kilometres east of Olot stands **Santa Pau**, a town noted for its old quarter, which retains part of the ancient walls, with its cobbled streets, main square and old houses surrounding the former castle. Sant Pau was plundered by the Bourbon troops in October 1709.



Castellfollit de la Roca

Ten kilometres northeast of Olot is the village of **Castellfollit de la Roca**. Its picturesque setting is shaped by the old church and village houses perched on a promontory 60 metres high. During the War of Succession, in October 1709, the Habsburg fusiliers of Colonels Birolà and Ferrer, camped in Castellfollit, confronted the Bourbon troops of the Marquis of Guerchy.

Twenty-three kilometres east of Olot is **Besalú**, the chief town of the earldom. Testimony to its medieval splendour lies in a number of well-known monuments such as the old bridge, Pont Vell, the Church of Sant Vicenç, the Cúria Reial building, the Monastery of Sant Pere and the Hospital of Sant Julià, among others. The town was occupied by the Bourbon troops of the Duke of Noailles on 10 October 1709, and some regiments were left there. On 13 February 1713, the Bourbons recaptured the town once and for all. The end of the war proved calamitous for Besalú because the troops occupying the town spread an epidemic among the population.



Figueres. Sant Ferran Castle



Map of the itinerary

Along the Costa Brava: The maritime frontier

The route brings us to the main scenes of the War of the Spanish Succession in Empordà (traversing part of the ancient *vegueries* of Girona and Besalú), a historically strategic *comarca* on account of the Principality's access to France either by way of the Pyrenees or by way of the extensive coastline. In this easily invaded region stand two particularly relevant locations: the coastal fortress of Roses, dominating the Gulf, and the city of Figueres, in the centre of the vast Empordà plain, which was liable to be the first target of any invasion from the border, as is shown by the massive Castle of Sant Ferran, built shortly after the war.

Suggested itinerary

We suggest following the itinerary in two stages. The first stage focuses on the seaside town of Roses and its surroundings, where visitors can savour two extraordinary natural and cultural landscapes, namely, the Empordà plain with a visit to Castelló d'Empúries, and the Cap de Creus massif, with a visit to Cadaqués. The second stage centres on the city of Figueres, where visitors can cross the plain to the Montgrí massif and where we begin the route southwards along the central Costa Brava, visiting the towns of Torroella de Montgrí, Palafrugell and Sant Feliu de Guixols.

Roses

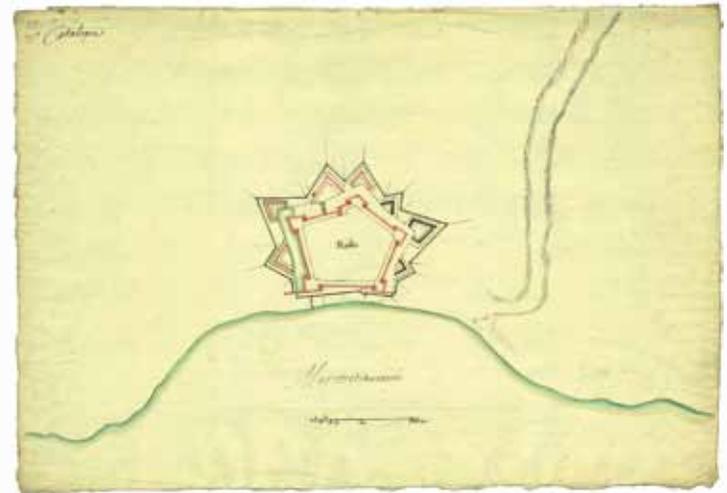


Roses. Citadel

The war in Roses

Roses was the only Catalan fortress that remained under Bourbon sovereignty during the War of Succession. Its importance lies in its citadel, built in the mid-16th century during the reign of Emperor Charles V. The citadel consisted of a large pentagonal enclosure circumscribed and defended by five bastions. The population lived within the walled precinct, which did not exceed 70 houses. Most of the officers of the fortress garrison were French, from the governor of Trinitat Castle to the engineer of the stronghold. Among the soldiers, which numbered almost 600, the presence of Neapolitan soldiers was noteworthy.

The French military engineer Louis Jean-Baptiste de Joblot drew up plans to renovate the stronghold of Roses in May 1707 in order to bolster its defences from the sea. A bridge was built at the Porta del Mar, the barriers which closed the road to Castelló and Trinitat Castle were restored, and the covered passage was strengthened.



Plan of the citadel of Roses, 17th century (ICC)

Visiting Roses

The main architectural buildings which bear witness to the War of Succession in Roses are the citadel and Trinitat Castle. The citadel grounds, currently housing the Museu de la Ciutadella de Roses, is a Renaissance fortress located northeast of Roses and in close proximity to the sea. In fact, it constitutes the defence system of the old city of Roses, some ruins of which still remain inside along with the Greek and Roman city of Rhodes and the Monastery of Santa Maria. The citadel was extended and modernised during the 17th and 18th centuries on account of its defensive nature and control over the northernmost natural port of the Empordà region.



Roses. Entrance to the citadel

To boost the defence of the citadel of Roses, at a distance of 2.5 km lay **Trinitat Castle**, nestled at the base of the foothills of

During the months of August and September 1712, the Habsburg troops of General Baron von Wetzels unsuccessfully attacked the Roses stronghold, which, at that time, was the **most modern fortress in Catalonia**.



Cadaqués



Cadaqués. Baroque altarpiece in the parish church of Santa Maria

the Cap de Creus massif. Of quite monumental proportions, it was built in the mid-16th century to protect the Bay of Roses to the east. The grounds, now in a deteriorated state, constitute an extraordinary example of a coastal artillery fortress.

Around Roses

Seventeen kilometres east of Roses and at the heart of the **Cap de Creus Natural Park** is the town of **Cadaqués**, renowned the world over for being the town in which Salvador Dalí resided. Perched above the old town stands the Church of Santa Maria, built during the 16th and 18th centuries. Its interior

boasts the impressive Baroque altarpiece dedicated to La Mare de Déu de l'Esperança (18th century).

Nine kilometres west of Roses is **Castelló d'Empúries**, the former capital of the earldom of Empúries. The town was under Habsburg rule from September 1705 to the end of 1710, when the great French army of the Duke of Noailles marched into the town. Several Baroque buildings bear testimony to this period: the Palau dels Comtes d'Empúries, redesigned as a convent during the 17th and 18th centuries; the Convent of Sant Agustí (18th century); and the Convent of Santa Clara, from the late 17th century.

Figueres



Figueres. Sant Ferran Castle

The war in Figueres

On 3 November 1701, the agreements for the royal marriage of King Philip V of Bourbon and Maria Luisa of Savoy were ratified in Figueres. However, the town was placed under obedience to Archduke Charles of Austria when, in September 1705, the Habsburg Colonel Birolà laid siege to the city backed by 1,300 men. Six months later, in February 1706, the French army of the Duke of Noailles occupied the city. Thereafter, Figueres served as the headquarters of the French troops that entered Catalonia via the Pyrenean passes of Le Perthus-Panissars and Banyuls. The Habsburgs managed to drive the Bourbons away on various occasions but the proximity to France meant that Figueres was easily retrievable.

Sant Ferran Castle, perched on a hill, towers majestically over the city of Figueres. It occupies a total surface area of 32 hectares within a perimeter of 3,125 metres. Its interior has a capacity for 6,000 soldiers and it constitutes **the largest monument in Catalonia and the biggest fortress in Europe.**

The importance of Figueres as a strategic military post to control the border crossings between Spain and France began in 1753 when construction of Sant Ferran Castle commenced. The massive fortress was built during the second half of the 18th century under the supervision of the military engineer Juan Martín Cermeño. He applied the latest innovations in military architecture undertaken by the French engineer and marshal Vauban. The castle was named Sant Ferran in honour of the King of Spain, Ferdinand VI (Ferran VI in Catalan).

To erect his great ramparts and build his defence system he required the daily work of 4,000 men for almost thirteen years. Work on the interior buildings was drawn out until the end of the late 18th century and some work remained unfinished. The work was completed an entire century behind schedule, after the Treaty of the Pyrenees (1659) moved the border back towards the south. As a result of this shift, Empordà became an open battlefield in the second half of the 17th century and throughout the War of Succession.

Sant Ferran Castle is regularly open to the public and offers a guided tour service that allows visitors to discover its enormous proportions, its sophisticated modern building techniques and its excellent state of conservation.

Around Figueres

Thirty-five kilometres south of Figueres is **Torroella de Montgrí**, an important town on the Girona coast in the early 18th century, which was occupied by Bourbon troops in 1707. Among its Baroque buildings, of note are the Church of Sant Genís (18th century), the old hospital for the poor and sick (17th to 18th century), the cloister of the Convent of Sant Agustí (17th century) and the façade of the town hall (16th century).

Exploring the Costa Brava to the south we reach **Palafrugell**. Its old town, set apart from the sea, still retains its former urban layout with short narrow streets within the walls, of which few vestiges remain. Worthy of mention from the Baroque period is the Church of Sant Martí (16th to 18th century), adjacent to Casa Rosés (17th to 18th century).

North of Figueres, in French Catalonia administratively speaking, are the modern fortresses which played a part in the border conflicts of the 17th and 18th centuries (Bellegarde, Le Perthus, Perpignan, Villefranche-de-Conflent, Salses, Collioure, Port-Vendres, etc.), all of which may be visited and which are associated with Sant Ferran Castle by means of the Foundation for Catalan Fortresses.

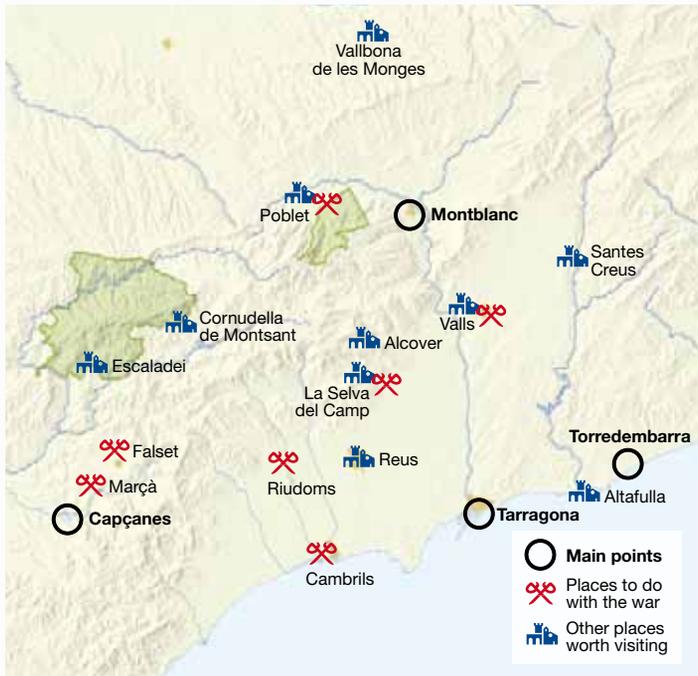
Further south, but still on the coast, is **Sant Feliu de Guíxols**, a large fully walled town during the War of Succession. Visitors can explore the **Benedictine Monastery**, rebuilt in the 18th century, which during the modern era depended on the Monastery of Montserrat.



Tarragona. Cathedral

Through the Camp de Tarragona: Guerrillas and *Sometents*

The route brings us to the main scenes of the War of the Spanish Succession in the *comarques* of Tarragona, the region that encompasses the historical *veguerías* of Tarragona and Montblanc. The visit takes in the city of Tarragona, which was one of the cities that held out longest under Habsburg rule, as well as other important cities and towns in the vicinity. Visitors will also discover the site of the Carrasclat uprising, a legendary resistance movement that fought against the new order set up at the end of the war.



Map of the itinerary



Tarragona. Archeological walk

Suggested itinerary

The itinerary can be followed in three different stages. The first takes in the Camp de Tarragona, namely, the triangle formed by the cities of Tarragona, Reus and Valls, and its coastline from Torredembarra to Cambrils. The second stage takes us to the monasteries on the Cistercian Route and the monumental city of Montblanc. Finally, we explore the lands of the legendary guerrilla Carrasclat in the *comarca* of Priorat, from the Prades to the Llaberia mountains, with the imposing presence of Montsant, carpeted with vineyards cultivated on terraces.

Tarragona

The war in Tarragona

Tarragona, like the other important cities in Catalonia, swore allegiance to Archduke Charles of Austria in 1705. British troops, in line with the pledges of the Pact of Genoa, came ashore at the port of Tarragona in 1705 and established military occupation of the city, assisted inland by the Habsburg troops of Colonel Joan Nebot. On 17 October 1706, when Archduke Charles paid a visit to the city, the colonel clearly manifested his position to him. The

Habsburg military garrison essentially comprised British troops. During their time in the city, they reinforced the ancient Roman walls in order to adapt the defence to the new artillery, they restored the fortifications and redesigned the port.

The cruelty inflicted by the Bourbon troops that defeated the allies in Lleida in November 1707 caused the migration of refugees from the Terres de Ponent to La Conca de Barberà and the Camp de Tarragona. The city of Tarragona was one of the last Catalan cities that withstood Bourbon occupation. The Marquis of Lede, general of the Bourbon armies, achieved its surrender on 14 July 1713 peacefully and without resistance, given that the imperial troops had been ordered to evacuate the city by the Austrian Supreme Commander Guido von Starhemberg. Moreover, the pro-Habsburg Catalan General Rafael Nebot assembled 1,300 soldiers, including cavalry, infantry and *Miquelets* in an effort to prevent the surrender of the Tarragona military post to the Marquis de Lede; however, he was defeated in Torredembarra on 16 July 1713.

Once the allied forces had been evacuated from the garrison of Tarragona, the Bourbons subjected the Catalan and Peninsular soldiers that had remained to harsh repression. The punishment of **decimation** was inflicted, that is to say, every tenth person was executed in the gallows and the remainder were condemned to the galleys for life. By order of the Habsburg Supreme Commander, the Duke of Popoli, over one hundred soldiers were hung on the gallows in addition to all of their officers and volunteers. The same brutality occurred in Torredembarra.

Visiting Tarragona

Tarragona is one of the most monumental cities in Catalonia, declared UNESCO World Heritage on account of the archaeological ensemble of Tarraco, the most important Roman city in Hispania Citerior, later known as Tarraconensis.

The Baroque period also bequeathed its artistic legacy to the city. Its status as see of the Archbishop of Tarragona, the most important ecclesiastical division in Catalonia, influenced the proliferation of church buildings from the 16th to the 18th centuries.

Many of these buildings can

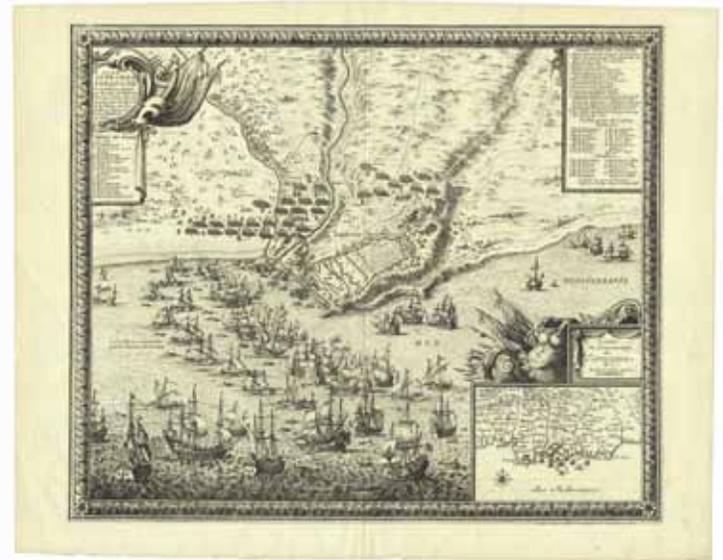
still be admired in all their splendour, beginning with the **Cathedral** which contains the Chapel of Santa Tecla, patron of the city. On the itinerary through the city, visitors will also find numerous **civic buildings** that remain from this period, which are magnificent examples of aristocratic Baroque and Neoclassical styles.

Directly associated with the War of Succession are the **defensive walls**, completely renovated during the period 1707-1713 by British and Habsburg soldiers. The **Falsa Braga** was built and new advanced military outposts were constructed, some of which still remain, such as the **Small Fort of Sant Jordi** and the **Small Fort of the Queen**, in the bay area known as the Punta del Miracle. The gate known as the **Portal de Sant Antoni** (18th century), located on the seaward side of the wall and used purely for defence purposes, remains almost intact.

Around Tarragona

Fifteen kilometres west of Tarragona lies **Reus**. On the visit of Archduke Charles of Austria on 3 July 1706, Reus received the title of *Imperial City* and its coat of arms was adorned with the imperial eagle, which had to be removed when the war was over.

The city is most noted for its *Modernista* (Catalan Art Nouveau) buildings; however, its various **Baroque buildings** are living testimony to the time of the War of Succession. No visit to Tarragona



Plan of Tarragona, 1694 (ICC)

is complete without visiting the Palau Bofarull, from the late 18th century and, in particular, setting eyes upon the paintings of its ceiling which clearly portray the exaltation of the Bourbon monarchy. An important building is the priory church of Sant Pere de Reus (16th century), Gothic in style but with Renaissance influences, where the architect Antoni Gaudí was baptised. Visitors can also contemplate various religious buildings from the 16th to 18th centuries.

Twenty-one kilometres west of Tarragona is **Riudoms**. The town saw the birth of one of the most important lineages of the Habsburg military in Catalonia: the Nebot brothers. Their manor house, known as Cal Gallissà, is found on Carrer del Raval de Sant Francesc. On 27 August 1705, on the intervention of the Nebot brothers, the town was placed under obedience to Archduke Charles of Austria, and within days they had rallied support for the cause in the neighbouring towns. The Church of Sant Jaume stands as a testament to this period.

Valls is well-known for being the birthplace of the first corps of the **Mossos d'Esquadra** (the current police force of Catalonia). Under the command of its founder, the mayor, Pere Anton Veciana, the corps fought against the Habsburg uprising of the guerrilla Carrasclat in 1719. In June 1723, the Captain General of Catalonia reorganised the squads and unified them under the sole command of Veciana.



Reus. Palau Bofarull

Torredembarra

The war in Torredembarra

Torredembarra witnessed one of the main battles in the Camp de Tarragona during the War of Succession. The incident occurred on 16 July 1713, when an army of cavalry, volunteers and Catalan *Miquelets*, under the command of Habsburg General Rafael Nebot, advanced towards the city of Tarragona to prevent the surrender of the stronghold to the Bourbon armies, led by the Marquis of Lede. General Nebot, with his troops formed by 400 Aragonese cavalymen, 400 Aragonese infantry volunteers and 350 Catalan fusiliers, positioned on a hill near Altafulla, ordered the attack on a Bourbon detachment of 700 cavalry soldiers and 380 grenadiers, on the orders of Brigadier General Diego González, who advanced towards the fields of Torredembarra. In the midst of the battle, the Aragonese officers retreated upon seeing the great corps of Bourbon cavalry. Then, Diego González ordered an all-out offensive against will at the Catalan fusiliers and Aragonese volunteers.



Torredembarra. Castle

Twenty kilometres north of Tarragona lies the town of **Valls**, which boasts interesting Baroque buildings (the Church of Sant Joan de Valls, featuring altarpieces and sculptures, and the Church of El Roser, featuring two magnificent ceramic panels depicting the Battle of Lepanto).

Twenty-eight kilometres north of Tarragona lies **Alcover**. The town, which has conserved part of its medieval walls, is noteworthy for both its religious and civic buildings dating from the Baroque period. Twenty-one kilometres northwest of Tarragona is **La Selva del Camp**. In May 1714, the Bourbon authorities wanted to demolish the town's fortifications, which were often used by pro-Habsburg *Miquelets*. The town council of La Selva del Camp, in exchange for the payment of taxes, managed to save the towers and the walls. Among the town's monumental heritage, worthy of mention is the Renaissance Church of Sant Andreu (16th century) and the various convents built during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Twenty-five kilometres southwest of Tarragona is **Cambrils**. The town was occupied by the Bourbons on 8 September 1709, if only for a number of weeks. However, in July 1713, it was occupied once and for all, following the victory of the Bourbon troops of the Marquis of Lede throughout the Camp de Tarragona. Notable buildings from this period include the Shrine of La Mare de Déu del Camí and the Tower of El Port (17th century), a watchtower also used for maritime surveillance.

Archduke Charles spent the night in the town hall of Cambrils on 17 March 1707 and the following day attended mass in the Church of Santa Maria, where he was received with a canopy in gratitude for the representation he had granted to the town in the Corts Catalanes (Catalan Parliament).



Torredembarra. Catalan *Miquelets* at the commemoration of the battle

Visiting Torredembarra

Torredembarra, like most coastal towns, boasts defensive military architecture. Currently housing the town hall, **Torredembarra Castle**, flanked by four towers within a walled enclosure, is unusual on account of its Renaissance square ground plan. It is worth visiting the streets surrounding the castle, which feature an amalgam of Baroque and *Modernista* buildings. Dating from the same period is the **Church of Sant Pere**, endowed with a Baroque organ from 1705, and the hospital of the poor from the late 18th century.

Around Torredembarra

A stone's throw from Torredembarra is **Altafulla**, a walled town which has conserved vestiges of its walls, two circular towers and two gates from the old walled enclosure. What is now the Palau Municipal became the headquarters of the Bourbon troops during the War of Succession. Between 1701 and 1705, the Church of Sant Martí was built, which houses a Baroque altarpiece dating from 1745. Another important building is the castle-palace of the Marquis of Tamarit, Renaissance in style with a regular polyhedral shape.

The battle of Torredembarra was a major defeat for the Habsburgs, resulting in 400 prisoners and approximately 80 deaths. The Marquis of Lede, under the orders of the Duke of Popoli, and ultimately Philip V himself, instituted an abominable policy of retaliation against the Catalan prisoners of war, which served as propaganda for the Bourbon power. Every year on 18 May, the old town of Torredembarra commemorates the deeds of the War of Succession with the re-enactment of the military camp of 1713.

Montblanc



Montblanc. Walls

The war in Montblanc

Montblanc was placed under the dominion of Archduke Charles of Austria in 1705 who visited the town on 5 July 1706, having come from Valls. The chief town of the *vegueria*, it was considered a stronghold and strategic location by both armies. It was the centre of operations of the Supreme Commander Count Guido von Starhemberg on his journey to Cervera and the Terres de Ponent in 1708. Montblanc was under Bourbon domination from mid-1713 until 23 April 1714, when Catalan mountain fusiliers, under the command of Colonel Antoni Vidal, attacked it and assassinated the Bourbon chief magistrate.

On 14 September 1714, the Bourbon army of Brigadier Jerónimo de Solís marched into the town threatening to burn it to the ground if they did not pay a high tax of 12,102 reales; at the end of the year the Regiment of the Royal Spanish Guards established a post there. Upon the victory of Philip V, Montblanc lost its status as chief town of the *vegueria*, and like many other towns in La Conca de Barberà, bore testimony to the military terror unleashed by the Bourbons.

Visiting Montblanc

The town, which was of considerable importance during the Middle Ages, boasts well-preserved fortifications, and major churches and



Vimbodí. Monastery of Santa Maria de Poblet

buildings from the time. During the Baroque period, the ducal town and chief town of the *vegueria*, it witnessed significant architectural transformations. The first emblematic building is the **Church of Santa Maria la Major**, which features a Baroque façade and one of the best-preserved organs from the Catalan Baroque period.

The **Font Major fountain**, located at one end of the main square, dates back to the late 18th century. The square also features the porches of Cal Malet, which house the **ancient official measures** of the town that were used from the mid-18th century to the early 20th century. The old town also has some remarkable mansions with considerable Baroque restorations, including the old **Palau dels Castellví**, birthplace of the Habsburg military officer and chronicler Francesc de Castellví i Obando (1682-1757).

Around Montblanc

Ten kilometres west of Montblanc lies the **Monastery of Santa Maria de Poblet**, within the district of Vimbodí. It is a Cister-

During the war, the **Monastery of Poblet** was a refuge for exiled monks or fugitives from Valencia and Aragon, defeated by the Bourbons in 1707. A group of pro-Habsburg *Miquelets* also stayed there. The Bourbons, in retaliation, demanded great sums of money from the monastery in the form of war taxes.

cian monastery and one of the largest of its kind in Europe. It was established in the 12th century and most of its buildings are Romanesque or Gothic in style though it does have numerous Renaissance and Baroque features. During the War of Succession, the Monastery of Poblet sided with Archduke Charles of Austria. Francisc Dorda, abbot of the monastery between 1704 and 1708, was a staunch supporter of the Archduke, who visited the monastery on 5 July 1706. In 1710, Dorda was appointed Bishop of Solsona.

Twenty-six kilometres east of Montblanc lies the **Monastery of Santes Creus** in the district of Aiguamúrcia. Santes Creus, currently run by the Museu d'Història de Catalunya, is a large group of monastic buildings, predominantly late Romanesque and Gothic in style (12th-15th century). In addition to the magnificent Gothic buildings, the Monastery of Santa Creus also features some interesting Baroque elements.



Aiguamúrcia. Monastery of Santes Creus

The Cistercian monasteries of Poblet and Santes Creus, together with Vallbona de les Monges, make up the **Cistercian Route**, a first-rate cultural and tourist attraction visitors should not miss.

Capçanes

The war in Capçanes

The country house known as the Mas d'en Francisco in Capçanes (Priorat) was the birthplace of Pere Joan Barceló, otherwise known as Carrascllet, in 1682. He was one of the most unyielding pro-Habsburg guerrillas in the War of Succession. Subsequent to the war, Carrascllet led an anti-Bourbon guerrilla that defended the Habsburg cause and fought the Bourbon authorities and garrisons throughout the region of Tarragona. In 1714, when the war came to an end, he was captain of the fusiliers. He requested a royal pardon, which was granted on 28 September 1714, and retired to

his family home in Marçà. He was soon to be imprisoned for having fought with a Bourbon tax collector; however, he escaped and hid in the Llaberia mountains where he formed a guerrilla of resistant fusiliers. Carrascllet's troops primarily took action in the *comarques* of Tarragona. He often moved and took refuge in the mountains of Prades, Montsant, Mussarra, Argentera and Llaberia. His most famous deeds include the temporary occupation of Reus and the siege of Valls. The figure of Carrascllet came to have such



Capçanes. Pere Joan Barceló, alias Carrascllet

The Duke of Berwick, conqueror of Barcelona on 11 September 1714, granted Carrascllet the rank of colonel of the fusiliers and a 8,000-strong army to combat the monarchy of Philip V. The War of the Quadruple Alliance ensued (1718-1720), in which France alongside the Habsburg Empire, the United Kingdom and the United Provinces, endeavoured to halt the expansionism of Philip V towards Italian territory.

importance that the Bourbon army offered 1,000 doubloons to capture him alive. In 1721, Carrascllet was exiled to Vienna and he took up residence in Hungary. Years later, he tried to board a ship from Naples to Catalonia with other Catalans; however, they were arrested by a Spanish fleet and imprisoned in Cadiz for seven years. Under the Treaty of Vienna he was released in 1740. In 1743, at the age of 60, he died in military action in Alsace. He was buried in Breisach Cathedral.

Visiting Capçanes

The town of Capçanes commemorates the figure of this noteworthy pro-Habsburg Catalan hero. In his honour, a **statue to the guerrilla** was erected in the town and a plaque was placed on his birthplace, **Mas d'en Francisco**.

Around Capçanes

Three kilometres north of Capçanes is **Marçà**, the village where Carrascllet resided following his marriage to Josepa Figueres in 1708. Dating from the Baroque period, the Church of Santa Maria from the mid-18th century is particularly noteworthy. Seven kilometres northeast of Capçanes is **Falset**, the chief town of Priorat. The town was occupied in 1708 by Bourbon troops. At the end of August 1714, Habsburg Colonel Antoni Vidal attacked the city and tackled the Regiment of Madrid but was mortally wounded in the attack. The **Palau dels Ducs de Medinaceli** (16th century), the **Palau dels Comtes d'Azara** and the Church of Santa Maria bear living testimony to this period. Outside the town lies the Shrine of Sant Gregori (17th century), located under a natural cave of red rock.

The Carrascllet Route (PR-C88): Carrascllet almost certainly incarnates the most representative belligerent guerrilla with a tenacious spirit of resistance. In addition, he stands as a symbol of exile and the internationalisation of the Catalan cause. The importance of the figure of Carrascllet has given rise to a route that bears his name, which allows visitors to savour the landscape through which this character roamed.

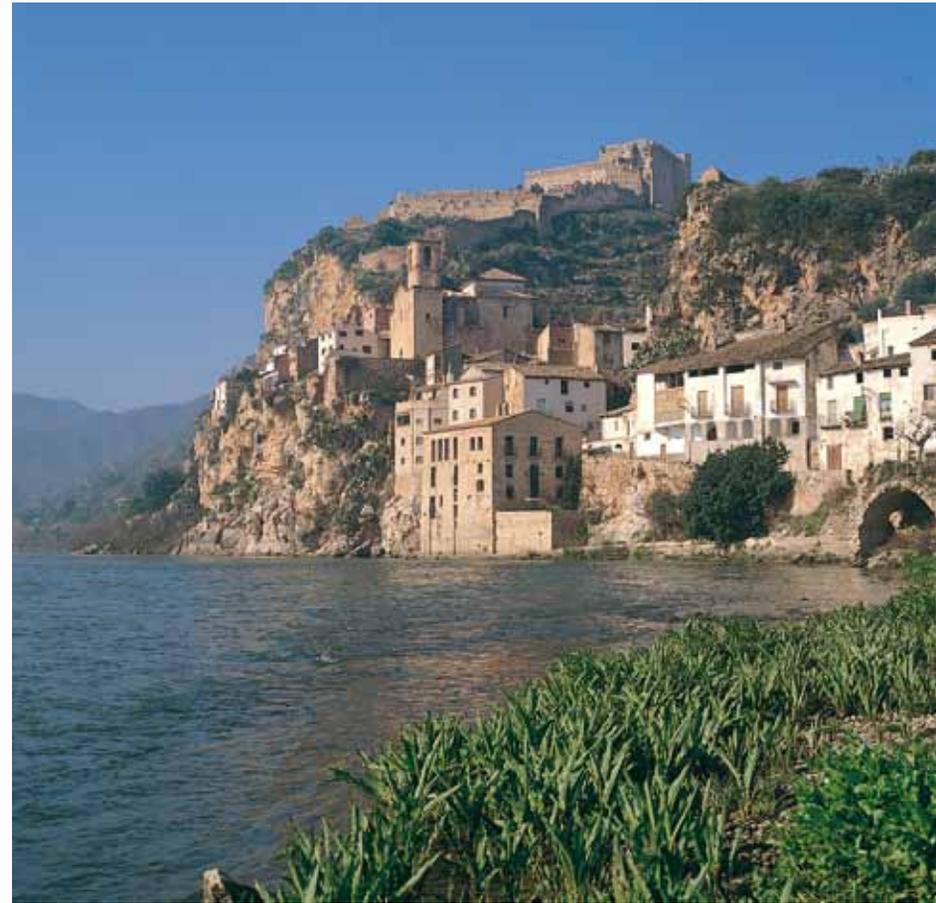
Twenty-eight kilometres north of Capçanes is **Escaladei**, within the municipality of Morera de Montsant. The Carthusian Monastery of Escaladei, established in 1163, was one of the first monasteries in the Iberian Peninsula. It was also the feudal lord of Priorat, which encompassed the lands belonging to the Prior. During the 18th century, the monastery enjoyed a period of influence and

prestige, which was reflected in its restorations. Furthermore, in the 18th century, Escaladei garnered a remarkable collection of Baroque paintings. Today, this magnificent monument is managed by the Museu d'Història de Catalunya.

Nestled at the foot of the Montsant mountains, in close proximity to Escaladei, is **Cornudella de Montsant**. Here noteworthy buildings include the Church of Santa Maria, Renaissance in style, and some of the houses in the old town which features doorways and windows adorned with ornamental motifs. One of these houses was the birthplace of Fray Joaquim Juncosa (1631-1708), a painter from the Catalan Baroque period.



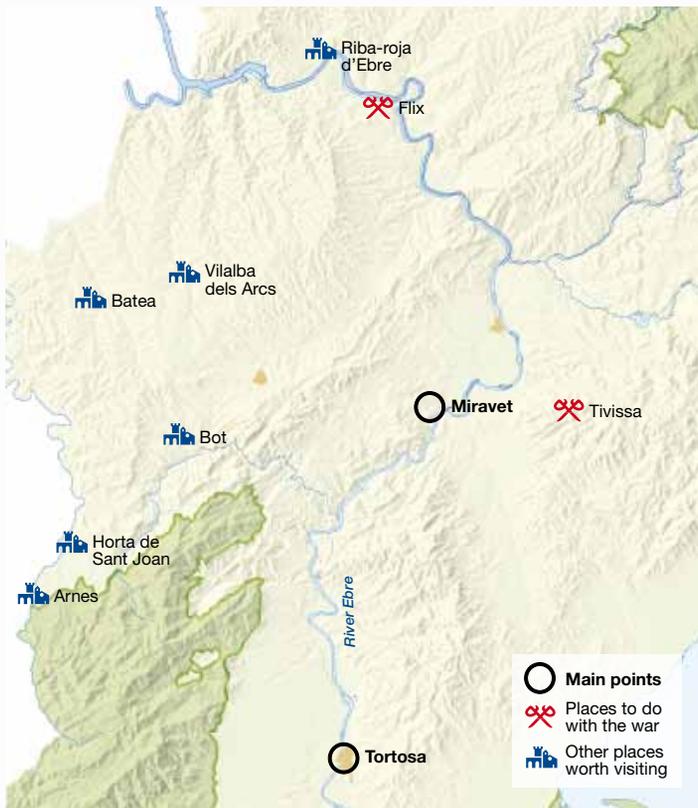
Carthusian monastery of Escaladei



Miravet

Through the Terres de l'Ebre: The southern front

The route brings us to the main scenes of the War of the Spanish Succession in Terres de l'Ebre, the region that encompasses the historic *vegueria* of Tortosa. The visit takes in the city of Tortosa, which endured a violent and intense siege by the Bourbon army in the summer of 1708, and Miravet Castle, the main fortress of Southern Catalonia, occupied by the Bourbons in 1707. Visitors will explore the legacy bequeathed by the Renaissance and the Baroque periods in the Terra Alta and the towns that bore witness to conflicts during the war.



Map of the itinerary

Suggested itinerary

The River Ebro provides the backbone to this itinerary, which can be followed in three stages. The first stage is devoted to visiting the rich historic heritage of the city of Tortosa. The second stage takes us upriver to Miravet Castle, from where we can reach other towns that preserve Baroque heritage and that intensely experienced the War of Succession. The third stage crosses the River Ebro towards Terra Alta to visit the picturesque villages which boast significant Renaissance heritage.

Tortosa

The war in Tortosa

The city of Tortosa swore allegiance to Archduke Charles of Austria in 1705. Thereafter, the city was defended by the Coronela of Tortosa and a Habsburg garrison of 4,000 soldiers under the command of the Count of Effern. Tortosa was a very well-protected



Tortosa

walled city, that had restored its defences in the mid-17th century. Following the occupation of Lleida in October 1707, Tortosa became the second strategic target of the Bourbon offensive in the lands of Catalonia. Its geographical location proved appealing to the Bourbons on account of its proximity to the Valencian border and the control it exercised over the crossing of the Ebro. On 9 June 1708, a 25,000-strong army, led by the Duke of Orléans and the Marquis of Asfeld, laid siege on the city. They requisitioned all the harvests and cut off supplies, both by land and by river. The final attack was launched on 9 July and an extremely bloody fight ensued in which the Bourbons lost 3,500 soldiers. Tortosa surrendered in favour of Philip V and, on July 15, the Habsburg soldiers abandoned the city, except those native to the country, who were subjected to harsh retaliation by the Bourbon authorities. On the surrender of Tortosa, the relinquishment of the citadel of Ares was also demanded, which brought the conquest of the Kingdom of Valencia by the Bourbon troops to an end. In December 1708, the commander-in-chief of the Habsburg army, Guido von Starhemberg, endeavoured to recover Tortosa, but his attempt proved unsuccessful. The city became the operations base of a powerful Bourbon army which would initiate the conquest of Catalonia in its entirety.



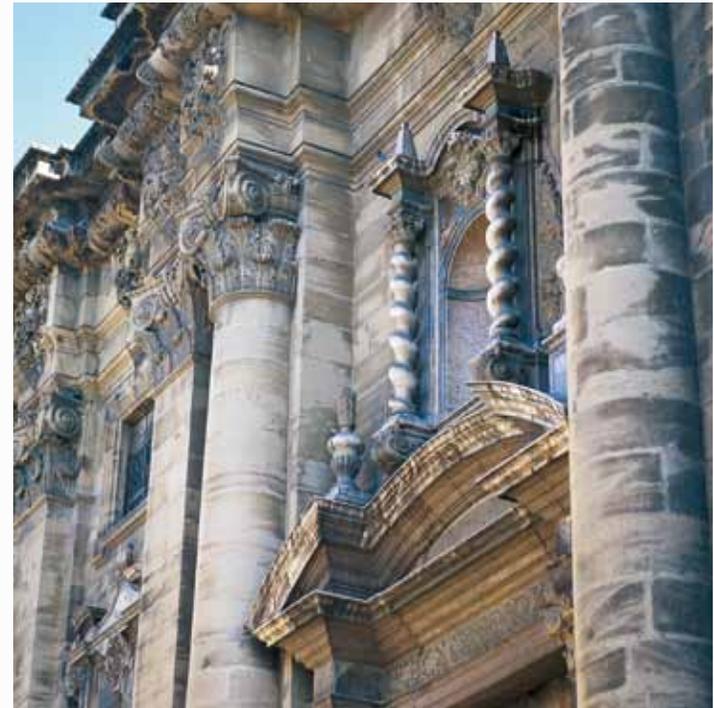
Plan of Tortosa in 1710 (ICC)

The saying *Quan el mal ve d'Almansa, a tots alcança* (Evil tidings spare no one when they come from Almansa), which is still used in València, is reminiscent of the fact that the great triumph of the Bourbon army at the Battle of Almansa (Albacete) on 25 April 1707 facilitated the rapid and cruel conquest by Philip V of the Kingdoms of Valencia and Aragon and the offensive towards Catalonia, which was launched simultaneously in the Terres de l'Ebre and the Terres de Ponent.

Visiting Tortosa

The city of Tortosa has an extensive historic quarter, noteworthy for its large **fortifications**, testimony to the War of Succession, which were laid over the former layout of the medieval and Roman walls during the 17th and 18th centuries. With the Bourbon occupation in July 1708, the city was strengthened by means of the construction of new fortifications. The city's most emblematic set of buildings is **La Suda Castle**, which is now a *parador*, a state-owned hotel.

In addition to the fortifications, Tortosa boasts significant monuments from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. To begin with, of note is the **Cathedral of Santa Maria**, Gothic in style but adorned with a Baroque façade, which is yet to be completed. It contains a remarkable and luxurious chapel which is Baroque in style and dedicated to La Mare de Déu de la Cinta, patron of the city. Access to the cathedral cloister from the street is via the Baroque Olivera door (1705). The Cathedral Treasury has conserved magnificent Baroque and Renaissance gold and silverware.



Tortosa. Façade of the Cathedral of Santa Maria

The **Reials Col·legis** (16th century) are among the most important buildings of Renaissance Tortosa. The Church of Sant Domènec complements this set of Dominican colleges. The former **Hospital de la Santa Creu**, currently the seat of the city courts, is another important Baroque building which features an interesting cloister and façade. The city of Tortosa also stands out for its **Renaissance and Baroque palaces**, such as the Palau Episcopal, Palau Capmany, Palau Abària-Aldana and Palau Oliver de Botiller, among others.



Tortosa. La Suda Castle

During the second half of July, Tortosa celebrates the **Renaissance Festival**, declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest, which transports visitors back to the 16th century, one of the most interesting times in the city's history.

Miravet



Miravet. Castle

The war in Miravet

Miravet pledged allegiance to Archduke Charles of Austria in September 1705, after Colonel Joan Nebot and his army arrived at the stronghold. The castle remained under Habsburg rule until 1707, when it was occupied by Bourbon troops during the offensive led by the Duke of Orléans, which severely damaged the castle's buildings. Subsequently, in early 1709, the castle returned to Habsburg rule until 28 February 1711, when a division of 3,000 Walloon soldiers of the Bourbon army seized the castle once and for all, leaving the Miravet stronghold under the control of Philip V.

Visiting Miravet

Miravet Castle, perched on a hill on the right bank of the River Ebro, has a long history as a strategic fortress in Southern Catalonia. Its origins date back to the 9th century as a Moorish castle. In the 12th century, the castle was conquered by the Christians, and the Count of Barcelona, Ramon Berenguer IV, granted it to the Templars. In the early 14th century, after being besieged by the troops of the Count-King James II the Just, the castle was handed over to the Hospitallers, under whose rule it remained until 1835.

From the 17th century, the castle was adapted to the military innovations of the time. During the War of the Reapers (1640-1659), the castle was prepared for the use of artillery, thereby making it a strategic point during the War of Succession.

The castle, managed by the Museu d'Història de Catalunya, is divided into two main precincts: the lower precinct built during the 9th to 11th centuries, and the upper precinct, begun in the 12th century but adapted to the military functions of later periods. The castle's Bourbon occupation led to the dismantling of some of its rooms during the 18th century.

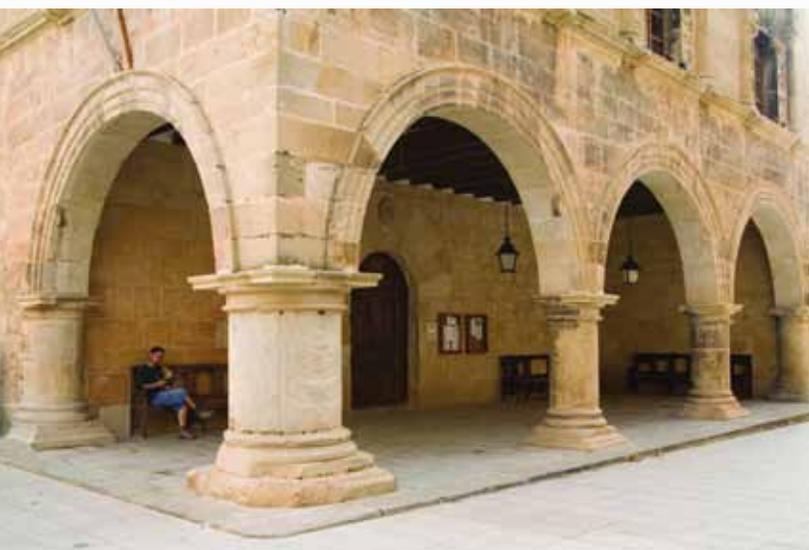
Around Miravet

From Miravet, we can reach the limits of the *comarca* of Ribera d'Ebre to the east and north. Seventeen kilometres east of Miravet stands Tivissa, which endured a battle between the Bourbon and Habsburg troops in 1706. Within the municipality is the Serra de Llaberia, a frequent refuge of the Habsburg guerrilla Carrasclat. Thirty-three kilometres north of Miravet is Flix. Its castle, built on a steep hill on the River Ebro, bore testimony to the ravages of the War of Succession when, in September 1705, it was occupied by 400 Habsburg soldiers on the orders of Colonel Joan Nebot. After two years, the castle was conquered by the Bourbon troops of the Duke of Orléans. Upstream lies Ribarroja d'Ebre, next to the reservoir of the same name. Here, worthy of mention is the Baroque Church of Sant Bartomeu, dating from the 18th century.

From Miravet, moving westwards, we can reach the *comarca* of Terra Alta, where visitors can explore various villages with significant Renaissance heritage. Thirty-three kilometres from



Miravet. Interior of the castle



Arnes. Town hall

Miravet is the municipality of **Vilalba dels Arcs**. Visitors can see the Baroque Church of Sant Llorenç (16th century), featuring Renaissance elements, and El Calvari, with the Chapel of La Mare de Déu dels Dolors (1724). From Vilalba we come to Batea, which is home to the Church of Sant Miquel (18th century), in Baroque-Neoclassical style, also known as the Cathedral of Terra Alta. Visitors should on no account miss the old town and El Calvari.



Horta de Sant Joan. Plaça Major

Moving south through **Bot**, which also features a Renaissance church and other Baroque buildings, we reach the town of **Horta de Sant Joan**. The old town is recognised as a Site of Cultural Interest with remarkable Renaissance buildings. On the outskirts of the town and at the foot of the Santa Bàrbara mountain is the Convent of Sant Salvador (17th century), one of the scenic points of reference for Picasso during his sojourn here. A stone's throw from Horta, **Arnes** has a late 16th-century town hall, which is one of the Renaissance jewels in the region. The entire old town is worth exploring, as well as its surroundings, which are not far from the Natural Park of Els Ports and the *comarca* of Matarranya.



TO FIND OUT MORE

Battle glossary

Bastion: A five-sided fortification projecting outward from the main body of a fortress.

Battalion: Military unit of a regular army comprising between two and six companies and commanded by a lieutenant colonel. It can contain between 300 and 1,200 soldiers.

Botiflers: Name given to the supporters of Philip V during the War of the Spanish Succession. The name is derived from Marshal Boufflers, head of the Bourbon forces at the outset of the war.

Company: A body of armed men under the command of a captain.

Consell de Cent: Government institution of the city of Barcelona from the Middle Ages to 1714. It was presided over by the Chief Councillor.

Chief Councillor: Head of the city's municipal council. Upon the introduction of the Decree of Nueva Planta, the position was taken over by the mayor.

Coronela: The city's armed militia for defence purposes, formed by its inhabitants and commanded by the Chief Councillor, who was the colonel.

Diputació del General or Generalitat: Government institution in the Principality of Catalonia from the 14th century to 1714, and reinstated during the Second Spanish Republic (1931) and upon the restoration of democracy (1979).

Dragoons: A cavalry regiment which bore swords and rifles, hence they could fight on foot or on horseback.

Fortress: Fortified stronghold prepared for defence in times of war and as a military barracks for the army.

Mountain fusiliers or Miquelets: Members of a militia, mercenary or voluntary in nature, recruited for special operations or as reinforcement of regular troops.

Regiment: A military unit within a regular army comprising two or more battalions and commanded by a colonel. It can contain between 2,000 and 3,000 soldiers.

Sometents: An armed paramilitary group, made up of heads of households, who sought to defend themselves and defend the land in times of war.

Vigatans: Name given in Catalonia to the supporters of Archduke Charles of Austria during the War of the Spanish Succession in light of the fact that the anti-Bourbon movement had begun in the Vic Plain. The Habsburgs were also known as *aligots*, *imperialists* and *maulets* (in Valencia).

The main figures



The Habsburgs

Casanova, Rafael: Born into an affluent family in Mojà in 1660, he studied Law at the Estudi General de Barcelona (as the university was known at the time) and practised as a lawyer. In 1706, he held the post of third councillor of Barcelona and, one year later, received the title of Honoured Citizen of Barcelona. Having attended

the Junes de Braços (meetings of parliament), he was appointed Chief Councillor of Barcelona on 30 November 1713 and colonel of the Coronela in the Bourbon siege of Barcelona in 1714. While hoisting the flag of Saint Eulalia during the final battle on 11 September, he was wounded by the Bourbon troops at the bastion of Sant Pere. He was urgently hospitalised in the College of La Mercè, and was brought secretly to his son's house in Sant Boi de Llobregat, where he died in 1743. In 1719, he was able to return to the legal profession.

Villarreal, Antoni de: Born into a military family in Galicia in 1656, he began fighting on the Bourbon side during the War of the Spanish Succession. When the Duke of Orléans fell into disgrace, he left Galicia and began to serve Archduke Charles of Austria. Appointed lieutenant general of the army, he held the office of commander-in-chief of the army of resistance following the evacuation of the imperial troops and organised and led the defence of Barcelona. Wounded in the battle of 11 September, he ordered the surrender to prevent looting, burning and mass murder. On his army's defeat, he was imprisoned and brought as a prisoner of war to Alacant Castle. From there he was shipped to A Coruña, where he would die in prison in horrendous conditions in 1726.

Desvalls, Brothers: Antoni Desvalls, Marquis of El Poal, was colonel of the cavalry and president of the Junta de Guerra (War Council) from 1713. As commander-in-chief of the army of Catalan resistance, he led the guerrilla actions of the mountain fusiliers in the inland area of Catalonia. In January 1714, he was commissioned to organise the Catalan inland army in order to endeavour to attack the forces blockading Barcelona. The Battle of Talamanca constituted one of his main victories. Following the surrender of Cardona Castle, he sailed to Majorca and Naples, and spent the rest of his life in Vienna until his death in 1724. Manuel Desvalls (El Poal, 1674) was cavalry colonel and governor of Cardona Castle, where he withstood the Bourbon sieges in the winter of 1711 and the summer of 1713. Desvalls signed the capitulation of the Cardona fortress on 18 September 1714, which was the last stronghold in Catalonia to surrender. Before he went into exile, he was governor of Gaeta (Naples), captain general of the Habsburg army and chamberlain to Empress Maria Theresa of Austria. He died in Vienna at the age of 100.

Moragues, Josep: Josep Moragues i Mas (Sant Hilari de Sacalm, 1669) was an infantry general in the Habsburg army and governor of the Castellciutat fortress, where he led the Pyrenean resistance against the Bourbon troops between 1707 and 1713. After signing the capitulation of Castellciutat in September 1713, he continued fighting against the Bourbon troops in the inland area of Catalonia. On his way into exile in Majorca, Moragues was caught. Brought to trial and tortured, he was executed on 27 March 1715.

Vilana-Perlas, Ramon de: Ramon de Vilana-Perlas (Oliana, 1663 - Vienna, 1741) was one of the most politically influential Catalan figures in history. His clandestine contact with Lieutenant von Hessen-Darmstadt to prevent the

coronation of Philip of Anjou led to his imprisonment. Released following the arrival of the Habsburgs in Barcelona in 1705, he was rewarded with the marquisate of Rialp and earldom of Vilana. A notary by profession, Vilana-Perlas became one of the most trusted men of Archduke Charles of Austria. He was Secretary of State and Cabinet Secretary, and during his exile, President of the Council of Spain in Vienna.

Starhemberg, Marshal: The Habsburg Marshal Guido von Starhemberg was the supreme commander of the allied forces at the service of Archduke Charles of Austria between 1708 and 1713. During the siege of Cardona in 1711, from his headquarters in the Tower of La Manresana in Els Prats de Rei, he sent English, Austrian, Dutch, Italian and Catalan detachments to break the siege.

Stanhope, General: British General James Stanhope was commander-in-chief of the British army in Spain from 1708, during the War of the Spanish Succession. He was particularly noteworthy in the capture of Minorca and in the Habsburg victories at the Battles of Almenar and Saragossa, but was defeated by the French at the Battle of Brihuega, where he was imprisoned for a year. He returned to London and regained his seat in the House of Commons, holding the offices of Secretary of State and Lord of the Treasury in the United Kingdom.

Nebot, Brothers: Brothers in a lineage of military men, who were noteworthy for their participation in the War of the Spanish Succession on the side of Archduke Charles of Austria. Rafael Nebot (Riudoms, 1665 - Vienna, 1733), the eldest son, was general of the Habsburg army and fought against the Bourbons in Valencia and throughout Catalonia. In 1713, he led the Expedition of Deputies of the Military Estate, in an attempt to stir the whole country to rebellion to defend Barcelona. Exiled in Vienna he obtained the rank of lieutenant general of the cavalry and was named Count of Nebot by Emperor Charles. Joan Nebot, with the rank of lieutenant, participated in 1704 in the taking of Gibraltar. In 1705, as colonel of the cavalry, he garnered the support of Tarragona for Archduke Charles of Austria. He participated in the defence of Barcelona on 11 September 1714 and was wounded. Like his brother Rafael, he went into exile in Vienna. Josep Nebot was appointed colonel in 1706 and he fought the Bourbons in Valencia and Aragon.

Castellví, Francesc de: Castellví (Montblanc, 1682 - Vienna, 1757) was a Habsburg noble who fought with the rank of captain in the defence of Barcelona in 1714, in which he was wounded. When the war ended, all his family assets were confiscated and he took refuge in the Monastery of Vallbona de les Monges, where he was arrested in 1718. Amnesty having been declared by the Bourbon king and the Habsburg emperor in 1726, Castellví was exiled to Vienna, where he wrote *Narraciones Históricas desde el año 1700 hasta el año 1725* (Historical Narratives from 1700 to 1725), one of the most important documentary sources which explains the War of the Spanish Succession in Catalonia.



The Bourbons

Berwick, Duke of: James Fitz-James Stuart, first Duke of Berwick and illegitimate son of King James II of England, was an outstanding military leader at the service of Philip V during the War of the Spanish Succession. He was appointed commander-in-chief of the pro-Bourbon Spanish army in 1704 but was removed from office upon his defeat in

Portugal. In 1706, he was appointed Marshal of France and on 25 April 1707 he led the Bourbon armies in the great victory of Almansa. King Philip V rewarded him by appointing him lieutenant of Aragon and Duke of Lliria. In mid-1714,

he relieved the Duke of Popoli as commander-in-chief of the Bourbon army at the siege of Barcelona, achieving the city's surrender on 11 September 1714. Having returned to the army, he was struck by a cannonball and died in 1734 while fighting in the siege of Philippsburg in the War of the Polish Succession.

Popoli, Duke of: Rostaino Cantelmo-Stuart, 7th Duke of Popoli, was a prominent Neapolitan aristocrat who fought on the side of Philip V during the War of the Spanish Succession. In 1706, he joined the army of Philip V who endeavoured to take Barcelona from the Habsburgs. One year later, on 25 April 1707, he took part in the Battle of Almansa. In 1713, Philip V entrusted him with the command of the pro-Bourbon Spanish army, which laid siege on the city of Barcelona. His mandate was characterised by widespread cruelty and repression. One of his most notable operations was burning of the city of Manresa in August 1713. On 26 June 1714, he was replaced by the Duke of Berwick in the command of the Bourbon siege of Barcelona. He was appointed the senior steward to the Prince of Asturias and died in Madrid in 1723.

Montemar, Count of: José Carrillo de Albornoz, Count of Montemar (Seville, 1671). Field marshal of the Bourbon army. During the final years of the war he fought the Catalan army in the inland area of Catalonia. He was defeated in Talamanca but achieved the surrender of Cardona Castle. He was captain general of Catalonia and the Spanish Royal Armies. At the Battle of Bitonto (1734), he achieved the Bourbon conquest of Naples and Sicily. In 1737, he was appointed Minister of the War.

Vendôme, Duke of: Louis Joseph of Bourbon, Duke of Vendôme, French general who led the Bourbon troops in the inland area of the Iberian Peninsula from 1710 as marshal of France. In December 1710, he garnered two important victories against the Habsburg army in Brihuega and Villaviciosa, but did not achieve his objective of seizing Cardona Castle in the siege of 1711. He died in Vinaròs in 1712, from a surfeit of prawns and other seafood.

Orléans, Duke of: Philip of Orléans, second Duke of Orléans, was the paternal grandson of King Louis XIII of France. During the War of the Spanish Succession, he was commander-in-chief of the Bourbon armies. Noteworthy among his victories were the conquests of Lleida (November 1707) and Tortosa (July 1708). He was removed from the head of the army after plotting against Philip V in 1709. Following the death of King Louis XIV of France, he was appointed sole regent and plenipotentiary of France until Louis XV came of age, restoring peace and entering into an alliance with the United Kingdom and the Archduke of Austria against Spain.

Verboom, Prosper Van: Joris Prosper Van Verboom, Marquis of Verboom, was a Flemish nobleman and military man who, in the late 17th century worked with the French military engineer Vauban, the father of modern military fortifications. Released by the Habsburgs in Vienna in 1712, having been captured at the Battle of Almenar, Verboom returned to the peninsula and founded the Royal Corps of Engineers. Catalonia bears ample testimony to his work. He was responsible for the construction of the citadel and the district of La Barceloneta, and the restoration of Montjuïc in Barcelona; the fortress of La Seu d'Urgell and Sant Ferran Castle in Figueres.

Aparici, Josep: Born in Caldes de Montbui, he was a noteworthy pro-Bourbon Catalan. He retired to Mataró in 1713 to escape the siege of Barcelona, and was called to the Bourbon side by José Patiño who offered him a seat on the Supplies Board. With the Bourbon victory, he took part in the preparation of the cadastre, the taxation applied by the Bourbon administration, and was appointed to the Confiscations Accounts Office. Having been required to travel all over Catalonia, in 1720 he drew a map dedicated to Philip V, on which he recorded the boundaries of the Bourbon *corregimientos* as well as those of the old *veguerías*.

Practical information

Tourist Reception Centre (CAT)

www.turismecat.cat

Catalan Tourist Board

www.catalunya.com

Catalan Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise Directorate General for Tourism

www.gencat.cat/diue/ambits/turisme/index.html

History Museum of Catalonia. "1714 Route".

www.mhcat.net
www.mhcat.net/serveis/rutes_i_itineraris/la_ruta_1714

National Art Museum of Catalonia

www.mnac.cat

Foundation for Catalan Fortresses

www.lesfortalesescatalanes.info

Fairs and Festivals of Catalonia

www.firesifestes.com

Cardona 1714

www.cardona1714.cat

War of Succession Virtual Museum

www.guerradesuccessio.cat

11 de setembre de 1714.org

www.11setembre1714.org

Miquelets de Catalunya

www.miquelets.cat/

Reconstrucció històrica.cat

www.reconstruiciohistorica.cat

Itinerary 1

Barcelona

CATALAN TOURIST OFFICE IN BARCELONA

Tel.: (+34) 932 388 091

www.gencat.net/probert

"TURISME DE BARCELONA" INFORMATION CENTRE

Tel.: (+34) 932 853 834

www.barcelonaturisme.com

Caldes de Montbui

TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 654 140

www.caldesmontbui.org

Vilanova i la Geltrú

TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 154 517

www.vilanovaturisme.net

Sitges

TOURIST INFORMATION

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 944 305

www.sitgestur.cat

Arenys de Mar

INFORMATION AND TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 937 922 601

www.arenysdemar.org/

Caldes d'Estrac

ECONOMIC PROMOTION

CENTRE, CALDES D'ESTRAC

Tel.: (+34) 937 910 588

www.caldetes.cat

Mataró

TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 937 582 698

www.mataro.cat

Sant Boi de Llobregat City Council

Tel.: (+34) 936 351 200

www.santboi.cat

Esparreguera Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 937 771 801

www.esparreguera.org

Olesa de Montserrat Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 937 780 050

www.olesam.cat

Memorial 158

memorial158.blogspot.com

Sant Quintí de Mediona Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 998 028

www.santquintimediona.cat

Mata-degolla de Sant Quintí de Mediona

www.festacatalunya.cat/

Sant Martí Sarroca Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 991 111

www.santmartisarroca.net

Castellví de Rosanes Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 937 751 942

www.castellviderosanes.cat

Itinerary 2

Vic

MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 862 091

www.victurisme.cat

OSONA TOURIST CENTRE

Tel.: (+34) 938 851 715

www.osonaturisme.cat

March of the *Vigatans*

www.marxadelsvigatans.cat

Centelles

L'ESTACIÓ - ALT CONGOST

TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 429 361

www.vallesnet.org/-apren

Lluçanès

PRATS DE LLUÇANÈS TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 560 732

www.pratsdellucanes.cat

L'ESTACIÓ - ALT CONGOST

TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 429 361

www.vallesnet.org/-apren

Rupit Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 522 003

www.rupitpruit.cat

Sant Hipòlit de Voltregà Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 502 626

www.santhipolitdevoltrega.cat

Santa Cecília de Voltregà Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 502 474

Les Masies de Voltregà Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 570 028

www.lesmasiesdevoltrega.cat

Les Masies de Roda Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 540 027

www.lesmasiesderoda.cat

Torelló Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 591 050

www.ajtorello.cat

Itinerary 3

Manresa

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 784 090

www.manresaturisme.cat

Sallent Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 93 837 02 00

www.sallent.cat

Tourist Reception Centre (CAT) de Sallent

Tel.: (+34) 938 370 200

Gironella

LLOBREGAT RIVER PARK

TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 380 093

www.parcfluvial.org

L'onze de setembre i Gironella

http://www.

lonzedesetembregironella.com/

Berga/Queralt

BERGUEDA TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 221 500

www.elbergueda.cat

TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 211 384

www.turismeberga.cat

Talamanca

Valls del Montcau Consortium

www.vallsdelmontcau.org

Moia

MOIANÈS TOURIST OFFICE

Tel.: (+34) 938 301 418

www.moianes.com

History Museum of Catalonia / Casa Museu Rafael Casanova

www.mhcat.net/serveis/rutes_i_itineraris/la_ruta_1714

www.mhcat.net/serveis/rutes_i_itineraris/la_ruta_1714

Baroque Festival

www.retorna1714.moia.cat

Montserrat

MONTSERRAT TOURIST OFFICE (ENTRANCE)

Tel.: (+34) 938 777 777

www.montserratvisita.cat

Sant Benet de Bages

Monastery of Sant Benet de Bages

www.monstbenet.com

Casserres Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 234 000

www.casserres.cat

Gaià Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 390 151

www.gaia.cat

Balsareny Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 396 100

www.balsareny.cat

Santa Maria d'Oló Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 385 029

www.olo.org

Mura Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 317 226

www.mura.diba.es

Monistrol de Calders Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 938 399 000
www.monistroldecalders.cat

Itinerary 4**Cardona
TOURIST OFFICE**

Tel.: (+34) 938 692 798
www.cardona.cat

'Historic Cardona' Foundation
www.cardonaturisme.cat

Cardona 1714
www.cardona1714.cat

**Eighteenth of September
Festival (Cardona)**
www.18desetembre.cat

**History Museum of Catalonia /
Cardona**
www.mhcat.net/serveis/rutes_i_ite-
naris/la_ruta_1714

**Solsona
SOLSONA TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 481 009
www.solsonaturisme.com

SOLSONÈS TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 973 482 310
www.turismesolsones.com

**Els Prats de Rei
ALTA ANOIA TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 938 680 366
www.altaanoia.info

**History Museum of Catalonia /
Torre de la Manresana**
www.mhcat.net/serveis/rutes_i_ite-
naris/la_ruta_1714

**Cervera
LA SEGARRA COUNTY TOURIST
OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 531 303
www.lasegarra.org

Cervera County Museum
www.museudecervera.cat

**History Museum of Catalonia /
University of Cervera**
www.mhcat.net/serveis/rutes_i_ite-
naris/la_ruta_1714

**Calaf
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 938 680 833
www.calaf.cat

**Sant Ramon
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 524 018
www.santramon.ddl.net

Sant Llorenç de Morunys Town Council

Tel.: (+34) 973 492 050
www.ajuntamentdesantllorencde-
morunys.org

Pinós Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 473 292
www.turismesolsones.com

Shrine of El Miracle
Tel.: (+34) 973 480 002
www.santuarielmiracle.com

Navès Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 482 553
www.naves.cat

Itinerary 5**Lleida
CATALAN TOURIST OFFICE IN
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Tel.: (+34) 973 238 446
www.catalunyaturisme.com

TOURIST OFFICE
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www.turismedelleida.cat

**CATALAN TOURIST OFFICE IN
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Tel.: (+34) 973 248 840
www.catalunyaturisme.com

**History Museum of Catalonia /
Seu Vella**
www.mhcat.net/serveis/rutes_i_ite-
naris/la_ruta_1714

**La Seu Vella Consortium
CATALAN TOURIST OFFICE IN
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Alguaire airport
Tel.: (+34) 973 032 744
www.catalunyaturisme.com

**Balaguer
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 445 194
www.balaguer.cat/turisme

**CATALAN TOURIST OFFICE IN
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Tel.: 638 683 177
www.catalunyaturisme.com

Almenar Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 770 013
almenar.ddl.net

**Agramunt
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Tel.: (+34) 973 391 089
www.agramunt.ddl.net

**Bellpuig
TOURIST OFFICE**

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www.bellpuig.cat

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www.aitona.cat

Juneda Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 150 014
www.juneda.cat

Bellvis Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 565 000
bellvis.ddl.net

El Poal Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 565 002
poal.ddl.net

Os de Balaguer Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 438 004
www.ccnoguera.cat/osbalaguer

Algèri Town Council
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www.ccnoguera.cat/algèri

Itinerary 6

**La Seu d'Urgell
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 351 511
www.turismeseu.com

**ALT URGELL COUNTY COUNCIL
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 353 112
www.ccau.cat

**Puigcerdà
MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 972 880 542
www.puigcerda.cat

CERDANYA TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 140 665
www.cerdanya.org

**Sort
PALLARS SOBIRÀ TOURIST
OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 621 002
www.pallarssobira.info

Sort City Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 620 010
www.sort.cat

**Bellver de Cerdanya
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Tel.: (+34) 973 510 229

**Estèrri d'Àneu
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 626 345
www.esterrianeu.cat

**Vielha
TOURIST OFFICE**

Tel.: (+34) 973 640 110
www.torismearan.org

**Organyà
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 973 382 002
organya.ddl.net

**Mont-Louis
(Pyrénées-Orientales) France
Mont-Louis Town Council**
Tél.: (+33) 04 68 04 21 18
www.mont-louis.net

Gerri de la Sal Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 662 040
baixpallars.ddl.net

Oliana Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 470 035
oliana.ddl.net

Vall de Cardós Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 623 122
www.valldecardos.org

Llívia Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 972 896 011
www.llivia.org

Bonestarre Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 973 623 122
www.valldecardos.org

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Tel.: (+34) 872 975 975
www.girona.cat/turisme

**Hostalric
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 902 196 446
www.hostalric.cat
www.laselvaturisme.com

**Olot
MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 972 260 141
www.otlot.cat/turisme

HOUSE OF THE VOLCANOS
Tel.: (+34) 972 268 112
www.parcscatalunya.net

**Arbúcies
TOURIST OFFICE**
www.arbucies.com

**Sant Hilari Sacalm
TOURIST OFFICE**
Tel.: (+34) 972 869 686
www.turisme.santhilari.net

Banyoles
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 575 573
www.banyoles.cat/turisme

Santa Pau
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 680 349
www.garrotxa.com/santapau

Besalú
MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 591 240
www.besalu.net

Fornells de la Selva Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 972 476 163
webspobles.ddgi.cat/sites/fornells_de_la_selva

Cassà de la Selva Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 972 460 005
www.cassadelaselva.net

Sant Celoni Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 938 641 200
www.santceloni.org

Castellfollit de la Roca Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 972 294 003
www.castellfollitdelaroca.org
www.altagarrotxa.org

Itinerary 8

Roses
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 902 103 636
www.roses.cat

La Ciutadella Cultural Space
Tel.: (+34) 972 151 466
www.patrimonideroses.cat

Figueres
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 503 155
www.figueres.cat

Castle of Sant Ferran
www.lesfortalesescatalanes.info

Cadaqués
MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 258 315
www.cadaques.cat

Castelló d'Empúries
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 156 233
www.castello.cat

EMPURIABRAVA TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 450 802
www.castello.cat

Palafrugell
MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 300 228
www.visitpalafrugell.cat

TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 614 475

Sant Feliu de Guíxols
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 972 820 051
www.guixols.cat

Torroella de Montgrí
TORROELLA DE MONTGRÍ
TOURIST OFFICE - CAN
QUINTANA
Tel.: (+34) 972 755 180
www.museudelamediterrania.org

Itinerary 9

Tarragona
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 250 795
www.tarragonaturisme.cat

CATALAN TOURIST OFFICE IN TARRAGONA
Tel.: (+34) 977 233 415
www.catalunyaturisme.com

Torredembarra
MUNICIPAL TOURIST BOARD
Tel.: (+34) 977 644 580
www.torredembarra.publiweb.es

Battle of Torredembarra Festival
www.catpatrimoni.com

Montblanc
MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 861 733
www.montblancmedieval.cat

Capçanes Town Council
Tel.: (+34) 977 178 358
www.capcanes.altanet.org

Alcover
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 846 452
www.alcover.cat

Fira de Bandolers -October-
www.alcover.oasi.org

Cambrils
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 792 307
www.turcambrils.info

Reus
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 010 670
www.reus.cat/turisme

BAIX CAMP COUNTY TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 327 155
www.turisme baixcamp.org

CATALAN TOURIST OFFICE AT REUS AIRPORT
Tel.: (+34) 977 772 204
www.catalunyaturisme.com

La Selva del Camp
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 844 630
www.laselvadelcamp.cat

Valls
MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 612 530
www.ajvalls.org

Altafulla
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 651 426
www.altafulla.org

Santes Creus - Aiguamúrcia (Alt Camp)
SANTES CREUS COUNTY
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 638 141
www.altcamp.cat
www.larutadelcister.info

Poblet - Vimbodí (Conca de Barberà)
COUNTY TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 871 247
www.concadebarbera.info
www.larutadelcister.info

Vallbona de les Monges
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 973 330 567
www.urgell.ddl.net
www.larutadelcister.info

Escaladei - La Morera de Montsant
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 827 346
www.turismepriorat.org

Falset
PRIORAT TOURIST INFORMATION
OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 831 023
www.turismepriorat.org

Cornudella del Montsant
TOURIST OFFICE
Tel.: (+34) 977 821 000
www.pagina.de/cornu

Riudoms Town Council
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www.riudoms.org

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www.miravet.altanet.org

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