

Cardona castle

Cardona, Bages



1 January– 31 May: 10.00–13.30h and 15.00–17.30
1 June–30 September: 10.00–13.30 and 15.00–18.30
Admission up to half an hour before closing time
Closed: Mondays unless a public holiday; 1 and 6 January; 25 and 26 December.



Cardona castle
Tel. 938 684 169
Free admission on Tuesdays
Guided visits by arrangement
Leaflet *Walks Around Cardona Castle*, price €1.00, in Catalan, Spanish, English and French
Educational activities
Teachers' dossier.



Other places of interest

- Historic centre of Cardona
- Miracle sanctuary

The Rafael Casanova house

Carrer Rafael Casanova, 8
Moia, Bages



10.00–13.30; 16.00–19.00
Admission up to half an hour before closing time
Closed: Mondays unless a public holiday; 1 and 6 January; 25 and 26 December.



The Rafael Casanova house
Tel. 93 830 01 43
Free admission on Tuesdays
Guided visits by arrangement
Museum guidebook
Educational activities
Teachers' dossier.



Other places of interest

- Parish church
- Historic centre of Moia
- Baroque retables in Santa Maria d'Oló



Amb la col·laboració de:



Paeria de Lleida



Paeria de Cervera



Ajuntament Prats de Rei



Ajuntament de Cardona



Ajuntament de Moia



Generalitat de Catalunya

Museu d'Història de Catalunya

CAT 2014

Ruta 1714

A route round five sites of the War of the Spanish Succession



Museu d'Història de Catalunya
Pl. Pau Vila, 3
08003 Barcelona
932 254 700
www.mhcat.cat

The Seu Vella in Lleida

Turó de la Seu Vella
Lleida, Segrià



1 June–30 September: 10.00–13.30 / 16.00–19.30
1 October–31 May: 10.00–13.30 / 15.00–17.30
Admission up to half an hour before closing time
Closed: Mondays unless a public holiday; 1 and 6 January; 25 and 26 December.



The Seu Vella in Lleida
Tel. 973 230 653

Temporary exhibition:
Capta llerda 1707-2007

Free admission on Tuesdays
Guided visits by arrangement
Guide book available
Leaflet *Routes around the Seu Vella*, price €1.00, in Catalan, Spanish, English and French
Educational activities
Teachers' dossier.



Other places of interest

- Historic centre of Lleida
- Convent del Roser
- New cathedral
- Gardeny castle

University of Cervera

Plaça Universitat
Cervera, Segarra



Only guided visits by arrangement.
Every day of the week



District tourist office
Tel. 973 531 303
Cervera district museum
Tel. 973 533 917

Guidebook *Cervera, ciutat històrica*.
Partially adapted building.



Other places of interest

- Historic centre of Cervera
- Cervera district museum

Manresana tower

Els Prats de Rei, Anoia
BV-1031 towards Igualada/Barcelona,
1 km from the village.



Unrestricted admission.



Prats de Rei local council
Tel. 93 869 81 92

Other places of interest

- Sanctuary and Baroque retable of Sant Andreu de la Manresana (1715).
- Josep Castellà i Real municipal museum
- Sanctuary of La Mare de Déu del Portal

As part of the events being organised to mark the 300th anniversary of the War of the Spanish Succession we would like to invite you to visit some of the sites where many of the main events in that war took place.

The **1714 Route** takes us to five historic sites, all part of Catalonia's heritage, where major events in the War of the Spanish Succession took place: **the Seu Vella (Old Cathedral) in Lleida, the University of Cervera, Manresana tower in Els Prats de Rei, Cardona castle and the Rafael Casanova house in Moià.**

The aim of the route is to remind people of, and raise historical awareness about, the events that took place during the conflict and the consequences these had for society and culture in Catalonia and its political and institutional organisation.

The War of the Spanish Succession in Catalonia

Charles II, the last of the Austrian Hapsburg dynasty to rule in Spain, died childless in 1700. In his will he had named duke Philip of Anjou, grandson of Louis XIV, as his heir. This decision upset the territorial balance and led to war between the European powers. The Grand Alliance, formed by England, the United Provinces and the Austrian Empire, declared war on France and Spain. The allies supported Archduke Charles of Austria's claim for the Spanish throne while the Bourbons supported the claim of Philip of Anjou.

The War of the Spanish Succession, between 1702 and 1715, was also a long civil war at the heart of the Spanish Crown. In 1705 Catalan supporters of the House of Austria signed a pact with England and lent their support to the allied landing. On 7 November the Archduke officially entered the city of Barcelona and was proclaimed king, with the name of Charles III. Broadly speaking, the kingdoms of the Crown of Aragon favoured Charles while Castile favoured the House of Bourbon.

On 25 April 1707, however, the Bourbon army defeated the supporters of the House of Austria at the battle of Almansa and this marked a change in the fortune of the war. As a result of this battle Bourbon troops were able to occupy the kingdoms of Aragon and Valencia, whose institutions were abolished. In the autumn Lleida also fell. Nevertheless, the allies still managed some military successes such as the short-lived occupation of Madrid in 1710, the battle of Almenar in 1710, the battle of Els Prats de Rei in 1711, and the siege of Cardona in 1711.

Siege of Barcelona, 1714, in an engraving by J. Rigaud (AHCB)

Emperor. This, together with a change in the attitude of the allies, led to the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, which concluded the War of the Spanish Succession. Philip V was recognised as the king of Spain and from then onwards Catalonia stood alone against the Bourbon armies that gradually occupied the Principality.

The last episode in the conflict was the siege of Barcelona. The siege lasted for fourteen months during which time the Franco-Spanish army mustered almost 90,000 men to oppose the 1,500 regular troops and 4,000 Catalan civilians who were defending the city. The final Bourbon assault came on 11 September. Once the city had fallen the only resistance was from the military fortress in Cardona, which surrendered on 18 September.

Defeat meant the occupation of Catalonia by Philip V's troops and the suppression of Catalonia's organs of government. In 1716 the Decree of the New Plan imposed the laws and institutions of Castile on Catalonia.

The Seu Vella in Lleida

After two months of siege the city of Lleida surrendered to Philip V's troops, some thirty thousand of them, commanded by the duke of Orleans. The city was defended by an army of 2,500 men led by the German prince Heinrich von Hessen-Darmstadt, the English general Wills and the Dutch lieutenant colonel Widders, but was forced to surrender given the obvious lack of reinforcements. The city was subjected to terrible repression and the civilians fled to the castle in search of safety under the protection of the allied troops. The evacuated city was sacked and some of its inhabitants who had sought refuge in the Convent del Roser were murdered.

The city came under the control of marshal Louvigny. One of his first measures was to take control of the Seu Vella, until that time the cathedral of Lleida. Bourbon troops occupied the building, converting the central aisle into a field hospital. The cathedral was occupied during early December with the full support of the pro-Bourbon bishop Solis. Henceforth cathedral services were held in the parish church of Sant Llorenç, the city's largest church. The chapter remained there until the new cathedral was consecrated in 1781.



General view of the hill with the Old Cathedral surrounded by bastions (Pepo Segura)

The Bourbon authorities turned the Seu Vella into a prison and later, from 1749, into a barracks. The building was divided into three floors with various outbuildings, for military use. The militarisation of the Suda quarter of the city was complete. The few buildings that had survived the Reapers' War of 1640-1652 were demolished by Philip V's engineers and the stone used to build the fortress that stands today.

The University of Cervera

The War of the Spanish Succession having been concluded, Philip V accepted the proposal made by the commons of Cervera to found a university in the town and signed the decree ordering construction to commence on 11 May 1717. The University of Cervera became, in fact, the only centre for higher studies in Catalonia, the other six universities in existence having been suppressed. Thus the Bourbons secured control over higher education in Catalonia.

Construction, according to plans by the military architect Francesc Montagut, modified two years later by the French military engineer Alexandre de Rez, took place between 1718 and 1804.

The University of Cervera is, without doubt, one of the most monumental works of 18th-century civil Catalan architecture. It is organised around two courtyards separated by a chapel or central hall with a splendid Baroque alabaster retable by Jaume Padró. Notable features are the two exterior facades, built during the first half of the 18th century in Baroque style and presided by a representation of the Immaculate Conception, over



Facade of the University of Cervera (Paeria de Cervera)

which stands a bronze crown, symbolising the university's royal foundation. The interior facade, built during the second half of the 18th century, has a pediment with a representation of Wisdom as well as two bell towers adorned by eagles.

The first academic year was 1740-1741. The university's greatest splendour was towards the end of the 18th century when it had 2,000 students. Many illustrious figures studied here including the philosopher, Jaume Balmes; the bishop, Fèlix Torres Amat; the inventor, Narcís Monturiol; and the politician, Joan Prim.

The presence of the university meant a boost for the town's economy and there was a considerable increase in construction work and in trade. However, the rigidity of the rules of student conduct imposed by the university authorities, including numerous prohibitions, meant that students sought refuge in such places as the tavern and tobacconist's kept by Ignàsia Brach, known as the *Nàsia tabaco*.

Manresana tower

The high, circular Manresana tower, the only surviving element of the former mediæval frontier castle of Els Prats de Rei, was the setting for an important battle during the War of the Spanish Succession. Between September and December 1711 troops supporting the House of Austria, some 22,000 men under the command of marshal Guido von Starhemberg, confronted troops loyal to the House of Bourbon, some 35,000 men under the command of the duke of Vendôme.

The tower became a strategic observation post for the allied command while Starhemberg and his chiefs of staff installed themselves in a nearby manor house, the troops being deployed between Can Selva and Puigforner. The Bourbon troops, meanwhile, were deployed between Calaf and Sant Martí de Sesgueioles forming a front that encircled Els Prats de Rei from Albareda to Solanelles. After the allied encampment had been bombarded by Bourbon artillery, marshal Starhemberg ordered Els Prats de Rei to be occupied to prevent its capture by the duke of Vendôme.

The main aim of the Bourbon army was to control the uplands around Calaf in order to facilitate the definitive assault on Cardona and then advance on Barcelona. For their part, the allied forces needed to consolidate their position in this sector if they were to frustrate Bourbon plans and enable reinforcements, arms, munitions and food supplies to reach Catalan territory under allied control.

On 20 December Starhemberg forced the Bourbon army to flee towards Lleida. Once they had withdrawn the allied camp was established on Christmas day, 1711. The town of Els Prats de Rei had been very badly damaged by the artillery, although a contemporary witness wrote that the houses were more badly damaged by the German troops searching for beams for firewood.

Cardona castle

Cardona's role in the War of the Spanish Succession was amongst the most important to be played by any Catalan town. The strategic and military importance of its fortifications enabled resistance to be mounted to the advance of Bourbon forces on several occasions during the conflict. The scene of this resistance was the town of

Cardona itself and the castle. Three episodes stand out as being particularly important amongst the events that took place here during the War, such was their magnitude: the siege in November and December 1711, the battles in August and October 1713 and the final capitulation of the castle, on 18 September 1714, a week later than that of Barcelona, when the rest of the country was already under the control of the Bourbon army.

Following the orders issued in Calaf by the French duke of Vendôme, lieutenant general the count of Muret went to Cardona with 25,000 troops. He took the town on 17 November 1711, but not the castle, which was bombarded with cannon-fire for thirty-four days. One of the fiercest engagements over the control of the castle took place at La Querosa and Els Escorials, where colonel Pere Muntaner-Damon i de Sacosta, who was in command of the castle's troops, lost his life. On 18 December, thanks to the arrival of a large allied force commanded by marshal Guido von Starhemberg and the English general James Stanhope, the siege was lifted.

In August and October 1713, coinciding with the siege of Barcelona (1713-1714), Catalan troops under Manuel Desvalls, military governor of the castle, resisted two new offences by the Bourbon forces under the count of Montemar. Finally, on 18 September 1714, Manuel Desvalls i de Vergòs was obliged to surrender the fortress, under the same conditions as those agreed for the capitulation of Barcelona on 11 September 1714.

The Rafael Casanova house

This old family house in Moià was the birthplace, in about 1660, of Rafael Casanova i Comes. When he was fourteen, he went to Barcelona to study law. Charles III named him Honoured Citizen in 1707 and the following year he formed part of the delegation that went to Mataró to receive queen Elisabeth Christine, Charles' wife. He became Third Councillor of the city in 1706 and Chief Councillor on 30 November 1713, when Barcelona was already besieged by Bourbon troops. This post brought with it the command of the Coronela, the guild militia, and the title of governor of the defending city.

Acting in defence of the city, on 11 September 1714, he was wounded by gunfire while raising the banner of Santa Eulàlia during fighting to recover the bastions of Sant Pere and Portal Nou. In order to save him from the post-war repression, he was passed off as dead and taken to the family home of his parents-in-law in Sant Boi de Llobregat, where he took refuge. From 1719 he

returned to public life, once again practising law. He died on 3 March 1743 and is interred in the chapel of La Pietat in the parish church of Sant Boi de Llobregat.

The Rafael Casanova house gives visitors the opportunity to learn about many aspects of the Catalan leader's world: the town of Moià in the modern period; the prosperous life of his family, his personal career, the unfolding of the War of the Spanish Succession and his role in the closing episode of the siege of Barcelona.

Rafael Casanova's house in Moià (Pepo Segura)



Cardona castle (Pepo Segura)



The Manresana tower (Pep Parer)

