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DISCOVER INCA

a cultural trip
through the evolution
of the city



**GUIDED TOURS
TO INCA'S HERITAGE**



Ajuntament d'Inca





Medieval Inca. Gothic architecture

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From the year 903 until 1229 Mallorca was under Islamic rule, but on 31st December 1229 the troops of Jaume I of Aragon entered Ciutat de Mallorca (Palma), and the Muslims surrendered to the king after a long siege. The Catalan conquest brought a new artistic style to Mallorca, and therefore indirectly to Inca: Gothic. This made for a change of mood that affected different sectors of that society, which had hitherto been Muslim. Thus, a social, cultural, linguistic and religious rupture took place, with the sudden supplanting of a new era.

This new social order made the construction of new buildings necessary – churches, new homes and several civil buildings. Medieval documentation, most of which is kept in the Archive of the Kingdom of Mallorca, also reveals the importance of Inca as a town with a population only slightly lower than that of the capital. With regard to the architecture of the period (13th and 14th centuries), up to four churches and one convent are documented: Santa Maria (1242), Sant Bartomeu (1250), la Sang (1271), Santa Magdalena del Puig (1285) and Sant Francesc (1323). In terms of civil buildings, we should highlight the documentation of a high number of mills (1229), the episcopal wine cellar (1263), the hospital (1271), the royal winery (1282) and the Royal Curia, documented for the first time in 1285.

We must bear in mind that most of these buildings have not been conserved. Many did not withstand the passage of time, some have been extended and transformed, and still others conserve only a few remains that clearly indicate their medieval origin.

Parish church of Santa Maria.²⁹ In the year 1248 pope papa Innocent IV used the papal bull *Cum a nobis petitur* to place all Mallorcan parishes under the protection of the Church, including Inca's parish of Santa Maria. Even so,

there is documentation proving the existence of a first priest in 1242, which leads us to believe that the church of Santa Maria already existed at this time, having probably been built on the site of a mosque. No trace is left of this first church, but in view of the fact that it was one of the first religious constructions completed after the arrival in Mallorca of King "En Jaume", we must assume that the architectural style would have been the same as that of the re-population architecture; as a result, therefore, Inca's first church of Santa Maria would be similar to that of Santa Magdalena at Puig d'Inca. From 1300 on, and due to a demographic increase, construction of a new, much larger church became necessary. Thanks to a gravestone which has been conserved in the current church, we know that in 1329 this second building was already completed and was probably similar to the church of Roser in Santanyí. Although we cannot be certain, it would appear that one vestige of this second church is the lancet arch that leads from the chapel of Saint Blaise to that of the Heart of Jesus.

In contrast, the belltower has been preserved, a construction that was commenced in 1569 and which follows the classical typology of Mallorcan Gothic belltowers. The work was completed in 1628, with a Baroque-style crown.

Church of La Sang of the Hospital. Although this church has not been conserved, the institution (church and hospital) is documented from the year 1271. The hospital was demolished in the late 19th century, but the church remained until the early years of the 20th century. We know from the bibliographic documents that the church was a similar building to the oratory of Santa Magdalena del Puig and that it was rectangular in shape, divided up into four sections by pointed diaphragm arches that supported wooden coffering.

The well of the Font Vella.³⁰ This well, located in the So na Monda neighbourhood, is cited under the name of "Font Vella" in the 16th century, but it is highly likely that it is the same fountain called "Font de la Vila" in medieval documents, which is documented as early as in 1289.

Church of Sant Bartomeu.³¹ The first reference is documented in 1250 as a toponymical reference: "puig de Sant Bartomeu d'Almadraba". The church was built during the second half of the 13th century, most probably on

the site of a former mosque and following the model of the re-population churches. It was demolished in the 17th century and replaced by the present Baroque church, although the bell gable and doorway of the Gothic building were preserved.

The mills of Inca.³² Several sources state that shortly after the Conquest of 1229, there was a significant concentration of mills (more than thirty) in Inca, most of which were located on "Serral de les Monges". Only seven windmills remain of this large area of mills originating from the Middle Ages, and they have been greatly modified over time. These windmills were used to grind wheat and other cereals.

Inca's first "Call", or Jewish quarter.³³ The Jewish community of Inca is documented as early as in 1232, but it was not until 1346 that King Pere IV of Aragon ordered a Call, or Jewish quarter, to be established. In 1353, the royal governor assigned a site for it in the Sant Bartomeu neighbourhood, more specifically in Martí Metge street, but the Jews did not like the place because of the poor condition the houses were in - many were in ruins. The establishment of the "Call" of Inca would have to wait until 1372.

Gothic houses in Inca. In Inca, we cannot boast any single complete Gothic building, but we do have some ancestral homes that conceal architectural remains from the Gothic period under a subsequent Baroque renovation or popular architecture; nowadays these remains are reduced to lancet arches inserted inside houses from a later period. The most significant ones are: Can Català, Can Ripoll, Can Perret, house at Triquet street, no. 11, Can Sansó, Can Salero, Can Campos, Can Siquier.

Can Monroig and the "Call" of Inca.³⁴ The Can Monroig ancestral home is located in the "Call" or Jewish quarter of Inca, a neighbourhood that was comprised of the islands of houses formed by the streets of Sant Francesc, La Virtut, Can Valella, Pare Cerdà, El Call and La Rosa.

After the restructuring of the building, a series of medieval architectural elements were revealed, comprised of doorways, arches and windows. Once these architectural remains had been discovered, and having dated the Call to the 14th century, in the place where the house is located, it is easy to imagine that we may be speaking of architectural remains that probably



date back to that same century, or the previous one at most.

It was 1372 when King Pere el Cerimoniós, Peter the Ceremonious, granted a new site for construction of the Jewish quarter of Inca, a place known by the name of Hort d'en Pascolet and located in the neighbourhood of San Francisco.

Church and convent of San Francisco.² Construction of the Convent of San Francisco began in 1325 after Pope John XXII authorised its foundation, the first for a convent order outside the capital city. The current church of San Francisco, from the 18th century, replaced the original Gothic church, of which no remains survive, but thanks to bibliographical sources we know that it was a rectangular building with a single nave and five chapels on each side, divided by rounded diaphragm arches which supported a wooden gable roof. A similar example has survived to our age in the form of the church of Santa Margarita in Palma.



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