



ENG

DISCOVER INCA

a cultural trip
through the evolution
of the city



**GUIDED TOURS
TO INCA'S HERITAGE**



Ajuntament d'Inca



#8



Religious architecture in Inca: Santa Maria la Major and the convent of Sant Bartomeu

Speaker: Pere Rayó Bennassar, historian.

Parish church of Santa Maria la Major in Inca²⁹

The first – Gothic – parish church, was built in the 13th century and was probably very modest in terms of its proportions. Another one was built, also in Gothic style, with chapels, during the first quarter of the 14th century. The current Baroque church was constructed in the 18th century.

The church has always been dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Initially, the *Gothic panel of Santa Maria d'Inca* by Joan Daurer (1373) presided over it, and later, from the end of the 17th century, the Gothic image of *Santa Maria d'Inca* (1400), known as Santa Maria la Mayor. The main façade, which is made of sandstone, is sober. It is divided into two bodies by moulding and ends in a curved wall, topped by an iron cross. The main doorway, which is Neo-Classical in style, was left unfinished in 1843 and was finally completed in 1996. There is a rose window in the centre of the façade.

Construction of the belltower, which is the work of Miquel Amengual, began during the second half of the 16th century and the architect and sculptor Jaume Blanquer intervened in the 17th century, when it was completed. It is made of rough-cut stone and has two clearly-differentiated bodies. The lancet-arch doorway has a coat of arms of Inca engraved at the top.

The church has a single nave with seven rectangular chapels on each side, located between the buttresses. The roof is a barrel vault with lunettes.

Inside the lunettes there are windows, which were installed in 1927 and allow light to enter the church. The apse is semi-circular and covered by a conch. Entering the church by the main doorway, on our right we find the sunken chapel, dedicated to the Sant Crist and larger than the others. It was designed by the architect Guillem Reynés in 1915. It has a Greek cross floor plan and the transept is covered by a dome with an architectural lantern located on top of four conches.

Altarpieces. The church conserves some important altarpieces, most notably: the *main altarpiece* (18th century), the work of Joan Sastre; in the centre there is a Gothic image of *Santa Maria la Mayor* (1400), a wooden polychrome work by Pere de Santjoan. *The San Sebastián altarpiece* (1660), Baroque in style, by Jeroni Pinya Puigserver. *The Nombre de Jesús*, or *Name of Jesus altarpiece*, from the 16th century (it bears the date 11 March 1587), is attributed to Gaspar Oms. *The altarpiece of the Sant Crist* (1667), a Baroque work by an anonymous artist, holds the image of the Sant Crist of Inca, famous for the tradition of the prodigious sweat of 1607. *The San Blas altarpiece* (1612), from the early Baroque period, by an anonymous artist, close to the Oms workshop, and presided over by the image of the bishop. And the *San Pedro altarpiece* (1586-1642), by an anonymous artist, a transition from the Renaissance to Baroque, paid for by the guilds, as is revealed by the seven coats of arms that crown it.

The Parish Museum (Museo Parroquial) is located to the right of the presbytery. It is remarkable for the Gothic panel of *Santa Maria d'Inca* (1373). Other noteworthy exhibits are the *pyx* (14th century) and the Gothic sculpture of the *Christ of the Davallament* (Descent, 15th century). Also interesting are the Baroque sculptures and paintings (17th-18th century). There is a display of sculptures, paintings and other religious objects from the 19th and 20th centuries as well.

Monastery of Sant Bartomeu in Inca³¹

We know that a church of Sant Bartomeu has existed since the 13th century. The original church was built a few years after the Catalan conquest of Mallorca (1229-1232). Of this early Gothic church, a round doorway and the bell gable remain. In 1530, the nuns of the Order of Saint Jerome from the monastery of Santa Isabel in the capital founded a convent on the mount of Santa Magdalena in Inca. In 1534, due to the inconveniences of the location,

they settled next to the church of Sant Bartomeu. In the 17th century, the Gothic church was demolished, and the current one was built in its place, following the plans of Jaume Blanquer.

The Baroque church (1671) stands on the north side of the courtyard and entry is via two side doors that open under a portico. It has a single nave, covered by a barrel vault, and is divided into four sections by transverse arches. It has side chapels covered with domes, all of which are shallow except for the *capella fonda* (sunken chapel). The apse is quadrangular.

The *capilla fonda* or sunken chapel was built in 1901 to house the sepulchre of Sister Clara Andreu i Malferit, a nun at this monastery between 1604 and 1628, who died with a reputation for sanctity. The organ, which is located in the choir, is one of the oldest historical organs in Mallorca. It was built by the Caimari brothers in 1694.

The altarpieces are all from the Baroque period. Those from the 17th century are the *Santa Clara altarpiece* (1677), which is presided over by the Franciscan saint, and the *Candelera altarpiece* (1688), which has a polychrome carving of the Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus on the left arm and a candle in the right hand. From the 18th century we have the *main altarpiece* (1730), the work of Joan Deià Bailo, presided over by the Purísima virgin surrounded by small angels with the images of Saint Bartholomew, Saint Augustine and Saint Jerome; the *altarpiece of the Passion*, presided over by the "Cristo de la

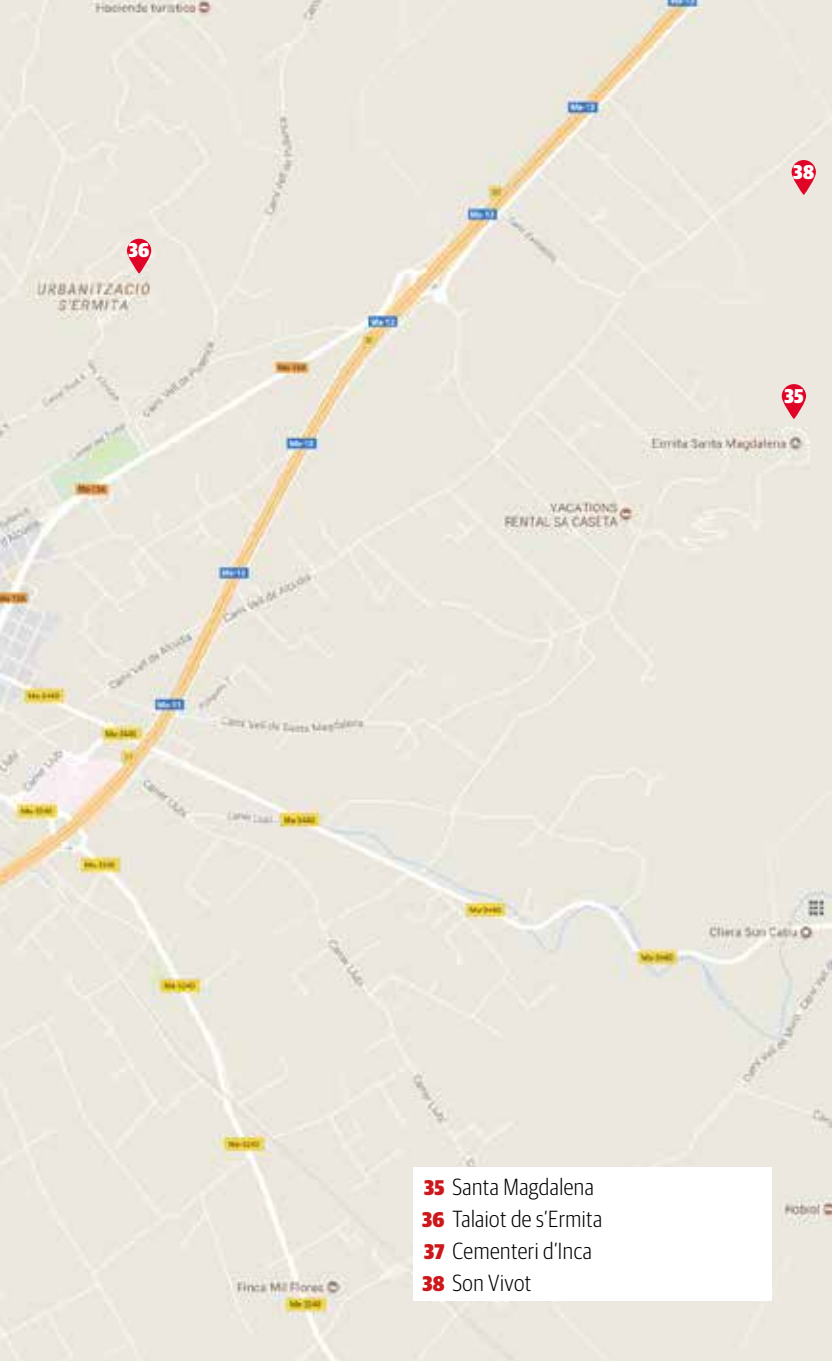




Sangre" (14th century), a highly-expressive Gothic sculpture; the *altarpiece of the Holy Family* (1719) in which the painting shows the family of Jesus – Saint Joseph, Mary with the Child Jesus, Saint Joachim, Saint Anne and Saint John the Baptist as a child, playing with a lamb.

The monastery's museum contains a large collection of paintings. Those from the 15th century are two Gothic panels by Pere Terrencs depicting the *marriage of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne*, the *Annunciation of Mary* and the *Visitation of Mary to Saint Elizabeth*, and the *birth of Jesus*. From the 16th century, the paintings by Mateu López the elder and Mateu López the younger, outstandingly the small former altarpiece of the church of Sant Bartomeu dedicated to the Purísima, the *altarpiece of the Virgin Mary of Roser* and the *Workshop of Nazareth*. Other relevant works from the 16th century are a painting of Saints Abdon and Sennen, and a small alabaster sculpture depicting Mary Magdalene. The museum offers an interesting display of Baroque paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries, notably a *small altarpiece of the Holy Family*, three paintings of *Sister Clara Andreu*, two paintings of *Saint Catalina Tomàs* and two of *Saint Santa Cecilia*.





- 35** Santa Magdalena
- 36** Talaiot de s'Ermita
- 37** Cementeri d'Inca
- 38** Son Vivot

L'EDITA:



Ajuntament d'Inca

HI COL·LABOREN:



Centre
de Professorat
Inca

FUNDACIÓ CULTURAL
esconvent

GRUP  SERRA

COMISSIÓ CIENTÍFICA
DE LES JORNADES
D'ESTUDIS LOCALS D'INCA