



{ *Manresa*
walls

Routes through
the history
of the city }



MANRESE



Cardener R.

Llobregat

Visit to the city walls circuit

This guide will accompany you on your journey through the high spots that were once the city walls.

Manresa still retains some sections of the old fortifications. These have all been awarded the status of Cultural Asset of National Interest. Knowing which these sections are and knowing to which circuit they belong is essential to understanding how the city has grown and how it has become the city it is today. The study and museumisation of the walls enable us to enjoy first-class mediaeval and contemporary evidence. At the same time, a walk through the remains of the walls gives a sense of the landscape and buildings that gave the city its personality during other periods of its history.

As is the case with other Catalan cities, although we know their original layout, very few sections of the walls remain and not all date from the original mediaeval period, but sometimes sixteenth- or nineteenth-century reconstructions.

We suggest you start your visit at the Manresa Tourist Office, where a scale model of the fourteenth-century mediaeval city helps identify the different elements that you will later visit in situ.

As well as offering reliable information about the sections that are still visible, the aim of the guide is to provide details, news and knowledge not only about the fragment of the wall you are looking at, but also about the historical and urban context in which it was built and, primarily, what the urban landscape was like so as to help reconstruct the setting of the mediaeval city from the historical and social perspective.

Other must-see places on the visit that help paint a picture of mediaeval Manresa include the church of the Seu de Manresa, the Museu Comarcal de Manresa (Manresa Regional Museum), Del Balç street, and, without a shadow of a doubt, the network of streets and alleyways in the old town which constitute the mediaeval urban fabric of the city.





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MURALLA DEL CARME

PLAÇA SANT DOMENEÇ

PLAÇA DEL MERCAT

PLAÇA ELIUOPA

PLAÇA DEL MILCENTENARI

PLANA DE L'OM

SANT MIQUEL

BDA DEL CARME

PLAÇA MAJOR

PLAÇA DE LA REFORMA

LA SEU

PASSEIG DEL RIU

PONT DE LA REFORMA

ESTACIÓ RENFE

MURALLA SANT DOMENEÇ

CARRER D'URGELL

CARRER MAGRANER

CARRER BARRERES

CARRER SAN FRANCESC

CARRER ADECCAR

CARRER JAUME I

CARRER D'URGELL

CARRER DE LA MEL

CARRER IGNAZI BALLELLS

CARRER U CAMPANES

CARRER D'URGELL

CARRER CIFERA

CARRER VILANOVA

CARRER SANTA MARIA

PLAÇA MONTSERRAT

CARRER SERROB N

CARRER TUDJ

CARRER ALTOIS XII

CARRER ARBONES

CARRER DELS LLOPS

CARRER TUDJ

CARRER CANAL

CARRER NA BASTARDES

CARRER DE LES PIQUES

CARRERIA DE L

CARRER INFANTS

CARRER PUIGTERÀ DE L

CARRER LLUSSA

DIANA

JOC DE LA PILOTA

CARRER SERAROLS

PLAÇA DEL CARME

CARRER SOBRREROCA

CARRER DEL BALÇ

CARRER SANTA LLUÇIA

CARRER VALLFONOLLOSA

BAIXADA DE LA SEU

CARRER SAN

TRAI D'ELS DIETS

VIA

PA

Manresa, a walled city



↑ *Historical engraving of the walled, Bernat Espinalt, 1786 (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages).*

Up until the end of the nineteenth century, the main aims of armed conflicts included the prolonged siege of cities and their inhabitants. Having a strong and well-designed system of walls became essential for the survival of all cities. Attracting immigrants and being a well-populated city was also important. The prosperity and peace of the inhabitants lay, on several occasions, with the confidence provided by the walls. Like many other cities in Catalonia, Manresa enjoyed the protection afforded it by a system of well-built and strong walls, towers and moats.

Apart from offering protection, the walls had a multi-functional role to play. They marked the division between the countryside and the city. Everything inside the walls was considered urban and everything outside was countryside and outlying areas. In addition, their presence was one of the customary elements of the everyday landscape. Both the townspeople and outsiders had to bear them in mind, as they could only enter or leave the city through their gateways. For visitors from outside, the image offered by a city was without doubt that of its walls.

Recent historical and archaeological studies have shown the existence in our city of three important walled circuits that correspond to the three periods in its urban evolution. An initial circuit, from the ninth to tenth centuries, a second from the twelfth century and a third from the fourteenth century. Their demolition at the end of the nineteenth century also has a bearing on a new stage in the city's growth and a new heavily imposed concept in city planning.

Before the city: El Puig Cardener

The origins of the city of Manresa go back to Puig Cardener. On this hill, we have evidence of the existence of a fortified village or oppidum during the Iberian period. The choice of a place such as this to establish a settlement is due to its strategic position on the narrow gorge of the River Cardener. It also had a series of very abrupt shapes and cliffs cut into the rock which helped defend it.

As with other Iberian oppida, we should remember that this settlement would have

needed some type of wall to protect it, but no traces remain. During the Roman period, the hill would still have been occupied, albeit on a much smaller scale.

Archaeological excavation of 1915 and 1986 revealed tombs and burials that may date from the sixth to seventh centuries. A reduced population may have lived somewhere close to the old oppidum during this time. Puig Cardener would have been a burial site at that time.

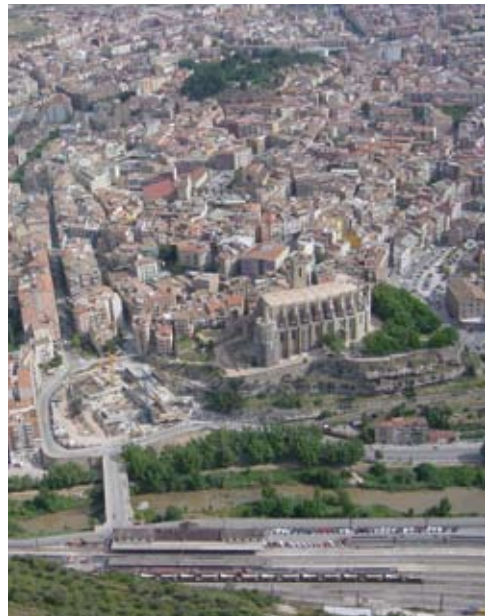


We still do not know the name of the ancient oppidum on Puig Cardener hill. Ancient historians talked of an important site in Bages called Bacasis, but no-one knows its exact location.

↓ *Old photograph of the tombs discovered at the start of the twentieth century (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages)*



↓ *Puigcardener hill (Pere Santamaria)*



The first inhabited site. Ninth and tenth century

It would not be until the ninth and tenth centuries, right in the middle of the mediaeval period, that the counts of Catalonia would be interested in recovering Puig Cardener hill as a fortified city. In their expansion policy southwards, the Cardener and Llobregat Rivers formed the frontiers of Catalunya Vella and therefore required defences close by.

During the ninth and tenth centuries, the city developed as a fortified hill site. El Puig Cardener would have included the most important

religious and military buildings inside its walls. These included the churches of Santa Maria and Sant Martí and the buildings of the canons' community. A military building of note would have been the Vescomtal tower, which served as a castle and residence for the Count of Barcelona's representative.

A number of burgs or isolated districts of houses sprung up around the walled hill. These burgs had no city planning and were not connected to each other. The people who lived there trusted that the walls would protect them from danger. One of the most important districts was Sant Miquel which grew up around the small church dedicated to this saint. Other districts included Saragossà, close to the chapel of Sant Marc, the Les Escodines and Burg districts, the latter situated at the foot of El Puig



Although the circuits of twelfth- and fourteenth-century walls linked El Puig Cardener to the city's other districts, the houses and buildings on the hill were still known until the fourteenth century as the La Ciutat district as a reminder of its fortified appearance, which were the origins of the town.

Cardener, in the area of the present Plaça d'en Creus.

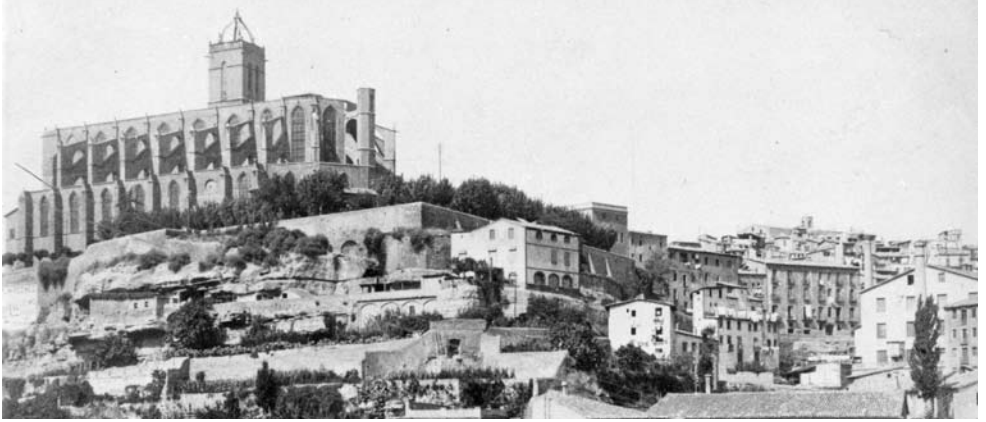
We need to remember that the El Puig Cardener hill played the role of a fortification at first. Although no trace remains, an initial circuit of walls crossed the upper part of the hilltop, adapting to the irregular terrain and protecting only the buildings established on the hill. In the event of danger, the inhabitants from the surrounding districts would abandon their homes and seek refuge inside the walls.



We come across the name Menresa for the first time at the start of the tenth century in reference to the mediaeval fortification of Puig, and it may be that it was named after the ancient oppidum. In the mid-eleventh century, the name was translated into Latin and the word Minorisa appeared.

↓ *Les Escodines district from El Camí dels Corral's (Ajuntament de Manresa)*





↑ *El Puig Cardener hill at the start of the twentieth century (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages)*

* Places of interest

Coll Cardener or Coll Castell

> *On the map, point 10*

The Coll Cardener gateway opens on to the western slope of the hill, providing entry to the walled enclosure. Inside this first high-mediaeval walled enclosure, records provide knowledge about the existence of an important tower known as Vescomtal tower, as it was the residence of the viscount, the count's representative in the city. The tower was attached to an old manor and a square located in front of it. These may have served as a stronghold within Puig Cardener and the site was known as Coll Castell.

We know for certain that the church of Sant Miquel and the Sant Miquel district lay outside the walls, thanks to the existence of a document

dating from 1015, concerning the sale of a courtyard of houses backing on to the church of Sant Miquel. The document states that this was situated in an outlying area of the city.

Remember that the appearance of the hill has changed significantly over the centuries. Originally, the hill was much sharper and irregular, where buildings were established gradually so as to take advantage of the caves and outcrops of rock. The high plateau that we see today was created in the fourteenth century to provide a flat surface for the site of La Seu. The wall had to follow the cliffs of the hill.

→ *Part of the western area of the Puigcardener hill at the start of the twentieth century (Jaume Pons' personal archive).*



In the thirteenth century, both the old manor and the tower had been abandoned and were rented out to individuals just like any other house in the city. In 1377, the king authorised their demolition and in 1379, the Consellers ruled that the stones could be used to build the La Seu church.



The growing city. The wall in the thirteenth century: the old walls

In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the city grew in importance and number of inhabitants, thanks, primarily, to the prosperity brought to it through a market. The site chosen for this market was a flat area close to the foot of El Puig Mercadal. From that moment on, this space would be the Plaça Major and become the heart of the future city.

Trails starting at the market that led to other towns soon became some of the city's important roads. The trail to Barcelona would become the present Santa Llúcia street. The trail to Vic followed the upper part of the rock and would become Sobrerroca street. The Cardona trail would also expand with houses either side until it became the Del Carme street.



Markets were essential during the Middle Ages. Only the king or count could authorise and hold them and, however, reserve for themselves the right to charge a tax: the teloneum. Each city tended to have one, although it was not always held inside the walls. Most markets consisted of taules, or stalls. The right to erect a taula in the market could be bought, sold or leased.

These new streets that grew up around the market would have joined the old Sant Miquel and Burg districts together, creating an urban network for the first time. In the early twelfth century, the city authorities felt that the inhabitants and the market should be protected so they built a new circuit of walls joining the old districts on Puig Cardener hill with Puig Mercadal and the church of Sant Miquel. It was also important to install gateways at the start of each trail to control the flow of people and goods accordingly.



← *The old Plaça Major on a market day (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages, F.Arola's batch)*

↑ *Sobrerroca street from the top of the tower (David Grau)*



A document dating from 1174 tells of the existence of houses lining a road that led to the River Meder gateway. This was the Santa Llúcia or Cuireteries gateway, which made the city an enclosed or fortified settlement. In 1222, houses also sprang up along the moat adjacent to the church of Sant Miquel. In the fourteenth century, these twelfth-century walls would become known as the old walls to distinguish them from the ones being built at the time.

* Places of interest

Puig Cardener wall or wall of the city

> On the map, point **11b**

Beneath the Seu, from the Camí dels Corral·ls, you can see the remains of a fragment of wall that juts out a few metres above the line of the cliff. This section reveals traces of a filled-in gateway consisting of a semi-circular arch. This gateway is a preserved example of an open portella in the wall. The opening linked the top of Puig Cardener with the houses on the lower part of the hillock and the river. Development of the Parc de la Seu significantly expanded the whole of the interior part of the wall, revealing the filled-in gateway.

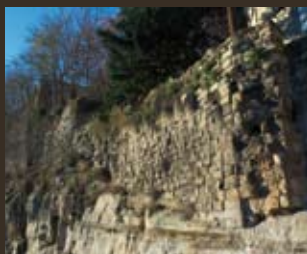


↑ *Filled-in mediaeval gateway from the Camí dels Corral·ls (David Grau)*

Jaffa's wall

> On the map, point **12**

This fragment of wall was known as the mur d'en Jaffa, as it was near the home of the Jaffa family. Despite the vegetation, this section shows a wall that clearly belongs to the second circuit of walls from the twelfth century. It is currently one of the oldest preserved parts of the wall. The rear section shows what may have been the wall's internal corridor, now converted into an alleyway between the wall and the houses.



↑ *Mur d'en Jaffa (David Grau)*

Galceran Andreu gateway

> On the map, point **12**

At the end of the present Galceran Andreu street, on the cliff of the Sant Ignasi stream, stands one of the city gateways. This gateway formed part of the circuit of twelfth-century walls, but in 1370 it was repaired and consolidated, coinciding with the revision being carried out on the old walls.

The road out of the city from the gateway led down to the small bridge that crossed the stream and continued until it met the Barcelona road. The course of the stream at this spot was known in the twentieth century as El Salt dels Gossos.

The gateway gets its name from the presence of the Andreu family who lived in this street close to the gateway. Galceran Andreu was one of the best-known members of this family and held important posts on the City Council in the fourteenth century. Between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, it was also known as the Mossèn Bosch gateway.



In the Middle Ages, the area was known as Puig Cardener moat and given the name sotz val. It was a natural, unexcavated moat that used the unevenness of the ground. Documentation tells of the existence of houses and farmyards built on the side of the hillock, taking advantage of the caves. Preserved photographs from the 1930s and 1940s still show houses and trails built below the hill. The main route was popularly known as the Camí dels Corral·ls.

→ *Part of the old Galceran Andreu gateway at the start of the twentieth century (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages)*

Santa Llúcia o Dels Cuireters gateway

> On the map, point **1**




↑ Part of Santa Llúcia street where the gateway was. (David Grau)

Located at the end of Santa Llúcia street, on the corner with the Baixada dels Drets, it consisted of two quadrangular towers. It provided an opening for the circuit of twelfth-century walls on to the furriers' workshops and the stream. It was also known as the Portal de Santa Llúcia, due to its proximity to the hospital of the same name on the other side of the stream.

A small bridge built at the continuation of the gateway provided a crossing point over the stream and gave access to the Hospital and the Camí de Viladordis. The Barcelona highroad also began at this gateway, climbing to the Escodines district.

It was the last gateway with both its towers until 1860. Today, only traces of one of the towers inside the Hospital La Masia still remain. On the first floor, you can see remains of the tower's freestone.

 The area around the gateway was known as the *cuireteries sobiranes* or *cuireteries superiors*, as it was here that the city's furriers had their workshops where they could take advantage of the water from the stream in their work. The workshops were outside the gateway to prevent smells from entering the city. It was also known as the Portal de Santa Llúcia due to its proximity to the Hospital below and the chapel of Santa Llúcia. Like all mediaeval hospitals, it took in the poor who became ill. In the Middle Ages, hospitals were always located outside the city to avoid infection. The Santa Llúcia Hospital, nowadays the Rapte Chapel, was the first place where Saint

Ignatius Loyola stayed during his stay in Manresa in 1522.



Sant Miquel gateway

> On the map, point **14**

The Sant Miquel district developed after the tenth century around the church of Sant Miquel and its cemetery. The district and the church were included within the circuit of twelfth-century walls. Mediaeval documents tell of the existence of a gateway at this point in the city, probably before reaching the Plana de l'Om. Since it backed on to the moat, houses and crop-growing fields were established.

The Portal de Sant Miquel was at that time the starting point



↑ *Sant Ignasi stream, 1929* (Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya, Josep Gaspar's batch)



The stream rose in the Sant Joan d'en Coll district, where in the modern era a chapel was built, and it ran down through the present site of the Fàbrica Nova until it reached the Plaça de Santa Llúcia and the Cardener. During the Middle Ages, it had several names and was known as a stream of the River Meder, of the *Cuireteria* and even as the *Mirabittle* or *Mirabile* stream.

for trails to Lleida and Urgell. Houses began to be built on both sides of the roads, which by the end of the thirteenth century had become the Vilanova and Urgell roads.

The new walls of the third circuit were put up in around 1370 and the City Council ruled it unnecessary that this gateway, which would have divided the city in two, be maintained. In 1380, the Council ordered the demolition of the wall in this sector and used the stones to repair the wall over the Sant Ignasi stream. The stones from the gateway were used to build the Seu.



The church of Sant Miquel, like that of the Seu in Manresa, was originally a pre-Romanesque building. The primitive church had to be replaced in about the twelfth century by a Romanesque building, with a new Gothic church built on top in the fourteenth century. In 1936, during the Spanish Civil War, it was demolished together with other religious buildings in the city.

↓ Area at the end of Piques street around 1920 (Jaume Pons' personal Archive)



Les Piques gateway or De la Tria gateway

to the Plaça d'en Creus. This gateway was the city's south gate and provided an exit point to the River Cardener.

> On the map, point **15**

The Portal de les Piques on the circuit of the fourteenth-century walls was built on a site close to the other between 1370 and 1380, at the end of the Les Piques, toward the Plaça de la Reforma. The difference between the other gateways is that les Piques gateway hadn't got any tower to protect it, because the slope was too pronounced. Another name by which the gateway was known was the Portal de la Tria.

There has been information since 1030 about an old road which ran down from the Puig Mercadal to the river and passed in front of the Sant Miquel church and gateway. At the time, the site was surrounded by kitchen gardens and vineyards. The road was called De les Piques street and afterwards the whole area would be called this.

The circuit of twelfth-century walls contained a gateway to the De les Piques street, close



→ Aerial photograph of the part of the wall founded during the excavations in la Reforma in 2009. (Ajuntament de Manresa)

↑ The end of Sant Miquel street at the start of the twentieth century (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages)



On certain occasions, Carrer or Camí de les Piques is referred to as Camí de la Torre in reference to the Vescomtal tower situated on the western side of the Puig Cardener, which must have been visible from this road.

← The church of Sant Miquel at the beginning of the twentieth century (Margot Vila's archive, La Restauració, I)



The expansion of the mediaeval city. Fourteenth century

The prosperity enjoyed throughout the Principality in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries made the growth of cities unstoppable, and Manresa was no exception. By the end of the thirteenth century, the city was spreading out on all sides in the form of isolated groups of houses and new outlying areas springing up outside its walls. In the case of Manresa, urban growth was aimed largely towards the west, making full use of the plain lying between the church of Sant Miquel and the Els Predicadors stream. The outlying areas of the Vila nova and Urgell continued to grow along the Lleida and Urgell roads which began at the Portal de Sant Miquel with this soon becoming one of the most populated areas of the city. In about 1360, there were as many people living inside the walls as there were outside.

It was during this time of prosperity, in 1362, that a new danger began to threaten Manresa and its inhabitants. It was at this time that the City Council warned that a dangerous band of mercenaries known as “Companys Blanques” were passing through Catalonia. The fact that they would be passing along roads close to Manresa threatened a possible attack on the city. The Councillors

realised the bad conditions that the city’s defences were in and that a large part of the population was living outside the enclosed area. Given this situation, the decision was taken to strengthen the old walls and to build a circuit of new walls. Part of the old walls was used in the areas of Puig Cardener, the Sant Ignasi stream and the Carme district. The new sections were built around the convent de Sant Domènec, the Predicadors stream and the cliff above the River Cardener. The section of old walls that ran down from Puig Mercadal, past Pedregar to Sant Miquel and Piques were demolished and today no trace remains.

This new and final circuit of walls, erected between 1362

and 1380, was the third to be built by the city. The new protected space included the district that had grown up beyond the church of Sant Miquel and was precisely the area of city expansion that occurred in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. This area was where new streets, such as Talamanca street, Arbonès, Òdena, Vilanova, Urgell, Nou de Sant Miquel and many more originated. In all, it is also true to say that the houses coexisted alongside undeveloped spaces with very few inhabitants, such as Camp d’Urgell or the Els Predicadors kitchen garden areas. The new stretch of walls would also include kitchen gardens and fields in the hope that they would be developed in the future.



↑ *Part of the wall in the western area of the city. (David Grau)*



The prosperity that the city of Manresa enjoyed throughout the fourteenth century explains the huge constructions of the time. One most worthy of note was the construction of a Gothic basilica, La Seu, which began in 1322 on the site occupied by the ancient Romanesque church. To free up the land on Puig Cardener, the houses of the inhabitants living there had to be demolished, as did other religious and military buildings on the site. Construction began with the apse and did not reach the façade until 1486. A part of the old Romanesque church was used and became the north wall of the Gothic basilica.



Recommended
visit
La Seu Basilica

↑ *Basilica de la Seu (Ajuntament de Manresa)*

* Places of interest

Sobrerroca tower

> On the map, point 2

The Sobrerroca tower, together with another twin tower situated on the other side of the street, formed part of the gateway that closed the Camí de Vic. It got its name, as did the street, from its position on a rock or natural rock. The gateway was part of the circuit of twelfth-century walls and was rebuilt in around 1370, together with the rest of the old walls. The towers on this gateway were quadrangular and were joined by an arcade on the second floor. The land in front of the gateway and its surroundings were paved

in 1384. Remember that the moat in this part of the city was the watercourse that ran down from Puig Mercadal to the Sant Ignasi stream along the present Joc de la Pilota street. In 1464, a drawbridge was built to allow passage over the moat.

During the Middle Ages and Modern era, it was customary to rent out the towers in the gateway as private homes. The tenants were obliged to take care when opening and closing the doors, as well as to build the top floor and the roof and leave the tower open in the event of danger. The first known tenant was Jaume Solerferran, who in 1380 was called befo-

re the City Council for refusing to finish the roof of the tower. In 1382, the Council terminated its association with Solerferran and gave both towers in the gateway to Jaume Puig, who would be responsible for opening and closing the gate.



↑ *Sobrerroca tower (David Grau)*

Some of the towers were known by the names of their tenants. In the fifteenth century, the Portal de Sobrerroca was known as the Portal de Na Seniosa and much later as the portal Na Camps.

In 1383, the City Council ordered that a trough be built up against the Portal de Sobrerroca. Archaeological excavations have revealed the remains on the outside of the present

tower. This trough had to be filled with water from the irrigation channel and emptied directly into the watercourse. Troughs were very important features that were controlled directly by the City Council to ensure water quality and to control epidemics.

→ *Find of the Sobrerroca tower, 1966 (Jaume Pons' personal archive).*



In 1339, the City Council decided to build an irrigation channel to take water from the River Llobregat and direct it to the city of Manresa. The aim was to get rid of the problems of supplying the city with water and also to irri-

gate the surrounding plains that were used for farming. Water did not reach the city until about 1380. A system of aqueducts and bridges helped save the important unevenness of the terrain, with water entering through what is now the Plaça Infants, which was

one of the highest points in the city. From here, it was distributed throughout the town by means of channels and troughs.

Recommended
VISIT
**Parc de la
Sèquia
Festes de
la Llum**

DI Carme gateway

> *On the map, point 3*

Mediaeval documents tell how the twelfth-century wall enclosed the Puig Mercadal hill. Although no traces of the old walls remain, we should remember that they crossed the top part of the mountain and adapted to the terrain. After 1374, the new walls began at this spot and continued as far as the Convent de Sant Domènec. The mediaeval wall began here, at the end of Del Carme street, with a gateway known as the Portal del Carme, or the Portal d'en Planeta and the trail that wound its way to Cardona also started here. Unlike the other ga-

teways, it did not consist of two quadrangle towers, but a single semicircular tower and houses flanking it.

Sant Domènec gateway

> *On the map, point 4*

In 1318, the City Council gave some land on the outskirts of the city to the Dominican Order so they could settle in Manresa. A few years later, the Dominican friars or Predicadors as they were known at the time, built a convent and church. The site chosen was fields next to the new Vilanova and Urgell districts, where the Plaça Sant Domènec stands today.

In around 1367, during the

construction of the third circuit of walls, the City Councillors felt that the convent and its kitchen gardens should be included inside the city. To do this, a long new stretch of wall was marked out between the Convent del Carme and the Convent de Sant Domènec. Since it backed on to the convent, a new gateway was constructed, which would be known as the Portal dels Predicadors. During construction, only one of the towers needed building, as the bell tower of the church of Sant Domènec was used as the other. The apse of the church also became part of the wall.



During the modern era, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the mediaeval tower was demolished and the gateway underwent major reform, with a larger one being built.

Demolition of the church and part of the convent during the Spanish Civil War created the present Plaça de Sant Domènec.



↑ The church of Sant Domènec and Cardona street at the start of the twentieth century (Jaume Pons' personal archive)



Construction of the modern Vic and Cardona roads at the end of the nineteenth century brought huge changes to the landscape of the area. Both roads became the main focus of urban growth in the outskirts of a walled and tightly-packed city. Channelling the Predicadors stream transformed the Passeig into the residential area for Manresa's bourgeoisie, who built their luxurious houses on this site.



↑ The Passeig Pere III, 1922 (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages)

Urgell gateway or Valldaura gateway

> On the map, point 5

This gateway was the opening in the circuit of fourteenth-century walls for the Urgell road, the site of the present Plaça Valldaura. The Predicadors stream flowed in front of the gateway and could be crossed by a small bridge. The gateway consisted of two quadrangular towers that projected out over the wall. In the seventeenth century, the gateway underwent renovation with a quadrangular structure added to the outside. It was

still in use in 1853 and the City Council ordered that it be rebuilt covering the openings of the houses that gave on to the wall.

The gateway was also known as the Portal de Valldaura or the Portal de les Monges, due to its proximity to the convent of the monks of Valldaura, just outside the walls on the other side of the stream. In 1465, during the Catalan Civil War, the Military Governor of Manresa

ordered that the convent be demolished given the possibility that the enemy might use the monastery as a stronghold and attack the city.

→ *Archaeological remains of Valldaura gateway. (Arqueociència Serveis Culturals)*





← *Close-up of the western area of the city which shows the course of the walls and towers in Rovira i Trias Manresa's map, 1847 (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages)*



The early nineteenth century saw the construction of the tiny chapel of La Mare de Déu de Valldaura, right up against the inside of wall, but in 1877 it lay in ruins and was demolished. The image of La Mare de Déu was transferred temporarily to the church of Sant Pere Màrtir, at the Convent dels Predicadors. The new church of Nostra Senyora de Valldaura on Bruc street was built in this same year, right next to the convent of the Dominican brothers.

Les Barreres

> *On the map, point 6*

The stretch of wall between the Urgell and Lleida gateways was built between 1375 and 1380. This stretch of wall closed off one of the city's most densely-populated areas, known as les barreres. Given that it was such a heavily-populated district, the wall contained a small door at the end of the present Barreres street. This door would have provided the inhabitants with an exit point so they did not need to use the main gateways.

On longer stretches of the wall, between gateways, it was normal to find quadrangular towers and semicircular half-towers inserted. This was a defensive resource, the aim of which was to break the line of the wall, making it stronger and easier to defend in the event of an attack. Some of these towers were also rented out as homes.



← *Archaeological remains of the tower in Barreres area (Ajuntament de Manresa)*

→ *Elevation draw of the remains of Sant Francesc gateway tower. (Arqueociència, Serveis Culturals)*



Sant Francesc wall

> *On the map, point 7*

At the end of the section of wall was the new Portal de Lleida, from where the road to Lleida began. The latest archaeological excavations have revealed part of this road, which was paved and led down to the River Cardener, which was crossed with a plank of wood. The wall

and Portal de Sant Francesc were given their name as of the seventeenth century when the nearby church of Sant Francesc de Paula was built. In the nineteenth century, the entire wall was in a very bad condition and in 1857 the inhabitants of the district requested permission for both towers to be demolished.

L'Era d'en Codina

> On the map, point **8**

Starting from the Portal de Lleida, the fourteenth-century wall enclosed the space on the hillock, at what are the present Apotecari street and Passeig del Riu. This was a flat area most probably used for farming and popularly known as Era d'en Codi-

na. The space was gradually filled with houses and, from the seventeenth century on, by the buildings of the church and Convent de Sant Francesc de Paula, with the Ensenyança order of monks settling here in the twentieth century. The wall ran all over the hillock, just a few metres from the edge, and had a corridor or internal surrounding walkway.

↓ Part of the wall from Apotecari street (David Grau)



This stretch of the wall clearly shows the construction techniques used on the fourteenth-century wall. It consisted of ornamental medium-size, rectangular stone blocks, almost all of which had been squared off, creating very straight rows. No wedging can be seen between the blocks and they were joined together with lime mortar. This mixture was used to join the freestones and provide solidity.

Arbonès wall and the new courthouse

> On the map, point **9**

This stretch of the wall was built in around 1380 to protect the houses on the street known as D'en Narbonès street. From the twelfth century on, houses had been built on the hill top which formed a street that ran parallel to the edge. Many of the houses had kitchen gardens and courtyards to the rear. Part of the courtyards was expropriated to build the wall.

The wall corridor ran between the houses and the wall and became the internal surrounding walkway. A stretch of this corridor may have survived to the present-day under the name of Dels Llops street.

In the fifteenth century, a large part of the street was

↓ Dels Llops street in the early twentieth century. (Jaume Pons' personal archive)



abandoned due to the crisis and death rate. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when the street was inhabited once again, the houses that were built used the city wall as part of their structure, with windows opening from the wall.

The construction of the new courthouse has meant that a stretch of the wall has been preserved, restored and musemised by its incorporation into the new building.

↓ Archaeological remains from the medieval district in Arbonès street (Arqueociència, Serveis Culturals)



↓ Arbonès street wall in the interior of the new courthouse (David Grau)



Repairs and conflicts. Sixteen to nineteenth centuries

↑ *Houses built on the old wall of Carre Arbonès about the middle of the twentieth century (Jaume Pons' personal archive)*

With the end of the disturbances and wars of the fifteenth century, the walls began to lose their importance. Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, some of the walls were used as part of the wall structure inside the houses that were being built against the city wall. Doors and windows were installed and gradually the original appearance began to change.

Certain stretches, such as those on Apotecari street and Passeig del Riu, were rebuilt and used as earth retaining walls. The Portal de Sant Domènec and the Portal de Valldaura also underwent important changes in the seventeenth century. Other

stretches, such as those on Del Carme street and Del Puig Cardener street, have been completely rebuilt.

With the arrival of the nineteenth century, the city was affected by a number of wars and conflicts. The popular uprising of 1808, with the burning of the French warrant, sparked the war by Napoleon against Catalonia. As a reprisal, the city was set alight by General Macdonald in 1811, causing untold destruction. New conflicts were to come over the following decades. In 1822, Manresa was occupied by constitutional troops of Brigadier Rotten, who established a fort on top of the Puigterrà hill and rebuilt the walls in the

Puig Mercadal area, adding a triangular buttress.

The walls were last used during the final episodes of the Carlist wars. In 1853, some of the inhabitants had to fill in doors and windows to strengthen them and make them more resistant in the event of an attack. Given all this, warlike tactics would also change towards the end of the nineteenth century. The introduction of new, more modern and destructive weapons, as well as the modernisation of transport, made the idea of a war of faster and more effective army manoeuvres important, and the old defensive system based on city walls totally unworkable.

* Places of interest



↑ *El mur d'en Valls (David Grau)*

Valls' wall

> *On the map, point 13*

The stretch of wall situated between the Portal de Galceran Andreu and the Portal de la Cuireteria was known as the mur d'en Valls, probably referring to an inhabitant of the area whose house was on this site. Although it was part of the circuit of twelfth-century walls, it was rebuilt around 1370 when the City Council ordered a review of the old walls.

This wall was built directly on the natural cliff of the Sant Ignasi stream. Possibly, on this stretch there was no internal corridor, as there is evidence that the houses used the city wall as their rear wall. Neither did it have an excavated moat, as the cliff and the stream provided adequate protection for the wall.

In fact, the first six metres underwent repairs in the nineteenth century.

Del Carme and Puigmercadal wall

> *On the map, point 3*

The last renovation work carried out on the walls in 1822 modified this area in particular. Three new towers were built on the spur that the mountain originally had and which occupied the site of the present Plaça Europa.

In 1850 a severe landslide caused this part of the hill to fall away and in 1859 new repairs were necessary. This time, the hill was cut off at a straight angle creating the site of the present square, where the meat processors and fire station were built. The demolition of the Mandongueres meat market, which stood on the square, gave the present view we have of the walls.

The nineteenth-century wall is a very different construction to that of the twelfth to fourteenth centuries. The

stretch of the Muralla del Carme street is an adornment, consisting of very irregular, rather wide streets. On the corner of Plaça Europa there is also a plinth made of large blocks of unworked stone, small stone wedges and abutments.



↑ *Map of the wall in the Plaça Europa, after the repair in 1859 (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages)*



↑ *The wall at Plaça Europa (David Grau)*



The name *Puig Mercadal* probably comes from the proximity of the market held at the foot of the hill from the eleventh century on. Initially, it was not a particularly populated site, but a hill with crop-growing fields, vineyards and a few isolated houses. In the twelfth century, *Puig Mercadal* lay inside the circuit of walls and became the city's second stronghold, together with *Puig Cardener*. It has a large fortified stone tower, known as *l'Àliga*, which would become the other defensive side of the city, along with the *Puig Cardener's Vescomtal tower*. It must have been an important and solid construction, as it is the only tower to be built entirely of stone. In 1308, the General City Council gave the Carmelite friars some land next to the *l'Àliga* tower that would become the site of their convent and church.

The different uses to which *Puig Mercadal* has been put, religious and military, as well as the last urban occupation, have transformed the original outline of the hill considerably, particularly on its northeast side. We should remember that in 1840, the Convent del Carme was secularised due to the ecclesiastic disentailment and used as military barracks.



↑ *La muralla del Carme (David Grau)*



↑ *El Carme military barracks, 1920 (Jaume Pons' personal Archive)*

Puig Cardener wall

> *On the map, point 11a*

Beneath the *Parc de la Seu*, from the *Plaça de la Reforma*, you can see a wall which acted as protection for the cliff along the entire side with the river. This stretch of wall was built in the nineteenth century as an earth retaining wall. The wall is situated on the outside of the mediaeval wall, which stands a few metres inside the hill. The construction consists of a highly irregular

adornment which combines different size freestones. In some places, you can even see fragments of sun-dried brick, which are the result of more modern repairs. Beneath this southern slope, you will see remains of walls that run along this side of the hill. These walls are part of the trails that led to kitchen gardens and houses built on the caverns on the hill.



↑ *The wall beneath the Parc de la Seu (David Grau)*

Demolition. Nineteenth century

As the century progressed, urban development tended more towards an open city, away from the enclosed mediaeval idea, which was deemed unhealthy and the source of infections. The new urban plans at the end of the nineteenth century promoted throughout Catalonia the idea of the demolition of walls and the creation of city widening. Manresa City Council ordered the demo-

lition of the ruined remains that were still standing in 1877 and drew up plans to transform old moats into wide, tree-lined avenues.

After having lain forgotten for almost a century, the city's old fortifications are once again a topic of interest. In recent years, there has been a whole series of historical studies into their design and construction.

For its part, archaeology has also provided new and interesting information. It is, therefore, a question of recovering an old, forgotten element, which played such an important role in the survival of the city and its urban layout.



↑ *Planned walk in the Carme wall according to Rovira i Trias, 1847 (Arxiu Comarcal del Bages)*

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