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
Tel. 973 230 653
Temporary exhibition:
Capta Ilerda 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
• Cathedral of the Seu Vella
• Gardeny castle

University of Cervera
Plaça Universitat
Cervera, Segarra
Tel. 973 533 617
Guidebook Cervera, ciutat històrica.
Partially adapted building.

Other places of interest
• Historic centre of Cervera
• Cervera district museum
• Sanctuary of La Mare de Déu del Portal

Manresana tower
Ex-Pedral de la Anya
Ex-1011 towards Igualada/Barcelona, 1 km from the village.
Unrestricted admission.

Other places of interest
• Sanctuary and Baroque retable of Sant Andreu de la Manresana (1715)
• Joan Carles I’s Bath
• Sanctuary of La Mare de Déu del Pollar
As part of the events being organised to mark the 100th 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 War of the Spanish Succession in Catalonia

Charles III, the last of the Austrian Habsburg dynasty to rule in Spain, died childless in 1700. His son, Philip V, was already King of Sicily and of Naples, which he had inherited from his mother, Maria Joséphine de Savoie, sister of Louis XIV. The succession to the Spanish crown passed to Philip V, whose claim was supported by the French crown, which desired to extend its influence in Spain.

The War of the Spanish Succession, between 1702 and 1714, was a long civil war at the heart of the Spanish Crown. In 1707 Catalan supporters of the House of Austria joined with French troops to attack the Bourbon forces. On 7 November the Austrian generals forbade the inhabitants of Almenar de la Conca to support the Bourbon forces. On 8 November the last indecisive battle of the conflict, the battle of Almenar, which was decisive to the advantage of the allies in this sector of the war.

The University of Cervera

The proposal made by the comunes of Catalonia to found an university in Cervera was accepted by the town, and the town soon opened its first academic year 1740-1741, with a representation of Wisdom as well as two bell towers adorned by eagles.

Cardona castle

Cardona is the oldest of the five historic sites, all part of Catalonia’s heritage, where you can take part in the events in the War of the Spanish Succession. The castle was used by the Austrian forces for the siege of Barcelona in 1711.

Manresàs tower

The high, circular Manresàs tower, the only surviving element of the former medieval castle, was the setting for an important battle during the War of the Spanish Succession.

The Seu Vella in Lleida

The Seu Vella in Lleida was occupied during early December with the full support of the Franco-Spanish army. The church of Sant Pere and Portal Nou was burned.

Rafael Casanova’s house in Moià

The old family house in Moià was the birthplace, in about 1660, of Rafael Casanova, whose career would be one of the most important in the history of the War of the Spanish Succession and his role in the town of Moià in the modern period; the opportunity to learn about many major events in the War of the Spanish Succession.

The War of the Spanish Succession

The War of the Spanish Succession is one of the most important conflicts in the history of the Spanish Crown. The success of this war was decisive for the acquisition of the Spanish Crown by Philip V, who accepted the offer of the Austrian Empire, declared war on France and Spain. The allies supported the claim of Philip of Anjou.

The University of Cervera

The University of Cervera was occupied by the Bourbon army to prevent the French from gaining control of the city, which was signed in 1713.

The last episode in the conflict was the siege of the city of Lleida. The siege lasted for fourteen months during which time the Franco-Spanish army numbered almost 50,000 men to oppose the 1,500 regular troops and 4,000 Catalan civilians who were defending the city. The Franco-Spanish army stood in front of the city from June 1711 to September 1712.

Cardona castle

Cardona’s role in the War of the Spanish Succession was assigned the most important to be played by any Catalan town. The strategic and military importance of its position on the ancient frontier castle of Els Prats de Rei, was of great importance for three centuries. However, the siege of 1711 was a great disappointment for the Franco-Spanish forces.

The War of the Spanish Succession

The War of the Spanish Succession having been concluded, Philip V accepted the proposal made by the comunes of Catalonia to found an university in Cervera. The university opened its first academic year 1740-1741. The university’s greatest splendour was the impressive building erected as a representation of Wisdom as well as two bell towers adorned by eagles.