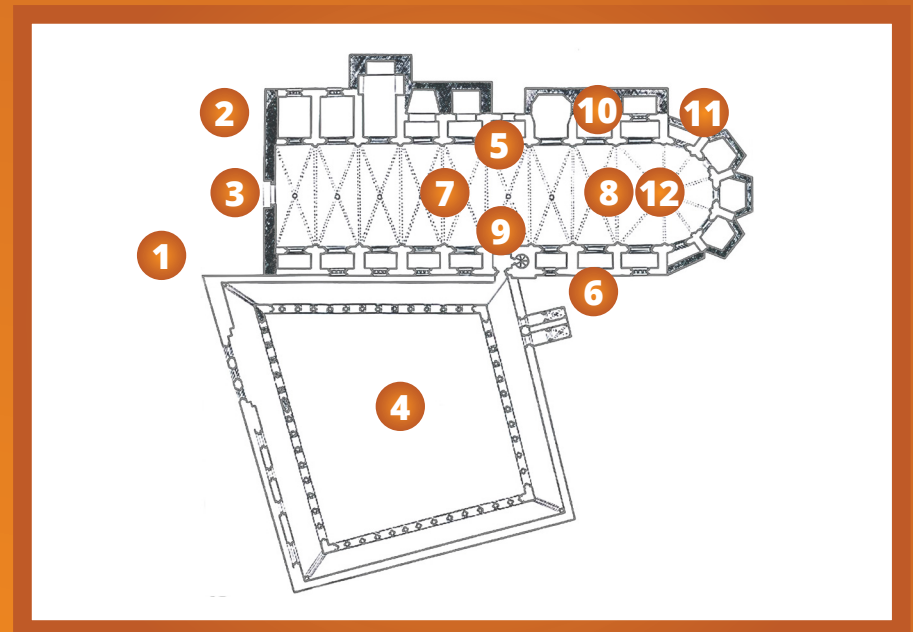


## THE ROYAL MONASTERY OF **SANT FRANCESC**

The Royal Monastery of Sant Francesc is one of the most historic monasteries in Palma. Its great value can only be compared to that of the Cathedral of Majorca. It was declared a National Monument in 1881. Its basilica houses the remains of the Majorcan great wise man Ramon Llull.



### MONASTERY OF SANT FRANCESC

1

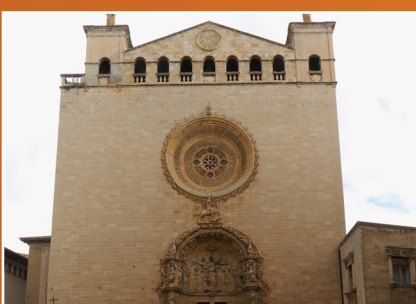
The Franciscan friars decided to build this monastery in 1286 with the support of James III, King of Majorca. After almost five centuries living there, they were expelled from there in 1835. The building later served as school, accommodation, barracks, prison and court house. The Third Order Regular Franciscans (TOR) finally settled there in 1906 and restored worship. They also built a school that opened in 1952.



### MAIN PORTAL

3

The current facade of the Basilica of Sant Francesc was erected between 1621 and 1700 according to plans drawn by architect Francisco de Herrera. The new facade replaced the old Gothic-style one, which was destroyed by a thunder in 1580. The construction of the main portal marked the culmination of the Baroque period in Majorca. It is dominated by the Immaculate and crowned by a statue of Saint George and the dragon. On the left-hand side is a statue of Ramon Llull (upper part) and Saint Dominic (bottom), while on the right-hand side is a statue of the Blessed Duns Scotus (upper part) and Saint Francis of Assisi (bottom).



### SAINT JUNÍPERO SERRA

2

In front of the Basilica of Sant Francesc is a colossal bronze statue of Saint Junípero Serra (1713-1784) with a Native American child. It was created by Horacio de Eguía and erected in 1965. Junípero Serra, who was born in Petra (Majorca), was ordained a priest at the Monastery of Sant Francesc, where he spent 18 years before leaving for America. He was the great evangelist of the Alta California mission and is considered to be one of the founders of the United States of America, reason why there is a statue of him in the National Statuary Hall in Washington's Capitol. He was canonised by Pope Francis in that city in 2015.



### CLOISTER

4

A cloister is the main area in a monastery, around which monastic life revolves. It is the best place for meditation and reading; however, in the past it was also

used as a cemetery and to grow fruits and vegetables. The cloister of Sant Francesc is one of Palma's most representative cloisters. Its Gothic-style arches on the ground floor date from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and are held by thin, elegant columns. The upper gallery dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Along the covered walks are tombs of noble families from Palma. The centre of the cloister features a garden and a well. The fine bell tower built in 1734 rounds off this harmonious ensemble, which invites to silence and prayer.





## ORGAN

5

This spectacular organ was manufactured in 1771 by the Majorcan organist Jordi Bosch, who back then was considered to be one of the best pipe organ builders in the world. He was also the creator of the organs of the Cathedral of Seville and the Royal Palace of Madrid. All that remains of the original baroque organ, which also has some Gothic-style influences, is the magnificent case, which was fully modernised and enlarged in 1956 thanks to the donations made by the March family.



## BASILICA

7

This Gothic-style convent church is the second largest one in Palma after the Cathedral. James II, King of Majorca, laid the first stone on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January of 1281. Pope Pius XII granted it the title of Minor Basilica in 1944. There are only two more basilicas in Majorca: the Cathedral and Lluç. The Basilica of Sant Francesc features one single nave, eight chapels on both sides and elegant ribbed vaults. The polygonal apse has seven adjoining chapels and one ambulatory.



## PULPIT

9

In 1749, the great preacher Saint Junípero Serra, who was also a Doctor of Theology, preached a powerful sermon in honour of the Blessed Ramon Llull from the pulpit. It was built only two years before the famous sermon.

## RAMON LLULL'S SEPULCHRE

11



The first chapel to the left of the ambulatory houses Ramon Llull's tomb (1232-1315). Llull was a great mystic and wise man linked with the Franciscan Order. His sepulchre is made of alabaster and features a statue of the Blessed in repose. It was sculpted by Francesc Sagrera in 1487.

The bottom part includes seven empty niches intended to house allegorical figures of the seven liberal arts – astronomy, geometry, music, arithmetic, grammar, logic and rhetoric –, the purpose of which was to highlight Llull's wisdom.

Ramon Llull, who is considered to be the most universal Majorcan figure of all times, travelled through the entire Mediterranean and met kings and popes with the aim of promoting the conversion of "infidels" through logical reasoning. He wrote 265 books and is regarded as the creator of the Catalan literary language.

## SACRISTY

6

The sacristy is where priests prepare for a service. It is a room for keeping vestments and articles of worship such as chalices, books, chasubles, statues and paintings. At the back of the sacristy we find a Gothic-style altarpiece from the 15<sup>th</sup> century dedicated to the Virgin. However, the most valuable element in the room is an ensemble of four small scenes of the life of Saint Ursula from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century that can be found on the bottom right and left hand side of the altarpiece.



## MAIN ALTARPIECE

8

The splendid baroque altarpiece behind the high altar was blessed in 1739. The middle part features a large tabernacle with rotating doors flanked by a statue of Ramon Llull (right) and Saint Dominic (left). The upper part of the altarpiece depicts a statue of Saint Jorge and a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi (in the middle) by Jaume Blanquer, Majorca's most renowned baroque sculptor.

Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) was the founder of the Franciscan Order. He was son to a rich Italian cloth merchant. However, he decided to live a simple life based on austerity, prayer and devotion to others. He had many followers and was canonised two years after his death.



## CHAPEL OF THE BLESSED RAMON LLULL

10

This chapel, located on the left-hand side of the high altar, was built in 1611. Its construction was promoted by Bartomeu Llull, a Lullist and founder of the Col·legi de la Sapiència (the School of Wisdom). Above the statue of Ramon Llull dominating the baroque altarpiece we find the symbolic Lullian half-moon. The side walls depict two scenes of the life of the Blessed: on the right-hand side, the Council of Vienne (1311-1312) and, on the left, the stoning of the Majorcan wise man in Tunis (1315).

## THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ARAGON AND ITS CONNECTION WITH THE FRANCISCAN ORDER

12

The area behind the high altar houses large paintings that date from 1633. They depict members of the Majorcan royal family who joined the Franciscan Order. One of the most worth mentioning paintings is that of Friar James of Aragon (top right), heir apparent to the Crown of Majorca, who renounced his right to the throne and became a monk instead. The ensemble is dominated by the Immaculate. At her feet we find a wonderful panoramic view of Palma's seafront. The work depicts the walls that used to surround the city in the past, the original Gothic-style façade of the Cathedral, the old wharf, Es Jonquet mills, the Bellver Castle and the old road to Portopí, flanked by two medieval towers. The painting also features ships firing a salute in honour of Emperor Charles V, who visited Palma in 1541.