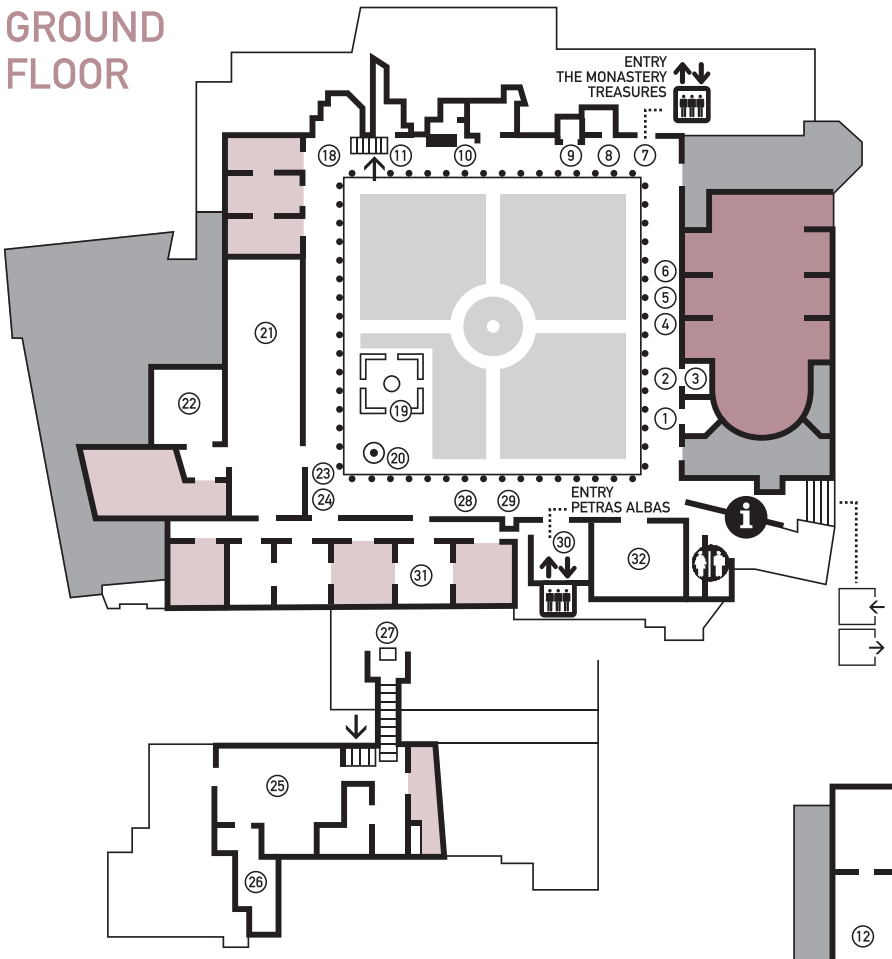
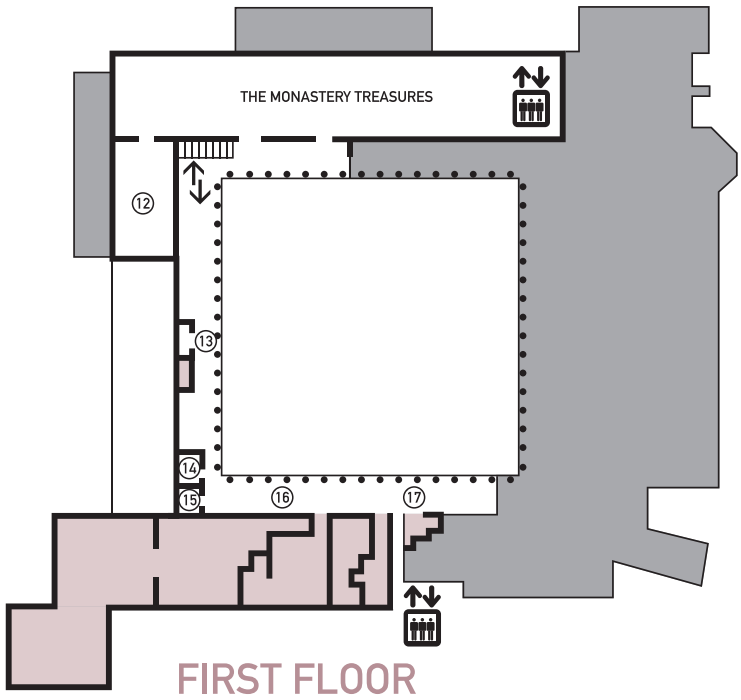
GROUND FLOOR



1 St. Michael's Chapel Paintings by Ferrer Bassa (1346)
2 Queen Elisenda's Tomb
3 Francesca ça Portella's Tomb
4 Beatriu de Fenollet's Tomb
5 Constança de Cardona's Tomb
6 Elionor de Pinós' Tomb
7 Dormitory *(Dormidor).* The Monastery Treasures
8 Medicine Chest
9 Cell of Piety
10 Saint Francis' Cell or the Foixana Cell
11 Grotto Cell
(access to the first floor)
12 *Queen's Hall*
13 The Cell of Our Lady of Montserrat
14 The Cell of Our Lady of the Snow
15 Sister Maria of Aragon's Cell or Saint Martha's Cell
16 Cell of the Holy Sepulchre
17 The Cell of Solitude
18 Saint Alexis' Cell
19 Cistern
20 Fountain of the Angel
21 "De profundis" and Refectory
22 Kitchen
23 Altar of the Crucifixion
24 Saint Joseph's Cell
(access to the first cellar)
25 Procurators' Office
26 Dioramas
27 Cistern
28 Saint Paula's Cell
29 Saint Ignatius of Antioch's Cell
30 Abbey
31 Infirmary. Petras Albas
32 Chapterhouse

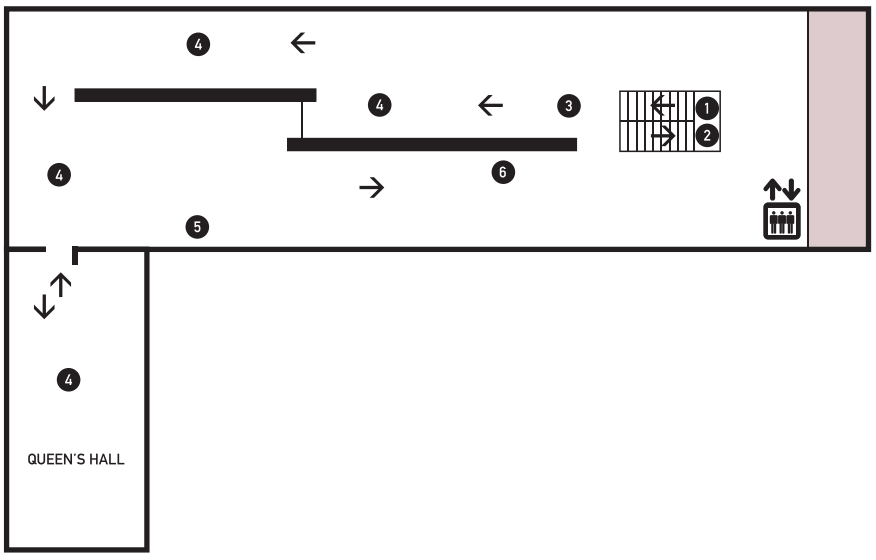
UPPER CELLAR

FIRST FLOOR



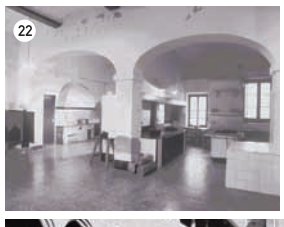
- Church
(Visits from 11am to 1pm)
- Restricted Areas
- Cloister

ENTRANCE WAY OUT TOILETS ELEVATOR



THE MONASTERY TREASURES

1 The Site: Architecture and Peace (ground floor)
2 The Collections: Art and Devotion (ground floor)
3 Times of Splendour (14th-15th centuries)
4 Times of Reforms (16th century)
5 Times of Withdrawal (17th-18th centuries)
6 Times of Renewal (19th-20th centuries)



Introduction

The Monastery of Pedralbes was founded by Queen Elisenda de Montcada in 1327 with the support of her husband, King James II, who decreed that the church should be devoted to Saint Mary. Following the spiritual currents of the day, the new monastery was occupied from the first by Poor Clare Nuns, the female branch of the Franciscan Order, who still reside here even today.

The queen herself chose the site for the new monastery in Pedralbes, whose name comes from the Latin, *Petras Albas*, white stones. The estate was located within the old township of Sarrià. The monarchs laid the first stone, in the apse, in March 1326. A year later, on 3 May 1327, work on the monastery was sufficiently advanced for the first community of nuns - who came from the Convent of Saint Anthony in Barcelona - to take up residence.

The building is one of the best examples of Catalan Gothic architecture, both for the church and for the three-storey cloister, one of the most spacious and graceful in this style to be found anywhere. Particularly interesting in the church is the tomb of Queen Elisenda. The double-sided tomb depicts the queen in two guises: as a queen in the figure that faces the church; and as a widow and a penitent in the side looking over the cloister. Other highlights include the fourteenth-century stained glass windows in the chancel, the tombs of several noble families and the three choirs: upper, lower and friars'.

Inside the monastery and all round the cloister one can see a series of day cells, which provided the nuns with their own personal retreats. Also worth seeing is Saint Michael's Chapel, which the abbess, Sister Francesca ça Portella, commissioned the painter Ferrer Bassa to decorate in 1343. Bassa's work clearly reflects the influence of such important artists as Giotto, the Lorenzetti studio and Simone Martini. The visited is completed by the abbey chapterhouse, the refectory, the kitchen, the procurators' office, the *Dormidor* and the infirmary, one of the best-preserved examples of Renaissance hospital buildings.

Apart its value as an outstanding architectural site, the Monastery of Pedralbes –which has been open to the public since 1983– also illustrates, through objects and artworks, monastic life over the centuries, helping visitors to understand the community's cloistered lifestyle. The museum contains paintings, sculpture, gold and silver work, manuscripts, and a collection of different utensils built up by the nuns over the centuries. Apart from the mural painting in *Saint Michael's Chapel*, the most outstanding elements in the site include: the murals in the abbey hall, by an unknown painter from the fourteenth century; the stained glass windows in the chapterhouse, created in 1420; the sculptures of Queen Elisenda on her tomb; and other tombs rich in heraldic decorative elements.

THE MONASTERY TREASURES

The *Dormidor* – the nuns' old sleeping quarters, which has been altered on several occasions over its history – today houses an exhibition entitled *The Monastery Treasures*. This show gives visitors their first opportunity to admire a selection of the finest artworks, furniture and religious objects that the community has accumulated over seven centuries. Moreover, we also have the chance to discover a series of artefacts, arranged chronologically, in their original site, whose value is not only artistic, but also functional, as they were also used by the Poor Clare Nuns in their everyday activities.

MONASTERY OF PEDRALBES
Monumental Ensemble
Baixada del Monestir, 9
08034 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 563 434
Fax: 932 039 408
monestirpedralbes@bcn.cat

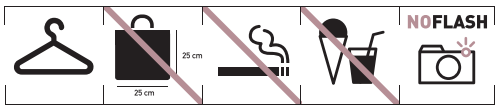
ACCESS
Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat: U6 (Reina Elisenda)
Bus: 75 (on school days only), 22, 63, 64 and 78

VISITING TIMES
October to March:
Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 2 pm
April to September:
Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 5 pm
All year:
Sundays from 10 am to 8 pm (admission free after 3 pm).
Closed Mondays.
Tickets are sold until half an hour before closing

CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS
January 1, Good Friday, May 1, June 24, December 25

INFORMATION AND BOOKING
Tel.: 932 562 122
Fax: 932 680 454
reserves-mhcb@bcn.cat
Monday to Thursday, from 10 am to 2 pm and from 4 pm to 7 pm
Friday, from 10 am to 2 pm

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VISIT



MUSEUM SERVICES
- Museum toru guides
- Activities for school groups
- Lectures and seminars
- Activities for children and families
- Publications
- Information in Catalan, Spanish and English
- Audioguide service
- Material for visits
- Cloakroom

www.museuhistoria.bcn.cat

MUHBA (MUSEU D'HISTÒRIA DE BARCELONA)

PLAÇA DEL REI
Monumental Ensemble
Pl. del Rei, s/n
08002 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 562 100

TEMPLE OF AUGUSTUS
Carrer del Paradís
C/ del Paradís, 10
08002 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 562 100

ROMAN BURIAL ROAD
Plaça de la Vila de Madrid
Pl. de la Vila de Madrid
08002 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 562 100

ROMAN DOMUS AND MEDIEVAL SILOS
Carrer de la Fruita
C/ de la Fruita, 2
08002 Barcelona
Tel: 932 562 100

EL CALL (JEWISH QUARTER)
Interpretation centre
Pcta. de Manuel Ribé, s/n
08002 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 562 100

SANTA CATERINA
Archaeological Site
Santa Caterina Market
Pl. de Joan Capri
08003 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 562 100

VIL·LA JOANA
Collserola
Ctra. de l'Església, 104. Vallvidrera
08017 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 047 805

PARK GÜELL
Porter's Lodge
C/ d'Olot, s/n
08024 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 856 899

SHELTER 307
Poble-sec
C/ Nou de la Rambla, 169
08004 Barcelona
Tel.: 932 562 100

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Ajuntament de Barcelona

BARCELONA CULTURA

Plan & Guide English

MUHBA GUIDES
MONASTERY OF PEDRALBES MONUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

MUHBA
MUSEU D'HISTÒRIA DE BARCELONA