

If a Valencian family has stood out for its international reach and for being part of humanity's cultural store, it has been the saga of the Borgia. Exceptional, mysterious and not free from controversy; the story set in Europe in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries starring this family of the minor nobility of the Kingdom of Valencia, which in just fifty years became one of the most powerful and influential lineages of its time on the continent.

Traces of their influence still remain in different municipalities of the Region of Valencia including Canals, Albaida, Llombai, València, Alfahuir, Simat de Valldigna, Castelló de Rugat, Vallés, Castellново, Xàtiva and Gandia. In all of them, they built palaces and mansions, where they were the stars of momentous historical scenes. nobles, donde protagonizaron escenas históricas memorables.

A large, historic stone building with a prominent arched entrance and multiple windows, likely a castle or fortress. The building is constructed from light-colored stone and features a series of windows with dark frames. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

A detailed view of the interior of the Basilica of Santa Maria della Salute in Venice. The image captures the vast, ornate ceiling, which is covered in intricate frescoes and stucco work. The ceiling features a series of large, circular medallions containing religious figures, surrounded by elaborate scrollwork and floral motifs. The architecture is highly decorative, with a central altar area visible in the distance, featuring a large, ornate canopy. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.



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- Churches and Cathedrals
- Museums
- Monasteries
- Palaces
- Places of interest

- Albaida A-7
- Alfahuir AP-7
- Canales A-7
- Gandia AP-7
- Llombai V-31 / CV-520
- Vallés A-7
- Xàtiva N-340



	Valencia	Albaida	Alfauir	Canals	Gandia	Llombai	Vallés	Xàtiva
Valencia	-	85,5	79,3	65	70	34,6	64,9	62,3
Albaida	85,5	-	32,7	27,5	41,8	74,1	26,8	27,1
Alfauir	79,3	32,7	-	44,5	9,5	71,4	43,8	44
Canals	65	27,5	44,5	-	52,9	52,3	49	9,6
Gandia	70	41,8	9,5	52,9	-	64,8	51,6	51,8
Llombai	34,6	74,1	71,4	52,3	64,8	-	52,4	49,9
Vallés	64,9	26,8	43,8	49	51,6	52,4	-	4,3
Xàtiva	62,3	27,1	44	9,6	51,8	49,9	4,3	-



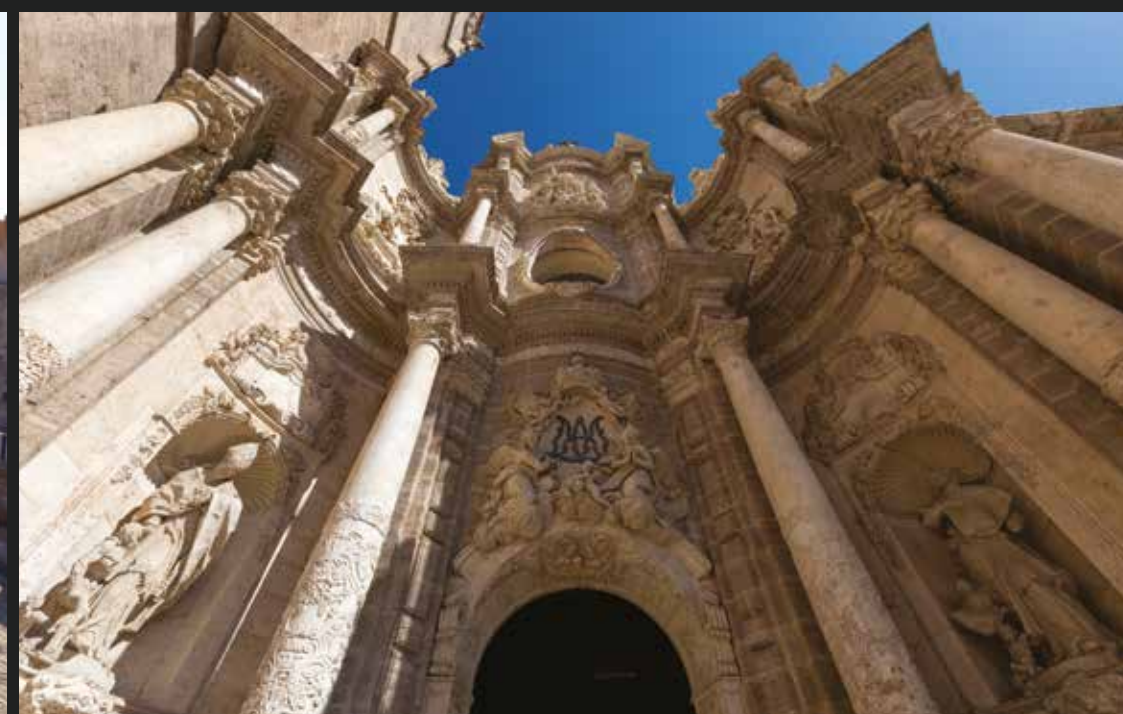
Twelve essential spots to discover the Borgia family

Palau Ducal, Gandia



Xàtiva Castle (Xàtiva)

Xàtiva Castle is one of the city's top artistic gems and a clear reflection of its importance as a strategic enclave in many conflicts. With imposing architecture, it represents a double fortress of almost 1 km located in the Sierra del Castell. It is divided into the Castell Menor and the Castell Major. The first is located in the oldest part of the building, on Iberian and Roman remains. To the right of the Plaza de Armas stands the Castell Major, which houses an exhibition on the Borgia family.



Valencia Cathedral (València)

The Cathedral of Santa María de València, popularly known as La Seu, is the seat of the Archbishopric of València, and was dedicated, at the request of James I, to the Assumption of Mary. It was built on an ancient Roman temple that was a tribute to Jupiter, which later became the old Visigothic Seo, which was later turned into the Arab mosque of Balansiya. In 2016, the Borgia Library (built between 1438 and 1442) was discovered, located on the upper level. In addition to several works of art, this library boasts a spiral column similar to those in the Silk Exchange, but older. Some of the works are by Francisco de Goya.



Torreón de los Borgia, Canals



The fortified tower of the Borgias (Canals)

In the neighbourhood of La Torreta, there is the magnificent fortified tower of the Palace of the Borgias, dating from medieval times and restored in 1995. This palace belonged to the Borgia family, holders of the Barony of La Torre. Inside, you can enjoy an interesting *Jui Final* altarpiece attributed to Mestre de Borboto, from the early 16th century and restored in 1994.



Birthplace of Alexander VI (Xàtiva)

The House of the Borgias, better known as the Birthplace of Alexander VI, is located in Xàtiva. It is an urban mansion, where Pope Alexander VI was born and lived in the Kingdom of Valencia with his family in 1378. The house was in the family for generations to come. From the original house where Pope Alexander VI was born, the façade, with a wide voussoir door, has been preserved.



Palau Ducal dels Borja (Gandia)

The Ducal Palace of Gandia is a building that dates back to the 14th century. The highest point in the city, the "tossal", was chosen, and it was Alfonso "the old", the first royal duke of Gandia, who was responsible for defining the architecture of the palace in medieval times. The building was enlarged with the arrival of the Borgia family as a result of the purchase of this dukedom by Cardinal Rodrigo de Borja. In the Baroque period, the Borgia dukes gave the building a new air with the remodelling of the Águilas hall and the construction of the Golden Gallery.



The Collegiate Church of Santa María (Gandia)

One of the most important cultural attractions in Gandia is the Collegiate Church of Santa María. This is a Gothic-Catalan-Aragonese style building built between the 14th and 16th centuries on a Muslim mosque, of which some remains can still be seen. Located in the city's historic centre, this monument is the starting point for most religious processions and other festive events. During the years of the Spanish civil war, famous artistic gems were lost and the square head was also destroyed, to be later replaced by a polygonal neo-Gothic head.



Church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Martir (València)

This is a church with a Gothic structure dating from the 15th century located in the historic centre. In 1981 it was declared a National Historic-Artistic Monument. In the midst of the Golden Age, the church was rebuilt and extended, transformed into a completely Gothic building under the direction of Alfonso de Borja, rector of this parish from 1419. This nobleman was later a bishop and a cardinal, until being named Pope Callixtus III. Its latest restoration was unveiled in 2016; since then it has been popularly known as the Valencian "Sistine Chapel".



Monastery of Sant Jeroni de Cotalba (Alfahuir)

Its highlights include the entrance patio, with a Gothic tower, an orange tree patio and the Mudejar cloister. Its construction dates back to 1388; since then it belonged to the Jerónimos. During the 16th century, the monastery was protected by the Borgias, with the Duchess of Gandia, María Enriquez de Luna, widow Juan de Borja y Cattanei and daughter-in-law of Pope Alexander VI, who carried out expansion works on both this building and the upper cloister in the late Gothic style and the medieval cistern of the orange tree patio.



Five themed routes through monasteries, palaces and places of interest

Religious route or the Monasteries Route

This is a tourist itinerary that joins five historic monasteries located in the central areas of the province of València. It can be covered in one or two days, both by car and on foot, by bicycle or on horseback, travelling through 17 municipalities in the province on marked trails (GR-236, more than 90 km). This Route includes a visit to the following buildings, in the following order:

Real Monasteri de Sant Jeroni de Cotalba (Alfahuir), Monasteri del Corpus Christi (València), Monasteri de Santa Maria de la Valldigna (Simat de la Valldigna), Real Monasteri de Santa Maria D'Aigües Vives (Carcaixent), Monasteri de La Murta (Alzira), El Pas del Pobre (Corbera).

The Monasteries Route has its own credentials for pilgrims and hikers, which are stamped in the different monasteries to accredit visits. They

can be picked up at the Gandia Tourist Office, next to the train station.



Gandia interactive route

This experience comprises 9 stops that include educational videos in which the main figures of the Borgia family explain in first person their connection with the heritage and history of Gandia. You can access the explanatory content through your mobile phone by scanning the QR codes that appear on the signage along the way.



The Palaces Route

An interesting idea to learn more about the history of the Borgias is to get to know the places that were linked to their protagonists. The living footprint of this family passes through several of them; the Palácio de les Corts Valencianes, the family residence, which has to be the first stop. As well as El Palau Ducal dels Borja de Gandia (Gandia), declared an Asset of Cultural Interest since 1964. Another unmissable stop is the Palau Marquesal del Milà i Aragó (Albaida).



Route of Rodrigo de Borja, Alexander VI (Xàtiva)

Xàtiva is par excellence the city of the second Borgia pope, Alexander VI. In the city's historic centre (declared a site of historic and artistic interest), a visit should include the collegiate church and its museum, the birthplace of Rodrigo de Borja, the church of San Pedro, San Francisco, the Palau and Xàtiva Castle.

Un viaje en busca de la huella de los Borgia

A tour of the municipalities that hide mysteries linked to the Borgia family could begin in the city of Canals and end in València, passing through historic sites and Valencian towns where this lineage left its mark.

In Canals, a town in the La Costera comarca, you can visit the Casa Natal, the birthplace of Pope Callixtus III. After this stop, you can continue to Xàtiva, where Rodrigo de Borja, who would later become Pope Alexander VI, was born. The collegiate church, the church of San Francisco, the Franciscan convent of Santa Clara, the hermitage of Santa Anna and the castle are all of special interest there. This castle is home to the prison where Count d'Urgell was held; a candidate for king of Aragón, who lost his options in the 1412 Compromise of Caspe.

A visit to Xàtiva is not complete without trying the typical sweet pastries from the Islamic era, such as the famous amardi, made from baked pumpkin with sugar, cinnamon, almonds and pine nuts, or the famous baked rice.



The next point on the map is Albaida, where the fortified palace is considered to be the city's most monumental building. Continue through what was the barony of Llombai, a place where you can immerse yourself in an environment full of history that dates back to the early days of the Modern Age, with important historical events such as the conquest of King James I in 1238, and the legacy of the Borgias during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Located in the comarca of Valle de Albaida, Castello de Rugat is the next stop. The Ducal Palace of the Borgias and the Evaristo Navarro Museum will evoke the past times of this family.



The tour continues to the city of València, where you can visit the church of San Nicolás, the chapel of San Pedro and the palace of the Borgias or Benicarló, which was this family's residence and is today the seat of the Corts Valencianes, the regional legislature. Directly from the capital, go on to Vallés in the comarca of La Costera, where Los Sanz Palace is considered one of the jewels of Valencian Gothic secular architecture. The next stop is Gandia, considered together with Xàtiva to be the origin of the Borgia family, where you can visit the Ducal Palace, as well as many other iconic buildings, such as the convent of Santa Clara.

The trip continues through Alfahuir, a municipality located in the comarca of La Safor. A visit here should include a stop at the Royal Monastery of San Jerónimo de Cotalba, one of the most notable and best preserved monastic buildings in the Region of Valencia. You can finish the tour in Simat de Valldigna, making sure not to miss the monastery founded by James II of Aragón.



Find out about the app



LAND OF THE BORGIAS

The official Borgia Territory app takes visitors back to a time, more than 500 years ago, when a family, from the Region of Valencia, gave birth to two popes, and shows how they left their mark on the region's towns, reminding all of that golden age. Through the app, you can discover the origins of the Borgia family and their first pope, Callixtus III. It continues with Alexander VI, the second pope, and covers the continuation of this legacy with Francisco de Borja and other notable members of the family.

// Footpaths to do in one day (by location)

• Xàtiva - Albaida - Canals

16 kilometres separate Xàtiva from Albaida; you can go from one to the other by bus or train, a service with a journey time of around half an hour. Then from Albaida you can get to Canals in just 20 minutes. To do so, you can use the commuter train.

• Alfahuir- Gandia -Simat de Valldigna

It will take around 15/20 minutes to get from Alfahuir to Gandia, the Metrobus passes quite frequently. Another 20 kilometres separate Gandia from Simat de Valldigna, which can also be travelled by bus.

• Vallés - Valencia - Xàtiva

Vallés to Valencia by train or bus takes an hour or an hour and a half, respectively. The distance from the capital Valencia to Xàtiva is much shorter and the commuter train is very frequent, taking only 35 minutes.

