

## The Holy Grail

### A little history

In Christian tradition, the Holy Chalice was used by Jesus during the Last Supper, a momentous event for Christianity that occurred 2,000 years ago. Since then, it has been considered a sacred object and a revered and coveted relic.

Over the centuries, this relic has been kept safe under the protection of different groups and institutions, both in humble locations, such as caves and hermitages, and in splendid places such as monasteries and cathedrals.

This route encompasses an extraordinary, mystical and historical journey through the municipalities of the Region of Valencia that make up this pilgrimage, finishing at Valencia Cathedral, where the relic is now found.



### Timeline

33 A.D. The Last Supper

At the Last Supper, Jesus of Nazareth took the chalice and, after telling his disciples - the twelve apostles - that this is the chalice of his blood, he had them drink from it, celebrating the first Eucharist.

Year 257 Administration of the Church's treasures

Pope Sixtus II entrusts his deacon Lawrence of Rome - Saint Lawrence - who was born in Aragon, with the administration of the Church's treasures, which include the Holy Chalice.

Year 258 From Rome to Huesca

During the cruel persecution of Christians taking place in Rome, Lawrence of Rome gives several relics, among them the Holy Chalice, to a fellow Christian and countryman of his called Precilius, for him to take to his family in Huesca. This is how they were safeguarded.

Year 711 Monastery of San Pedro el Viejo in Huesca

According to tradition, the Holy Chalice was hidden under the protection of Bishop Acilio in the Monastery of San Pedro el Viejo in Huesca, one of the oldest in Spain.

Year 1071 Monastery of San Juan de la Peña in Jaca

After remaining hidden in various countless caves, churches and chapels in the Aragon region, the Holy Chalice was kept in the town of Jaca, specifically in the Monastery of San Juan de la Peña.

Year 1134 "Life of San Lorenzo" by J. A. Carreras

The canon of Zaragoza, Don Juan Agustín Carreras, affirms in his work, the "Life of Saint Lawrence" the existence of a document in the Monastery of San Juan de la Peña which mentions the existence of a chalice that Jesus Christ used to sanctify the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Late 12th Century "Percival or the Tale of the Holy Chalice"

Chrétien de Troyes was the first writer to use the term Grail in a literary work.

Year 1220 ""Parzival" by Wolfram von Eschenbach

The German knight and poet Wolfram von Eschenbach wrote "Parzival", an epic medieval poem that narrates the life of Percival, a knight of the Round Table and the Court of King Arthur, and his search for the Holy Chalice.

Year 1399 Palace of the Aljafería in Zaragoza

King Martin I, the Humane, requested that the monks of the monastery San Juan de la Peña bring him the relic of the Holy Chalice from the Last Supper.

Year 1409 Chapel of the Palacio Real in Barcelona

King Martin I of Aragon made his last will and testament before the Notary Ramón de Cornes in the Charterhouse of Vall de Crist in the village of Altura, in Castellón. He ordered that the Holy Chalice be kept in the Chapel of the Palacio Real in Barcelona.

Year 1410 Death of king Martin I of Aragon

On the death of the king Martin I of Aragon without recognised heirs, a grave conflict arose in the Crown of Aragon. Among other matters, the ownership of the Holy Chalice was disputed.

Year 1419 Queen Margarita de Prades relinquishes the Holy Chalice

King Alphonse V of Aragon, the Magnanimous, allowed queen Margarita to sell, pawn or give away the objects that, according to her, king Martin I of Aragon had left her in his will. They include the Holy Chalice.

Year 1424 Palacio del Real [Royal Palace] in Valencia

King Alphonse V of Aragon ordered that the Holy Chalice and other relics from the Chapel of the Palacio Real in Barcelona be taken to the Palacio del Real in Valencia.

Year 1437 Cathedral of Valencia

To pay for the costs of the wars in Naples and Sicily, the kings of the Crown of Aragon asked for a loan of 40,000 gold ducats from the Cathedral Chapter. The loan was granted, in return for the deposit of the Holy Chalice and other relics in the Cathedral of Valencia. The debt was never repaid. Since that time, up to the present day, the Holy Chalice has remained in the same place, except for a few specific occasions.

Year 1809 - 1813 War of Independence

The French invasion and War of Independence forced the secret removal of the Holy Chalice to Alicante - 1809 -, Ibiza - 1810 - and Mallorca - 1812 -. One year later, it returned to the Cathedral of Valencia.

Year 1916 Chapel of the Holy Chalice

The Chapter Hall of the Cathedral of Valencia was restored as the Chapel of the Holy Chalice to house the relic.

Year 1936 - 1939 Spanish Civil War

During the Civil War, the fear of possible looting meant that the Holy Chalice was hidden away in private homes in Valencia and the village of Carlet. It remained hidden there until on 30th March 1939, the Committee for the Recovery of State Art Treasures restored it once again to the Cathedral of Valencia.

## Holy Grail Route Map



## Valencia detailed map



## Stage by the city of Valencia

### From Alboraiia town to Valencia - Chapel of the Holy Chalice

Historical and Military Museum (model of the Palacio Real)

1



Viveros Garden

2

Museum of Fine Arts

3

Bridge of La Trinitat

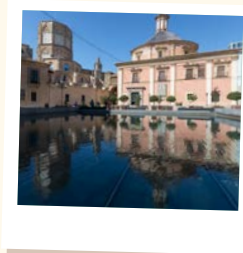
4

Church of the Temple

5

Church of Corpus Museum of the Patriarch

6



Royal Parish Church of San Martín Obispo and Antonio Abad

7

Cathedral of Valencia

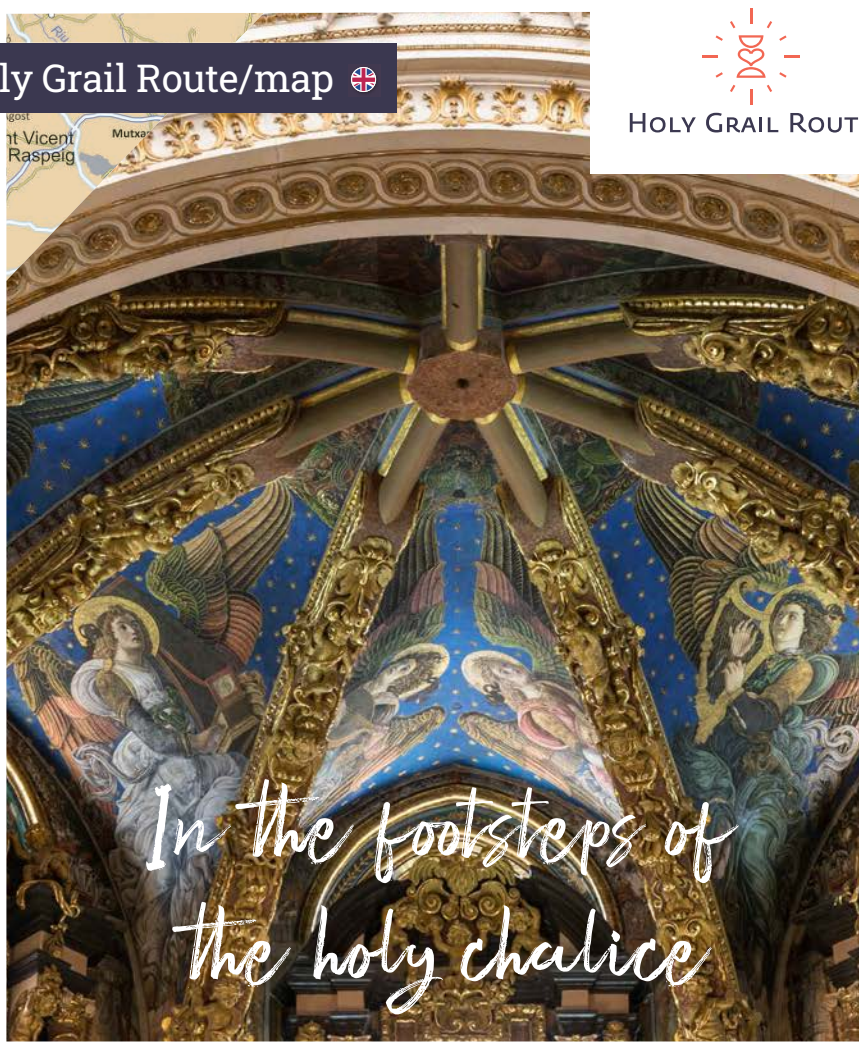
8

Chapel of the Holy Chalice

9



## Holy Grail Route/map



REGION OF VALENCIA

MEDITERRANEAN ATTITUDE

A journey through the history and places of the relic in the Region of Valencia



Make your stay in the Region of Valencia a truly special experience.

It all starts at [regionofvalencia.com](http://regionofvalencia.com)

Follow us and share!



# Itinerary

The Holy Grail Route through the Region of Valencia is proposed as a tourist and cultural trail, as well as a pilgrimage, that follows the steps of the Holy Chalice until it finally arrived at Valencia Cathedral.

Although this route can be followed in different ways, on foot, by bicycle or on horseback, for example, it makes the most sense to walk it, just as the first pilgrim travellers did.

The Holy Grail Route goes mainly along the old railway tracks that have been conditioned and converted into Vías Verdes (greenways) and nature trails. It runs parallel to, and even overlaps at various stretches, the old Camino Real.

This pathway, which is more than 120 kilometres long, divided into seven stages, advances on the Camino Real that used to connect the kingdoms of Aragon and Valencia, and currently runs along Roman roads, livestock trails, Vías Verdes... and even sections of the Camino del Cid and the Camino de San Vicente Mártir.

An unforgettable experience to enjoy with a pilgrimage mindset, or to see the history that the Holy Chalice left behind in different towns and cities. And all this while contemplating the rich cultural, artistic and natural heritage on offer.



/ BARRACAS - CAUDIEL

**Route characteristics** 25.68 km (6 hours and 25 minutes walking, 2 hours and 10 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 29 metres and a descent of 379 metres.

**Start of stage** Barracas (198 inhabitants). From the historic centre of Barracas to the old station, and from there to the Vía Verde de los Ojos Negros.

**Stop-off points** Ruins of the hermitage of Vallada, hermitage of Virgen de Gracia (views), Fuensanta viaduct.

**End of stage** Caudiel (716 inhabitants), historic centre of Caudiel and Torre de Aníbal.

**Credential stamp**

Barracas: Town Hall and Norte restaurant.  
Caudiel: Town Hall.

/ OPTIONAL ROUTE: 1ST STAGE. MONTANEJOS LOOP  
/ BARRACAS - MONTANEJOS

**Route characteristics** 32.26 km (8 hours walking, 2 hours and 40 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 266 metres and a descent of 784 metres.

**Start of stage** Barracas (198 inhabitants). From the historic centre of Barracas on C/ Fuente towards Pina del Montalgrao.

**Stop-off points** Pina del Montalgrao (119 inhabitants), Villanueva de Viver (110 inhabitants), Fuente la Reina (59 inhabitants) and Los Calpes (603 inhabitants).

**End of stage** Montanejos (564 habitantes).

**Credential stamp**

Montanejos: tourist information office and BTT centre.



/ CAUDIEL - NAVAJAS

**Route characteristics** 20.20 km (5 hours walking, 1 hour and 35 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 66 metres and a descent of 291 metres.

**Start of stage** Caudiel (716 inhabitants). From the bridge over the Juesar ravine, take the path of the Vía Verde de los Ojos Negros.

**Stop-off points** Los Novales recreational area, Jérica (1,642) and its historic centre, Regajo reservoir, hermitage of Santa Ana, Regajo viewpoint, Baño fountain.

**End of stage** Navajas (840 inhabitants) and its historic centre, Fuente del Berro.

**Credential stamp**

Jérica: Jérica Town Hall and Jérica Tourist Info  
Navajas: tourist information office, Salto de la Novia visitor centre and Altomira campsite.

/ OPTIONAL ROUTE: 2ND STAGE. MONTANEJOS LOOP  
/ MONTANEJOS - CIRAT - CAUDIEL

**Route characteristics** 33.35 km (8 hours and 15 minutes walking, 2 hours and 50 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 757 metres and a descent of 584 metres.

**Start of stage** Montanejos (603 inhabitants). From the town's historic centre towards Cirat on two possible paths: the CV-20 road (9 km) or an unpaved track from the medieval bridge of San José that passes near the ruins of Montanejos castle.

**Stop-off points** Cirat (223 inhabitants), ravines of Blanquilla, Vaquero and Villarejo, Higueras (50 inhabitants).

**End of stage** Caudiel (716 inhabitants), historic centre of Caudiel and Torre de Aníbal.

**Credential stamp**

Cirat: town hall and tourist information office.  
Caudiel: town hall.



/ NAVAJAS - ALTURA - SEGORBE

**Route characteristics** 9.9 km (2 hours and 25 minutes walking, 50 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 48 metres and a descent of 109 metres.

**Start of stage** Navajas (840 inhabitants). From the town centre towards the Vía Verde de los Ojos Negros.

**Stop-off points** Altura (3,693 inhabitants), historic centre of Altura, Cartuja de Vall de Cristo (prior appointment needed, made at the Altura tourist office), Cruz de San Juan.

**End of stage** Segorbe (9,425 inhabitants), Segorbe Cathedral.

**Credential stamp**

Altura: tourist information office and municipal campsite.  
Segorbe: tourist information office.



/ SEGORBE - TORRES TORRES

**Route characteristics** 21.5 km (5 hours and 20 minutes walking, 1 hour and 40 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 33 metres and a descent of 221 metres.

**Start of stage** Segorbe (9,425 inhabitants). Avenida Fray Luis Amigo and Avenida de la Constitución towards the Vía Verde de los Ojos Negros.

**Stop-off points** Soneja (1,508), natural viewpoint of Sot de Ferrer, Algimia de Alfara (1,119) and its historic centre.

**End of stage** Torres Torres (745 inhabitants) and its historic centre.

**Credential stamp**

Algimia de Afara: Algimia de Alfara town hall  
Soneja: Soneja town hall, Mesón bar and La Reja bar.  
Torres Torres: Torres Torres restaurant and Rincón de Pau rural home.



/ TORRES TORRES - ESTIVELLA - GILET - SAGUNTO

**Route characteristics** 22.29 km (5 hours and 30 minutes walking, 1 hour and 50 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 125 metres and a descent of 247 metres.

**Start of stage** Torres Torres (745 inhabitants). On C/ Mariano Benlliure towards the sea, on the route parallel to the Mudéjar motorway.

**Stop-off points** Estivella (1,548), hermitage of San Miquel, Gilet (3,818), Beato Nicolás Factor fountain, monastery of Sancti Spiritu, Sagunt Jewish quarter, Sagunt castle, Sagunt Roman theatre, hermitage of La Sangre in Sagunt.

**End of stage** Sagunt (70,486 inhabitants) and the city centre.

**Credential stamp**

Estivella: Estivella town hall and newsstand/tobacconist.  
Gilet: town hall and monastery of Sancti Spiritu.  
Sagunt: tourist information office and Casa Berenguer visitor centre.



/ VALENCIA

## Valencia city

Back in the Middle Ages, this city was already considered an important pilgrimage destination. Proof of this is found in the numerous hospitals where walkers received care and shelter: the Hospitaleros de San Juan de Jerusalén building, that of San Jaime, founded by the brotherhood of the Holy Apostle in the 16th century and current convent of La Puridad, and the Los Antonianos hospital, on the Roman road at the entrance to the city, which still preserves part of the building and the church. Valencia is the final destination of the Holy Grail Route through the Region of Valencia.

**1°. The first place to visit is Del Real Palace**, the first place in the city where the Holy Grail was kept, by order of King Alfonso V of Aragon, the Magnanimous. There are now only a few ruins left of the palace, but to give an idea of what it was like, the military museum displays an architectural model of it.

**2°. Next to the palace is the Museum of Fine Arts**, which includes works by Joan de Joanes, Joan Ribalta and Francisco Ribalta in which the sacred relic is depicted.

**3°. It is recommended to cross the historic Trinidad bridge**, just as the pilgrims of yesteryear did when they were preparing to enter the city's walled enclosure. Then skirt the Turia riverbed until reaching Temple church and palace. The Holy Grail passed through here on the way to Valencia Cathedral in 1437.

**4°. Continue walking through the streets of medieval Valencia**, such as, for example, C/ Salvador, C/ Avellanas and C/ Liberos in the direction of Patriarca museum and church (Plaça Colegio del Patriarca). Once there, admire the marvellous relief scenes on the church's façade dedicated to the Holy Grail. Once inside, you will appreciate the magnificent altarpiece of the main altar that is presided over by the painting of The Last Supper by Francisco Ribalta.

**5°. The next stop is the church of San Martín Obispo and San Antonio Abad on C/ San Vicente Martir**, which you will find, if you want to walk, by crossing the Puerta del Mar towards Plaza del Ayuntamiento. Built in Valencian Gothic in the 14th century, and renovated in the Baroque style centuries later, highlights include a fresco by José Vergara dedicated to The Last Supper.



**6°. Continue on your way to the cathedral**, passing by number 3 on C/ Avellanas, which was Sabina Suey's home; the place where the Holy Chalice was hidden to keep it safe during the Civil War.

## Holy Grail Chapel

Built between 1365 and 1369 in the Valencian Gothic style, the chapel, with a square floor plan, has three large windows in polychromatic stained glass. It is covered by a ribbed vault in the shape of an eight-pointed star, on which are the images of the twelve apostles and the Virgin Mary. Another highlight is the altarpiece carved in alabaster, which frames the relic.



## The Holy Chalice

This treasure is one of the most important relics in Christian tradition. It is made up of three parts: on the one hand, an agate cup 7 cm high and 9.5 cm in diameter which, according to archaeological studies carried out, would date from between 100 and 50 BCE. The foot is made of alabaster, and the handles, with precious metalwork adornment, date later, from the medieval period. It has an unusual inscription, hidden in plain sight, in Kufic Arabic script, that was initially interpreted as Lilzahira, "the shining one", and recently as Allah Isa, "Jesus is God". Inversely, written in Hebrew, Yaveh Joshua, "God the Saviour, Jesus is God", is mentioned.



/ SAGUNTO - EL PUIG DE SANTA MARÍA  
- MASSAMAGRELL - ALBORAI

**Route characteristics** 25.5 km (6 hours and 15 minutes walking, 2 hour and 15 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 14 metres and a descent of 54 metres.

**Start of stage** Sagunt (70,486 inhabitants). Follow the old Camino Real, past the old church of El Salvador, until leaving the urban area.

**Stop-off points** Lo Morrud ancient olive tree, Puçol (20,731 inhabitants) and its market, Cabecol mountain sanctuary, Puig de Santa María (8,992 inhabitants) and its monastery, Massamagrell, hermitage of Cristo de la Providencia, Alquería de l'Horta in Alborai.

**End of stage** Alborai (25,792 inhabitants).

**Credential stamp**

Massamagrell: town hall and local police station.  
El Puig: town hall, El Puig Tourist Info and local police station.  
Alborai: town hall and cultural centre.



/ ALBORAI - VALENCIA  
- CAPILLA DEL SANTO CÁLIZ

**Route characteristics** 9.35 km (2 hours and 15 minutes walking, 50 minutes cycling) with an ascent of 12 metres.

**Start of stage** Alborai (25,792 inhabitants). From Alborai centre on Avenida de l'Ortxata and C/ Dr. Vicente Zaragoza.

**Stop-off points** Viveros gardens, Museum of Fine Arts, Pont de la Trinitat, Temple church, Corpus church Patriarca museum, Royal Parish of San Martín de Obispo.

**End of stage** Valencia (830.606 inhabitants) Cathedral and Holy Grail Chapel.

**Credential stamp**

Valencia: cathedral and the tourist information offices in La Paz, the city hall, Joaquín Sorolla station and the airport.

