

## Daily life



## Exhibition: "Prayer, work and power"

The monastery houses a permanent exhibition which traces the architectural development of the religious complex as well the most important aspects of the lives of its Benedictine community.

### A Romanesque monastery

Explains the origins of the monastic architecture and the architectural and artistic changes made to Sant Cugat Monastery throughout the ages. In particular, it highlights the Romanesque cloister which dates from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. An audiovisual presentation shows the unique beauty of the monastery complex.

### Pere Ferrer, a life in the monastery

Pere Ferrer, a monk in Sant Cugat between 1174 and 1231 who wrote the Book of Customs of Sant Cugat, tells us about everyday life in the monastery at the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries, through an audiovisual presentation evoking the atmosphere of the time.

### The foundation of the monastery

The foundation of the Monastery of Sant Cugat d'Octavià took place within the framework of the expansion of Benedictine monachism in the Catalan counties from the middle of the 9th century, thanks to the impulse given by Charlemagne and Louis the Pious who selected the rule of Benedict of Nursia as a tool of reformation and unification of the Carolingian Empire.

### The territory of Octavià

In the 9th century, the present day Sant Cugat del Valles territory was occupied by a community of free men who owned the land and the means of agrarian work which was organized according to models established by custom. Additionally, the low density of population allowed the monks to build a small agrarian estate in the lands close to the monastery and the peasant communities were progressively integrated into the dominion of the monastery. The impact of such change was so profound that the present municipal area still corresponds, with tiny variations, to the jurisdiction term of the abbey in the late 11th century.

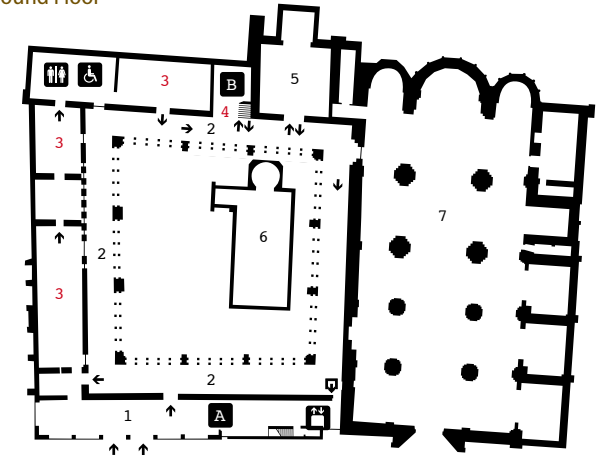
### The devotion to Cucuphas

From the beginning of the 5th century the devotion to Cucuphas was documented. According to tradition, a monk is reported to have carried the body of the martyr from the lands conquered by the Muslims to a monastery in Lièpvre, in Alsace, from where it was moved to the abbey of Saint Denis (France) circa 835 AD. In the middle of the 10th century, as the story which situated his martyrdom and burial in Octavià had already been created, the abbey of Sant Cugat became the main centre of devotion of the martyr's relics in the peninsula.

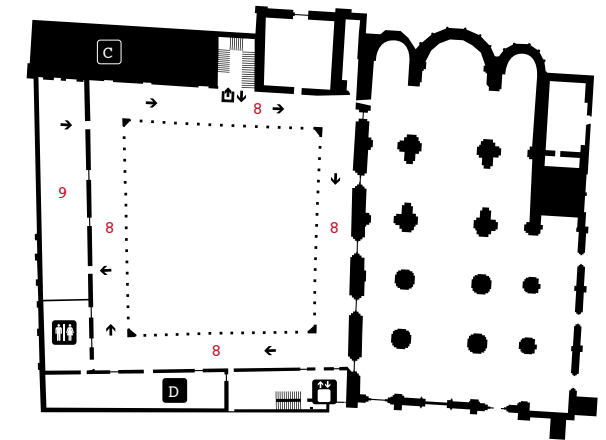
### From the abbey to the court

It shows the active role of the monks of Sant Cugat, and especially that of the abbots, in the main events of Medieval and Modern Catalonia. An audiovisual presentation rich in images traces the path of the abbey from the splendour of medieval times, when power and religion were closely linked, until the progressing lost of influence which ends with the suppression of monasteries.

Ground Floor



First Floor



- 1 Cloister hall
  - 2 Romanesque cloister
  - 3 Kitchen, refectory, infirmary
  - 4 Archaeological underground
  - 5 Chapter house
  - 6 Visigothic church
  - 7 Church
  - 8 Renaissance cloister
  - 9 Dormitory
- Section: The architecture of the monastery
- Section: The history of the monastery
- Section: Pere Ferrer, a life in the monastery

- A Information
- B Access to the first floor
- C Educational rooms
- D Offices
- Lift
- Toilets

# Sant Cugat monastery

The monastery of Sant Cugat d'Octavià was founded in the ninth century at the time of the expansion of the Benedictine monasteries throughout the counties of Catalonia, which was brought about by the Frankish monarchs. During the tenth and eleventh centuries, the religious community in Sant Cugat, which was organised according to the precepts of Saint Benedict, experienced spectacular growth in its territories around Catalonia and thus became one of the most important feudal powers in the country, with a clear political and spiritual influence within the diocese and the county of Barcelona.

The town of Sant Cugat, which was first recorded in the twelfth century, grew in the shadow of the monastery and, from the fifteenth century, embarked on a lengthy process of emancipation which culminated in 1835 with the suppression of the monastic orders. That same year, a law was passed authorising the confiscation of ecclesiastical goods, and the monks had to leave. The buildings became the property of the State and thus began a long period during which they were plundered, fell into disrepair and were used for different purposes, while occasional public-spirited attempts were made to preserve the neglected monastery complex. Over the course of the twentieth century, a number of interventions took place geared to refurbishing and restoring the complex. These have culminated with the Sant Cugat Museum.

From the time of its foundation to the present day, Sant Cugat Monastery has been subjected to successive architectural transformations, the most important of which its cloister of beautifully sculpted capitals.

## The cloister

The cloister gathers one of the most remarkable ensembles of Romanesque carving in Catalonia and elsewhere: the 144 capitals which define the outline of the yard. Works of high artistic standard and very accurate in details, they were made by master Arnau Cadell as can be read in the inscription: *Hec est Arnalli sculptoris forma Catelli qui claustrum tale construxit perpetuale* ("This is the image of Arnau Cadell, sculptor, who built this cloister for all time").

The capitals are carved with images depicting five themes: Biblical scenes (Old and New Testaments), daily life in the monastery, vegetal decoration, geometric decoration and mythical decoration.

## MUSEU DEL MONESTIR

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### Opening times

Tuesday to Saturday: 10.30am – 1.30pm and 4pm – 7pm  
(June 1st to September 30: 10.30am – 1.30pm and 5pm – 8pm):  
Sunday and public holidays: 10.30am – 14.30pm  
Closed on Mondays, 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December




### Guided tours

First Sunday of the month, 12 am  
Theatrical tour: first Saturday of the month, 12 am  
Temporary exhibitions: every Sunday when tours are available  
Private group tours. Booking: 935896366. Ask for fees.

### Family Saturdays

Second Sunday of the month, 12am

### Accessible museum

-  Visitors with mobility disabilities
-  Visitors with hearing disabilities
-  Visitors with visual disabilities



## MUSEUS DE SANT CUGAT

### Other locations

**Museu del Tapís Contemporani-Casa Aymat**  
(Museum of Contemporary Tapestry)

Contemporary textile art and the Catalan School of Tapestry

**Capella de Sant Domènec (Chapel of Saint Dominique)**

The Path of the Monks and the battle of Sant Cugat in the Peninsular War

**Celler Modernista (Modernista winery)**

The industrial production of wine, the agricultural cooperativism and Cèsar Martinell's architecture

Collaborating:



Sponsors:



# MUSEU DEL MONESTIR



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Ajuntament de SantCugat

