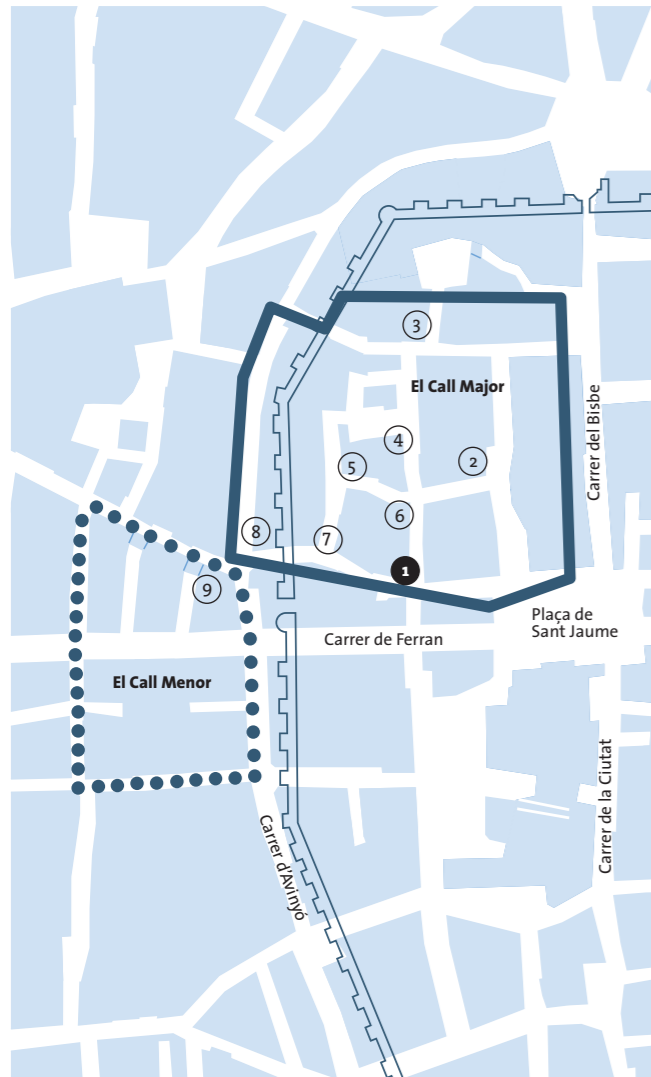


With the collaboration of:



Sponsors:



URBAN ROUTE OF THE CALL (MIEVIAL JEWISH QUARTER OF BARCELONA)

Production: **History Museum of Barcelona (MUHBA), Comissió Interdepartamental del Call**, with the collaboration of **Turisme de Barcelona**
Texts: **Victòria Mora (MUHBA)**
Translation: **Manners**
Graphic design: **PFP, disseny gràfic**
Photographs: **Espai d'imatge, Postdata, Pep Herrero**
Production of signposting elements: **Tojay**

For further information:

MUHBA EL CALL
Placeta Manuel Ribé, s/n. 08002 Barcelona

Opening hours:

From Tuesday to Friday from 10 am to 2 pm.
Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 7 pm.
Tuesday for groups by prior reservation.
Yearly closing dates: 1st January, 1st May, 24th June and 25th December.

Museum routes:

The History Museum of Barcelona (MUHBA) organises guided tours along routes through the Call of Barcelona, in Catalan for the general public (see the Museum's programme of activities) and for groups by appointment in English, French, Spanish and Catalan.

Information and booking:

Tel.: 93 256 21 22
Fax: 93 268 04 54
reservesmuhba@bcn.cat
Hours:
Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 2 pm
and from 4 pm to 7 pm.

MAJOR CALL

- 1 Carrer del Call
- 2 Carrer de Sant Honorat
- 3 Carrer de Sant Sever / Sant Domènec del Call
- 4 Placeta de Manuel Ribé
- 5 Carrer de Marlet, tombstone
- 6 Carrer de Marlet / Sant Domènec del Call
- 7 Carrer de l'Arc de Sant Ramon del Call
- 8 The four corners of the Call / Banys Nous

MINOR CALL

- 9 Volta del Remei

museuhistoria.bcn.cat
facebook.com/barcelonacultura
twitter.com/bcnultura



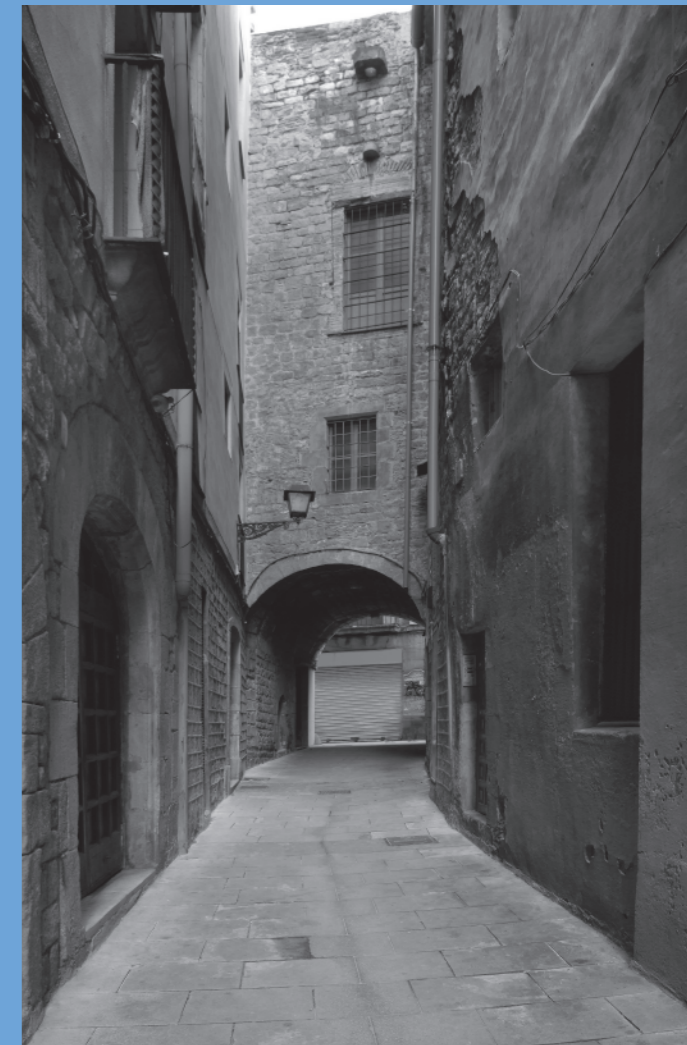
Ajuntament de Barcelona



Barcelona's Call

A route through the medieval Jewish quarter

PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST: BARCELONA'S "CALL" |C|



The tower on Volta del Remei, in the Minor Call

We may begin the route of the *Call* by pointing out that the signposting cannot refer to specific visible points since, unfortunately, very little of the original ancient Jewish quarter remains. For this reason our aim is to arouse the curiosity and imagination of the passers-by, experts and people interested in learning about the history of a Barcelona neighbourhood where the Jewish community lived between the 12th and 14th centuries. The visit may begin or end at the History Museum of Barcelona (MUHBA). Its halls devoted to medieval Barcelona can enhance one's understanding of the points to be seen, while its historical summaries and the pictures and objects on display can prepare one for an acquaintance with the Jewish community that lived in Barcelona's *Call*.

Barcelona's Call

A route through the medieval Jewish quarter

1 Carrer del Call. The Call was the quarter where the Jewish community lived in the medieval Barcelona. It was known by this name from the 12th century. The word *call* means “narrow street” or “lane” and it came to designate the whole set of streets inhabited by the Jews, that is to say, the Jewish quarter. The community of Jews was called the *aljama*. The Major Call occupied the north-west sector of the ancient Roman city. From the time of the Roman urban development there remain traces of the city wall, hidden between the houses, and the streets called Carrer de Sant Domènec, Carrer de Sant Honorat, Carrer de la Volta (now formed by Carrer de

Sant Sever and Baixada de Santa Eulàlia), and Carrer del Call, the latter extending as far as the Roman gate at first, although it was detoured later through the Roman wall, vestiges of which may still be seen at the corner of Carrer de Sant Domènec.

2 Carrer de Sant Honorat. This street marked the quarter's eastern boundary. One of the gateways to the Call stood at the end of the street and an alley once branched off it, leading to the fountain, the Minor Synagogue and other medieval structures situated beneath the Pati dels Tarongers or Courtyard of the Oranges of the Palace of the Generalitat.

3 Carrer de Sant Sever and Baixada de Santa Eulàlia. These two streets formed the Call's northern limit and were called jointly Carrer de la Volta del Call, which bounded on the episcopal dominions to the right and came to an end at the Roman wall on the left. A gate was opened in the wall here at the end of the 14th century, connecting the street to Carrer de la Palla. Silos and remains of medieval structures have been found in the building at the corner of Carrer de Sant Felip Neri.

Walking down Carrer de Sant Domènec, one comes to an open area that contrasts sharply with the narrow streets that have just been described. This is a square called:

4 Placeta de Manuel Ribé. This modern square lies in the centre of the ancient Call. The building on the corner of Carrer de l'Arc de Sant Ramon del Call, which was erected in the 16th century and shows earlier vestiges from the 13th and 14th centuries, is now the Interpretation Centre of the Call, where information is available for visitors and diverse activities are held.

Next, walking round the building, one comes to Carrer de l'Arc de Sant Ramon del Call, and then, heading down this street, on the left one comes to:

5 Carrer de Marlet, one of the best known streets of Barcelona's Call because of the stone plaque embedded in the wall of the house at number 1. It reads: “Pious Foundation by R. Samuel Ha-sardi. His light burns on forever”. This is a replica of the original plaque commemorating this Jewish institution.

Continuing towards Carrer de la Fruita, the view allows one easily to imagine what the streets of the Call were once like: small, narrow, full of bends and with houses that seem to bar the way.

6 Carrer de Sant Domènec. This is the main street of the Call. It was the site of the Great Synagogue (once situated in the interior of the block, between Carrer de Sant Domènec, Carrer de Marlet, Carrer de l'Arc de Sant Ramon del Call and today's Placeta de Manuel Ribé), and of the houses of the most prominent members of the Jewish community. At the beginning of the street, adjacent to Carrer del Call, stood the gateway to the quarter and the butcher shop.

7 Carrer de l'Arc de Sant Ramon del Call. This street follows the inner line of the Roman wall. It was not connected to Carrer del Call but an elevated bridge linked it directly to the Castell Nou or New Castle, a medieval fortress built over the Roman gate. It has a very irregular layout in the shape of a “4”. At the end of the street there was once an alley that led to Baixada de Santa Eulàlia.

8 The four corners of the Call: the crossing of Carrers de Banys Nous, Boqueria, Avinyó and Call. These four streets, situated at the foot of the New Castle on its exterior side, that is to say, outside the Roman precinct, began to be developed in the mid-13th century, when the king authorised the opening of doors and windows in the old Roman wall. Previously, however, an important structure had occupied the corner between Carrer dels Banys Nous and Carrer de la Boqueria: the Banys Nous (New Baths), the city's medieval public baths. The baths were located on the site now occupied by a building with notable Baroque sgraffito work. The Banys Nous were founded in the year 1160 by the Jew Abraham Bonastruc, who was associated with Count Ramon Berenguer, and they remained in use until the 16th century. The building was made according to the Moorish tradition of bath-houses, but with Romanesque techniques and decoration. It featured diverse halls and decoration, including a room that accommodated the mikvah. The bath-house, abandoned and filled with rubble, remained intact beneath the later building until the year 1835.

Along Carrer de la Boqueria, one comes to the ancient:

9 Minor Call. This is an urban development from the 13th century that was carefully planned and designed. It is formed by five city blocks and had a synagogue and a square in the centre. It was not connected directly to the Major Call, which has just been described. Its boundaries were Carrer de la Boqueria, Carrer de Rauric, Carrer de la Lleona and Carrer d'Avinyó. It had two gates, one at the foot of the Castell Nou and the other at Carrer de la Boqueria.

For its part, Carrer de la Boqueria later came to be occupied by *conversos* who set up business there: goldsmiths, veil weavers, tailors, shoemakers, etc. As may be seen on entering from Carrer de la Boqueria, Carrer de la Volta del Remei still has a medieval tower from the 13th century. To be seen at Carrer de l'Arc de Santa Eulàlia, likewise on entering from Carrer de la Boqueria, is a medieval tower from the mid-14th century, called the Tower of Santa Eulàlia. The synagogue was turned into the church of La Trinitat by a group of *conversos*. It was later expanded to form a convent and it is now the church of Sant Jaume.

Having finished in this way the route of the Call, one may stroll through the Gothic Quarter and see some inscriptions in Hebrew characters on the walls of diverse buildings, above all on the façades of the Palau del Lloctinent (Lieutenant's Palace), which overlook Plaça de Sant Iu and Plaça del Rei. The inscriptions are on stones that originally came from the Jewish cemetery on Montjuïc hill. After the disappearance of the Jewish community in the 14th century, the king authorised the use of the stones, with or without inscriptions, as building materials. Lastly, mention should be made of Montjuïc, “Mount Jew”, which was once the site of the Jewish cemetery and a place where Jews had land and houses. This is a spacious area with broad views of the mountains, the Mediterranean sea and the city below, where the people of the Jewish community went to spend time away from the narrow streets of the Call.



1 Carrer del Call
This street led to the Jewish quarter

2 Carrer de Sant Honorat
Towards Plaça de Sant Jaume

3a Carrer de Sant Sever
In the background, the Cathedral cloister

3b Baixada de Santa Eulàlia
Towards Carrer de la Palla

3c Carrer de Sant Felip Neri
The square, in the background, did not belong to the Jewish quarter

4 Barcelona's Jewish Quarter Information Centre
At Placeta de Manuel Ribé

5 Carrer de Marlet
In the foreground, the plaque commemorating Samuel Ha-Sardi

6 Carrer de Sant Domènec
The main street of the Call

7 Carrer de l'Arc de Sant Ramon del Call

8 Crossroads of the Call
The crossing of the streets Banys Nous, Boqueria, Avinyó and Call

9a Carrer Volta del Remei

9b Carrer de l'Arc de Santa Eulàlia