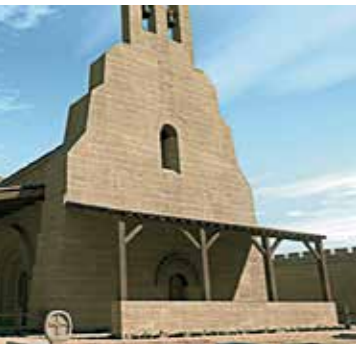




of Gardeny

One day in 1156, the brusque walls of the tower-chamber of Gardeny castle bore witness to the appointment of friar Pere de Cartellà as preceptor of the Casa de Gardeny.

The long, arduous siege against the Muslim city had already ended and it would doubtless have been etched into the memory of the austere community of the preceptory.



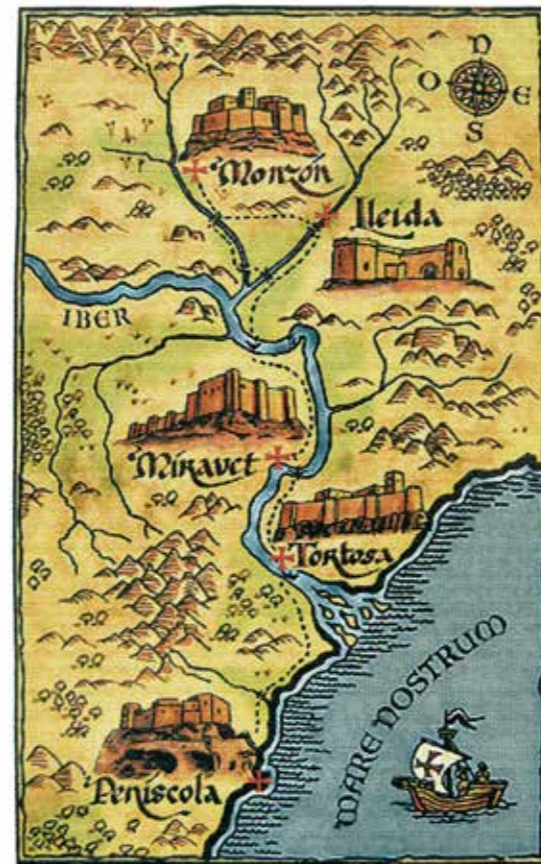
Now, over 800 years later, we can discover what the Templar House of Gardeny would have been like. We can learn about and experience the ideals of the Knights Templar and gain an understanding of the life of the monastic militia.

The Information Centre on the Knights Templar in Gardeny offers an insight into the history of that period.



Domus Templi route. Discover the ancient borders of the mediaeval realms.

The Domus Templi (Templar estate) enables visitors to gain a first-hand acquaintance of the works and history of the Temple in the Crown of Aragon. It constitutes a unique example of architectural heritage of major historical importance that hitherto had remained virtually unknown.



Lleida. Castle of the Templar Knights of Gardeny



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Lleida. Castle of the Templar Knights of Gardeny

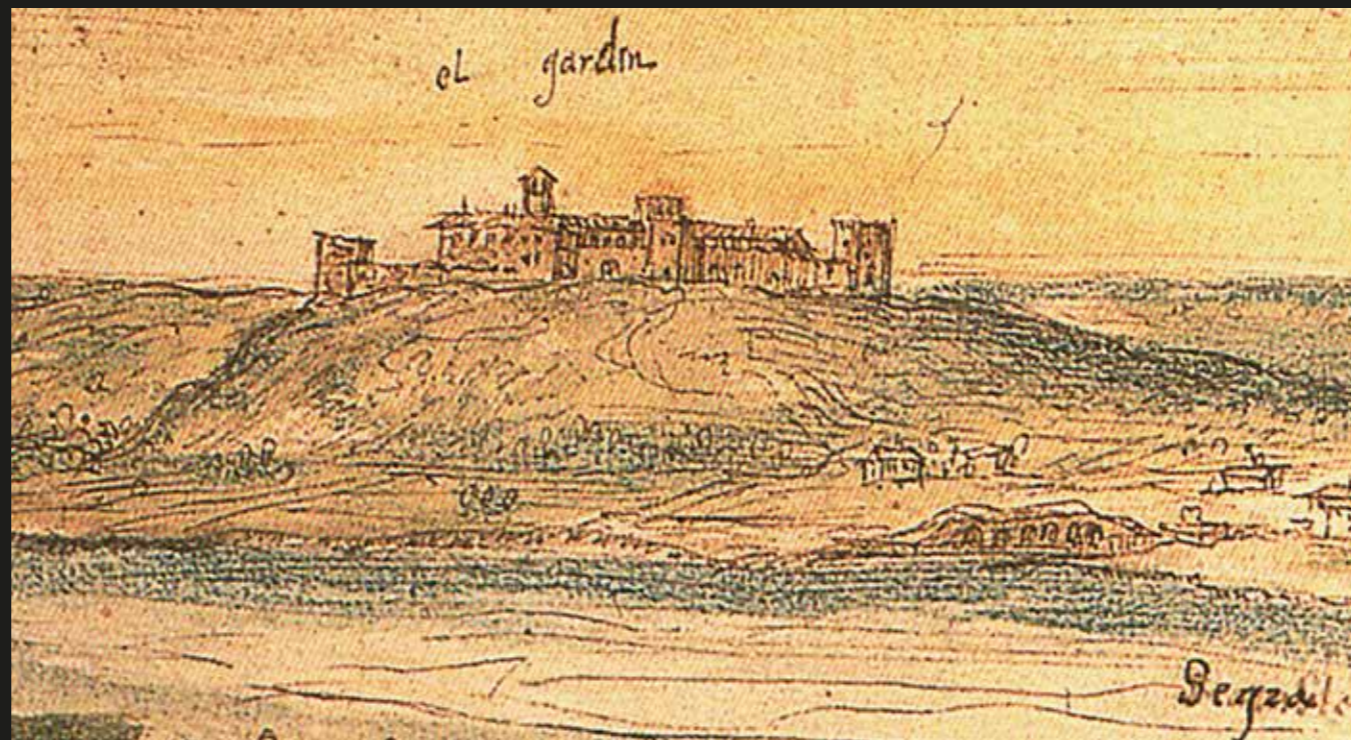


Discover the world of the Templars



#GardenyTemplarKnightsLleida

Lleida. Castle of the Templar Knights of Gardeny



Picture of Gardeny in the 16th century, according to a sketch by Anton van den Wyngaerde (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek).

Information Centre.
The re-creation
of the history of the Templar House in Gardeny.

The Templar House in Gardeny

In spring 1149, the Count of Barcelona, Ramon Berenguer IV, embarked on his siege against the Muslim city of Lleida from Gardeny hill, aided by the Templar Knights, who contributed by deploying troops. Once the city had been conquered, in acknowledgement of their efforts, the Count gave the troops various lands, including Gardeny hill itself.

The first records of the actual presence of the Templars in Gardeny date back to 1152, with the emergence of the provincial master, friar Pere de Rovira, and other Templar friars, including Pere de Cartellà, who were actively involved in the siege against the city. Pere de Cartellà became preceptor of the Casa de Gardeny in 1156.

Owing to numerous contributions, largely made by the petit bourgeoisie who were partly seduced by the ideals of the Soldier of Christ at the time, the Casa de Gardeny gradually built up a huge legacy of heritage that encompassed

extensive rural and urban estates.

On account of this huge growth, by the 13th century the Casa de Gardeny had become one of the foremost Templar sites in the Crown of Aragon. In 1294, the walls of Gardeny would receive the last master of the order, Jacques de Molay, who was burned at the stake in Paris a few years later when the Order was disbanded.

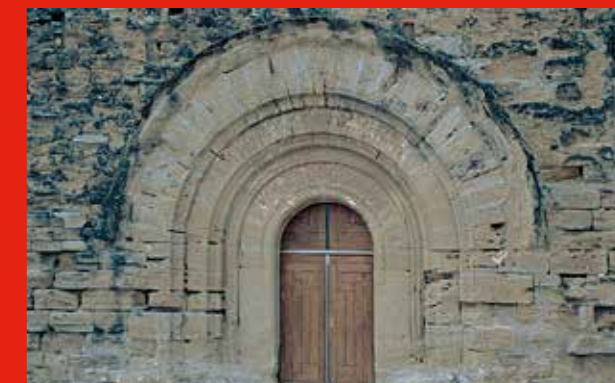
In the early 14th century, following the suppression of the Knights Templar, the Casa de Gardeny would come to form part of a new hospital priory based in Amposta.



Seal of the last preceptor of Gardeny, Arnau de Banyuls, 1307 (Crown of Aragon archive).

The Templar convent ensemble

The monumental ensemble of Gardeny still preserves testimony of one of the leading Templar preceptories in the Crown of Aragon. Its structure and layout clearly fit in with the patterns of Templar architecture that were prevalent in the 12th and 13th centuries, bearing similarities with other Templar ensembles from the Crown of Aragon and Occitania in the South of France.



The Church of Santa Maria de Gardeny

This is a unique building with a rectangular floor plan, one aisle, with a pointed barrel vault and a polygonal apse. The first records of the church date to 1156, although the building as it stands today is the result of several overhauls in the 12th and 13th centuries. By the 13th century it would become a major centre for devoutness, its cemetery included, and was in great demand as a major burial ground.



The inside of the church.



Section of a mural.

