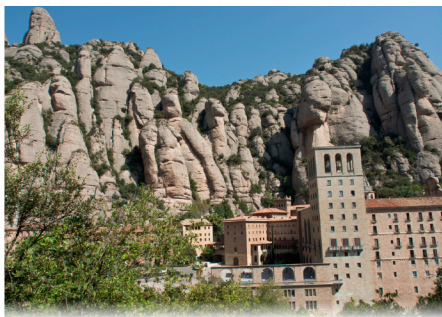


Montserrat, scene of history and legends

Legendary episodes that have made it a symbol of Catalonia



● History ● Legend

840-897 - The hermit **Joan Garí**, who was living in a cave in Montserrat, was asked to exorcise the devil from body of Riquilda, daughter of Wilfred the Hairy (840-897). Wilfred took Riquilda to Montserrat for this purpose.



1025 - The Abbot Oliba founded the monastery of Montserrat.

1345 - On 21st February, a mysterious light travelled from Montserrat to Manresa, where it entered the church of Carmen and made the bells ring.

1522 - Saint Ignatius of Loyola laid down his sword before the altar of the Virgin as he renounced his life as a knight and soldier.



1409 - The monastery became an independent abbey, leading to a new age of splendour. Montserrat became a site of pilgrimage for historic figures such as Saint Ignatius de Loyola.

1808 - Napoleonic wars and the battle of Bruc. On 6 June, the army of Napoleon was preparing to attack Bruc, close to Montserrat, when a boy in the village began beating his drum. The sound reverberated off the walls of the mountains and convinced the enemy that they were facing a much larger force. This was the source of the drummer boy "timbalero del Bruc" legend.



1812 - On 31 July, the French army defeated the Spanish troops in the Peninsula War (1808-1814) and destroyed the monastery of Montserrat.



1881 - The festivity of the coronation of the Virgin of Montserrat (la Moreneta) was held, and Pope León XIII proclaimed her as the Patron of Catalonia.

1844 - Monastic life gradually began to return to Montserrat, with the support of the local population.

1940 - On 23 October, the leader of the SS, Heinrich Himmler, travelled to Barcelona (while Franco and Hitler met in Madrid) to visit Montserrat in search of clues on the whereabouts of the Holy Grail, which the Nazis believed could be kept in the Catalan monastery.

