

MANRESA

Town of 75,000 inhabitants located 65 kilometres from Barcelona inland. Manresa with more than one thousand years of history and three periods of expansion: Gothic (14th century), Baroque (18th century) and industrialization (late 19th century first half of the 20th century). Manresa is adapting to the post-industrial society and redefining its role in the Catalonia of the 21st century.

THE HISTORICAL CENTRE

Four are the factors that determine the structure and composition of the Historical Centre of Manresa: 1st the last constructed wall (14th century) draws a perimeter of more than 2 kilometres in which the adjacent suburbs had been added. 2nd The city was born on the top of a river cliff but has grown to the northern plains. 3rd The destruction caused by the wars of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. 4th The abandonment of the old town from the end of the 19th century by the bourgeoisie and the middle classes. As a result, Manresa has a large historic centre, which it do not have enough centrality. Moreover it has many low quality buildings and a quite impoverished population. In spite of this, el Barri Vell (*The old Quartier*, as the people of Manresa call it) has never completely lost its referential and emblematic character.

