

# Spain in Trieste Itinerary



The historical traces of  
Carlism in the city

Cathedral of St. Justus  
Sant'Anna Cemetery  
Gossleth-Borbone Palace

English

# Carlism and Trieste

The main historical link between Spain and the city of Trieste is the fact that the Carlist royal family, expelled from Spain after the problems of succession to the Spanish throne following the death of King Ferdinand VII, resided here and Trieste became the seat of their Court in exile. The city of Trieste is also home to the mortal remains of several of the Spanish Carlist kings, which can be found in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Justus Martyr. Today these events are commemorated by three commemorative plaques located at three points in the city: **the Gossleth-Borbone palace in Via del Lazaretto Vecchio, the cathedral of San Justus and San'Anna cemetery.**

Carlism was founded in the 19th century, when many of the Spaniards who had taken up arms against the Napoleonic troops in defence of Spanish independence, re-enlisted, on the death of Ferdinand VII, in a volunteer army in defence of the dynastic rights of their king, Don Carlos María Isidro de Borbón, Charles V of Spain. The trigger was that King Ferdinand had contravened the provisions of Salic Law regarding the dynastic succession to the throne, setting aside his brother Carlos María Isidro in favour of his own daughter, Isabel, who was only three years old.

But if the dynastic question provoked the outbreak of war, the deep-seated reasons for a large number of Spaniards to take up arms were rooted in two opposing world views. On

the one hand, that of liberal ideas and, on the other, that of traditional Spain. The latter was based on the legal system prior to the arrival of absolutism and liberalism, on a philosophical, religious and political idea that had shaped Spanish social reality over the previous centuries. Thus, the Carlists defended the alliance of the Altar and the Throne and the validity of the ancient laws, *fueros*, which guaranteed the capacity for self-government of the historical regions and social bodies, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. They proclaimed Christian society and a monarchy based on the decentralisation of government and limits to political power, as opposed to the liberal and centralist theses, derived from the French Revolution, which provoked civil confrontation. This confluence

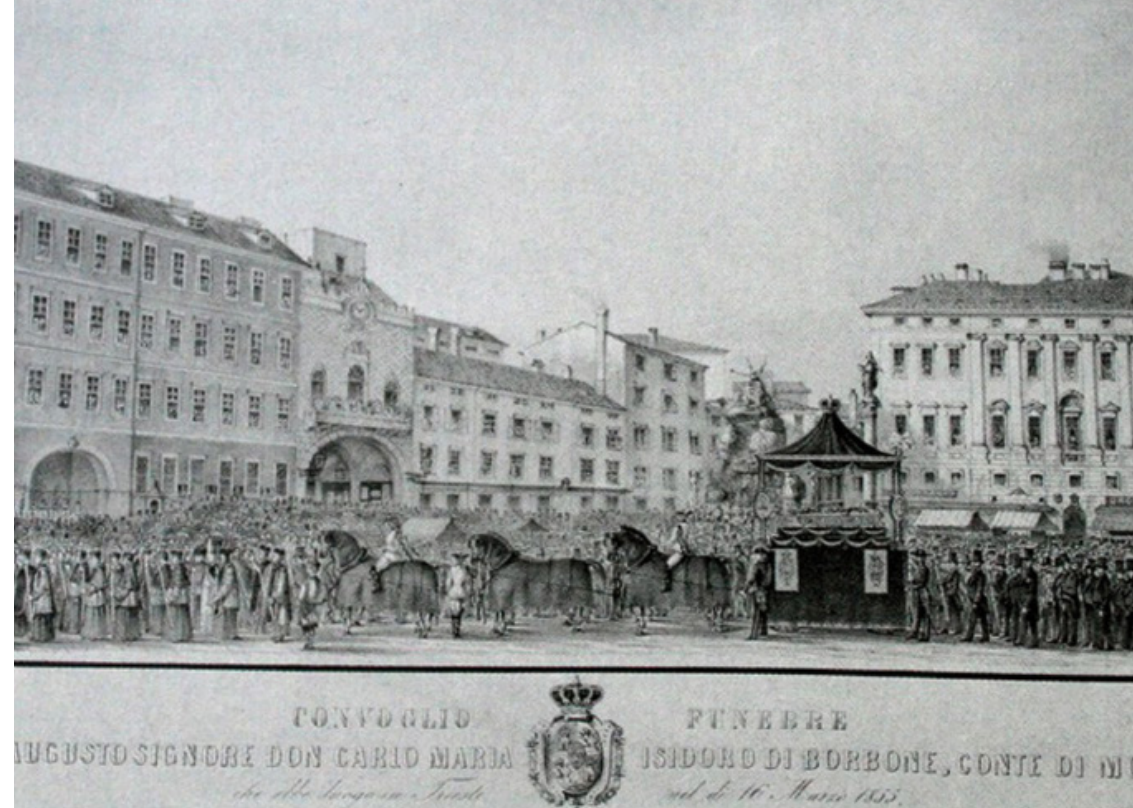
of various interrelated factors (legal, religious, philosophical, political and social) explains the survival of Carlism over time, and today it is the oldest political movement in the West and has been in existence for 190 years. Its principles were grouped in the four-pronged motto of *God, Fatherland, Fueros, King*.

Thus, at the end of 1833, thousands of volunteers, mainly belonging to the working classes, who saw their way of life threatened, to the guilds, to the rural clergy and to the small legitimist nobility, formed an impromptu troop that, under the command of some professional royalist officers, such as the renowned General Zumalacárregui, managed to organise a real army to take on the entire *Girl Queen's* army, which was also supported by the forces

of the other powers that formed the Quadruple Alliance (France, England, Portugal and Spain).

It was the first long and bloody Carlist War, with more than 130,000 combatants killed on both sides. At the end of the conflict, on 31 August 1839, as a result of the pact known as the embrace of Vergara, Don Carlos was forced to go into exile with a group of loyalists.

The final destination of this exile was the city of Trieste, where they would remain until their death.



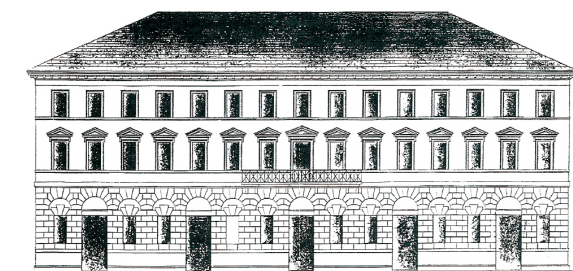
Period engraving showing the transport of the mortal remains of Charles V to the cathedral of St. Justus



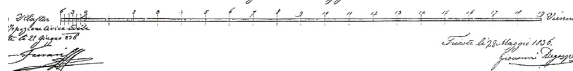
The Palace, in Via del Lazaretto Vecchio, 24

# Gossleth-Borbone Palace

The Carlist court in exile



Facciata principale della Casa Rossa che vuole riedificare  
all'ingegnere Francesco Gossleth



Trovata il 28 Maggio 1856  
Giovanni Borbone



Disegnata da Francesco Gossleth  
Trovata il 28 Maggio 1856  
Giovanni Borbone

Facade of the Lazzaretto Vecchio Palace and its main floor, according to the design submitted to the City Council on the occasion of its construction

After short stays in Bourges and Genoa, the monarch who initiated the so-called Carlist dynasty arrived in Trieste and stayed on the first floor of the palace (now Gossleth-Borbone) in Via Lazzaretto Vecchio, which had previously been acquired by his aunt, the Duchess of Berry, mother of Henry V of France. This is an imposing palace in the purest neoclassical style, designed in 1836 by the architect Giovanni Degasperis for the Hungarian furniture manufacturer Francesco Gossleth. Don Carlos lived there with his second wife, Doña María Teresa de Braganza, Princess of Beira, and the children of his first marriage, Carlos, Juan and Fernando.

Charles V - under the title of Count of Molina, which he used when he abdicated his rights to the Spanish throne in favour of his son - and his family lived modestly in Trieste, as they had no other resources than the pension assigned to them by the emperors of Austria and Russia, together with the income from a small property belonging to

the Princess of Beira.

The house in Via del Lazzaretto Vecchio became the royal court in exile and was a meeting place for legitimists from many countries. The apartment occupied by the Carlist royal family had 23 rooms. Of these, one was for the chapel and two others for the confessor and chaplain.

Charles V had very little social life. He spent his summers in Baden, near Vienna. His activities were limited to taking care of his family and charity work. He was not seen driving around Trieste, except when the Austrian governor of the city gave him a carriage.

Charles V died there, surrounded by his supporters who had accompanied him into exile, on 10 March 1855, at the age of 66. Every year, Carlist followers commemorate 10 March as the day of the Martyrs of Tradition in memory of the date of his death.

# Cathedral of Saint Justus

## Burial of the Carlist kings

Upon his death, Charles V was buried in the cathedral basilica of San Justus. The current church was built in the 14th century by merging two earlier churches built at the same time: one on the left, from the 11th century, which was dedicated to the Assumption, and the other, built between the 9th and 14th centuries, to St. Justus.

In the right nave, opposite the 9th century apse of St. Apollinaris, is the chapel dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo since 1626. It is precisely in this chapel, dedicated to his patron saint, that Don Carlos de Borbón was buried. It is known as the *Capella dei Borboni*, or the *Carlist Escorial*, as it is the burial place of a large part of the Carlist royal family.

The funeral of the Count of Molina was an event in the city. His funeral honours took place between 11 and 14 March 1855. On the 12th, two altars were set up on both sides of the bed where the body of Don Carlos was placed to be put on display to the public - dressed in the uniform of

Captain General of the Spanish Army and adorned with the decorations of the golden fleece and the grand crosses of Carlos III and San Hermenegildo, orders linked to the Hispanic monarchy - where from eight in the morning until midday, masses were continually said for his eternal rest.

A gentleman on guard watched over the corpse, dressed in uniform on a separate kneeler at the foot of the catafalque, together with a servant of the house, and the guard of honour of grenadiers of the Austrian garrison, sent by the civil and military Governor, Baron de Mertens, who by order of Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria placed himself at the service of the family, remained day and night.

On the morning of the funeral, the coffin was placed on a hearse with a black velvet canopy, supported by four columns bearing the royal coat of arms. In the midst of a silent crowd, the impressive funeral procession made its way,



Chapel of St. Charles Borromeo in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Justus, where the tombs of the Carlist kings are found. On the altar, the antependium donated by Charles VII with the royal coat of arms of Spain and his anagram next to that of his wife Bertha of Rohan.

consisting of the Archduke's servants with torches, forty-eight civil servants and aristocrats from Trieste, two lines of Austrian infantry on either side, musicians from the Hohenlohe regiment and Imperial Navy, and the town's clergy with the bishop. Behind the carriage, representing the family, the French legitimist delegation with the Count of Chambord at its head, the Carlist general Cabrera, secretaries, gentlemen, civil and military authorities, consuls and private individuals. Meanwhile, the family remained at the house's oratory listening to mass, accompanied only by two ladies.

Before entering the cathedral of St. Justus, two funeral marches were heard while the bells of the entire city of Trieste rang out in mourning. The Requiem Mass took place inside the church, officiated by the bishop and harmonised with Ricci's Requiem, with the coffin placed on a catafalque in the central nave. After the pontifical mass, the coffin was moved to the chapel of St John the Baptist, where it remained until 31 March, while the final tomb was being prepared, on which day it was transferred to the chapel of St. Charles Borromeo to be buried there.



*Tombstone of Charles V, with the royal coat of arms of Spain. The inscription is in Latin: "To God Optimus Maximus Charles V, King of Spain, modest in prosperity and constant in adversity, but distinguished in his piety, fell asleep in the peace of the Lord on 10 March 1855, at the age of sixty-six years, eleven months and nine days. He was buried here with the great concurrence of the people and clergy on 16 March of the same year. May he rest in peace"*

Charles V's son, the Count of Montemolin, was to start the second Carlist War in 1846. Towards the middle of the 19th century, Carlism continued its confrontation with liberalism, with continuous uprisings, especially in the most revolutionary periods. The Count of Montemolin, King Charles VI in the ordinal of the Carlist dynasty, and his brother Infante Don Fernando, who were taken prisoner, came to Trieste in 1860 to join the family residing here. He died the following year and was buried in the Cathedral of St. Justus next to his father.

In turn, Charles VII, grandson of Charles V, who was also born in exile, led his supporters and started the Third Carlist War in 1872. During the four years that the conflict lasted,

he remained at the head of his army, largely made up of the sons of the former volunteers, alongside his brother Don Alfonso Carlos.

Defeated on the battlefield, he had to go into exile again. He lived in Venice, and on 18 July 1909 died at the Hotel Excelsior in Varese, and his remains were also buried in this chapel of St. Charles Borromeo. His funeral was the last great Carlist manifestation in Trieste, although he had asked for a very simple funeral. The procession went from the South Station and the Galleria Montuzza to St. Justus. A ceremonial horse-drawn carriage by Zimolo was used, which later served at the funeral of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Ricci's Requiem was again played, as it had been for his grandfather's funeral.

Thus, in this chapel lie the remains of a large part of the Carlist royal family:

**Don Carlos M<sup>a</sup> Isidro de Borbón** (1788-1855), King **Charles V**, with his first wife, Doña María Francisca de Braganza, and his second wife and sister of the former, **Doña María Teresa, Princesa de Beira**.

**Don Carlos de Borbón y Braganza** (1818-1861), King **Charles VI**, Count of Montemolín, together with his wife Doña María Carolina de Borbón Dos Sicilias and his brothers **Juan Carlos, Count of Montizón** (John III in the Carlist ordinal) and Fernando.

**Don Carlos de Borbón y Austria Este** (1848-1809), King **Charles VII**, Duke of Madrid.

The tombs of the chapel of St. Charles Borromeo were restored in 2008 thanks to the patronage of the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Trieste. (<https://www.fondazionecrieste.it/>).

The cathedral also houses a number of objects related to the history of Carlism. Among them, a chasuble made from the wedding mantle of the second wife of Charles VII, Doña Berta de Rohán, which has the royal coat of arms and the anagram of C7 embroidered on it. There are also sets with chasubles in the liturgical colours of black, purple and red, and an antependium for the altar with an embroidered image of St. Charles Borromeo together with the fleurs-de-lis of the Bourbons and the royal coat of arms of Spain.

The remains of the successors of this dynasty also lie in exile: **Don Jaime III de Borbón** (1870-1831) in the Tenuta Reale in Viareggio (Italy), **Don Alfonso Carlos** (1849-1936), brother of Don Carlos VII, in Grazt (Austria), **Don Javier de Borbón Parma** (1889-1977) in the Benedictine monastery of Solesmes (France), and **Don Carlos Hugo de Borbón Parma** (1930-2010) in the Basilica of Santa Maria della Steccata, in Parma (Italy).



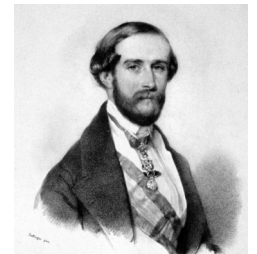
Charles V



Princesa de Beira



Charles VI



John III



Charles VII

# The 24 Carlists buried in Sant'Anna

## Sant'Anna Cemetery

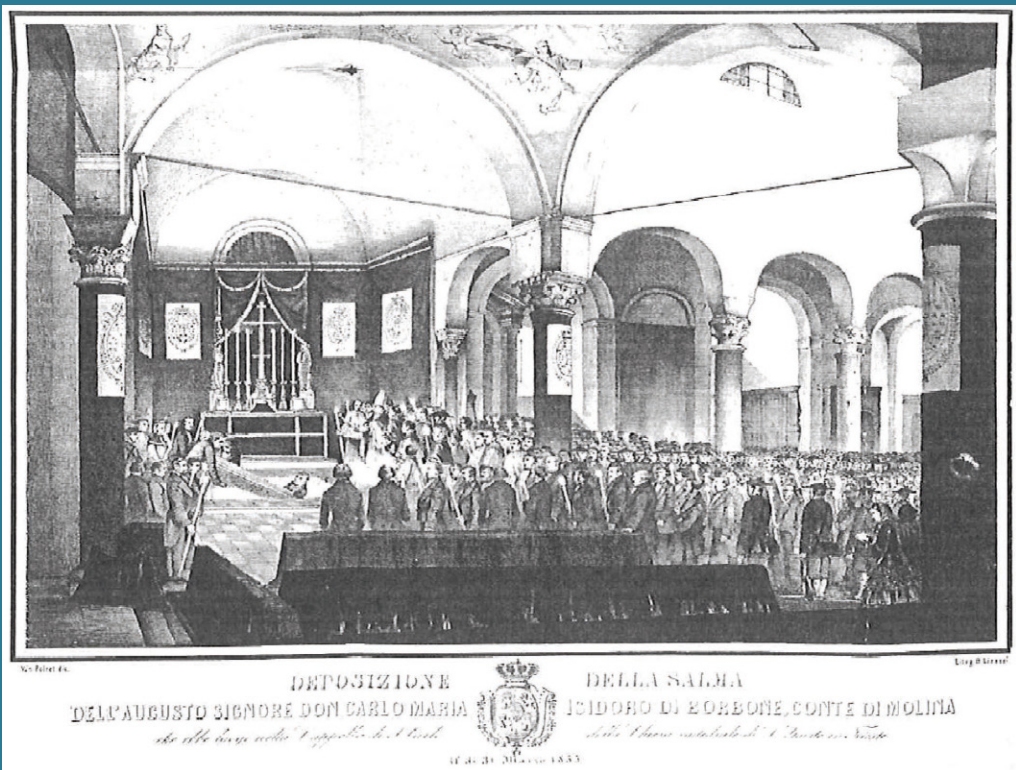
the tomb of the loyalists

As mentioned, Charles V was accompanied into exile by the Spaniards in his entourage who wanted to remain loyal to the cause they had defended on Spanish soil. The Monumental Cemetery of Sant'Anna in Trieste is the burial place of the loyalists, where the remains are laid to rest of those Spaniards who wanted to carry their commitment to their king and keeping their word to the end. Twenty-four people, including servants, generals, ministers, court ladies, priests and doctors, men and women of different status, lie in the funeral monument that in 1868 was

paid for by the Princess of Beira, who acquired it in perpetuity. The inscriptions on the funeral monument record the identity of all these loyalists. Thirteen tombstones stand in the shadow of the inscription *Seguito degli augusti conti di Molina i Reali di Spagna Don Carlos V e Doña Maria Teresa* (Entourage of the venerable Counts of Molina, the Kings of Spain Don Carlos V and Doña Maria Teresa). Since 1955, the tomb of the Loyalists has been under the protection and guardianship of the Spanish State, which is responsible for its conservation.



- Francisco de Asís de Cardona y Almagro**, born in Madrid in 1805. Doctor to the Royal Family. On the death of Charles V he served Charles VI, whom he attended during his last illness. He died in Trieste on 16 June 1885.
- Gregoria de Cardona, daughter of the former**. She was the last person buried there; she died on 1 April 1901.
- José Antonio Sacanell Carmona**. He was born in Barcelona in 1800. He took part in the War of Independence. During the constitutional period he was imprisoned in Cadiz. Gentleman of Don Carlos before his departure from Spain, he would later become a gentleman of John III and of Doña María Teresa de Braganza. Marshal of the Royal Carlist Armies, he died in 1874.
- Domingo de Azcoaga**, gentleman and commander. He followed Charles V into exile. He was later secretary to María Francisca de Braganza. He accompanied Montemolin on the expedition to San Carlos de la Rápita. He died on 10 December 1867.
- José Domingo de Azcoaga, son of the former**. Gentleman and secretary to Charles VI. He died on 18 December 1892.
- Gabriel Florez y Gutiérrez de Terán, Count of Casa Florez**. He carried out diplomatic missions during the reign of Ferdinand VII. Gentleman of Charles V and Charles VI. He died on 30 September 1868.
- María Benedicta Calevet de Andrada, Countess of Casa Florez**, wife of the former. She was a lady of Doña María Teresa de Braganza. She died on 20 November 1882.
- Carlos de Florez y Calevet de Andrada, Count of Casa Florez, son of the above**. Member of the Privy Council of Charles VII. Attended the Vevey Assembly. Gentleman of Doña Margarita. He died on 19 February 1901.
- Joachim Sarranz**, servant of Charles V. One of those who attended him in the last moments of his life. He died on 04 October 1885.
- Teresa Flebus, wife of the former**. Native of Trieste. She died on 28 October 1868.
- Elisa Sarranz y Flebus, daughter of the former**. She died on 16 April 1886.
- Diego Sarranz y Flebus, son of the former**. He died on 10 February 1895.
- José Yell Mejía**, servant of Charles VI in Bourges, played a very important role in the latter's escape to England in 1848, to take part in the Matiners' War. He died on 16 November 1861.
- Juliana Mejía, daughter of the former**. She died in Trieste on 28 November 1892.
- Niceto Moñino y Pinar**, was born in Madrid in 1792. Cadet in the War of Independence, in the anti-constitutional campaign that he ended as a captain and in the Royal Guard of Ferdinand VII. In 1834 he left for the Carlist camp, rising to the rank of Major. 1837 Lieutenant Colonel; 1839, Colonel. He emigrated due to not accepting the Vergara Convention. Military secretary to Charles VI, the King promoted him to Brigadier in 1862, appointing him his secretary and Palace steward. He died on 08 November 1866.
- Diego Martínez**, servant of Charles V, attended him in the last moments of his life. He died on 02 November 1891.
- Josefa de Torres Ruiz de Ribera Pimentel y Connook, Countess of Matallana**, was a lady of Doña María Teresa de Braganza. In France she was involved in the preparations for General Ortega's uprising in San Carlos de la Rápita. She died on 12 May 1868.
- Concepción de Lesaca, Countess of Loyalty, widow of Abaurrea**. Title granted by Charles V. Lady of Doña María Teresa de Braganza and of the Countess of Montemolin. She died on 19 April 1865.
- José Armachen**, died in Trieste on 26 January 1869.
- Maria del Patrocinio de Lorenzo de Angulo**, died in Trieste on 31 January 1877.
- Vicente Cerego**, died in Trieste on 5 January 1874.
- José de Lorenzo de Angulo**, died in Trieste on 13 June 1877.
- De Lorenzo de Angulo**, died in Trieste on 12 March 1891. His first name is unknown.
- José Trotino**, died in Trieste on 11 November 1892.



Period engraving showing the burial of the mortal remains of Charles V in the cathedral of St. Justus.



<https://www.larramendi.es>