

3.- MEMORIES AND PATHS OF EXILE. Combined route.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

- **Duration:** 2 days
- **Price per adult / student:** €20 / **Groups up to 20 adults / students:** €400 / group

DESCRIPTION

The route lasts two days. The first day, which starts with a tour of MUME, takes us from La Jonquera to Argelès, a Republican refugee camp and also cemetery of many of them, to reach Elne Swiss Maternity Hospital, an oasis of hope and solidarity where 597 babies were born whose mothers were Catalan, Spanish, Jewish and gypsy refugees.

The second day of the route continues, from Agullana to the town of Las Illas in North Catalonia, along one of the paths that, in February 1939, was followed by thousands of exiles, including many Catalan intellectuals and top level Catalan, Spanish and Basque political leaders, but also by the "treasure of the Republic". On this itinerary, vehicle transport is combined with walking.



OBJECTIVES

- Offer students and participants the opportunity to walk on paths which are a part of the history of our country and experience feelings of empathy difficult to find in books alone.
- The perception of the surrounding landscape and the feeling that it provokes will be accompanied by readings of letters and testimonies as well as a collection of photographs, which will help better understanding of the complexity of the Spanish Civil War and its consequent exile.
- Offer spaces and moments of observation and reflection, both individual and collective.

DYNAMIC OF THE ROUTE

1st day

- **10 am** - Tour of MUME of 45/60 min. If taking a winter route (December-January), the tour of MUME will be after the route to benefit from the hours of light.
- The tour enables us to locate the war historically and geographically as well as to receive specific information about the 1939 exile. The visual material of the permanent exhibition of the museum facilitates empathy with the events and allows a global vision of the conflict.
- **11 am-11.30 am** - Short break and we make our way to the coaches.
- **12.15 pm/12.30 pm** - Beach of Argelès, visit to the cemetery of the Spanish.
- Arrival at the beach of Argelès, the very place where thousands of people were shut away in a concentration camp.
- Reading of letters, testimonies and photographs, reflection and sharing of ideas.
- **1.15 pm-2 pm** - Break and picnic lunch.
- **2.30 pm** - Arrival at Elne Swiss Maternity Hospital (1 hour approx.) to learn about an emotive and brave story that shows how, in the midst of the horror of war, human beings can create a space of hope, life and solidarity beyond ethnicities and ideologies.
- **3.30 pm** - Return to La Jonquera.
- **4.15 pm/4.30 pm** - Arrival in La Jonquera.

2nd day

- **10.30 am** - Meeting in La Jonquera or in Agullana.
- Group welcome and presentation of the route.
- **11 am** - The coach takes us to La Mina Canta. Explanation in the coach about Agullana, the "capital" of the Republic at the end of the war and, together with La Vajol, the location of the refuge of the government and Catalan intellectuality. We pass in front of Mas Perxés.
- **11.30 am** - Arrival at La Mina Canta.
- **11.30 am-12 noon** - Visit to La Mina Canta, strategic place for the protection of the funds of the Banco de España and works of art. We see from the distance Can Barris, last refuge of Manuel Azaña before setting out on the path to exile.
- **12.15 pm** - Coach to the foot of the path to Coll de Lli.
- **30 minute walk** to reach the border. We go down through the forest and reach Las Illas, the first village in the French state and arrival point of the Government of the Republic. Along the way we read testimonies, letters and documents. (Total 1hour)
- **1.15 pm-1.30 pm** - Reading of testimonies, explanation of the arrival of the Government and destination of the leaders in France.
- **1.30 pm-2 pm** - Picnic lunch. There is only one bar with irregular opening times.
- **2 pm-3 pm** - Return to La Vajol.
- **3.30 pm** - Arrival in La Jonquera.