WHV – A Wall that Connect Us

San Millán Yuso and Suso Monasteries, Spain

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1997

The monastic community founded by St Millán in the mid-6th century became a place of pilgrimage. A fine Romanesque church built in honour of the holy man still stands at the site of Suso. It was here that the first literature was produced in Castilian, from which one of the most widely spoken languages in the world today is derived. In the early 16th century the community was housed in the fine new monastery of Yuso; it is still a thriving community today.

**Project objectives:**

Following the successful experience of the past campaign, the project aims to reinforce the synergies between the international volunteers and the locals towards the site’s conservation and promotion, to continue strengthening the collaboration among different stakeholders and actively engage them in the site’s activities, and to sensitize and encourage the local community to be more actively involved in the protection of World Heritage.

**Project activities:**

The volunteers will join the guided tour in the monasteries and around the historic wall and participate in several meetings with the local community to exchange experiences and opinions towards World Heritage and the conservation work in San Millán. They will engage in a public presentation on the history and the site’s management activities, and an open debate on the main issues. As part of the concrete hands-on activities, the volunteers will carry out the clean-up in the site and removal of organic materials that cause damage to the buildings and support the documentation of the current state of conservation of the wall, under the guidance of the site managers and technical instructors.

**Partners:**

Ministry of Culture and Sport and dependent and associated bodies (World Heritage section), Orden de Agustinos Recoletos, San Millán de la Cogolla Town Council, UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture, Constructive Cultures and Sustainable Development, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, European Heritage Volunteers, Asociación Plataforma La Cultora

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