

WHV – A Benedictine Landscape

San Millán Yuso and Suso Monasteries, Spain

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1997)

PROJECT DATES

16 July - 29 July 2023

THE SITE - 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 Spanish 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.

OBJECTIVES - Following the successful experience of the last two years, the project aims to continue strengthening the collaboration among different stakeholders and actively engage them in the site's activities; to reinforce the synergies among international volunteers and the locals in the cooperation of the site's promotion and conservation; to sensitize and encourage the local community to involve in the protection of World Heritage.

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 about World Heritage and the conservation work in San Millán. There will be a public presentation on the history and the site's management activities, and an open debate on the main issues. Regarding the hands-on activities, under the guidance of technical instructors, the volunteers will carry out the clean-up at the site and the removal of organic materials that cause damage to the buildings, and will support the documentation of the current state of conservation of a set of barns built with adobe by the Benedictine monks.

PARTNERS - Ministry of Culture (World Heritage section Spanish), Orden de Agustinos Recoletos, San Millán de la Cogolla Town Council, Asociación Plataforma La Cultura, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid y Centro de Investigación de Arquitectura Tradicional (tbc).

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