

WHV – A Benedictine Landscape

San Millán Yuso and Suso Monasteries, Spain

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1997)

PROJECT DATES

13 July - 27 July 2025

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 three 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 with special attention to the cultural and natural landscape shaped around the monasteries of Suso and Yuso.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will focus on strengthening the collaboration between the sites administrations and all stakeholders, and in particular with the small and aging local community, aiming at improving the communication, cooperation with and sense of ownership of the 200-people community. They will help Identifying and documenting elements that make up the monastic landscape (water channeling system, agricultural production spaces, spaces for popular religious celebrations, etc.) and raising awareness among the youth and local community of the need to take preventive conservation measures to maintain cultural heritage.

PARTNERS - Ministry of Culture; Government of La Rioja, Town Hall of San Millán de la Cogolla. Order of Augustinian Recollects of the Yuso Monastery; San Millán de la Cogolla Women's Association; Research Center for Traditional Architecture and Cultural Landscape Research Team of the Higher Technical School of Architecture of the Polytechnic University of Madrid; Rural House La Posada and Rural House La Calera, Restaurant El Mirador.

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