

Excursion 1. Monastery of Vallbona de les Monges and visit an experiment on organic mulches and cover crops in vinyards

This excursion will take you to visit the **Monastery** of Vallbona de les Monges and some **experiments** on cover crops and organic mulches done in collaboration with the **cellar l'Olivera**. The Monastery of Vallbona de les Monges is a historic Cistercian convent in Catalonia, Spain, and one of the region's oldest monastic communities for women. It showcases exquisite Romanesque and Gothic architecture, with a stunning church, cloisters, and chapter house. In the same village of Vallbona de les Monges, we have a couple of cover crop and organic mulch experiments in collaboration with the local cellar l'Olivera. We will visit them and showcase some of the results and may end up having a glass of wine.



More info: <https://www.monestirvallbona.cat/en/> , <https://olivera.org/es/>

Vallbona pic: <https://www.spain.info/es/destino/vallbona-les-monges/>

Experiment pic: Bàrbara Baraibar

Excursion 2. Fruit processing center (ACTEL) and Castell del Remei cellar

Fruit production is a vital economic driver in Lleida province and particularly renowned for its high-quality stone fruits, such as peaches, plums, and cherries. In this excursion, we will visit a **fruit processing center** and learn about the importance of this production for the area. But before that, we will visit the **cellar of Castell del Remei**, the most ancient winery of fine wines in Catalonia. It consists of a castle built on an ancient edification at the end of the XIX century, a sanctuary of Italianized classist style and vestiges of the most important agricultural colony of the age together with a mill, a distillery, a barrel-maker's workshop and a blacksmith.



More info: <https://actelgrup.com/en/>

Castell del Remei pic:

<https://castelldelremei.com/en/>

Actel pic: <https://actelgrup.com/ca/fruita/>



Excursion 3. Alquezar, Quality corn and *Amaranthus palmeri*

In this excursion, we will visit the facilities of **Quality corn**, a company devoted to the production of maize offshoots such as sprout, flour, semolina etc. for human use. After that, we will have a guided **visit of the twon of Alquezar**, considered one of the most beautiful villages of the Aragon region located next to the river Vero. During the visit we will hear about the history and curiosities of this place and visit a museum explaining ancient rural life. On our way back to Lleida, we will visit a maize field with an abundant ***Amaranthus palmeri* infestation** and hear about its arrival and the challenges it poses to crop production.



Alquezar pic: <https://turismoenaragon.com/item/alquezar/>

Field pic: Jordi Recasens. More info: <https://www.spain.info/en/destination/alquezar/> ,
<https://qcgrain.com/>

Excursion 4. Raimat Cellar and weed management experiments

This excursion will take you to visit the **Raimat Cellar** and taste 2 wines and a cava glass. Raimat Cellar, nestled in the Costers del Segre wine region of Catalonia, is a pioneering winery known founded in 1914, that transformed a previously arid land into a thriving vineyard through advanced irrigation techniques. After that, we will visit a couple of **mechanical and cultural weed management experiments** lead by the Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology of Catalonia (IRTA).



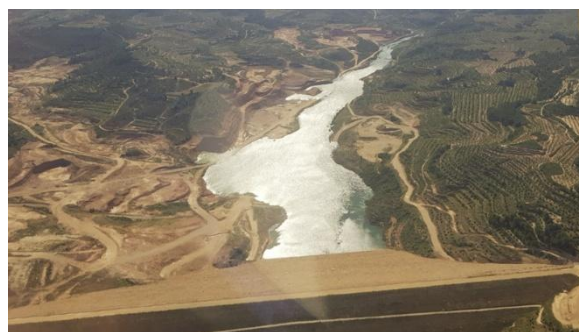
Raimat pic:

<https://360.turismedelleida.cat/es/descubre/@@place/celler-raimat>

Weeding machinery pic: <https://www.irta.cat/es/activitat/demostracio-dequips-de-maquinaria-de-desherbatge-mecanic-en-cultius-extensius/>

Excursion 5. Visit to an organic olive farm and tasting of different olive oils, followed by a visit to the Albagès reservoir (a typical dryland landscape).

Spain is the world's largest producer, manufacturing almost half of the world's olive oil. In this excursion we will visit an **organic olive farm** and learn about the production and importance of this essential product of Catalan and Spanish culture. After that, we will visit the **Albagès reservoir**, where we will enjoy a typical Mediterranean dryland landscape and learn about the importance of irrigation in transforming it. We will finish the visit enjoying some **typical products of the region** such as a traditional type of Catalan bread with olive oil and chocolate and organic fruit juice.



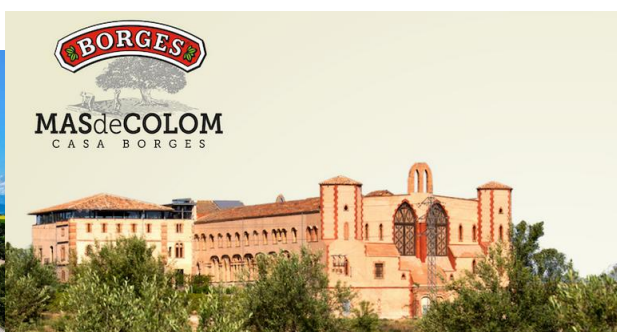
Olive tree pic:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/angela_llop/46510529251/in/photostream/

Reservoir pic: <https://www.somgarrigues.cat/noticies/4332/primeres-imatges-del-panta-de-l-albages-amb-aigua>

Excursion 6. Nuts production and irrigation channel infrastructure

This excursion will include the visit to **Mas de Colom-Casa Borges**, which offers an immersive experience about the Borges Group's key values, as well as explaining the history of the old buildings, the keys to preserving biodiversity and an agricultural mosaic with plantations of almond, walnut, pistachio and olive trees. We will enjoy a **taste of some nuts, pistachios and olive oil**. After that, we will visit a pumping station of the **Segarra-Garrigues irrigation channel**, which is an approximately 85 kilometers long water infrastructure project, designed to irrigate up to 70,000 hectares across the Segarra and Garrigues regions and visit some areas that were excluded from irrigation and are part of the **Natura 2000 network**, designed to protect birds of steppe zones.



Irrigation pool pic:

<https://www.aiguessegarragarrigues.cat/ca/proyecto/>

<https://masdecolom.com/en/all-about-mas-de-colom-casa-borges/>

Excursion 7. Santa Maria de Poblet Abbey and the Artist's vineyard.

This excursion will take you first to visit the **abbey** of “Santa Maria de Poblet” and then to a **The artist's vineyard**, an open air museum, where vines and sculptures merged.

Santa Maria de Poblet is a Cistercian monastery nestled at the foot of the Prades Mountains in Catalonia, Spain. Founded in 1151, it is one of the largest and most significant monastic complexes in Europe, known for its beautiful Romanesque and Gothic architecture. The monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, served as the royal pantheon of the kings of Aragon and has been meticulously restored, continuing to be home to a community of monks.

“The artist's vineyard” in “Mas Blanch i Jove” is an open air museum that merges art and wine. Here you can find sculptures and large-scale installations conceived by artists such as Carles Santos, Guinovart, Joan Brossa, Susana Solano, Evru (Zush) and Frederic Amat intermingled with vineyards and olive trees.

More info: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/518/>
<https://www.masblanchijove.com/en/the-vineyard/>



Poblet pic: <https://saposyprincesas.elmundo.es/actividades-ninos/tarragona/cultura/monumentos/el-monasterio-de-santa-maria-de-poblet>

Vinya dels artistes pic: <https://www.turismegarrigues.com/es/visitasdeinteres/vinya-dels-artistes/>