

ARCHAEOLOGY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM **PAMPLONA'S CATHEDRAL EXCAVATIONS**



OCCIDENS

DESCUBRE LOS ORÍGENES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Members of the team responsible for the archeological excavation at Pamplona's Cathedral Complex will join a field team with extended experience in archeology and urban archeology linked



together with UNED (The National Distance Education University) and The University of Navarra.

Pamplona's Cathedral Complex has been subjected to diverse archeological interventions since the 1950`s, whose outcome have resulted in an amount of unquestionable value data for a better understanding of the town's history. Therefore, excavations in the Arcedianato's garden showed a high level of Roman influence, while those carried out inside the church allowed documenting the process of Christianization of this space, transforming a pagan place -a *nymphaeum* of Roman times- into the chosen place to build the first Christian church.



The current excavation is a new opportunity to deepen in the origins and evolution of our city. Under this room's floor, written in the soil, we find again one of the most

eloquent documents about Pamplona's history. Research continues and there is still too much left to discover, but the excavation is already giving new data about the city's origin. Between these walls, structural pieces of the original Vascon village from the Iron Age have been identified, above which *Pompelo* was established.

But these are not the only singular data excavation delivered. Until recently, almost nothing was known about the town that came after the Romanization, the Late-Antiquity Pamplona; nothing but its funerary spaces. Current works are allowing to document ruins, especially pavement, from those centuries, almost invisible to archeological records.

The excavation sets in a singular environment, inside a Cathedral complex also unique in Europe, as it keeps all canonical rooms in a Romanic palace from the 12th century. But also students will be able to



enjoy the experience of working in an environment open to visitors, as excavations are part of our permanent exhibition "OCCIDENS, discover the origins". An exhibition built together with the philosopher Philippe Nemo with the purpose of meditating about culture and western values acquired throughout the centuries.

The program includes field work and theory, through seminars that will help acquire both archeology and history knowledge. The abovementioned work will take place from Monday to Friday, in morning and afternoon sessions, up to 8 hours per day. Both indications for field work and seminars will be held by archeologists with fluent and professional English (other languages also available: French, German, Italian, Spanish). Spanish is not required to get into the program, but the stay could be a great opportunity for the students to learn or improve their language knowledge.

Aside from the archeology team, attendants to the program will share experiences with students from two local universities: Universidad de Navarra and UNED (The National Distance Education University).



Students will be provided with equipment and all necessary materials for their work.

Attendants will learn basic notions of archeological record during an excavation, such as archeological drawing, topography, photographical record, correct identification of stratigraphic units, material cataloguing, etc. All these will prepare them to any archeological excavation.

The program also offers attendants time to get to know Spain better, away from shovels and pushcarts. Pamplona is a lively city after working hours, especially in the summer, with its bar terraces to enjoy. With three universities in the city, a considerable part of the population is made of young people coming from all parts of Spain.

Moreover, there will be organized tours to historical places nearby –Roman and Medieval towns in Navarra-, places where to enjoy nature –like the French Pyrenees- and, for those braver, places where to practice some adventure sports, like canoeing or rafting.

PAMPLONA & THE EXCAVATION

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Capital of the province of Navarra, in the north of Spain and bordering with France, it is more than 3.000 years old. Its name was given by Pompeyo Magno, when he refounded the city around the year 72 BC on a Vascon village.

It remained inhabited during Roman times, as a secondary city, although recent archeological researches began to draw a richer and more extended city.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Pamplona suffered successive occupations from Germanic people, until the 9th century AD when it became the capital of the Kingdom of Navarra.

During the 11th century, the city expanded resulting in two new walled burgs. Despite of being neighbors, these burgs lived in conflict for centuries, with internal wars that remain palpable nowadays. This unusual historical development, together with the fact that Pamplona was the location of the

Navarra king's court, provided the city with outstanding medieval monuments and a complex town planning that allows the good observer to travel through many centuries of history.

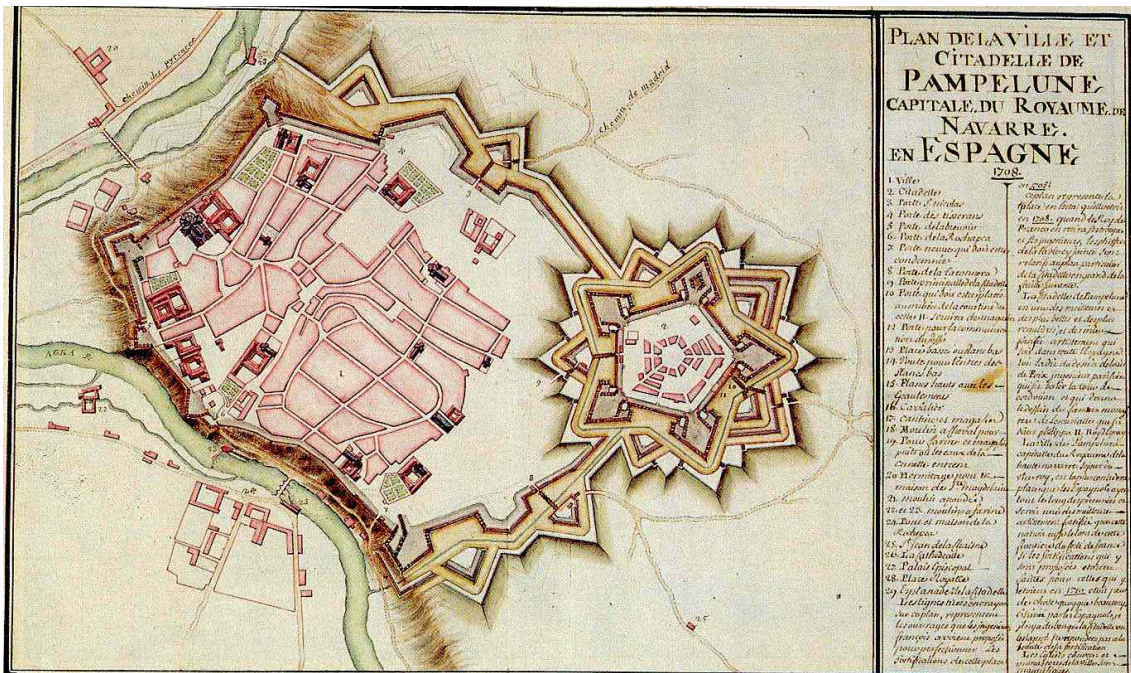
Undoubtedly, a contribution to the city's development is Saint James Way (Camino de Santiago). It is a pilgrimage route to the city of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain) that attracted lots of devoted from all



Christianity since the 10th century. Nowadays, pilgrims from around the world pass through Pamplona walking the millennial Way.

The Kingdom of Navarra remained throughout Medieval Times, until its incorporation in 1512 to the other small medieval kingdoms (Castilla and Aragon) that would shape Spain as we know it these days. A modern State was being born; with capital influence in the future development of Europe and the world with the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492.

Enormous wealth came to our shores since the discovery and France,



hegemonic in Europe until then, became our enemy. As a result of this global situation, Pamplona set as a strong point strategically situated to control one of the frontiers with France. The construction of an impressive military defense, the Citadel, an example of the most advanced Renaissance fortifications of those times, would mark the city's destiny forever.

Those walls guarded Pamplona until the 20th century, being of the utmost relevance in several important moments in Europe's history, like Napoleon Bonaparte's campaign in Spain. Today is one of the biggest and best preserved walled compounds of the old continent.

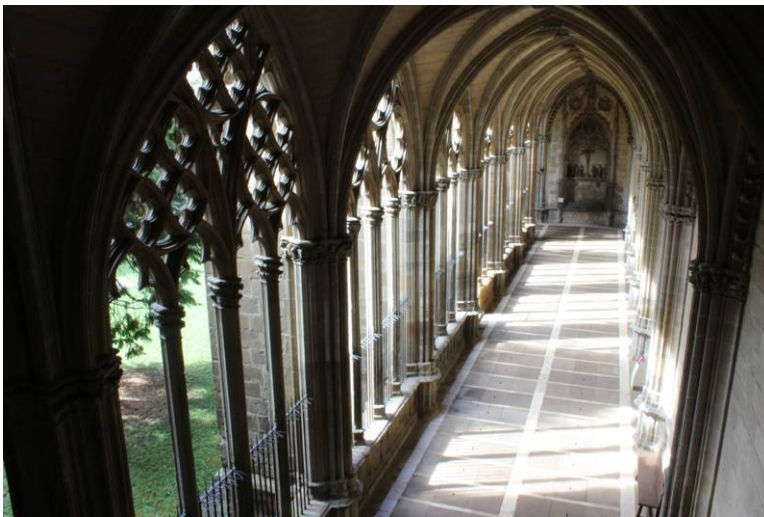


At present, Pamplona is known worldwide thanks to San Fermin's celebration, with the notoriety Ernest Hemingway gave to the party in his novel "The sun also rises" (1929). On the score of this celebration, from 7th to 14th of July, the city attracts thousands of visitors that enjoy the bull running and the festive spirit in the streets.

All this rich history of the city can be seen both in the monuments we will visit and the archeological ruins yet to discover.

Arc rooms

The archeology room is, in fact, a pavilion of the former episcopal palace from the 12th century and its garden. This palace, accessible from the



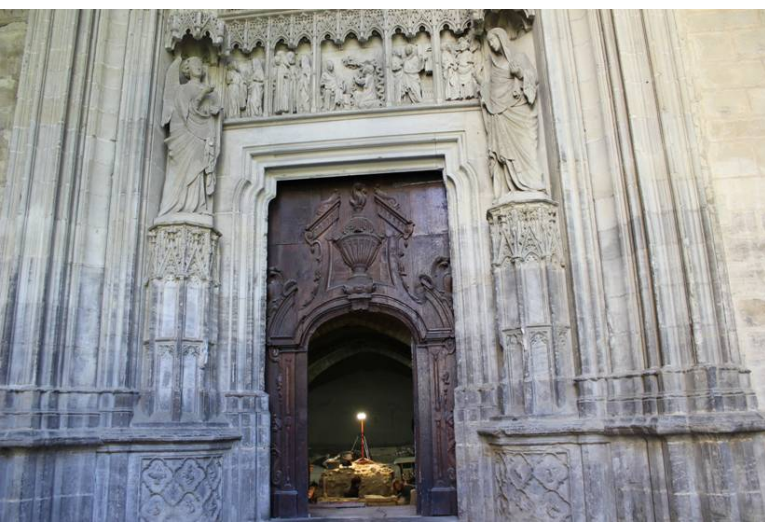
magnificent gothic cloister of Saint Mary's Cathedral, was donated by the bishop to the cathedral council in the 14th century.

Since then, the palace has been used as bedchambers for the

priests and, later, from the 15th century the room where excavations are

taking place was the Court Room, where the Kingdom of Navarra's court met.

Therefore, this room is full of history, where important chapters of this land's history were written. And the



basement of the room allows us to keep writing it. The stratigraphic sequence preserved belongs to a great chronological arch since the 7th century BC until the 12th AD, a period we can sum up in four stages.





The Iron Age. The Vascon village – 7th to 1st Centuries BC

The first urban settlement that existed in Pamplona dates back from the beginning of the Iron Age, around the 7th century BC.

The urban organization of the Iron Age villages did not respond to orthogonal patterns, but mostly the layout of streets and houses was adapted to the land. Therefore, oval floors were very common. Many of them articulated around a main street and widened into small squares when there was a junction of various streets.



During the excavation of this Vascon Village, a stoned pavement -like a transit zone- was found, the oldest indicator of an incipient urban grid.

In this same zone, a series of holes for house pylons were documented. Houses in the Iron Age were generally built in adobe, with a main pillar and many smaller secondary ones that held the roofing.



Materials associated with these structures (handmade pottery, pottery of Celtiberian tradition, imported Campanian pottery, imported *amphorae* and a coin from *Segóbriga*) testify that our city had been trading with the Mediterranean and the Iberian Peninsula since the 2nd century BC. From the change of age, with the development of the Roman city, the Vascon Village would disappear under a

leveling that prepared the space to set new structures with Roman style, as the houses with decorated pavements found in the Arcedianato's garden.

High Empire city – 1st Century BC to 2nd century AD

During the 1st century BC and the 2nd century AD the Roman city experienced a strong urban transformation and construction of monuments. The urban perimeter got wider, including the pre-Roman core, and it extended to the west, occupying approximately twenty hectares.

This configuration remained until the end of the 3rd century AD, when the city was walled and its perimeter reduced due to the politic and economic crisis that affected the whole empire.

In this room, the High Imperial period is represented by two small pools built with waterproof coating (*opus signinum*)



We do not know the total dimension of any of the pools, as they surpass the limits of the excavated zone. Due to its singular shape and dimensions (narrow and not

too deep), the deposit must have been used as a fish farm.

The presence of this kind of farms associated both to noble houses and to commercial zones is widely documented in the Roman world.

The proximity of these deposits to the *macellum* (fresh food market) discovered in the sixties in the Arcedianato's garden makes us believe that these structures were part of the trading space. Near the *macellum*, it is normal to find *domus* that belonged to traders and were used to store the products they sold.



During the excavation, a layer was found with plenty of construction material such as a column base, two molded door frames, painted marble and plaster, signs of the splendor reached by the city.

Late Imperial and Late Antiquity 3rd century – 8th century AD

The Late Imperial era begins at the end of the 3rd century AD and lasts until the end of the 5th century AD. Scarce evidence from this period was found during the archaeological works done in the area. As in other places

in the city, there is a change in the urban reticule orientation in regards to the former constructions which were partially dismantled and re-arranged afterwards.

Some of the associated structures to this period are two walls and several pavements along with some fragments of fauna, pottery, marine oysters and a big amount of coins dating from the Constantine and his successors' period. Even though there is an external impoverishment in this kind of constructions, the amount of material evidence and the accumulation of strati prove the existence of a big population inserted in trading circuits with the Iberian Peninsula and, above all, with the Gaul. Remains in the shape of coins belong to this period which also testifies that their mints were providing *Hispania* during these centuries.



The Late Antiquity



Paradoxically, we have more evidence of funerary rooms from this period rather than from the proper city. Excavations in two of the necropolis that surrounded the ancient city allowed us to document more than 300 burials which are testimony of

the use of these sites for funerary ceremonies from the 6th century AD to the 8th century AD.

In a similar case, at Castle Square a Muslim *Maqbara* was documented with around 200 burials dating from the 8th century.

The 1990's excavations done in the inside part of the Cathedral's naves structure contributed with the most interesting data after having documented a first *ediculus* for the Christian religious worship. This *ediculus* was constructed on a Roman ritual *nymphaeum*. This was probably the origin of the consecutive religious constructions that with the passing of time would be superimposed, but maintaining the original axe and orientation since the 6th century up to the present Cathedral.

Knowledge of habitable spaces is rare; we can scarcely venture that the city seems to maintain the late imperial age perimeter and urban reticule inherited. Most of the structures were



done with weak materials like wood and sun-dried bricks; therefore they could have hardly been preserved in the archaeological registers. However in the current excavation it has been possible to document partial pavements belonging to habitable areas that provided goods between the 5th and the 9th centuries AD. In their majority, these are part of a local production with a rude aspect consisting of pots made out of a black and grey paste with several shades.

It is presumable that the majority of the dinner service was made from wood (although we have no evidence nowadays).

Middle Ages

In the center of the excavation area there is a big structure with a rectangular shape. Built after 1150, as the discovery (below the floor) of two coins dating from Sancho VI "the Wise" (1150-1194) indicates. It is a structure made with a rudimentary and provisional product. A big surface of this stone was later reused to build up the current building.

The building's floor is a simple layer of clay. Inside some of the perimeter parts, a few sun-dried bricks remain, which probably worked as an isolation



system. Therefore, we tend to think that this could have been part of an auxiliary construction to the Cathedral complex. It might have functioned either as a temporary ancient pilgrim accommodation, or as a working area for the guilds that used to take part in the Cathedral building.

This building had a short life; its dismantling concurred with the Episcopal Palace building.

ACCOMMODATIONS & PRACTICAL INFORMATION

During the fieldworks we will proceed with excavations in several areas of the Cathedral complex of Pamplona. The underground surface offers an unbeatable opportunity to explore an ancient city that has been in constant

evolution during a period of 30 centuries, in a big area clear from modern buildings and streets, but in the heart of the pre-roman, roman and medieval city: this is one of the exceptional conditions to practice and get to know one of the most interesting angles of European archeology developed

mainly in the past 30 years: urban archeology.

Urban archeology is one of the most exciting and interesting disciplines inside this science. It allows us to get to know the evolution of live cities. Therefore, it is the most complex; infrastructures, services, channeling services pipe-lines, roads and houses are constant difficulties to any excavation.

The duration of the program is a four week course. The International Program will be taking place during the summer period; however, as we have a permanent archeological excavation ongoing along the year, enrollment is also available within the rest of the year.

Accommodation and food maintenance are included, you can also indicate if you have any special dietary requirements.

Non local students can opt to stay in the Bishops residence dormitories which are based near the Cathedral. These residence dormitories operate in a traditional-style residence with a large number of single rooms and double rooms. Room amenities include access to high speed internet and a laundry service.

Breakfast and dinner are served in the residence dormitories, meals will be eaten with the staff in a restaurant located in the heart of Pamplona. There will be time for a mid-morning snack on site field works. Breakfast in Spain is a light meal but lunch and dinner are more substantial.

Transport connections between the airport and the city will be provided to all the course participants.

Medical insurance will be provided to all students, this will include medical treatments and surgery in case of necessity as well as medicines in case of an accident or any sudden illness.

The project has the support of the UNED (The National Distance Education University) and The University of Navarra; therefore, in cooperation with the students' universities they will be able to obtain academic credits for their participation in the program. As there is no international system for the granting of credits, every student will have their own and personal case studied, following their proper universities procedures.

The average temperature in Pamplona during the summer is between 25-35 degrees centigrade. The thermometer can rise above 35 degrees centigrade in August only on exceptional occasions and during the evenings it gets a bit chilly so we strongly recommend you to bring a



jacket. During the rest of the year, days are normally cold with predominate cloudy sky with a lot of rain; we have an average temperature of 12.5 degrees centigrade.

In relation to the work in the excavation, comfortable clothes are useful and resistant shoes are a must. A cap to protect you from the sun and sun blocker lotion are also recommended as there is an outdoor area in the dig. Further and necessary security tools (as gloves, helmet, etc...) will be provided by the organization.

THE STAFF

Mercedes Unzu Urmenta:



She has a B.A in Archeology with highest honors from the Arts Institute of The University of Navarra (1982).

In 2006 she received the National Archeology Award from the *Institución Cultura Viva* (XV edition). Since 1994 she conducts the annual sessions of Archeological heritage and rehabilitation done at the

Architecture faculty at The University of Navarra. She has published 60 papers and monographic works and reviews in specialized magazines. Speaker in several national and international congresses as in various conferences sessions, she started her professional activity inside the archeological department of the University of Navarra. From 1975-1989 she developed her activity as an archeologist researcher in the Museum of Navarra.

In 1989 she founded Gabinete TRAMA S.L., a business focused on the historical and archeological research; she pursued that interest and she has always encouraged the importance of the development and diffusion of the Archeological heritage.

Unzu's investigations, excavations and surveys done from 1989 - 2013, have taken her during all these years seeking and understanding the field of urban archeology and historical heritage (both in a theory and applied teaching level).

Her most important achievements inside Navarra are: the Castle Square excavations, the Walls of Artajona, Santa María de Ujue church, Olite's Castle, the Condestable Palace, the Oliva's Monastery, Yarte's Monastery, Eulate's Palace, Santo Cristo de Catalain chapel , the Iron age necropolis of El Castillo in Castejón, the fortification area in Pamplona and of course the excavation of the Cathedral.

She stands out for her professional activity and trajectory, for her outstanding work when making heritage widely known. In addition to her publications and interventions in several conferences, she also endorses her interest for the cultural promotion curating a large amount of national and international exhibitions.

She is responsible for the writing of the plan of the projects of a big and diverse amount of archaeological sites, like the fortified area in Rada, the Villa of the Muses in Arellano and the Roman city of *Andelo*, the fortified area in Artajona or the weapon factory in Orbaiceta. She also took part in the documentary 778 –La Chanson de Roland filmed by Olivier van der Zee. She currently lives in Pamplona and she is the director of a restoration project at the Cathedral complex in Pamplona.

María Jesús Peréx Agorreta Ph.D



Dr. Peréx has a B.A in Geography and History with a specialty in Ancient history. She earned her Ph.D. in Ancient history from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid in 1985. She is the director of the Ancient History department since 2004. She has also carried out duties and a great diversity of academic positions in the faculty of Geography and

History in the UNED (The National Distance Education University), such as Secretary for the faculty, vice-dean planning academic, etc. Nowadays she is a member of the faculty meeting at the UNED representing the teachers' staff since 2002. Dean of the Faculty of Geography and History in the UNED from January 2011.

Her main lines of thinking are about the population of the Vascon territory during the Roman times and the worship towards the thermal springs in the Iberian Peninsula in the antiquity.

She has written more than 30 papers and monographs in specialized national and international magazines and in several series of conferences. She was the director of the archaeological works done at Espinal (Navarra), sponsored by the Education and Culture Department of the Government of

Navarra, through the Principe de Viana Institution, during the period of 1986-1995. These studies have helped to locate two cremation necropolis from the high empire (1st and 2nd centuries AD) and a human settlement identified as *Iturissa*, a Vascon city which was mentioned by Ptolomeo (in collaboration with Mercedes Unzu). She was the director of the archaeological works done at the village of Ibero in 1995 with the final objective of locating the Roman baths.

She has coordinated the project VBI AQVAE IBI SALVS: ATLAS DE AGUAS MINEROMEDICINALES, TERMAS CURATIVAS Y CULTO A LAS AGUAS EN LA HISPANIA ANTIGUA, awarded by the vice-chancellors office of the research department in the UNED.

María García-Barberena Unzu



María García Barberena has worked for TRAMA for 17 years. Graduated by the University of Navarra in 2002, she is currently finalizing her PhD in Archaeology in the same University with a thesis about the urban planning of

the Roman city of *Pompelo*. During the period from 1996 - 2004 she has combined her studies with her internship or work experience specialized in archaeology and in excavations directed by the Gabinete TRAMA S.L and in other projects by the Government of Navarra. She has also excavated in the Monte Testaccio in Rome.

Since 2005 she has developed her professional activity as an archeologist inside the company Gabinete TRAMA S.L as the person responsible for the scientific management excavations which lies in supervising and coordinating the fieldworks, business work and laboratory work: classifying and studying materials, documentation and realizing projects and scientific reports. She has also participated in several national and international congresses and conferences. She has more than 10 magazine publications and specialized monographic works. She has given archaeology sessions in

urban archaeology at the University of Navarra and in summer courses for the UNED (The National Distance Education University). She regularly takes part in specialized conferences organized by the media, such as Diario de Navarra.

Her current research at the Cathedral complex of Pamplona involves a detailed project of the archeological restoration in cooperation with Mercedes Unzu.

Nicolás Zuazúa Wegner



He graduated in History with a specialty in Ancient History and Archeology at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid in 2002. Currently he is finalizing his PhD in Archaeology with a thesis about Roman numismatics in the UNED (The National

Distance Education University). Since 2002 he has been working as an archaeologist technician for Gabinete TRAMA, being in charge of the direction and coordination of the fieldwork.

He has a wide archaeological experience, having participated in most of the excavations done by the company in the last decade. He has also taken part in various national congresses giving presentations.

Carlos Zuza Astiz



He graduated in History at the University of Navarra in 2001; nowadays he is finalizing his PhD in Archaeology with a thesis about pottery of the Late Antiquity in Navarra in the UNED (The National Distance Education University). Since

2002 he is an archaeologist technician for Gabinete TRAMA, being responsible for the direction and coordination of the fieldwork.

His archaeological experience is wide, having participated in most of the excavations done by the company in the last decade. He has an extended experience running young volunteer groups in diverse international archaeological fieldworks offered by the Government of Navarra that take place in the Walls of Artajona. He has participated in various national congresses giving presentations.

EXCURSIONS

At least once per week, excursions will be arranged with the final aim of getting to know the riches of the heritage from the ancient Kingdom of Navarra (as well as in other archaeological fields that are now part of some museums).

1. **Pamplona:** Medieval hamlets, the walls and the Museum of Navarra
<http://www.turismodepamplona.es/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl4H37reBrI>
2. **A , Artajona and Olite:** The Roman city of *Andelo* with its full water supplying system <http://www.turismo.navarra.es/esp/organice-viaje/recurso/relacionado/3311/>. The medieval walls of Artajona from the 13th century <http://www.turismo.navarra.es/esp/organice-viaje/recurso/relacionado/3111/> The spectacular Royal Palace of Olite is an

example of the civil gothic architecture
<http://www.turismo.navarra.es/esp/organice-viaje/recurso/relacionado/3153/http:///h>

3. **Estella and Arellano.** Estella and Arellano. Estella with a medieval character full of Romanesque churches, palaces, etc.
<http://www.turismo.navarra.es/esp/organice-viaje/recurso.aspx?o=2116>. In Arellano the Villa of the Muses is the perfect example of rural settlement with a residential profile and an agricultural exploitation from the Roman period.
<http://www.turismo.navarra.es/esp/organice-viaje/recurso/relacionado/4338/>

Besides to the historical excursions, if participants in the program are interested, there will be a possibility to arrange an excursion to the Pyrenees mountains in France with the opportunity to make trekking routes and adventure sports like canoeing and rafting.

Leisure time

The students would also have leisure time to enjoy the city, during the summertime it is full of outdoors activities as concerts; there is good gastronomy, a wide cultural offer, public swimming pools and a nice landscape in the surroundings of the city that invites to go for long walks.

The surroundings of the city hall are well connected by public transport (buses and trains) and they offer interesting short trips that can be done in the day (less than two hour distance). Pamplona is not far from the city of San Sebastian, one of the most charming and beautiful cities inside the Basque country, along with the city of Bilbao that hosts the world known Guggenheim Museum. Another alternative is the visit to the city of Zaragoza with important Roman vestiges.

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS



Every week the archaeologists will prepare seminars and workshops on the fieldwork done inside the archaeology and the history of Pamplona. Theory classes will be divided into different areas to complement the fieldwork to go into detail in certain areas

that will allow and permit a better development of the archaeological work. The different areas will be the following:

1. The **archaeological method**. This offers an overview of trends and evolution of the archeology components with a special focus on the *Harris method* which has been used to register all archaeological discoveries from the different areas already excavated in the Cathedral complex of Pamplona.
2. The **historical evolution**, with the important landmarks since the protohistory up to the contemporary period in Navarra and its surroundings in order to make the right interpretation of the different archaeological remains that could appear during the fieldwork.
3. **Spatial Archaeology**.
Localization and identification of archaeological sites, archaeology survey techniques and cartographic tools.
4. **Drawing of the materials**.
Basic notions about the standards in pottery drawing along the stone industry.





5. **Archaeology of the death.** It is an essential field inside the archaeology



because the funerary rituals are always a reflection of the society organization. A review of the cultural evolution and material evidence that permits us to comprehend a great part of the western civilization.



6. **Fortification evolution.** Since the protohistorical period up to the contemporary era, considering the importance of the city of Pamplona as an important zone that is a perfect example of the versatile evolution, here in Europe and America.

7. The **material culture.** From the different periods that we can find when excavating and whose knowledge is essential in order to identify the different chronological and cultural horizons. Inside this part of the course there will be an emphasis in those materials that are more prominent and that can work as fossil director, like:

- **Roman pottery**, considering not only the peninsular production but the import one too.
- **Roman Numismatic**, they will learn to identify and classify the different coins from the Roman period.
- **Medieval and modern pottery**, basic notions about its evolution and chronologic typology.



These sessions will have the possibility to manage the archaeological materials so they can become familiar with them reinforcing in this way the knowledge acquired theoretically.

CONTACT

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