

Catalan trip

Insider's guide for those
interested

Castelló de la Plana, 28th March – 3rd April 2006

Catalan trip: insider's guide for those interested

By Chris Austin and Peter 'Pernilfred' Coldham

The now-legendary trip to Castellon merits a few words at the very least, and for those of you interested in going this year, we hope what follows will be a brief yet wholly representative snapshot of a week that was by turns intellectually stimulating and just a really good laugh.

Although our individual grasps of the Catalan vernacular ranged from the annoyingly good to the embarrassingly non-existent (one unsuspecting participant having had no previous exposure whatsoever), the laid-back morning classes catered for all needs. We touched on many aspects of Catalan culture, including regional dialects, history while not forgetting to stick in some practical language work.

After groggily hauling ourselves down to breakfast in the university canteen each morning, a swift *cortadito* would propel us next door where our invariably tardy arrival would be greeted by our smiling, happy few and the next step towards unquestionable mastery of the greatest of all minority languages. We would then cavort around the local landscape on our needlessly expansive coach, whether it be to the burgeoning metropolis of Valencia, the verdant *Desert de les Palmes*, or the impressive medieval towns of Morella and Peniscola. The evening would typically pan out with either a sampling of the local food and drink or simply a relaxed campus chillax.

Among the other staples of the trip was the requisite hang-time so inter-generationally spent with the *Universitat per a Majors*, an illustrious collaboration which culminated in what can only be called a theatrical treat, performed for our very own delight, and on a par with the greatest of Catalan drama. The local press was still running the story a month later, such was the hero-status heaped upon us by the hugely appreciative natives. Barely a moment passed where one of us would not be eagerly exchanging snippets of Catalan with some pleasantly surprised passer-by. To finally be able to chat away as the year's learning all at least fell into place was an incredible pleasure reminiscent of talking to a Spaniard for the first time in their native tongue.

So, if you're looking for a humdrum, lukewarm trip to eastern Spain, look elsewhere. Then again, if you fancy an explosive romp through the *Terres Valencianes* run by people who are actually cool, this is definitely the one. Or at least, it was for the two of us.

**Proposta de calendari per als estudiants de català
dels lectorats d'Amiens i de Cambridge
(del 28 de març al 3 d'abril)**

dimarts 28 dia 1	dimecres 29 dia 2	dijous 30 dia 3	divendres 31 dia 4	dissabte 1 dia 5	diumenge 2 dia 6	dilluns 3 dia 7
Arribada a Castelló	9.15 h: Presentació d'un audiovisual de l'UJI a la sala de premsa i visita guiada per la Universitat (Olga Carbó)	9 – 17 h: Excursió al Desert (Joan Andreu)	9.30-11 h: Segona classe (Andreu Pedró)	9 h: Eixida a Morella	10 h: Eixida a l'Alcora i visita al Museu de la Ceràmica	10.30 - 11.30 h: Avaluació de les memòries (lectorat de Cambridge i Amiens)
Instal·lació a l'hotel	13 h: Benvinguda del rector a la Sala de Juntes de Rectorat		11.30 -13.h: Tercera classe. Seminari de Llengua i Cultura (Carmina Ribés)	10.30: Visita a Morella (Maties Segura)	Activitat de la festa per la llengua	12 h: Lliurament de certificats (Margarita Porcar / Bartomeu Prior) Comiat
Reunió dels dos lectors amb els dos grups: repartiment de programes i presentacions (realització d'una activitat de coneixença)	13.30 h: Dinar a l'UJI		13. 30 h: Dinar de tapes	13 h: Dinar <i>tradicional</i> a Morella (Maties Segura) 16 h: Eixida a Peníscola	13 h: Dinar	13. 30 h: Dinar institucional
	16 - 17.30: Primera classe (Núria Dobon)	18.30: Eixida cap al Grau per a veure cinema en valencià: <i>King Kong</i>	17 – 18.30 h: Classe conjunta (Andreu Pedró i Núria Dobon)	17– 19.30 h: Visita guiada al castell i al poble (Maties Segura)	Visita voluntària a la ciutat de València	
	Visita guiada a Castelló (Pilar Escuder)					19.30: Finalització de la visita al centre Municipal de Cultura (C/ Antoni Maura) Conferència; Homenatge a Vicent Ventura.

CATALAN TRIP (València, Castelló de la Plana, Morella, Peníscola)





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