



Aragón Express

October 2011

Welcome to the October edition of *Aragón Express*, I know it's already November but time flies when you're having fun and we are really enjoying planning this expedition, we will catch up, promise!

We have had fantastic response from everyone, many Scouts, Explorers and Network members have registered their interest and a great team of leaders are signing up. The next step is for participants to confirm their intention to be there in Spain next year.

Important Dates for your diary:

Participants Open Sessions

Sunday, 20th November, 2:00pm:

St-Bernard's Catholic Grammar School, SL3 7AF.

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=499084&y=179540&z=0&sv=sl37af&st=2&pc=sl3+7af&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf>

Or if you are unable to make that meeting

Thursday, 24th November, 7.30 pm:

1st Twyford Scout Hut RG10 9JA

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=479069&y=176486&z=0&sv=rg109ja&st=2&pc=rg10+9ja&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf>

At these meetings we will confirm the finer details of our trip. There will be sessions for participants focusing on the activities and, for parents, focusing on the less exciting, but essential, matters of dates, costs, etc.

At the end of the presentations we hope that participants will sign on to the expedition and confirm this with a deposit.



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Cut the Cost with Fundraising!

Have you thought about doing some fundraising? Don't let the cost of the expedition put you off, or just rely on your parents to fund it; there are many ways of raising money to help. Firstly, talk with your Leaders and fellow Explorers who are also planning to join us; can you organise fundraising as a Unit or will you opt for an individual effort?

Some Units have previously raised funds to help their members participate in County expeditions and, I understand, at least one Unit already has plans in place to do it again for next year.

In May next year, Headquarters are organising a national fundraising initiative "Scout Community Week". With national media coverage and back-up from Gilwell for support, this is a great opportunity for everyone. Also, there are grants available, both from within Scouting and your local community.

Remember also, that there are those opportunities for a personal initiative; you can always seek out a part-time job, do a paper round, or maybe babysit for neighbours!

Whatever your goal, remember that planning is the key to your success; for some good ideas, have a look at:

<http://www.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/3286/az-of-fundraising-events-and-ideas?cat=460,262,264&moduleID=10>

More about where we're going

The Sierra de Guara:

The closest National Park to our base is the Sierra de Guara which covers over 180 square miles, that's about 20% larger than the Isle of Wight!



Berkshire Scouts Activity Expedition to Spain



Four main rivers cross these limestone mountains; the resulting erosion has, over time, formed a unique and varied landscape, a mix of cliffs, caves, gorges and spectacular canyons.

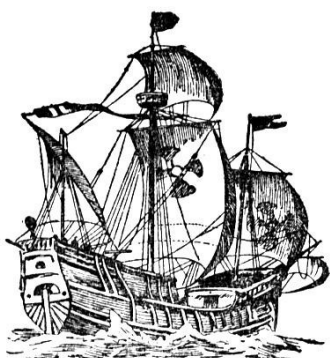
Opportunities abound for a wide range of sporting activities including climbing, trekking, Via Ferrata, horse riding and, of course, canyoning, for which the area is particularly famous.

For more photos on the area, have a look at this link and start anticipating!

www.flickr.com/photos/28768660@N05/sets/72157621938017293/

Family connections with Spain

Over the centuries British and Spanish history has been closely intertwined, often in terms of warfare, but just occasionally as allies; we are all familiar with the story of Catherine of Aragón. Consequent upon our common history, many families in Britain must have links, however tenuous, with Spain.



Does your family history include such links? Maybe one of your ancestors sailed the Spanish Main with Drake or Raleigh, possibly a great-grandparent joined the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil war, or maybe a relation just happened to be in Spain during a significant time in its' history.

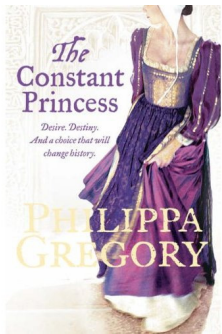
If so we would love to hear from you; in future newsletters we plan to look at a few points in our common history and it would be great if we could add some personal dimension to that moment.



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Literary Corner

Do you enjoy a good read, why not put yourself in the mood by checking out our book list? Over future newsletters we will be introducing you to books with a Spanish connection, both fact and fiction.



To start the ball rolling, here is something for the historical romantic:

The Constant Princess
by
Philippa Gregory

A splendid and sumptuous historical novel telling of the early life of Katherine of Aragon.

Next month we will offer a modern history. If you have a favourite book with a Spanish connection let us know and we will add it to the list so others may share your enjoyment.

Spread the word!

Explorer Scouts & Scout Network Members:

Do you know a fellow Scout (13-24 y old at the moment) who is interested in joining us but hasn't registered yet? Please feel free to pass this newsletter on and suggest they come along to one of the Open Sessions listed at the start of this newsletter.

Section Leaders and Assistants:

Would you like to join us in Spain but not registered yet? Contact the Management Team at aragon2012@berkshirescouts.org.uk and let us know how you would like to help.

To contact the Management Team:

General enquiries: aragon2012@berkshirescouts.org.uk
Expedition Website: www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/aragon2012
Facebook page: Berkshire Scouts Aragon 2012



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