



September 2011

Welcome to the first edition of the *Aragón Express*, your regular newsletter to keep you up to date with the progress of our County Expedition to Spain next August.

To start things off, we will review the basics. In our next edition (out at the end of September) we will start to look in detail at all aspects of the expedition.

Where are we going?

Aragón is a region in northern Spain extending into the central Pyrenees. Agriculture has long been the main industry but this is gradually changing.

We will be based just outside Aínsa, a small town dating back to the

11th century set at the northern end of a series of large lakes. To the north of the town are the Pyrenees and Parque Nacional de Ordesa y Monte Perdido, designated as an area of outstanding beauty and ecological importance and gaining distinction as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



When are we going?

While we cannot be sure until next August's ferry timetables are published, we plan to leave on Sunday the 12th of August (when the Olympics finish) and return on Sunday the 26th of August (i.e. the bank holiday weekend).



Berkshire Scouts Activity Expedition to Spain

How are we travelling?

Again subject to their timetable, we plan to take one of Brittany Ferries Super Ferries from Portsmouth to Bilbao and back, avoiding the need for a long and tiring road journey. With a crossing time of around 24 hours, these boats are mini cruise ships with a wide range of on-board entertainment. Heavy luggage, camping kit, kayaks, canoes, mountain bikes etc. will go overland by truck.

What will we do there?

You will have the opportunity to canoe and kayak on large lakes as well as to develop your white water skills on nearby rivers; head off into the mountains on one day and multi-day expeditions; enjoy rock climbing and Via Ferrata; go mountain biking and, in more relaxed mood, explore the sites and culture of the region. We will also offer the chance to take part in expeditions for your Scouting and D of E higher awards. We will expand on the area and the range of activities in future newsletters.

Where will we stay?

Morillo de Tou is situated on the shore of a large lake a short distance from Aínsa. It is well equipped with a swimming pool and the other facilities found on a modern campsite. At its core are the remains of a small village that was abandoned when the valley was dammed and flooded. The village was later “reclaimed” and turned into the holiday centre we see



today, catering for youth organisations and schools in addition to families. You can check out the campsite at <http://www.morillodetou.com>

Help us spread the word!

Leaders, we would like to visit all Explorer Scout Units, Network groups and Young Leaders in the County. If we haven't already been to see you, please contact Annick via aragon2012@berkshirescouts.org.uk with possible dates and we will arrange to meet your group at a time to suit your programme.





NETWORK

Explorer Scouts & Scout Network Members: Do you know a fellow Scout (13-24 y old at the moment) who would be interested in joining us? Please feel free to pass this newsletter on and suggest they register (no commitment) by going to www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/aragon2012

Section Leaders and Assistants: Would you like to join us in Spain? Do you have a skill we could use, or do you wish to develop such a skill? If so register your interest at www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/aragon2012 and let us know how you would like to help.

Dates for your diaries:

Open evening for Leaders

Leaders, Activity Specialists and Network members interested in taking an active role in the organisation of the expedition are invited to join us for an informal chat about the roles available. We will meet on

Monday, 10th October: 8:00pm at Wokingham Waterside Centre, RG6 1PQ
www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=473548&y=173949&z=0&sv=rg6+1pq&st=2&pc=rg6+1pq&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf

Participants Open Sessions

There will be 2 main opportunities for potential participants and their parents to find out more about the expedition and what they we will be doing and ask any questions.

Sunday, 20th November: 2:00pm at St-Bernard's Catholic Grammar School, SL3 7AF.

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

And for those who cannot come to that there will be a further session on **Thursday, 24th November, 7.30 pm at 1st Twyford Scout Hut RG10 9JA**

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

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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