



ZORITA CASTLE

ARCHAEOLOGY & OSTEOLOGY

From June 26 to July 15



- Location: Zorita de los Canes, Guadalajara Spain.
- Period: Late Medieval.
- Duration: 3 weeks.
- Accommodation: Hotel double-triple room.
- Program: Excavation in the cemetery of a Medieval castle belonging to the Calatrava Military Order.
Archaeological methods and techniques.
Osteology Lab workshops: human skeleton, anthropometry, Determination of age of death, size and sex.
Mornings will be dedicated to excavation.
Afternoons will be dedicated to seminars and workshops.

"This being my first dig, the ninth of July was just like any other day on the site, exciting and fascinating. As always, the walk up to Zorita Castle was filled with beautiful views, but the site was where the real finds were waiting." - Sydney Comstock



The most special burials are the ones with the best and most worked stone blocks, among them would be the three examples that have been found so far with the anthropomorphic head (i.e., in the form of a horseshoe arch). The series of tombs that go from T12 to T23 combine in their construction the unworked stone blocks with bricks, the latter usually in the upper course or placed vertically inside, as a way of regulating the wall. The most numerous are the tombs with pit and coffin, that is to say, burials below ground level and without structures. The relevant element would be the mound of earth that covers it and its elevation above ground level, instead of semi-buried stone covers.

The goal for 2023 is the excavation of the deepest graves to verify the time of the beginning of the occupation of the cemetery. The discovery of two coins in the hands of two of the skeletons at different depths, provide us with clues for the understanding of the history of the cemetery and the castle.

The Archaeology and Osteology program at Zorita Castle is focused on teaching archaeological methodology and is specially focused on the excavation of graves. Participants will take part in all the excavation process, they will keep a field journal and clean, identify, and catalogue artefacts. We will learn to define a burial, the right way to dig a skeleton and how to remove it from the ground: how to deal with the body, what tools to use, how to remove the bones in anatomical units, what is the correct packaging and how to register everything in situ.





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Dr. Dionisio Urbina

A professional archaeologist since 1990 Dr. Urbina has directed over fifty archaeological excavations, has published several articles and divulgative books. He has taught numerous courses, conducted exhibitions, lectures and seminars. Currently runs Archaeospain, directing the investigations at the sites of Zorita Castle and Roman Pulpon.



Víctor Barrera.

Graduate in History and Archaeology from the Complutense University of Madrid and Master in Physical Anthropology: Human Evolution and Biodiversity by the Complutense University of Madrid, the University of Alcalá de Henares and the Autonomous University of Madrid. Specialist in Archaeology and Forensic Anthropology by the Institute of Professional Training in Forensic Sciences of Madrid.

Excursions

We will visit historical cities as the medieval and Renaissance city of Toledo. Madrid became the capital of Spain in the XVI century, under the reign of Felipe II, we will get lost in between its oldest streets, visit some of its most emblematic areas, enjoy with some tapas and churros and end the day in the National Archaeological Museum. Visigothic town of Recopolis and Renaissance city of Pastrana



US\$2,650

Fees include

Full Room and Board

Fieldwork training

Seminars and workshops

Excursions and other activities

Medical Insurance

Transportation to and from airport

Application fee

Administrative costs

Fees DO NOT include airfare

Part of your fee will go toward the research project



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