



European Union
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Management of the anti-raid shelter from the Spanish Civil War "Cueva del Castillo" as a heritage and tourism resource

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Monegrillo



Monegrillo

Monegrillo is a Spanish municipality in the province of Zaragoza (Aragon), belonging to the region of Los Monegros. Close to the city of Zaragoza, just 40 km.

It has a population of 400 inhabitants.

The region of los monegros has an exceptional desert landscape that has been the scene of many films

“Cueva del Castillo” Anti-raid Shelter. Spanish Civil War

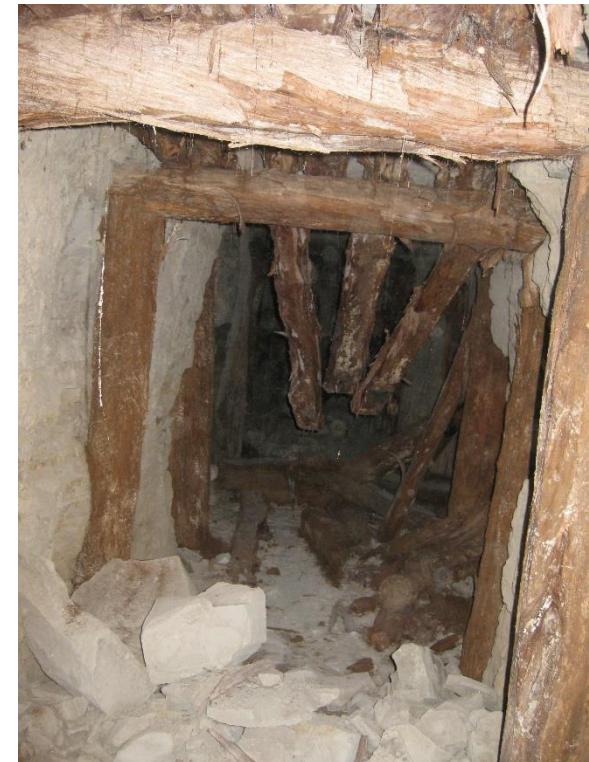
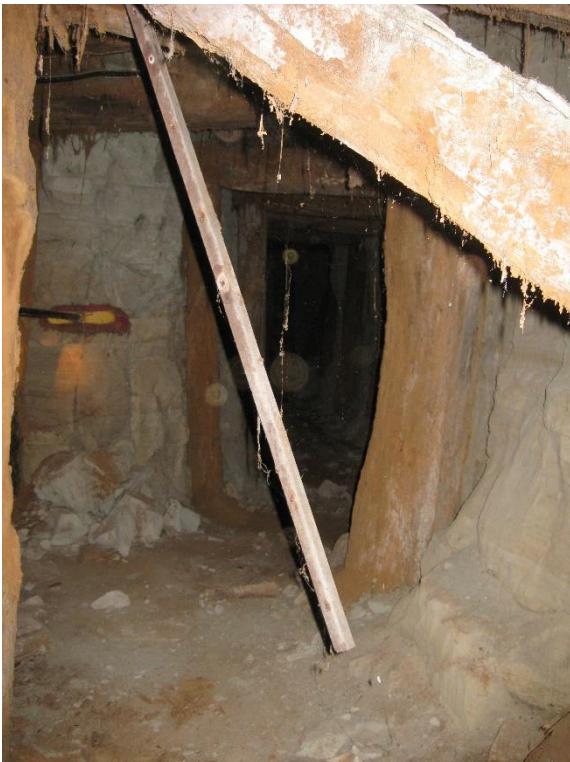


The "Cueva del Castillo" anti-raid shelter served as a shelter for the inhabitants of Monegrillo during the bombings of the Spanish Civil War. The town had been taken on August 11, 1936 without firing a single shot by the Tarrasa century, anarchist militiamen from the Durruti column.

For eighteen months the population had to go to take refuge on more than forty occasions from the enemy aviation, coming from the nearby Zaragoza airfield. Attacks with French, German and Italian planes that served as a test for the Second World War.



“Cueva del Castillo” Anti-raid Shelter. Spanish Civil War



Before the intervention

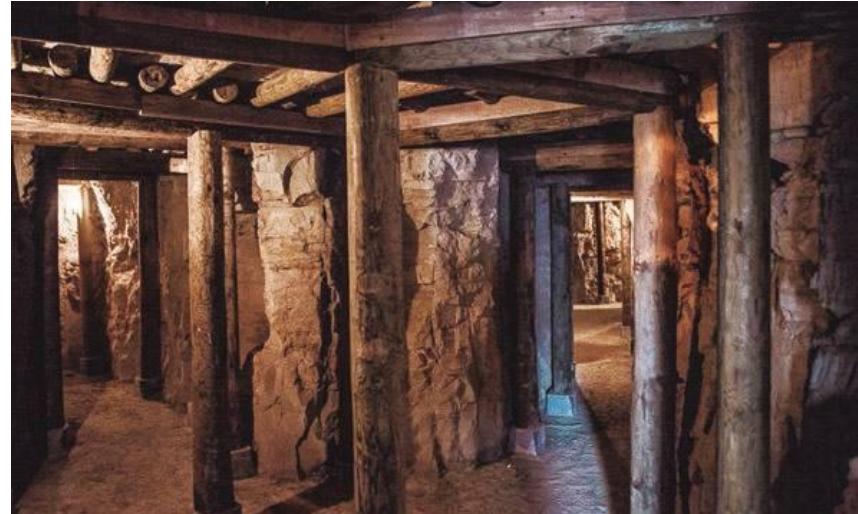
Objectives

- 1 Recovery of the historical-cultural heritage, with respect for the residents of Monegrillo who lived those dramatic moments.**
- 2 Promote the use of an existing resource in the locality to encourage tourist visits and activate local commerce. Make the refuge a point of attraction to promote the discovery of other cultural and natural values of the municipality.**
- 3 Spread an educational, informative and anti-war message, since we must not forget our history, so that mistakes are not repeated.**

Rehabilitation and conditioning of the anti-raid shelter

The Monegrillo City Council recently undertook its rehabilitation and now it can be visited, with a themed recreation of lighting, speech and sound effects.

To visit it it is necessary to make a reservation and prior appointment, visits admit a maximum of 6 people per group , and the duration of the visit is between 20 and 30 minutes. The shelter also offers the possibility of 'free' visits and a children's program specially designed for primary education.



Monegrillo and the Democratic Memory

The presence in Los Monegros of thousands of contenders, over almost two years in a practically stable front, led to the construction of all kinds of fortifications and supplies in the complex orography of the area. For this reason, this first memory route highlights various vestiges of life at the front or the resistance in the rear.

In addition to the Cueva del Castillo, the route includes the tomb of José Ramón Arana, located in the town's cemetery. This first route of democratic memory "El Frente de los Monegros", includes an itinerary through the municipalities of Tardienta, Torralba, Robres, Alcubierre Sierra and the port of Alcubierre, Leciñena, Perdiguera, Villamayor de Gállego, Farlete, Monegrillo, Bujaraloz, Sariñena- Albalatillo and Lanaja.

Monegrillo and the Democratic Memory



Resources Needed

First conditioning (2012): € 59,000

Musealization (2020): € 50,700

Founding:

FONDOS EUROPEOS DEL PROGRAMA LEADER – CENTRO DESARROLLO DE LOS MONEGROS.

FONDOS MUNICIPALES – AYUNTAMIENTO DE MONEGRILLO

FONDOS PROVINCIALES – DIPUTACIÓN PROVINCIAL DE ZARAGOZA.

Visits

It can be visited by appointment by phone, email or WhatsApp ... All the information is in the website www.monegrillo.es

Visits are carried out: from Monday to Friday, by personnel of the Municipality, During the weekend, by the councilors together with a student in Internship of the School of Tourism of the University of Zaragoza, with whom we have signed a collaboration agreement.

Entry is charged, € 1 / person, of the entire amount collected, 50% for the maintenance of the space and the other 50% for a solidarity cause: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR - Committee Spanish, with which we have a signed agreement to help refugees, displaced persons and current wars, in this case destined to UNHCR projects in Yemen, punished by 5 years of war.



Evidence of Success

Since its opening, and despite the restrictions due to COVID19 in February 2021, more than 100 groups of visitors have been received, about 500 people.

The activity has been positively noticed in local commerce.

The success of the initiative has meant that new tourism projects are already being activated in the village (tourist audio guide, hiking routes and mountain biking ...) all these activities are aimed to the economic development of the municipality and its inhabitants.

Monegrillo is a place to discover, where its main value, in addition to the hospitality of its people, is its captivating landscape, typically “Monegrino”





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Thank you!

Questions welcome



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