
THE CATALONIAN DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TOURISM PRESENTED IN BARCELONA THE SECOND EDITION OF *AÏNARA-THE MONASTERIES ROUTE*

***Turisme de Catalunya* lends support to this cultural and sporting event that visits some of the most important Catalanian historical spots on horseback**

Friday, 10 June 2005— Isabel Galobardes, the Catalanian Director-general of Tourism, presented today the second edition of *Aïnara-The Monasteries Route*, an itinerary on horseback that visits, from 16th to 26th June, various historical spots of the Catalanian territory. The event was also attended by Pep Parés, the Co-ordinator of Aïnara; Ignasi Doñate, the Catalanian Director-general of Sports; Albert Soler, the Head of the Institut Barcelona Esports; the singer Maria del Mar Bonet; and the musician Manel Camp.

Aïnara, a *raid* unique of its type in Europe, takes up the heritage of the legendary long-distance *raids* held at the beginning of the 20th century. This second edition will start its adventure on 16th June in the city of Barcelona with a horse exhibition and a cultural event.

Turisme de Catalunya lends its support once more to this kind of proposal that, in the words of the Director-general of Tourism, “allows the galvanisation of inland tourism and helps value the nature, culture, art, history and gastronomy of our land”. In this sense, Galobardes detailed the routes and the locations through which the 20 horse riders taking part in it will pass: Barcelona, medieval Montblanc, the route of Citeaux (Poblet, Santes Creus and Vallbona de les Monges), the Bons Homes route (Berga), Vic-City of Culture, the Cerdanya route (Puigcerdà), the Ermites route (Vilallonga de Ter, Llanars), Besalú-Museu Obert, and the Salamina and Girona route, where the *raid* will finish its itinerary.

The Brand Catalonia will have an important presence throughout the itinerary of the test, and will be featured in placards, vehicles, documentation and the organisation’s official clothing gear. As for the cultural aspect of the event, and on the occasion of the celebration of the Year of the Book and of Reading, we highlight the reading of fragments of the *Tirant lo Blanc* novel, that will take place during these days, and



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which the Director-general of Tourism started today, during the presentation of the event in Barcelona.