

VOLUNTEER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK MANISES 2025

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS IN THE BARRI DEL OBRADORS IN MANISES

Since 2011, Manises City Council has supported the archaeological digs in Barri de Obradors which are open to non-experts with or without prior experience with the aim to improve knowledge of ceramics of Valencian origin and identify the production process on the basis of the finds.

BACKGROUND

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PRODUCTION AND SPECIALISED TRAINING

The project's main objective is to increase the knowledge of ceramics of Valencian origin which, as is well known, were widely spread by medieval trade from the city of Valencia, the port and the nearest administrative centre on which both Manises and Paterna depended. So far, we know that they reached such distant towns as Fustat, Damascus, Funa (Crimea), Moscow, Bergen, Tallin and, of course, the Caribbean, to name just a few.

The excavation work not only helps us get to know the material and its chronological evolution but also to identify the production process on the basis of the finds which are documented in the workshops in which they were made with the help of the abundant waste from the workshops. To this end, since the project got underway, we have focused our attention on the Barri dels Obradors in Manises, a neighbourhood where production had been concentrated since, at least, the beginning of the fourteenth century. This district is separated from the residential area, which is the town of Manises, neighbouring the pottery quarter and separated from it by a wall and a moat in which traces were found when rescue archaeology was undertaken. The dig offers a reading of the spatial organization of the town from the point of view of production needs.

With the finds from the excavations, we were able to identify pieces of tableware destined for European royalty which were previously unknown as far as the heraldry is concerned. We know that heraldic tableware was made for the ducal family of Burgundy, the Medici, numerous Tuscan merchants, and, too, the King and Queen of Aragon, etc. However, the dig helped unveil pieces dedicated to Charles VI de Valois, in this case with an embossed shield made by a sculptor and with an inscription that read "of the King of France" or of Queen Violant of Bar, both of which were previously unknown.

In addition to the field research, archaeometric studies were carried out together with the universities of Valencia, Barcelona, Vic and Granada, all of which yielded a significant number of results.

DATE, WHO IT IS AIMED AT, NUMBER OF PLACES AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING

The dig will take place from 30 June to 11 July at the Barri de Obradors site (Manises). Three archaeologists will intervene under the direction of Jaume Coll Conesa.

The field work is aimed at graduates and/or students of History, History of Art or Archaeology in UNESCO Creative Cities.

There will be a total of 10 places to be filled in strict order of registration through the email unesco@manises.es

5 of these places are reserved for people not from the province of Valencia belonging to the Creative Cities Network, the organization will cover the food and accommodation costs.

The remaining places will be open to people of legal age, students and/or graduates in the above mentioned disciplines in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network but the accommodation costs will not be covered.

The organisation will provide water, breakfast and lunch to the 10 people taking part for the duration of the dig.

The dig will take out an insurance policy to cover the people participating and, in addition, will provide them with specific personal protection material. As a complement, there would be visits to the nearby museums and archaeological centre.

Specific training activities will be carried out together with the field work. Practical field training will include an explanation of the evidence found when it involves elements that help interpret the production process or the defects seen in it and the possible causes.

REGISTRATION

Registration period from **12 June to 19 June 2025 in strict order of registration.**

Registrations will only be possible by email at uneso@manises.es

Personal and contact information must be attached along with a brief resume.