In search of the Blau!!



Explorer!

Blau, age 10, is spending the weekend in Lleida to visit her grandparents.
Ever since she was little, her grandma has told her that her name comes from a very old image of the Mother of God from the Seu Vella.
So Blau's decided to figure it out. She's strapped on her explorer boots and... off to the Turó de la Seu Vella!
Want to help her? Solve the enigmas, fill in the gaps and you'll discover where this image is or was. Remember, the name is in Catalan!

P	O							S	T	O	L	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Solve all 13 enigmas and take home 1 FREE ENTRY (up to age 18)

Idea i text: Blanca Casas. Serveis Educatius, CTSVL

In search of the Blau!!

This route begins in the Turó parking lot (Plaça de la Sardana). If you're already there, let the adventure begin! And what better way to do so than by taking a selfie with the Seu Vella in the background!

1 Before you looms the highest element of the Seu Vella, the **bell tower**. Its bells rang out across Catalonia to commemorate a very auspicious date.
Do you know which one?

If you didn't bring a phone, you can skip this question

2 From this spot, you must be feeling really small! A perfectly normal sensation, considering the bell tower is as tall as a human tower of 43 10-year-old children (1.40 m each).
Do you know how tall that is?

Did you know... the Seu Vella's first monumental clock had only one hand and 24 hours instead of 12?



3 Now, a game of visual memory.
You've probably seen the Seu Vella's silhouette thousands of times, but, do you know all its details?



4 You've arrived at the **Fillols Gate**.
This door is being watched. Look up and...ta-da! Several heads look back at you and some even make faces: they are demons. But what's a bunch of demons doing there on a door?

T. They form a protective shield to keep demons (evil) out of the Seu Vella.
U. They scare people.
V. They form evidence of a satanic ritual performed in that era.

these heads are associated with the myth of Gorgona, in which Perseus cuts off Medusa's head and delivers it to Athena. Google it and you'll be able to answer the question.

5 This spot is the oldest and furthest from the bell tower. You'll see there are several semicircular structures, called apses. Count them and say how many there used to be.

A-5 **B-3** **C-4**

Hint: some apses are no longer there but are drawn on the surface.

Did you know... part of the Seu Vella was destroyed by a big explosion in the King's Castle when it was a gunpowder magazine?

6 You've arrived at the **Apostles Gate**. A game of differences: the drawing on the left shows what the door and the Seu Vella's surroundings were like nearly 500 years ago. Circle the door in the drawing and say what differences you see with respect to the door and cathedral of today.



Enric Garsaball, Museu d'Art Jaume Morera

A. Five hundred years ago, the Seu Vella was surrounded by houses and a great stairway leading from the door of the Seu Vella to the bottom of the hill. Today, neither the houses nor the stairway remain.

B. Five hundred years ago, the Seu Vella was surrounded by houses and a great stairway leading from the door of the Seu Vella to the bottom of the hill. Today, both the houses and the stairway are still there.

C. Five hundred years ago, the Seu Vella was surrounded by houses and the bell tower hadn't been built yet. Today, both the houses and the bell tower can be seen.

Did you know... in the 17th century, in the context of the Reaper's War, hundreds of houses surrounding the Seu Vella were demolished to build, in their place, the fortification (wall) which can still be seen today?

It's time to go inside. Head to reception and present this itinerary to get your free ticket!

7 You are in the **cloister**. A courtyard with a central garden typical of the cathedrals, churches and monasteries of the Middle Ages. Before you, you will also see some highly decorated arcade windows. Observe them and say if there are any two alike.

Hint: find the arcade windows in the photo and you'll know if there are any two alike. But, watch out, because





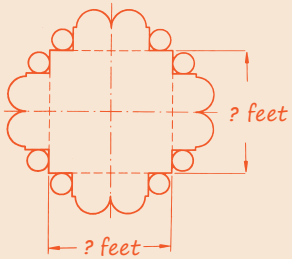
Have you found two alike? **P.** YES / **Q.** NO

8 Stand in the middle of the garden and look up. Surprise! This time they're not demons, but rather monstrous animals petrified with their mouths open! They are **gargoyles**, figures which once served a very important purpose. Do you know what they were used for?

Hint: look at where they're placed, just under the roof.

M. They were used to scare people.
N. They were used as decoration.
O. They were used to collect rainwater.

9 You've just entered the church. Go to the marked spot and look at the ceiling. It looks as if you're in the belly of a whale, doesn't it? It is gigantic and is held up, in large part, by the enormous pillars you see on either side. Let's measure them! We'll do it how it was done in the past, with our bodies. Count their length in feet and write it on the photo.



If there's a ruler on hand, also make a note of the centimetres. ___feet _____cm

Did you know... the Seu Vella's proportions are based on the Visigoth foot, which had a length of 33.33 cm, and the side you just measured was seven Visigoth feet long? It doesn't seem like a very human size, since a modern shoe size of 45 equals 28 cm.

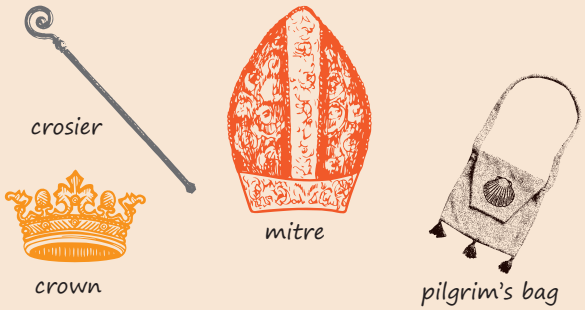
10 Wondering how old the Seu Vella is?
In this spot you'll discover the year they started building it, but, to discover it, you'll have to know Roman numerals.



M: **CC:** **III:**

Did you know... the contract from the year 1193 made out to the Seu Vella's master of works, Pere de Coma, has been conserved, and his name appears, in Latin, in the last line of this stone (PE/TR/US D CUBA)?

11 Now we're going to talk about death. That's right: death. You are facing the tomb of someone who was very important to the Seu Vella. Can you figure out who it is? The objects which surround the individual will help you. Identify and circle them.



He was a B_____

12 If you've liked the fantastical animals you've seen so far, you'll love the mermaids here. Do you know what they are? In effect, a mermaid is half-woman and half-fish, although there were also bird mermaids. From where you are now, say which of the two mermaids you see.

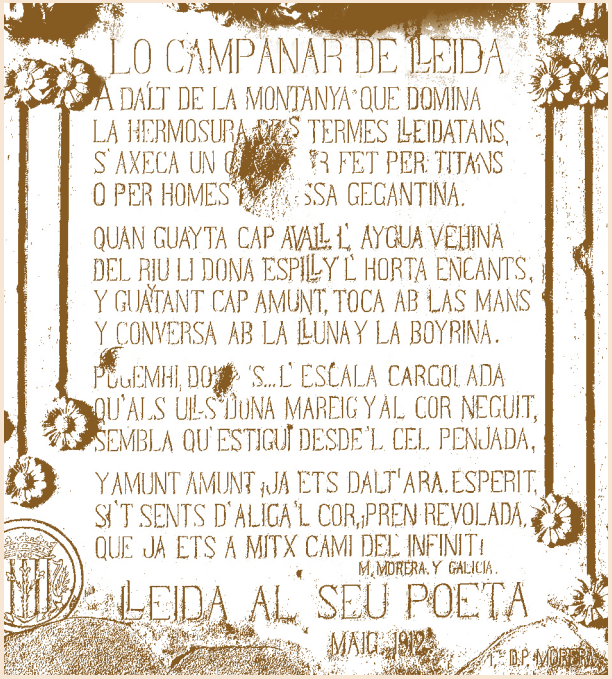
Hint: look up!





Did you know... that mermaids had been known, since ancient times, as very negative animals and represented the dangers and evils of women in a society dominated by men? Can you imagine what life was like for women then?

13 Finally, what you've been waiting for: climbing the bell tower, "made for titans or for men of the giant race", as Magí Morera says in the poem he dedicated to it in 1912. Before going up, one last test. Start by warming up your voice and reciting the poem.
It's written in nonnormative Catalan, as the first general dictionary of the Catalan language wasn't published until 1931.


LO CAMPANAR DE LLEIDA

A DALT DE LA MONTANYA QUE DOMINA
LA HERMOSURA DELS TERMES LLEIDATANS,
S'AXECA UN CAMPANAR FET PER TITANS
O PER HOMES DE RAÇA GEGANTINA.

QUAN GUAYTA CAP AVALL L'AYGUA VEHINA
DEL RIU LI DONA ESPILL Y L'HORTA ENCANTS,
Y GUAITANT CAP AMUNT, TOCA AB LAS MANS
Y CONVERSA AB LA LLUNA Y LA BOYRINA.

PUGEMHI DONA 'S...L' ESCALA CARGOLADA
QU'ALS ULLS DUNA MAREIG Y AL COR NEGUIT,
SEMBLA QU'ESTIGUI DESDE'L CEL PENJADA,

Y AMUNT AMUNT ¡JA ETS DALT'ARA ESPERIT,
SI'T SENTS D'ALIGA'L COR ¡PREN REVOLADA,
QUE JA ETS A MITX CAMI DEL INFINIT!

M. MORERA Y GALICIA.

LLEIDA AL SEU POETA

MAIG 1912

Did you know... when the poem was added to the bell tower, in the early 20th century, it was located outside because the Seu Vella was a military barracks?

If you've made it this far, congratulations: you are a GREAT EXPLORER!

And if you'd like to know more, about the Blau Mother of God, visit this website.