

el Periòdic News

IMPROVEMENTS IN MERITXELL

The old Sanctuary updates the audiovisual

This is a video that recalls the evolution of the space in its 50-year history

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A few days before September 8th, Meritxell's Day and when it will also be 50 years since the foundation stone of the new Sanctuary was laid, on Thursday the new audiovisual was presented in the old Sanctuary that commemorated through archive images the entire evolution of one of the Principality's most emblematic places. It is a chronological journey starting with the construction of the old Sanctuary and how this was the point of union, firstly for the parish of Canillo and, with the passage of time, for all Andorrans. The video also recalls the tragic fire that happened in 1972 with images from that day and the subsequent remodeling until reaching the current Sanctuary. Since last Thursday, all visitors who come can already press the button and play it.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mònica Bonell, was present at the event and commented that the audiovisual update has coincided with this 50th anniversary, but that it is work that has already begun last year, when the ministry's Museums and Monuments area renovated the memory space with the panels and lighting, looking for sustainability, and also with guides in different languages so that all the people who come to visit this space «can understand what we are explaining with this space», she detailed.

Regarding the audiovisual update, Bonell said that «we tried



The consul of Canillo, Jordi Alcobé; the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mònica Bonell; and Monsignor Ramon de Canillo in the presentation.



MÒNICA BONELL
MINISTER OF CULTURE

«We tried to keep images from the old projection to give it a more emotional tone»

to keep images from the old projection to give it a more emotional tone and remember how the Meritxell Day party was celebrated before». In addition, she clarified that it is not a fixed video, but that «you can keep changing and incorporating new photographs. This is what we will do from now on, if we see images that can be added we will do so», she said. In fact, after the screening, the Consul Major of Canillo, Jordi Alcobé, told the minister that more images could

be added about the construction of the new Sanctuary, specifically of how the bell tower was before, which was made of golden copper and that over time it has become darker. A proposal that Bonell listened to, underlining that «all these contributions and those coming from the visitors are good». On the other hand, priest Ramon de Canillo assessed the update very positively: «This audiovisual helps to make history better known», he pointed out. ●

HOTEL AND TOURISM

The «last minute» effect consolidates an August with 86% occupancy

Events such as the MTB World Cup or the JJ.OO. have encouraged the increase in visitors

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Last Thursday, the Hotel Union issued a statement positively evaluating hotel occupancy in the month of August, noting that this year the month had «practically full five weeks», a fact, they emphasize, that is unusual in other years. Thus, according to the data presented, the average occupation reached 86.22%, thus surpassing last year's figure, which was 80.70%.

It is worth saying that one of the factors highlighted by the Hotel Union has been the «last minute» effect, which has remained after the pandemic and which seems to have consolidated as a trend among visitors who book at the last minute moment «This effect is here to stay», describes the statement, indicating that the behavior of reserves has continued to be unpredictable, but with satisfactory results.

In addition, the Hotel Union underlines the delay in the arri-



The employment figure in August last year was 80.70%.

val of tourists in the country during the month of July, which it has attributed to the celebration of large-scale sporting events on a European scale, such as the European Football Cup and the Games Olympic In this way, and despite this initial decline, the month of July ended up gradually recovering. On the contrary, the month

of August recorded an increase in arrivals, especially concentrated during the «central fortnight», where the occupancy was «close to 90%».

Another event that has contributed to increasing employment during this month has been the famous MTB World Cup, which has helped to significantly incre-

THE NUMBERS SHOW IT

A 6%

It is the number that has increased the number of tickets to hotels in the country compared to last year.

ALMOST 90%

This month of August leaves us with employment, with a clear increase in customers who have come at the last minute.


ase the flow of visitors during the last week of August. In relation to this reason, the Hotel Union emphasizes that «any event that brings tourists to the country is to be appreciated», adding that these types of events are a clear example of the positive impact they can have on the tourism sector. In this sense, the organization congratulates and celebrates the events organized by the Principality, such as the UCI MTB world championships in Pal Arinsal. ●

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