



## *PROJECT OF A NATURAL CEMETERY IN ÓRGIVA (GRANADA)*

An initiative of the group **Morir y Vivir** with the technical collaboration of the **Asociación para el Enterramiento Natural**

# INHUMATION AS A TRIBUTE TO LIFE

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# A PROJECT TO CARE FOR ÓRGIVA

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Love for the town of Orgiva, home to a collective of human beings, is one of the most emotive values that can be cultivated. Strength of community is also what nourishes the soul of each of its inhabitants.

We want to share an idea, a project that seeks to care for Órgiva, while at the same time taking advantage of the potential of what has been created in the last decades as a town.





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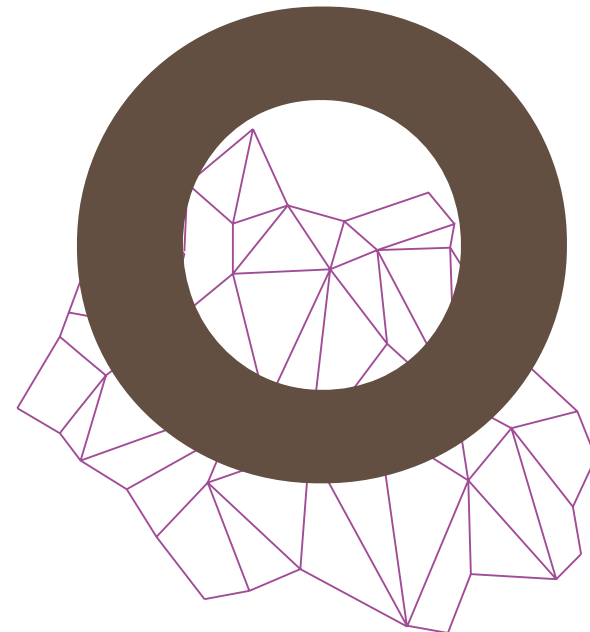
# WE ARE AN INCLUSIVE TOWN

In Órgiva, we are proud of the fact that twenty-five per cent of our inhabitants are foreigners who have integrated into the town.

Another cultural characteristic that identifies us is that we welcome different spiritual communities including the large Muslim community that follow the spiritual path of Sufism.

This cultural diversity of Órgiva brings a human richness in values of coexistence, which is quite unusual in our country.

## Órgiva





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# AN INNOVATIVE POPULATION

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In favour of this respect for cultural and religious diversity, the municipal cemetery provides a space for burial according to the ancestral Islamic ritual.

The main uniqueness of the Muslim cemetery is that the body is buried directly in the ground with a shroud or in a light coffin. This style of Islamic natural burial allows us to consider extending the cemetery with a space where a natural burial can be practised, regardless of religious belief, simply out of respect for Mother Earth.





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# WHAT IS A NATURAL BURIAL GROUND?

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A natural cemetery is conceived as a memorial area in which nature takes on a special significance.

For this reason, in this type of natural cemetery, funerary symbols are absent or minimal, as the emphasis is more on environmental integration and aspects that enhance the landscape.





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# NATURAL VS CONVENTIONAL CEMETERY

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In a natural cemetery, an environmentally responsible funeral ceremony is carried out using only environmentally-friendly products and materials.

The natural cemetery is conceived as a place of remembrance for the deceased, now at one with nature.

The idea of the natural cemetery is a burial that at the same time is a homage to Life.





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# THE ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

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Taking into account the environmental impact of burials, a conventional burial in a grave in a conventional cemetery produces 112.5 kgs of CO<sub>2</sub> which contribute to global warming.

In a natural cemetery, however, placing the deceased directly into the ground eliminates the need to use concrete which has a destructive environmental impact.

A natural cemetery, therefore, is the most environmentally friendly burial.





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# IN FAVOR OF TRULY SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPEMENT GOALS

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The project of a natural cemetery in Órgiva contributes to truly sustainable human development

This project promotes multiculturalism, one of the goals of authentic human development for the future.

The natural cemetery promotes a form of ecological and experiential respect for the deceased as well as for the land, which adds to the necessary commitment to benefit future generations.







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# NATURAL CEMETERIES ALREADY EXIST IN EUROPE, THE USA AND CANADA

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These cemeteries exist legally in many Anglo-Saxon countries; The United Kingdom, Canada, The United States, New Zealand and Australia since 1994.

In recent years, they have gradually been introduced in other countries as well, such as The Netherlands and France.

The project of the natural cemetery of Órgiva would be inspired by those existing in Europe adapted to the environmental conditions of the Alpujarra.





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# HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS

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A natural burial site is only authorised in areas not located in a surface water or groundwater protection zone. It must also be located at least 250 metres from any well or spring supplying water for human consumption or used in food production.

Therefore, unlike other post-mortem treatments, natural burial, together with human composting are considered the most environmentally friendly of all methods.





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# SUPPORTING EXPERIENCE

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The British experience, for example, has been in existence for more than 30 years, with some 280 natural cemeteries or natural burial grounds.

There have never been any cases of water pollution. The same can not be said about agricultural fertilisation.

The long and proven history of natural cemeteries not posing any health or environmental risks is our guarantee.





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# TOXIC BURIAL PRODUCTS ARE FORBIDDEN

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The philosophy of this type of burial requires two essential conditions:

- It is forbidden to embalm with formaldehyde or any other thanatopraxis practices involving the injection of toxic chemicals.
- Burial in the bare earth is without wooden coffins or in untreated wooden coffins.





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# A CEMETERY INTEGRATED WITH THE LANDSCAPE AND NATURE

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The natural cemetery by its very definition becomes a space where the restoration and conservation of the natural environment is taken into consideration.

The natural cemetery is considered a sacred place or memorial for nature fertilised by the deceased bodies.

A sacred and public space that generates a natural green zone.





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# RENATURALISING THE CEMETERY

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The benefits for the natural environment are extensive and indisputable.

Due to its function as a memorial burial ground, a natural cemetery honors the earth as the memory of the deceased is impregnated in the beauty and biodiversity of the natural cemetery.





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# NATURAL ECONOMY

A natural cemetery is therefore a space free of the typical concrete infrastructure of the conventional cemetery where each plot costs about EUR 700. On the other hand, preparing a grave directly in the ground costs less than 150 euros.

Direct in-ground burial is also more environmentally beneficial than cremation as there is no atmospheric pollution.





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# TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

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The project for a natural cemetery of Órgiva will have the technical participation of the only associative initiative in Spain of people who value the direct burial in nature with a coffin made of biodegradable materials or directly in the ground.

The Association for Natural Burial ([enterramientonatural.org](http://enterramientonatural.org)) is an organisation that seeks to promote life in connection with Nature, until death, and supports the project by contributing its knowledge and experience in this field. It recognises that land is a temporary usufruct and that the natural cemetery is a collective memorial.







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# GETTING STARTED

The natural cemetery of Órgiva is a project that can be within the framework of the economic funds approved by the European Union and is part of the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), managed by the Spanish Government.

To this end, it would be necessary to initially carry out:

1. A geotectonic and geomorphological study to assess potential risks to groundwater.
2. A landscape architectural project to design an eco-friendly funerary space.





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# WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS

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On the basis of the studies that will demonstrate its viability as a project attached to the current cemetery, a participatory process will be carried out to promote popular consensus.

From this point onwards, the phase of involving public authorities in the project will begin, especially the Junta de Andalucía, to initiate the project's approval.

The implementation will be straightforward and quick as it is essentially a matter of improving the existing natural landscape and could also receive funding from the European Union NEXT Generation funds.





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# LET'S UNITE IN FAVOUR OF LIFE

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*Public images of natural cemeteries of the UK, Holand y France*