



La casa de Robert Graves

School Visits Welcome!

La casa de Robert Graves provides school visits which:

- explain Robert Graves's international importance and relevance to Mallorca;
- describe his life and literature;
- provide a unique English-language immersion experience.

Primary level visits include: treasure hunt/ drawing exercises.

Secondary level (ESO 3 +) visits include additional resources: pre-visit preparation; visit worksheet; post-visit exercises.

Visits by older groups studying literature, classics, history or myths are also encouraged, as are university students.



La casa de Robert Graves - Visit

- Students bring with them the 'visit worksheet';
- 14 minute introductory video in the auditorium;
- Timeline: Graves's life & world events;
- House visit with:
 - original 1940s furniture & décor;
 - Graves's writing study;
 - Crown Albion printing press (1872).
- Exhibition room:
 - first editions, letters, memorabilia, etc.;
 - video recitation of 'The Face in the Mirror'.
- Garden visit: labelled plants, irrigation system.

Pre-visit Preparation & Post-visit Report

The following resources (with suggestions for their use) are available for teachers:



- Poem
- Short Story
- Short bibliography
- Biography
- Robert Graves's relevance to Mallorca
- Visit worksheet

The teacher can then combine the material to his/her requirements for the visit and the student report.

Robert Graves (1895-1985) is one of the great figures of 20th century English literature. Poet, novelist, classicist and humorist, Graves wrote over 140 books for adults and children (including *I, Claudius*). Robert Graves lived in Deià for 46 years.

07179 Deià, Mallorca Tel. 971 636185

www.lacasaderobertgraves.com

info@lacasaderobertgraves.com

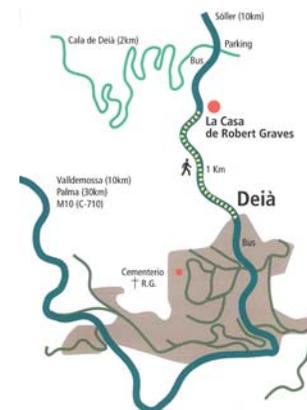
Visit Logistics

- Opening hours for groups: 9 a.m.
- Seasonality: visits between November-March are best (school has sole use of **La casa**).
- 1 teacher for every 10 students required.
- Auditorium: seats approx. 25 people.
- Visit duration: allow one hour for auditorium & house visit.
- Add an additional hour for visiting Deià/the cemetery.
- Cost: student rate/groups: € 3.50 per student. Teachers not charged.
- Regional bus service stops close to **La casa**.

Group Sizes

Maximum for **La casa** is 30. The visit to **La casa** can be combined with a visit to the Deià **cemetery** where Graves is buried. This allows groups of up to 60 to stagger activities.

- At **La casa**, a group of 30 can visit the auditorium (film) together, then subdivide: 1 group visits the house; the other group does the "Robert Graves Timeline" and the garden. They then change over activities.
- A group of 60 can be subdivided into 2 groups: half at **La casa**; the other half in Deià and the **cemetery**. They then change over.



Resources and Suggestions

I. Poem: ‘*The Face in the Mirror*’: Robert Graves’s self-description as he shaves one morning.

The accompanying worksheet includes directions:

- To analyze:
 - words used for physical description;
 - references to life/historical events.
- Student poem/analysis of own ‘face in the mirror’.

II. Short Story: ‘*School Life in Majorca*’: a humorous, two page story in letter format about two English children’s experiences in 1950s Mallorca.

The accompanying worksheet includes directions:

- To analyze:
 - vocabulary;
 - historical content (Franco era);
 - cultural differences (British vs. Spanish);
 - school experience in 1950s Mallorca;
 - humour.
- Student letter about their own school/culture mix experiences.

III. Visit Worksheet: a set of questions to guide the students through the visit, based on the Timeline; the house exhibits; and garden elements.

The teacher can edit the worksheet; and decide whether students should first review it in class or receive it ‘cold’ during their visit.

IV. Post-Visit Report: thematic suggestions for posting student remarks/work on a blog, facebook etc.

V. Robert Graves’s Relevance to Mallorca

- Protection of the Tramuntana. Graves was a strong advocate for the preservation of the area’s natural and cultural heritage, dating back to the 1960s.
- The permanent presence of Graves, who was internationally renowned, brought reader and press attention to Mallorca. This, together with the growth of mass tourism, put the island and Deià ‘on the map’. Graves’s reflects wryly on this phenomenon in *Majorca Observed* (1965).
- Graves wrote various essays and short stories that act as a prism for viewing life in Mallorca from the 1930s to the 1960s, e.g. “Why I live in Majorca” (1953). Also, *Complete Short Stories* (2008) presents all of Graves's short fiction, including humorous stories about everyday life in Mallorca.

VI. Selected Bibliography: Teaching Applications

1. Novel:

Groundbreaking historical novel: *I, Claudius* (famous BBC TV series): Roman Empire c. AD 40. Ideas of republicanism; contrast with rise of fascism in Germany at time of writing.

2. Autobiography:

Graves’s avant-garde *Goodbye to All That* (1929) written at the age of 33.

- stark honesty contrasting with the era’s ethos;
- use of different mediums: letters, poems, etc.;
- Graves’s ‘cut and paste’ writing technique.

3. Myths:

- *The Greek Myths* (1955): imaginative versions.
- *The Golden Fleece* (1944): a re-telling of Jason and the Argonauts; opening chapter is set in ancient Mallorca.

Related Reading

Wild Olives: Life in Majorca with Robert Graves by William Graves (in English, 1995; in Spanish, 1997).

–William Graves conveys the texture of life in 1940s & 50s Majorca, growing up with a famous father.

A Woman Unknown by Lucia Graves (in Spanish, 2000; in English, 2001).

– Lucia Graves depicts her Mallorcan childhood during the Franco dictatorship and the feeling of being caught between cultures.

Robert Graves Biography

A one page PDF of Graves’s biography as available at http://www.lacasad robertgraves.com/index_eng.php together with much other information.

Fundació Robert Graves

Deià · Mallorca



Govern de les Illes Balears

Conselleria d'Educació,
Cultura i Universitats



AJUNTAMENT DE DEIÀ
ILLES BALEARS

in collaboration with



Associació de professors d'anglès de les Illes Balears

