

A TRAVELLER'S DIARY

*Can you tell me the way to...?
Tracing our European heritage on foot*



11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th October 2015
Aosta Valley, Italy

This diary belongs to:

This diary will be your travelling companion for the next few days of walking. It will help you to observe the places we visit, to discover hidden details that bear witness to history and maintain the memories of moments you have experienced along the way.

You will not only have to complete the tasks that are outlined every day, but also add your own notes and feelings.

Do this carefully, because the details and undertones of each moment can fade with time. However, it is the diaries of those who came before us that provide the concrete evidence of what has existed before.

At the end of our journey, the best diary will receive a reward while everyone will be able to take home a souvenir of this adventure!

Have a great walk!

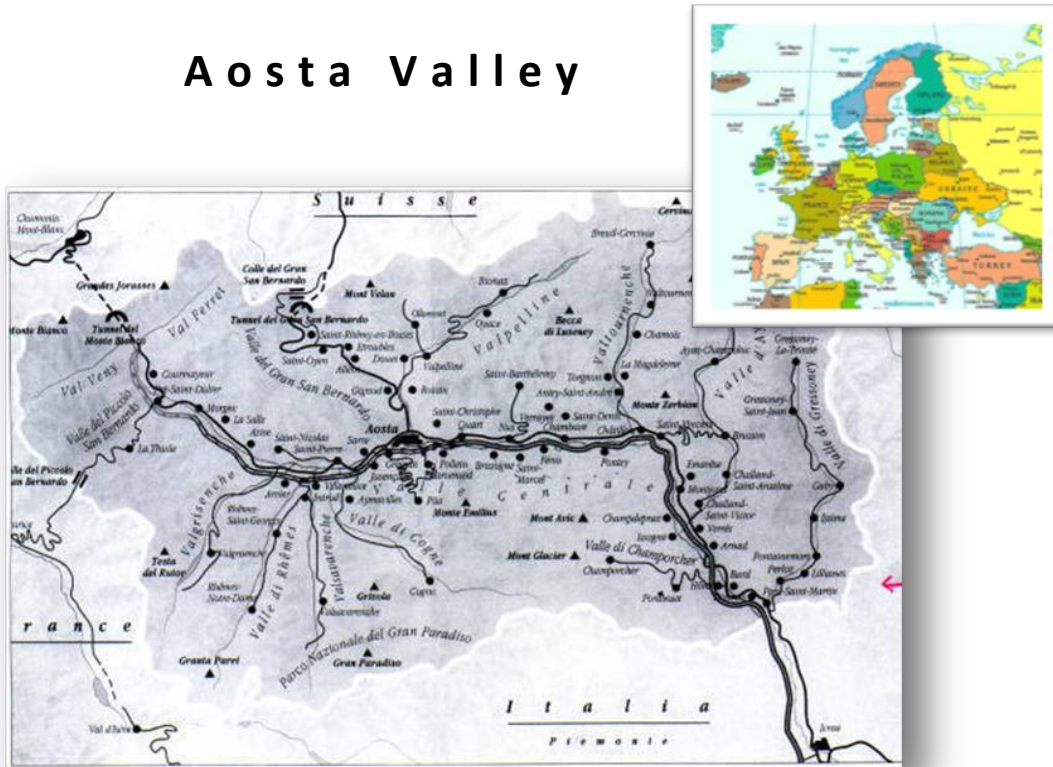
“El viaje no acaba nunca. Solo los viajeros acaban. E incluso estos pueden prolongarse en memoria, en recuerdo, en relatos. Cuando el viajero se sentó en la arena de la playa y dijo: “no hay nada más que ver”, sabía que no era así. El fin de un viaje es sólo el inicio de otro. Hay que ver lo que no se ha visto, ver otra vez lo que ya se vio, ver en primavera lo que se había visto en verano, ver de día lo que se vio de noche, con el sol lo que antes se vio bajo la lluvia, ver la siembra verdeante, el fruto maduro, la piedra que ha cambiado de lugar, la sombra que aquí no estaba. Hay que volver a los pasos ya dados, para repetirlos y para trazar caminos nuevos a su lado. Hay que comenzar de nuevo el viaje. Siempre.”

José Saramago

"The journey never ends. Only travellers end. But even then they can prolong their voyage in their memories, in recollections in stories. When the traveler is sitting on the sand of the beach and said: "There is nothing to see", he knew that it was not true. The end of one journey is simply the start of another. We need to see what we haven't seen, see again what we have already seen, in the spring we have to see what we have seen in the summer, we have to see the day that we have seen at night, with the sun where the first time it rained. We need to retrace the steps already given, to repeat them and to track our next new paths. We need to start the journey. Always."

José Saramago

Aosta Valley



This is the area that you are going to discover in the next few days.

Can you notice anything special about it?

In what part of Europe is it located?

Remember to record your journey on this map every day.

The Aosta Valley is a mountainous region. In your opinion, does this altitude create a barrier, a form of protection or a meeting point? Why?

Great Saint Bernard Pass

Monday 12th October

Departure from	
GPS coordinates	Lat: Long: Alt:
Weather	
Arrival at	
GPS coordinates	Lat: Long: Alt:

What do I expect from today's activities?

Fill in the gaps with the given words. Be careful, there are some extra words!

Salassi; France; 2472 mt; East-west, Switzerland, 2742 mt; Romans; Mons Jovis; North-south

The Great Saint Bernard Pass (.....) soars in an area which is frequently windy and stormy and unitesand Italy. The road to the pass, which is impassable for eight months of the year due to heavy snowfall, is a favorite road for many who want to go from one side of the Alps to the other. The, who gave it the name of....., made it the main crossing over the Alps along the axis, and built a temple there where soldiers and travellers could give offerings to the gods in exchange for their blessing.

Multiple choice questions (more than one answer is possible):

1. Why are dogs bred by monks in this area?
 - a- To be used as sheep dogs to look after the herds of sheep and cattle
 - b- They are excellent company on long winter nights
 - c- They are trained to find travelers lost or buried in the snow.

2. In your opinion, what were the monks' main tasks?
- a- To give first aid to travellers trapped in the snow.
 - b- To accommodate all travellers, free of charge, irrespective of their religion.
 - c- To pray, isolated from the rest of the world.

Observe and copy the statue of Bernard, archdeacon of Aosta, known today as Saint Bernard: what do you notice in particular?

During the wars of the 20th century, this pass re-acquired a fundamental use. What was it?

Why?

Observe the flora that you can find along the Via delle Gallie (the Roman road to Gaul). Can you notice anything in particular?

Take a photo and upload it to <http://www.projectnoah.org/>

Today I walked forhours and for a distance ofkm.

I visited these places _____

I met (write the names of the people you came into contact with and the impressions you had.)

Details, moments, sensations... Write or draw something that impressed you today.

"The air is so fine, it is difficult to breathe...the cold so exquisitely thin and sharp that it is not to be described".
Charles Dickens at the Great Saint Bernard Pass, 1846.

R o m a n A o s t a

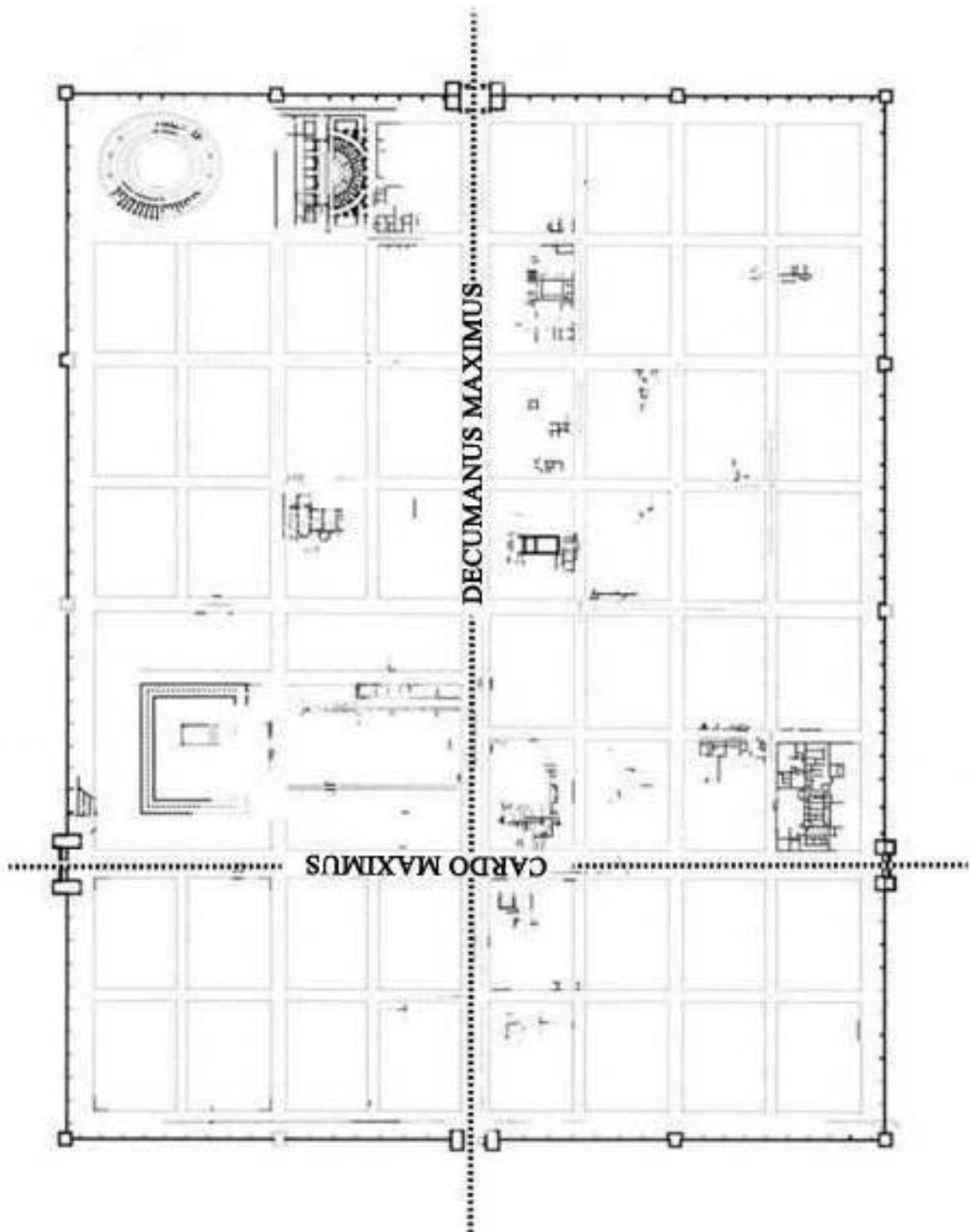
Tuesday 13th October

Departure from	
GPS coordinates	Lat: Long: Alt:
Weather	
Arrival at	
GPS coordinates	Lat: Long: Alt:

After having visited Roman Aosta, answer the following questions:

1. In the Roman period, the Augustan Arch was used as.....
 - a. a check point to control people passing along the Via delle Gallie
 - b. a monument to celebrate Emperor Augustus and his building of Aosta
 - c. a monumental entrance to the city of Aosta
2. The Pretorian gates...
 - a. allowed access to the holy part of the city
 - b. were the monumental entrance to the city of Aosta
 - c. were the entrance gates to Emperor Augustus' castle
3. What was the Cryptoporticus used for?
 - a. As an underground corridor that connected the royal palace to the prisons.
 - b. As a passage which allowed people to cross the main square in case of bad weather.
 - c. As a storeroom for preserving food.

Accompanied by Italian students, you will discover where traces of Roman civilization can be found in Aosta. Using the stickers on the following page, show the correct position of each monument.



Adesivi

How are the two main roads (*cardo maximus* and *decumano maximus*) positioned with regard to compass points?

Compare the map of Aosta with the one of a city founded by Romans (Bologna). What differences can you notice regarding the position of the two main roads?



Considering your two previous answers, try and deduce why the *decumano* and *cardo* roads cross in a different way in Aosta.

After your visit to Roman Aosta, what feelings and impressions do you have?

Today I walked forhours and a distance ofkm.

I visited these places _____

I met (write the names of the people you came into contact with and the impressions you had.)

"A girl appeared who struck me as singularly beautiful, but I discovered later that all girls are more or less beautiful at *Aosta*."
Alexandre Dumas

Little Saint Bernard Pass

Wednesday 14th October

Departure from	
GPS coordinates	Lat: Long: Alt:
Weather	
Arrival at	
GPS coordinates	Lat: Long: Alt:

Observe what lies before you and sketch what you can see.



Now answer the following questions:

1. How are the stones that you observed placed in the ground?

2. How many stones are there?

3. What could have been the function of this area?

4. In your opinion, what historic period do these stones belong to? (you can use the time line for help you will find in the end of the diary)

5. What was the original positioning of the Via delle Gallie (Road to Gaul) in relation to the monument?

Observe the flora that you can find along the Via delle Gallie (the Roman road to Gaul). Can you notice anything in particular?

Take a photo and upload it to <http://www.projectnoah.org/>

Courmayeur

J.W.M.Turner, a famous English painter, visited Courmayeur in 1836 and drew it like this. After having seen the town, draw a detail, a view or an image that you liked.



Joseph Mallord William Turner, Two Sketches from Courmayeur, Looking down the Val d'Aosta, 1836

Today I walked forhours and a distance ofkm.

I visited these places _____

I met (write the names of the people you came into contact with and the impressions you had.)

“Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains, / They crowned him long ago, / On a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds /With a diadem of snow”.

Lord Byron, *Manfred*, 1817.

Along the Via delle Gallie

Thursday 15th October

Departure from	
GPS coordinates	Lat: Long: Alt:
Weather	
Arrival at	
GPS coordinates	Lat: Long: Alt:

Observing the arch of Donnas

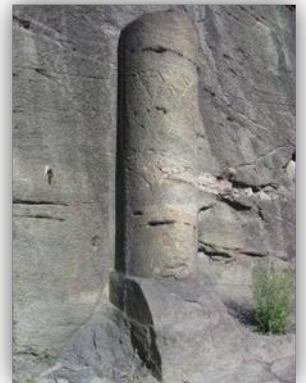
Compare the arches you saw in Aosta with the Donnas arch:



Which major differences can you observe?

How can these differences be explained?

Find the construction in the photo, observe it carefully and answer the following questions.



What material is it made of? _____

How was it transported there?

What was it used for?

Which Roman numerals are carved on the stone?

What do they mean?

Are there place name in Aosta Valley that refer to the distance from the city of Aosta?

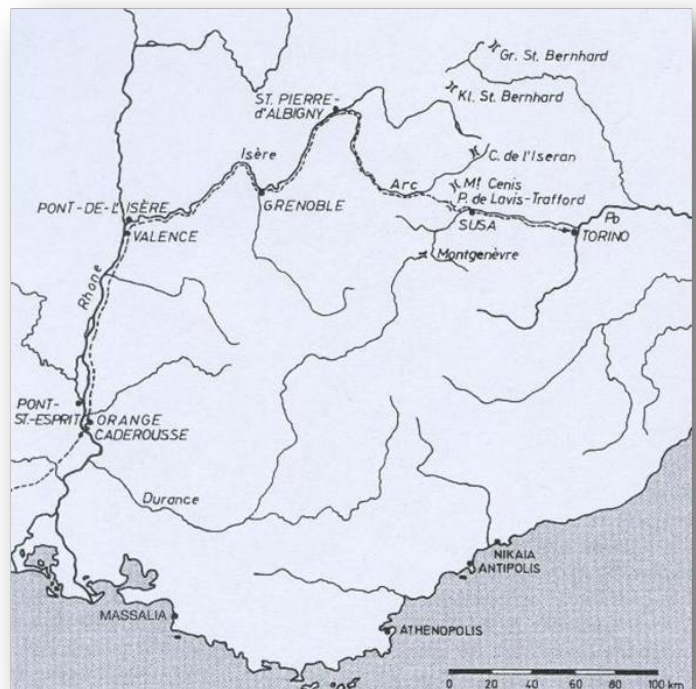
Observe this famous painting by Jacques-Louis David, *Napoleon crossing the Alps at the Great Saint Bernard Pass*, 1800, oil painting, Musée National du Château, Malmaison:



Look carefully at this detail:
What does the painting represent?

What do the engravings on the rock at Napoleon's feet mean?

Compare this map, which illustrates the most convincing hypothesis of Hannibal's crossing of the Alps, with the detail on David's painting:



What can you notice?

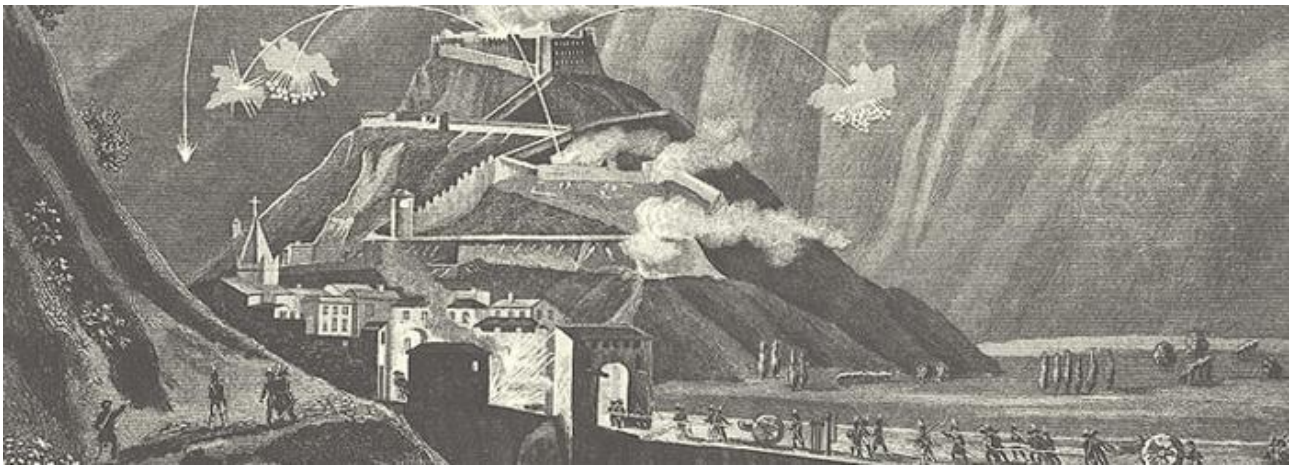
Observe these people:



They are known as the *Landzettes*, carnival costumes which are typical of Valpelline and the Great Saint Bernard Valley.

What do these costumes remind you of? What event inspired them, according to tradition?

Observe this etching:



It portrays a bombing during Napoleon's attack on the Bard Fort, which was defended by the Austrian-Piedmont army during the summer of 1800.

Can you identify the point from which the scene was observed (making the Fort your point of reference)?

- a) from the north
- b) from the east
- c) from the south
- d) from the west

What can you notice regarding the construction of the Fort in 1800 compared to today?
How has the surrounding area changed?

The Chanson de Geste (Song of Heroic Deeds) of the 12th century, "Chevalerie d'Ogier de Danemarche", is one of the cycles of legends that was narrated by pilgrims along the Francigena Way.

Carlotto, Charlemagne's son, kills the descendent of Ogier of Denmark, the King's vassall. To seek revenge, Ogier joins forces with Desiderio (King of the Longobards) against Charlemagne. The two men confront each other after reaching Italy along the Francigena

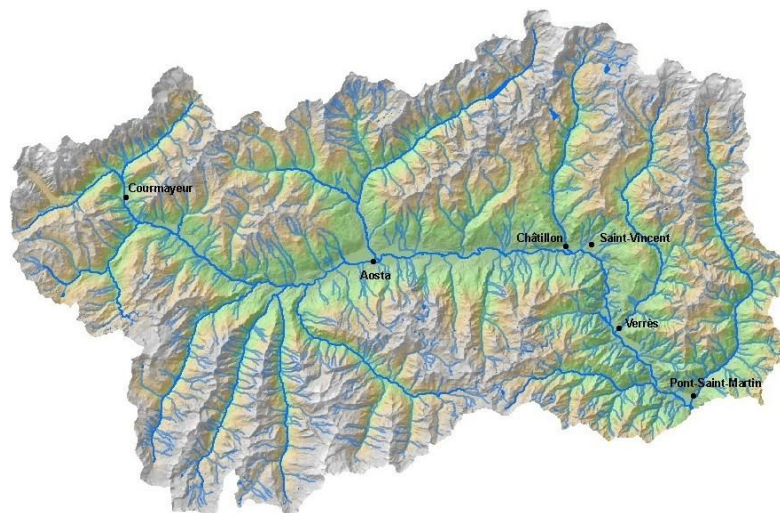
Way. After a long siege, Ogier is made Charlemagne's prisoner, but threats from the Saracens in France convince the King's vassals to summon him back.

Ogier accepts to fight on the condition that he will have Carlotto's head as payment. Charlemagne agrees for the good of his subjects, but at the moment of his execution, an angel saves Carlotto.

From the following lines, it is possible to re-construct the path travelled by the King of the Franks in his pursuit of Ogier:

<p>De cha Monjeu fu Kalles hebergiés Il vit le greille et le noif el le giel Et le grant roce contremont vers le ciel [...] Huit jors i mist a passer toz entiers. Tot droit Auste est Kalles hebergiés, Dusqu'a la Cambre¹ alerent li primier.</p>	<p>Carlo was housed at G. San Bernardo He saw hail, snow and ice and the great rock on the slope towards the sky [...] It took eight days to cross with the army Straight to Aosta Carlo was received, He went immediately to the Customs house. (lines 264-266; 282-284)</p>
--	--

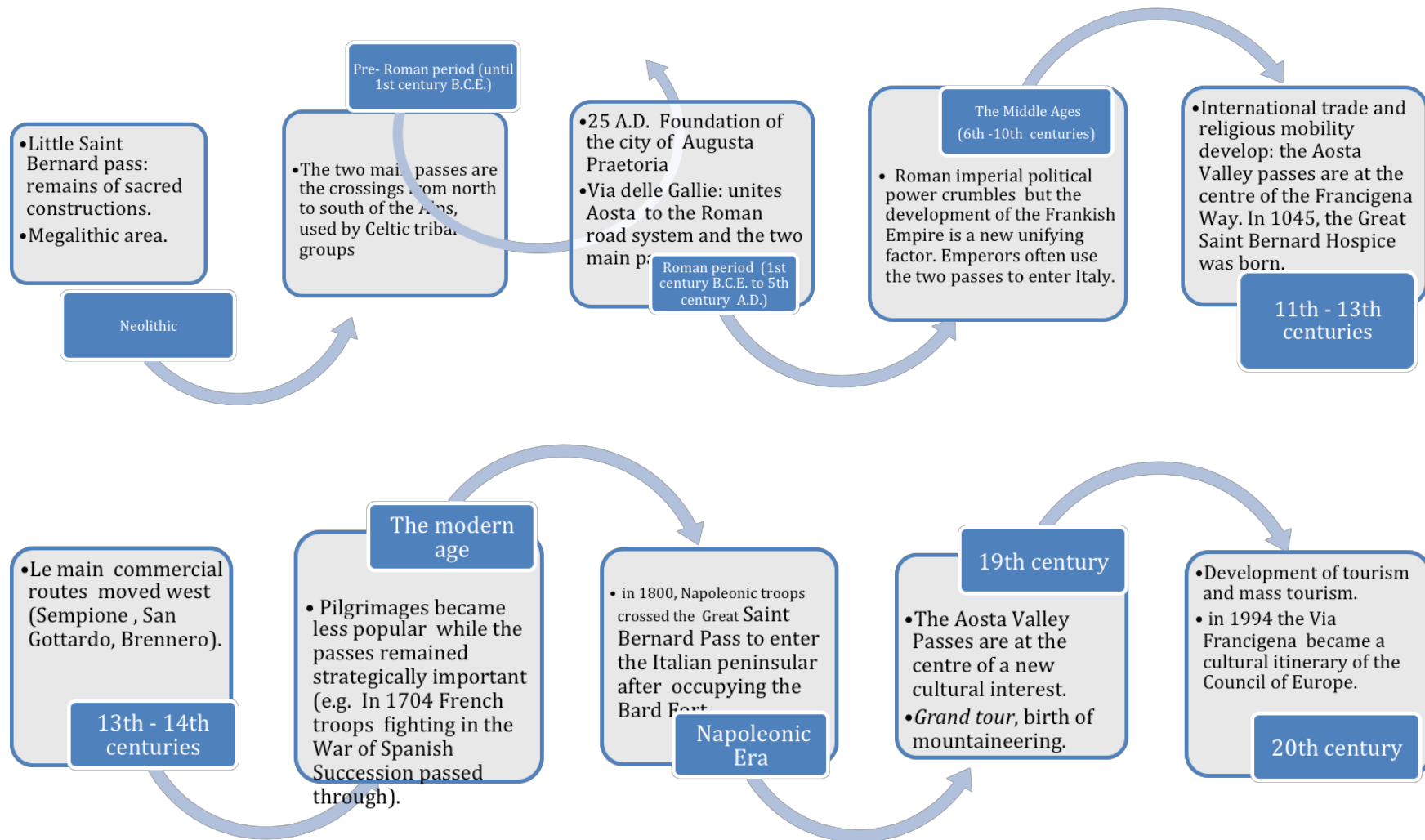
Draw on the map the journey Charlemagne took according to the text.



“Le véritable voyage de découverte ne consiste pas à chercher de nouveaux paysages, mais à avoir de nouveaux yeux.”
Marcel Proust

“A real discovery tour doesn’t depend on looking for new lands but on having a new vision” Marcel Proust

¹ *Cambre*/camera=la barriera doganale di Pont-Saint-Martin.



Any journey, before departing, holds expectations and perspectives for us. Our imagination leads us on, racing in front of us, drawing a picture of what we will see, who we'll meet and what we'll discover....

On our return from a journey, we take home images of a world that has been revealed to us, memories of people who have crossed our path and details of an experience that has taught us something.

We hope that this diary will help you cherish those memories from the days spent in Aosta Valley and offer you the inspiration to go on further walks.....

We always return home enriched after a journey and we often understand that, however vast and multifaceted our world may be, many of its parts unite cultures, history, women and men.

Pour l'enfant, amoureux de cartes et d'estampes,
L'univers est égal à son vaste appétit.
Ah! que le monde est grand à la clarté des lampes!
Aux yeux du souvenir que le monde est petit!
Baudelaire, *Le Voyage*

For the child, adoring cards and prints
The universe fulfils its vast appetite.
Ah, how large is the world in the brightness of lamps,
How small in the eyes of memory!
Baudelaire, *The Journey*