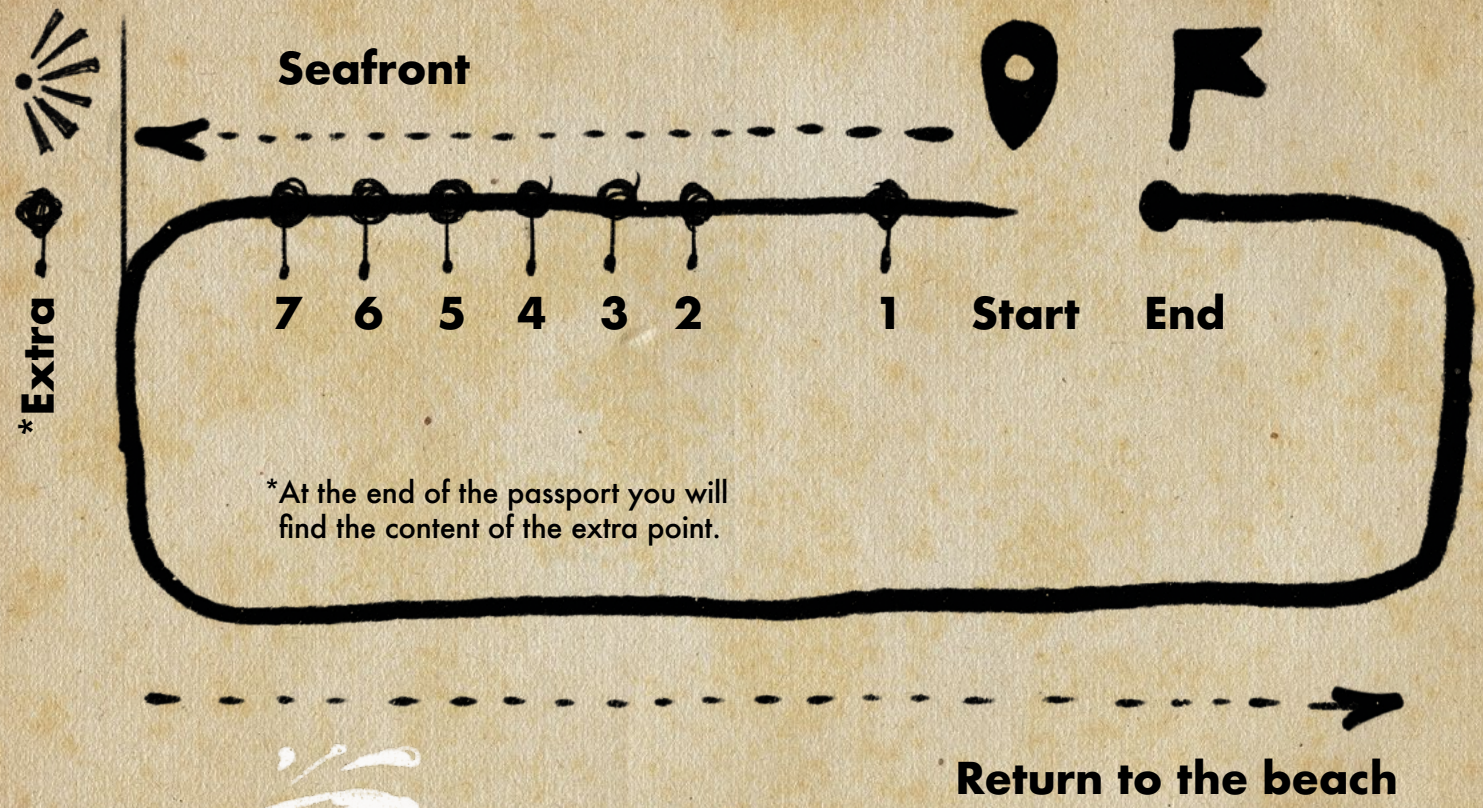
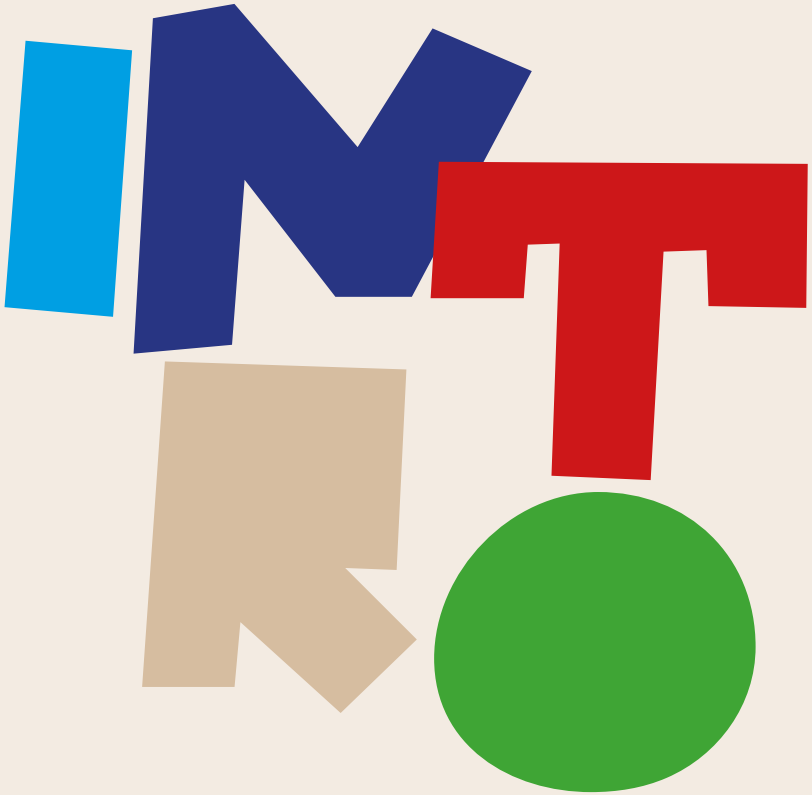
JOURNEY TO CHILDHOOD

L'Hospitalet de l'Infant

MAP


Seafront
*Extra
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Start
End
*At the end of the passport you will find the content of the extra point.
Return to the beach



This route presents one of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's many journeys. One that took place in L'Hospitalet de l'Infant when he had to stop there due to an emergency landing. The trip he was making from Morocco to France was interrupted, but another journey was beginning: one to childhood.

In fact, there is no better place to travel to childhood than in l'Hospitalet de l'Infant. The name gives us clues, but so do the place's features. And what Saint-Exupéry found there definitely led him to travel to a place where anything is possible, to childhood. In fact, who knows whether that inspired one of his best-known works: *The Little Prince*.

We accompany Antoine de Saint-Exupéry on this journey through various points of l'Hospitalet de l'Infant; we accompany him along the way from the town to his plane before his return journey. Let's remember those days with him; enriching experiences based on Saint-Exupéry's proposals, with a support that guides us and stands in testimony to our journey.

One day in March in the 1930s, I was flying my Aeropostale plane over L'Hospitalet de l'Infant. I was returning to France from Morocco, a strong wind surprised me and I had to land somewhere on the beach.

For a few days the people of this town put me up. They welcomed me with open arms, in a great show of hospitality.

For a few days I was unable to continue my journey, but instead took an inner journey that changed me forever. I invite you to take this journey with me: a journey to childhood.

This passport will guide you, taking you to the points on the map where you will work on an experience each time. When each activity is done, you can stamp the passport with the sign you will find by placing the page on the stamp-symbol and tracing it with the pencil.

Enjoy this journey; it will make you grow.

Enjoy this journey to childhood.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

INSTRUCTIONS

Shall we start?

Place yourself on the first point on the map.

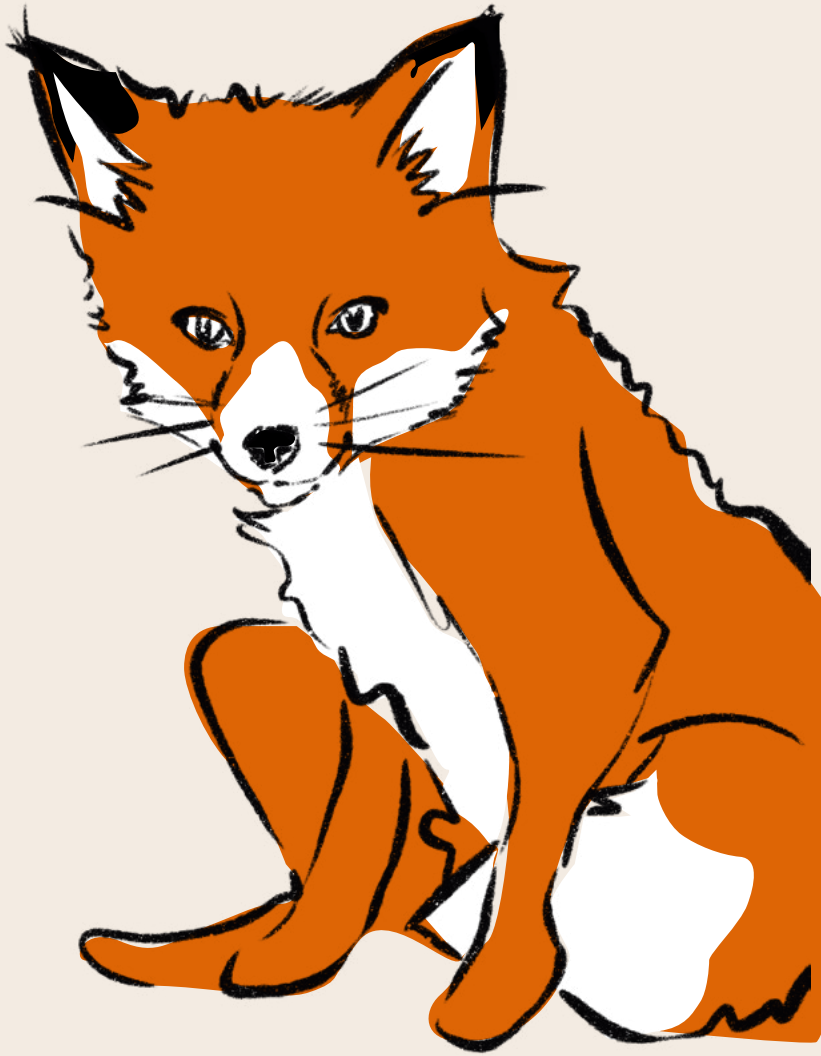
«It was nothing but a fox similar to a hundred thousand others.
But I made it my friend and now it is unique in the world».

1

Very close to this point I sat and looked out to sea. And suddenly I was captivated by that special light. It was a light like any other, and at the same time it was unique.

Look around. There are many things alike. Stones, sticks, grains of sand, drops of water. But everything is special and unique. Like you. What makes you unique as individuals, or as families?

Look for something around here that represents what makes you special. You can give it a name or take a photograph to accompany you on this journey, but don't take it away, leave it where it is.



Once you've done that, look for the point to stamp your passport. And go to the next point.

Stamp

2

I looked back again and bade farewell to the building that so attracted my attention. It looked medieval, but it wasn't a castle. It looked Gothic, but it wasn't a church either. The building was a majestic hospital. L'Hospitalet de l'Infant.

Do as I did.

Everyone draw a picture on the sand and the others try to guess at least five things it could be.

A hat? A boa?...

Draw first, stamp later, walk last.

Stamp

3

I was leaving, but I still felt the strong after-taste of those days. And very specially that crayfish soup they made for me at the inn. I knew that when I got home I would never be able to make anything like it, but I would surely remember that moment forever.

And a good way to remember is by drawing. Let's try: have everyone draw a small sketch of a person in the group and explain why they did it that way or what they wanted to highlight.

We try to make everyone draw and to ensure that everyone is drawn. And this sketch will remain in this passport forever.

Then stamp your passport before walking to the next point.

Stamp

«Men no longer have time to see anything; they buy things already made from traders, but since there are no traders of friends, men no longer have friends».

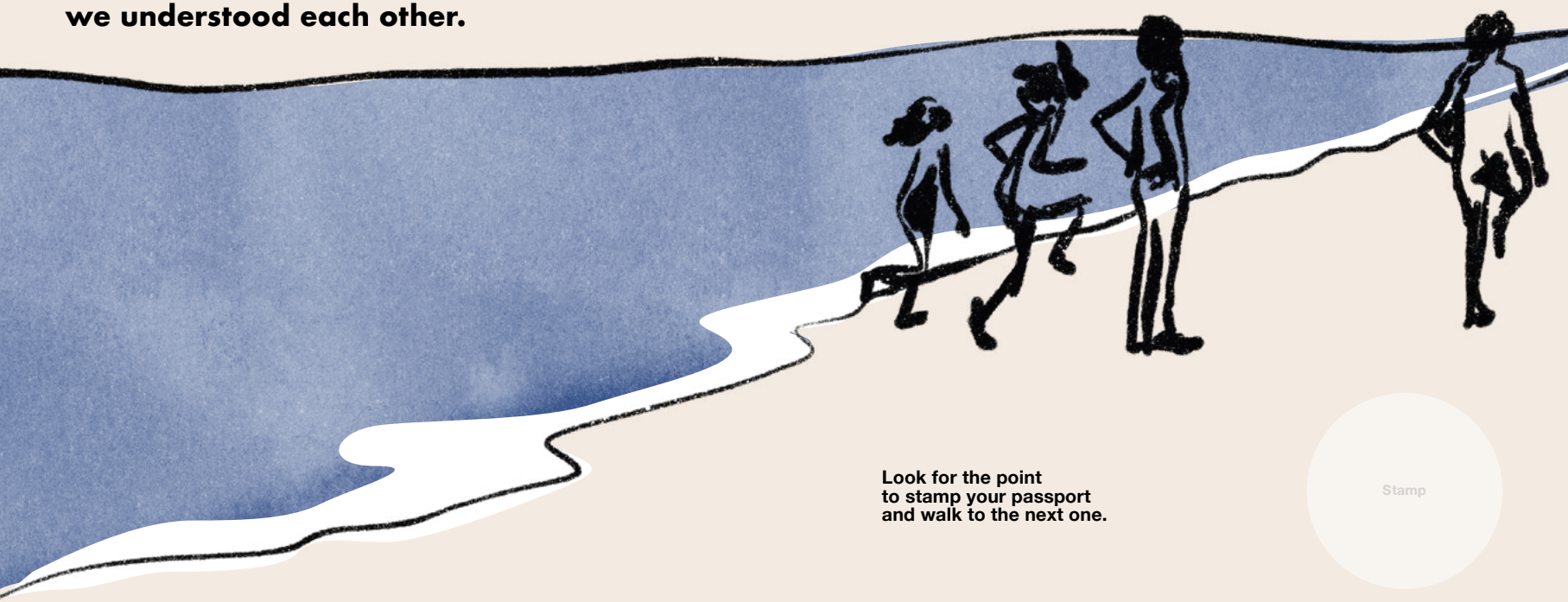
4

Returning to the plane I stopped at that point. On the day of my arrival, I had become disoriented right there. Then I heard those children playing on the beach... «*Bonjour!*». They approached They looked at me strangely. They didn't understand what I was saying, but they showed me where to go. «*Merci*». With a smile we understood each other.

Thanking unites us.

Let's try it: let's look at each other, and thank each of us here for something. And if you like, you can also thank people who are not here. Maybe with a text message or an audio, for example…

«*Merci*».



Look for the point to stamp your passport and walk to the next one.

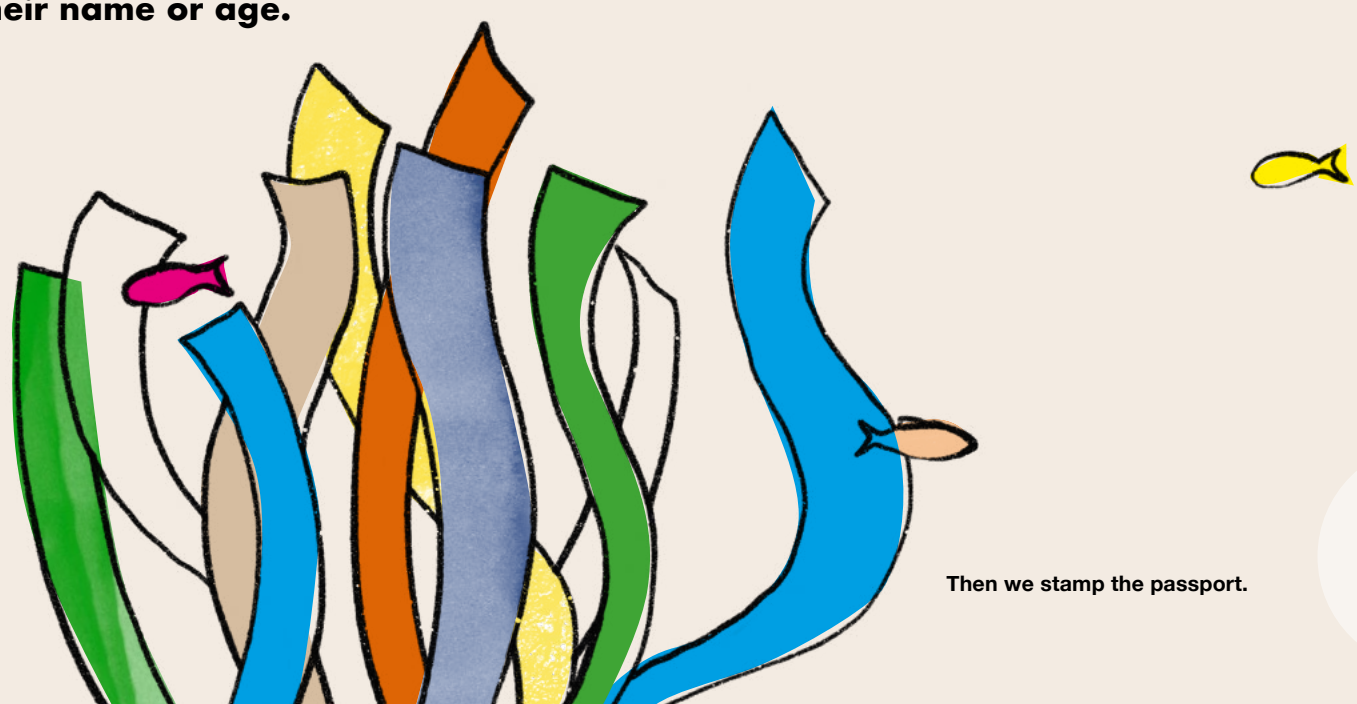
Stamp

5

The children decided to accompany me for a while. I wanted to ask them their names or how old they were, but they decided to tell me something else: they stopped and pointed towards the sea and we approached. In silence, they watched and looked in and under the water. I did the same and felt it: a great meadow of Neptune grass at the bottom of the sea. So they told me more about themselves than their name or age.

Shall we do the same?

Now instead of looking around, we daydream for a while. Let's share our dreams, let's tell each other what excites us, all together. What is it that we dream as a group or family? And we set a date to fulfil this dream.



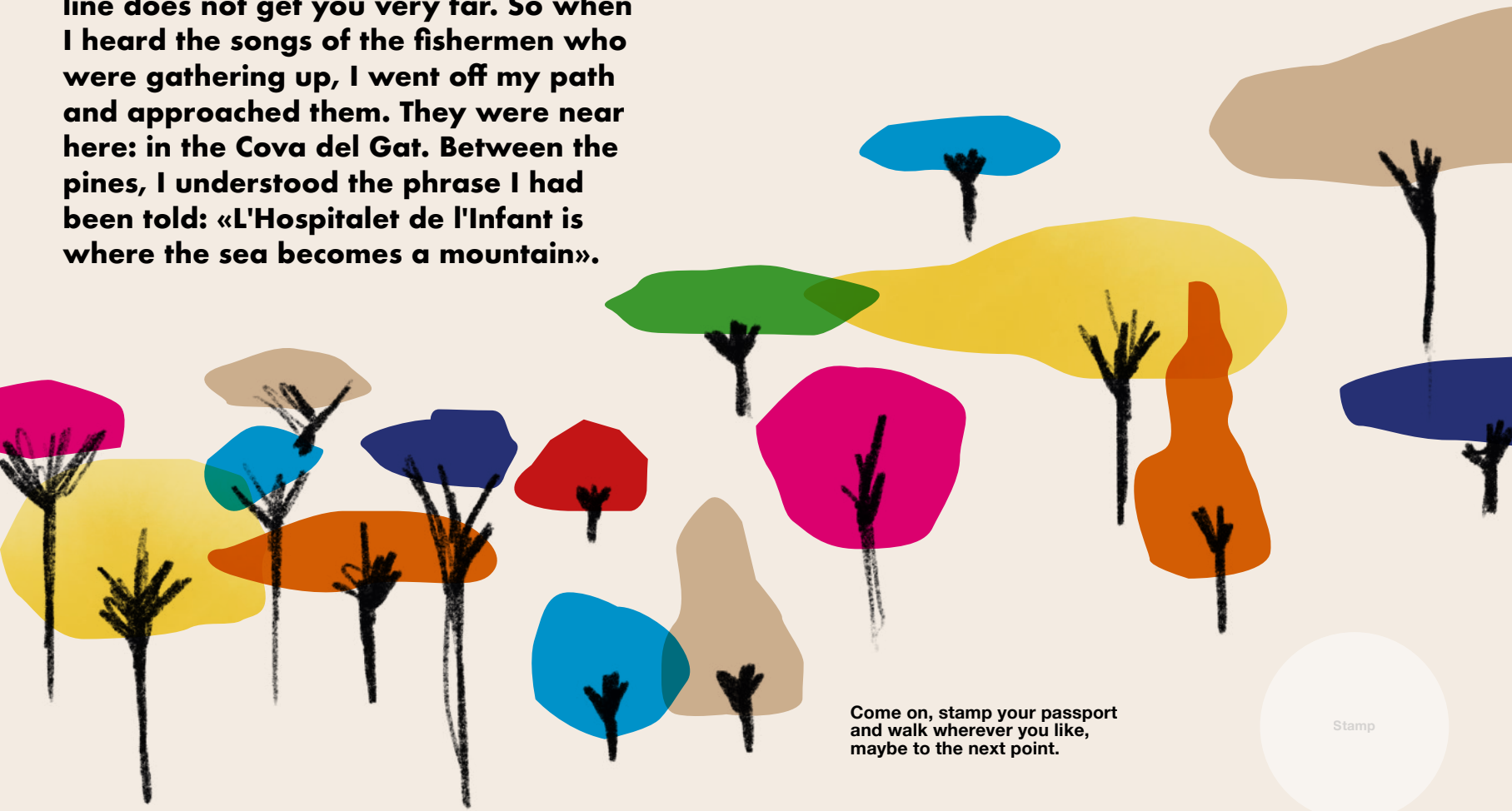
Then we stamp the passport.

Stamp

6

The road from the village to the plane was straight, but walking in a straight line does not get you very far. So when I heard the songs of the fishermen who were gathering up, I went off my path and approached them. They were near here: in the Cova del Gat. Between the pines, I understood the phrase I had been told: «L'Hospitalet de l'Infant is where the sea becomes a mountain».

Now from this point try walking with your eyes closed, guided only by someone who will hold your hand and in whom you will place all your trust.



Come on, stamp your passport and walk wherever you like, maybe to the next point.

Stamp

7

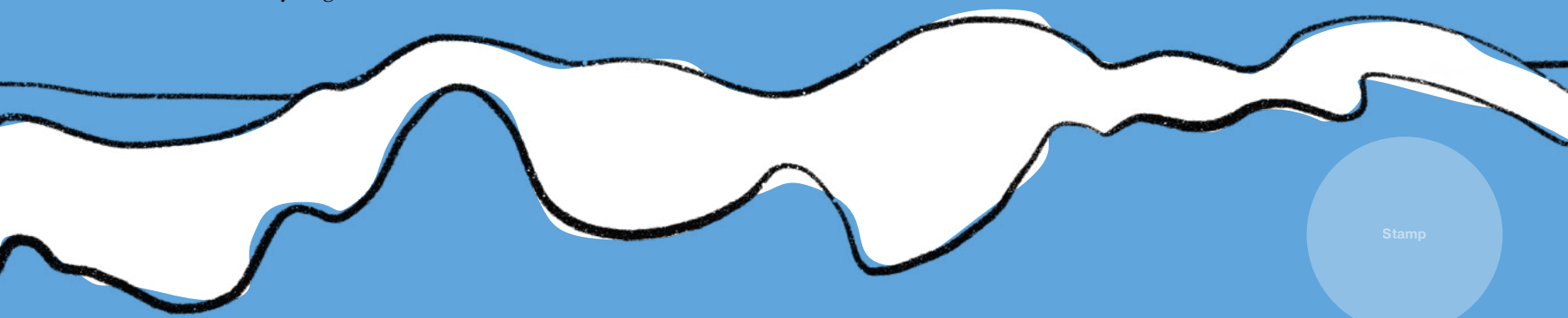
Great experiences leave a mark. After those days in L'Hospitalet de l'Infant, I felt that everything I saw on the way spoke to me. The seagulls bade farewell with a beat of their wings, the wind caressed me, and the rhythm of the waves was a farewell melody. Maybe I was just imagining it.

But imagination is a powerful thing.

Sit on the beach and try to act out an element that you see around you, as if we were at the theatre. Imagine you are sand, or wind, or a bird, or a wave. Each one imagine an element and the rest try to guess it.

And so you will have learned to travel to childhood. And if you really enjoyed the road, there is nothing better than doing it again and walk back barefoot on the beach, feeling the sand between your toes and holding hands.

Then stamp your passport and go to the next point.



The journey is ending
but just beginning, if you want.

Because as you have seen,
inside each person there is a child.
And it's up to us to keep it there.

To do so, you can make
your way back down the beach
remembering and sharing
what made you happy when
you were children.

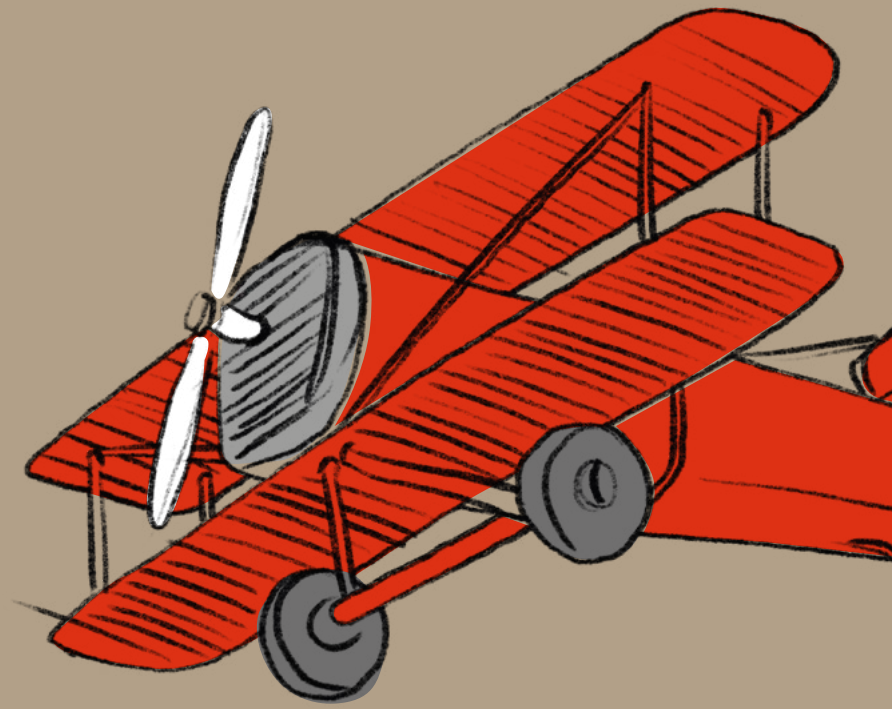
«This is my secret: you can only see it properly with the heart.
The essential is invisible to the eyes».

8

You have now finished the journey.

But if you want, you can go on to a special place, the Torre del Mirador with an incredible view and you will see the exact point of Platja del Torn where I landed.

Although you will only see it properly with your heart, because what is essential is invisible to the eyes.



BONUS POINT

SHARING AN EXPERIENCE IS TO HAVE IT MORE INTENSELY

And to continue the journey, you can send
the postcard they gave you at the Tourist Office
from your childhood to those you love.

In this way you will send them a new
childhood memory built from your maturity
if you are adults, or from your childhood if you are children.

All the elements of this publication (graphics, illustrations, texts, information, etc.), as well as the structure and graphic design, are the property of the Council of Vandellòs and L'Hospitalet de l'Infant and are subject to the unlimited protection of intellectual property regulations.

L'Hospitalet de l'Infant i la Vall de Llors

CATALUNYA

COSTA DAURADA

As a user, you must respect them and use them privately, as well as the natural environment. All transmission, assignment, use, alteration, exploitation, reproduction, distribution or public communication of intellectual property is forbidden without the express prior authorisation of the Council of Vandellòs and L'Hospitalet de l'Infant. Unauthorised use of the information may result in the exercise of appropriate legal actions.