



**GOVERNMENT OF MALTA**  
MINISTRY FOR CULTURE, LANDS  
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cultural Routes  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraires culturels  
du Conseil de l'Europe



## MALTA IN THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

A seminar for partners and stakeholders in Malta involved in or interested  
by the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme

Birgu, Malta

**29-30 October 2025**

### PROGRAMME



Presidency of Malta  
Council of Europe  
May - November 2025

Présidence de Malte  
Conseil de l'Europe  
Mai - Novembre 2025

Organised by the Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government - within the programme of the Presidency of  
Malta of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

## Wednesday 29 October

Morning:

Arrival of foreign participants and guests

15:00 **Plenary gathering** of participants at **the National Viticulture and Oenology Centre, Buskett**: introduction to the programme and practical information

16:00 **Cultural programme**: exploring Cultural Route sites in Malta

- Tour of the National Viticulture and Oenology Centre, Buskett, with a special intervention by Mr Joséf Bonello, Brand Ambassador
- Transport to Ħaġar Qim & Mnajdra Archaeological Park (17:00)
- Sunset tour of Ħaġar Qim led by the site curator (18:00)

19:00 Debrief and exchange about the visits

19:30 *Taste History standing reception, Ħaġar Qim*

## Thursday 30 October – Venue: Fort St Angelo, Birgu

08:30 *Registration of participants (pre-registration online)*

09:00 **Opening of the seminar** – welcoming remarks from:

- A representative of the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (TBC)
- Maria Giusi LUPRANO, Member of the Bureau of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)
- The Hon. Dr Owen BONNICI, Minister for Culture, Lands and Local Government, Malta

09:30 Keynote speech: **Malta and Cultural Routes** – a reflection on Europe and the Mediterranean with Malta and the Cultural Routes at its core, with particular reference to the Phoenicians' Route

- Dr Karsten XUEREB

10:00 **The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme** – definition, operation, quality criteria, added value and cooperation

- Introduction by RUI GOMES, Executive Secretary of the EPA and Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR)
- Testimonies from representatives of certified Cultural Routes:
  - Ildelfonso DE LA CAMPA MONTENEGRO, Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes
  - Ernesto DI RENZO, Iter Vitis
  - Theodora Virginia NTALLI, European Cemeteries Routes
  - Elton MICALLEF, European Route of Ceramics

11:15 *Break*

11:40 **Malta and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe** – presentations by certified Cultural Routes related to Malta:

- Ana Rosa MORENO, European Route of Historic Gardens
- Ursula WARNKE, European Route of Megalithic Culture
- Viola SCALACCI, Liberation Route Europe
- Sergio FERRARO, Aeneas Route
- Antonio BARONE, Phoenicians' Route

- Luca FARAVELLI, Via Francigena
- Raffaella ROSSI, Saint Francis' Ways
- Rögnvaldur GUÐMUNDSSON, Viking Routes
- Marina D'AMATO, European Fairy Tales Route
- Alina MARINCEAN, European Route of Jewish Heritage
- Arnold KLINGEIS, Historic Cafés Route
- Charles BONAPARTE and Alexander DEBONO, Destination Napoleon

13:00 *Lunch*

14:30 **Cultural Routes in Malta** – experiences and expectations of local stakeholders in Malta:

- Heritage Malta
- Local Councils Association
- Café Cordina

15:00 **Open Space on Networking and Cooperation**

- Participant-led meetings and workshops to explore closer cooperation among stakeholders in Malta and Council of Europe certified routes

16:45 *Break*

17:15 **Closing session**

- Presentation of conclusions and evaluation of the seminar
- Insight into the role of the Cultural Routes in the programme of the forthcoming Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
- Presentation of Heritage Malta as a new member of the European Route of Megalithic Culture
- Conclusions and closing words by the Hon. Dr Owen BONNICI, Minister for Culture, Lands and Local Government
- Presentation of certificates of participation

18:00 End of the seminar

20:00 *Dinner, **Malta Maritime Museum, Birgu***

## **Friday 31 October**

Departure of participants (non-resident in Malta)