



# CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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## 2023









# CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
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# Forewords

**The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme represents a cornerstone of European identity and European values.**

Today, the 48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe have become a tangible reflection of multiple shared cultural identities, emphasizing the similarities between places and experiences while celebrating cultural diversity.

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe continues to attract new parties and benefits from the continued support of the 37 member States that have joined the initiative to date. The growing success of the Cultural Routes of Council of Europe programme thus testifies to the shared commitment to the preservation of common cultural heritage and a greater understanding of European cultural identity.

By highlighting the memory and history of Europe's heritage while transmitting the values of sharing and mutual understanding, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme reflects the ideal of a united and cohesive Europe, where cross-border co-operation and exchanges between cultures will contribute to ensuring the implementation of the fundamental values of the Council of Europe on the ground.

**Ambassador Patrick Engelberg,**  
*Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the  
Council of Europe and Chair of the EPA Statutory  
Committee*

**The 48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe support innovative, sustainable and participatory cultural networks. Integrating cultural heritage as a resource for development and dialogue, they foster resilience and creativity at local, regional and international level. Cultural Routes carry our common European values, identities and visions.**

Cultural heritage makes culture resonate in a space and time through the voices of those who care for it, live it and value it. This heritage has both tangible and intangible dimensions that should not only be preserved, but also stimulated and developed for present and future generations. The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe promote and support this participatory and living understanding of heritage as an essential element of sustainable development.

In times of uncertainty and change such as we are experiencing, Cultural Routes contribute to the resilience of territories and to shaping the future of participation in heritage, the creative economy and cultural tourism. The Enlarged Partial Agreement, now counting 37 member States, ensures the development, implementation, evaluation and promotion of the Cultural Routes, thus strengthening their potential for cultural cooperation, sustainable territorial development and social cohesion.

**Julien Vuilleumier**  
*Chair of the Governing Board,  
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the  
Council of Europe*

# Introduction

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme was launched in 1987 to demonstrate, by means of a journey through space and time, how heritage from different European countries contributes to a shared cultural heritage.

Cultural Routes put into practice the fundamental principles promoted by the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy, participation and cultural diversity.

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe aim to act as a channel for intercultural dialogue and to promote better knowledge and understanding of European cultural identity, preserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage as a source of cultural, social and local development.

Today, 48 "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" cover a wide range of European themes, including more than 3,000 institutional network members crossing the Organisation's 46 member States and beyond. This broad European network allows synergies between national, regional and local authorities, and a wide range of associations and stakeholders, encouraging direct access to European heritage.

Established by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2010, the **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)** enables closer co-operation between its current 37 member States, with a particular focus on themes of symbolic importance for European values, history and culture, and the discovery of less well-known destinations.

The EPA brings together the representatives of the Ministries of Culture and Tourism of its member States and is responsible for defining the strategic priorities of the programme and for the awarding of the **certification "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe"**.

Certified Cultural Routes and new candidate networks are regularly evaluated by the Council of Europe based on compliance with the following criteria established by its Committee of Ministers Resolutions CM/Res (2013) 66 and CM/Res (2013) 67:

- ▶ Involve a theme representative of European values and common to at least three countries in Europe;
- ▶ Be the subject of transnational, multidisciplinary scientific research;



Building of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France © katatonia82 / Shutterstock

► Enhance European memory, history and heritage and contribute to the interpretation of Europe's present day diversity;

► Support cultural and educational exchanges for young people;

► Develop exemplary and innovative projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development;

► Develop tourist products aimed at different groups;

► Establish a European network with legal status.

Today, the programme benefits from cooperation with international Organisations, such as the European Union through Joint Programmes, as well as with UNESCO, the United Nations World Tourism Organization and the OECD.

Each year, a member State of the EPA hosts an Annual Advisory Forum, the most important networking event for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. A Cultural Route of the Council of Eu-

rope hosts an annual Training Academy for managers and practitioners as well as cultural route candidate networks interested in obtaining the certification.

Covering varied themes of European memory, history and heritage, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe contribute to the diversity of present-day Europe and to the shaping of our common European citizenship - we invite you to join us on these journeys of discovery!

**Stefano Dominioni**

*Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement  
on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe,  
Director, European Institute of Cultural Routes  
Luxembourg, September 2021*







Panoramic view of the Neumünster abbey, Luxembourg ©frantic00 / Shutterstock

Seat of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA), the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), located at Neumünster Abbey in Luxembourg, is the advisory technical agency to the Cultural Routes programme set up in 1998 under an agreement between the Council of Europe and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

As the technical agency of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme, the EICR provides valuable assistance to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the framework of the annual certification.

Among its activities, the EICR offers technical advice to both certified and candidate cultural routes, organising training seminars as well as academic workshops gathering scholars, researchers and professionals from its growing University Network for Cultural Routes Studies.

With these functions, it is a core asset to the EPA in promoting greater awareness of the existing links between cultural heritage, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development across Council of Europe member States and beyond, with the continued support of the Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

**Ambassador Jean Claude KUGENER**  
*President, European Institute of Cultural Routes,  
Luxembourg*







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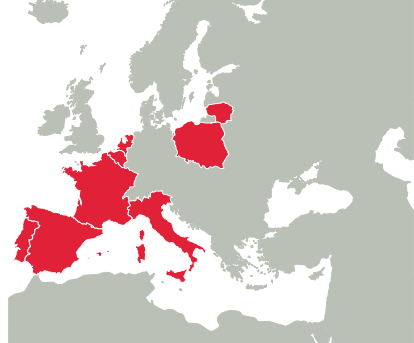




Cathedral of S. de Compostela, Spain ©artemevdokimov / Shutterstock



Statue of St. James, Częstochowa, Poland © DzyIO / Shutterstock



Lima's bridge, Portugal © trabantos / Shutterstock



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# Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 1987

### HISTORY

The legend holds that Saint James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain, where he was buried in what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela. Following the discovery of the supposed tomb of the Saint in the 9th century, the Way of St. James became one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during the Middle Ages, as its completion guaranteed earning a plenary indulgence.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

For centuries, pilgrims could discover new traditions, languages and ways of life and return home with a rich cultural background that was rare at a time when long-distance travel exposed the traveller to considerable danger. Therefore, the Santiago Routes serve both as a symbol, reflecting over one thousand years of European history, and as a model of cultural co-operation for Europe as a whole.

### HERITAGE

As a result of this pilgrimage, a rich heritage was formed. Tangible heritage such as places of worship, hospitals, accommodation facilities, bridges, as well as non-tangible heritage in the form of myths, legends and songs are present along the Santiago Routes and can be enjoyed by the traveller.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Each year, hundreds of thousands of travellers set out to make their way to Santiago de Compostela. As there are endless numbers of branches to the route, it is common to begin the journey literally from one's doorstep. Most travel by foot, some by bicycle, and a few travel on horseback or by donkey, as some of their medieval counterparts did. This ancient route provides an intense human experience, creating a sense of fraternity amongst travellers and a strong bonding with the land.



[www.saintjamesway.eu](http://www.saintjamesway.eu)

Find out more



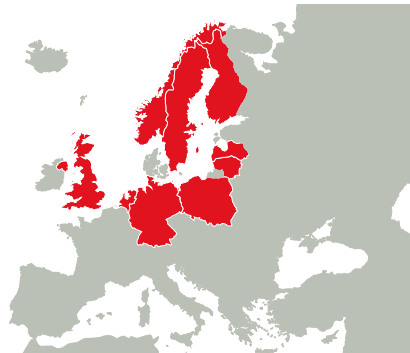
Warnow river, Germany ©ricok/Shutterstock



Visby, Sweden ©Stephan Schlachter/Shutterstock



Szczawnica, Poland © Pawel Kazmierczak/Shutterstock



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# The Hansa

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 1993

### HISTORY

In the mid-13th century, German seafaring merchants joined together to lay the basis of what became the Hanseatic League as a way to pursue their shared economic interests. Along the coasts of Northern Europe, mainly around the Baltic Sea, up to 225 cities joined the League, which had an important influence on the economy, politics and trade until the 17th century.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

All of the current 185 Hanseatic member cities share the same democratic rights and the same core European values; free trade, free movement and protection of citizens. With the tensions within Europe today, this network represents an important means of peaceful and respectful co-existence. In addition, the Youth Hansa initiative brings together young people from the Hanseatic cities, so as to transfer these values to the next generation.

### HERITAGE

The network consists of 185 cities in 16 countries, a significant number of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Hansa could be seen as a medieval forerunner to the European Union, and thus constitutes an invaluable heritage from a common European past.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Travellers may choose to visit any of the cities that are part of this large network, and all of them can be visited all year round. However, there is one very special occasion, the annual Hanseatic day that brings together citizens from more than 100 European cities in 16 countries to celebrate understanding, respect and co-operation. Through hundreds of different activities, markets and exhibitions the traveller can experience the essence of the unique Hanseatic spirit!



[www.hanse.org](http://www.hanse.org)

Find out more

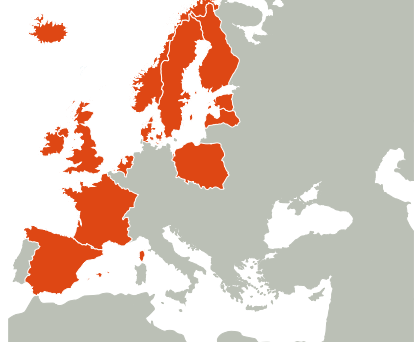




Runestone from the Viking Age, Sweden ©Mats O Andersson/Shutterstock



Rosala Viking Centre, Finland © Destination Viking Association



Viking village, Vestrahorn, Iceland © Ingus Krukutis/ Shutterstock



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# Viking Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 1993

### HISTORY

The Viking Age was the period from the 8th to the 11th century during which Vikings achieved unrivalled boat building, navigational and seamanship skills allowing them to travel widely throughout Northern and Western Europe, the North Atlantic, into the Mediterranean and deep into the rivers of Russia and Ukraine.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

At a time when few people were travelling, the Vikings raided, traded and settled extensively. For centuries they served as a vector for the transmission of culture and traditions throughout the European continent. The Viking heritage therefore unites the peoples of present-day Europe.

### HERITAGE

The Viking Cultural Route is a far-ranging, significant collection of sites, stories and heritage that represent the

shared Viking legacy of Europe and beyond. The Vikings established important trading centres such as in Hedeby (Germany), Birka (Sweden), Jorvik (United Kingdom), Dublin (Ireland) and Kiev (Ukraine) and they also left a clear legacy behind them wherever they went. Examples can be found in the remaining traces of their early law courts, known as "things", in local place names, in their impact on language and social structures, their legacies of art and literature and the surviving archaeological sites. Much of the Viking story is recorded in the form of intangible heritage such as sagas, recounting the deeds and travels of the Vikings.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

There are more than 60 sites on the route including examples of forts, towns, farms, quarries, ships, objects, museums, archaeological remains and reconstructed longhouses. The traveller can discover this fascinating culture through a journey across national borders, while also enjoying a variety of events, such as the popular and widespread Viking markets.



[www.followthevikings.com](http://www.followthevikings.com)

Find out more





Cliffs of Ault city in Picardy, France ©Massimo Santi/Shutterstock



Road to Rome 2021 pilgrimage, Tha Vatican, Holy See ©Association of the Via Francigena



Great St. Bernard Pass, Switzerland ©gaetanornay/Shutterstock



**VIA  
FRANCIGENA**

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# Via Francigena

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 1994

### HISTORY

In 990 AD, Sigeric, archbishop of Canterbury, recorded his journey to Rome to meet Pope John XV and receive the investiture pallium. Thanks to this document, it has been possible to reconstitute the then shortest route between Canterbury and Rome, which can now be followed by all travellers. In a search of cultural discoveries and slow travel. In 2019 the route was extended from Rome to Santa Maria di Leuca, based on an Itinerarium Burdigalense, a journey of an anonymous pilgrim from 333 AD.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Via Francigena was a communication path which contributed to the cultural unity of Europe in the Middle Ages. Today, the Via Francigena is considered a bridge between the cultures of Anglo-Saxon Europe and Latin Europe. In this respect, the pilgrim trail has become a metaphor for a journey to rediscover Europe's roots and to reencounter and understand the different cultures that build our common identity.

### HERITAGE

When travelling on the Via Francigena, the traveller walks along the "European cultural corridor", discovering the highest artistic cultures from pre-Romanesque to Baroque. The Via Francigena is indeed the oldest and most important medieval pilgrimage route connecting Northwestern Europe with the Italian peninsula and in particular with Rome. The route often runs along main streets and is bordered by the most important monuments, beautiful buildings and archaeological sites..

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Travellers can rediscover this 3200 km journey from Canterbury through England, France, Switzerland and Italy along the ancient paths to Rome, and then onward to Santa Maria di Leuca. This route is a way of rediscovering the land, the history and the people at the slow pace, allowing contemplation, of those who travel on foot. A rhythm that gives the modern pilgrim a better understanding of the landscape, of history and of the nations of the past and present.



[www.viefrancigene.org](http://www.viefrancigene.org)

Find out more



Castle of Zisa, Palermo, Italy ©Andreas Zerndl/Shutterstock



Algarve, Portugal © Lynn A /Shutterstock



Alhambra, Granada, Spain ©pio3/Shutterstock



Las Rutas de  
El legado andalusí

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# Routes of El legado Andalusí

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 1997

### HISTORY

In the 8th century, the Iberian Peninsula saw the arrival of Arabs and Berbers who mixed with the Roman-Visigoth inhabitants, engendering what was known as al-Andalus. This successful medieval Muslim civilisation extended, at its peak, to most of what is today Spain and Portugal, until its downfall in the late 15th century.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Routes of El legado andalusí revisit the Spanish-Muslim civilisation through its art and culture and historical and social relationships with the Arab world, the Mediterranean basin and Latin America. Along the way, the travellers' grasp of the historic role that Spain and Andalusia played as a cultural bridge between the East and the West is reinforced, improving their understanding of other cultures, to help build a more united world.

### HERITAGE

Beyond the impressive architectural heritage, with the Alhambra as a paradigmatic example, these routes bring back to life the literature, art, science, graphic arts, gastronomy, celebrations and traditions of al-Andalus. Eight centuries of coexistence left a profound mark on the land and its people: the Andalusí legacy is alive and is everywhere.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

There are several routes joining all the countries with a shared cultural identity that help us understand today's Spain. Routes like the Umayyad cultural itinerary trace the footsteps of the Arabs, from the Arabian Peninsula through the most emblematic capitals of Dar-al Islam, until they reached al-Andalus. Once in Southern Spain, the in-depth exploration begins, following routes crisscrossing the entire region, including more than 250 towns off the beaten track. These communication lines to distant lands offer the traveller a truly international cultural experience.



[www.legadoandalusi.es](http://www.legadoandalusi.es)

Find out more





Kato Paphos archeological park, Cyprus © photoshooter2015/Shutterstock



Tharros, Italy ©Stefano Cellai/Shutterstock



Statue of Alexander the great, Greece ©stoyanh/Shutterstock



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# Phoenicians' Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2003

### HISTORY

The Phoenicians' Route connects the major nautical routes used by the Phoenicians, since the 12th century BC, as essential routes for trade and cultural communication in the Mediterranean. Through these routes, the Phoenicians – genial sailors and merchants – and other great Mediterranean civilizations contributed to the creation of a "koiné", a Mediterranean cultural community, producing an intense exchange of manufactured articles, people and ideas.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Phoenicians' Route aims to foster Mediterranean intercultural dialogue, sharing the values of the Council of Europe, especially human rights and democracy. Settled in many non-European countries, including several places of conflict, the routes help to promote freedom of expression, equality, freedom of conscience and religion, and the protection of minorities. This network is a way to

work together for the development of peace and mutual respect in the Mediterranean.

### HERITAGE

It passes through all the Mediterranean countries, including many North African and Middle East countries, thus strengthening historical bonds. These connections are represented by a relevant heritage, originating from ancient Mediterranean civilisations, present in numerous archaeological, ethnic, anthropological, cultural and naturalistic sites throughout the countries of the Mediterranean, and also a significant intangible Mediterranean heritage.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Mediterranean cities were the stopping places of a journey along the Phoenicians' Route, through which people exchanged artefacts, knowledge and experience. In this respect, the Phoenicians' route travel experience is intended to show the traveller our common routes, linking the countries of three continents and over 100 towns, originating from ancient Mediterranean civilisations.



[www.fenici.net](http://www.fenici.net)

Find out more



"La familia Jordino" by Rachid Khimoune, Llorts, Andorra /



Daban's cowbells industry, Bourdettes, France © The Iron Route in the Pyrenees association



Elgoibar machine-tool museum, Spain ©The Iron Route in the Pyrenees association



Ruta del Hierro en los Pirineos  
Itinéraire du Fer dans les Pyrénées  
Iron Route in the Pyrenees  
Ruta do Ferro nos Montes da Pireneia  
Pirineoan: Burdettian Route

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# Iron Route in the Pyrenees

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2003

### HISTORY

The Pyrenees region is rich in iron ore and has a centuries-old iron-making tradition. This activity generated economic wealth, and there remains a great deal of evidence of its past glories. Forestry, mining and processing factories have left substantial traces in both the rural and urban fabric of the mountain range.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Iron is not only an important raw material but also the basis for the development of a rich culture around the working of this metal. The culture of iron served for centuries as a stimulus for intense trade and exchanges across European borders, contributing to the development of economies and creating a shared cross-border identity.

### HERITAGE

The industrial heritage is an essential component of the wealth of societies. In particular, the working of iron in the Pyrenees left behind an important heritage, including mines, charcoal kilns and ironworks, as well as miners' and ironworkers' homes, some typical features of ironworks architecture and a series of contemporary sculptures.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Iron Route invites us to learn about the transformation and commercialisation of iron from the 17th to the late 19th century. This route is a pleasant and interesting walk, suitable for all members of the public, through mountain scenery and combining culture and industrial history. Important sites include the Farga Rossell forge - Iron Interpretation Centre, the Lions mine, the road of the 'arrieros' and the Iron Men Route, Sant Martí de la Cortinada church and the Casa d'Areny-Piandolit Museum. Along the route, you will learn about everything related to each stage of the iron production process.



[www.ironrouteinthepyrenees.com](http://www.ironrouteinthepyrenees.com)

Find out more





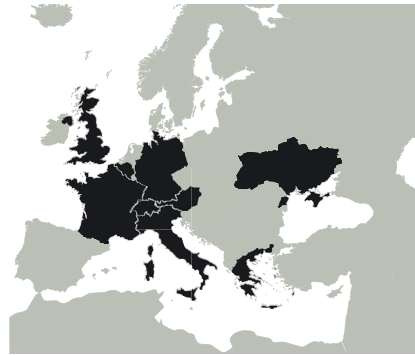
Mozart portraits in the family house in Mozart square, Salzburg, Austria ©Gimas/Shutterstock



The Marriage of Figaro opera, Dnipro, Ukraine © Igor Bulgarin/Shutterstock



Promotion of the Mozart concert, Prague, Czech republic ©Vincenzo De Bernardo/Shutterstock



MOZART WAYS  
VIE DI MOZART  
VOIES DE MOZART  
MOZART WEGE

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# European Mozart Ways

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2004

### HISTORY

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was one of the most influential figures in the history of music and of Western culture as a whole. For most of his life he travelled throughout Europe to enhance his education, learn about other styles and establish contacts with other performers and composers. Although he died at the early age of 35, Mozart was on tour for over 10 years. In essence, he spent one third of his life on journeys and can be described as the first truly European personality, in and beyond the field of music.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Music is a common language that unites all people. This route accordingly helps preserve the cultural heritage around its key figure and also enhances intercultural dialogue. The cities Mozart visited work together to promote knowledge of this unique musician and to reinforce the idea of a shared European identity in artistic, scholarly, touristic and educational projects.

## HERITAGE

All of the journeys made by Mozart from 1762 to 1791 were documented on the basis of Mozart's Letters and other authentic documents and can be followed by the traveller. From the initiatory tour, which took the young Mozart from Salzburg to Munich, to his last voyage from Vienna to Prague, a broad part of Europe is covered, spanning 10 countries and over 200 sites. Along the tourism itineraries, there are dozens of opportunities for artistic, cultural, educational and academic activities that allow the traveller to discover one of the most fascinating musicians of all time.

## TRAVELLING TODAY

Palaces and piazzas, pleasure gardens, inns and hotels, concert halls and opera houses, cities, churches and landscapes: there is no better way to learn about and experience Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's life and music than by retracing his footsteps through Europe, visiting some of the most significant music, art and architectural venues of Europe's cultural heritage.



[www.mozartways.com](http://www.mozartways.com)

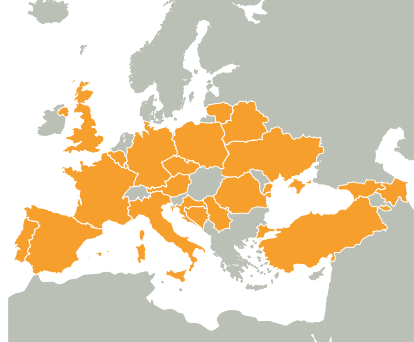
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Monument to victims of Nazis, Novi Sad, Serbia ©Srdjan Randjelovic/Shutterstock



Tabakgasse Synagogue, Budapest, Hungary ©Dignity100/Shutterstock



Synagogue de Koutaïssi, Georgia ©Dmitriy Feldman svarshik/Shutterstock

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jewishheritage

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# European Route of Jewish Heritage

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2004

### HISTORY

The Jewish people are an integral part of European civilisation, having made a unique and lasting contribution to its development through the millennia right up to today. The Cultural Routes programme is an innovative and exciting way of bringing this remarkable story to the attention of a wider audience.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Much of Jewish history is rooted in Europe, with a past made up of migrations, persecutions and precariousness, but also of exchanges, humanism and a profusion of mutual enrichment. A key aspect of the routes is accordingly their recognition of the essential contribution made by the Jewish tradition in building cultural diversity through intense intercultural dialogue.

### HERITAGE

The European Jewish heritage is widely present across Europe. Notable examples include archaeological sites, historic synagogues and cemeteries, ritualbaths, Jewish quarters, monuments and memorials. In addition, several archives and libraries, as well as specialised museums devoted to the study of Jewish life, are included in the route. This route fosters understanding and appreciation of religious and daily artefacts and also recognition of the essential role played by the Jewish people in European History.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The routes vary in scale from neighbourhood to city, region to country and even assume a transnational dimension. Through these routes covering virtually the whole of the European continent, the traveller can become immersed in the Jewish story, across borders and centuries. They also provide extensive information and materials and regularly organise events such as The European Day of Jewish Culture



[www.jewishheritage.org](http://www.jewishheritage.org)

Find out more





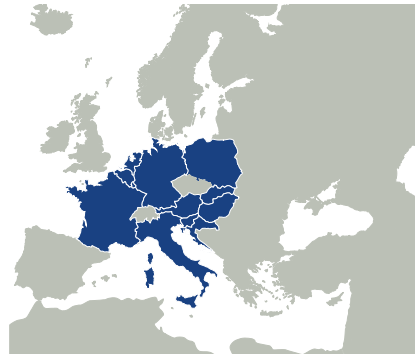
Saint Martin's church, Slovenia ©Tomas Kulaja/Shutterstock



Statue of Saint Martin, Cochem, Germany ©Suratwadee Rattanajarupak/Shutterstock



St Martin's Day, Brno, Czech Republic ©Jana Krizova/Shutterstock



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# Saint Martin of Tours Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2005

### HISTORY

Saint Martin of Tours, one of the most familiar and recognisable Christian saints, has been venerated since the 4th century. He was the Bishop of Tours, whose shrine in Gaul/France was the target of a very important pilgrimage, the equivalent of that to Rome, during the Early Middle Ages, before becoming a famous stopping-point for pilgrims on the way to Compostela. For his entire life he tirelessly travelled around Europe, leaving a significant imprint on our collective memory.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Saint Martin Route represents the value of sharing, symbolised by the Saint's charitable act in Amiens when he cut his cloak in half to share with a poor man who was dying of cold in the heart of winter. Behind this simple concept lies the intention to bring people together, beyond divisions of all kinds, in a single approach: sharing resources, knowledge and values. Indeed, sharing becomes a moral necessity to preserve humanity in the face of the challenge posed by globalisation, demographic expansion and ecosystem damage.

### HERITAGE

The Saint Martin of Tours Route links many European towns which were part of the life of Saint Martin, as well as those with a significant architectural heritage of relevance to his veneration: thousands of monuments are dedicated to him, including fourteen cathedrals! These sites also have an intangible heritage that is still alive in the form of legends, traditions and folklore

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The traveller can follow the routes that relate to episodes of the Saint's life, cult or folklore. This large set of routes, covering more than 5 000 km across and around Europe bears the general name of Via Sancti Martini. Of special note are the route linking Szombathely (Hungary), the place of his birth, to Tours (France), the place of his grave, via Pavia (Italy), the place of his childhood, and the route linking Tours, where he was a bishop, to Worms (Germany), where he left the Roman army and Trier (Germany), where he met the Roman emperor. However, this route also links a great number of cultural heritage sites through Austria and Slovakia, and also arriving in Szombathely. Other routes lead to Utrecht in the Netherlands, or to Zaragoza in Spain. Overall, the Saint Martin routes cover more than 12 European countries!



[www.saintmartindetours.eu](http://www.saintmartindetours.eu)

Find out more

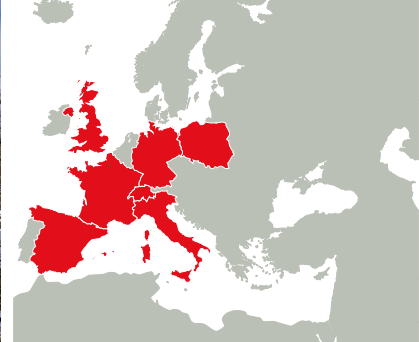




Basilica of Paray-le-Monial, France ©Pierre Jean Durieu/Shutterstock



Romainmôtier abbey, Switzerland ©AirelleS/Shutterstock



Pilgrims at Weltenburg abbey, Germany ©Sina Ettmer Photography/Shutterstock



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# Cluniac Sites in Europe

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2005

### HISTORY

In the early 10th century, Willam the Pious, Duke of Aquitaine, founded a Benedictine Abbey in Cluny, in the French region of Burgundy. During the Middle Ages, Cluny became a major centre of European civilisation, resulting in the emergence and development of over 1800 sites throughout western Europe. Up to the 18th century, Cluniac sites reflected the Europe-wide influence of Cluny Abbey on a spiritual, economic, social and political level and in the areas of the arts and architecture.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

By reaching out beyond political frontiers, Cluny Abbey, as an integral part of a true church system, contributed to the emergence of a feudal Europe and played a major role in the establishment of a culture that was common to several European regions. Today, the European Federation of Cluniac Sites promotes this common heritage, serving as a fully-fledged tool for intercultural dialogue and an understanding of a shared European history.

### HERITAGE

At the heart of the route, in Cluny, are the remains of the great abbatial church, the Maior Ecclesia, the largest religious building of medieval Europe. Cluny was known at the time as "the second Rome" and now has the second largest number of medieval houses in the world after Venice. However, the heritage handed down to us by monks in Europe extends beyond the built heritage. On over 1800 sites (including monasteries, colleges, castles, villages, towns, vineyards and mills), objects and features are preserved such as manuscripts and their illuminations, musical scores, treaties, furniture, works of art and archaeological finds, but also landscapes, wines and customs.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Each Cluniac site tells the story of its tangible and intangible heritage in its own way. Through its Cluniac Destinations, the Federation offers a thematic introduction which takes participants off the beaten track. Serious hikers or occasional walkers will appreciate the Cluny Routes, which can take anywhere between an hour and several weeks. Lastly, the digital encyclopedia, Clunypedia is a means both of finding out about these sites and of making visits to them more instructive, entertaining and exciting, providing knowledge about the Cluniac heritage that is accessible to everyone.



[www.sitesclunisiens.org](http://www.sitesclunisiens.org)

Find out more



The festival of olive oil, Padna, Slovenia ©egotripone/Shutterstock



Olive tree, Morocco ©PhotoFra/Shutterstock



old mill parts, Mount Athos, Greece © NonixPhoto/Shutterstock



Old oil mill, Island Korcula, Croatia ©Mrak.hr/Shutterstock



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du Conseil de l'Europe



# Routes of the Olive Tree

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2005

### HISTORY

The presence of the olive tree has marked not only the landscape but also the everyday lives of the Mediterranean peoples. As a mythical and sacred tree, it is associated with their rites and customs and has influenced their lifestyles, creating a specific ancient civilisation, the "olive tree civilisation". The Routes of the Olive Tree follow in the footsteps of the Olive Tree Civilisation, from Greece towards the Euro-Mediterranean countries.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Routes of the Olive Tree are itineraries of intercultural discovery and dialogue based on the theme of the olive tree, a universal symbol of peace. These routes are a gateway to new cooperation between remote areas that would otherwise be condemned to isolation, since they bring together all the players involved in the economic exploitation of the olive tree (artists, small producers and farmers, young entrepreneurs, etc.) that are threatened by the current crisis. In our difficult time this is a way to defend the fundamental value of the right to work.

### HERITAGE

The olive tree dates back millions of years. Wild olive trees, ancestors of the domesticated ones, can still be seen in the Peloponnese, Crete, North Africa and the Middle East, their places of origin. The relationship between this tree and human civilisation has produced an immensely rich, living cultural heritage, embedded in the everyday habits of the Mediterranean people. From gastronomy, with the crucial influence of olive oil, to art and traditions, the social development of these areas has been largely shaped by the olive tree.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The traveller can experience the olive tree civilisation and become familiar with olive tree landscapes, products and traditions. Different cultural itineraries run through the countries of southern Europe and North Africa, from the Balkans to the Peloponnese in Greece, and extending to the Meknes region in Morocco. Even sea itineraries exist to highlight the importance of the maritime connection between the Mediterranean cities' harbours. Along the routes, different olive tree related activities are also organised, with exhibitions, concerts and product tasting events



[www.olivetreeroute.g](http://www.olivetreeroute.g)

Find out more





Holy Trinity Chapel of Lublin Castle, Poland ©katatonia82/Shutterstock



Anvers, Belgium © Lena Serditova/Shutterstock



Erfurt Cathedral, Germany ©pixelliebe/Shutterstock



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COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Via Regia

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2005

### HISTORY

The Via Regia is the oldest and longest road linking Eastern and Western Europe. Evidence shows that the Via Regia corridor, which is situated south of the ice cap and north of the middle mountainous zone, was the favourite region of passage of migrating tribes as far back as the Stone Age. Today, the route connects ten European countries and has a length of 4,500 km in its modern form as European Development Corridor III.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Over the last 2,000 years, merchants, soldiers, kings, pilgrims, migrants, and different kinds of travellers, have left their marks on the Via Regia. This route recounts a history of events that are of European significance, promoting knowledge and understanding of European history and cultural identity.

### HERITAGE

The old Via Regia, also called the "Royal Road", was part of the most important road system of the Early Middle Ages. With the passing of time, this road has continually changed, adapting to new eras, while continuously preserving its crucial economic significance for interregional trade. This lengthy historical background is reflected by a rich heritage, ranging from the architectural heritage to intangible traditions that have shaped the European continent.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Via Regia is a road link from pre-trail times. That means the traditional infrastructure of the route is synonymous with short distances travelled at a slow cruising speed. The traveller can espouse the principle of "deceleration" as a basis for slowly enjoying this route across Europe's cultural space, from east to west or vice versa. Many different travel options are available, from traditional pilgrimages to train journeys. A large number of cultural activities and events are also organised around the concept of this essential artery for our continent!



[www.via-regia.org](http://www.via-regia.org)

Find out more



Apulum roman festival, Alba Iulia, Romania © Florin Cnejevici / Shutterstock



Gradac Monastery, Serbia © N.M.Bear/Shutterstock



Tourists at Gradac Monastery, Serbia © baneleki/Shutterstock



Summer Academy at Königsblutter Imperial Cathedral, Germany © Norbert Funke



**TRANSROMANICA**  
The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



# TRANSROMANICA

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2007

### HISTORY

Around the year 1000, artists from all over Europe were inspired by the Roman and early Christian tradition, giving birth to a unique architectural style: the Romanesque. The Romanesque style incorporated local myths and legends to reinvent old traditions, thus reflecting the specific geographic characteristics of each region of medieval Europe over a period of 300 years.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Despite the difficulties involved in travelling, medieval Europeans were extremely mobile, with thousands of travellers journeying by water and land, most of the time on foot. As a result of these movements, a common way of thinking and shared values became manifest in architecture and, more specifically, in the cathedrals that were the focus of urban life. The Romanesque style thus became the first common language of the old continent. This 'first' Europe, dating back to the Middle Ages, incorporated values which still unite the continent today: diversity and understanding between civilisations.

### HERITAGE

The main characteristics of Romanesque architecture are the use of round arches, thick walls with small windows, cubiform capitals and symmetrical plans, which combine to give a harmonious appearance of simplicity. Magnificent cathedrals, peaceful monasteries and beautiful churches, dating from medieval times, can all be found along the TRANSROMANICA Cultural Route. This unique association of regional styles makes it possible to experience a variety of cultures, ranging from the Byzantine to the Western styles, including the influences of French and Mudéjar architecture and those of the successive Gothic style.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Travellers taking the TRANSROMANICA route follow a trail of highly impressive Romanesque monuments, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites, located in nine countries between the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean. In addition, each TRANSROMANICA region offers unique cultural highlights, culinary treats and numerous events, set in scenic landscapes. A journey along the Romanesque Routes of European Heritage also entails walking in the footsteps of important historical figures, such as Otto the Great, Martin Luther, Matilda of Canossa, St. James of Compostela and many other emperors and spiritual leaders.



[www.transromanica.com](http://www.transromanica.com)

Find out more





National wine's festival, Chisinau, Moldova © SlayStorm/Shutterstock



Areni Winery, Armenia ©frantic00/Shutterstock



Barolo Village and its Vineyards at Barolo, Italy ©Edgar Machado/Shutterstock



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Itinéraire culturel  
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# Iter Vitis Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2009

### HISTORY

The culture of the vine, winemaking and viticultural landscapes are an important part of European and Mediterranean food culture. Since the domestication of the vine, in the 4th millennium BC, its evolution and spread has been considered a great human achievement, which shaped Europe's landscapes, both in terms of its territory and its people.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Wine production has always been a European symbol of identity. The technical knowledge, which underlies this production, has greatly contributed over the centuries to the construction of a European citizenship, common to the regions and peoples, and of national identities. Several countries of the Mediterranean region share the same common denominator: their cultural landscape. One of the main aims of the route is to safeguard wine biodiversity, highlighting its uniqueness in a globalised world.

### HERITAGE

The European rural landscape is considered as an important heritage with high added value. Wineries, as well as the people and the technology associated with this tradition, are important components of our culture, which are also expressed through different forms of oral traditions. Moreover, the quality of life in rural areas can be considered as a model for the future and a heritage to be preserved.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Wine is a territorial message that travels and causes people to travel. Winemaking, and especially working on the land, provide an incentive for migration and mobility. In the same spirit, the traveller can discover remote lands from the Caucasus to Western European vineyards, learn about cultivation techniques, vinification, storage and transport, and become familiar with the myths and symbols around this rich culture. A variety of educational and cultural meetings are also organised within the route countries.



[www.itervitis.eu](http://www.itervitis.eu)

Find out more



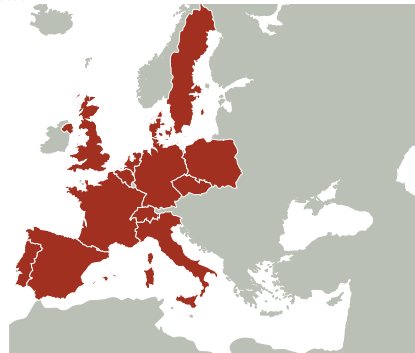
Lorvão Abbey, Portugal © ribeiroantonio / Shutterstock



Abbey of Senanque, France © Ekaluck Cheeptumrong/Shutterstock



Varnhem Abbey, Sweden © VIKVAD/Shutterstock



Charte européenne des  
Abbayes et Sites cisterciens

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du Conseil de l'Europe



# European Route of Cistercian Abbeys

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2010

### HISTORY

In the 11th century, Robert de Molesme founded the "New Monastery" of Cîteaux, following the principles of the Rule of Saint Benedict: pray far from the world and live off the work of one's hands. From its origins in Burgundy in 1098, the Cistercian Order grew rapidly throughout the European continent, bringing together some 750 abbeys and 1000 monasteries, with communities of both monks and nuns.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The European Charter of Cistercian Abbeys and Sites Association and its members work to preserve the tangible and intangible Cistercian heritage. Their actions contribute to the preservation of the historical heritage, both buildings and the surrounding environment, regardless of their condition. They also aim at promoting the role of the Cistercians in European history, especially in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, to a wider audience. They seek to highlight the unique identity of Cistercian

monasticism, in its intellectual and spiritual dimensions, technical ingenuity and remarkable organisational, building and development skills.

### HERITAGE

The Cistercian Order represents a rich legacy that is still present today at the heart of the Roman Church and European States. The "white monks" were and still are exemplary constructors, participating in the development of rural areas by controlling the most advanced hydraulic and agricultural techniques - through their barns, cellars, mills and foundries - and have contributed to the development of art, knowledge and understanding in Europe since the Middle Ages.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The traveller is invited to understand and give meaning to the Cistercian heritage that our age has inherited, through a discovery journey passing through rural tourism sites, by participating in educational and cultural events, and by using new digital tools adapted to cultural heritage conservation and promotion.



[www.cister.net](http://www.cister.net)

Find out more

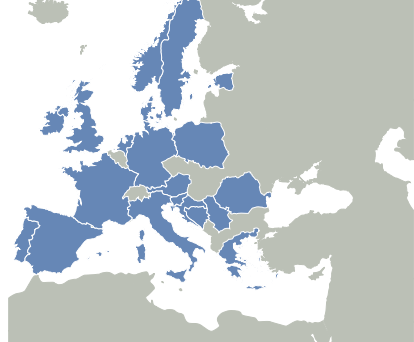




New Cemetery, Belgrade, Serbia ©Jasa Josimovic/Shutterstock



Mirogoj cemetery, Zagreb, Croatia © Zvonimir Atletic / Shutterstock



Ancient Cemetery, Athens, Greece © Ukrolenochka / Shutterstock



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# European Cemeteries Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2010

### HISTORY

Throughout history, cemeteries have been an essential part of our civilisation. These sacred and emotional spaces are concomitantly time witnesses of local history for cities and towns. They are common to all cities and towns in Europe and they clearly reveal their cultural and religious identity. It is therefore important to see cemeteries as places of life!

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Memories and symbols written in the stones of cemeteries are a reflection of customs, values and life in the city. By visiting a cemetery, one can get a feeling of how diverse the life and culture of the surrounding area is, and also better understand how important this diversity is in a democratic world.

### HERITAGE

Cemeteries are part of our tangible heritage, for their works, sculptures, engravings, and even for their urban planning. Cemeteries are also part of our intangible heritage, our anthropological reality, providing a framework surrounding the habits and practices related to death. Indeed, cemeteries offer unique settings for part of our historical memories. They are reminders of periods of local history that communities do not want to, and should not, forget, places which we have a duty to preserve and transmit to future generations.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The European Cemeteries Route offers the visitors the possibility to literally walk through the local history, to learn about important personalities who have worked and left their mark in cities. Traveling through this route actually enables visitors to discover the local, national and European Cultural Heritage at rest in cemeteries. It helps to raise European citizens' awareness of the importance of Europe's significant cemeteries in their multicultural dimension.



[www.cemeteriesroute.eu](http://www.cemeteriesroute.eu)

Find out more





Prehistoric petroglyphs, Alta, Norway © itociotola /Shutterstock



Gobustan Reserve, Azerbaijan ©Vastram/Shutterstock



Tusheti's National Park, Georgia ©Elena Diego/Shutterstock



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# Prehistoric Rock Art Trails

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2010

### HISTORY

Prehistoric Rock Art is the art of the first Europeans. It appeared in Europe 42,000 years ago and continued until the Early Iron Age in some regions. Since the scientific recognition of the Cave of Altamira in 1902, Prehistoric Art has constituted an important cultural and tourism resource for Europe, as the first major cultural, social and symbolic expression of humankind.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Prehistoric Rock Art is one of the oldest forms of cultural heritage, present in almost all regions of the planet and living proof of past life forms. Europe hosts some of the best known and most significant evidence of Prehistoric Rock Art, representing over 40% of all the world's rock art sites. This Art is closely linked to the landscape. Culture and Nature therefore come together in this Route, which also contributes to the sustainable development of the rural communities where all the sites that compose the Cultural Route are located.

### HERITAGE

Each year nearly 3.1 million visitors come to the places where the first inhabitants of Europe produced their transcendental rock art, an art full of symbolism motivated by religious belief and full of references to nature. This was initially a naturalistic art form, but later also became schematic and with a capacity for abstraction that would not be repeated until the early 20th century. It consists of figurative manifestations, schematic forms and abstract shapes composed of drawings, paintings or prints on the walls of caves, rock-shelters and open-air rock outcrops, and on some Megalithic constructions too.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

More than 200 rock art sites are open to the public in Europe, concentrated in countries like Norway, Sweden, Italy, Portugal, Georgia, Azerbaijan, France and Spain. Many are small sites, but there are locations with significant tourism infrastructure where it is possible to visit large archaeological sites. In addition, the traveller can also see some excellent facsimiles of caves and rock shelters, which make it easy to display this art without endangering the original sites, many of which can only receive a few visitors per day or no visits at all.

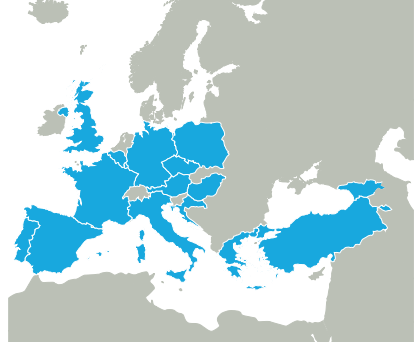


[www.prehistour.eu](http://www.prehistour.eu)

Find out more



Loutra Pozar Thermal Baths, Loutraki, Greece © Georgios Tsichlis/Shutterstock



Thermal bath of Vichy, France © Martina Nowak/Shutterstock



Szechenyi Baths, Budapest, Hungary © majicphotos/Shutterstock



THE EUROPEAN  
ROUTE OF  
HISTORIC  
THERMAL  
TOWNS

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# European Route of Historic Thermal Towns

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2010

### HISTORY

Thermalism - the therapeutic use of hot springs - has been prevalent in Europe from ancient times to the present day. Many of the towns along this route were known during Roman times, and several have impressive ruins of baths and associated spa buildings. The most famous towns reached the height of their renown during the 18th and 19th centuries, when a wide range of new medical and health treatments were developed, and when travel became much easier. The prestigious political and cultural elite travelling to Europe's spas, cemented the reputation of the thermal spa towns and gave birth to a real trend, the development of prestigious hotels and a variety of leisure activities, ranging from the first casinos to musical theatres, covered promenades and landscaped gardens for the entertainment of fashionable tourists.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Thermal towns were the "cafés of Europe", places where members of all levels of society could mix, exchange ideas

and even change society where the "rules" ensured civilised conduct. Thus, spas have played a leading role fostering peace, co-operation and creativity, protecting the built and natural environment, and promoting sustainable cultural development a role that has been present throughout European history and continues to this day.

### HERITAGE

Baden-Baden, Bath, Budapest, Karlovy Vary, Spa and Vichy are only a few of the most famous European spa towns, but Europe is home to many more spa towns with unique urban personalities, different styles of architecture, and different spa traditions, built around bathing or drinking of the thermal waters. This spa culture, in all its variety and different local flavours, can truly be considered a unique European heritage.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Today, our towns tell the stories of an important European memory through annual festivals, events, and a wealth of artistic and creative activities in which tourists can participate. Above all, the traveller can actively enjoy the pleasures and benefits of the thermal waters, relax and experience a real multi-sensorial tradition.



[www.ehtta.eu](http://www.ehtta.eu)

Find out more





Saint Olav's church, Kamroy, Norway ©Dmitry Chulov/Shutterstock



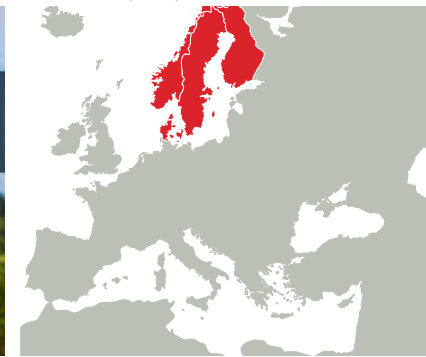
Pilgrim in the gulf of Finland ©Michaelvbg/Shutterstock



Tower of St Olav church, Tallinn, Estonia ©everst/Shutterstock



Route between Sweden and Norway ©Hamperium Photography/Shutterstock



**ST.OLAV WAYS**  
THE PILGRIM PATHS TO TRONDHEIM

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# Route of Saint Olav Ways

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2010

### HISTORY

Olav II Haraldsson, later known as St. Olav, was King of Norway during the 11th century. After he fell in the battle of Stiklestad in 1030 he was declared a martyr and a saint, which led to the propagation of his myth. For centuries after his death, pilgrims made their way through Scandinavia, along routes leading to Nidaros Cathedral, in Trondheim, where Saint Olav lies buried.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The myth of Saint Olav led thousands of pilgrims to travel for centuries across the European continent in search of his burial place. These movements caused intense cultural and religious exchanges, thus serving an important role in the construction of a European identity.

### HERITAGE

The oldest surviving painting of Saint Olav, dating from around 1160, is on a column in the Nativity Church in Bethlehem. The number of Olav churches and chapels reminds us that the Saint Olav tradition once flourished all over northern Europe. Prior to the Reformation (before 1540, approximately), we know that at least 340 Olav churches and Olav chapels existed, of which 288 were located outside Norway.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The pilgrim ways, now called the St. Olav Ways – the pilgrim paths to Trondheim – are a network of routes through Denmark, Sweden and Norway. There are dozens of different routes to take, from short one-day trips to journeys lasting several weeks. Plenty of information can be found on accommodation possibilities, attractions and re-supply options. Through this pilgrimage, the traveller can experience the joy of simple things and mix with locals from rural communities.



[www.acsow.org](http://www.acsow.org)

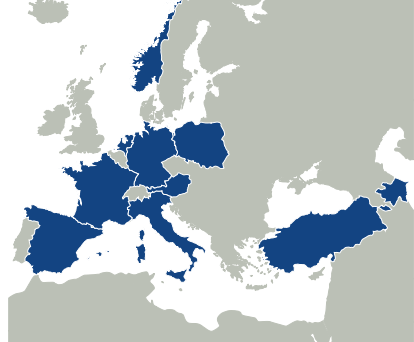
Find out more



Amalfi's Cathedral, Italy © Gorgen Bakhshetyan/Shutterstock



statue of burghers, Torun, Poland ©Fotokon/Shutterstock



Ceramic's National Museum, Valenci, Spain ©DigitalPearls/Shutterstock



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# European Route of Ceramics

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2012

### HISTORY

Development of ceramic art in Europe is remarkable. The ceramics industry boom has not just marked the economic development of the territories concerned, but has also produced a heritage and a social history and has contributed to the creation of a strong identity. This ceramics identity, which continues to shape many cities across Europe, is now accessible by travellers along the European Route of Ceramics.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The art of ceramics is inextricably tied to early European exchanges and reflects both the common identity of Europe and the local singularities of its territories. It also mirrors the technical advances, artistic trends and ideological aspirations of each period, from the primitive use of terracotta to the most

### HERITAGE

The route aims to make the European Ceramics heritage more accessible to European citizens, by promoting a dynamic image of this heritage, both physical, with objects used in several sectors (culinary activities, the arts, medicine, architecture, etc.), and intangible, including the know-how and crafts necessary for its production.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The traveller can appreciate the art of living in the destinations located along the European Route of Ceramics, by choosing a suitable getaway, whether it be urban or surrounded by nature, romantic or family-friendly, heritage-centred or gourmet-oriented. The route offers tours around cities like Limoges, Delft, Faenza, Selb or Höhr-Grenzhausen that give visitors a chance to discover what goes on behind the scenes of ceramics production, by taking a look backstage or by trying out the crafts thanks to several hands-on opportunities.



[www.europeanrouteofceramics.eu](http://www.europeanrouteofceramics.eu)

Find out more





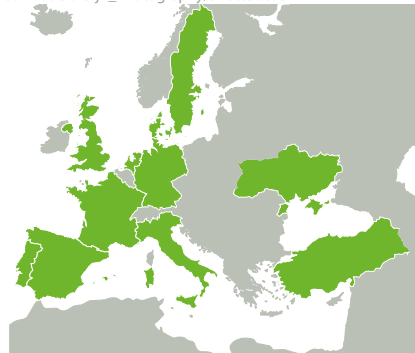
Neolithic tomb, Kernic Bay, France ©siloto/Shutterstock



Prehistoric "Hunebedden", road D50 to Noord-Sleen, Netherlands ©R. de Bruijn\_Photography/Shutterstock



Naveta des Tudons, Spain © Francisco Romo Torres/Shutterstock



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# European Route of Megalithic Culture

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2013

### HISTORY

Megaliths – literally "big stones" – were widely used by prehistoric communities to build monuments, burial places, and sanctuaries. Megalithic tombs, dolmens and other monuments represent the oldest surviving indigenous architecture of Europe. Understanding this heritage is essential to tracing our very origins.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Megalithic Routes project is committed to the principles of "low-impact tourism", avoiding irreversible measures that affect the natural environment. This is achieved by using existing roads and nature route ways as well as promoting mobility in harmony with nature. Consequently, a key principle of the route is to highlight and preserve the essential link between nature and culture. The route is also involved in working with museums, schools, universities and charities to develop specific programmes for children and young people.

### HERITAGE

Megalithic monuments are among the most widespread remains of man in time and space. Some of these monuments have been interpreted as observatories, through which it is possible to chart the movement of celestial objects, as they are all oriented towards the movement of the sun. Some, such as Stonehenge, have been perceived as tools for the prediction of solar and lunar eclipses.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Europe has a vast megalithic heritage, which can be explored through many different routes covering Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Great Britain, Italy and France. In order to discover this heritage, tourists can participate in several hiking and cycling activities that promote a strong connection with the land. The traveller can thus explore not only the megalithic monuments but also the manifold features of the surrounding landscape.



[www.megalithicroutes.eu](http://www.megalithicroutes.eu)

Find out more



Waldensian Evangelical Church, Rome, Italy ©Cineberg/Shutterstock



Menée Pass in the Vercors Massif, France ©QUESTUSA/Shutterstock



Huguenot Museum, Germany ©H-AB Photography/Shutterstock



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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Huguenot and Waldensian Trail

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2013

### HISTORY

At the end of the 17th century, an era of persecution began after the King of France, Louis XIV, revoked the Edict of Nantes. Two hundred thousand Huguenots sought refuge in the Protestant lands of Europe and around the world. The Waldensians from the Piedmont valleys also went into exile and followed the same path. This approximately 2,500 km-long international trail traces the historical path taken during this exile.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The hiking trail aims to highlight the historical exile of the Huguenots and Waldensians and their step-by-step integration in the host countries as a component of our common European history and cultural heritage. It also puts the spotlight on freedom, respect for human rights, tolerance and solidarity as European core values.

### HERITAGE

The exiled Huguenots and Waldensians travelled to Geneva in Switzerland and then Germany, where they were welcomed and could start a new life. Along the way, numerous Huguenot and Waldensian settlements were formed and constitute not only a rich cultural heritage but also an immaterial reminder of the themes of religious persecution, displacement, migration and integration.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Starting in Le Poët-Laval (Drôme, France) or Mialet (Cévennes, France) and from Saluzzo (Piedmont, Italy), Baden-Württemberg and Hesse, going all the way to Bad Karlshafen (Germany). The route also abounds in cultural and historical attractions, as well as its scenic richness and beauty. Participants in this hike can explore various European cultures, discover a shared history, enjoy convivial moments through the acceptance of others, and continue to develop a sense of self-awareness.



[www.surlespasdeshuguenots.eu](http://www.surlespasdeshuguenots.eu)

Find out more





Monument of the soviet army in Sofia, Bulgaria ©trabantos/Shutterstock



Torviscosa town square, Italy © luca pbl/Shutterstock



Casa Radio, Bucharest, Romania ©Danilovski/Shutterstock



**ATRIUM**  
Architecture  
of Totalitarian Regimes  
of the XX Century  
in Europe's Urban Memory

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# ATRIUM

## Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century in Europe's Urban Memory

### Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2014

#### HISTORY

The totalitarian regimes which characterised much of Europe during the central decades of the 20th century had a major impact on the urban landscape. These regimes founded and rebuilt cities often drawing on the most advanced architectural and urban design projects that existed at the time. While, today, democratic Europe firmly opposes these totalitarian regimes, their built heritage remains on our streets as an uncomfortable heritage.

#### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Studying the architecture of Europe's totalitarian regimes, both the fascist and the communist ones, is a way to enhance the European identity in its unity and diversity. The idea of Europe originated from the wounds of World War II and the fall of Fascism and Nazism. It entered a new phase after the downfall of Communism, opening the way to a broader and more comprehensive idea of a Europe based on fundamental values such as political

liberty, freedom of expression and assembly, democracy and the rule of law.

#### HERITAGE

The cities involved all display examples of architecture or urban design deriving from a totalitarian period, often with strong connections to the regimes. Forlì, Predappio, Ferrara, Tresigallo and many other Italian cities have important buildings or neighbourhoods deriving directly from Mussolini's regime. Labin, Raša and Lastovo-Üble in Croatia also host important examples of Fascist and Communist architecture. Furthermore, the county of Iași, in Romania, and Sofia and Dimitrovgrad, in Bulgaria, have many examples of architecture deriving from the totalitarian regimes of the period of Soviet influence.

#### TRAVELLING TODAY

ATRIUM permits exploration of the sociological, ideological and geographical complexities of the history of these regimes as viewed through the prism of urban landscapes in different cities. The traveller can find extensive information about the different sites through the route's website, including many resources such as photos and images, videos, audio files and oral testimonies.



[www.atriumroute.eu](http://www.atriumroute.eu)

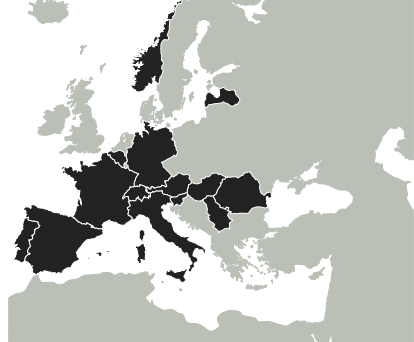
Find out more



Vienna Secession Building, Austria © TKiev.Victor/Shutterstock



Building at Elizabetes iela street, Riga, Latvia © Travelsewhere/Shutterstock



Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, Germany ©Bildgigant/Shutterstock



Architecture in Vojvodina region of Serbia ©xbrchx/Shutterstock



RÉSEAU  
ART  
NOUVEAU  
NETWORK

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Réseau Art Nouveau Network

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2014

### HISTORY

Appearing in the late 19th century, Art Nouveau spread rapidly in Europe through international exhibitions, travelling artists, letters and journals. This artistic revolution was mainly inspired by natural forms and structures, not only flowers and plants, but also curved lines. However, Art Nouveau, which quickly disappeared during the First World War, was strongly discredited, and it was not until the latter half of the 20th century that the style began to be appreciated in its historical context, and that efforts were made for its preservation.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Although each local representation of the style has distinctive characteristics, there was a common will of European artists at this time to innovate, create, influence each other and exchange, which led to a real European dimension of this heritage which lies on our very doorstep and which is sometimes in danger. Art Nouveau is a reflection of our cultural values and of

the importance of intercultural dialogue.

### HERITAGE

The Art Nouveau trend was driven by aesthetic ideals and an enthusiasm for modernity, exploiting the possibilities of industrial technologies and new materials, combined with meticulous workmanship and a scrupulous eye for detail. Each country's creative centres brought their own flavour to the style by incorporating local specificities (Jugendstil in Germany, Stile Liberty in Italy, Style Sapin in Switzerland, Modernismo in Spain, Sezessionsstil in Austria...) resulting in a wonderful concordance of architecture, furniture and decoration, called the "total work of art".

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Art Nouveau Network offers the tourist numerous activities, exhibitions and materials aimed at permitting an understanding and appreciation of the rich legacy of this art style. Targeted at both children and adults, they bring the visitor to realise the dimension of Art Nouveau, its relationship with nature, society, ecology and technical innovation. There are over 20 cities with a rich and varied Art Nouveau heritage to explore.



[www.atnouveau-net.eu](http://www.atnouveau-net.eu)

Find out more





Freiburg in the Breisgau region, Germany ©E. Pokrovsky/Shutterstock



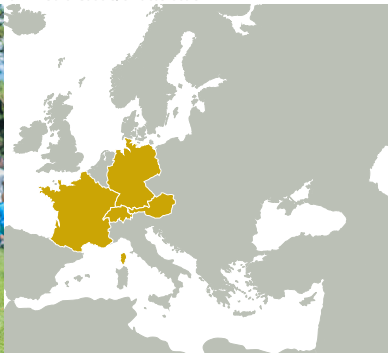
Historic town hall of Basel, Switzerland ©Media Castle/Shutterstock



Ambras Castle, Austria ©ELEPHOTOS/Shutterstock



Renaissance Festival Innsbruck Austria ©Stephan Schlachter/Shutterstock



VIA  
HABSBURG

Cultural route  
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# Via Habsburg

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2014

### HISTORY

The House of Habsburg was one of the most influential royal houses of Europe. To a certain extent the history of the Habsburgs is also our history. From 10th to 19th century the personalities of this major dynasty had a decisive influence on history, as they helped to form the geography and the fate of Europe. Ententes and disputes, power struggles and territorial conquests, times of war and of peace... all divided peoples but also reunited them and formed bonds, which endure over time.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

From France to Austria, along some 1000km, the Via Habsburg is a path of knowledge, sharing and friendship that builds relationships across borders and between nations. It pursues a civic and humanist objective by building links between different peoples of the continent and by promoting a shared history, of which the Habsburg legacy is an important part.

### HERITAGE

The 800-year-old history of the Habsburgs is preserved in sites covering thousands of square kilometres in western and central Europe. Palaces, castles, magnificent churches, monasteries, abbeys and splendid museums show how this emblematic dynastic family shaped not only history but also art, transmitting the Renaissance cultural wealth and, at the time of its decline, provoking the modernist revolt.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

70 sites and cities in four different countries and six regions invite the visitor to embark on a journey through timeless landscapes and extraordinary places. Throughout the Tyrol (Austria), Switzerland, Lake Constance, Black Forest (Germany) and Alsace and Lorraine regions (France) there are no fewer than 150 tourist destinations waiting to be discovered. So choose the route that most intrigues you!



[www.viahabsburg.online](http://www.viahabsburg.online)

Find out more



Kaleto fortress, Belogradchik, Bulgaria © hdesislava/Shutterstock



Roman amphitheater, Pula, Croatia © sarocha.s/Shutterstock



Viminacium Archaeological Park, Serbia ©mirjana ristic damjanovic/Shutterstock



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# Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2015

### HISTORY

The Danube frontier of the Roman Empire was maintained by a constant military presence. As a result, the consumption of wine became an essential component of daily life in the region. The Danube Wine Route incorporates the same regions where wine was introduced in Roman times, and which continue the tradition of wine production.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Roman Empire and the deeds of the emperors laid the foundations of urbanism, administration, law and citizenship rights for the subsequent medieval and modern European societies. Concepts such as religious tolerance and the preservation of ethnic identity were also practised at the time. This means that some of Europe's most fundamental values date back to the Roman Empire, values which were revived during the Renaissance, laying the foundation of current European societies.

### HERITAGE

The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route runs through four countries of the Middle and Lower Danube Region – Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania – encompassing 20 archaeological sites and 12 wine regions. The Route links the archaeological sites with their individual (unique) histories that are monuments to the leadership of the Roman emperors in the introduction of Roman culture along the northern frontier of the Empire. Wine, as the key sub-theme, blends in conceptually with the introduction of Roman culture and social mores into the Danube region.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Each year, hundreds of thousands of travellers set out to make their way to Santiago de Compostela. As there are endless numbers of branches to the route, it is common to begin the journey literally from one's doorstep. Most travel by foot, some by bicycle, and a few travel on horseback or by donkey, as some of their medieval counterparts did. This ancient route provides an intense human experience, creating a sense of fraternity amongst travellers and a strong bonding with the land.



[www.romanemperorsroute.eu](http://www.romanemperorsroute.eu)

Find out more





Historical reenactment of the landing of Charles V in Laredo, Spain © Cooperation Network of European Routes of Charles V



Aerial view of Vieste, Italy ©Andrew Mayovsky/Shutterstock



Arc of Saint Mary, Burgos, Spain ©roberaten/Shutterstock



Stained Glass window depicting Emperor Charles V in the Cathedral of Brussels, Belgium ©jorisvo/Shutterstock



ITINERA  
CAROLUS V  
IMPERATOR

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# European Routes of Emperor Charles V

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2015

### HISTORY

Emperor Charles V was the great 16th century pan-European sovereign. Through inheritance, he brought together, under his rule, extensive territories in western, central, and southern Europe and the Spanish colonies in the Americas and Asia. His travels throughout the European continent are remembered as a symbol of unity for different regions and nations.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Emperor Charles V, together with the extensive list of nations that were part of his State, shaped an unprecedented European identity that united different regions and countries under the same set of rules and values. His legacy allows us to better understand present-day Europe.

### HERITAGE

Charles of Habsburg is an important common reference – political, cultural and historical – for many central European countries (Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg...) and also for southern European ones (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Malta, plus North Africa). His presence and political heritage can be found in the many historical sites and cultural manifestations that keep alive the memory of this pan-European sovereign of the 16th century.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Historical re-enactments, art festivals, traditional markets, parades, local festivities, etc. today commemorate the figure of Emperor Charles of Habsburg in different European regions. The traditional (sea and land) routes used personally by the Emperor are considered to have played an essential role in the configuration of the great cultural landscape of Early Modern Europe. The interest of the itinerary is not confined to history and art, but also includes the environment, traditional landscape or architecture.



[www.itineracarolusv.eu](http://www.itineracarolusv.eu)

Find out more



Napoleon statue, Les Invalides Paris France © B. Perry/Shutterstock



Slavkov-Austerlitz castle historical reenactment, Czech Republic ©annie\_zhak/Shutterstock



Participants of Polish artillery reenact the historical Battle of Raszyn in 1809, Poland ©S. Tokarski/Shutterstock



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# Destination Napoleon

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2015

### HISTORY

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was a remarkable political leader who influenced European and global affairs for more than a decade while he ruled over France. Napoleon is a name known world-wide, as are his exploits. The Napoleonic period bequeathed an exceptionally valuable heritage of relevance to most European countries. It is essential that this heritage be granted its rightful place in the shared interpretation of historical events by the people of Europe. Napoleon marked our cities, shaping their urban form and their future fortunes, whether for good or bad. This strong influence is still very much alive in present-day Europe.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Napoleonic historical heritage is one of European dimensions. It is a heritage of key value, which has always interested a great majority of European countries, and it was a major influence behind the contemporary geopolitical context and the development of the

"European idea".

### HERITAGE

Napoleon left an enormous heritage, which, today, is not merely national, but constitutes a European common patrimony. The Napoleonic era's influence upon the cultural heritage of contemporary Europe includes sites, buildings, monuments, furniture, works of art and the law, as well as a vast intangible heritage linked to the Napoleonic myth.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Destination Napoleon brings together 60 cities in 14 countries, from Portugal to Russia, putting back their Napoleonic historical heritage in its European dimension. The traveller can appreciate the geographical diversity of this legacy and its historical, cultural and patrimonial significance. The route endeavours to unite European cities whose history was influenced by Napoleon, including through exhibitions, arts events, discovery tours, tourism, and school or university exchanges.



[www.napoleoncities.eu](http://www.napoleoncities.eu)

Find out more





Water fountain, and mosaic of Robert Louis Stevenson ©RogerMechan/Shutterstock



The Stevenson Way on Mont Lozère, Cévennes, France ©Michel Verdier/Shutterstock



Treasure Island Cruise in Bristol, United Kingdom © Long John Silver Trust/Shutterstock



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du Conseil de l'Europe



# In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2015

### HISTORY

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894), the author of world-wide bestsellers such as *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, was not only a renowned man of letters but also a restless traveller. He left his Scottish homeland in search of a climate which would soothe his respiratory illness and ended his days amongst the inhabitants of Samoa, in Oceania. In the meantime, he travelled widely in Europe: by canoe from Antwerp to Pontoise in France; on foot in the Cévennes with his donkey, Modestine.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Robert Louis Stevenson's figure represents important values such as openness to others, secularism, support for minorities or the reconciliation of European peoples. For Stevenson, travel was not a pretext or an escape, but an opportunity for encounters. The hallmark of this route is its human dimension marked by friendship, and the intention is to demonstrate

the existence of a European literary heritage, and thereby encourage the concept of European citizenship.

### HERITAGE

The accounts of Stevenson's travels in Europe are regarded as genuine ethnographic descriptions of peoples and lands. When he reached the Pacific islands, Stevenson wrote novellas and short stories which give a thoroughly fresh view of the societies of Oceania, which had previously been seen through the lens of colonialism.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

As a writer, traveller, adventurer and idealist, Stevenson left his mark on the places he visited, through his literary work and his profound compassion for humanity. Today, we can retrace his steps from the Lothian region in Scotland to the Fontainebleau Forest in France or the Antwerp region in Belgium. The traveller can also participate in exhibitions, talks, lectures and activities, some specially targeting children and young people, so as to celebrate the important legacy of Robert Louis Stevenson.



[www.rlstevenson-europe.org](http://www.rlstevenson-europe.org)

Find out more



Holstentor gate, Lübeck, Germany ©jan kranendonk/Shutterstock

Baroque festival, Saarloui, France © Network of the Fortified Towns of the Grande Region



Vianden Castle, Luxembourg ©S. Parente/Shutterstock

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Fort Thüngen, Luxembourg © frantic00/Shutterstock



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# Fortified Towns of the Grande Region

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2016

### HISTORY

#### History

Located in the heart of Europe, the region between France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg was long a place of military struggle. Today, this transnational space called the "Grande Region" has turned into a remarkable example of economic and cultural exchanges. The fortresses are the best witnesses of this past of war and peace. The Route of the Fortified Towns brings together twelve sites, which are typical of European military architecture in a region long regarded as Europe's battlefield.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Although the area was a former battlefield, nowadays the Route encourages old antagonists to meet in dialogue and cooperation. Whereas, before, the fortresses were sentinels along the borders, contributing to the consolidation of fragmented territories into nation States, they now constitute a common European heritage that promotes cultural and touristic exchanges beyond borders that

are fading away. Thus, this route celebrates the cohesion of the European identity in its unity and diversity.

### HERITAGE

The Fortified Towns Route reveals an amazing architectural and cultural heritage. Few other regions have as many fortresses, dating from all periods of the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Haughty citadels, spectacular bastions, impregnable forts, mysterious underground spaces... here is an extraordinary richness of fortified architecture to discover. In addition, the 12 sites that are part of the route lie in exceptional natural landscapes.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Route of the Fortified Towns of the Grande Region leads through territories renowned for their culinary and gastronomic art. Many restaurants offer traditional meals, prepared from local products. Accommodation along the Route covers the entire range, from youth hostels and campsites to 4 or 5-star hotels.



[www.villesfortifiees.eu/](http://www.villesfortifiees.eu/)

Find out more





Ivan Grohar statue, Sorica, Slovenia ©zkbl/Shutterstock



Parade, Cologne, Germany ©C. Mueller/Shutterstock



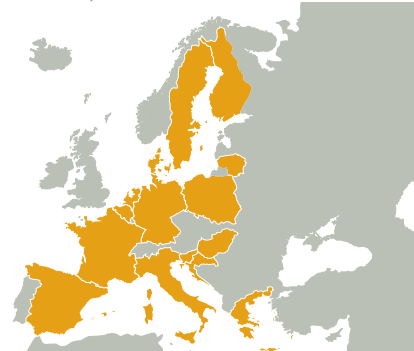
Landscape in Teufelsmoor, Germany ©Ulrike Adam/Shutterstock



Castle Westhove, Domburg, Netherlands ©Manninx/Shutterstock



Renoir artwork at museum Orsay, France © Goncharovaia/Shutterstock



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# Impressionisms Routes

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2018

### HISTORY

The Impressionist movement, originated in the 19th century, strongly irrigated the whole of the European continent through painters like Claude Monet, Franz Bunke or Ivan Grohar. At the vanguard, impressionist painters challenged the existing academicism, the spontaneity of their brushstroke being at the core of their representation of the world. Highly contested at its origin, this revolutionary art movement is nowadays praised by a wealth of exhibitions and retrospectives.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Unanimously appreciated not only in Europe but also throughout the world, Impressionism magnifies the landscapes and celebrates everyday life, reflecting the European diversity through the "snapshot" of its landscapes, as outlined in the European Landscape Convention. While depicting everyday life and the society of their time, impressionist painters also enact the principles outlined by the Faro Convention. The turn

of the century being marked by some significant social changes, this movement participated to the dawn of a new society, respectful of different cultural expressions and committed to freedom of expression.

### HERITAGE

This network brings together a wealth of major sites related to the 19th and 20th century impressionist painting: the places where painters like Monet, Renoir or Toorop used to live, the places that inspired them, the artistic colonies they founded or in which they participated (Schwaan, among others), the museums and cultural areas where their works are exhibited.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Impressionisms Routes intend to facilitate access for all to artistic knowledge by developing cultural heritage and tourism activities. A number of didactic exhibitions, specific meetings, celebrations and conferences are organised in the member countries of the network: Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia and the Netherlands. Six thematic routes have been conceived to follow the steps of an artist or a group of painters, allowing for a better understanding of the European effervescence prompted by this movement.



[www.impressionismsroutes.com](http://www.impressionismsroutes.com)

Find out more



Coronation of Charlemagne by Pope Leo III, Vatican Stanze, Raphael Sanzio



Statue of Charlemagne and his Vassal, Paris, France ©Dennis Diatel/Shutterstock



Exhibition "Mein Karl", Aachen , Germany ©trabantos/Shutterstock



Via Charlemagne  
Via Carolingia

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# Via Charlemagne

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2018

### HISTORY

The Carolingian dynasty finds its crucible in the heart of Austrasia, where a wealth of testimonies of the Carolingian saga has been permeating in the local culture ever since the Early Middle Ages. Crowned Western Emperor in 800, Charlemagne still embodies a federative, consensus-based figure: reunifying Western Europe, he modernised his Empire by establishing a single currency in silver, the denier, a common readable script, the Caroline, an upturn in schooling, a cultural revival with the Carolingian Renaissance, a more balanced justice with the Missi dominici...

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Considered as the father of Europe, of the first unified Europe, the cultural values developed and maintained by Charlemagne and by his dynasty are still well alive nowadays. Promoting the chivalrous and humanistic values specific to the Carolingian legends, Via Charlemagne aims to raise awareness among young Europeans of all ages about the fact that shared cultural history is the essence of a common European citizenship, in its unity and diversity.



Find out more

### HERITAGE

Iconic figure of chivalric tales, the legends about Charlemagne expanded throughout the European continent, from Iceland to Sicily and from Portugal to Latvia and to the Balkans, thus improving intercultural relationships between European countries. The chansons de geste, epic poems narrating heroic deeds of these ancient times, revive the Carolingian history: the most famous ones are the chanson de Roland and the chanson de Renaud de Montauban, which lead to the legend of the four sons of Aymon. Among the monuments, places, objects and landscapes related to the Carolingian era, hundreds of statues representing Charlemagne, Roland or the four sons of Aymon can be found throughout Europe, as well as UNESCO world heritage landscapes: Roland's Breach, Rocamadour and the Salto de Roldán.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Via Charlemagne is offering a unique opportunity for Europeans looking for their common cultural roots, following the footsteps of the father of Europe. The Route is indeed historical, cultural and religious, but also legendary: along the different routes, you shall see the heroes, magical swords, horses and enchanters described in the Carolingian myths and legends. The Internet site of the association provides a map illustrating different itineraries that are part of Via Charlemagne.





Centrale Montemartini Museum, Italy ©Christian Mueller/Shutterstock



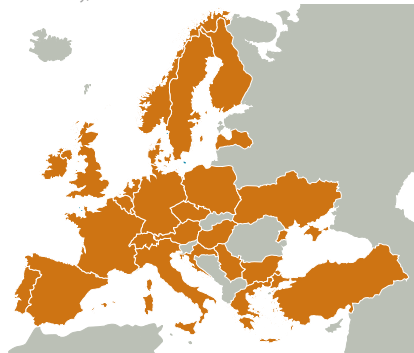
Telecommunications Museum, Nea Kifissia, Greece © ERIH



Kvarner bay, Croatia ©xbrchx/Shutterstock



Fond-de-Gras Minettpark, Niederkorn, Luxembourg ©Pulsa Picture - ORT SUD



European  
Route  
of Industrial  
Heritage

Cultural route  
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# European Route of Industrial Heritage

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2019

### HISTORY

Starting around the middle of the 18th century with the advent of the Industrial Revolution, new technology spread rapidly across Europe. Manufacturers built factories, thousands of workers migrated to the emerging urban industrial areas and throughout Europe trade unions fought for social progress. Today, industrialisation plants open to visitors and modern technology museums tell the exciting story of European industrialisation and its cultural, social and economics legacies.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The history of the industrialisation of Europe is an essential part of our European heritage, shaping our continent's history, landscape and the lives of Europeans for the last 200 years since the Industrial Revolution. Today, thousands of industrial sites, monuments and museums bring this period of shared European history to life.

## HERITAGE

With over 1,800 locations in all European countries, the European Route of Industrial Heritage invites visitors to explore the milestones of European industrial history. As places of a common European memory, they bear witness to scientific discoveries, technological innovation and workers life's histories. A total of 14 Theme Routes highlight the European context of industrialisation.

## TRAVELLING TODAY

More than 100 industrial anchor points, each with a particular attractive tourist programme provide the backbone of the European Route of Industrial Heritage including guided tours, multimedia presentations and outstanding events. Major events such as the "ExtraSchicht - The Night of Industrial Heritage" in the Ruhr area or "Industriada" in Silesia, Poland, attract hundreds of thousands of visitors. Smaller industrial monuments also find their audiences with 20 regional routes illustrating the geographical and social impact of local industrial plants. Today, all these testimonies to the industrial past form a Europe-wide tourist network.



[www.erih.net](http://www.erih.net)

Find out more



Roupel fortress on Greek-Bulgarian border ©Georgios Tsihliis/ Shutterstock



Grenzlandmuseum Eichsfeld, Germany ©European Cyclists' Federation



Memento Park, Budapest, Hungary ©Heracles Kritikos/Shutterstock



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# Iron Curtain Trail

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2019

### HISTORY

The Iron Curtain Trail retraces the physical border stretching from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea dividing Eastern and Western Europe for almost half a century following the end of the Second World War. Following this cyclable route for more than 10,000 km is a living lesson in European history of the 20th century. The route combines cultural and historic sites linked to the political, military and ideological barrier erected during the Cold War as a reminder of peace and reconciliation that have followed the fall of the "Iron Curtain". The route features attractive and varied landscapes and unique habitats that emerged along the former border strip.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Iron Curtain Trail is first and foremost a route that bring together European history, culture and landscape. Following the borders between neighbouring countries and regions, visitors experience the values of the Council of Europe first-hand in a reunited Europe. The route is a

symbol of a newly shared pan-European experience, focussing on Europe's democratic values and permanent intercultural dialogue across European borders.

### HERITAGE

The Iron Curtain Trail covers 20 European countries connecting many historic buildings, monuments, museums and landmarks which remind us of the history of a divided Europe. National parks with varied flora and fauna and unique landscapes, left almost untouched as they formed part of the border areas, characterize the route all along its course.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

To travel along the Iron Curtain Trail is to experience European history first-hand. The route takes its visitors along the western border of the former Warsaw Pact States across Europe, connecting many historic sites linked to the Cold War period. Activities involving young Europeans and site visits including accounts of personal histories during the Cold War are organised by tour operators along the route. Also, packages are offered for accompanied or self-guided cycling tours, with a specific focus on sustainable tourism. A smartphone app is especially dedicated to younger audiences.



[www.eurovelo13.com](http://www.eurovelo13.com)

Find out more





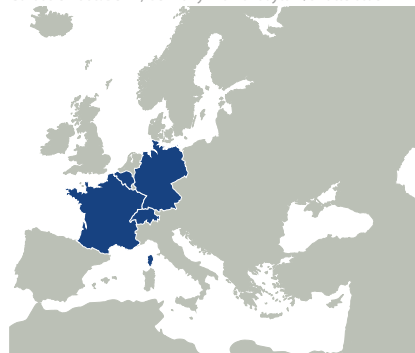
Pavillon Le Corbusier, Zurich, Switzerland ©Zurich University of the Arts



Corbusierhaus, Berlin, Germany ©furkansoyturk/Shutterstock



Notre-Dame-du-Haut Chapel, Ronchamp, France ©C. Emden/Association of the Oeuvre Notre-Dame du Haut in Ronchamp



Architectural Promenades  
**DESTINATIONS LE CORBUSIER**  
Promenades architecturales

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du Conseil de l'Europe



# Le Corbusier Destinations Architectural Promenades

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2019

### HISTORY

Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades narrate the life and achievements of one of the major architects of the 20th Century. Born in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, in 1887, Charles-Edouard Jeanneret - later called Le Corbusier - was a Swiss-French architect, designer, writer, urban planner. During his career, the internationally renowned artist designed buildings in many European countries as well as Japan and North and South America. The architectural promenades of this tireless artist and traveller are the essence of this Cultural Route.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Deeply humanistic, pluralistic in its sources, objectives and programmes, finally universalist in its impact and influences, Le Corbusier's work underlines the values promoted by the Council of Europe in the field of culture and cultural heritage.

### HERITAGE

Throughout his life, Le Corbusier travelled to acquire new techniques and perfect his knowledge drawing inspiration from the countries visited and their artistic architectural and urban elements. As a protagonist of the "Modern Movement" he introduced new ideas in Europe's architecture such as functionalism, purism and the link between nature and architecture.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Association of Le Corbusier Sites proposes a cultural route including 21 cities, 6 countries and 24 architectural sites built by Le Corbusier. Intended for several audiences - families, individuals, groups, academics and schools - the cultural route encourages the traveller to discover the whole work built by Le Corbusier and its influence in Europe and beyond. The route seeks to structure and develop cultural and touristic exchanges and joint activities among the Le Corbusier European sites.



[www.sites-le-corbusier.org](http://www.sites-le-corbusier.org)

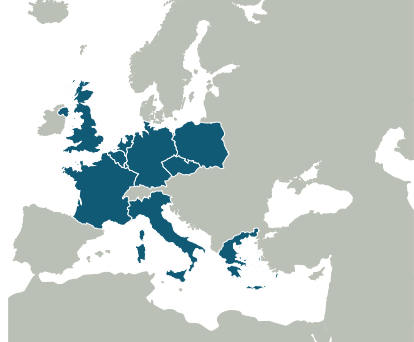
Find out more



75th Anniversary of D-Day, Normandy, France © J B Hewitt/Shutterstock



WWII memorial parade in Antwerp, Belgium ©Vitor pinto



Polish War Cemetery, Italy ©Antonio Nardelli/Shutterstock



Eben-Emael fort, Belgium ©M Fabbioni/Shutterstock



**Liberation  
Route  
Europe**

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# Liberation Route Europe

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2019

### HISTORY

Liberation Route Europe is an international remembrance network linking the main regions impacted by the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation in 1944-1945. The route connects important historic sites of the Second World War in Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom. The route combines historical content with a multiperspectivity approach, remembrance tourism and memory transmission tools at European level.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

20th Century European history, the heritage of the Second World War and the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation and its role in the future construction of peaceful, democratic and inclusive societies are at the core of the Liberation Route Europe's missions. By presenting a multiperspectivity of view of this historical event, Liberation Route Europe aims at raising common

awareness of Council of Europe values of Human Rights, democracy, the Rule of Law, cultural diversity and the fight against any form of discrimination.

### HERITAGE

By establishing a cultural route connecting different European sites and regions, places of remembrance, the Liberation Route Europe contributes to the memory and understanding of the Second World War, liberation from Nazi occupation as well as the conflict's long-lasting impact on Europe and its people.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Liberation Route Europe aims to promote innovative and sustainable tourism products along its network members in order to make this period of European history accessible for visitors, including the younger generation, from Europe and beyond. Historical locations, personal stories and the contribution of a variety of activities in the fields of history, tourism and business development are at the core of tourism products developed for diverse audiences.



[www.liberationroute.com](http://www.liberationroute.com)

Find out more





Luther visits Möhra - Reenactment, © PfarramMöhra



Jan Hus monument, Prague, Czech Republic ©Nick N A/Shutterstock



Velenje castle, Slovenia ©Simon Bozic/Shutterstock



Church of Peace, Jawor, Poland ©Sirio Carnevalino/Shutterstock



Routes of  
Reformation

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Routes of Reformation

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2019

### HISTORY

The Routes of Reformation are the reflections of centuries of histories, when movements of Christianity all around Europe shared the will to change the institutions and break the status quo. As an open and tolerant network, diverse aspects of Reformation are combined across national boundaries: the differences and the plurality of Reformation histories, cultures and societies in the local regions are highly valued and at the same time, the members are united under the Routes of Reformation, which enhance a common heritage and values, standing out as a unique contribution to tourism and the development of the territories.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Routes of Reformation provides the outstanding opportunity to showcase the interlinkage and diverse values of the different national and international movements of Reformation and their evolution throughout past centuries. These movements' heritage is an integral part of the European cultural environment. It offers the chance to affirm the values of solidarity

hospitality, intercultural dialogue, and cooperation by fostering learning, discourse, and shared projects among the members and the visitors along the route.

### HERITAGE

Reformation heritage is a set of tangible and intangible legacies from movements related to Christianity that took place across Europe mainly in the 16th century, but rooted in ideas from the 12th century onwards, which unfolded diverse regional and national characteristics. These movements led to cultural and religious pluralisation, a transformation of daily Christian practices and contributed to changes in social, cultural and political values and ideas. Their legacies are manifold and range from buildings, written documents, sites of historical events, travelling paths, works of art, museums and exhibitions, to culinary traditions, music, legends and celebrations.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Walk it. Trace it. Get it. Enjoy more than 80 Reformation related sites in 8 European countries within the Routes of Reformation network. You will find single points of interest, events, performing arts and traditions, pilgrimage routes and whole towns and cities that present their unique reformation history. Explore the hidden gems of Reformation history and stroll through the museums and churches of famous reformers and important historic personalities.



[www.reformationroutes.eu](http://www.reformationroutes.eu)

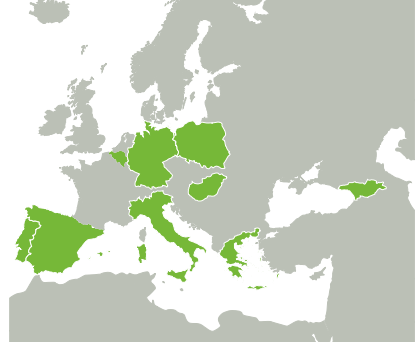
Find out more



Wilanow palace, Poland © vivooo/Shutterstock



Batumi Botanical Garden, Georgia ©Ruslan Harutyunov/Shutterstock



Gardens of St Clothilde, Spain ©mama\_mia/Shutterstock



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of the Council of Europe  
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# European Route of Historic Gardens

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2020

### HISTORY

Historic gardens have shaped European culture and identity throughout times. They have always been related to places of great significance like royal estates, urban units or monasteries, nobility and bourgeois villas, that is, the residences and decision-making centres of historical figures. Transmitted from one region to another throughout Europe, shaping gardens and landscapes contributed to the development of professions around landscaping, engineering and gardening know-how and have also been inspirational sites for great artists and traditional events of society. The route brings together gardens that comply with the definition of "historic garden" as established in the 1981 Florence Charter, adopted by ICOMOS in 1982.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The route contributes to raising awareness and knowledge of a common European memory, history and heritage by developing cultural ties and dialogue. With the purpose of protecting and promoting the common heritage of the European green legacy and identity. The network also fosters the sustainable development

by promoting a sensitivity towards natural heritage and education. It members defend the democratic values and the respect of human rights as well as the access to culture as promoted by the Council of Europe.

### HERITAGE

Since the start of gardening in Europe, Historic gardens have conveyed a message of unity beyond political, linguistic and even climatic boundaries. In different moments in history, the garden culture has been established and plants, forms of parterres, cultivation habits have become a living proof of a common European culture. The presence today of similar plants and aesthetics are some characteristics that gardens, parks and spatial landscapes share all over the continent. Historic gardens are also a way to preserve century-old botanic knowledge passed into numerous books and encyclopaedias still used nowadays as references.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Through their landscapes and plants, visitors travelling along the European Route of Historic Gardens are now able to experience different expressions of human creativity that shed a new light on our identity and on the mutual exchanges shaping our cultural diversity. The visit to historic gardens, as a multi-layered experience, helps to raise social awareness of the importance of natural environment, not only in our daily life but also for future generations.



[www.europeanhistoricgardens.eu](http://www.europeanhistoricgardens.eu)

Find out more





The Alps along the Via Romea Germanica. Renon, Italy © Frank Lambert /Shutterstock



St. Jodok village at Brenner Pass, Austria ©CHEN MIN CHUN/Shutterstock



Marienberg Fortress, Germany ©Pajor Pawel/Shutterstock



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# Via Romea Germanica

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2020

### HISTORY

Starting in Northern Germany, and reaching Rome through Austria and Italy, the Via Romea Germanica is retracing the steps of Abbot Albert of Stade as narrated in his diary. He was a pilgrim on his way to Rome in 1236 with a mission to ask the Pope for approval of the new Monastic Rule for his community. In the *Annales Stadenses* (1256), Abbot Albert analysed different routes to Rome. A detailed description of the best way: the "Melior Way" for pilgrims coming from Germany, Scandinavia and the Baltic Countries to get to Rome. Since then, the Via Romea Germanica has been travelled by emperors, kings, soldiers, travellers and merchants. The enhance the dialogue between Europeans and the Christian faith; while being part of the major pilgrimage axis to Rome and to Jerusalem.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Via Romea Germanica is a bridge between the North and the South of Europe that contributes to mutual understanding and the construction of a shared Europe through the rediscovery of past historic journeys and cultural exchanges. The project aims to enhance

interreligious dialogue through a sustainable cultural tourism. The route furthermore fosters Council of Europe values of democracy and human rights through the promotion of European citizenship, education and cultural rights.

### HERITAGE

Connecting cities like Augsburg, Trento, Padua, Ravenna, among the many historic sites, villages and landscapes, the route is an international cultural route for travellers who wish to discover and appreciate the uniqueness and variety of its religious, cultural and social values identified through historical buildings, cultural landmarks, artefacts, and architectural sites of the greatest cultural and historic relevance.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Today, the route is a cultural and sustainable tourism network revitalising this historical route at the benefit of travellers wishing to enjoy the natural landscape while also discovering local century old heritage. The landscape is majestic from the vast German plains and forests, the mountain areas of the Austrian and Italian Alps and the Apennines, to Tuscany and Umbria hills and the Roman countryside. Today, 21st century travellers can experience the Route's cultures, architecture, customs, traditions, and gastronomy through cultural events, festivals and art exhibitions. The Via Romea Germanica is promoted as a cultural destination for leisure, walking and cycling



[www.viaromeagermanica.eu](http://www.viaromeagermanica.eu)

Find out more



Homero statue , Canakkale, Türkiye ©bubu.com/Shutterstock



Archaeological Site of Delos, Greece ©Alena Veasey/Shutterstock



Archaeological Site of Butrint, Albania ©trabantos/Shutterstock



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# Aeneas Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2021

### HISTORY

Legendary "father" of Roman civilisation and a timeless source of inspiration for the artistic and cultural creation of European mankind through the centuries, the Trojan hero Aeneas remains a symbol of European identity. The Aeneas Route is an archaeological route that stretches from the coasts of Türkiye (North-West Aegean Sea) to the shores of Latium Vetus in Italy through a maritime and, at places, overland path. This route is inspired by the legend of Aeneas as it was narrated by the Latin poet Virgil. With his father and son, Aeneas fled from the burning city of Troy and went on a long journey through civilisations, cultures and landscapes to build a "new Troy".

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

By establishing a mythological and historical link between Troy in Asia Minor and the foundation of Europe, the Aeneas legend is characterized by a strong dimension of intercultural encounter between people and places. The figure of Aeneas thus embodies the values of dialogue and understanding between the Mediterranean people, empathy and human solidarity, coexistence

and mutual enrichment, respect for the other, peace, multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue. Aeneas Route aims at promoting cross-border cultural cooperation and dialogue in Europe, along destinations that illustrate the richness of our shared European heritage.

### HERITAGE

Aeneas Route is an archaeological itinerary starting in Türkiye and connecting 5 European and Mediterranean countries through the legend of Aeneas. Throughout the centuries, the narration of Aeneas became a common cultural heritage that unites different Mediterranean countries and civilisations and is the subject of countless paintings, mosaics, sculptures and works of art. Starting from the archaeological sites of Troy and Antandros (Türkiye) and ending in Rome (Italy), the route brings together a number of rural landscapes, natural areas and archaeological sites, some of them well known and inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Aeneas Route offers to today's travellers the perspective of an adventurous discovery of common European archaeological and cultural heritage. By travelling along the Aeneas Route, visitors can explore off-the-beaten-track destinations through sustainable travel alternatives ranging from nautical, nature and landscape tourism to trekking and guided tours.



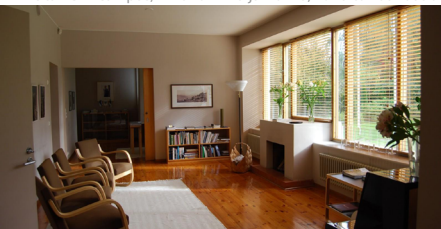
[www.aeneasroute.org](http://www.aeneasroute.org)

Find out more





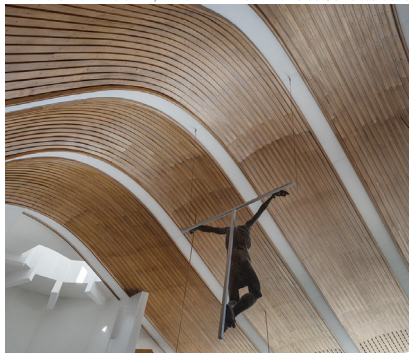
Otaniemi campus, Finland © Maija Holma, A. Aalto Foundation



Villa Tammekann, Estonia. © Granö Center



Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland ©Anton Havelaar/Shutterstock



Wolfsburg church, Germany © Maija Holma, Alvar Aalto Foundation



**ALVAR AALTO ROUTE**  
20th Century Architecture and Design

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



# Alvar Aalto Route

## 20th Century Architecture and Design

### Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2021

#### HISTORY

Alvar Aalto (1898-1976) was a pioneer of modern architecture and design, who enjoyed an exceptionally rich and varied career. His works cover 6 decades and include over 200 existing buildings in Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Iceland and USA. Alvar Aalto Route – 20th Century Architecture and Design offers sites and sensations amidst the architectural landmarks of the renowned architect. Alvar Aalto Route invites visitors not only to experience his architecture as a total work of art, but also to enjoy fascinating nature attractions, delicious food, local services and the cultural identity of the destinations crossed by the route.

#### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Alvar Aalto's human approach to architecture and design is in accordance with the central values of the Council of Europe. His architecture is not an expression of individual genius, but part of a European effort to improve the living conditions and environment of its citizens. The architect's cosmopolitan life and thinking created a language of design that resonates even today and speaks of the ability

of his architecture and design to contribute to the well-being, equality and peaceful living in societies, as well as the quality of their built landscapes.

#### HERITAGE

The international influence of Alvar Aalto's works in his own time and posthumously is outstanding. His works influenced international building standards and construction principles. Design solutions for housing became symbols of new modern living, which improved the quality of everyday life and promoted equal housing for everyone. Alvar Aalto's public architecture included town plans, libraries, theaters, cultural centres and educational buildings for cities, communities and organisations. The iconic designs in light fittings and glassware and the innovative use of wood in furniture are still source of inspiration for today's designers.

#### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Alvar Aalto Route brings together more than 50 sites in 5 countries. Among the most renowned of Aalto's creations are the Lappia Hall in Rovaniemi (Finland), the Vyborg Library in Russia, the Villa Tammekann in Estonia, the Hansaviertel in Berlin, the cultural centre of Wolfsburg in Germany, the Riola Church in Italy and the Maison Louis Carré near Paris (France). The route covers nearly 11,000 km and its outermost point is the Culture House in Reykjavik, Iceland.



[www.visit.alvaraalto.fi](http://www.visit.alvaraalto.fi)

Find out more



Church of S. Michael the Archangel, Dražovce, Slovak Republic ©Radoslav Cernicky/Shutterstock



Basilica of Assumption of Mary and Saint Cyrilus and Methodius, Velehrad, Czech Republic ©BLESKY/Shutterstock



Saints Cyril and Methodius National Library, Bulgaria ©Chapman W/Shutterstock



Cyril and Methodius  
Route

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# Cyril and Methodius Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2021

### HISTORY

Saints Cyril and Methodius, the co-patrons of Europe, are symbols of cultural dialogue between Eastern and Western Christianity. They are considered to be the two most influential missionaries, having played a principal role in introducing Christianity and developing culture in Slavic countries. The cult of the patrons of Europe and their message became a cornerstone of the European identity of the emerging Slavic nations. They indirectly influenced the formation and organization of early medieval European countries, being symbols of the fundamental values of European civilization such as education, Christianity and dialogue between religions, cultures and nations.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The route aims to raise awareness of common European heritage through a network from various European countries that contributes to the development of cultural cooperation, and provides a platform for intercultural dialogue, mutual respect, social cohesion and understanding achieved through culture, tourism and arts. At the same time, it promotes European values, in particular democracy and human rights, including the right of access to culture for all.

### HERITAGE

The Cyril and Methodius Route presents a set of trails focused on travelling in the footsteps of Saints Cyril and Methodius and their followers (the Seven Saints Apostles). It brings together places, heritage sites, cultural institutions and tourist attractions across interconnecting countries of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. The destinations along the route present rich and diverse heritage elements in all its forms: monuments of the sacred cult of the holy brothers, secular manifestations of respect for them, reflections on their work in the modern world, stories and legends, among others.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Cyril and Methodius Route spans across a series of paths historically connected to the life and mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The 1st route is connect the territory of Great Moravia, nowadays Czech and Slovak Republics, where their most important work took place. The 2nd route leads to the southeast (from Hungary to Ukraine, the Balkans and Türkiye), which symbolizes the continuation of the teachers' legacy by their disciples. The 3rd route leads to the southwest (Austria, Bavaria, Slovenia and Italy) and symbolizes their journey to Rome, where they sought the recognition of the Christian liturgy in Old Slavonic. A 4th branch of the route leads to Lesser Poland and Eastern Silesia, where Cyril and Methodius's teachings and liturgy were also spread.



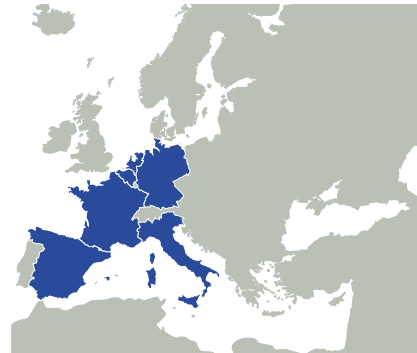
[www.cyril-methodius.eu](http://www.cyril-methodius.eu)

Find out more





The hilly landscape of historical Gascony, France ©JazzBoo/Shutterstock



Modern musketeers in Lupiac, France ©European Association of the Route d'Artagnan The Statue of d'Artagnan in Maastricht, Netherlands ©Foto Para Ti/Shutterstock



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# European Route d'Artagnan

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2021

### HISTORY

The European Route d'Artagnan is a physical and linear cultural route, established on the basis of historical and literary documents that retrace the epic of Charles de Batz de Castelmore d'Artagnan. In 1667 he was appointed captain-lieutenant of the 1st Company of the Musketeers of the Horse Guard of King Louis XIV. Renowned during his lifetime for his courage and his humanity, d'Artagnan became, thanks to Alexandre Dumas, a character in the collective imagination, in Europe and around the world.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The aim of the European Route d'Artagnan is to promote cultural and human links between the different countries crossed by the Route, in the respect of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Friendship, solidarity, courage and loyalty are values symbolised by the Musketeers and which can be found in those advocated by the Council of Europe. The route presents a strong unifying theme that embodies fundamental European values such as unity, respect for others, solidarity and mutual aid, which can be summarized in the famous Musketeer motto "All for one, one for all".

### HERITAGE

D'Artagnan and the Musketeers travelled throughout Europe in the service of King Louis XIV. These trips gave origin to an important, intangible cultural and historical heritage, which the European Route d'Artagnan highlights thanks to the 6 routes established over 6,000 km. Each of them tells a unique story of the life of d'Artagnan, allowing travellers a glimpse of 17th century life and the diversity of the cultural heritage of the territories crossed.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The European Route d'Artagnan pays homage to this historical and literary hero by offering hikers, horseback riders and cyclists the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of d'Artagnan and the Musketeers in 15 regions and 6 European countries, from d'Artagnan's birthplace in Lupiac (France) to the place of his death in Maastricht (Netherlands). The route invites travellers to walk, cycle, ride or even drive along magnificent trails that illustrate the epic story of d'Artagnan and the Musketeers. It is a journey to discover not only 17th century European history, but also the landscapes, identities, traditions and heritage associated with the life of this iconic figure. The route offers opportunities for sustainable and responsible travelling, in close contact with local populations and with a deep respect for the environment.



[www.route-dartagnan.eu](http://www.route-dartagnan.eu)

Find out more



Maklavun tholos Cairn in Istria, Croatia ©Vedrich/Shutterstock



Strettweg Cult Wagon. Universalmuseum Joanneum in Graz, Austria © Iron Age Danube Route Association



Százhalombatta Archaeological Park, Hungary ©skovalsky/Shutterstock



**IRON AGE  
DANUBE**  
route

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



# Iron Age Danube Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2021

### HISTORY

Archaeological heritage is, in its modern understanding, combining both natural and cultural heritage, and therefore represents the best way to reflect the everlasting relationship of humans with their environment. If properly managed, heritage can also greatly contribute to sustainable development and benefit society on local and transregional levels. The majority of the last millennium BC (about 800 BC - 0) is regarded as the Iron Age. This is a period of important technological and social changes, which also influenced the landscapes in an unprecedented manner. The Iron Age Danube Route connects the most significant monuments of that period in the Danube region.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Iron Age can be considered as one of the first attempts to unite certain European territories. The cultures of this historic period exchanged goods, ideas, knowledge and technologies, solved conflicts, migrated and interacted with other cultures beyond Europe's established transnational networks, becoming part of a bigger European cultural phenomena. The awareness

that modern states' borders and European unity of today have emerged after millennia of interactions between the inhabitants of Europe is the main message that the Iron Age Danube Route seeks to transmit.

### HERITAGE

The Iron Age Danube Route represents one of the most fragile, but imposingly attractive prehistoric archaeological remains: the Iron Age landscapes, characterized by monumental constructions, e.g. fortified settlements, burial mound cemeteries, flat graveyards, and complex organization of space, roughly dated to the era between the 9th century BC and the end of the 1st century BC (Hallstatt and La Tène periods). The Iron Age is also a period marked by outstanding examples of intangible heritage as well as movable heritage, presented in numerous museums and archaeological parks in the Danube region, including the most important regional and national institutions.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Danube region is made up of a variety of natural landscapes. The diversity of these landscapes had an impact on the different cultures present in the regions, both in the past and today. Along the Iron Age Danube Route, travellers can discover archaeological and open-air museums, reconstructed houses and tumuli, as well as archaeological trails. Modern technology allows visitors to experience life as it was almost 3,000 years ago.



[www.ironagedanuberoute.com](http://www.ironagedanuberoute.com)

Find out more





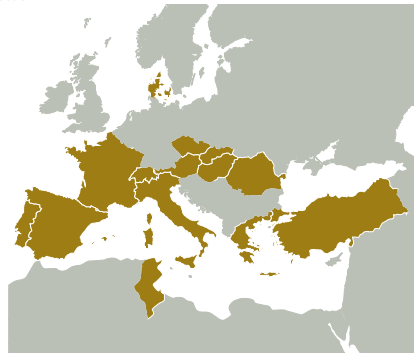
Painting "Café Terrace at night". © George Micalet



Café Les Deux Magots Paris, France © Petr Kovalenkov/Shutterstock



Kypso's Cafe, Chania, Greece. © Historic Cafes Route Association



**Historic  
Cafés  
Route**

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



# Historic Cafés Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2022

### HISTORY

From the eighteenth century to the twentieth century, the growth in coffee consumption led to an expansion of cafés across the towns and cities of Europe. Cafés quickly became important centres of cultural and political exchanges, appreciated by the emerging middle classes. Despite the closure of many of them, Europe still possesses a rich legacy of still functioning historic cafés. Each one reflects the architecture, art and design of its time, and conveys the stories of prominent patrons of the political, literary and artistic worlds, preserved within its walls.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Historic cafes reflect the common heritage of Europe, as evidenced by their architecture, design and role in cultural and political history. They carry valuable stories about the emergence of democratic societies, resistance to totalitarianism and social intolerance. Simultaneously, cafés are an expression of the diversity of local practices and traditions related to food and drink. Today, cafés are an ideal place for socialisation and intercultural dialogue for locals and visitors.

### HERITAGE

As part of our urban heritage, the preserved historic cafés of Europe have survived wars and major social changes. They display a rich tangible heritage, with an abundance of architectural styles from neo-baroque to art nouveau, art deco and the birth of modernism. They are also repositories of intangible heritage being integral to the collective memory of European history embracing a literary, musical, artistic, and often contested political heritage. These historic cafés are places where we can still witness and partake of the traditions and practices of coffee drinking, from its preparation to its serving, and taste associated products such as local cakes and pastries.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

Historic Cafés Route offers travellers the opportunity to step back in time to enjoy the opulence of cafes developed in its golden age and to discover their important role in the cultural history of Europe. Through events, performances and artistic activities, tourists can experience café culture and understand the significance of these places in otherwise very similar urban landscapes. Above all, the cafes, as living heritage sites, uphold the traditions of European coffee culture and the consumption of cakes and pastries reflecting local products and practices.



[www.historiccafesroute.com](http://www.historiccafesroute.com)

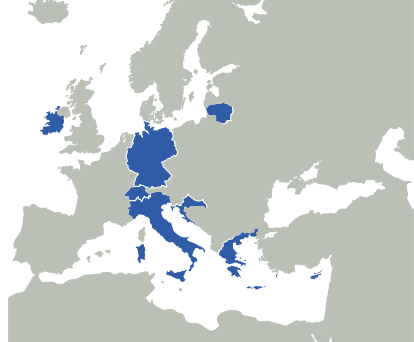
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Pinocchio statue in Collodi, Italy ©M.Morini/Shutterstock



Pinocchio and the Bronze Fairy, Pinocchio's Park, Collodi, Toscana, Italy ©Fairy Tale Route Association



Santa Claus tram, Zurich ©Michael D. F./Shutterstock



The Bremen Town Musicians statue, Germany ©MNStudio/Shutterstock



European Fairy Tale Route

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# European Fairy Tale Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2022

### HISTORY

The European Fairy Tale Route is based on our common tangible and intangible heritage, bringing together fairy tale books and their renowned authors, vernacular stories and oral traditions of the past. In a journey suspended between space and time, visitors can explore the enchanted places that housed their favourite fairy tale characters, but also delve into the fairy tales literary culture or experience an amusement park in the European fairy tale tourist destinations linked by the Route.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Fairy tales are a common shared heritage of all Europeans. They play today a very active role in the education of children but also transmit values to adults. They are therefore a strong intercultural and educational instrument and a relevant communication tool to improve cultural democracy and democratic citizenship in our society, and to better live together in Europe.

### HERITAGE

The European Fairy Tale Route is a cultural route that allows children and adults to consider their specific culture in a broader European perspective. Fairy tales are an important part of European culture. They echo stories that Europeans have shared from ancient times to the present day, very often in a common context. They are stories that have become part of the collective imagination and local culture of European people.

### TRAVELLING TODAY

The European Fairy Tale Route is a journey between imaginary spaces and real places. It explores the fairy tales that accompanied our childhood on the way to adulthood, and which are still present today in the minds of European children. It is a route of (re)discovery of the characters and authors of European fairy tales, of the enchanted places imagined when we were young, which is part of a new type of cultural and experiential tourism, where emotion and imagination are at the heart of the journey.



[www.europeanfairytalesroute.eu](http://www.europeanfairytalesroute.eu)

Find out more





Lili Novy bust in Ljubljana ©Foxartbox/Shutterstock



Painting "The Interrupted Music Lesson" by Johannes Vermeer The Frick collection, New York



Forum of Slavic Cultures, Slovenia © Nina Medved



A literary walk through Ljubljana ©Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route



Adam Mickiewicz Museum of Literature, Warsaw, Poland © Chris Lawrence Travel/Shutterstock



Women  
Writers  
Route

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



# Women Writers Route

## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2022

### HISTORY

The Women Writers Route reveals life and creativity of women writers at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. It was a time, when women started entering cultural, artistic and social life in greater numbers and their voices could no longer be ignored. The Route links symbolic and physical points of their lives and takes visitors to an exciting journey through real and imaginary spaces while discovering their life stories, literary creativity, linguistic diversity and their social struggle for equality and human rights. Through different activities, the Route enhances the visibility of women writers by highlighting their importance and reputation in European culture.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The Route highlights their exceptional life stories and literary works that marked the struggle for human, women's and minority rights in the 20th century. These women writers prefigured gender equality as we know it today, inscribed in the Universal Declaration and the European Convention on Human Rights. Their lifestyles

and extensive travel and exchange have contributed to intercultural dialogue, while their literature celebrates linguistic diversity and freedom of expression.

### HERITAGE

Balancing between tangible and intangible heritage, the Route links museums, memorial and reading rooms, public monuments, and other public spaces in six different countries and combines them with activities that put cultural literary and linguistic heritage in a new context. The Route fosters participative attitude towards literary and social heritage left behind by women writers, it strives to raise awareness and tries to shape new understanding of their importance and guarantees its conservation for future generations.

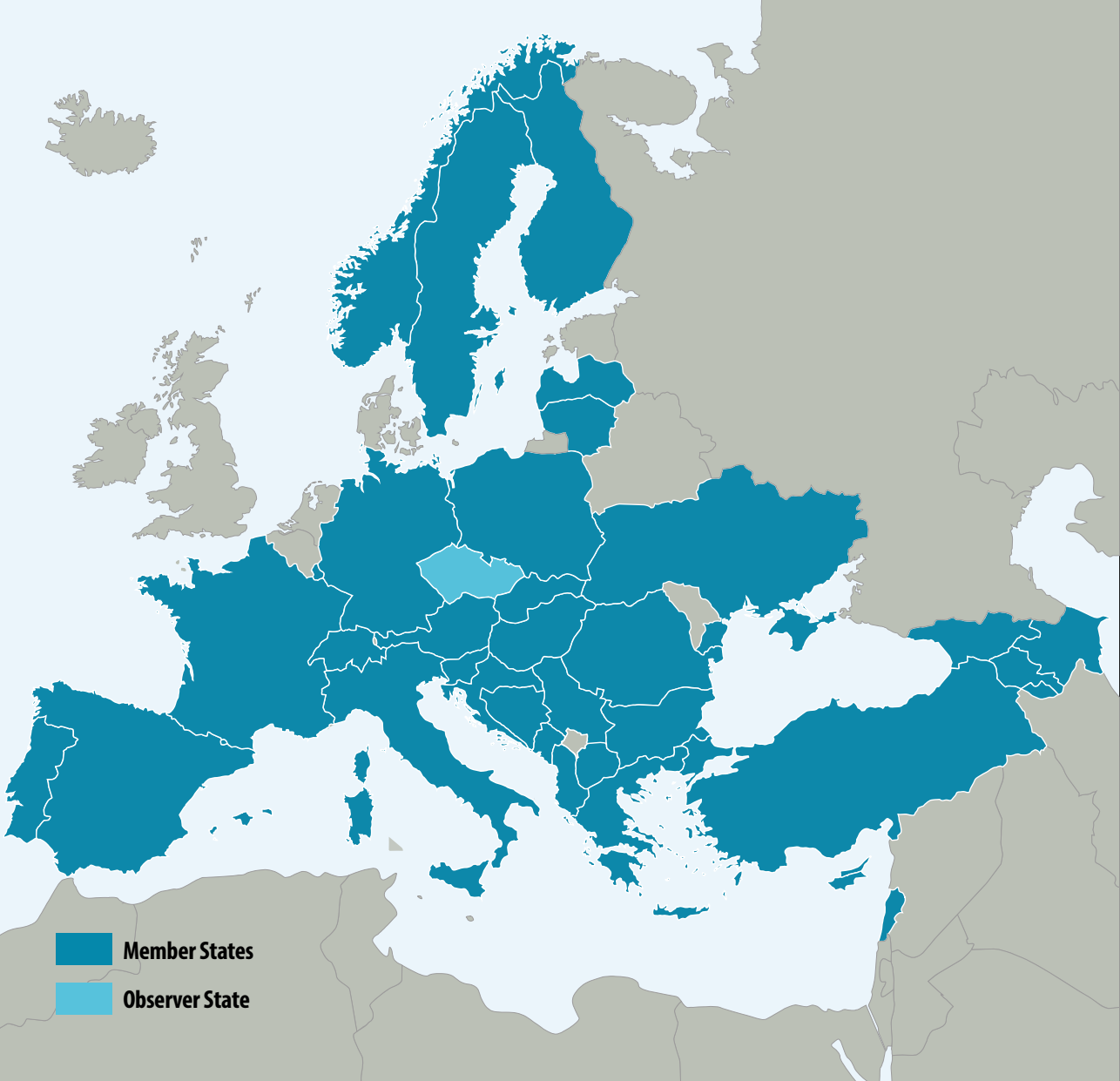
### TRAVELLING TODAY

The Route invites visitors to follow in the footsteps of women writers in Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia and Slovenia. The network brings together museums, memorial spaces and places dedicated to women writers and activities, for example workshops and productions for children, guided tours and events for the general public, tailor-made lectures for senior citizens, student exchanges etc. The Route encourages an experiential approach and promotes access to different forms of knowledge and enjoyment of literature, history and science.



[www.womenwriters.eu](http://www.womenwriters.eu)

Find out more



# Member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes

September 2022



The Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes established in 2010 follows the Council of Europe's policy guidelines, decides the programme strategy and awards "Council of Europe Cultural Route" certification. It is open to member and non-member States of the Council of Europe aiming at providing political support for national, regional and local initiatives to promote culture and tourism.

## MEMBER STATE

## Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing the country

## CONTACTS

### ANDORRA



- *Iron Route in the Pyrenees*

#### Ministry of Culture

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Avinguda François Mitterrand, 13  
AD-200 Encamp

#### Permanent representation of Andorra to the Council of Europe

10 avenue du Président Robert Schuman  
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### ALBANIA



- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *Phoenicians' Route*
- *Aeneas Route*
- *Iter Vitis Route*

#### Ministry of Culture (Ministria e Kulturës)

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### ARMENIA



- *Iter Vitis Route*

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### AUSTRIA



- *European Mozart Ways*
- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Saint Martin of Tours Route*
- *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *European Route of Historic Thermal Towns*
- *European Route of Ceramics*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *Via Habsburg*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Iron Curtain Trail*
- *Routes of Reformation*
- *Via Romea Germanica*
- *Iron Age Danube Route*

#### Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport

Radetzkystraße 2  
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## AZERBAIJAN



- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *Prehistoric Rock art Trail*
- *European Route of Ceramics*

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BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA

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- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *Iter vitis*

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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- *ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century in Europe's Urban Memory*
- *Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Cyril and Methodius Route*
- *Women Writers Route*

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## CROATIA



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- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century in Europe's Urban Memory*
- *Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route*
- *Destination Napoleon*
- *Impressionisms Routes*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Iron Curtain Trail*
- *Iron Age Danube Route*
- *Cyril and Methodious Route*
- *Women Writers Route*
- *European Fairy Tale Route*
- *Women Writers Route*

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- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Fairy Tale Route*

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## FINLAND



- *The Hansa*
- *Viking Route*
- *Prehistoric Rock Art Trails*
- *Route of Saint Olav Ways*
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- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Alvar Aalto Route - 20th Century Architecture and Design*

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- *Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes*
- *The Hansa*
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- *Via Francigena*
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- *Iron Route in the Pyrenees*
- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Saint Martin of Tours Route*
- *Cluniac Sites in Europe*
- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *VIA REGIA*
- *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *Prehistoric Rock Art Trails*
- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *European Route of Ceramics*
- *European Route of Megalithic Culture*
- *Huguenot and Waldensian Trail*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *Via Habsburg*
- *European Routes of Emperor Charles V*
- *Destination Napoleon*
- *In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson*
- *Fortified Towns of the Grande Region*
- *Impressionisms Routes*
- *Via Charlemagne*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades*
- *Liberation Route Europe*
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- *European Route d'Artagnan*
- *Aeneas Route*
- *Historic Cafés Route*

**Ministry of Culture**

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40 rue de Verdun  
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## GEORGIA



- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *Prehistoric Rock Art Trails*
- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *European Route of Historic Gardens*

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## GREECE



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- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *Destination Napoleon*
- *Impressionisms Routes*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Iron Curtain Trail*
- *European Route of Historic Gardens*
- *Aeneas Route*
- *Cyril and Methodius Route*
- *Liberation Route*
- *Historic Cafés Route*
- *European Fairy Tale Route*

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to the Council of Europe**  
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## GERMANY



- *The Hansa*
- *European Mozart Ways*
- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Saint Martin of Tours Route*
- *Cluniac Sites in Europe*
- *VIA REGIA*
- *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*
- *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
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- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *Via Habsburg*
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- *Liberation Route Europe*
- *Routes of Reformation*
- *European Route of Historic Gardens*
- *Via Romea Germanica*

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## GERMANY



- *Via Romea Germanica*
- *Alvar Aalto Route - 20th Century Architecture and Design*
- *Iron Age Danube Route*
- *European Route d'Artagnan*
- *European Fairy Tale Route*

## HOLY SEE



- *Via Francigena*

**Permanent representation of the Holy See****to the Council of Europe**

2 rue Le Nôtre  
FR-67000 Strasbourg

## HUNGARY



- *Saint Martin of Tours Route*
- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route*
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- *Iron Age Danube Route*
- *Historic Cafés Route*

**Ministry of Human Capacities**

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4 rue Richard Bruck  
FR-67000 Strasbourg

## ITALY



- *Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes*
- *Via Francigena*
- *Routes of El legado andalusí*
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- *Prehistoric Rock Art Trails*
- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *European Route of Ceramics*
- *European Route of Megalithic Culture*
- *Huguenot and Waldensian Trail*
- *ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century in Europe's Urban Memory*

**Ministry of Culture**

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## ITALY



- Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- European Routes of Emperor Charles V
- Destination Napoleon
- Via Charlemagne
- European Route of Industrial Heritage
- Liberation Route Europe
- Routes of Reformation
- European Route of Historic Gardens
- Via Romea Germanica
- Aeneas Route
- Cyril and Methodius Route
- Liberation Route
- Historic Cafés Route
- European Fairy Tale Route

## LATVIA



- The Hansa
- Viking Route
- Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- European Route of Industrial Heritage

**Ministry of Culture**  
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## LEBANON



- Routes of El legado andalusí
- Phoenicians' Route
- Routes of the Olive Tree
- Iter Vitis

## LITHUANIA



- Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- The Hansa
- European Route of Jewish Heritage
- Impressionisms Routes
- Iron Curtain Trail
- European Fairy Tale Route

**Ministry of Culture**  
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FR-67000 Strasbourg



## LUXEMBOURG



- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Saint Martin of Tours Route*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Route of Historic Thermal Towns*
- *Fortified Towns of the Grande Region*
- *Via Charlemagne*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Liberation Route Europe*

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**Directorate of Cultural Affairs**

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## MONTENEGRO



- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *Women Writers Route*

**Ministry of Education, Science, Culture  
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## NORWAY



- *The Hansa*
- *Viking Route*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *Prehistoric Rock Art Trails*
- *Route of Saint Olav Ways*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Iron Curtain Trail*
- *European Route of Ceramics*

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## POLAND



- *Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes*
- *The Hansa*
- *Viking Route*
- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Cluniac Sites in Europe*
- *VIA REGIA*
- *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *European Route of Historic Thermal Towns*

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## POLAND



- *European Route of Ceramics*
- *Destination Napoleon*
- *Impressionisms Routes*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Routes of Reformation*
- *European Route of Historic Gardens*
- *Saint Martin of Tours Route*
- *Liberation Route*
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## PORTUGAL



- *Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes*
- *Routes of El legado andalusí*
- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
- *European Route of Megalithic Culture*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *Prehistoric Rock Art Trails*
- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *European Routes of Emperor Charles V*
- *Destination Napoleon*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *European Route of Historic Gardens*
- *Historic Cafés Route*

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REPUBLIC  
OF NORTH  
MACEDONIA

- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *Iter Vitis Route*

**Ministry of Culture (Министерство за култура / Ministria e Kulturës)**  
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## ROMANIA



- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century in Europe's Urban Memory*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route*
- *Historic Cafés Route*

**Ministry of Culture**  
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## SERBIA



- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Iron Curtain Trail*
- *Women Writers Route*

**Ministry of Culture and Information**  
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SLOVAK  
REPUBLIC

- *Saint Martin of Tours Route*
- *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*
- *Iron Curtain Trail*
- *Cyril and Methodius Route*
- *Historic Cafés Route*
- *Women Writers Route*

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## SLOVENIA



- *Phoenician's Route*
- *Saint Martin of Tours Route*
- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *Impressionisms Routes*
- *Routes of Reformation*
- *Cyril and Methodius Route*
- *Iron Age Danube Route*
- *Women Writers Route*

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## SPAIN



- *Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes*
- *Viking Route*
- *Routes of El legado andalusí*
- *Phoenician's Route*
- *Iron Route in the Pyrenees*
- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *Cluniac Sites in Europe*
- *Routes of the Olive Tree*
- *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*

**Ministry of Education, Culture and  
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## SPAIN



- *Iter Vitis Route*
- *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
- *European Cemeteries Route*
- *Prehistoric Rock Art Trails*
- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *European Route of Ceramics*
- *European Route of Megalithic Culture*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *European Routes of Emperor Charles V Destination Napoleon*
- *Impressionisms Routes*
- *Via Charlemagne*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *European Route of Historic Gardens*
- *European Route d'Artagnan*
- *Historic Cafés Route*

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## SWITZERLAND



- *Via Francigena*
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- *Cluniac Sites in Europe*
- *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
- *Huguenot and Waldensian Trail*
- *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*
- *Via Habsburg*
- *Via Charlemagne*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades*
- *Routes of Reformation*
- *Historic Cafés Route*
- *European Fairy Tale Route*

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- *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
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- *European Route of Megalithic Culture*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*

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- *European Route of Historical Thermal Towns*
- *European Route of Ceramics*
- *European Route of Megalithic Culture*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Iron Curtain Trail*
- *Aeneas Route*
- *Historic Cafés Route*

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- *Phoenician's Route*
- *European Mozart Ways*
- *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
- *VIA REGIA*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *European Route of Megalithic Culture*
- *Iter vitis Route*

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- *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
- *European Route of Historic Thermal Towns*
- *Destination Napoleon*
- *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- *Iron Curtain Trail*
- *Liberation Route Europe*
- *Routes of Reformation*
- *Cyril and Methodius Route*
- *Historic Cafés Route*

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### European Union - EEAS

(European External Action Service)



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BE-1046 Bruxelles

### UNESCO

(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)



7/9 place de Fontenoy  
FR-75007 Paris

### OECD

(Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)



2 rue André Pascal  
FR-75775 Paris Cedex 16

### UNWTO

(United Nations World Tourism Organization)



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ES-28020 Madrid

## PARTICIPATIVE STATUS WITH THE EPA

### BSEC

(Black Sea Economic Cooperation)



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İş Merkezi, No:45 Kat 3, İstinye  
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### OEI

(Organization of Ibero-American States)



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### ERA

(European Ramblers' Association)



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(European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations)



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**International Federation of Equestrian Tourism  
(FITE)**



Federal Equestrian Park,  
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