




Ministry of Tourism of Romania



EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE
OF
CULTURAL
ROUTES



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



9TH CULTURAL ROUTES ADVISORY FORUM 2019

CULTURAL ROUTES FOR CULTURAL TOURISM

2-4 OCTOBER 2019, SIBIU, ROMANIA

- Guy Dockendorf
- VIA MEMORIA MAUTHAUSEN



via memoria mauthausen

**A new European Cultural Route to 200 Places of Remembrance
in 14 countries all over Europe with actually more than 80 partners**

A project developed and conducted by



Comité International de Mauthausen

Cf. *The Mauthausen Appeal* May 21, 2019 to actual and forthcoming Members of the European Parliament:

- signed by the International Committees of Mauthausen, Auschwitz, Buchenwald-Dora, Dachau, Flossenbürg, Natzweiler-Struthof, Neuengamme, Ravensbrück, Sachsenhausen, ANED and FIR:
- *(...) As the guardians of the memory of the victims of the Nazi camps, we urge all Europeans to resist hate speech, nationalist, racist, xenophobic, antisemitic ideologies, as well as the illusion maintained by demagogical politicians according to which their prosperity and their happiness would be founded upon the rejection of the Other because of her/his ethnic origin, beliefs or political convictions.*

Since its inception in 1949, the Council of Europe has built its core business on the **reconciliation and reestablishment of dialogue among Europeans, as well as on the respect of the rule of law, human rights, and democratic values:**

the *Comité International de Mauthausen* believes that in this framework, a new cultural route based on one of the most horrible atrocity crimes perpetrated during the Nazi regime, i.e. the negation of human dignity through deportation, forced labour and genocide, will have its legitimate place.



Comité International de Mauthausen

Albanie | Allemagne | Autriche | Belgique | Biélorussie
Bulgarie | Espagne | États-Unis d'Amérique | France
Grèce | Hollande | Hongrie | Israël | Italie | Luxembourg
Pologne | Russie | Serbie | Slovaquie | Slovénie
Tchéquie | Ukraine

The Comité International de Mauthausen

- **During Winter 1944/45:** founded illegally in the concentration camps of Mauthausen, Gusen, Melk, Ebensee to organize resistance and international solidarity
- **Today:** Umbrella organization of actually 22 member states with survivors and 2nd and 3rd generation
- The **Mauthausen Oath** (May 16th, 1945) our guideline: *follow a common path; the one of freedom - indispensable for every population, of reciprocal respect, of collaboration in the great work of constructing a new world that is free and just for all;*

Theme of the route

- The Mauthausen Concentration Camp was the **only main concentration camp** on occupied Austrian territory.
- Only 6% of all prisoners were of German language – all in all we counted **72 different nations** among the approx. 200,000 prisoners – some 110.000 deaths!. All European nations were among the victims in Mauthausen.

Theme of the route

- The **visibility of the routes** of those 200,000 prisoners to and from Mauthausen and their **narratives** are the main topic of this new Cultural Route.
- The system of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp consisted of 50 sub-camps. All these camps were also related to other concentration camps in Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe.

Objectives of the route

- The first objective is to **connect these routes** from the Mauthausen main camp to the sub-camps:

Memorials already exist on the spot of former sub-camps. Today, these camps are visited by descendants of survivors and many other people, but a **connecting narrative** and a **consistent system of information** is missing.

Objectives of the route

- The second objective is to **connect the Mauthausen system** with all the **other camps** in Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe:

Just a few prisoners came directly from their home countries to Mauthausen. Most of them were **transferred from other camps, prisons or ghettos.**

Objectives of the route

- The third objective is to **illustrate the *death marches*** at the beginning of 1945 to **Mauthausen** until the liberation of May 5, 1945:

Prisoners from Auschwitz, Groß Rosen, Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück, Mittelbau-Dora, Flossenbürg and many other camps.

And more than 25.000 Hungarian Jews from the so-called “ Süd-Ost-Wall “.

Objectives of the route

- The fourth objective is to **illustrate the return of the former prisoners to their home countries and also the fate of the *Displaced Persons***

Objectives of the route

- The fifth objective is to make visible the **diversity of remembrance cultures** in all affected countries:

In all of these mentioned 72 nations there are **different national narratives**, also related to the time after WWII.

A Comprehensive Overview: some 200 places in 14 countries:

A) The Core Route

- **Mauthausen – Vienna:** 11 places: Mauthausen, St Valentin, Amstetten, Melk, St Aegyd am Neuwalde, Wien Saurerwerke, Schönbrunn, Schwechat, Wiener Neudorf, Hinterbrühl, Strasshof
- **Vienna – Maribor:** : 5 places: Hirtenberg, Wiener Neustadt, Peggau, Schloss Lannach, Wagna/Leibniz
- **Mauthausen - Innsbruck :** 12 places: Mauthausen, Ried in der Riedmark, Gusen I, II, III, Linz I, II, III, Ebensee, Lenzing, Schlier –Redl-Zipf, Schloss Hartheim, Gunskirchen, Schloss Mittersill, Schloss Itter, Innsbruck
- **Mauthausen – Loiblpass:** 10 places: Steyr, Ternberg, Großraming, Dipoldsau, Eisenerz, Bretstein, Schloss Lind, St. Lambrecht, Klagenfurt, Loiblpass (2 subcamps: A and SLO)
- **Mauthausen – Süd-Ost Wall:** 6 places: Mauthausen Tent Camp, Gunskirchen, Präbichl, Banf (Hungary), Bad Deutsch Altenburg, Rechnitz
- **Mauthausen – Passau:** 7 places: Mauthausen, Ried, Gusen, Linz, Gunskirchen, Schloss Hartheim, Passau

B) The South-Eastern Routes

- **Belgrade – Zagreb:** 13 places: Belgrade Sajmiste, Judenlager, Banjica, Jajinci, Topovske supe, Ruma, Sabac, Sremska Mitrovica, Sid, Vinkovci, Stara Gradiska, Jasenovac, Sisak, Zagreb
- **Belgrade – Hungary - Austria:** 17 places: Sajmiste, Banjica, Jajinci, Topovske supe, Novi Sad, Backa Topola, Sombor, Subotica, Baja, Kiskunfelegyhaza, Kecskemet, Kistarcsa, Budapest, Tatabanya, Gyor, Mosonmagyaróvár, Balf

C) The Southern Routes:

- **Ljubljana – Maribor:** 6 places: Ljubljana Museum, Path of Remembrance around L, Celje, Stari Pisker, Maribor, Stalag XVIII-de
- **Ljubljana –Loiblpass:** 5 places: Ljubljana, L, Begunje, Trzic, Ljubelj Memorial
- **Rome – Bolzano:** 12 places: Rome, Firenze, Prato, Empoli, Carpi, Bologna, Torino, Milano, Brescia, Verona, Trieste, Bolzano

D) The North-Eastern Route

- **Moscow – Austria (33 places):** Moscow, Wjasma, Pskov, Maly Trostinets (Belarus), Kyiv (Ukraine), Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Zabikow, Kulmhof, Chelm, Gross Rosen, Bekzec, Sobibor, Sztum, Warsaw, Polin, Gdąnsk, Westerplatte, Warsaw Uprising, Poznan, Katowice, Lublin, Cracow, Lambinowice, Łódz, Slonsk, Warsaw (Jewish Institute), Zamosc, Zagari, Prague (CS), Terezin, Lidice, Brno

E) The North-Western Routes

- **Amsterdam – Hinzert-Trier (13 places):** Amsterdam, Vught/Bois-le-Duc, Rotterdam, Breendonk, Mecheln (B), La Cité Miroir, Sauvenière, Liège, Fort et Mémorial de Huy, Luxembourg: Neumünster Abbey, Villa Pauly, Central Railway Station, Hollerich, Cinqfontaines, Esch-sur-Alzette, Wiltz, Hinzert-Pöler /Trier, D
- **Münster – Passau (18 places):** Münster, Düsseldorf, Köln, Bonn, Hinzert, Mannheim-Sandhofen, Neustadt an der Weinstraße, Neckarelz, Vaihingen/Elz, Stuttgart (Stauffenberg Memorial, In. Nordbahnhof,) Welzheim, Leonberg, Stetten am Kalten Markt, Gomadingen, Ulm, Dachau, Munich, Passau

- **Paris – Natzweiler (30 places):** Paris (5), Compiègne, Les Lilas - Romainville-Fort, Saint-Cyprien, Voves, Lyon, Fresnes, Villeneuve-sur-Lot, Marseille, (2), Lille, Pexonne, Guillers, Nancy, Pithiviers, Cluny, Dpt of Ain, Angoulême, Lorrain, Champigny sur Marne, Lyon, Nantua, Toulouse, Besançon Grenoble, The Dome of Helfaut, Natzwiler-Struthof

Mission of the route

- Our mission is to realise a **route of historic importance** related to the history of the camps.
- We will include educational aspects and relate history to the situation of today
- So, the second and at least equally important part of our mission is to give **European youth a chance to learn from History.**

Current and potential members

- The founding organisation is the **Comité International de Mauthausen** with its 22 member states.
- Closely related is the **Mauthausen Komitee Österreich** with its local and regional subgroups in all places of former sub-camps.
- The **Bundesanstalt Mauthausen Memorial**
- **Municipalities, regions and provinces** from all places related to Mauthausen.
- **The *Bewusstseinsregion Mauthausen – Gusen – St. Georgen***

Current and potential members

- All other camp memorials from all over Europe.
- All other International Committees from the other concentration camps.
- Tourism federations in order to develop sustainable tourism in these places, which adds value.

Responsible network

- name: **Via Memoria Mauthausen**
- headquarters: **Vienna**
- legal status: **NGO association** according to Austrian laws
- This association is very broad in terms of membership. The *Comité International de Mauthausen* will act as a steering committee to all decisions on principle.

Thank you for your attention!

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