


CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

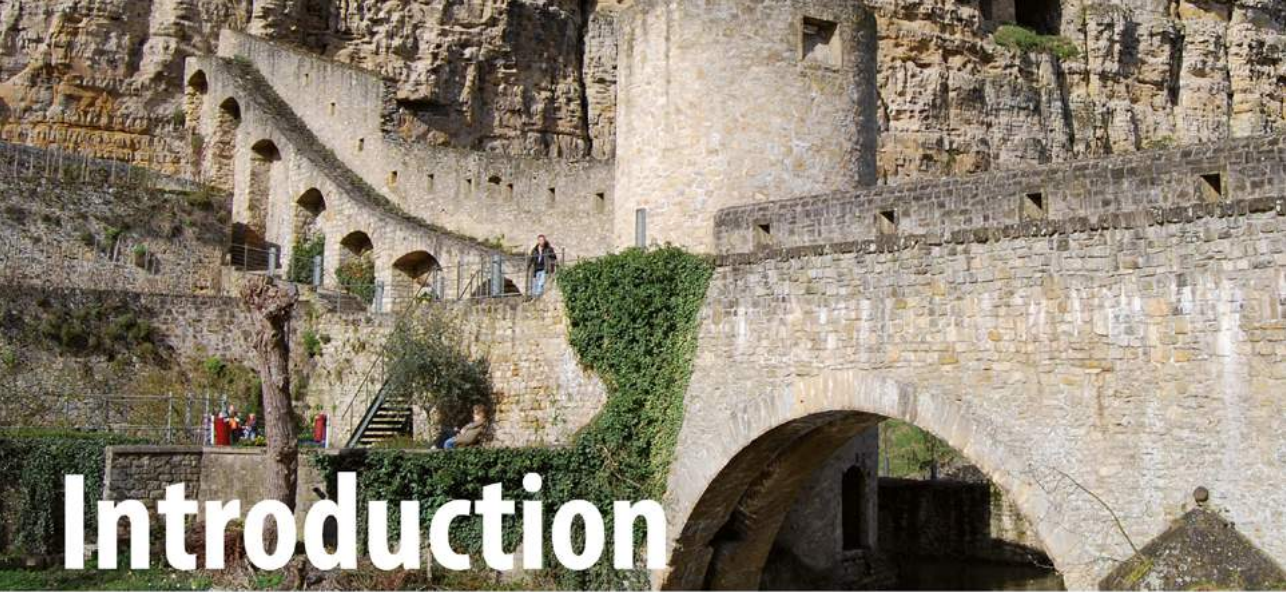


CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE


Council of Europe

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Introduction

The programme of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe was launched in 1987 to show how the roots of European identity can be the foundation of a shared citizenship.

Cultural Routes demonstrate, by means of a journey through space and time, how the heritage and cultures of different and distant regions of Europe contribute to a shared cultural heritage. Cultural Routes put into practice the fundamental principles promoted by the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy, participation, cultural diversity and identity. They encourage intercultural dialogue, mutual exchange and enrichment across boundaries and centuries.

Today, more than 30 certified Cultural Routes aim to encourage European citizens to re-explore their heritage by practising cultural tourism across the whole European continent and beyond.

Cultural Routes encourage sustainable development through the implementation of grassroots projects and stimulate diversified forms of tourism, where individual and collective approaches are directly combined through new

technologies, social media, and new forms of storytelling. They are part of a broad network which allow synergies between national, regional and local authorities and a wide range of associations and socio-economic stakeholders. The aim is to promote sustainable travel experiences and encourage direct access to European heritage, guaranteeing a dialogue between inhabitants and travellers.

In 2010, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe established an Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes to enable closer cooperation between states particularly interested in the development of the Cultural Routes, with a particular focus on themes of symbolic importance for European values, history, and culture and the discovery of less well-known destinations. Today, the programme benefits from cooperation with national Ministries of Culture and Tourism, regional and local authorities, as well as international Organisations. A long-term partnership has been established with the European Parliament and the European Commission through Joint Programmes, as well as with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and the European Travel Commission on ad-hoc projects.



The European Institute of Cultural Routes, set up in partnership with the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, is the programme's technical agency, responsible for advising certified cultural routes and new projects, based on the Council of Europe's adopted criteria:

- Involve a theme representative of European values and common to at least three countries in Europe;
- Be the subject of transnational, multidisciplinary scientific research;
- Enhance European memory, history and heritage and contribute to 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.

The Cultural Routes Programme aims to act as a channel for intercultural dialogue and promote better knowledge and understanding of European cultural identity, to preserve and enhance natural and cultural heritage as a mechanism for improving the living environment and as a source of cultural, social and economic development.

Preserving and enhancing the shared cultural heritage of Europe is essential to understand who we are and where we come from, in order to face our common future.

We invite you to join us on this voyage of discovery!

Stefano Dominioni

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



Cultural Routes



1987

The Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes



HISTORY

The legend holds that St. James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain, where they were 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. Thus, 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.

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.



CULTURAL 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.

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1991

The Hansa



HISTORY

In the mid-thirteenth 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!

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HISTORY

The Viking Age was the period from around AD 800 to 1050, 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 in Europe and beyond. The Vikings established important trading centres, for instance in Hedeby, Birka, Jorvik, Dublin and Kiev, 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.

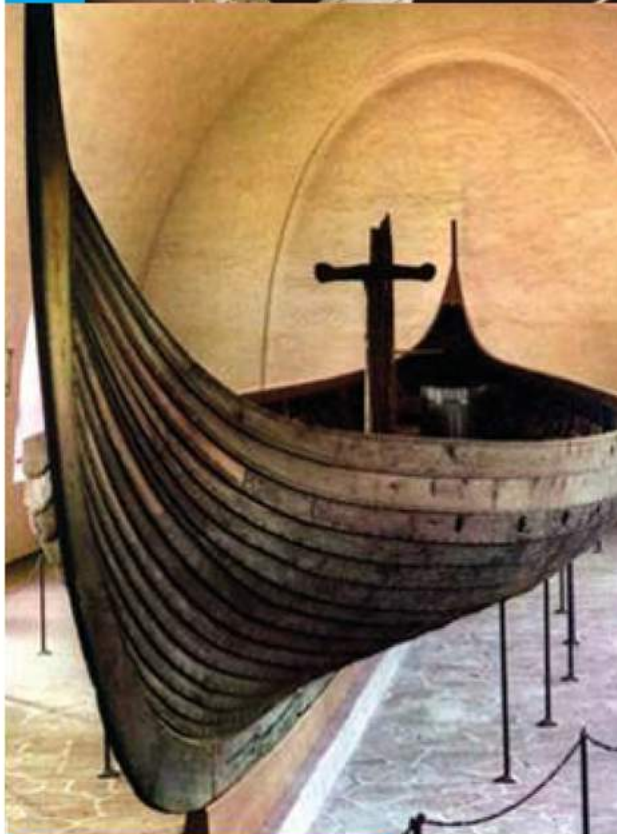
TRAVELLING TODAY

There are around 50 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.



1993

The Viking Routes



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1994

The Via Francigena



HISTORY

In 990ac Sigeric, Archbishop of Canterbury, travelled to Rome to meet Pope John XV and receive the investiture pallium. Along the way, he recorded the 79 stages of the journey in his diary. 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.

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 as 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, we realise that the pilgrim way has influenced the fabric of the villages. The route often runs along the main street and is bordered by the most important churches and the most beautiful buildings. Archaeological sites and religious buildings abound on the Via Francigena and, most importantly, many of the masterpieces of Romanesque architecture stand beside the route, which goes to show its importance for religious and artistic development in medieval times.

TRAVELLING TODAY

Travellers can rediscover this 1800 km journey through England, France, Switzerland and Italy along the paths followed by the pilgrims, en route to Rome, and then onward to Jerusalem or to Santiago de Compostela. 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.



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1997

The Routes of El legado Andalusi



HISTORY

In the 8th century BC 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

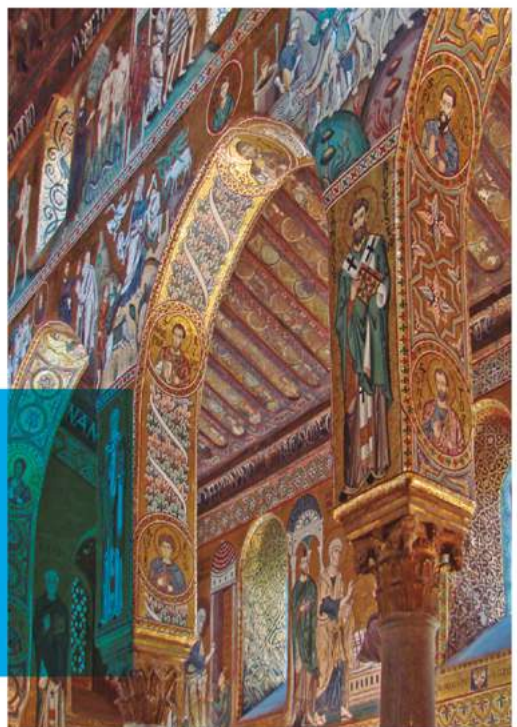
The routes of El legado andalusi revisit the Spanish-Muslim civilisation through its art and culture and historical and social relationships with the Arab world, the Mediterranean basin and Latin America. Along the way, the travellers' grasp of the historic role that Spain and Andalusia played as a cultural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

HERITAGE

Beyond the impressive architectural heritage, with La Alhambra as a paradigmatic example, these routes bring back to life the literature, art, science, graphic arts, gastronomy, fiestas and traditions of Al-Andalus. Eight centuries of coexistence left a profound mark on the land and its people, so the Andalusi 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.



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2003

The Phoenicians' Route



HISTORY

The Phoenicians' Route refers to the network of major nautical routes, which, as from the twelfth century BC, were used by the Phoenicians – accomplished sailors and merchants – as essential routes for trade and cultural communication, across the Mediterranean. In ancient times, through these routes, the Phoenicians and other great Mediterranean civilisations contributed to the creation of a “koiné”, a Mediterranean cultural community.

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. Established 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.

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 Phoenician 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.

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HERITAGE

It encompasses 18 countries including a large number of North African and Middle East countries, thus strengthening historical bonds with the Mediterranean countries. These bonds are represented by a vast 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 Mediterranean intangible heritage.

2003

The Pyrenean Iron Route



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 Llorts mine, the road of the 'arrieros' and the Iron Men Route, Sant Martí de la Cortinada church and the Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum. Along the route, you will learn about everything related to each stage of the iron production process. A guide is available for further information.



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2004

European Mozart Ways



HISTORY

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 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.

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.

HERITAGE

All of the journeys made by Mozart from 1762 to 1791 were documented on the basis of the Mozart correspondence 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.



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2004

The European Route of Jewish Heritage



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, ritual baths, 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 routes foster 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 trans-national 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.



Contact details

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HISTORY

Saint Martin of Tours is one of the most familiar and recognisable Christian saints and has been venerated since the fourth 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

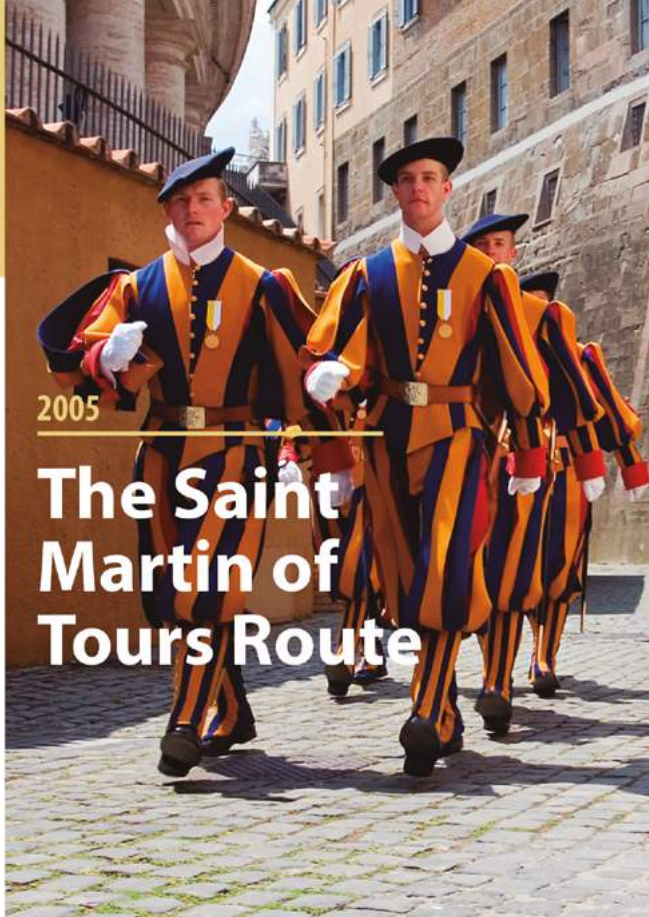
The Saint Martin Route represents the value of sharing, symbolised by the Saint's charitable act in Amiens when he cut his cloak in half to share it with a poor man who was dying of cold in the heart of winter. Behind this simple concept lies the intention to bring people together, beyond divisions of 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 5000 km across and around Europe bears the general name of Via



2005

The Saint Martin of Tours Route

Sancti Martini. Of special note are 1/ 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 2/ 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 is also linking a great deal of cultural heritage sites on a way going 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!

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2005

The Cluniac Sites in Europe



HISTORY

In 909 or 910, William the Pious, Duke of Aquitaine, founded a Benedictine Abbey in Cluny, in the French region of Burgundy. This grand abbey established and coordinated a network of over 1,000 monasteries and other dependencies in Europe and beyond, known as Cluniac sites. Cluny thus became a spiritual capital and a great stimulus for social and cultural development in a medieval society which was searching for deeper meaning.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

From the 10th to the 18th century, the monks of the Cluniac sites played an important role in building a shared European identity and in promoting cross border interaction and understanding between distant lands. This spirit is alive today, through the preservation of more than 200 Cluniac sites.

HERITAGE

On account of its extraordinary status, the town of Cluny was built and equipped like the capital cities of our times: its civil and religious buildings are exceptional both in terms of their dimensions and their beauty. Its 187m-long abbatial church -the Maior Ecclesia- with its unprecedented volumes remained the largest in Christianity for many centuries. Throughout the continent, the different Cluniac sites formed a basis for the emergence or the development of hundreds of urban centres in Europe.

TRAVELLING TODAY

The traveller can feel the presence of Cluny's heritage in each and every location. Today, Clunypedia, a website of Cluniac knowledge, enables the public to discover and make more sense of the heritage and history of Cluny in Europe. New technologies make it possible to rediscover this history from a new perspective; to walk round the Cluniac sites is to rediscover one of the central elements of European consciousness.



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2005

The Routes of the Olive Tree

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.

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2005

VIA REGIA



COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

Over the last 2000 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 passage 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!

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 4500 km in its modern form, as European Development Corridor III.



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2007

TRANSROMANICA- The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage



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, 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.

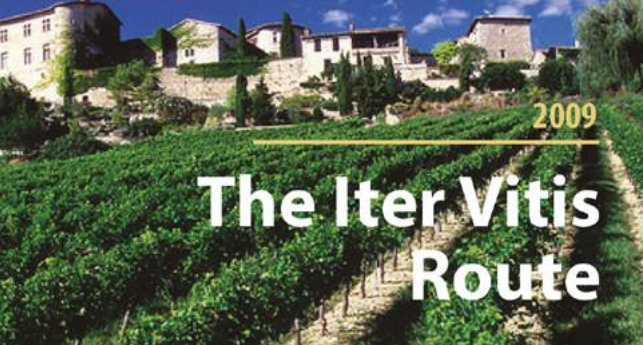
TRAVELLING TODAY

Travellers taking the TRANSROMANICA route follow a trail of highly impressive Romanesque monuments, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites, located in eight 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.

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The Iter Vitis Route

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 fourth 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, and 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.



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2010

The European Route of Cistercian abbeys



HISTORY

Nine centuries ago, 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 1,000 monasteries, with communities of both monks and nuns.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

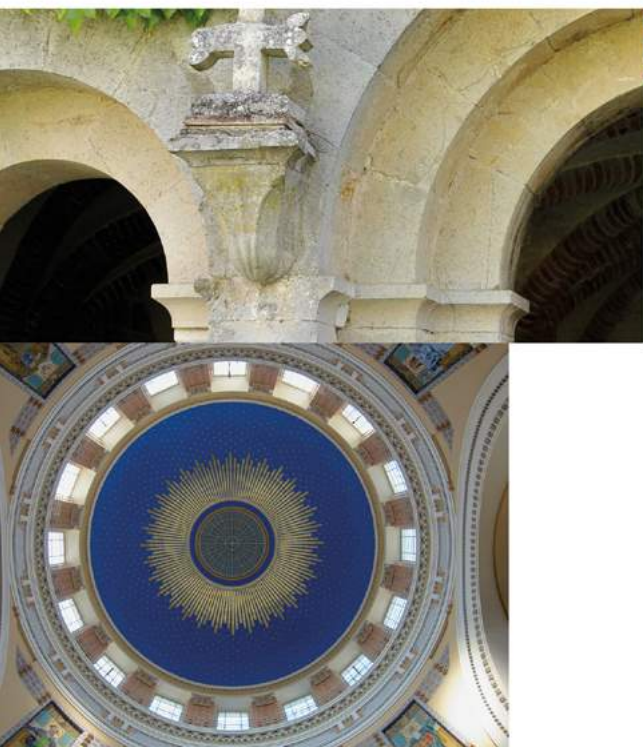
The "European Charter of Cistercian Abbeys and Sites" Association and its members work to preserve the tangible and intangible Cistercian heritage. Their actions contribute to the preservation of the historical heritage, both buildings and the surrounding environment, regardless of their condition. They 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.



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2010

The European Cemeteries Route



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.

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

TRAVELLING TODAY

The European Cemeteries Route offers visitors the possibility to literally walk through local history, to learn about important personalities who worked and left their mark in cities. Traveling this route 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.



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2010

Prehistoric Rock Art Trails



shapes and is composed of drawings, paintings or prints on the walls of caves, rock-shelters and open-air rock outcrops, and also on some Megalithic constructions. Currently, Prehistoric Rock Art Trails has 132 sites around Europe.

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 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 1.5 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 twentieth century. It consists of figurative manifestations and schematic forms and abstract

TRAVELLING TODAY

More than 170 Rock Art sites are open to the public in Europe, concentrated in countries like Norway, Sweden, Ireland, Great Britain, Italy, Portugal and, particularly, France and Spain. Many are small sites (a cave, a rock shelter, a small museum ...), 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 paintings and engravings, including fully reproduced 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. Several regional (or thematic) routes have been established to facilitate access to the sites (these routes take between 2 and 6 days to travel).



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2010

European Route of Historic Thermal Towns



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 with the arrival of the railways. The prestigious political and cultural elite travelling to Europe's spas, creating centres of cultural exchange in numerous cities, may be said to have launched modern tourism as we know it. These celebrities 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, to 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. In order to catalogue and celebrate this heritage the Thermal Atlas of Europe is currently under development.

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.



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The Route of Saint Olav Ways



HISTORY

Olav II Haraldsson, later known as St. Olav, was King of Norway from 1015 to 1028. 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 AD, 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.



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2012

The Casadean Sites



“God resides”: A Casadean site is therefore an element of architecture (abbey, priory, barn...) or an element of landscape which was attached to the Benedictine Congregation of La Chaise-Dieu and depended on the mother abbey.

TRAVELLING TODAY

Along this route the traveller can enjoy the most fascinating places located in different European landscapes and territories. This encapsulates an important aspect of the monk’s perspective: organising territories in tune with both nature and human activity. In addition, many exhibitions are organised around the theme of the Casadean sites, and abundant information material can help the traveller gain an understanding of this fascinating cultural heritage.

HISTORY

Born in La Chaise-Dieu in 1050, the Casadean congregation, following the rule of St. Benedict, spread rapidly and prospered throughout Western Europe. For over seven centuries, the Chaise-Dieu abbey was the head of a large network of abbeys and priories.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE VALUES

The route hopes to contribute to building a humane Europe, based on this historic network. It therefore promotes cooperation and brings together cultural and touristic values around the Casadean heritage, with a view to engendering meaningful socio-economic development across Europe and promoting the principles of sustainable development, laid down by the Casadeans monks, in the territories of the abbeys.

HERITAGE

The word “Casadean” comes from Casa Dei, “house of God” in Latin: it is the name that the abbey received before becoming “Chaise-Dieu”, “the place where



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2012

The European Route of Ceramics



HISTORY

The 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 contemporary pieces.



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, Stoke-on-Trent, 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.



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2013

The European Route of Megalithic Culture



HISTORY

Big stones – literally megaliths – 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 northwest Europe. Understanding this heritage is essential to trace 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, Portugal and Great Britain. 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.

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2013

The Huguenot and Waldensian trail



HISTORY

In 1685 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 2000 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 Waldesians travelled to Geneva 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 Poët Laval in the Drôme (France) and from Saluzzo (Italy), this trail passes via Geneva, Switzerland, Baden-Württemberg and Hesse, going all the way to Bad Karlshafen. 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.

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Atrium - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century

HISTORY

The totalitarian regimes which characterised much of Europe during the central decades of the twentieth 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, Tresigallo and many other Italian cities have important buildings or neighbourhoods deriving directly from Mussolini's regime. Labin, Rasa and Uble in Croatia also host important examples of fascist architecture. Furthermore, the county of Iasi, 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

The Atrium cultural route 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 an online catalogue supported by resources such as photos and images, videos, audio files and oral testimonies.

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Réseau Art Nouveau Network



HISTORY

Appearing in the late nineteenth 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 disappeared fast 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, *Modernisme* in Spain, *Sezessionsstil* in Austria...) resulting in a wonderful concordance of architecture, furniture and decoration, called the "total work of art".

TRAVELLING TODAY

The Réseau Art Nouveau Network offers the tourist endless 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.

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Via Habsburg



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 996 to 1815 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 Alsace to Austria, along some 450 km, 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 hundreds of square kilometres in 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 riches of the Renaissance and, at the time of its decline, provoking the modernist revolt.

TRAVELLING TODAY

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



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2015

The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route



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

Whether you are hiking, cycling, driving, travelling by boat or train, or combining the lot, the cross-border journey along the Roman Danube Frontier (Limes) will reveal the outstanding natural beauty of the river and its hidden historic and archaeological treasures, many of which are off the beaten track. Many of the archaeological sites were discovered during recent excavations and have been presented to the public only during the past two decades. Lovers of antiquity will be amazed by the abundance of architectural and artistic treasures on display, which document the presence of ancient Rome and its emperors in this part of Europe.



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2015

The European Routes of Emperor Charles V

HISTORY

Emperor Charles V was the great sixteenth 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.



Contact details

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Destination Napoleon

HISTORY

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was a remarkable political leader that influenced European and global affairs for more than a decade while leading France. Napoleon is a name and a world-renowned history. The Napoleonic period bequeathed an exceptionally valuable heritage of relevance to most European countries. It's 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 fortune, be that 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 capital value, which has always interested a great majority of European countries, is a major influence in the contemporary geopolitical context and the development of the "European idea".

HERITAGE

Napoleon left an overwhelming heritage behind that today is not a national but a European common patrimony. The influence of the Napoleonic era upon the cultural heritage of contemporary Europe include sites, buildings, monuments, furniture, works of art and the structure of law as well as a vast intangible heritage linked to the Napoleonic myth.

TRAVELLING TODAY

In Destination Napoleon, 60 cities in 13 countries, from Portugal to Russia, are situating 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, especially with a tourism slant, and school or university exchanges.



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2015

In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson



HISTORY

Robert Louis Stevenson, 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.



Contact details

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2016

Fortified Towns of the Greater Region

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 "Greater 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 tourism 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 twentieth century. Haughty citadels, spectacular bastions, impregnable forts, mysterious underground spaces ... there is an extraordinary richness of fortified architecture to discover. In addition, the 12 sites that are part of the route - namely Bitche, Homburg, Longwy, Luxembourg, Marsal, Montmédy, Rodemack, Saarlouis, Sierck-les-Bains, Simserhof, Thionville and Toul - lie in exceptional natural landscapes.

TRAVELLING TODAY

The Route of the fortified towns of the Greater 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.



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www.villesfortifiees.eu*



Countries

Members states of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (as of August 2016)

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.

ANDORRA

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Andorra:

- The Santiago De Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- The Pyrenean Iron Route

Permanent Representation of Andorra to the Council of Europe

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ARMENIA

Certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe crossing Armenia:

- The Iter Vitis Route

Permanent Representation of Armenia to the Council of Europe

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AUSTRIA

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Austria:

- European Mozart Ways
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- TRANSROMANICA: The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage
- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Cemeteries Route
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- Via Habsburg

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Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Azerbaijan:

- The Iter Vitis Route
- Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
- The Viking Routes

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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The European Cemeteries Route

Permanent Representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe

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BULGARIA

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Bulgaria:

- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- ATRIUM architecture totalitarian regimes of the 20th century
- The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe

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Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Cyprus:

- The Phoenician's Route
- The Routes of the Olive Tree

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- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- The Routes of the Olive Tree
- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Cemeteries Route
- European Route of Historical Thermal Towns
- ATRIUM architecture totalitarian regimes of the 20th century
- The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route
- Destination Napoleon

Permanent Representation of Croatia to the Council of Europe

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FRANCE

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing France:

- The Santiago De Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- The Hansa
- The Via Francigena
- The Viking Routes
- Fortified Towns of the Greater Region
- European Mozart Ways
- The Phoenician's Route
- The Pyrenean Iron Route
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- The Cluniac Sites in Europe
- The Routes of the Olive Tree
- The Via Regia
- TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage
- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Route of Cistercian abbeys
- The European Cemeteries Route
- Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
- European Route of Historical Thermal Towns
- The Casadean Sites
- The European Route of Ceramics
- The Huguenot and Waldensian trail
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- Via Habsbourg
- Destination Napoleon
- In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson

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- The Hansa
- The Viking Routes
- European Mozart Ways
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- The Cluniac Sites in Europe
- The Via Regia
- TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage
- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Route of Cistercian abbeys
- The European Cemeteries Route
- European Route of Historical Thermal Towns
- The European Route of Ceramics
- The European Route of Megalithic Culture
- The Huguenot and Waldensian trail
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- Via Habsbourg
- The European Routes of Emperor Charles V
- Destination Napoleon
- Fortified Town of the Greater Region

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- The Iter Vitis Route

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Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Greece:

- The Viking Routes
- The Phoenician's Route
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Routes of the Olive Tree
- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Cemeteries Route
- European Route of Historical Thermal Towns
- Destination Napoleon

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Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Hungary:

- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- The Iter Vitis Route
- European Route of Historical Thermal Towns
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network

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- The Phoenician's Route
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Via Francigena
- European Mozart Ways
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- The Cluniac Sites in Europe
- The Routes of the Olive Tree
- TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage
- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Route of Cistercian abbeys
- The European Cemeteries Route
- Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
- European Route of Historical Thermal Towns
- The Casadean Sites
- The European Route of Ceramics
- The Huguenot and Waldensian trail-
- ATRIUM architecture totalitarian reg-imes of the 20th century
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- Via Habsbourg
- The European Routes of Emperor Charles V
- Destination Napoleon
- The Viking Routes

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LITHUANIA

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Lithuania:

- The Santiago De Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Hansa
- The Viking Routes
- The Via Regia
- The European Cemeteries Route
- Destination Napoleon

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Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Luxembourg:

- The Santiago De Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- Fortified Towns of the Greater Region

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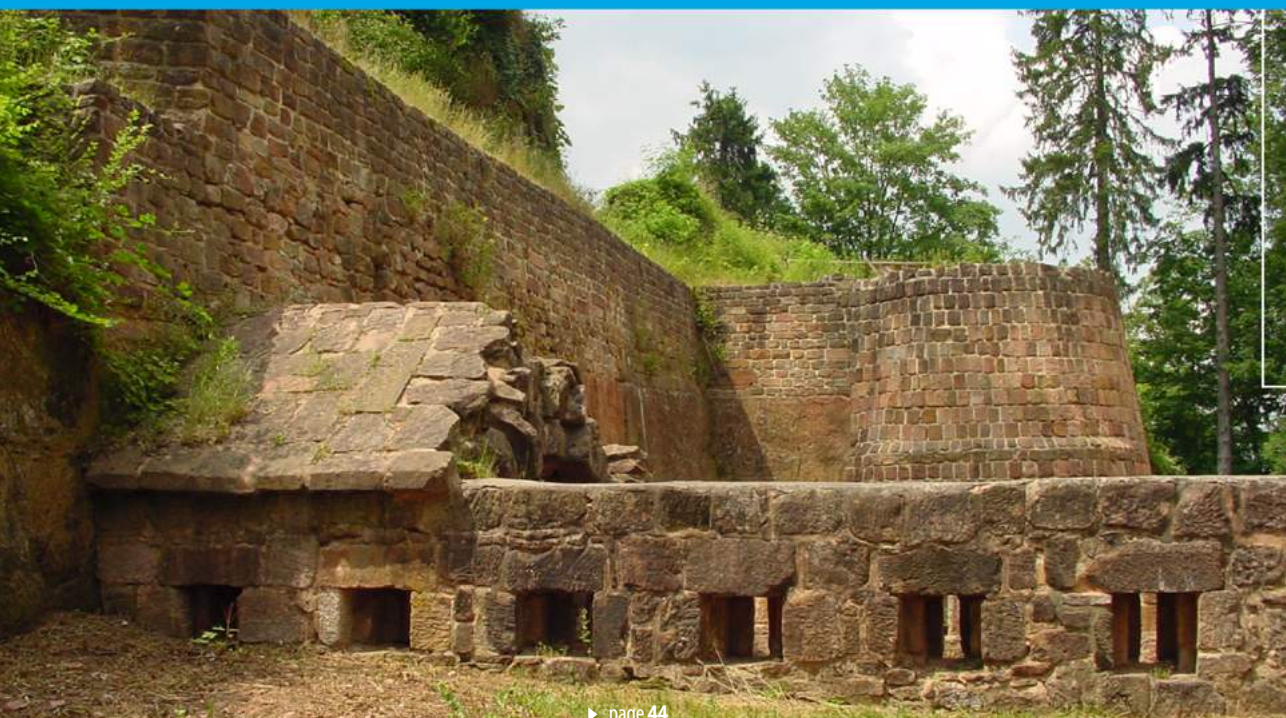
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NORWAY

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Norway:

- The Hansa
- The Viking Routes
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The European Cemeteries Route
- Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
- The Route of Saint Olav Ways
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network

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- The Routes of El Legado Andalusi
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The European Route of Cistercian Abbeys
- The European Cemeteries Route
- TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes
- The Iter Vitis Route
- Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
- European Route Historic Thermal Towns
- The European Routes of Emperor Charles V
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- The European Route of Ceramics

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- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The European Cemeteries Route
- ATRIUM architecture totalitarian regimes of the 20th century
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

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- The Viking Routes
- The Hansa
- The Via Regia
- The European Cemeteries Route
- Destination Napoleon

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- The European Cemeteries Route
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- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

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- European Mozart Ways
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route

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Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Slovenia:

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- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- The Routes of the Olive Tree
- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Cemeteries Route
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network

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Ministry of Culture

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SPAIN

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Spain:

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- The Viking Routes
- The Routes of El legado Andalusi
- Phoenician's Route
- The Pyrenean Iron Route
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- The Cluniac Sites in Europe
- The Routes of the Olive Tree
- The Via Regia
- TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage
- The Iter Vitis Route
- The European Route of Cistercian abbeys
- The European Cemeteries Route
- Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
- European Route of Historical Thermal Towns
- The European Route of Ceramics
- The Casadean Sites
- The European Route of Megalithic Culture
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- The European Routes of Emperor Charles V
- Destination Napoleón

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SWITZERLAND

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Switzerland:

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- The Via Francigena
- European Mozart Ways
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- The Cluniac Sites in Europe
- The European Route of Cistercian abbeys
- The Casadean Sites
- The Huguenot and Waldensian trail
- The Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- Via Habsbourg

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EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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LE GOUVERNEMENT
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