







Cultural Routes

EPA: Lebanon joins the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe



The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) is pleased to welcome the Republic of Lebanon as a new EPA member State.

On 15 February, HE Mr. Walid NASSAR, Minister of Tourism, informed HE Mrs. Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, of the decision of the Republic of Lebanon to accede to the EPA as of 1 January 2022.

The accession follows a Committee of Ministers' decision on the request of Lebanon to become a member of the EPA. An Enlarged Partial Agreement, the EPA is open to non-Council of Europe member States in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2013)66 confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA). Lebanon becomes the 35th member State of the EPA.

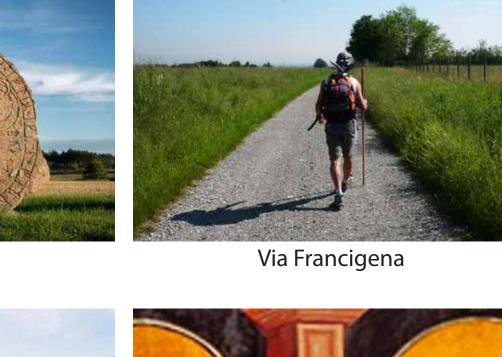
Lebanon is currently crossed by 3 "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe": the Phoenicians' Route, the Routes of El Llegado Andalusí, the Routes of the Olive Tree and soon will join the Wine Route.

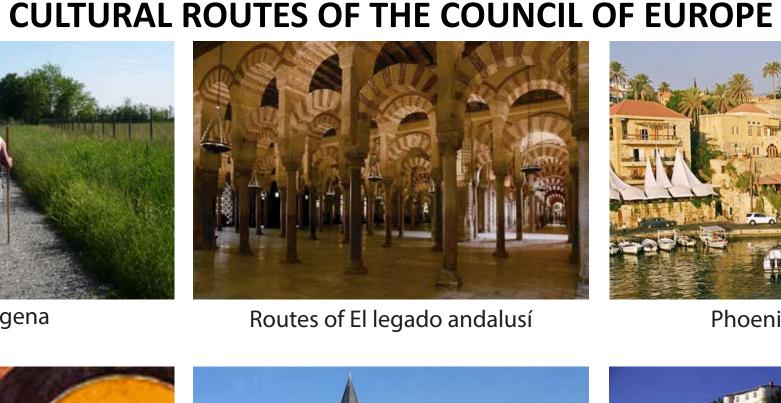


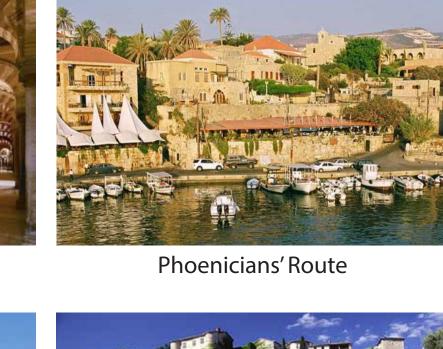


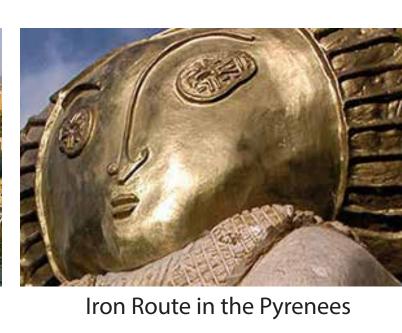












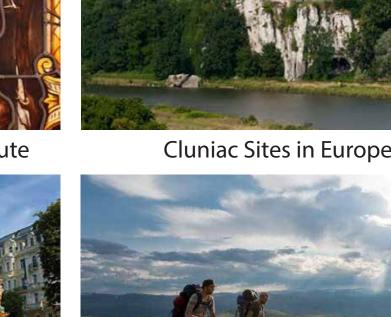






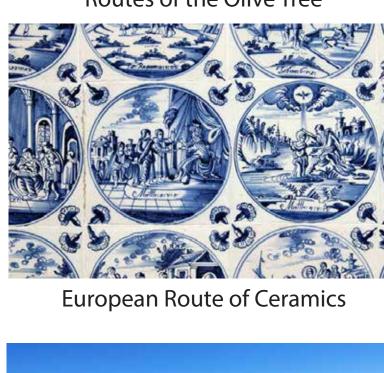
European Route of Historic Ther-

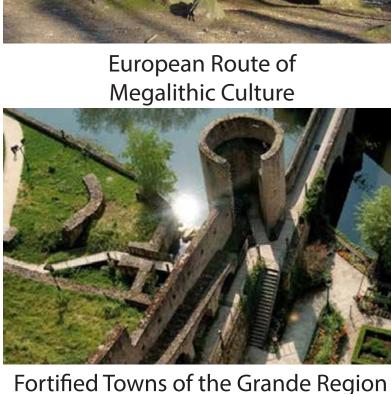
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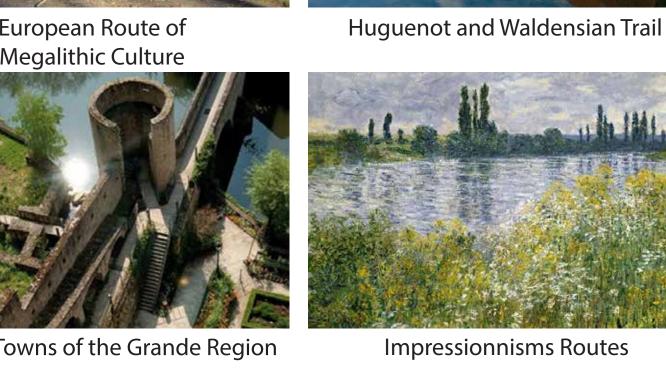


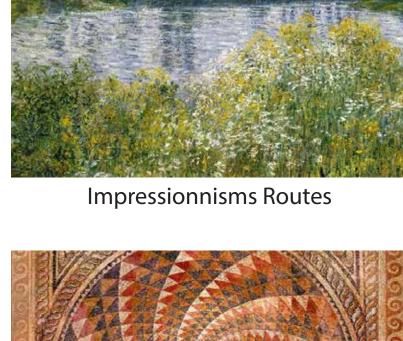


Route of Saint Olav Ways

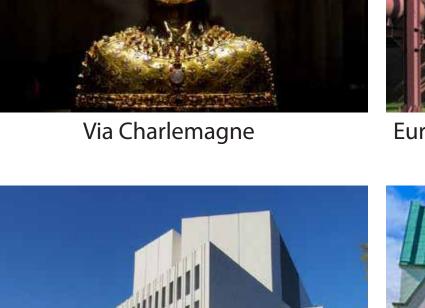












ATRIUM



Réseau Art Nouveau

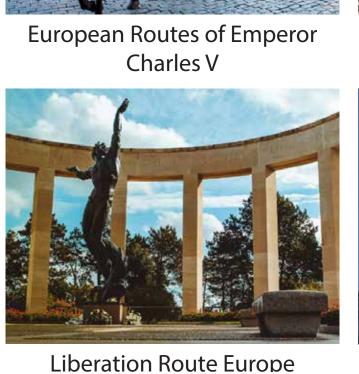
Network

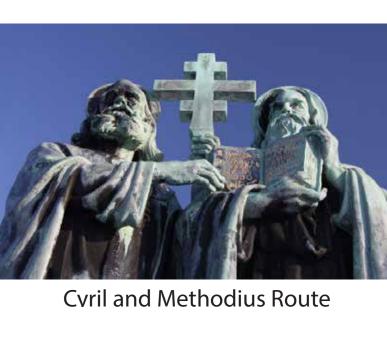




Roman Emperors and Danube

Wine Route





Destination Napoleon



In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Ste-





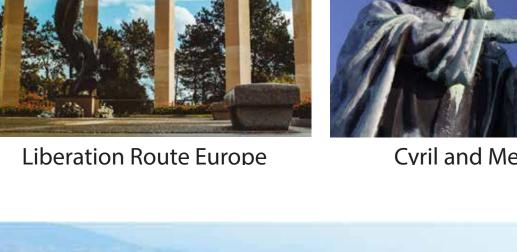
Alvar Aalto Route



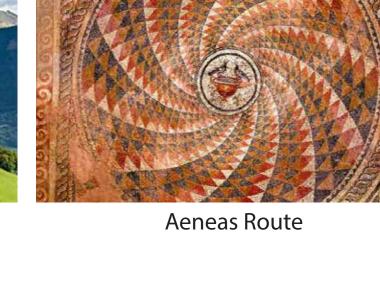
Iron Curtain Trail

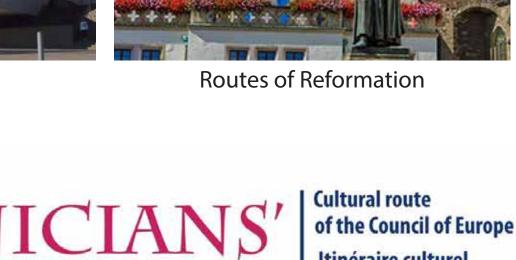
Via Habsburg















THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

people and ideas. Heritage The route 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,

du Conseil de l'Europe

It refers to the connection of 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 Phoe-

nicians - 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,

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 experi-

ence is intended to show the traveller our common routes, linking the countries of three continents and over







100 towns, originating from ancient Mediterranean civilisations.

ROUTES OF EL LEGADO ANDALUSI

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.

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





ROUTES OF THE OLIVE TREE

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 this civilisation, from Greece towards the Euro-Mediterranean countries.

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





ITER VITIS ROUTE (THE WINE ROUTE)

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, several thousand years 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.

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.product tasting events.