



ROMA CULTURAL ROUTES IN ITALY

Map:

<https://www.mapcustomizer.com/map/Italian%20Itinerary%20Roma%20Cultural%20Route>

The ROMHERITAGE project

The ROMHERITAGE project, cofounded by the EU, is a private initiative promoted by Roma civil society that is mobilized to create a mechanism to enhance, preserve and disseminate Roma cultural heritage in Europe and the world. To this end, the consortium of entities formed by Presencia Gitana, European Romani Institute of Arts and Culture ERIAC, Them Romano and EPEKA decided to launch a pilot project that would serve as a model and as a founding movement of a process to which they would join each time more entities (Roma and non-Roma), official organizations, companies, regions, countries until constituting an international network that connects, dignifies and disseminates the Roma cultural heritage.

In this first pilot phase of the project, we have developed itineraries in three of the countries participating in the project (Italy, Slovenia and Spain), leaving ERIAC as the umbrella entity, unifier and promoter of Romani art and culture at the European level.

The national itineraries are grouped by themes that give them meaning and at the same time connect the points in a logical and attractive way for an easier knowledge and enjoyment. In any case, the itineraries constitute a first step in which the objective is to begin to draw routes following the layout of the Romani cultural heritage.

Each of the thematic itineraries has enough content and brings together a significant number of cities and municipalities in each case. However, we are aware that in most cases they can be expanded with newer points.

When preparing the itineraries we have followed the criterion of including the points that already contain elements that could be put into action immediately, such as monuments, museums, neighborhoods, cultural venues, or activities that are already being carried out and to which the component of the Roma/Gitano culture can be added, achieving a quick impact. These first itineraries are designed to serve as an example and as motivation for other points to join in subsequent expansions.

In the next phase of the project, the itineraries will be completed with information about the stakeholders who participate in these itineraries, so they cannot be considered completed yet. These itineraries are a living element that will be in continuous growth and enrichment.





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The Roma in Italy

The Roma people are an integral part of European and Italian civilization, having contributed in an exceptional and lasting way to its development over the centuries, until today. Much of the history of the Roma people has its roots in Europe and Italy, with a past of migration, persecution and precariousness, but also of exchange, humanism and mutual enrichment.

A fundamental aspect is the recognition of the essential contribution of the Romany tradition to the construction of cultural diversity through an intense intercultural dialogue.

With a heritage approach in line with the Council of Europe and EU, with its integrated and cross-disciplinary approach to cultural heritage and diversity, it promotes fundamental European values of human rights, cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue seeking to **bring the Romani heritage closer to all European citizens**, involving them in the production, circulation and conservation of Romani culture and heritage.

The routes that we are developing in Italy include cities, regions and countries, and also take on a transnational dimension. Through these itineraries, which cover virtually the entire Italian territory from North to South, the traveler is immersed in the Roma history through territories and centuries and receiving information and materials.

Currently in Italy the different Romany communities are estimated in a number between 150,000 and 180,000 individuals. About 65% are Italian citizens. With the migratory flow of recent years, which has brought many Roma from the Balkans and Romania to Italy, we can distinguish Italian Romani communities of ancient and recent settlement and foreign Romani communities of recent immigration.

This is not to be considered a disadvantage, but a strong point of the Italian itinerary; we could offer in fact an ample variety of musical, religious and culinary traditions that surely represents an added value to the itinerary

The Romani communities of ancient settlement have the Italian citizenship and are distinguished in Roma and Sinti.

The Roma of an early settlement are mainly distributed in the southern regions that were part of the Kingdom of Naples and the Papal States. The Sinti of ancient settlement, however, are distributed in the central-northern regions.



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The long-term Roma are relatively more integrated into the social and economic context of majority society than other groups of recent immigrants. In the past, the activities mainly exercised were those that left room for being and creativity and those that facilitated human relationships: hence the activity of musicians, blacksmiths, cauldrons, horse traders, metal workers.

Some of these activities are still practiced, but since there is no large market there are not many Roma who continue the tradition, but traces remain in archives and historical documents, as well as in numerous artifacts. With the planning of the itinerary it's also possible to design activities of production and sale of objects as souvenirs.

After the decline of the traditional activity of blacksmiths Italian Roma of ancient settlement from the second half of the eighteenth century and for two centuries (until the sixties of the twentieth century), they were mainly involved in the trade and breeding of horses. The agricultural market absorbed a large amount and there was a great demand.

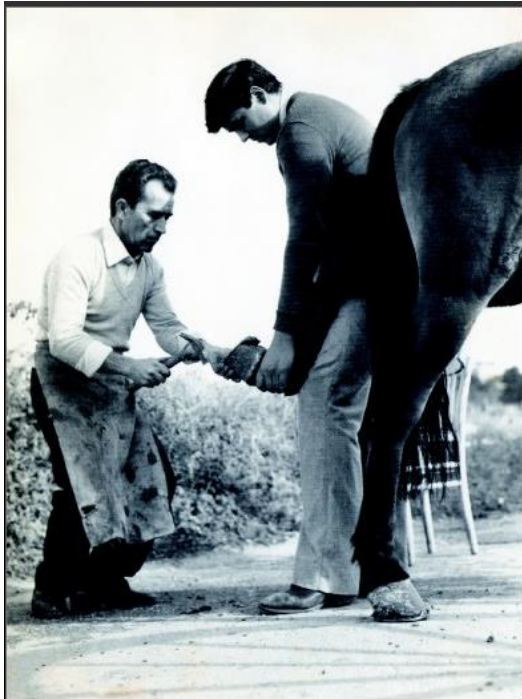
Even the sale of horse meat had and still has a prosperous market. It was no coincidence that the collaboration between Roma and butchers in Southern Italy was very advantageous. From the working relationship it was also passed to a personal bond and love. There are many cases of comparative relations between Roma and butchers especially in the Kingdom of Naples.

Currently in the regions of Puglia and Calabria (in southern Italy) there are several farms and there are many Roma butchers who also have catering activities. An example is the Taberna del Gitano in Laterza that also offers typical dishes of the Romani culture of southern Italy such as the "Callared Gitana".





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On the other hand, the Italian Sinti of ancient settlement have always been dedicated to circus activity and traveling show: musicians, acrobats, toolmakers, jousts, fire eaters, tamers of wild animals, but also elephants and horses.





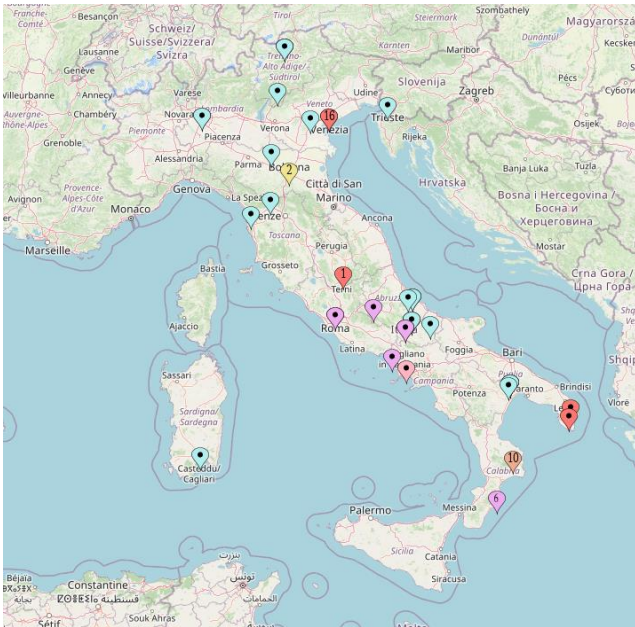
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Thematic Routes

Our aim is creating thematic routes by inserting the places identified, and expanding the routes throughout the project according to the themes:

Romani culture is mainly immaterial, characterized at European level by typical musical styles, a common language and traditions. In order to make the most of the various facets of Romani's cultural heritage, but also to meet the different tourist needs/opportunities, thematic paths could be created divided into macro categories:

-Dates; Music; Art; Crafts and Landscape; Religious Traditions; Language; Samudaripen, Food, etc.



1	Italian cultural route	Italia
2	starting point roma history	Bologna, Emilia-Romagna, Italia
3	Samudaripen	Campobasso, Molise, Italia
4	Music	Lanciano, Chieti, Abruzzo, 66034, Italia
5	Music	Isernia, Molise, Italia
6	Religion	Riace, Reggio Calabria, Calabria, Italia
7	Music	Bolzano - Bozen, Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol, Italia
8	museum of roma history	Milano, Lombardia, Italia
9	art exhibition Biennale- Roma pavilion	Venezia, Veneto, 30121-30176, Italia
10	Horse riding	Crotone, Calabria, Italia
11	gastronomia	Laterza, Taranto, Puglia, 74014, Italia
12	Gastronomia	Roma, Roma Capitale, Lazio, Italia
13	Samudaripen	Lanciano, Chieti, Abruzzo, 66034, Italia
14	Gastronomia	Bolzano - Bozen, Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol, Italia
15	Samudaripen	Laterza, Taranto, Puglia, 74014, Italia
16	Music	Venezia, Veneto, 30121-30176, Italia
17	Religion	Isernia, Molise, Italia
18	Traditional Dance of the swords	Melpignano, Lecce, Puglia, Italia
19	Traditional Dance of Swords	Torrepaduli, Ruffano, Lecce, Puglia, 73049, Italia
20	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Trieste, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, 34121-34151, Italia
21	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Pisa, Toscana, Italia
22	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Ginosa, Taranto, Puglia, Italia
23	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Agnone, Isernia, Molise, 86081, Italia
24	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Bolzano - Bozen, Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol, Italia
25	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Pistoia, Toscana, Italia
26	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Padova, Veneto, 35121-35143, Italia
27	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Milano, Lombardia, Italia

28	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Agnone, Isernia, Molise, 86081, Italia
29	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Laterza, Taranto, Puglia, 74014, Italia
30	Romany flag to represent roma samudaripen	Rovereto, Comunità della Vallagarina, Provincia di Trento, Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol, 38068, Italia
31	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Paùli/Monserrato, Casteddu/Cagliari, Sardinia/Sardegna, 09042, Italia
32	Targa commemorativa Samudaripen	Orsogna, Chieti, Abruzzo, 66036, Italia
33	Samudaripen	Fossoli, Carpi, Unione delle Terre d'Argine, Modena, Emilia-Romagna, 41012, Italia
34	Religione	Avezzano, L'Aquila, Abruzzo, 67051, Italia
35	Religione- Oratorio San Mauro	Mondragone, Caserta, Campania, 81034, Italia
36	Religione-Santuario del divino amore	Roma, Roma Capitale, Lazio, Italia
37	Gastronomia	Scampia, Municipalità 8, Napoli, Campania, 80145, Italia
38	Religion	Padova, Veneto, 35121-35143, Italia



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DATES:

We intend to organize tourist routes also focused on significant dates related to Romani culture:

27th January International Holocaust Remembrance Day: we are actually working with national and local authorities in order to add officially the Samudaripen in the law

8th April, International Romani Day: It is celebrated all over Europe, and we could create linked events

16th May Romani Resistance Day: the date marks the anniversary of the Romani Uprising in Auschwitz in 1944. The Roma revolt against the Nazis is the only recorded uprising in Auschwitz and is now widely commemorated as Romani Resistance Day

2nd August International Roma Genocide Remembrance Day/Samudaripen: this Date is recognized by CoE, but in Italy there are no official celebrations or events, we can work to create them, thinking of linking them also to other cultural and tourist outdoor initiatives, suitable for the summer climate

5th October Anniversary of the Monument on Samudaripen in Lanciano: we are working to make this date recognized at national level, because it is the first true Italian monument, ideally linked to that of Berlin by the Auschwitz Poem.

5th November World Day of Romani Language: around this date will be possible, in addition to organizing conferences, to organize Romani language courses for Roma and non-Roma, poetic and narrative competitions in the language, etc. This date offers the opportunity to work with schools and young generations.

We could also consider:

21st march International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: The national institutions each year organize and finance events, we have been working for several years on initiatives in favor of the Romani population

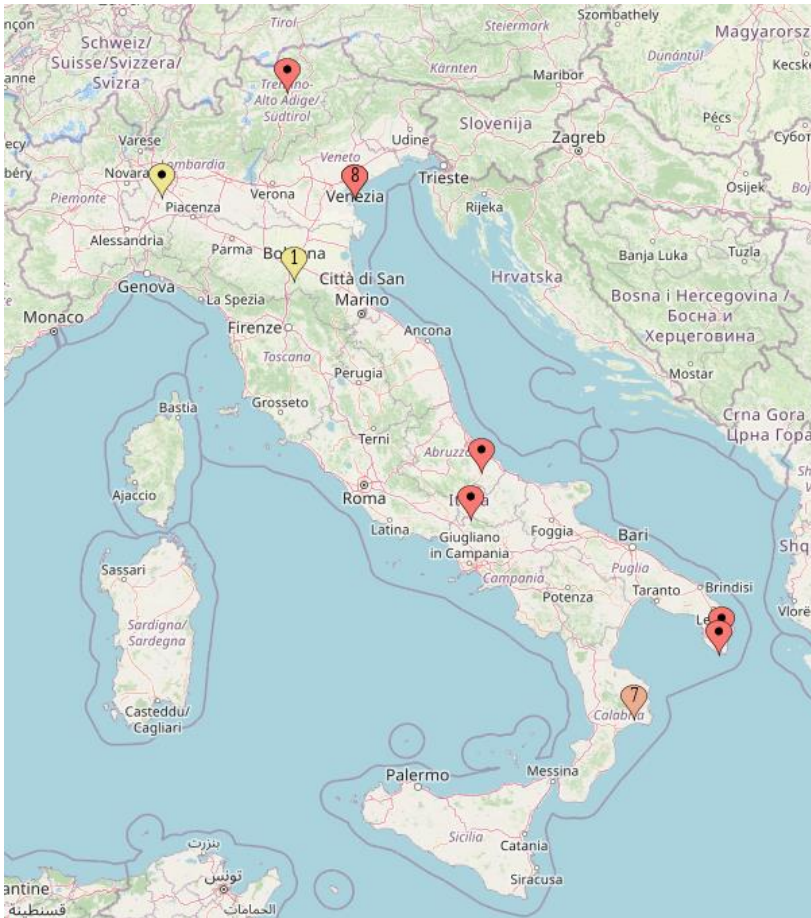
10th December World Human Rights Day: possibility to carry out events in favor of the Romani population.





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ART:



PAINTING:

The Romani population since its arrival in Italy has influenced artists, for example Caravaggio in *The Good Ventura* (a genre scene); a representation of daily life, very usual in the streets of the center of Rome. We see a young gypsy girl depicted, who, under the pretext of reading the hand of a wealthy young man, actually cleverly takes a ring from his finger. The smile with which it attracts the attention of the boy, to take it away from the hand, is a jewel of psychological subtlety.

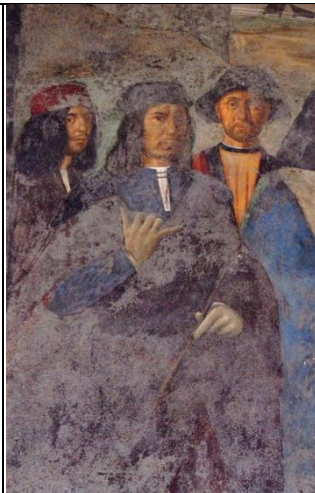
The painting had great success and was imitated by many Caravaggeschi as Vouet, Manfredi, Louis Finsonni. All will represent a widespread palmistry in the Roma people, who traditionally still practice it, with the classic reading of the good Ventura through the lines of the hand.



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Boccaccio Boccaccino, "Zingarella",
1516-1518 ca., Tempera su Tavola, 24
x 19 cm Galleria degli Uffizi, Firenze



Antonio Solario the Rom painter



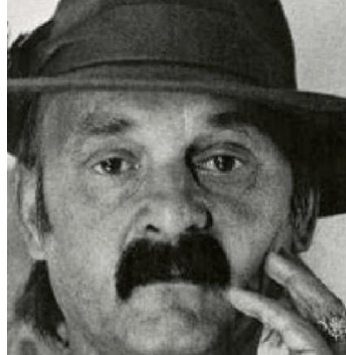
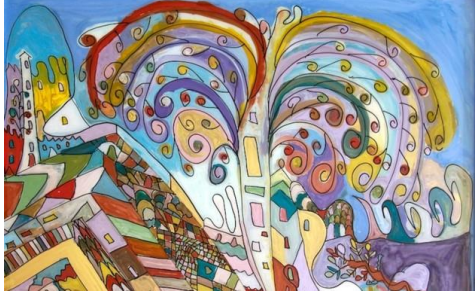
Modigliani, The Gypsy Woman
with a baby





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Up to the current Italian Roma artists



Olimpio Cari

He has exhibited in Trentino, Alto Adige, Veneto, Marche, Tuscany, Lazio, Austria, France, Switzerland and other places



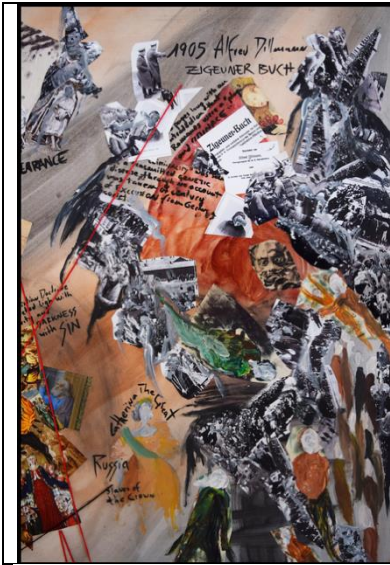
Bruno Morelli
<https://www.brunomorelli.com/>

He has exhibited his works in the Italian Pavilion, 54th Venice Biennale, organized by Vittorio Sgarbi in 2011





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Luna de Rosa <https://www.lunaderosa.com/>
She has exhibited her works in Italia, Germany, Austria, France.

Art in general is a great tourist attraction, thematic exhibitions can be organized including the works of the great of the past (reproductions) and works of current Roma artists, but also of non-Roma artists who have dedicated works to the Romani population: see Luca Vitone <https://www.photology.com/lucavitone/>

In Milan there are many artistic initiatives such as the Triennale di Milano, which this year also hosted a Romani representation.

The Roma associations present on the territory have done a good job with the Institutions, and future initiatives in collaboration with other institutions and universities are planned.

Venezia

The Venice Biennale where there is a side event dedicated to the Romani Population curated by ERIAC, one of the partners of ROMHERITAGE.

Usually the exhibition lasts several months and is possible to organize collateral events like thematic conferences, concerts/festivals in collaboration with the Venetian headquarters of the CoE and with the Conservatories and/or the Music Schools, taking inspiration from the events dedicated to Vivaldi and we can hypothesize an evening dedicated to the composer's music most influenced by Romani culture. In this evening, students would perform, all preceded by a seminar on Roma music held by an experienced musicologist.



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MUSIC:

Music represents a virtual path that connects Europe and the world. The traces of Romani music are present (have influenced) all the music, the great European composers and musical styles; this means that you can schedule concerts of ethnophonic music in existing music festivals or create thematic repertoires such as those of the Philharmonischer Verein der Sinti und Roma in Frankfurt conducted by the M. Sahiti. We are currently working with Rossini Orchestra in Pesaro precisely on this issue.

Currently there are countless examples of Romani festivals and musical events dedicated to Romani music taking place all over Europe, offering a variety of programs that could attract spectators of various ages, backgrounds and musical tastes. For example in Italy we quote the ones in Bolzano, Lanciano and Isernia that are directly organized by Roma but are really countless the events and festival dedicated to Jazz Manouches. The bigger one is in Turin.

In Lanciano, the International Artistic Competition "Amico Rom" has taken place for over 30 years (www.concorsoamicorom.it), and also a music festival that attracts audiences from all over Italy and Europe.



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In Campobasso and Isernia (Molise) live a large community of Italian Roma inserted in the social fabric, and there are Roma and Sinti organizations working on projects in collaboration with institutions and communities.

In Isernia there is every year a festival of Romani music and culture on April 8. The festival is dedicated especially to the new generations of Roma artists. In Molise there are also Roma goldsmiths and designers who make both collections “pret a porter” and ceremony.





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Bolzano

In Bolzano, the Nevo Drom Association organizes every year the Jazz Manouches Music Festival. In addition to the festival, the Association also runs a catering service with typical dishes that is organized during themed events, but can be a starting point for a long-term activity.



In Puglia we have as a tourist attraction the summer events that see the Roma protagonists of the traditional dance of the Swords of **Melpignano, Torrepaduli** and other cities.

The pizzica-fencing or dance of the Swords is a traditional dance of Salento, danced generally on the occasion of the feast of San Rocco in August, in which the participants mimic a fight with knives simply using the fingers of the naked hand; it is therefore a particular type of pizzica performed exclusively among

men that replaces the theme of play with that of challenge and combat.



The sword dance owes its origins to the rustic duels that inflamed the people in the past. Caused mostly by family feuds, duels were the only possibility considered honorable to safeguard the honor and pride of their family.

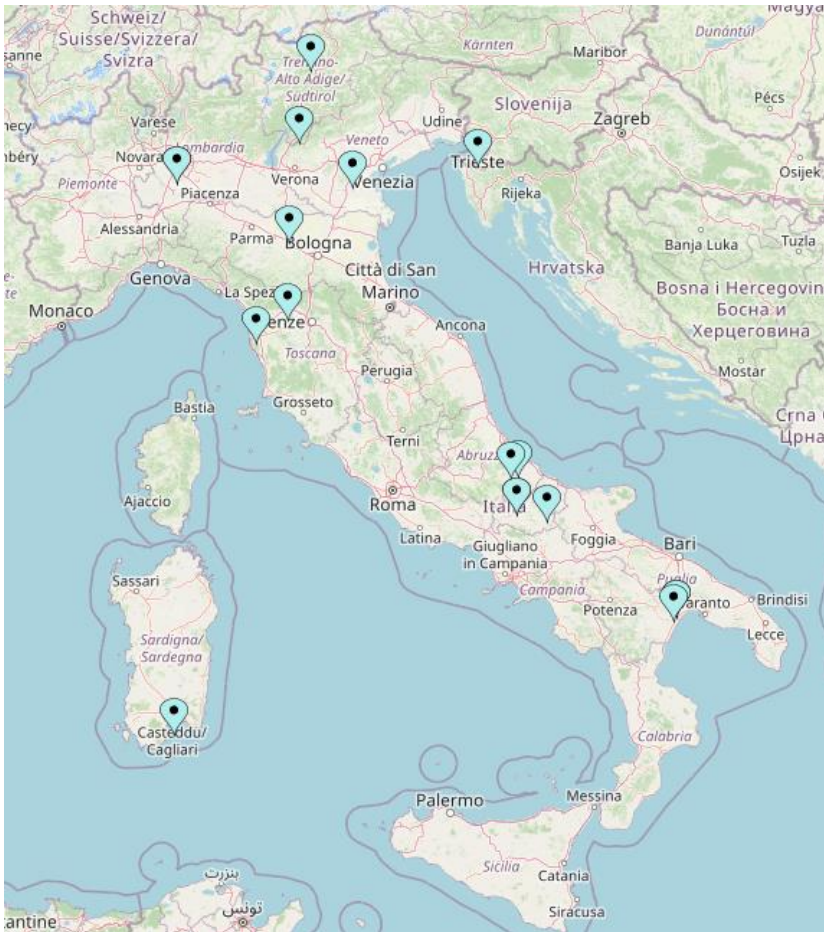
These fights were later converted by the Roma people into bloody dances. The Roma, who in ancient times took care of the Salento cattle markets, joined the characteristic movements of the rustic struggle to the rhythm of the pizzica, thus creating an ancestral "dance-fencing".

Participation in the ball was an honor reserved for a few: in order to become fencers it was necessary to pass a rite of initiation and rely on the teachings of a great teacher; only the latter knew the meanings of the gestures and movements proper to the dance.



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SAMURADIPEN:



Samudaripen-related paths in which schools could be involved: in Italy there are numerous cities that have chosen to install commemorative plates of the Samudaripen: Trieste (stumbling block), Pisa (plate) Ginosa (plate), Laterza (plate), Lanciano (CH): monument and memorial, commemorative plaque and installation, Agnone (plate), Bolzano (plate), Pistoia (plate), Milan (installation), Padua (plaque and bas-relief at the temple of the unknown internment), Rovereto (flag displayed along with all the flags of the nations that had fallen in World War II), Monserrato (installation), in the concentration camp of Fossoli there have been many

Roma and even if there is no plaque they have in custody the archives of the *Centro Studi Zingari* and we are currently working at the installation of commemorative plaques in Orsogoa (CH) and Campobasso (CB).

In Lanciano, in 2018 was also inaugurated the first monument to the Samudaripen in Italy, which is located at the Park of Memories and is visited by schools and tourists from all over Italy.



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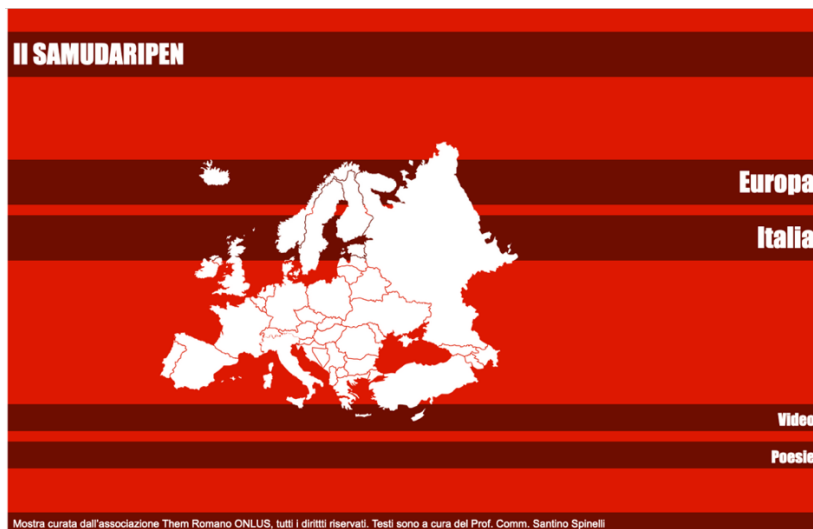


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In 2023 was added a European memorial ("Naj Sen Bistarde": you are not forgotten) twinned with Croatia and Romania. The Them Romano Association currently offers a free guided tour service.

Since 2021 the multimedia exhibition on the Samudaripen has been digitized <http://www.associazionethemromano.it/mostra/>





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LANGUAGE AND CULTURE:

The Romani population is the largest ethnic minority in Europe with about 12 million people sharing a common language. Currently there are several events that could be linked to the European path for the theme Language: Romano Amal Arts Competition, or the events organized on the occasion of 5 November that UNESCO dedicated to the Romani language linking the route to those already existing in Croatia, and Spain, stimulating the creation of other events to add to the path.

Is also possible organize courses of Romani language and events involving Schools and universities. The Abruzzo Region in 2021 with the Regional Law no. 26 recognized the Roma linguistic minority.

"Summer School": immersive weeks in Romani culture are organized and there is a documentation center with the richest library/newspaper library in Italy.



Since 1991 the Thèm Romano Association has curated a multimedia exhibition of Romani art and culture entitled "Tu taj Me - me and you to overcome prejudice".

<http://win.alexian.it/mostra/mostra.html>

<http://win.alexian.it/mostra/galleriam.html>

The exhibition has been set up at schools and exhibition areas throughout Italy, and in 2008 at the European Conference organized by the Ministry of the Interior on the Roma population: "Recognizing Roma as a linguistic minority".

The Association has also been teaching Romani culture for teachers and schools of all levels since 1991. Over time we have built relationships of collaboration with teachers and schools in every Italian region and we involve them in our cultural activities in presence and online.

Since 2021 an ambitious educational project has been developed online: an information platform on a scientific basis created in collaboration with the most important Romanologists and experts in the field in Italy.



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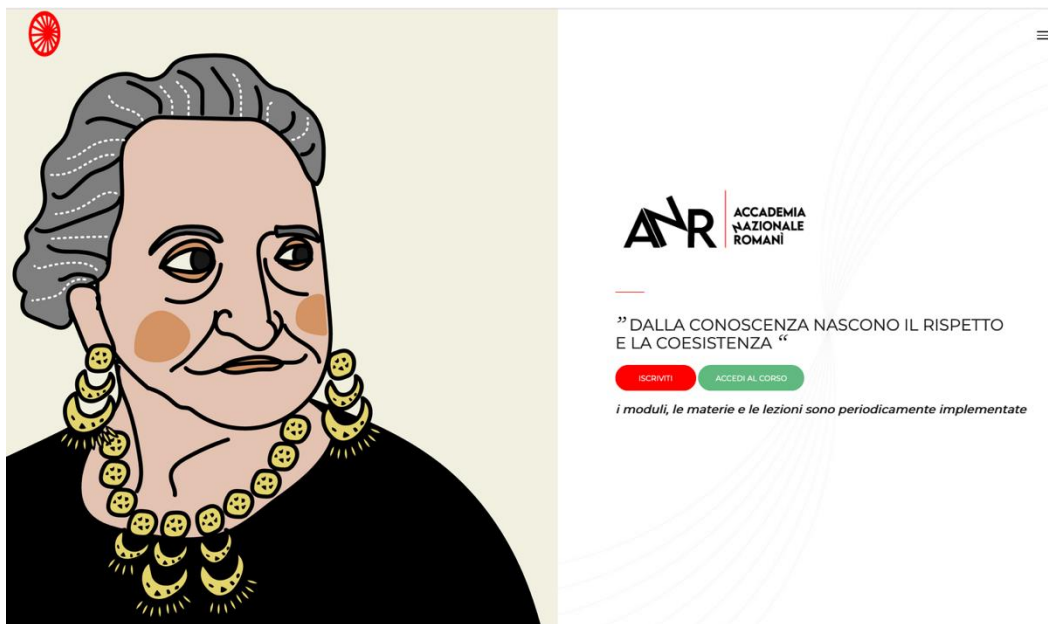




The Accademia Nazionale Romani was founded with the aim to pass on and implement Roman culture in its various forms, with courses for everyone taught by certified experts, for Roma, Sinti and others.

The ANR consists of online courses and conferences always available with material in continuous expansion.

<https://www.accademianazionaleromani.it/>



Cosenza e Riace (Calabria). This is the first Italian region to have recognized the Romani population as a linguistic minority. (Legge regionale 25 novembre 2019, n. 41).

This lays the foundations for the creation of initiatives and collaborations with institutions and communities. In Cosenza there is a Roma Association very active in the cultural field that in the summer organizes a summer school at the University of Cosenza and numerous cultural activities throughout the year, including radio broadcasts.





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Milan (Lombardia)

The Fabrizio De André Travel Museum is a museum and documentation center of the Roma and Sinti culture, opened in 2011 in Milan within the municipal field of the district of Rogoredo, in the southern suburbs of Milan.

It is the first Italian museum dedicated to this subject and exhibits documentation and traditional objects.



The museum was commissioned by the Bezzecchi family and is managed by the Cooperative Opera Nomadi Milano and Romano Drom.



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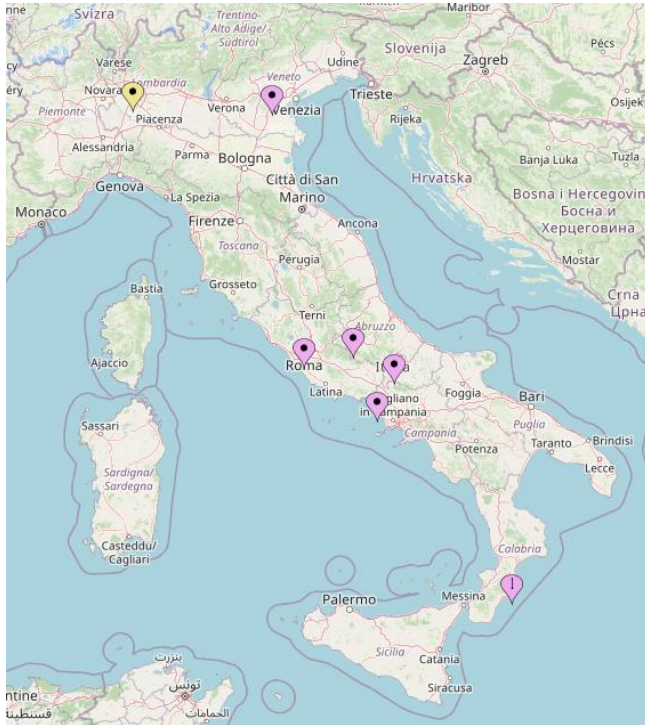
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RELIGION:



Religion is a much felt theme among the Romani population despite not being linked to a specific confession; participation and animation of the various rites and celebrations throughout Europe make them unique and suggestive, as well as unmistakable. Currently there's also a person Blessed: Zefferino Gimenez Malla and the process of beatification of another Spanish gypsy woman is underway. Blessed Zefferino is celebrated every year on May 4 both in Italy and in Spain. We can also cite religious traditions such as Saintes Marie de La Mer, the celebrations of Saint Anthony in Padua and Molise, on May 6 Judgerdan (the feast of Saint George), the feasts of Saints Cosima and Damiano in Riace in Calabria.

Typical are also the processions for the Feast of Saint Anthony on 12 and 13 June in which the presence of Roma stands out and is a characteristic and integral part.





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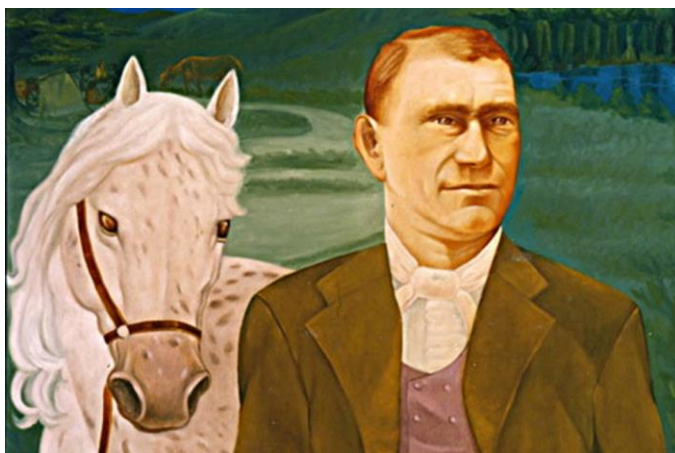
The rites for Saint Anthony in Padua (Veneto)



In Riace the festivity of Saints Cosimo and Damiano is very much felt and participated. For the Feast of Medici Saints there is, still, a large influx of faithful of the Roma and Sinti communities devoted to the medical saints considered their protectors and whose roots are very ancient and deep.



Roma come from all over Calabria to honor, also, Blessed Zefferino Giménez Malla, called "El Pelé" (1861-1936).



The cult of Blessed Zefferino is very felt in Italy. In Rome, there is an outdoor church dedicated to him at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Divine Love called "Sanctuary of the Gypsies", a chapel in the Oratorio di San Mauro in the Parish of San Michele Arcangelo in Mondragone (NA), a chapel in the Basilica of Saint-Nicolas in Nantes and a chapel in the Shrine of the Romani People in Seville.

Banner realized by the painter Rom Bruno Morelli on the occasion of the Beatification in St Peter's Square on May 4, 1997





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In Avezzano, in Abruzzo, a small square in the *Via Napoli* district, characterized by the Roma presence, is dedicated to him. At Riace in Calabria, at the Sanctuary of Saints Cosmas and Damian is exposed to veneration a canvas depicting him.



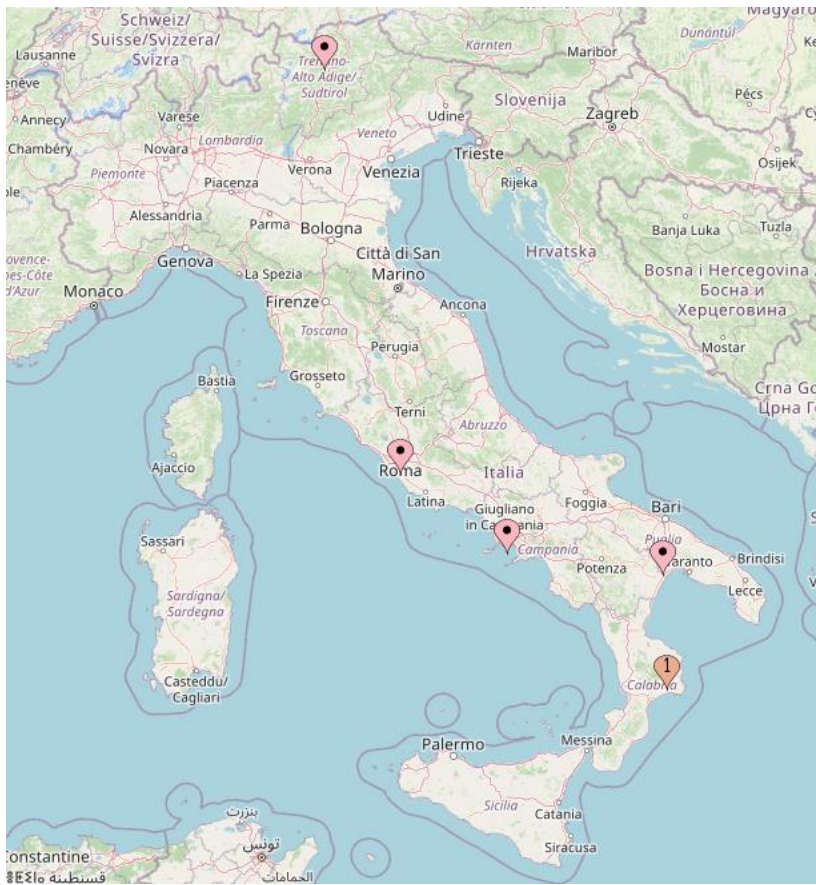
The Sanctuary of Divine Love, particular of the "Sanctuary of the Gypsies"





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FOOD:



In Laterza there is a strong presence of resident Roma who work in the field of breeding and catering, for example is the Taberna del Gitano, owned by an Italian Roma who also offers typical dishes of the Romani culture of southern Italy such as the "Callared Gitana" which is served in the restaurant.





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In Italy there are several associations that provide **catering services with typical dishes of Romani cuisine**; they are present in Bolzano, Rome, Isernia, Lanciano, and Scampia.



As for gastronomy we have already talked with 3 hotel institutes in Pescara (PE), Villa Santa Maria and Ginosa (TA) who are willing to hold seminars on Romani cuisine for their students, to spread the culinary culture of Roma in Italy also in the professional field.

FAIRY TALES:

Romani folklore is rich in stories, fables, stories, proverbs, sayings, nursery rhymes, riddles and sayings of spirit. Today it also has a written diffusion through various media supports. Fairy tales, stories, legends, tales and narratives are translated into Romani with a single term: paramiša.

We find Roma characters even in the most famous fairy tales: we can think of the carnay *Fireeating* in the tale of Pinocchio. This theme, as well as being developed in schools or even as theatrical pieces, has a direct connection with the Fairy Tale Itinerary.

In addition to the fairy tale itinerary, there are also various cultural itineraries that pass through Italy and that have a connection with the Roma Itinerary:





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- the Jewish Itinerary: the Romani and Jewish populations have always shared different endeavors, but also art and music,
- the Tratturi Itinerary: the Roma were the blacksmiths who supplied the boilers to the shepherds, shod their animals, sold and repaired small objects and equipment.

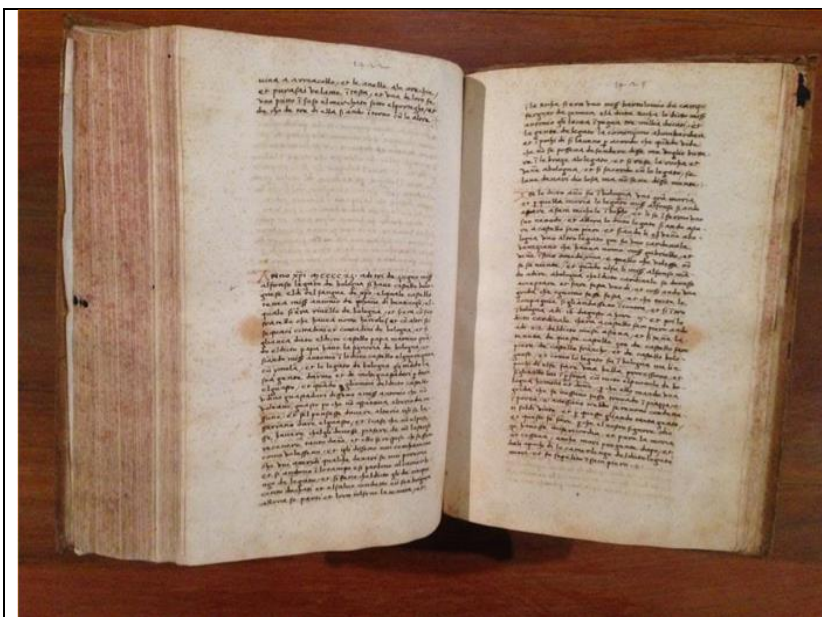
To these pre-existing events could be added further cultural events: festivals, exhibitions or projections, able to attract public and act as a pivot to a circular economy that allows the route to self-sustaining.

CITIES:

A city certainly to be included in the itinerary is Bologna, in the Emilia Romagna region, which is currently one of the most attentive and responsive to the cultural peculiarities of the Romani population; there are also several associations with which it is possible to plan events and activities.

There is currently no long-term planning, but cooperation with local institutions will also be possible under Regional Law 11/2015, which is based on the recognition of the cultural and social identities of Roma and Sinti and their specificities, promoting equal opportunities, equality and dignity, consistent with the principles set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

Bologna was chosen as the ideal starting point for the cultural itinerary because here was written the first certain document that indicates the arrival of the Roma in Italy: that of 18 July 1422, it is an anonymous Bolognese chronicle contained in the Rerum Italicarum Scriptores by Ludovico Antonio Muratori.



On 18 July 1422 Duke Andrea arrived in Bologna with his hundred "Egyptians". The "Chronic" reports: *"quando arivono in Bologna, demorono a la porta Galiera dentro er de fuora, et si dormiano sotto li portighi, salvo che el ducha, che Steva in l'albergo da re"*.

A Bologna Porta Galliera is one of the gates of the city walls, whose construction ended at the end of the fourteenth century.

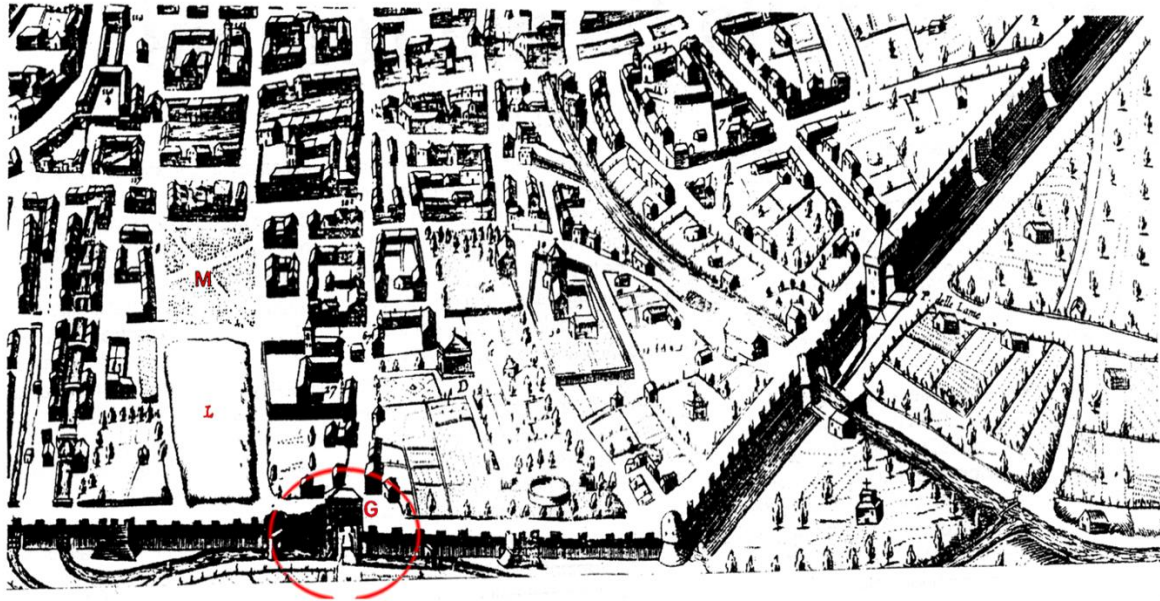
Porta Galliera is located near the railway station, at the entrance of Via Indipendenza.

At the time the city had about 40,000 inhabitants and Porta Galliera was located just in one of the rural areas of the city.



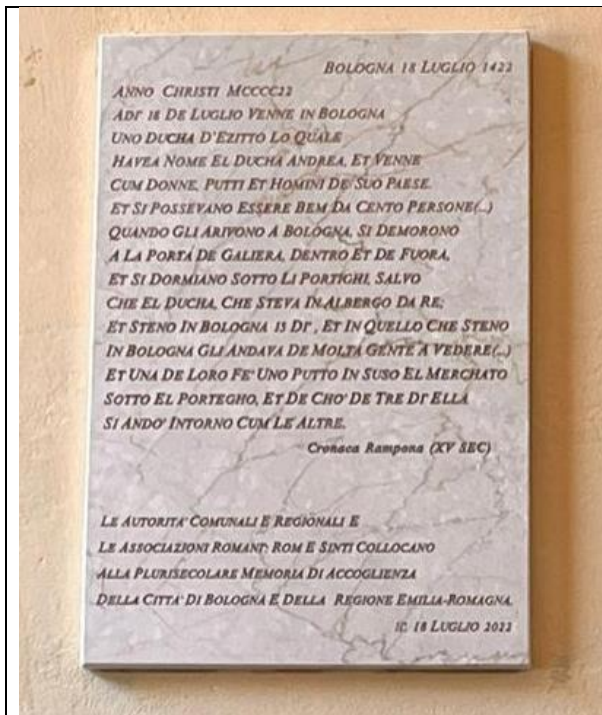


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In the map, the letter "G" indicates Porta Galliera and shows how right outside the door, parallel to the walls, there was a stream that is no longer there: it is the Moline canal, an artificial arm of the Rhine. The area indicated by the letter "L" corresponds to what the Bolognese call today the "Montagnola", home to a small municipal park.

It is an artificial hill formed by the accumulation of the rubble of a fortress destroyed five times by popular revolts against the papal between 1334 and 1511. The ruins of the previous buildings were called "failures". The group of "Egyptians" encamped near the fault of the Montagnola and the reporter writes: "et una de loro fe' uno putto in suso al mercato". It is the first Roma born in Italy. The "great market" because it was the place of the cattle market, was held in the area indicated with "M" on the map, an area adjacent to the breakdown of the Montagnola and that corresponds to today's Piazza VIII Agosto (still the seat of the city market). Those Roma also camped near the ruins so that they could comfortably attend, for example, the cattle market of the horse traders.



The plaque commemorating the 600 years since the arrival of the Roma and Sinti in Bologna (1422-2022) was inaugurated in Porta Galliera by the Deputy Mayor of Bologna Emily Marion Clancy, in the presence of representatives of the UNAR (National Anti-Discrimination Office) and of the Roma and Sinti communities.





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Lanciano (Province of CHIETI - Abruzzo) and **Laterza** (Province of Taranto - Puglia) were twinned in 2018 also as a host city for the Romani population.

Orsogna (Chieti - Abruzzo) has a long tradition of welcoming the Romani population, and hosted a community until the Second World War when the Roma were rounded up and deported to the south by the Nazi-Fascists. The City Council has joined the cultural itinerary and also signed a Declaration of membership to the ROMHERITAGE project. They have committed to install a commemorative plaque for the Roma and declare January 27 also the day of remembrance of the Samudaripen.

The Municipal Administration of **Campobasso** hosts thematic events dedicated to Romani culture and has also expressed its intention to formally adhere to the ROMHERITAGE project. In January 2024, a plaque will be affixed to commemorate the Samudaripen.

In **Crotone** (Calabria) there are Roma who still carry out the profession of horse breeders and have opened a riding school. It will be possible to organize cultural activities (such as exhibitions, cultural weeks, typical food and wine) to combine with horseback riding.



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Conclusions

With this document, the ROMHERITAGE project begins to design and implement itineraries of Roma culture in Italy.

ROMHERITAGE is a pilot project with a duration of two years that begins a work that, without a doubt, will have to extend beyond. With these itineraries we are beginning the task of recovering, promoting and highlighting the Romani culture and integrating it into an attractive approach for the knowledge of Roma and non-Roma people, from the cities where the spots of the itinerary are located, as well as visitors. However, we are aware that the Romani cultural heritage extends far beyond the itineraries included in this pilot project.

In preparing the itinerary and in the subsequent formation of public-private collaboration networks, we have given priority to quality over quantity. It would be useless to have many spots in an itinerary if activities are not carried out, or there's lack of institutional or private support to sustain it.

In the next phase of the project, when the network of public-private collaborators is incorporated, these itineraries will make even more sense. Furthermore, we must consider it as a living element and in constant growth and incorporation of new points and activities. We believe this is natural since Roma culture is in evolution and its recognition is a process that in most places has just begun.



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The ROMHERITAGE consortium is composed by Asociación Nacional Presencia Gitana (Spain), ERIAC (European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture), EPEKA (Slovenia) and Associazione Thèm Romano (Italy), as well as associate partners such as Instituto Cervantes (Spain). Project is co-funded by the European Union.

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