



ROMA CULTURAL ROUTES IN SPAIN

Map:

<https://www.mapcustomizer.com/map/Roma%20Cultural%20Route%20in%20Spain>

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1.- 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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2.- The Gitano cultural heritage in Spain

The Gitano people in Spain have a long history of coexistence, contribution and mutual enrichment with the majority society. The first sources that cite the existence of Roma/Gitanos in the Iberian Peninsula date back to 1425, in which there are evidences of groups of people coming from Egypt Minor and who claimed to go on religious pilgrimage. Since then, and despite the centuries of persecution and mistreatment that the Spanish gitano people have suffered, the contributions that gitano culture has made to Spanish culture are innumerable and of capital importance for the configuration of Spanish culture itself. The gitano culture is so intricate that a Spanish culture would not be understood without taking into account the Spanish gitano component. In fact, we have often seen how this gitano element has been used as an element of international tourist attraction to the point that it has come to create confusion between the line that separates what is Spanish, what is traditional, and what is gitano.

In the same way, there is a feeling of attraction and rejection of gitano culture because it has been identified by certain anti-gitano messages as something marginal, but at the same time as an important part of Spanish culture.

If there is something that we could highlight as the greatest exponent of the richness and importance of Spanish gitano culture, it is Flamenco. This music and its culture have their reason for being in Roma/Gitanos and Spanish, especially in Andalusia in their origin, but later it has been established in almost the entire country. The great international recognition that this music and its culture have given Flamenco at the same time a social and cultural recognition that it did not enjoy in past decades, and above all the recognition that UNESCO made by declaring it as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2011.

In addition to Flamenco, there are other cultural contributions that the Gitano people have made to Spanish society and culture and that have great value: among them gastronomy, traditional Gitano crafts (which the Gitano people have performed in a traditional way in Spain, enriching it with its character and idiosyncrasy), gitano pilgrimages, vocabulary of Romani origin, tangible heritage such as gitano neighborhoods, museums dedicated to Roma people and elements related to gitano culture.

In our itinerary we intend to create attractive routes for the public, so that Spanish





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and other countries' citizens get to know the gitano cultural legacy in Spain and also that the gitano people themselves have a complete vision away from stereotypes about gitano history and culture in Spain. At the same time, the itineraries could be an interesting touristic attraction for non-Roma people as well as promoting the recognition of Roma/Gitano culture.

3.- The Flamenco Gitano itinerary

The Flamenco path connects the most important cities and points in which Gitano Flamenco was born and developed, and continues to develop today. Within this itinerary, emblematic places for this art are highlighted, such as the birthplaces of great artists, flamenco neighborhoods, museums, interpretation centers, festivals and other relevant places and activities so that the visitor can learn about Gitano Flamenco in its original place.

We are aware that Flamenco is a first-rate element of attraction, so, although there are numerous resources and activities in the places that we are going to identify, as this itinerary comes to life, the growth of the activity is guaranteed. Even so, we highlight the existing resources within this itinerary:

This itinerary runs through the provinces of Cadiz, Seville, Malaga and Granada (with the purpose of covering more provinces and cities in further extensions of the itinerary). These cities are fundamental part of the history of Flamenco Gitano. However, this does not diminish the importance of other places in where Flamenco has had great importance. These places will be added in subsequent extensions of this itinerary and with the inclusion of other cities to the project.

A. Cadiz

Although this itinerary can be started at any of the points to be followed, we begin the journey in Cádiz, one of the birthplaces of Flamenco and culture in general: a city with more than 3000 years of history in which gitano culture is one of the most important sources from which it has been nourished.

In Cádiz, gitano culture and Flamenco have numerous resources and activities to understand the importance of Gitano Flamenco. To start, the Barrio de Santa María, one of the essential birthplaces of Flamenco. Walking through the streets of this very Flamenco neighborhood we find the birthplace of Enrique "El Mellizo", and a statue of this important gitano artist.





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A little further on the same Santa María street we find the birthplace of Luisa La Butrón, another important flamenco and gitano artist from the neighborhood. And continuing a little further we have the birthplace of the great singer “La Perla de Cádiz”, one of the most important artists in the history of Flamenco.





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Within this same neighborhood of Santa María, in the Plaza de la Merced, you can find the Flamenco Art Center. An important resource to learn about this art, which includes numerous activities all year round.



And there are also several flamenco tablaos such as Peña La Perla de Cádiz, La Peña Juanito Villaror Peña Enrique el Mellizo that organize activities in which you can experience Flamenco up close and in coexistence with gitano people who live Flamenco as their way of living.



The Cádiz city council has also established a route through the Santa María neighborhood that can serve as complementary information for visitors.





In addition, the city of Cádiz organizes the Flamenco Heritage festival

in November: <https://www.cadizesflamenco.com/>

And in summer the Flamencad: <https://www.flamencad.com/>

These are very good opportunities for the visitor to learn first-hand about Flamenco in the city of Cádiz and how gitano culture is part of this wonderful enclave.

B. San Fernando

A few kilometers from Cádiz, our route continues to the city of San Fernando, one of the essential stops to learn about the relationship between Flamenco and gitano culture. Although it is evident that San Fernando is a great attraction for being the hometown of Camarón de la Isla, probably the most famous and important gitano singer in history.

The city has developed an interesting tourist route around the life and work of José Monge Cruz “Camarón de la Isla”. For this, the “Camarón de la Isla” route has been created: a magnificent resource for visitors who want to learn about the gitano cultural heritage in San Fernando. The Camarón route shows the artist's birthplace,



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the Camarón Interpretation Center, the Camarón Forge, La Venta Vargas, where the artist sang in his early career, the Camarón monument, the mausoleum and the Peña Camarón de la Isla. Every spot is very well structured for the visitor.

All detailed information:

<https://turismosanfernando.es/ruta/la-ruta-de-camaron-de-laisla/>



However, this city has much more history to remember than that of the genius José MongeCruz.

Without leaving Flamenco we cannot forget that in this land some of the oldest





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Flamenco styles were born, putting special emphasis on what it's called Siguiriyas de los Puertos (a group of songs that were born between the cities of Cádiz, San Fernando and Puerto de Santa María) and that are the basis of an important part of the Flamenco repertoire. Indeed, this is one of the most important roots of Cante Gitano. Among the creators of these ancient gitano songs we can highlight María Borrigo and her brother nicknamed “el Viejo de la Isla”.

These creators of Flamenco Gitano were born in the mid-19th century and left a legacy for the history of Gitano Flamenco. Although the mention of these two important Gitano artists in the city of San Fernando is scarce, we will request local authorities and civil society to include them in the local itinerary of the Roma Cultural Heritage.

One of the objectives of the ROMHERITAGE project is to disseminate the history and culture of the Roma People and therefore, to advocate for the recognition of places and people that have been significant and that remain unnoticed. One of the most dramatic episodes in the history of the Gitano People took place in the city of San Fernando. During the imprisonment that occurred in the General Gitano Prison in 1749, the Gitano men were sent to forced labor in the Carraca de San Fernando arsenal. This condemned thousands of Roma people to death due to the extreme conditions of slavery and unhealthiness they suffered. Currently there is no mention of this traumatic episode. For this reason, we will ask the relevant authorities to mark and commemorate this episode and to include it in the local itinerary of the Roma Cultural Heritage (ROMHERITAGE).

C. Jerez de la Frontera

The next point on the gitano flamenco itinerary will be Jerez de la Frontera. This city will be one of the most significant points on this route both for its cultural importance and for the support it has shown for this project since its beginning. We cannot forget that the plenary session of the Jerez de la Frontera city council in April 2023 voted unanimously to join the ROMHERITAGE project, being the first city to support the project.

Jerez was called by Federico García Lorca as “the city of gitanos” for having a large gitano population and for the great intercultural coexistence, in addition to being the birthplace of great gitano artists of all disciplines, highlighting, of course, Flamenco.

Walking through Jerez de la Frontera is experiencing Flamenco Gitano since it is





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present in many spaces, highlighting the traditional gitano neighborhoods of Santiago and San Miguel. But also, on the outskirts of the city there are neighborhoods with a gitano tradition, as is the case of Asunción.

In fact, the oldest known singer, Tío Luís de la Juliana, was a gitano from Jerez. Many of the great creators and performers of Flamenco since the 18th century have been born in the Santiago neighborhood. The entrance to the neighborhood is crowned by the Church of Santiago, where on Holy Wednesday every year thousands of gitano gather to sing to the Prendimiento procession; a top-notch gitano show.



Right in front of the Church of Santiago we find the bust of the singer Sordera de Jerez, which reminds us that we are in Flamenco territory. Here we also find the “Jindama” restaurant, one of the proposals of a gitano chef for modern ethnic cuisine. Also, we can find the “Bar el Arco” where the gitano of the neighborhood gather to have an aperitif. Right in front is the house of the great guitarist Moraito Chico, one of the most important musicians in this city.



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A few meters from Moraito Chico's house we find the “Peña Luís de la Pica”, a great place to enjoy gitano food, good Sherry wine and of course the most natural Gitano Flamenco. Its activity takes place throughout the year.



And if we want to know in depth the history of Flamenco, as well as enjoy it in an unparalleled environment just a few minutes from the Santiago neighborhood, we will find the Andalusian Flamenco Center. At the Villavicencio Palace they have an impressive collection of sound, audiovisual and documentation available to visitors. They also have activities such as exhibitions, video screenings and free



performances all year round.



And we continue walking through the historic center of Jerez de la Frontera to reach the San Miguel neighborhood, a must-visit place for any Flamenco fan and where the gitano people have some of their most important references such as the great Manuel Torres, one of the most recognized singers of the early 20th century. Also Juan “Mojama”, La Paquera de Jerez, Lola Flores or El Torta among many others.

The magnificent statue of the dancer that we see below indicates that we are in flamenco territory, having become a pilgrimage and meeting point for numerous flamenco gitanos.





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Walking through its streets and in its bars we can enjoy the atmosphere and typically gitanofood such as “berza gitana”. While we are in San Miguel we can also visit the Lola Flores Museum, which has a large collection of memorabilia from the artist.



When it comes to Flamenco in Jerez we have to highlight the activity of the flamenco tablaos and in the San Miguel neighborhood we highlight the Peña La Bulería, named after the most characteristic Flamenco style of Jerez, which schedules activities regularly throughout the year.

Furthermore, outside the center of Jerez we can visit the neighborhood of La Asunción where many gitano people live and where we find the legendary gitano bar “El Volapié” famous for its gitano cuisine; and in the same neighborhood we can enjoy real Flamenco singing and dancing at the Peña Terremoto.



Enjoying Flamenco in Jerez at any time is possible since there is a varied activity





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throughout the year. However, there are two times in which the flamenco offer is very abundant: on the one hand, the month of December with the flamenco Zambombas, and also during the month of February with the International Flamenco Festival.

Flamenco zambombas are a type of Christmas celebration that have become very important in Jerez. The gitano people of Jerez have been the protagonists of this traditional celebration and it has currently spread to the entire population and outside the city. During the month of December, the entire city is filled with groups of people singing and dancing flamenco carols (“villancicos”) and in many of them there is a bar where you can drink and eat while enjoying Flamenco. Plus, most of them are free. The ROMHERITAGE project will create agreements to include within its itinerary those most relevant to Gitano culture.

On the other hand, the Jerez Flamenco Festival, which is held in the month of February, is an international event in which top-level artists and shows are represented in the city. It is one of the largest flamenco events internationally and the ROMHERITAGE project will raise possibilities of collaboration with this festival.

D. Lebrija

Just over 20 minutes by car from Jerez we arrive to Lebrija: another place where Flamenco has produced great gitano artists and where this art has been maintained by the gitano families who have lived there for generations. Great names of Flamenco have been born here such as Juan Peña el Lebrijano, Curro Malena, Pedro Bacán, José Valencia, Dorantes among many others.

This footprint is attested by monuments such as that of Pedro Bacán or the plaque located in the birthplace of Juan Peña El Lebrijano.



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In this city we can enjoy the art of Gitano Flamenco if we go to some of the typical places of the local gitano people. We highlight “Bar Bocho”. Here we can enjoy traditional cuisine at a good price and Flamenco emerges spontaneously from the gitano people who are usually there.





In addition, Lebrija has a Flamenco Interpretation center where we can learn in depth about the flamenco artists of Lebrija (mostly gitanos) and the artistic legacy they have left.



The ROMHERITAGE project will seek alliances with Flamenco festivals so that people who visit the Gitano Flamenco route have information about these events and viceversa. For this reason, the Caracolá Lebrijana Flamenco Festival will be one of the priority partners of the project. This festival, which is one of the oldest of Flamenco, is a meeting point for artists and fans from all around the world. It takes place in mid-July and will be one of the essential stops on our flamenco gitano itinerary.



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E. Utrera

Following the train track 20 minutes from Lebrija we arrive Utrera, a city where the gitano people have given us some of the most important names in the history of flamenco. For example, the sisters Fernanda and Bernarda de Utrera, Bambino, Gaspar de Utrera, Perrate de Utrera, laSerneta among many other historical names for this gitano art quickly come to mind.

Walking through the beautiful city constantly reminds us of this when we find the monuments that pay tribute to Enrique Montoya, Fernanda and Bernarda de Utrera or Perrate de Utrera.





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The City council of Utrera has set up a tourist route that covers the most important points in the history of Flamenco in their territory. ROMHERITAGE will seek to have collaborative relationships with the City council so that both routes are complementary and information is provided to visitors.



One of the most favorable periods for visiting Utrera will be the month of July when the the Potaje de Utrera festival takes place, the oldest of the flamenco festivals and which is organized by the Brotherhood of the Gitano of Utrera. This festival is a magnificent opportunity to see some of the best flamenco artists of today, as well as to taste the famous gitano stew that is given to all festival attendees.

F. Seville

Seville is the capital of Andalusia and one of the most important cities in Spain. The cultural heritage of this city is immense, both intangible and tangible, and has





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given rise to a first-rate historical, philosophical and cultural legacy with Flamenco as main protagonist. As intangible with the footprint of Romans, Arabs, Jews, Arabs, Africans, Latin America and a whole melting pot of cultures that have coexisted in this city. Not in vain was it considered the cultural and economic capital of the world in the 16th century when trade with the so-called “New World” was centralized in this city. Numerous monuments such as the Cathedral, the Alcázar, the Torre del Oro among others have contribute to declare the historic center of Seville as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The legacy of cultures such as the Jewish or Arab are very evident in its streets and neighborhoods such as the Jewish quarter or neighborhood of Santa Cruz, however, to find the footprint of the gitano people, even though it is as important as those previously mentioned, remains hidden or has been ignored, erased or displaced from the city center. Thus, this project will give visibility to the contribution of the Gitano people to the city of Seville and its culture. There are two historic neighborhoods where we will find the traces of the gitano people: Triana and Alameda de Hércules.

Triana is, undoubtedly, one of the most important neighborhoods in the history of Flamenco. Indeed, numerous historical documents place it as the epicenter of the origin of Flamenco. The large gitano population that lived in the neighborhood in the 18th, 19th and almost the end of the 20th centuries was displaced to the outskirts of the city, as victims of real estate speculation and gentrification. This would condemn thousands of Roma people to segregation and social exclusion, ending centuries of coexistence in harmony with the rest of the population and interculturality. For this reason, this project will try to make visible the gitano legacy in Triana, highlighting the way of life and cultural and artistic legacy of the gitano people from this area. To achieve this, we will establish alliances with public and private actors to launch tourist routes that will show the great gitano legacy in the neighborhood through its past and current artists.





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In order to start visiting the Gitano Triana, it is important to highlight its location on the other side of the river, which has given it its idiosyncrasy as an independent neighborhood of Seville. Therefore we could start from the Antonio Mairena monument at the foot of the Triana bridge.



Already in the Triana neighborhood there are numerous memories of the gitano people related to Flamenco and also to the sphere of bullfighting.

In addition, there are Flamenco venues with activity all year round. We highlight the so-called Flamenquería, which has a cycle called “Íntimos de Triana” in which in a small space you can enjoy flamenco with a marked gitano nuance in its programming. This cycle runs from January to May with recitals every week.

<https://www.guiaflama.com/festivales-flamenco/intimos-de-triana-flamenqueria/>

La Alameda de Hércules is the second neighborhood that contains a great historical heritage related to Flamenco and the Gitano People. It is not in vain that some of the most important names in the history of Flamenco were born here, such as Manolo Caracol, La Niña de los Peines and Tomás Pavón among others. Even today we can find figures of great importance in the world of Flamenco, such as José de la Tomasa, who lives in this neighborhood.

The Gitano Heritage route in Alameda de Hércules would stop at the birthplace of Niña de los Peines and the church of San Román, church of the gitano. In addition, we can find the house where the great gitano singer Manuel Torre died, on Amapola Street.



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Feria Street and Alameda open the way with the monument to Niña de los Peines and Manolo Caracol.

ROMHERITAGE will seek collaboration with the city council to be able to point out and give relevance to points of interest that are not properly signposted.



Within the Alameda de Hércules we also find the Peña Flamenca Torres Macarena that has Flamenco activity throughout the year. Therefore, the Alameda area is an international meeting point for Flamenco fans from all over the world who want to know and learn this art, thus recognizing and disseminating the contribution of the gitano people is a way of paying tribute to the great gitano artists who lived in this neighborhood.

G. Malaga

The gitano people of Malaga have great importance in terms of the cultural legacy of this city. The gitano population resided in the center of the city and especially in the famous neighborhood of Chupa y Tira, known nowadays as Barrio de la Victoria. However, as in the case of Seville, Roma People was later displaced to peripheral neighborhoods, often in conditions of residential segregation, which worsened their living conditions and put barriers to their social inclusion.

Historically, the Victoria neighborhood was home to thousands of gitano people and it was precisely in that neighborhood that the artist Pablo Picasso lived in his childhood with gitano children who instilled in him his great love for Flamenco.

Málaga has produced some of the most significant names in the history of Flamenco and most of them were gitano. Among them, we can highlight Juan Brea, from the mid-19th century, El Piyayo also from the 19th century, Anilla la de Ronda, La Repompa, el Chino de Málaga and many others. However, most of



them do not have a space in the city of Malaga that pays tribute to them. The ROMHERITAGE project will work to create spaces where these great artists will be known and remembered. To obtain this, we will collaborate with public and private representatives.

On the other hand, the city of Malaga has numerous spaces where Flamenco is offered regularly throughout the year. These can be collaborators of great importance for the project, both tablaos such as Los Amayas or the Kelipé Flamenco Art Center, whose name in Romani language means home.



Likewise, the Juan Brea Flamenco Art Museum, which is the oldest flamenco bar (tablao) in the world, as it was founded in 1958. The tablao preserves more than 5,000 sound and visual archives.

Among them a collection of 2,500 records, some of which date back to the 19th century. We can also find posters, manila shawls, batas de cola and works dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. This museum is a reference flamenco spot in Malaga of obligatory recognition. The tablao has a valuable exhibition of 20 guitars by the great maestro Juan Brea.





H. Granada

Granada is one of the most beautiful and tourist cities in Spain. The great tourist attractions that this city offers, such as La Alhambra, are well reknown worldwide. Furthermore, the long historical relationship that this city has with its gitano citizens is of enormous value and wealth.

As it could not be otherwise, the history of flamenco in Granada has a close relationship with the gitano people. Not in vain, travelers from all over Europe arrived to Granada in the 19th century to learn about the art of the Granada gitanos. For them, Gitanos created the famous show called “Zambra Gitana” which is a way to dramatize the gitano wedding rite.



The global impact of the Zambra Gitana has led the Granada City Council to begin in 2019 the procedures for UNESCO to recognize the Zambra Gitana as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Sacromonte or 'sacred mountain', a picturesque Granada neighborhood very popular for its caves and gitano zambras, has been for centuries the place where Gitanos have lived. Likewise, the Albaicín neighborhood is another of the emblematic places for Roma.

These two neighborhoods will be points of great interest for the ROMHERITAGE Flamenco itinerary tour.

We can highlight the zambras of María la Canastera, the Tarantos cave and the Zambra del Sacromonte among others. These places are a unique experience of living Flamenco in a traditional Gitano cave.





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In addition, Granada offers other possibilities to discover Flamenco live, such as Flamenco tablaos.

During Holy Week, the gitano people and Flamenco come together in Granada to leave another of the great gitano cultural shows in Spain. The brotherhood of the Gitano of Granada and the famous Christ of the Gitanos is an international attraction. The climb of the Christ of the Gitano to the Albaicín brings together thousands of people for its impressive images and the saetas and songs sung by Roma.



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4.- Extremadura Gitana “Marochandé”

When the first gitano arrived in Extremadura they called it Morochandé. Or Marochandé, who has a variety of opinions regarding the precise pronunciation in Caló. But there is unanimity in the meaning of the term, which unites the words manró (bread) and chao (earth): Extremadura, “land of bread”. About 15,000 gitano currently live in Extremadura. Their story and that of their ancestors is still largely unwritten and unknown.

Therefore, in a region like Extremadura, the development of the ROMHERITAGE project can collaborate in the enhancement and vindication of gitano culture in this land of Spain since gitano culture is an essential part of the development and identity of Extremadura, something that could be seen in the deep-rooted gitano traditions such as the San Miguel Fair, the Plaza Alta in Badajoz, the Gitano Pilgrimage of Fregenal de la Sierra, the Chica Fair in Mérida, or in the Mojá de Varas.



The work of gitano civil society and institutional support has led to October being considered “month of gitano culture in Extremadura” since important gitano festivals take place in different towns and cities. These celebrations, some linked to religion and others to the traditional gitano trade of dealing with livestock, are centuries old and enjoy great respect among the gitano and non-gitano people of Extremadura. In addition, these are the best place to enjoy genuine Extremadura gitano Flamenco with its Jaleós, Tangos and other songs. Therefore, we recommend



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the month of October to enjoy this itinerary.

Marochandé itinerary proposal:

A. Zafra. La Feria de San Miguel

The San Miguel Fair, at the beginning of October. Currently called the International Livestock and Country Fair of Extremadura, it dates back to the 15th century, and the Traditional Rodeo (where gitano have developed a capital role) represents their most profound economic and cultural exponent.



B. Mérida, “la Feria Chica”

The Mérida Chica Fair or Gitano Fair is held after the Zafra Fair, around the second week of October. It is an important meeting point and relationship between the gitano of Extremadura residing inside and outside the region who, at this time, travel in large numbers to Mérida.





C. Fregenal de la Sierra. The Pilgrimage of Virgen de los Remedios.

The Pilgrimage of the Virgen de los Remedios is celebrated on the last weekend of the month of October at the hermitage of the Virgen de los Remedios in Fregenal de la Sierra. For more than 50 years, a large number of Roma people meet with the Majarí Calí and gather to sing, dance and express their devotion to the Virgin.





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D. Badajoz. The Plaza Alta and Feria de San Juan

We continue to Badajoz, on the banks of the Guadiana and on the border with Portugal, it is the most populated city in the region. For a long time, the largest and most diverse population of gitano in Extremadura has lived here. In its Plaza Alta (battered over the centuries, but little by little recovered for coexistence), numerous Gitano families were established over the decades, giving the Plaza the appearance of the cradle of Flamenco. This is a point of great cultural interest to highlight in the ROMHERITAGE itinerary.



Here, in the month of June we can enjoy La Feria de San Juan, one of the most deeply rooted popular events among the gitano people of Extremadura.



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Although they do not have the same entity and tradition as the previous ones, we can also mention the fairs in the province of Cáceres that are important for Gitanos: those in the capital of the province and those in the towns of Miajadas, Plasencia, Trujillo, etc.





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5.- Conclusions

With these two itineraries “Gitano Flamenco Itinerary” and “Gitano Extremadura, Marochandé”, the ROMHERITAGE project begins to design and implement itineraries of Roma culture in Spain. To perform this we have taken some of the essential values linked to the gitano people: Flamenco and the trade of cattle handling and pilgrimages in Extremadura.

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 two itineraries we are beginning the task of recovering, promoting and highlighting the gitano culture and integrating it into an attractive approach for the knowledge of gitano and non-gitano people, from the cities where the spots of the itinerary are located, as well as visitors. However, we are aware that the gitano cultural heritage extends far beyond the two 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. Likewise, it makes no sense to create five or six itineraries if they are not well established.

Despite not covering the entire gitano cultural heritage in Spain, we have started in areas where we consider that there is prior institutional support, essential to launch the activities that give meaning to the itineraries and that can serve as an example and reference so that many more spots within these thematic itineraries can be added, as well as for the creation of new ones.

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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