

PRESS RELEASE

VIA ROMEA GERMANICA has obtained from the Council of Europe the Certification of "European Cultural Route".

From today it is inserted in the great paths, such as Santiago and Francigena

The Via Romea Germanica is now a "European Cultural Route": the Council of Europe has in fact granted the maximum recognition to the Route of history, culture and tourism that crosses the entire continent from Northern Germany, to Österreich, to reach Rome. The Via Romea Germanica is thus added to the list of certified routes.

The recognition, which comes after an intense year of work, is granted by the Governing Board of the Council of Europe after a careful evaluation, after the presentation of a dossier, and with the examination of an external expert. It places the Via Romea among the great European roads and allows access to important community calls.

"A challenge and a great opportunity - comments the European president of the Via Romea Germanica Association, Flavio Foietta - that will lead our path to grow, and to implement our business alongside the territories, for cultural, tourist and economic development. We thank the many public bodies that are our associates: for years, municipalities, regions, provinces, tourism companies, natural parks and consortia have supported us and sustained the growth of this project. From the North Sea to Rome, we now intend to strengthen this collaboration, bringing new life to the project".

VIA ROMEA GERMANICA TODAY

Today the Via Romea Germanica is a European path, 2200 kilometers from Stade (north of Hamburg) to Rome; in Italy it has more than 1100 kilometers of routes, from the Brenner Pass to the Capital, crossing magnificent scenery, historic villages and landscapes from the mountains to the plains. It can be traveled on foot, for years it has been perfectly marked and usable also thanks to GPX and KMZ tracks that can be downloaded from the website.

Along the way, the EAVRG Association has long established partnerships and agreements with hotels, guest houses, B & Bs, hostels, restaurants to welcome these tourists on foot. But above all EAVRG is engaged in cultural and training projects, for the realization of events and appointments in the territories. For two years it has been working with schools

of all levels, to bring young people closer to the opportunities of slow tourism.

Great is the commitment, once the Covid emergency is over, to start again with tourist packages dedicated to walking lovers; The EAVRG Association is a partner of many Touri Operators and is available for planning trips along the way.

THE VIA ROMEA

It is a path of over 2200 kilometers, which was born from the common desire of Germans, Italians and Austrians to revive the path that in 1200 the Abbot of Stade described in one of his pilgrim travel diary. The Way is therefore based on a solid historical basis (Albert of Stade's manuscript was found in the Hamburg library), and retraces the places he cited.

For centuries the Via Romea Germanica was defined as the "melior via" for the people of the North: pilgrims and travelers from the Baltic area, Scandinavia and Northern Germany referred to it. Today it is a perfectly signposted Way, which can be followed in its entirety

(2200 kilometers) or in stages, which offers spectacular landscapes (from the German plains to the Alps, from the cities of art to the Apennines), and a rich exciting experience. A route full of history, culture, artistic and architectural testimonies. A real must for those who turn to "slow" tourism, in safety, in the open air, in the well-being of walking.

The European Association of the Via Romea Germanica with its volunteers and staff has been collaborating for years with the Municipalities, Regions and public bodies of the areas crossed to promote the development of slow, sustainable and respectful tourism. More than 80 municipal administrations have chosen to be part of it; and there are many Regions, Lander, Consortia, Tourist Companies and Natural Parks that have joined. The Via Romea Germanica therefore thrives on participation and local and European development.

Tourists and pilgrims travel safely, thanks to the "credential" issued by the Association and which certifies their status as "peregrinus ad limina Petri et Pauli". And the credential also gives access to discounts on overnight stays and meals in affiliated structures.

THE DECISION OF THE COE

The decision of the Council of Europe comes after a long process that began in 2019, when the European Via Romea Germanica Association - born from Romweg Abtei von Stade, Jerusalem Way and Associazione Via Romea Germanica - presented the application, accompanied by a long dossier to prove that it has the required characteristics. In December 2019, the Council of Europe sent an inspection by an external "referee" to verify the state of affairs.

On October 8th it was the Governing Board of the Council of Europe that "questioned" the leaders of the Way in a public hearing. To then decide for recognition. Today the verdict: the members of the Governing Board voted unanimously for the certification.

Flavio Foietta, EAVRG president - **Thomas Dahms**, EAVRG vicepresident,
Johannes Aschauer, EAVRG vicepresident

WEBSITE with additional immagine and texts

www.viaromeagermanica.com

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