



# European Historic Thermal Towns

a cultural route of the Council of Europe since 2010



THE EUROPEAN  
ROUTE OF  
HISTORIC  
THERMAL  
TOWNS

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



## Media Kit 2021

Since ancient times, people have been drawn to the healing thermal mineral waters of Europe.

Our spa towns were the first major tourist destinations, and as such have a centuries-old tradition of welcome. High quality hotels, grand villas, theatres, festivals, parks and gardens all complement the “thermal architecture” which houses our healing waters.

We know how to relax, but also about the benefits of fresh air and exercising in the countryside that surrounds our towns, as well as healthy appetising local food and good wine!

We invite you to take the waters, relax and stay a while!

### Key themes in 2021:

**Cultural Route** of the Council of Europe – explore Europe’s Thermal Heritage through our member towns and regions.

**European Year of Rail 2021**– many of the earliest railways went to the spa resorts of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some were built to transport growing numbers of spa guests, and some towns experienced a revival when the railways arrived. In the European Year of Rail 2021, this year’s focus is on rail as a sustainable means of travel, and as an authentic spa town experience.

**Thermal towns as places of wellbeing** – looking forward to the annual *European Thermal Heritage Day* in October on the subject of “Therapeutic Landscapes”, the landscape surrounding our towns can be used for walking, hiking, ski-ing, cycling, boating – fresh air, exercise and wellbeing are part of the spa town offer, adding value to the thermal waters.



**2009** Founding members were: Bath (UK), Spa (BE), Vichy (FR), Ourense (ES), Acqui Terme (IT), Salsomaggiore Terme (IT).

**2010** Certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe

**49** Members today (37 thermal towns and 12 thermal regions and associations)

**18** Countries in our network.

**2** Hours’ drive to an airport for most of our towns, good rail connections.

**1840** Bath Spa Railway station opened - first in our network

**5\*** Hotels, thermal hotels and good quality accommodation

**90°C** – hottest water in our network in Bursa, Turkey

**58.3917°N** Most northerly member is Pärnu, Estonia

**118** Budapest, Hungary has the most springs in one place

**Before 20,000 BCE**

Earliest known use of springs - Aedipsos, Chaves and Montecatini Terme were all known in the Paleolithic era.

**European Historic Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA) /European Route of Historic Thermal Towns**

Registered Office: Hôtel de Ville, Rue de l’Hôtel de Ville, 44, 4900 SPA, BELGIUM

EHTTA is an International Non-Profit Association (ASIBL), Registration No 0823.039.357

## Social Media and print:

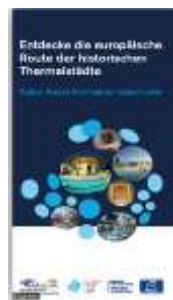
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#ThermalTravels #ThermalHeritage #CulturalRoutes #ThermalArchitecture #HistoricThermalTowns



EHTTA Brochure



General leaflet in 13 languages



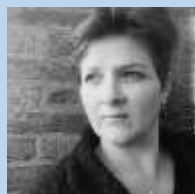
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## To arrange visits to any of our member towns or region, please contact us:



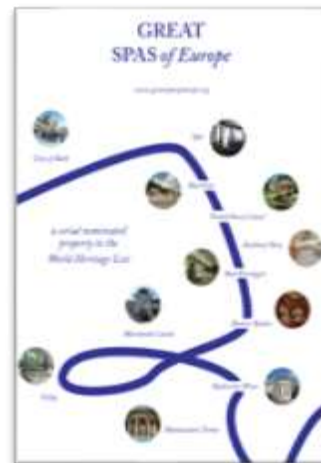
Simone Zagrodnik  
EHTTA Executive Director  
[simone.zagrodnik@ehtta.eu](mailto:simone.zagrodnik@ehtta.eu)  
Tel: +49 172 3080097

Catherine Lloyd  
Communications, Projects, Support  
[communications@ehtta.eu](mailto:communications@ehtta.eu)  
Tel: +44 7875275059



EHTTA is responsible for managing the **European Route of Historic Thermal Towns**, a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2010. Launched by the Council of Europe in 1987, “the Cultural Routes demonstrate by means of a journey through space and time how the heritage of the different countries and cultures of Europe contributes to a shared and living cultural heritage”.

## Great Spas of Europe



Several of EHTTA’s members are also part of the **Great Spas of Europe**, a group of eleven spa towns across seven countries that has been nominated to UNESCO for inscription on the World Heritage List as a transnational serial ‘property’.

The property – eleven places developed around mineral springs – provides exceptional testimony to a complex, and unprecedented urban typology and cultural movement – the spa town. **The Great Spas of Europe** marks the greatest development of this phenomenon.

[www.greatspasofeurope.org](http://www.greatspasofeurope.org)

[www.ehtta.eu](http://www.ehtta.eu)