

## **Best practice 27: “El legado andalusí”, Spain.**

**Scale:** Transnational

**Stage of tourism development:** Mature

**Main objective:** Regional development/ Destination promotion

### Categories of effects:

#### **Effects on urban governance**

- Cultural tourism strategy
- Regional cooperation
- Networks of cities
- Stakeholder participation
- Regional cooperation
- Destination management

#### **Effects on quality of life**

- Built heritage diversity
- Cultural practices and representations
- Urban economies
- Social life, local values and traditions

The “Legado Andalusí” represents a successful network of cities, not only in the South of Spain, but also in the North of Africa, as it works on enhancing the value of the cultural heritage dating back to the Spanish-Muslim period. In this sense, « Legado Andalusí », which has been elected as European Cultural Route in 1998 by the Council of Europe, fosters intercultural dialogue and cooperation within the Mediterranean basin. This is a proof of the dimension of this initiative, and represents its importance at an international level. The European Cultural Routes’ programme was established by the Council of Europe in 1987, on the basis of an initiative of the Council for Cultural Cooperation (CDCC). Its objective was to invite Europeans to follow and profit from the path through which European identity was forged. In effect, “Legado Andalusí” has been a successful example of a network working for a closer cooperation among countries and cultures. The idea of creating these routes was not only meant to be the physical way one can follow, but also to integrate the symbolic concept of a cultural cooperation process that requires the cooperation of scientific experts, and acting as well as a meeting point for local and regional authorities, and civil society. Also, the Foundation wanted to offer new alternative tourism and cultural development possibilities, whose outcome has been so far very positive. For all these reasons, the “Legado Andalusí” Foundation fosters the development and diffusion of routes such as the “Almoravids and Almohads”, which integrate cities in Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Mali and Senegal (e.g. Bejaia in Algeria, Kairouan in Tunisia, Cordoba and Jerez in Spain, or Silve in Portugal). Many small and medium-sized cities are profiting from the positive development of these routes, and enhancing their urban economies and cultural tourism value, thanks to being part of this network.

**Source:** European Institute of Cultural Routes, 2006.

#### **Links:**

[www.legadoandalusi.es](http://www.legadoandalusi.es)

[www.culture-routes.lu](http://www.culture-routes.lu)