

A Travel of Discoveries



In the footsteps of Pietro Querini



PIETRO QUERINI: an ancient epic that speaks to contemporary Europe.

Via Querinissima cultural route follows the steps of the adventurous travel undertaken by Pietro Querini between 25th April 1431 and 25 January 1433: today it remains a journey of discoveries across different regions, cultures, traditions, and common values.



According to his travel memories, on 25th April 1431 the noble Venetian merchant Pietro Querini set sail with his *Cocca Querina* and a crew of 68 men from the port of Candia, as the Venetians called **Heraklion (Creete)**, where his family owned a vineyard of Malvasia, towards Flanders with a cargo of sweet wine, spices and precious woods. Suddenly, a storm destroyed the vessel, and Pietro Querini with a few survivors was shipwrecked on the island of **Sandøya**, north of the Arctic Circle, in present-day Norway.

Here the castaways were rescued, welcomed and supported for a few months by the fishing community that lived on the nearby island of **Røst**.

During the weeks spent on the island, Querini and his companions had the chance to meet and discover a different and unknown cultures, the Arctic one, completely different from the Venetian and Mediterranean one.

Among the heritage and traditions they learned about, they also discovered a new method for preserving stockfish, reported in their travel memories.

History, Stories, Heritage: a European Network

Querini's travel memories are preserved in the Marciana Library in Venice and in the Vatican Apostolic Library. They represent an incredible testimony of this journey, the story of a tragedy, but also a story of solidarity, hope and intercultural dialogue.

Via Querinissima, follows in Querini's steps, and connects today's Europe from south to north, and vice versa, by sea and land: from the calm Mediterranean coasts, to the stormy nordic fjords, crossing countries, ports, cities, discovering monuments, traditions, thus reinforcing local identities, artefacts and typical products.

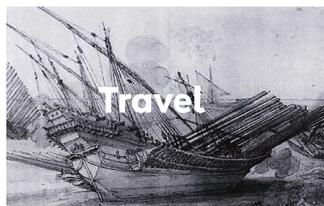
In order to preserve, promote and develop cooperation along Via Querinissima, an international association was created in 2022, involving, among the others, local authorities, museums, researchers and SMEs.



Journey through the storytelling by Pietro Querini, Cristoforo Fioravanti and Nicolò De Michelis diaries. On the top of the page a picture's detail of Fra Mauro's world map preserved at the Marciana National Library (Venice)



History



Travel



Places



Culture

Via Querinissima is a European Cultural Route connecting Southern and Northern Europe on the footsteps of Pietro Querini.



viaquerinissima.net