



# MINES.B

European Mining Route of  
Santa Barbara Federation

✂ PORTFOLIO ✂



Center za upravljanje  
z dediščino živega srebra  
in Hg Mercury Heritage  
Management Centre



# What is MINES.B?



The **European Mining Route of Saint Barbara (MINES.B)** is an itinerary with multiple values in which the partners work with the determined intent of animating, upgrading and bringing to light the potential of those territories that were the protagonists of European mining history.

The focus is the **mining heritage** - material and immaterial - repropose through a tourist-cultural itinerary which virtually connects some of the important mining sites of Europe.

The characteristic of this itinerary is to include within it several **local routes**: in fact, MINES.B partners, are committed to making this significant mining heritage accessible by creating itineraries to be traveled on foot and by bicycle, according to the modalities of **slow and green tourism**.





The main objective of the Federation is to

**keep alive the history of the men and women of the mine,**

who have shaped their lives according to the mining activity that marked the rhythm of their days and their lives, to add precious and essential pieces of the evolution of humanity contributing to the construction of a

**common European identity.**





The watchwords underlying the purposes and the entire activity of the itinerary are therefore:

- **cooperation** between partners;
- **enhancement of the memory**, history and European heritage linked to the life of the mine widely understood;
- **cultural and educational exchanges** for young Europeans in order to pass on the knowledge, history and traditions linked to the great mining epic;
- **contemporary cultural and artistic practice** through the creation of shared cultural entertainment events related to music and art, giving new life to the most significant places in mining archeology;
- **tourism and sustainable cultural development**, favoring green mobility through the enhancement of pedestrian or cycle paths and itineraries along ancient mining paths immersed in a unique environmental landscape heritage in the world.



# MINES.B PARTNERS:



## Fondazione Cammino Minerario di Santa Barbara Sardinia, Italy

Made up of the union of 25 municipalities, 2 dioceses and a voluntary association, the Cammino Minerario di Santa Barbara Foundation operates in the south-west of Sardinia Island (Italy) through redevelopment projects of disused mining sites and ancient mining routes and through animation activities related to music, art and culture in general. The foundation has created a **path of 500 km** that can be traveled in **30 stages**, on paths, mule tracks, cart tracks and dirt driveways, marking the ancient mining paths of the miners, in a historical and cultural itinerary **in the Geomineral Historical and Environmental Park of Sardinia** at the discovery of the sites that made the history of the mining epic in Sardinia, Italy and Europe: from the Monteponi Mine to the Montevecchio one, from the Serbariu Mine up to Rosas, Monti Mannu, Bacu Abis, just to name a few.

**Memory, identity** and **slow tourism** are the keywords of a continuous work that aims to make young people protagonists in the enhancement of the material and intangible heritage of the territories in which they live, rediscovering Sardinia as a crossroads of the Mediterranean and a meeting point between peoples, civilizations and eras.





## Comarca Andorra-Sierra de Arcos

Teruel, Spain

The **Andorra-Sierra de Arcos region** is made up of the towns of Alacón, Alloza, Andorra, Ariño, Crivillén, Ejulve, Estercuel, Gargallo and Oliete. Located in the north of the province of Teruel. This territory hides a rich landscape of marked contrasts, where paleontology, archeology, architecture, art and tradition converge in a surprising natural and geological setting.

Here you will be able to know the abundant and particular **mining heritage** in Ariño and in the **mining museum** of Andorra-Sierra de Arcos, **MWINAS**; enjoy driving in The Silent Route, or explore its nature through numerous trails and BTT routes such as the Masías de Ejulve and regain strength by relaxing in the Ariño Spa or tasting the local gastronomy.

With a deep mining tradition, the economy of these areas has turned around the extraction of coal, lignite, and its transformation into Andorra's power station. An industrial heritage that can be seen in our mining museum, MWINAS and in our landscape. One of the objectives of this institution has always been to network with other realities that are also dedicated to the conservation of mining heritage, its enhancement and cultural and touristic revitalization. One of the latest projects links our mining heritage with green and sustainable tourism: to unite all the places with mining remains in the region through hiking and bicycle routes. The project is called **Caminos Mineros (CM)** and has been inspired by this network and by the Italian Santa Bárbara Mining Trail project.



## Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Centre

Idrija, Slovenia

“**Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrija**” was inscribed on **UNESCO** World Heritage list in 2012. The property includes the mining sites of Almadén (Spain), where mercury has been extracted since antiquity, and Idrija (Slovenia), the oldest mining town in Slovenia where mercury was first found in 1490. Idrija's World Heritage Site includes the heritage of the mine and all the mining activities associated with it. This includes the mercury ore deposit, underground shafts and galleries, mine entrances, administrative buildings, smelter, mercury and wheat storehouses, residential houses, school buildings, churches and transport routes used for mercury export.

This heritage represents a vital aspect of the region's history, culture, and identity, serving as a tangible link to the past. The effort to **preserve Idrija's mining heritage** extends beyond the physical conservation of historic sites and artifacts. It also entails **promoting responsible tourism**, developing **educational programs**, and engaging local communities.

The Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Centre was established by the Government of Slovenia for the purpose to ensure the integrated and sustainable management of the cultural heritage and natural assets associated with the Idrija mercury deposit in Idrija. The initiative for our project **"Mining Routes of St. Barbara"** came about through the Center's involvement in the MINES.B Federation.





## Mission Bassin Minier (MBM)

Nord-Pas de Calais, France

The **Mission Bassin Minier (MBM)** was created in 2000 by decision of the French Government. This specific public agency helps local and regional government authorities to reboost the **urban regeneration** and **sustainable redevelopment of the coalfield**.

Since 2012, the Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin has been inscribed on the **UNESCO** World Heritage List. It is as a treasure for humankind, as a “living and evolving cultural landscape”.

The tasks of the MBM include the **protection and promotion the mining heritage**, as well as the implementation of a programme of actions (spatial planning, urban regeneration, rehabilitation of coalmining housing estate ; development of the Coalfield Green belt ; studies and expertise for the revitalization and reuse of closed down coal pits, former coalmining railway tracks etc.).

One of the most important objectives of The Mission Bassin Minier's is to provide educational initiatives to familiarize local inhabitants with the rich mining heritage of the Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin.





CHRÁM SVATÉ BARBORY

## Cathedral of Saint Barbara

Kutna Hora, Czech Republic

The ancient **silver mining town of Kutná Hora** is one of the most historically significant towns in the Czech Republic.

The **Cathedral of St Barbara** is a Roman Catholic church inscribed on the **UNESCO** World Heritage List together with the historical centre of Kutná Hora and with the Cathedral of the Assumption of Our Lady and St John the Baptist in Kutna Hora-Sedlec. The Cathedral is dedicated to **Virgin Barbara**, an early Christian martyr and **patron of miners**.

The first works related to the constructions of the structure are linked to Parler's famous building workshop. The construction of the cathedral was entrusted in 1388. The activities of this workshop were supplemented by the work of many other ingenious artists and builders, including the famous Benedikt Ried, among others. He is the author of the so-called empora (an indoor gallery on the first floor of the cathedral), the design of the unmistakable tent roofs and the stellar vault over the cathedral's main nave. The cathedral's present-day appearance dates back to the 19th and 20th centuries, when the church underwent an extensive regothisation and a total restoration. St Barbara's Cathedral is owned by the Roman Catholic Parish – Kutná Hora Achdeanery.





## Le Bois du Cazier

Marcinelle, Belgium

Le **Bois du Cazier** is a former coalmine located, near Charleroi, in the south of Belgium in a green hollow thanks to its three spoil heaps.

The site is now a **museum** devoted to coal, iron and glass laid out in three areas. Here, moreover 60.000 visitors per year discover the **story of the industrialisation of Wallonia and the work and life of the coalminers**, 8th August 1956 disaster and the nature on the 25 hectares wooded area.

Since 2012, Le Bois du Cazier, along with three other Major Mining Sites of Wallonia, is listed as world heritage by **UNESCO**. Since 2018, it has been recognized as European Heritage

Le Bois du Cazier is a museum so it is implicated in different missions. But it is also a *site of conscience* and in that frame one of its aim is to turn memory into action. With the guided tours, the educational activities, the temporary exhibitions, the events, colloquiums, seminars... the aim is to make informed and engaged citizens about contemporary topics as safety at work, phenomenon's migration and environment.





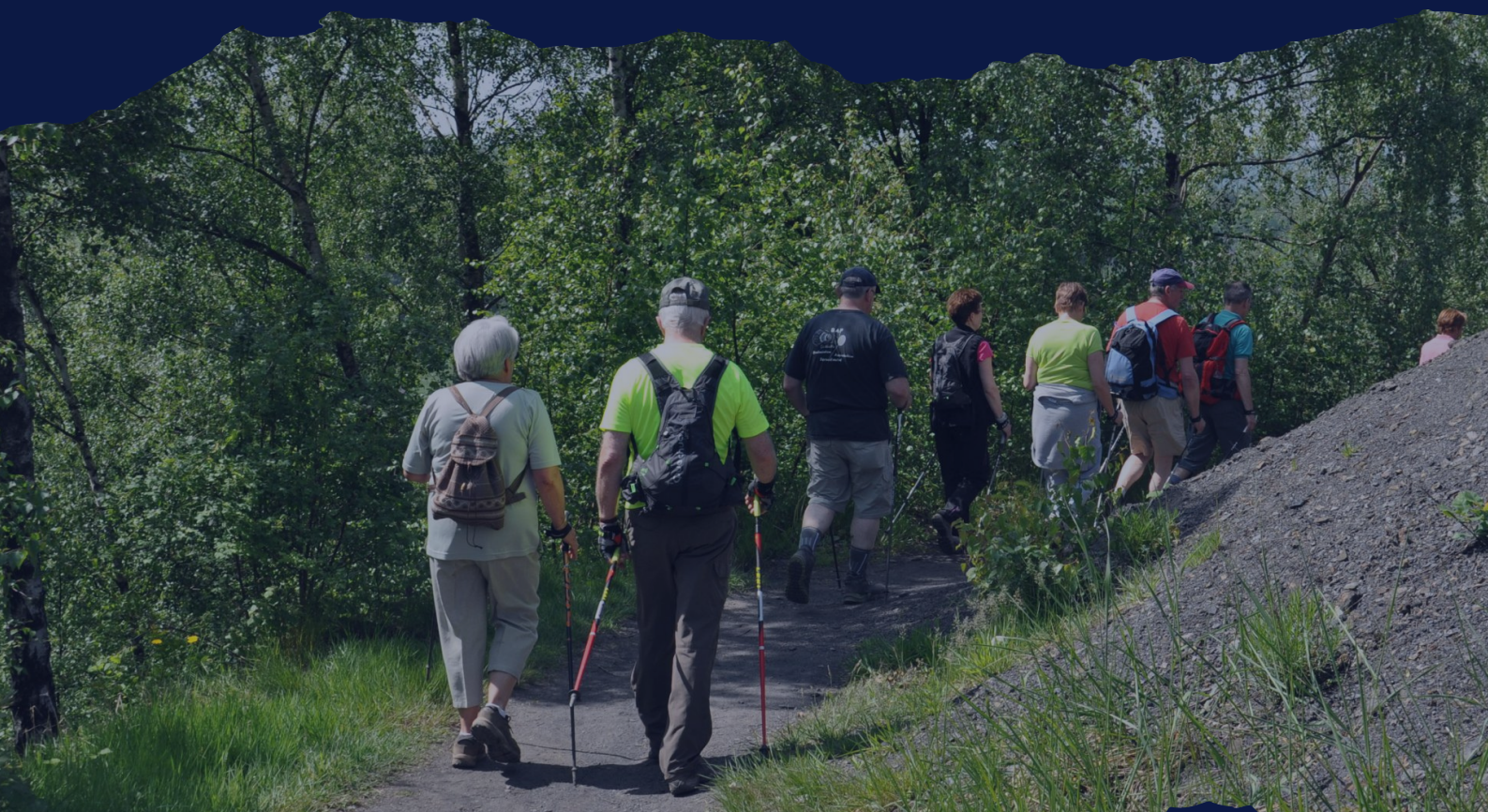
## Les Sentiers des Grande Randonnée - GR412

Namur, Belgium

The **GR412** has been worked out as a **tribute to the miners** who have worked in the many mines in this region of Belgium. The **route** is almost **300 kilometers** long and runs from Bernissart to Blegny-Mine through mining areas of the Borinage, the Center, Charleroi and Liège.

The GR412 takes its number from the date of St Barbara's Day (every 4th December), the miners' votive feast day. From the Bernissart fire station to the Blegny mine, over 300 kilometres of hiking, the GR 412 takes you along the Walloon slag chain. A **hiking route designed around the former coal mines**. The landscapes of the slag chain are today among the most astonishing in Wallonia.

These **man-made hills**, built by the mining industry in the 19th and 20th centuries, are today considered **monuments of natural and historical heritage**. At the foot of these slag heaps, it is possible to discover or rediscover emblematic sites such as **Grand-Hornu, Bois-du-Luc, Bois du Cazier** and **Blegny-Mine**, as well as other places linked to the memory of the men, women and children of the mines that contributed to the development of Belgium during the Industrial Revolution. You walk along waterways, sluices, lifts, paths and tracks that were once railway lines and industrial cathedrals. At the bend of the slag heaps and trails, the GR412 crosses sites of great biological interest, inhabited by all those species that bring us back to nature in places where we do not expect it.





## Barborská cesta

Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

**Barborská cesta** is a tourist **route** almost **200 km** long. It **connects** the most important **mining towns** and locations in Central Slovakia. It is a project of the civic association Banský Regi3n – Terra Montanae, which brings together entities such as self-governing regions, entrepreneurs, tourism organizations, the church, mining associations, schools, universities and individuals.

The oldest evidence of metal mining comes from the Eneolithic period, and the history of systematic mining, metallurgy, coinage, and copper processing dates back to the 10th century. After the establishment of Hungary, the Germans and Flemish came with knowledge of effective mining methods, which they also taught the local population. Thanks to the **mining activity**, the region became one of the most **important crossroads of trade routes** in Europe.

The **combination of** the diverse **wild natural landscape** of Central Slovakia with a **landscape shaped by human activity** which can be found here is truly rare.

The route of the Barbara's Way makes localities and heritage accessible to locals and visitors alike, presented as a whole in its connections and in the context of the influence on the development of Slovakia over the last 500 years. The project aims to **revive and develop the heritage of a multinational and multicultural environment** in the heart of today's Europe.



# OUR MEMBERS:



For more details and membership opportunities visit the website:

<https://www.minesb.eu/>

and contact the reference email:

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