Some words and phrases in Romani dialects

Roma, Manouche, Kale, Sinti, Romany Gypsy and people from the Romani diaspora live across the world.

There are more than 10 million people of Romani descent in Europe alone. Romani, Romanes or Romani čhib (Romani tongue) is a rich family of languages with an Indo-Aryan root. It is the only Indo-Aryan language that has been spoken exclusively in Europe since the Middle Ages.

Much of the vocabulary and grammar are related to Sanskrit. The language used by Romani people is a source of great pride, it facilitates connection and communication between the Romani diaspora across the world. Nearly all Romani speakers are multilingual (speak another language) and will use the language of the majority population where they live. It is estimated that there are 4.6 million Romani speakers in Europe.

There are many different dialects of Romani spoken in England alone. The language is historically fluid, adapting with location and between families. There may be differences in words or structure commonly spoken across Europe and there may be a difference in spelling or pronunciation.

HELLO

Galicja (Rumungry)
Lacio Giles
Kalderash
Bahtalo
Lovari
Lasho djes
English Romaniachal
Kushti divvus

WELCOME

Galicja (Rumungry)
Jal Bahtali / Bahtalo
Kalderash
Mišto avilean
Lovari
Po sastipe
English Romaniachal
‘Vel adrey
GOODBYE

Galicia (Rumuny)
Deloreha
Kalderash
Ceau

Lovari
Lasho djes/devla sa
English Romaniachal
Devlesa

MY HOME IS...

Galicia (Rumuny)
Mindoro kher hino
Kalderash
Moro char si
Lovari
Moro ker si
English Romaniachal
Mandies kher/kenna’s

THIS IS MY HOME

Galicia (Rumuny)
Kada hin mindoro kher
Kalderash
Cado si moro char
Lovari
Kado si moro ker
English Romaniachal
Kuvva’s mandies kher/kenna

FAMILY

Galicia (Rumuny)
Familja
Kalderash
Familia
Lovari
Nipo/Familia
English Romaniachal
Mandies folki
**FOOD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Galicja (Rumungry)</th>
<th>Kalderash</th>
<th>Lovari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haben</td>
<td>Sukar</td>
<td>Haben</td>
<td>Habe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English Romaniachal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rinkeni</td>
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</table>

**BEAUTIFUL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Galicja (Rumungry)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Szukar</td>
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<td>Lovari</td>
<td>Sukar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Romaniachal</td>
<td>Rinkeni</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Galicja (Rumungry)</th>
<th>Kalderash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macka (cat)</td>
<td>Rukono (dog)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Animale chereske</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lovari</td>
<td>Muci/Goukel</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Romaniachal</td>
<td>Jiviners</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MY HOME HAS...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Galicja (Rumungry)</th>
<th>Kalderash</th>
<th>Lovari</th>
<th>English Romaniachal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dre mindoro kher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ande</td>
<td>Ande moro ker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kie mande khere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>moro</td>
<td>moro ker si</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moro char sas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adrey mandies kher/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ando moro char sas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kenna amandies diks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IN MY HOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Galicja (Rumungry)</th>
<th>Kalderash</th>
<th>Lovari</th>
<th>English Romaniachal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kie mande khere</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Ande moro ker sas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrey mandies kher</td>
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<td>Adrey mandies kher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrey mandies kher</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrey mandies kher/</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kenna amandies diks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WE COOK

Galicia (Rumungry)
Talas
Kalderash
Amen chiravas
Lovari
Chi ravas
English Romaniachal
Amandies ker hobben

WE PLAY

Galicia (Rumungry)
Baszalas
Kalderash
Amen chelasamen
Lovari
Ame kelasaman
English Romaniachal
Amandies kel

WE DANCE

Galicia (Rumungry)
Khelas
Kalderash
Amen chelas
Lovari
Ame kelas
English Romaniachal
Amandies kel

WE SING

Galicia (Rumungry)
Gilalas
Kalderash
Amen ghilabas
Lovari
Ame gilabas
English Romaniachal
Amandies kom gilling

We would like to thank Gabriel Covaci, Mania Malek, Mattey Mitchell and Sonia Michalewicz for supporting us with these translations.
Some words and phrases in Irish Cant

For Irish Traveller or Mincéir people, the language you speak can have different names.

Mincéir Thari (which translates to ‘Traveller talk’) can be called Shelta, Cant or De Gammon.

It is an ancient indigenous language formed using the Ogham technique, gradually developing towards its present form under the pressure of contact with Irish and Hiberno-English.

The closest living language is old Irish, which was spoken in Ireland pre 1200s. While the language is practiced mainly through the oral tradition, with very little written history of it, the words for ‘priest’ and ‘God’ shown in old, pre-Christian documents in Ireland show shared lineation between the languages.

Irish Cant is widely used today and the majority of people who speak it also speak English. There are different dialects of Irish Cant and in Ireland alone, pronunciation and spelling of particular words can differ between regions and families.

We would like to thank Traveller Pride for supporting us with these translations.
Some words and phrases in Scottish Cant

Scottish Cant is spoken between Scottish Gypsy Traveller or Nacken people.

While there can be general strains of Cant, localised dialects mean there are infinite evolutions of words and phrases. The language is almost entirely oral and differs between geographical locations or through family and social preferences. The language is constantly evolving.

For Scottish Gypsy Travellers, Scottish Cant is often the first language for children, but will be accompanied by other languages used by parents.

Scottish Cant shares greater commonality with Rromanés than with Gaelic languages, revealing the lineage of Scottish Gypsy Travellers from Northern India, with Roma peoples. It is part of the phenomenon of Indic diaspora languages spoken by travelling communities of Indian origin outside India.

There are different dialects of Scottish Cant and in Scotland alone, there can be differences in words commonly spoken across the country and differences in spelling between people.

We would like to thank Davie Donaldson for supporting us with these translations.

Come in
Bing anee

Look at my place
Deek naggins stallins

I stay in a house
Naggins bides an Keir

I stay in a camp/a trailer
An wattle

My home has...
Naggins stallins has

Family
Naggins Hantle

Beautiful
Beenship

Food
Habbin

I have one small dog
Naggins has yaick technie yaffin

I have two big cats
Naggins has dui muckle meowin-chaets

In my home
In naggins’s stalin...

We cook
Wor noggins ker habbin

We sing
Wor noggins Chant

We dance
Wor noggins Grib