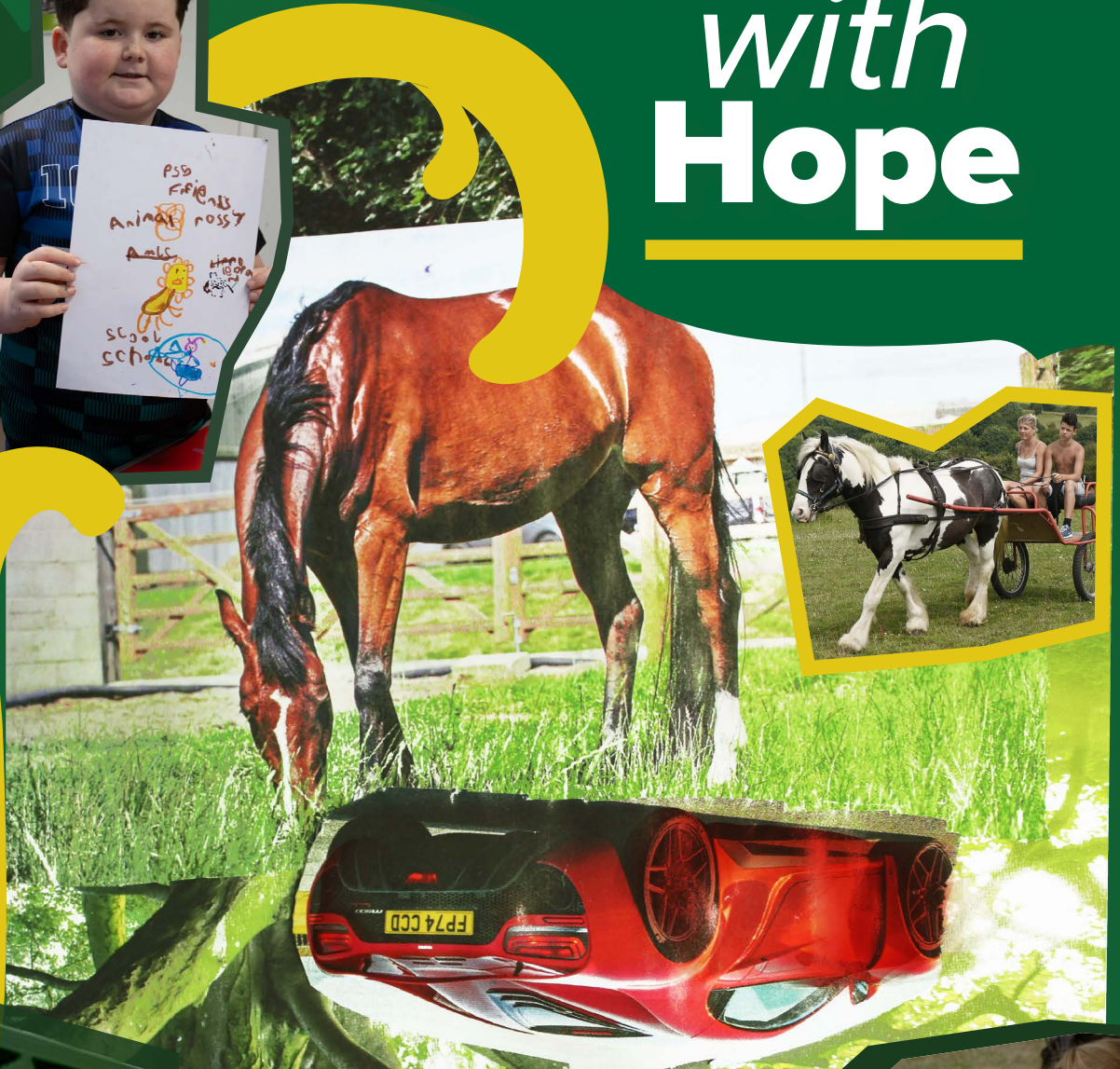


**GRTHM:**  
**Onwards  
with  
Hope**



**H  
O  
P  
E**



**FRIENDS,  
FAMILIES &  
TRAVELLERS**

**BROCHURE**

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# Introduction

## Welcome to our Digital Engagement Pack for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2026!

Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM). During this month, we celebrate Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic communities, histories and cultures.

GRTHM is an opportunity to celebrate, educate and raise awareness of the barriers and issues affecting traditionally nomadic communities. By taking part, you can help make society more welcoming for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

While GRTHM is officially marked in June, promoting inclusivity and acceptance can and should be done all year round. To aid this, we've made our GRTHM packs available all year round! Head over to our [GRTHM resource page](#), to find past resources.

*As always, happy Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2026! We look forward to seeing how you choose to celebrate.*

# Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month: “Onwards with hope”

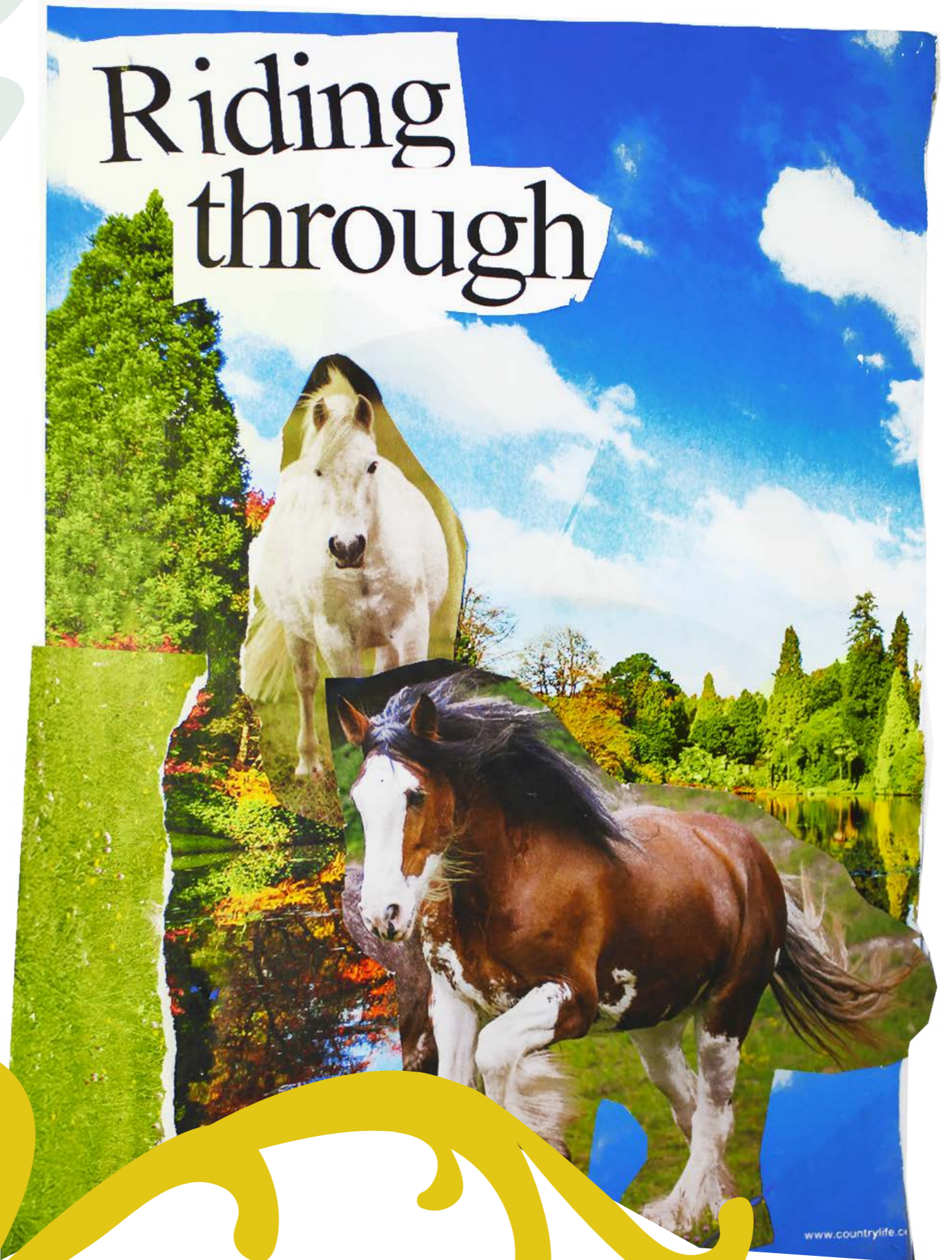


This year, we wanted to shift focus towards what the future could look like. GRTHM has often been about looking back and reflecting on the past, and although the rich and diverse histories, cultures and traditions of Romany, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic communities are profoundly interwoven with the present, we want to explore how these communities plan to shape the future.

There are so many young inspiring Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people across society – just take FFT Awards as proof, where countless young people were nominated for their wonderful achievements! – as well as older generations who have long stood against inequalities, discrimination and harm. But there’s lots to celebrate too. That’s why this June, we’re asking questions like ‘what kind of future do we want to build together?’, ‘what gives you hope?’, and ‘how does hope make you feel?’.

This year’s theme grew out of a series of conversations involving people from Romany, Roma and Traveller communities across the UK, as part of the co-production that takes place at Friends, Families and Travellers. We’re extremely grateful to everyone who shared their time, thoughts, ideas and perspectives with us.

We would love to see anything you create, so make sure to tag us! You can find our socials at the back of this pack, and please use [#GRTHM26](#) and [#OnwardsWithHope](#) when sharing.



# Before we get started...

There are lots of resources that explore the diverse cultures and histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities...It can just take a bit of time to digest all of the information that is out there!

To make things a little bit easier, we've created this timeline with some must-know information:

[Click here for the full timeline](#)

## GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER HISTORY MONTH

### GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER PEOPLE, CULTURES, AND TRADITIONS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

<p><b>998AD</b></p> <p>People with Roma heritage travelled from northwest India to places as far as the British Isles.</p> <p>Medieval English laws prohibited non-Christians from owning land, which meant that Roma people were often forced to live in the forests and mountains.</p>	<p><b>1100s</b></p> <p>Arabic laws in Eastern Europe gave a community of people called 'Gypsies' the right to own land.</p> <p>Medieval English laws prohibited non-Christians from owning land, which meant that Roma people were often forced to live in the forests and mountains.</p>	<p><b>1200s</b></p> <p>Roma people in the territories of modern-day Germany were often in chains and forced to work in mines, and in the 13th century, they were expelled from the country.</p> <p>Roma people in the territories of modern-day Germany were often in chains and forced to work in mines, and in the 13th century, they were expelled from the country.</p>	<p><b>1500s</b></p> <p>In 1505, King Henry VIII's 'Gypsies Act' required Roma people to be registered by 1510, or else they would be considered 'vagrants' and sent to workhouses.</p> <p>In 1555, King Edward VI's 'Gypsies Act' required Roma people to be registered by 1560, or else they would be considered 'vagrants' and sent to workhouses.</p>	<p><b>1600s</b></p> <p>Many Roma people in the British Isles were often in chains and forced to work in mines, and in the 13th century, they were expelled from the country.</p> <p>Many Roma people in the British Isles were often in chains and forced to work in mines, and in the 13th century, they were expelled from the country.</p>	
<p><b>2017</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>2018</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>2019 - 2020</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>2020</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>2021</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>2022</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>
<p><b>March 2025</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>December 2024</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>May 2024</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>2024</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>2024</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>	<p><b>2023</b></p> <p>The UK Government announced that Roma Travellers in the UK would be given the same rights as other Travellers.</p>



## Recent history

Take a look below at some of the more **recent landmark changes, achievements** and **events** for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities **across the UK**.

**2023**

Supreme Court rules 'Anti-Traveller' wide injunctions have a negative impact on Gypsies' and Travellers' ability to pursue a nomadic way of life.



**2024**

New powers brought in by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 challenged at the High Court by Wendy Smith, a Romany Gypsy, with FFT and Liberty acting as Interveners.

**2024**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission finds Pontins Holiday Park acted 'unlawfully' against Irish Travellers, following an investigation into the holiday park's blacklist of Irish-sounding names.



**May 2024**

High Court declares parts of Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSCA) in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

**December 2024**

Planning definition of 'Traveller' reverts to more-inclusive pre-2015 definition, which better reflects accommodation needs of many Gypsies and Travellers.

**March 2025**

The UN's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights calls for repeal of PCSCA's eviction powers against roadside camps.

**May 2025**

NHS England takes a major step by recommending that health bodies across the UK include Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller people in patient data, aligning records with the 2021 census.

**March 2026**

Government's amendment to Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (PCSCA) to revert 12-month area ban change back to the original (pre-PCSCA) 3 months accepted.



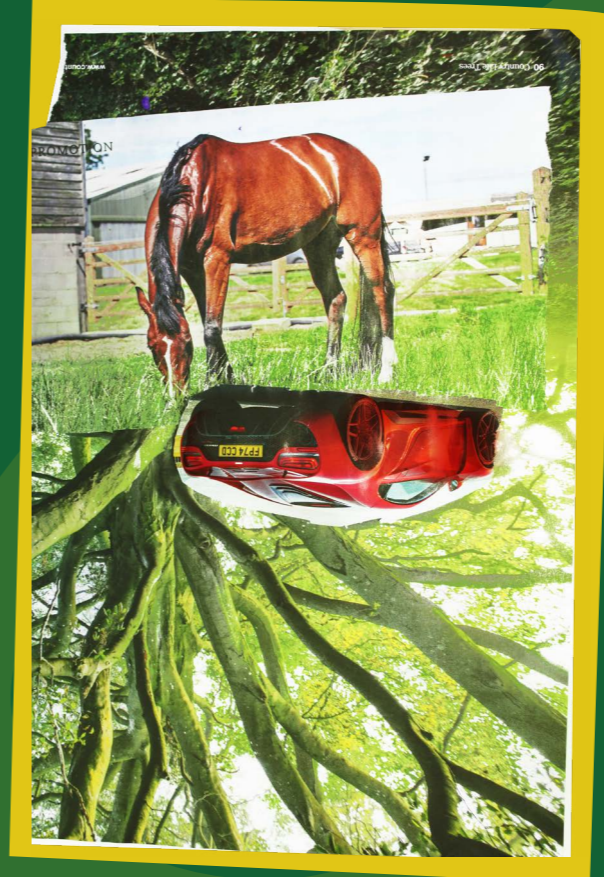
# Onwards with hope: What could the future look like?

# H O P E

Everyone can be inspired by anyone, or anything! Inspiration can take many forms – whether it's a place or a person, and often helps people branch out into the unknown, stay motivated, or keep going in the face of adversity.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have long shaped British society and made a profound difference to people's lives, but you might struggle to find much about it. This GRTHM, we're working to change that.

We asked you about the inspiring Romany, Roma, Irish Traveller, Liveaboard Boater, Showmen and New Traveller people in your life. Here is a selection of special stories you shared, from across the communities:



Collages created by children of St. Michael's Way

## Celebrating *Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month* on social media

This June, get talking about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media. We've made it as easy as possible by including template images and text (below) you can use!

Let us know what you get up to by using these hashtags:

**#GRTHM26 #OnwardsWithHope**

We'll be sharing lots about GRTHM across June on our social channels. Follow us to keep updated!

### EXAMPLE POST:



Click on  
image to  
download:

Feel free to come up with your own – don't forget to use the hashtags and tag us!

If you're from a Romany Gypsy, Traveller, or Roma background, we want you to know that you're always welcome here.

This #GRTHM26, we're taking the time to learn about the colourful histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities—come along!

<https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm/>

Find image at: <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/GRTHM26.webp>

-  @GypsyTravellers
-  /FriendsFamiliesandTravellers
-  @FriendsFamiliesandTravellers

## A note on this year's theme:

This year's theme grew out of a series of conversations and workshops involving young people from Romany, Roma and Traveller communities across the UK, as part of the co-production that takes place at Friends, Families and Travellers.

We're extremely grateful to everyone who shared their time, thoughts, ideas and perspectives with us, and to those who facilitated the group collage sessions. Some of the beautiful art that you can see across this year's GRTHM resources was produced by young Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people during those very sessions!

wheels and whispers

they come with dawn, the morning folk, smoke  
curling from soft Prom fires they stoke, bare  
feet dancing over dew, their world is old, their  
hearts are ~~toe~~ true.

Boys with laughter in their stride, Eyes like print  
and sparks inside, & quick to run, and slow  
to fear, the road ahead is always near.

Girls like rivers, bold and wide, Braids and  
bangles, full of pride, singing songs their nanas  
knew, of horses, stars, and skies so blue.

they build their homes from wood and wheel,  
from whispered tales and iron and steel, no  
roots to bind, no fence, no gate - their path  
is wide, their dreams are fate.

The world may sudge, the world may sneer,  
but still they ride, year after year, for  
freedom hums within their bones, and every  
mile feels like home.

They love with fire, live with grace, leave  
behind no lasting trace - just laughter on  
the country air, And ~~at~~ echos where the grass  
grows bare.

Poem by Lisa Marie, 14

**Thank  
you**



**FRIENDS,  
FAMILIES &  
TRAVELLERS**

# **FRIENDS, FAMILIES & TRAVELLERS**

**#GRTM26 #OnwardsWithHope**

Friends, Families and Travellers works to end racism and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

## **Contact Details:**

### **Address**

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Brighton  
BN1 3XG

**Telephone** 01273 234 777

**Email** [fft@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:fft@gypsy-traveller.org)

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[/FriendsFamiliesandTravellers](#)

**[gypsy-traveller.org](http://gypsy-traveller.org)**

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