



EUROPEAN
HERITAGE
DAYS 2017

HERITAGE & NATURE
A LANDSCAPE OF POSSIBILITIES





The **European Heritage Days** (EHDs), a joint initiative of the **Council of Europe** and the **European Commission**, are **the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by the citizens of Europe**. The pan-European nature of the events contributes to bringing citizens together and highlighting the European dimension and the value of cultural heritage in 50 States, signatories of the **European Cultural Convention**. Over 70 000 events are organised every year in order to help raise awareness of Europe's common heritage and the continuous need for its protection, as well as to create shared cultural heritage experiences, promote inclusiveness and foster creativity and imagination.

In this year's edition of the #EHDs we are celebrating the intrinsic relationship between people and nature under the common theme: **“Heritage and Nature: A Landscape of Possibilities”**. Emphasis is given to heritage values embodied in nature and to the extent to which the environment shapes people's lives and lifestyles and its contribution to their well-being and socio-economic prosperity.



The events taking place in urban nature sites, historic gardens, national reserves, home yards, national parks, heritage biotopes, protected areas, every day and outstanding landscape will help people to connect to nature and explore its diversity and cultural values.

The European Heritage Days are proud to present **101 Event Ideas** that you can bring to your local communities to highlight people's relationship with their immediate environment, show the way nature and people are intimately interrelated and draw attention to the need for preserving nature, heritage and landscape for future generations.



101 EVENT IDEAS

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS 2017

1-15



1. Make the nature around you beautiful again – **organise a clean-up day** and tag the before and after photos with the **hashtag #EHDs on Facebook and Twitter** – the best example might win a special prize from the European Heritage Days!

2. Jump on the global train of “**going back to nature**” – create a Wi-Fi/technology-free day in your community!

3. Connect with your local **scouting/orienteering/survival group** and introduce their activities to your local community.

4. Join the **Cultural Heritage-Makers competition** which is being organised as part of the European Heritage Days and motivate children and young people to take an active role in their cultural environment now and in the future. The assignment is to find a place or an area in nature that has an interesting history and then to share this history with the whole of Europe. The competition opens on 9 February 2017 and closes on 10 December 2018. For more information contact jep-ehd@coe.int.

5. **Taking good care of your pets** is part of your culture – organise an event with your **local shelter** and bring the knowledge to people around you.

6. Organise a bird/insect watch and do a **count of ‘endangered species’** in your area.

7. **Adopt a protected area** or a place of biodiverse significance in your local community.

8. Join an ‘**Autumn Watch**’ to record first sightings of different species around you.

9. Organise a workshop and learn how to **create a mini-vegetable garden** on your window sill.

10. What is the difference in **taking care of wildlife in the summer/winter** months? Learn more about hibernation and estivation.

11. Organise an event focusing on **recycling/ composting** and create a local composting area.

12. Explore **traditional medicines, homeopathy and natural remedies** that are used in your area/culture.

13. **Who do you think you are?**

Organise a fun event for children on: What makes humans unique from other creatures? And what do we have in our genes?

14. Do you have an area recognized as being of outstanding quality in your surroundings? We are sure you do! Investigate how the landscape (as defined by the **European Landscape Convention**) is an essential component for your quality of life. Check the four criteria of the **Landscape Award** of the Council of Europe!

15. Plan a **nature photography workshop** followed by a photography walk.





16. What is the role of weather in nature and heritage? Organise a workshop to **build your own weather station** and make an exhibition in your local library/art centre.

17. Have some **fun** flying a kite, hot air ballooning, paragliding or windsurfing.

18. Organise a **human library in a local park** and share stories about your own heritage.

19. What is the value of honey? Show the story of **beekeeping** from the old times and the changes that have occurred in recent years and highlight this **intangible aspect of cultural heritage**.

20. Prepare a lecture the different usages of **bee wax** through time and history or **organise a beekeeping demonstration** with your local beekeeping group.



21. Create a local campaign **to reduce the use of plastic** and find out more about the sustainable alternatives to plastic.

22. Create a **sensory exhibition of different smells** from your local nature.

23. Have you ever thought about the role of nature in your **local fairy-tales, myths and legends**? Try to re-tell a well-known local story without using any description of nature/heritage and see the difference in the way the story makes you feel.

24. Organise a **traditional rain dance** day in your community and find out if similar events were created in your area centuries ago.

25. Work together with your local community and **plant a tree as a natural monument** for future generations. Be sure to involve children and teach them about the different role of trees (trees in folklore, trees as environment saviours, trees as sources of nutrition).

26. Organise a **dendrological workshop** and raise awareness of old trees as both nature and cultural monuments. Work with your local State Forest Departments or Museums of Natural Sciences.

27. Look around and **identify five bird species** in your neighbourhood.

28. Organise a day of **City games - in the footsteps of history** and teach players about the nature monuments in the city. Be sure to include different checkpoints and tasks along the way.

29. Celebrate the **magic of water**! Stage an exhibition of objects for carrying and making use of the water in your local area over the last 500 years.

30. Organise a **discovery visit** to an urban nature site, a national reserve, a national park, a heritage biotope run by local inhabitants and heritage professionals.





31. Create a demonstration by local craft workers to discover and promote **local skills and know-how related to nature** (forests, agriculture, use of water, saltscapes).

32. Organise events showcasing the **vernacular heritage** related to natural resources (kilns, mills, local natural and science museums).



33. What are the **local myths and legends** related to nature? Do you have a mythical creature used to tell stories of your origins or even just to scare you during your childhood? Tap into the **undercover symbolism of nature in local storytelling**.

34. Is there a **local animal** that is specific to your area? Investigate and organise a quiz to see how much people know about it.

35. Celebrate one aspect of **nature important to your community** e.g. the river or an old tree.

36. Are you aware of any **European exchanges** of species, skills and nature know-how between your local area and other regions/ countries? Tell us more using **#EHDs** on Facebook and Twitter and you might **win a special prize** from the EHD Programme.



37. Showcase your local version of **innovative citizens' participation** in the process of identifying, studying, interpreting, protecting, preserving and presenting nature, landscapes and territories.

38. Organise a children's **brick-building competition**. Build a native animal, flower or a replica of a local landscape.

39. Show examples that demonstrate the **positive impacts of nature for society** and vice versa, the impact of society in nature, generating cultural landscapes.

40. Allow **free access** to botanical conservatories, collections in museums and other venues related to heritage and nature.

41. Could **mass tourism** be dangerous for natural and heritage resources? Organise an event that promotes **tourist activities that are sustainable and responsible** with nature.

42. Organise **craft demonstrations and workshops** e.g. thatching, **hedgerow laying**, mud wall building.

43. Use **maps and species check sheets** to survey how many species of plants, insects, birds and animals can be found in your area.



44. Plan **guided tours in museums** to learn about Nature in Art.

45. Organise **musical workshops/concerts** and learn about Nature in Music.





46. Organise activities with **professionals dedicated to protecting nature** and raise awareness about risk management and possible ways of citizen collaboration in the area of **major hazards** and climate change.

47. Paint a **biodiversity mural** in your town. Speak with your local municipality, schools or businesses to find a suitable wall.

48. Open up an archaeology site and investigate **the role of nature in the evolution** of human settlements.

49. Have you ever thought about the role of human influence on natural resources through man-made tools and machinery? Showcase your **industrial and technical heritage** in relationship with nature.

50. Create a **selfie scavenger** hunt. Prepare a list of photos participants must take e.g. with an oak tree, with a snail, with a specific landscape in the background, etc.

51. Food, glorious food! Use the opportunity to showcase your traditional gastronomic culture in relation to your natural resources.

52. Learn more about **wine-making, brewing and distilling** and see how these processes/products relate to your heritage.



53. Are there any **cultural routes** in your area that are related to natural resources and the resulting heritage? Connect with the **Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe** to see potential synergies with your events.

54. Organise an **art competition** for younger children.

55. Work with the young people in your community to create innovative posters showing **the impacts of climate change** on nature and landscape.

56. Work with **biology teachers** – bring nature into schools and schools outside into nature.

57. What are the **local rituals and traditions outlining the role of women** and nature? Is there a difference in the distribution of male and female roles in local stories? Work with your local library or university to investigate and share with your community.

58. Bring a group on a **guided hiking tour** of a national park.

59. Visit a **Nature Reserve or Special Area of Conservation** near you.

60. Plan an **astronomy night**. Or Plan a Dark Skies night in your town or village. Encourage everyone to turn off their lights and go stargazing!





61. See how many **wildflowers** you can find and identify on a wildflower walk.

62. Invite your local community and **build bird boxes or bat boxes** at a workshop.

63. Identify as many **trees** as you can within a certain area within 30 minutes.

64. Bring together a panel of historians, scientists, philosophers, and ecologists to **discuss the value of nature**.

65. Ask your **local officials to talk about planned actions to address climate change** and how their policies are contributing to reducing its negative impact.

66. Plan a talk on your local **relationship with nature throughout history**.

67. Celebrate your innovative efforts through a discussion panel on **biodiversity and farming**. See what the **Bern Convention** has to say on protecting both species and habitats and bringing countries together to decide how to act on nature conservation.

68. Talk about creating more **biodiversity in your garden** or in your apartment.



69. **Listen to nature.** Create a sound exhibition of wildlife calls.

70. Organise an evening looking at how nature has inspired writers of **poetry and prose**.

71. Run a **photography or art competition on the theme of Nature**. Ask the public to submit their artwork in advance. Ask your local paper to print the winning entries.

72. Create a **nature hunt** using a page of local flora and fauna so that children can tick a box as they find them.

73. Discover the **wealth in your waste!** Treat your house plants to a nice pot of cold tea, or even have a go at growing gourmet mushrooms in your old coffee grounds.

74. Go wild in the woods and learn about wildlife on a **family camp-out**.

75. Encourage **children to become nature detectives**. Let them solve clues together on their visit to a forest, beach or park.





76. Plan a **leaf hunt**. See how many different leaves children can find and create leaf rubbings.

77. European Heritage Days is celebrated in 50 countries. Connect with heritage groups in other countries and see if there is scope to **work together on projects** - from shared migratory birds to a history of trading together.

78. Bring EHD events to **those who cannot come to them** e.g. plan events in retirement homes.

79. Ask **local businesses** to sponsor events, give access to their archives or allow special tours of their buildings or lands.

80. Organise a local **plant-swap!** Encourage people to bring along unwanted plants and find them new homes.

81. What is the **most common house plant** in your area/city? Organise a workshop and demonstrate the tips and tricks of proper plant care.

82. Work together with a **neighbouring town to organise a nature walk** between your two towns. Even better, choose a town on the other side of a hill or woodland, make it a challenge!

83. Organise **special walks** for schools/elderly/people with mobility disabilities/families (in natural, industrial, rural environment).

84. Make sure you include **guided exploration/"hunting"** of bugs and flowers and demonstrate how to look for them in nature and study them without destroying them.

85. Organise a workshop for children/young people on the **traditional art crafts using natural materials** (i. e. using reed/cane, pumpkins, straw, and wood).

86. Organise a **hands on activity showcasing herbs and aromatic plants** for cooking, healing and well-being.

87. Allow **free access to traditional gardens**, both public and residential and talk about the relationship with nature.

88. Undertake a special action to conserve and maintain the significant features of your local landscape – designate an **annual Landscape Day!**

89. Work with your local shelter to introduce an **animal adoption scheme**/demonstrate proper pet care in schools and residential areas.

90. Collect and **illustrate in an artistic form** traditional tales/myths about nature – including landscapes, flowers, birds, trees and natural phenomena.





91. Showcase your **wooden heritage** and explore different uses of wood in traditional buildings, construction, crafts, tools, vehicles, storage barrels.

92. Organise an event around **water tradition**, showcasing thermal baths, fountains, water mills, water pumps, etc.

93. Visit/offer voluntary service to **heritage based collections** like zoos and botanical gardens.

94. Organise film screening of **films related to nature** for children/adults (e.g. The Olive Tree, Bee Movie).

95. Create a storyboard to investigate the character or the landscape around you as the result of both the **action and interaction of natural and human factors**. Which influence is more prominent in your area?

96. Is the landscape around you part of your **cultural identity**? Ask the children in your local school to come up with links between landscape diversity and cultural diversity – are we all shaped by what surrounds us?



97. Organise a talk and identify the public interest role of landscape in the cultural, ecological and social fields. **Can landscape create jobs?** What about sustainable development?

98. What if you could enhance your landscape? Organise a workshop with young people in your area to imagine **what kind of landscape they can plan in 100 years**. Will climate change contribute to total redefinition of your area? What about human development? Make sure to reward the best vision – print the story in your local newspaper or your website.

99. Encourage schools in your community to design and maintain a **school garden and compost**.

100. Organise a volunteering day to **plant native flowers and trees** in your local parks, play areas and school yards.

101. Endorse or create a campaign to encourage your community to **buy local products** and products made in farms, plantations and factories with responsible labour, health and safety practices.





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