



# THE ROMANES LANGUAGE AND ITS THOUSAND YEAR JOURNEY



Thanks to Ferdinand Koci and Romani Baxt for this beautiful Poster and the list of Romanes words.

This map traces the development of the Romanes language during its thousand year journey from India to Western Europe and beyond. Each drawing or numeral, by its placement on the map, shows where the word originated from.

Many words are Indian in origin as that is where the Roma began their journey, but there are also many words that are Persian, Greek, Armenian, Turkish, Kurdish, Romanian and Hungarian. These words were adopted

and became part of their own language Romanes. The number of words from any one area may indicate how long the Rom were in that country, but there is still much to find out about this fascinating history, language and people.

There are many different dialects across the world and many Roma/Gypsies/Travellers may have different words or spellings, and especially pronunciation, but many will recognise some, if not all, of these words.

Try and find these Romanes words on the map and decide which country they may come from.

#### Foods

Apple - phabaj  
Grapes - drakha  
Pear - ambrolin  
Onion - burum  
Pumpkin - dudum  
Olive - Zetuj  
Egg - anro

#### Clothes and accessories

Suit - kostumi  
Hat - stadik  
Shoe - tirax  
Ring - angrustik  
Comb - kangli

#### Domestic items

Chair - skamind  
Low, round table - sòfra  
Key - klidim  
Needle - suv  
Button - sumulla  
Candle - momeli  
Bag - gono

#### Travel/Farm items

Saddle - samari  
Axe - tover  
Road - Drom  
Wagon - vordon  
Horse shoe - pétalo  
Gun - puška

#### Cooking things

Big pot - kakavi  
Jug - khoro  
Knife - çhuri  
Fire - jag

#### Animals and related words

Fish - maçho  
Bear - Riçhini  
Goat - buzni  
Donkey - xer  
Horse - grast  
Snail - gungrov  
Frog - Zanba  
Cat - Maçhika

Monkey - maimuni  
Hedgehog - kanžura  
Ant - merimanga  
Nest - foleja  
Bone - konallo  
Horn - ŝing

#### Natural Things

Cloud - reja  
Flower - luludi  
Leaf - patrin

#### Parts of the body

Nose - nakh  
Mouth - muj  
Eye - jakh

#### Numbers

1 - jek  
2 - duj  
3 - trin  
4 - ŝtar  
5 - panj  
6 - ŝov  
7 - ehta  
8 - oxta  
9 - enjã  
20 - biš  
30 - saranda  
100 - jekh ŝell

#### New Words

Telephone - Akharnno  
Computer - komputer  
Lift - lifto  
Television - televizoro

