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SALT ROUTES

Salt has been an important commodity since the ancient times, so it's no wonder that the salt trade was essential for countries and their inhabitants. However, not every place had a salt mine nearby, and therefore salt had to be transported across the regions to places which lacked it. This was done on special trade routes, also known as the salt routes.

The salt routes were located all over the world, mostly in Europe, but there also were some in Africa or Asia. There were salt routes in each of the countries from which our partners are, as well.

In Slovakia, the salt routes mainly ran from the Polish salt mine in Wieliczka through Slovak regions of Orava, Liptov and Turiec to other regions of Slovakia, but also to Moravia and Bohemia.



Via Salaria, the ancient Roman road by which salt was transported, was one of the earliest salt routes and it ran from the city of Rome all the way to the Adriatic coast.



In Turkey, the most important salt routes ran from the salt lake Tuz, where thousands of caravans loaded salt and carried it to other regions of the Roman Empire.



Several salt routes started in Transylvania, a region in Romania with the largest concentration of salt, and they were mostly used to carry the salt to Hungary, which at that time ruled Transylvania.



Portugal was also very important in salt trade as salt had been extracted in Algarve region and Portuguese ports had been used to load salt on boats and transport it all around the world.



And in the UK, the ancient route known as the Salt Way runs from the outskirts of Birmingham to London suburbs (the length of the route is approximately 150 kilometres).



This brochure presents pictures of the remnants of these historical routes and displays the importance of salt in the past.

Image sources:

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