

# How Do I Import Routes From Other XML Files?

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### Available as of Camel 2.3

When defining routes in Camel using [Xml Configuration](#) you may want to define some routes in other XML files. For example you may have many routes and it may help to maintain the application if some of the routes are in separate XML files. You may also want to store common and reusable routes in other XML files, which you can simply import when needed.

In **Camel 2.3** it is now possible to define routes outside `<camelContext/>` which you do in a new `<routeContext/>` tag.

**Notice:** When you use `<routeContext>` then they are separated, and cannot reuse existing `<onException>`, `<intercept>`, `<dataFormats>` and similar cross cutting functionality defined in the `<camelContext>`. In other words the `<routeContext>` is currently isolated. This may change in Camel 3.x.

For example we could have a file named `myCoolRoutes.xml` which contains a couple of routes as shown:  
{snippet:id=e1|lang=xml|title=myCoolRoutes.xml|url=camel/trunk/components/camel-spring/src/test/resources/org/apache/camel/spring/config/myCoolRoutes.xml} Then in your XML file which contains the `CamelContext` you can use Spring to import the `myCoolRoute.xml` file. And then inside `<camelContext/>` you can refer to the `<routeContext/>` by its `id` as shown below:  
{snippet:id=e1|lang=xml|url=camel/trunk/components/camel-spring/src/test/resources/org/apache/camel/spring/config/RouteRefIncludeXmlFileTest.xml} Also notice that you can mix and match, having routes inside `CamelContext` and also externalized in `RouteContext`.

You can have as many `<routeContextRef/>` as you like.

### Reusable routes

The routes defined in `<routeContext/>` can be reused by multiple `<camelContext/>`. However its only the definition which is reused. At runtime each `CamelContext` will create its own instance of the route based on the definition.