

Where the blue Danube goes green

Welcome to the Donau-Auen National Park

Dear Visitors,

The Donau-Auen National Park is a riverine landscape unique in all of Europe, stretching along the Danube from Vienna to the eastern border of Austria near Hainburg. Here the Danube still flows freely, and through periodic flooding the riparian landscape of the "wild wet forest" is in a constant state of flux. Rare and endangered animals such as the kingfisher, the European Pond Turtle and numerous dragonfly species are native to the area, as are diverse orchid species as well as the Wild Grape, a now rare ancestor of the Common Grape Vine.

The Donau-Auen National Park visitor programme offers something for all: whether on foot, by canoe, rubber dinghy or even Tschaike, a historic ship; whether by way of lectures, workshops or project weeks – for both young and old, there is a programme sure to entice you to experience the natural wonders of the Donau-Auen National Park.



schlossORTH National Park Centre: Gateway to the Wetlands

From March 21st to November 1st 2009, the schlossORTH National Park Centre – known as the "Gateway to the Wetlands" – will be offering visitors exciting perspectives on the Danube wetlands. The grounds of the Schlossinsel are the ideal place to experience the wetlands: turtles, fish, snakes and other animals may be observed while walking the grounds. And the heart of the Schlossinsel is its underwater observatory, a window on the world of the Danube backwaters.



Please find attached our programme schedule for groups of 15 or 25.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone.



Information and bookings:

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Half-Day Programme

Immerse Yourself in the Danube Wetlands

Create a customized excursion by combining two of the programmes below:

Led by National Park rangers, these tours allow you to immerse yourself in the world of the Danube wetlands. Take a guided tour of the schlossORTH National Park Centre or a walk through the riparian forest on our nature paths.

1. Guided tour of the schlossORTH National Park Centre including lookout point

Explore the "DonAURäume" exhibit at schlossORTH and learn fascinating things about the habitat of the red deer, the beaver and the kingfisher. The tour continues with a visit to the lookout point, which also features interesting exhibitions about the Danube in our neighbouring countries. From this lookout, visitors may also see the stork eyries nearby.

2. Walk the Fadenbach nature path

Get to know the riparian forest and its inhabitants up close by walking the labyrinthine nature paths with their ancient trees and rustic old wooden bridges.

3. Guided tour of the Schlossinsel grounds – experience the wetlands up close

Unique to all of Austria, the underwater observatory is a window on the world of the Danube wetlands. Along with an open pen for wetland inhabitants such as the European Pond Turtle and various snake species, the grounds make for a very special nature tour.

We would be happy to provide information on where to have lunch in the Orth/Donau area.

Our programme schedule is valid from March 21st to November 1st 2009.

Tour Features

- Personal greeting at the schlossORTH National Park Centre
- Guided tour of the "DonAURäume" exhibit with National Park rangers
- Visit to the lookout point
- Guided tour of the Schlossinsel or the Fadenbach nature path with National Park rangers

Duration: approx. 3 hours

Price per person: € 10.50 for groups of 15

Price per person: € 9.50 for groups of 25



Half-Day Programme

Experience the Wetlands on Land and Water

See the wonders of the backwaters while paddling a canoe or rubber dinghy. Or take a trip on the Danube with the Tschaike, a historic Danube ship, and admire the impressive riparian forest or, with extra luck, even spot a kingfisher, the "flying gem" of the National Park.

Accompanied by a National Park ranger, walk the riparian forests or the Danube islands, admiring the many different paths taken by climbing plants to reach the light, or the hardy willow shrubs stubbornly growing on the gravel banks.

We would be happy to provide information on where to have lunch in the Orth/Donau area.

This programme is offered from April to October 2009.

Sturdy footwear is highly recommended.

Tour features:

- Personal greeting by National Park rangers at the Uferhaus restaurant in Orth/Donau (for rubber dinghies, Tschaike) or at the Wetlands Information Centre at the Stopfenreuth flood protection dam (for canoes)
- Boat excursion and walk with National Park ranger
- Arrival at Uferhaus in Orth/Donau or Stopfenreuth

Duration: 3 – 3½ hours

Minimum number of participants per group: 15

Price per person: € 23,- for groups of 15

Price per person: € 21,- for groups of 25



Half-Day Programme

See the Danube on a Rubber Dinghy

A rubber dinghy tour with a National Park ranger is a real adventure – but also the chance to experience nature up close. During the tour visitors will learn many interesting things about the National Park, including its history, duties and mission.

Paddle on oxbow lakes, passing impressive trees and other native flora. See where beavers have been active and, with extra luck, spot a Grey Heron lurking motionlessly in anticipation of its prey.

The tour continues downstream to the Uferhaus restaurant in Orth. Along the way, visitors can feel the true force of the Danube, which flows freely in these parts.

We would be happy to provide information on where to have lunch in the Orth/Donau area.

This programme is offered from April to October 2009.

Sturdy footwear is highly recommended.

Tour features:

- Greeting at Uferhaus in Orth/Donau by National Park rangers
- Rubber dinghy excursion from Schönau to Orth/Donau
- Arrival at Uferhaus in Orth/Donau

Duration: 3 – 3½ hours

Minimum number of participants per group: 15

Price per person: € 25,- for groups of 15

Price per person: € 23,- for groups of 25



Full-day Programme

A Day in the Donau-Auen National Park: schlossORTH National Park Centre, Schlossinsel and boat tour

This full-day programme combines visits to the schlossORTH National Park Centre and the Schlossinsel with an impressive boat tour on Danube backwaters.

At the schlossORTH National Park Centre, visitors are treated to a fascinating look at the world of the Danube wetlands.

From a bird's-eye perspective, explore the region spanning from Vienna to Bratislava on Austria's largest walk-in aerial photograph. Take a journey and explore the history of the majestic Danube River and dive into the artistic realm of the wetlands.

What makes the excursion particularly special is a visit to the Schlossinsel, with its unique underwater observatory and its ample grounds, where the European Pond Turtle, diverse snake species and other fauna can be observed at its nature stations.

Finally, see eye-to-eye with nature on a dinghy tour with a National Park ranger. Visitors will learn many interesting things about the National Park, including its history, mission and duties – all while learning how to paddle a boat. During the tour, impressive riparian landscapes, beaver tracks, and – with a bit of luck – the "flying gem" of the National Park, the kingfisher, may be seen.

We would be happy to provide information on where to have lunch in the Orth/Donau area.

This programme is offered from April to October 2009.

Sturdy footwear is highly recommended.

Tour features:

- Guided tour of the exhibit "DonAUräume" with National Park rangers
- Visit to the lookout point
- Guided tour of the Schlossinsel with National Park rangers
- Rubber dinghy excursion with National Park rangers: departure from and return to the Uferhaus restaurant in Orth/Donau (duration approx. 1½ hours)

Total Duration: approx. 6 hours (including 1½ hours lunch break)

Minimum number of participants per group: 15

Price per person: € 29.50 for groups of 15

Price per person: € 27.50 for groups of 25



Special Programme

Picnic & Rubber Dinghy Tour on the Danube

The Danube is the lifeline of the Donau-Auen National Park. Its unspoilt, natural banks are not only valuable habitats for flora and fauna, but also idyllic places to stop and enjoy nature. For all who aim to fully experience the National Park, exploring the Danube itself is essential.

During this dinghy tour with a National Park ranger, learn interesting facts about the National Park, including its history, mission and duties – all while navigating the dinghy through the waters yourself.

Paddle on oxbow lakes, passing impressive trees and other native flora. See where beavers have been active and, with extra luck, spot a Grey Heron lurking motionlessly in anticipation of its prey. The tour continues downstream to the Orth islands. Here you can feel the full power of the Danube, which still flows freely.

The culmination of the tour is a picnic on the Orth islands. One of the most beautiful spots on the Danube in the National Park, visitors are allowed on these islands, which offer idyllic views, imposing trees, sandy coves and gravel banks. Enjoy the great outdoors together with regional culinary delights.

We would be happy to accommodate any specific wishes for food and drink menus.

This programme is offered from April to October 2009.

Sturdy footwear is highly recommended.

Tour features:

- Greeting at the Uferhaus restaurant in Orth/Donau
- Rubber dinghy excursion from Schönau to Orth/Donau
- Picnic on the Orth islands: five different selections ("finger food"); tour guests will be billed for the amount of beverages consumed
- Arrival at Uferhaus in Orth/Donau

Duration: approx. 4½ hours

Minimum number of participants per group: 15

Price per person: € 49,- for groups of 15

Price per person: € 47,- for groups of 25



Special Programme

Picnic, Campfire and Canoe Trip on Danube Backwaters

The Stopfenreuth wetlands are among the most beautiful areas of the National Park. All habitat types of the Danube wetlands are represented here: riparian forests and meadows; still waters and the free-flowing Danube with its broad gravel banks. It was here that the legendary "Hainburger wetlands sit-in" took place. Today, it is a refuge for flora and fauna but also a place of relaxation and contemplation for visitors.



Paddle your canoe under the watchful eye of a National Park ranger all the way to the confluence of the Danube and back, taking in the sights and sounds of the lush backwaters along the way.



The highlight of the tour is a picnic and campfire at the "Au-Terrasse", or wetlands terrace, on the banks of the Danube. This idyllic spot has been designated for use as a natural bathing area and camping ground. The terrace features not only views of the Danube, but also offers visitors information on the National Park. Enjoy the great out-of-doors and regional culinary specialities.

We would be happy to accommodate any specific wishes for food and drink menus.

This programme is offered from April to October 2009.

Sturdy footwear is highly recommended.



Tour features:

- Greeting at Wetlands Information Centre at the flood protection dam in Stopfenreuth by National Park rangers
- Start of the canoe excursion
- Picnic and campfire at the wetlands terrace

Duration: approx. 4½ hours

All-in price for canoe: € 196,- (seats 9)

Price for picnic available upon request

Maximum number of participants per group: 27

