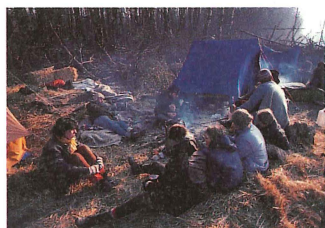


Historical overview

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 4000 BC | First human settlements in the Danube area |
| 1. cent. | Roman defences built on the south bank of the Danube |
| 17. cent. | Exclusive hunting area of Emperor Leopold I |
| 1809 | Battlefield. Napoleon suffers a defeat at Aspern |
| 1830 | The disaster caused by impacted ice and floods from spring meltwater were decisive impetuous for regulating the Danube |
| 1862 | The last Beaver was hunted in Fischamend |
| 1863 | The last Beaver was hunted in Fischamend |
| 1875 | A flood prevention dike was constructed along the river |
| 1919 | Over 400 hectares of the Emperor's hunting grounds were transformed by the Viennese authorities for agricultural purposes |
| 1938 | The Danube flood plains were declared as a hunting area for the high ranking officials of the "Third Reich" |
| 1976 | Between Orth and Eckartsau the Beaver was re-introduced in the Danube flood plains |
| 1978 | UNESCO approves the Lobau area as a biosphere reserve |
| 1983 | The Danube flood plains become protected by the Ramsar Convention |
| 1984 | Protest movement at Stopfenreuth/Hainburg prevents construction of a hydro-power plant |
| 1996 | Foundation of the "Danube Flood Plain National Park" by means of a contract between the federal state and the regions of Lower-Austria and Vienna |
| 1997 | International recognition of the Danube Flood Plain National Park by the IUCN (<i>International Union for Conservation of Nature</i>) |



December 1984:
Thousands of conservationists set up
their tents in Stopfenreuth.



Eckartsau castle was used by the throne successor Franz Ferdinand during his hunting trips and served as a last residence of Emperor Karl I before he went into exile.

Further Attractions

- Schloß Orth an der Donau Fischerei- und Donaumuseum** 2304 Orth an der Donau
02212/2555 march – november
- Schloß Eckartsau** 2305 Eckartsau Schloß
02214/2335-18 april – october
- SchloßHof, Exhibition Center** 2294 Schloßhof
02285/6580 march – november
- Harrach'sche Gemäldesammlung, Schloß Rohrau** 2471 Rohrau
02164/2253/8 april – october
- Haydn Geburtshaus** 2471 Rohrau
02164/2268 all-year
- Archäologisches Museum Carnuntinum** 2405 Bad Deutsch-Altenburg
02163/33770 january – december
- Archäologie-Park Carnuntum** 2404 Petronell-Carnuntum
02163/33770 march – october
- Sigthseeing Tours Bruck an der Leitha** 2460 Bruck/Leitha, Tourist Office
02162/67590 june – september
- Historical Sightseeing Tours Hainburg** 2410 Hainburg
02165/62111
- Lookout Braunsberg** Hainburg
02165/621110



Another worthwhile outing is a visit to the Museum Carnuntinum in Bad Deutsch-Altenburg with its extensive collection of over 3.000 exhibits depicting Roman lifestyle and history.



Where the Blue Danube
goes green.



Precious nature
for future generations



*Preserved for generations
to come...*

Nationalpark Donau-Auen Informations

Schloß Eckartsau
0043/2214/2335-18
april - october
daily 10.00 - 17.00

Bad Deutsch-Altenburg
Tourist office
0043/2165/62459
Mo - Fr, 8.00 - 12.00
12.30 - 16.00

Hainburg
City information
0043/2165/62111-23
april - october
Mo - Sa, 17.00 - 19.00
Tu, Th, Sa, Su, 10.00 - 12.00



Nationalpark Donau-Auen GmbH
Fadenbachstraße 17
2304 Orth/Donau, Austria
Tel. 0043/2212/3450
Fax 0043/2212/3450-17
e-mail: nationalpark@donauauen.at



Sibirian Iris
Iris sibirica

The Danube flood plains give refuge to Iris, Flowering Rusb, Purple Loosestrife and a large number of wetland plants.

Today you are able to enjoy river-bank walks, guided photo tours and other excursions. Not long ago, winter 1984 saw a threat from hydro-power which would sacrifice the Danube flood plains. However, a passive resistance movement overcame the construction plans and laid foundations for today's preserved status.



Tree logs (approx. 3 m in height) can be found at the entres and within the "Alluvial Zone National Park" for guidance and information. The signs and maps help the visitor to "find the right way" around the area.

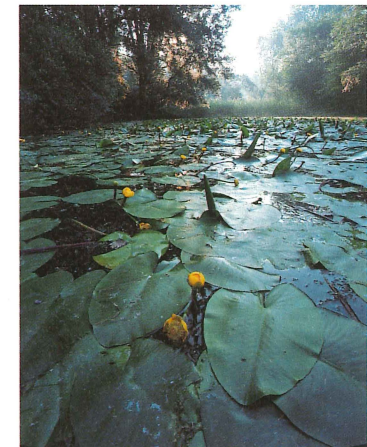


*A view
of the Danube flood plains*

Guided tours offered:

- nature study walks
- rubber dinghy rides on the Danube
- special programs for children
- school projects
- Eckartsau castle followed by a horse and carriage trip
- cultural history

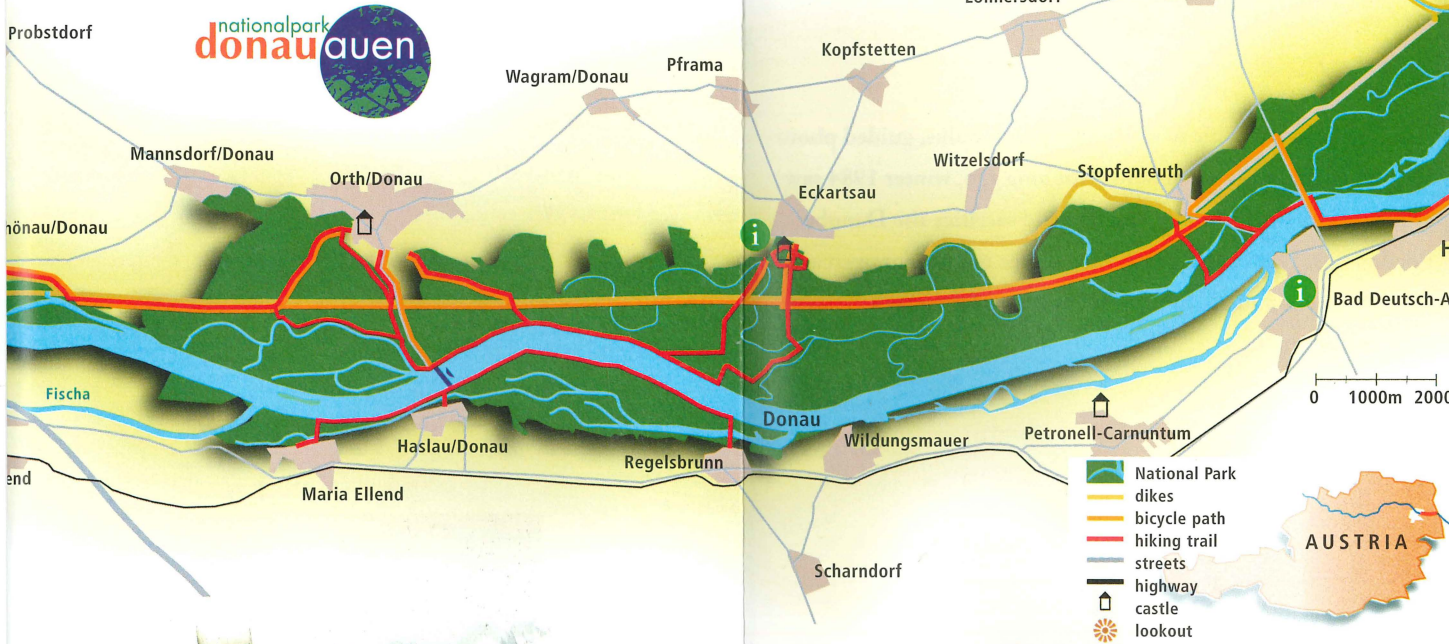
Nuphar lutea





English Oak
Quercus robur

The "Danube Flood Plain National Park" is administered by the National Park Ltd. (Orth an der Donau) together with the National Park forest administrations Eckartsau (Österreichische Bundesforste AG) and Lobau (Stadt Wien).



Castor fiber

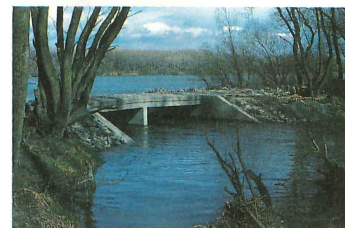
Since his re-introduction, the Beaver has developed his own ideas of riverine forest structure. Over the last century he has successfully recaptured vast areas of the flood plain.



Certain areas of the flood plain are quite dry. The groundwater is unable to reach the raised gravel heaps. Orchids, dry moss and Sallow Thorn thrive here. A small savanna within the flood plain forest.



Hippophaë rhamnoides



Regulation of the main stem of the Danube River disconnected its network of side arms. Now these small side arms are being reactivated in order to reconnect them with the river.

The Kingfisher builds ducts in the steep banks for breeding. He plunges through the drag of the water in order to capture fish.

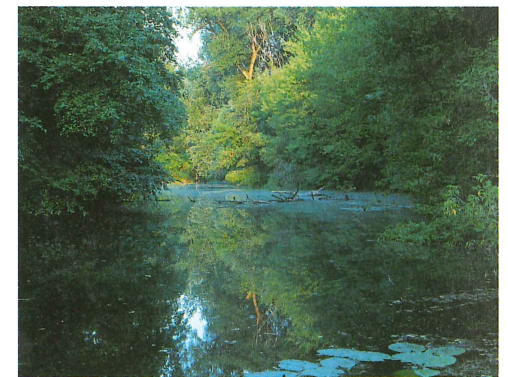


Alcedo atthis



Umbra krameri

At one time it was thought that the Mutminnow was extinct. However, just a few years ago the "European Mutminnow" was rediscovered in the flood plains of the Danube. This area is home to about 60 different fish species, one of the most diverse fish communities in all of Europe.



Humidity, liana, swarms of mosquitos. In the summer the flood plain is reminiscent of a tropical rainforest.

"The Lower-Austrian area of Danube flood plains is a world of it's own. Whoever is familiar with the woods and mountains, as well as the plains of this country, does not expect that very close to the capital city there exists a uniquely characteristic wilderness."

PRINCE RUDOLF
OF AUSTRIA
1888



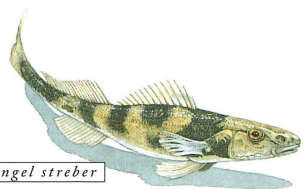
Spotted Woodpecker
Picoides major



...a world of it's own

Today, the "Danube Flood Plain National Park" of the Danube River protects one of the last large free-flowing river stretches of Europe. It is here that the dynamics of a flowing stream is most effective. The rise and fall of the water level characterise the rhythm of life in the flood plain. Flooding of the river has not only formed the landscape but it is also provides nourishment to the wide variety of plants and animals which live there. Within this reserved National Park nature is free to unfold.

This guarantees that future generations will also be able to enjoy the beauty and wonder of this landscape.



Zingel streber

A variety of bank structures with islands and gravel banks exist only in free-flowing areas of the river.

Countless numbers of riverine fish, like the perch, depend on such habitats.



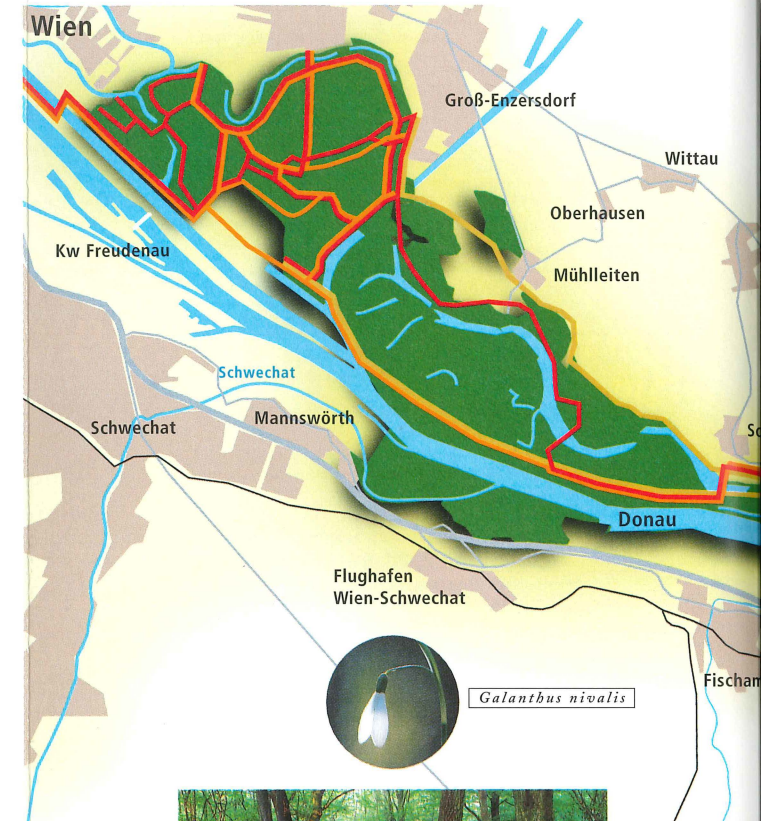
Common Tree Frog
Hyla arborea

In the flood plains of the Danube, frogs, toads and newts can find their last extensive habitats.

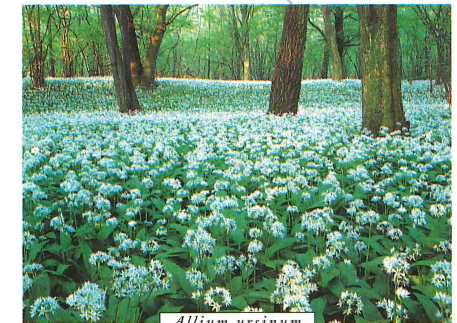


Cervus elaphus

No wonder the deer of the Au is called the "King of the flood plains" as it is the mightiest red deer in Austria, carrying 16 - 22 antler points which can weigh up to 12 kilos.



Galantus nivalis



Allium ursinum

As long as the flood plain forest does not overshade the ground, the Snowdrops and the Ramsons take advantage of the first rays of the spring sun.