

Group Days Out in the Donau-Auen National Park

Donau-Auen National Park Group Tours & Programmes 2023



The Danube Wetlands – Precious Nature at Vienna's Doorstep

A unique wetlands habitat stretches along the Danube from Vienna to Bratislava. This swath of precious land has been protected as a National Park since 1996.

What makes the Donau-Auen National Park so unique? It's the richness and diversity of the natural habitats which are created and sustained by the constant rise and fall of the waters of the free-flowing Danube.

The Danube wetlands boast a huge variety of flora and fauna. Sustaining and promoting the expansion of these diverse species is one essential mission of the National Park.

Our National Park Rangers can offer special insights into this biodiversity by accompanying you on tours. Observe first hand, and comprehend, the fascination of nature's cycles.

Discover the beauty of the region, and dive into the wonderful world of the Danube wetlands. The National Park has a lot of nature to offer: be sure to allow sufficient time for your tour, as most last between two and three hours.

Nature can be unpredictable: be prepared for inclement weather, especially when taking outdoor tours.

If for any reason a booked tour cannot take place as scheduled (due to flooding, inclement weather, mosquito plagues etc.) we will make every effort to arrange an interesting alternative programme for you.

Equipment & Gear:

We highly recommend that you wear sturdy shoes, head covering, weatherproofed and/or rain gear and that you always carry mosquito repellent, sun screen and something to drink.

Please be aware that dogs are not allowed on boat excursions, and are not allowed at the schlossORTH National Park Centre or on the Schlossinsel grounds.

The Donau-Auen National Park and National Park Rangers assume no liability for personal injury or property damage.



Bookings, Information and Assistance

schlossORTH National Park Centre

Schlossplatz 1, 2304 Orth/Danube

21 March to 30 September: daily from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

1 October to 1 November: daily from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2 November to 20 March: closed for winter

For telephone inquiries during winter season: Mon-Fri from 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Tel. +43(0)2212/3555

schlossorth@donauauen.at; www.donauauen.at

National Park Info Point Eckartsau Castle

Schloss Eckartsau, 2305 Eckartsau

1 April to 31 October: daily from 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.

1 November to 31 March: telephone enquiries only, Mon-Fri from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tel: +43(0)2214/2335

infostelle.donauauen@bundesforste.at, www.bundesforste.at/donauauen

Rates are valid as of 1 January 2023:

Please ask about our special rates for tour operators.

Please be sure to book your tour at least 7 days in advance.

Tours may be carried out in English or Slovakian.

Other languages available upon request.

We have tours for any variety of interests. Read on to find the right tour for you:

Donau-Auen Starter Tours

Get to know the Donau-Auen National Park the easy way by starting at the schlossORTH National Park Centre, the gateway to the wetlands. It's just the right amount of wilderness to get you started.

Donau-Auen Active Tours

These tours will help you discover nature in a hands-on way on both water and land. Pick up a paddle or take a walk through the luscious vegetation of the Danube wetlands.

Donau-Auen Adventure Tours

Are you already at home in the great out-of-doors? Then an Adventure Tour is just right for you. Paddle down the free-flowing Danube or discover up close the secrets of the green flooded forest – all with a touch of adventure.

Our programmes have been designed in such a way that you and your entire tour group can spend a full and exciting day in the Danube wetlands. Please allow us to help you select the right tour combinations for your needs.

Imprint:

Owner/Publisher: Nationalpark Donau-Auen GmbH, Schloss Orth, 2304 Orth/Danube, Austria.

Tel. +43(0)2212/3450, e-mail nationalpark@donauauen.at

Images: Antonicek, Christopher, Grabner, Kern, Kovacs, Kracher, Leitner, Madzigon, Neumair, Newman, Popp, Sendor-Zeman.

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Programmes in and around the schlossORTH National Park Centre

Guided tour of the Schlossinsel

Guided by our National Park Rangers, a tour of the Schlossinsel wetlands gardens surrounding schlossORTH is a great way to experience the Danube wetlands. Get an up-close look at the European pond turtle, *Emys orbicularis*, or glimpse a colubrid, a native snake which excels at the art of camouflage.

Enter our walk-in underwater pond – without even getting wet! Observe various Danube fish species swimming in an underwater forest of Nuphar and Mare's-tail. Watch the pearl-like bubbles produced by aquatic plants as they "breathe" underwater. Experience the diversity of the Danube wetlands plant kingdom, from the climbing vine Traveller's Joy to tasty hops and the rustling leaves of the White Poplar.

Tour Overview:

Duration: approx. 1.5 hours

Persons: minimum of 15 persons

Price: € 9 per person



Combined tour:

Several multimedia presentations are waiting for your visit - National Park Lounge, exhibition DonAURäume as well as changing themes in the lookout tower.

You will be accompanied by National Park Rangers. Then explore the Schlossinsel area with its specific flora and fauna.

Tour Overview:

Duration: approx. 3 hours (including breaks)

Persons: minimum of 15 persons

Price: € 13.50 per person



Excursions on the Danube and in the Wetlands

Tschaïke Tour on the Danube and Wetlands Walk in Orth/Danube

For those who do not want to paddle themselves, going by *tschaïke* – a replica of a historic Danube vessel – is an excellent alternative. Cruise along the Danube and feel the power of the free-flowing river. Glide by steep bluffs and gravel banks. Afterwards, walk through the Danube wetlands and marvel at the richness of nature. Taking a closer look at seemingly small things may open up entirely new perspectives.

Tour Overview:

Meeting Point: Orth/Danube, Uferhaus restaurant parking lot

Duration: approx. 3 hours

Persons: minimum of 15, maximum of 26 persons

Price: € 35 per person

Upon request, and for an extra fee, bread and wine may be served during the tschaïke tour. Please contact us for more information.



Donau-Auen Active Tours

Active tours will help you discover nature in a hands-on way, on both water and land. Pick up a paddle or take a walk through the luscious vegetation of the Danube wetlands.

Rubber Dinghy Tour and Wetlands Walk in Orth/Danube

Together with National Park Rangers, take a rubber dinghy from Orth/Danube onto a Danube side branch. First you will receive basic instruction in paddling, and then you will be ready to enter the wetlands forest. See where beavers have gone before you, and learn more about the tracks of nocturnal forest inhabitants. Water conditions permitting, a gravel bank – the nucleus of the wetlands – may emerge. You may even glimpse a heron, a kingfisher, or a beaver!

The tour continues with a walk on land with National Park Rangers. No matter the season, this walk is always full of surprises. The flora and fauna of the Danube floodplains are especially rich: learn about deadwood (which is in fact very alive), or the reproductive and survival strategies of plants. High-water marks in the wetlands are true eye-openers, showing just how dynamic this riverine landscape is. Native amphibians and insects may cross your path, and you might even spot rare birds and mammals.

Tour Overview:

Meeting Point: Orth/Danube, Uferhaus restaurant parking lot

Duration: approx. 3 hours

Persons: minimum of 6 persons

Price: € 250 per rubber dinghy (max. 10 persons)



Canoe Tour in Stopfenreuth

Explore a former branch of the Danube in Stopfenreuth in a canoe with National Park Rangers. After learning the basics of paddling, you will set out across calm waters, going as far as the mouth of the branch at the Danube.

Stopfenreuth is known as the birthplace of what came to be the National Park. It was here, in December 1984, where protesters were able to put a stop to plans for a Danube power plant at Hainburg by occupying the wetlands.

When water levels are as they should be, the waters are very clear. Fish can be seen swimming among the lush aquatic plants and floating lilies. Depending on the season, highlights of this tour may include sightings of European pond turtles, beavers, kingfishers, wild boars or deer.

Once the opposite Danube bank has been reached, the group disembarks and enjoys the marvellous view to the city of Hainburg. In the summer, take a dip in the river or look for shells, beaver tracks or pretty Danube pebbles. Then it's back in the canoes for the return trip on the same route back to Stopfenreuth.

Tour Overview:

*Meeting Point: Stopfenreuth, Forsthaus restaurant at the
Hochwasserschutzdamm (flood protection barrier)*

Duration: approx. 3 hours

Persons: minimum of 9, max. 27 persons

Price: € 260 per canoe (minimum of 6, max. 9 persons)



Short and Long Walks in the Donau-Auen National Park

Taking a wetlands walk with a National Park Ranger as your guide will open your eyes to the many hidden wonders of nature. The best seasons for walking tours are spring, fall and winter.

Select from among the following options:

Lobau Nature Discovery Walk

Xeric landscapes – very dry habitats with sparse vegetation – are typical of the Upper Lobau. An amazing variety of native orchids bloom here and the grassland is home to rare insects such as the Praying Mantis. The paths walked by visitors and their National Park forestry staff guides range from two to five kilometres long.

Tour Overview:

Guided Tours in the Viennese Section of the National Park

Meeting Point: wien-lobAU National Park House

Duration: approx. 3 hours

Price: for up to 12 persons € 174, more than 12 persons € 14.50 per person

Please be sure to book your tour at least one week in advance.

Booking/registration

wien-lobAU National Park House

City of Vienna Municipal Department 49 (Forestry Office and Urban Agriculture)

Dechantweg 8, 1220 Vienna

Tel. +43(0)1/4000-49495, nh@ma49.wien.gv.at

Walk in the Danube Wetlands with Different Points of Departure in Lower Austria

Get to know the National Park during walks at Schönau, Orth on the Danube, Eckartsau, Stopfenreuth, Hainburg or Maria Ellend – Haslau on the Danube.

For more than 25 years, the mighty Danube has been able to regularly replenish her side arms, leading to the formation of impressive and fascinating landscapes.

Tour Overview:

Duration: each approx. 3 to 3.5 hours (length ranges from 2 – 8 kilometres)

Price: € 175 flat rate (for up to 20 persons)

Please book walks in Schönau, Orth/Danube, Eckartsau, Stopfenreuth, Hainburg, Maria Ellend – Haslau at the schlossORTH National Park Centre.

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River – Peaks – Wetlands Forest: The Danube-Hainburg Combi-Tour

Are you ready for an adventure? If so, then meet us in Hainburg at the harbour! After brief introductions the National Park Rangers will direct you to take up your paddles. In a rubber dinghy you will paddle downstream, past the Rötelsstein ruins. Learn interesting facts along the way about National Park renaturalisation projects aimed at restoring the Danube and her banks. At the mouth of the March River, with a view of the Devin ruins in Slovakia, the focus shifts to mountain rivers (the Danube) and lowland rivers (the March). The boat journey continues on to the so-called "Jägerhaussiedlung".

The walk back to the starting point in Hainburg leads across the Rötelsstein cliffs and upstream along the Danube banks. Mountain, river and riparian forest: a unique combination found in the Donau-Auen National Park, and one offering many special moments to visitors.

Tour Overview:

Duration: approx. 4 hours

Persons: minimum of 6, max. 10 persons per boat (participants must be 15 or older)

Price: € 275 per boat

Consider using public transportation to get there: take the S7 railway to the passenger railway station in Hainburg.

Danube Adventure: Rubber Dinghy Tour from Schönaun to Orth/Danube

With National Park Rangers as your guides, get into a rubber dinghy and float down the powerful Danube, passing steep bluffs, gravel banks and ships. Become one with nature! Feel the elementary power of the river with every paddle.

Kick back and relax on one of the many gravel banks. Take in the wetlands with all your senses: smell the river, observe the lush flora, and be on the lookout for rare fauna.

Meeting point for this tour is at the Uferhaus restaurant in Orth/Danube. National Park Rangers will greet you and then travel with you in your own bus to Schönaun. After group participants have been assigned to their respective dinghies – and after providing basic instructions on how to paddle – your Ranger guides will paddle with you to a Danube side branch. Things get really exciting when the boats enter the free-flowing stretch of the Danube and drift downstream on the strong current. The National Park's unique water connectivity project and the way it benefits the animal kingdom are featured in this part of the journey. The tour ends where it began in Orth/Danube – an unforgettable experience for all.

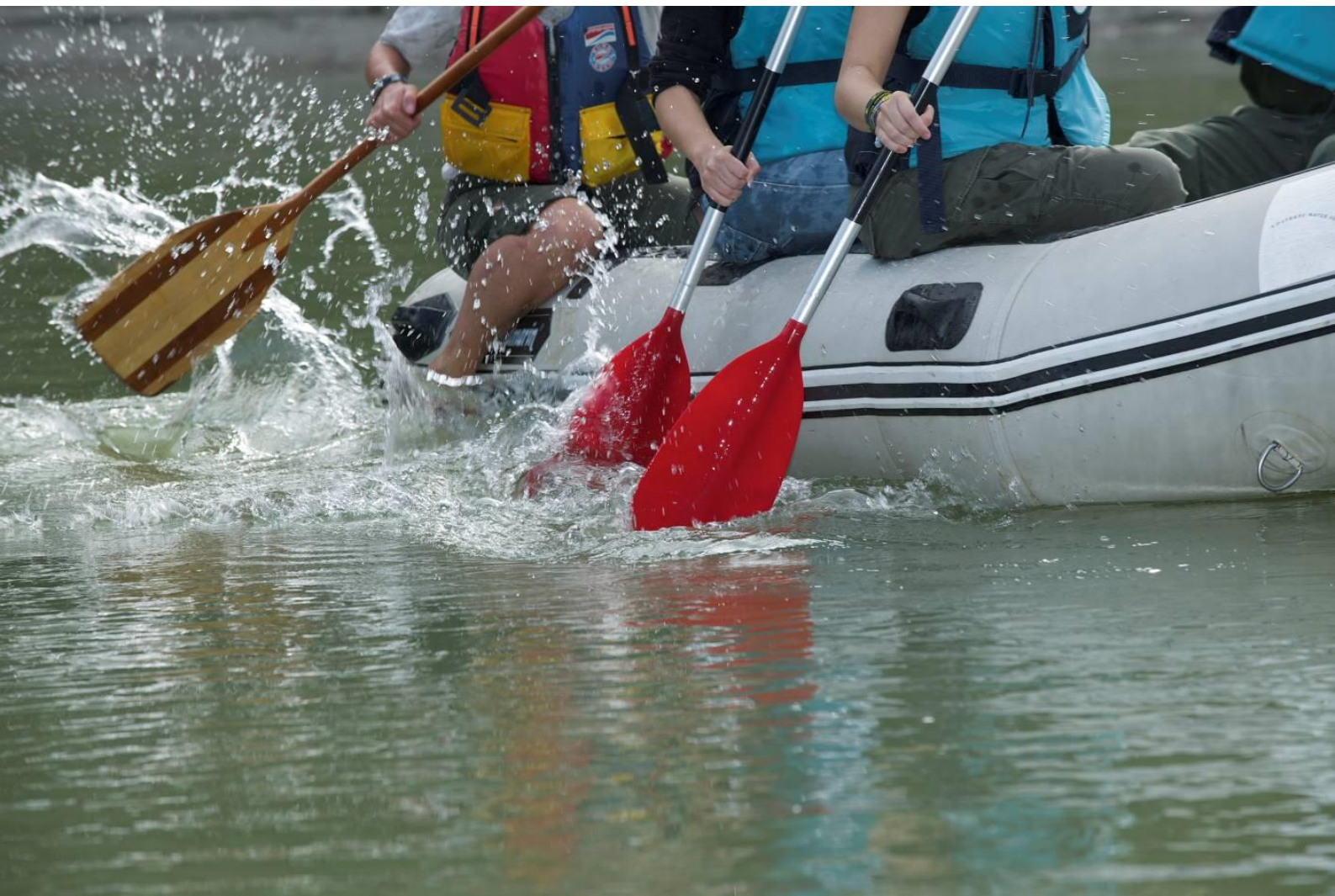
Tour Overview:

Duration: approx. 3 hours

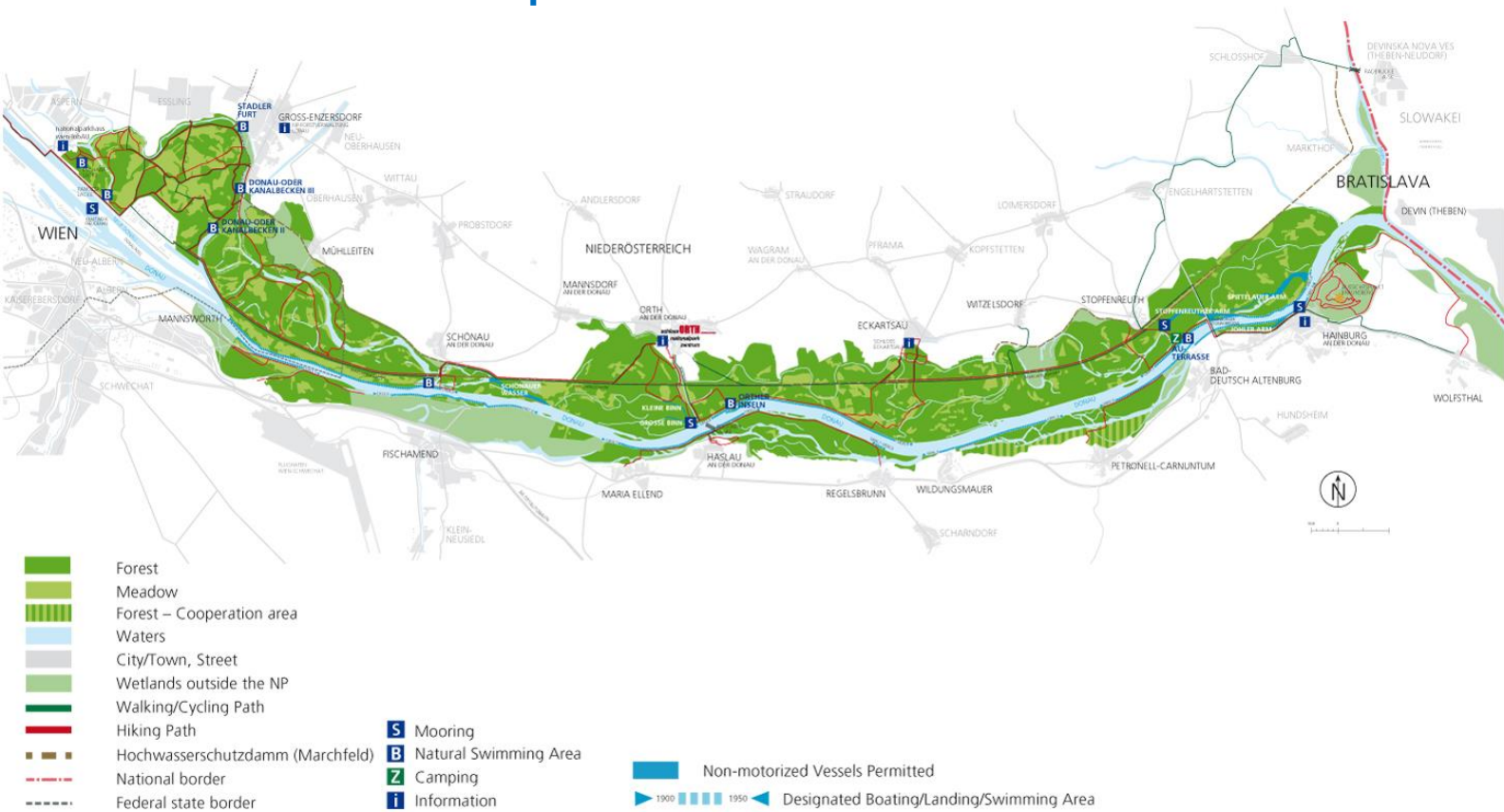
Persons: minimum of 6, max. 10 persons per boat (participants must be 15 or older)

Price: € 250 per boat

Participants must make an own bus available for this tour.



General Map of the Donau-Auen National Park



Design & Grafik: www.projektblatt.at/Angela Batik

The Region as Tourist Destination

The Donau-Auen National Park is embedded in a region boasting many places of cultural and historical interest – not to mention culinary and viticultural delights: Eckartsau Castle, Schloss Hof, the stork city of Marchegg, the medieval city of Hainburg, and the Carnuntum Archaeological Park are in the immediate vicinity. The Marchfeld and Römerland Carnuntum - the ancient Roman lands of Carnuntum - lie directly on the borders of the National Park.

Nothing stands between you and a delightful stay in the region!

For more information and bookings

Donau Niederösterreich
 Regional Tourism Office Römerland Carnuntum - Marchfeld
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carnuntum-marchfeld@donau.com
www.carnuntum-marchfeld.com

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