



# *Hiking* along the Danube









DANUBE REGION strategy

# Danube FACTS



**THE DANUBE** is the second longest river in Europe with an overall length of 2,880 km. More than 80 million people share the Danube catchment area, making it the world's most international river basin.

About the Danube

The Danube has its source in Donaueschingen. It passes through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Moldova and ultimately leads through the Danube Delta, Ukraine and Romania, into the Black Sea. Hence what all these European countries have in common is the Danube with its economic, natural and touristic potential. Nowadays the Danube links Eastern and Western European countries, cultures, people and ideologies on either side of the former Iron Curtain.

The four Central European capitals Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Belgrade as well as many other beautiful cities are situated at the river basin, making the Danube an important waterway and a popular sightseeing cruise destination.

However, there are also many other ways of discovering the area and enjoying the natural and cultural heritage outside the big cities. Several national parks, nature reserves, important wetlands and beautiful islands as well as some UNESCO World Heritage Sites shape the unique natural landscape, ideal for active holidays. Less known hiking trails lead along the river, but also turn aside revealing beautiful landscapes in the interior of the countries. The Danube delta, hosting numerous bird and fish species, still has an important fishing industry.

The unspoilt small towns and villages in the rural areas keep their authentic way of life, old traditions and customs and offer a great journey through the rich cultural diversity. The Danube river basin also was the site of some of the earliest human cultures and many well-preserved historic sights from different eras and empires are worth visiting.

Being an inspiration for numerous musicians, artists, photographers and writers, the Danube has become a symbol of the pan-European culture and identity. Different festivals and events aim to strengthen this identity as well as cultural exchange, being a great opportunity for tourists to feel the Danube spirit. A hiking trip along the river basin is one of the best ways to get to know these European countries discovering their uniqueness and cultural commonality.

This brochure aims to underline the potential of the Danube region to connect and raise recognition through hiking tourism.

#### Hiking statistics – The typical hiking tourist R

Even though statistic data is not available for every Danube-bordering country, according to a hiking study done by the Deutsche Wanderinstitut e.V., the typical hiking tourist can be described as follows:

- Demographics: 48 years (m & f), higher income
- Quota: 55% of the Germans declare themselves as hikers
- Length of tours: 9-14 km, 2.5-4 hours
- Hiking motives: nature, silence and relaxation
- Planning: Internet, recommendations, maps, hiking books
  - Tours: circular routes and day-trips
- Paths: routes with many viewpoints and natural paths

Further information on www.wanderforschung.de

Furthermore, Naturefriends International and WGD Tourismus GmbH have analysed the status quo of hiking tourism along the Danube. Please follow the link for the entire hiking report www.donausteig.com/fm/7337/ Report\_Hiking-along-the-Danube-in-Europe-web.pdf

# Danube**HISTORY**

# From transport and trade to travel and tours



AS EARLY AS IN PREHISTORIC TIMES, the Danube served as a trading route for metals, salt, furs and amber. During the Roman Empire it was used to supply the northern bases with food. However, the Danube was not only used as route of transport but also constituted part of the frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Danube Limes was the outer frontier of the Roman Empire and ran along the Danube from Bavaria to the Black Sea.

During the era of Great Migration, transport along the Danube remained the most important east-west route even throughout the fall of the Roman Empire. In the Middle Ages, the Danube was the principal axis for long-distance trade with Greece and India. Merchants of the then known world used to do business in the Danube region. Only when the Turks reached and blocked the middle Danube after the conquest of Constantinople, this development was interrupted. In fact, the lower Danube became a cultural border region between Austria and the Ottoman Empire. Numerous refugees have escaped the Ottoman Empire by swimming across the Danube. The river has also been one of few ways to escape to Western Europe in the Communist period (www.donauschifffahrt.info).

Today, navigation at the Danube is not only dedicated to transportation – also touristic cruises play a major role. In 1818, the first steamboat cruised the Danube, which resulted in the advent of the first package tours in 1830. After the construction of the Rhein-Main-Danube channel the number of tours rose notably. Ships can navigate the Danube from 2,411 kilometres of the Danube from Kelheim all the way down to the Delta. This is 87% of the river's total length. The ships can call in at 78 harbours located along the Danube between Kelheim and the Black Sea. 1,100 ships are registered at the Danube River – this is a tenth of those registered in the Rhine River, which has approx. 1,000 km of navigable length.

#### Route of Emperors and Kings



The "Route of Emperors and Kings" connects the diversity of European culture along the Danube and beautiful landscapes from the medieval city of Regensburg via Passau and Vienna to the metropolis Budapest.

The Roman Limes – the impressive former frontier of the Roman Empire, which has been proposed as UNESCO world heritage – also follows the Danube. Many excavations and findings can be discovered in many locations along the river.

www.StrassederKaiserundKoenige.com

#### Trajan's Bridge



Construction of the Trajan's Bridge started under the rule of the Roman emperor Marcus Trajan. It was ceremonially opened in 105, during the march to the city of Dačani. The overall length of the bridge was 1,097.5 meters and until around the year 1,000 it was considered the longest bridge ever built. The

Trajan's Bridge was located near today's village of Kostol near Kladovo on the Serbian and Turnu Severin on Romanian side. Today, the ancient bridge built by the most famous architect in that period - Apolodor from Damask – is considered one of the most important pieces of ancient Roman Empire. It was destroyed by order of the Emperor Aurelian (270–275) when Romans fled from the upcoming barbaric tribes.

## Danube**SIGHTS**

# **Cultural and natural heritage along the Danube**



**THE VARIETY** of natural as well as cultural heritage along the Danube is huge. There are many castles and ruins such as Dürnstein (AT), the castle of Devin (SK), a baroque castle in Gödöllő (HU) or the medieval fortresses Golubac (SER) Baba Vida (BG) and Enisala (RO). But also natural viewpoints such as the Danube source in Donaueschingen (DE), Danube loop (Schlögener Schlinge, AT), Iron Gate (RO/SR) or the rock formations of Belogradchik (BG) are indispensible sights hiking along the Danube. Furthermore, feeders such as the Drave (CRO) or Lake Beleu (MD) or mountain ranges such as the Carpathian Mountains (UA) form the landscape of the Danube basin.

Many pretty towns along the Danube banks such as Osijek, Ilok, Novi Sad, Vidin or Russe also reflect the turbulent historic past. One can find great metropolis such as Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade, but also lively towns such as Linz, Passau, Bratislava, Constanța or Odessa which represent lively urban culture along the great river.

The rich cultural heritage has developed due to various invaders settling in the region over the centuries. Besides the castles and ruins from the Byzantine, Ro-

man, Ottoman and Habsburg periods, there are many well-preserved churches, monasteries, synagogues and mosques, representing the variety of religions in the region. The architectural styles such as Baroque and Secessionist have also been "brought" from the upper to the lower Danube, hence the appearance of cities and towns is a well-balanced mixture of Balkan and west-European influences. For this reason the Bulgarian city Rousse is also known as the "little Vienna". The Nobel laureate Elias Canetti once said about his hometown Rousse "Rustshuk was the image of a people of extremely diverse origins ... in only one day you could hear seven or eight different languages". One of the greatest and most significant Mesolithic and Neolithic archaeological sites in Europe is Lepenski Vir (SER), located on the right coast of the Danube close to the Iron Gates. The settlements and objects to be discovered here are about 8000 years old.

More than ten sights along the Danube are included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage, amongst others the historical centres of Regensburg (DE), Wachau (AT), Vienna (AT) and Budapest (HU) but also outside the cities the Benedictine Abbey (HU), Palace of Galerius (SER), Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari (BG) etc.

#### Regensburg view above the city including Danube



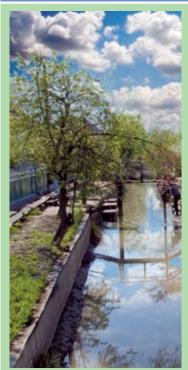
Given the fact that the city survived World War II nearly unharmed, Regensburg is the only practically intact mediaeval city in Germany.

Despite its great past, the 2000-year-old city on the one hand bears a huge historic past but on the other hand is today a lively city with 150,000 inhabitants. The university with around 25,000 students contributes to its young flair. Moreover, modern high-tech companies provide workspace for around 100,000 people.

But not only its inhabitants make the city worthwhile for a visit. Hiking, cycling and inline-skating are some of the leisure activities offered in and near Regensburg and also rock-climbing, canoeing or mountain climbing can be practised in the close surroundings of the city.

# DanubeSIGHTS

#### Vilkovo channels



Vilkovo merges the waters of the Danube and the Black Sea. The old part of the town is floating Vilkovo, which is why it is also called "Ukrainian Venice". Like in Venice there are channels, called "erilki" instead of streets. "Gondolas" and motorboats are the main means of transport.

When moving along the channels, tourists can see white pure small houses, small kitchen gardens fertilized by silt and small wooden bridges with the width of 1–2 meters.

The bridge's tops are not fixed and are removed when boats are passing by. Furthermore this picturesque place, with its lipovanic settlement and unusual dialects is a worthwhile visit for every tourist.



#### Devin castle

The first written source of Devin dates back to 1223. The castle is built on a strategic position – directly on top of a cliff above the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers. This location has served people for centuries – from the Celts to the Romans and the Goths and Lombards. In the 15th century the castle belonged to a series of prominent aristocratic families. In 1809, Napoleon's army destroyed Devin castle. In the 19th century it became an important site for the Slovak National Awakening movement. Today the remains of the battlement of the renaissance fortress still jut out from the narrow cliff, providing the visitors with a marvellous view on the course of the Danube.

# Danube**HIKE**

# Get to know countries and cultures

**ESPECIALLY IN THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN** part of the Danube, hiking infrastructure is already well established. Hiking areas also exist in the middle and lower Danube countries. Cultural and natural sights along the Danube continue until the very lower end in the Danube Delta. Therefore, there is high potential for connecting the existing hiking areas. Visitors should get the possibility to widen their horizons and encounter a unique hiking experience within a variety of landscapes and regions.

By fostering hiking tourism along the Danube, several marketing benefits for partnering countries and organisations arise:

- Networking of existing offers along the Danube
- Danube hiking web portal
- Cross-border offers
- Common hiking standards
- Online hiking map
- International Danube Hiking Conference
- Cooperation of national, regional and local representatives
- Cross-border collaboration

Hiking enables tourists to get to know countries and cultures in a direct way. Therefore, establishing crossborder hiking along the Danube should not only support the touristic infrastructure, but also strengthen the bonds between all bordering countries.

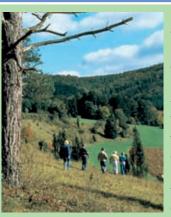
Bundling forces and working together for a common hiking tourism offer along the Danube does not only contribute to strengthening single countries and regions, but the entire Danube basin economically and socially as well as increasing the understanding for its natural beauty.

The green banks of the Danube, the woods, wetlands and islands offer an opportunity for diverse outdoor activities and by networking of different stakeholders, diverse products can be developed.

The interactive web portal danube.travel is currently being constructed. Along with an online hiking map and other means of communication it can improve access to information for both potential stakeholders and tourists. Cross-border offers allow local tourists to meet neighbouring cultures and nature and give visitors from distant countries the unique opportunity to discover a whole new region consisting of various landscapes, ethnicities and traditions. Common hiking standards, which will be introduced to stakeholders from different countries, aim to draw hiking and accommodation conditions closer to tourist expectations, nevertheless preserving the countries' unique appearance and atmosphere.

# Danube**HIKE**

#### Hiking in Germany



Hiking with and without luggage along the Danube from Donaueschingen to Passau (DE) is a special product developed by the ARGE Deutsche Donau. Heavy luggage often is an impediment for hikers when making large tours. Therefore, a shuttle service delivers the hiker's backpacks to the next stage of the route. These tours include hiking experience, city flair, natural attraction and sometimes even cruising one stage.

## Czech Republic

Welterbesteig

Way of Saint James

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# Donaueschingen

along the Danube Hiking in Austria



The Donausteig in Upper Austria with its 450 km leads – mostly on both shores – from Passau (Bavaria) via Linz to Grein. On 41 loop-tours it is possible to discover the surroundings of the region. The Welterbesteig Wachau runs along both shores of the Danube in Lower Austria between Melk and Krems, allowing hiking experiences in both directions on 180 km. On both trails hikers find standardised markings and signposts. Slova

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Bosnia & Herzegowir

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Hiking along the Danube | 7

# Danube**HIKE**

#### Hiking in Slovakia



In Slovakia touristic walks are offered rather than hiking tours. Therefore, the combination of cruising and walking Devin castle can be mentioned as good practice example. Stopovers range from one to two hours and the visit to the ruins is made individually. Nevertheless, there are two different paths. The branch on the left side of the hill leads to the place where a Great Moravian church stood in the 9th century. The second branch of the path leads to the conserved ruins of the middle and upper parts of the medieval castle.

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Donaueschingen

Germany

Hiking without luggage along the Danube

Austria

Jonausteig Wachau

Welterbesteig

Way of Saint James

# Slovenia

#### Hiking in Croatia



The city of Ilok offers theme routes within the city region. Even though not hiking along extensive walking trails, these tours offer a short city walk from the upper city part along the Danube and a longer excursion along the wine road of Ilok. Also Liska, the highest peak of the Vukovar-Srijem County (297 meters), can be found here, among the slopes of Fruška Gora. Vukovar, directly located along the Danube, offers a walking trail along the river until the water mouth of the Danube and the Vuka.

Croatia

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# Ukraine

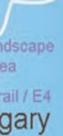
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**Biosphere Reserve** 

Danube **HIKE** 

#### Hiking in Hungary



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Serbia

"Discover the hills where the Danube bends" is a hiking tour provided by Special Tours, a Hungarian hiking tour operator. It lasts 13 days in which hikers experience the Danube and its surroundings from Esztergom to Budapest. The operator organises local accommodation in double rooms and a luggage transfer from one accommodation to the next. Furthermore, hikers receive a detailed tour description and a map of the region.

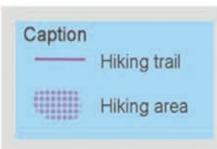
Romania

**I** Hiking in Serbia



According to the National Tourism Organisation of Serbia, two walking routes E4 and E7 cross the country. These routes offer tourists the possibility to discover the Eastern and Western part of Serbia walking along the most important sights and getting to know the landscape and people. The E4 and E7 routes cover main attractions such as the Iron Gate on the Danube, cross the Fruška Gora National Park and lead along the famous Orthodox churches and monasteries. There are numerous opportunities to make short day hike excursions in all regions of Fruška Gora National Park.

## Black Sea





#### Hiking in Ukraine



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Salix Tours offers ten-day hiking tours for a maximum experience of the Lower Danube region. Starting from Odessa, the tour includes walks along lakes, marshes and the Danube biosphere reserve. A huge variety of fauna and flora is presented and explained by the experienced tour guides. But also the channels of Vilkovo show the influence of the Danube in the region. Furthermore, people and country can be experienced in mainly private guesthouses.

#### Hiking in Romania scape



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Naturepark

Belogradchik/

**Balkan Mountains** 

Hiking the Carparthian Mountains. The Romanian travel agency and tour operator Tymestours offers hiking and trekking tours in the Banat Mountains. These tours normally last up to three days and reward hikers with a unique view of the Danube Gorge. Tymestours plans the hiking trips individually - either for groups of tourists or even for business delegations that want to experience nature off the beaten tracks.

Danube Delta **Biosphere Reserve** Delta

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# Black Sea

# Serbia

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#### Hiking in Bulgaria



Hike & Bike "Beyond the Iron Gate" is a hiking and biking offer by the Bulgarian hiking tour operator Odtrail ysseia-in. This tour leads through the Western Balkan Mountains in Bulgaria, along to the Serbian and Roarea manian riverbanks of the Danube to the Southwestern Carpathian Mountains in Romania. Even though this tour is not only dedicated to experiencing the Danube, it has to be mentioned as good-practice example for a cross-border package. Beyond borders it leads the hikers through the Danube area and its surroundings.

## Danube**NATURE**

# **Between the Black Forest** and the Black Sea

VARIOUS NATIONAL PARKS are located along the Danube such as the Donau-Auen National Park (AT), Duna-Ipoly National Park or Duna-Dráva National Park (HU) that contribute to soft tourism and awareness raising. In addition, nature parks and protected areas/reserves such as Dunajské luhy Landscape Protected Area (SK), Kopački rit Nature Park (CRO) or Gornje Podunavlje Nature Reserve (SER) underline the beauty of floodplains and the vast biodiversity of the river.

Many protected areas belong to Ramsar and/or UNESCO world heritage sights, namely the Altmühltal Nature Park (DE), the Persina Nature Park (BG) or Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (RO). Altogether the natural beauty along the Danube and beyond the borders contributes to the particularity of the entire region. The great number of bird species in the nature parks is an opportunity for integrating bird watching activities in the hiking tours. Some of the parks offer such guided tours (National park Djerdap (SER), Nature reserve Srebarna (BG). During the Cold war, many of these areas were inaccessible national frontiers which gave boost to biodiversity. The parks are also home to wild animals such as wolves, wild cats and brown bears. Rare animal species are lynx, raccoon and skunk.

The diverse relief in the region offers various hiking opportunities: from the wooded mountain range of the Black forest through the Alpine Foothills (AT), the Pannonian basin (SK, HU, SER), the craggy gorge of the Iron Gate (SER, RO) to the Danube Plain (RO, BG). Here, the natural resources offer a unique opportunity to combine hiking, canoeing and cycling along the river. There are existing offers for this type of tours in some of the countries.

In order to exploit the natural resources in a sustainable way and to adapt trails to tourists' needs common quality criteria need to be introduced. Besides the existing hiking trails new potential trails need to be examined, post signed, linked and presented to tour operators and tourists. Directories of national and nature parks, tour operators and various service suppliers can achieve common quality along the Danube and expand the hiking offer.

#### Danube Delta

The Danube Delta is located in the borderland of Romania and the Ukraine, a tiny part extending into Moldova. Eighty percent of its vast area of more than 5,000 square kilometres are situated in Romania. It is Europe's most extensive wetland and home to 5,400 animal and plant species, including such rare migratory birds as the Dalmatian Pelican – which is the delta's figurehead.



#### Duna-Ipoly National Park Hungary

The Duna-Ipoly National Park was founded after the successful protests against Nagymaros hydropower plant in the year 1997. The National Park, which covers not only the immediate Danube Bend but also large mountain areas of the Pilis and Dömös mountains – perfect areas for hiking trips – has many information points, visitor centres and nature trails.



## Danube CUISINE

# Culinary arts influenced by the Danube and its people



**THE CULINARY VARIETY** of the Danube regions is huge and it is a great experience to taste the entire range of different flavours.

Beginning in Germany with a Bavarian veal sausage continuing to Austria tasting some Grüner Veltiner (white wine) from the Wachau region, further having a Mákos Guba (pastry with poppy seeds and milk) in Hungary already involves all senses.

To continue the culinary tour one should try the typical Oštiepok cheese in Slovakia and Čobanac (hot pork hotpot) in Croatia as well as having a glass of Muskat Krokan wine in Serbia. Wine lovers will get their money's worth along the Danube. In Bulgaria it is indispensible to also have a glass of Misket wine. Wine growing is also an ancient tradition, inherited from the Roman and Thracian period. Wine-growers from different parts of the region still produce some of the genuine wines and offer wine tasting tours. The wine villages Rajac and Rogljevo in Serbia are also worth visiting.

In Romania hosts welcome their guests with bread, salt and schnaps, in Moldova one should not miss

mamaliga (type of polenta) and in the Ukraine the culinary tour should be finished with Pampushky (similar to doughnuts). The above-mentioned dishes are just an invitation to get deeper into the "Danube Cuisine". The typical cuisine in the Danube Delta Reserve also includes a variety of fish dishes. It is well-known for the stuffed pike, carp on stewed cabbage, Danube mackerel, fish balls, Danube herring, grilled sturgeon fish, zander croquettes etc. The traditional delta fish soup, prepared by fishermen in the small villages is made of vegetables and more than ten species of small fish.

Recipes in the Danube region have been passed on over the ages by many different cultures and nationalities. Influences from the Ottoman period as well as from the Habsburg Empire shape the mixture of eastern, western and Mediterranean flavours. In addition to the journey through Danube cuisine, tourists can visit several museums presenting the culinary history and traditions in the different countries – the Bread Museum in UIm (DE), wine museums in Bratislava (SK) and Pleven (BG), as well as the Fishery museum in Toutrakan (BG).

#### Bulgarian cuisine



The Bulgarian cuisine is famous for its influence from various countries. It is a mixture of classic Bulgarian dishes joint with culinary heritage from Croatia, Greece, Turkey and lately other central and western European cuisines. Typical Bulgarian meals are Shopska salad (tomato, cucumber, cheese salad), the traditional white cheese Sirene or Kavarma (consisting of marinated cooked meat and vegetables). But also Mussaka or stuffed wine leaves do not disclaim the Greek influence. Evidently the access to the Black sea also brings fish on the typical Bulgarian menu.

# Danube**ROOM**

# Hospitality in every country

**HIKING ALONG THE DANUBE** one can benefit from a huge choice of different accommodation possibilities. There are existing networks of accommodation providers especially focussing on hikers such as Wanderbares Deutschland (Hikable Germany) or the Donausteig guesthouses between Bavaria and Upper Austria.

Furthermore, a diversity of hotels ranging from highend accommodation to low budget room is available along the Danube, not to forget the huge field of private accommodation and pension network.

#### Floating hostel



Arkabarka is a boat hostel and guesthouse in Belgrade at the river Danube. It is a contemporary wooden building situated in one of the central parks of Belgrade. Its accessibility through the Danube and the owner's motivation to bring together Belgradians and guests from around the world makes it a unique location for cross-border hikers to stay. The aim of DanubeHIKE is to strengthen cross-border networks between accommodation providers as well as the focus on hiking tourists. Quality criteria, which many providers already fulfil at least partly should enable accommodation providers to pool their offers and extend them towards sustainable hiking tourism.



In order for the accommodation to be recognised as "hiker friendly", such requirements are e.g. accessibility from a hiking trail (within walking distance), hiking information (maps, brochures, weather, sights), guides, hiking equipment, first aid for hikers (salves, band aids etc.), shuttle service for hikers, luggage etc. Also general services, such as breakfast and check-in should be appropriate for hikers.

Most of the accommodations in the rural areas along the Danube are family-run hotels or guesthouses and the hosts are usually local people who pay special attention to local nature, culture and traditional local cuisine. Some accommodations offer guided tours to interesting sites and events in the surrounding area. There are regional and national associations of guesthouses and family-run hotels in some of the Danube countries, such as EcoRomania and the Bulgarian Association for Alternative Tourism, which can provide information on accommodation in the rural areas.

#### Donausteig guesthouses



52 guesthouses in the Bavarian-Upper Austrian Danube area are referred to as Donausteig guesthouses. They are specialists for hiking holidays along the Donausteig trail and fulfil certain quality criteria for businesses offering overnight stays and food. In Lower Aus-

tria, quality accommodation partners in the Wachau and the Carnuntum region can be found and booked along the Danube.

### Danube ACCESS

# Transport on water and land





**PUBLIC TRANSPORT** is an additional asset for hiking tourists, who can change to bus, boat or train especially in case of insuffiecient hiking infrastructure. Currently each country is fostering its national transportation network.

Depending on each country either the train network, bus transport or navigation is differently developed. There is a tendency towards a well-established northsouth connection within the railway network, but a lack of east-west connections. Even though there are huge networks, in some countries different standards are offered. Therefore, collaborating with tourist offices and tour operators enable train suppliers to enhance cross-border offers and therefore frequency. In terms of the "waterway" Danube there is high potential to extend its touristic capacity. Also in the case of ferries and touristic cruising lines there is potential to extend their offers focusing on hiking tourism. Biking needs to be mentioned additionally as it can contribute to diversify hiking along the Danube. Moreover it can also be declared a touristic motivation on its own. Biking trails are being extended further south the Danube, e.g. within Serbia. Nevertheless connecting hiking and biking for sustainable tourism reasons would also enhance offers and transparency. A combination of a cruise and hiking tour would also be a great opportunity for tourists to hike all day without having to carry heavy baggage.

Transport itself can be part of the nature and culture experience while travelling. Narrow-gauge and forest railways in Germany, Austria, Hungary and Romania pass through beautiful woods and small villages along the Danube. They offer the unique opportunity to enjoy the picturesque landscapes, as well as to meet and talk to local people in the old fashioned trains. Boats are also more than just a means of transportation – in almost all Danube countries, experienced fishermen offer rowing and canoeing trips in their own boats.

# Danube info

**THE ABOVE-MENTIONED TOPICS** should all lead to one common goal – to increase recognition for hiking tourism along the Danube. Therefore also all stakeholders should be encouraged to increase collaboration, participate in projects and collaborate towards the implementation of a common marketing strategy.

This final chapter should provide hints to create additional recognition for hiking tourism in destinations and contact details to tourism stakeholders interested in collaboration.

# Hints for fostering hiking tourism in a destination

- Selection of the most beautiful hiking trails
- Connection of the most attractive highlights
- Guarantee of access to the main route (municipalities, property owners etc.)
- Written affirmation of all project partners
- Concept for staging the trails
- Establishment of a cost plan
- Insurance of financial support (EU, regions etc.)
- Quality assurance
- Planning of signposting
- Promotion and development of hiking products

#### Links

Hiking	Tourism offices	Danube	
www.wanderverband.de www.nf-int.org www.alpenverein.at www.donausteig.com www.welterbesteig.at www.kst.sk www.hikeplanner.eu www.termeszetjaro.hu www.pss.rs www.baatbg.org www.era-ewv-ferp.com	www.germany.travel www.austria.info www.slovakia.travel http://visit-hungary.com http://croatia.hr www.serbia.travel www.moldova.md www.romaniatourism.com www.traveltoukraine.org www.bulgariatravel.org	www.deutsche-donau.de http://danube-limes.eu www.danube.at www.donau.com www.via-donau.org www.StrassederKaiserundKoenige.com www.danubecc.org www.donau-info.org www.donau-info.org www.danubeday.org www.icpdr.org	
Tour operators	Destinations	Transportation	
www.touristik-service-agentur.de www.donaureisen.at www.touristik.at www.salzkammergut.co.at www.bestslovakiatours.com www.specialtours.hu www.danubiumtours.hr www.stazeibogaze.info www.adventurecarpathians.com www.hiking-bulgaria.com www.odysseia-in.com www.tymestours.ro www.tioc-reisen.ro www.salix.od.ua	www.bayern.by www.neuburg-donau.de www.wien.info www.oberoesterreich.at www.bratislava.sk www.komarno.sk www.komarno.sk www.dvhh.org www.tvsz.hr www.tob.rs www.tob.rs www.novisad.rs www.tulcea.com www.belogradchik.info www.visit2odessa.com	www.bahn.de www.oebb.at www.zsr.sk www.regiojet.sk www.mav.hu www.hznet.hr www.serbianrailways.com www.railway.md www.cfr.ro www.uz.gov.ua http://bdz.bg	





Naturefriends International		
for the project DanubeHIKE		
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Pictures:		
Picture Title Page: Donaubergland GmbH Tuttlingen/Andreas Ber		
DE:	DZT-Bilddatenbank	
	Donau OÖ/Weissenbrunner	
	Danube Competence Center	
BG:	Mihail Mihov	
	Danube View Bulgaria, Alexander Ivanov	
	Hiking, Martin Büdenbender	
	The Danube Delta, NFI	
	Route of the Emperors and Kings, Donau OÖ	
	Trajans Bridge: Christian Baumgartner, NFI	
	Baba Vida Fortress, Mihail Mihov	
	Regensburg, BAYERN Tourismus GmbH	
	Devin Castle, Bratislava Museum	
	Vilkovo channels, Salix Tours	
	View from the Devin Castle, Gabor Lelkes Iron Gates, Maria Katelieva	
	Hiking in Germany, ARGE Deutsche Donau	
	Hikers at Burgstallblick, OÖ Weissenbrunner	
	Hikers at Devin Castle, Gabor Lelkes	
	Danube Bend, Special Tours	
	View on Ilok, Tourist Office Ilok	
	Hikers Fruska Gora, Danube Competence Center	
	Roussenski Lom, Odysseia-in	
	Danube Gorge, Peter Stöckl	
Picture 21:	Hiking in the Danube Delta, Salix Tours	
Picture 22:	Dish from the Danube Delta, Michael Zhmund	
Picture 23:	Vineyards, Hilde Matouschek	
Picture 24:	Bulgarian fish, Christian Baumgartner, NFI	
	Danube Delta, Christian Baumgartner, NFI	
	Ipoly National Park, Zsolt Kalotás	
	Danube Delta, Christian Baumgartner, NFI	
Picture 28:	Hospitality along the Danube,	
	ARGE Donau Österreich/Weissenbrunner	
	Donausteig Wirt, WGD Marketing GmbH	
	Floating hostel, Arkabarka Hostel	
	Capetan Misin Breg, Maria Katelieva	
	Train crossing Danube Bridge, ÖBB	
	Cruise liner Bratislava, Gabor Lelkes	
	The Danube in Serbia, Danube Competence Center 0 km Danube, Christian Baumgartner, NFI	
Ficture 35:	O KIT Dahube, Christian Baumgartner, NFI	





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