



Newsletter

Transdanube Travel Stories

Dear Reader!

Our Transdanube Travel Stories project will end at the end of the month, but the Danube Travel Stories will continue, inviting us to more exciting adventures! Come and let's set off from the source of the Danube, meandering down the river to the Danube Delta, with so many experiences and treasures to discover!

Come with us, and enter the world of Danube Travel Stories!

Climate-friendly Danube travels

The Danube region with its impressive natural sites and cultural sights is a model region for sustainable tourism in Europe. Many holiday destinations in the region are already easily accessible and connected with environmentally friendly means of transport. As of now, new attractive tourism packages invite to discover the Danube and its attractions. The packages were developed as part of the project "Transdanube Travel Stories", which is going to be completed with December 2022 as the last part of the "Transdanube"-trilogy, focusing on sustainable tourism mobility in the Danube region. Under the leadership of the Environment Agency Austria ten partners from seven Danube neighbouring states have developed various travel themes, travel experiences and smart travel companions, so-called green travel products. The focus was on six narratives for Danube travel, which can be experienced particularly intensively by using public transport, buses and trains. They show how clean transport and gentle tourism in the Danube area become a consistent overall package.

The Partnership Sustainable Tourism Mobility of THE PEP



The Partnership Sustainable Tourism Mobility of THE PEP (Transport Health Environment Pan-European Programme) was successfully established during the project. Until now tourism and transport experts from the responsible national authorities of 12 European countries are cooperating to push sustainable mobility in tourism in the pan-European region. They are aiming at drafting a toolbox with a collection of the best available practices by the end of 2023.

The results of the work so far were presented by Robert Thaler, Head of Department Active Mobility and Mobility Management in the Austrian Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology as a part of THE PEP Partnership Active Mobility at the 20th session of THE PEP Steering Committee in Geneva, October 17th-19th, 2022.

Presentation at the Steering Committee Meeting of THE PEP [here](#).

In case you are interested to join the partnership, please send an email to a.friedwagner@verracon.at. A first and great opportunity would be to join the next meeting of the partnership which will take place in the Netherlands 25th/26th of January 2023.

DANUBE TRAVEL STORIES

EBOOK

The Danube's many shades of blue

We shall discover "hidden places" and encounter contexts that not only make the history and culture of the Danube region accessible, but also elucidate our contemporary issues; contexts demonstrating that art and culture are not just for prestige, pomp and circumstance, but that beauty and sublimity have always contributed to making human life more tolerable, better and richer. All these contexts and phenomena will yield travel experiences that are worthy of the name.

Sightseeing alone does not do justice. It's about encounters, it's about cuisine and music, it's about people and customs; it's about getting back to nature and sounding out multiple dimensions with all our senses. The Danube is neither a nature reserve nor a tourist leisure and pleasure ground. It is a living environment for people, and every journey should make this a palpable reality. It's not about perfection but about improvisation. It's about surprise and emotion, rather than quasi-industrial procedures that mass tourism tows in its wake now and again.

The image of a symphony should always be our guide: forte and pianissimo, allegro and adagio, nature, culture, cuisine, architecture, folk culture, joie de vivre, but melancholy too, religion, and spirituality.

The Danube is as many-faceted as its shades of blue.

ENTER THE WORLD OF DANUBE TRAVEL STORIES

Click the image and read the full Danube Travel Stories in English.

[You can find it here in the German version.](#)

Transnational Programme
Danube Travel Stories

TRANSDANUBE TRAVEL STORIES



Summary

Danube for the soul

Summary

Danubian Europe: The discovery of a between West and East

The story begins in Linz, Austria, and we shall tell it as if it were in Romania. On the way are Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, and Serbia, as well as two more European capitals of culture: Pécs and Novi Sad. At the heart of the Danube journey is Hungary with all the expansions, divisions, upheavals seen by this region and caused by religions, ideologies, or claims to power that have repeatedly divided the river and brought it together again. Whereas Europe along the Rhine can be experienced as a continuum, the experience here is more one of disruption, which has resulted in enormous richness in art, culture, religion, tradition, and language. Danubian Europe has – quite literally – been a funnel of influences and therefore a region that has suffered a lot from wars, expulsions, and annexations, but it has become a melting pot of cultural processes that we experience today since they underlie its fascination.

It wasn't only the crusades in the Middle Ages and the constant conflict between Ottoman and Christian rulers that caused a lot of blood and suffering. In the 20th century, it suffered particular turmoil, caused, for example, by the solution of the Habsburg Empire and the First and Second World Wars, with all their consequences. The Eastern European countries suffered greatly from the resulting transition into communist and democratic worlds.

It is precisely in this space that Jewish life managed to survive again and again in a formative, inspiring and – in many ways – despite the most difficult conditions.

Against this background it is possible to keep the current debates, often focusing on Hungary, on the situation, the dominance of Europe, and the flow of migration to terms with history in a systematic way. These have been neglected. The transitions were too sudden, too affected, and sometimes too unpredictable. The fall of the Iron Curtain on the Austro-Hungarian border, for example, surprised most people.

The Danube trail stretches from Hungary to Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. It presents us with impressive, shocking, sometimes heartbreaking witnesses of a past ranging from the Stone Age to the 20th-century Holocaust; it reflects the people's pursuit for dominance and exclusiveness, and their tolerance or intolerance in the realm of faith. Religions and their adherents have no doubt done a lot of good, but their striving for supremacy and their claim to exclusivity of faith has also caused a lot of grief. All of these can be found in the Danube region. The pre-Christian era was characterised by the quest for divinity and the desire to comprehend spiritual and supernatural phenomena. With the Christian faith came socio-cultural claims to power, exclusiveness and authority of interpretation. These went hand in hand with monuments, rituals, narratives, and historic figures such as saints, martyrs, and dynasties like the Habsburgs or Ottomans, who – invoking Catholic or Muslim creation myths – regarded themselves as divinely gifted powers. They could be very tolerant, or discriminatory against other ideologies. In any case, the synergy between secular rulers and religious structures yielded magnificent periods of art, and buildings such as domes, abbeys, and monuments. Art and public spaces in the Danube region reflect the fact that faith has been a source of meaning and a means of hegemony. Contemplation on the one hand and demonstration of power, pomp and representation on the other developed the context of something higher, something supernatural that impressed people and gave them pride and orientation, or – in fact – frightened and humiliated them.

Catholicism, Protestantism, Orthodoxy, Islam, and of course, Judaism – all these religions solidified in the Danube region in such a way that not only individuals, ethnic groups and nations identified with them, but that entire states and territories split up and repeatedly reunited because of them. Rome and Byzantium met here as rivals in proxy wars. The 20th century saw unprecedented atrocities sparked off by atheist or alternative religious movements oscillating between National Socialism and Communism. The Danube region

Closing conference at the Linz Tobacco Factory

Allow us to accompany you on a trip on the Danube! We invited you to a Danube trip at the final conference of the project in Linz!

We started from the source of the Danube and told six stories to the participants about the vast cultural and natural heritage that develops along the Danube region's defined route, from destination to destination. Together, we followed the river's flow, focusing on sustainable means of approach and a wealth of new experiences.

If you would like to watch the event, you can [do so here](#).

[And more information about the conference is here](#).



Our results

The brochure contains a wealth of information on the results of the project. You can read exciting stories that start from the source of the Danube and lead us to the Danube Delta. You will also get a glimpse of the experiences of those who have gone through the Danube Travel Stories.



Danube Travel Challenge

One Danube, 6 exciting routes & countless experiences

DANUBE TRAVEL STORIES includes 6 unique routes. Each route has a thematic focus and includes a coordinated itinerary. We sent 6 participants on one route each to put the destinations to the test.

During their stay, our participants gained valuable knowledge about Europe, nature, the Roman era, art and culture, trade, nature and spirituality. And of course, have lots of fun.

What awaits you at the **DANUBE TRAVEL STORIES**, you can see in the video!



#danubetravelstories
social media channels of our
travel challengers!

[more videos are available here](#)

TEAM #1 EUROPE OF CONTRASTS



Stephanie

Social Media Channels: [@reiselife](#)



Jan

Social Media Channels: [@reiselife](#)

TEAM #2 NATURE LOVE



Annika

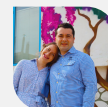
Social Media Channels: [@dominiclars](#)



Dominic

Social Media Channels: [@dominiclars](#)

TEAM #3 IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ROMANS



Naomi

Social Media Channels: [@turistulliber.ro](#)



Violin

Social Media Channels: [@turistulliber.ro](#)

TEAM #4 ART AND CULTURE



Cezar

Social Media Channels: [@imperatortravel](#)

TEAM #5 DANUBE TRADE ROUTE



Erzsi

Social Media Channels: [@theculturegrieks](#)



Bence

Social Media Channels: [@theculturegrieks](#)

TEAM #6 DANUBE FOR THE SOUL



Anni

Social Media Channels: [@griekarnskij](#)



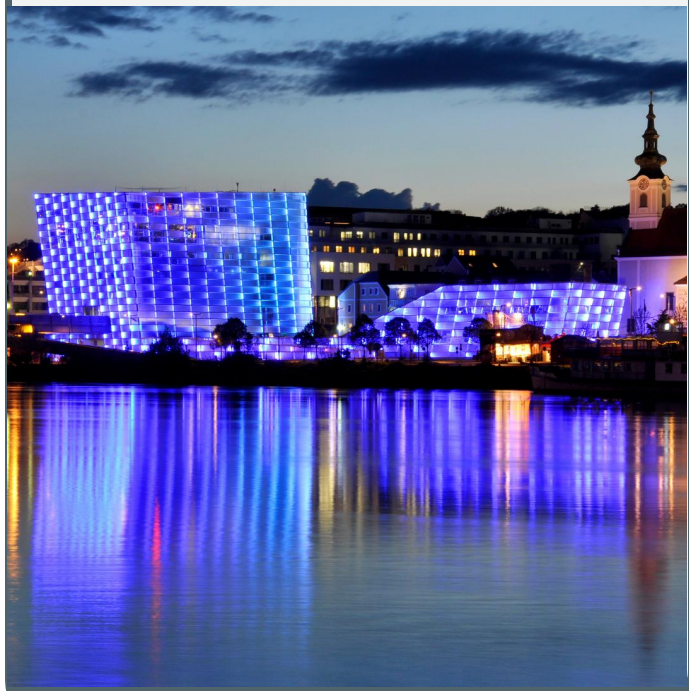
Jean Claude

Social Media Channels: [@griekarnskij](#)

Green Travel Product

Travel through the stories of the Danube

TRAVEL THE ROUTE OF EMPERORS AND KING - REGENSBURG TO MOHÁCS



Since Roman antiquity, the Danube has been the most important transport route in Central Europe and a link between a region closely intertwined in history and culture. Merchants, settlers and missionaries exploited this link between East and West in the early Middle Ages when new principalities and kingdoms were established along the Danube. Crusaders and pilgrims on their way to Byzantium and the 'Holy Land', as well as Hungarian, Habsburg and Ottoman armies, also followed the Danube. For more than 500 years, the Habsburg Danube Monarchy served as a connecting link - the "road of emperors and kings", along which the cultural and historical relics of the turbulent common history of transnational "Danube Europe" can be discovered.

[More information is here.](#)

TRAVEL THE ROMAN DANUBE LIMES - A MORE BEAUTIFUL WAY OF TRAVELLING THE DANUBE



For 400 years the Danube region was the northern border of the Roman Empire and was closely connected with this huge economic and cultural area from Scotland to Egypt. Our adventure tour leads along Rome's former "Danube Limes" (UNESCO World Heritage) from Germany to Slovakia. We convey impressions of this fascinating time that can be directly experienced beyond mere sightseeing and let you immerse yourself in the world of the Romans on the Danube!

[More information is here.](#)

The Last Danube on two wheels

Day #1: Croatia



DANUBE PARKS
network of protected areas

Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
Transdanube Travel Stories



The Last Danube on two wheels

Day #2-3:
Hungary and
Serbia



DANUBE PARKS
network of protected areas

Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
Transdanube Travel Stories



Visit to Nature park Kopački rit Croatia, Gornje Podunavlje Special Natural Reserve

Guided tour (in German, English or Croatian language).

This travel experience is conceived as a round trip through three protected areas of the Danube central region and will take three days to finish. During that time the goal is for travellers to experience the three protected areas of the central Danube region, every day a different one.

The central Danube region is separated into three parts:

1. Croatian part - Kopački rit Nature Park
2. Hungarian part - Duna-Dráva National Park
3. Serbian part - Gornje Podunavlje Nature Reserve

The product will give people the opportunity to see all of the breathtaking wetland wilderness that spans three countries. Guests will be able to try authentic food made from all local ingredients, taste local wine made from the authentic grape sorts that grow in these parts, see the local culture and how people used to live, visit some villages and cities along the route, monuments, castles, and have a little time for themselves to relax and enjoy the overall experience.

More information is [here.](#)

CULTURE, NATURE AND ENCOUNTERS IN VOJVODINA AND SLAVONIA



In our "On the edges of the Danube Monarchy" travel series, we will be in Serbia in 2022 and Slavonia in eastern Croatia.

We will start in Subotica, which boasts some of the most beautiful buildings of the Hungarian Art Nouveau and (fortunately for us) has not yet been discovered by tourists. There, we meet parish priest Csaba Paskó, Caritas president, cathedral director and TV chef, and are immediately introduced to the region's culinary delights. This historic region, Batschka, is today divided between Hungary and Serbia. In 1699, the Batschka came under the Habsburgs, who carried out intensive colonisation of this border region by German-speaking settlers, mainly Danube Swabians. But also Hungarians, Serbs and Croats inhabited this lowland. Then we travel to nearby Novi Sad, the capital of Vojvodina, where we can see the mighty fortress of Peterwardein. Novi Sad will be the European Capital of Culture in 2022 and also has much to offer. There will be plenty of time for sightseeing and meetings. From here, we'll take two excursions: one to the hilly landscape of Fruska Gora with its Serbian Orthodox monasteries, and the other to the capital Belgrade, stunningly situated at the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers.

Finally, we make a detour to the other side of the Danube, Croatia, to visit Vukovar, which gained notoriety during the 1991 Croatian-Serbian war, and Ilok, Croatia's easternmost town, with its fortress and Franciscan monastery perched high above the Danube. The Kopački rit Nature Park near Osijek, at the mouth of the Danube, is explored by boat.

On this trip, we pay the utmost attention to social and ecological sustainability. Transport is by a climate-friendly, modern bus. We work with local, mostly small, businesses so that people in the area can benefit from our trips. As always, the programme includes meetings with interesting people, giving a deep and authentic insight into the country's history and current situation.

[More information is here.](#)

COME CYCLE THE NEW SLOVEINA GREEN PANNONIAN ROUTE



The country's best secret combines three green destinations in the northeastern four-border area

- 3-day cycling route through Slovenia's Pannonian Region and the Heart of Europe.
- A free interactive map with some 200 attractions is available.
- Total length: approximately 120 km (depending on the version).
- Lowest and highest altitude: 158/334 m.

The Slovenia Green Pannonian Route (SGPR) launches on June 30, 2022, to coincide with the beginning of the world's first real travel season in two years. In honor of those travellers — who are ready to journey away from crowds and again embrace new cultures, nature, food and wine, and adventure — this 3-stage cycling itinerary, which stops in [green-certified destinations](#), explores the northeastern corner of Slovenia tucked in the Heart of Europe.

Sitting on the four-border point with Austria, Hungary, and Croatia, Slovenia's Pannonian Region is a magnetic hub loaded with multiple traditions, thermal spas, diverse landscapes, vineyards, an endless supply of photo opportunities, and a lifetime of stories. Oh, and by the way, this is also a fantastic cycling country.

The SGPR was developed as a collaboration between [Novi Turizem](#), an innovative tourism research institute, the [Institute for Culture, Tourism and Sports Murska Sobota](#), and [GoodPlace](#) Sustainable Tourism Factory. The SGPR, a loop route, begins in [Murska Sobota](#), the largest town in the [Pomurje Region](#), which surrounds the Mura River. It then heads south and east, paralleling the river, to the beautiful town of [Lendava](#). The next stage travels across the Mura — from the Prekmurje Region, on the left bank, to the [Prelekija Region](#), on the right bank, and to the wine-growing hills connecting the town of Ljutomer and [Jeruzalem](#). The trail completes its loop with a final stage back to Murska Sobota.

More information is [here](#), and [Slovenia Green's website](#).

VELO MARTINI - CYCLING PILGRIMAGE FROM BRATISLAVA - SZOMBATHELY



During the 7-day cycling, pilgrimage starting from Bratislava, many religious sites, and historical and cultural heritage cross our path in beautiful landscapes that are easy to cycle on. It is not easy for us to leave our daily routine to embark on a journey with a different rhythm. On each of the seven days, spiritual guides will help our cycling pilgrimage at the designated locations. In addition, we will also learn a lot of interesting things about the cultural and natural values visible along the way.

Our tour starts in Bratislava, in front of St. Martin's Cathedral, then leads through the rich landscapes of Szigetköz, Moson plain, Pannonhalma Hills, Rábaköz and Fertő-Hanság, and then take the Sopron - Kőszeg route through the Alpokalja to Savaria, i.e. to Szombathely, to the birthplace of St. Martin, the end of the Via Sancti Martini international pilgrimage route.

[More information here.](#)

Watch our video about Velo Martini



WELCOME TO HRVATSKO PODUNAVLJE - THE DANUBE KINGDOM OF WINES AND NATURAL PEARLS



Welcome to eastern Slavonia and Baranja, a picturesque region located in the east of the Republic of Croatia along the border with Serbia and Hungary, on the last fifty kilometres of the Drava River and exactly in the middle of the Danube, from the German Schwarzwald to the Black Sea, which is 2,850 km long.

Due to its location along this mighty river, the easternmost part of the historical regions of Slavonia and Baranja is also known under the internationally recognized name "Croatian Danube".

By visiting our region at the transition from Central to Southeastern Europe, you will have the opportunity to experience an interesting area where Croatian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman heritage meets.

We are best known to our neighbours for our wide and fertile fields, large rivers and marshes, gentle green hills, colourful villages, old towns, cheerful people with interesting traditions (tambourine, folk music and costumes), gastronomic delicacies (venison roast, Čobanac - one from variations of goulash, Fiš-paprikaš - spicy fish soup made from red ground pepper, Kulen - traditional sausage, cheese strudel...) and - wine. Wine has been produced in this region since the time of ancient Rome. The oldest winery in Croatia is located in the western part of Slavonia and dates back to 1232, and here in the Croatian Danube, there are the second (Iločki podrumi in Ilok) and the third oldest winery (Vina Belje in Kneževi Vinogradi), both from the Middle Ages. Pinot, Chardonnay, Merlot and Frankovka are some of the most common wine varieties, and the most famous white variety Graševina is the pride of every local winemaker.

The Traminac wine variety is world-famous, with a sweet taste and the smell of freshly picked roses. The one from Đakovo and Ilok is especially appreciated, and it is not only enjoyed by Croats, but since the mid-20th century and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and guests at the British Court.

[More information here.](#)

What can be learned from our project – sharing core knowledge

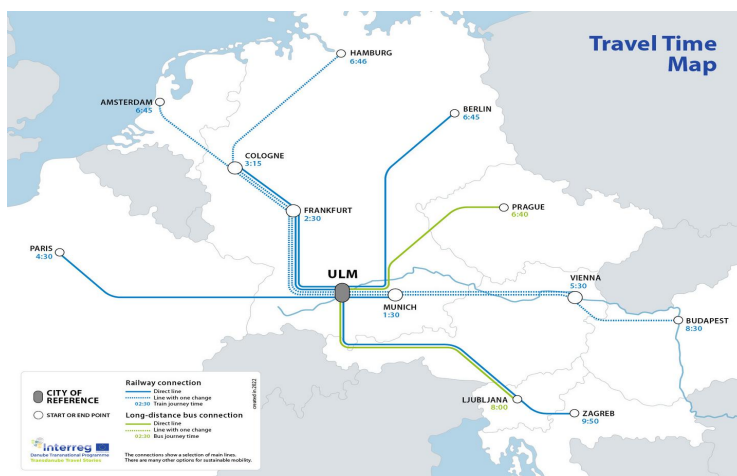
E-Learning

In order to consolidate the project results and to give interested people the opportunity to benefit from the experiences and learnings from the Transdanube Travel Stories project in the long term. Some major contents which have been developed within the project will be prepared in three learning videos. In the videos you can expand your knowledge on sustainable tourism in the Danube region, benefit from examples and get inspired. The first video deals with the topic of sustainable mobility and its integration into tourism. The second video focuses on thematic tourism and the establishment of Tourism Product Clubs to create thematic tourism experiences. The third video highlights the importance of storytelling in tourism. The use of storytelling and its benefits for sustainable tourism are illustrated by the Danube narratives developed in the Transdanube Travel Stories project. The teaser offers a first insight into the video-based e-learning.



How to travel along our trails in a sustainable way?

Sustainable mobility



Within the duration of the project, a lot of information on sustainable mobility offers along the trails in the Danube countries was researched.

In order to use these results in a sustainable way and to promote sustainable mobility, it is particularly important to communicate them to the public and tourists.

For this purpose, travel time maps were developed, which show motivating and sustainable travel options by bus and train at a glance. These shall inspire people to use sustainable means of transport while travelling and are used by the project partners and associated partners for promotion. The Travel Time maps can be found here: [Travel Time Maps | Transdanube-Pearls](#)

Another important role in promoting sustainable tourism is played by tourism and mobility centres.

As it is a challenge to find well-structured information on sustainable mobility offers, especially in the countries of the Danube Region, the Danube Travel Information Database was developed. Here, helpful links and information on sustainable mobility offers are clearly listed according to countries and destinations. The database is made available to multipliers in order to promote the consultation of tourists and locals on sustainable mobility offers. [It can be found here.](#)