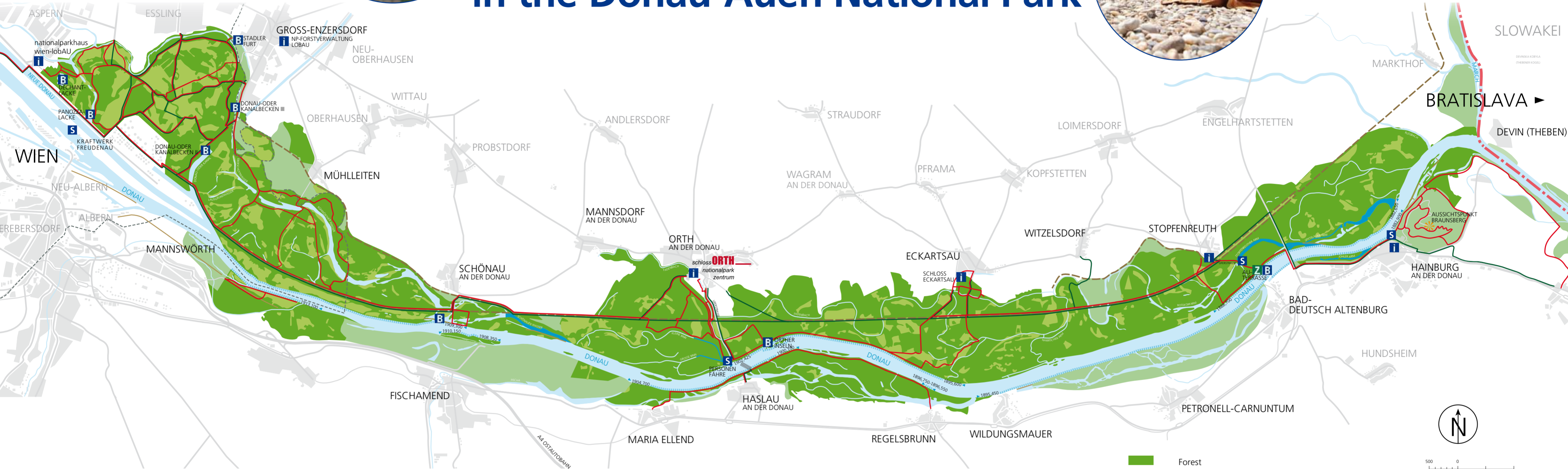




Swimming, Boating and Camping in the Donau-Auen National Park



Welcome to the Donau-Auen National Park!

Austria's last remaining wetlands environment of significant proportions may be found between Vienna and Bratislava. As in the Wachau, the Danube still flows freely for long stretches. It constantly shapes and reshapes the surrounding riverine landscape, replenishing its side channels and arms, and giving new life to its tranquil backwaters. The best way to experience this landscape is on the water. For this reason, specially designated bodies of water in the National Park have been opened to boating. As an international waterway, the Danube itself may of course be navigated by boat.

Certain banks along the Danube and specific bodies of water within the National Park are designated natural swimming areas. Yet other areas in the National Park are reserved for flora and fauna alone. Only in this way can the Donau-Auen National Park fulfil its mandate to protect and conserve nature while offering its numerous guests the recreational activities and nature experience they expect. We kindly request that you heed the rules of conduct and fair play outlined in this information brochure on swimming, boating and camping in the National Park.

May you enjoy many rewarding hours in the Donau-Auen National Park, where the blue Danube goes green!



Dear National Park Visitors,

We Little Ringed Plovers need gravel banks to breed. Because almost all rivers are now regulated and have hard concrete banks, there are very few natural gravel banks and islands left for us and our young. That's why the Donau-Auen National Park, with its many gravel banks, is such a valuable refuge.

Just take a look at this picture and see how well my eggs are camouflaged from my natural enemies! Can you spot my nest between the stones? If you were out walking around in my habitat, you might have stepped on it without even noticing! And it's not just Little Ringed Plovers who use the banks and gravel bars along the Danube and its side arms as breeding, nesting, feeding and resting grounds: lots of birds and other species are here, too.



So we kindly ask you not to step on the gravel banks, except the ones which are approved for human visitors by the National Park itself. That way, you can still swim, sunbathe and relax to your heart's delight – but are also helping me and my fellow species survive! Those areas where visitors are welcome may be found on the map, as is information about boating and swimming. There is an even more detailed view on the other side of the page.

- Forest
- Meadow
- Waters
- City/Town, Street
- Wetlands outside the NP
- Walking/Cycling Path
- Hiking Path
- Hochwasserschutzdamm (Marchfeld)
- ▶ 1900 000 ■ 1950 000 ▶ Designated Boating/Landing/Swimming Area
- Non-motorized Vessels Permitted
- S Mooring
- B Natural Swimming Area
- Z Camping
- I Information

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



Imprint:
 Publisher/Owner: Nationalpark Donau-Auen GmbH, Schloss Orth, 2304 Orth/Donau, Tel. +43 (0) 2212 3450, e-mail: nationalpark@donauauen.at. Photos: Baumgartner, Dolecek, Füzfa, Kern, Kovacs, Mertin, Roland. Layout: Hödl & Partner Werbe- und Marketing GmbH. Printed by Donau-Forum-Druck with a print run of 1,000. Produced using environmentally-friendly technologies and materials. © June 2012. All rights reserved. Errors and omissions excepted.

Fair Play in the Donau-Auen National Park



Dogs
Please keep your dog on a leash at all times to protect wildlife and as a courtesy to other park visitors.



Cycling Paths
We request that cyclists remain on the specially designated cycling paths (marked green on the map).



Paths
Please remain on any one of the over 100 km of marked paths in the park (see map).



Boating
Please note that only specially designated side arms may be navigated by boat (see map).



Swimming/Boating Areas
Please consult the map for designated swimming and docking areas.



Camping
Camping is allowed in designated areas only (see map).



Nature Conservation
Please do not disturb plants or animals in their natural habitats.



Fires
Please do not start fires of any kind and extinguish cigarettes completely before disposing of them properly.



Horseback Riding
Riding and/or leading horses is forbidden in the National Park.

For your own safety we urge you to heed the following recommendations and tips:

- Please keep in mind that safe boating on the free-flowing Danube requires not only experience with paddles and boats, but with the Danube itself
- Protect yourself and your children by wearing lifejackets
- Be sure to heed maritime traffic: small boats must always yield to shipping vessels and barges!
- Boating on the side arms during low-flow conditions is prohibited for reasons of nature conservation. Likewise, boating is prohibited in times of flood or high waters due to life safety concerns
- In accordance with waterways traffic regulations, pleasure boats may not navigate the Danube at water levels exceeding 600 cm (Pegel Wildungsmauer)
- During flood conditions and/or strong winds, there is risk of falling trees and branches near the shore. In the interest of nature conservation and the preservation of the authentic experience of the habitat, toppled trees are not removed from the banks. For this reason, no liability is assumed for the safety of visitors
- Be informed about Danube water levels before you begin your boat tour. For up-to-date information, phone Pegel Wildungsmauer on +43 (0) 2163-3370 or visit www.doris.bmvit.gv.at/pegel_und_seichtstellen/pegelstaende/



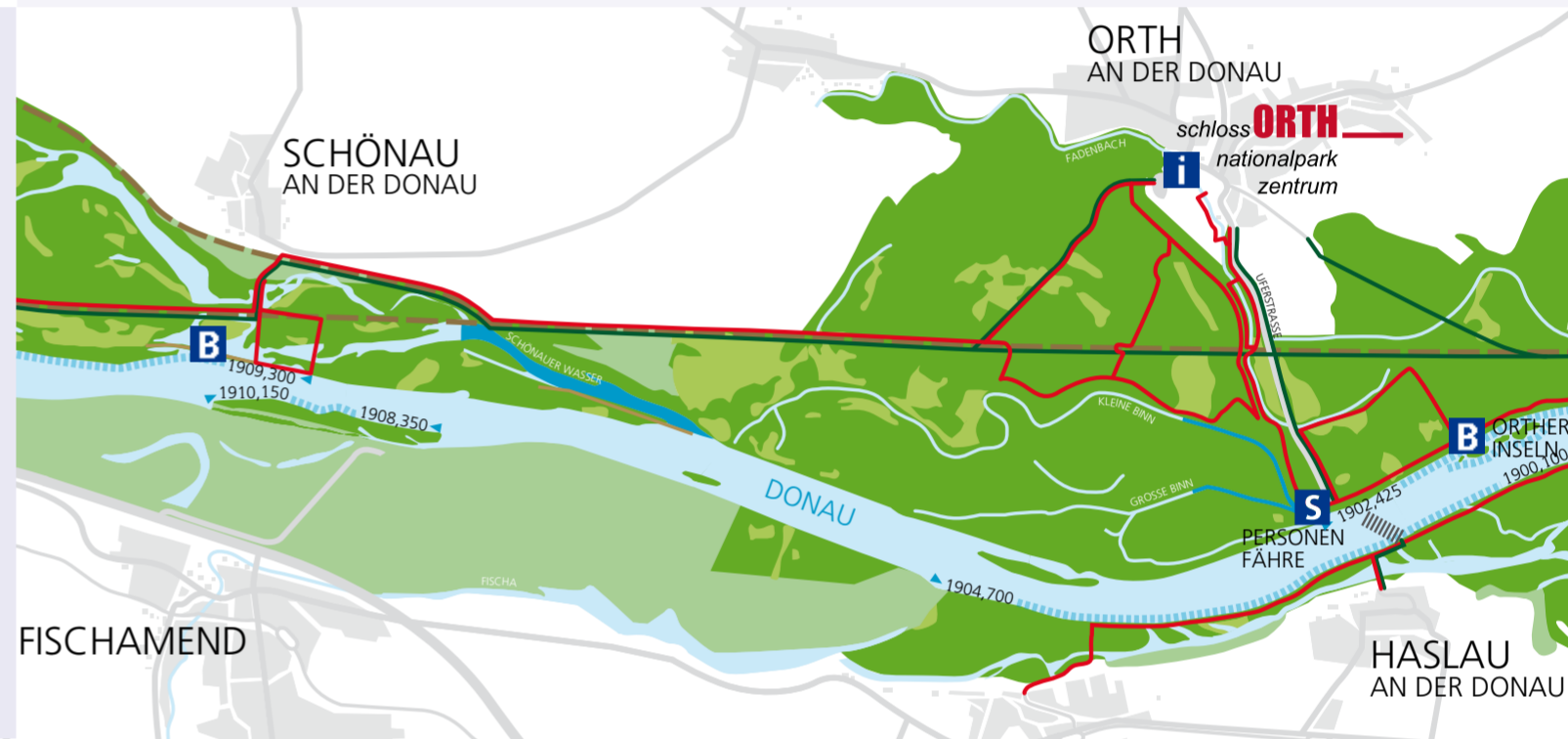
Boating, Landing and Swimming on the Danube

- From the east of Vienna to the Austrian border, the Danube current is part of both the Donau-Auen National Park and the international Danube waterway
- Vessels are permitted to navigate the main Danube current in accordance with maritime law
- Landing, mooring, swimming and bathing on the Danube's shores are only allowed in certain areas in accordance with National Park and maritime law
- The areas where landing, swimming etc. are permitted are clearly marked by blue crosshatchings on the map (borders indicated by blue triangles)
- On site, these areas may be recognized by the current kilometre marks, for example the 1900, 100 kilometrage mark on the Danube's right bank indicates the end of the section in which landing and swimming are permitted
- We recommend visiting one of the swimming areas which may be conveniently accessed from land: Orther Islands and the Stopfenreuth Au-Terrasse **B**



Boating on the Side Arms

- Motor boats are prohibited, except for in authorized harbour access areas
- The following Lower Austrian Danube side arms may be navigated, at least in part, by non-motorized boats only: Schönauer Arm, Kleine Binn, Grosse Binn, Stopfenreuther Arm, Spittelauer Arm, and the Jöhler Arm. These areas are shaded dark blue on the map. On the water, the respective end of each boating area is marked by a sign
- On all side arm banks, docking, disembarking and landing are prohibited, except when crossing over traverses on those bodies of water on which non-motorized boating is permitted
- Moorings are marked on the map **S**
- Boating is not permitted on the side arms located within the Viennese section of the Donau-Auen National Park



Natural Swimming & Bathing Areas in the Wetlands **B**

- Swimming is permitted in the following waters in the Upper Lobau (Obere Lobau): the Dechantlacke, Panozzalacke, Danube-Oder canal pools II + III, and the Stadler Ford (Stadler Furt)
- With the exception of the natural swimming area in the Schönauer Au, swimming is prohibited in all Lower Austrian side arms
- Recommended swimming areas located directly on the Danube's banks: Orther Islands and the Stopfenreuth Au-Terrasse
- Swimming areas are clearly marked on the map

Scuba diving is prohibited in all areas of the Donau-Auen National Park.

Camping **Z**

Camping of any kind is prohibited in the entire National Park except for in the specially designated camping area which may be found in the vicinity of the Au-Terrasse Stopfenreuth. There is a fee for using this campsite, which must be reserved in advance. There is a maximum stay of two consecutive nights.

For more information: schlossORTH National Park Centre Tel. +43 (0) 2212-3555, schlossorth@donauauen.at



National Park Information Points

Would you like to know more about the Donau-Auen National Park? Or do you need walking maps or brochures? Come visit us at the National Park - we would be happy to help.

wien-lobAU National Park House/City of Vienna Municipal Department 49 (Forestry Office and Urban Agriculture)
1220 Wien, Dechantweg 8
Tel. +43 1/4000-49495, nh@ma49.wien.gv.at
www.nph-lobau.wien.at

schlossORTH National Park Centre
Schloss Orth, 2304 Orth/Donau
Tel. +43 2212/3555, schlossorth@donauauen.at
www.donauauen.at

Donau-Auen National Park Operations of the ÖBf (Austrian National Forests)
Schloss Eckartsau Information Point
2305 Eckartsau
Tel. +43 2214/2335-18, infostelle.donauauen@bundesforste.at
www.bundesforste.at/donauauen

Guided Boat Tours

Experience first hand both the powerful Danube current and the more tranquil wetland waters on one of our guided boat tours. Our National Park rangers will act as guides, providing lots of interesting and at times astonishing information about nature and natural cycles.

Whether on a canoe, rubber dinghy, traditional Tschaika or excursion boat tour, you will be fascinated by the wild riparian forest.

Go to www.donauauen.at for a complete list of programmes.



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