



Danube Day in Serbia

With public festivities, high level meetings, conservation tasks, boating adventures, competitions, live music and the best fish soup in the country, Serbia's Danube Day is sure to get everyone thinking and taking action for the Danube rivers. This year's events will take place in Belgrade, Vinca, Novi Sad, Kraljevo, Pancevo, Smederevo, Donji Milanovac, Golubac, Negotin and Kladovo.

International cooperation is at the forefront of Danube Day and events begin with a meeting to strengthen international relations on Sava Day (1st June). The 2nd **Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin** will be held at the *Palata Srbija*, Belgrade. Ministers from Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, the European Commission, UN, ICPDR and other partners will gather to discuss the recent work of the Sava Commission.

27th June will bring fun, action, information and festivities to **Belgrade**. The city has a host of events for Danube Day with something for everyone. Events kick off in the morning with the **main celebration at Zemun Quay** (10.00am-1.00 pm). Come along to the river clean-up action and you'll not only be tidying up your own city but also preventing the rubbish from travelling across Eastern Europe to the Black Sea. Visitors will be able to enjoy a boat trip around Great War Island, take the family to the special children's show, "Blow-fly fortress on the Danube", and view age-old Danube traditions and crafts. There's an arts workshop for children with special needs and live music to get you dancing for the Danube, courtesy of the band, *Gora*. There'll be a chance to learn more about the Danube and its second biggest tributary, the Sava, as well as find out what else you can do to help your rivers at info stands on waste recycling and water conservation.

A highlight of the morning will be the culmination of the search to find Serbia's young **Danube Art Master** for 2009. This international schools competition, overseen by the Danube Environmental Forum and now in its 6th year, challenges every pupil in the Basin to create a piece of environmental art inspired by their river. Entrants are encouraged to let their creativity run wild and use materials found by the river to create a sculpture, collage or painting. Serbia's competition is being run by the Zora ecological organisation and the best 10 entries will be announced at the Belgrade festival. The overall winner will be crowned the 2009 Serbian Art Master and go onto the international stage of the competition.

If all this builds up an appetite, you'll be able to pop over to **Fish Fest 2009**, also in Belgrade (26th-28th June). Cooks will be competing to make the best fish soup so you're assured of a great feast. Students from Belgrade, Nis and Novi Sad universities will be guaranteed a fabulous day out on 27th June as they **tour the Danube and Sava by boat**, visiting Great War Island and learning about the region as part of the Danube Day celebrations. While a special Danube exhibition will examine past Danube journeys: the **Exhibition of Navigation of the Danube in the 19th and 20th Centuries** takes place between 27th and 29th June in Belgrade. Celebrations continue on into July when 60 students will take part in week-long **Danube Eco Camps** on Great War Island (15th-29th July).

Outside of the capital, regional events will focus on engaging children in respect for their rivers and the people and wildlife of the entire Danube Basin.

Vinca (26th June): a wide range of activities including art workshops and exhibitions, a flower market, a public ceremony to pay tribute to the Danube rivers (on the Bolecica River) and a clean-up action.

Pancevo (29th June): 2009 marks 100 years since the building of Pancevo's twin lighthouses, located at the confluence of the Danube and Tamis. Highlighting the importance of these rare and culturally important structures, a major celebration will take place on Danube Day, with other events continuing throughout the year.

Donji Milanovac (20th-25th June): "Danube My Sea" creative sand art and paper boats workshop, culminating in an exhibition and folk evening (26th June).

Smederevo (25th-29th June) has a packed programme: children's workshop; chess/sports contests; riverside walk and clean-up and art exhibitions. 27th June sees the 4th Festival of Danube Folklore bringing together more than 7 Danube countries incl. Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Serbia.

Golubac (26th June-12th July): Children from Smederevo, Bela Crkva, Veliko Gradiste, Golubac and Donji Milanovac will take to the water and learn how to sail on the Danube at "Camp 2009".

Kraljevo (27th June): Rafting on the Ibar River from Maglica to Kraljevo.

Novi Sad: School workshops on water resources (15th-25th June) will be followed by a week-long festival to promote Danube and Vojvodina canal navigation, with fish cookery contests; an art exhibition; press tour and regatta (22nd-29th June).

Negotin (6th June): a regatta from Mihajlovac to Kusjak will be held, followed by a fish cookery competition and rock concert.

Kladovo: Danube bike camp (11th June); Fetislam Fortress children's art workshop (27th-28th June); Danube Day festival with regatta, Tekija to Hajducka vodenica excursion, sports events, fish cookery, Djerdap Reservoir boat trip (29th June); ceramics/weaving exhibition in the Stara Varos Tourist Info Centre (22nd June- 5th July).

The sound of ship horns will reverberate across Serbia and the Danube Basin at 14:00 on Danube Day, as Danube workers pay a very special tribute to their river – a river that provides them with food, water, power, recreation and, crucially, their livelihoods. The annual **Greet the Danube ship blast**, organised by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), will see ships along the Danube from Germany to Ukraine simultaneously sound their horns in a salute to the rivers.

Further information:

Please contact **Marija Lazarevic** of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Water Directorate (marija.lazarevic@minpolj.gov.rs; +381 11 201 33 57). See also: www.minpolj.gov.rs.

For further details of the Danube Art Master competition, please contact **Ivana Nikolic** of the Zora ecological organization of Kostolac (+381 63 275 433; ivana.nikolic80@hotmail.com).

See also: [www.danubeday.org/en/Danube Art Master](http://www.danubeday.org/en/Danube_Art_Master) for inspiration.

Organisers:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Water Directorate; Coca-Cola Hellenic and Coca-Cola in partnership with: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning; Ministry of Infrastructure; Ministry of Economy and Regional Development; Ministry of Culture; PPMC Srbijavode; PPMC Vode Vojvodine; City of Belgrade - Secretariat for Environmental Protection; Secretariat for Utilities and Housing Services - Water Administration and Secretariat for the Economy; PPMC Beogradvode; PUC Zelenilo Beograd; PUC Water Supply and Sewerage of Belgrade; PUC City Sanitation; Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Secretariat for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and Secretariat for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development); Serbian Chamber of Commerce; National Tourism Organisation of Serbia; Tourism organisation of Belgrade; Toyota Serbia; Singidunum University - Faculty for Applied Ecology; Educons University – Faculty for Environmental Protection; municipalities of Novi Beograd and Zemun; Tourism organisation of the municipality of Majdanpek; Radio Smederevo; Dunavski talasi NGO; Urbana Ekologija NGO; Zora ecological organisation.

Shared Waters – Joint Responsibilities

For general information about the 14-country Danube Day celebrations, view www.danubeday.org or email the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR): jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org.