Boating and landing 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.
- Vehicles are permitted to navigate the 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 reclassified by the current kilometre marks, for example the 1900,100 kilometre mark on the Donau's right bank indicates the end of the section in which landing and swimming are permitted.

Boating on the side arms:

- Motor boats are prohibited, except in authorized harbour areas.
- The following Lower Austrian Danube side arms may be navigated, at least in part, by non-motorized boats only: Schlossarm, Kleinene Birn, Grasse Birn, Schloßfährarm, Sptitzlauer Arm, and the Jeblaw Arm. These areas are marked blue on the map. (On the water, the respective end of each boating area is marked by a sign.)
- On all side arms, docking, disembarking and landing are prohibited, except when crossing over navigation on those bodies of water on which non-motorized boating is permitted.
- Moorings are marked on the map.
- Boating is not permitted on the side arms located within the Vienna section of the Donau-Auen National Park.

For your own safety:

- We urge you to heed the following recommendations and tips:
- Swimming in the National Park is permitted in designated areas only. These are the sections along the Danube shores which have been designated as landing and accessible areas, and are marked by blue crosshatchings on the map. In accordance with Paragraph 8 of the Austrian law pertaining to water and waterways (“Wasserrechtsgesetz”), swimming in these public waters is permitted at one’s own risk. However, please note there are no swimmers spots established or monitored by either the National Park administration or viennese, the waterways authority.
- 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.
- Please protect yourself and your children by wearing lifejackets.
- In case of high water currents, 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 navigational traffic regulations, please keep the Danube at water levels exceeding E10 cm (Pegel Winklerhöhe).
- During flood conditions and/or strong winds, there is a risk of taking 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 buy your boat ticket. For up-to-date information, phone Pegel Winklerhöhe on +43 1/2163-3370 or visit www.donau.ort.at/donauaueninformation/biegewasser-und-prognois
Swimming and boating 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 marine landscape, reestablishing its side channels and arms, and giving new life to its ancient 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 Donau and specific bodies of water within the National Park are designated natural swimming areas. Yet other areas in the National Park are reserved for fleas and fawns alone. Only in this way can the Donau-Auen National Park fulfill 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, the Little Ringed Plovers, need gravel banks to breed. Because almost all areas 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 the picture and you will see how much our 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 spotted 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 nesting 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 visits by the National Park itself. That way, you can still enjoy, observe and enjoy 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 information about boating and swimming. There is an even more detailed view on the other side of the page.

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