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May/June 2005

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## Danube Diary

### The Danube Tourist Commission at 33

In 1972 four Danube states—Austria, Germany, Bulgaria and Romania—joined together to form an organisation dedicated both to making the Danube and a seventy-kilometre band on either bank of the river better known internationally and to promoting tourism in the region. By the end of the same year, membership of the Danube Tourist Commission had grown to include seven of the then eight riparian states. Today's members are Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia and Romania, as well as Casinos Austria AG and the Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

In 1982, the first Danube Travel Mart, a specialised tourism fair for the trade, was staged in Vienna. Even before this a Sales Manual for the Danube Region had been published in the United States. The Danube Travel Mart has since been regularly held every two years. The next Travel Mart is to take place in Vienna, January 29-31, 2006, concurrently with the Austria travel business (atb) show.

The scope of the Danube Tourist Commission's work was extended to include the Main-Danube canal, whose opening contributed to an upswing in passenger shipping from thirteen to ninety-nine cruise liners in 2005.

In addition to organising the Danube Travel Mart, the Danube Tourist Commission holds an annual general meeting and Shipping Conference. The latter serves as a forum for solving current problems and exchanging ideas and opinions. The Commission in cooperation with authorities and institutions in the region has been able to bring about numerous improvements. Among these have been the regular opening of the pontoon bridge at Novi Sad and exemption of passenger ships from the bridge toll, which allowed resumption of through navigation of the river downstream to the delta. Close collaboration with national and international bodies such as the Danube Co-operation Process, Danube Commission, IG River Cruises and TINA Vienna is a vital part of the Danube Travel Commission's success, as are mutual membership arrangements with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), the Road of Emperors and Kings and Working Community of Danubian Regions (ARGE Donauländer).

Among the Commission's projects are the creation of a distinctive and consistent corporate identity using the blue "Danube Wave" logo, production of information material including the "Danube Counter Info", "Danube Sales Manual" and a series of annual guides to cruise ships, excursion shipping and yachting on the Danube and Main-Danube canal. A variety of other activities is designed to help market the Danube: studies, intensive PR work, including regular editions of the "Danube Press Services" in different languages (4-5 issues annually), press conferences, fam trips and cooperation with the media.

A significant element in the Commission's marketing mix is its website, [www.danube-river.org](http://www.danube-river.org) that features virtual trips along the Danube, links to information on individual countries and providers of tourism services. The website, which is updated continuously, was distinguished with a special award at the Austrian Advertising Grand Prix.

The future of the Danube Travel Commission lies in particular in innovative marketing ventures such as the "Danube Sales Manual"

([www.danubesalesmanual.com](http://www.danubesalesmanual.com)), intensified participation in international trade fairs and in international organisations, a broadening of cooperative arrangements, and integration in European Union projects to promote tourism on and along the Danube. The Danube already ranks first—ahead of the Nile—among river cruise destinations with a market share of over thirty percent, while the intensive efforts have made the Danube Bicycle Trail, the absolute top runner in Europe.

*Information: Danube Tourist Commission, [donau@austria.info](mailto:donau@austria.info)*

### **Ernst Trost: “The Danube—Landscapes of Passion”**

Austrian writer and journalist Ernst Trost’s essay on the Danube Tourist Commission’s annual theme, “Danube—Landscapes of Passion” describes the diversity of landscapes along the great river and the people that they mould.

*Information: Danube Tourist Commission, [donau@austria.info](mailto:donau@austria.info); the essay is available only in German.*

### **Danube Day 2005**

Danube Day takes place in Vienna, June 22-24. The event staged jointly by International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the City of Vienna focuses on protection of the Danube in Austria. The ICPDR, which is the initiator of Danube Day, set out to raise awareness among the population at large for the first time in 2004 by means of innovative activities. The motto of this year’s series of events to be held in Vienna’s MuseumsQuartier is the “Danube Takes Place”. A model of the Danube and the surrounding region, the Via Donau theme park, information stands, tours for school classes, special program for children and a quiz with attractive prizes to be won are the highlights of the event. Danube Day will also be celebrated in other Danube lands as a “unifying, Danube-wide happening”. *Information: [www.danubeday.org](http://www.danubeday.org)*

### **Danube Tourist Commission’s thirty-fourth General Meeting in Bratislava**

At the invitation of the Slovak Tourist Board and Slovakian Economics Ministry, the Danube Tourist Commission’s next General Meeting will be held in Bratislava, November 30-December 2. *Information: Danube Tourist Commission, [donau@austria.info](mailto:donau@austria.info)*

### **Danube Travel Mart 2006 in Vienna**

Following the great success in 2004, the next and thirteenth Danube Travel Mart will again be held in conjunction with the atb (austrian travel business) in Vienna. Decisive in the decision to repeat the experiment was feedback from many exhibitors and buyers, who profited from the synergies produced by holding the two travel trade fairs together. *Information: Danube Tourist Commission [www.austria-tourism.biz/atb](http://www.austria-tourism.biz/atb), [donau@austria.info](mailto:donau@austria.info)*

### **Interdisciplinary Balkan studies in Vienna—Space and Design in Linz**

The third post-graduate program organised by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) will commence in October 2005 at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. The two and four-semester courses of study permit students to become Balkan experts. The course is open to professionals, as well as students in other programmes of study. *Information: [www.idm.at](http://www.idm.at)*

The *University of Art and Industrial Design in Linz* offers a new course in “Space and Design Strategies”, as a two-year master’s or three-year bachelor’s program. As part of the course, *Flagship Europe* will cast off from Linz on May 1 on a two-month journey downstream to the Black Sea. Information: [www.strategies.ufg.ac.at/flagship](http://www.strategies.ufg.ac.at/flagship), [www.raum-objekt.ugf.ac.at](http://www.raum-objekt.ugf.ac.at)

### **Serbian Chamber of Commerce in Vienna**

The Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Danube Tourist Commission’s newest member, recently opened a representative office in the Austrian capital to promote development of economic links between the two countries. Director of the Vienna office is *Mr Mario-Marko Macura*.

Information: *Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Johannagasse 1-3, A-1050 Vienna, Tel. ++43/1/5440294, [pks@ppks.co.at](mailto:pks@ppks.co.at)*

### **Danube Bicycle Trail Project Group**

The **Working Community of Danubian Regions**, ARGE DONAULÄNDER whose presidency is held in 2005 by the City of Vienna, has set up a Danube Bicycle Trail project group in the framework of the Transport and Navigation Group. The project group is chaired by *Mr. Otto Schwetz*. The groups for economics, tourism, regional planning and environmental protection are also participants, as are the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe, gtz and Danube Tourist Commission. The resolution establishing the project group was adopted at the fifteenth conference of heads of government in October 2004 as part of efforts to promote environmentally friendly transportation.

The goal of the project group, which is led by *Mr. Bruno Domany*, is to develop the bicycle trail and extend it to the Danube delta. The trail, which is a favourite with guests and very profitable economically for the Danube region, currently begins at Donaueschingen and runs through Germany, Austria and Slovakia as far as Štúrovo. Segments of the trail also exist along the central and lower reaches of the Danube. To assess the present situation and combine trail-related activities, the Working Community of Danubian Regions has invited representatives of regions along the middle and lower Danube to a conference to be held in Vienna in July.

Information: *Danube Tourist Commission, [donau@austria.info](mailto:donau@austria.info)*

## **On the Danube...**

### **Handicapped-friendly ships**

WT Cruises’ *Erasmus*, MS *Der Kleine Prinz* operated by Swiss Cruise and Viking River Cruises’ *Viking Primadonna* are all constructed to permit easy access for wheelchair users. On selected sailing dates the *Viking Primadonna* is also equipped with a dialysis station.

Information: [www.wtcruises.nl](http://www.wtcruises.nl) [www.swisscruise.ch](http://www.swisscruise.ch) [www.vikingrivercruises.com](http://www.vikingrivercruises.com)

### **Peter Deilmann cycling and hiking cruises**

Among the active holiday options offered by the Peter Deilmann company are golf, cycling and hiking cruises aboard the *Mozart*. A variety of departure dates are available in spring and autumn.

Information: *Peter Deilmann Reederei, Am Holm 25, D-23730 Neustadt in Holstein, Tel. ++49/4561/396-0, [www.deilmann.de](http://www.deilmann.de)*

### **Award for Viking River Cruises**

This past January, readers of *Condé Nast Traveller* for the first time singled out Viking River Cruises for one of just two places on the American travel magazine's "Gold List" of the world's best river cruise companies. Viking River Cruises also recently became a sponsoring member of the UNESCO Welterbestätten e.V.. The firm's ships put in along the Danube in the Wachau, Vienna, Budapest and the delta, all of which have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. The *Viking Danube* will sail to the delta this season and is to be joined next year by the *Viking Primadonna*. Information: [www.vikingrivercruises.com](http://www.vikingrivercruises.com), [info@inexcom.de](mailto:info@inexcom.de)

### **Sea Cloud Cruises**

Sea Cloud Cruises new PR manager is Antje M. Borstel of Publix. Since the Sea Cloud separated from Hapag-Lloyd Borstel has also acted as the firm's sole spokesperson. Starting in the 2006 season, *River Cloud II* will cruise the Danube in alongside the *River Cloud I*. Information: [antje.borstel@publixpr.de](mailto:antje.borstel@publixpr.de)

### **Nicko Tours' twin cruiser *Flamenco***

German tour operator Nicko Tours has engaged the new *Flamenco* for five years. The first of Munich-based Premicon's unique "twin cruisers" was launched this past February 28 and will be christened on June 11. The second liner of this type is already under construction at the Neptun shipyards in Rostock.

Information: Nicko Tours, [info@nicko-tours.de](mailto:info@nicko-tours.de), [www.nicko-tours.de](http://www.nicko-tours.de)

### **Old-timer cruises to Budapest and Neszmély**

From August 27 through September 3 the Association of Friends of Historic Ships will run nostalgic cruises from Austria to Hungary aboard historic old-timer vessels. The cruises depart from Bad Deutschaltenburg and put in at Komárom/Komárno and Szentendre. Neszmély, the final port of call, is the site of a museum dockyard at which nine historic ships are tied up.

Information: Association of Friends of Historic Ships, [www.fhs-austria.com](http://www.fhs-austria.com)

### **Premicon fleet expands**

With *Avalon Poetry* another ship was added to the Premicon fleet. The modern four-star liner can accommodate 176 passengers. Sister ships *Bolero* and *Johann Strauss* already ply the Danube. Premicon will deploy a total of fifteen river cruise ships upon delivery of two ships now presently under construction.

Information: Premicon AG, Einsteinstr. 3, D-81675 Munich, Tel. ++49/89/457470-0, Fax ++49/89/457470-10, [info@premicon.de](mailto:info@premicon.de), [www.premicon.de](http://www.premicon.de)

### **Christening at Scylla Tours and Phoenix Reisen**

This Easter, Scylla Tours' luxurious five-star cruise liner was christened *Gloria*. The new ship will operate for Phoenix Reisen and see service on the Danube between Passau and the delta. Phoenix offers no fewer than eighteen different Danube cruise programs aboard ten ships, including a three-week Danube-Black Sea combination cruise that takes passengers as far as the Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

Information: Phoenix Reisen GmbH, Pfälzer Str. 14, D-53111 Bonn, Tel. ++49/228/72628-0, Fax ++49/228/72628-232, [www.phoenixreisen.com](http://www.phoenixreisen.com)

## ...and on the River's Shores

### Germany

#### **Ulm/Neu-Ulm Culture and Sales Guide**

The district of Ulm/Neu-Ulm has issued a new culture guide that contains details of special events, such as the Emil Nolde exhibition, suggestions for excursions in the area, culinary delights, accommodations, as well as information about cycling and recreation in the region between Ulm and Donauwörth. The 2005 Ulm/Neu-Ulm Sales Guide lists the varied events of the "Summer in the City" festival, programs for kids, as well as hotels and restaurants.

*Information: Tourismuszentrale Ulm/Neu-Ulm, Tel. ++49/731/1612820, Fax: ++49/731/1611646, [www.tourismus.ulm.de](http://www.tourismus.ulm.de)*

#### **Danube Fire in the Altmühl valley**

Donau- und Altmühltal Personenschiffahrt will be playing with fire: on June 18 guests can experience the magic of the "Canal in Aflame", while to mark the close of the season on November 12, the Danube and Altmühl will be all "fire and flame".

*Information: [www.schiffahrt-kelheim.de](http://www.schiffahrt-kelheim.de)*

#### **Thurn & Taxis Castle Festival in Regensburg**

Ramon Vargas, Bobby McFerrin, Chick Corea and Edita Gruberová are some of the stars that will lend this year's Thurn & Taxis Castle Festival (July 15-31) sparkle and glamour. Last year the festival drew over 30,000 visitors. The high point this season promises to be a spectacular open-air production of Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*. Festival patroness, Princess Gloria von Thurn & Taxis, will act as hostess for the gala closing event on July 31. *For schedule and tickets: Odeon Concerte, Schenkendorfstrasse 9, D-93049 Regensburg, Tel. ++49/941/296000, Fax: ++49/941/2960019, [info@odeon-concerte.de](mailto:info@odeon-concerte.de), [www.odeon-concerte.de](http://www.odeon-concerte.de)*

### Passau

Construction of an additional Danube quay commenced on schedule at the end of March. The new facilities will be completed by May/June 2006 and provide eight more berths. Passau will then have more than twenty-two docks for cruise liners. Ships will be able to tie up at the new facilities will be possible at water levels of up to 780 centimetres (current maximum: 625 centimetres).

### Austria

#### **Austria—land of monasteries and abbeys**

A new, richly illustrated brochure provides details of exhibitions and events in twenty-one of Austria's monasteries and abbeys, as well as in Pannonhalma in Hungary. The monasteries offer activities ranging from music workshops, such as "Glatt & Verkehrt" (July 17-23) at Göttweig monastery, to creative and fasting courses, spa programs, as well as accommodations. *Information: [info@kloesterreich.at](mailto:info@kloesterreich.at), [www.kloesterreich.at](http://www.kloesterreich.at)*

### **Nostalgic rail and ship experience**

This year's program of the Rail-Ship Experience Association once again offers an attractive range of outings, such as the new "experience trains", luxurious dinner train evenings, and, of course the ever popular rail and ship combinations on the Danube.

*Information:* [www.erlebnis-bahn-schiff.at](http://www.erlebnis-bahn-schiff.at)

### **Mozart 2006 in Vienna: new website**

A new website—[www.wienmozart2006.at](http://www.wienmozart2006.at)—for the 2006 Mozart anniversary year celebrations in Vienna went online on March 14. The e-mail address for direct enquiries is [office@wienmozart2006.at](mailto:office@wienmozart2006.at)

### **Vienna brochures**

The new guide "Umweltfreundliche Wiener Gastlichkeit 2005" lists over sixty Viennese hotels and restaurants with a proven commitment to the environment. The establishments singled out can be recognized by the distinctive environment badge. A new fourteen-page architectural guide published by the Vienna Tourist Board describes 124 buildings from the Jugendstil to the present. The new brochure has been prepared to mark the 2005 Architecture Year. The six-language guide, which takes visitors through Vienna's historic centre as well as to three new districts, is available free of charge.

*Information:* Vienna Tourist Board, Obere Augartenstrasse 40, A-1025 Vienna, Tel. 0043/1/21114-106, Fax ++42/1/2168492, [info@wien.info](mailto:info@wien.info)

### **Mondrian, Goya and Picasso at Vienna's Albertina**

On display at the "Piet Mondrian" exhibition at Vienna's Albertina Museum are ninety paintings on loan from all over the world presenting a comprehensive overview of the Dutch artist's oeuvre (through June 19). "From Goya to Picasso" brings together 180 major works drawn from the collection of well-known Swiss art dealer and collector, Krugier-Poniatowski. Among the artworks on show are drawings, oil paintings and sculpture by Goya, Picasso, Giacometti, who was a friend of the collector, Rodin, Turner and many others. "From Goya to Picasso" is on view through August 28. *Information:* [www.albertina.at](http://www.albertina.at)

### **Vienna Technical Museum**

"Blue—The Invention of the Danube" is the title of a special exhibition at Vienna's Technical Museum that explores the mystique of the "Blue Danube" in the words of Johann Strauss' immortal waltz, and the legendary Danube Steamship Company (June 15-November 27). To mark the twin anniversaries of the end of World War II and the Austrian State Treaty the museum will mount another special exhibit, "Reconstruction and Marshall Plan" with a variety of objects, photos, brochures, books, posters and films from public and private collections (through October 2). Another temporary exhibit at the Technical Museum shows keys and locks from around the world from Graz collector Hanns Schell's extensive collection (through December 31).

*Information:* [www.technischesmuseum.at](http://www.technischesmuseum.at)

### **Gladiators in Carnuntum**

Carnuntum Archaeological Park located east of Vienna has long since developed from an excavation site to a Roman theme park. In June and July the park's original amphitheatre will be the venue for gladiators to display their prowess. The park offers insights into everyday life in Roman days. *Information:* [www.carnuntum.co.at](http://www.carnuntum.co.at)

### **Strudengau Danube bicycle festival and “Strudengau Special”**

The Danube Bicycle Festival will be staged for the fourth time on June 19. Between May 1 and October 26 the “Strudengau Special”, an extension of the “Wachau Special”, offers attractive excursion possibilities, particularly in combination with ship travel and the Danube Bicycle Trail. The train operates between Linz and Krems; bicycles are carried free of charge.

*Information: [info.donau@oberoesterreich.at](mailto:info.donau@oberoesterreich.at) [www.donauradweg.at](http://www.donauradweg.at)*

### **Lower Austria: Danube Bicycle Trail extension**

The Danube Bicycle Trail on the river’s southern bank has been extended and made safer. The eight-kilometre (almost five-mile) segment from Aggsbach Dorf to the Pielach Bridge has been revamped and improved at a total cost of 1.2 million euro. Cycling is an important tourism and economic factor in the Wachau region. With up to 150,000 cyclists taking advantage of the route annually, it has been decided to complete the last missing stretch from Aggsbach Dorf to St. Johann as soon as possible.

## **Slovakia**

### **Award for Slovak Tourist Board**

China is one of the major tourism source markets of the future with over 29 million travellers annually. This is reason enough for a “European Chinese Tourist Welcome” prize to be awarded every year at Berlin’s ITB tourism fair. Among this year’s fifteen winners in five categories was the Slovak Tourist Board, which took home a gold medal in product innovation. The award is particularly notable, for Slovakia’s national tourist organisation initiated activities in China just last year.

*Information: [www.slovakiatourism.sk](http://www.slovakiatourism.sk)*

### **Slovak National Theatre online**

A newly launched website makes the Slovak National Theatre’s opera, theatre and ballets programs through February 2006 easily available in English, German and Slovak. The site also contains access plans. The “Golden Archive” lets visitors to listen to arias sung by such celebrated members of the Slovak National Theatre’s ensemble as Peter and Miroslav Dvorski and to view photos of scenes from performances. *Information: [www.snd.sk](http://www.snd.sk)*

## **Hungary**

### **Hungarian National Tourist Office call centre**

From the end of 2004 a call centre has allowed potential guests to obtain directly general information about a holiday in Hungary. The toll-free number 0800-3600 0000 can be dialled from Hungary, as well as from the U.S., Austria, Germany and Switzerland, with questions being fielded in English, German, French and Hungarian.

*Information: [info@hungarytourism.hu](mailto:info@hungarytourism.hu) and [tourinform@hungarytourism.hu](mailto:tourinform@hungarytourism.hu)*

### **New Budapest convention centre**

On January 25 the green light was given for the construction of a new convention centre in the Hungarian capital that will accommodate 5,000 people. The new facility is a joint venture of public and private investors and will be operated as a profit centre. After fifteen years, the existing Budapest Congress Center (BKK) is due this summer for a thorough overhaul; work is to be completed by the autumn.

### **Budapest Palace of Arts**

Inspired by cultural institutions like the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Budapest Palace of Arts on the bank of the Danube measures 64,000 square metres (688,900 sq. feet) and can accommodate up to 4,500.

*Information: Palace of Arts, Budapest, Tel. ++36/1/5553000,  
[info@muveszetekpalotaja.hu](mailto:info@muveszetekpalotaja.hu), [www.mupa.hu](http://www.mupa.hu)*

### **“Four Seasons on the Danube”**

The Hungarian capital’s major art festival, “Four Seasons on the Danube”, features music courses at the Europe Art School, a Beethoven program, concerts, exhibitions, touristic and culinary activities, and a variety of other top-flight events (25 June-27 August). Patron of the festival is Karl Otto Habsburg.

*Information: Windland Festival Organisation, Bécsi út 88/90, H-1034 Budapest,  
Tel./Fax ++36/1/3886689, [windland@axelero.hu](mailto:windland@axelero.hu), [web.axelero.hu/windland](http://web.axelero.hu/windland)*

### **Pécs—UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Pécs, located in southwest Hungary, is a jewel among the country’s cities. Numerous historic landmarks include the four-towered Gothic cathedral, Bishop’s palace, Hassan Jakovali mosque, which is the sole mosque in central Europe to have been preserved from the age of Turkish rule with its original furnishings intact, and early Christian burial grounds dating to the fourth century. Pécs is just forty kilometres (twenty-five miles) from the Danube port of Mohács, and Vienna is 320 kilometres (200 miles) away. Since the beginning of the year daily IC rail service has linked Pécs and the Austrian capital, known in Hungarian as Bécs.

*Information: [info@hungarytourism.hu](mailto:info@hungarytourism.hu)*

## **Croatia**

### **Austro-Croatian navigation agreement**

During recent discussions Austrian State Secretary for Transportation, Helmut Kukacka, and his Croatian opposite numbers, Branko Bacic and Drazen Breglec, agreed to intensify cooperation between the two countries in the field of Danube shipping. Austria will assist Croatia in developing the Danube as a transportation artery with the installation of a satellite-controlled “River Information System” based on the “DoRIS” technology. “DoRIS” has been developed and successfully used in Austria. The project will take into consideration both economic and ecological criteria.

### **New hotels along the Croatian Danube**

Osijek’s first top-category hotel, the completely renovated four-star Hotel Osijek, has reopened. The hotel offers guests 140 luxuriously appointed rooms, apartments and suites, all with internet access. Some rooms are also suitable for wheel-chair users. A

restaurant, wellness and fitness centre, and conference facilities for up to 250 round out the hotel's amenities.

*Information: Hotel Osijek, Samacka 4, HR-31000 Osijek, Tel. ++385/31/203333, Fax ++385/31/230444, [info@hotelosijek.hr](mailto:info@hotelosijek.hr), [www.hotel-osijek.hr](http://www.hotel-osijek.hr)*

Since the end of February, Vukovar, pearl of the Croatian Danube, has also boasted a superior hotel. The four-star Hotel Lav is conveniently situated in the town centre and offers forty-two comfortable rooms, four luxury apartments, some with a view of the Danube. Hotel Lav's facilities include a restaurant, café, business centre and conference rooms for up to 200, as well as multifunctional rooms suitable for a variety of events. *Information: Hotel Lav, J.J. Strossmayera 18, HR-32000 Vukovar, Tel. ++385/32/445100, Fax ++385/32/450512, [info@hotel-lav.hr](mailto:info@hotel-lav.hr), [www.hotel-lav.hr](http://www.hotel-lav.hr)*

## **Serbia**

The outlook for tourism along the Serbian Danube is upbeat: 410 cruise ship dockings have been registered for Belgrade for this season against 300 last year. In Novi Sad 180 dockings are expected (2004: 100). A total of fifty ships will bring some 70,000 visitors to the area. New pontoons are being installed at Belgrade's passenger terminal to accommodate this growing traffic. Capacity will be expanded to 180 metres of pontoon dock, allowing the terminal to handle up to six vessels simultaneously. Construction of another pontoon is currently on the drawing board for 2006. In Novi Sad, the opening of the new Sloboda Bridge and demolition of the pontoon bridge is scheduled for September of this year.

### **EXIT 2005 in Nov Sad**

The EXIT Noise Summer is one of the biggest musical festivals in southeastern Europe. The festival has been staged since 2001 in the impressive surroundings of mighty Petrovaradin castle. The EXIT Noise Summer has drawn increasing numbers of visitors every year since its inception, and has already made its mark on the international festival scene. Young people in particular are attracted to the exciting music and events. *Information: [info@exitfest.org](mailto:info@exitfest.org), [www.exitfest.org](http://www.exitfest.org)*

### **Belgrade summer 2005**

The varied and vibrant program of Belgrade's biggest cultural festival offers music of all types, theatre and contemporary art that will transform the Serbian capital into a gigantic stage from June 3 to September 17. *Information: [office@tob.co.yu](mailto:office@tob.co.yu),*

### **Belgrade Boat Carnival**

The Danube, Sava and their shores serve as venue for the Belgrade Boat Carnival that offers a colourful diversity of activities, exhibits and competitions, as well as a festive boat parade and fireworks. *Information: [office@tob.co.yu](mailto:office@tob.co.yu), [www.publicart-publicspace.org](http://www.publicart-publicspace.org)*

## Romania

### Danube delta wins prize

The Romanian National Tourist Office, represented by Simion Giurka of its Vienna bureau, received first prize in the Austrian trade magazine TAI's (tourismuswirtschaft austria & international) Advertising Grand Prix for the breathtakingly beautiful "Danube delta" TV spot. *Information:* [rumaenien@aon.at](mailto:rumaenien@aon.at)

### Romanian events in 2005

#### Tulcea

International Theatre Festival	June 13-19
"Low Danube" international youth festival	July 31-August 7
International Danube Festival	August 12-15

#### Bucharest

Johann Strauss Festival	August 21-27
George Enescu Music Festival	September 4-18

## Publications and Media

### Deutsche Welle: Underway on the Danube

Deutsche Welle TV is currently producing a twelve-part series that follows the journey of two reporters along the Danube from the Black Forest to Black Sea. In the course of their travels the reporters will interview personalities such as jazz musician Joe Zawinul in Vienna. The series is to be broadcast starting in August on Deutsche Welle's daily magazine, "euromaxx—Life and Culture in Europe".

### National Geographic China

The May issue of *National Geographic China* features a major article on the Danube. *Information:* Danube Tourist Commission, [donau@austria.info](mailto:donau@austria.info)

### Guides to Danube excursion ships, cruises and yachting

The 2005 editions of the Danube Tourist Commission's guides to excursion ships, cruises and yachting on the Danube and Main-Danube canal are now available in German (editions in other languages are to be released shortly). *Information:* Danube Tourist Commission, [donau@austria.info](mailto:donau@austria.info)

### "Donau Counter Info"

A new "Donau Counter Info" will be inserted as a supplement in "fvw" ("Fremdenverkehrswirtschaft International") right in time for next year's Danube Travel Mart, January 29-31.

*Information:* Danube Tourist Commission, [donau@austria.info](mailto:donau@austria.info)

### "The Discovery of the Danube"—the art of the book at its height

At the beginning of March, a new facsimile edition of Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli's *Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus* was presented at Collegium Hungaricum in Vienna by Professor Ingrid Kretschmer of Vienna University's Department of Geography and Regional Planning. The work was edited by Antal András Deák of the Danube Museum in Esztergom. Marsigli, an Italian officer and scientist, who travelled through Hungary during the wars against the Turks, originally published the work in

Latin in Amsterdam in 1726. In *Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus* Marsigli records both his observations and the results of his study of history, geography and biology. Marsigli was also responsible for salvaging codices from the famed library of King Matthias Corvinus in the ruins of Buda castle.

The book with accompanying text in English and Hungarian is available from [honterus@mail.datanet.hu](mailto:honterus@mail.datanet.hu) for 50 euro plus postage and handling (ISBN 9632170334). Information about the Danube Museum in Esztergom can be found at [www.dunamuzeum.hu](http://www.dunamuzeum.hu)

### **Danube Commission's jubilee brochure**

A new 120-page brochure published by the Danube Commission looks back on the eventful history of Danube. The publication describes Danube shipping from before the signing of the Belgrade Agreement in 1948 to the present and the river's development as Pan-European Transportation Corridor VII. The brochure has been produced to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006 of the signature of the Paris Peace Treaty (1856), which gave the Danube the status of an international river for the first time. The treaty also established the European Danube Commission, which was the predecessor of the today's Danube Commission. The publication, which was authored by D. Nedialkov, J. Spiegelmann and W. Worontzov, will be available in May in Russian, and in German and French this autumn. An English-language version is scheduled for release in 2006.

*Information: Danube Commission: [secretariat@danubecom-intern.org](mailto:secretariat@danubecom-intern.org)*

### **“The Danube and its Tributaries”**

*Die Donau und Nebenflüsse* (“The Danube and its Tributaries”) is the title of Volume 6 of the German Canoeing Association's international guide series, which is published in cooperation with TID-Tour International Danubien. Author Otto Kaufhold has succeeded in producing a precise and easy-to-use canoeing guide to the entire Danube. DKV-Wirtschafts- und Verlags GmbH, 2005, ISBN 3-937743-01-4, [verlag@kanu.de](mailto:verlag@kanu.de)

### **Merian-Kompass guide to river cruises planned**

A guide to river cruises is to be added to this succinct and handy Merian series. The guide will give an overview of destinations, routes, ship types, cruise operators and shipping companies.

*For information about possibilities for cooperation, contact: Jens Huhse, Schillerstr. 7 D-10652 Berlin, Tel. +49/171/655 21 66, Fax +49/171/13 655 21 66, [jens.huhse@cruiseadvance.de](mailto:jens.huhse@cruiseadvance.de)*

This edition of the  
Danube Press Service is also available online at:

[www.danube-river.org](http://www.danube-river.org)

