

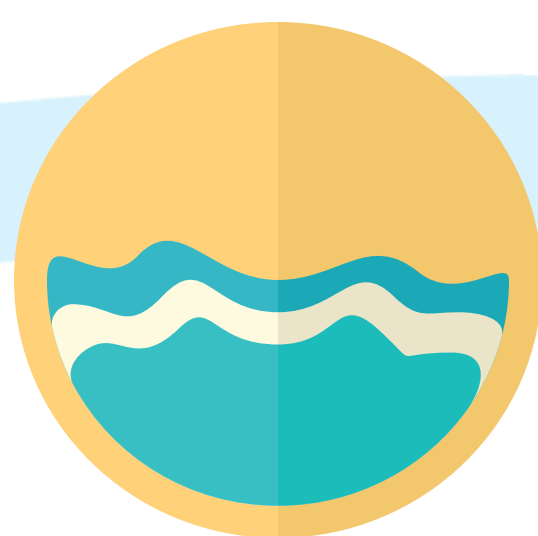
Newsletter

Transdanube Travel Stories

We have successfully finalised our new stories!

The new trails and stories build on existing European Cultural Routes - their destinations and experiences: the [Route of Emperors and Kings](#), the [Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route](#), [Réseau Art Nouveau](#), the [Iter Vitis Route](#), the [Route of Jewish Heritage, Via Sancti Martini](#) as well as on [networks of DANUBEPARKS](#) and [Transdanube.Pearls](#).

Danube Stories



*Danubian Europe:
the discovery of a "liquid space"*



*Returning to the Last Danube:
nature and mankind*



*The Danube Adventure - Legions
Heading for the Danubius*



"Cultural harvest" along the Danube



*Danube Trade: The exchange of stories
and goods*



Danube for the soul

The Danube. A river that defines us all that live around it. It is long, it is rich, it offers a million treasures. And it is full of stories. Wherever you go, however you meet the Blue Lady, there are thousands of tales about nature, about history, about beauty, about people, and about the whole world. Short tales and long ones, intricate and simple they buzz around us in every glade, every town, on every cycle path, filling the region with colours, sounds and smells of past and future.

This treasure trove of tales is what the Transdanube Travel Stories project focuses on. In line [Declaration of the 10th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe](#) we bring together the aspects of sustainable tourism, green mobility, and storytelling through a set of comprehensive Danube narratives, innovative tourism promotion concepts and sustainable mobility management tools. This confluence of ideas is then set to become the basis of the future strategy for promoting the Danube macroregion as a single green tourism meta-destination.

There are already several paths and cultural routes criss-crossing the region, and many of them even receive the European Cultural Route recognition. These routes are already telling their own tales, focusing on different shards of the kaleidoscope that is the Danube area.

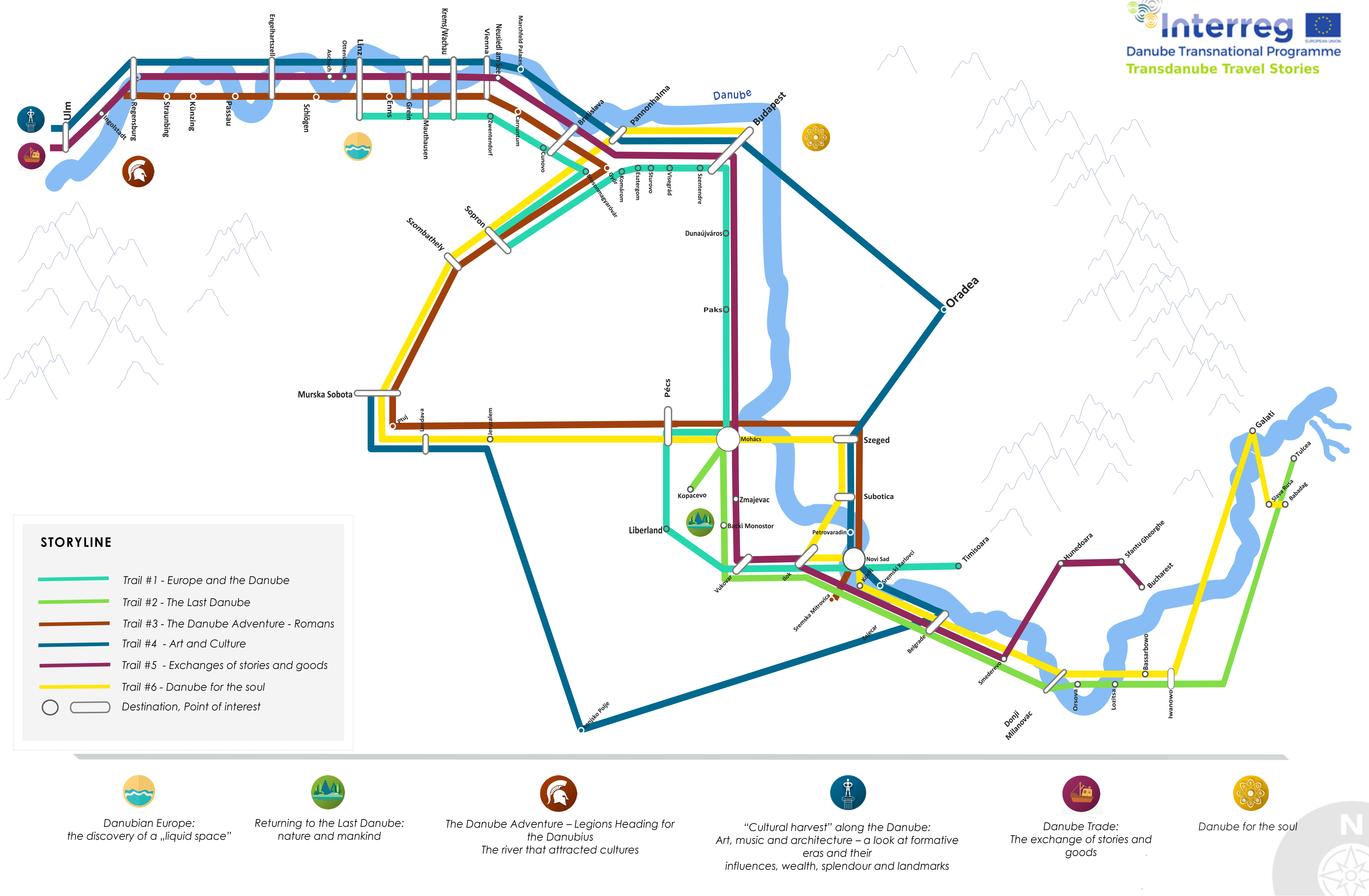
We believe that what they are missing, is a "switchboard" – a comprehensive Danube story allowing seamless transition from one experience to the next, linking up attractions and points of interest into one easily navigable network, both online and in the real world. This Danube Memory can serve to present the visitor with the sense of a colourful, enticing larger whole, wherever they may enter the story, whatever they may look at, seeding the desire to explore the unknown, to learn the whole story.

The Covid-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the lives of people, and therefore the operation of the tourism industry. It is now evident that the best way forward is not the establishment of new resources, but the maintenance, strengthening and development of existing attractions, transforming them to be more sustainable. We had to realise that the stories all around us, all there was to do spin them into coherent narrative strands strong enough to tie together ideas and bear the load of the Danube in all its conceptual glory.

This is what we did, and this is what we invite you to explore in this newsletter. Six stories contribute to the conscious reinforcement of cultural routes and a meaningful increase in personal visitor experience. Frankly though, just the stories would never be enough on their own. Motivation and enthusiasm is nothing if it is too difficult to explore all the wonders why travelling sustainably if the journey detracts from the experience instead of enhancing it. This is why we are putting extra emphasis on the integration of mobility management tools (mobility managers, mobility centres, green mobility plans). These, supported by an intuitive and informative online information centre can ease the planning and execution of environmentally friendly and highly enjoyable travel experiences along the river, and along the tales.

Come, enter the world of the Danube!

The Danube's many shades of blue

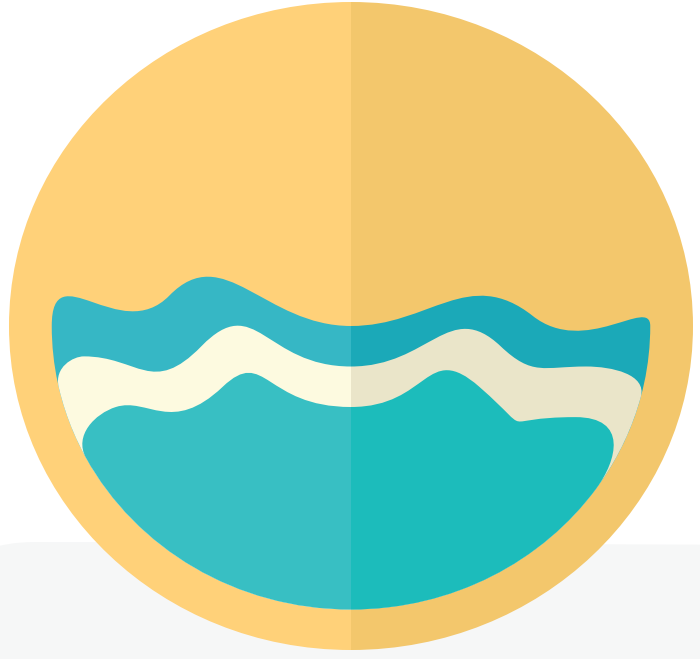


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We shall discover “hidden places” and encounter contexts that not only make the history and culture of the Danube region accessible, but also elucidate our contemporary issues; contexts demonstrating that art and culture are not just for prestige, 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 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 every 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.

Read More our Danube Stories



Danubian Europe: the discovery of a “liquid space”

The discovery of a “liquid space” - leading along the middle part of the Danube course, this trail invites you to discover a different Europe: the Europe of the Danube, which is obviously distinct from the Europe of the Rhine. On our route from Linz to Novi Sad and Timișoara, it reveals a “liquid space” in permanent transition. It includes destinations and POIs in Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, and Croatia, with views to the European Capitals of Culture Novi Sad in Serbia and Timișoara in Romania.

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Danube Trade: The exchange of stories and goods

The Danube is one of the oldest trading routes in Europe, and its merchants have known other cultures and countries better than most of the professions, especially in the past. The trail presents the history of trade, traditional riverside trade-towns, merchant dynasties, as well as the positive impacts and downsides of trade along the Danube with destinations and POIs in Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, and Romania.

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Returning to the Last Danube: nature and mankind

In the beginning was the Danube. Being Europe's most significant river, it nourished, protected, enriched and connected different groups of people as early as prehistoric times, later providing bonds between countries and nations. The trail focuses on the lower section of the Danube (stretching from the Hungarian-Serbian-Croatian border to the delta) and shows just those treasures in 3 main destinations that are sought after by so many in remote Asian mountains or hot African sand: the promise of being able to return and reconnect to untouched nature and our own selves: Heart of the Danube presents the highly demonstrative master example of how man has coexisted with nature for centuries, the Iron Gate illustrates the constant clash of water and rocks as two elemental materials. The Danube Delta region reveals the original natural state, the world before man, in its most complete form.

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The Danube Adventure – Legions Heading for the Danubius The river that attracted cultures

Legions Head for the Danubius - The Roman period of the Danube spans more than 450 years. During this era, a coherent system was built to defend the Imperium Romanum to the north while also being an area for border crossers, cultural exchange and a new culture to emerge. The trail encompasses heritage sites related to the first settler in the Danube region as well as a selection of destinations with the many cultural stamps the Roman left on the area, including Roman personalities with symbolic significance like Marcus Aurelius, or saints Martin and Florian, as well as traditions of winemaking and trade.

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Danube for the soul

In many ways, the Danube region resembles a laboratory in which not only the history of Europe but also the entire spectrum of human forms of action, political organisation and social upheavals can be observed. Those who travel along the Danube with open eyes and an open soul can therefore also learn a lot about the relationship of people to the supernatural. The Danube region has produced its own religious practices, artistic expressions, myths, and legends, but also its own saints and religious figures of light, whose efforts for faith others took as an example and some still take today. The trail presents a colourful selection of cult sites and symbolic personalities of Christian and Jewish religions as well as Islam.

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“Cultural harvest” along the Danube:

Art, music and architecture – a look at formative eras and their influences, wealth, splendour and landmarks

Art, Culture and Architecture - Experiencing formative Eras and their Creators - Wealth, Splendor, Landmarks - The cultural experiences that “Danubian Europe” can offer through a wide and rich variety of eras. Where else could travellers find the World’s oldest flute, listen to Medieval choirs next to the 17th century parliament of a multi-national Empire, get absorbed in modern technology blending with art to revitalize a city that has changed its identity at least once every century, discover Chinese influences in Renaissance paintings, discuss literature, philosophy and psychology in a coffee house, marvel at the art and lifestyle of Baroque country life, explore the interconnectivity between “culture”, “religion” and “nation”, walk among the monuments of at least three fallen Danube Empires, discover the diversity of Art Nouveau styles in art and architecture, walk from “Gibraltar” to “Athens”, cross bridges between “East” and “West” and return to the culture of everyday life with the river in a wooden house raised on stilts?

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