

## **Information about river navigation and water tours on river Drava**

### **Dear Water Tour Organiser!**

Regarding water tours on **river Drava and the Somogy county section of river Mura**, the following information is disclosed by Duna-Drava National Park Directorate (DDNPD), the competent organisation for issuing water tour permits.

The area manager's permit required for water tours and their accompanying motor boats is issued by DDNPD.

Permissions for motor boats used for fishing and tourism, are, however issued by the competent Government Offices.

Multi-day water tours involving camping and single-day water tours are coordinated, including the release of permits, all along the Drava section between Órtilos and Drávaszabolcs as well as along the Somogy county section of river, by the entitled organisation DDNPD, the area manager of Duna-Drava National Park.

### **The procedure:**

- tour organiser presents a written request for a water tour (an application) to Duna-Drava National Park Directorate, which is then officially recorded in DDNPD's files. Applications are accepted from the first office day of the year, and are processed, as well as the tours are scheduled, in the order they are handed in. If the dates proposed by the tour organiser are already fully booked, DDNPD suggests other available dates.

- after the submission deadline (31st March in the case of long tours, and at least 3 working days before the planned tour in the case of single-day tours) DDNPD sends out information, a document to be filled out, and data required for paying the tour fee, to all successfully registered tour organisers, to the e-mail address they have provided.

- the tour organiser arranges for the payment of the tour fee (by bank transfer or cheque), fills out the necessary documents and sends it back to DDNPD by e-mail, together with a proof of payment (debit notice, postal cheque sender's copy).

- based on the properly filled out, handed in documents and evidences, DDNPD issues the permit required for the tour, and sends it in e-mail to the tour organiser.

**- As of the year 2023, police authority no longer issues permissions for using state border waters.**

**The way of handing in the written application: by e-mail to [dravatura@ddnp.hu](mailto:dravatura@ddnp.hu)**

**Minimum content:**

- **name, address, phone, e-mail and postal contact data of responsible person,**
- **planned number of group members**
- **planned dates (departure-arrival)**
- **planned route**

### **Single-day tour without camping:**

Application deadline: from 1st January each year (**application should be sent back to DDNPD at least 3 working days before the planned tour**)

Permitted sections:

Somogy county section of river Mura – Órtilos (236 river km), or  
Órtilos (236 river km) – Vízvár (191 river km), or  
Vízvár (191 river km) – Barcs (152,3 river km), or  
Barcs (152,3 river km) – Szentborbás (133 river km), or  
Szentborbás (133 river km) – Drávasztára (116 river km), or  
Drávasztára (116 river km) – Vejti (98 river km), or  
Vejti (98 river km) – Drávaszabolcs (78 river km)  
Drávaszabolcs (78 river km) – state border (70,2 river km)

Time of year assigned for water tours: from 15th February 2023 to 31st December 2023.

Maximum group size: 35 persons

**Single-day tours and sections may not be merged**, i.e. in any permitted section participants getting on water with the boat at the starting point must dock at the closing point of the section and leave the camp site and the protected area.

Please note that in the case of single-day tours, **the tour permit does not allow staying/tenting/camping inside the protected area; nature conservation permission is not part of the current procedure.**

### **Multi-day tour with camping:**

Application deadline: 1st January – 31st March each year

Departure points:

- Órtilos (236 river km),
- Vízvár (191 river km).

Terminal docking station in Hungary: Drávaszabolcs (78 river km)

Time of year assigned for water tours: 1st June – 30th September

Groups depart every other day.

Maximum group size: 35 persons

**Minimum** group size in the **high season** (15th July – 15th August): 20 persons

**In order to avoid the misuse of the campsites or using them by more people than permitted, only one night may be spent in any of them, and no campsite may be skipped during the course of the water tour.**

## About campsites

### **Campsites:**

Órtilos (236 river km), Vízvár (191,5 river km), Barcs (152,3 river km), Szentborbás (133 river km), Drávasztára (116 river km), Vejti (98 river km), Drávaszabolcs (78 river km).

### **Utilities at the campsites:**

Órtilos: no drinking water or electricity

Vízvár: no drinking water or electricity, only a driven well

Barcs: drinking water (hot water for extra price) – please call Barcs Municipal Utility Services in advance

Szentborbás: drinking water, electricity, bathroom (wash basin, toilet)

Drávasztára: drinking water, electricity, bathroom (wash basin, toilet)

Vejti: no drinking water or electricity

Drávaszabolcs: drinking water, electricity, bathroom (wash basin, toilet)

### **Drinking water access:**

Órtilos: railway station

Vízvár: in the village, cca 500 m (café or restaurant)

Barcs: at the campsite

Szentborbás: at the campsite

Drávasztára: at the campsite

Vejti: in the village, maybe at the water management service house

Drávaszabolcs: at the campsite

## Campsite fee

The fee collected in exchange for campsite use contributes to covering the following costs: area and road maintenance, waste removal, and the use of utilities where water and toilet are available.

### **Campsite fee for multi-day tours including camping:**

- **HUF 1000 /person/night/campsite**
- **Complete tour** along the Órtilos-Drávaszabolcs section: HUF 6000 /person
- **Partial tour:** HUF 1000 /person/night at each campsite in the permitted tour.
- The use of the terminal campsite is free of charge in both cases.
- The fee covers the use of the campsite(s) along the route for camping purposes, and the use of utilities where available.

### **Campsite fee for single-day tours:**

- **HUF 500 /person/tour**
- The fee covers the use of both the departure and the arrival sites of the permitted section (but not for camping purposes and duration), and the use of utilities where available.

### **General conditions, special remarks**

As a result of the Republic of Croatia also joining the Schengen area, the police authorisation of state border river navigation on River Drava without stopping or entering Croatian land has been discontinued as of 1st January 2023, as stipulated by §1 of the 460/2017. (XII. 28.) Government Decree about state border navigation, regulating state border river navigation only on the Schengen state border.

The Council Decision (EU) 2022/2451 of 8 December 2022 on the full application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis in the Republic of Croatia was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 14.12.2022. In accordance with the decision, from 1st January 2023 the Hungarian-Croatian state border may be crossed anywhere, including the waterways of river Drava, with a valid pass document.

Croatia becoming a full Schengen member state does not have an influence on the permission process of activities in the DDNPD authority area. According to the laws in force, activities done in protected natural areas require a permit.

**DDNPD coordinates and issues nature conservation permits to tour participants**, allowing them to take part in water tours on rivers Drava/Mura.

**Accordingly, it is hereby stressed that participants stay in the area at their own risk and responsibility**, and DDNPD cannot be held responsible for any accident, damage or violation of rules.

The participants bear joint and several financial liability for all damages caused by their stay in the area.

Keeping **nature conservation rules** and the presence of the aforementioned nature conservation authority permits are checked by the Nature Protection Ranger Service of DDNPD and the competent body of the police.

It is the tour organizer's duty and responsibility to comply with the **laws regarding water traffic regulations**, including the **mandatory equipment and suitability**. DDNPD does not examine suitability and compliance, and is not responsible for their absence, or for not observing or violating rules.

**Important remarks about the tour guide:** The tour guide must be a person with good knowledge of the river. According to current regulations, any tour with more than 10 canoes must be led by a *water tour guide*. DDNPD does not examine competences and tour guide qualifications, and bears no responsibility for their suitability.

If the **tour organizer and the tour leader are different** persons/organizations, DDNPD does not examine their legal relationship and right of representation in the water tour coordination and permission process, and bears no responsibility for this. In the procedure specified above, tour organizer/tour leader are meant alternatively.

Please be cautious when planning group sizes, because **it is not possible to raise the number of tour participants** once the fees have been calculated and paid!

Because most of the groups prefer the **high season** (15th July – 20th August), tour dates in this period are available only for groups with at least 20 members (this applies to multi-day tours involving camping)! Accordingly, fees for a minimum of 20 persons apply in this period in all cases, irrespective of a possible smaller group size.

### Nature conservation regulations

- a) It is forbidden to get ashore or stay on open-surface gravel bars or ones covered by vegetation smaller than willow bushes!
- b) On single-day tours docking is allowed only at the departure and arrival points of the route. At the arrival point, tour participants must leave the campsite and the protected area. No staying/tenting/camping is allowed in the protected area on single-day tours.
- c) It is strictly forbidden to collect animals or plants in the protected area!
- d) When leaving, the site must be left unchanged!
- e) Any litter must be collected and disposed of in the litter bins of the campsites, taking care not to pollute the environment.
- f) Fires may be set, except for the case of fire bans, only in the designated campfire places, under supervision, observing fire prevention rules. During the time of fire bans, it is prohibited to set fire even in the designated places!
- g) The participant shall be held financially responsible for all culpable and innocent damage caused by the stay in the area, by violations of the laws on nature protection and the regulations included in this agreement.
- h) Participants must observe the rules of nature protection!

### Most important information about flood prevention, river navigation and water regulation

- a) Water tour participants must be aware that there is a designated waterway between 198,6 – 70,2 river km along the Drava, whose markers must be observed while navigating.
- b) Navigating on the river must not imply conflict with the interests of flood prevention, water traffic and water regulation, must not pose harm to waterway/channel markers and water engineering infrastructure.
- c) Riverbed and river banks must be taken care of. It is forbidden to throw foreign material from the boat into the Drava, and to jeopardize the integrity of the banks.
- d) In the case of a flood alert, water touring is not recommended. **Due to an increased risk of accidents, water traffic can even be banned on river Drava if higher water levels (above 150 cm at Órtilos and 200 cm at Barcs) are measured.** It is recommended to check [www.hydroinfo.hu](http://www.hydroinfo.hu) regularly.
- e) Water touring is forbidden in the proximity of river regulation objects! In the vicinity of the river regulation objects listed in the annex, especially on the downstream and upstream sides of "T" works, cross dams, spurs and guideworks, there is a high chance of large depths and strong, swirling flow conditions to develop, therefore water traffic is dangerous and is thus prohibited in these places. Another source of danger is that at the water levels described in the above section, these structures are under water and are thus not visible.
- f) In narrow waterway/channel sections, in harbours and in the 200 m water area in front of their entrance and in bridge spans boats must pass without interfering with other floating structures, at a safe speed, in the shortest possible time.

### **Most important information regarding border police and state border regulations**

Controlling border traffic at border stations, guarding the state border in the conventional way, and permitting passage through Croatian water areas of the Drava by the police have been discontinued; but prescriptions to keep border regulations still persist.

- a) Passage through Croatian water areas of the Drava is possible only for persons possessing valid pass documents (passport or any type of ID card).
- b) Navigation on state border waters is allowed from sunrise to sunset, if visibility is good.
- c) The convoy must proceed together, individual boats keeping safe distance from each other. The tour guide must keep at hand the list of tour participants (Annex 1.), and make sure that state border and river navigation rules are kept.
- d) Except for designated bathing locations, it is prohibited to bathe or swim in state border waters!
- e) In case of violation of border regulations and bathing restrictions, the police may impose an on-the-spot fine.

Docking or mooring on the Croatian side is possible only in line with the Croatian national regulations, in possession of ID documents.

With any further question feel free to contact:

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