



Dear Nature-goers!

As of 1st January 2023, the Republic of Croatia also joining the Schengen area, the country's border next to the Drava has become passable. Although a permit is no longer required to cross the border on River Drava, certain regulations must be observed in order to preserve natural values.

As part of Duna-Dráva National Park, the entire Hungarian section of River Drava is a protected natural area. It is also part of the Natura 2000 network and the Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve.

Due to the protection of the habitats and protected natural values forming the basis of protection, restrictions are in effect on the river. Special mention should be made of the protection of the strictly protected white-tailed eagle and the black stork breeding along the Drava, as well as birds nesting on gravel bars (little tern, little ringed plover, common tern and common sandpiper).

Although most of the national park is a protected area that can be visited without a permit, entry to the so-called **strictly protected** areas is prohibited. Strictly protected areas are indicated on land by this sign:

Lighter constraints than those above for strictly protected areas apply to protected areas.

With a view to the above, please observe the following nature conservation, river navigation and border police rules!

- It is forbidden to stay on open-surface gravel bars between 1st May and 1st August! These gravel bars are used by a number of bird species for nesting, hiding their eggs among the pebbles. One careless step is enough to destroy a complete clutch.
- It is forbidden to collect animals or plants in the protected area!
- Littering is forbidden!
- With the exception of fire bans, an open fire may be set in the designated campsites and under supervision, in compliance with the fire prevention rules. During a fire ban, it is forbidden to set a fire even in the designated places!





- The river bed and shores must be protected. It is forbidden to throw foreign material into River Drava from the watercraft, and it is forbidden to break the bank structure.
- Although border crossing is not controlled by police, only persons who have a valid travel document (passport or any type of ID card) may participate in cross-border water transport when traveling through the waters of the Drava.
- Navigation on state border waters is allowed from sunrise to sunset, when visibility is good.
- In the case of paddling water tours (kayak, canoe), a permit is issued by the area manager Duna-Drava National Park Directorate, while permissions for the use of motorboats are released by the competent Government Offices.
- Only the main branch of River Drava may be used by motorboat; entering side-branches and oxbows is forbidden.
- Camping or tenting within national park areas are only allowed in designated places located on the Drava bank at the following locations: 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). Permission for camping must be requested in advance by emailing dravatura@ddnp.hu, either in Hungarian or English. (A detailed description of water tour regulations is available on the website of Duna-Drava National Park Directorate: www.ddnp.hu).
- Within the area of the national park, cars, motorcycles and scooters may only be used on paved roads.
- For cycling, dirt roads and the flood protection embankment may also be used, unless prohibited by a sign.
- For safety reasons, bathing in the Drava is only permitted at the designated area, the Barcs free beach.
- Angling or fishing on the Hungarian water body is only allowed with a valid Hungarian fishing license.
- If border regulations or bathing rules are violated, the police can impose an on-the-spot fine.

According to current legal regulations, activities performed in protected areas require a permit! Keeping the aforementioned regulations is controlled by the Ranger Service of Duna-Drava National Park Directorate and the competent Police bodies.

A map about protected and strictly protected areas, cycling routes and other useful information is available here: <https://ddnp.hu/igazgatosag/terkep/terkep>