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Discover DANUBE IN BANAT

Cooperation beyond borders



Attractiveness for
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BANAT GREENWAY CORRIDOR
Connecting People to Nature and Culture.
www.banatgreenway.com

About BANAT

The Banat is a geographical and historical region in Central Europe currently divided between three countries:

- **the eastern part** lies in western Romania (the counties of Timiș, Caraș-Severin, Arad south of the Mureș, the western part of Mehedinți),
- **the western part** in northeastern Serbia (the Serbian Banat, mostly included in Vojvodina, except for a small part included in Belgrade Region), and
- **a small northern part** in southeastern Hungary (Csongrád county).



The Banat is a part of the Pannonian Basin bordered by the River Danube to the south, the River Tisa to the west, the River Mureș to the north, and the Southern Carpathian Mountains to the east.

Project BANAT GREENWAY KORIDOR Connecting People to Nature and Culture

“Banat Greenway Corridor” is a linear green corridor of long-distance with thematic local trails, specific tourism route reserved for non-motorized users, as a new distinct regional tourism product for leisure and cycling tourism, connecting people to nature and culture heritage, with integrated new innovative services and information.



Hidden treasure between the Banat mountains and the Banat plain

The project area is covering the Caras-Severin County and South Banat District of the Romanian-Serbian border area through the linear green corridor that links the Banat Mountains (RO), Danube and Banat - Deliblato Sands (SRB).

Interreg - IPA CBC
Romania - Serbia



EUROPEAN UNION

This project is financed EU under the INTERREG IPA CBS program Romania-Serbia. Project includes actions to drive public-private collaboration and the integration of all tourism stakeholders through the innovative and complementary services and information, setting of Banat Greenway cycling friendly service network and certifications according to international standards and promote new, authentic experiences through the use of new (IT) technologies in rural areas along the Banat Greenway Corridor.

4 thematic interactive local trails on the **Banat Greenway** Corridor



1. **Explore - Naive Art trail** - connect UNESCO "World editorial center devoted to naive art", galleries, ethno houses and museums and resting place in Kovacica, Uzdin and Padina villages.



2. **Experience - Via Delibaticum with Deliblato Sands Wine trails** - countryside, nature & testing experience in Deliblato Sands region - "the European Sahara", an UNESCO tentative list of Protected Natural Heritage, Dolovo - West gate of „Deliblato Sands“ and historic viticulture regions, vineyards of Deliblato Sands area.



3. **Discover - Danube in Banat trail** - nature and culture along the left side of Danube in Banat, in Serbia and Romania.



4. **Adventure - Banat's Mountains trails** - connects Cornereva villages, National Park Domogled –Cerna Valley and Baile Herculane, historical sites and rural environment of special natural and cultural value.

"MAGNUM EST STARE IN DANUBII RIPA"
"It is magnificent to stand on the banks of the Danube"

(proclaimed the Younger Pliny to the emperor Trajan)

With 2.888 km from the source to the delta, the Danube is the second longest river in Europe. It connects a wealth of people, cultures and countries. The majestic river winds its way through 10 European countries (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and the Ukraine) before it empties into the Black Sea.



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THE ROAD OF THE DANUBE THROUGH THE BANAT PLAIN

The left bank of the Danube in Serbia to the mouth of the Nera River belongs to the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

In South Banat, along the left bank of the Danube from Kovin to the mouth of the Nera, is the zone of Deliblato Sands. The nature reserve "LABUDOVO OKNO" covers an area of 3,733 ha all the way to the immediate vicinity of the confluence of the River Nera and Danube, at 1,076.5 kilometer of the left bank of the Danube. From the mouth of the River Nera, at the 1075th kilometer the left bank of the Danube belongs to the Republic of Romania.



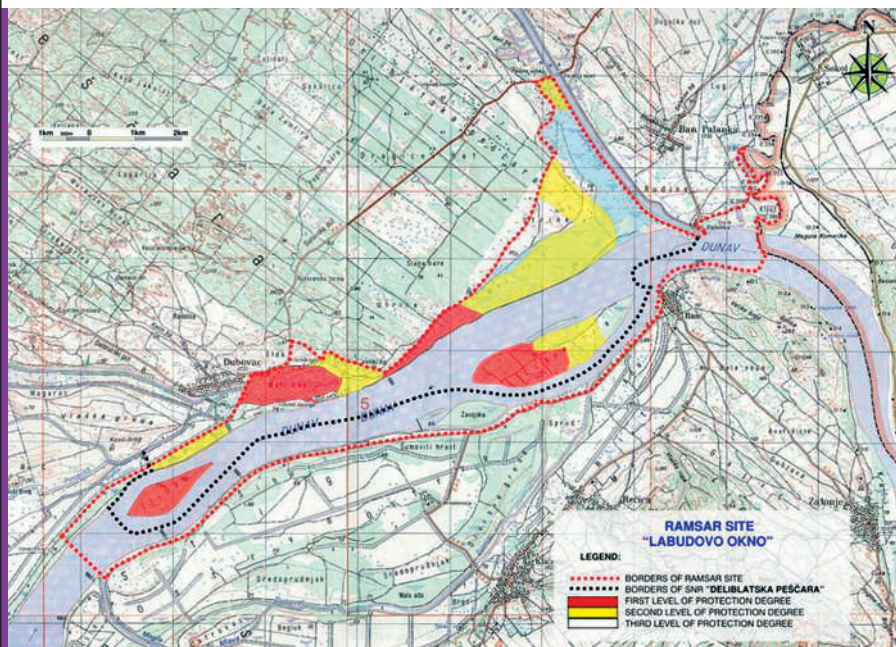
Labudovo okno, Zorana Vlacu

Tourist trail: **Labudovo okno - Stara Palanka**

Road (134) Kovin - Bela Crkva - towards the border crossing to Romania (Kaludjerovo - Naidas)

Deliblato Sands area **LABUDOVO OKNO**

The "Labudovo okno" area is mostly located within the boundaries of the Special Nature Reserve "Deliblatska peščara" and consists of the 20-kilometer-long course of the Danube, from Ada Žilova near Dubovac to the mouth of the Nera River. It has become recognizable as one of the most important migratory stations and wintering grounds for waterfowl from Europe.





Labudovo okno is an internationally important area for birds (Important Bird Area - IBA), a significant area for plants (IPA) and diurnal butterflies (PBA), and since 2006 an internationally important wetland habitat under the Ramsar Convention.

Marking the southern margin of the Pannonian Plain, "Labudovo okno" covers an area of 3,733 ha, the site encompasses an important stretch of the Danube and adjacent areas as well as the Nera River to the border with Romania.

Coordinates: 44° 48'N 021° 18'E.

Following the construction of the Iron Gate reservoir, the Danube water level rose and the river flow slowed down, causing the flooding of many river islets, lower coastal parts, and lagoons along the southern areas in the Deliblatska peacara Sands and created new aquatic and wetlands habitats.

Permanent rivers and freshwater marshes are the main wetlands types, comprising diverse aquatic and wetland communities as well as wet meadows and steppe pastures along the riverbanks. Shallow waters of the Danube provide an ideal spawning area for many of the 50 supported fish species.

The site: "Dubovački rit" and "Slatina"

- is a natural asset of exceptional importance, the only place where the Deliblato sand dunes and the Danube meet. After the formation of the Đerdap reservoir, on an area of about 130 hectares, between the village of Dubovac, the edge of the sand dunes and the high bank of the Danube, conditions were created for the survival of wetlands vegetation and special fauna, especially birds from Wet. Thus, in the 1980s, the



Labudovo okno, Zorana Vladu



Dubovački rit





“Dubovački Rit” became a kind of wetland vegetation oasis, an important breeding ground for Danube fish, and one of the largest nesting places for many wetland birds. disappearance. The whole area of ‘Dubovački rit’ is characterized by a number of botanical and zoological elements of an original nature, which, as a result of indirect human activity, have become even more exposed. About 55 species of birds nest here. Regional road (134) Kovin - Bela Crkva, turn right in the village of Dubovac towards the Danube.

The site: **Stara Palanka**

- It is located at the confluence of the Danube-Tisa-Danube canal and the Nera river into the Danube, on the border with Romania. At the beginning of the 19th century, it was an important Danube port. Here is the crossroads, the border between the Serbian and Romanian part of Banat and Central Serbia, which is from the other (right bank) of the Danube, to the place and the fortress of Ram, where it

transports passengers and cars across the river by ferry. From the regional road (134) Kovin - Bela Crkva, at the crossroads in the village of Vračev Gaj, turn right (road sign 312), 7km to Stara Palanka.

Bela Crkva - Paradise with seven lakes

Even if the area of Bela Crkva has been inhabited since prehistoric times, the founding of Bela Crkva is attributed to Count Merci, the first governor of

Banat, when he ordered the colonization of the first Germans who settled here from 1725 to 1727. This Pannonian town with German heritage and traces of Baroque splendor, with its seven lakes and tourist offer, is a real paradise for visitors.

It is 10km away from the center of Bela Crkva (road sign 18) - the border crossing with Romania.



Fortress Ram



Stara Palanka



Bela Crkva



Stara Palanka



Stara Palanka



The mouth of the DTD

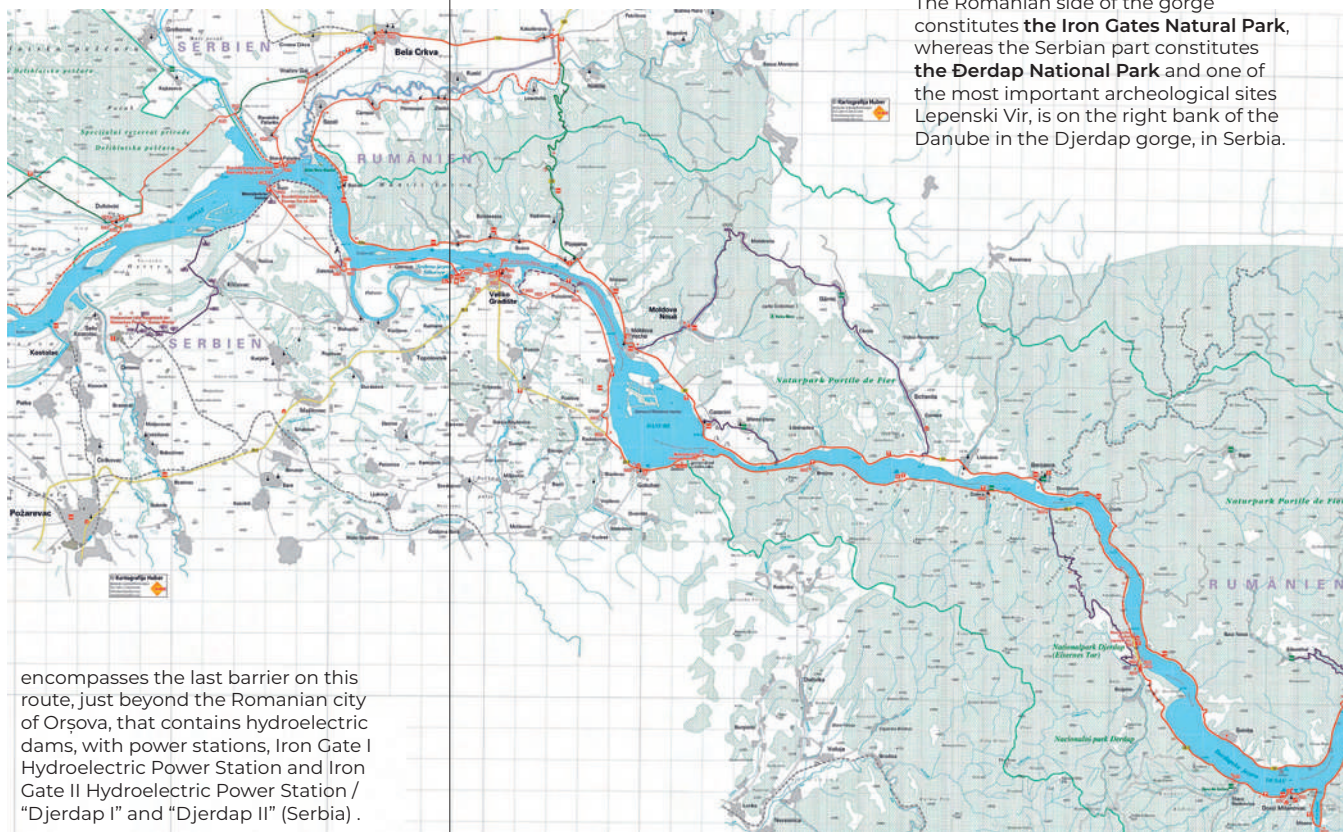




DANUBE GORGE - IRON GATE OF THE DANUBE


From the border crossing point Romania - Serbia, from Naidas, on the Romanian side, unique charming land, bounded to the west by the Nera River and to the east by the Cerna River, along the Danube called by the locals **“The Danube Gorge”**. The area comprises the two harbour cities, New Moldova and Orșova. The Danube Gorges is the natural border between Romania and Serbia. At this point in the Danube, the river separates the southern Carpathian Mountains from the northwestern foothills of the Balkan Mountains.

The Iron Gates (**Romanian: Porțile de Fier; Serbian: Đerdapska klisura**) is a gorge on the river Danube. It forms part of the boundary between Serbia and Romania. In the broad sense it encompasses a route of 134km; in the narrow sense it only



The Romanian side of the gorge constitutes the **Iron Gates Natural Park**, whereas the Serbian part constitutes the **Đerdap National Park** and one of the most important archeological sites Lepenski Vir, is on the right bank of the Danube in the Djerdap gorge, in Serbia.

encompasses the last barrier on this route, just beyond the Romanian city of Orșova, that contains hydroelectric dams, with power stations, Iron Gate I Hydroelectric Power Station and Iron Gate II Hydroelectric Power Station / “Djerdap I” and “Djerdap II” (Serbia) .



The Iron Gates (Porțile de Fier) Natural Park

The Iron Gate National Park is a protected area and as part of the Danube Gorge.

This is one of the most beautiful natural areas of Europe with a vast biological diversity (Romania on the border with Serbia).

It covers the territories of two districts in Banat: Caraș-Severin and Mehedinți, which consists of 18 nature reserves, hydroelectric power plants and dams "Iron Gate I" and "Iron Gate II" ("Porțile de Fier I" or "Porțile de Fier II"), including the Danube boilers. The park has many natural attractions. It has an area of 115,655 hectares, and altitudes vary between 80-1000 meters.



ROUTE 57 - Banat road of the Danube

From the border crossing point Romania - Serbia, from Naidas, in Romania - Route 57 - 2 trails:

- Trail of the Serbian medieval cultural heritage:**
Naidas - Socol - Bazias - Moldova Veche (*Naidas, Romania-Serbia border crossing point - road DJ571C*)
- Trail 57:**
Naidas - Moldova Veche/Moldova Nouă - Orșova (*Naidas, Romania-Serbia border crossing point - road DN57*)

Trail of the Serbian medieval cultural heritage:

Naidas - Socol - Bazias - Moldova Veche

Naidas, Romania - Serbia border crossing point, road DJ571C - Zlatița - Socol, Socol - Pojejena (DN57A), Pojejena - Moldova Veche (DN57)

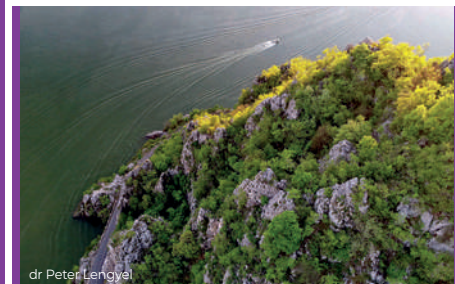
Banatska klisura (Banat Gorge)

Banatska klisura (Banat Gorge) is a geographical region in Romania. It is located in southern Banat, along the northern bank of the river Danube, at

the border with Serbia. It spans from the Nera in the west, and settlements lie in the foothills and river banks below the Banat mountains of Locva and Almăj.



The mouth of the Nera



dr Peter Lengyel



Cusici, Zlatița and Baziaş Monasteries

The river of Nera's flow was a **geographic corridor and a cultural passage that connected the Banat with the Danube valley. The Serbian Orthodox Monasteries Zlatița and Cusici were built in the 13th -15th century within the Nera passage.**

Baziaş is the place where the Danube enters Romania's territory, a place filled with history and legends. The locality's name is related to the first Serbian Archbishop, Saint Sava Nemanjić. The legend says he stopped in the area during a severe storm where the local wind, Coşava (Koşava), was beating very hard, causing Saint Sava to shout, "Baş zias!" which in Serbian means "Baş zijaş - You really yell!", hence the name of the place. The Saint Sava is considered to be the one that founded the Serbian Orthodox Monastery of Baziaş in 1225. One

interesting fact is that today the Cusici (Kusić) Monastery is on Romania's territory and the village with the same name (Kusić) is in Serbia, situated in the Bela Crkva municipality, in the South Banat District.

Cusici (Kusić) Monastery -

The Serbian Orthodox monastery in Cusici is located on the left bank of the Nera near the Serbian border. In the 15th century there was already a monastery here, the ruins of its church are preserved. Between 1556-1557 there was a monastery Saint Nicolae here. A document from 1757 proves that the Cusici monastery had a new church at that time, dedicated to the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God. The actual church was constructed in the 18th century, partially on the ruins of the older one.

Location: Pârneaura, road DJ571C,
Coordinates: 44.86643N, 21.48413E

Zlatița Monastery -

The Serbian Orthodox Monastery of Zlatița, dedicated to St. Simion and Sava, is located on the right bank of the Nera, only 3 km from the Cusici Monastery. It is supposed to date from the sec. XIII, being the foundation of St. Sava Nemanjić. According to some records, the monastery in the period 1569-



Cusici Monastery

1579 had three monks. The church was medium in size and completely painted inside, the foundation was made of stone and the walls were made of brick, and the cells were arranged around it. The monastery was set on fire twice during the 1738 war and during the 1848 revolution. Road DJ571C,
Coordinate: 44.86513N, 21.44460E

Socol - Pojejena (DN57A)

On the road you can see sheepfolds and fountains, rocky formations that create and unique landscape, Balta Nera - Dunăre Nature Reserve, Divici-Pojejena Avi-faunistic Special Protection Area and Baziaş Monastery. The route also includes the ruins of a stone bridge that was once the roadbed of the first Romanian railroad that used to link Baziaş, Timișoara and Bela Crkva, in Serbia, more than 100 years ago.



Zlatița Monastery



The mouth of the Nera



Balta Nera





Balta Nera - Dunăre Nature Reserve

The Reserve is located about 2 km away from Socol, Caras Severin County, and it is part of Portile de Fier National Park. It is located at the confluence of Nera River with The Danube, where they form a small delta. The vegetation is characteristic for the humid climate. The most famous fauna species are the water birds.

Socol - Balta Nera,

Coordinate: 44 49 55.93N 21 21 39.15E.



Balta Nera

Bazias Monastery - The Serbian Orthodox monastery of Bazias, dedicated to the Ascension of the Lord, was built in 1225. It was demolished several times, but each time it was rebuilt by the faithful, and it functioned during the Turkish rule. In 1860, it was painted and the monastery school operated here. In 1900, it became an independent monastery and is known as the Monastery of Saint Sava.

Location: Bazias, road

Coordinate: 44.81617N, 21.39020E



Bazias Monastery

Serbian Orthodox Churches (18th-20th Century) in locations: Divici (Coordinate: 44.78193N, 21.48056E), Belobreșca (Coordinate: 44.78561N, 21.51078E), Radmina (Coordinate: Pojejena (Coordinate: 44.77236N, 21.56922E), Macesti (Coordinate: 44.75498N, 21.60741E), Moldova Veche (Coordinate: 44.72131N, 21.61833E), Liubcova (Coordinate: 44.65931N, 21.89484E) Orthodox Church, Pojejena, 1902 - 1907 (Coordinates: 44.77405N, 21.57841E)

Pojejena - Moldova Veche (DN57)



dr Peter Lengyel



Trail 57:

Naiđaș - Moldova Veche/Moldova Nouă - Orșova

Naiđaș, Romania - Serbia border crossing point (road DN57)

Island Ostrov Moldova Veche

The Special Bird Protection Area (European biogeographical region), wetland Island Ostrov in Moldova Veche - located on the Danube River and the waters around the island, to a depth of 2m, area is located on the territory of the Moldova Noua, Caras-Severin. Wetland habitats area: 1.627.0 hectares, which houses about 100 wild horses, as well as countless types of aquatic birds and other protected small animals and plants.

Attila's Mound and Legend - Mound located in the southwest of the island Ostrov. The legend says that Attila - knows as "Sword of God" (King of Huns from 434 - 453), was buried secretly and all the soldiers who buried him were killed so the place of tomb of Attila remain secret.



Island Ostrov

Ferry Moldova Nouă - Golubac

Ferry boat Moldova Noua (RO) - Usije (SRB) - As of 2019, a ferry-boat connection on the Danube is in use between the city of Moldova Nouă and Golubac (Serbia), the port of Usije, called Baziaș4 has a capacity of 50 passengers and 20 cars.

(DN57 intersection with DJ 571, at approx. 1.4 km to Coronini, turn right towards the customs point).

The Babacaia Rock

The Babacaia Rock is a strange stone, relatively close to the Romanian riverbank, with a height of 7 meters, the normal level of the Danube in the gorge. It is an eroded limestone relic, on the old riverbed. Babacaia is near the Coronini village. On this rocky spur were tied the ropes which prevented vessels that entered into the Danube Gorge to escape without customs clearance. Around this rock were woven many legends.



The Babacaia Rock

Gaura cu Muscă (The "Hole with Fly") cave

Situated close to the Babacaia Rock, on the road DN57 (at approx. 30m above the level of the Danube) and this cave reaches the length of 254m.

It was inhabited during the Hallstatt period, being an ideal shelter for primitive men. Its position, with an entrance that dominates the Danube, was ideal for defense, so in medieval times it has been fortified and armed with guns and a small garrison of soldiers. Today we can see the entrance fortifications done from 1460 and rebuilt several times, used up by 1880.

The cave was named "Hole with Fly" because, according to a legend, it's the birthplace of the terrible Columbaca fly (Culex columbacensis) that came out of one of the 12 heads of the dragon killed by the hero Jovan Iorgovan. In the Middle Ages, this fly killed many animals.

The cave is oval shaped, with 8 and 4 m diagonals, blocked largely by the medieval fortification walls. The access gallery is middle sized and draining a watercourse. The route passes through the Bat Hall and reaches a terminal drain, with stalactites, stalagmites and deposits of montmilch. Inside the cave there is a strong ammonia smell, due to bat guano deposits.



Gaura cave



Gaura cave



The Ladislau Fort, Coronini

On the left bank of the Danube, on the hills of Coronini, you can see the ruins of the medieval fortification Ladislau.

The Ladislau Fort (XV th -century medieval fortress), first documented in 1427, was reinforced and used by Emperor Sigismund de Luxembourg to attack the Golubac Fortress (which he failed to obtain and possess), from Serbia's current territory, and counterbalance the force ratio on the two sides of the Danube.

Tabula Baross

The "written stone" or Tabula Baross is located on the left bank of the Danube on the DN 57, about 10km downstream of Coronini. The inscription is placed on a rock in the area of Alibegul. It is approximately 10m long and 7, 5m wide.

The name of the inscription comes from the name of the Minister of Trade Bellusy Baross Gabor, who financed and responded to the works. The final solution of the Danube navigation problems in the Danube Clisura area has been accomplished today by building the energy system and sailing from



The Ladislau Fort



Tabula Baross



The Ladislau Fort



The Ladislau Fort

the Iron Gates Dam between 1864 and 1971. Tabula Baross - The text is displayed in 11 lines in Hungarian and is in block capitals. His translation says: **"The regularization of the iron Gate and other buclkes regulated by Article 26 in the Law of 1888 began under the control of FRANCISC I, the Prime Minister being count IULIUS SZAPARY and Trade Minister GABRIEL BELLUSY BAROSS, On 15 September 1890. God's blessing should be on this commemorative plaque and those who contributed to its erection."**



The Gornea Monastery

The Gornea Monastery

The Gornea Monastery in Gornea, Sichevita commune, was built in 2001. It is a new monastery, built on the site of an old border pique in the Danube Gorge, where archaeological excavations also found some Christian-meaning objects dating back to the 4th century. It is located 250 m from the Danube, at a crossroads of two roads DN 57 and DJ 571A..



Drencova Fortress

The Drencova/Dranko fortress is located 2km downstream of Berzasca, today in the middle of the Danube. It was a border fortress, built around 1419. Between 1429 - 1435 was the property of the order of the Teutonic knights and of lancel of Hunedoara's family in 1457.

As a border fortress, it has been attacked several times and even destroyed by Turks. Old documents refer to the dimensions of the city walls that would have been 20-25m long, 15 m high, and 1,5m thick. After the construction of the iron gate hydroelectric power plant, the ruins were surrounded by the waters of the Danube, gradually eroded by the water course and their freezing and thawing, most likely to be condemned to vanish.



Drencova Fortress

Three Towers Tricule Fortress

On the left side of the Danube, 4km from Svinita, there are three towers in a triangle shape. **These had been standing on the steep slope before 1971, the articulation of the lake. Nowadays they seem to be flooded by the Danube and the tower of the south seems to be completely flooded.** The towers are 10 and 11m high. All of them were constructed of stone, standing there with the 1,40m wide walls, having three levels in their interior. It is said to have been built between the second half of the 13th century and the beginning of the 15th century.



Three Towers

The Danube Boilers

Before the artificial lake (The Iron Gates) was built, Danube has created its own spectacle here: the Big Boiler and Small Boiler. **The power of water created bubbles, which gave the impression of vortices, giving the sensation that the water is boiling. Therefore it is also known as The Danube Boilers.**

The Big Boilers of the Danube

They are part of the Danube Gorge when Danube passing through the Carpathian Mountains. The Big Boilers stretch over about 4km section and are located (DN57, Comuna Dubova) between the Ciucarul Mare (Romania) and Mali Strbac massifs (Serbia). At the base of the limestone rock of Great Boilers (Cazanele Mari) there are two cavities: Gura Ponicovei and Veterani caves. The Danube boilers are part of the Iron Gates Natural Park.

Coordinate: DD 44.640415, 22.296854,
DMS 44°38'25.5"N 22°17'48.7"E

(Serbia). The river path among the rocky walls of the Carpathian Mountains is spectacular. In some places, the Danube route narrows up to 230m, making navigation difficult and depths of about 75m. **Nearby we find Mraconia Monastery and the face of Decebal carved in the rock. On the Serbian side is Tabula Traiana.**

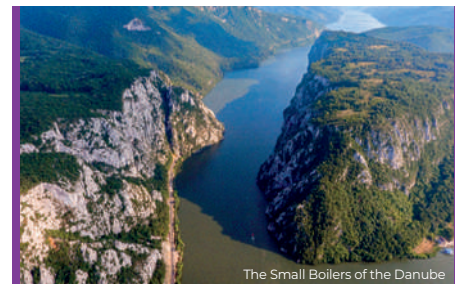
Coordinates: DD 44.640415, 22.296854,
DMS 44°38'25.5"N 22°17'48.7"E



The Big Boilers of the Danube

The Small Boilers of the Danube

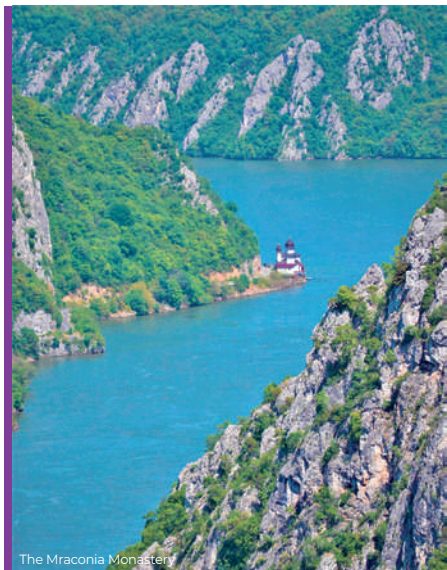
They are part of the Danube Gorge when passing through the Carpathian Mountains. The Small Boilers stretch over a 3km section and are located between the Ciucărul Mic (Romania) and Mali Strbac massifs



The Small Boilers of the Danube

The Mraconia Monastery

Mraconia Monastery is a replica of an old monastery swallowed by the waters of the Danube during the construction of the Iron Gates Hydropower Plant 1, for which reason it was called by the locals "Monastery under water". Since its construction began in 1523 until today, Mraconia Monastery has undergone a series of transformations to its current form and location. It is located at a distance of about 12 kilometers from Orsova, between the villages of Dubova and Eşelnița.



The Mraconia Monastery

The statue of Decebalus

The face of the last Dacian king, Decebalus is the tallest stone sculpture in Europe (55m high and 25m wide). 12 people worked on this bas-relief for 10 years, between 1994 and 2004. The idea belonged to a Romanian businessman who financed this grandiose project with over one million dollars. Just below the massive face is an inscription in Latin: "DECEBALUS REX - DRAGAN DONE", which in translation is King Decebalus - made by Dragan.



Coordinates: DD 44.641162, 22.291207,
DMS 44°38'28.2"N 22°17'28.3"E

"Banat Greenway" - Banat road of the Danube (Route 57) connects from the city of **Orsova** with the Banat's Mountains trails to **Băile Herculane** - Domogled Valea Cernei - Cornereva



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Romania - Serbia

Cooperation beyond borders

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Attractiveness for
sustainable tourism

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