



Newsletter 01/07

April 2007.



Foreword

The season has begun. Our crew is already pretty busy. Not as in July and August, but we don't complain. And, if you ask us, May, June and September are better than July and August. The weather is warm, but not hot, and the coast is not crowded with tourists. You can enjoy the peaceful vacation in remote coves. Even April and October could be very pleasant.

We have a short report from one of our camping tours this year. And, of course, we still offer some tours. On the Drava river the water level is high in May and June. Our first tour this year will be finished one of these days. In this issue you can read more about the Drava.



A piece of shade for a break during the hottest hours.



Pelješac peninsula 09 – 17 June 2007

Our guests, a group of German paddlers, arrived on Split airport on Saturday afternoon. After three hours of driving we reached the small historical town of Ston, the beginning of our tour. Next morning, after the breakfast and short sightseeing the town, our adventure finally began. We had seven days for some 170 km. Well, a day or two more would be more relaxed, but we will enjoy our expedition, anyway.



Day after day we were paddling, swimming, and paddling again, and swimming again. There are many campsites along the Pelješac coast, but occasionally we preferred quiet night on some small remote beach. And sometimes we preferred shower and dinner in a picturesque local taverna. It was easy to restore our supplies in small villages along the coast. There you can buy beer... and beer again. Well, and some food, of course, if you need. The only problem was to keep the beer cold. What to tell you? You simply have to try. You would hardly believe how short seven days can be.



The tours still available

The latest news!!!!

We have just received a last minute offer to book the ship from July 28 to August 18 for up to twenty guests. Paddling clubs, don't miss this unique opportunity! And be fast – ship is not easy to book these days on Croatian coast.

“Long term” sea kayaking mothership tours are, as you already know, sold out for this year. But we are working hard to ensure free time and book the ship for one more tour in the end of September and/or beginning of October.

There are still some possibilities for the organisation of camping tours, either island-to-island tours or those with basis in one place with day trips on different sites. But, not before the end of August.

It is also still possible to organize an open canoe tour on the Drava river. Also, not before the end of August.

If you are interested in booking one of our tours, please ask additional information on info@falco-tours.com or visit our web site www.falco-tours.com.



The typical Dalmatian gravel beach with its endangered vegetation. Small, quiet and remote beaches like this are excellent for kayakers who want the peaceful vacation in natural environment.



The beach mapping project



The beach mapping project is another research and nature conservation project which is supported by “Falco tours”. Croatian coast, which is very long on the mainland and islands, is mostly rocky. But small gravel beaches are very common in coves and among the rocks. Those beaches are very valuable and endangered habitats for very specific plant species. “Falco” took part in the beach mapping project. Its aim is to publish a series of maps of the central Dalmatian coast and islands, with all the beaches marked, even the smallest ones, and with a lot of information, important for nature conservationists and kayakers.

Primitive camping, which is specially interesting for kayakers, is not regulated by the Croatian laws. However, camping on remote small beaches is generally tolerated and these maps are very good kayaking and camping guides.



The Drava river

From its source in Italian Alps to its mouth into Danube, the Drava river flows through different areas, changing its own appearance and appearance of its surrounding. It is cut up by many dams and reservoirs and gyved by concrete embankments in Austria, Slovenia and partly in Croatia, too. Despite of it, downstream of the last dam in northwestern Croatia, the Drava becomes old, wild river again. Even more, it is really unbelievable that you can paddle almost 155 miles down the river in the heart of Europe, with almost no settlements passing through. The Drava is one of the best preserved and natural European rivers, especially along its course in Croatia. It is a typical lowlands river, with all the characteristics, such as meanders and continual course changing, great amount of the river sediment, high soil banks, gravel and sand bars, flooding forests and meadows, numerous small backwaters and marshes etc. Biotopes like those are very rare in Europe, because those are the most fertile and accessible areas, which were being settled and modified long ago. River beds were regulated and transformed into channels, marshes drained and forests cut down or lost because of changes in water regimes.

Kopački rit nature park is an extraordinary experience. It was developed on the site where the Drava meets the mighty Danube and it is a mosaic of forests, lakes, reedbeds and channels, very rich with bird, mammal, fish and amphibian species. Water is supplied through the channels from the Danube and the Drava. You can enter the Park through the “back door”, through the channel which connects it with the Drava.



You can enter the Park through the “back door”, through the channel which connects it with the Drava. There are no organized tourist trips in this remote and hardly approachable part of the Park, and genuine nature lovers can be totally relaxed in this primordial environment of ancient marshes.



Gravel bar framed with the green wall of willows and slow, lazy, wide river.

White-tailed Eagles, Black Kites, Marsh Harriers, Cormorants and herons fly above you, grebes and ducks swim and the big Carps splash occasionally on calm water surface.

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