



Newsletter 0307

November 2007

## Foreword

End of the season in Croatia? Well, mostly. Paddling season, of course. At least among “ordinary” tourists who do not paddle more than one morning during the whole vacation. Paddling enthusiasts paddle all year long, of course.

But booking season for the next year has just begun. We can recommend you our renewed web site, where you can find our 2008 offer.

We also recommend you to read (if you haven’t already) the October issue of the Canoe Focus Magazine. There you can read how our guides Ogi and Gvido, in the middle of the last year’s season, escaped to the Drava river just for their own fun. Paddling is our job, but we can still enjoy it, too.

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## The Eleonora’s Falcon project

The tenth census of the Croatian population of this rare Mediterranean falcon was made in August and the beginning of September. “Falco” gave its contribution, although it was the very heart of the tourist season. Well, to be honest, the “eco” boat like kayak is not needed to count Eleonora’s Falcon. On the contrary! Noisy engines are even better. That is because you need to frighten birds, even with ship horn, to make them fly. If they just stay quietly on the cliff, you will hardly notice them.



*Eleonora’s Falcon resting on the cliff edge. Nest is not far from that place.*

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## The beach mapping project

The first year of the beach mapping project is close to the end. By the end of the year the first map of the series will be published. Field work is already finished. The area on this map is small area of the mainland coast and a number of nearby islands. The area is urbanized, but also remote and wild at the same time. It is very good for a week camping island-to-island tour with a lot of possibilities for supply and small distances between the islands. Therefore it is very safe even for beginners.

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## “Adventure of a lifetime” – the Drava river tour

Three Drava river tours, organized this summer, were very successful. The tour leader for all three of them was Ogi, with Ante as an escort in the car.



*In one of the numerous backwaters of the Drava river: It is not easy to paddle through the dense underwater vegetation with the hot sun above.*

If you are ready to fight with numberless mosquitos in the shade or the hot sun on the river, if you are ready to drink with fishermen (which demands a good drinking shape), if you are too lazy to shave every morning... then this expedition was created just for you. Ogi, our river rat, is always ready to drink with you, speak with you or hold his tongue with you.

We will never forget White-tailed Eagles catching the big Carps on the water surface or spicy stew from the kettle on the campfire. Camping on the river shelves was very romantic, but shower and bed in the hunting-lodge near the river were also good, just for a change.

A day before the end of the each tour we visited the city of Osijek, practically the only settlement on the river banks. It is recommendable to shave oneself before reaching Osijek, in order not to frighten peaceful citizens. They still believe in ancient legends of cruel wild monsters from the marshes, and we – dirty, sunburnt and bearded – just fit into their descriptions.



*High and sheer, completely natural, river banks, home to the colonies of Sand Martin.*

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### **Tales and legends from Croatian islands Homer forgot to mention**

We know the story of Ulysses, the most famous wanderer of ancient world. Seven years of his wandering were spent with nymph Calypso, on her island Ogia. But old poet Homer, who described Ulysses' wanderings, forgot to give us precise location of the Ogia island. He only gave us a short description of a beautiful green island, a real paradise. If only Homer could have seen that beauty... Well, where is that island? There is only one island in the whole Mediterranean that corresponds to Homer's description – the most beautiful Croatian island of Mljet. There you can see and enter an exceptional sea cave with two entrances – one from the open sea and one from the dry land. That cave, also used as a small port nowadays, is traditionally called Ulysses' cave.

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### **The tours available in 2008.**

**Important advice!!!** If you think about the **mothership tour** next year, it is the right time to start booking it. From now to approximately New Year you can easily book it and after New Year it could be a problem.

Our kayak and camping tour "Pelješac peninsula" will take place from **14. to 23. of June 2008.**

We also offer our week arrangement – "Quiet cove" – with the accommodation on the cute small and quiet island of Mali Drvenik in Central Dalmatia, on the small property near the sea. This arrangement will take place from **April 26. to May 3. 2008.**

Spectacular "Adventure of a lifetime" river canoe tour will take place from **19. to 30. of July 2008.**

Besides the dates mentioned above, we also organize tours at your request.

**If you are interested in booking one of our tours, please ask additional information on [info@falco-tours.com](mailto:info@falco-tours.com) or visit our web site [www.falco-tours.com](http://www.falco-tours.com).**

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