

## A Network of Special Protected Areas



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## Western Pannonia's Protected Areas

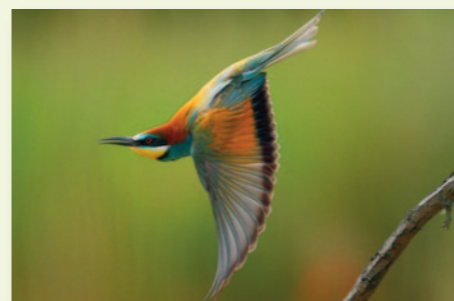


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## PaNaNet: The rich natural heritage of western Pannonia



value of their shared natural heritage.

In the current project PaNaNet+, the competencies of all partners of the Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary programme form the basis for the development and optimisation of sustainable and innovative nature tourism offerings.

During the project's development, all partners clarified the areas where action was needed to further develop the nature experience offerings, and took into account the tourism strategies of both countries. Currently on the agenda are new functional and design guidelines for a barrier-free nature experience both in the visitor infrastructure and in education:

In Burgenland and the three neighbouring counties of western Hungary, numerous nature reserves of different categories have been created in recent years. The aim of this unique, cross-border project is to make people in this region aware of the diversity and

tactile guidance systems, information in Braille and easily manageable paths for wheelchairs, prams and walkers facilitate the exploration of nature. Moreover, quality criteria are being prepared for environmental education offerings, and programs for joint public relations and marketing on the subject of experiencing nature are being created. Information on neighbouring PaNaNet areas and a guidebook on the entire region provide an overview as well as insight. The publication of an Austrian-Hungarian specialised dictionary on nature conservation and experiencing nature, as well as the development of volunteer programmes in protected areas are further aspects of this diverse programme.

## PaNaNet + creates space for quality of life

Protecting the shared natural and cultural heritage, conveying the great importance of protected areas as a basis for the quality of life, and using them to create added value in diverse areas for the local population – this too is PaNaNet+. Permanently protected nature can be experienced throughout the year in western Pannonia – the flat and hilly landscape and particularly the Pannonian climate make this possible. The project's partners will benefit from this and from the cross-border cooperation with its positive atmosphere in numerous activities until 2020.

### 4 national parks

- Balaton Uplands National Park
- Fertő-Hanság National Park
- Neusiedler See - Seewinkel National Park
- Őrség National Park

### 4 landscape conservation areas

- Mura-Menti Landscape Conservation Area
- Pannonhalma Landscape Conservation Area
- Sághegy Landscape Conservation Area
- Sopron Landscape Conservation Area

### 8 nature parks

- Geschriebenstein-Írottkő Nature Park
- Landsee Mountains Nature Park
- Lake Neusiedl-Leitha Mountains Nature Park
- Pannontáj-Sokoró Nature Park
- Raab-Őrség-Goričko Nature Park
- Rosalia-Kogelberg Nature Park
- Szigetköz Nature Park
- Weinidylle Nature Park

## Information and Visitor Centres

<b>Balaton-felvidéki Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság</b> H-8229 Csopak, Kossuth utca 16 Tel. +36 87 555 260 www.bfnp.hu	<b>Őrségi Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság</b> H-9941 Űrszentpéter, Városszer 57 Tel. +36 94 548 034, +36 94 548 036 www.orseginemzetipark.hu	<b>Landsee Mountains Nature Park</b> A-7341 Markt St. Martin, Kirchenplatz 6 Tel. +43 2618 52118 www.landseer-berge.at	<b>Weinidylle Nature Park</b> A-7540 Moschendorf, Weinmuseum Tel. +43 3324 6318 www.naturparke.at
<b>Fertő-Hanság Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság</b> H-9435 Sarród, Rév- Kócsagvár Pf. 4 Tel. +36 99 537 620, +36 99 537 662 www.ferto-hansag.hu	<b>Lake Neusiedl-Leitha Mountains Nature Park</b> A-7083 Purbach, Am Kellerplatz 1 Tel. +43 2683 5920 www.neusiedlersee-leithagebirge.at	<b>Írottkő Natúrparkért Egyesület</b> H-9730 Kőszeg, Rajnis u. 7 Tel. +36 94 563 121 www.naturpark.hu	<b>Raab-Őrség-Goričko Nature Park</b> A-8380 Jennersdorf, Kirchenstr. 4 Tel. +43 3329 48453 www.naturpark-raab.at
<b>Lake Neusiedl-Seewinkel National Park</b> A-7142 Illmitz, Hauswiese Tel. +43 2175 3442 www.nationalpark-neusiedlersee-seewinkel.at	<b>Rosalia-Kogelberg Nature Park</b> A-7021 Draßburg, Baumgartnerstraße 10 Tel. +43 664 446 4116 www.rosalia-kogelberg.at	<b>Geschriebenstein - Írottkő Nature Park</b> A-7471 Rechnitz, Bahnhofstraße 2a Tel. +43 3363 79143 www.naturpark-geschriebenstein.at	<b>Burgenland Tourism</b> A-7000 Eisenstadt Johann Permyer-Straße 13 Tel. +43 2682 63384-0 www.burgenland.info

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 Tel. +43 3353/20660-2472, A-7431 Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Schlossplatz 1, Schloss Jormannsdorf  
 www.naturparke.at/Naturparke/Burgenland

# Discover the protected areas of western Pannonia and experience pure nature

## Steppe and saline lakes

Among the most interesting habitats in western Pannonia are the steppe lakes and saline lakes, which make the heart of every nature lover beat faster. Not only do the abundance of bird species and their sometimes enormous numbers impress, but also and above all the special flair of this landscape characterised by salt, with its profusion of plant and wildlife species. It is not surprising that many nature enthusiasts visit these areas every year and in all seasons to observe, feel wonder and take photographs.

The Lake Neusiedl-Leitha Mountains Nature Park on the western shore of Lake Neusiedl is marked by gentle transitions from the reed belt to the limestone slopes of the Leitha Mountains. Anyone who has experienced the glittering sunset on the water's surface will not forget these impressions.



Experience a piece of Africa in the middle of Europe!

- Balaton Uplands National Park
- National Park Fertő-Hanság
- Lake Neusiedl-Leitha Mountains World Heritage Nature Park
- Lake Neusiedl-Seewinkel National Park

## The forests of western Pannonia

They still exist – natural forests with their sublime beauty. Micro-organisms, fungi, plants and animals – this abundance of species justifies the dry branches and deadwood. The highest mountain of Transdanubia, the Geschiebenstein (Hungarian Írottkö), rises 884 metres over the Adriatic directly on the Austrian-Hungarian border. Today, nature conservation and the cross-border Geschiebenstein-Írottkö Nature Park are connecting elements that transcend borders.

In the Őrség, in the far west of Hungary on the border with Austria and Slovenia, large contiguous, almost untouched forest areas along the former Iron Curtain have been preserved.

Forests also cover most of the Keszthely Mountains, which lie north of Lake Balaton. Closed oak and beech forests, smoke tree and downy oak forests, and karst shrub forests extend across the area.



Forests play a central role in the earth's vegetation history.

- Balaton Uplands National Park
- Írottkö-Geschiebenstein Nature Park
- Landsee Mountains Nature Park
- Őrség National Park
- Sopron Landscape Conservation Area

## Moors and wet meadows

Moors and wet meadows have been considered eerie for centuries. In the Hanság area (German: Waasen), peat was still harvested on a large scale between 1870 and 1950. One precious wetland area is comprised by the protected fritillary meadows on the outskirts of Hagensdorf, with the largest occurrence of this endangered lily family. The Strem valley meadows in the Weinidylle Nature Park are among the largest preserved wet meadows in Burgenland, with rarities such as marsh gentians and yellow daylilies. And in the Kerka valley, the flowers of the Siberian iris colour the meadows blue. In the peat bog in Szőce in Őrség National Park, a unique plant in the region can be found – the insect-eating sundew.

The Kis-Balaton area is famous for its abundance of birds. The Rohrbach pond meadows in the Rosalia-Kogelberg Nature Park with their fascinating flora and fauna are an insider's tip for nature lovers and birdwatchers.

Who doesn't know some spooky stories set in moors?



- Balaton Uplands National Park
- Fertő-Hanság National Park
- Kerka Valley
- Lake Neusiedl-Seewinkel National Park
- National Park Őrség
- Rosalia-Kogelberg Nature Park
- Weinidylle Nature Park

## Hill ranges and volcanic cones

The forest-free, gentle hills and hill chains of western Pannonia feature unique habitats. On the mostly water-permeable ground, especially on slopes facing the south and southwest, a very special world of plants has developed. The Pannonhalma hill range lies south of Győr between the Danube lowlands in the north and the Bakony mountains in the south, with the three hills Szemere, Csanak and Pannonhalma.

Probably the most spectacular tectonic phenomena are volcanoes and volcanic phenomena. The extinct volcano Sagberg (Hungarian: Sághegy) towers over the Little Hungarian Plain near Celldömölk, and is rich in rare plants and animals due to its solitary location and geological particularities. In and around the Balaton Uplands National Park rise numerous extinct volcanoes, on whose slopes a variety of formations and plants can be found.



In the Landsee Mountains Nature Park lies the Pauliberg, the youngest extinct volcano in Austria.

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## Rivers and wetlands

Rivers are lifelines and an integral part of any landscape. They deposit sediment, erode and have a lasting effect on the landscape. 'Little Rye Island' (Hungarian: Szigetköz) is formed by the main branch of the Danube and a tributary, the Wieselburg Danube (Hungarian: Mosoni-Duna). Large parts of this island have been under protection as a landscape conservation area since 1987. Cormorants, goldeneye ducks and goshawks spend the winter here on the open water.

The Raab, the largest river of the region which remains almost in its natural state and which meanders through the three-country Raab-Őrség-Goričko Nature Park, offers routes suitable for eventful canoe tours both on the Austrian and Hungarian sides.

The Mura-Menti Landscape Conservation Area is also part of the cross-border Mur-Drava-Danube UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



Experience colourful diversity from the river perspective.

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- Kerka Valley
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- Szigetköz Landscape Conservation Area

## Dry grassland, pastureland and steppes

The PaNaNet region is home to the most beautiful dry regions in Central Europe. As core areas of the cross-border nature network, they form the basis for incredible biodiversity. Only a few of the steppe landscapes of western Pannonia are primary steppes. Most are secondary steppes of anthropogenic origin. Deforestation, grazing and mowing prevent the growth of new natural trees and shrubs. In the Pannonian region, these areas are also called puszta ('wasteland') – but they are anything but that! In addition to salty soils, there are also numerous sandy habitats in the Little Hungarian Plain both in Hungary and in the area of Lake Neusiedl-Seedamm.

The sandy, lime-enriched soils bring forth magnificent spring and early summer flowers. The Siberian iris, yellow daylily, swamp iris, sand iris and dwarf iris are botanical treasures that grow in all the habitats of the PaNaNet region!



The most beautiful dry regions in Central Europe.

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