

The Balkan Rivers Tour

From Sava to Vjosa: 35 days of kayaking against the dam tsunami

April 16 - May 20, 2016

The image most people have of the Balkans is related to beaches, post wars and nowadays to the refugee crisis. However, there is a completely different aspect to this area, which is still widely unknown: its rivers. The most valuable rivers of Europe can be found between Slovenia and Albania. Crystal clear streams, wild rivers with extensive gravel banks, spectacular waterfalls and huge alluvial forests – rivers full of wildlife. The Blue Heart of Europe beats on the Balkan Peninsula!



Kayakers from all over Europe will paddle 16 of the most beautiful and threatened Balkan rivers between 16.4.-20.5. © Rok Rozman

However, this unique European treasure is at risk. More than 2,700 dam projects are planned to be built within the next years. [This dam tsunami threatens every single river](#); not even the most striking and valuable river stretches – even if located inside protected areas – are to be spared (e.g. 113 dams are foreseen inside national parks). The Blue Heart of Europe is at risk of a heart attack!

Led by former Slovenian Olympic athlete Rok Rozman, kayakers from all over Europe will paddle 16 rivers in 6 Balkan countries, starting with the Sava in Slovenia on April 16 and ending at the Vjosa in Albania on May 20. Under the slogan of **“Save the Balkan Rivers - Stop the Dam Tsunami!”** the kayakers want to raise awareness about the beauty of the rivers and the threats they are facing.

The grand finale of the tour will take place on the Vjosa in Albania – Europe’s last big wild river (outside Russia). This involves a scenic protest activity on the Vjosa (Flotilla event) and the handing over of a “special petition” to the Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama in Tirana on May 20.

The Balkan Rivers Tour is part of the [Save the Blue Heart of Europe](#) campaign, which is coordinated by the international NGOs EuroNatur and Riverwatch. The campaign's declared goal is to save the ecologically most valuable rivers and river sections from the dam tsunami!

The tour is co-organized by EuroNatur, Riverwatch, Leeway Collective and WWF Adria and supported by Patagonia, Manfred-Hermsen-Stiftung and Mava Foundation.



The Balkan Rivers: living, threatened, unknown. Europe's secret natural heritage. Above, the Vjosa in Albania. © Christian Baumgartner/Nationalpark Donau Auen

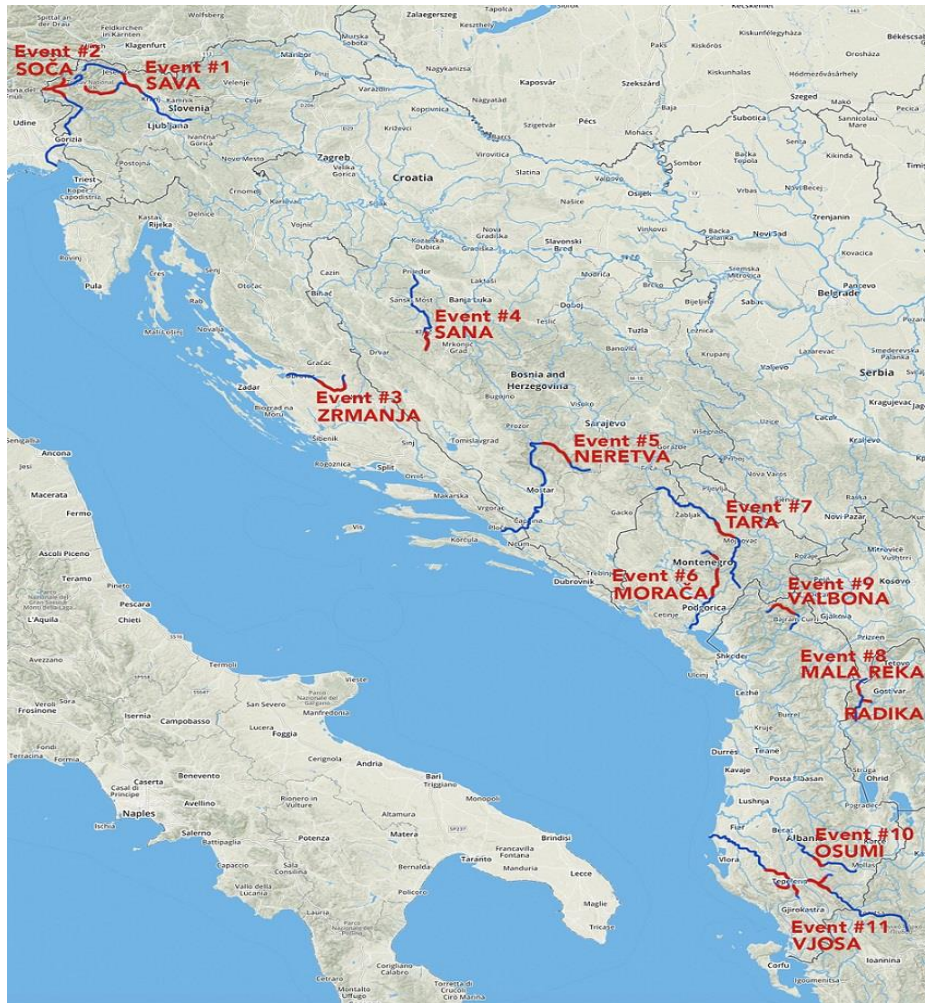
The Balkan Rivers Tour is a 35 days opportunity to get to know the Balkans from a very different perspective. Join the tour and help saving this incredible European heritage!

Tour Dates

Date	Country	River	Location
16.4.	Slovenia	Sava Bohinjka	Bohinj Lake
17.4.	Slovenia	Sava Dolinka, Sava	Moste-Radovljica
18.4.	Slovenia	Koritnica and Soča	Bovec
19.4.	Slovenia	Soča, maybe Učja	Kobraid
20.4.			travel day
21.4.	Croatia	Zrmanja	Kaštel Žegarski

22.4.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sana	Donja Pecka
23.4.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sana	Donja Pecka
24.4.	Bosnia and Herzegovina		Donja Pecka
25.4.	Bosnia and Herzegovina		travel day
26.4.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Neretva	Glavatičevo
27.4.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Neretva	Glavatičevo
28.4.			travel day
29.4.	Montenegro	Morača	Kolašin
30.4.	Montenegro	Morača	Kolašin
1.5.	Montenegro	Tara	Mojkovac
2.5.	Montenegro		
3.5.			travel day
4.5.	Macedonia	Radika	Mavrovo NP
5.5.	Macedonia	Mala reka	Mavrovo NP
6.5.	Macedonia		day off
7.5.			travel day
8.5.	Albania	Valbona	Valbona
9.5.	Albania	Valbona	Valbona
10.5.	Albania		travel day
11.5.	Albania	Osumi	Corovode
12.5.	Albania	Osumi	Corovode
13.5.	Albania	Vjosa	travel day
14.5.	Albania	Vjosa	Tepelene
15.5.	Albania	Langarica	Tepelene
16.5.	Albania	Drinos	Tepelene
17.5.	Albania	Bence	Tepelene
18.5.	Albania	Vjosa	Qesarat (Flotilla Event)
19.5.	Albania	Vjosa	Pocemi
20.5.	Albania		Tirana (hand over to PM)

Map of special tour events



Details on the tour events – see individual event factsheets or at <http://balkanrivers.net/en/map>

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More info about the Save the Blue Heart of Europe campaign at www.balkanrivers.net

