



Drinkable Danube Walk

Amsterdam, 16 August 2024

Li An Phoa, founder of Drinkable Rivers, wants the world's rivers to become ecologically healthy again and therefore safe enough to drink. That's why Phoa and her partner Maarten van der Schaaf will walk along three different sections of the Danube river from 18 September until 11 October. Along the way, they will meet farmers, school kids, anglers, business men, politicians and policy makers and talk with them about their vision of a Drinkable Danube and mobilise people to care for the river. The Drinkable Danube walk is part of the European project called "Restoration of the Danube River Basin for ecosystems and people from mountains to coast: Danube4all".

Open invitation

Phoa and Van der Schaaf invite everyone who is interested to join their walk. They will explore what the Danube means for people who live along the river. In order to bring the conversation about the Danube to the dinner table, Phoa and Van der Schaaf will stay with locals who welcome them in their homes. The day-to-day schedule of the walk is published on Danube.DrinkableRivers.org.

Citizen science

Together with (school) children, Phoa and Van der Schaaf will undertake citizen science measurements of the Danube river on a daily basis. This experience is educational and a way to engage with local people. The study will be part of Drinkable Rivers' international citizen science programme that enables people to learn about the health of their rivers. Romanian partners will continue to use this tool after the walk ends and track whether the health of the Danube is improving or not.

Public events

Apart from the daily walking events, Phoa and Van der Schaaf will organise several (public) events. There will be a two-day field trip on September 16 & 17 in the lagoon of the Danube Delta in collaboration with WWF-Romania, the National Institute for Research and Development on Marine Geology and Geo-ecology (GeoEcoMar) and BOKU, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, Austria. On September 23 a field trip will be organised by WWF in the Carasuhat wetlands and on October 4 GeoEcoMar will organise a public tour around the Cârna and Bistreţ lakes. The closing event will take place on October 11 in Drobeta Turnu Severin, Romania.

About

Li An Phoa (born 1980) has walked almost 20.000 kilometers for a world with drinkable rivers. Li An is a whole systems ecologist and philosopher. She is the author of *Drinkable rivers, when the river became my teacher*. Li An features in the [documentary film](#) that was made about her 1000 kilometer walk along the river Meuse. Maarten van der Schaaf (born 1980) is a writer and journalist. He is the co-author of *Drinkable rivers, when the river became my teacher*. Maarten also joined Li An on her walks along the IJssel and the Thames.

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