

## ***Caving and kayaking in the Danube Gorges***

### **Location:**

Danube, Big Gorges; at about 50 km distance from Baile Herculane town

### **Period/date:**

16-22 August 2014

### **Kayak trip distance:**

7 - 10 km

### **Estimated duration:**

approx. 10 hours

### **Required equipment:**

- proper equipment for fossil caves (waterproof clothes, helmet, headlamp/light);
- T-shirt and shorts or light trousers, windproof jacket are recommended for the kayak trip

### **Equipment provided by the organizer:**

Kayaks equipped with comfort seats, paddles, life vest

### **Meals:**

1,5-2 L of water mandatory for each participant

Shore lunch: 12 €/ person (optional)

### **Transportation:**

From Baile Herculane town provided by the organizer

### **Price:**

65 €/person

### **Sightseeings:**

The Danube Gorges (Cazanele Dunarii) is the section of the defile which crosses the Carpathian Mountains having a length of about 9 km. In some areas, the Danube narrows to about 230 m, making navigation cumbersome. The river is bounded by vertical, rocky walls.



### ***Kayak trip in the Big Caldroms***

The Big Caldroms with a length of about 4 km are situated in the steep walls of Ciucarul Mare Mountains and Veliki Strbac Mountains (Serbia). In the wall of limestone

which flanks the Big Caldroms, two cavities took birth: Ponicova and Veterans Caves.

### ***Exploring Ponicoва Cave***

Ponicoва Cave is the most important and large underground cavity in the Danube Gorges, taking birth in the wall of limestone which flanks the Big Caldrons, Ciucaru Mare Mountains, having a length of 1666m and a depth of 60m. The main entrance and most accessible one is situated in the Ponicoва Gorges. Another entry is located at a superior level from the first one although harder to approach. A third entry is at the level of the Danube, accessible only by kayak.



### ***Exploring Veterans Cave***

The cave is situated at the left side of the Big Caldrons, dug inside the Ciucaru Mare Mountains, under Panza Curii stone wall, 500 meters downstream from Gura Ponicovei Cave. Abs. alt. 73 m. The cave has only one access way, from the Danube. At the base of the wall there is a little pontoon and a short steep path leads to the entrance.

Archaeological research shows that the cave was known to man since ancient times. The first research works go back to 1872. In 1929, A. Kubacka published the initial plan of the cave the way it was set by the Austrian army. Following 1962, detailed research works started, first on biospeleological afterwards geographical and archaeological areas.



### ***Kayak trip in the Small Caldrons***

The Small Caldrons with a length of about 3 km can be found between Ciucarul Mic Mountains and Mali Strbac Mountains (Serbia). The Danube Caldrons together with Ciucarul Mare / Ciucarul Mic Mountains are part of the Iron Gates Natural Park.

## ***Statue of Decebalus***

The idea belonged to Romanian businessman and historian Iosif Constantin Dragan and it took 10 years (1994-2004).

## ***Tabula Trajana***

A monument raised by Roman emperor Trajan, to mark the triumphant march of the Roman troops to Dacia as well as to commemorate the victories of the Roman empire against Dacian kingdom in 105 A.D. "Tabula" is almost 2000 years old and it is located on the Serbian side of the river at the end of the Small Caldrons.

### **Trip visualization:**

- <http://goo.gl/maps/ZA8Oo>
- <http://goo.gl/5rO4yq>
- <http://goo.gl/maps/cAYVU>



### **Organizer:**

**Bedelevu Adventure Association**

### **Contact person:**

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