

Danube River ends its journey through Europe in south-eastern Romania. Here, the river divides into 3 branches - Chilia, Sulina, Sfântu Gheorghe.

Danube Delta is the second largest river delta in Europe, after the Volga Delta, and it is the best preserved on the continent. The greater part of the Danube Delta lies in Romania (Tulcea) Danube Delta is the newest land in the country, with beaches expanding into the sea. Overall, the delta is a triangular swampy area of marshes, floating reed islands and sandbanks. It is a UNESCO Biosphere Reservation as well as a protected wetland and natural habitat for rare species of plants and animals.

As a young region in full process of consolidation, the Danube Delta represents a very favorable place for the development of highly diverse flora and fauna, unique in Europe, with numerous rare species. It hosts 23 natural ecosystems. Situated on major migratory routes, and providing adequate conditions for nesting and hatching, the Danube Delta is a magnet for birds from six major ecoregions of the world, including the Mongolian, Arctic and Siberian. There are over 320 species of birds found in the delta during summer, of which 166 are hatching species and 159 are migratory. Over one million individual birds (swans, wild ducks, coots, etc.) winters here.

The environment is rich in organisms, like plankton, worms, molluscs, grubs, and sponges, and numerous species of fish, such as the carp, pike, pike perch, sheat-fish, catfish, freshwater sturgeons, sterlet, Vyza and Danube mackerel.

Reed plants and floating reed islands (called plaur in Romania) are the most common and well known components of the Danube Delta vegetation. This ecosystem consists of the common reed and, on near river banks, mace reed/cattail, and brook mint. They provide ideal spawning and nesting grounds. The plaur are a mixture of reed roots, grass and soil, usually floating or anchored to the riverbed.

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