

Project name: Nature Across Borders

Project code: AT-SCI 10.2

Country: Austria

Dates: 4th – 18th September

Topic: Environmental protection

Type of work: Environment

Total Number of volunteers: 15

Volunteer Age Range: 18-65

Language: English

Wheelchair accessible: No



Description: Are you interested in nature conservation and passionate about being outside in nature? Do you like working as a team and getting to know new people with a similar lifestyle? We are looking for motivated volunteers to help us with nature conservation in two national parks, Thayatal and Podyjí. Local partners oversee the protection and ecological development of their respective regions and their biodiversity. Some parts of Thayatal and Podyjí need ongoing management to maintain sustainable habitats for rare species. Meadows and diverse dry grassland areas need to be preserved to protect their ecosystems.

Work: We will remove invasive plants to prevent irreversible anthropogenic effects on the ecosystem. Secondly, we will mow or rake dry grassland areas and selectively remove bushes and small trees to control forest growth in these species-rich open habitats. We will also have time to get to know each other and enjoy the early autumn in Austria and the Czech Republic.

Study Theme: You will gain knowledge of the flora and fauna of local habitats and how to manage them, including the challenges faced. Furthermore, you will gain hands-on experience in maintaining dry grasslands and managing invasive species.

Accommodation: At Thayatal National Park you will be staying in the Wildcat Camp. The facility is equipped with bedrooms for up to 6 persons with bathrooms, a common room and kitchen. At Podyjí National Park, you will stay in Havraníky in an old school. The building belongs to the National Park and is equipped with two dormitories up to 12 persons, a bathroom, a common room and a kitchen.

Requirements: We will work 4-5 days a week for six hours a day with breaks in between. The work will be physical and in steep terrain. Therefore, some basic fitness as well as solid ankle-high hiking boots are required. Be prepared for hot or rainy weather, penetrating the bushes or water wading. PLEASE make sure that you are healthy enough to participate.

Location: The conservation area of Thayatal and Podyjí National Park covers part of the Thaya Valley river landscape. While cutting through the Bohemian Massif, the river Thaya created an enormously diverse landscape. The area mainly consists of diverse forest but there are also meadows, dry grasslands and, as the name suggests, aquatic habitats like the river Thaya or Fugnitz and some streams.