

Danube Warriors

By Tanja Kosovski

On 22 of July 2010 Gareth, Aidan, Kevin and I set out on an adventure that would lead us down the Danube in our Advanced Elements Kayaks. We had no problems in checking in our kayaks as regular baggage at the airport and the fact that they are not very heavy helped since we did not exceed the weight allowance. We began our journey in a scenic town of Passau, Germany, which is situated at the junction of the river Danube, and river Inn. This was a great place to start as the current was fast flowing. Being the only novice kayaker in the group I needed a bit of help getting into my kayak for the first week or so, but once I got a hang of it I felt very secure and stable getting in and out. We were all very impressed how well the kayaks handled in the river and the amount of storage on the boat.



We soon reached Austria, and the first 40km seemed effortless. We travelled for a month on Danube and covered over 1000km travelling through Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia and Romania in our kayaks. The storage space at the back was ample to fit a 50L backpack or better yet a 50L waterproof bag (I would highly recommend one). We had a fair amount of gear to carry but the extra weight did not seem to make a big difference in how the

kayak behaved on the river as long as it was evenly distributed.

Since we did our trip in the summer I can safely say that we all appreciated that the kayaks had a front zip that allowed us stick our feet out and float down the Danube while relaxing and enjoying the sights.



The kayaks proved to be very heavy duty as we pulled onto many boat ramps, and the outer shell did not suffer any damage at all.

Since the kayaks are fairly light we were able to stop just about anywhere pull them out of the river and set up camp for the night; this was ideal for our situation as we were not always able to camp at designated campsites.



Overall, we all agree that the kayaks were brilliant and would recommend them to anybody trying to do a similar trip. They handle very well in calm waters and can handle small waves. Also, Nick thank you for all your help and advice and for giving us a great deal on the kayaks.