Welcome to the 2017 edition of the "We are Alps" tour on Water in the Alps. The "We are Alps" tour is an initiative of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention to raise awareness on specific alpine topics along an international journey using sustainable means of transport.

Whether as glacier, snow, waterfall or lake, water is present on many Alpine postcards. Large parts of Europe benefit from the freshwater of the Alps. Water is stored as ice and snow in the mountains and partly released to the rivers in spring and summer. It is needed for drinking water and households, irrigation, sports and hydropower; these uses sometimes compete with each other and with the needs of aquatic ecosystems. Water is also a major factor in natural disasters, from avalanches and floods, to the melting of permafrost and landslides, to water scarcity and droughts. Water in the Alps is also affected by climate change.

With the "We are Alps" tour we are spreading the messages of the Alpine Convention, the international treaty for the sustainable development and protection of the Alps signed by the 8 Alpine Countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland) as well as the European Union.

Ambassador Markus Reiterer
Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

We would like to sincerely thank all our partners in this project:
**Sunday 25TH JUNE**

**Vienna**

Where the Alpine water flows
The “We are Alps” kick-off event in Vienna, the seat of the current presidency of the Alpine Convention. Through outside the perimeter of the convention, Vienna is significantly linked to the Alps. We will jump on bikes and explore the Danube River. At the Donau-Auen National Park we will have a presentation of the Alpine Convention, the We are Alps tour and an introduction to the Water in the Alps topic, the Alpine Convention’s Water Management Platform and the EUSALP Action Group 6. There may also be a chance to have a swim!

10:45 Meeting at the Hotel Royal
12.15 – 14.00 Biking to Donau-Auen National Park
14.00 – 16.00 Presentation of the Alpine Convention, We are Alps tour and the Water topics
16.00 – 18.00 Swimming and biking back to the city
19.00 Dinner

Overnight: Hotel Royal (Gingertstraße 3)

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**Monday 26TH JUNE**

**Vienna ➔ Schladming**

Letting the water flow
We will start the day by visiting the historic water tower and cistern at Vienna Water Works. We will then take the train to Schladming and have an excursion on the town’s management of flood risk from the River Enns and its torrents, and how to conjugate the EU Flood and Water Directives.

07.45 Meeting time
08.00 – 9.00 Tramway to Vienna Water Works
09.00 – 11.00 Visit of Vienna Water Works
12.00 – 16.00 Train to Schladming
16.15 – 19.30 Visit of the flood protection measures on River Enns and the Trenkbach torrent by bike
20.00 Walk to the dinner and discussion with the municipality

Overnight: TUI Blue Pulse (Goburgenstraße 54)

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**Tuesday 27TH JUNE**

**Schladming ➔ Pragäten am Großvenediger**

Water cycle
We will visit Schladming’s waste water treatment plant and snow production facilities, before continuing our route towards Pragäten am Großvenediger. We will stop on the way in Schwaz for lunch with the “whatsalp” team, which has embarked on a 4-month hike across the Alps to find out the changes over the past 25 years. At dinner we will find out about the history of the creation of the Hohe Tauern National Park, which protects one of the largest glacier areas in the Alps.

07.30 Meeting time
07.30 – 08.45 Bike to the waste water plant
08.45 – 12.00 Bike and cable car to the snow production facilities
12.10 – 13.05 Train to Schladming
13.15 – 15.00 Lunch and presentation of the ‘whatsalp’ project
15.12 – 18.25 Train and buses to Pragäten-Hinterbichl
19.00 Dinner and discussion with the Hohe Tauern National Park

Overnight: Hotel Himmel (Hinterbichl 10)

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**Wednesday 28TH JUNE**

**Pragäten am Großvenediger ➔ Merano/Meran**

Learning by doing: hiking, bathing and drinking
On our morning hike to the Limbachi waterfall, we will discuss water ecology issues as well as visitor management. We will have a presentation of the HyMoCAREs project on the restoration of the Adige River along which we will be travelling to Merano/Meran. In the late afternoon we will visit the alpine spa and enjoy the local mineral water.

08.15 Meeting time
08.30 – 12.30 Hike to the Limbachi waterfall
12.50 – 18.15 Buses and trains to Merano/Meran, on the train presentation of the HyMoCAREs project
18.30 – 20.00 Visit of the Merano Spa
20.30 Dinner and discussion with the tourism authority

Overnight: City Hotel Merano (Mehrdurstrasse 41)

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**Thursday 29TH JUNE**

**Merano/Meran ➔ Turin**

From past to future
Walking around Merano/Meran, we will learn about the importance of floods in the town’s history, the “Waale” - the irrigation channels formerly used to bring water to the vineyards and orchards and the need to preserve water biospheres. In the train towards Turin we will have a presentation on MySnowMaps - an app collecting meteorological data from the stations and users on the weather network.

07.30 Meeting time
08.00 – 11.30 Walk by the Passero/Passirio River and “Waale”
12.00 – 13.00 Lunch and discussion with the municipality
13.16 – 18.55 Trains to Turin, on the train presentation of MySnowMaps project
19.00 Dinner

Overnight: Hotel Diplomatic (Via Cernaia 42)

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**Friday 30TH JUNE**

**Turin ➔ Susa Valley ➔ Annecy**

A clean success
In the morning, we will find out about riverine vegetation restoration along the Dora Riparia River in Susa valley. We will then cross over to France and see the biodiversity of Lake Annecy on a short cruise. We will also find out how the city is using the lake’s water for heating and visit the drinking water plant. At dinner we will discuss the importance of the cooperation between Alpine municipalities, such as Alpine Town of the Year and Alliance in the Alps networks.

07.30 Meeting time
07.45 – 09.30 Train to Dora Cesana-Sciarelli-Sierra
09.30 – 11.00 Visit of a riverine vegetation management project
11.13 – 14.07 Train to Annecy
15.00 – 16.00 Presentation of the heating system with lake water
16.30 – 17.30 Boat trip on Lake Annecy
17.30 – 18.30 Visit of the drinking water plant
19.30 Dinner and discussion with the municipality

Overnight: Hôtel du Palais de l’Isle (13 rue Perrière)

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**Saturday 1ST JULY**

**Annecy ➔ Savines-le-Lac ➔ L’Argentière-la-Bessée**

From hydropower to water sports
Moving South, we will stop for a visit of the Serre-Ponçon water reservoir on small boats. We will learn how to balance the needs of water sports with those of hydropower and irrigation. We will continue upstream along the Danube River to L’Argentière-la-Bessée which has managed to develop a year-round wild water sports activity.

07.15 Meeting time
07.45 – 13.04 Trains and bus to Savines-le-Lac, on the train presentation of ecological connectivity
13.15 – 14.15 Lunch and discussion with Serre-Ponçon reservoir development organisation
14.30 – 16.45 Visit by fast boat on tourism development and compatibility with hydropower
16.54 – 18.07 Bus to L’Argentière-la-Bessée
14.30 – 16.45 Visit of the regional canoeing & kayaking training centre
20.00 Dinner and discussion with the municipality

Overnight: Hotel de la Marine (32 avenue Charles de Gaulle, Hotel Gazette (32 rue de la République)

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**Sunday 2ND JULY**

**L’Argentière-la-Bessée ➔ Monaco**

The big blue
With an early morning start, we will travel through the foothills of the Maritime Alps towards the Mediterranean coast. Along the way we will learn about Concert-Eaux, a cross-border climate change adaptation project to secure the water resources of the Roya valley. We will conclude our trip with a stay at Monaco, seeing how seawater heat pumps are being used to cover a significant part of the energy needs of the Principality.

05.45 Meeting time
06.13 – 14.57 Train and bus to Monaco, on the train presentation of the Concert-Eaux project
15.30 – 16.30 Visit of the seawater heat pumps
16.30 – 18.30 Hike in Monaco or swimming in the sea
19.00 Farewell dinner

Overnight: Hotel de France (6 rue de la Turbie)