

# RANGER PORTRAIT

Christian Raffetseder, Ranger in  
Donau-Auen National Park, Austria

## Main duties:

- Junior Ranger programme and volunteer work
- guided tours
- area supervision

## Why is your work important to you?

As rangers, we play an important role as mediators: between the requirements of conservation and the visitors wanting to experience nature. We can bridge this by explaining the purpose of conservation measures and at the same time showing how nature can still be enjoyed.

## What is your greatest motivator even when it's hard working out there?

I simply enjoy experiencing something new. Nature is the best place for this because it is constantly changing. And every group I'm guiding reacts differently. That makes it all really exciting.

## Your biggest moment of luck during work?

One of the best moments I had was when I was out with a school group and we found a very rare beetle: the Alpine longhorn beetle, several of them in fact. A week later, the teacher sent me lots of drawings and letters in which this beetle was the main subject. That was a very beautiful, emotional moment for me.

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