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# FERTŐ -AREA AND PRE-ALPS

TOWNS,  
EXCURSIONS  
AROUND SOPRON

*"Where the Lake Fertő is today, there used to be a deep valley in the past. There were lots of beautiful ladies living in the valley, so the valley was called accordingly: Ladies' Valley. Fraknó's lord liked hunting in this valley.*

*Once, however, darkness fell over the land around noon and a violent storm broke out.*

*The lord of the castle managed to find a shelter in a hut, where a widow lived with her daughter. The lord fancied the worthy and modest girl. From then on he always visited her when he was hunting in the area. But he had a wicked wife who didn't like that her husband was visiting the poor widow and her daughter. She captured the girl and said: witch. The poor girl was sentenced to death and thrown into the nearby lake. Then the water of the lake began to rise, it was just rising and rising on, and quickly flooded the land, the forests and villages all around. The heartless chatelaine also died in the flood. Only a few people managed to escape into the mountains. The refugees later returned from the mountains and settled on the shore of the lake. They founded Neusiedler (Neusiedl am See)."*





# FERTŐ-AREA

*"In the attraction of three landscapes. The meeting of the steppe lake, the mountains and the plain. Celts, Avars, Germans, Hungarians, Croatians, Austrians. Baronial palaces, townhouses, old towns, peasant huts. The Esterhazys, Széchenyi, Osl, Nádasdy families, Ferenc Liszt, Joseph Haydn. All these are concentrated in a single landscape and millennia, the Fertő-Hanság.*

*The Fertő area hides its secrets from the untrained visitor, it only shows itself who is prepared. Those who know the story of the birth of Ladies' Valley and Fertő, those who know why this landscape is unique and universal at the same time and are willing to take their time and attention to discover the tiny miracles of life.*

*Those who understand the deeper, spiritual meaning of the landscape, the palaces, the small village churches, the stone crosses, and the pietas. "*

# ÁGFALVA

Located directly at the Hungarian-Austrian border, 4 km from Sopron. The first written reference to the name of the village dates back to 1194, named as „Dág” and it was the property of the Cistercian abbey of Borsmonostor (Klostermarienbergr, Austria). The town of Sopron acquired the village in 1390, and until 1848 it remained its serf village. Ágfalva became widely known after World War I: the fightings of 18 August and 8 September 1921 resulted in the 1921 referendum in Sopron.



Ház-hegyi Lookout Tower

## HÁZ-HEGYI LOOKOUT TOWER

The 6-meter-tall lookout tower built by village residents has been standing on the 332-meter-high Ház-hill since May 1, 1998. It offers a wonderful view of the village of Ágfalva and the Sopron Mountains. 

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

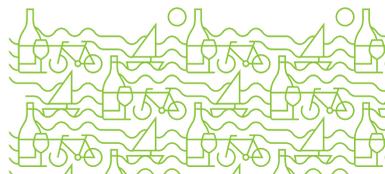
In 1784, as part of the preparation of the church foundation, similarly to the Lutheran Church in Sopron, pilings were installed into the ground, thus ensuring the proper foundation on the swampy ground. The tower of the church was completed in 1870. 

## RED ELDER TRAIL

Red elder nature trail in the Sopron mountains presents the animal and plant world, geology, hydrography and the forests at 10 stations between Ágfalva and Asztalfő. The 7.5-kilometer-long educational trail starting from Asztalfő ends in Ágfalva, dedicating a separate chapter to the presentation of the first coal mine in Hungary, Brennbergbánya and the Brennbergbánya-Ágfalva coal railway. 

## SIGHTS

Late Baroque Roman Catholic Church, The Relocation and the Referendum Memorials, Local History Museum, Local history trail about the battles of Ágfalva

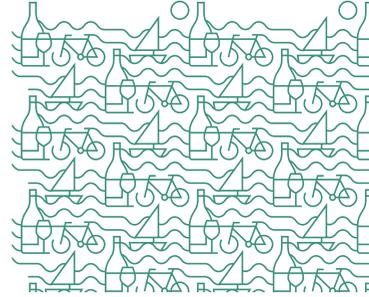


# BALF

*Balf is one of the well-known wine growing areas of the Fertő region World Heritage Site, which has been administratively part of Sopron since 1986. Its medicinal water was already known in Roman times, which was not only used for bathing, but also for drinking cures. From the XVIth century onwards, special healing power was attributed to the bath and it was also considered to be one of the most significant baths the monarchy in the era of dualism.*



Drinking Fountain - Detail



## DRINKING FOUNTAIN

The drinking fountain was completed in 2008, located in the part of the town that is towards Fertőrákos. Anyone can feel free to taste its water, you can even take some away for your trip. The ornate drinking fountain was made by the Zsolnay Porcelain Manufactory. 📍

## THE BATH OF BALF

Primarily its medicinal water makes the spa hospital established in 1975 suitable for treating patients with impairments. In its spacious park you will find the valuable, heritage-listed baroque **Bath Chapel**. The frescoes on the ceiling and walls are attributed to the famous Baroque painter, István Dorffmaister. 📍

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

The church in the centre of the village (without a tower) began to be built after the 1781 Decree of Tolerance, and its tower was completed in 1940. The nearly 200-year-old organ (the work of organ maker Fülöp König from Sopron) stands out from the baroque furnishings of the church. 📍

## ST. FARKAS CASTLE CHURCH

The tiny church with its Gothic sanctuary can be found on the picturesque church hill surrounded by a fortress-like cemetery wall. In front of the cemetery wall, you can see the **National Memorial Site**, that commemorates the murdered Jewish slave labourers (including Antal Szerb). 📍

# FERTŐBOZ

*Fertőboz is located between the hills around the southern shore of Fertő and the reeds of the lake. It is part of the Fertő-Hanság National Park, the smallest village on the Fertő shore, with just over 300 inhabitants. Its name originates from elder, which is celebrated at its blooming (in May) with the elder festival.*



Glorieta

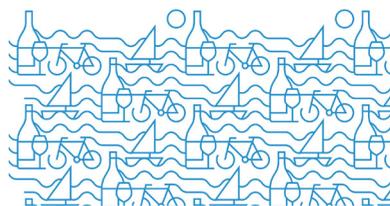
## GLORIETTA

An outstanding sight of the town. During the Napoleonic wars, in October 1800, Archduke Joseph, the leader of the noble armies of the county, visited the hill with Ferenc Széchenyi several times to admire the beauty of the landscape. To commemorate these visits, Ferenc Széchenyi built the lookout tower made of limestone from Fertőrákos.



## TRINITY CHURCH

The Trinity Church built in 1732 stands on a hill above the village. Until the end of the 18th century, the village did not have a parish priest of its own, so the Hidegség priest served here. The tombstone (from 1781) of the first local parish priest of the village, Adam Gemeindeviess, can be found in the cemetery of Fertőboz.



## Did you know?

In the middle of the 18th century, at the end of Linden Alley lived a hermit. According to legend, he educated the people of Fertőboz, Hidegség, Homok and Hegykő to grow vegetables, which, in addition to fishing, reed harvesting and winemaking, gradually became the most important source of income for the farmers in the area. Vegetables grown in the "Ferte lands" were also sought after in the Sopron and Vienna markets.

## SARCOPHAGUS OF THE FAMILY SZÉCHENYI-ERDŐDY

At the end of the linden alley in the direction of Fertőboz is the red granite tombstone of Béla Széchenyi and his wife Hanna Erdődy, who died young. The eldest son of István Széchenyi and his beloved wife were not buried in the Széchenyi mausoleum, but at the end of the 2.6-kilometer alley where the countess often went for a ride.

# FERTŐHOMOK

*It is 16 km from Sopron, between Hegykő and Hidegség. The bicycle path surrounding Lake Fertő passes through the settlement. The village is part of the Fertő-Hanság National Park and the Fertő World Heritage Area. Most of the inhabitants of the settlement are Croatians, whose ancestors settled here in the XVIth century. The local tambura band and the folk dance group cherish their traditions.*



## COUNTRY HOUSE

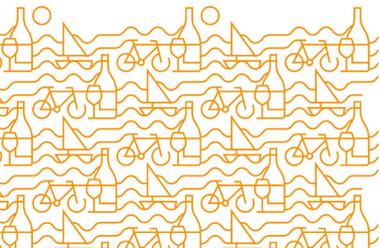
It presents the past and traditions of the village with its peculiar culture. In the first room and kitchen of the house you can see the interior of the 1930s. In the second room you can see local history documents and temporary, sea-

sonal exhibitions. In 2004 it was awarded the title “Village Museum of the Year”. Its renewed exhibition demonstrates the culture of Croatian people while in the outbuildings visitors may see the tools of agricultural occupations characteristic for the region. Thanks to “the Gems of the Fertő Region” project the Fertőhomok Village Museum has been expanded by a constant exhi-

bition, an outdoor oven and a bigger event space by the summer of 2020. The existing stage will be covered and a new outdoor stage with auditorium will be built. 📍11

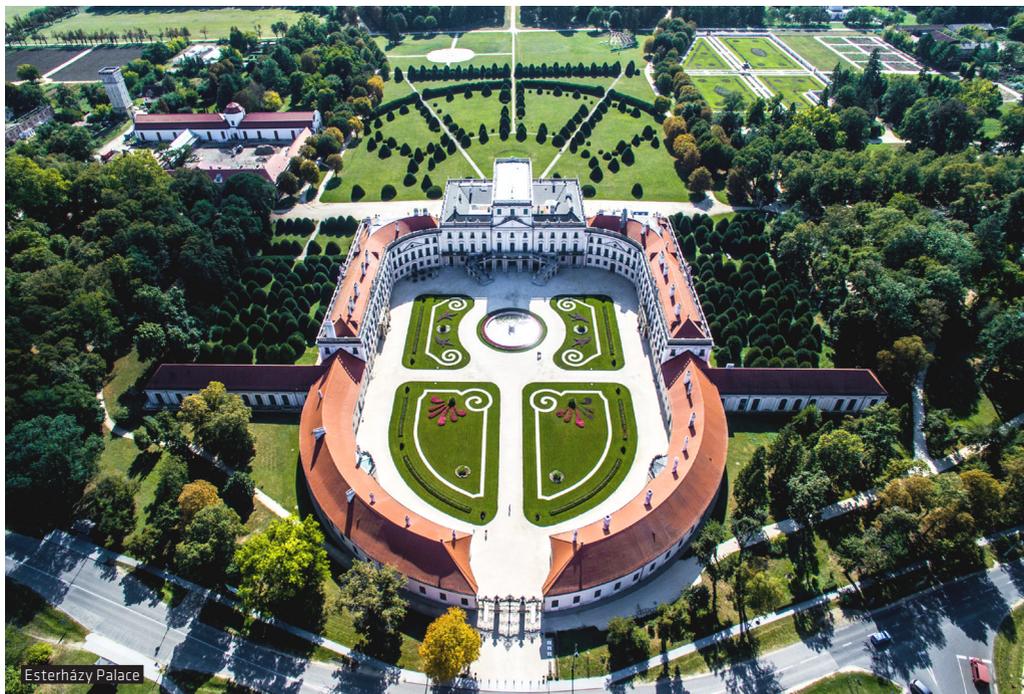
## FURTHER ATTRACTIONS

Twayblade educational trail, St. Anne’s Church, Szentkői Beerhouse



# FERTŐD

*Fertőd is the most well-known and most visited town in the Fertő region. Nearby, you can find the centre of Fertő-Hanság National Park in Sarród. Besides its monuments and other sights, it is the cultural centre of the region. Today's name was given during the reorganization of the Hungarian administration, after a settlement that existed here in the Árpád era. On May 16, 1950, Eszterháza took the name Fertőd, and in September, Süttör was administratively attached to Fertőd.*

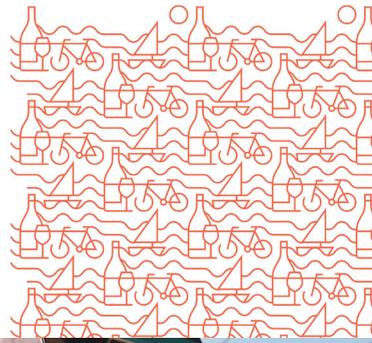


## ESTERHÁZY PALACE

The 126-room palace surrounded by outbuildings and a 200-hectare park is the largest palace complex in Hungary and the third largest baroque palace in Europe. The centre of the building is the banquet hall upstairs with the connecting music hall.

The summer dining room under the banquet hall connects the baroque garden with the building. The structure of the nearly 200-acre garden composition is defined by the three radial visual axes ("goose feet"-alley) that start from the focus of the palace, which continue behind the "parter" (large open baroque garden), in the large Park Forest, the pheasant garden and the wild garden.

The construction and heyday of the palace is associated with Prince Miklós Esterházy "The Extravagant", who continuously carried out constructions from 1762 until his death in 1790, in order to establish a residence comparable to royal courts, and where luxurious ceremonies were common. Eszterháza was visited not only by distinguished families of the period, but also by Empress Maria Theresa, and the great composer Joseph Haydn lived and worked here as well.  12



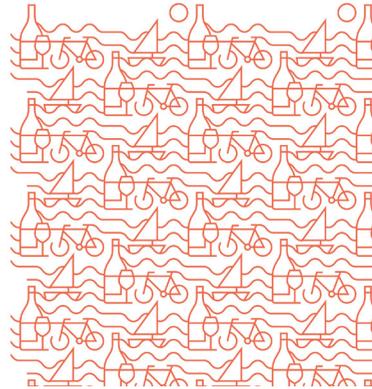
Margit Cziráky Rose Garden

## MARGIT CZIRÁKY ROSE GARDEN

The era of prince Esterházy Miklós IV and his wife, Margit Cziráky was the second golden age of Eszterháza. Honoured by the locals, the Countess dreamed and built the original rose garden in 1908, which was opened to visitors in June 2016 after its renovation. 📍13

## MARIONETTE THEATRE

The Marionette Theatre is located on the eastern side of the large southern park. It was opened in 1773 during the visit of Maria Theresa by playing the Philemon and Baucis piece conducted by Haydn. The Marionette Theatre, as in Haydn's time, functions as a concert and performance hall, hosting most of the concerts of the Eszterháza Celebrations. 📍14



# FERTŐRÁKOS

*It is 10 km from Sopron, on the shore of Lake Fertő. It was named after the creek rich in crabs that flows through the village and flows into Lake Fertő in the Fertőrákos bay. The only village that was surrounded by a stone wall, and almost every building here is a monument. Fertőrákos was already known in Roman times: this is evidenced by the Quarry and the Mithras sanctuary. The limestone extracted here can still be found in several public buildings in Vienna and in the surrounding area.*



Quarry and Cave Theatre

## MITHRAS SANCTUARY

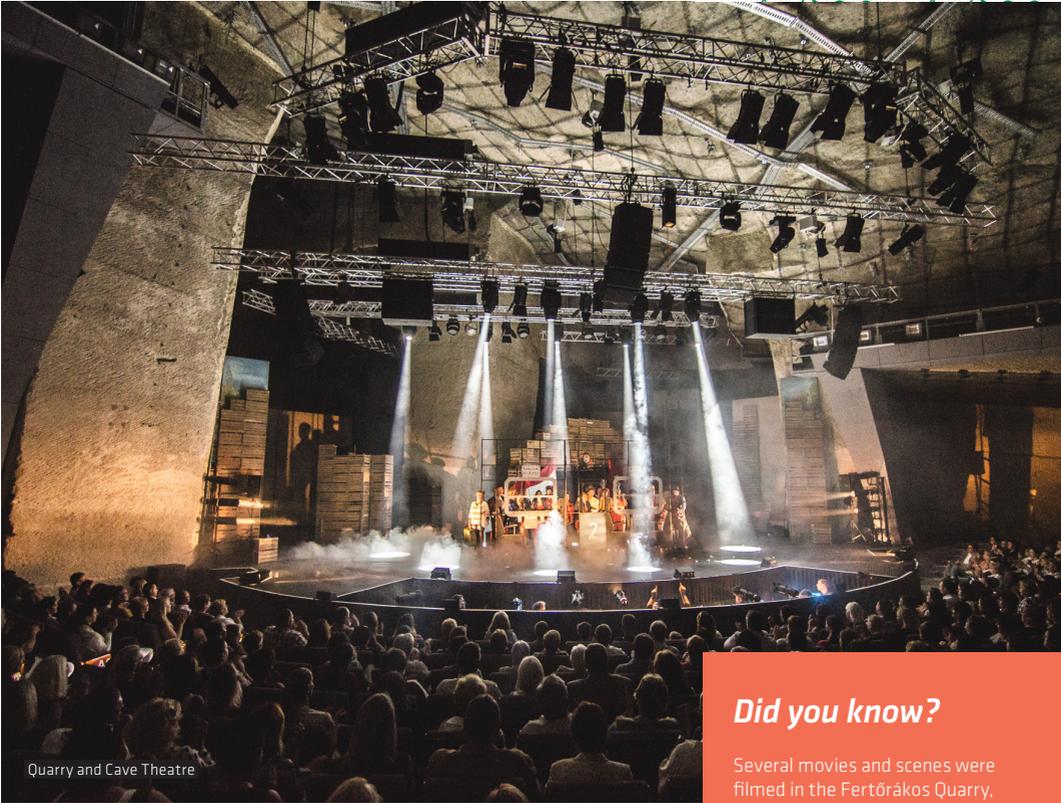
The Roman sanctuary dedicated to the Persian Sun God Mithras is next to the road connecting Fertőrákos and Fertőmeggyes. The abandoned cave-like sanctuary was discovered nearly simultaneously in 1866 by stone carver György Malleschitz and Ferenc Stornó Jr. Ferenc Stornó

Sr. took part in the exploration and built an arch of carved limestone over the sanctuary. It was not possible to visit it during the Socialist regime, the deteriorated building was renovated in 1992. It can now be visited from spring to autumn.

📍 15

## MEDIEVAL CITY WALL

The 4-meter high walls with loop-holes from the 16th century can still be seen on the main street (Fő utca) of the village. A bastion tower was added to the lower town wall. The village centre bordered by the old town wall has been under monument protection since 1969. At the lower town wall, you will find the Monument to the Deported, which commemorates the deportation of the local Germans in 1946. 📍 16



Quarry and Cave Theatre

### *Did you know?*

Several movies and scenes were filmed in the Fertőrákos Quarry, the most famous one of them was a scene in *The Baron's sons*.

## QUARRY AND CAVE THEATRE

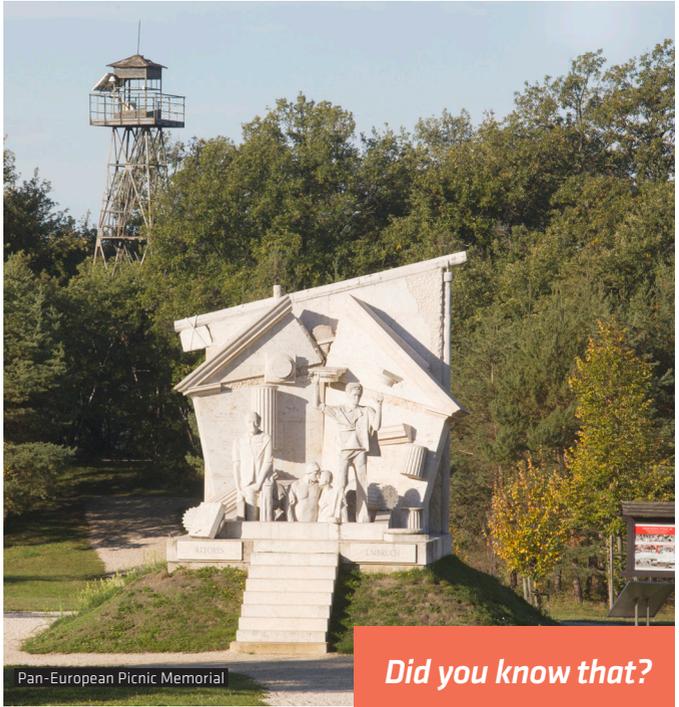
The Pannonian Sea covered this area millions of years ago. The remains of calcite-shelled animals, snails, shells formed the so called „Lajta”-limestone that is extracted here. Even the Romans were mining here, and it also served as construction material for several buildings in Sopron and Vienna. It functioned as a labour camp during World War II. Today, the renovated Fertőrákos Stone Quarry and Cave

Theatre is a modern facility, which is now fully open to visitors, not only on the surface, but also its thematic park created inside. The interior of the quarry (cave) is a multifunctional cave-like space created by humans and nature alike, hiding an unusual exhibition and a playground.

The exhibition consists of two larger units: a paleontological exhibition that presents the conditions of the local „Lajta”-limestone formation, the other one shows its utilization. The cave theatre also hosts high-quality performances every year.  17

## PAN-EUROPEAN PICNIC MEMORIAL

On the 356-kilometer long Hungarian-Austrian border, various technical systems, barbed wire fences and barrages were installed after 1949 to prevent illegal border moves. The Debrecen organization of the Hungarian Democratic Forum and the parties of the Opposition Roundtable in Sopron announced an event for 19 August 1989 with the title Pan-European Picnic to promote the idea of the demolition of the iron curtain for a common Europe without frontiers. At this event, hundreds of East German citizens broke the gate of the "iron curtain" on the Austrian-Hungarian border to travel to West Germany. The spectacular mass escape gave another boost to the changes and led to the fall of the Berlin Wall. This was followed by the re-unification of Berlin and Germany. The memorial park created at the site of the breakthrough and the Visitor Centre, which was handed over in 2019 to mark the 30th anniversary, are a worthy memorial to the outstanding historical event. In 2015, the memorial park was the first location in Hungary to receive the title of European Cultural Heritage.



Pan-European Picnic Memorial

## PILLORY

In the centre, you can see Hungary's one and only public pillory, a shame pole from the XVIIth century. In the Middle Ages it was a widespread device of punishment, convicted criminals were bound to it. The village had its prison on the market square, the market was between the town hall and the manor mill. At the beginning of the 1530s, a new prison was built under the marketplace, and a tower was placed above it, it is the pillory that you can still see today. It was used for punishment even in the XXth century, the last record is from 1946, when a potato thief was punished this way. 📍19

## Did you know that?

The Lake Fertő last dried up completely between 1866 and 1869. In 1869, the local Catholic faithful made a pilgrimage through the dried-up lakebed to Nagyboldogasszony (Frauenkirchen), the most important Marian pilgrimage site on the eastern shore of the lake. Their prayers were answered when the water returned to the lakebed soon after the pilgrimage. In memory of this, the chapel in Virágosmajor was built in 1872 not far from the lakeshore.

## FURTHER ATTRACTIONS

Local History Exhibition, Catholic Church, Watermill with sundial

# HARKA

*The settlement was first mentioned in a document from 1245 as Villa Harka. The village became the property of Sopron in 1429. The name Harka was changed to Magyarfalva in 1948.*

*The new settlers mistakenly changed the German-sounding name of the village (Harka/Harkau) to Magyarfalva, without realizing that the name of the settlement comes from the dignitary title „horka” from the time of the Hungarian conquest. As a result of the referendum held in 1989, the settlement regained its former name on 1 April 1990.*



Landscape at Harka

## Did you know?

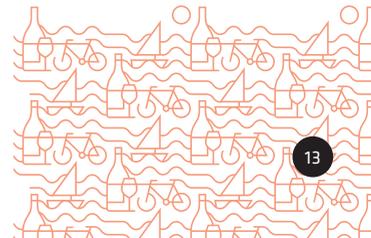
In 1881, the local male choir sang in honour of Ferenc Liszt, who rushed to his home village, neighbouring Doborján, to unveil his memorial plaque. Ferenc Liszt thanked the choir for their performance with the following words: „Gentlemen, you have gold in your throat.”

## CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND PAUL

The first mention of the church dates back to 1309. Evidences of its medieval origins, the Romanesque sanctuary and the Gothic southern entrance with ogee arch, can still be seen today. The church got its present form through the renovations in the 17th century. The small bell of the baroque church tower was cast in 1634.  20

## SIGHTS

Lutheran Church, Millennium Monument, Local History Exhibition, Harka peak (Kogelberg) Nature Reserve



# FERTŐSZÉPLAK

*Fertőszéplak is at the junction of the Little Plain and the eastern extension of the Alps. The village was built on four hills: the Pile Hill, the Lőránt Hill, the Church Hill and the Eresztén Hill. The village changed hands several times. Its earliest owner was the Osl dynasty. In the XIII-XIVth centuries Széplak was registered as the landlord's customs collection point. Its most famous owners were King Sigismund, the Török family of Enying, the Nádasdy, Esterházy and the Széchényi families. In 1682, Archbishop György Széchényi pledged the palace, its lands and farms from Pál Esterházy. Thus Széplak became the residence of the Széchényi family for almost a century.*



Fertőszéplak Country Houses

## FERTŐSZÉPLAK COUNTRY HOUSES

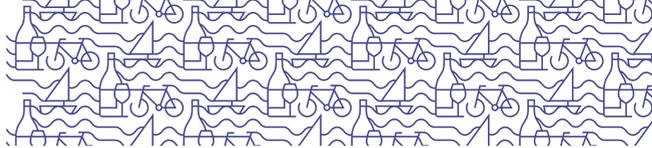
The 5 farmhouses from the second half of the XIXth century are a memory of the jagged settlement structure that is typical of the region's folk architecture. You can learn about the local history and folk culture of the village in the exhibition halls in the country houses. 📍21

## RAILWAY LAMP MUSEUM

József Haragovics's private collection of railway lamps can be visited in Fertőszéplak, in a farmhouse with a porch built at the beginning of the XXth century. 📍22

## TRUNCATED TOWER

West of the village in the direction of Hegykő you can find the Eresztén hill. In the small forest next to the B10 cycle path there is a broken black granite column. The broken column symbolizes the broken life of Countess Margit Cziráky, the wife of Miklós Esterházy IV, who died at the age of 37 at the birth of her fifth child. The monument was erected by the officers of the Esterházy estate to the countess, who was extremely popular in the area. 📍23



## Did you know?

A wanderer in the 1930s came to the village who could only walk with the help of his crutch. He stopped at the Mary's statue, prayed to Our Lady, and then he was miraculously healed: he did not need his walking stick any more. Then he went into the church and as a sign of his gratefulness, he placed the stick behind the altar. You can still see it today in the baroque All Saints Church that was founded in 1728 by Captain Count György Széchényi (II).

## SZÉCHÉNYI CASTLE

The Széchényi Palace opposite the Baroque Calvary plays a prominent role in the history of the Széchényi family. Captain György Széchényi (II), to whom King Lipót I of Hungary bestowed the title of Count died in this place, and Ferenc Széchényi, the founder of the National Museum and the father of Count István Széchényi was born here. The restored Széchényi Palace is home to the **Peisonia Visitor Centre**, where the unique flora and fauna of Lake Fertő, history, wine culture, the

culture of different nationalities, aristocratic and peasant architecture, archaeological excavations are displayed in an exhibition showing the main attractions of the region. The two Baroque Calvaries in front of the palace, the Holy Tomb, the Calvary of the Holy Cross and the Church of All Saints form the so called named triple mound of Széplak. 📍24





**Pomogy**  
(Pamhagen)

**Fertőújlak**

Hanság-főcsatorna

*Nemzeti Park*

**Nyárliget**

**Sarród**

**Fertőd**

**Fertőhomok**

**Hegykő**

**Fertőszéplak**

**Fertőendréd**

**Petőháza**

**Fertőszentmiklós**

**Pinnye**

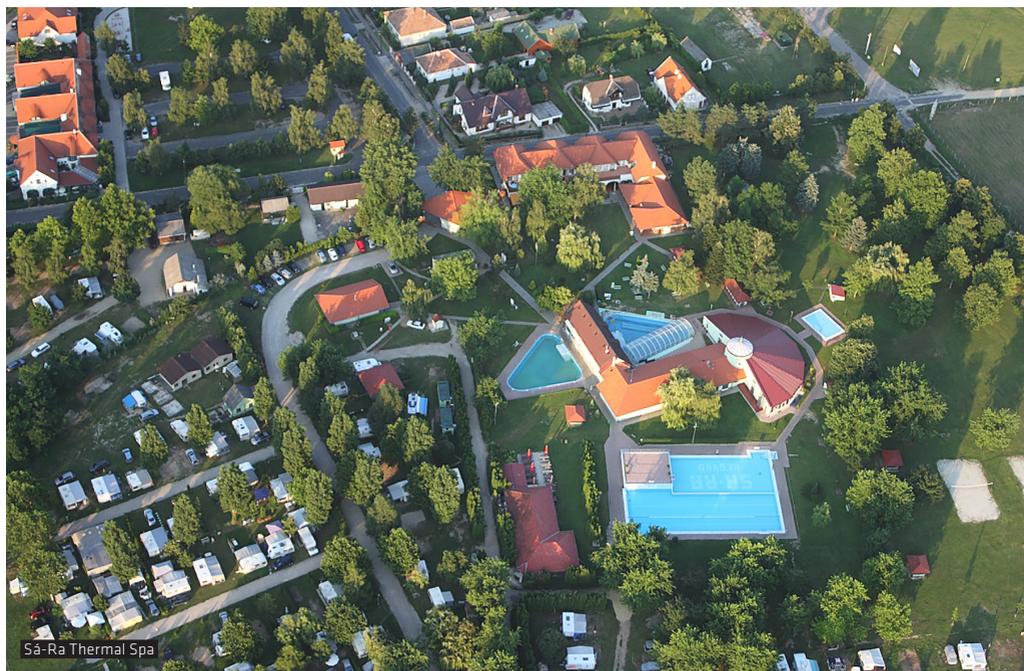
*Ikva*

*Ikva*

# HEGYKŐ

*Hegykö is part of the Fertő Area World Heritage Site and Fertő-Hanság National Park. It was named after a sacrificial (sacred) stone from the pagan times. The settlement that was already inhabited in the Bronze Age, and was first mentioned in a document in 1262 as Igku (pronounced as „idyku”, meaning sacred stone), which later became Hegykő.*

*In the following centuries the village had several owners (the Kanizsa, Nádasdy, Esterházy, Széchenyi families and the Máriacell Benedictines), but in 1771 it finally became the property of the Széchenyi family. In 1971, a thermal bath was built in the village, which made it a significant tourist destination.*



Sá-Ra Thermal Spa

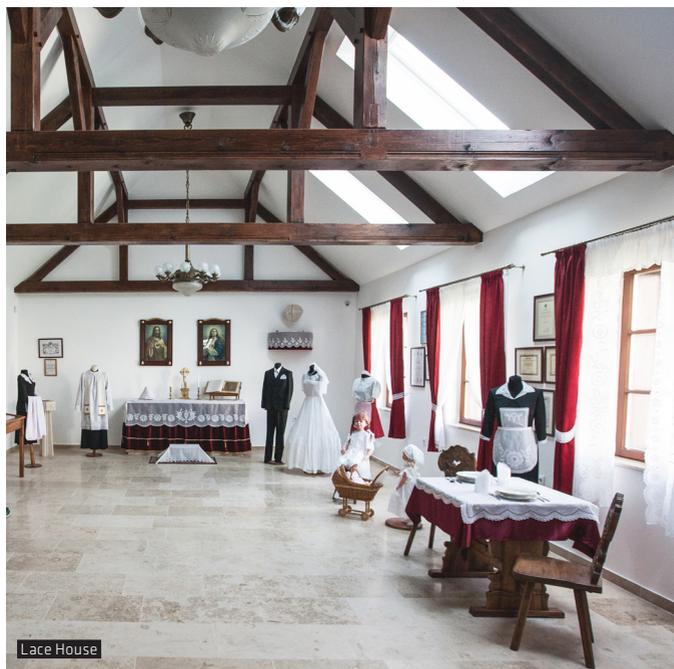
## SÁ-RA THERMAL SPA

The Hegykő thermal water is rich in solutes, contains sodium chloride, fluoride and sulphur, it also has an alkaline-hydrogen carbonate characteristic, slightly heavy, with significant iodide content. At a temperature of 55 °C, it comes to surface from a depth

of 1434 meters. It is suitable for treating chronic impairments, based on specialist's proposal. It can be used for the treatment of healing fractures, sprains, joint dislocations and muscle strain.

Of course, with its outdoor and indoor pools, the thermal spa is not exclusively for those who seek healing, but also those who would like to do some water sports, or simply enjoy bathing. **25**

*“Once there were seven villages where now Lake Fertő is. The larger village was Leányfalú. Once the most beautiful girl of the village went to the well for water. After she filled her jar and headed home, she met with an old man. The old man asked for water from the girl, but she didn’t give him any. She barely took a few steps when she stumbled in a stone and fell. The water began to flow from the jar, it was just flowing and flowing endlessly. It was so much water that it flooded the village, and then the other six villages were flooded, too. That’s how Lake Fertő was formed, and the stone in which the girl stumbled gave the name of the village.”*

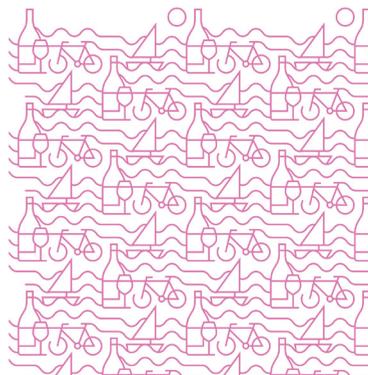


Lace House

## LACE HOUSE

The Lace House next to the church welcomes its visitors in the former judge’s house. In the building you can find a unique Hövej lace collection, Istvánné Szigethy’s exhibition „From the cradle to the shroud”. The over 100-year-old

house itself is a specialty, with its rare furnaces and its so called „clean rooms”. In 2023 the Hövej lace became Hungarikum, is now in the Collection of the Hungarian Cultural Values. **📍26**



## IRON CURTAIN MEMORIAL

At the edge of Hegykő you can see what the Iron Curtain used to be like in its original location. The memorial site was largely made using contemporary materials. Three eras of the technical lock can be seen here on a 40-meter-long section. The history of the Iron Curtain is presented by information boards on site. **📍27**

## SIGHTS

St. Michael’s Church, Bird Watching Recreation Park, 1 Drop Pálinka Distillery

# FERTŐSZENTMIKLÓS

The town was already inhabited from around 3500 to 2500 BC, and the armies of the Roman Empire were here as well. It was first mentioned in a document as Terra Neweg in 1228. Fishermen were resettled here to replace the almost extinct population at the time of the Mongol invasion. Their patron saint was Saint Nicholas. This was the reason of naming the parish and later the settlement itself after him. In 1535 it became the property of the most powerful landlord of Transdanubia, Tamás Nádasdy, and in 1719 the Esterházy family. The city was ravaged by the Ottoman Turks in 1683. In 1906, its name was given with the unification of two independent settlements, Szentmiklós and Szerdahely.



St. Nicholas Church

## Did you know?

At the top of the church tower, the cross was embedded in a cannonball. The thirty-centimetre-diameter iron ball was of Turkish origin, and according to legend, it took the leg of a local fighter. When he was carried home, the cannonball was also put on the cart.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The side walls of the old church were originally built in gothic style in the XIIIth century. In 1683, the Turkish army marching to occupy Vienna burnt down the church, which was rebuilt around 1724, but then in today's baroque form. It was declared a monument in 1965. The small church was outgrown by the town over time, then between

1926 and 1936 a new one was built and the two were joined together.

📍 28

## FURTHER THINGS TO SEE

Lookout Tower, "Vadfarm" animal farm and petting zoo



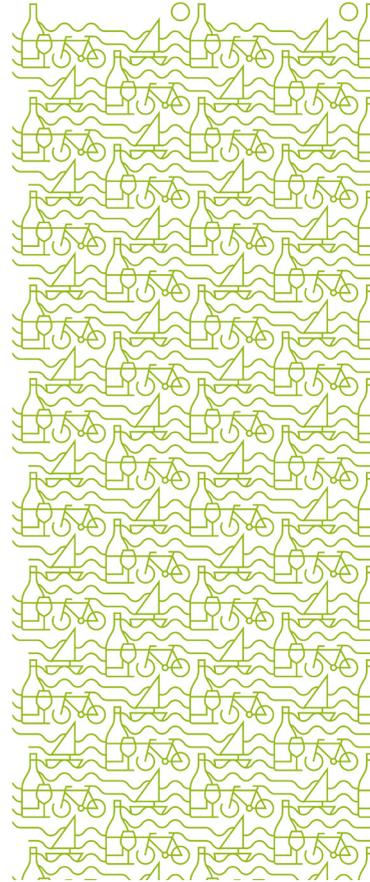
Shrine of Szered

## SHRINE OF SZERED

Vörös Gergely Bezerédj bought the plot from the Nádasdy family and set up the statue of Our Lady in a forest. During a huge storm, a lightning struck the statue and its pillar burst into pieces and fell on the statue. While clearing the ruins, the believers saw that the statue was completely undamaged.

The news of this event spread and in the XVth century it became a place of pilgrimage. The crutches placed on the surrounding trees from the last century tell us the stories of the magnificent healings that happened at the statue.

📍 29

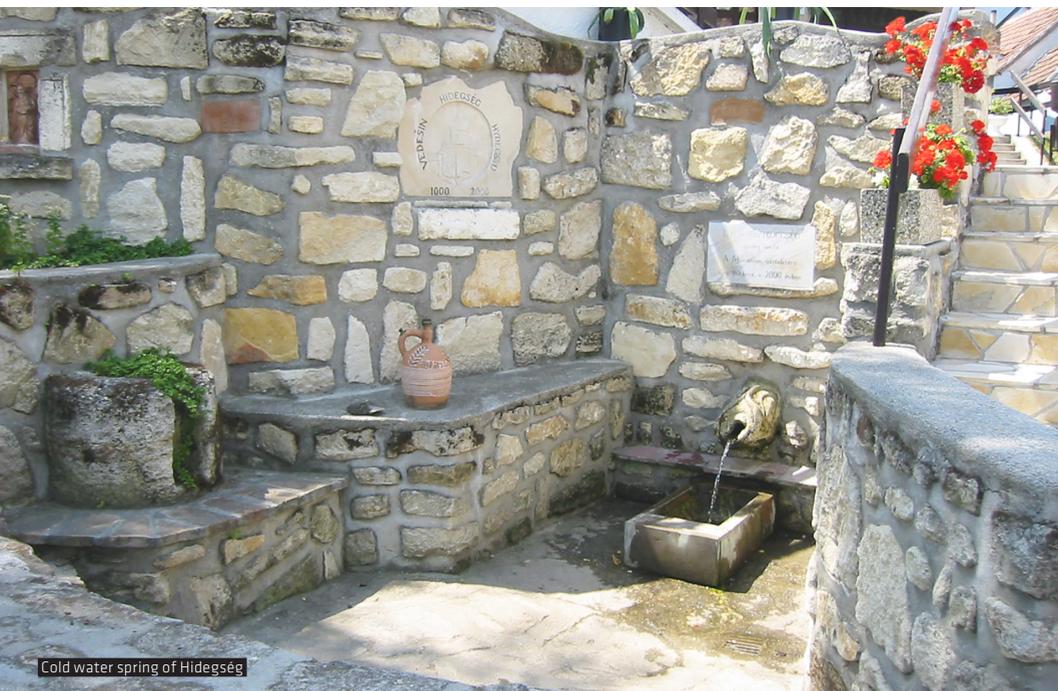


## MEIDL AIRPORT

The airport opened in 1997 and ever since it has been open to international traffic. Due to its proximity to the border, it is also a popular airport with foreign tourists. The airport offers sightseeing flights, taxi flights, parachute and pilot training opportunities. The airport is also a popular venue for acceleration races. 📍 30

# HIDEGSÉG

Evidence found at the border of the village proves that the area was inhabited as early as in the Neolithic period. Archaeologists also discovered objects from Roman times. Written sources first mentioned the town in 1274 and then in 1283 in the form of Hydegysd. It was named after the cold water spring in the „Dezsma cellar”, which was renovated in 2000 in the memory of the Millennium. Croatian settlers came to the settlement during the Turkish occupation, and the town is still mostly inhabited by Croatians.



Cold water spring of Hidegség

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

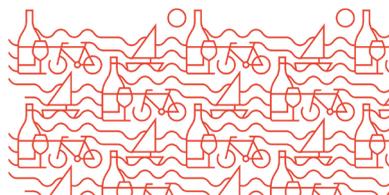
A significant architectural monument of the village is the romanesque round church (rotunda) of the St. Andrew's Church from the XIIIth century. The frescoes on the apse and southern side of the Rotunda are remarkable memories of

romanesque and gothic Hungarian wall paintings (made between the XII-XIVth centuries). The present form of the church was completed with baroque and modern additions.

📍 31

## PRIEST GARDEN

The garden of the Catholic parish has countless springs, ponds, and a large amphibian population. In 2020 Papkert was renewed as a sacral and meditative place open for visitors. 📍 32



# KÓPHÁZA

The XIIIth century documents mention two settlements in the present area of Kópháza, naming them as Ravaszdvíz and Tarnavíz. In 1354 Péter Kolb, a citizen of Sopron was the owner of the area, the village was named after him as Kolbenhof. A 1429 document contains the Hungarian-sounding name „Kolphaza”. Croatian settlers were brought here in the XVIth century by the Nádasdy counts (Gradistye Croatsians). The town still preserves the heritage of their predecessors with their food and culture.

## Did you know?

Ferenc Nádasdy III, who was called „the Hungarian Croesus” because of his wealth, had a sickly daughter, Eleonora, who often visited the wooden chapel in the Kópháza forest to pray to the statue of the Black Madonna of Loretto. She swore that if she recovered from her illness, she would join a monastery. Eleonora was healed but her parents wanted their young daughter to marry. Since she didn't want to break her pledge, she prayed at her wedding to god to take her away. Then a sudden storm came and Eleonora was struck by lightning and died immediately. Her father built a stone chapel in place of the wooden one where his daughter had taken her vow.



Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary

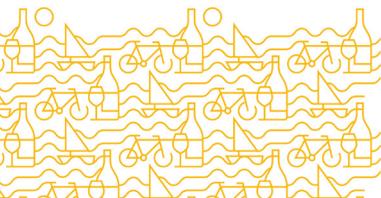
## SIGHTS

Croatian country house, St. Martin's Church, Kő-hill lookout tower and local history trail, Croatian historical exhibition in the mayor's office

## CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On main road 84 from Nagycenk towards Kópháza, behind the low slopes you can see the baroque church that was built in the second half of the XVIIIth century. The church has been a pilgrimage place of the Black Madonna of Loretto for centuries, and its creation is

due to Ferenc Nádasdy, who was executed in connection with the Wesselényi conspiracy of 1671. After the death of his daughter, Eleonora, Ferenc Nádasdy built a stone chapel here. Today's church was built with the support of count Antal Széchényi. 📍33



# NAGYCENK

The settlement in the valley of the Ikva and Arany creeks was first mentioned in documents from 1291, and in later sources it is mentioned as two separate villages. In the Middle Ages it was owned by the families of Kanizsai and Nádasdy. The former Nádasdy mansion in the village centre later became the White Horse Inn. The village was owned by the Széchenyi family in the XVIIth century in the time of Archbishop György Széchenyi, and in the middle of the XVIIIth century, with the construction of the main building of the present palace, it became the family's manor centre. The history of the town is firmly attached to the history of the family and to István Széchenyi, who inherited Cenk from his father, Ferenc Széchenyi. The two settlement parts merged in 1892 with the name Nagycenk.



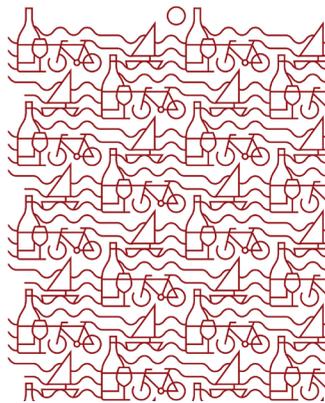
## SZÉCHENYI PALACE

The central main building of the present palace („Old Palace”) and the ornate French garden was built by General Antal Széchenyi and his wife Zsuzsanna Barkóczy in baroque style in the 1750s. After the death of Antal Széchenyi's widow, Ferenc Széchenyi made the palace the centre of his manor and rebuilt it in classicist style also creating the English park around it.

The side wings (the east side Riding Stables and the west side Red Palace) connecting perpendicularly to the central building of the palace were built by István Széchenyi. The so called Flower House in the south of the palace became an integral part of the building complex by Béla Széchenyi, and the English Park was also completed by him as he brought several rare plants from his Central and Eastern Asian expeditions. The palace

complex was not damaged in the WWII bombings, but during communism the abandoned building nearly entirely deteriorated. After its preservation reconstructions, the Széchenyi István Memorial Museum was opened here in 1973. The palace and the palace park are part of the protected areas of the Fertő district, declared to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.

📍 34



Museum Railway and Engine Skanzen

## LINDEN ALLEY

Antal Széchenyi's wife, Zsuzsanna Barkóczy, created the twenty-meter-wide and 2.6 km-long alley, originally as a horse riding trail. The red-granite tombstone of István Széchenyi's elder son, Béla Széchenyi, and his wife Hanna Erdődy who died at a young age is at the end of the alley. The Linden Alley that connects the Széchenyi Palace with the Fertő area, is also part of the Fertő area World Heritage Site.

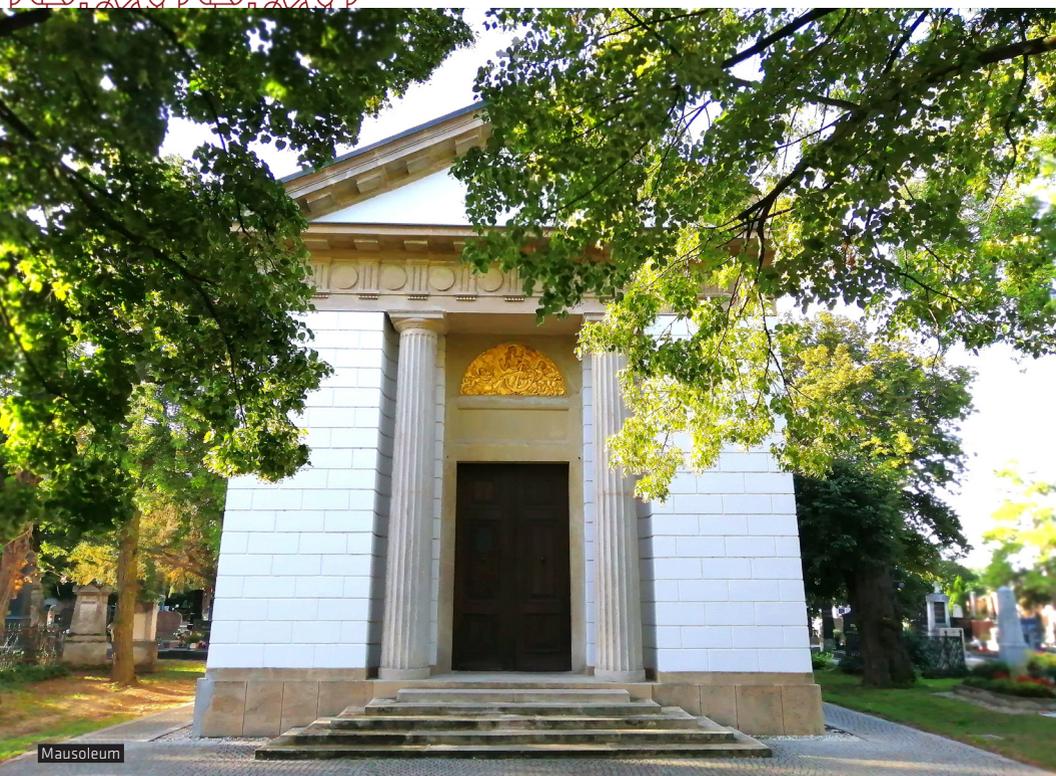
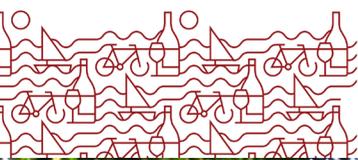


## STATUE PARK

To the east of Linden Alley, a statue park was established by local initiative to present public statues that were believed as disappeared in World War II. It has several statues that are considered to be curiosities. 📍

## MUSEUM RAILWAY AND ENGINE SKANZEN

The museum railway that was established in 1972 by the Győr-Sopron-Ebenfurt Railway (GYSEV), has a 760-mm track gauge and a length of 3600 meters. Next to the station building you can see an open-air exhibition presenting locomotives and wagons from the beginning of the XXth century, which commemorates István Széchenyi's central role in the Hungarian railway development. 📍



Mausoleum

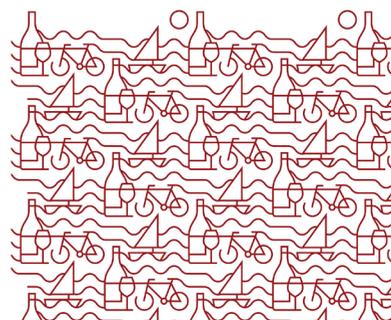
## MAUSOLEUM

The mausoleum consists of two parts: the arched space under the oval baroque chapel, built by Zsuzsanna Barkóczy in 1778 (István Széchenyi and Seilern Crescence rest here), and a cross-shaped crypt under the classicist foyer built by Ferenc Széchenyi. The earthly remains of the descendants of the Széchenyi family are buried here. 📍38

## ST. STEPHEN PARISH CHURCH AND SZÉCHENYI SQUARE

Miklós Ybl was commissioned with the preparation of the plans of the three-bayed, neo-romanesque church by István Széchenyi, who was already in Döbling. Széchenyi died before the beginning of the constructions, so the plans were realized under the supervision of his widow Seilern Crescence and his son, Béla Széchenyi, between 1860 and 1864. The bronze statue of István Széchenyi is the central, emblematic element of the square.

The baroque statues of the square are also remarkable as well as the Fountain of Fidelity built to commemorate the 1921 Sopron referendum. 📍39



# PETŐHÁZA

*It is located in the north-west of Kisalföld, 27 km from Sopron. It has been inhabited since the Stone Age, with people living in this area around 3500-2500 BC. During the construction of the Petőházi Sugar Factory, in 1880 several significant archaeological evidence was found (including Celtic tombs), but the most important one is a gilded Cundpald grail found in the IXth-century tomb of a Frankish priest. The first document that used the present name of the village that was formed from the Endréd farm is from 1390. In the XVth century it was the property of the Petőházi family. It became a flourishing village with the establishment of the sugar factory in 1879-80. In the autumn of 1990 the village gained its administrative autonomy with the municipal elections.*

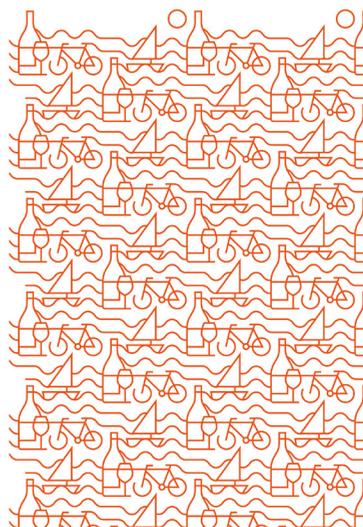


Sugar Industry Collection in Petőháza

## SUGAR INDUSTRY COLLECTION IN PETŐHÁZA

With the closure of the Petőháza Sugar Factory owned by the Hungarian Sugar Plc, a 128-year old, major, successful food production activity ended in 2007 in Petőháza. The collection introduces visitors to the history of sugar. The past of the factory is demonstrated by

pictures of old equipment and a series of recognition certificates in the corridor. In the interconnecting area visitors can gain an insight into the operation of the laboratory testing and measuring instruments in the sugar industry. **📍40**



## BEACH AND THERMAL BATH

It features a heated children's pool, a 33-metre long swimming pool for those who want to swim, and medically tested medicinal water for those who want to recover. **📍41**

## FURTHER THINGS TO SEE

Arboretum, Trinity Church

# SARRÓD

The village of Sarród is located in the western part of Győr-Moson-Sopron County, between Fertő and Hanság. The village of Fertőújlak and Nyárliget administratively belong to the village near the Austrian border. The entire settlement, which has been inhabited since prehistoric times, has been a part of the Fertő/Neusiedlersee World Heritage Cultural Landscape since 2001.



Kócsagvár (Heron Castle)

## Did you know?

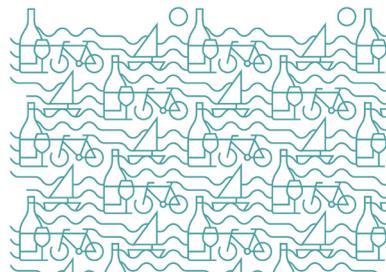
Prior to the regulation of Lake Fertő, the water surface of the lake was significantly larger. The site of Kócsagvár used to be a ferry port.

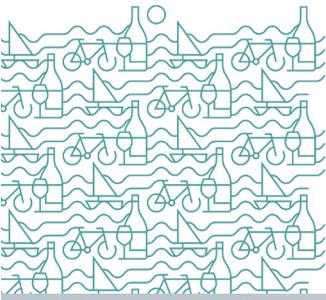
## KÓCSAGVÁR (HERON CASTLE)

It was named after one of the typical representatives of the local birdlife, the great heron. This bird species also known as a symbol of the Hungarian nature protection can also be found again here in large numbers as a result of reasonable landscape and nature conservation. Hungary's largest reed-roofed building complex hosts the Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate offices, accommodation. **42**

## COUNTRY HOUSE

In 2006, the country house of the village was opened, where regular handicraft classes and seasonal festival programs are organized besides the permanent local history and ethnography exhibition. **43**





Gray cattle in the Hídi Farm

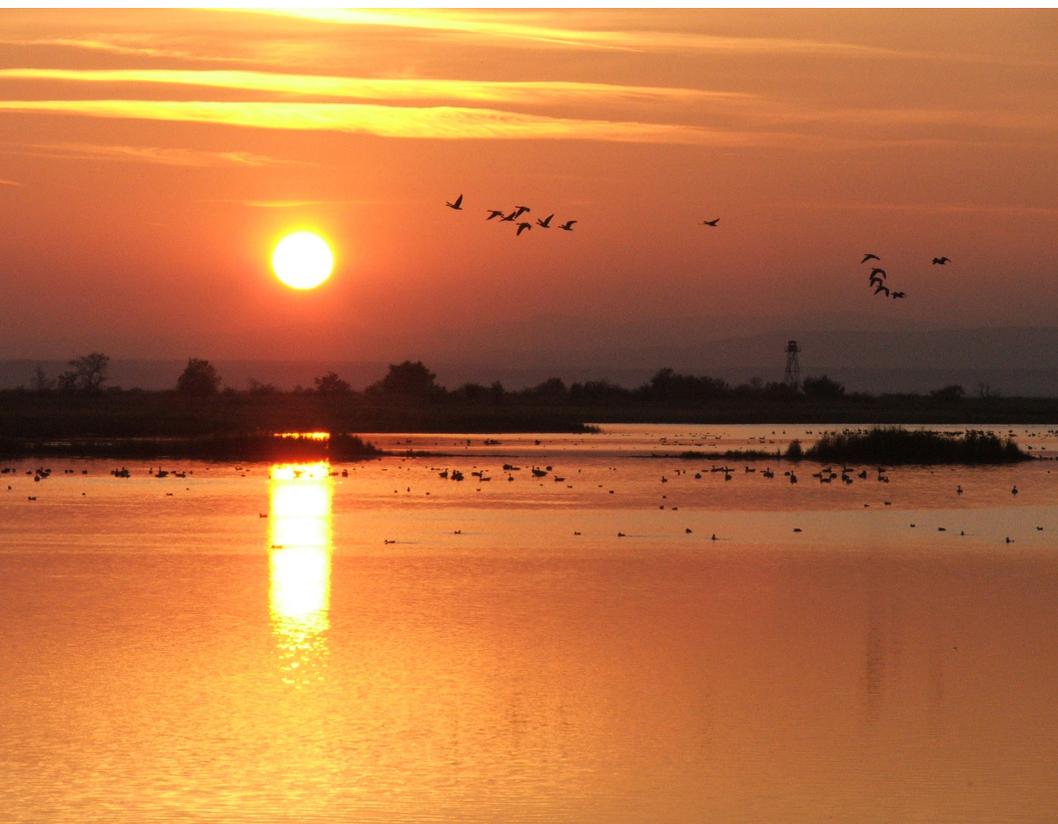
## LÁSZLÓ FARM

In the László Farm that is in the Fertő-Hanság National Park - a former farm centre of the Esterházy family - a visitor centre was created that presents old Hungarian domestic animals and hosts exhibitions. More than 300 specimens of 15 indigenous species can be seen in worthy and safe conditions such as the Hungarian gray cattle, the domestic buffalo, the Racka sheep, the Cikta sheep, the tsigai, the Mangalitsa pig and several significant Hungarian poultry species.

The classy building complex that was converted into a tourist attraction has a conference room for about 60 people, an exhibition presenting the nature conservation and farming history of the Fertő area and Hanság, an exhibition showing the memories of crafts related to livestock farming and a playground. **44**

## Did you know?

Fertőújlak that administratively belonged to Sarród was named as Mekszikőpuszta (Mexico farm) before. The catchy names were given by the locals to the remote Esterházy family's manor farms, which were hiding in the swamps of Hanság. The farms were connected by a narrow-gauge railway. One of the stations of the railway was Mekszikőpuszta, from where a short train ride took you to the „Indian farm” near Kapuvár.

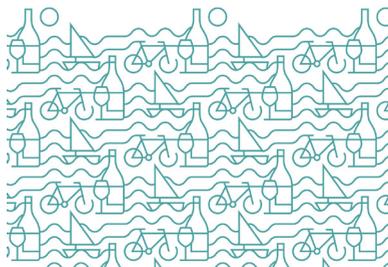


## BORSODI LANE BIRD-WATCHING TOWER IN MEKSZIKÓPUSZTA (MEXICO FARM)

Prior to the regulation of Lake Fertő, the south-eastern, deeper shore area of the lake was flooded by the lake in the rainy spring and autumn months. Unfortunately, the saline lakes that were formed in this way disappeared due to drainage and lake regulation 100 years ago, but within the framework of the Fertő-Hanság National Park habitat reconstruc-

tion program, the former saline lakes divided by islands were reconstructed by flooding. The rich flora and fauna of the saline lakes is presented by the Sea Asters educational trail, at one of its stops there is a bird-watching tower in the Borsodi Lane. You can take a close look at the rich birdlife of the area and the Sopron Mountains, the Schneeberg and the

Lajta Mountains also appear on the horizon. It is also a great program to ride here by bike, as the EV13 (Iron Curtain) bike path passes in front of the bird-watching tower. [📍45](#)





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A kiadvány a VP6-19.2.1.-5-4.3-21 kódszámú, az Alpokalja-Fertő-táj Vidékfejlesztési Egyesület által meghirdetett, LEADER-Turizmus- és gazdaságfejlesztési modellprogramok támogatása az Alpokalja-Fertő-táj térségében című felhívás „A turizmus új útjain” című pályázat keretein belül került kiadásra.



### Resources:

[www.agfalva.hu](http://www.agfalva.hu) / [www.balfikirandulas.hu](http://www.balfikirandulas.hu) / [www.fertoboz.hu](http://www.fertoboz.hu) / [www.ferto-to.hu](http://www.ferto-to.hu) / [www.eszterhaza.hu](http://www.eszterhaza.hu) / [www.szechenyiorokseg.hu](http://www.szechenyiorokseg.hu)  
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Tibor Albert: Sopron-Vas County Guide / Escort Tourist Books: Excursion to Fertő-part / Nagycenk: The Village of the Greatest Hungarian, Count István Széchenyi - Photos and Editing: István Keszei, 2014 / Keszei Dénes: Nagycenk's Past and Present (Monograph). Sopron, 1983.  
István Szathmári: What are the elements of the village name Hegykő? - Magyar Nyelvőr, year 124 2000/1 / Fertő-Hanság and Tököz - B. K. L. Publisher 2002.

Lookout and Lookout Points of the Sopron Mountains and Hills - The Sopron City Leisure Sports Association Hikers and TAEC Zrt.

**Photos:** Aktív Magyarország, AmiReni Photography, Czeglédi Nóra, Gazsovcis Krisztián, Hospely Károly, Kugler Péter, Dr. Nagy Attila, Pellinger Attila, Pölcz Klaudia, Steiger Ákos, Szerdahelyi Zoltán, Fertőszentmiklós és Sarród Önkormányzat fotói



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