



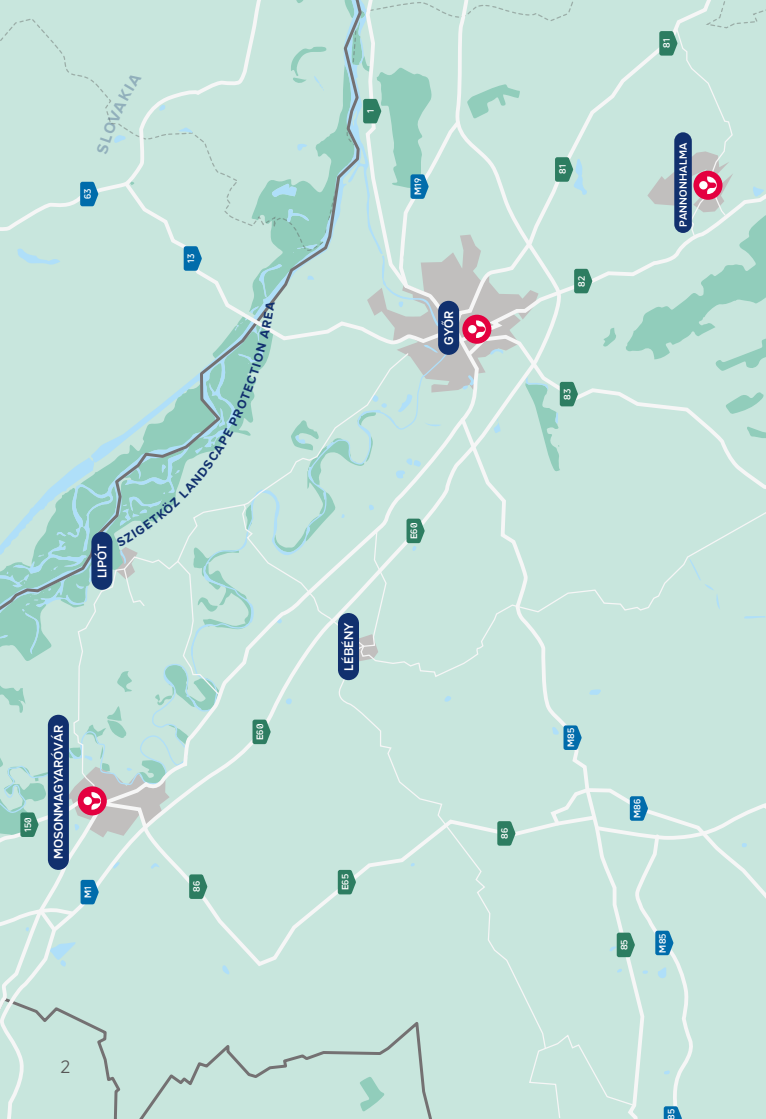
Győr and Pannonhalma

English

A BLESSED JOURNEY



HUNGARY



Key:





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A blessed journey

Located in the northwestern corner of Hungary, the Győr-Szigetköz-Pannonhalma triangle offers special adventures for travellers. The third richest city in terms of monuments in Hungary, Győr is situated at the confluence of the rivers Mosoni-Danube, Rába and Rábca, and besides the beautiful Baroque sights, it offers futuristic and interactive programmes for all ages. Pannonhalma awaits with a unique Christian cultural heritage, and its famous Monastery that has been a World Heritage Site since 1996, and where the Benedictine monks still live their hardworking daily lives! The terrain for active recreation is provided by Szigetköz and its more than 800-kilometer-long waterways and a cycle path along the Danube. Our publication will help you discover the natural treasures, sights and cultural programmes of the northern part of Western Hungary. You will find out what monks do today, what grape varieties are grown and what wines are made on the slopes of Pannonhalma, and you will know how to find your way around the labyrinth of rugged waterways of Szigetköz.

5 unmissable experiences

EXPLORE THE TREASURES OF THE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD ABBEY OF PANNONHALMA

Take a stroll through the lavender-scented Arbotretum, enjoy the majestic silence of the Basilica, submerge in the library's 400,000-volume collection and taste the wine and dishes prepared by the monks made from local ingredients in the Abbey's Restaurant.



TRAVEL TO THE FUTURE

Mosonmagyaróvár and Győr offer interactive, scientific, futuristic visitor centres for the whole family. Virtual space travel, 5D screenings and exciting experiments in the student lab are guaranteed to excite the young scientists.

DISCOVER THE BAROQUE PEDESTRIAN STREETS OF GYŐR

One of the most charming sights of Győr is the pedestrian zone in the city centre, where fairytale streets, narrow alleys, large squares and cozy terraces will cross your path. Don't forget to take a look at the ornate trade-signs on the baroque buildings.



TAKE ON THE WATER IN SZIGETKÖZ

Szigetköz – which lies surrounded by the rivers Nagy-Duna and Mosoni-Duna is one of the most popular sites for water tours in the country. Flood-plain forests, beavers, herons, egrets and mallards make the rowing exciting. It is an adventure that beginners and more advanced paddlers will both enjoy.



GET A TICKET FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BALLET COMPANY OF GYŐR

The long-standing ballet company tours the world's most famous stages, but if you are lucky, you can catch one of their performances when you are in Győr. Their vast repertoire includes everything from classical ballet to contemporary dance.



Győr: the town with a thousand faces

This lively and colourful county seat is located halfway between Vienna and Budapest. The monuments and special attractions are almost overlapping in this vibrant city that has an irresistible atmosphere.

THE BAROQUE MASTERPIECE – A STROLL IN THE HEART OF GYŐR

For lovers of stylish grandeur, the city centre is the place to go, with its distinctive corner balconies, historic monument buildings and beautiful squares. It is worth visiting Széchenyi Square, where you can almost encounter exciting events, ornate houses, and palaces. Speaking of Baroque: every summer, a large-scale, two- or three-day-long Baroque Wedding is held with a variety of activities around the city. There will be costume parades, baroque dances and opera performances, as well as an authentic wedding ceremony.





FOCUS ON SPIRITUALITY

One of Győr's most ancient parts is the Chapter Hill (Káptalandomb), not far from the main square, holding various memories of the 1000-year-old bishopric.

The Gothic chapel of the Cathedral of the Assumption of Our Lady preserves one of Hungary's most important relics, the gilded herm of St. Ladislaus decorated with precious stones, as well as the skull of the knight king. The Cathedral is home to one of the richest collections of ecclesiastical art in Hungary, and it is worth taking a look at the almost 90 wonderful and unique liturgical jewellery and textile works in the Treasury. After visiting the ruins of the ancient temple excavated below ground level next to the cathedral, discover the Bishop's Castle, the observation tower that offers fabulous panoramic views of the city and the surrounding rivers, and the cellar where a World War II exhibition is held.

The hill is also home to two statues of our kings, the castle-like building of Brenner János College of Theology, and the Diocesan Library with the largest codex in Hungary.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH

Only 20 km from Győr, on the main square of Lébény, you will find one of the best preserved Romanesque churches from the Árpadian Period in Hungary, which also serves as the main stop of the 280-kilometre-long Pilgrimage to St. James of Hungary.

HOME OF WORLD-FAMOUS COMPANIES

Győr boasts two world-renowned companies, so it's no surprise that art, music and dance play prominent roles in the city's vibrant festival scene. See a performance of the Ballet Company of Győr touring the stages of the world from New York to the Scala in Milan at the National Theatre, or a concert of the Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, that toured the world with Ennio Morricone, and has added lighter genres to its repertoire!



9 things you must experience in Győr

1.

Have a spritzer on a terrace, and admire the charming baroque corner balconies.

2.

Parade through the streets of the city centre at the Baroque Wedding dressed in XVI-XVII century costumes.

3.

Explore the sacred treasures of the Chapter Hill (Káptalandomb), then look down on the city from the Bishop's Tower.

4.

Attend a performance of the internationally renowned Győr Ballet or enjoy the Dance Festival.

5.

Board a boat in the downtown port of the Mosoni-Danube, and admire the city centre illuminated by the sunset from the rivers.

6.

Play together with the children at the Győrkids Festival.

7.

Cheer on the world-famous handball players from Győr on a match.

8.

Sipping mulled wine watch the Advent light show projected onto the buildings of Széchenyi Square.

9.

Take a selfie in front of the Town Hall.

Visiting the monks

If you are in the area, be sure to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Archabbey of Pannonhalma and its surroundings, as Pope Saint John Paul II did in 1996.

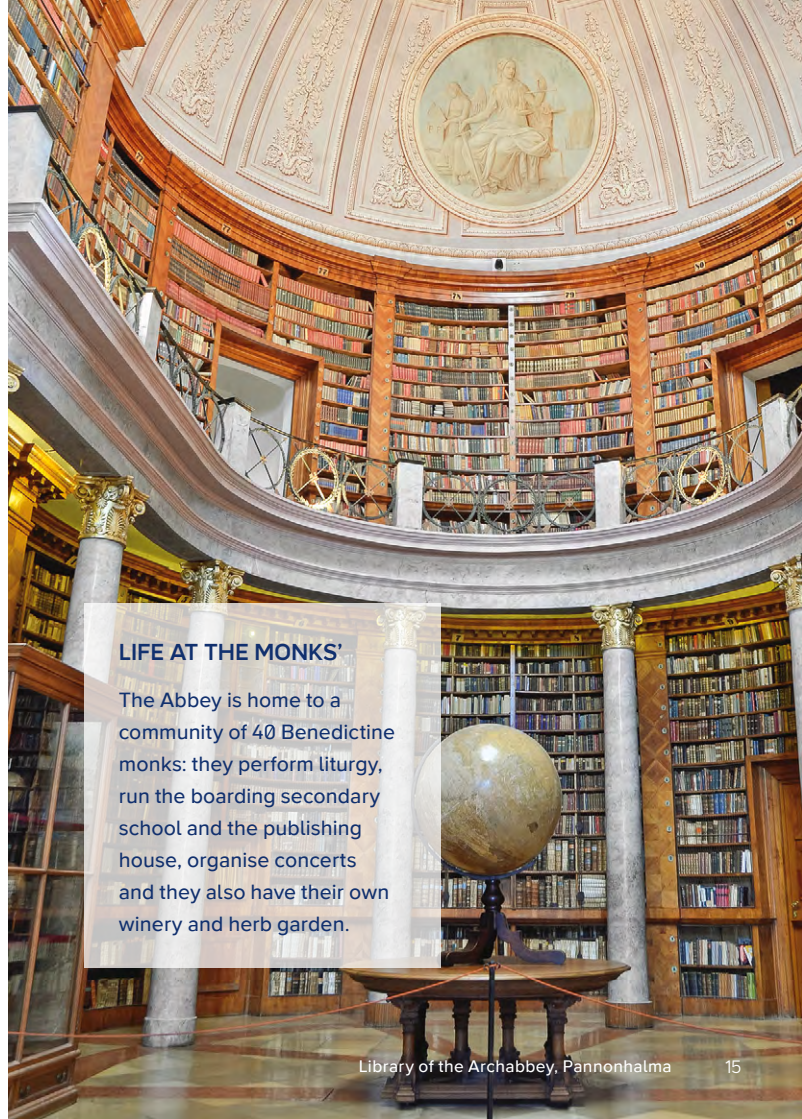
Founded in 996, the monastery of the Benedictine order is as old as Hungarian statehood. You can also discover a thousand years of history through buildings reflecting the architectural styles of the different eras, while learning about the activities of the monastic community.

PROGRAMMES 365 DAYS A YEAR

From photography exhibitions to fencing cups, Bach organ concerts to jazz dinners, children's activities to cellar tours, the Abbey and its surroundings host a wide variety of events.

THE STRONGHOLD OF CULTURE

The most important building of the religious centre is the library, with its beautiful neoclassical-style halls, where the founding charter of the Abbey of Tihany from 1055 is kept.



LIFE AT THE MONKS'

The Abbey is home to a community of 40 Benedictine monks: they perform liturgy, run the boarding secondary school and the publishing house, organise concerts and they also have their own winery and herb garden.

GOTHIC MASTERPIECE

The heart of the Abbey is the early Gothic Basilica of Saint Martin. The main entrance to the church is the "ornate gate", which opens from a cloister surrounding a paradisiacal garden.

OMNIPOTENT FLAVOURS

The Abbey's restaurant uses ingredients sourced from local producers and flavours its dishes with herbs and spices from its own herb garden.



MONKS' VINEYARD

Viticulture using is the Abbey's lands is an old Benedictine tradition. Today the Pannonhalma Abbey Winery cultivates about 52 hectares – and not with average results! In 2010, it won the Winery of the Year award, and its wines are even distributed overseas.

HEALING GARDEN

The monks of the old days took great care to cultivate the plants needed for healing in the herb garden next to the arboretum. It's worth spending time in the gift shop, where you can buy not only herbal teas, herbal chocolates, cosmetics, essential oils and lavender products, but also the monks' wine.

The “Created Wine Region”

The small Hungarian wine region in Northern Transdanubia, on the slopes of the Pannonhalma Hills, has a history of hundreds of years. The tradition of viticulture is closely linked to the Abbey: Hungarian viticulture is first mentioned in writing in the Charter of the Archabbey of Pannonhalma. The Benedictines contributed significantly to the spread of viticulture in the area as early as the 13th century which became an important source of livelihood for the local people. By the 20th century, Welschriesling had become the main grape variety of the region, and today white wine grapes are still grown on 80% of the 512 hectares of land.



**A SUMPTUOUS PAIR –
RHINE RIESLING OF PAN-
NONHALMA AND RABBIT
WITH VADAS SAUCE**

Only a few know it, but vadas – a meat dish with carrot-mustard sauce –, the jewel of the 19th century cuisine, is traditionally made with rabbit. It is highly recommended to order it with bread dumplings on the side, and also don't forget to try with it the iconic wine of the Pannonhalma wine region with citrus notes!

RHINE RIESLING OF PANNONHALMA

One of the traditional wines of the wine region, it has a fresh, minty, grape-flowery bouquet and a taste with citrus notes. It goes best with light, summer dishes.

PH-VALUE CUVÉE

The finest wines from six wineries will be featured in PH-Value, the fresh and luscious community wine of the Pannonhalma wine region. It is based on Rhine Riesling complemented by Welschriesling, and Tramini provides the spicy aroma and flavour. It goes well with white meats and vegetables.

WELSCHRIESLING

Made from the region's traditional grape varieties, this wine is unique and diverse, both in its aromas and flavours. It is excellent for salads, poultry, seafood and fresh cheese.

PINOT NOIR

An elegant, spicy red wine with fresh flavours of all the early summer red fruits, from ripe raspberries to black cherries. It is the best with duck and lamb!

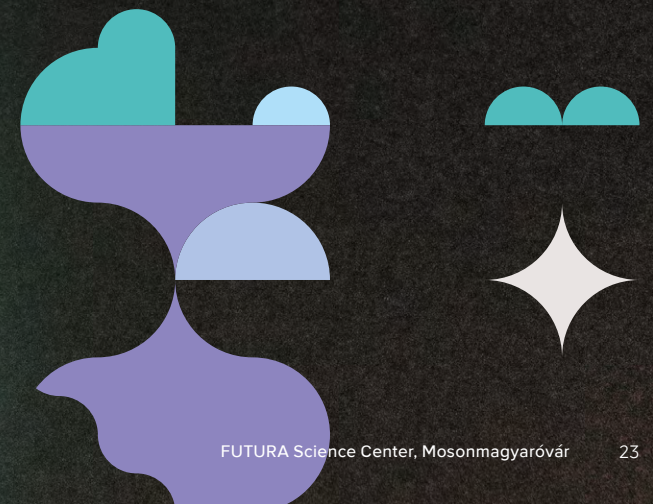
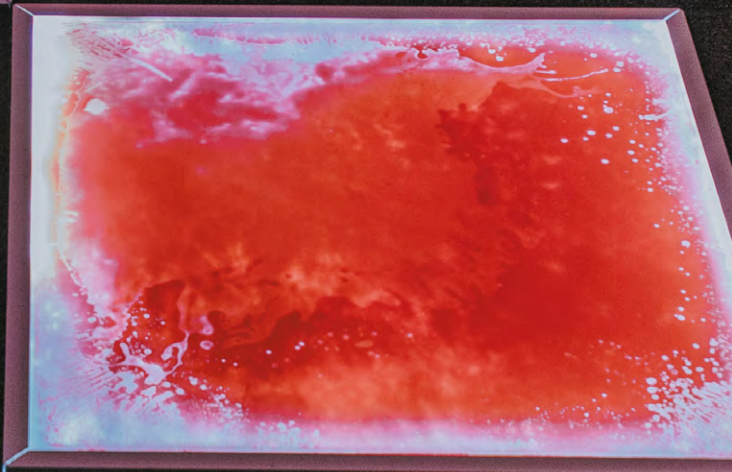
TRAMINI

A light, crystal-clear yet spicy white wine, with aromas of fresh tea rose, elderflower and lychee. It works perfectly with spicier dishes, such as the specialities of the oriental cuisine.

5 activities for both children and grown-ups

PLAYING WITH THE BASIC ELEMENTS

FUTURA, the largest science adventure centre in the country, is located in Mosonmagyaróvár, near Győr. Children can take up the fight with the four basic elements, learn about the most exciting natural and weather phenomena, the most important laws of physics and the most interesting optical illusions. All activities are playful as well as interactive.



ANIMAL ADVENTURES

In Xantus János Zoo, the general public can see 900 animals of 150 species in huge runways, in an environment that is similar to their original habitat. In addition to the native wild animals living in the domestic wilderness of Hungary, you will encounter kangaroos, jaguars, lions, tigers, camels and also ring-tailed lemurs. The zoo also offers high-quality zoo-pedagogical programs.

BIG FESTIVAL FOR THE LITTLE ONES

For a weekend in the middle of summer, the city centre of Győr will be transformed into a playground to entertain the little ones with high-quality, mainly artistic shows. Now boasting 50,000 visitors, the Győrkids Festival has grown to become the biggest children's festival in Central Europe, with 1,000 free activities for families to choose from at 10 venues.

WHERE DO THE ENGINEERS OF THE FUTURE COME FROM?

In the halls of the Mobilis Interactive Exhibition Centre in Győr, natural phenomena, technical innovations, the operation of vehicles, the mysteries of IT and the special world of robots are presented in a way that is exciting even for adults.



Adventures in Szigetköz

Whitewater adventures, hundreds of kilometres of intricate waterways, exciting cycle paths, marsh and grove forests, swampy meadows await those who go hiking on Hungary's largest island, the Szigetköz, which covers almost 400 km².

SLIDE FOR BOATS

There will be obstacles to overcome while paddling, but on the Mosonmagyaróvár section of the Leitha, even a water mill should not be a problem. Boat slides have been built in the riverbed, making it easy to pass under the mill.

EXPLORING ON TWO WHEELS

There are several cycling trails in Szigetköz, some of which run on dams, low-traffic roads and through villages. The cycling tour is made really exciting by the osieries, the groves, the rich fauna, the romantic bathing and fishing spots, while you can also learn about the formation, the hydrography, the flora and fauna of the Szigetköz with the help of the installed information boards.

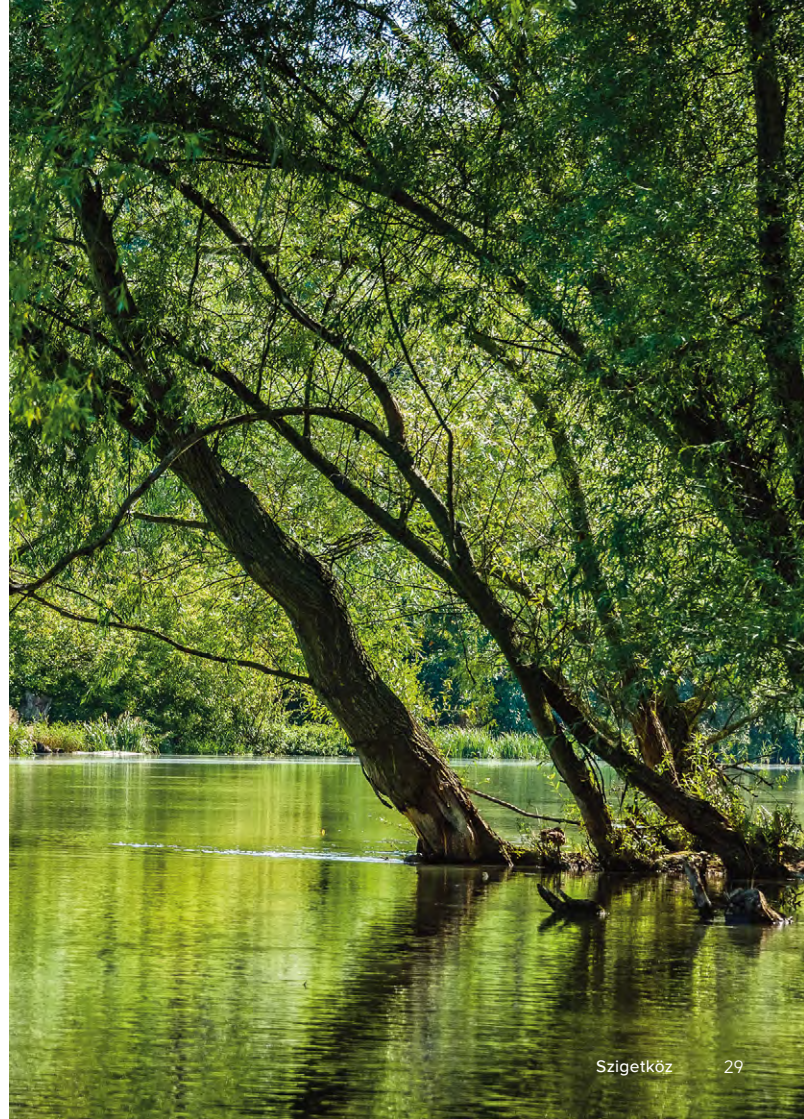
The Rajka-Győr cycle route, the part of the EuroVeló 6 international cycle route is definitely for the more experienced cyclists, and it runs along the Danube through areas with fresh air close to water and nature. At Darnószeli, it is worth making a detour to Lipót to relax in the thermal baths.



A RIVER ADVENTURE

The fast-flowing Danube from the Alps slows down as it enters the region, and over the millennia it has created a paradise for water tourism: the islands, reefs, narrow channels and winding waterways are perfect for water adventures.

The rich flora and fauna of the Szigetköz makes the trip really exciting: while paddling, you can watch beavers at work, waterfowl take to the water and even a flock of swans can swim by. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced hiker, you are sure to find a guide and a route to suit your abilities in Szigetköz: you can paddle through floodplain backwaters and lagoons, or choose the 105 km, multi-day tour connecting Rajka and Győr.



ADRENALINE CHART

Danube Backwater Nature Trail – 7 km around the most significant part of Szigetköz, touching about 300 hectares of protected area, on the border of the villages Dunaremete and Lipót.

1. 



2. A canoe trip on the Leitha, where the route leads through the historic centre of Mosonmagyaróvár and water slides to the Mosoni-Danube.

A 27-kilometre-long wild and scenic Szigetköz cycling tour is an easy, flat, circular route that passes through several small settlements in the Szigetköz region and follows the levees along the Danube.

3. 



4. A group canoe trip from Dunakiliti to the Ördög Island lake system, where those who wish can also splash around in the water.

The adventure parks in Győr and Mosonmagyaróvár offer adrenaline-filled experiences with various skill games.

5. 



Events from sports to arts

ART PICNIC IN PANNONHALMA

The stylish ART Picnic in Pannonhalma is held every year in June. The unique artistic gastro show mixes culinary delights with visual culture, featuring the country's star chefs.

END-OF-SUMMER WINE DAYS

The three-day-long Győr Wine Days event will be held in the city centre at the end of August. At the festival, visitors may not only taste the country's finest wines, but may also enjoy concerts and several cultural events.

GO ETO! GO GYŐR!

Győr is rightly famous for its seven-time Champions League-winning women's handball team. It's worth going to their games and cheering on the team at the venue. The city has a long tradition of sport beyond handball as well – and not just competitive sport. You can play tennis, go bowling, swim or even row when you visit Győr.

ST STEPHEN'S DAYS

The central location of the event is often the picturesque Mosonmagyaróvár Castle area, where concerts, craft fairs and family programmes await visitors. During these, guests may learn about the rich traditions, gastronomy and folk culture of the region. One of the most spectacular moments of the day is the festive bread blessing, which is a tribute to St. Stephen, the first king of Hungary.



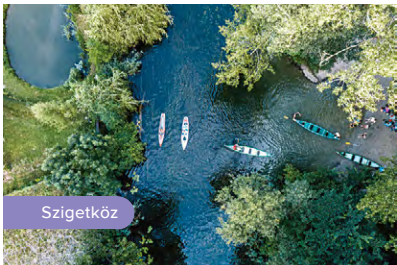
MUSIC JAM IN PANNONHALMA

The Jazz Summer in Pannonhalma is a series of concerts over several weeks, hosted by the Arch-abbey. Foreign and national performers, quality performances and a unique environment await the visitors.



Our favourite photos of the region

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Nearby sights

TATA

As if the town had come to life from a painting: the Old Lake is in the middle of the town, with the Tata Castle on its shore. The magnificent Esterházy Castle is not far away, but you can also see a water mill, walk through an English garden, climb the lookout on Calvary Hill and of course visit large imposing or smaller, more intimate churches.

ZIRC

The town's landmark is the Cistercian abbey church, but you will also discover a 20-hectare arboretum around a fish pond – also thanks to the Cistercians. It's also worth visiting the Reguly Antal Museum and House of Arts and Crafts, where the crafts of bygone eras come to life.

THE CUHA VALLEY AND VIA FERRATA

Alongside the hike, you can try your hand at rock climbing in the ruggedly beautiful Cuha Valley, with different levels of difficulty. Via ferrata, or in other words, reinforced paths, will help you: fixed metal cables, ladders, bridges and steps will ensure a safe climb.

BÁBOLNA STUD FARM

There are few places in the world that have been breeding horses for more than two centuries – Bábolna is one of them. In addition to the stud yard, the stables and the carriage collection, there is also an exhibition on the history of the stud.





Esterházy castle, Tata

PÁPA

Near the town's main square you will find the large Catholic church built in Zopf style with Baroque features, the Esterházy Castle and the Museum of Blue Dyeing, where you can see the work of the former Kluge company, its workshop and blue dyeing equipment.

CROSS-BORDER ATTRACTIONS

Europe's largest inland island, Csallóköz, is to the south-east of Bratislava. The plains, surrounded by rivers, are excellent for hiking, and the area has a significant underground water supply. Make sure to take a dip in the nearby Dunaszerdahely Thermal Park before visiting the water mills of Dunatőkés and Tallós, or the Csallóköz Museum, which is located in the "yellow castle", the town's most important historical building.

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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE