

Treasures of **GYŐR AND PANNONHALMA**



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Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma

TREASURES OF GYŐR AND PANNONHALMA

The triangle of Győr – Szigetköz – Pannonhalma is located in the north-western corner of Hungary, offering special adventures to visitors.

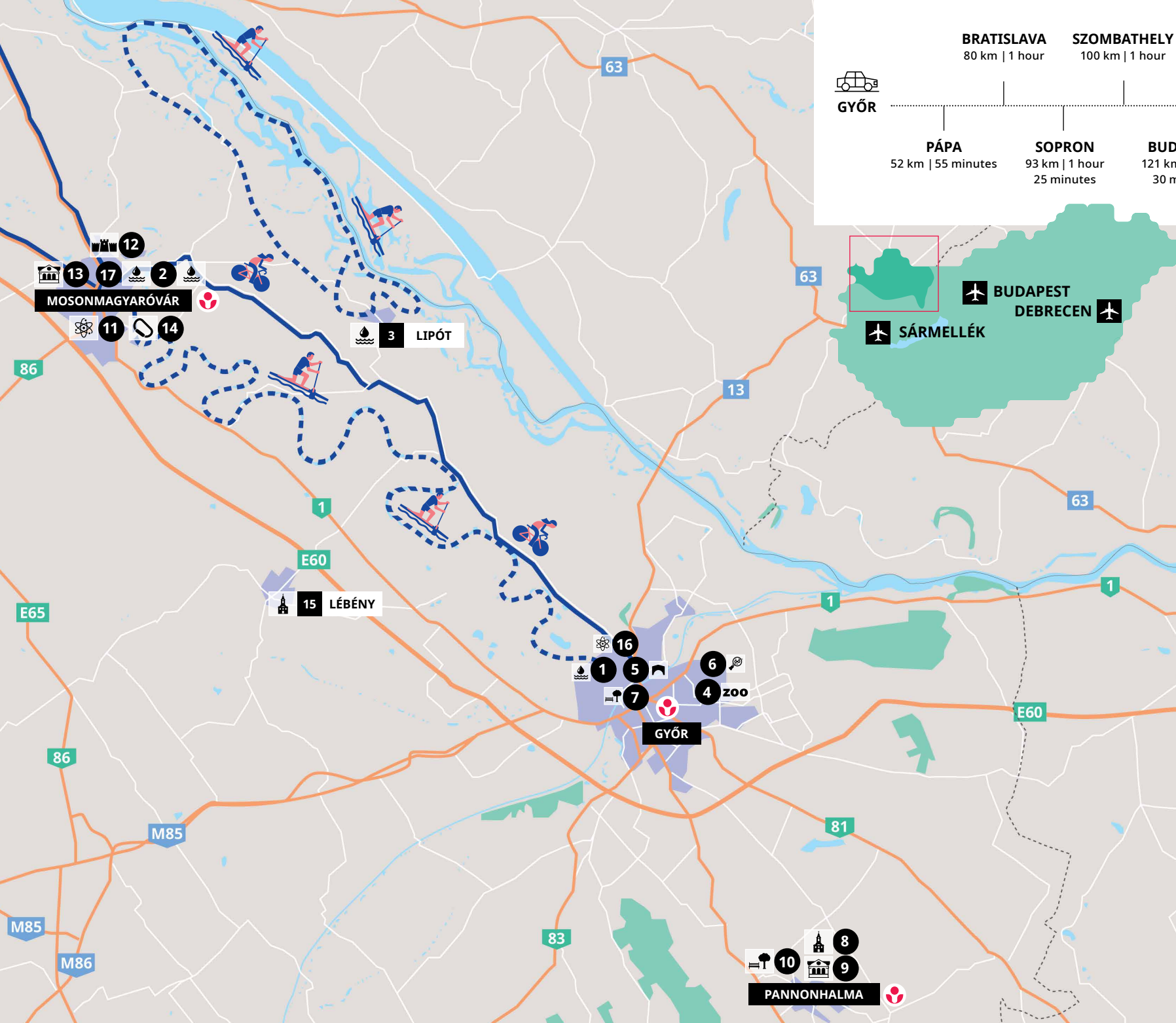
Győr is a town that lies where the rivers Mosoni-Duna, Rába and Rábca meet. It is third on the list of towns with the most listed sights in Hungary, with its gorgeous monuments built back in the Baroque age, but it also has many futuristic and interactive programmes that everyone will enjoy.


Pannonhalma awaits with its own relics, telling tales of an equally rich historic and cultural legacy. Its monastery – where the legendary order of monks still lead busy day-to-day lives – has been a World Heritage Site since 1996.

Szigetköz has more than 800 kilometres of waterways, as well as a cycle path winding its way along the Danube shoreline.

Use our booklet to discover the most beautiful and most exciting natural wonders, sights and cultural programmes of Western Transdanubia.

You will learn about what monks do nowadays, what grape varieties are grown and what wine types are made on the slopes of Pannonhalma, and you will know how to find your way around the labyrinth of rugged waterways of Szigetköz.



 GYŐR	BRATISLAVA 80 km 1 hour	SZOMBATHELY 100 km 1 hour	VIENNA 123 km 1 hour 30 minutes	ZAGREB 320 km 3 hours 50 minutes	BELGRADE 500 km 5 hours 15 minutes
	PÁPA 52 km 55 minutes	SOPRON 93 km 1 hour 25 minutes	BUDAPEST 121 km 1 hour 30 minutes	BRNO 200 km 2 hours 20 minutes	TRIESTE 480 km 5 hours

1. Thermal Bath and Spa, Győr
2. Thermal & Spa, Mosonmagyaróvár
3. Lipót Thermal Bath and Pool Complex
4. János Xantus Zoo, Győr
5. Bécsi kapu tér, Győr
6. Audi Visitor Centre, Győr
7. Radó Island, Győr
8. Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma
9. Pannonhalma Abbey Museum
10. Treetop Educational Trail of Pannonhalma
11. FUTURA Interactive Science Adventure Centre, Mosonmagyaróvár
12. Mosonmagyaróvár Castle
13. Hanság Museum, Mosonmagyaróvár
14. Szigetköz Adventure Park, Mosonmagyaróvár
15. Saint Jacob Church, Lébény
16. Mobile Interactive Exhibition Centre, Győr
17. FLEXUM Thermal & Spa, Mosonmagyaróvár

5 ADVENTURES YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE 1000-YEAR-OLD BENEDICTINE ABBEY OF PANNONHALMA

Take a walk in the arboretum filled with the scent of lavender, enjoy the quiet majesty of the basilica, lose yourself in the library collection of 400,000 books, visit the abbey's restaurant and taste the wine made by monks and the dishes made from local produce.



TRAVEL TO THE FUTURE

Mosonmagyaróvár and Győr offer interactive, scientific and futuristic programmes for every member of the family. Virtual journey through space, 5D screenings, and a student laboratory with exciting experiments will definitely make the day for you little scientists.



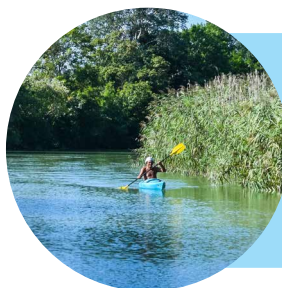
STROLL DOWN THE BAROQUE PEDESTRIAN STREET IN GYŐR

One of the most charming sights in Győr is the pedestrian zone in the old town, where little fairy-tale streets, narrow alleyways, large spaces and romantic terraces alternate. Keep an eye out for the old artisan signs placed on the Baroque buildings.



GET INTO A BOAT 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. While you are paddling, you will be able to discover the floodplain forests, and you will see beavers, herons, egrets and wild ducks. It is an adventure that beginners and more advance paddlers will both enjoy.



GET YOUR TICKET FOR THE PERFORMANCE BY THE BALLET COMPANY OF GYŐR

This long-standing ballet company tours around the world and performs on the most famous stages, but if you are lucky, you may manage to get a ticket to one of their shows in Győr. They perform everything from classical ballet to modern dances.

90 minutes

from Budapest



271

listed monument buildings in the centre of Győr



70

interactive games in the Mobilis Interactive Exhibition Centre



The Benedictine Abbey is more than a

1000

years old



3944 hectares

of vineyards



215 km

kayakin routes on the River Rába



12

festivals every year



Something to see at every step of the way: the thousand faces of Győr

Győr is a county seat halfway between Budapest and Vienna, an enchanting and busy city where listed monument buildings and unique sights are in abundance.



A BAROQUE MASTERPIECE – A WALK IN THE HEART OF GYŐR

No matter where you turn in the centre of the town, you will find stylish splendour everywhere on the listed buildings with their typical corner balconies and beautiful spaces hidden in downtown Győr.

Find your way to Széchenyi tér, where exciting programmes and events are always sure to be held, while the richly decorated houses and palaces house art galleries and even a pharmacy museum.

While on the topic of Baroque: every summer there is a 2 to 3 day-long Győr Baroque Wedding with a huge variety of programmes around town. Visitors can enjoy masked parades, Baroque dances and opera performances, and can even be part of a real contemporary wedding ceremony.

SAINT JACOB CHURCH

The best kept Roman-era church in Hungary is found in Lébény just 20 km from Győr. The church is the end point of the 200 km long Hungarian Saint Jacob pilgrimage that starts in Budapest.

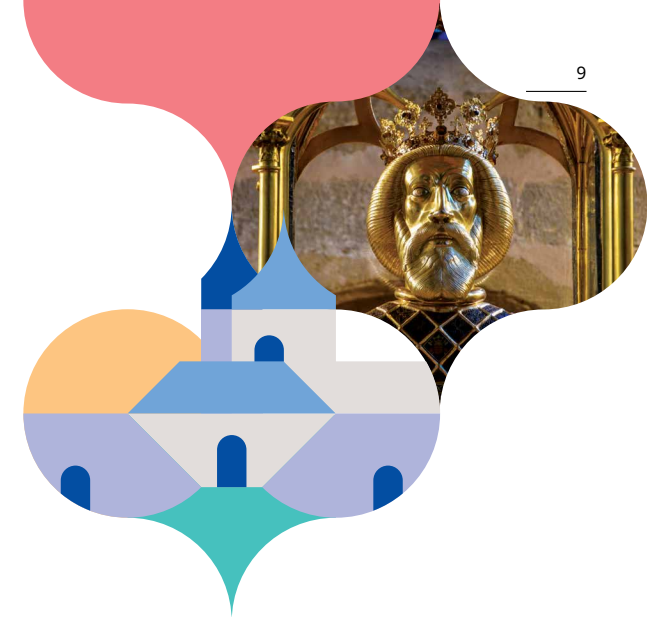
FOCUS ON SPIRITUALITY

One of the oldest parts of Győr is Káptalándomb, which lies right next to the main square, and is home to several relics of the 1000-year-old diocese.

This is where you will find the Győr Basilica with its Gothic chapel housing one of the country's most important historical relics, the herm of King St. Ladislaus (a relic holder containing the King's skull).

After you have discovered the ruins of the ancient temple found by the Basilica, head over to the Bishop's Castle. The view of the town and the rivers is magnificent from the lookout tower of the castle, and its cellar is home to an exhibition on World War II.

If you look around the hill, you will also find statues of two Hungarian kings, the palace-like building of the Brenner János Theological College, as well as the Treasury and Library of the Diocese, where the key items of the collection are unique jeweller artifacts donated by noblemen and a 70 kg musical codex.



THE HOME OF WORLD-FAMOUS ARTISTIC COMPANIES

The town of Győr is home to two world famous artistic companies, so no wonder that art, music and dance play a key role in the festival life of the town.

Watch a show performed by the Ballet Company of Győr that tours around the world from New York to the Scala in Milan, or listen to a concert by the Győr Philharmonic Orchestra that once accompanied Ennio Morricone on a world tour and has a repertoire combining classical music with lighter pieces.



URBAN BUCKET LIST

Check the sights that you have already visited.



Széchenyi square

Zichy Palace

Town Hall

Káptalándotőr Basilica

Radó Island

Treasury and Library of the Diocese

National Theatre of Győr

János Xantus Zoo

Thermal Bath and Spa

Mobile Interactive Exhibition Centre

TOP 3 FESTIVALS

GYŐR SPRING FESTIVAL

The two-week-long programme series that opens the festival season includes cross-border jam sessions, dance performances, theatrical shows and light opera tales, but is also accompanied by historic and art exhibitions.

BAROQUE BALL

On the most special night of the ball season everything is a Baroque illusion: guests wearing contemporary costumes visit the grand Zichy Palace, they are announced by a master of ceremonies, and merry dances are taught by a dance master, while music from the 17th-18th century is played by the orchestra.

Everyone is dressed up, even the musicians and waiters, and the ball would not be complete without a dance show, some fortune-telling and a raffle.

GYŐR BOOK SALON

The three-day festival of writing and fantasy is usually held in November in Győr, where stories come to life in the form of musical shows, performances, kids, programmes and award-winning drawings, but visitors can even learn about the secrets of book-binding and illustration.



Visiting the monks

When in the region, be sure to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Pannonhalma Benedictine Abbey and its surroundings, just as Saint Pope John Paul II did in 1996.

Founded in 996, the monastery of the Benedictine order is the same age as the Hungarian state. Discover its thousand-year history through the various architectural styles, while you learn about the various activities of the monks.

PROGRAMMES FOR 365 DAYS

From a photography exhibition to a fencing cup, from a Bach concert to a jazz dinner, from children's programmes to wine cellar visits - the Abbey and the region around it has all the different programmes and events you may wish for.

IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS ABOUT AN AMAZING ABBEY

over 400 000 volumes in

the library's collection



400 000 bottles

of excellent wine each year



5.5 hectares

of lavender in the arboretum



14-metre-tall

fish-shaped lookout tower incorporated
into the treetop educational trail



THE HEART OF CULTURE

The most prominent building of the abbey is the library, which has beautiful halls built in Classicist style. This is where the founding charter of the Abbey of Tihany from 1055 is kept. You should also visit the Abbey Museum where you will find different temporary exhibitions every year.

VISITING THE MONKS

There is a community of 40 Benedictine monks living their everyday life in the Abbey: they perform the liturgy, manage the boarding school, operate the book publishing company, organise concerts, and even have their own winery and herb garden.

GOTHIC MASTERPIECE

The centre of the Abbey is the Saint Martin's Basilica built in early-Gothic style. The main entrance of the church is the 'ornate gate' that connects the church to the cloister surrounding the idyllic garden.

ALMIGHTY FLAVOURS

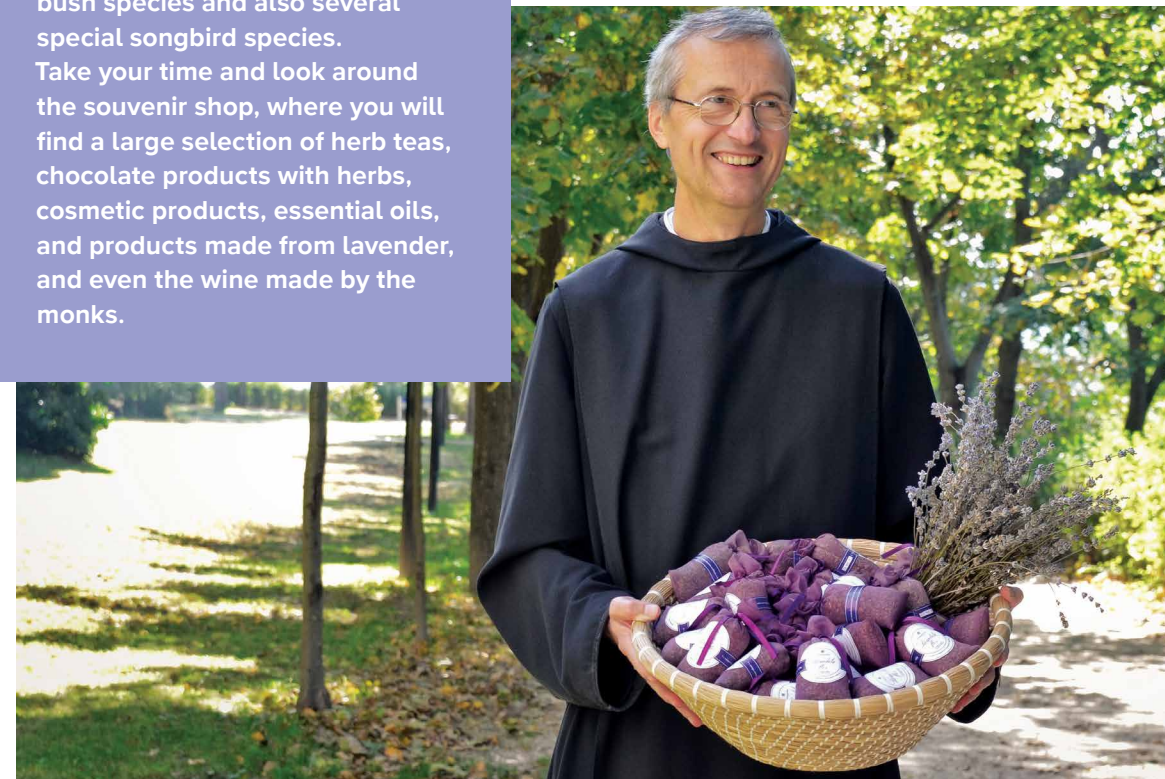
The restaurant of the Abbey offers dishes made from local produce and they use the herbs and spices grown in the arboretum to season their dishes.

GRAPE GROWN BY MONKS

It is an old Benedictine tradition to grow grapes on the lands of the Abbey. Today the Winery of the Pannonhalma Abbey works on 52 hectares, and what an excellent work they do. In 2010, it was awarded the Winery of the Year title, and the wines produced are marketed all over the world.

HEALING GARDEN

Back in the old days, monks used the arboretum to grow herbs used for healing, and today the garden is home to hundreds of tree and bush species and also several special songbird species. Take your time and look around the souvenir shop, where you will find a large selection of herb teas, chocolate products with herbs, cosmetic products, essential oils, and products made from lavender, and even the wine made by the monks.



The 'created wine region'

In the northern part of Transdanubia, there is a Hungarian wine region with a centuries-old history, where the tradition of viticulture is closely linked to the Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma: Hungarian viticulture is first mentioned in writing in the founding charter of the Abbey.

The Benedictine monks played a crucial role in establishing viticulture in the region around the 13th century, and since then it has become an important source of livelihood for the people living there. By the 20th century, the main grape variety grown in the largest quantities in the wine region became Olaszrizling, and even today 80% of the agricultural land, i.e. 512 hectares are used to grow white wine grapes.

RHEIN RIESLING FROM PANNONHALMA

One of the traditional wine varieties of the wine region. It has a light mint and grape flower fragrance and citrus taste, and goes best with simple summer dishes.

PH-VALUE CUVÉE

PH-Value, the fresh and peachy wine of the Pannonhalma wine region, is made from the best drinks of six wineries. The base is Rhein Riesling to which Olaszrizling is added, while Tramini is also used for the spicy fragrance and flavour. It pairs best with white meat and vegetables.

OLASZRIZLING

The wine made from this traditional grape variety of the region is unique and varied both in its fragrance and taste. It is ideal with salads, poultry, saltwater fish and fresh cheese.

PINOT NOIR

A classy and spicy wine that captures the flavours of all the early summer red fruits from ripe raspberries to black cherries. Its taste will come out the best if you drink it with duck and lamb.

TRAMINI

A light, crystal clear, yet spicy white wine with the fragrance of the fresh tea rose, elderflower and lichi. It is perfect for a dinner of spicy dishes, such as the specialities of the Oriental cuisine.

AN EXCELLENT MATCH - RHEIN RIESLING FROM PANNONHALMA AND RABBIT WITH 'VADAS' SAUCE

Not many people know that the gemstone of the 19th century cuisine, i.e. meat with 'vadas' sauce is traditionally made from rabbit. You should have it with bread dumplings, and it is best eaten with the iconic and citrus flavoured wine of the Pannonhalma wine region.

WINES OF HUNGARY

PERSONALLY

Plan your wine trip in the Pannonhalma wine region with the help of the winesofhungary.hu website.

5 programmes for all ages

Rába Quelle Thermal Bath and Spa



WHERE FUTURE ENGINEERS ARE BORN

The Mobile Interactive Exhibition Centre presents natural phenomena, technical inventions, the way vehicles work, the secrets of information technology and the special world of robots in a way that even adults will find exciting and engaging.

1.

SWIM WITH THE FAMILY

Every member of the family will find something to do in the Rába Quelle Thermal Bath and Adventure Pool: it has a baby pool and a play corner, 5 adventure pools and 2 giant slides, while the adults can relax in one of the thermal water pools.

2.

ANIMAL ADVENTURES

In 1962, the János Xantus Zoo was not a zoo, but only a wildlife park where people could study Hungarian indigenous species living in the wild in Hungary. The stock of animals then grew, and several exotic species were added to the collection: today, it is home to kangaroos, jaguars, lions, tigers, camels and even ring-tailed lemurs. The zoo also offers high-quality zoo pedagogy programmes for children.

3.



BIG FESTIVAL FOR SMALL KIDS

For a weekend in the middle of the summer, the centre of Győr is turned into a huge playground where children are entertained with excellent art programmes and shows. Today the Győrköcsesztivál attracts more than 50,000 visitors every year, and has become the largest children's festival in Central Europe, where families can choose from 1000 free programmes available at 10 different venues.

4.

PLAY WITH THE ANCIENT FORCES OF NATURE

Mosonmagyaróvár is a town that lies near Győr and is home to the FUTURA, the largest scientific playhouse in the country. Children can test their strength against the four ancient forces of nature, they can learn about the most interesting natural and weather phenomena, the most important laws of physics and the most intriguing optical illusions throughout their visit.

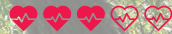
5.

Wander around in Szigetköz

ADRENALINE TOP LIST

7 km hike around the most significant backwaters of Szigetköz

1.



2.

Canoe tour on the Lajta, where the route leads to the Mosoni-Duna through Mosonmagyaróvár's historical city centre on 'water-slides'

27 km cycling trip for those who, in addition to some light riding, also want to take in the romantic Szigetköz landscape

3.



4.

Group canoe tour from Dunakiliti to the Órdög-sziget lake system, where the most daring can jump into the water from a rope swing

The Park – located on the banks of the Mosoni-Duna on close to three hectares – offers adrenaline-filled experiences on multiple adventure courses

5.



Fun on water, hundreds of kilometres of labyrinthine waterways, exciting cycling routes, marshland and floodplain forests, wet meadows await those who visit Szigetköz, an island of almost 400 square km, making it the largest in Hungary.

A SLIDE FOR THE BOATS

The obstacles along the way come and go, but when you are paddling on the Leitha, not even a watermill can stand in your way. There are boat slides built along the shore, so it is easy to bypass the mill.

RUGGED WATER COURSES

The Danube flowing fast from the Alps slows down as it reaches this region and over the thousands of years it has created a true paradise for water tours: islands, shoals, narrow channels, zigzagging watercourses that are perfect for fun and adventure on water.

Tours in Szigetköz are made particularly interesting by the rich flora and fauna: you will see evidence of beavers living and working in the area, watch how aquatic birds take off and land, but you may also see swan families swim by your boat. No matter if you are a beginner or an experienced paddler, you will surely find yourself the right guide and route: you can paddle along floodplain backwaters and lagunes, or you can choose to complete the 105 km long tour between Győr and Rajka.

DISCOVER THE LAND ON TWO WHEELS

Szigetköz has several cycling routes, some of which run on dams, low traffic roads and through small villages. Cycling tours become a really exciting adventure as you ride through willow forests and grooves, while watching the rich fauna, and stopping at romantic swimming and fishing spots. You will find several information boards along the way that will help you learn more about how Szigetköz came to exist, and also about its hydrography, flora and fauna.

The tour between Rajka and Győr – which is part of the EuroVelo 6 international cycle path – is more suitable for those who are in better shape. It runs along the Danube, where the air is clean and you can come as close to water and nature as you want. When you reach Darnózseli, you should take a detour to Lipót and rest a little while in the thermal bath.



Events: from sports to arts

ART PICNIC IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

The 'Stílusos Art Piknik' is held every June on Radó Island in the centre of the historic part of Győr. It is a unique art gastronomic show, where star chefs from all over the country help you mix culinary experience with visual culture. The picnic traditionally takes place under huge trees in an enchanting environment, in the popular pedestrian area of Győr.

LATE SUMMER WINE FESTIVAL

The three-day Győr Wine Festival is usually held at the end of August in the centre of the town.

The festival not only offers you the chance to taste the best wines of the country in the small restaurants and wine shops of downtown Győr, but you can also enjoy the different concerts and other cultural programmes.



GO ETO! GO GYŐR!

The town of Győr is well-known for its Champions League winning women's handball team. You should get a ticket to one of their matches and go cheer them on while in town. Sport in general (and not only competitive sports) have a long tradition in this town. When you are in Győr, you can go and play squash, bowling, or go swimming or even rowing.



JAMMING IN PANNONHALMA

The 'Jazz Summer at Pannonhalma' is a series of concerts running several weeks at the Archabbey. The concerts given by Hungarian and foreign performers are superb, and the venue is stupendous.

Sights around Győr-Pannonhalma



TATA

The town is like a painting come alive with Lake Öreg spreading in the middle and the castle standing tall on its shore. Not far from there, there is a palace and a watermill, you can take a stroll in an English garden, climb up the lookout tower on Calvary Hill, and of course, you can even peek into beautiful little churches.

ZIRC

The symbol of the town is the Cistercian Abbey, but you can also discover the 20-hectare arboretum planted around a fish pond by the Cistercians. If you want to learn about some of the crafts practices from the past, visit the Reguly Antal Museum and Craft Centre.

CUHA VALLEY AND THE VIA FERRATA

Cuha Valley is a wild and romantic location near Győr, where you can test your rock climbing skills on courses of different difficulty levels. Via ferrata, i.e. ironed routes will help you. These are routes installed with fix steel cables, ladders, bridges and rungs to ensure safe touring.

THE STUD FARM IN BÁBOLNA

There are not many places in the world where people have been breeding horses for more than two hundred years, and the town of Bábolna is one of them. The stud farm offers you more than a tour around the stables, you will also find a collection of coaches and an exhibition of the stud history.

PÁPA

You will find a Catholic Great Church built in 'zopf-style' with some Baroque features, the Esterházy Palace, and the Blue Dying Museum near the main square of the town. In the Blue Dying Museum, visitors can learn about the work of the one-time Kluge company, you can see what the workshop and equipment used for blue dying looked like.

PLACES OF INTEREST BEYOND THE BORDERS

The largest dryland island in Europe, Žitný ostrov (Rye Island) is found south-east of Bratislava. The plain that lies between the arms of rivers is an excellent site for hiking, plus the area has a large underground thermal water reserve.

Dunajská Streda is a town that is also nearby, it has a thermal park that you must try before you take a tour to the nearby watermills in Dunajský Klátov and Tomášikovo which are still in operation, as well as the Žitný Ostrov Museum, housed in the 'yellow palace', the largest listed monument building in town.

Discover the region of Sopron-Fertő and Bük-Sárvár



CONQUER THE OLD TOWN OF SOPRON

If you skirt around the bulwark, you find yourself in an area where streets are lined with Baroque buildings. Just climb up into the Fire Tower to take a look at the town, visit the Fabricius House to learn about how the citizens of the town lived in the past, and learn about the impressive spiritual heritage of Sopron in the Goat Church and the early Gothic Old Synagogue.

WANDER AROUND IN THE MOST LUXURIOUS PALACE OF THE ESTERHÁZY FAMILY

Fertőd is home to the third largest Baroque-Rococo castle complex in Central Europe. Members of this noble family were avid art enthusiasts, and as a result all 126 rooms are richly decorated, the garden is extraordinary, with the complex also housing a string puppet theatre and a music hall, which is still used today for classical and modern concerts.

CYCLE FROM ONE ADVENTURE TO ANOTHER AROUND LAKE FERTŐ

115 km (or less if you take a boat) long cyclist-friendly roads on flat ground. There is a lookout tower in Fertőboz, a family-friendly beach in Illmitz and a beautiful old town centre in Rust to tempt you to take a break from cycling.

TAKE DIP, RIDE A SLIDE AND SWIM ALL YEAR AROUND

The bath and pool complexes in Bükfürdő and Sárvár, with their thousands of square metres of water surface, are built on thermal water, but their indoor and outdoor adventure pools, slides and sauna sections are a real treat for the whole family.

THE THOUSAND FACES OF THE SOPRON KÉKFRANKOS

Kékfrankos is the most widely grown grape variety in Hungary, which means that it is cultivated in almost every wine region, but it is most closely connected to Sopron. Local wineries make a fresh, light wine with fruity flavour from it, but they often use it to create aged, concentrated wine varieties.






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