

Experiences you simply can't miss out on
LAKE VELENCE
map



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FAMILY ACTIVITY:

1. **Dinnyés**, Dinnyés Castle Park and Open-air Museum – Guinness World Record
2. **Pákozd-Sukoró**, Pákozdi Pagony Wildlife Park and Arboretum
3. **Velence**, Venice Beach Cable Park
4. **Velence**, Bence-hegy Lookout
5. **Gárdony**, H2O Aquarium House
6. **Gárdony**, Cactus Garden

ACTIVE RELAXATION:

7. **Agárd**, István Chernel Bird Hide
8. **Gárdony**, Lake Velence Cruise
9. **Gárdony**, Velence Water Sports School
10. **Gárdony**, Gárdony Stockade
11. **Pákozd**, Pákozd Balancing Rocks Nature Reserve
12. **Gárdony**, Surf Core Surf Base
13. **Gárdony**, Grand Equestrian Centre
14. **Pázmánd**, Centre for Nature and Wildlife Conservation and Ecotourism (Green Centre)
15. **Gárdony**, Agárd Forest Park Sports and Recreation Centre
16. **Gárdony**, Crosswater Water Sports Equipment Rental

CULTURE:

17. **Gárdony**, Géza Gárdonyi Memorial House
18. **Gárdony**, Lake Velence Gallery
19. **Kápolnásnyék**, Vörösmarty Memorial House
20. **Kápolnásnyék**, Halász Palace
21. **Gárdony**, Heart of Jesus Church
22. **Kápolnásnyék**, Local History, Blacksmithing and Mineral Exhibition
23. **Pázmánd**, Bálint Borárium
24. **Pázmánd**, Regional Museum
25. **Pákozd**, Military Memorial Park Pákozd – National Memorial Site

BATH AND BEACH:

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27. **Velence**, Velence Resort & Spa Thermal and Leisure Bath
28. **Gárdony**, Seagull Beach and Campsite
29. **Gárdony**, Park Beach Camp Site and Hostel, Agárd
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31. **Gárdony**, Sunshine Beach
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35. **Gárdony**, TóParty Beach and Campsite

Map of Lake Velence

Lake Velence, the third largest lake in Hungary and located only 50 km from Budapest, is extremely popular due to its diverse ecosystem and the numerous attractions and active recreational opportunities it has to offer. Being extremely shallow, it's one of the warmest lakes in Europe, so it's little wonder that its beaches are so popular with bathers. Its waters attract large numbers of day-trippers, and not only in the summer; on windy days during spring and autumn, windsurfers and fans of extreme water-sports descend, all eager to test their mettle on the rolling waves.

The wilder western part of the lake has been a protected site since 1958 and is a nesting site for several rare bird species, including the great egret, the Eurasian spoonbill, and the great crested grebe, all of which can be observed from the decks of pleasure boats departing from Agárd harbour. Together, the wildlife, the waving club rushes, and the beautiful fen orchids offer a true feast for the eyes!

However, Lake Velence has a wide range of adventures in store for those looking for something other than water-related experiences. Sports fans can complete a bicycle tour around the lake, and for those interested in cultural activities there is the Halász Palace in Kápolnásnyék, a beautiful building nestled in the centre of a romantic one-and-a-half hectare park.

1

PÁKOZD

Military Memorial Park Pákozd – National Memorial Site

The Military Memorial Park, located not far from the shore on Mészeg-hegy, covers several decades of military history. In the 1.6-hectare park at the site of the famous Battle of Pákozd, visitors can find World War I officers' barracks, a World War II trench, and even a real-life T-55 battle tank at the 1956 memorial spot. The Don Memorial Chapel, located 500 metres from the park, preserves the memory of Hungarian soldiers who fell at the Don bend in World War II.



5

GÁRDONY

Agárd Medical and Thermal Bath

After their trips around the lake, thermal water lovers can have a rest in the Agárd Medical and Thermal Bath, also known as Health Island. Bubbling up in Bika-völgy from a depth of 1,000 metres, the thermal water of the bath is rich in minerals and provides an effective treatment for musculoskeletal conditions, rheumatic diseases, osteoarthritis, and various gynaecological issues. The medical department offers balneotherapeutic treatments, a weight bath, a carbon dioxide tub bath, and various massages.



7

PÁKOZD

Pákozdai Pagony Wildlife Park and Arboretum

The Pákozdai Pagony Wildlife Park and Arboretum is home to wild boar, pheasants, and both roe and red deer, all of which graze on its spacious meadows. Within the park is the Mészeghegy lookout, which offers a stunning panorama over Lake Velence, and the arboretum contains small fire pits that can be used by visitors for barbecues.



2

GÁRDONY

Géza Gárdonyi Memorial House

The town of Agárd at Lake Velence was once home to the famous Hungarian author Géza Gárdonyi, and the house where he was born is now a museum dedicated to his life and work. The exhibition displays the key milestones of the writer's life, as well as many different documents (e. g. Gárdonyi's cryptography), photos, and memorabilia. Next to the memorial house, a small-scale version of the castle of Eger helps evoke the most exciting scenes of his novel, *Stars of Eger* (also known as *Eclipse of the Crescent Moon*), a classic piece of Hungarian literature.



3

VELENCE

Velence Promenade and Free Public Beach

The Velence Promenade is renowned for its hot seaside atmosphere and sandy shores. The 20-hectare, child-friendly, free public beach has a shoreline of 500 metres that offers a water adventure course, pedalos, volleyball courts and football pitches to water and beach enthusiasts alike. While sunbathing, the high magnesium and sodium content of the water makes frequent dips in the lake not only relaxing, but also refreshing and beneficial.



4

VELENCE

Cycling around the Lake

The 30 km tour around Lake Velence offers fun and adventure to any cyclist, whether a beginner or more experienced. Apart from the uphill section at Pákozd, the route runs on mostly flat terrain and can be completed within a few hours, depending on how many detours you take. While cycling, you can enjoy the rich plant life and wildlife around the lake, or check out what surprises the villages along the shore have to offer (Dinnyés, Sukoró and Pákozd). This tour around the lake is so rich in attractions that it's well worth taking an entire day to enjoy it all!



6

VELENCE

Bence-hegy Lookout

One of the most important stops on the 33km bike circuit is the impressive Bence-hegy lookout, made from a combination of reinforced concrete and shotcrete. Some say it resembles a wind-swept tree, while others say it's more like an abstract flower, but one thing is for sure: the 20-metre-high lookout offers an unparalleled panorama over the lake, including the ridges of the Buda Hills and the Vértes Mountains. Built at the site of a former oil well, the lookout was opened to the public in 2018 and has been a favourite among hikers ever since.



10

LAKE VELENCE CRUISE

Exploring the lake and its thick reed bed by boat, canoe, or dragon boat is the experience of a lifetime. There are regular boats from Agárd to the popular Szűnyog Island, and a pleasure boat ride at dusk is also a must. There are various boat tours available for those who want to venture deeper into the lake's reed beds, and if you stay quiet and watch the landscape, you can spot rare birds such as great egrets, purple and grey herons, and even western marsh harriers.



8

DINNYÉS

Dinnyés Castle Park and Open-air Museum – Guinness World Record

This small village by Lake Velence offers a special open-air exhibition for history enthusiasts, one which has even been included in the Guinness Book of World Records. Showcasing small-scale models of castle ruins in Hungary, the exhibition features 35 buildings made of stone, wood, brick, wicker, and mud, just like their original versions. Alongside the exhibition is an open-air museum representing an Árpád dynasty village, with live farm animals to add to the authentic atmosphere.



9

PÁKOZD

Balancing Rocks

These special geological formations in the Danube-Ipoly National Park are a must-see for anyone roaming the neighbourhood of Lake Velence. Referred to by locals as "wool bags", these huge, balancing rocks look as if they have just been dropped on the ground by a giant, and they certainly make quite the impression on visitors. However, as precarious as they might appear, these wobbly-looking formations are actually totally stable, having stood near Sukoró and Pákozd since before records began.

