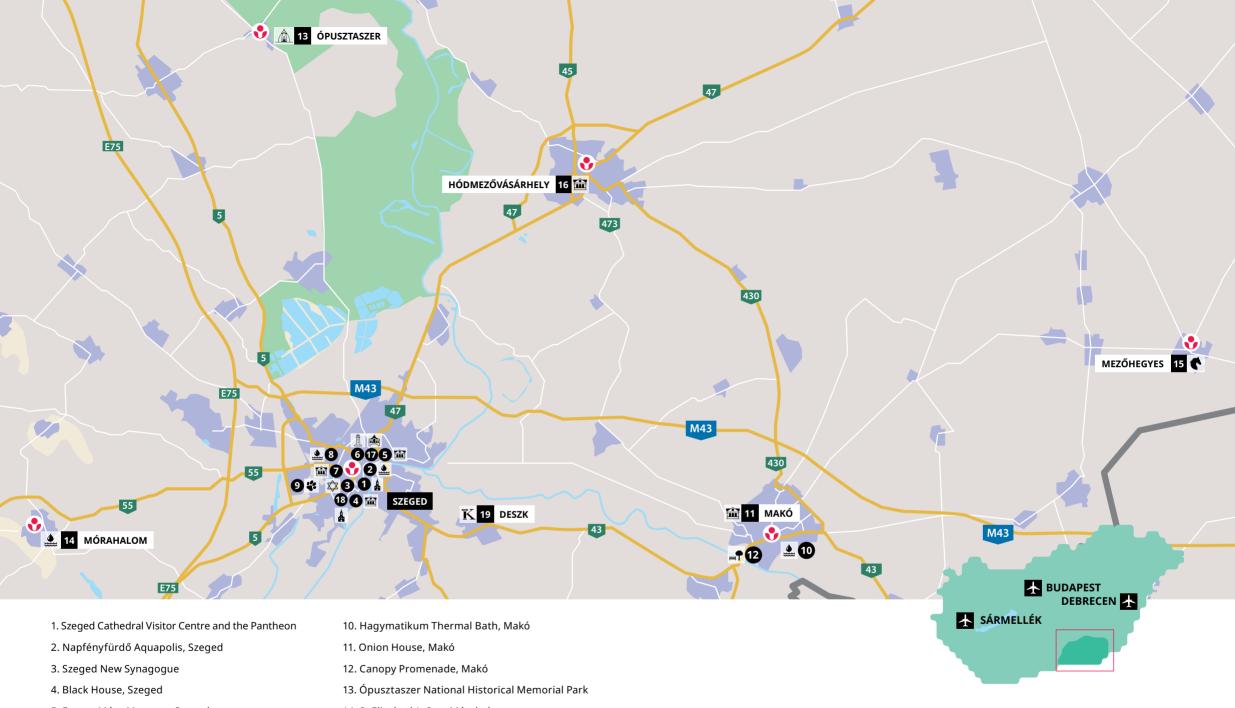


## TREASURES OF SZEGED REGION

Szeged is the treasure house of the Southern Great Plain. Its ornate buildings and Art Nouveau masterpieces surprises on every corner, while its museums and galleries are home to numerous appealing exhibitions.

However, the city is not only a feast for the eyes, Szeged and its surroundings are also deservedly famous for the Hungaricum Tisza fish soup, onions and paprika. The Hungarian gourmet food on offer in the cosy restaurants and inns, as well as the colourful food festivals are guaranteed to satisfy all lovers of culinary delights.

Makó and Mórahalom also boast popular spas and leisure pools, where visitors of all ages, from the very young to the very old, can find the perfect way to relax. If you like to relax by keeping active, you can embark on a romantic tour on land and water. Although you are on what are known as the mirage routes of the Great Plain, Hungary's traditions and the irresistible beauty of the region's flora and fauna are real enough. This publication will help you discover the cultural and gourmet treasures of Szeged and its surroundings, and you can also explore the built and natural heritage of the Southern Great Plain.



- 5. Ferenc Móra Museum, Szeged
- 6. St Stephen's Square and the water tower, Szeged
- 7. Reök Palace, Szeged
- 8. Anna Thermal Bath, Szeged
- 9. Szeged Game Park

- 14. St Elisabeth's Spa, Mórahalom
- 15. Mezőhegyes Stud Farm
- 16. Memorial Point Museum, Hódmezővásárhely
- 17. Bridge of Sighs, Szeged
- 18. Our Lady of the Snows Church, Szeged
- 19. Gerliczy Palace, Deszk





## 5+1 UNMISSABLE EXPERIENCES

## TAKE A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF SZEGED.

Those energetic enough to ascend the 287 steps of the cathedral will be rewarded with stunning views of the bustling high street, a multitude of cafés and restaurants, the mosaic-like pattern of Art Nouveau buildings and the majestic sight of the meandering Tisza River.



## **MAKE A SPLASH!**

Makó's best-loved landmark is one of Hungary's most outstanding works of organic architecture. According to the building's designer, Imre Makovecz, the spa he created is a temple to water and purity. The medicinal waters of the Hagymatikum treat neuropathic pain and arthritis. Visit Mórahalom too, where a 3,000-square-metre leisure pool awaits those who would like to make a splash, while the spa pools are effective for treating knee and shoulder joint complaints.

## FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HUNGARIANS' ANCESTORS.

The name of Ópusztaszer first appeared in the tales of the Conquest of the Carpathian Basin. It's no coincidence that nearly one thousand years later, a National History Park was established on this site with the aim of preserving ancient Hungarian customs and traditions. Numerous monuments, traditional structures and activities help visitors become acquainted with the Hungarians' adventurous ancestors.



## SIGHTSEEING BY BOAT

Not only are shipping and shipbuilding connected to Szeged's past, but the boats crossing the Tisza as well as the houses and entertainment venues floating on the water are still connected to the image of the city to this day. If you want to be near the water, you can also take an atmospheric pleasure cruise, from which you can admire the wildlife of the Tisza and the mouth of the Maros.

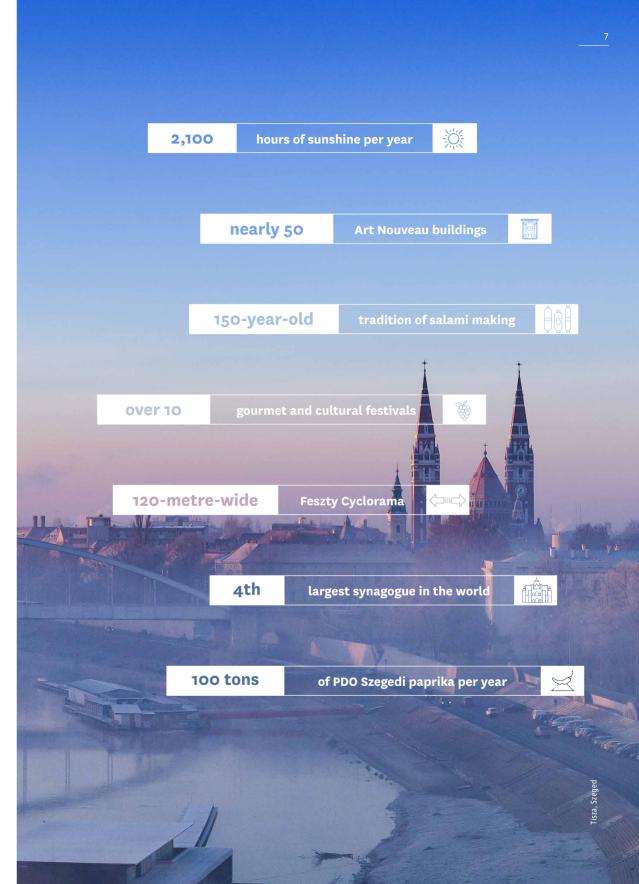
## WATCH A PLAY BENEATH THE STARRY SKY.

Every year, the Szeged Open Air Festival offers contemporary and classical performances for visitors to enjoy against the breathtaking backdrop of the imposing cathedral. From musicals to comedies, choose the performance that best suits your tastes.

## SAMPLE THAT UNIQUE HUNGARIAN DELICACY, FISH SOUP!

If there is one dish that encapsulates Szeged and its environs, it is surely Tisza fish soup. Made with local ground paprika, four kinds of fish from the Tisza River, onions from Makó and locally produced peppers, this soup is sure to impress any day of the year.









The thermal waters found in Hungary have been well-known for 2,000 years. A significant part of Hungary's thermal waters, a key attraction of the country, are located on the Great Plain. The waters rich in special minerals can help strengthen the body's immune system, improve well-being and cure diseases, as well as being a great source of relaxation and opportunities to have fun.



## NAPFÉNYFÜRDŐ AQUAPOLIS

The Szeged Water Park offers heart-warming relaxation even in the winter. The slide park curves along a total of 1,000 metres, while its slide tower, which boasts the longest slide in Europe, has a 360-degree panorama of Szeged. The spa section offers a range of massage treatments, jacuzzis and saunas, while the medical wing offers rehabilitation, physiotherapy and rheumatological treatments. The mother-and-child world and playhouses in the water park also ensure that parents and kids have fun.

## ST. ELISABETH THERMAL SPA

This spa in a small quiet town near the Serbian border welcomes both Hungarian and foreign visitors with plenty of pampering. Various temperatures of thermal pools are effective in treating diseases of the knee and shoulder joints, while the sauna and wellness area guarantees wonderful relaxation. The 3,000-squaremetre leisure pool is also pure heaven if you just want to splash around.





## **ANNA THERMAL BATH**

The thermal and wellness spa housed in the landmark building, which was wonderfully restored a few years ago, serve relaxation and regeneration. If you'd like to get away from it all, seek out this labyrinthine building and enjoy its atmospheric pools. And it's not only open in the daytime – the Szeged Anna Thermal Bath also offers night time bathing opportunities for its guests. The Anna spring in front of the building bubbles with mineral-rich thermal water in winter and summer alike.

13

## Roaming around the city of sunlight





### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CULTURE

Capital of the county, this is one of the country's cultural centres and has been attracting artists for many decades. The city's atmosphere is permeated with a vibrant cultural life, throughout the galleries, cosy cafés and student bars. Various famous people are connected to the city, such as the poet Attila József and the creator of the Ford T-model, József Galamb, who both pursued their studies in Szeged.

Szeged's modern cityscape is largely determined by the great flood of 1879, which almost swept away the entire city. Although the disaster caused enormous damage, it enabled the city to create a new image. The city centre's tasteful building decor is still intact and eye-catching. Thanks to this, the building complex in Kárász Utca and the adjoining Klauzál Tér was awarded the Europa Nostra Prize in 2004.

## **CITY BUCKET LIST**

## SZEGED CATHEDRAL

Szeged's dazzling neo-Romanesque cathedral in the city centre, was built from donations by local people after the great flood. The tallest point of the two towers is 91 metres above the River Tisza's zero point, and 81 metres from the ground floor.

## THE DANCING CLOCK

The Musical Clock opposite the Cathedral sounds twice a day at 12:15 and 17:45. It features a procession of graduating students and masters, dancing to local folk and graduation songs.

### PANTHEOR

The Pantheon features portraits of famous researchers and artists connected to the city. The fabulous Béla Rerrich Square, which Albert Szent-György also admired from his office window, is just a few steps away.

## **BLACK HOUSE**

Sometime casino and sometime editorial office, the building now houses unique exhibitions providing an insight into the history of Szeged.

## **FERENC MÓRA MUSEUM**

The neo-Classicist Ferenc Móra Museum houses scientific and historical collections, but you can also buy tickets for fine art exhibitions.

## SZÉCHENYI TÉR

The City Hall, built in neo-Baroque, Copf style, immediately catches your eye, while the nearby Bridge of Sighs was built by the local population in 1883 to mark a visit from Franz Joseph.

## KÁRÁSZ UTCA

You can visit high-quality shops and admire historical buildings on Szeged's main street, Kárász Utca. After working up an appetite, you can treat yourself to gourmet delights in one of the charming old cafés.

## **OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS CHURCH**

The nearly 500-year-old Our Lady of the Snows Church, the second oldest church complex in Hungary, invites you on a historical journey.

## WHIZZING AROUND ON TWO WHEELS

The city's clear layout and flat terrain make it easy to explore. The impressive buildings and tidy public space of the county seat on the banks of the Tisza can not only be explored on foot, but also on a Segway tour or rental bike.



## Cifra palaces, or the **Art Nouveau of the Southern Great Plain**

## SZEGED, THE CITADEL OF ART NOUVEAU

The Secession, more commonly known as Art Nouveau, was one of the defining trends in applied and fine arts at the turn of the 20th century. It had a great influence on Hungarian artists such as Ödön Lechner and Vilmos Zsolnay. The Hungarian style of Art Nouveau, which favours organic motifs and unique workmanship, is drawn from Hungarian folk motifs. Szeged boasts some outstanding examples, with nearly 50 apartment buildings, communal spaces and statues built in this style in the city centre. You can also find a guided walk and a smartphone app following a route among the Secession architecture in the town.



One of the most outstanding buildings of the Hungarian Secession is the New Synagogue and its soul-warming garden with wonders from all over the world. Europe's fourth largest synagogue regularly opens its doors for concerts and theatrical events.

## **FOUNDING FATHER OF SZEGED'S ART**

Ede Magyar, also dubbed the Hungarian Gaudí, greatly contributed to Szeged's Mediterranean atmosphere with his work. Although Magyar's life was cut tragically short, several of the city's outstanding Art Nouveau buildings, including the Reök Palace, a rare representative of Hungarian Secession, bear the mark of his architectural talents. You can treat yourself to French pastries and ice cream made on the premises of the confectioner's shop on the building's ground floor.

## THE IEWEL OF HUNGARIAN SECESSION

The Reök Palace, designed by Ede Magyar and completed in 1907, is an outstanding work of the style known abroad as Hungarian Secession. The main motif of the ornate building is water, which is represented by a dance of elegant water lilies in blue and white. This architectural treasure also features a contemporary gallery and an exclusive confectioner's shop.

### THE ARTISTIC WATER TOWER

There are few towers boasting such a lavish facade as the Szent István Square water tower, which has been under special protection as an example of industrial heritage since 2003. The building, completed at the beginning of the 20th century, also houses a unique exhibition on soda water and physics. It is embraced by elegant Art Nouveau railings and buildings reminiscent of the Industrial Revolution.

## FIGURES OF GIRLS LOOKING AT SZEGED

The Ungár-Mayer Palace, located on the corner of Kárász Street, is a masterpiece of Hungarian Art Nouveau architecture. Architect Ede Magyar's outstanding talent is mostly reflected in the building's onion-shaped dome, which is decorated with tin girl-shaped statues and bouquets of flowers, and creates a dreamlike impression, even after so many years.

### SPLENDID PALACE

Overlooking three streets, the rugged elegance of the Count's Palace instantly captivates anyone who beholds it. Oriental and Hungarian motifs intermingle on the facade, and the gold interweaving through its mosaic decoration becomes radiant in the light of the rising sun.



# In the footsteps of Makovecz buildings The vista of the barder town of Maké is largely

The vista of the border town of Makó is largely determined by the work of Hungary's Miklós Ybl and Kossuth Prize-winning architect, Imre Makovecz. The Hungarian creator of organic architecture has become more closely associated with the town due to the renovation work on the Onion House. It is quite fitting that some of his creations resemble onions, as this vegetable is the symbol of Makó.

## ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE

Followers of the style of organic architecture which blossomed after the Second World War declared that both the materials and purpose of buildings should be organically connected to where they are built. This special coupling of nature and creativity also inspired Hungarian architects, including Imre Makovecz, thanks to whom the country has dozens of unique buildings.



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## MUSIC IN THE OPEN AIR

One of Makovecz's last works, the onion-domed Music Pavilion, hosts summer music concerts. The building boasts a really special feature: a sound-dampening bird in the pavilion, which can be used to adjust the venue's acoustics. Whether you are a fan of pop or classical music, you are bound to find a concert to your liking.



Today, the Onion House, built on the site of the former onion hall, is the economic and cultural centre of Makó. The most remarkable part of the building is its two partially-glazed columns, recognisable from afar as bearing Makovecz's unmistakable style. The Onion House's interior boasts a 390-seat space that hosts community events.





## THE GROVE OF BUSES

The central bus station, completed in 2010, symbolises a petrified grove of trees. The columns, which were cast on site, portray sturdy tree trunks and the light elements of the roof's structure symbolise branches.



Szeged and its surroundings have several hungaricums on offer for those in search of culinary experiences. The region's world-famous products are paprika, Makó onions, a salami known as téliszalámi and Szeged fish soup. Dishes flavoured with paprika became national dishes in the 1860s, and traditional recipes and reinvented versions of those recipes have since enhanced the reputation of Hungarian gastronomy around the world.

## Tip: Alföldi rosé with fish soup

The characterful rosé from the Danube wine region pairs well with the spicy flavours of Szeged fish soup. The soft acidity and fruity, vibrant character of rosé made from the Néró or Kadarka grape varieties balance the delicately hot and spicy character of the soup.

Although admirers of the two versions have difficulty in admitting this to each other, the fish soups from Szeged and Baja are both sublime and both hungaricums. The difference is that the Baja version is only made from one type of fish (mostly carp), contains matchstick pasta and is unstrained.

## Hungaricum in Röszke

The word paprika comes from the South Slavic region, and has even been adopted by the English language over the centuries. Located 12 km from Szeged, the Röszke Museum's informative exhibition and guided tour presents Szegedi paprika, which is now a hungaricum and a world-renowned culinary specialty.

## 5 FOOD FESTIVALS WORTH VISITING

## SZEGED CHARCUTERIE AND PÁLINKA FESTIVAL

The city's festival season is opened every year by the Szeged Charcuterie and Pálinka Festival, where Hungarian handicraftsmen, pálinka distillers and artisan food producers are all represented.

## SZEGED DAY CELEBRATION SERIES

The Szeged Wine Festival is an unmissable part of the Szeged Day celebration series; it involves jovial conversation late into the night while tasting some of the best Hungarian wines. At this time, Klauzál Square is also transformed into a food courtyard, where fabulous snacks and drinks ensure a lively atmosphere.

## **HUNGARICUM FESTIVAL**

The most refreshing spot in the city is the Szeged Hungaricum Festival on the banks of the Tisza, where you can find a wide range of handicrafts and home-made specialties from local farmers. They only sell products with a strong connection to Hungarian culture and gastronomy.

## SZEGED INTERNATIONAL TISZA FISH FESTIVAL

The first weekend in September is all about fish soup. At this time, the Mátyás Huszár quay and the Újszeged baths are also filled with chefs competing for an award in the Fish Cooking Order of Merit. The best quality Tisza fish soup is stirred in the giant soup kettle set up on the Water Bastion.

## **BORTÉR SZEGED**

This event on Dóm Square concludes the festival season in the second half of September. Over 100 winemakers exhibit at the wine festival, while you can also browse the wares of the pálinka and cheese vendors as well as the handicraft stalls.

## Stress relief in the open air

## **CLOSE TO NATURE**

## Close to the Hungarian ancestors

The Mezőhegyes State Stud Farm is the cradle of Hungarian horse breeding. Few people know that the graceful black Nonius, a protected horse breed, was bred in the Mezőhegyes stud. You can explore the area on horseback or by "puszta bus".

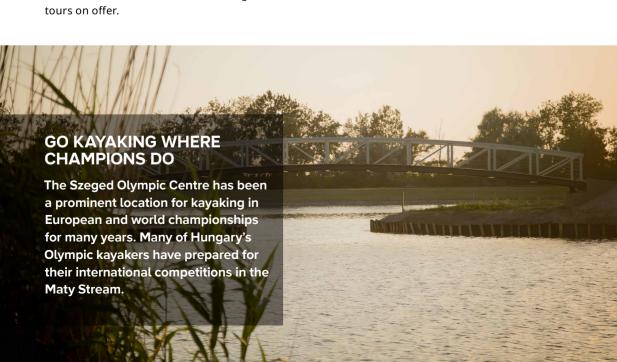
## Water tour

If you crave the sound of birds chirping and the cooling power of the water, you can take a day canoe trip to explore the wildlife of the area's rivers. You can tour the waters of the Tisza and the Maros but also simply go down to the river bank to relax at a beach or do some fishing.

## Seeing eye-to-eye with the buffalo

The area around Lake Négyszéksós at the edge of Mórahalom is home to Hungary's first buffalo reserve, where there are also guided tours on offer.







## Makó canopy promenade and adventure park

The canopy promenade, which opened in 2013, showcases Makó's floodplain wildlife. The promenade stretches for nearly 200 metres within a bird migratory area. However, the attraction of the location is undoubtedly its modern adventure park and the canopy walkway over the River Maros.

## **Bird watching**

Lake Fehér is the largest salt-marsh lake in Hungary and is part of the Kiskunság National Park. With its extremely rich bird life of 280 species, it is a highly protected area. If you head there in the autumn, you might even come across some cranes. The Tisza Valley visitor's centre is worth a visit. You can learn about the local flora and fauna as well as explore the beautiful Seagull nature trail.



## In the footsteps of history



## **RECENT HISTORY**

The gleaming, modern building of the Memorial Point, with a statue of Lenin on its facade, stands out from the eclectic visual experience of Hódmezővásárhely. In the museum, you can learn about Hungary between 1945 and 1990 with the aid of modern, digital devices.

## WHERE THE AGE OF THE CONQUEST COMES TO LIFE

Located 28 km from Szeged, Ópusztaszer boasts an unparalleled historical monument park as well as yurts, a herb house and a monastery. You can also visit an equestrian show in the well-kept park, while the more adventurous can try their hand at archery. Here, you can also see the monumental Feszty Cyclorama, which tells the story of the Conquest.

## ARISTOCRATIC WALK IN DESZK

Szeged and its surroundings boast many surprises. In Deszk, for example, you can discover the 19th-century Gerliczy Palace, which now houses a hospital, and take an invigorating walk around its statue-adorned parkland. A similarly beautiful sight is the neo-Gothic church, built through the generosity of Baron Ferenc Gerliczy.

## Nearby sights

## THE HAJÓS ROW OF WINE CELLARS

Hungary's largest village of wine cellars is just 25 km from Kalocsa. This village has 24 narrow lanes, which are home to over a thousand cellars and many delicious wines.

## **KOLOCSA TOWN CENTRE**

The construction of the first church in Kalocsa was ordered by King Stephen I himself. The Cathedral of the Assumption now stands on the site of the former building in the heart of Kalocsa. Next to it is the ornate Baroque-style Archbishop's Palace, seat of the Roman Catholic Archbishop.

## **GYOPÁROS SPA**

Gyopárosfürdő, also dubbed the pearl of the Great Plain; the spa is known for its many and varied features. The thermal water of the lake in the town's Orosház district attracts many visitors for its health benefits and the opportunity to relax. The recreation area offers various leisure facilities, while you can hire pedalos and go boating on Lake Gyopárosi.



## THE CIFRA PALACE IN KECSKEMÉT

Kecskemét's Cifra Palace is like something from a fairytale. The Art Nouveau-style building makes such a charming impression that it also gave rise to a lovely children's nursery rhyme.

## TOWNS TO VISIT JUST OVER THE BORDER

Thanks to the region's proximity to the border, some towns in neighbouring countries are also easily accessible. In Serbia, for example, you can visit the Art Nouveau Raichle Palace and the former Dezső Kosztolányi Grammar School in Subotica. The town of Palić is not far from the city and boasts many interesting sights: a lake with a mysterious history, the eclectic Lujza Villa and the Owl Castle built for athletes. Arad in Romania is also worth a visit to enjoy the city's centuries-old castle.



## Discover Gyula and its surroundings

## **BATHE BENEATH THE TREES!**

Relish the beneficial effects of medicinal water in breathtaking surroundings at one of the country's best-loved spas, the Gyula Castle Spa, situated in a 200-year-old park. Here, visitors can bathe in the shade of plane, oak and rowan trees.

## **IMMERSE YOURSELF IN HISTORY**

The over 600-year-old Gyula Castle provides insights into the opulent lives of Hungarian lords and Turkish beys, whilst the recently restored Almásy Palace offers a glimpse of the secret world of noble families and their servants.

## **NAVIGATE MAJESTIC WATERS**

If you're looking for an active holiday or day trip, the romantic backwaters of the Körös Rivers offer countless water routes along densely wooded riverbanks. While kayaking, you may even discover turtles sunbathing on the stones.

## **ENIOY THE LOCAL FLAVOURS**

When visiting the region, be sure to sample the sausages from Gyula and Békéscsaba, which live up to their excellent reputation. The Békéscsaba sausage even has a festival dedicated to it: one of Hungary's biggest gastronomy events with sausage filling and tasting and a sausage-making competition. Choose a dessert from the delicious range on display at the Hundred-Year-Old Confectioner's in Gyula!

## EXPERIENCE 19TH CENTURY ROMANTICISM THROUGH THE PAINTINGS OF MUNKÁCSY

Carpenter's apprentice-turned painter Mihály Munkácsy achieved worldwide acclaim with his genre and large scale religious paintings. Discover this artist's romantic realist masterpieces in Békéscsaba.

