

Castles and palaces of

# HUNGARY



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# INTRODUCTION

Hungary is the home of romantic castles and beautiful palaces. Decisive battles raged on their bastions, webs of intrigue were weaved among their walls, famous artists and foreign craftsmen worked on their decoration. Most of them have suffered an unworthy fate due to decay, but today many sites have been renewed or reconstruction has begun as part of the National Palace Programme and the National Castle Programme.

Not only has our built heritage been renovated aesthetically, but its history has also become more accessible to visitors: you can learn about the history of the families and renowned castle lords that commissioned the buildings, and relive famous sieges or the peaceful everyday life of glorious ages through exciting interactive exhibitions and installations using modern technology. In some castles and palaces, the renewal is so striking that you will be surprised to revisit the buildings you knew as a small child. You can also use the recommendations for visiting nearby sites to plan overnight trips to cater for all needs.



Visitors can marvel at the *Ginkgo biloba* tree, planted at the time of György Feystetics, as well as the 400-year-old common oak.

# FESTETICS PALACE

## KESZTHELY

- ◆ Designed by: Christoph Hofstädter, Victor Rumpelmayer, Gustav Haas, Maximilian Paschkis
- ◆ Date of construction: 1745-1750/1883-1887
- ◆ Construction style: Baroque, Neo-Baroque

**Festetics Palace is Hungary's third-largest palace and is the most popular with visitors. Period interiors, exhibitions, cultural events and concerts await.**

Its construction was started by Kristóf Festetics in 1745; the single-storey Baroque palace has since been rebuilt and extended several times over the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today, the 101-room palace functions as a museum and cultural event centre. It is also home to Europe's largest intact aristocratic private library with 86,000 volumes, which even survived the lootings during World War II. There is a palm house and a former coach house with a coach exhibition in the palace gardens, while the new building, with the hunting and historical model railway exhibitions, is located opposite the back gate of the park. The beautiful 42-hectare garden is a nature reserve area with ancient trees, colourful flower beds, a garden pond, fountains and statues.

#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Taste local wines from the vineyards of the Badacsony wine region
- ◆ Go boating in the unique Tapolca Lake Cave
- ◆ Take a dip in Lake Hévíz, Europe's largest thermal lake

# ROYAL PALACE

## GÖDÖLLŐ

- ◆ Designed by: **András Mayerhoffer**
- ◆ Date of construction: **18<sup>th</sup> century**
- ◆ Construction style: **Baroque**

**The construction of Royal Palace, one of the largest Baroque palace in the country, was started by Antal Grassalkovich I in the 18th century.**

Later, it was given as a coronation gift to Franz Joseph I and Elizabeth of Luxembourg, who used it as their summer residence. During her stay, Sissi particularly enjoyed spending time in the royal stables. The vast interiors, rich ornamentation and silk wallpapers of the palace, decorated in shades of gold, white, dark red and blue, take us on a real journey back in time. The permanent exhibitions of the suites bring to life the glorious eras of the Grassalkovich family and the royal couple, but also present its 20<sup>th</sup> century history, during which the palace was used as a summer residence by Miklós Horthy from the 1920s and onwards. The palace is also home to a theatre, which is currently Hungary's only reconstructed Baroque theatre, while an orangery was built in the beautiful English garden.



*Some scenes for the 2018 series Vanity Fair were filmed here.*



#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Taste the wines and sparkling wines of Etyek in the ancient press houses on Öreghegy and Újhegy
- ◆ Take a boat ride to the Danube Bend and discover the jewels of the region
- ◆ Discover Szentendre, the city of artists, and visit its museums and galleries



# ESTERHÁZY CASTLE

FERTŐD-ESZTERHÁZA

- ◆ Designed by: Anton Erhard Martinelli, Nicolaus Jacoby, Ferdinand Mödlhammer, Melchior Hefele
- ◆ Date of construction: 18<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ Construction style: Baroque, Rococo, “zopf”

**Hungary’s largest and most beautiful Baroque palace has earned the name of the “Hungarian Versailles”. The 126-room Baroque building complex, located in a 300-hectare park, is one of the most popular attractions in north-west Hungary.**

The 126-Rococo-style rooms, the Esterházy Gallery of 650 paintings, the magnificent wrought-iron gates, the chapel, the Marionette Theatre, the courtyard and the fountain, as well as the 300-hectare French garden, are all testament to the fact that Esterházy Palace in Eszterháza was a luxurious residence, worthy of royal courts. For nearly two decades, it was home to Joseph Haydn, who was employed by Miklós Esterházy, a great patron of the arts. The castle plays an important role on the cultural scene, even today. Carrying on the musical tradition, it hosts various exciting classical music concerts and events. The French garden in front of the palace was created at the time of Prince Miklós Esterházy “the Magnificent” according to the trends of that era.



*Joseph Haydn spent more than half of his active career here as a composer.*

#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Discover the Old Town of Sopron
- ◆ Take a dip all year round in the spa complexes in Bükfürdő and Sárovar
- ◆ Cycle from one adventure to another around Lake Fertő

You may have seen Festetics Mansion in Dég on the big screen, since it was featured in movies, such as the American thriller *Red Sparrow*, or *Kincsem*, based on the story of the magnificent Hungarian horse.



Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Discover the old town and the winding streets of Székesfehérvár, one of Hungary's richest towns in terms of historical heritage
- ◆ Experience the atmosphere of Renaissance courts in Pipo Palace in Ozora
- ◆ Explore Veszprém Zoo, Hungary's largest zoo outside the capital

# FESTETICS MANSION

DÉG

- ◆ Designed by: Mihály Pollack
- ◆ Date of construction: 1802-1815
- ◆ Construction style: Classicist

**This Classicist palace is located near the south-eastern tip of Lake Balaton, surrounded by the largest and most impressive English park in the country where visitors can wander the gardens for hours.**

One of the earliest Classicist palaces in Hungary was built between 1802 and 1815, commissioned by Antal Festetics and based on the plans of architect Mihály Pollack. Surrounded by the country's largest English garden, it already stood out at the beginning of the 19th century with its size matching New York City's Central Park. The famous red brick Dutch House stands on the central island of its two-kilometre lake system, which also offers fishing (subject to a permit) as a special experience in the beautiful castle park. The historic location also includes a tennis court, which is still used today, providing a unique experience revoking the old times. The singlestorey, U-shaped palace (which also has a basement) is a popular filming location. Since its reconstruction, it will serve as a community cultural space with interactive exhibitions on offer.



# NÁDASDY MANSION

## NÁDASDLADÁNY

- ◆ Designed by: István Linzbauer, Alajos Hauszmann
- ◆ Date of construction: 1873–1880
- ◆ Construction style: Historicist, Neo-Gothic

**One of the most beautiful Hungarian mansion of the age, of Historicism, its Neo-Gothic, Tudor style makes it a true rarity. The Hall of Ancestors is one of the most lavish interiors of Hungary's Historicist palace architecture.**

The turreted Neo-Gothic mansion is a fitting tribute to the deep love between Count Ferenc Nádasdy and Countess Ilona Zichy, while the Hall of Ancestors, featuring the portraits of the great Nádasdy family members, is the most beautiful ancestral portrait gallery in Hungary. The enchanting mansion is adorned with wrought-iron chandeliers, carved wooden furniture and stained-glass windows, while the comfort of its residents was ensured by installing modern fixtures. Period interiors, coupled with digital technology, help visitors to learn about the history of the building and experience life inside the mansion. The garden, where interactive nature trails present the history of the park, as well as its flora and fauna, is open to visitors free of charge.

*According to locals, the iron gates of the mansion gardens used today were made for the Underworld series filmed here, while the upholstery of the furniture inside the mansion and the curtains of the main salon were renewed during the filming of the series The Borgias.*

#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Discover the old town and the winding streets of Székesfehérvár, one of Hungary's richest towns in terms of historical heritage
- ◆ Explore Veszprém Zoo, Hungary's largest zoo outside the capital
- ◆ Discover the bird reserve on Lake Velence

# PIPO PALACE

## OZORA

- ◆ Date of construction: 1416–1426
- ◆ Construction style: Renaissance

The unique exhibitions at Pipo of Ozora's former castle takes visitors back to an age of chivalry, while the ambiance of these Renaissance court-yards can be enjoyed not only by museum visitors, but also by hotel guests.

Filippo Scolari of Florence, King Sigismund's famous Turk-beating knight, fell in love with the daughter of Ozora's landlord, earning him the nickname Pipo of Ozora. He had his Italian-style Late-Gothic castle rebuilt in Renaissance style before the Ottoman occupation. Today, visitors can travel back in time to the age of chivalry when roaming the inner courtyard overgrown with vines, admiring the armoury and the historic rooms upstairs. Other unique features include a special exhibition on the 500-year history of the castle, with a rich array of artefacts discovered during the archaeological explorations and monument research. There are five guest rooms available for visitors at Ozora, which is an excellent starting point for discovering the surrounding area.



*Spend the night in one of the five guest rooms of the castle and travel back in time to the era of chivalry.*



### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Discover the history of our king St. Ladislaus, the founder of the abbey, with a visit to the St. Ladislaus National Memorial Site
- ◆ Discover the Classicist Festetics Palace in Dég and stroll around Hungary's largest English Garden
- ◆ Explore the sights of Tamási, including the Wildlife Park and the DámPont Visitor's Centre!





*Hungary's largest Rococo mural series was created by wandering painter Ferenc Lieb.*

**Attractions and things to do in the area:**

- ◆ Admire the 17-metre-high Veil Waterfall in Szalajka Valley
- ◆ Discover the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Baradla Cave Stalactite in Aggtelek
- ◆ Visit the events organised by Lovagi Tornák Tere (Square of Jousting Tournaments) located in the vicinity of the Castle of Diósgyőr!



## L'HUILLIER-COBURG CASTLE

### EDELÉNY

- ◆ Date of construction: 1716–1730
- ◆ Construction style: Baroque

**The L'Huillier–Coburg Castle on the island of Bódva River is one of Hungary's largest castles, an outstanding monument of the early Baroque architecture, rendered even more special by its rooms decorated with fabulous murals.**

The astounding building and its park can be visited with a guided tour (occasionally in historic costume), and a willow playground awaits children in the 12-hectare garden surrounding the castle. Construction of the castle started in 1716 by the military officer Jean-François L'Huillier, a baron from Lorraine and his wife. Six of its rooms were given a unique atmosphere by the wandering painter Ferenc Lieb, resulting in one of the largest contiguous Rococo murals in Hungary. Today, visitors can explore the history of the castle's builders and inhabitants through a spectacular 3D feature film, while the Museum's educational sessions make learning an enjoyable experience for children.



# CAMALDOLESE HERMITAGE

MAJK

- ◆ Designed by: Franz Anton Pilgram
- ◆ Date of construction: 1733–1771
- ◆ Construction style: Baroque

**Become immersed in the peace of the former Camaldolese hermits living a vow of silence when you visit the monastery and its intimate inner courtyard.**


The building complex is unique in Europe, and lies near a lake surrounded by woodland. In 1727, Count Miklós Esterházy issued an invitation to the hermits of the Camaldolese Order, known for taking a vow of silence. Their memory is preserved by the 17 austere cell-houses surrounding the church steeple and the once was monastery, which was later turned into Esterházy Mansion. Wandering within the walls, which radiate an unusual tranquillity, visitors can experience the peace of the monks living in silence: you can learn about the life and habits of the hermits by stepping into the small, authentically furnished rooms, their ornate refectory or their cells, while the history of the Camaldolese Order in general and in Hungary is presented in the exhibition on the first floor of the convent's main building.

*Visitors can learn about the history of the Camaldolese Order – both in general and specific to Hungary.*



#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Visit Esterházy Palace by the Tata Lake and learn about the Esterházy family
- ◆ Admire the Turul Monument and the nearby Cave Szelim, which is just a few minutes' walk away
- ◆ Discover Central Europe's largest Modern Age fortress in Komárom



*As a token of his friendship, Beethoven dedicated several of his pieces to the Brunszvik family, including his piano sonata in F-minor (“Appassionata”).*

**Attractions and things to do in the area:**

- ◆ Taste the wines and sparkling wines of Etyek in the ancient press houses on Öreghegy and Újhegy
- ◆ Discover the bird reserve on Lake Velence
- ◆ Discover the old town and the winding streets of Székesfehérvár, one of Hungary’s richest towns in terms of historical heritage

# BRUNSZVIK MANOR

## MARTONVÁSÁR

- ◆ Designed by: József Tallher
- ◆ Date of construction: 1784–around 1785/1875
- Construction style: Neo-Gothic

**The crisp white walls, lancet windows, towers and beautiful mouldings of the former aristocratic residence are currently home to the Centre for Agricultural Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, as well as the heartland of Hungary’s Beethoven cult.**

It was built by Count Antal Brunszvik at the end of the 1700s, then rebuilt in its current Historicist, Neo-Gothic style around 1875. The museum and the manor’s breathtaking park make it a popular tourist destination. Beethoven had a close relationship with the Brunszvik family; he stayed in the palace several times as a guest and taught the Brunszvik girls to play the piano. Letters from the era suggest that he had a romantic relationship with Jozefin Brunszvik. These letters, along with other fascinating documents, are exhibited in the Beethoven Memorial Museum housed within the manor. The surrounding idyllic English garden, with its lake and many rare plant species, is worth a visit in itself. One of Hungary’s most beautiful palace gardens, it hosts evening Beethoven concert evenings, every summer.

The Agroverzsum Scientific Experience Centre, a place for spreading knowledge and a scientific playground, is located in the castle park. Its main purpose is to increase the awareness of agricultural sciences, while also providing access to science in a clear, enjoyable and thought-provoking manner.

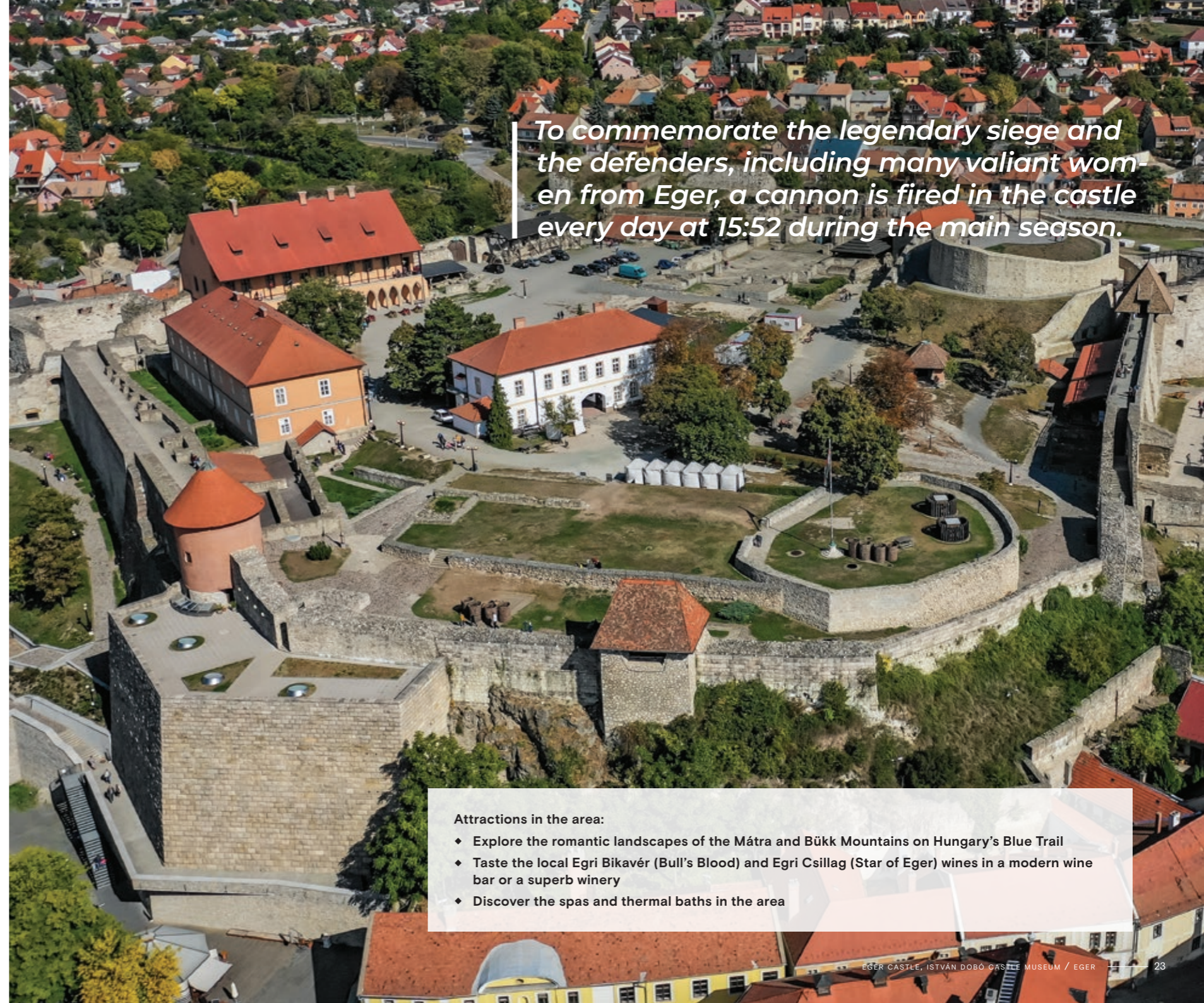
# EGER CASTLE, ISTVÁN DOBÓ CASTLE MUSEUM

EGER

- ◆ Date of construction: Second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ Construction style: Gothic

The legendary castle, where the invading forces of the Ottoman Empire suffered a decisive defeat by the hands of the Hungarian defenders in 1552, lies in the heart of Eger. The history of the siege and the castle itself is shown in an excellent interactive exhibition.

The core of the castle was built in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, following the Tatar invasion. It played a pivotal role in Hungarian history and in 1552, István Dobó successfully warded off the attack by the Sultan's army, despite being outnumbered 30-fold. Each year, the István Dobó Castle Museum is visited by hundreds of thousands of domestic and foreign tourists. Our colourful programme and informative content provide excellent recreation and entertainment opportunities for all ages in all seasons of the year. Visitors can go down into the casemates; look around in the spectacular armoury; choose a guided tour onto the Zárkándy Bastion through the controminas of the casemates, or simply enjoy the beautiful view from the castle walls and the bastions.



*To commemorate the legendary siege and the defenders, including many valiant women from Eger, a cannon is fired in the castle every day at 15:52 during the main season.*

#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Explore the romantic landscapes of the Mátra and Bükk Mountains on Hungary's Blue Trail
- ◆ Taste the local Egri Bikavér (Bull's Blood) and Egri Csillag (Star of Eger) wines in a modern wine bar or a superb winery
- ◆ Discover the spas and thermal baths in the area



# SÁROSPATAK CASTLE – RÁKÓCZI MUSEUM OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

## SÁROSPATAK

- ◆ Date of construction: 16–17<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ Construction style: Renaissance

**Rákóczi Castle is the most treasured example of Hungary's Late-Renaissance architecture and the most important monument in Sárospatak. Visitors at the unique Castle District by the River Bodrog, can enjoy a real-time travel experience back to the Renaissance era.**

The construction of the building complex started after the Battle of Mohács and its heyday was during the time when it was owned by the Rákóczi family. The castle and its gardens are separated by a moat. The outer castle wall, offering a fantastic view of the River Bodrog and the castle building, is also open to visitors. The focal point – and the oldest structure in the castle – is the five-storey Red Tower. The permanent exhibition entitled by The Glorious Age of the Rákóczi Dynasty presents the family's history, as well as its rich historical and cultural heritage, while temporary exhibitions are also held at this unique site. Its series of events called "Siege Weekend" is full of excitement, featuring military re-enactment shows and craft demonstrations.

#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Discover the Tokaj wine region and take part in a vineyard tour
- ◆ Take a walk across the Bridge of National Unity connecting Szárhegy and Várhegy.
- ◆ Take part in a kayaking or canoeing expedition on the River Bodrog

*You can admire the period furnishings and intact decorative elements of the castle interior.*

*This is where you'll find the largest knights' hall in Central Europe from the era of Louis the Great.*

## CASTLE OF DIÓSGYÖR MISKOLC

- ◆ Date of construction: 14<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ Construction style: Gothic
- ◆ Scheduled opening: 2025

**The Gothic castle, built by King Louis the Great in the 14th century, stands on a rocky hill rising from the valley of the Szinva stream at the foot of the Bükk Mountains.**

It is also referred to as the "Castle of Queens", since it served for over 100-years as the residence of several queens, endowed to them as a wedding gift and used as their countryside retreat. The castle has come alive once again after the reconstruction and historical re-enactments. Jousting tournaments, tours by guides, weapon shows and archery; the Castle of Diósgyőr and the adjacent Square of Jousting Tournaments offer.

#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Conquer the most majestic summits of Hungary's Blue Trail
- ◆ Take a dip in the Ellipsum Adventure and Outdoor Bath
- ◆ Enjoy the adventures of Lillafüred, take the chair-lift to Jávorhegy or go boating on Lake Hámori

# SIROK CASTLE

## SIROK

- ◆ Date of construction: 13<sup>th</sup> century

**Hungary's most enchanting stone fortress overlooks the River Tarna and the village of Sirok in a picturesque setting. An exciting and romantic adventure awaits its visitors.**

The fortress, crowning the Castle Hill and surrounded by the forests of the Bükk and Mátra Mountains, was carved into the cliff and built on top of it by our ancestors. This truly amazing edifice can be approached on a hiking path that is rather steep in parts, but is worth the effort. The huge ducts, stairs and halls formed in the belly of the rhyolitic tuff hill can also be explored, while the mysterious windows of the cells carved in the hill and of the extensive casemate system look out over the path leading to the castle. The permanent exhibition of the fortress takes visitors back to the era of the Ottoman occupation. Instead of paying homage to the valiant Hungarian in the border fortress soldiers, unusually it evokes the everyday life of the Ottoman guards who lived here between 1596 and 1686. The view from the castle offers a breathtaking panorama.

#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Follow the traces of Ottoman culture in Eger
- ◆ Admire the 17-metre-high Veil Waterfall in Szalajka Valley
- ◆ Get to know the UNESCO World Heritage listed culture at the Matyó Museum in Mezőkövesd

*The fortress sits on top of the steep volcanic Castle Hill.*

# SZIGLIGET CASTLE

## SZIGLIGET

◆ Date of construction: 14-17<sup>th</sup> century

**The only castle around Balaton that is open to visitors, Szigliget Castle is often referred to as the “Castle of Balaton”. The bastions of the 750-year-old castle ruins offer a stunning view of the azure lake and the Tapolca Basin.**

A visit to Szigliget Castle, including its Baroque kitchen, armoury and chapel, is on the agenda of every summer holidaymaker in Lake Balaton. Its permanent exhibitions present the eventful history of the castle. In 1260, Szigliget was given to the Benedictines of Pannonhalma by King Béla IV, but then was exchanged for another estate. The fate of the fortress, which even withstood the attacks of the Ottoman forces, was sealed by a lightning strike at the end of the 17th century: most of the castle was burnt down and the rubble was taken away by the locals to be used as building material. The walls have been gradually rebuilt by archaeologists over the last 30 years, mostly using stones from the demolished village houses, so the original building materials are returned to their rightful place. New, modern attractions have been added, since 2021, new exhibitions have been opened in the covered halls of the upper castle, presenting the history of the castle and its surroundings.

*The bastions of the castle offer a breathtaking view of the azure lake and the Tapolca Basin.*

### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Explore Keszthely's Baroque Festetics Palace
- ◆ Go boating in the unique Tapolca Lake Cave
- ◆ Take a dip in Lake Hévíz, Europe's largest thermal lake



The popular TV series "A Tenkes kapitánya" (The Captain of the Outlaws) is set during the era of Rákóczi's War of Independence and the Castle of Siklós was used as the stronghold of the enemy, loyal to the Habsburgs.

Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Discover the monuments of bygone ages and the diverse cultural scene in Pécs
- ◆ Relax and recharge in Harkány, in one of the oldest traditional spas
- ◆ Taste the elegant red wines of the Villány Wine Region

# SIKLÓS CASTLE

## SIKLÓS

- ◆ Date of construction: about 1260
- ◆ Construction style: Late Gothic/Renaissance

The Castle of Siklós is one of Hungary's most intact historical buildings. Its foundations were laid in the Middle Ages, but its architecture bears the marks of several styles. Its popularity was further enhanced by the fact that Hungary's iconic TV series "A Tenkes kapitánya" (The Captain of the Outlaws) was filmed here.

Hungary's most intact castle was built after the invasion of the Tatars. It exchanged hands many times over hundreds of years after the 14th century. Noblewoman Dorottya Kanizsai, remembered forever for burying the dead after the Battle of Mohács, lived here for several years as the wife of palatine Imre Perényi, the owner of the castle. Visitors today can choose from a range of history-related activities. In addition to the exhibition on the history of the castle and a medieval military exhibition, there is a wine museum; a dungeon, where some of the items can be tested; a Gothic bay window, which is considered a real master-piece of stonemasonry; Dorottya Kanizsai's unique prayer niche and rose garden; and the castle chapel. The terrace offers a magnificent view over the nearby hills, while the eastern wing is home to temporary exhibitions.





# GYULA CASTLE

## GYULA

- ◆ Date of construction: 15<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ Construction style: Gothic

The formidable brick castle, which used to be one of the strongest border fortresses in Hungary, looks impressive even from a distance. These days it is home to exhibitions and events, including the summer performances of the Gyula Castle Theatre.

Its robust and angular structure makes Gyula Castle a truly unique attraction, as the only intact Gothic brick castle in Hungary and Central Europe built on flat land. It has 24 exhibition rooms, among them a dungeon, blacksmith's and potter's work-shops, period suites, wine bar and chapel, revealing how people lived and fought in the Middle Ages. Apart from the exhibitions, visitors are welcome to take part in tours led by costumed guides or watch falconry shows. During larger events, the blacksmith's forge is lit and the potter's wheels spin.

*In 1566, it withstood the attack of the Ottoman army for a record 63 days.*



### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Try the famous “gyulai” and “csabai” sausages, named after the towns of Gyula and Békéscsaba
- ◆ Explore the enchanting oxbow lakes of the Körös rivers in a kayak
- ◆ Relive the 19th century Romantic era through Munkácsy's paintings in Békéscsaba



# ALMÁSY MANSION

## GYULA

- ◆ Date of construction: around 1740/1766/1801-1810
- ◆ Construction style: Baroque, Neo-Baroque

*Visitors can learn about the everyday life of the mansion servants.*

**Almásy Mansion and its nature conservation park is an ideal family location. The interactive museum exhibition offers a unique experience since it combines modern technology (such as a holoprojector) with classical attractions demonstrating, for example, how the bed was warmed before it was used by the count of the house.**

Visitors are treated to a fascinating experience through the modern interactive exhibition, which reveals interesting details about the everyday life of the masters and their servants. The lookout tower offers a magnificent panoramic view of the surroundings. Part of the gate tower, known as the Turkish Tower, is used as an escape room. In addition, family-friendly programmes await visitors, such as candle-lit exhibitions or guided tours for young children, making the stay at the castle an entertaining experience for all ages. The mansion is famous for several historic events: ten of the 13 Arad Martyrs laid down their weapons here, Ferenc Erkel composed sections of several of his operas in the mansion's park and Mihály Munkácsy used to work here as an apprentice painter. In 1746, a play was performed within the mansion walls – the first one of its kind Hungarian establishment to host an event like this.

# ESTERHÁZY PALACE

## TATA

- ◆ Designed by: Jakab Fellner
- ◆ Date of construction: 1765–1777
- ◆ Construction style: Baroque

**Esterházy Palace, overlooking the Lake Öreg (Old), is a unique treasure of Hungary's built heritage. Visited by famous monarchs, it was also home to events of national importance.**

The Late-Baroque palace, overlooking Tata's lake, has undergone a complete monument reconstruction and regained its former glory. Visitors can admire the luxurious suites and learn about the history, diplomatic relations and aristocratic lifestyle of the Esterházy family through interactive exhibitions. A separate exhibition is dedicated to events related to diplomacy. Its famous palace theatre was designed by Fellner and Helmer, who also designed the Vígsház in Budapest and the Konzerthaus in Vienna. Guests at the palace included King Francis I, Queen Consort Maria Ludovika of Austria-Este, Franz Joseph I and German Emperor Wilhelm II. Another interesting fact is that the Treaty of Schönbrunn between Austria and Napoleon's France was signed here. The room was later tiled and used as a mental hospital ward, since the palace functioned as a psychiatric institution until 1996. Today, the palace's main building, courtyard and garden serve as an exquisite venue for various events.

### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Discover the history of the Camaldolese Order in Majk
- ◆ Admire the Turul Monument and the nearby Cave Szelim, which can be reached with a few minutes' walk
- ◆ Discover Central Europe's largest Modern Age fortress in Komárom



*Gustav Klimt created a painting of the auditorium of the palace's theatre.*



# TATA CASTLE

## TATA

- ◆ Date of construction: 1397–1409
- ◆ Construction style: Renaissance

**The architecture of Tata Castle, the town's most prominent symbol, bears the hallmarks of six centuries. A former popular holiday destination of the royals, its red roof is an iconic feature of the Lake Öreg area.**

A small fort was built here in the 14th century by palatine István Lackfi, who was later beheaded for treason, meaning that Tata was confiscated by Sigismund of Luxembourg.

The king had a larger castle built and enjoyed spending time here, since it was a convenient place to retire to during the popular hunting expeditions in the area. It was rebuilt by King Matthias with a Renaissance interior. One of the beautiful green and mixed-colour glazed tile stoves was reconstructed based on the original finds, evoking the glorious heyday of Tata Castle. Today the castle houses the permanent local history and other thematic exhibitions of the Kuny Domokos Museum.

*Tata Castle and its surroundings are featured several times in episode 5 of the TV series "The Witcher" from 2019, with Lake Öreg briefly visible.*

# FÜZÉR CASTLE

## FÜZÉR

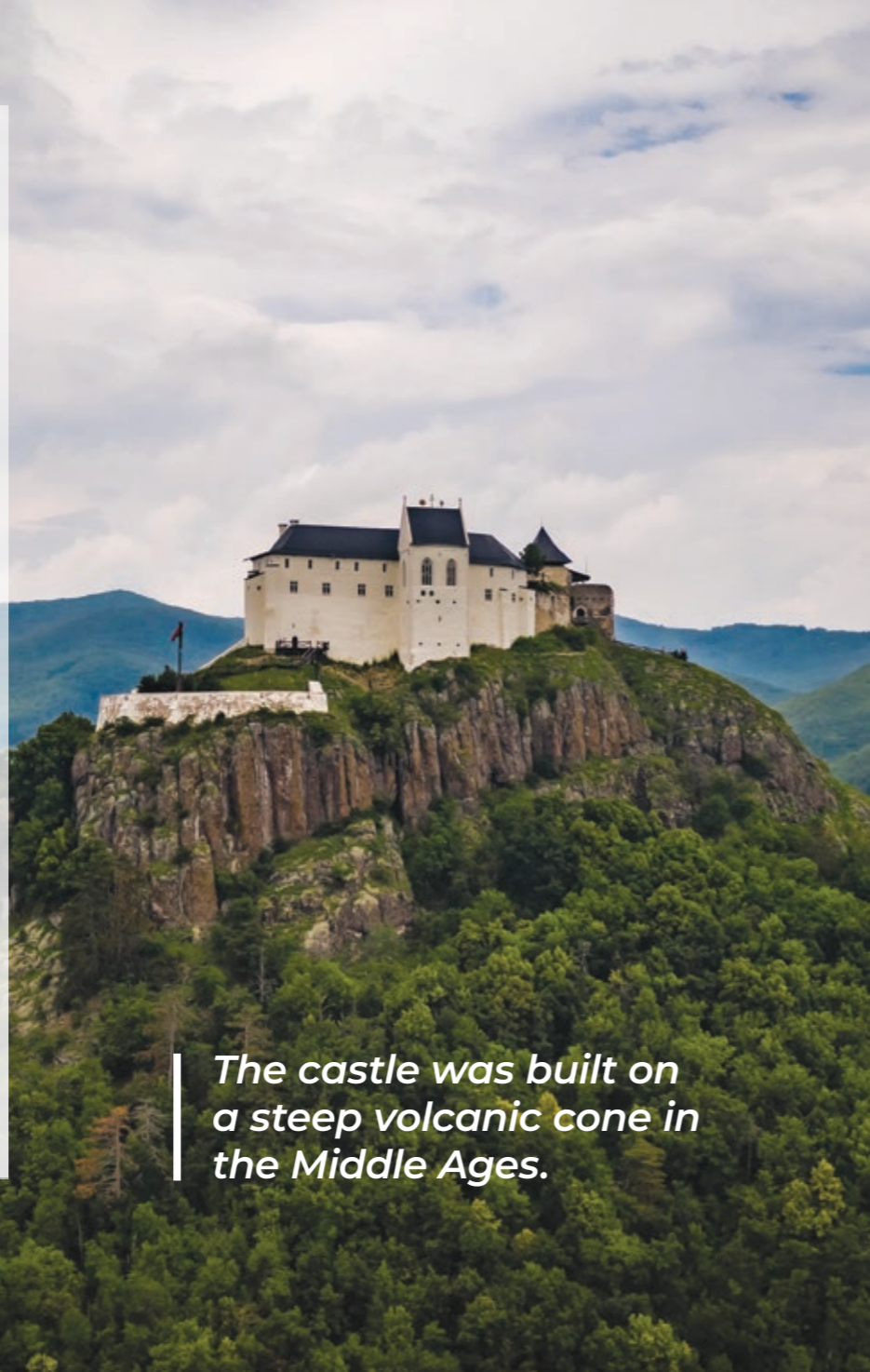
- ◆ Date of construction: 13–17<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ Construction style: Gothics

Since medieval times, the crisp white walls of Fuzer Castle have been standing on top of Castle Hill – one of the seven natural wonders of Hungary – located in the easternmost corner of the Zemplén Mountains.

Füzér Castle is one of the few landowners' castles that is most likely to have been erected before the Mongol invasion, probably by a member of the Aba clan.

It underwent a major renovation between 2014 and 2016, when the Lower Castle was reconstructed and the chapel, palace wing and lower bastion of the Upper Castle were refurbished. Its history and breath-taking beauty make it a popular hiking destination, since it lies on Hungary's Blue Trail. Visitors can learn about the history of the castle from experienced guides, who also provide information about how people lived in the Middle Ages, introduce the owners of the castle and explain why Füzér is considered to be one of the most picturesque castles in Hungary.

*The castle was built on a steep volcanic cone in the Middle Ages.*



# KÁROLYI PALACE

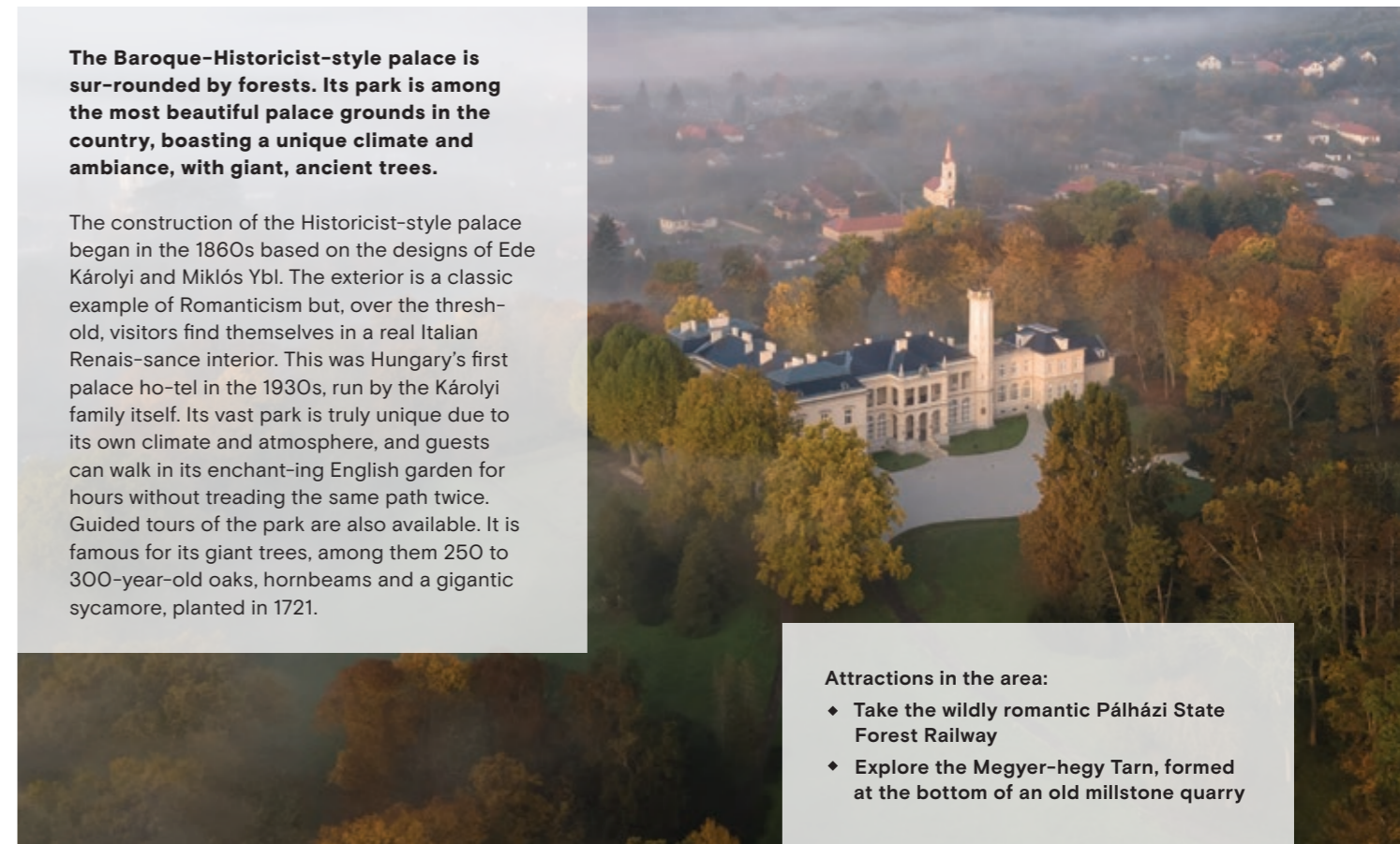
## FÜZÉRRADVÁNY

- ◆ Designed by: Miklós Ybl, Ede Károlyi
- ◆ Date of construction: Late 16<sup>th</sup> century mid-18<sup>th</sup> century/second half of the 1880s
- ◆ Construction style: Baroque, Historicist

The Baroque–Historicist–style palace is surrounded by forests. Its park is among the most beautiful palace grounds in the country, boasting a unique climate and ambiance, with giant, ancient trees.

The construction of the Historicist-style palace began in the 1860s based on the designs of Ede Károlyi and Miklós Ybl. The exterior is a classic example of Romanticism but, over the threshold, visitors find themselves in a real Italian Renaissance interior. This was Hungary's first palace hotel in the 1930s, run by the Károlyi family itself. Its vast park is truly unique due to its own climate and atmosphere, and guests can walk in its enchanting English garden for hours without treading the same path twice. Guided tours of the park are also available. It is famous for its giant trees, among them 250 to 300-year-old oaks, hornbeams and a gigantic sycamore, planted in 1721.

*The building, redesigned by Miklós Ybl, later became the country's first palace hotel.*



Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Take the wildly romantic Pálházi State Forest Railway
- ◆ Explore the Megyer-hegy Tarn, formed at the bottom of an old millstone quarry

# SÜMEG CASTLE

## SÜMEG

- ◆ Date of construction: Second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century

**A sümegi vár az ország egyik legszebb középkori erődje. Dacolja a történelem viszontagságaival, ma is impozáns látványt nyújt, ahogy a magasan kiemelkedő hegytetőről uralja környezetét.**

Sümege Castle is one of Hungary's largest and most intact medieval forts, embraced by a beautiful landscape. Although the town was occupied by the Turks several times, the attackers were never able to conquer its fortress. It is among the most popular hiking destinations in the Balaton Uplands, where every summer, buzzing castle games are held as a tribute to the central role it filled in the Middle Ages. Thanks to its permanent exhibitions, visitors can take a peek into the world of medieval dungeons, the bishop's suite and the chamber, the castle chapel, the wheelwright's shop and the blacksmith, the herb and rose gardens, the cannons and other weapons. Although it is undergoing continuous renovation and reconstruction, it remains open to visitors.

#### Attractions and things to do in the area:

- ◆ Explore Keszthely's Baroque Festetics Palace
- ◆ Taste local wines from the vineyards of the Badacsony wine region
- ◆ Go boating in the unique Tapolca Lake Cave



*The immensely popular Knight Tournaments, which also feature Mongolian horseback stuntmen, are held at the foot of the castle.*

*Its chapel and the upstairs halls are decorated with stuccos, while other parts of the interior are adorned with wooden ornamentation.*

# BISHOP'S PALACE

## SÜMEG

- ◆ Designed by: Paul Mojser
- ◆ Date of construction: 1748-1753
- ◆ Construction style: Baroque

**The Bishop's Palace, erected in the mid-18th century, is a masterpiece of Hungary's Baroque architecture. Its invaluable architectural and artistic heritage is an important memento of Sümege's heyday.**

When Márton Bíró de Padány became the Bishop of Veszprém, he chose Sümege as his seat. His palace, located on the side of Castle Hill, was built in a style reminiscent of Baroque architecture and he invited artists to decorate the new building. Many of the Historicist decorative paintings, added in the first decades of the 20th century, are still visible today. The halls of the palace are home to permanent and temporary fine art exhibitions, and visitors can also admire the bishop's private chapel dedicated to St. Martin.



# ROYAL PALACE

## VISEGRÁD

- ◆ Építés ideje: 14. és 15. század között
- ◆ Építés stílusa: reneszánsz

*The Visegrád International Palace Games, held in the Royal Palace every summer, are sure to entertain visitors.*

**One of the largest and most beautiful buildings from medieval Hungary, the Royal Palace bears the hallmarks of the Mediterranean Renaissance and its garden is decorated with popular plants and flowers of the era.**

The construction of the palace was finished by Sigismund of Luxembourg in the first years of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The orchard, which is almost as big as the palace itself, was also created by Sigismund. There is a fountain in the middle of the garden and a walk among the fragrant roses, herbs and fruit trees is a truly relaxing experience. After marrying Beatrice of Naples, King

#### Attractions in the area:

- ◆ Take a boat ride to the Danube Bend and discover the jewels of the region
- ◆ Explore Hungary's tallest church, the Esztergom Cathedral
- ◆ Discover Szentendre, the city of artists, and visit its museums and galleries

Matthias invited the masters of Italian Renaissance to Visegrád. The fountains, statues, loggia and the beautiful garden evoke the atmosphere of the era.

#### VISEGRÁD, SOLOMON TOWER

The 13<sup>th</sup> century keep, which is part of the double castle system, has a structure unique to that era in Hungary's architecture: its main entrance is on the first floor. The permanent exhibition in the Salamon Tower presents Visegrád's history from the prehistoric period to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



# CITADEL

## VISEGRÁD

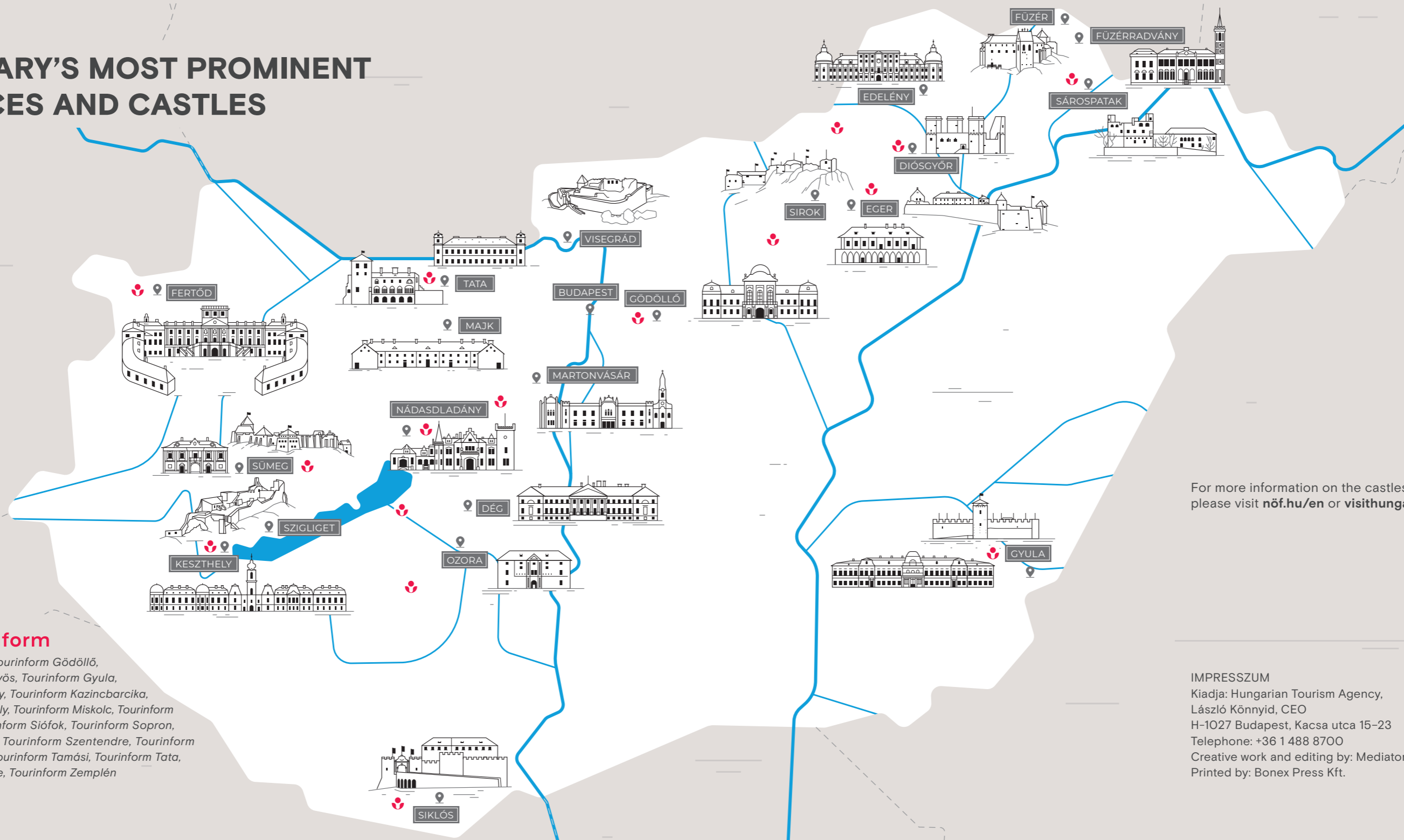
- ◆ Date of construction: between the 14th and 15th centuries
- ◆ Construction style: Renaissance

**A former royal seat and the iconic feature of the Danube Bend, the Citadel is a prominent relic of Hungary's castle architecture. Built in the 13th century, its breath-taking panorama has been captivating visitors for centuries.**

During the Middle Ages, it served as one of the main residences of Hungary's rulers and during the reign of Sigismund of Luxembourg, the Hungarian Coronation Insignia were also kept here. Even the crown was hidden in its dungeon, before Elizabeth of Luxembourg had it stolen by one of her courtiers in 1440 so that her infant son, Ladislaus V,

could be crowned with it. The fortress consists of a lower castle, a citadel built on a 328-metre hill and a water bastion. It is home to several fascinating exhibitions primarily related to medieval history, such as the exhibition about the Holy Crown, the history of the citadel and its weaponry, as well as the Wax Museum, which brings to life the famous congress of the kings held in 1335. Outdoor events, for example medieval weapon and falconry shows, are also held in its courtyard. The most memorable experience, however, is provided by walking onto its terrace to take in the magnificent view over the Danube Bend.

# HUNGARY'S MOST PROMINENT PALACES AND CASTLES



For more information on the castles and palaces, please visit [nof.hu/en](http://nof.hu/en) or [visithungary.com](http://visithungary.com).



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