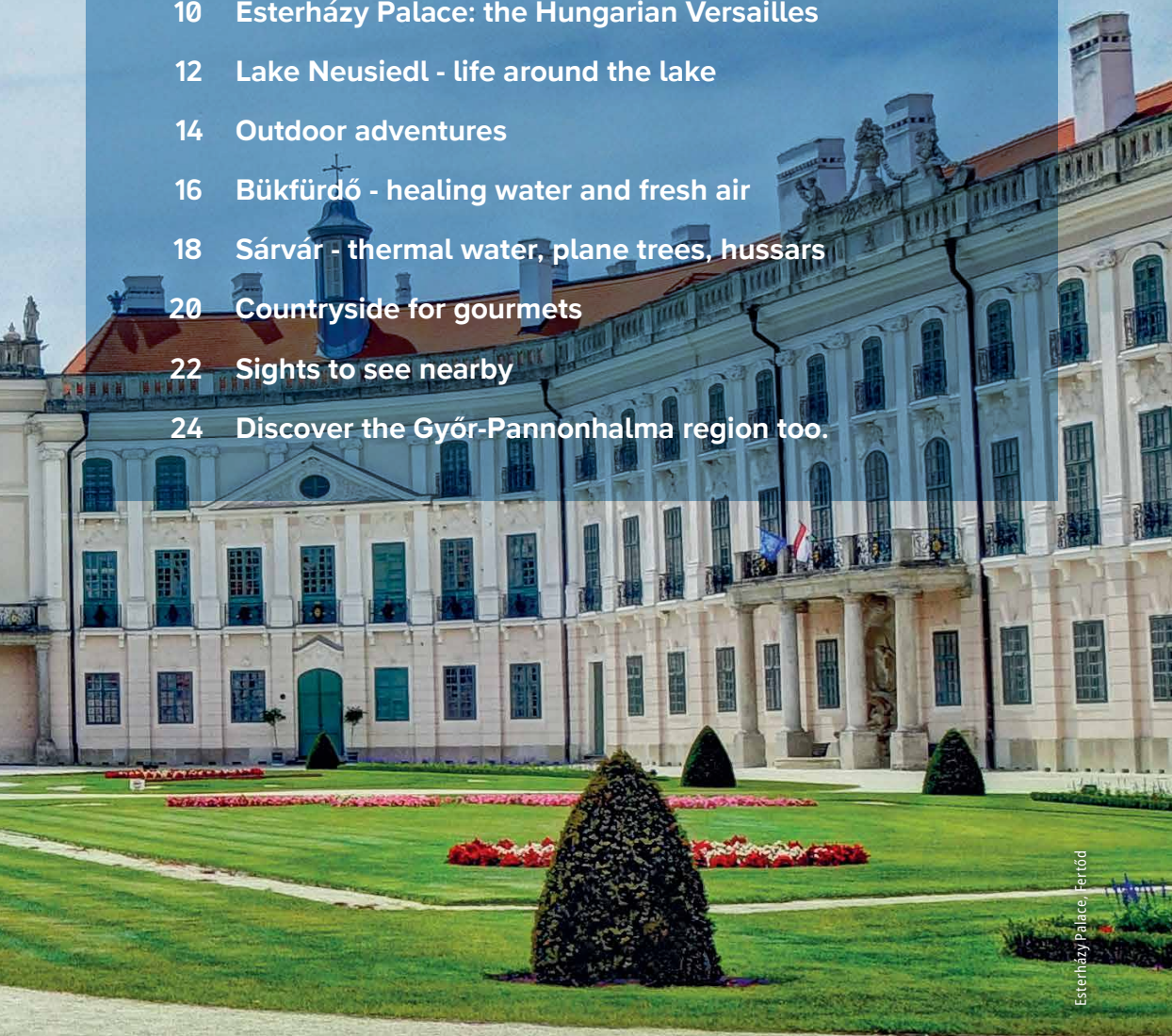


# Treasures of **SOPRON REGION, BÜK AND SÁRVÁR**





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Esterházy Palace, Fertőd

## TREASURES OF SOPRON REGION, BÜK AND SÁRVÁR

Don't miss the natural treasures and built heritage of the northwestern tip of Hungary. Sopron's Baroque city centre from the top of the Fire Tower. Lake Neusiedl reed beds at dawn; Nádasdy Castle's mural and stucco-adorned banquet hall; Fabulous palace gardens from the windows of luxurious aristocratic rooms.

Admire the Classicist, Rococo and Baroque palaces and let yourself be dazzled by their magnificent banquet halls and courtyards.

However, the Sopron-Neusiedl and Bük-Sárovar region boasts more than just eye-catching experiences.

Just listen! The strains of Haydn concerts are spilling forth from Esterházy Palace. In Fertőrákos, the melodies from a musical are reverberating around the cave walls. If you go cycling at Lake Neusiedl or peer across the lake from a solar-powered boat, you will be amazed by the "choir" of Central Europe's largest bird sanctuary.

Feel it on your skin! The warm caress of the thermal water in Sárovar or Bükfürdő. A massage from bark and pebbles on the barefoot path near the Károly Lookout.

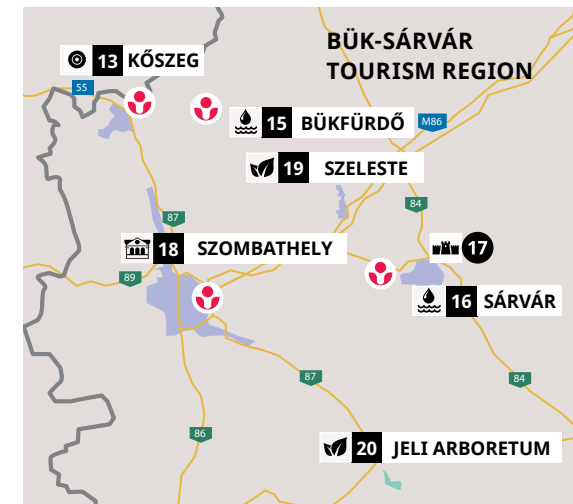
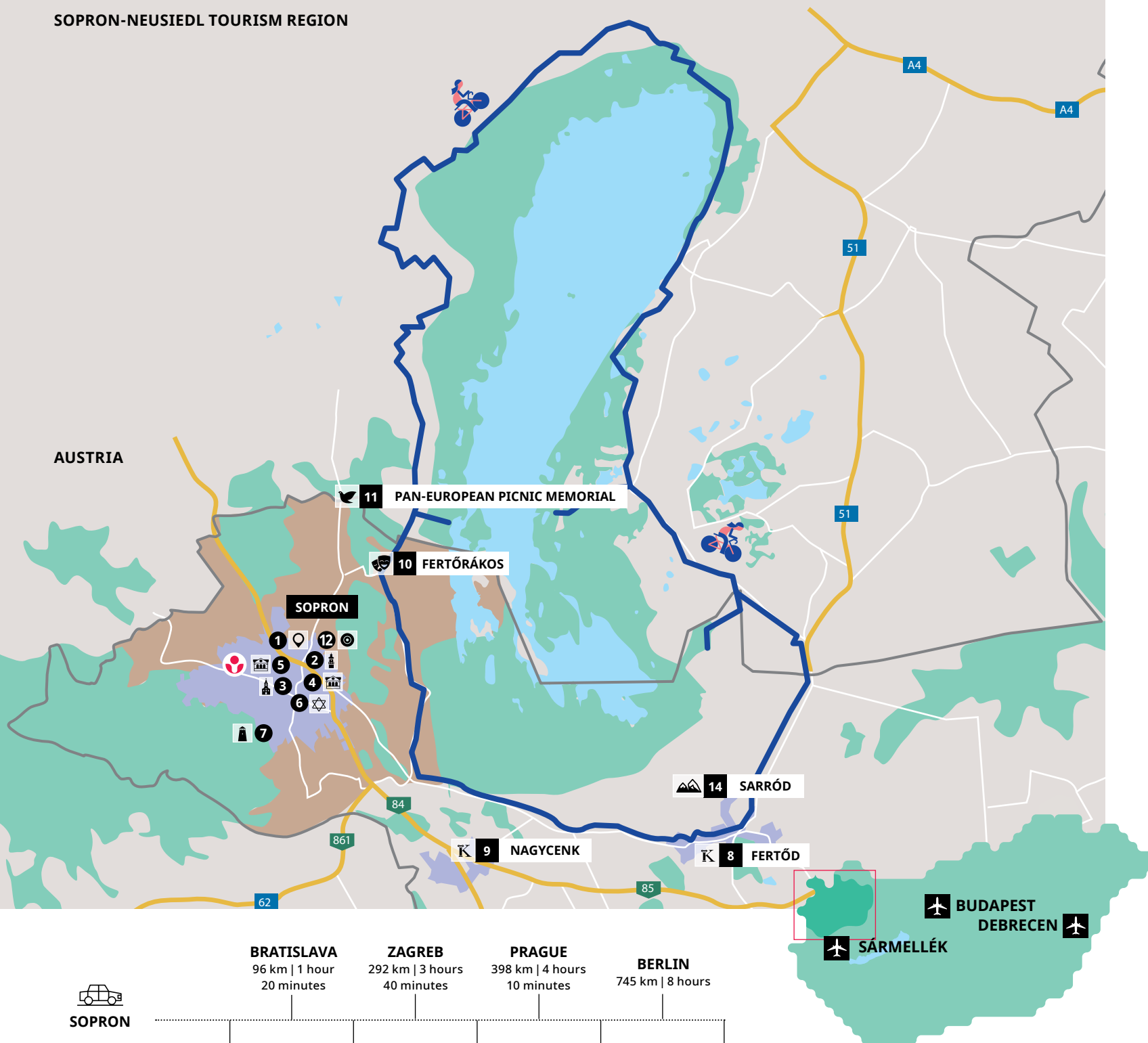
Breathe in! The crystal clear air of the Lővérek. The 200-year-old acacias at the Sárovar Arboretum. The smell of steam taking you back to the past at the Széchenyi Museum Railway.

Try it! Fruity Soproni Kékfrankos. The Sopron chocolate workshop's world-beating apricot delicacy. Vegetable-rich pork and bean soup.

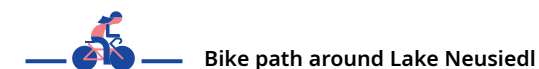
Travel with your family or friends, in winter or summer. This brochure gives you plenty of reasons to explore the region all year round.



## SOPRON-NEUSIEDL TOURISM REGION



1. Fő tér, Sopron
2. Fire Tower, Sopron
3. Goat Church, Sopron
4. Storno House, Sopron
5. Fabricius House, Sopron
6. Old Synagogue, Sopron
7. Károly Lookout Ecotourism Visitor Centre, Sopron
8. Esterházy Palace, Fertőd
9. Széchenyi Palace, Nagycenk
10. Fertőrákosi Kőfejtő és Barlangszínház (Fertőrákos Quarry and Cave Theatre)
11. Pan-European Picnic Memorial, Fertőrákos
12. Historic centre, Sopron
13. Historic centre, Kőszeg
14. Fertő-Hanság National Park, Sarród
15. Bükfürdő Thermal & Spa, Bükfürdő
16. Sárvár Spa and Wellness Centre, Sárvár
17. Nádasdy Castle, Sárvár
18. Iseum Savariense Archaeological Workshop and Repository, Szombathely
19. Szeleste Arboretum
20. Jeli Arboretum





# FIVE UNMISSABLE EXPERIENCES



## DISCOVER SOPRON'S OLD TOWN

Within the city walls, you can stroll along streets lined with Baroque houses or look down on the city from the Fire Tower. You can learn about the everyday life of the bourgeoisie of the age in the Fabricius House or admire the imposing sacred heritage in the Goat church, the early Gothic Old Synagogue, the Old Synagogue and the Árpád-era Church of St Michael.

## PEDAL FROM EXPERIENCE TO EXPERIENCE AROUND LAKE NEUSIEDL

The 115-km adventure - you can take a short-cut by boat - stretches along bike-friendly roads and on flat terrain. A lookout point in Fertőboz, Il-lmütz's family-friendly lakeside and Rust's wonderful old town will tempt you to get off the saddle the saddle for a while.

## WANDER AROUND THE ESTERHÁZY FAMILY'S SPLENDID PALACE

Central Europe's third largest Baroque-Rococo Palace complex is located in Fertőd. Thanks to the noble family's passion for the arts, you can enjoy 126 richly decorated rooms and the beautiful gardens with their puppet theatre and concert hall, a venue for classical music even to this day.



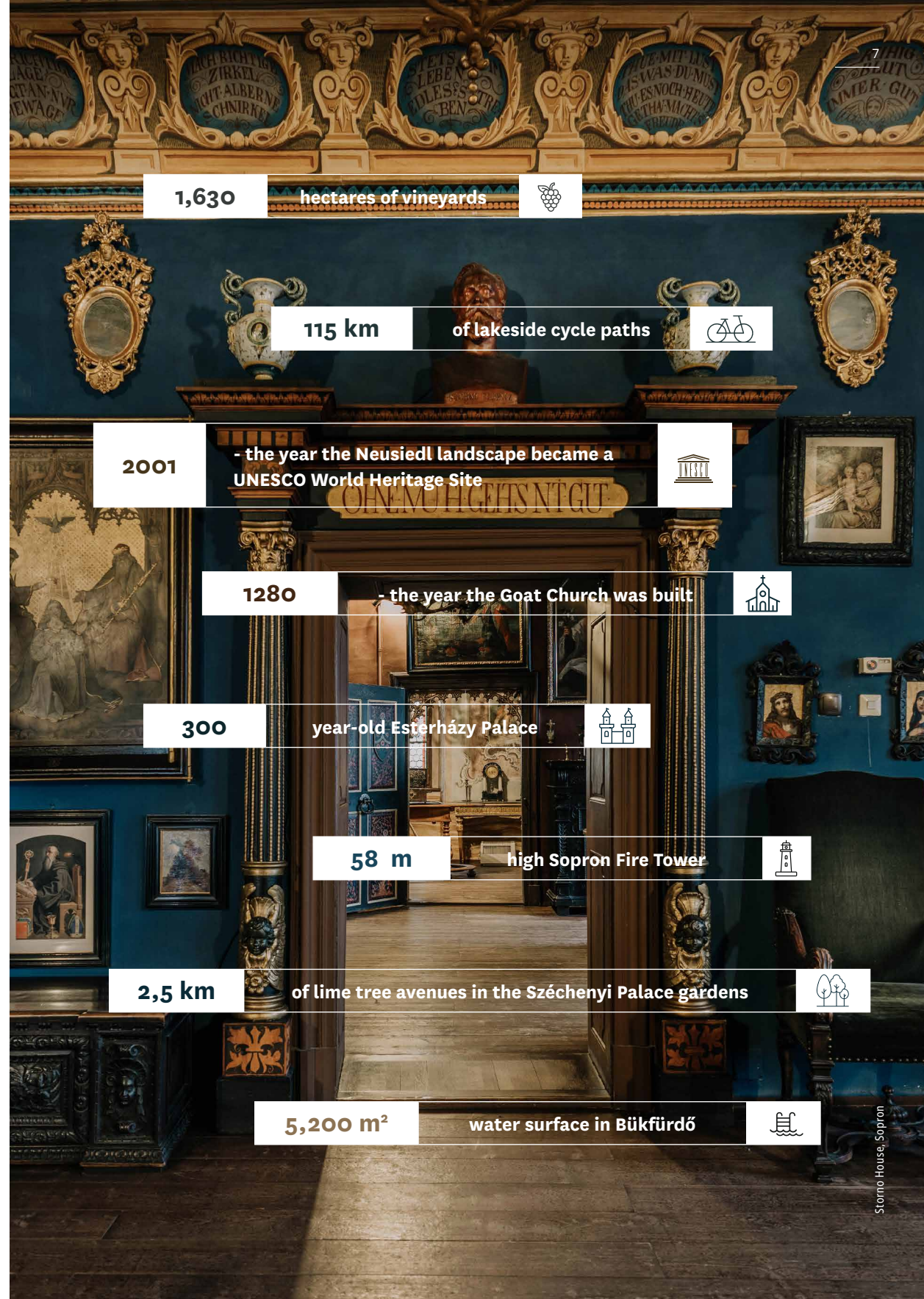
## DIVE, SLIDE AND SPLASH SUMMER OR WINTER

At the spa complexes of Bükfűrdő and Sárovar, there are thousands of square metres of pools. Although first built because of the thermal springs, their outdoor and indoor leisure pools, slides and sauna worlds offer the perfect opportunity to relax for families, couples and groups of friends.



## DISCOVER THE THOUSAND FACES OF SOPRONI KÉKFRANKOS

Kékfrankos is the most widely planted grape variety in Hungary. It can be found in almost every wine region yet is most closely associated with Sopron. Most local wineries produce fresh, light, fruity wines, although there are plenty of aged, concentrated styles too.



1,630

hectares of vineyards



115 km

of lakeside cycle paths



2001

- the year the Neusiedl landscape became a UNESCO World Heritage Site



1280

- the year the Goat Church was built



300

year-old Esterházy Palace



58 m

high Sopron Fire Tower



2,5 km

of lime tree avenues in the Széchenyi Palace gardens



5,200 m²

water surface in Bükfűrdő





# Bastion of the bourgeoisie – Sopron's historic centre

Walk around the Old Town on the City Wall Promenade and then get lost in the maze of winding streets leading between the Baroque houses. If you head for the 58-metre-high Fire Tower, symbol of the city, then you will soon emerge in Főter, the Main Square.

The top of the tower, rebuilt in 1680, affords a magnificent view, not only of the city centre but also of the Lővérek, a hillside dotted with villas. The oldest statue of the Holy Trinity in Hungary stands in the middle of the square. The imposing Goat Church was built in 1280. Its monastery is famed for its chapter hall, which is considered the most beautiful piece of Gothic architecture in the country, can be found on the far side of the square. The buildings surrounding the Main Square also conceal other treasures: a collection of antique furniture and ornaments in the Storno family's former home, an exhibition of archeology and civic life at the Fabricius House and an Exhibition of the Year at the award-winning children's museum in the Eggenberg House.

Of the four quiet streets leading off the Main Square, the deceptively named Új utca (New Street) is definitely worth a wander. Here you will find the Gothic-style Old Synagogue, unique in Central Europe, with its ornate Torah room and ritual bath.

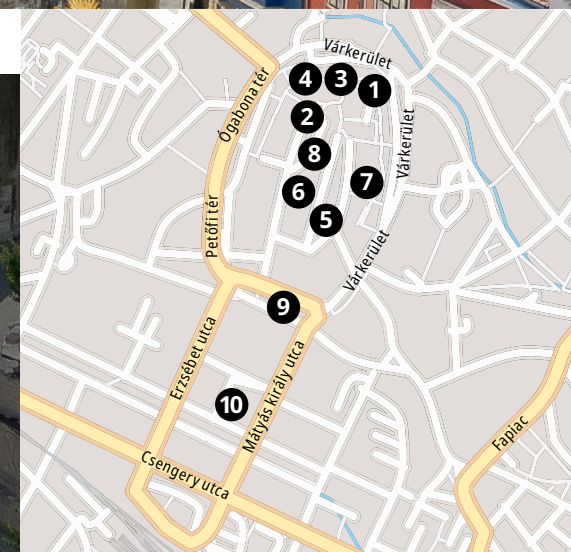
Once you have had your fill of the sights, relax in one of the cafés and confectioners on Széchenyi tér or on the second longest square in Europe, Deák tér.

## CIVITAS FIDELISSIMA

Why is Sopron known as the Faithful City? The Treaty of Trianon was supposed to lead to Sopron and its surroundings becoming part of Austria, but insurgents, mostly university students, literally fought for a referendum. In 1921, the city declared with a 72.8% majority that it wanted to remain part of Hungary.

## SOPRON'S CITY CENTRE

1. Tűztorony (Fire Tower)
2. Goat Church
3. Storno house
4. Fabricius house
5. Eggenberg House
6. Ó-Zsinagóga (Old Synagogue)
7. St George's Church
8. The start of the Castle Wall Promenade, Bunker köz
9. Széchenyi tér
10. Deák tér



## VOLT FESTIVAL – FROM HARD ROCK TO JAZZ

With its diverse music and programmes, this has developed into one of Europe's best medium-sized festivals over the past 20 years, attracting 150,000 partygoers and countless star acts from all over the continent each summer.



# Esterházy Palace: the Hungarian Versailles

Visit Fertőd: as you pass through its three-gated main entrance, you will enter the fascinating world of the 18th-century Baroque. The ornamental courtyard surrounded by the castle wings makes a wonderful backdrop for photos, with its richly carved fountains, lawn adorned with thousands of flowers and decorative staircase ornamented with cherubs.

The Esterházy family had no less than 126 rooms at their disposal in this magnificent building. Explore the Rococo-style rooms, notably the "Chinese Room" and the upstairs ballroom with its adjoining auditorium. Dozens of classical and pop concerts preserve the palace's traditions; Joseph Haydn himself was once its court composer.

Continue your journey of discovery along the gardens' fan-shaped avenues towards the chapels, devotional statues, the former riding school, museum and puppet theatre.



## SZÉCHENYI PALACE THE HOME OF THE "GREATEST HUNGARIAN"

The romantic past of the Széchenyi family is evoked by the early Classicist palace in Nagycenk, one of the most magnificent works of palace architecture in Hungary. The members of the family built reputations as politicians, statesmen, pontiffs and soldiers, in recognition of which they were awarded the title of Count. The best known is István Széchenyi, whom we know as one of the creators of modern Hungary.

The beautiful Baroque garden is not only adorned with flowers but also tulip trees, ironwoods, Himalayan pines and Caucasian fir trees. Perhaps its most outstanding feature, however, is the 2.5 km-long, double avenue of lime trees.

## FERTŐRÁKOS BISHOP'S PALACE: BISHOPS' RESIDENCE

The palace in Fertőrákos, rebuilt several times, has served as the residence of the bishops of Győr since the Árpád era. In addition to the single-storey, Rococo-style building, there is also an ornamental Baroque garden, while a little further along Fő utca, you can visit a church dating from the Middle Ages.



# Lake Neusiedl – life around the lake

As well as being the habitat for rare plant and animal species, this landscape still preserves the centuries-old traditions of viticulture, animal husbandry, fishing and crafts. It is no wonder that it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.



## CENTRAL EUROPE'S LARGEST BIRD SANCTUARY

One of Lake Neusiedl's unusual characteristics is that the part of its water surface located in Hungary is 80% covered by reeds, so its inner lakes have been made accessible by a 240 km network of canals. The dense reeds make the Neusiedl landscape a paradise for waterfowl: 250 species can be found here. If you pause for a moment, you may see an egret, a sedge warbler or even a bald eagle.

## FERTŐ-HANSÁG NATIONAL PARK

The nature reserve tempts you to explore its parks, botanical gardens, wetlands, salt-marshes, kurgans, hillforts and, of course, its rich fauna. Take out a canoe for some morning bird-watching, or eye the scenery and wildlife from a solar-powered electric boat. If you are lucky, you may also catch a glimpse of some native species such as Hungarian grey cattle, buffalo or racka sheep.

## KÓCSAGVÁR

Start your tour in Sarród, one of the largest cluster of thatched buildings in Hungary. You can get tips here on what to do, rent a bicycle, browse in the gift shop and learn about the area's flora and fauna on a nature trail.

## LÁSZLÓMAJOR

Near Sarród, at the former Esterházy estate, ancient Hungarian crafts are presented in an interactive way. Families can see grey cattle, domestic buffalo and mangalica pigs in their pens, while children will also enjoy doing the puzzles along the nature trail.

## CONCERTS, PREHISTORIC ANIMALS AND NATURE TRAIL IN ONE PLACE

You can enjoy a unique theatre and concert experience in the auditorium of the Fertőrákos Quarry and Cave Theatre, while in the Theme Park, located in the depths of the cave, you can also find life-size whales, time tunnels and fossils. Once you leave the cave, follow the "Sziklai Bengé" nature trail, whose viewing points offer wonderful panoramas over Lake Neusiedl.



## SPECIAL SPECIES

fish

pike, weather loach, pike perch, mud-minnow, tench, sabre carp



birds

purple heron, hen harrier, red-breasted goose



mammals

root vole, otter, Bechstein bat, dormouse





# Outdoor adventures

## A FOREST WITH 1 MILLION VISITORS A YEAR

The Sopron Park Forest, intertwined with the Lővérek with its crystal clear air, is a popular place to relax or enjoy some sports: its 400 km of hiking trails include ski pistes, toboggan runs and bridle paths as well as footpaths dotted with monuments and springs. If you'd prefer a greater challenge – or faster pace – you can train in a forest gym or speed along a downhill track.



## NEUSIEDL, THE CYCLISTS' LAKE

Set off on a 115 km adventure around the lake, or opt for a shorter tour and take a slow boat to Austria. The circuit mainly leads across flat countryside, along surfaced cycle paths and quiet side roads. It's worth making a couple of kilometre's detour to the Gloriette lookout tower in Fertőboz: in clear weather, you can see as far as Bratislava. Meanwhile, the Austrian side of the lake boasts sights such as the medieval centre of Rust and the Roman quarry, St Margaret's Mine. If you need to cool down after cycling, then we recommend Illmitz's lakeside with its adventure playgrounds and boat rental.

## KÁROLY LOOKOUT ECOTOURISM VISITOR CENTRE

You can see right into the forest from the three-storey lookout tower, while you can learn more about the local wildlife in the Kőhalmi Hunting Museum at its foot. At the nearby forest playground, you can also experience how it feels to walk along a barefoot nature trail.

## ADRENALINE TOP LIST

- 1. Tracking bellowing stags with professional hunters
- 2. Treasure hunt tour in the Sopron Park Forest
- 3. Romantic canoe trip among the reeds of Lake Neusiedl
- 4. Cross-country horse-riding in the Fertő-Hanság National Park
- 5. Sightseeing flight over Fertőd
- 6. Racing down 11 km of surfaced downhill tracks

## PÁNEURÓPAI PIKNIK EMLÉKHELY (PAN EUROPEAN PICNIC MEMORIAL)

The crowd broke through the Iron Curtain to Austria here in 1989, making the edge of Fertőrákos an important symbol of the idea of a common Europe. A border tower, a piece of the Iron Curtain, the Bell of Freedom, the Academic Memorial Forest and a group of large scale sculptures help visitors to visualise these historical moments.



# Bükfürdő – healing water and fresh air

## SPA BATH WITH 34 POOLS

The drilling was intended to find oil, but instead of black gold, a 65-70-metre-high column of water burst to the surface from a depth of 1,300 metres. The water still turned out to be a natural treasure: 58°C with a mineral content of over 15,000 mg/l. A 14-hectare spa complex offering a wide range of treatments has been built around the spring.

## TAKING THE WATERS IN THE NEUSIEDL COUNTRYSIDE

It's always worth taking a break during a hike for the Hegykő bath: in summer, you can cool off in the mineral water pool, while in the snow, you can enjoy warming up in the outdoor thermal pool.

## EXPERIENCES BEFORE BATHING

Before buying a ticket for the thermal bath, discover the imaginatively landscaped green areas: in the Széchenyi Park, you can take photos with a spectacular spatial sculpture; in the Kneipp and Nordic Walking Park, you can massage your feet on pebbles, pine bark and sand, and relax in the floating tubers of a gigantic work of art, the Organikus Pont. It's also well worth taking a stroll in the gardens of the 600-year-old St. Clements Church.

## FEELING GOOD INSIDE AND OUT

The unique composition of Bükfürdő's thermal water can help relieve various conditions: it boasts an anti-inflammatory effect and improves bone metabolism, circulation, muscle function and digestion. To ensure that you experience the beneficial effects of the water, a 1-3-week treatment is necessary. The thermal water is also effective when taken orally: a drinking cure is also recommended in case of indigestion and ulcers.

## FUN IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Bükfürdő's thermal water has proven benefits for well-being; however, the mineral-rich waters will help not only your condition, but also your disposition: children can jump on giant bubbles, splash around in the bouncing bay, plunge into artificial waves, glide down slides with light effects, throw a ball around the basketball pool and explore the shark cave and the water playground. Parents can relax in the leisure pool and the jacuzzi, the outdoor "four seasons" pool, sauna world and hammock park.

The wellness centre boasts ten different types of saunas, and the most daring can try the 100°C "devil's sauna".



# SÁRVÁR – THERMAL WATER, PLANE TREES, HUSSARS

## ONE THERMAL BATH, TWO THERMAL WATERS

The 43°C water, which bursts from 1,200 metres underground, is mainly good for musculoskeletal disorders, while the high salt content 83°C water from 2,000 metres underground, is also used to treat gynaecological and dermatological problems.

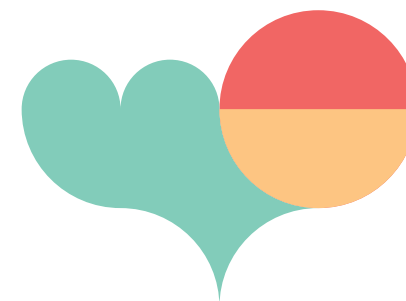
The thermal water and steam cabins at the Sárvár Spa and Wellness Centre will ensure everyone relaxes, but fans of active recreation will really be in their element in the 6,500 m<sup>2</sup> family wing and in the outdoor pools and slides.

## FROM WATER TO WATER AND ADVENTURE TO ADVENTURE

If you bring the kids, don't expect them to let you lie down for long.

The baby pool is full of toys; the wave pool starts from here, you have to try out the water cannons too, and you can even set off down the family slide all together.

Before you get in the giant jacuzzi, you also need to explore the outside part: first head to the deep-water bay, then you need a rubber ring for the wave slide and finally board the pirate ship in the leisure pool. Then for a little beach football, and by the time the kids have dried off, they'll be brave enough to tackle the 47.6-metre kamikaze and the 106-metre tube slide.



## EUROPE'S ONLY HUSSAR EXHIBITION

Although tourists come mainly for the thermal water discovered in 1961, they are often interested in delving deeper into the town's history.

Surrounded by the charming castle gardens in the heart of Sárvár, the almost 700-year-old Nádasdy Castle boasts, among other things, a lavish Renaissance arcade and a Baroque banquet hall, whose ceiling is covered with a series of dazzling battles.

## SPLENDOUR AND PLANE TREES

The present-day splendour of St. Ladislaus Church in the main square is also thanks to the Nádasdys, while you can sit in the shade of Ferdinand Habsburg's 200-year-old plane trees, black pines and Japanese acacias, which surround the fishpond in the Sárvár Arboretum.



# Countryside for gourmets

The Sopron wine region's terroir makes it best suited to white wine production, although its history has destined it to be really beloved for its red wines. The fruity, easy-drinking Sopron wines with their lively acidity pair well with traditional dishes such as bean cakes and grilled duck liver.

Enthusiastic explorers of local flavours can taste Neusiedl fish soup, plum and bean soup, Winzer cabbage, mashed beans with red wine-flavoured stew and chestnut mousse as the crowning dish, almost a must for those with a sweet tooth – as well as a chocolate tasting tour of Sopron's high-tech chocolate workshop.

Legend has it that the name of the Kékfrankos grape derives from the fact that Napoleon's soldiers were only offered red wine by the poncichters (the German speaking winemakers) in direct exchange for the more valuable, blue-coloured Frank – the poncichters refused to accept the white-coloured war-time money. The story sounds credible, but it's not true: at the time, mostly white grapes were made in this area.



## THE REGION'S MOST FAMOUS WINES

### KÉKFRANKOS

It is no coincidence that this is still the area's flagship wine. It can present itself in a wide variety of ways, from fresh and fruity to highly concentrated wines. If you want to taste something really special, you should choose Kékfrankos from the region's most famous vineyards, such as the Sporn Steiner, Frettner and Neuberg.

### ZÖLDVELTELINI

This white wine, with lovely acidity and rich aromas, often reminiscent of white, black or pink pepper, is a great choice for summer evening barbecues.

### SYRAH

Grapes grown on mica subsoil yield very enticing wines, even in blends. The wines are characterised by spice and intense fruit. While Zöldvelteleni is a summer wine, Syrah is the ideal accompaniment to a meal, summer or winter.

### MERLOT

We recommend this for evening chats – Sopron versions are spicy and rich, yet round and silky with soft acidity.

### PINOT NOIR

This grape thrives in cool, wet areas; in Sopron, it yields especially elegant, fine wines with notes of red fruit. Pinot is characteristically translucent ruby, not very dense and also light in flavour. It goes well with most dishes.



# BORHU

Plan your wine tour in Sopron with the aid of the bor.hu website.



# Sights to see nearby

## ST GEORGE'S ABBEY CHURCH IN JÁK

The imposing basilica, founded around 1220, is an outstanding work of Hungarian Romanesque architecture and boasts the most richly decorated gate in the country. It can be found opposite St James Chapel, the town's medieval church. It's worth checking information before your visit.



## KŐSZEG

What is interesting about the 800-year-old Jurisics Castle is that both the inner castle and the forecourt were surrounded by moats. The past comes to life as you walk around the historical centre of Kőszeg: you can admire medieval squares and unique groups of monuments. As well as the cafés, you can visit Heroes Tower, which was key to defeating the Turks, as well as two special pharmacy museums.

## ÍROTT-KŐ

Starting from Kőszeg, you can enjoy a pleasant hike in the Írott-kő-Geschriebenstein Nature Park, taking in the most romantic part of the mountains, the Styrian Forest Museum and the Seven Springs, named after the conquering heroes. The 883 metre-high Írott-kő lookout tower, which is "cut in half" by the border affords views of the Alps to the west and Lake Balaton to the east, while the Óház lookout tower, built on the castle ruins, offers a magnificent panorama of Kőszeg and Lake Neusiedl.



## SZOMBATHELY

This town's most special attraction is the Iseum Savariense Archaeological Workshop and Repository, which conceals the sanctuary of the goddess Isis, reconstructed in its original location. But that's not all. After walking through the Ruined Garden on the huge, 2,000-year-old basalt stones of Borostyánkő (Amber) Road, visiting the exhibitions of the Episcopal Place and peeking into the past through the doors of the

houses in the open-air museum, you can sit on the terrace of the most appealing of the many restaurants and cafés in the main square and town centre, and enjoy the hustle and bustle.



## JELI ARBORETUM

The name Jeli Magic Garden is no exaggeration – the pink rhododendrons that open on the 2 to 3 metre-high bushes provide a stunning display at the end of May, while you can admire the various giant pines from a special perspective on the 10 metre-high, 130 metre-long canopy promenade.

## THINGS TO SEE JUST OVER THE BORDER

If you have time, don't miss the dizzying experiences of the Family Park in Sankt Margarethen, Forchtenstein Castle with one of the largest weapon collections in Europe and the Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt with its gardens boasting lakes and a palm house. A pilgrimage to Raiding, the birthplace of Franz Liszt, is almost obligatory for fans of classical music.



# Discover the Győr-Pannonhalma region too

## EXPLORE THE IDYLIC LIFE OF THE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD PANNONHALMA ARCHABBEY

Take a stroll through the lavender-scented arbo-retum, enjoy the majestic silence of the basilica, immerse yourself in the library's 400,000-volume collection, sample the wine made by the working monks who still live there, as well as dishes made from local ingredients in the abbey restaurant.

## STROLL ALONG GYŐR'S BAROQUE PEDESTRIANISED STREET!

One of Győr's most charming sights is the old town's pedestrianised zone, where fairytale streets alternate with narrow alleyways, large squares and cosy terraces. Remember to take a look at the antique dealers in the Baroque buildings.

## JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE!

Mosonmagyaróvár and Győr have interactive, scientific and futuristic programmes for all the family. Virtual space travel, 5D projections and exciting experiments in the student lab are guaranteed to fire up the imagination of young scientists.

## GET YOURSELF TICKETS FOR A GYŐR BALLET PERFORMANCE!

This long-established and celebrated dance company tours the most famous stages around the world, but if you are lucky, you can take in a performance when you are in Győr. They have everything in their repertoire from classical ballet to contemporary dance.

## GET OUT ON THE WATER IN SZIGETKÖZ!




Embraced by the mighty Danube and the Mosoni Danube, Szigetköz is one of the most popular destinations in the country for water tours. Floodplain forests, beavers, herons, egrets and wild ducks make rowing exciting. Taking to the water is worth it for both beginners and advanced paddlers!

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