



## A TASTE OF HISTORY









TOURINFORM OFFICE

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### A taste of history

The buildings, the special atmosphere testifying to thousands of years of history, the cultures living side by side and the unique culinary experience of the wine region provide all together the inimitable charm of the Pécs region. The climate and even the atmosphere of the region hint towards the Mediterranean, giving the region a welcoming aspect in winter and summer alike

Pécs is the perfect place to take a walk in the streets to feel the magical atmosphere made even more intriguing by the presence of ancient Christian tombs and unique treasures of cultural history that are part of the world heritage. Pécs was awarded the title of European Capital of Culture in 2010 thanks to its cultural values and programmes, among other things.

The region also offers many other unmissable attractions: wine lovers can enjoy a special experience in the south, in the sun-drenched countryside of the Villány wine district, where they can visit wineries producing unique wines and taste the region's typical wines, which are not available elsewhere. Harkány is an ideal destination for those who want to heal, as it is home to one of the most famous spa resorts in Central Europe.

## 5 unmissable experiences

### HEAL WITH THE POWER OF NATURE IN HARKÁNY THERMAL BATH!

Relax and recharge in the thermal waters of one of our oldest baths, which erupt from a depth of 50-70 metres at an average temperature of 62 °C!



### DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN TOMBS!

Learn about the early Christian burial traditions in the Northern and Western Provinces of the Roman Empire. The ancient Christian cemetery of Sopianae (the Roman name of Pécs) is a Hungarikum and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### TASTE THE ELEGANT WINES OF THE VILLÁNY WINE DISTRICT!

The Villány wine district has been dominated by the culture of red wines for centuries. The area has played a pioneering role in the rebirth of Hungarian winemaking, making it one of the most developed wine regions in Hungary, rich in wine and gastronomic experiences.



### EXPLORE THE ZSOLNAY CULTURAL QUARTER!

Located on the site of the former Zsolnay porcelain factory, the establishment offers exhibitions, a visitor centre, a café and shops to visitors. The city within the city district is a perfect illustration of life in Pécs in the 19th century.





#### VISIT THE UNRIVALLED TURKISH MONUMENT, THE MOSQUE OF PASHA GAZI KASIM!

Europe's northernmost intact Turkish mosque offers a unique experience. Officially called the Candlemas Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, it is the most monumental work of Turkish-Islamic architecture in Hungary.

## Discover a diverse culture!

#### WHERE DIFFERENT CULTURES MEET

The centre of Pécs is living history, with monuments wherever you turn. In addition to the Roman and medieval heritage, you can walk among unique Turkish monuments in breathtaking condition and feel like you've stepped back in time.

#### MOSQUE OF PASHA GAZI KASIM

Located in the centre of the city, at the highest point of Széchenyi Square, the Mecca-oriented Turkish place of worship is the most monumental work of Turkish architecture in Hungary. The original length and width of the mosque, which was erected from the stones of the 13th-century Church of St Bartholomew around the 1560s, was 100-100 paces. Inside the church you can admire the remaining plaster decorations and Turkish motifs. Europe's northernmost surviving Ottoman mosque, one of the city's best-known landmarks, is now a Roman Catholic church.





#### **EPISCOPAL PALACE**

In addition to the ecclesiastical treasures of the Pécs Bishopric, the ecclesiastical art exhibition in the Episcopal Palace, located next to the Basilica, is home to numerous works of art. Here you can also visit the offices of bishops from different eras and gain an insight into their lives. If you're in town, don't miss the Bishop's Cellar, whose exhibition puts the long-standing wine culture of the Diocese of Pécs into historical perspective!

#### **SYNAGOGUE OF PÉCS**

Pécs's only synagogue was built between 1868 and 1869 in the Romantic style. The nave is tripartite, with a gallery on the upper floor. It is the largest Jewish temple in Transdanubia.

#### **BATH OF PASHA MEMI**

This bath, which has been restored in a fragmentary state and is among the five most important Turkish buildings in Pécs, is located next to the church at the end of Franciscan Street. It offers a fascinating insight into the world and architecture of the Turkish baths of the period.

#### **EPISCOPAL TREASURY**

You can see a unique exhibition in the Episcopal Treasury, including valuable artworks, paintings, sculptures, engravings and prints from the Episcopal Collection of the Diocese of Pécs. Of particular interest is the medal collection of György Klimó, the 18th-century bishop of Pécs, who was a patron of culture. Its most significant pieces date from the Roman period.

### TOMB OF IDRIS BABA AND THE MOSQUE OF PASHA JAKOVALI HASSAN

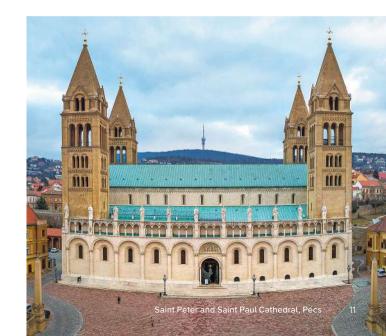
In the garden of the Children's Hospital in Pécs, you can discover the tomb of Idris Baba, one of the most outstanding works of Turkish architecture in Hungary and an important pilgrimage site for Turks even today. The Muslim holy man Idris Baba was famous for his miraculous healings. Discover also the mosque of Jakovali Hassan Pasha, the only mosque in Hungary with a minaret that has survived intact.

#### **EARLY CHRISTIAN TOMBS**

At the Cella Septichora Visitor Centre, you can see late Roman/ early Christian tombs that are a UNESCO World Heritage site (e.g. the Korsós Tomb and the Peter and Paul Tomb) and the Cella Septichora, a tomb chapel with seven axes.

#### **CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL**

The four-towered Cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, also known as the Basilica of Pécs, is one of the most dazzling and iconic symbols of the city. Its history can be traced back to the 11th century, but it only took its present form at the end of the 19th century. Upon entering the church, visitors are greeted by a blue and gold interior. In the lower church lies the tomb of the famous poet and bishop Janus Pannonius. It's worth listening to the cathedral's organ, which is the largest such instrument with a mechanical slider chest.



## The street of museums

Káptalan utca – called the "street of museums" by locals – is the place where you will find, for example, the Zsolnay Museum, the Victor Vasarely Museum Gallery, the Modern Hungarian Gallery and the Nemes Endre Museum. While you are in the area, visit Janus Pannonius utca to see the Csontváry Museum and also the wall made of wrought iron with thousands of love locks.

#### **ZSOLNAY MUSEUM**

In the two-storey exhibition room you can learn about the history of Zsolnay porcelain made with unique glazing and painting techniques, and admire the architectural ceramics that defined Hungarian Art Nouveau. Don't miss the Zsolnay Memorial Room, which displays the Zsolnay family's furnishings and decorations, as well as paintings, drawings and photographs of family members.





#### **VASARELY MUSEUM**

The museum in Káptalan utca presents the work of Victor Vasarely, born in Pécs and one of the most important op-art artists. The exhibition traces the development of op-art, or optical art, through the artist's works, and provides a comprehensive overview of Vasarely's creative periods.

#### **CSONTVÁRY MUSEUM**

The permanent exhibition in the museum presents the important works of Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka. The exhibition includes study drawings, landscapes, portraits, biblical and historical themes, among others, to give a comprehensive overview of the artist's work. Here you can also admire Csontváry's most famous painting, The Lonely Cedar.

Classical music lovers are sure to find what they're looking for in Pécs, where the Kodály Centre is home to the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra. The orchestra looks back at a past of 200 years and its repertoire is diverse enough to amaze even the most sophisticated listeners.



### **Aerial view of Pécs**



#### **TV TOWER**

Pécs TV Tower is undoubtedly one of the most striking buildings in the city. The 197-metre-high tower on the 535-metrehigh Misina peak of Mecsek is Hungary's tallest building, with a stunning panoramic view of the surrounding countryside from its circular lookout.

#### **NIKE STATUE**

From the Nike statue on the side of the Mecsek, you can enjoy an unrivalled view. The statue, depicting the Greek goddess of victory, was erected by the city of Pécs in 1975 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Hungary.

#### **KIS-TUBES LOOKOUT**

The stone lookout on the west side of the Kis-Tubes peak was built in 1959 according to the plans of Tibor Kiss. From the top of the 577-metre-high hill, you can admire the western part of Pécs from a unique perspective.

#### JÁNOS LOOKOUT

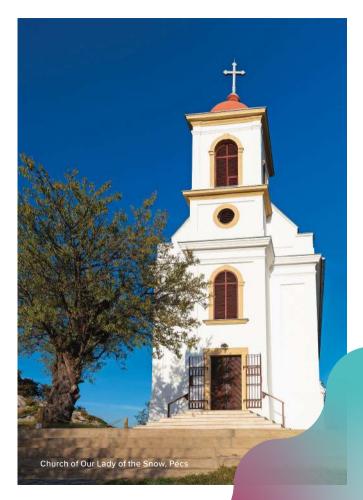
Built with the support of the city of Pécs in 2001, the lookout towers into the sky on the 611-metre-high peak of the Tubes, from the top of which visitors can enjoy a breathtaking panorama.

#### PROMENADE ON THE CASTLE WALL

If you want to find a secluded lookout point in Pécs, be sure to walk the almost one-kilometre-long castle wall promenade around the city centre and take a short detour to the Calvary, where you can see a new face of the city.

#### **EUROPEAN TREE OF THE YEAR**

One of Pécs' lesser-known landmarks is the almond tree on the Havi Hill, which was named European Tree of the Year in 2019. The tree, which is more than 135 years old, can be seen at the Church of Our Lady of the Snow in Pécs, at the top of the Havi Hill.



## Zsolnay Cultural Quarter

### THE WORLD-FAMOUS ZSOLNAY PORCELAIN

Every Zsolnay piece is unique and unrepeatable. In terms of production technology, it was the eosin, which is still kept a trade secret, that made the name of the founder Vilmos Zsolnay unforgettable and the Zsolnay Porcelain Manufactory world famous. The ceramic glaze, also known as "glow of dawn" (hajnalpír) in Hungarian, ranges in colour from gold to rose green and has won many admirers around the world.

In the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter, you can also discover family-friendly programme options, such as the Bóbita Puppet Theatre, the M21 Gallery, the Planetarium, the VR Universe or the Laboratory – Interactive Magic Room.





#### HUNGARICUM

Pécs was the home not only of the Zsolnay Porcelain Factory, but also of the Zsolnay family itself, which is why the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter was established on the site of the old factory. The site was declared a Hungaricum in 2014. Its picturesque parks and promenades is adorned by a total of 15 listed buildings and 88 public Zsolnay statues.



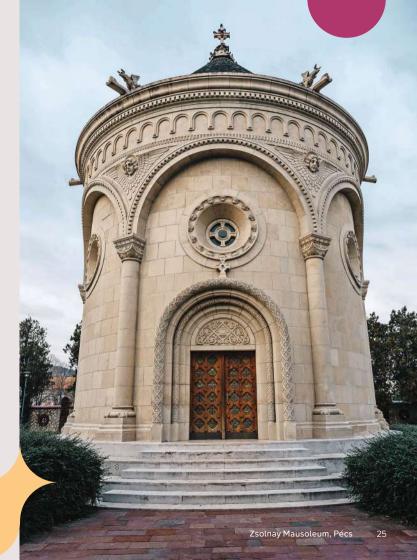


#### **UNMATCHED COLLECTIONS**

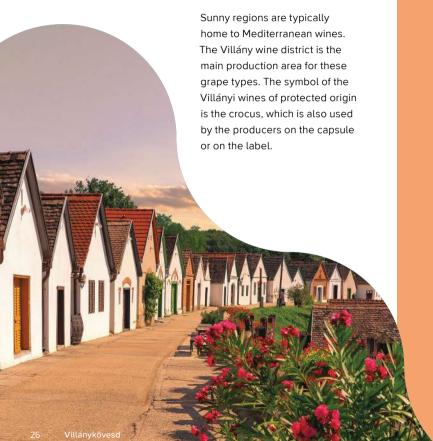
It is also home to the porcelain collection with nearly 700 unique pieces of Dr. László Gyugyi, who lives in America. The priceless collection comes from the historicist and Art Nouveau period of the factory, spanning forty years (1870-1910). Also unmissable is the exhibition on the history of the Zsolnay family and factory, and the Pink Exhibition, which, as the name suggests, is exclusively dedicated to pink jugs, pots, pans and other pieces of historical home decoration.

The impressive Zsolnay Mausoleum, restored in 2010, is the family's final resting place, where 42 lions guard the secrets of eosin technology on a hill 200 metres from the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter.

Don't miss this unique architectural masterpiece!



## Gastronomy and wine



#### **VILLÁNYKÖVESD**

Visitors to the wine region should also visit Villánykövesd's distinctive triple-level village of cellars, whose cellar row with the distinctive coloured gates is one of the Hungary's most spectacular monument complex.

### THE PÉCS-MECSEK WINE ROUTE

When travelling in the region, it is important to remember that Pécs itself lies in a wine-growing area. The wine cellars of the wine region that bears the same name as the town can be explored along the Pécs-Mecsek Wine Route from Szigetvár to Óbánya. Some of the wineries are located in the city of Pécs or in its immediate surroundings, so you can even include a wine tasting in your visit to Pécs.

### THE BEAUTIFYING SIDE OF WINE

Vinotherapy first became popular among traditionally wine-loving nations, such as the French. Vinotherapeutic creams, wraps and massage oils made from grapes, wine and grape marc provide enhanced nourishment and rejuvenation for the skin. The method was first used in the Villány wine district in Hungary.



#### **PALKONYA**

In Palkonya, the dozens of cellars carved into the ground are a fascinating sight, but the town is also becoming increasingly famous for its festivals and excellent gastronomy.

#### VILLÁNY

Most of the open cellars in the wine district are located in Villány, where you can choose from professional wine tastings offered by renowned wineries, wine lunches or wine-themed spa services, according to your taste. Those seeking a more intimate experience can also explore small family wine cellars.

While in Villány, it is also worth trying some of the local gastronomic specialities, such as the nationally famous rooster stew, the plum tart of Swabian origin, the onion tart known as Zwiebelkuche in local German, the sufnudli served with poppy seeds and plum jam, or a delicious catfish stew.



### Wine festivals



#### FROM CELLAR TO CELLAR: VARIATIONS ON VINCENT

It is an old custom for winegrowers to guess the richness of the coming harvest from the weather on St Vincent's (22 January) and the condition of the pruned "Vincent's vines". They go from one cellar to the next, tasting each other's wines, asking for God's blessing and even using superstitious tricks to ensure a rich harvest.

#### VILLÁNY BORZSONGÁS FESTIVAL

Wine, gastronomy, music, film, nature, adventure, culture, spring – these are just a few words to describe this festival. A total of 18 wine bars in 9 municipalities welcome lovers of wine and culture every spring.

#### **ROSÉ FESTIVAL AND ROSÉ MARATHON**

Every July, Villány dresses in pink to celebrate rosé wines in a unique way in the country. The highlight of the event is undoubtedly the RozéMarathon, during which runners dressed in pink cover a 3-kilometre distance within Villány.

## Wines you must try

#### VILLÁNY CUVÉES, OR BLENDED RED WINES

Villány has become famous for its concentrated, full-bodied, aged red wines, most of which are made from the so-called Bordeaux varieties (Cabernet sauvignon, Cabernet franc, Merlot) and complementary varieties (Syrah, Kékfrankos, Portugieser). Today's red blends are elegant and fruity, but have retained their complex, aged flavours. Don't miss it if you're in town!

#### CABERNET FRANC, OR THE VILLÁNY FRANC

It is undoubtedly the most distinctive grape variety of the Villány wine region, and nowadays a special focus of attention for wineries. As legendary British wine critic Michael Broadbent put it: "The Cabernet Franc has found its natural home in Villány." The wine region produces complex, rich, vibrant red wines with perfumed spices and lively, firm acidity.

#### **PORTUGIESER AND REDY**

The Portugieser (formerly known as Kékoportó) variety is pleasantly fruity, friendly and easy to drink during the year after harvest. Also a good everyday companion today is a Portugieser blend called RedY. It is a light, not necessarily barrel-aged wine, with a fresh, fruity character.





#### **SIKLÓS WHITE WINES**

Within the Villány wine region, the Siklós district specialises in white grape production. The white wines produced here are more restrained in acidity but rich in alcohol and extract content. There is not primarily freshness to be found in them, but rather fullness and deeper flavours.

#### **CIRFANDLI**

A wine typical of Pécs, and therefore it is only available and made in this region. It has a characteristic multi-layered and spicy aroma with flavours reminiscent of meadow flowers. The Cirfandli variety tends to botrytise, so its taste can range from dry to flavour-rich, sweet versions.



Go to winesofhungary.hu to plan a pleasant wine tour.

## Wander around the Mecsek Hills

#### **HIKING IN PARADISE**

Due to its great qualities, this area seems to have been created for nature walks. Hiking enthusiasts can enjoy here some of the most beautiful routes in the country: the most interesting mountain in the West Mecsek region is the 592-metre-high Jakab Hill, known for its enchanting rock formations, the ruins of its Pauline monastery and its fantastic lookout points. The canopy walk and educational trail in the Sás valley near Hetvehely has information panels to help you learn about the canopy level wildlife not visible from the lower levels of the forest.





#### **CAVE TOURS**

There are several caves in the Mecsek. You can comfortably explore the 2000-metre-long stalactite cave of Abaliget with its healing climate, or choose an extreme hike in overalls in the cave of the Mészégető springs in Orfű. The Tettye Travertine Cave in Pécs has been known for more than a hundred years. The cave offers scary dragon installations and educational materials.

#### **PÉCSVÁRAD**

Pécsvárad is the perfect choice for a historical pastime, with its castle chapel from the 11th century, where the oldest fresco in the country can still be seen. Be sure to visit the castle of Pécsvárad, whose name is somewhat misleading, as it didn't primarily function as a castle ("vár") but as a fortified monastery. It was the second Benedictine monastery in Hungary, founded by St Stephen in 998. In the Pécsvárad district, you can visit the medieval chapel of St Stephen in Mecseknádasd and the 600-year-old chestnut trees and traditional buildings of Zengővárkony.



Dragon boating, SUP, surfing, kayaking or romantic water biking on Lake Pécs in Orfű Relaxing in the sauna park of the Magyarhertelend thermal baths

Early morning fishing at the local fish ponds All-day wellness in the thermal spa of Siklós near the Siklós Castle

Hiking to the breathtaking aquatic wonders of the Óbánya Valley: the Ferde-vízesés (Crooked Waterfall) and the Csepegő-szikla (Dripping-rock)



Water trip on he Drava and the Fekete-víz Tasting trout roasted on griddle in one of the cosy inns next to the trout lakes of Óbánya

Admiring the biggest waterfall of Mecsek in the refreshingly wild Petnyák Valley

# Healing and regeneration through nature

#### HARKÁNY THERMAL BATH

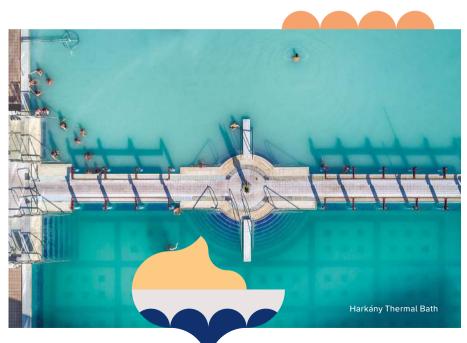
According to the legend, this excellent sulphuric medicinal water was created when a crafty old woman made a deal with the devil for her daughter's hand, and when she lost the bet, she tricked the devil, who in a rage jumped into the ground and fled back to hell. This is the source of Harkány's famous 63 °C thermal waters, which, in addition to treating skin diseases, are also effective in treating certain cases of infertility and musculoskeletal disorders.

#### SIKLÓS BATHS

The spa is located next to the castle of Siklós, and welcomes visitors all year rounf for a refreshing swim. Open and indoor pools, saunas, sports and child-friendly facilities await guests. The spa features six adult pools and three children's pools, as well as a Finnish sauna, infrared sauna, outdoor Russian sauna, aroma cabin, steam bath and salt cave.

#### **MAGYARHERTELEND BATHS**

Located twenty kilometres from Pécs, the spa and beach is surrounded by ancient trees, with swimming pools and wellness services for guests at any time of the year. The 38 to 68 °C thermal water that feeds the spa comes from deep underground. The uniqueness of the Hertelend thermal baths lies in their architectural style, which is reminiscent of the world-famous architect Friedensreich Hundertwasser. The spa also has a large sauna area with themed sauna evenings, sauna baths and trained sauna masters.



## Holiday with the family

#### FROM PLANETARIUM TO PUPPET THEATRE

The country's first optical planetarium and the well-designed event spaces are popular destinations for families visiting Pécs.

The Lab – Interactive Magic Space offers both fun and meaningful recreation in the field of science. From the Hall of Light to the Tesla coil, visitors can try anything they like, because touching the exhibits is a must! In the three-room puppet museum of the Bóbita Puppet Theatre, children can try out older puppets and learn about different puppetry techniques. Another great attraction for children is the Donkey's Ear Family Festival at the end of August, which transforms the cultural quarter into a giant playhouse.

#### **MECSEXTRÉM PARK**

The adventure park, just 2-kilometres-far from Pécs, offers an unforgettable experience for young and old alike. The little ones can have fun in the playhouse and in the bouncy castle. For visitors seeking a truly extreme adventure, the 1-kilometre-long forest bobsleigh track with 25 cars, the 8-metre-high climbing wall, the snowtubing piste and the airsoft course, which requires serious tactical thinking, guarantee an adrenaline-pumping experience.



#### **ŐS-DRÁVA VISITOR CENTRE**

15 kilometres from Harkány, near Szaporca, you will find the Ős-Dráva Visitor Centre, which presents the natural values and traditions of the Ormánság region, with an interactive exhibition, a farm, educational trails and a variety of programmes for all ages.

#### PÉCS ZOO

The renovated zoo is located at the foot of the Mecsek Hills in a beautiful environment. The animals living on the 4.5 hectares of land come from several different continents and are often members of protected species, such as the dwarf kangaroo, the collared peccary or the blue peacock. The aquarium and terrarium (moved here from the centre of town) is another attraction that makes the facility a must-see sight during any tour to Pécs

## Music and cultural programmes

dögkatlan Festival

#### ÖRDÖGKATLAN FESTIVAL

Theatre, music, parties, visual arts, family programmes, literature — in a nutshell, this is what the Ördögkatlan Festival means in the villages of the beautiful Villány Hills. Participants come from all over the world for this August event.



#### **ZSOLNAY LIGHT FESTIVAL**

The Zsolnay Light Festival is Hungary's first and only light festival, held every July. The event, unique in Central Europe, features site-specific projected light works by Hungarian and foreign artists after nightfall on the charming streets and building facades of Pécs.

#### MADE IN PÉCS FESTIVAL

Also known as the festival of Pécs bands, the aim of the event is to provide local bands with an opportunity to perform and showcase their work, regardless of genre. Every year, the festival also gives the opportunity to a foreign city's invited orchestra to perform on stage.

#### VILLÁNY RED WINE FESTIVAL

Since 1987, Villány has been hosting a large-scale harvest festival, one of the biggest events in Hungary for wine and gastronomy, tradition preservation, as well as diverse artistic and cultural programmes.

#### **MOHÁCS BUSÓ FESTIVAL**

The Busójárás is an annual Carnival celebration of the Sokács living in and around Mohács. The Busó March in Mohács has been on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2009 and has been a Hungaricum since 2012.

#### **FISHING ON ORFŰ**

The Fishing on Orfű festival is held annually at the Panoráma campsite near Lake Pécs. It takes its name from the title of the single of the Pécs band Kiscsillag. Over the years, its unique, friendly atmosphere and varied programmes have earned it a reputation as one of the favourite festival venues for local performers.



## **Medieval fortifications** in the area

#### SIKLÓS CASTLE

One of the best-preserved fortifications in Hungary rises on a hill at the bottom of the Tenkes Valley, right in the middle of Siklós town. The main elements of the fortress were built in the Middle Ages, but all architectural eras have left their mark on it. The core of Siklós Castle is the castle building itself, which is surrounded by walls, towers and bastions. One of the most famous Hungarian TV series, Captain Tenkes, was filmed here. The Játékország (Toyland) and the Siklós Castle Festival is very popular with families.







#### SZIGETVÁR CASTLE

One of Hungary's most famous castles made its mark in European history in 1566, when castle captain Miklós Zrínyi and his 2,500 Hungarian and Croatian soldiers stopped Sultan Suleiman's army of 100,000. The fortress is still standing today, and there is a spectacular exhibition showing the siege of Szigetvár and the military devices used in the battle.







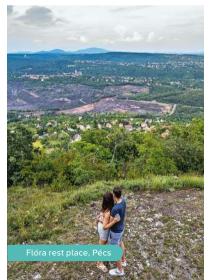
## Our favourite photos of the region

visithungary













## **Nearby sights**

#### KAPOSVÁR

Take a downtown stroll surrounded by Art Nouveau and neoclassica buildings. Cycle and admire the wildlife in the fishing paradise of Lake Deseda. Discover the former villa and ancient tree-lined park of József Rónai Rippl, one of the leading figures of modern Hungarian painting.

#### **ZSELIC**

The gentle slopes and wildlife of Zselic are of unrivalled natural value. Thanks to the absence of light pollution, the night sky in the Zselic Star Park is a wonderful sight. Pál Rockenbauer's South Transdanubian Blue Trail also passes through these hills.

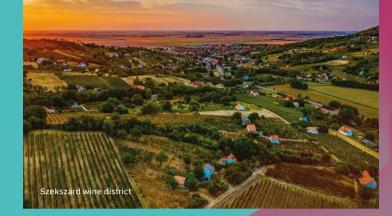
#### BAJA

Baja has around forty monuments and landmarks, which can be easily visited by the city's most popular means of transport, the sightseeing train. If you are here, don't forget to try the famous Baja fish soup and the excellent wines of the Hajós-Baja wine region!

#### **ATTRACTIONS ACROSS THE BORDER**

It's worth visiting the town of Osijek, or the uniquely beautiful Kopački rit Nature Park, or the stunning waterfalls of Papuk Nature Park.





#### **SZEKSZÁRD**

Take a short walk to Béla Square in the city centre and listen to the impressive bells of the largest single-nave church in Central Europe! At the end of the day, admire the city from the slopes of the Szekszárd wine district with a glass of Szekszárd Bikavér!

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Plan your trip to the Pécs region with the help of our website.

