



Sopron region

English

ENDLESS CULTURE



HUNGARY



Sopron region

Key:



TOURINFORM OFFICE



Sopron

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Endless culture

The natural treasures and built heritage of the north-western tip of Hungary must be seen: the baroque downtown of Sopron from the top of the Fire Tower, the reeds of Lake Fertő at dawn. Enjoy the neo-classical, rococo and baroque palaces and let yourself be dazzled by the magnificent ballrooms and courtyards. Sopron-Fertő is not only an eye-catching experience. Just listen! The sounds of a Haydn concerto filter out from the Esterházy Palace. The cave walls of Fertőrákos echo the melodies of a musical. Cycling along Lake Fertő or admiring the scenery from a canoe, you'll be amazed by the choir of Central Europe's largest bird sanctuary.

Feel the warm caress of the thermal water on your skin in Bükfürdő, the massage of the bark and the pebbles on the barefoot path near the Károly Lookout. Breathe in the crystal clear air of the Lővérek, the scent of the 200-year-old acacia trees of the Sárvár Arboretum, or the smell of steam on the Széchenyi Museum Railway. Try the fruity Sopron Blaufränkisch (Kékfrankos) wine, the world champion apricot delicacy from the Sopron chocolate workshop, or the vegetable-rich bean soup with knuckle of ham. Whether you're travelling with family or friends, in winter or summer, you'll find plenty of activities in this brochure to make exploring the region worthwhile in all seasons.



5+1 unmissable experiences

DISCOVER SOPRON'S OLD TOWN!

Within the city walls, you can wander the streets lined with Baroque houses, look down on the city from the Fire Tower, and get an insight into Sopron's impressive sacral heritage in the Goat Church, the early Gothic Old Synagogue, and the medieval Church of St Michael.



CYCLE FROM ONE EXCITING EXPERIENCE TO ANOTHER AROUND LAKE FERTŐ!

The 115-kilometre-long adventure takes you on bicycle-friendly roads over flat terrain. On your way, take a look around from the Gloriette lookout in Fertőboz, from where you can see Bratislava on a clear day.



TAKE A STROLL IN THE MAGNIFICENT PALACE OF THE ESTERHÁZY FAMILY!

Discover the third largest Baroque-Rococo palace complex in Central Europe, the beautiful gardens with the marionette theatre and the music hall, where classical and popular music concerts are still held.



DIVE, SLIDE AND SPLASH ALL YEAR ROUND!

The bathing complexes of Bükfürdő, boasting several thousand square metres of water surface, are built around thermal waters, but with their indoor and outdoor adventure pools, slides and sauna world, they offer perfect relaxation for families, couples and groups of friends.



DISCOVER THE THOUSAND FACES OF THE SOPRON KÉKFRANKOS!

Kékfrankos is the most widespread grape variety in Hungary – it can be found in almost all wine regions, yet it is most associated with Sopron. Local wineries produce mostly fresh, light and fruity wines from it, but sometimes also matured, concentrated ones.



VOLT FESTIVAL – FROM HARD ROCK TO JAZZ

With a varied programme of music and events, it has developed over 20 years into one of Europe's best medium-sized festivals, attracting 150,000 party fans and countless headliners from all over the continent every summer.



Bastion of the bourgeoisie - Sopron's historic city centre

Take a tour of the Old Town on the City Wall Promenade, then plunge into a maze of winding medieval streets between Baroque houses. If you head towards the 58-metre-high Fire Tower, which is considered the symbol of the city, you will soon emerge on the Main Square. From the top of the tower, rebuilt in 1680 after the great fire, you'll have a magnificent view not only of the city centre, but also of the Lővérek, a hillside dotted with villas. In the middle of the square stands the oldest statue of the Holy Trinity in Hungary, and on the other side is the Goat Church, built in 1280, whose monastery is famous for its chapter hall, considered the most beautiful Gothic building in Hungary.



Lenck Villa, Sopron

One of the jewels of Sopron, the Lenck Villa, shines in its former glory once again. The modern exhibition space of the bourgeois, historicising building houses an interactive ethnographic and crafts exhibition. In the museum park surrounding the Lenck Villa, you can experience again the special bourgeois atmosphere of Deák Square. The park's picnic area with its huge shady trees is an island of tranquillity in Sopron.

Among the four quiet streets starting from the Main Square, you should definitely walk along the deceptively named Új (New) Street, one of the oldest streets of the city centre. Here you will find the early Gothic Old Synagogue, unique in Central Europe, with its ornate Torah room and ritual bath. For a break, explore one of the cafés or pastry shops from the Castle District or Széchenyi Square.





CIVITAS FIDELISSIMA

Why is Sopron known as the Faithful City? The Treaty of Trianon would have annexed Sopron and the surrounding area to Austria, but the rebels, mainly students, have succeeded in their literal fight for a referendum. In 1921, the city declared with a 72.8% majority that it wanted to remain part of Hungary.

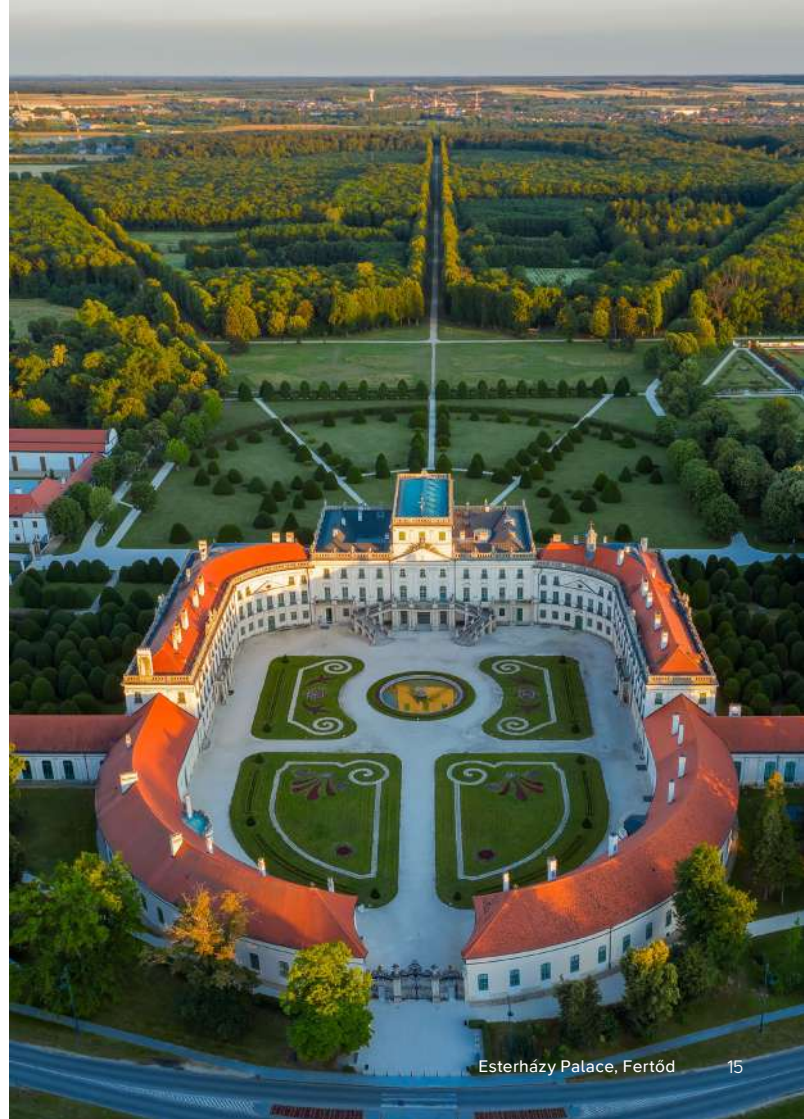
1. Fire Tower
2. Kecske-templom
3. Old Synagogue
4. St George's Church
5. The start of the City Wall Promenade, Bünker-köz
6. Széchenyi square
7. Deák square
8. Villa Lenck



Esterházy Palace: the wonderful legacy of Miklós Esterházy, “the Magnificent”

Visit Fertőd and enter the fascinating world of 18th century baroque through the three-gated main entrance!

The courtyard, surrounded by the palace's wings, makes a wonderful backdrop for photos, with the richly carved fountains, the lawn adorned with thousands of flowers and the grand staircase with its decorative putti.





The Esterházy family had 126 rooms at its disposal in this magnificent building. Some of them can still be visited today. Take a tour of the Rococo-style rooms, including the “Chinese Room” and the upstairs banquet hall with its adjoining auditorium. Dozens of concerts of classical and pop music preserve the traditions of the palace, which once had Joseph Haydn himself as court composer.

You can visit the Esterházy Gallery, the Esterházy Porcelain Cabinet and the contemporary exhibition *Idővonzatok – Modulated Time* in the renewed west wing of the palace. Then, the exploration continues along the park’s fan-shaped boulevards to chapels, statues, the former stables, the museum and the marionette theatre.



Széchenyi Palace, Nagycenk

SZÉCHENYI PALACE: HOME OF “THE GREATEST HUNGARIAN”

Evoking the Széchenyi family's storied past, the early Classicist Nagycenk Palace is one of the finest examples of Hungarian palace architecture. The members of the family have distinguished themselves as politicians, statesmen, prelates and soldiers, for which they were awarded the title of Count. The best known of them is István Széchenyi, one of the founders of modern Hungary. Thanks to the ongoing renovation work, a renewed Széchenyi heritage site will await you here. In addition to its flowers, the beautiful baroque garden is also adorned with tulip trees, ironwoods, Himalayan pines and Caucasian fir trees, but its true highlight is the 2.5-kilometre-long, double avenue of lime trees.



Széchenyi family mausoleum, Nagycenk

Fertő landscape – life around the lake

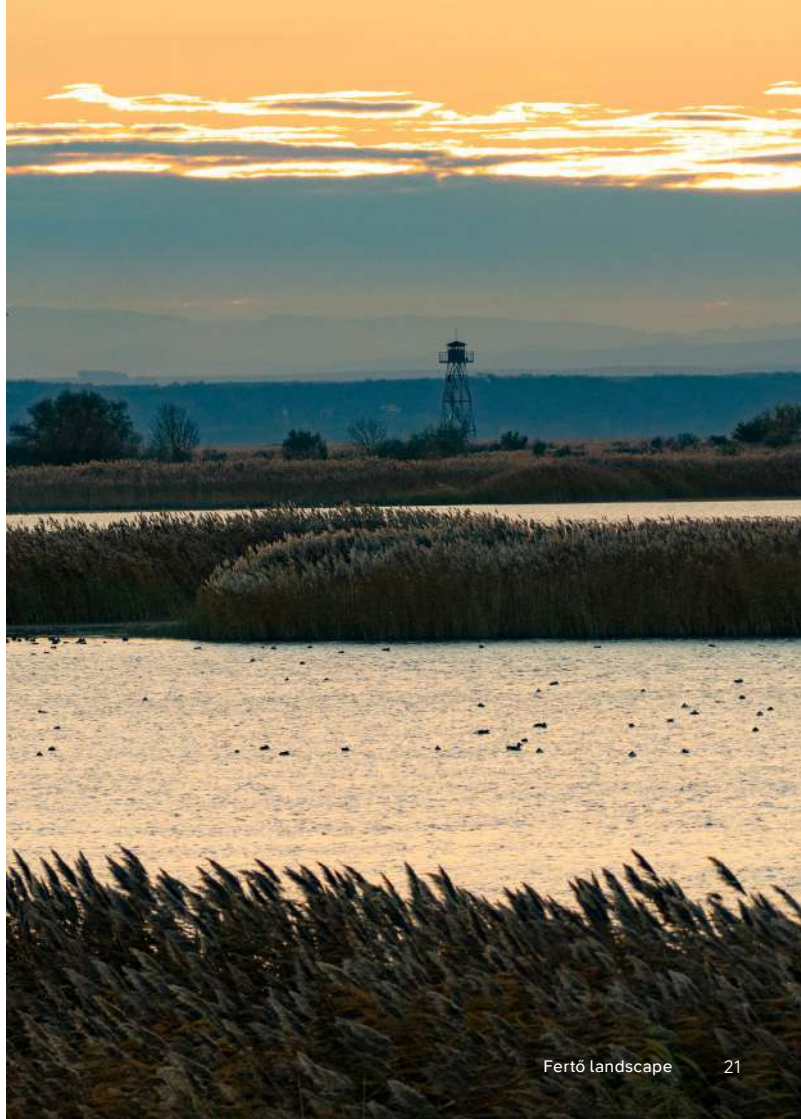
As well as being home to rare species of flora and fauna, this landscape still preserves centuries-old traditions of viticulture, livestock farming, fishing and crafts. No wonder it was declared a World Heritage Site in 2001!

CENTRAL EUROPE'S LARGEST BIRD SANCTUARY

A special feature of Lake Fertő is that 80% of its water surface located in Hungary is covered with reeds, so its inner lakes have been made accessible by a 240 kilometre network of canals. Due to the dense reed beds, the Fertő landscape is a paradise for waterfowl, of which more than 300 species can be found here. If you stop for a moment, you might catch a glimpse of an egret, a reed warbler or even a white-tailed eagle.

FERTŐ-HANSÁG NATIONAL PARK

The parks, botanical gardens, marshes, salt-marshes, hillforts and, of course, a wealth of wildlife make this a great place to visit. Go canoeing at dawn, admire landscape and spy on the wildlife! With a little luck, you catch a glimpse of some native species such as the Hungarian grey cattle, the buffalo or the racka sheep.



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 educational puzzles along the nature trail.

FERTŐRÁKOS QUARRY AND CAVE THEATRE

On the surface, at the viewing points of the Sziklai Benge educational trail, you can meet the protected flora and fauna of the Fertőmellék Hills and the Fertő-Hanság National Park. From the top of the spiral staircase leading to the top of the cave, you can enjoy a stunning view of Lake Fertő. In the Theme Park exhibition you can learn about the natural, petrological and palaeontological values of the area. Finally, the programme culminates with a visit to the Cave Theatre.



Outdoor adventures



A FOREST WITH 1 MILLION VISITORS A YEAR

Sopron Park Forest, intertwined with the crystal-clear air Lővérek, is a favourite destination for those who want to recover or do some sports: its 400-kilometre hiking trails alternate with numerous lookout points, cross-country skiing and horse riding tracks, and walking and hiking trails laced with memorial sites and springs.

FERTŐ, THE CYCLISTS' LAKE

Lake Fertő's bike route is shared by Austria and Hungary. Depending on the exact course, the 115-135-kilometre circuit can be completed in one day by the fitter cyclists, but it may be much more fun to cover the distance in several days, enjoying the historical monuments, the tranquillity of nature, the swimming opportunities and the local delicacies. On your way, take a look around from the Gloriette lookout in Fertőboz, from where you can see Bratislava on a clear day.



Nearby lookouts

557 m MAGAS-BÉRCI LOOKOUT

The lookout in the Sopron Park Forest can only be accessed from a few hiking trails, because it used to be accessible only with a special permit.

482 m VÁRHELY LOOKOUT

One of the oldest lookouts of the Sopron Park Forest, it offers the most beautiful panorama of the forests surrounding Sopron and the nearby Austrian landscapes.

467 m BÉKE LOOKOUT

The lookout at Poloskásbérce offers a beautiful view of Austria, Brennbergbánya and Görbehalom.

398 m KÁROLY LOOKOUT

It is the centre and the most visited place of the Sopron Park Forest, which has become the second symbol of Sopron, next to the Fire Tower. The 23-metre-high tower's two-storey roof terrace offers a magnificent panorama of Sopron, Lake Fertő and the snow-capped peaks of the Rax and the Schneeberg.

374 m GLORIETTE LOOKOUT

During the Napoleonic wars, in the autumn of 1800, Archduke Joseph visited the hilltop several times to admire the beauty of the landscape, in the company of Ferenc Széchenyi, the leader of the county's noble armies. It was in memory of these visits that Ferenc Széchenyi had the lookout built.

332 m HÁZ-HEGYI LOOKOUT

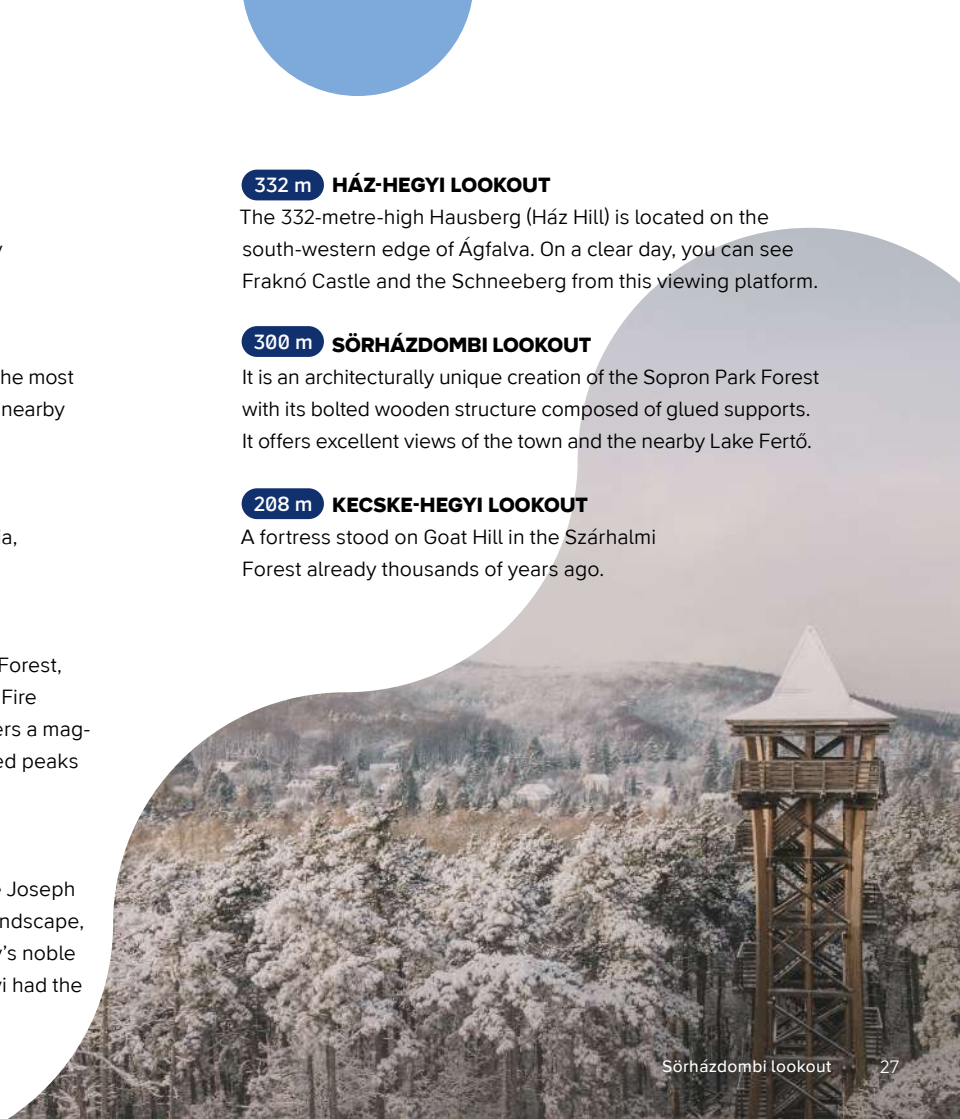
The 332-metre-high Hausberg (Ház Hill) is located on the south-western edge of Ágfalva. On a clear day, you can see Fraknó Castle and the Schneeberg from this viewing platform.

300 m SÖRHÁZDOMBI LOOKOUT

It is an architecturally unique creation of the Sopron Park Forest with its bolted wooden structure composed of glued supports. It offers excellent views of the town and the nearby Lake Fertő.

208 m KECSKE-HEGYI LOOKOUT

A fortress stood on Goat Hill in the Szárhalmi Forest already thousands of years ago.





Pan-European Picnic Memorial Park

KÁROLY LOOKOUT ECOTOURISM VISITOR CENTRE

From the three-storey Károly Lookout you'll have a great view of the forest, whose wildlife can be explored in the nearby Kóhalmi Hunting Museum. At the nearby forest playground, you can also experience how it feels to walk along a barefoot nature trail.

FOREST HOUSE ECOTOURISM VISITOR CENTRE

The visitor centre and wildlife park showcases the values of the ecosystem, with interactive rooms, giant freshwater aquariums and wildlife accessible via a wooden bridge walkway.

PAN-EUROPEAN PICNIC MEMORIAL PARK

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 guard watchtower, 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. Visit a favourite place of pilgrimage for East German refugees and their relatives, the free Pan-European Picnic Memorial Park and Visitor Centre, which commemorates key historic events.

ADRENALINE CHART

**TRACKING BELLOWING STAGS
WITH PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS**

1.



2.

**TREASURE HUNT TOUR IN
THE SOPRON PARK FOREST**

**CANOE ADVENTURE AMONG
THE REEDS OF LAKE FERTŐ**

3.



4.

**CROSS-COUNTRY HORSE-RIDING IN
THE FERTŐ-HANSÁG NATIONAL PARK**

**SIGHTSEEING FLIGHT
OVER FERTŐD**

5.



6.

**RACING DOWN ON THE PURPOSE-
BUILT DOWNHILL TRACKS IN SOPRON**

Bükkfűrdő – healing water and fresh air

THERMAL BATHS 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 58 °C water with a mineral content of over 15,000 mg/l still turned out to be a natural treasure. A 14-hectare spa complex offering a wide range of treatments has been built around the spring.

EXCITING EXPERIENCES BEFORE BATHING

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, then relax in the floating tubers of a gigantic work of art, the Organic Point. Last but not least, the park of the 600-year-old St Clement's Church is also worth a stroll.



THE FUN SIDE OF WATER

Thermal waters of Bükfürdő are proven to improve your well-being. But it's not just the minerals that keep you happy: children can jump around on giant bubbles, splash in the bouncing bay or plunge into artificial waves. Parents can relax in the leisure pool and the jacuzzi, the outdoor "four seasons" pool, the sauna world and the hammock park.



FROM INSIDE AND OUT

Thanks to its unique composition, the medicinal water of Bükfürdő can help with countless ailments: it has anti-inflammatory effects, improves bone metabolism, circulation, muscle function and digestion. To make sure you experience the full beneficial effects of the water, you need a 1-3 week treatment course. The medicinal water is also effective orally: a drinking cure is recommended for digestive disorders and ulcers.

A land for gourmets

Sopron wine district is best suited to the production of white wines, but throughout history people have come to love it for its reds. The fruity, easy-to-drink wines from Sopron, with their lively acidity, are usually paired with traditional dishes such as bean cake (pogácsa) and grilled duck liver. Enthusiastic explorers of local flavours can try the fish soup of Fertő, the plum and bean soup, the Winzer cabbage, the babsterc with red wine stew, and to crown the meal, the chestnut mousse, which is a must for those with a sweet tooth – as is a chocolate tasting tour of Sopron's ultramodern chocolate workshop.



Legend has it that the name “kékfrankos” (Blue Frankish) comes from the fact that Napoleon’s soldiers were only given red wine for the more valuable blue francs – the white war money was not accepted by the local winegrowers. The story sounds plausible, but it’s not true: at the time, it was mainly white wines that were made here.



THE REGION'S MOST FAMOUS WINES

It is no coincidence that the flagship wine of the region is still the **Kékfrankos**. From fresh and fruity flavours to mature, highly concentrated experiences, it shows a variety of faces. If you want to taste something special, you should choose from the most famous vineyards such as Sporn Steiner, Frettner or 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 especially enticing wines, even in blends. This wine is spicy and has an especially intense forest-fruit flavour. While Zöldveltelini is a summer wine, Syrah is the ideal accompaniment to a meal, summer or winter.

Merlot: We recommend this spicy, full-bodied wine with round, silky and soft acidity for evening conversations.

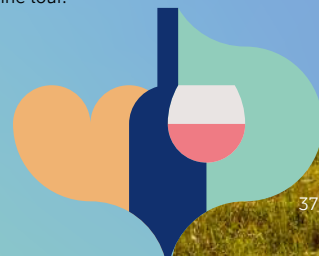
Pinot Noir: It thrives in cooler, wetter areas, and in Sopron it produces elegant wines with delicate red fruit notes. Pinot is characterised by its almost translucent red colour, not too thick and light in flavour, which makes it a good accompaniment to most dishes.



WINES OF HUNGARY

PERSONALLY

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

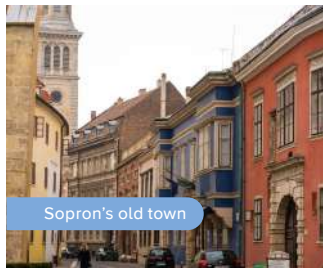


Our favourite photos of the region

 [visithungary](#)



Fire Tower



Sopron's old town



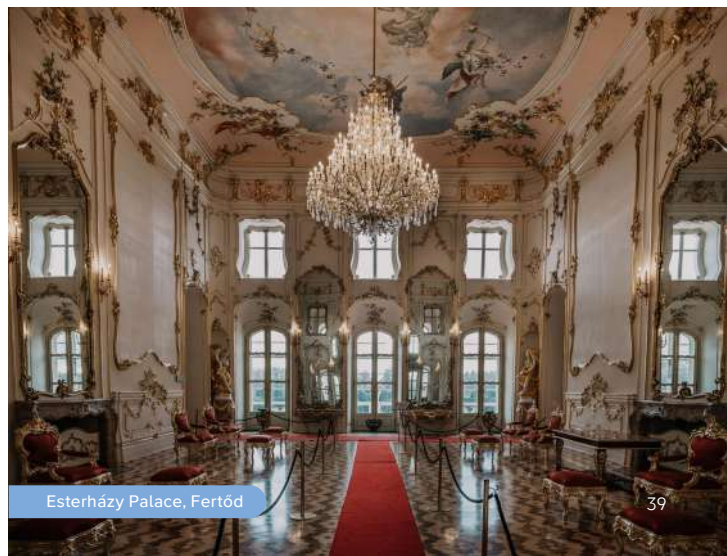
Harrer Chocolate
Workshop and Confectionery



Church of the Immaculate Conception



Lake Fertő



Esterházy Palace, Fertőd

Nearby sights

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. Before you visit, it's worth checking its public accessibility.

KÓSZEG

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 monument complexes. In addition to the cafés, you can visit the Tower of Heroes, which was key to defeating the Turks, and two special pharmacy museums.

ÍROTTKŐ

Starting from Kőszeg, you can enjoy a pleasant hike in the Írott-kő Nature Park, including the most romantic spot of the mountains, the Styrian Forest Museum and the Seven Springs, named after the conquering chieftains of Hungary, in your route. The 883-metre-high Írott-kő lookout, 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 Fertő.

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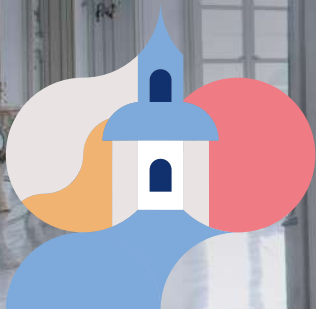
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FERTŐD

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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE