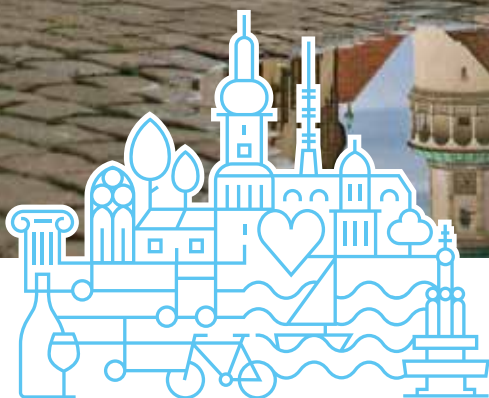
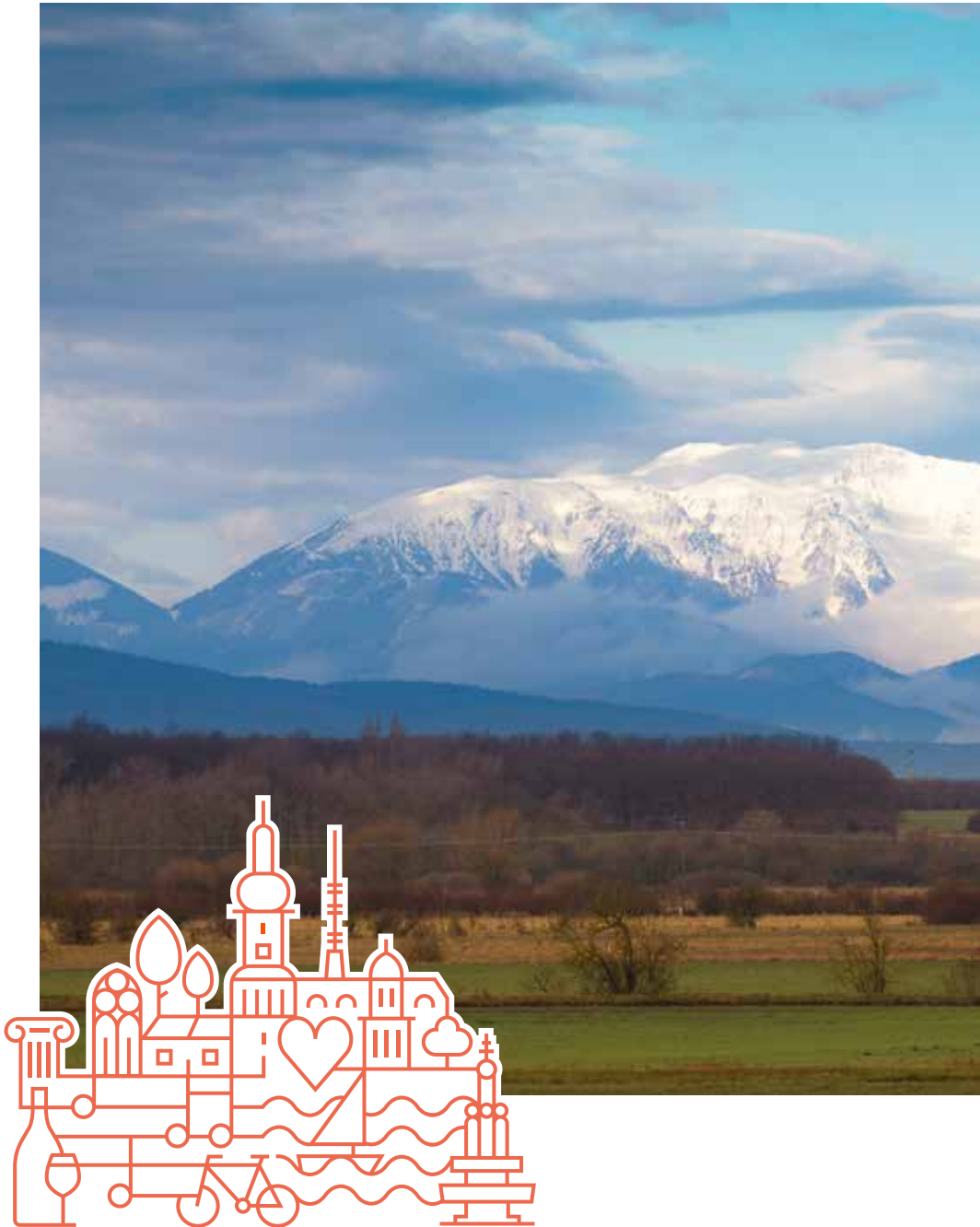




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SOPRON
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SOPRON

Sopron has several nicknames: „THE TOWN OF LOYALTY“, „THE CAPITAL OF BLAUFRANKISCH“, „THE GATE TO THE WEST“. The locals also have some witty sayings regarding to their beloved town, e.g.: if you can see the barren or snow-capped peak of Schneeberg, you can expect rain, if you cannot see it, it is already raining. Anyways, in Sopron it is either raining, or the wind is blowing, or the bells are ringing.

In the light-hearted way above, we would like to present you the most outstanding, most interesting sights of our town, without being exhaustive, of course - since Sopron is the 2nd richest town in monuments in Hungary - and we hope that through this little booklet you will understand what the slogan of the VOLT Festival means:

„THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE SOPRON!“

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CENTRE

SIGHTS TO SEE



Fire Tower

FIDELITY GATE

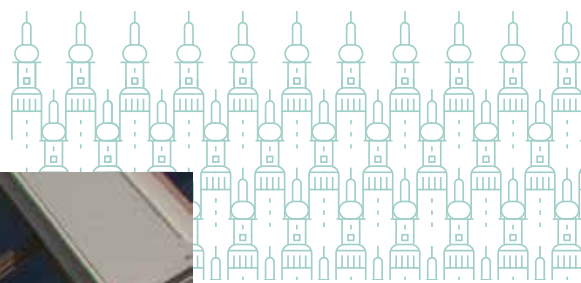
It commemorates the 14 December 1921 referendum. As a result of the referendum, Sopron remained as part of Hungary and was awarded the title of „The town of loyalty” (Civitas Fidelissima).

FIRE TOWER

The 58-metre-tall tower is one of the symbols of the town and loyalty. The guards who once served in the Fire Tower had diverse tasks:

- they warned the people of Sopron if there was a fire
- when the enemy was approaching
- if strangers wanted to bring wine in the town.

They also had to be competent in playing music, they signalled the passage of time with their trumpets.



STORNO HOUSE

The baroque building in front of the Fire Tower was named after the Storno family of restorers and art collectors from Switzerland. One of the famous people who stayed here was King Matthias at the time of the siege of Vienna. Later there was a pharmacy here. Its upstairs hosts the exhibitions of the Sopron Museum, where, among several things, you can see Ferenc Liszt's childhood piano.

FABRICIUS HOUSE

The remains of a Roman bath were found in its medieval basement, and today the Roman lapidary is located under the Gothic arches. In the house named after Sopron's famous reform-era mayor, Endre Fabricius, in the upstairs rooms you can find an exhibition presenting civic homes from the 17th and 18th century and an archaeological collection.

GENERALS HOUSE (LACKNER-HOUSE)

The humanist mayor of Sopron, Kristóf Lackner donated the house to the town of Sopron in 1631. The building was the town hall in the second half of the XVth century, where the "Sopron love songs", the oldest known examples of the Hungarian secular poetry were recorded. Later it became the residence of the town captains.

Did you know?

The **Pharmacy House** on the Main Square (**nowadays the Pharmacy Museum**) is the first example of the Hungarian monument protection measures. The Sopron citizens wanted to demolish the arched building that stretches deeply into the Main Square, but in 1525 king Louis II forbade that in his decree.

The medieval **Gambrinus House** is next door, featuring different designs of several architectural eras. If you look down at the rails between the two buildings, you can see a section of the Roman trade route, the **Amber Road**.

CENTRE



Main Square

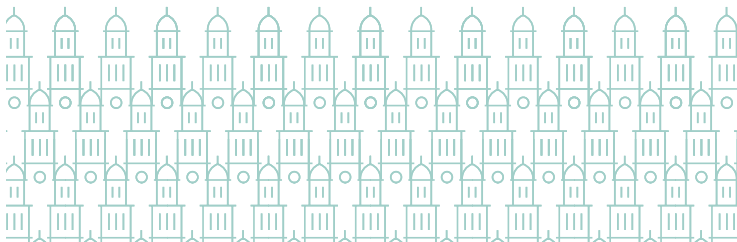
TRINITY STATUE

The statue in the middle of the Main Square is special for two reasons: It is the earliest Holy Trinity Statue in Hungary that was erected in 1701. The twisted column was used for the first time in Central Europe in this sculpture in the outdoor Baroque architecture. The other name of the statue, Plague column, refers to the fact that its builders (Jakab Löwenburg and Katalin Thököly) survived the plague epidemic and thanked God with the statue.

GOAT CHURCH (BENEDICTIAN CHURCH)

According to legend, the church was built of treasure found by a goat, but in reality there is a murder case in the background. Henrik Geissel (meaning goat in English), the perpetrator of a murder or his family donated the money to build a church tower as penitence.

This is the oldest church in the historic centre, where Hungarian king (Habsburg) Ferdinand III. and queens were crowned, and during the Turkish occupation, they held several national assemblies in it.





LUTHERAN CHURCH

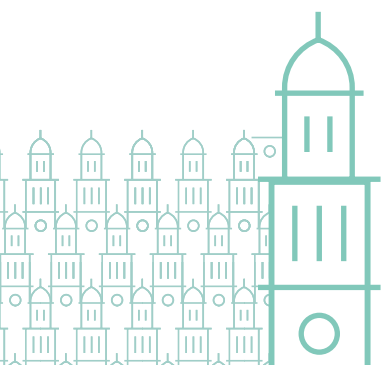
One of Hungary's largest Lutheran churches. On 16 December 1921, the Loyalty bell of the Church signalled that Sopron remained a Hungarian town as the result of the referendum.

SAINT GEORGE CHURCH

The church is barely noticeable from St. George's Street where it has its gothic entrance with wonderful carvings, because its tower built in the XIXth century can be seen from the Castle District, behind the Great Rondella ("St. George's Bastion"). The creation of the church is related to the murder case known with the Goat Church, as the other culprit (Schmuckpfennig Johannes) and his family were supporters of its construction. The monument built in the second half of the XIVth century has the oldest functioning organ of Hungary.

EGGENBERG HOUSE

A building that played a significant role in the town's church history. In the second half of the XVIIth century - during the time of counter-reformation - this was the site of the forbidden Lutheran services in the town, where the pastor spoke to the believers from the ornate stone pulpit that faces the street gate. Nowadays, the medieval building is home to the Cobblestone Children's Museum, which has been awarded several times with museology awards.



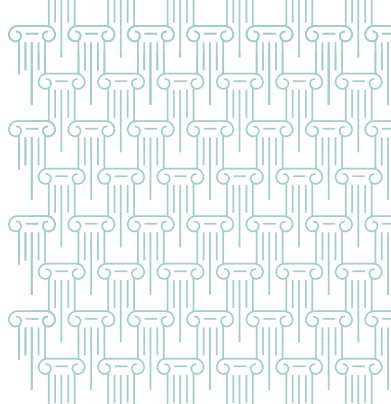
CENTRE



Forum of Scarbantia

FORUM OF SCARBANTIA

Under the centre of Sopron, 4 and a half meters deep, there is a Roman city, Scarbantia. You can see the details of the main square and the forum of the Roman city at the archaeological showroom under the Tourinform office. As you are visiting the exhibition, you can step on the original pavement of the forum, on which once Roman emperors (Marcus Aurelius, Septimus Severus) were walking.

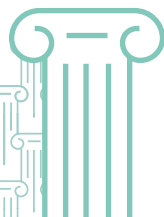


Did you know?

Walking the ancient streets of the town centre, you can see several ornate, stone-framed seat cabins in the doorways. In these gothic wall cabins, the guests were sipping the tasty white wines produced by the citizens. In the Middle Ages, only the citizens were entitled to sell local/producer wines. This is the origin of the tradition in Sopron that the cellar is not located in the vineyard but under the winemaker's house. Later it was no different in the houses of the citizens living in the walled suburbs, who also sold their own wines at their porches (Buschenschank).

MEDIEVAL OLD SYNAGOGUE

The Old Synagogue is of special value, as only three medieval synagogues are known throughout Europe (in Prague, Krakow and Sopron), where the three-way split remained in its original form (men's partition or Torah room - women's partition - ritual bath).





Orsolya Square

MEDIEVAL NEW SYNAGOGUE

Its construction began in the middle of the XIVth century as a private synagogue of a Viennese banker named Israel, and it was functioning as a synagogue until the mid-XVth century. Currently, it hosts the exhibition “Forgotten Neighbours”, which commemorates the Hungarian Jewish families and persons living in Sopron before 1944.

ORSOLYA SQUARE

The Orsolya Square is listed in the medieval documents as the Salt Market (Salzmarkt). Its recent name was given by the nuns of the Order of St. Orsolya, who began to set up their convent, church and school in 1747 on the square. The Mária-well located in the middle of the square from the second half of the XVIIIth century was originally in the courtyard of the Franciscan (now Benedictine) monastery.

It was placed in the middle of the square in 1929, replacing the Swan Fountain that later played a central role in the Selmec traditions. The beautiful square and wells were seriously damaged in the bombing of December 6, 1944. As a result of the bombings, the arcades that were built later in the XVIth-century Arcaded house became visible.

CASTLE DISTRICT



Castle District

The Castle District was formed on the outer curve of the inner triple town wall, on the moat edge, and from the XIIIth century it served as the venue for markets and fairs.

The outer row of houses is older, among them the most important buildings are: Rejpál-house (7 Castle District), Siess House (19 Castle District), in which the medieval bath house of the town was built, the Lion's pharmacy building decorated with Zsolnay majolica

(29 Castle District), and the former White Horse inn (55 Castle District).

The inner row of houses of the Castle District was built at end of the XVIIIth century, after the moat was filled up. On the land plots where the moat had been the richer ones erected residential palaces, the less affluent ones built narrow residential buildings, the street view of these is the most spectacular from the **statue of Mary**.

The baroque statue marks the place of the former Gothic Church of Virgin Mary, which was demolished for military reasons after 1532 (the Turkish siege of Kőszeg). This part of the Castle District was a town market and fair site until 1940, and nowadays it is the venue of the Advent Fair. Behind the inner row of houses, the historic town wall was hidden until the American bombings in 1944.





During the bombings, the closely-built buildings collapsed as a house of cards, and the **Great Rondella**, built in 1631, became visible in the gaps (only this one of the four rondellas of the castle wall remained).

At the level of the former moat today there is the **Castle Walkway**, where you can learn about the history of the town wall from Roman times. From the Middle Ages,

the Castle District was the town's commercial artery. **Coal Market** - the part of the Castle District from the Széchenyi Square, **Ógabona Square** - the grain market that borders the Castle District from the west, and in the middle there is a row of inns (**Fogadószer**), that hosted several famous people, such as poet and commander Miklós Zrínyi, Joseph Haydn, Franz Liszt and Johann Strauss Jr.

Did you know?

At the time of guilds, there was a tradition among the wandering craftsmen to visit some of the famous sights in the cities on their way, as a testimony that they were there. The three testimonies of the free royal town of Sopron are listed in the lexicon of teacher and cartographer Mátyás János Korabinsky, (1740–1811), published in 1786:

1. The Hutterian house in front of the Újteleki Gate house that passed the fire test.
2. The green stone below the passage of the Front Gate.
3. The virgin's head placed on the castle wall (the stylised head today can be seen at the section of the Castle Wall Promenade that is next to the Lenck Passage).

The upper curve of the Castle District (between Ógabona Square and Ikvahíd Street) is called **Kisvárkerület** (little Castle District), in which you can find **Festő köz**, a cozy alley. It was named after the blue dyers, who carried through their canvas to dry up in the attic of the town's dying house.



- 1 Fire Tower (*Tűztorony*)
- 2 Storno House
- 3 General's House
- 4 Fabricius House
- 5 Town Hall
- 6 County Hall
- 7 Central Mining Museum
- 8 Forestry Museum
- 9 Pharmacy Museum
- 10 The Scarbantia Forum i
- 11 Cobblestone Children's Museum
- 12 New Synagogue
- 13 Old Synagogue
- 14 Soproni Horváth József Collection
- 15 Arcaded House
- 16 Lutheran Collections of Sopron
- 17 Liszt Ferenc Cultural Centre
- 18 Zettl-Langer Collection
- I Goat Church
- II St. George's Church
- III Lutheran Church
- IV St. Orsolya Church
- V Dominican Church
- VI Holy Spirit Church
- M Mary's Column
- HK Fountain of Loyalty
- SZ Holy Trinity Statue (Plague Column)
- SZÉ Statue of István Széchenyi



PONCICHTER-FARMERS' QUARTER



House of the two Moors

Poncichter:

Poncichter is the name of the Sopron winemakers deriving from the German term Bohnenzüchter (bean producer). Its reason is that the German-speaking farmers used to plant beans next to the grapevines, because:

- nitrogen in the bean root is an important trace element for grape production
- the surface shoots of the vegetables planted at the grapevines (beans, tomatoes, potatoes) were later used as green manure
- no tax had to be paid after the beans and they were an important part of the poncichters' foods.

HOUSE OF THE TWO MOORS

Among all of the parapeted farmer's houses that are perpendicular to the street, the House of the two Moors from the early 1700s is the most beautiful one with its ornamented baroque gate held by two "Moorish" servants standing on twisted columns.



THE HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

A gothic church from the outside, baroque inside, on the Castle District side of the poncichter quarter, with a baroque ceiling and wall paintings by Stephan Dorffmaister (István Dorffmaister).



St. Michael's Church

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The oldest parish church of Sopron that stands on St. Michael's Hill was founded in the 13th century, before the Mongol invasion.

Its first written mention can be dated to 1278, but the church in its present size was completed by 1484. According to assumptions, King Matthias also took part in its consecration. Due to the long period of its construction, the church simultaneously bears the bulkiness of the Romanesque ar-

chitecture and the aspiring features of the Gothic style. With the dimensions and proportions of the church, it is the most significant Gothic building in Hungary after the Matthias Church in the Buda castle. Historical sources tell about the existence of 20 altars from the 15th century, some of which were destroyed in 1605 by the troops of the Transylvanian Prince István Bocskai. Succeeding parish priests renovated the interior in Baroque style. The Neo-Gothic refurbishing that still exists today was designed by Ferenc Storno Sr.

Did you know?

According to the beliefs of the Sopron people witches lived in St. Mihály Street. According to the story, at least 20 witches were sitting in a row in the evening between eleven and twelve selling fruit. Those who were passing by had to buy fruit from them, otherwise they grew very violent. Therefore, the night guards always had a few coins with them to buy fruit, which became worthless garbage by the morning.

The renovated church, the sacristy house, the cemetery garden with the neo-Gothic Calvary, and the St. James's Chapel welcome their visitors as the **St. Michael's Visitor Centre**.

ST. JACOB'S CHAPEL

The St. Jacob's Chapel is a significant example of the transition between the romanesque and gothic styles in Hungary. This chapel is one of Sopron's oldest medieval buildings. In its crypt, bones found in old graves were collected to rest on in a sacred place. This is why the chapel built in the XIIIth century is called bone house or ossarium.

THE SQUARES OF SOPRON



SZÉCHENYI SQUARE

The square is named after the first honorary citizen of Sopron, **Count István Széchenyi**. He initiated to drain the double pond that had fed the moat of the castle since the Middle Ages.



Originally, there was a double pond on the square, called the Two Bakers' Pond, where bakers who sold bread of insufficient size and weight were bathed. The ponds were drained, and the square began to be built from 1828, and by the mid-19th century the town's first pedestrian square was created here. In the second half of the 19th century, after the demolition of the city walls and the attached Italian bastion, new buildings

were built in the northern half of the square, the neo-Gothic ones were designed by Nándor Handler, Sopron's outstanding 19th-century architect.

The oldest building in the square is the two-towered Baroque **Church of St. Dominic**. Other characteristic buildings are: The **Széchenyi Palace**, the Art Nouveau **Postal Palace** and the **Berzsenyi Dániel Lutheran Lyceum**, the second oldest school in Hungary.



Lenck-Villa

DEÁK SQUARE

In the Roman times, there were cemeteries along the Amber Road in the area between today's Széchenyi Square and Csengery Street. This area is crossed by the Bánfalvi or Crab-stream, which is still flowing here today, but under the square. Its bed was arched at the end of the last century. This is how Deák Square was created, which is Sopron's longest square and second longest one in Europe. Here we find the magnificent **Lenck-Villa**, a special exhibition site of the Sopron Museum. The

exhibition is of ethnographic type, but it is out of the ordinary. It tells the story of where and how the different lifestyles of the craftsmen and the upper classes of the city meet. In the charmingly beautiful bourgeois villa, objects from the museum's ethnographic collection, the world of craftsmen's workshops and old crafts come to life.

PETŐFI SQUARE

There used to be a lake here as well in the middle of the square. After the lake was drained, the central building of the square was built that became the second stone theatre of the town, the present **Petőfi Theatre**. Today's outer facade and the auditorium were restored in Art Nouveau style at the beginning of the XXth century, the Doric columns holding the balcony remained from the original classicist building.

LÖVEREK

KÁROLY HILL ECOTOURISM CENTER

Among the hiking routes of the park forest, the most well-known and the most popular one is the **Károly Lookout Tower** (that became the second symbol of the town) and its surroundings. Sopron's only stone lookout tower rises 23 meters above the town. The small rooms on three floors were used by radio amateurs for a long time, now you can visit permanent exhibitions here. **The Kőhalmi Tamás Museum** is located at the bottom of the lookout tower, which presents the natural values and wildlife management of the forest. The Children's Adventure Park welcomes the young visitors with a forest playground, a bare-foot trail, and the terminal of the Witch Fairy Tale Trail is also here.

THE FOREST HOUSE ECOTOURISM VISITOR CENTRE

About 4 km from here, you will find the Forest House Ecotourism Visitor Centre and Wildlife Park, where you can see freshwater fish species in an aquarium, as well as big and small game, an interactive exhibition and a buffet.

Lőver:

Refers either to the archers living in the area under the reign of Béla IV, or it is the transformation of the Bavarian word „Löwer” (meaning boundary hill).



The Kőhalmi Tamás Museum

ERZSÉBET GARDEN

The town bought the garden in 1763 for the sake of the citizens' refreshment and to encourage beer consumption, as a brewery operated in the buildings here. It is one of Sopron's „green hubs”, also one of the oldest public parks in Hungary. The protected area is home to a number of special plants, its mountain sequoia is the tallest one of its kind in Hungary.

SÖRHÁZDOMB LOOKOUT TOWER

The lowest point of Lőverek is the Sörházdomb (Beer House Hill). On the site of the old lookout tower demolished after World War II, the youngest lookout tower in Lőverek has been standing since September 2006. The Sörházdomb lookout tower is the only one of the park forest lookouts that has a bolted wooden structure made of glued brackets, making it an architecturally unique piece. In nice weather, the Schneeberg and Rax ranges, as well as the Bratislava and Vienna windmills can be seen.



Taródi Castle

TARÓDI CASTLE

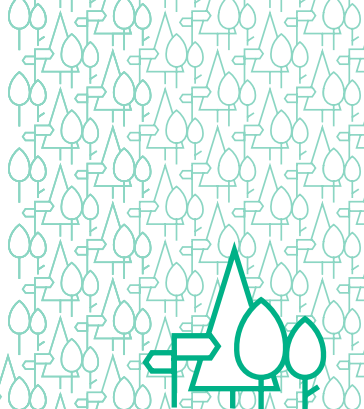
Perhaps the most fascinating sight of Sopron is the Taródi Castle, also known as the Fool Castle or Owl Castle. It praises the 50-year work of one man, István Taródi, who used 150 rail wagons of stones and bricks to build the walls.

VILLA-LINE

The single and two-storey wooden-terraced holiday homes, the so called Löver houses were built at the end of the XIX century. At the end of the Villa line you can see the St. John of Nepomuk Chapel.

BOTANIC GARDEN

The base of the botanical garden was already formulated at the 1897 establishment of the military secondary school. The transformation of the park for botanical purposes began in September 1922, and ever since then it has gained a number of plant species collected from their original regions. The University Living Plant Collection (Botanical Garden) has been a nature protection area since 1978. Currently it is located on 17.2 acres, is home to 2500 plant species, today the area is managed by the Forestry Faculty of the University of Sopron.



Did you know?

Not far from the Botanical Garden you can find the Swan Fountain, which has an interesting legend. A student, who failed several times was told by his professor that he would only pass, if the stone swan grew feathers. Due to the tricky fellow students, the swan was dressed in feathers by the morning. Swan-feathering is one of the elements of the graduate students' Valéta night.

ST. JOHN OF NEPOMUCE'S CHAPEL

The chapel once stood on the even side of the Front Gate. At the end of the 1800s, they started building a new Town Hall in Sopron, that was when the Scarbantia monuments of the Roman times came to the surface. Explorations began, so several buildings were demolished on that section. The town did not want to lose the chapel, so after its demolition, it was rebuilt in its original form at the intersection of Váris út and the Villa row.

BÁNFALVA



KÁRPÁTI-MILL

Its origins date back to the beginning of the XVIIIth century and served as a watermill until 1949. The mill then became the property of István Taródi, then in 1950 it became protected as a historic building. The building was re-purchased by the Kárpáti family and due to their efforts, the industrial monument has been open for visitors again since 2018.

CARMELITE CONVENT

A stone railed, 82-step baroque staircase leads up here from the village, built by Paulist hermits in 1718. The foundation of the church and the monastery is also in connection with the Paulists' activities in the middle of the XVth century. The stairs are decorated with 14 sculptures carved from Fertőrákos limestone. Here you can find one of the earliest copies of the Czestochowa icon in Hungary. The secco painted on the church gallery is unique, depicting the victory of archangel St. Michael's over the devil. The artist painted the devil's face with Stalin's facial features. The monastery currently operates as a hotel and retreat centre.

One of the Sopron suburbs, which was already inhabited in the prehistoric age, in the time of the Celts and the Romans there were also settlements here. In the 1800s it received the name Bánfalva, and in 1950 it was joined with Sopron.



BRENNBERGBÁNYA



Pub Church

It is an alpine part of Sopron, a popular tourist destination. One of the oldest coal mines in the country whose opening is due to a coincidence. Two miners' legends are related to the settlement. One of them is about a shepherd who started a fire on an autumn evening in 1752. In the evening, when he wanted to put it out, the fire burned on, moreover, the black stone was glowing even on

the next day. According to the other legend, Rieger, a coal burner's pile did not stop burning at one night, and even the mountain began to burn. 'Burning hill' is brennender Berg in German. Later it became Brennberg, and further on the name Brennbergbánya was created with a Hungarian addition.



Did you know?

In the last days of December 1944 and in the first days of January 1945, a shipment arrived at Brennbergbánya in four parts, which contained confiscated Jewish belongings and values. This was the „Jewish gold train”. In March 1945, Soviet troops were approaching the western border, so the shipment was transported out of the country. Even decades later, precious porcelain and jewellery were found in the village where the Jewish goods were sorted and thrown about.

PUB CHURCH

The village church is unique in the country: the church and the pub are under one roof. The pub building used to be a warehouse, the church was built here later. Although the nature of the two parts is significantly different, they have been living together peacefully for many years.



View of the Pub Church

USEFUL INFORMATION

Parking:

Petőfi Square
underground garage

Bus parking:

Papréti Bus Park
(Opposite to the Orthodox
synagogue)

Bus station:

Sopron,
Lackner Kristóf u. 9-11.

Train station:

Sopron,
Állomás Street 2.

Sources:

www.sopronikirandulas.hu / www.bonaparte.hu / www.sopronisetak.hu / www.sopronanno.hu / Albert Tibor: Sopron-Vas County Travel Guide / Hungarian City History Atlas 1. - Sopron - Compiled by: Ferenc Jankó, József Kücsán and Katalin Szende, Ferenc Dávid, Károly Goda and Melinda Kiss / Forum Scarbantiae - Landscapes Ages Museums Kiskönyvtár 455 Responsible Editor & Publisher: István Éri / Soproni Szemle 1997. Year L1., 4th, Imre Holl: Scarbantia-Sopron city walls / outlook - Downtown and suburbs

Photos: Tamás Griechisch, Klaudia Pölcz, Szabolcs Riba, Gergely Siményi, Ákos Steiger, Zoltán Szerdahelyi, Tibor Szurok



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Sopron, Szent György u. 2.
Tel.: +36 99/951-975

www.visitsopron.com

sopron@tourinform.hu

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