

THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL IN SOPRON and THE EXHIBITION OF THE SACRISTY HOUSE

The reception area of the exhibition is the Sacristy House, where you'll find a ticket office, a café, a museum, a relic shop and an information centre.

In the screening room of the Sacristy House, visitors can see seven short films running on a synchronized surface, presented with unparalleled technology solutions. The nearly 20-minute work guides us through the history of the founding, construction and renovation of the Church of St. Michael with a completely unique vision and technology, and provides an opportunity for everyone to relive history. The film is a perfect example of how modern technology serves and perfectly complements traditional storytelling. The centuries-long history of the live-action film provides a basis and atmosphere for the tour of the Sacristy House and the Church of St. Michael.

The guild hall presents the Catholic companies that play an important role in the life of Church of St. Michael with the help of copies of books, animations, video content and showcases. The history of the Catholic guilds of Sopron, which organizes and finances the life, transformations, expansions and renovations of the church, is inseparably connected with the history of the Church of St. Michael. The presentation of their history, role and significance duly got a special room in the exhibition.

The two special parts of the area present the priceless objects of the collection of the Diocesan Treasury and Library of Győr and the Catholic Convention of Sopron in a unique way. The exhibition reveals the various works of art with special 3D holograms in 3 languages, providing the most important information to visitors. The containers near the hologram-like chalices, monstrances and crucifixes show the custom-made holders and cases that once served as safe storage and transportation tools for relics — but limelight avoided them.



The church tower welcomes visitors with both real and virtual panorama. During the three-level tour, you will learn about the history of Sopron through engravings and panoramic photos, about the bells of the city and the church, and will also have a chance to look at Sopron from a bird's eye view, both real and virtual. In the tower of the Church of St. Michael, the present and the past of Sopron meets in digital panoramic images, the secrets of the bells are revealed, and you will also be helped by touch screens and a special telescope to see the view and find your way around.

In the sacred space of the church, a uniquely developed visitor assistance system is also available for those interested. The touch-screen controllable live-action guide walks you through the sights of the church square, indicating when you are near an interesting, special, or unique object, sculpture or painting. The visual guide detects your position within the church and recommends the nearest attraction based on this information, but it also allows you to manually select the items that you want to know more about.

In the garden of the church, two large screen information terminals provide more information about the history of the church's construction and the history of St. James's Chapel, while their third „brother” in front of the Sacristy House provides Sopron's Catholic community with current religious information and updates.

The exhibition of the Church of St. Michael and the Sacristy House is recommended not only for Catholic believers or practising Christians. You will benefit from spending an hour here if you are interested in the city's history, or if you just want to enjoy the panorama from the highest point of the medieval city.



THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL



Founded before the Tartar invasion in the 13th century, the oldest parish church in Sopron stands on St. Michael's Hill. The church was first mentioned in writing in 1278, but it was only completed by 1484 with its current size, and King Matthias presumably also took part in its consecration. Due to the long construction period, the church simultaneously carries the bulkiness of Romanesque architecture and the sky-breaking features of the Gothic style.

The church is considered one of the most outstanding buildings of Hungarian Gothic architecture due to its size and style.



The church and the Gothic tower played a significant protective role in the Middle Ages. It was almost lost during the Turkish occupation, when in 1532, they wanted to demolish it together with the Church of the Assumption next to the castle wall. Luckily, common sense prevailed over military arguments.

15th century sources tell of the existence of 20 altars, some of which were destroyed in 1605 by the troops of the Transylvanian prince István Bocskai, who was fighting on the outskirts of Sopron, setting fire to everything made of wood in the church. The uniform baroque furnishing of the church was made by the later parish priest, György Primes. The neo-Gothic furniture that you can see today were prepared on the basis of Ferenc Storno's designs.

The oldest Catholic church in Sopron and its immediate surroundings with the House of the Sacristy and the Chapel of St. James were completely renovated in 2020, and the church, once again in its most beautiful splendour, became the most spectacular tourist attraction in the poncichter district.



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