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# Tours and walks along the Palóc Route!

### Alsósztregova (Dolná Strehová)

Alsósztregova is located in South Slovakia, in the Northern part of the Ipoly valley. It is only 6 km away from the Slovak-Hungarian border. There are numerous ways to spend spare time in the settlement in the fields of culture, entertainment and sports.

The Madách mansion, the birthplace and home of the writer Imre Madách was built in the middle of the 18th Century, and the managing body Slovak National Museum – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia completely renovated it between 2010 and 2013. The building has become a literature museum in 1964. Visitors can enjoy the exhibition about the life of the writer and about his play, The Tragedy of Man, and take a pleasant walk in the mansion's park where the tomb of Imre Madách can also be found.

Alsósztregova had an own parish already in 1397, newly established in 1811. The Lutheran church stands on a hill in the middle of the village, in the place of the one-time 13-14th Century church. The late-Renaissance church from 1652 was rebuilt in 1819 in the style of Baroque-Classicist Lutheran churches.

The Kupko Aquatermal Spa was opened as part of the new Aquatermal Strehová water park. The thermal spa looks back on a history of 60 years, offering recreational opportunity and quality services.

Village Municipality Hlavná 52/75, 99102 Dolná Strehová Tel.: +421 474 897 169 Web http://www.dolnastrehova.sk Email obec@dolnastrehova.sk













### Becske

The village of Becske lies in the heart of the Cserhát mountain range, at the foot of the Szanda hill. Its name comes from the forename Benedek. This is supported by the fact that its most famous owner was Benedek Széchenyi.

During the Ottoman times the village almost depopulated. Currently the number of inhabitants is 594

One of the interesting sites of Becske is the Balás mansion from 1820, receiving eclectic style after its construction.

A bit older is the Catholic church of Becske from the beginning of the 19th Century, which door was prepared by Ferenc Kerék, local wood carving master.

The National Blue Trail crosses the village.

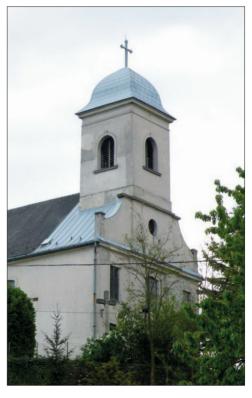
The meditation centre of Diamond Way Buddhist Church was opened in 1997 which has become internationally known during the years.

As a consequence we are proud to have the seventh Enlightenment Stupa in the country since 2008.

Our village received a carved Székely gate in 2019, for the 10th anniversary of the twin settlement relationship with Hilib-Ozsdola.











### **Bodony**

From the endless flat of the Great Plain the highest mountain mass of Hungary, the Mátra suddenly emerges. Bodony, a small village of 700 people at the Northern foot of the mountain awaits visitors with many interesting things.

The village has very special atmosphere thanks to the several traditional peasant homes.

In the Folk Art House of the village we can see a loom in operation, and the beautiful tablecloths, homespun products and clothes in the building of the Heves Household Cooperative are also available to buy.

The Museum Múlt és Jelen (Past and Present) is a valuable private collection in an unusual environment, with several interesting old utility items and local history curiosities.

The collection of folk motifs in the Bodony House of Treasures is unique in Hungary, focusing on our unparalleled rich folk decorative arts.

Gábor Les potter, who moved here from Nagybánya, Transylvania, has his workshop at his house; the beautiful ceramics are available to buy as well.

Bodony's own folk dance group, the Kenderszer Folk Dance Ensemble performs live on the first weekend of July every year in the neighbouring Parádfürdő during the Palóc Days.

The geographical location of the village is exceptional. There is a magnificent view of the village with the Northern range of the Mátra in the background from the Panorama lookout tower.



















### Cered

Introduction of Cered

If you look at the map, you will find this Palóc village with 1072 people in the North Eastern corner of Nógrád County. A 20 km winding road leads to here from Salgótarján offering breathtaking view. The village is located next to the Hungarian Slovak border. The cultural centre of the area is the Village House in a renovated mansion built in the 19th Century. The towerless Roman Catholic church of Cered was constructed in Baroque style between 1755-62. The nearby slate roofed wooden bell cage (a listed construction) from the 18th Century –which became a symbol of the village- is one of the masterpieces of folk architecture. The beautiful and rich landscape and the bell cage bring about a certain potential for hiking tourism.

The lakes of the Pípó creek are of significant regional value, where angling is possible for visitors. There is an international camp for artists each year. Two painters live in the village, we have a traditional Palóc women's choir and a folk embroidery maker.

Municipality of Cered Jókai út 3., 3123 Cered Tel.: +36 32/ 506-100









### **Debercsény**

Debercsény is one of the smallest settlements of Nógrád County to the South from Balassagyarmat, surrounded by forests. The examples of Palóc architecture and the folk dresses of the predecessors also worn by young people on events and feast days make folk traditions alive. Those who love nature, quietness and relaxation have lately discovered the settlement.

Interesting Sights

Exhibition about the archaeological research of the medieval church from the Árpád era

After prior consultation the exhibition can be viewed in the Roman Catholic Church and in the mayor's office.

Bell cage from the 18th Century

The original can be seen in the Open Air Ethnographic Museum in Szentendre. The village sold it to the Skanzen in 1983. Later, the copy of the bell cage was built in front of the church.

Temporarily, the wood carving workshop cannot be visited. The wood carver made the Millennium wooden grave marker and the cross marking the place of the Árpád era church.

Mayor's Office: Fő út 45., 2694 Debercsény Tel./Fax: +36 35/ 572-001 Tel.: +36 30/ 919-35-18



## Dejtár

The first written record of the village of Dejtár goes back to August 1255, but there are suppositions saying that the name Dejtár comes from the 1st Century.

Today, the settlement has 1450 inhabitants. From the North it is framed by the river Ipoly, along which lies the beautifully preserved nature conservation area, the Great Lake (Nagytó or Páskom pasture).

We have eight grade primary school and two-group kindergarten in the village.

We are also opening our youth hostel accommodating 60 persons.

The library and the youth hostel are equipped with digital information point (WIFI).

The people of the village are committed to bicycle tourism; biking station, playground, culture hall, sports court and illuminated artificial grass pitch await guests.

The Village House was built in the 1920s. Its permanent exhibition contains folk dresses, folk articles of use, textiles, furniture, photos and agricultural tools. Here we also commemorate the activities of the nationally renowned conductor, Kálmán Luspay cantor teacher, director.

Municipality of Dejtár Szabadság útja 2., 2649 Dejtár Tel.: +36 35/ 546-002 igazgatas@dejtar.hu















### **Erdőkövesd**

Erdőkövesd is located on the Northern side of the Mátra, 3 km from Pétervására. It is a small but charming village – well cared for, having clean air, to be accessed on a road along forests and groves in the Tarna valley.

Baron István Orczy started the construction of the Roman Catholic Church in 1742 in the place of the old church, in honour of St. Stephen. In the crypt below the single nave, towerless Baroque church lies among others Baron István Orczy, who died a heroic death in a battle fought by Serbs in the South on the 24th of September 1848.

There are several small monumental houses in the village, and a wine cellar with the year 1746 above its door. Its owner is currently László Magocsa.

The Village House was opened on the 20th of August 2019.





### **Erdőkürt**

The village with Palóc and Slovak traditions lies in South Nógrád, along the Céklás creek, in the Ecskendi hills. It takes up a rather big area, the terrain is hilly, the settlement hides in a valley, surrounded, as the name suggests, by forests.

It is mentioned relatively late in the books. First it is mentioned in 1274 related to a family feud. After the Ottoman era, the settlement became inhabited again at the end of the 16th Century. West to the settlement, along the road to Acsa, students found ruins in 1959; according to archaeological opinion a monastery could have been here – appellations also refer to this: Csemetekert (Seedling garden), Mill Ditch.

While 900 people lived here between the two World Wars, today there are 539 inhabitants. It is a pleasure that more and more young people decide to stay here and have a family.

The centre of cultural life is the Culture Hall, which incorporates the library and the mayor's office as well. Our events take place here, among others the Festival of Palóc Flavours.

We keep in touch with five "kürt" settlements, having a get-together every year. The members are Hidaskürt (Mostova), Csallóközkürt (Ohrady) and Kürt (Strekov) from Slovakia, and Hejőkürt and Tiszakürt from Hungary.

Erdőkürt is a station of the Virgin Mary pilgrimage trail between Máriabesnyő and Mátraverebély. The municipality can offer simple accommodation to pilgrims and tourists, but the Pauline Order sisters also welcome pilgrims in the Virgin Mary Monastery.

There are two religious communities in our settlement; most of the people are of Christian faith. The catholic community belongs to the Vác-Alsóváros Parish, while the Lutheran community to the Acsa Evangelical Parish.













### Felsőtárkány – the Western gate of the Bükk

The picturesque Felsőtárkány is 6 km away from Eger. The settlement is an ideal starting point for different hiking tours. The hills around form the part of the Bükk National Park. The peculiarity of the village is a protected plant, the Virgin Mary's slippers, which can also be seen in the coat of arms of the settlement. In the past, the population was engaged in forest-related activities, but quarrying was also important. In the 14th and 15th Centuries the settlement was made up of two parts, Alsó- and Felsőtárkány. Between 1330-1335 Carthusian monks moved to the monastery built in Felsőtárkány at that time. The ruins of walls hidden among the trees preserve their memory near the Barát (Monk) meadow to the present day.

**Rock spring and fishing lake** The rich water of the spring was swelled into a lake in the 18th Century. The surroundings of the lake are beautifully landscaped, it is a picturesque and popular recreational place.

**Country Home** The Country Home is to be found in the one-time bell man's house, the people of the village donated its furnishings.

Repentant St. Mary Magdalene Roman Catholic Church The Bishop Károly Eszterházy had this church built between 1785-1790 in late Baroque style; it is a listed building.

**John Calvin Reformed Church** The building was opened in 2009 built from the donations of the Reformed Church, local and neighbourhood believers and villagers.

**Small forest rail** Today, its length is 5 km, and takes people from Felsőtárkány to the Stimecz house and back.

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Felsőtárkány Country House, Fő út 198, 3324 Felsőtárkány











### **Gyetva (Detva)**

Polyánhegyalja (Podpoľanie) is a special part of Slovakia due to its unique cultural and natural heritage. Several generations shaped the picturesque landscape at the foot of the Polyána (Poľana) hill. The centres of the area are the towns of Gyetva and Herencsvölgy (Hriňová). Polyánhegyalja (Podpoľanie) is famous for its original folk culture and living traditions. The region offers numerous possibilities for active recreation as well. The many hiking and biking trails attract visitors to the area. Horse riding, mountaineering and pleasure-flight programmes enrich the activities. In the winter the region offers skiing opportunities for guests: downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, alpine skiing etc. The "Podpolanie Cultural Route" is also part of the tourism supply. On the thematic route fascinating and valuable venues welcome tourists where they can enjoy unusual experiences - they can visit traditional folk and sacred architectural monuments, the carved crosses of Detva, they can participate at exhibitions, traditional food tastings and folklore events. Those interested can acquire skills of the so called curved embroidery in workshops, they can learn about traditional farming, ride the area on vintage bicycles or get acquainted with many other local attractions.

OOCR Turistický Novohrad a Podpoľanie, +421 948 874 635 Komunikačné Centrum Detva, n.o., +421 904 101 012, www.vulkanpolana.sk













### Herencsény

Herencsény is located on the Northern slope of the Middle Cserhát, in the valley at the foot of the Nagy-hegy (Great Hill - 467 m), on the bank of the Feketevíz stream. The village has almost 600 inhabitants. The protected "Arethusa" spring is to be found in the area, the Feketevíz stream has its origin here, feeding the river Ipoly. The village has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Kálmán Lisznyai Damó poet (1823-1863) was born here, a friend of Sándor Petőfi, the writer of the famous Palócz dalok (Palócz songs). The Community House has a great room for 100 persons, youth and retired club room, library and WIFI hotspot.

#### Sights to see:

- · Arethusa-spring
- · St. John of Nepomuk statue
- · Roman Catholic Church
- · Haraszti grassland church
- · Welcome Oven
- · The Guardian Cross of Palóc people
- · Millennium Memorial Site
- · Honey plant
- · Count István Bethlen commemorative plaque

#### Main events:

- St. Michael's Day Feast Feast of the village Church. Takes place every year on the Sunday closest to Michael's day.
- · Palóc Cross Feast and Village Day, gathering of Palóc people and twin settlements – takes place every year in the middle of the summer. The village awaits guests at the outdoor stage where folk and popular music artists and traditional art groups perform.
- · Grape harvest parade

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Kossuth út 13, Herencsény, Béke út 2, Herencsény











### **Horpács**

Horpács used to be the home for the great Palóc writer, Kálmán Mikszáth. He bought the estate of Pál Szontagh in 1904, on which he built a mansion based on the plans of his son, László. Today it accommodates the exhibition about the life and career of the famous writer. The park around the building has more statues made by István Szabó Jr.: the writer sitting on a bench, the busts of his wife, Ilona Mauks, the scientist academic Iván Nagy, Pál Szontagh, Péter Molnár and Mikszáth himself.

Significant tourism investments were accomplished in Horpács in the last few years. Four accommodation places are at guests' disposal with more than 100 beds.

#### Sights to see

#### Kálmán Mikszáth Memorial Home

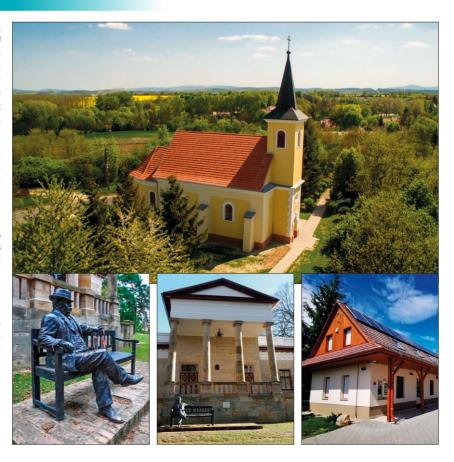
The permanent literary history exhibition was opened for the 150th anniversary of Mikszáth's birthday. The original furniture, furnishings and personal relics recall the writer's memory.

#### Szontagh mansion

The mansion next to the Mikszáth mansion (originally one-storey, today showing classicistic clues) originally belonged to Pál Szontagh, one of the leading figures of the Nógrád County's noble opposition in the Reform Age. Following his death Mikszáth bought it in 1904.

www.horpacs.hu Mayor's Office Tel.: 35/382-001 30/975-7839

30/749-9469 "Múzeum"



### **Iliny**

One of the smallest villages of Nógrád County (with an area of 646 hectares and 180 villagers) lies in the valley lined by the Northern hills of the Cserhát.

The heritage of the community, the listed buildings are cared for exemplarily. The statue of the Virgin Mary from 2004 stands on the highest hilltop. A stone cross erected in 1930 commemorates our heroes, while a highly wrought wooden grave memorial marks the resting place of Ferenc Csikány Lieutenant General.

The Mihaly Uram Country House with a hipped roof was built in 1938, where old peasant household items can be seen. The local fine art camp was established in 2006, for which the endless topic continues to be the local village scenery. Folk treasures are kept by the Palóc Sweet Potato Pockets Festival, the Church Feast, the Village Day and the Iliny Tradition Ensemble. We have friendly relationships with currently 8 twin settlements: Lizmus (Latvia), Alpago (Italy), Ipolyszécsénke, Lesenice and Szlovákgyarmat (Slovakia) Vlahovice (Czech Republic), Blizin (Poland) and Kobátfalva (Transylvania).

The furnishing of the Palóc doll museum and the establishment of the Village Home are important steps in developing tourism in the village as new attractions. Infrastructural investments were accomplished in the settlement, such as drinking water, natural gas and sewage pipe systems.

We joined the Greenway Programme with EU funding, aiding visitors with road signs and rest areas. In Iliny we put emphasis on taking care of the elderly. The local Elderly Club was renovated from funding sources, accommodating up to 50 persons.

The Municipality elaborated a creative and diverse settlement development plan, which involves the construction of energy efficient and modern houses attracting younger families with small children.













### Kalonda

**Palóc Border Cross** The double cross was erected in 2018 next to the former customs house building. 75 Palóc settlements donated the timber for the cross as a symbol for the borderless Palóc people.

Roman Catholic Church dedicated to prince St. Emmerich The red marble tombstone of György Kalonday, Vice-Provincial of Hont County can be found in the inner wall of the church. He died in 1504 while crossing the Danube.

**Mill Park** The permanent exhibition presents the history of the one-time Kalonda water mill, the processing of hemp and the aquatic life of the lpoly valley, with a small mill building and rotary mill wheel.

Exhibition in the railway station building about the people deported from Kalonda A comprehensive exhibition presents the fate of Kalonda people deprived of their rights and being deported due to their Hungarian nationality following World War II.

**Palóc museum of Kalonda** The exhibition depicts traditional village life through the one-time Palóc room, village kitchen and household items.

The millstone of King Matthias Legend has it, that those who rotate the millstone from the Kalonda mill to the right, will have their fate turn to the better.

















### Kazár

The village of Kazár is located in the North East of Nógrád County, seven kilometres from the urban county Salgótarján. Its especially rich traditions are kept up to the present days.

Examples of old folk architecture can still be seen in this Palóc settlement. In the old village centre there stand numerous peasants' homes in their original state, with hipped roofs and porches. The folk dresses of Kazár are among the most colourful women's wears of Palócland, no wonder that they have earned an international reputation for the settlement

Near Kazár there is a geological formation which is unique in Central Europe. There are only six sites in the world similar to the rhyolite tuff of nearly one hectare, the nearest one in Cappadocia, Turkey.

Interesting sights Country House / Mining House / Artisan House / Flat iron and moulding collection / Granary House / Match tag exhibition / "Teddy Bear Hut" Exhibition House / Palóc Gallery / House of Traditions / St. Helena Roman Catholic Church / Memorial room of István Szabó scholar priest / Rhyolite tuff

**Event** Kazár Potato pancake festival and Potato roundel party - on the last Saturday of May every year. www.laskafesztival.kazar.hu

Tanács út 1., 3127 Kazár Tel.: +36 32/ 341-333; +36 20/ 237-6810 E-mail: titkarsag@kazar.hu · www.kazar.hu

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: 3127 Kazár, Kossuth út 76.











#### Kozárd

Kozárd is the pearl of the South Cserhát. Its wonderful glass domed chapel, the beautiful bell cage, the artistic altarpieces, the musician angel guarding the entrance, more than 30 sculptures with Prince Árpád and the Peasant Bacchus among them are truly worth a visit. The double tourism quality award winning restaurant and several beautiful guesthouses convince visitors to stay for days. The House of Natural Resources will be accomplished by 2020, awaiting guests to Kozárd and its surroundings as a visitor centre. The Apple Valley of Kozárd is ideal for a beautiful walk, where loads of trees are in bloom in the springtime. Other trails lead to the lake, the Ann Chapel or the Andesite mine through the forest. And who longs for good and lovely, will take some titbits from the Kozárd produts, gifts or Mátraalja wines ..

The National Flag, Identity Monument and Historical Flags / The House of Natural Resources and the Hungarian homeland memorial / The glass dome of the chapel and its lookout / Artistic sculpture park with 33 sculptures / Mary's Garden on the Virgin Mary Pilgrimage Trail / Maple Recreation Park / Ecological visitor centre / Ann Chapel hiking trail / The Sarmatian Geological Study Trail

Fő út 29., 3053 Kozárd (From 2021 on the Visitor centre) Tel.: +36 30/ 210-4308, +36 20/ 365-5758 e-mail: turizmus@kozard.hu · www.kozard.hu

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Juharliget Recreational Park (Damjanich út, 3053 Kozárd), Integrated Community and Service Space (Fő út 47, 3053 Kozárd)















### Ludányhalászi

Ludányhalászi lies along the border river Ipoly, 5 km long. It was formed by the fusion of several smaller settlements in 1947, although part of it was mentioned in the times of King Béla IV.

The settlement is rich in waters, thus flora and fauna are diverse, and floods provide fertile soil. As far as leisure time is concerned, the Pontyos-, and Öreg lakes, and the river Ipoly provide excellent angling possibilities. There is also a riding hall for sport lovers.

The Ráday castle is a well known building in the settlement, today the home for Ipolypart Institute of Nursing and Rehabilitation. The castle is a one-storey residential building in neoclassical style, with modern wing extensions. In its English garden there is a chapel and a Lourdes Cave Memorial.

There are two Catholic churches in Ludányhalászi. The St. Andrew's Great Church from the 18th Century lies in the Ludány part. The Our Lady of Sorrows church was built in the Halászi part by extending the old bell cage. Further monuments of the village are the Baroque-styled parish house and stone cross, the Halászi Chapel and the war memorials.











### Magasmajtény (Hrušov)

The village of Magasmajtény is located in South Slovakia, in the Nagykürtös (VeľkýKrtíš) district, at the foot of the Korponai plateau. It is first mentioned in writing in 1285. The historic origin of the village's name is related to the legend of the wild pear ubiquitous in the area. The settlement surrounded by hills and spotted with farms lies on 23 km². Untouched nature prevails here which is ideal for tourism and for those wanting relaxation and active recreation. There is a 15 km long study trail from the settlement presenting natural, architectural and traditional folk treasures. The village has 825 inhabitants. The rich local cultural heritage has survived; it is a living set of folk traditions that is inherited by the people of the village. The most significant event of the settlement and the whole Hont region is the Hont parade festival organised every year at the end of August, introducing authentic folklore, recalling traditional farming, folk arts and crafts and local cuisine. The village is known for its special cellars dug in yellow soil, too. Further attractions are the Country House presenting the traditional way of life, the smith workshop, the traditional distillery and the richest collection of traditional vehicle engines ("stationary machines") in Slovakia.













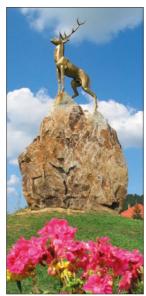
### Mátraballa

Mátraballa lies at the Northern foot of the Mátra, 10 km from Pétervására. It is a truly relaxed settlement, waiting to be discovered. The writer József Solymár says: "We do not have castles, mansions, thermal spas but we have wonderful people. There is no richer village in anecdotes and humour than Mátraballa". The newest attraction of the village is unique in the whole country, the Millennium Miraculous Deer Monument, standing on a rock of 30 tons, in the middle of a wellkept park.

#### **Country House**

The Country House was opened a few years ago, in its two rooms we can see the household items of everyday village life from the beginning of the 20th Century, among others kitchen tools, butter churn, charcoal flat iron or loom.

Petőfi Sándor utca 4., 3247 Mátraballa Opening hours: every day 8.00-17.00 Tel.: +36 36/ 475-001













### Mátraderecske

The more than 600 years old Palóc settlement is located on the Northern edge of the Mátra, in Heves County, 120 km from Budapest.

The newest attraction of the village is the carbon dioxide dry bath, which is unique in Hungary. It contributes to a great extent to the high-quality care and rehabilitation of vascular patients and some rheumatological disorders in the country. The National Directorate General for Spas of the Department of Health classified the natural carbon dioxide gas source as healing gas in 1999, and the facility as healing gas spa institution in 2006.

Palóc Pillow Festival: It takes place in the last weekend of August. The multi day traditional event gives a taste of the material and intellectual culture of the Palóc landscape and the typical Palóc cuisine. Visitors can participate at the artisan fair, exhibitions, musical and children's programmes. The most spectacular part of the Festival is the Palóc Procession with pillows and the participation of tradition ensembles, folk dancers, folk musicians, guests from the micro region, Hungary and from abroad.

The folkore house and the Palóc Barn, the Information centre of Palóc Út await visitors with exhibition and artisian presentations.

Deák Ferenc út 1., 3246 Mátraderecske Opening hours: M-F 8:00 – 16:00 Tel. +363 0/589-13-60 (Mrs. Anikó Vidi Kis)











### Mátraverebély-Szentkút

Tradition has it, that in the 1100s a voiceless shepherd boy was healed when, for the suggestion of the appearing Virgin Mary, he drank from the spring which is today the Holy Well (Szent Kút).

**Shrine Temple** The Baroque church was consecrated in 1763, next to the Franciscan monastery. Opening hours: from 6.35 to sunset.

**Shrine Statue** On the main altar stands the statue of Our Lady of Szentkút (end of the 17th Century). Below there are so called offertas made of metal. Numerous thanks plaques around the holy place commemorate the answered prayers here.

**Outdoor altar** On the mosaic of the altar structure (Marko Rupnik, 2014) there are scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary and Hungarian Saints. In the altar martyrs relics from the neighbouring folks can be seen.

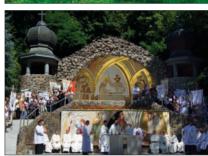
**The Holy Well** We find the 800 years old eponymous well of the place in the pilgrimage square, its taps reach out from reliefs depicting the seven sacraments (1928).

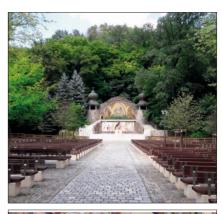
**Hermit caves** The trail behind the church leads up to the hermit caves (13th Century), from where there is a beautiful view to the Mátra.

Saint Ladislaus' horse jumping and the springs Up in the valley we find the ravine called "Saint Ladislaus' horse jumping", and further up the Pénzes-, Rongyos- and Köszvényes curative springs.

3077 Mátraverebély-Szentkút 14. Tel.: +36 32/ 418-029 E-mail: info@szentkut.hu • www.szentkut.hu









### Mihálygerge

Mihálygerge with 545 people lies between the ranges of the Karancs Mountain, along the Slovak border.

The village was the ancient estate of the Zách clan. The settlement survived the revolution in 1956, the era of socialism and following the turn of the political system a reorganisation of the community's life took place, tradition groups, NGOs and Foundations were established.

Today, Mihálygerge has comprehensive infrastructure. The one-time building of the school stands in the centre of the village, now a community place, nearby are the kindergarten, the medical and dental office, the social kitchen and the Culture Hall.

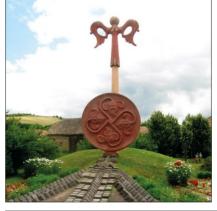
On some older buildings of the village we can discover the motifs of Palóc folk architecture: the triangle gablet and the porch facing the courtyard with pillars. One of the main attractions of the settlement is the Millennium memorial, made by Előd Kocsis. In its kind it is the highest in Hungary, symbolising the mythological turul bird and a Scythian sun disk.

There are numerous church monuments in the village. The cross standing below the four linden trees on the Juhász Gyura hill was renovated by our wood carving artist in 2005.

Five amateur artist groups embrace Palóc folk traditions in the settlement.

- · Dobroda Tradition Ensemble
- · Harmonica and Zither Ensemble
- · Cricket Folk Music Ensemble
- · Ipoly Folk Dance Ensemble
- · Csini-Tinik Majorette Ensemble

Mihálygerge also hosts the Nógrád National Folklore Festival each year in July, where Slovak, Czech and Polish musicians play on their unique instruments.











### Nagykökényes

Nagykökényes (formerly Kökényes until 1904)

The village is one of the treasures of the Cserhátalja, situated on the triple borders of Pest, Nógrád and Heves Counties, 10 minutes from the M3 motorway by car and 6 km from the dual carriage way no. 21.

The name of the village and the Provincial Provostship founded in the last quarter of the 12th Century suggest that this is the place where the headquarters of the Kökényes-Radnót family was established.

We do not know the place of the monastery, since its stones were removed in the Ottoman times to fortify the fortress in Hatvan.

Its church is of Baroque style, built from the stones of the elder premontrei monastery, gaining its final form in 1817.

Its Parish is mentioned in the Nógrád county census already in 1542.

Among the mansions of the village the one belonging to the Dessewffy family was the most significant, built in 1820 in neoclassical style. By 2020 the renovation of the Dessewffy mansion will be accomplished, and as the Garden of Arts it will offer different interactive programmes to visitors (traditions - music, folk arts, handicrafts, interactive archaeology, exhibitions, concerts and festivals).







### Nógrádsipek

The Balás and Nagy mansions stand in the middle of the village, built around 1820 in neo-baroque style, both are unique nationally listed buildings.

A small detour from the trail to Hollókő leads to the Dobos well, where exhausted hikers can drink from the spring. Proceeding, we reach the 517 metres high Dobogótető, from where we can enjoy a spectacular view.

A natural resource to be explored is the Pusztavár hill between Rimóc and Nógrádsipek, which is supposed to hide the Sztrahora fortress built after 1271.

Worth seeing are the wine cellars at the foot of the vineyard, and the Roman Catholic Church built in 1713, possessing pyramidal tower roof in front of the façade, and angel heads bricked above its gate.

The National Blue Trail crosses the village. There are three questhouses for visitors.

The Village Day takes place on Whit Monday each year, where apart from cultural programmes guests can have a taste of local food as well.

Municipality of Nógrádsipek Jókai út 4., 3179 Nógrádsipek www.sipek.hu Tel.: +36 32/ 589-010











### Noszvai

Noszvaj is located on the edge of the Palóc area, 10 km from Eger; it still retains its captivating panorama, its attractive village image and its crystal clear air. The unique atmosphere of the village was shaped by the hospitable community, which still lives up to its traditions.

**De la Motte castle** The pearl of Hungarian castle construction. Dobó út 10., 3325 Noszvaj, +36 36/563-303

Farmhouse Authentic village house, with all the charm of the old peasant lifestyle.

Deák F. út 40., 3325 Noszvaj, +36 36/463-396

**Granary- Depository** The building is the home for the exhibition of Hungarian ethnographic and industrial cultural history. Szomolyai út 2/a, 3325 Noszvaj, +36 20/9462-178

**Thummerer Cellar** Visitors can have a taste of their excellent wines and get acquainted with the history of this family enterprise

Szomolyai út, 3325 Noszvaj, +36 20/ 9462-178

**Pocem, the street carved in stone** The former cave dwellings are today a creative community.

Honvéd út, 3325 Noszvaj, +36 30/781-2855

**Reformed Church** The current church was built in 1928 in the place of the one-time church from the Árpád era. Deák Ferenc út 4., 3325 Noszvaj

Tale trail Study trail of tales, a special programme for the family, an entertainment on each day of the year.

**Síkfőkút** Undisturbed nature with lakes, springs, shade trees, clean air to bite, and exceptional flora and fauna. It is also the starting point of the Spring hiking trail.

**Csendülő** Csendülő is a cultural inn, with special performances and exhibitions.

Deák F. u. 46., 3325 Noszvaj, +36 30/699-1183

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Gazdaház (Deák Ferenc út 40, 3325 Noszvaj)













#### **Parád**

One of the most frequently visited tourism spots in North Hungary in the centre of the Palóc folks. Famous for its medicinal waters and folk culture, this resort stands out from the multitude of Matra villages due to its natural attractions, its constructed values and intellectual heritage linked to the historical past.

Palóc House The last surviving memory of wood-construction in the Mátra countryside.

Sziget út 10., 3240 Parád, +36 20/ 456 7007

#### **Country House**

It presents the Palóc dresses and household items of Palóc lifestyle survived in the settlement.

Kossuth L. út 53., 3240 Parád, +36 20/456 7007

Johák Asztalos heritage exhibition room of the folk wood carver In his life-size sculptures, reliefs and statuettes the wood carving master tells us about the legends of Palóc life and the world of outlaws.

Kékesi út 2., 3240 Parád, +36 20/ 456 7007

Exhibition and workshop of Mrs. Julianna Baji Kiss, Imre Baji Jr. and Zoltán Baji basket makers

Szigeti út 6., 3240 Parád, +36 36/ 364481

**Cifra stall** There is a coach museum in the Cifra stall built according to the plans of Miklós Ybl.

Kossuth L. út 217., 3240 Parádfürdő, +36 30/ 182 6505

#### Parádfürdő State Hospital, Mineral Water Collection

The mineral water collection comes from 25 countries, involving more than 350 bottles of mineral water.

Kossuth Lajos út 221., 3240 Parádfürdő, +36 70/682 1116

#### Further sites to visit:

Geological study trail, Rákóczi-tree, Holy place to the Virgin Mary, St. Stephen csevice spring with sulphuric curative water, Ilona Valley Waterfall, Parádóhuta: Clarissa spring www.parad.hu

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Parádóhuta, Hunyadi János út and Kékesi út 2, Parád (Fire brigade gallery)



















#### Pásztó

Pásztó, a friendly little Palóc town is located in the Southern part of Nógrád County, probably in the most picturesque part of the Mátra and the Cserhát hills, 80 km from Budapest.

The settlement has been inhabited since the Bronze Age, Benedictine monastery, then the Cistercian abbey, church and farmstead has been proven to exist from the 12th Century. We can learn more about these in the ruin garden and the museum of the town.

#### What to visit in the ruin garden:

Pásztó Museum, St. Lawrence Parish Church, Cloister, School Master's House, Csohány Gallery, Rajeczky House, the former watermill and its area.

The climatic conditions are suitable for the treatment of respiratory diseases, praised by the patients of the musculoskeletal rehabilitation services of the Margaret Hospital.

Hikers, gliders, sail fliers, hunters, fishermen and riders love and utilise the qualities of the area. Pásztó has the only medicinal thermal water bath in the County, offering a pleasant recreation.

The museum is responsible for the visits to the ruin garden: +36 32/460-194, pasztoimuzeum@gmail.com

The hiking trail is available in the GUIDE@HAND application. Photos were taken by János Hír Ph.D., museum director.



Youth camp (Kékesi út 82/A, 3065 Pásztó-Mátrakeresztes) Pásztó Town Nursery and Kindergarten (Madách út 22, 3060 Pásztó) Teleki László Town Library and Culture Hall (Nagymező út 3, 3060 Pásztó)











#### Pétervására

Pétervására is one of the smallest towns in Hungary, located at the Northern foot of the Mátra. In the district centre numerous public institutions, offices, schools, and commercial service providers are available, indicating its central role. Pétervására was declared a town in 1989; the anniversary is celebrated by "Pétervására 30" series of events in 2019.

Keglevich castle The two storey baroque castle had been built by Gábor Keglevich I. with Italian masters. The wrought iron balustrade and gate was made by Henrik Fazola locksmith master from Eger. On the frescoes of the banquet hall upstairs scenes from the castle's construction, the four seasons and Greek mythological figures can be seen. The Pétervására manor was an important centre of the estates of the Keglevich family.

Roman Catholic Church The pseudo-Gothic building is one of the earliest memories of Hungarian romanticism. It is one of the most beautiful double towered churches of the Palóc countryside, built in honour of St. Martin of Tours.

Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel It was built in 1722 as a cemetery chapel. In the interior a Pieta statue stands on the altar, neoclassical architecture painting and the figure of two saints can be seen on the walls











#### Recsk

At the Northern foot of the Mátra rich flora and fauna and several programmes await visitors in beautiful natural settings: National Memorial Park, hiking trails, Búcsú valley angling lake, Museum of Local History and Mining, Country House and Artisan House.

Mining Museum and Exhibition The exhibition focuses primarily on the relics of the Recsk ore mining, but records of quarries are also shown. Várbükki út 10., 3245 Recsk

Opening hours:

M-T: closed / W-F: 13.00-20.00 / S-S:14.00-22.00

#### Búzás valley angling lake

Hikers shall do a visit to the Búzás valley angling lake, the area is excellent for recreation; those possessing a national fishing license or a day pass can spend time with fishing.

Tel.: +36 30/160-5327

#### **National Memorial Park**

Memorial Park in the place of the forced labour camp from 1950.

#### **Country House and Artisan House**

Kossuth út 118., 3245 Recsk

The listed Country House preserves the Palóc architectural traditions: porch with wooden pillars, lobby with kitchen, vestibule and beehive oven. We can witness life of the Palóc people in the house: folk dresses, furnishings and household items.

#### Can be visited by prior arrangement

Telephone: +36 30/5891 360 (Mrs. Anikó Vidi Kis) +36 30/ 5892 785 (Mrs. Ferenc Kovács)

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement.

Address: Várbükki street park, Culture hall (Várbükki u. 10, 3245 Recsk)























### Rimóc

The local Palóc folk dress as a Nógrádikum is famous on far land. Girls and women of Rimóc still wear their colourful dresses today.

Songs and dances of Rimóc also have a rich history, again, part of the Nógrádikums. The nurturing of folk traditions and folkways is important for local people.

An opportunity to show this is the Village Day or the grape harvest festival in September, with the constant performer local brass ensemble (Rezesbanda) being 99 years old.

Pieces of traditional Rimóc folk wear are still being made in the settlement.

Village museum The building is a traditional Palóc House with hip roof. The guestroom opens from the kitchen, with the bed made at all times. Different household items for peasants' lives can also be found here.

István király u. 48., 3177 Rimóc

Mrs. Miklós Bablena, +36-70/518-0997

Doll museum Virág u. 10., 3177 Rimóc

Mrs. Bertalan Kiss, +36-32/388-266

Visitors can dress in folk wear besides having a look at the life-sized dolls in folk dresses.

Folk coif museum Hunyadi u. 5., 3177 Rimóc Mrs. János Beszkid, +36-30/533-2383

Our exhibition presents the most beautiful ornate pieces of Palóc folk dresses, the women's coifs.

www.rimoc.hu · Tel.: +36 30/963-5540









### Sirok

The settlement is located in a valley where the two Tarna creeks meet, on the Eastern edge of the Mátra. It luckily combines the long past with the present, with a village appearance living up to modern expectations. There are diverse programmes for visitors the whole year through, whether individually or in groups; bigger groups can have accommodation in the Motel managed by the municipality.

Heritage of Pál Borics The sculptor from Sirok is worthily called "the child of the stone". In his hands stone comes alive, his works are timeless creations of our stone sculpture up to the present day. A part of his works can be viewed in the library. They truly represent the everyday lives of the people of Palóc land.

+36 36/498-052

Sirok fortress The renovated fortress can be visited by foot the whole year round. +36 70/1979893

Country House A characteristic building with porch in the centre of the village, with Palóc traditions exhibition in its room.

Nyírtes lake A unique conserved area in Europe, with a peat moss bog in the middle.

Kőkút St. Ladislaus Chapel The small chapel was opened in 1996, and fits its environment nicely with the bell tower and stretched gothic stained glass windows.

**Kútvölgy** A well-kept recreational place for hikers not far from the village, with cooking place and rain shelters.

Municipality of Sirok +36 36/561 000 onkormanyzat@sirok.hu, www.sirok.hu

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Liget út 16, 3332 Sirok







### **Szanda**

Szanda and the attached Szandaváralja are hiding in the valleys of the Cserhát in wondrous natural environment. Among the ethnographic values here and there the memories of historical eras safeguard our villages. We offer the possibilities of horse riding, hunting, or angling at a nearby lake. The National Blue Trail crosses the area. Accommodation is available in the settlement.

**Geological site:** pyroxene andesite with columnar separation: "andesite organ", and further away horizontally layered andesite terraces

**Medieval ruins: Szanda fortress** Virgin Mary spring (formerly a pilgrimage places) and from here Remains of a late Bronze Age earth fort from the spring to the direction of the fortress

Vintage cellars (Petőfi út, Szanda) Mary's Chapel (Rákóczi út, Szanda) Traditionally built Palóc peasant homes

Palóc Country House
(Madách út 11, 2697 Szanda)

(Madách út 11., 2697 Szanda) Mayor's Office Tel: +36 35/ 548-006 phszanda@gmail.com • www.szanda.hu





### Szilaspogony

Szilaspogony lies in the North Eastern corner of Nógrád County, a small village with 400 inhabitants, its patron being Saint Michael: an island of silence and peace, with beautiful hiking spots around. The Stone Soup Festival takes place on the first Saturday of September each year, attracting several hundreds of guests and contestants. The event is based on the legend of the cave treasure on the nearby volcanic peak of the Kiskő hill, and the story of the folk tale titled "The Stone soup". The hospitality of the people of the settlement carried the reputation of this small Palóc village afar.

#### **Roman Catholic Church**

Rákóczi út 48., Tel.: +36 20/ 5048646

#### Hungarian gray cattle herd

Szilaspogony, külterület (229 m)

Farmer: Csaba Cene

Rákóczi út 125.,

Tel.: +36 32/ 408 001, +36 20-922 2004

#### Kásberki trout lake

Szilaspogony, periphery (232 m)

Angling with day ticket, no licence is necessary (carp, grass carp, tench, catfish, pike, trout ...)

Tel.: +36 20/ 440 2405

There is an assigned hiking trail to the cave of the Kis-kő, where there is a place for recreation and grilling.

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: lot no. 29 belonging to Rákóczi út 49, 3125 Szilaspogony





















### Szécsény

#### Kubinyi Ferenc Museum

History comes alive. A historical monument of Szécsény town is the Baroque Forgách Castle built in the second half of the 18th Century.

The Ferenc Kubinyi Museum in the Castle awaits visitors with 15 exhibition rooms on more than 1000 square meters.

The Castle garden can be visited free of charge. **Fire Tower** In the middle of the inner town we find the most leaning tower of Central Europe, the Fire Tower. The current degree of leaning was achieved at the end of the 1800s due to the shift in the lower layer of the ground.

Museum of Nostalgia Treasures of generations. The outstanding technical achievements of our time are presented by more than 1000 exhibits, from the beginning of the 20th Century to the present day, some of them during operation. You shall also try the manual telephone switchboard invented by Alexander Graham Bell.

**Bastion prison** Adventure, game, entertainment. There are three escape rooms of European quality in the North East Bastion originally built in the 14th Century as a prison.

**Artisan House** Facing the East Bastion the Artisan House is a community space for young people. Upstairs there are accommodation rooms, and below the building there is a medieval cellar ideal for wine dinners.

#### Information point

Ady Endre út 4., 3170 Szécsény www.facebook.com/szecseny.ert.ekes Tel.: +36 70/ 365 3026

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Haynald Lajos út 8, 3170 Szécsény















### Szurdokpüspöki

Szurdokpüspöki is located at the South Western foot of the Mátra, in the Zagyva valley. In 1926 Szurdokpüspöki united with Zagyvaszentjakab, and the present village was formed involving the area of the village Fedémes ruined in the Middle Ages. The key for the survival of the village have always been the people cultivating the land and the countryside. At present, there are 1870 inhabitants in the village. Formerly, agricultural activities were determinant; today it is a supplementary source of income, part of the population works in nearby towns and in Budapest, thanks to the good transport facilities. There are also local enterprises.

The most important sights to visit are the Baroque Church of the Holy Cross, Church of St James, Millennium Monument of the Conquest and the historic memorial fountain. The vintage cellars in the Kisvölgy (Tiny Valley) recall the centuries-old tradition of viticulture. Also exciting are the Hermit Cave Cavern and the Holy Cross Well. The village is among the destinations of the Mátrabérc, Hanák Kolos and Muzsla performance tour. As far as events are concerned, the Goose Festival has countrywide interest, making alive the local traditions of geese keeping.









### **Terény**

A village in Nógrád in the heart of the Cserhát, with Slovak and Palóc people. 105 peasant houses with "Palóc hip roofs" enjoy local protection, 13 homes preserve traditional folk architecture on the Szőlősor (Grape lane). The Nobel prize winner scientist, Albert Szent-Györgyi spent his childhood years here. Attractions of the village, among others, are: the bell cage, outdoor stage and the Jurta angling lake. The National Blue Trail crosses the settlement.

**Country House** Used to be the home for the smith. Its collection stems from the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Arany J. út 31., 2696 Terény, Tel.: +36 30/2782409 **Open-reel Tape Recorder Museum** The museum on the Szőlősor is a real treasure. The tape recorders play period music and audio material. Kossuth út 10., 2696 Terény, Tel: +36 20/9199802 Art-téka – Art Without Borders Association

**Sculpture Park, Moving Bell Cage** Kossuth út 18/A, 2696 Terény, Tel.: +36 30/ 3202540

Lace Museum Introducing the Hunnia lace. Arany J. út 70., 2696 Terény, Tel.: +36 20/5190927 Evangelical church Built in 1910. Arany J. út 22., 2696 Terény

**St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church** A listed building, more than 700 years old. Bercsényi u. 1., 2696 Terény, Tel.: +36 30/5048590

Goat cheese tasting Mrs. Gyula Mucsina Tel.: +36 35/348327

Jurta Angling lake Tel.: +36 20/ 9268146

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Slovak Country House (Arany János út 31, 2696 Terény)

Opportunity to dress up in renaissance lace clothes and to try lace making with a computer programme in the Hunnia Lace museum. (Arany János út 70, 2696 Terény)

Polgármesteri Hivatal. 2696 Terény, Arany J. út 46. Tel.: +36 35/ 548-000 · www.tereny.hu















### Vanyarc

#### Interesting sights

Country House and Artisan House, Doll museum of dress history - Tabán u. 9., 2688 Vanyarc, Tel.: +36-30/686-7880

The Country House preserves the memories of peasant lifestyle from the first half of the 20th Century. The dolls of the dress history collection wear traditional folk dresses of different age groups in miniatures. The material of the dresses is original textile.

Evangelical church, family tomb of Mrs. Pál Veres, the so-called Madach linden in the mansion's park, Dessewffy mansion (a venue for exhibitions), Millennium Memorial Park, Arad Martyrs Memorial Park, Mary Recreation Garden, Fossil and rock collection (Sziráki út 12., 2688 Vanyarc, Tel.: +36-30-577-1789), Vanyarc-Sarlós farm – Kisbér half-breed stud of János Lóska.

#### Craftsmen

Ferenczi family shod egg makers Tel.: +36-32-787-983

E-mail: tojaspatkolas@gmail.com

#### **Noodle Festival®**

A gastro-cultural event with potato noodles contest, folklore performances, arts and crafts fair and folk dress show. We await our guests on the second Saturday of September each year!

Information: www.vanyarcfalu.hu

Tel.: +36-30/820-5807,

E-mail:vanyarckonyvtar@gmail.com

#### Accommodation

Accommodation in the upper floor of the Mayor's Office (Tel.: +36-32/584-015)

Guesthouse Kemencés (Beehive oven) (Kossuth

út 37-39., 2688 Vanyarc)

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Museum of shod eggs, Open crafts workshop and folk playground (Veres Pálné út 11, 2688 Vanyarc)

















### Varsány

The hospitable village that takes care of its traditions lives its everyday life in a corner of Nógrád County close to the Slovak border. The people proudly wear their traditional dresses even today. Records mention the name of the settlement from the Árpád era in 1219 first. The Village Museum is to be found in one of the Old Village peasant houses from 1895. The guesthouse of the Artisan House is a peasant house satisfying modern needs, where several traditional folk trades can be tried in the workshops. In the open barn outdoor programmes and oven-baked delicacies welcome visitors. The Community Hall and Recreational Park are excellent venues for events with ovens and stage. The House of Traditions present folk values, but accommodates conferences, weddings or family events as well.

The artistic wooden grave markers and monuments make the memorial park rather colourful and refreshing. On the competition "Virágos Magyarország" ("Hungary in Bloom") the efforts of the village to make it more beautiful were acknowledged by a Golden Rose prize. The village has 6 twin settlements in Europe.

#### Outstanding events in the village:

Musical Church Garden Concert Pie Festival St. Michael's Day Palóc Feast

#### Information:

Tel.: +36 32/387-541

E-mail: kozossegihaz.varsany@gmail.com

There is Palóc Út folk playground and playroom in the settlement. Address: Artisan house (Kossuth út 2, 3178 Varsány)







# Renaissance lace dresses in the Hunnia Lace Museum

Terény Arany János út 70. 2696















## Tours and walks along the Palóc Route!

### **Games of Playgrounds** and Playrooms











Skittle bowl, climbing wood, seesaw

Cross-shaped ground hoop throwing game

Teeter









Hoop throwing game with stand

"Four-in-a-raw" puzzle

Puzzle with stand

Desk pottery wheel







Giant dominoes

Hoop throwing game with desk

Snail wind-up



Chest bench



Rubber target shooter



Cops board game



Flywheel thrower with stand











INSTALL **GUIDE@HAND** Palóc Út application to your smartphone!









DOWNLOAD AND START recommended walks in the GUIDE@HAND Palóc út application!

Click the "Walks" button and select "Tót – palóc kinship" element for instance! During the walk you can witness the past: how the The Good Palots and the Slovak Kinsmen lived together in a small Nógrád village, Terény.

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS

Hors d'oeuvre, Map, Recording experiences, Events, Places (Accommodation, Catering), Settings (Update, Favourites, Off-line map) etc.

SEE ALSO www.quideathand.com www.palocut.hu





