




VESZPRÉM
THE CITY OF QUEENS

TRAVEL PLANNER

VESZPRÉM-BALATON 2023 EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE





Veszprém

the City of Queens and the Lake Balaton region, European Capital of Culture 2023

We invite you to explore the city, which won't be any ordinary adventure! In Veszprém, at any time of the year, you can immerse yourself in countless forms of culture, while at the same time you can embark on an imaginary journey through time, spanning the eras of queens and bishops, from the foundation of the state to the present day. Their spirit still permeates the built heritage of the Veszprém castle district. This place is the cradle of culture, where not only the walls and the artefacts preserve cultural values, but there is still active creative work going on here in the many forms of culture.

It is no coincidence that Veszprém, together with the other towns in the region, has been awarded the title of European Capital of Culture in 2023. As a citizen of Veszprém, it is my pride and for the visitor, it is an opportunity to explore everything that has made this unparalleled city and its region worthy of the attention of the "old continent". The numerous attractions of Veszprém have

often amazed visitors, while in some cases the unique solutions of local artists and creators can be absolutely astonishing. Sometimes its unique natural endowments simply draw you in to explore closer and see with your own eyes more of what the "City of Queens" has to offer.

Get inspired by our brochure and explore the real Veszprém way of life through music festivals, immerse yourself in culture by visiting an exhibition or a theatre performance or simply pop into one of the local restaurants or bistros and taste the delicacies created by our excellent chefs.

MORE INFORMATION



Our Past, Present and Future

The History of Veszprém

PREHISTORY

5th millennium BC • Neolithic-Chalcolithic settlement on the site of the Jutasi residential area.

2nd millennium BC • Fortified mid-Bronze Age chieftom seat on the Castle Hill.

ROMANS IN PANNONIA

2-4th century AD • Villa farm in Baláca (Villa Romana) – Caesariana.

MIGRATION PERIOD

Late 6th – early 10th century • Avar finds in the area of Veszprém.

THE CONQUEST

895-896 • Hungarian tribes settle in the Carpathian Basin.

Early 10th century • High Prince Géza's family takes possession of Veszprém and its surroundings.

VESZPRÉM IN THE ÁRPÁD AGE DURING THE REIGN OF KING STEPHEN I AND QUEEN GISELA

Late 10th century • The establishment of the princely and royal residence.

997 • Stephen's victory over Koppány in the battle near Veszprém.

1001-1002 • Founding of the Bishopric of Veszprém and the country's first cathedral, the St. Michael's Cathedral.

1018 • Founding of the Greek convent of Veszprém Valley (the vestment that became the coronation cloak of the Hungarian kings was most probably made here).

VESZPRÉM IN THE TIME OF THE ÁRPÁD DYNASTY

1216 • The right of the current Bishop of Veszprém to crown the Queen is confirmed by Papal law – Veszprém is the city of Queens.

1246-1252 • St Margaret of the Árpád Dynasty, daughter of King Béla IV of Hungary, was raised in the convent of St Catherine of the Dominican Order, founded in 1239.

1276 • Peter Csák's troops attack the castle of Veszprém and burn down the country's first college and the cathedral.

FROM THE ANJOU PERIOD TO THE MOHÁCS DISASTER

1458-1486 • Albert Vetési, Bishop of Veszprém – the city became a cultural centre during the time of the Renaissance scholar-bishop. In 1476, he crowns Queen Beatrix.

FROM THE TURKISH WARS TO RÁKÓCZI'S WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

1527-1683-ig • Veszprém Castle changes hands eleven times.

1683 • The final expulsion of the Turks from Veszprém.

1701 • Leopold I, Holy Roman Emperor Leopold has the border fortress of Veszprém destroyed.

THE REBUILDING OF VESZPRÉM IN THE 18TH CENTURY

1745-1762 • Márton Padányi Biró is the bishop of Veszprém. It was during his time that the Castle District began to take on its present-day look.

1762-1773 • Ignác Koller is the last bishop-count; he commissions the construction of the baroque bishop's palace between 1776 and 1778.

1767 • The Tummler aqueduct is built.

VESZPRÉM IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

1813 • Mondolat, an important document of the Hungarian Language Reform, is published by the Veszprém-based Számmer printing house.

1814 • The Stadt Theater, the city's theatre company, is founded.

3 November 1842 and 5 March 1848 • Sándor Petöfi in Veszprém.

From 17 March 1848 • The participation of the people of Veszprém in the Revolution and War of Independence.

FROM THE SURRENDER AT VILÁGOS TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Second half of the 19th century • The settlement structure of Veszprém changes: new streets open up, new buildings are constructed. The city's water and sewerage network is completed, manufacturing industry starts appearing and small factories and workshops are established.

1887 • The County Hall is built.

THE "PIPING DAYS OF PEACE" IN VESZPRÉM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY AND THE WORLD WAR I

1903 • The Veszprém County Museum Association is founded.

1908 • The electrical grid is built and the theatre opens its doors to the public.

31 December 1916 • Baron Károly Hornig, Bishop of Veszprém, crowns the last Hungarian queen, Zita.

VESZPRÉM IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD AND WORLD WAR II

1925 • The building of the County Museum is completed.

1935 • The Bakony House is built.

1936 • The Heroes' Gate is inaugurated to commemorate the victims of World War I.

1938 • On the occasion of the 900th anniversary of King Stephen I's death, several monuments are renovated, the stone statue of King Stephen and Queen Gisela and the bronze statue of St Emeric are unveiled on the Castle Hill and the viaduct, inaugurated in 1937, is named the St Stephen Viaduct.

Late October - 6 December 1944 • The Holy Crown was guarded in Veszprém.

VESZPRÉM BETWEEN 1945-1990

1 February 1946 • Proclamation of the Republic.

1949 • The Veszprém University of Chemistry, now known as the University of Pannonia, is founded.

From 23 October 1956 • The participation of the people of

Veszprém in the Revolution and War of Independence.

From 1957 • Construction of public institutions and housing estates.

1958 • Opening of the Kálmán Kittenberger Zoo & Botanical Garden.

1967-1968 • The construction of the new town centre begins

1975 • Restoration of the castle and the valuable monuments complex of the town centre.

From 1989 • As part of the change of regime, the Soviet troops present since 1945 withdraw from the country. Veszprém is granted the status of municipality, the bishopric of Veszprém is elevated to the rank of archbishopric and the old street names are restored.

VESZPRÉM BETWEEN 2010-2023

2010 • The Veszprém Valley and the city centre undergo a complete renewal.

2013 • The Hangvilla Multifunctional Community Space opens in the city centre. One of the region's premier cultural centres is established on the site of the former Séd Cinema.

2010 - to date • The Veszprém Zoo undergoes unprecedented development - the Savannah Run and the home of aquatic wildlife are renewed, the Elephant Park and the Rhino Showground are built, the Dino Park and the African Savannah Playground open.

2018 • Veszprém, together with the Bakony-Balaton region, wins the title of European Capital of Culture, celebrated in 2023.

2019 • Veszprém is awarded the UNESCO "City of Music" title in recognition of the city's efforts in representing music across stylistic boundaries.

2021 • The new Veszprém Sports Swimming Pool is built for the development of Hungarian aquatic sports while also serving as an excellent site for amateur swimmers of all ages.

2022 • The historic reconstruction of the Castle District of Veszprém begins.

2023 • Veszprém, along with the Balaton region, bears the title of European Capital of Culture.

5TH MILLENNIUM BC

Neolithic-Chalcolithic settlement on the site of the Jutasi residential area

THE CONQUEST

High Prince Géza's family takes possession of Veszprém and its surroundings

997

Stephen's victory over Koppány in the battle near Veszprém

1001-1002

Founding of the Bishopric of Veszprém and the country's first cathedral, the St. Michael's Cathedral.

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Veszprém, the City of Queens

According to oral tradition dearest to our hearts, the town was the favourite residence of High Prince Géza and later his son King Stephen I and his wife Gisela, and had its heyday around the millennium during the time of the first royal couple. They founded the bishopric and with their support the Saint Michael's Cathedral and the Veszprém Valley monastery were built where, as legend has it, the vestment was made that became the coronation cloak of the Hungarian kings. Gisela donated the embroidered garment to the local church, thus according to posterity, elevating the town to the status of the "city of queens", whose bishop's right to crown the queen was confirmed by law from 1216.

The proverbial name of the city also evokes the memory of Queen Gisela, stemming from Antonio Bonfini, King Matthias' historian: Queen Gisela renounced her fur coat decorated with jewels with the cry "Vessz, prém!" (May the fur perish!) to contribute to the construction costs of St Michael's Cathedral.



VESZPRÉM
THE CITY OF QUEENS

Today, the cult of the beatified queen is preserved and strengthened by the Gisela Days, a series of events that recall the historical period. Her figure, personality, existence and the true history and spirit of her actions live on in the culture and the city's lively cultural scene.

MORE INFORMATION





Veszprém Castle

The castle of Veszprém was built on one of the seven hills of the city, the Castle Hill, in the 10th and 11th centuries. A wall running around the edge of the steep, rugged hillsides marks the former fortress, where today visitors can encounter a plethora of historic buildings. Over the centuries, there have been many battles here, followed by major construction works, therefore the appearance of the castle was constantly renewed and transformed according to the style and needs of the time.

Today, it shows the signs of a culturally vibrant, artistic and spiritual centre, with numerous churches and prestigious buildings when setting out to explore it from the Art Nouveau Old Town Square. Therefore, visitors shouldn't expect a medieval stone building with thick walls in the classic sense. Instead, they will be immersed in an archaic atmosphere and spirit as they pass through the Heroes' Gate.

The castle district, which has since been given a Baroque facelift, is where most of the city's sights are concentrated. There are also great lookout points and key cultural venues. Naturally, the thousand year-old historic monuments have not been lost without a trace and the stones and rocks that once protected and housed Queen Gisela can still be seen in many exhibition spaces, showrooms and parts of the castle. The castle of Veszprém takes visitors on a historical journey through the centuries, right back to the time of the foundation of the state. Yet those who are simply looking for a light stroll with beautiful views of the Bakony Mountains at the end should also head towards the castle from Old Town Square towards the castle from Old Town Square towards the castle and they surely won't be disappointed.

MORE INFORMATION



Veszprém Castle

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

ldm.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



Heroes' Gate

The Heroes' Gate commemorates the Hungarian victims of World War I. It was erected and inaugurated as part of the city's celebrations to mark the 900th anniversary of the death of King Saint Stephen. Today it is an exhibition space for visitors arriving at Veszprém Castle, with wonderful panoramic views of the Bishop's Rest.



Dungeon

The prison, which at the time consisted of a single cell, already existed around 1600. Later, the prisoners' cells were arranged below the entrance level of the dungeon, one below the other, due to the architectural features of the institution. Convicts were still imprisoned here at the turn of the millennium. The once famous and infamous dungeon is now home to an interesting interactive exhibition.



Fire Tower

The Fire Tower is one of the symbols of Veszprém. Originally intended as a watchtower, it was later rebuilt for fire watch purposes. The clock in the late Baroque copper tower plays the recruiting music of Antal Csermák every hour.

Veszprém Castle

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

muveszetekhaza.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



Dubniczay Palace

The palace, constructed in the 18th century, was commissioned by Canon István Dubniczay on Holy Trinity Square. The palace is one of the most beautiful Baroque buildings in the castle district. It has been rebuilt several times throughout its history. The excavations have revealed remains of stables, ramparts, cannon bastion, casemate and well-preserved, finely detailed decorative paintings. The palace currently has four exhibition areas: the Palace, the Castle Gallery, the temporary exhibition of the Granary and the Tegularium. The Tegularium exhibition displays the use of clay-based building materials from Roman times to the present day as well as old brick-making tools.



Modern Gallery - László Vass Collection

From the small and secluded square next to the Castle Gate, visitors can access the Modern Gallery - László Vass Collection, an exhibition space created by the integration of three buildings. Nine exhibition halls showcase the unrivalled selection of the internationally renowned contemporary private collection of art collector László Vass. The so-called Shoe Gallery is a separate exhibition space that houses the permanent exhibition Vass Shoe History. The Modern Gallery also features temporary exhibitions.

The Csikász Gallery

The Csikász Gallery, a site of temporary exhibitions, is located in the gateway leading up to the Fire Tower. Guided tours and art education activities are a regular feature of the current exhibitions.

Veszprém Castle

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

veszpreminfo.hu



Saint Michael's Cathedral

The history of St. Michael's Cathedral in Veszprém dates back to the millennial Christianity in Hungary. The size of the building, which is still visible today, is close to that of the ancient cathedral, with some difference, and is also built in a basilica layout. The Gothic sanctuary and early crypt were retained by the architects during its most recent reconstruction in 1910, but the Baroque parts were demolished. The main walls of the baroque church were partially preserved and used to create a new neo-Romanesque style cathedral with numerous novel elements in keeping with the spirit of the times.



Episcopal Palace

The Episcopal Palace is the most impressive building of the castle, built during the episcopate of Ignác Koller in late Baroque style. The man responsible for designing and supervising the construction of the palace was the outstanding architect of the period, Jakab Fellner, whose important works can still be admired in Tata and Eger. Several renowned architects and builders from Veszprém took part in the construction.

Gisela Chapel

The Gisela Chapel opens onto Holy Trinity Square, between the present Episcopal Palace and the Grand Provost's House. Some data suggests that the medieval two-storey palace chapel in the inner castle may have been part of the episcopal palace complex, yet we have no precise information on the function and extent of the complex that once stood here. Its formal features and style suggest that it was built in the 1230s, partly incorporating the walls of an earlier building. The outstanding features of the Gisela Chapel are the life-size images of the 6 apostles that remain on the north wall. These murals are among the oldest of their kind in Hungary.

Saint Emeric's Church

One of the jewels of the neoclassical ecclesiastic architecture is Saint Emeric's Church, built in Vár utca. The church was the site of a single-storey school built in 1731 by the Piarists, who were invited by Bishop Otto Volkra in 1711, which was subsequently converted into a chapel in 1762. In 1828, the chapel was demolished and the construction of the church began (between 1828 and 1839, the foundation stone was laid on 1 May 1828), according to the plans of István Czeglédy, the secondary prior of the church. József Kopácsi, a former Piarist student and Bishop of Veszprém at the time when the construction of the church began, consecrated the church as Archbishop of Esztergom on 30 June 1836.

Veszprém Castle



Holy Trinity Square

The main square of the Castle is named after the statue of the Holy Trinity in the middle of the square, commissioned by Bishop Márton Bíró Padányi in 1750. Among the reliefs and statues, the Bishop's family coat of arms and his patron saint, Saint Martin, are prominently displayed.



Statue of King Stephen I and Queen Gisela

The statue of the first Hungarian royal couple, King St Stephen I and Queen Gisela, stands on the lookout bastion at the end of Vár utca. The statue was made by József Ispánky and was erected in 1938. From the lookout point, which was referred to as "The End of the World" by the people of Veszprém, visitors can enjoy stunning views of the city as well as the Bakony mountain range beyond the houses.



Castle Well

One of the castle's popular attractions is the castle well, formerly known as the "Dragon Well". The well carved into the rock is probably as old as the castle itself and was in use until the 18th century. In 1936, the well was adorned by an ornately carved curb, commemorating Bishop Albert Vetési. During the excavation of the well, the bottom of the well proved to reach a depth of 40.7 metres. Although the "fabulous treasures" of legends are yet to be found, archaeologists have discovered a number of finds.



St Benedict Hill

On the north side of the castle, a paved staircase leads to St Benedict Hill, which was formerly the burial place of the conquering Hungarian ancestors. A 17th century crypt was excavated here under the guidance of Dezső Laczkó, a palaeontologist and geologist from the Piarist Secondary School in Veszprém. Today, the stone cross of the former Calvary of Veszprém stands on the site of the crypt.



VESZPRÉMI ÉRSEKSÉG



Érseki
TURISZTIKAI
KÖZPONT

The faith of our ancestors is the hope of the future

The Archdiocese of Veszprém is one of the twelve Roman Catholic dioceses in Hungary. Founded by King St Stephen I, it was one of the first bishoprics in Hungary, with a venerable tradition and culture. Our archbishop, György Udvardy chose the inscription on the altar of the Gisela Chapel as the motto of the diocese in 2020: "The faith of our ancestors is the hope of the future".

This motto is both a creed and a call to action. It is a creed, as the Church has been proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ for a thousand years, and a call to action as the built, cultural and sacred values created by our ancestors require us to preserve and hand them down to future generations.

The aim of the renovation of the Veszprém Castle District is to conserve the castle's values and showcase its most outstanding features. We believe that by entering our buildings, seeing and learning about our treasures grants a visual experience and also provides spiritual enrichment. We would like the blessing hand and the deed it represents on the capstone of the Gisela Chapel to not only be formally present in the local scene of the Castle District. We hope that the experiences of walking through our buildings and discovering their rich history, faith and culture will enrich the lives of both locals and tourists who visit us and will accompany them throughout their lives, blessing them each and every day.



The historic renewal of Veszprém's Castle District has now become possible: 18 historic buildings, 35,000 sq m of built-up area and around 10,000 sq m of open space will be simultaneously renewed. Construction works of this scale have last been carried out in Veszprém around 250 years ago, in the Baroque period. **The development started in 2022 and will continue throughout 2025.**

The buildings of the castle will be technically as well as functionally renewed. This way, we can create spaces that simultaneously serve ecclesiastical, community (small and large), cultural and pastoral purposes, while also presenting the assets of the Castle District to visitors in an experiential and visitor-friendly manner.

We will preserve, renew, reuse and re-inhabit the spaces that our ancestors bestowed on us. Let these be the future meeting points where God's community-building power can be manifested!

Let us come together!

More information on the investment:
<https://www.facebook.com/aveszpremivarnegyedmegujulasa>

ARCHIEPISCOPAL TOURIST CENTRE

ARCHDIOCESE OF VESZPRÉM





INNER CITY

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | Heroes' Gate |  | Pósa House |
|  | Fire Lookout Tower |  | Castle Well |
|  | Dungeon |  | Holy Trinity Statue |
|  | Bakony House |  | Statue of King St. Stephen and Queen Gisela |
|  | Laczkó Dezső Museum |  | Benedict Hill |
|  | Modern Art Gallery László Vass Collection |  | Center of Digital Knowledge |
|  | Csikász Gallery |  | Ruins of Saint Nicholas Church |
|  | Dubniczay Palace |  | Veszprém Sports Swimming Pool |
|  | Saint Emeric Piarist Church |  | Eötvös Károly County Library |
|  | St. Stephen's Franciscan Church |  | Petőfi Theatre of Veszprém |
|  | Archbishop's Palace |  | Hangvilla Multifunctional Community Space |
|  | St. Michael's Basilica, Cathedral |  | Veszprém Arena Sports and Event Hall |
|  | Gisela Chapel |  | Tourinform Veszprém |
|  | St. George Chapel | | |
|  | Körmeny House | | |



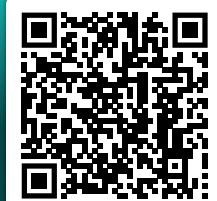
Downtown

In the centre of Veszprém, there are no seemingly endless streets or squares that one can't take in from one end to the other. Rather, the heart of the city offers visitors a charming mesh of squares and parks connected by gently winding streets. In order to navigate this intricate network with ease, it is worth getting to know the historic buildings that surround these streets and squares. Whether it's the Pósa House, the City Hall, the Dezső Laczkó Museum, the Bakony Folklore Museum or the impressive Art Nouveau building of the Petőfi Theatre, they all have many exciting stories to tell.

The Hangvilla (literally, Tuning Fork) stands out with its unique curved glass walls, which may not have a century-old history, yet the vibrant cultural offerings within its walls draw visitors in, inviting them to explore the building. The statues on the site are the faithful guardians of these buildings. In the Old Town Square, the Archangel St Michael and another popular figure, the Girl with a Water Jug, have been greeting tourists for many years.

Without these streets, squares, buildings and statues, Veszprém would not be the city we all know and love, yet the real vibrancy of the city is provided by the activities and events hosted in the city centre. These include the Old Town Market, which recalls the atmosphere of old fairs every other Sunday or the deservedly famous Street Music Festival, which transforms the city centre into a thrilling festival every July with barefoot, world-travelling street musicians.

MORE INFORMATION





Old Town Square

The octagonal square in the heart of Veszprém is officially known as Old Town Square and although the surrounding Baroque and Art Nouveau houses are indeed hundreds of years old, Old Town Square is nowadays also the site of popular festivals in Veszprém. The cobblestone square is home to the summer's unmissable jazz and wine festival, the Rosé, Riesling and Jazz Days, as well as the famous Street Music

Festival. Yet, Old Town Square still retains its traditions to this day. After many decades, one of these is the Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture programme, where the bustling atmosphere of the once marketplace district is evoked with local producers and craftsmen's wares on a bi-weekly basis.



The Pósa House

The most prestigious building in the square is the mansard-roofed, late Baroque Pósa House, the former residence of the Cistercians of Zirc. Initially inhabited by novices and monks teaching at the national school, it later became an important meeting place for the town as the bookseller and printer Endre Pósa's shop.



City Hall

The Romanticist style building standing on the north-eastern corner of the square was built in 1857 as a church bank and has functioned as the mayor's office since 1990. With its elegant wrought-iron balustrades decorating the upstairs balconies and its wall stuccoes and sills, the building is a worthy centre for the city offices. Marriage ceremonies take place here, while exhibitions and lecture evenings are regularly organised in the representative interior of the building. The hammer of Balázs Kiss, the only Olympic champion of Veszprém, is also on display in the lobby of the City Hall.

Downtown

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

ldm.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



Digital Knowledge Centre

A knowledge centre is a place where learning, skills development and technology come together. In school group programmes, study circles and summer camps, participants can master the skills and tools required by future employees. The centre also welcomes individual visitors and is open to corporate partnerships.



Laczkó Dezső Museum

The museum, named after geologist and palaeontologist, teacher of the Piarist Secondary Grammar School in Veszprém Dezső Laczkó, is "for the people of Veszprém about the world and about the people of Veszprém to the world". It tells of the past, the present and the future: *Historia est magistra vitae*. The permanent and temporary collections of the museum cover the ethnography, archaeology, history, fine and applied arts and literary history of Veszprém and its region.



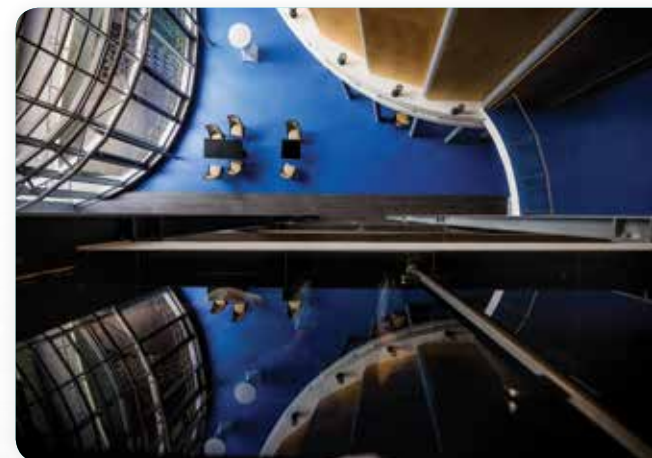
The Bakony House

Next to the Laczkó Dezső Museum stands the Bakony House, with one of the earliest Hungarian open-air ethnographic exhibitions. It was built in 1935 with public donations on the model of a small noblemen's house from the village of Öcs. The structure is a tripartite, thatched-roofed building with a beaten earth floor.

Downtown

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

hangvilla.com | petofiszinhaz.hu | kabocababszinhaz.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



Hangvilla Multifunctional Community Space

Hangvilla Multifunctional Community Space is located in the heart of the modern city centre. Thanks to the multifunctional nature of the centre, it offers a range of services. It is home to the Pannon Castle Theatre, the Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra and the Espresso Club, popular among young adults. It regularly hosts classical and acoustic concerts, dance and theatre performances. With its restaurant and café, the building is also suitable for conferences, workshops and smaller or larger receptions.



Petőfi Theatre of Veszprém

Every season, the Veszprém Petőfi Theatre enriches the cultural offer of the city of the Queens with performances of numerous genres. Monumental plays with live music, entertainment and thought-provoking performances offer a sophisticated pastime for all age groups. Two of the flagship festivals of the theatre are the From Soul to Soul Festival of the Healing Power of Theatre and the Róbert Rátonyi Operetta Festival.



Kabóca Puppet Theatre

For decades, the Kabóca Puppet Theatre has been a key feature of Veszprém's cultural life. Its puppet shows are intended for little toddlers, preschoolers, primary school children and even adults. The most popular event of the summer in Veszprém is the Kabóciádé Family Festival, a multi-day, open-air family event.



Cloisters and Gardens

The Séd stream, winding through the majestic hills of Veszprém, is accompanied by more than 3 kilometres of walking and cycling paths, surrounded by a well-maintained public park. It is no coincidence that this walking route is dubbed Cloisters and Gardens, since in Veszprém, the wonders of nature and cultural heritage can be discovered in unique harmony at this location, encouraging visitors to set off on historical adventures. The walking path along the Séd stream starts at the foot of the Castle, in the shade of large trees, lined with rose gardens, and features monasteries from the Árpád period.

The Veszprém Valley offers countless opportunities for leisure activities in nature, pleasant walks and romantic strolls, while the

inviting, cosy restaurant terraces offer a number of superb dining experiences. The valley attracts many visitors for jogging, while others prefer cycling or roller skating. Also, more and more people are indulging in the new pastime of Nordic walking. Along the walkway, children can also visit the “Under the Banks” Hungarian Folktales playground and the Sloped playground.

The Veszprém Valley is the venue for a variety of events practically all year round, providing visitors with additional opportunities.

MORE INFORMATION



CLOISTERS AND GARDENS WALKWAY



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
|  | Fenyves Mill |  | Veszprém ZOO |  | Nostalgia Garden Restaurant |  | Rézsús playground |  | Friczka Pop-up Restaurant & Ruin pub in the Friczka's mill |
|  | Bishop's Resting Pavilion |  | Jesuit Church |  | Betekints Restaurant |  | Hungarian folk tales playground |  | Valley Ice cream shop |
|  | Kutas Square |  | Ruins of the Greek Orthodox Nunnery |  | Valley Buffet |  | Playground |  | Hotel |
|  | Margaret Ruins |  | Queen Gisela Lookout Tower |  | Kiskuti Inn |  | Veszprém ZOO – Africa Savannah playground |  | Eat & drink |
|  | Tethys-Veszprém green route and the Prehistoric Tunnel |  | Malomkert Beer House |  | Water Supply Museum |  | Saint Stephan Viaduct |  | Drinking fountain |

Cloisters and Gardens

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

veszpremvolgy.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



Margaret Ruins

The former church and monastery were built for the nuns of the Dominican Order. The daughter of King Béla IV, Saint Margaret was raised here as a little girl for 6 years. The ruins were excavated in 1938, and today only the foundation walls and part of the church wall remain. As part of the reconstruction, the Margaret Square was created, decorated with a fountain symbolizing the route of the Séd stream.



Veszprém Valley Greek Orthodox Nunnery

The ruins of the Greek Orthodox convent of the Veszprém Valley are the oldest building complex in Veszprém. It was founded by St Stephen I for Greek Orthodox nuns accompanying his son, Prince St Emeric's Byzantine wife. According to tradition, it was here that the vestment was made that was later transformed into the Hungarian coronation cloak and used until the last coronation. Queen Gisela herself worked on the rich embroidery of the cloak.



The Jesuit Church

The Jesuit Church is a remarkable architectural site along the Monasteries and Gardens walkway. The estates of the Dominican nuns, including the ruins of the convent on the site, were granted to the Jesuits of Győr after the Turkish occupation of Hungary. The construction of the Baroque style church on the site commenced in 1747. The walls and stone masonry of the building were completed when Joseph II dissolved the Jesuit Order, therefore the church was never fully completed and its consecration never took place. Hundreds of years later, the construction of the church was finally completed and now serves as an exhibition space and concert hall.

Cloisters and Gardens

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

veszpremvolgy.hu | fenyvesmalom.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



Historia Garden

The Historia Garden is located approximately 1 km from the centre of Veszprém, in a picturesque environment at the foot of the Castle Hill. Nowadays, the park hosts a number of events and serves as a central venue for the VeszprémFest premium music festival. The area is also home to the Hotel Historia Mill Garden and Beerhouse, as well as the former Bishop's Rest, built in the first half of the 1800s by Bishop József Kopácsy in Neoclassical style, in keeping with the fashion of the time.



Love Island

The shady footpath running along the Séd stream and crossed by a number of small bridges is the perfect place for a first, second, tenth or even a thousandth date. The former island no longer has anything to do with its name, except that it is a truly undisturbed hideaway in the bustling city, as the perfect place for a private retreat on a bench under a willow tree.



Fenyves Mill

The structure is the only intact water mill of Veszprém on the banks of the Séd stream, featuring an interactive exhibition, show milling and courtyard furnace. In the mill, visitors can follow the journey of wheat from milling through sifting to bread baking and learn about age-old traditions through experience-oriented education.

Cloisters and Gardens

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

veszpremvolgy.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



St Stephen Viaduct

The viaduct spanning the Fejes Valley, a 50-metre high viaduct over the winding Séd stream, is the symbol of the city. The bridge is one of the largest and most beautiful viaducts in Hungary. It was designed by Róbert Folly. From its panoramic terrace visitors can enjoy stunning views of the castle district, the Séd stream valley and the distant Bakony mountain range.



Water Supply Museum

The Waterworks Museum and Exhibition Hall commemorate the 120 year-old supply of drinking water in Veszprém. The site allows visitors to learn about the beauty and details of the “waterworks” profession. The exhibition presents the two main sectors of water utilities: drinking water supply and wastewater collection and treatment.



Tethys “Fish Tunnel”

The old tunnel of the Viaduct can be reached via the footpath in the Sintér trench running between Kittenberger Kálmán and Harmat utca, where the mural painting offers a glimpse into the ancient fauna of the Tethys Sea of Veszprém. The giant painting, depicting prehistoric animals that lived 230 million years ago, is 6 metres high and nearly 9 metres long. One of the local features is the so-called placodont, the remains of which were once discovered by geologist Dezső Laczkó in a nearby quarry, making a name for both its finder and Veszprém.

Cloisters and Gardens

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

veszpremvolgy.hu | veszpreminfo.hu

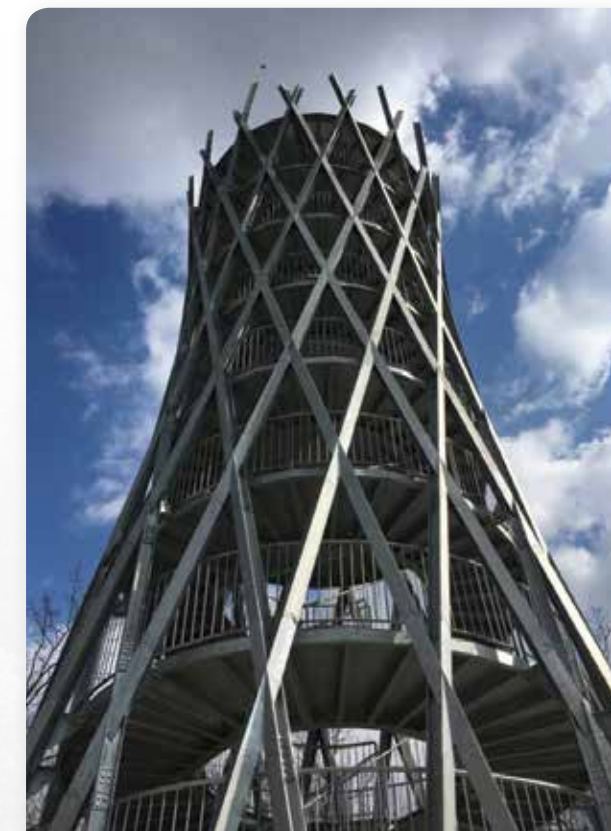


Thematic Playgrounds

Veszprém has a lot to offer for young and old alike, including a number of spots in the city where children can have a real fairytale-like experience. The playgrounds with different themes whisk children away to a range of various imaginary worlds. In the Sloped (Rézsűs) playground, the siege of a castle can be recreated. The playground called “Under the Bank” (A Part alatt) evokes the world of folk tales. The Africa Savannah playground within the Veszprém Zoo also offers a range of special thrills.

Rovaniemi Stairs

The idea of the construction of the stairs originates from the Hungarian-Finnish Association of Veszprém and was named after its Finnish sister city of Rovaniemi. The stairs symbolise the continuous, step-by-step building and strengthening of our relationships. Starting from the Monasteries and Gardens walking path, visitors can ascend the stairs to Gulya Hill. The stairs are quite steep, but in return, the wild, adventurous environment offers unique experience for all ages.



Queen Gisela lookout tower

The Gulya Hill park forest is located on the western edge of the city, next to the zoo. It's the perfect site for families looking for outdoor activities, with a playground, dog run, jogging track and barbecue area. The entire forest can be explored along the Gulya Hill trail. Standing out from the tree canopy at a height of 22 metres is the unique metal framed Queen Gisela lookout tower, which resembles the crown of the former queen. From the lookout, visitors can also take in the Bakony mountain range.



Veszprém Zoo

The Veszprém Zoo is open to young and old alike 12 months a year, offering adventures across six continents, where visitors can travel through exotic jungles, savannahs and the Arctic and even back in time to the prehistoric world of dinosaurs.

The wildlife park, located in the picturesque Fejes Valley and on Gulya Hill, has been home to hundreds of animals for more than 60 years. During this time, this large family has only grown in number. Today, at the Veszprém Zoo, visitors can meet popular animal species such as African penguins, common seals, white rhinos, geladas, as well as everyone's favourite species: Asian elephants, lions and black bears.



Africa Savanna Playground

The Africa-themed playground provides a glimpse into Africa's unique wildlife. 25 different attractions await children of all ages in the nearly 1 hectare playground.

Dino Park

The Dinosaur Park of the Zoo offers a playful way to learn about the work of archaeologists, while acquiring new and interesting information about the fauna of our planet from hundreds of millions of years ago. Young palaeontology pupils can dig up their "own" dinosaur fossils and in the process, the lucky ones can discover interesting treasures in the sandpit.

Mini Sculptures in Veszprém

The meticulously crafted mini-sculptures of guerrilla sculptor Mihály Kolodko are on display throughout the country. Veszprém boasts three such statues. With the help of the free map available at the Tourinform Veszprém office, visitors can easily discover them and find out more about their history.



Ernő, the Guard

The guard of Veszprém Castle and guardian of the city. Ernő, the Guard, is wearing the uniform of the Hungarian Royal Military Guard from the time when the Hungarian Holy Crown and the Holy Right Hand of St. Stephen were safeguarded in Veszprém. Inspired by the history of the city, the work is a symbol of the past.



Ödön, the Street Musician

Music is a key element of Veszprém's diverse cultural scene. Ödön, the street musician came to the Veszprém Street Music Festival. He's a bohemian, funny fellow. No one knows where he came from or where he is headed; this street musician symbolises the present.



LeoNóra, the girl and the lion

The little girl resting on a lion's back turns her back on danger and her courage symbolises the future.

Veszprém sightseeing train



Sightseeing Train

The city of queens, built on seven hills and its main sights can be explored in a fun way, regardless of the weather, by taking the sightseeing train. The city tour setting out from the historic city centre can be interrupted halfway, in the Veszprém Valley, by stopping by the zoo. The tour also features a separate audio guide.

Stops: Old Town Square / Zoo



Festivals

Perhaps there is no other city that attracts both elegant, high-quality music lovers as well as barefoot street musicians. Yet this is precisely what Veszprém is known for, where every summer the VeszprémFest hosts world-class jazz and pop musicians. But the music scene doesn't stop there: at the Street Music Festival, Europe's well-known and unknown street musicians can be seen performing throughout the city centre. In line with its title of the UNESCO City of Music, Veszprém also caters to the cultural appetites of classical music lovers with the Auer Festival.

The city has always been prone to experimentation, which led to the birth of the Rosé, Riesling and Jazz Days, featuring both excellent Hungarian wines and quality jazz music. Immersing yourself in the festivals of Veszprém is almost as thrilling as taking part in an adventure film. Yet when it comes to films, the city is also home to the Hungarian Motion Picture Festival, the biggest event in Hungarian cinematography. The rich festival programme could not be complete without Veszprém's own celebration, which harks back to its title of the "City of Queens": the Gisela Days, combining music, culture and history.

MORE INFORMATION



Festivals

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

veszpremfest.hu | utcazene.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



VeszprémFest

The success story of VeszprémFest began almost two decades ago. The unique experience of the multi-day summer premium music festival is based on the unforgettable music of international star musicians, as well as the actual concert venues. The main sight of the city and a major part of its heritage is the Veszprém Castle district, with the magical green belt of the Historia Garden at its feet, where visitors can take part in an unadulterated musical experience.



Veszprém Street Music Festival

One of the regular features of the summer period are the days when street musicians from all over Hungary and abroad take to the smaller, or sometimes improvised stages in the city centre. Walking through the downtown area, one is sure to spot different performers at all corners or passageways who are sure to enchant listeners with their music or unusual performance style.

Festivals

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

veszpremfest.hu | auerfesztival.hu | petofiszinhaz.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



Rosé, Riesling and Jazz Days

The Rosé, Riesling and Jazz Days thematic music and gastronomy festival has been held in the Art Nouveau buildings of Old Town Square as an event accompanying VeszprémFest since 2011. For 10 days, visitors can taste the top products of the Balaton Uplands wine region, while enjoying concerts, particularly the performances of Hungarian jazz, blues and soul singers and bands.



The Auer Festival

The classical music festival named after world-famous composer Lipót Auer is a regular event in Veszprém during the month of August. The festival, organised by the Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra of Veszprém and the Auer Academy, showcases the finest of the Hungarian and international classical music elite, dazzling audiences with their performances year after year.



The Róbert Rátonyi Operetta Festival

The Róbert Rátonyi Operetta Festival takes place regularly in June. Every year, the Petöfi Theatre in Veszprém brings evergreen operetta pieces to the city as part of a large-scale live music festival featuring the greatest operetta performers.

Festivals

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

veszpreminfo.hu



Kabóciádé Family Festival

When fairytales come to life. At the end of July, tiny marionettes and giant puppets including the likes of King Habakkuk and Queen Boróka appear at the Cloisters and Gardens events square. For two days, families gather at the Kabóciádé: young and old alike can picnic with the royal couple, Boróka and Habakkuk.



Gisela Days

Marking the thousand-year-old tradition of Veszprém, the so-called Gisela Days, a series of events are held every May. The multi-day festival is named after Queen Gisela, wife of St Stephen I. A fairground and a historical parade evoking the time of the foundation of the state, concerts, exhibitions and playhouses lure visitors to the city.

Festivals

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET INFORMATION:

bakonyexpo.hu | veszpreminfo.hu



Bakony Expo

The Bakony Expo, the fair of the flavours of the Bakony region, is much more than just a farmers' fair with a wide range of local products. Every year, the organisers make sure that visitors can choose from a range of interactive and educational presentations, activities, cooking demonstrations, petting zoos and a children's folk playhouse in November.



Off-Season Contemporary Literature Festival

The Off-Season Contemporary Literature Festival is a literary-focused, but essentially all-arts festival that embraces genres rarely seen at cultural events. The Off-Season Festival offers fresh, exciting and inspiring cultural events and activities promoting creation and joint reflection. In addition to the various presentations, the festival also places great emphasis on audience engagement – there are a number of workshops for comic book making, science fiction writing and poetry workshops, open to visitors.



Hungarian Motion Picture Festival

Open-air screenings, premieres of the latest Hungarian films, international festival award winners, stars, meet and greet sessions, children and youth activities, remastered classics, exhibitions, concerts and gastronomic programmes await those interested in films and filmmakers, every June at various locations in and around Veszprém.



Gastronomy

The cultural diversity of Veszprém can appeal to several senses at the same time. Why should the sense of taste be any exception?

The gastronomic offer is just as varied as the city's festivals, historical assets and leisure activities. Make time for a Mediterranean dinner at Restaurant Oliva, where the chef's creativity always brings a little twist into the dishes. Gusto 13 Bistro combines quality and elegance with classic bistro food. Continuing this gastronomic trend, the downtown Papírkutya (Paper Dog) spices up its offerings with cultural activities inspired

by world cuisine. When in Veszprém, don't miss the legendary grill kitchen of the restaurant flat Fricska and in make sure to enjoy dishes that remind you of your mother's cooking with a touch of modernity in the lovely garden of Nostalgia Garden. While exploring the city, you may want to refresh yourself with a nice cup of coffee or some cool ice cream, or perhaps some special breakfast treats – in which case, the KUNSZT bistro café or the Füge Ice Cream Yard and Café are must-see sites in Veszprém. For an evening with wine, head to Wine&Vinyl, where the flavours of the wines are combined with the crackling sound of vinyl.

MORE INFORMATION



Immerse yourself in the Veszprém-Bakony-Balaton region with Hello Veszprém-Balaton magazine!

Whether it is about local history, gastronomy, design or even ecology topics, the magazine page of the Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture programme awaits you with a wide range of programme and venue recommendations, interviews and interesting facts about cultural history on helloveb.hu



Discover
Veszprém

All about Veszprém in one place for inspiration and planning...

MORE INFORMATION

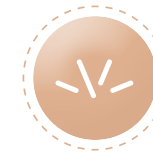




Tourinform Veszprém



Tourist information



European Capital of Culture Veszprém-Balaton 2023



Accessible office



Dog-friendly office



Guided Tours



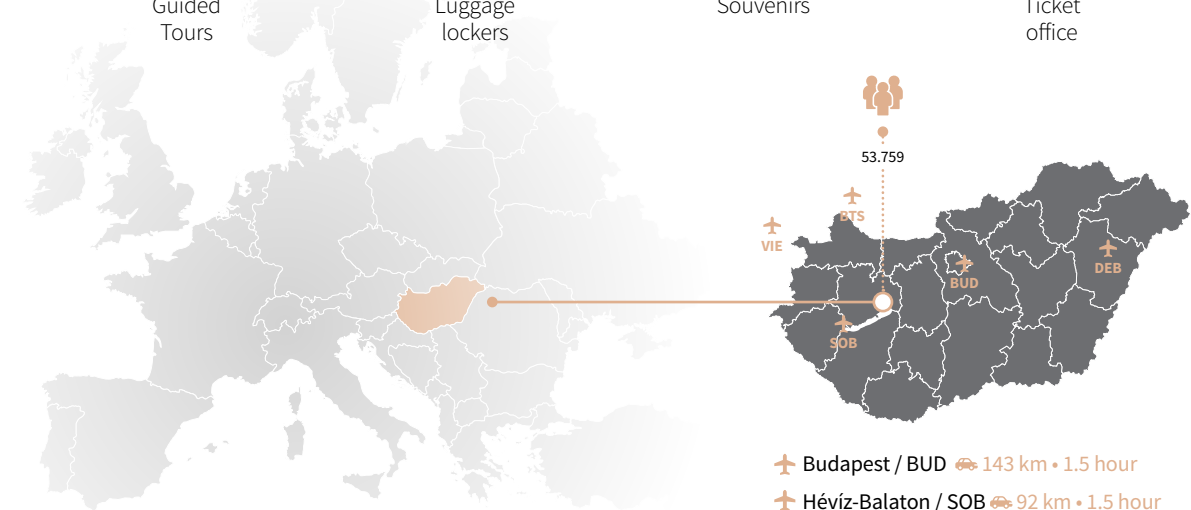
Luggage lockers



Souvenirs



Ticket office



- ✈ Budapest / BUD 🚗 143 km • 1.5 hour
- ✈ Hévíz-Balaton / SOB 🚗 92 km • 1.5 hour
- ✈ Debrecen / DEB 🚗 374 km • 3.5 hour
- ✈ Bécs / VIE 🚗 182 km • 2.5 hour
- ✈ Pozsony / BTS 🚗 163 km • 2 hour



Vespráim

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veszpreminfo.hu | helloveb.hu