

TRAVEL PLANNER







Veszprém

the City of Queens

During the European Capital of Culture programme, Veszprém and the towns and villages of the Bakony-Balaton region joined forces to build a region of culture, creativity and community spirit that pulsated like the heart of Europe for a whole year. After the year 2023, Veszprém and the region will continue to shine, with the main goal of making it to the top 20 cities in the European list of the Most Liveable Cities.

Veszprém and its surroundings have countless wonders to discover! It is an extraordinary adventure to discover its history, which has made it worthy of the title of European Capital of Culture and a number of other distinctions. As a proud holder of the UNESCO City of Music title, the City of Queens offers a cultural diversity in which you can immerse yourself at any time of the year. And the journey could be an imaginary journey through time, from the founding of the state, through the time of the kings and bishops, to the present day, shaping the image of Veszprém as we know it today. The spirit of the old times permeates every square metre of the Veszprém castle district, so it is not only the walls and

artefacts that are priceless, but Veszprém's active cultural life, rich in artistic traditions, is creating something new every day.

In addition to its built cultural heritage and the creative work of its artists, Veszprém's unique natural environment also attracts visitors of all ages, who can get up close and personal with the wonders of the city.

Our publication not only gives you an insight into this city with its unique cultural values, but also provides you with inspiration to experience the real Veszprém feeling: whether it is a music festival, an exhibition, a theatre performance, a visit to the Veszprém Zoo, a visit to your favourite bistro, a delicious coffee or a nice dinner.

One thing you can be sure of during your trip: You cannot get enough of Veszprém! The renewed city centre and its community spaces, cultural institutions, natural and cultural attractions and culinary delights offer exciting year-round entertainment and leisure opportunities, and our brochure is the best travel companion for that.



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 chiefdom 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 OUEEN 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 Oueen 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 presentday 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 Petőfi 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.











made here)







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Stephen's victory over Founding of the Bishopric Founding of the Greek Koppány in the battle of Veszprém and the near Veszprém

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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

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, together with the Bakony and Lake Balaton region, held the title of the European Capital of Culture.

2024 • As part of the European Capital of Culture the Dungeon Visitor Centre was opened.

2025 • The CODE - Centre of Digital Experiences has opened.







2010



2018



2019



2023



The Dungeon Visitor Centre was opened



Digital Experiences has

opened

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.

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.

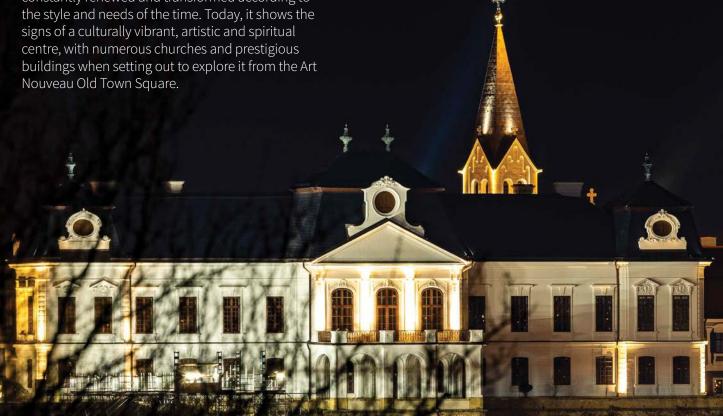




The castle of Veszprém was built on one of the seven hills of the city, the Castle Hill, in the 10th and 11th centuries. A wall running around the edge of the steep, rugged hillsides marks the former fortress, where today visitors can encounter a plethora of historic buildings.

Therefore, visitors shouldn't expect a medieval stone building with thick walls in the classic sense. Instead, they will be immersed in anarchaic atmosphere and spirit as they pass through the Heroes' Gate.

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





Heroes' Gate

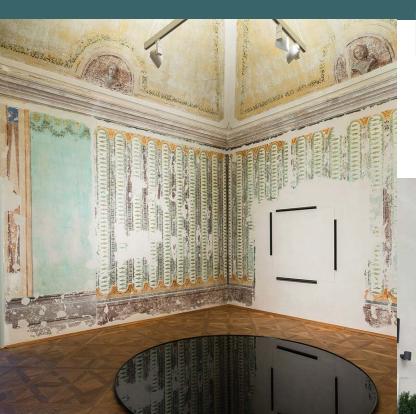
The Heroes' Gate commemorates the Hungarian victims of World War I. It was erected and opened as part of the city's celebrations to mark the 900th anniversary of the death of King St Stephen. As an exhibition space, today it awaits the visitors to Veszprém Castle with a permanent exhibition on the history of the castle called the Heroes' Treasures, and from its viewing point, you can enjoy a view of the city of Veszprém, with a magnificent panorama of the Bishop's Rest and the Bakony Mountains.

Fire Lookout Tower

The Fire Tower is undoubtedly one of the symbols of Veszprém, originally intended as a watchtower and later rebuilt for fire watch purposes. Every hour of weekdays, Antal Csermák's 'verbunkos' plays from the Zopf style copper tower, and on certain festive occasions, the appropriate tunes are played. The tower's perimeter offers a magnificent view of the different parts of Veszprém. In August each year, a plaque is placed on the wall of the roundel on the Pantheon, under the Fire Tower, commemorating people and honorary citizens from Veszprém or connected to the city.







Modern Art Gallery -László Vass Collection

Entering through the Castle Gate, you will find a small, secluded square that opens into the Modern Art Gallery - László Vass Collection, an exhibition space created by opening up three buildings. Visitors can admire the unrivalled, selected material from the internationally renowned private contemporary collection of art collector László Vass in nine rooms, while the Modern Art Gallery also offers period exhibitions.

One of the most beautiful Baroque buildings in the castle district, the palace on the Trinity Square was built in the 18th century by Canon István Dubniczay. It was rebuilt several times during its history and excavations have revealed traces of a stable, castle wall, a cannon bastion and a casemate, and the meticulously detailed decorative paintings that were excavated in good condition have been restored. The palace currently houses five exhibition units: the D1, D2 and Baroque Rooms in the palace wing; the Castle Gallery; the temporary exhibition of the Granary; and the Tegularium, accessible from the courtyard.

Dubniczay Palace



f|x|r Gallery and Media Lab

The f|x|r gallery is located in the annex of Simoga House: a state-of-the-art exhibition space equipped with the latest media tools, it is suitable for 3D, all-surface, ever-changing, interactive projections, traditional installations and even a combination of both. In the f|x|r gallery, the visitor does not just walk around the work, but becomes part of the spectacle. f|x|r lab on the lower level there are two project rooms equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, which can be connected together if necessary.

The rooms provide a venue for presentations, scientific circles and workshops using innovative themes, new technologies and techniques, whether it is artificial intelligence (AI), VR, 3D printing or digital painting.

Vass Shoe Collection

László Vass's shoe manufactory offers an insight into the deepest professional secrets of classic footwear making: the Vass Shoe Collection offers a fascinating insight into the process of making unique footwear and the subtle tricks of the trade, showing how traditional technology is used to create high-quality products that are also appreciated in contemporary wear. The story of László Vass can reaffirm that respect, care and cultivation of values can lead to the collection of values through honest work.





In the entrance hall leading to the Fire Tower, you will find the Csikász Gallery, which hosts temporary exhibitions, guided tours and art education programmes in addition to the current exhibitions.





Foton Audiovisual Centre

The FOTON Audiovisual Centre is an innovative, multifunctional arts and culture centre located in the Veszprém Castle District. Unique in the city, the centre not only hosts concerts, projections, audience meetings and workshops, but also an exhibition space, an auditorium, a hanging garden with an outdoor stage and a pet-friendly specialty café that transforms into a bar in the evenings.



Located in the historic centre of the town, Ruttner-House is the most modern hostel in Veszprém, offering guest rooms and a café. The Ruttner-House houses the reception area and ticket office for the Dungeon exhibition, and even has a large communal space where guests arriving in groups can gather.



Dungeon Museum and Castle Wall Walk

What do the notorious Bakony outlaws, Árpád Brusznyai, who led the ,56 uprising in Veszprém, and József Mindszenty, Bishop of Veszprém, have in common? All of them spent a period of their lives in Veszprém Dungeon, which of course influenced many human destinies beyond these stories. 14 cells, 14 micro-histories and many perspectives, which may even shed a completely new light on the world of prisons and their role in our society. A completely renewed prison exhibition awaits visitors at the Dungeon Visitor Centre, where they will of course be able to learn about the historical context in addition to the personal links.



Archbishop's Palace

The history of the cathedral, founded by King St Stephen, is as old as Hungarian Christianity: it was built and decorated by Queen Gisela the Blessed about a thousand years ago. Although it has been damaged several times over the years and rebuilt, yet it is the only building in Veszprém where restorers are searching for the legacy of the Hungarian Holy Family, St Stephen, Blessed Gisela and Prince Emeric. The renovated churchyard with its newly restored altars, special organ and Gothic sub-church, Renaissance and Baroque chapels is now open to the public.



The main square of the Castle is named after the Trinity statue in its centre, 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.

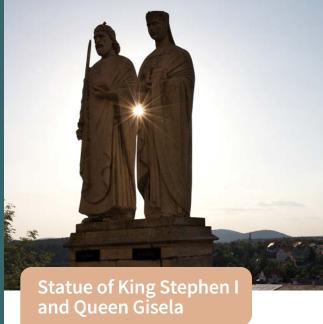
Hidden between two Baroque buildings is the Gothic palace chapel, which is unique in that it consists of two levels. The chapel, which is thought to have been a private chapel for bishops, was built in the 13th century and has frescoes in the lower part dating from the same period as the building. Its chapters, decorated with dragon figures, even offer the opportunity to go dragon hunting. The monument is closed to visitors during the construction works.

One of the castle's popular attractions is the castle well, or as it is known to many, the "Dragon Well". The well, carved into the rock, is thought to be as old as the castle and was in use until the 18th century. In 1936, the well was given an ornately carved curb, commemorating Bishop Albert Vetési. During the excavation of the well, archaeologists reached the bottom of the well to a depth of more than 40 metres: although they did not find the ,fabulous treasures' of legend, they uncovered a number of artifacts.





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The statue of the first Hungarian royal couple, King St Stephen and Queen Gisela, by József Ispánky, erected in 1938, stands on the observation tower at the end of Vár Street. The viewing point, known as the "End of the World" by the people of Veszprém, offers a magnificent view of the city, with the Bakony mountains beyond the houses.



St Benedict's Hill

A set of paved steps on the northern side of the castle leads to the hill of St Benedict, the burial place of our conquering ancestors. Under the guidance of Dezső Laczkó, a geologist and palaeontologist from the Piarist Grammar School of Veszprém, a 17th century crypt was excavated here, where the stone cross of the former Calvary of Veszprém stands today.





St Stephen's Church

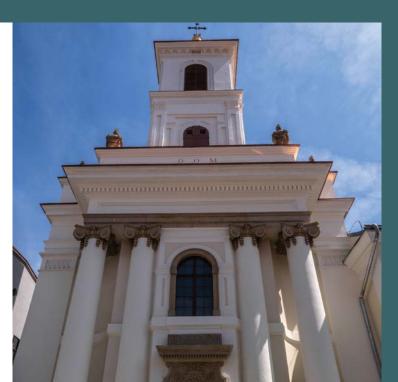
The former Franciscan church was built in 1723, but suffered a fire in 1909, after which its façade and tower were rebuilt in the neo-Romanesque style of the cathedral. Its Baroque frescoes were painted in the Castle Hill and the surrounding area in the late 18th century by Franz Xaver Bucher, a well-known painter. The ceiling painting above the choir depicts the vows of St Emeric kneeling before the altar of St George's Chapel and the statue of the Virgin Mary, while the ceiling painting in the nave shows King Stephen. The spread of Christianity and the founding of the state are condensed into a symbolic image: Stephen receiving the envoys returning from Rome and Abbot Astric, who brought him the Holy Crown from the Pope.

The monument is closed to visitors during the construction works.

St Emeric Church

Although it is the youngest of the three churches on Castle Hill, it still has plenty of interesting things to offer... The church is currently scaffolded due to the restoration of the paintings on the walls and arches, but in the middle, there is something very special: one of the most interesting artefacts of the archdiocesan museum, in a very special setting: it is being restored. But what exactly is it? A colonnaded church with a domed spire at the back? A miniature building or a giant model? When, by whom and for what purpose could it have been used, and how does it relate to the theatrum sacrum (sacred theatre)? The spectacle alone is fascinating, but it is the curiosities about the Holy Sepulchre that complete the experience, taking us on an imaginary journey back in time to the 18th century.

The monument is open at weekends for guided tours.





Biró-Giczey House

The most beautiful canon's house on the Castle Hill, built in 1772 by Major-Canon István Giczey. The richness of its frescoed rooms rivals even the Archbishop's Palace, and the mysterious murals of its upstairs rooms enchant the viewer. Are we in or out? Past or present? In the exhibition "I'm not a walking encyclopaedia", you can find out who the canons are and what their duties are, and in the attic, you can learn about archaeological research on the Castle Hill. As the latter work is still ongoing, the exhibition presents the latest news, while also giving an insight into the often mysterious archaeological profession.



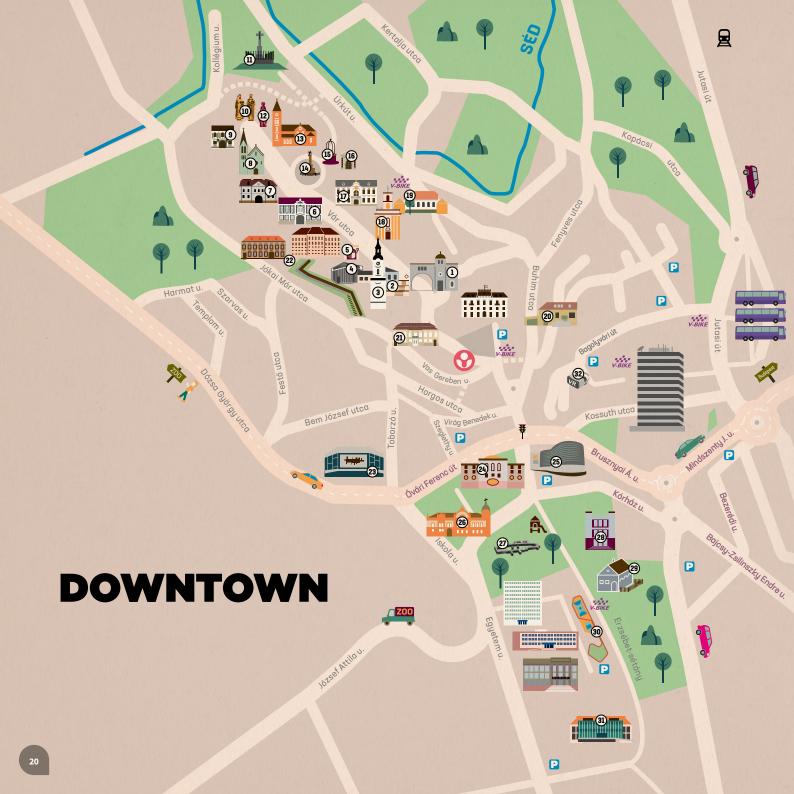
In 1718, reading canon Imre Körmendy started the construction of the L-shaped, one-storey house with a large arched cellar and a "smoky kitchen" on the ground floor. On the walls of the upstairs rooms, researchers have found traces of decorations from many centuries: an illusionistically painted window in the alcove of the canon's bedroom, and fragments of beautiful decorative paintings from the 19th and 20th centuries in the downstairs rooms, which are still a wonderful sight. In the cellar of the house, the remains of an Italian bastion, built around 1500, have been found, which, like the canons' houses in the castle, included a small vegetable garden and an ornamental garden. According to a note of 1721, this building was referred to by Canon Körmendy as a triangular ,beehive garden'. It now provides one of the main photographic subjects in the western skyline of the castle, but when the renovation is complete it will also house the archdiocesan museum, a café and a gift shop. The monument is closed to visitors during the construction works.





An important site in the life of Saint Emeric, and one of the most complex Work In Progress sites: the legend of Saint Emeric recalls the church of Saint George in Veszprém, when Saint Emeric prayed to the Virgin Mary and asked her what he could offer her. He was told by the Virgin Mary to live a virginal life, and Prince Emeric took her advice. The prince took his vows in the chapel, to which he owes his canonisation, thus enhancing the site's prestige. The ruins of the chapel, including a circular building under the walls of the 13th-century church were found in 1957. The latter was the church dedicated to St George, where Prince Emeric took his vows. Recent research has shown that the history of the chapel and the cathedral have been linked since the 11th century, and the renovation process was also planned on that basis.

The monument is closed to visitors during the construction works









Modern Art Gallery László Vass Collection



Fire Lookout Tower



FOTON Audiovisual Centre



Csikász Gallery





Dubniczay Palace



Biró-Giczey House



St. Stephen's Church



Körmendy House



Statue of King St. Stephen and Queen Gisela



St. Benedict Hill



St. George Chapel



St. Michael's Basilica, Cathedral



Holy Trinity Statue



Castle Well



Gisela Chapel



Archbishop's Palace





Playground



E-bike rent station



St. Emeric Church



Deák Ferenc St Events Centre Kabóca Puppet Theater



Auer House



Pósa House



Ruttner House / Dungeon Visitors' Centre Castle Wall Promenade



CODE – Centre of Digital Experience



Petőfi Theatre of Veszprém



Hangvilla Multifunctional **Community Space**



Eötvös Károly Library



Ruins of Saint Nicholas Church



Laczkó Dezső Museum



Bakony House



University Tartan Sport Court



(31) **ActiCity**



CODE Creator - Digital Workshop



Gyárkert CulturePark



One Veszprém Arena **Sports and Event Hall**



(35) **Veszprém Sports Swimming Pool**



Tourinform Veszprém



City Centre

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.





Old Town Square

The octagonal square in the heart of Veszprém is officially called Old Town Square, and although the Baroque and Art Nouveau houses surrounding it are indeed a reminder of hundreds of years, the square is also the venue for the most popular festivals in Veszprém these days. The cobbled square is also home to the unmissable summer jazz and wine festivals, the Rozé, Rizling and Jazz Days, and the famous Veszprém Street Music Festival,

with several concerts. Thanks to the programme of Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture, the Old Town Market has been revived, where local producers and craftsmen recreate the bustling atmosphere of the former market square with their products every two weeks.



One of the most glamorous buildings in the square is the mansard-roofed, Zopf-stlye Pósa House, the former residence of the Cistercians of Zirc. Initially inhabited by clergy and monks from the national school, it became an important meeting place for the town as the bookseller and printer Endre Pósa's shop.



The romantic-style building on the northeast corner of the square was built in 1857, originally as a bank of the church, but since 1990, it has been used as the mayor's office. With its elegant wrought-iron rails, wall stuccoes and cornices adorning the upstairs balconies, the building is a worthy centre for the town offices, and not just for weddings. The representative interior is often transformed into a venue for exhibitions and performances, and the hammer of Veszprém's only Olympic champion, Balázs Kiss, the hammer thrower, can be seen in the lobby of the Town Hall.



CODE Creator – Digital Workshop

Veszprém's innovation center, whose mission is to introduce the digital world and modern technologies in a playful and interactive way to the general public. In the heart of the city, the digital creative space offers encounters with the modern achievements of the 21st century: robotics, programming, artificial intelligence, customdeveloped board games, 3D and virtual technologies!

Hangvilla Multifunctional Community Centre



The Hangvilla Multifunctional Community Centre is located in the heart of the modern city centre and offers a wide range of services due to its multifunctional character. It is not only home to the Pannon Castle Theatre, but also to the Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra and the Expresso Club, a popular youth club. The Hangvilla also houses a restaurant and a café, and is not only a venue for conferences, workshops and receptions, but also a common space for classical and acoustic concerts, dance performances and plays.



The Petőfi Theatre in Veszprém offers theatre lovers a wide range of performances and programmes of various genres every season, and also organises several major festivals. In addition to the Festival of the Healing Power of Theatre and the Róbert Rátonyi Operetta Festival in Veszprém, the VeszprémIFI Festival for young people also enriches the cultural offer of the city of Queens. The large-scale live music, entertainment and thought-provoking plays offer a sophisticated way to relax for all ages.

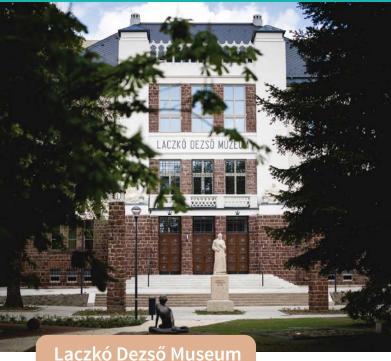
Kabóca Puppet Theatre

The Kabóca Puppet Theatre is a key feature of Veszprém's cultural life and is now located at the foot of the Castle, in Deák Ferenc Street. Their puppet performances appeal from very young babies to kindergarten and school children to adults and provide them with an educational message. Their most popular event is the Kabóciádé (Cicadiada) Family Festival, the highlight of the summer in Veszprém, offering several days of outdoor activities for the whole family.









Named after Dezső Laczkó, the geologist and palaeontologist who taught at the Piarist grammar school in Veszprém, the museum has been open to visitors for more than 100 years, with a wide range of permanent exhibitions, temporary exhibitions, events, educational and scientific publications. The building, which is unique for its folk motifs in early reinforced concrete structures and red sandstone details, was built in 1925 to the design of architect István Medgyasszay but was renovated in 2023.

The museum's permanent and temporary collections cover the ethnography, archaeology, folklore, fine and applied arts and literary history of Veszprém and the region. Its visual library houses ancient prints, centuries-old antiquities, first editions of Hungarian literature and scientific works from the 17th to 19th centuries, and its knowledge base serves as a centre for museum education programmes. From March 2024, a new permanent exhibition, The Memory Machine, juxtaposes the objects of Veszprém and the history of the city along the plane of time and change.

Bakonyi House

The Bakonyi House, next to the Laczkó Dezső Museum, is one of the earliest Hungarian open-air ethnographic exhibition spaces, built in 1935 from a public donation on the model of a small nobleman's house in Öcs. The designers of the three-part, thatched-roofed building with a dirt floor were ethnographer László Nagy and architect György Linzmayer. The country house often hosts traditional craft activities and temporary exhibitions.







ActiCity

The building of the former children's hospital now is an establishment for culture and active recreation. The building offers a variety of movement forms such as classical ballet, jazz ballet, folk dance, hip-hop, modern and contemporary dance, indoor climbing, taekwon-do, aerial gymnastics and arial dance, zumba and aerobics, or even petangue and yoga.

Szent Miklós-szeg and Elizabeth Promenade

The Szent Miklós-szeg (named after St. Nicholas) is located in Veszprém, next to Komakút Square. The slopes of the unbuilt Kálvária hill are steep, in some places almost vertical. It originally had gentle sloping hillsides, but over the centuries they have been gradually removed by construction on the sides. It was once the centre of old Veszprém. The Szent Miklós-szeg and ActiCity are linked by the stunning Elizabeth Promenade, surrounded by huge trees.





Cloisters and Gardens

The Cloisters and Gardens is a more than 3-kilometre-long walking and cycling trail along the Séd stream, which runs through the town of Veszprém, and is surrounded by a well-designed public park. It is no coincidence that the walk is called Cloisters and Gardens, as it is a unique place in Veszprém where the wonders of nature and cultural heritage can be discovered in harmony, encouraging visitors to embark on a kind of historical adventure. On a walk along the course of the Séd stream, starting from the foot of the Castle, you can admire the ruins of the monasteries of the Árpád period, shaded by deciduous trees and bordered by rose gardens.

The route is located in Veszprém Valley, which offers a wide range of nature-based leisure activities: a pleasant walk or a love stroll; inviting, cosy restaurant terraces offer gastronomic delights. The

valley is also ideal for jogging, cycling and roller-skating, and more and more people are indulging in Nordic walking, a new passion in the area.

The valley also offers great entertainment for children, with the Hungarian Folktales Playground and the Rézsűs playground along the walking trail.

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

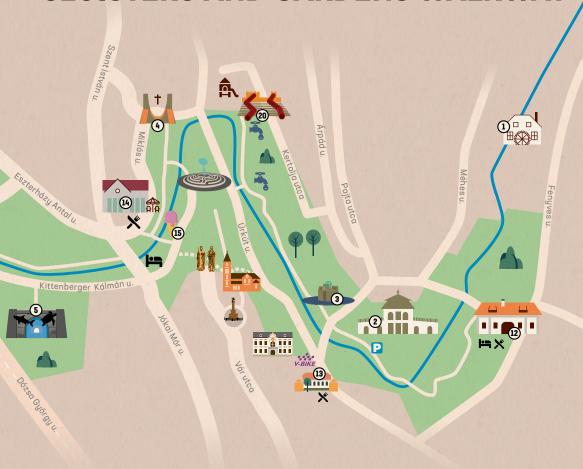








CLOISTERS AND GARDENS WALKWAY





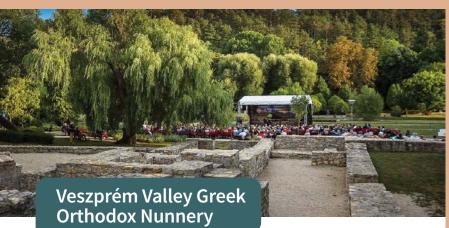






Jesuit church

The Jesuit Church is a remarkable architectural heritage of the Cloisters and Gardens Walkway. After the Ottoman occupation, the estates of the Dominican nuns, including the ruins of the nunnery here, were given to the Jesuits of Győr, and the church, which can still be seen today, was rebuilt in 1747 in Baroque style. The walls and stonework of the building were already complete when the Jesuit order was dissolved, so the church was never fully completed and was never consecrated. It was only several hundred years later that the reconstruction of the church, which now serves as an exhibition space and concert hall, was finally completed.



The ruins of the nunnery of the Greek nuns of Veszprém Valley is the oldest complex of buildings in Veszprém, founded by St Stephen for the Greek Orthodox nuns who accompanied the Byzantine wife of his son, Prince St Emeric. According to tradition, it was here that the chasuble was made, which was later transformed into the Hungarian coronation robe and used until the last coronation. Queen Gisela herself also worked on the rich embroidery of the robe.



Margaret Ruins

The former church and monastery where King Béla IV's daughter St Margaret was brought up until the age of 6 was built for the nuns of the Dominican order. The ruins were excavated in 1938 and today only the foundations and part of the church wall can be seen. As part of the reconstruction, Margaret Square has been created, decorated with a fountain symbolizing the course of the Séd stream.





Historia Garden

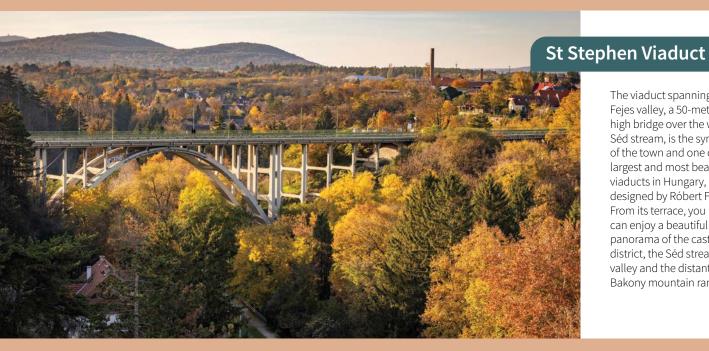
About one kilometre from the centre of Veszprém, in a picturesque setting at the foot of Várhegy (Castle Hill), lies the Historia Garden. The park is nowadays the venue for many events, including the VeszprémFest premium music festival. The area is also home to the Hotel Historia Malomkert and Beer House, as well as the former Bishop's Rest, built in the first half of the 1800s by Bishop József Kopácsy in the classicist style, keeping in with the fashion of the time.



A shady walkway crossed by small bridges beside the Séd stream 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, where couples can hide from the world and rest on a small bench under a willow tree.

Veszprém's only intact, functioning water mill is located on the banks of the stream Séd, where an interactive exhibition, a show milling, a courtyard oven, two large water wheels and a water playground await children and adults. In the mill, you can follow the wheat's journey from milling to sifting to baking bread and learn about the old traditions through experiential activities.

Fenyves Mill



The viaduct spanning the Fejes valley, a 50-metrehigh bridge over the windy Séd stream, is the symbol of the town and one of the largest and most beautiful viaducts in Hungary, designed by Róbert Folly. From its terrace, you can enjoy a beautiful panorama of the castle district, the Séd stream valley and the distant Bakony mountain ranges.



The Veszprém Water Supply Museum was opened in the region in 1896, on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of the conquest of Hungary. Earlier, the waterworks built by Henrik Tumler provided healthy drinking water for nearly 130 years. The museum's exhibits provide an insight into the two main sectors of the water utility: drinking water supply and sewage disposal and treatment.

Tethys "Halagút" (Fish Tunnel)

The old tunnel of the Viaduct can be reached via the footpath in the Sintérárok between Kittenberger Kálmán and Harmat Streets, where the mural painting gives a glimpse of the ancient fauna of the Tethys Sea of Veszprém. The giant painting depicting prehistoric animals from 230 million years ago is 6 metres high and almost 9 metres long. A local curiosity is the placodont, whose remains were once discovered by geologist Dezső Laczkó in a nearby quarry, making a name for himself and Veszprém.





Veszprém offers a wide range of experiences for children and adults alike, but there are also a few ,islands' in the city where children can feel like they are in a fairy-tale world. Playgrounds with different themes offer different imaginary worlds: the Rézsűs playground is a castle siege, while the playground under the name of "A part alatt" (At the River Bank) is a world of folk tales. The Africa Savannah playground, located inside the Veszprém Zoo, also offers special thrills.

Rovaniemi Stairs

The idea for the staircase came from the Hungarian-Finnish Association of Veszprém and was named after its sister town, Rovaniemi in Finland. The steps symbolise the continuous, step-by-step building and strengthening of our relations, which can be reached by walking upwards from the Monasteries and Gardens walking paths to the Gulya hill. The stairs are quite steep, but in return, the adventurous experience of walking through the wild landscape is an adventure for all ages.



Located on the western edge of the city, next to the Veszprém Zoo, the Gulya-Hill Park Forest is the perfect place for family outdoor recreation, with a playground, dog run, jogging track and barbecue area. The Gulya-Hill nature trail takes you through the whole forest, and the unique metal-framed Queen Gisela Lookout Tower, 22 metres high and resembling the crown of our former queen, stands out among the trees. The tower offers a magnificent panorama of the Bakony mountain ranges beyond the town.



veszpzoo.hu I veszpreminfo.hu



Founded in 1958, the Veszprém Zoo is located just 15 km from Lake Balaton, in a beautiful setting, and is open every day of the year, including weekends and holidays. The zoo offers a full-day programme for all ages, where you can discover the wonderful world of animals



The new project of the Veszprém Zoo, the Domestic Animals Show, opened in 2023 and offers visitors the chance to admire traditional Hungarian animal species such as Hungarian spotted cattle, blonde Mangalica, Cikta sheep and Hungarian 'kendermagos' (speckled) hens. As the zoo places a strong emphasis on education, there is also an exhibition where visitors can learn more about the history of animal domestication. They can even take a closer look at a real chariot, a horse-drawn carriage and a range of traditional tools associated with animal husbandry.



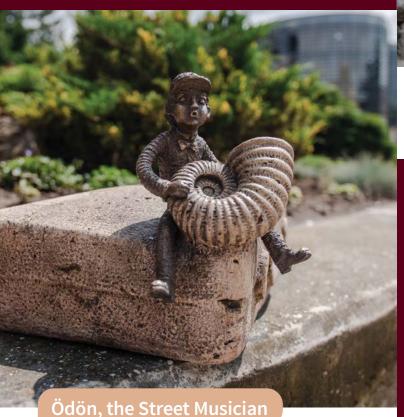
In spring 2024, a unique big cat show complex was inaugurated, built to the latest zoo and tourism standards: visitors will be able to see Siberian tigers, Carpathian lynx and snow leopards.



The Veszprém Zoo invites you not only to a tour around the world, but also to a journey through time, as it is home to Hungary's largest Dinosaur Park, which boasts around 50 dinosaur statues. In the park you can see life-size specimens including the 23-metre-high Diplodocus and the fearsome Tyrannosaurus Rex, known only as T. rex. There are also a variety of hands-on activities for children, who can playfully explore the work of archaeologists.

Mini Sculptures

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.



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.



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.



The mini sculpture is inspired by history and tourism: the little girl resting on the back of a lion turns her back on danger and symbolises the future with her courage. Kolodko imagined the little girl holding a telephone, but in reality it is up to the imagination of the visitor to decide what exactly the object is, which could also be a book.

Veszprém sightseeing train





The sights of Veszprém, built on seven hills, can also be explored on the sightseeing train as a unique experience, undisturbed by the weather. The sightseeing tour from the historic city centre can be interrupted halfway in Veszprém Valley or can be combined with a visit to the zoo. The tour is completed with an audio guide.







The multi-day summer premium music festival was launched almost two decades ago and its speciality is not only the unmistakable music of international star musicians, but also the venues of the concerts. The city's most important landmark and a key part of its heritage is the Veszprém Castle District, where the Historia Garden, located at the foot of the castle, is a magical green belt setting for a wonderful musical experience.

Veszprém Street Music Festival

A permanent feature of the summer are the few days when street musicians from Hungary and abroad visit the city centre to play on small or even improvised stages. So do not be surprised if, while walking around the city during the festival, you come across a performer on any corner or in any passageway who will enchant you not only with their music but also with their unique style of performance.







Rosé, Riesling and Jazz Days

Since 2011, the Rosé, Riesling and Jazz Days, known as the main event of VeszprémFest, have been held in the Art Nouveau buildings of the Old Town Square. The thematic music and gastronomic feast is a feast for almost all the senses: for 10 days, visitors can listen to concerts of Hungarian jazz, blues and soul singers and bands, while tasting the best products of the Balaton Highlands winemakers.



Named after the world-famous composer Leopold Auer, the classical music festival is a regular feature of Veszprém's cultural programme every August. Hosted by the Veszprém Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra and the Auer Academy, the festival brings together the greatest of the Hungarian and international classical music elite to dazzle audiences with their concerts year after year.



Every year in June, the Petőfi Theatre of Veszprém organises the Róbert Rátonyi Operetta Festival, which every year features a large-scale, live music and multi-arts programme with national and international artists and the greatest operetta performers. The festival adds a real operetta buzz to the cultural life of Veszprém.



Fes

Off-Season Contemporary Cultural Festival / SEASON

Off-Season Festival's motto is that it is not just reading, but writing, music and any other creative activity is also cool. The festival is a literary-focused but essentially allarts festival that embraces genres of literature rarely seen at other cultural events. In this way, Off-Season focuses on emerging and young performers, and offers fresh, exciting and inspiring cultural events that foster creativity and collective thinking. From theatre and puppetry performances to alternative music concerts, hip-hop and slam poetry events, there is something for everyone. In addition to the various performances, the festival also places a strong emphasis on audience engagement, which is why there are a number of workshops such as comics writing, science fiction writing and poetry workshops.

MOZ.GO - Hungarian Motion Picture Festival

Every year in June, films are in the spotlight in Veszprém and the region! The Hungarian Motion Picture Festival offers not only openair screenings, premieres of the latest Hungarian films, international festival winners, restored classics, stars and audience meetings, but also children's and youth programmes, exhibitions, concerts and gastro programmes for those interested in films and their creators.







A festival that really brings fairy tales to life! At the end of July, the royal couple, King Habakkuk and Queen Boróka (Juniper), will bring tiny marionettes and giant puppets to the Cloisters and Gardens event venue to make every family a part of Kabóciádé for two days where children and adults alike can share a picnic

Gisela Days

The Gisela Days, a multiday festival named after Queen Gisela, the wife of St Stephen, is held every May in Veszprém, in the tradition of a thousand years. The programme includes a fair, historical parades recalling the time of the foundation of the state, concerts, exhibitions and playhouses.







The festival was launched in 2018 by the Petőfi Theatre in Veszprém with the main aim of strengthening acceptance and understanding in society, while at the same time showing the healing power of theatre. The programmes use theatrical tools and different artistic disciplines, dance and creative arts, not only to develop community and personality, but also to encourage collective thinking and debate.



The Bakony Expo is the Fair of Bakony flavours, which is not only a farmers' market with a wide range of local products, but also a venue for interactive and educational presentations, programmes and cooking shows every November. The fair is also interesting for the little ones, with a petting zoo and a children's folk playhouse.





The Festival of DANCE is an annual event of the Pannon Castle Theatre, the independent theatre of Veszprém. For 27 years it has been the competition-like meeting of the Hungarian contemporary dance art and it is one of the main festivals of Veszprém. From the very beginning, it has attracted artists, emphasising the interdependence and shared responsibility of the arts. It expands theatrical spaces, streets, buildings, and civil communities welcome the performers and experience the performances.



Community life, restaurants, gastronomy

Walking around the city centre, there are countless iconic buildings that have been renovated in recent years with the help of the VEB2023 ECOC Street Image Development Programme. This has put them on the gastronomic map of the region and revitalised the gastronomic offer of Veszprém. From a cultural point of view, Veszprém stimulates several senses at the same time: sight, hearing, movement, why should not taste be one of them?

The gastronomic offer is as varied as the city's festivals, history and leisure activities, so it is definitely worth taking the time to enjoy a Mediterranean or a traditional Hungarian dinner, where the chef's creativity always adds a touch of whimsy to the dishes. But if you are more interested in classic bistro dishes combining quality and elegance, you can also find a restaurant to your liking in Veszprém. What's more, innovative downtown bistros are adding cultural programmes to their world cuisine.

And when in Veszprém, do not miss the legendary grill kitchens and cosy gardens, where you can always find dishes reminiscent

of our mothers' and grandmothers' cuisine, with a touch of modernity.

While exploring the city, if you are just looking for a refreshing coffee, a cool ice cream or a special breakfast, the bistro cafés are the place to go.

For an evening of wine drinking, there are also some really exciting and unmissable places to celebrate with international specialities, in addition to the regional wine list, or to put an end to a hard or easy day.

On weekends, head to the farmers' market, where you can sample and purchase local produce from the Bakony-Balaton region. Good vibes, friendly conversations, shared breakfasts and lunches, clean, quality and local ingredients - all in the heart of the city.





Accommodations

If you visit Veszprém, we are confident that you will want to find a pleasant and relaxing place to stay in the heart of the city. The accommodations in Veszprém offer high-quality services, where you can enjoy your stay while everything is within easy reach.

However, if you wish to explore the most beautiful sights of Veszprém, one day will not be enough. Instead of a one-day trip, it is advisable to plan for several days in advance. It is best to choose an accommodation in Veszprém that offers what you need for this purpose.

In recent years, accommodations in Veszprém have undergone significant development. From hotels to guesthouses, all categories are represented in the city. The 4-star accommodations in the county seat provide a variety of high-quality services, making them ideal for both leisure tourists and business travellers. In the 3-star category, a wider range of options is available.

Most hotels, guesthouses, and other accommodations in Veszprém are located in or within easy reach of the city centre, making them perfect starting points for exploring the city.

Most accommodations continuously expand their services, and today, all larger hotels with higher capacities, as well as several smaller guesthouses, feature event rooms, wellness facilities, and, of course, their own restaurants. In addition to traditional Hungarian cuisine, international dishes are also commonly offered. Veszprém's accommodations are ideal for both family and corporate events.

Spend a few wonderful days at any accommodation in Veszprém!



Handball

With a proud 48-year history, the One Veszprém Handball Club has been one of Hungary's most famous and successful teams for decades, the flagship of the city's sports life.

On January 9, 1977, one of Hungarian sports history's greatest success stories began, taking a small "industrial" team from the Bakony region all the way to 28 Hungarian championship titles, 31 Hungarian Cup victories, a club world championship title, five SEHA League wins, and four Champions League final appearances. Few clubs can say, even on a global scale, that during their existence, they started more seasons as champions than not –

The One Veszprém Arena, the home of the handball team, is a modern sports and event center, hosting not only sports events but also concerts and theatrical performances. Its excellent acoustics and impressive design provide unforgettable experiences for every visitor.

The One Veszprém Handball Club's matches are the highlights of the city's sports life, where passionate fans create a festive atmosphere. The Arena's stunning ambiance and the team's dedication offer a unique experience for every sports enthusiast.



University of Pannonia

Veszprém, one of Hungary's oldest cities, has been a bishop's seat for a thousand years and served as a cultural centre for centuries. In the Middle Ages, it was home to a renowned chapter school where the first workshops of Hungarian diplomacy began to take shape. The University of Pannonia continues this intellectual legacy. It began operating in 1949 as an off-campus faculty of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), specializing in heavy chemical engineering. Károly Polinszky, a young lecturer from the Department of Chemical Technology at BME, was tasked with organising the new faculty in the spring of 1949. The first academic year was opened on 26 September 1949 with sixteen lecturers and 107 students. In 1951, the faculty became an independent university under the name Veszprém University of Chemical Engineering.

With its strong academic traditions and rich history, the university now offers programmes in almost every field of science. It has five faculties (Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Information Technology, Faculty of Humanities, and Faculty of Business Administration in Zalaegerszeg), with campuses in Veszprém, Nagykanizsa, Zalaegerszeg, and Ajka. Located between the Bakony Hills and Lake Balaton, students enjoy not only beautiful natural surroundings but also long-standing university traditions, mentoring programmes, scholarships, and a fully renewed campus that is open to the public. These all contribute to creating a sense of belonging and unforgettable university years for students who come here.



V-Bike



Public bikes allow for a flexible and environmentally friendly way to explore the sights of the city built on seven hills, thanks to electric power assisted bikes that can easily negotiate the sometimes difficult terrain and steep hillsides.

The V-Bike rental system offers around 150 electric bikes for hire across the city, which can be rented at one of 19 collection point and then dropped off at any of them after use.

You can also buy occasional tickets (daily, 3-day, weekly) or opt for long-term rentals.



MORE INFORMATION







Discover Veszprém with the assistance of the Tourinform office!



Dog-friendly office

For more information about attractions and current events, visit the Tourinform Veszprém office or check out the official tourism website of Veszprém city.

Services:

- Tourist information about the city, along with materials on Veszprém and its surroundings
- Ticket sales
- Guided tours, tour guide system also available
- Organization and sale of city sightseeing programs
- Audioguide service offering exciting routes to explore the city in three languages (Hungarian, English, German)
- · Luggage storage for convenient sightseeing
- Souvenir shop with local gifts
- Relaxation area and children's play area with Veszprém-themed activities
- Phone charging station
- Nordic walking poles rental
- Kajla stamp point
- Free WIFI



Family-friendly office



Accessible

Ask for our help and make the most of your stay in Veszprém!

Tourinform Veszprém

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