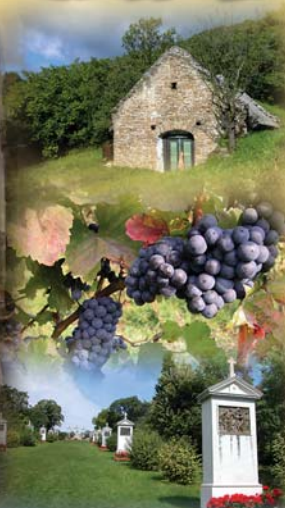


# TIHANY

HISTORIC PLACES • ARTMEMORIALS  
NATURAL TREASURES



# HISTORY OF TIHANY

Balaton, the largest shallow lake in Central Europe, was formed by tectonic sagging around 25,000 years ago. Tihanyi-félsziget (Tihany peninsula) divides the lake into two basins. The characteristic view of the Mediterranean landscape was formed by volcanic eruptions millions of years ago as shown today by two giant calderas. The remains of these craters form two little lakes, without outlet, higher than the water level of Lake Balaton: Belső-tó, which is popular with anglers, and Külső-tó, a paradise for aquatic birds.

As a result of volcanic follow-up activity, thermal springs created more than one hundred geyser hills in the peninsula. The most beautiful one is called Aranyház (Golden House) after the golden lichen covering its rocks.

Beside geological features, the peninsula is famous for its exceptional wildlife: the area became the first nature reserve of Hungary in 1952. The archaeological findings of the area show that the peninsula has been inhabited since prehistoric times. People of the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the Roman

Age liked this place. The Romans called Balaton Lacus Pelso and had a ford at Tihany.

The ancient Tihany village was founded in the Middle Ages when King Andrew I founded here in 1055 a burial-place for the royal family and built a monastery, where Benedictine monks were settled. The Abbey of Tihany was authorised in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to issue official deeds (locus authenticus). During the Turkish times, in the 16-17<sup>th</sup> century, the monastery, which had been transformed into a fortress, was demolished. It was rebuilt in baroque style in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and became a symbol of Tihany. A few years ago, the Benedictine monks were again put in charge of the monastery and the Abbey Museum.

Tihany is a jewel of not only Lake Balaton but also Hungary. Since the nineteen sixties masses of tourists, both Hungarians and foreigners, have been visiting the place. Its main assets are the historical and cultural relics related to the monastery, the unique landscape and the recreational possibilities of Balaton.



# HISTORIC PLACES

## 1. Ancient fortification

The oval entrenchment system of the hill called Óvár, the largest and relatively well-preserved earthwork of the Balaton region, was built around the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. It was a princely residence and provided shelter for the people in times of war.

## 2. Knollgraves

A several meter high knoll was built of limestone and earth over the graves of the princes of the earthwork in the southern hillside next to the present graveyard. A part of the knollgraves were dug up in the early seventies: potsherds, bronze jewellery and charred grains of wheat were found in the cremation graves.

## 3. Hermit's place

In the eastern slope of Óvár, Greek Orthodox hermits hollowed out their cells, a chapel and a dining room from the rocks in the 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. This is the only hermits' place which is a relatively well-preserved in the Carpathian Basin and even in Central Europe.



Its local name is Barátlakások (Friar habitations). Not far from here, you can find the Ciprián spring, previously called Russian fountain, which is the only spring of Tihany.

## 4. Calvary

The most beautiful 20<sup>th</sup> century calvary of the country was built within a few years time, beginning in 1926, from public contributions. The stones with inscription and bronze relief symbolising the suffering of Christ and the Way of the Cross were raised on behalf of the historic counties and royal boroughs of Hungary.

The stone cross of Christ, in the background, there are three knolls built of limestone blocks and the bronze memorial of Hungarian King Charles IV.

The structures of the Calvary were demolished in 1960.



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Foundation-stone for the Calvary (Stations of the Cross) to be rebuilt was laid in a ceremony March 28, 1992. Work started in the year 1998, then on October 15, 2000 the by then finished three Station pillars and the temporarily erected three wooden crosses were inaugurated. The Károly IV Calvary Foundation still gladly accepts donations.

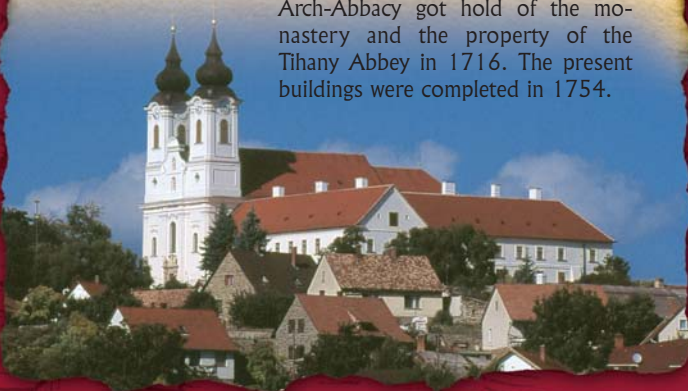
## 5. Echo

Records from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century say that words shouted from the Echo hill return from the northern wall of the church building. The earliest Balaton guide-book, issued in 1848, says that guests in Füred take excursions to Tihany to listen to the echo because the church wall clearly returns voices up to 15 syllables. The Echo of Tihany, a topic covered by famous poets, has been gradually fading since the sixties but it can be still enjoyed especially in windless, quiet evenings.



## 6. The church building and its neighbourhood

King Andrew I. founded a monastery and a royal burial-place in Tihany in 1055, in accordance with the tradition of Christian monarchs. Monastery life ceased in the middle of the fifteen hundreds when the building was transformed into a fortress against the Turks, who never occupied it. The fortress, of which no detailed plans have remained, was demolished in the Kuruts times in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The walking way between the Echo hill and the church is named after Castellan István Pisky. The Pannonhalma Arch-Abbacy got hold of the monastery and the property of the Tihany Abbey in 1716. The present buildings were completed in 1754.



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From Pisky Promenade, there is a nice view on the most beautiful harbour of Balaton and the mole built according to the design of Dezső Nagy Káli between 1909 and 1911.



## 7. Pale hill

The name Nyársas-hegy, which is located next to the place where a fortress stood in the Middle Ages, goes back to the times when the soldiers of the fortress impaled the Turks who abducted Hungarian women and screwed the peasantry.

## 8. Gallows hill

In 1714, King Sigismund granted *ius gladii*, power of life and death, to the Abbey to arrest, convict and execute malefactors. This was the spot where the gallows pole was erected. Akasztó-domb was also a place of special fishing



method, practised only in Tihany. One of the fishermen called 'hill walker' climbed up to the top of the hill, followed the movements of the pelecus ('the seen fish') shoal and gave instructions to the fishermen waiting in the boat to lay the net.

## 9. Church ruins at Ujlak

The ruins of the church – the sanctuary wall still stands – are located at the southern part of the peninsula. They keep the memory of an ancient ferry village.

## 10. Church ruins at Apáti

Two of the three settlements of Tihany peninsula, Ujlak and Apáti, were demolished in the Turkish times and only the church ruins remained. The church ruins at Apáti are located at the northern part of the peninsula. The rebuilt church dates back to the 12<sup>nd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century.



# ART MEMORIALS

## 1. Baroque church and convent of the Benedictine Abbey

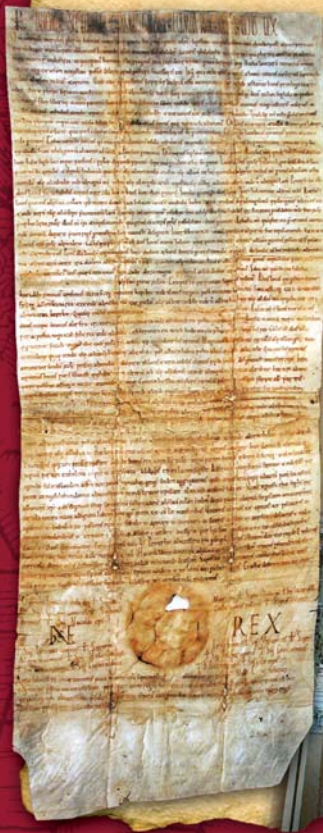
The baroque church, built under supervision of abbot Ágoston Lécs, is 46m long, 16m wide and has two towers of 34.5m height which puts it among the medium-sized churches of Hungary. Its interior decoration was constructed by wood-carver and cabinet-maker Sebastian Stulhoff between 1754 and 1779.

The furnishings and the gilded wooden sculptures are excellent pieces of the Central European baroque art, just as the frescos painted by Károly Lotz, Bertalan Székely, Lajos Deák-Ébner during the restoration works in 1889-1890. The interior was fully restored by 1996, after the church was returned to the Benedictine Abbey in 1994.

The inner restoration of the church (frescos, altars, etc.) began 1992 and ended four years later. 1996 marks the start of an all-around restoration of the monastery.

The friary, built simultaneously with the church, houses the Benedictine Abbey Museum. The single-storey square building connects to the south wall of the church, its wings encompassing a square inner court. Between October 26-31, 1921 the friary also gave home to the last monarch of Hungary, King Karl Habsburg 4<sup>th</sup> and Queen Zita when they were interned to the premises of the abbey by the Entente Powers prior to being exiled to the Island of Madeira.

The abbey celebrated its 950<sup>th</sup> jubilee in 2005. It is host to concerts in the summer and exhibitions and cultural programs over the rest of the year. The museum regularly offers seasonal exhibitions.



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## 2. Crypt of King Andrew I

The roman hall crypt, which was built by King Andrew I. at the time when the monastery was founded in 1055, is the only original royal burial place in Hungary that remained intact. Here lies the king, who died in 1060. It guards a copy of the deed of foundation for the abbey, which is also our earliest linguistic relic.



## 3. Calvinist church, belfry

The Calvinist church, built in 1793, is a simple building with a square groundplan. The belfry, standing on four white columns and covered with shingle, is located west of the church building.



## 4. Former wine cellar and press-house of the Abbey

Vine growing around Balaton dates back to Roman times. Tihany became significant wine-district at the time of the foundation of the monastery. The cellar with a unique double cross groundplan and the classicist press-house were built at the northern shore of Belső-tó in 1822 for processing and storing the vine grown in the property of the Abbey. The cellar has excellent wine also today.



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## **5. Former granary of the Abbey**

The granary built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the largest building of the village. It was two storeys, it is rough-casted and divided by white ribbons and window-frames according to the local tradition. Presently it serves as community centre.

## **6. Former inn of the Abbey**

The inn built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century played an important role in the community life of the village. It was recently rebuilt and Fogas Csárda is very popular with tourists also today.

## **7. Former house of the physician of the Abbey**

The present post office building used to be the dwelling house of the physician of the Abbey. The single-storey building was built in simplified neo-classic style in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with 1-3-1 window-arrangement. Four massive pillars give relief to the three windows in the middle.

## **8. Former Hotel Sport**

Hotel Sport, which was built in 1923. Regrettably, the once fairest building of the spa now stands forlorn. A well tended and shady park surrounds it.

## **9. Former farmstead of the Abbey**

In the property of the Tihany Abbey, allodial farming has been taking place since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The buildings of the former farmstead were built at the shore of Belso-tó next to the village in eighteen thirties. The sheepshed and the barn with eleven columns are still original. They are used as a workshop by the students of the Art College each summer. The renovated buildings of the cattle-shed are used for cultural purposes by Körösi Csoma Foundation. The former servant's quarters are refurbished and used as dwelling houses.





### 10. Balaton Limnology Research Institute

The Institute was founded for Balaton research and special biological research. The five pavilion swere was built according to the designs of Iván Kotsis in 1926-27.

### 11. Summer castle of Archduke Joseph Habsburg

The beautiful building, located at a 4 acre park, was designed also by Iván Kotsis. It was built as a summer castle for Archduke Joseph Habsburg in 1924-25.

### 12-20. Relics of the folk architecture, and peasant houses

The traditional culture of Tihany, which dates back to the Middle Ages, was alive until the nineteen-fifties. The typical inhabitants of the village working at the properties of the fortress and the Abbey were poor people and this fact is expressed in their architecture.

It was not unusual that several small peasant's houses were built on one single site. The houses were built without a chimney – the smoke exhausted from the central kitchen ('smoky kitchen') through the roof and the door until, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so-called free-chimney kitchens



were built. Next to the kitchen there was one room on the one side and a larder, a barn and a shed on the other side. The kitchen was heated by oven, the rooms by tile stove fired with coal. The walls were whitewashed wattled plaster or stone wall of basaltic tuff with characteristic grey colour. The roof was thatched with reeds. The furniture was made of hardwood and served several generations. Some of the peasant houses with original furniture can be visited by the tourists (Parasztgazda house and Halászcéh house along Pisky Promenade, Pottery house at the end of the Batthyány J. street) other are still inhabited or serve other tourist purposes.



# A TIHANYI-FÉLSZIGET



1. Saddle mountain
2. Peak mountain
3. Geyser field
4. Golden House
5. Little forest summit
6. Ancient fortification
7. Hermit's place
8. Landing place
9. Ferry

## Historical Places

1. Hermit's place
2. Church ruins at Apáti
3. Church ruins at Újlak



fői-sarok

B A L A T O N



17°53' Transzverzális Mercator-vetület 17°54'

- 1. Mayor's office
- 2. Surgery
- 3. Post office
- 4. Museum of the Benedictine Abbey
- 5. Tourinform
- 6. Dolls Museum
- 7. Outdoor Museum
- 8. Tihany Tourist
- 9. Pharmacy
- 10. Balatontourist

#### Historical places

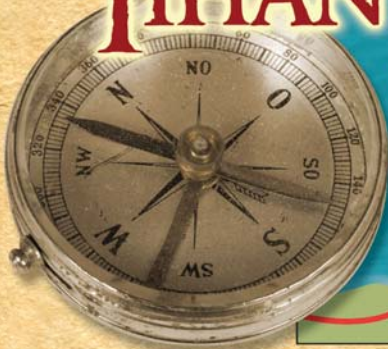
- 1. Earthwork from the Stone Age
- 2. Knollgraves
- 3. Calvary hill
- 4. Echo hill
- 5. The church building and its environs
- 6. Palle hill
- 7. Gallows hill

#### Art memorials

- 1. Baroque church of the Benedictine Abbey
- 2. Crypt of King Andrew I.
- 3. Calvinist church, belfry
- 4. Former farmstead of the Abbey
- 5. Former granary of the Abbey
- 6. Former Inn of the Abbey
- 7. Former house of the doctor of the Abbey
- 8. Former Hotel Sport
- 9. Balaton Limnology Research Institute
- 10. Summer castle of Archduke Joseph Habsburg
- 11. Peasant house - Batthyány u. 22.
- 12. Peasant house - Halász köz 4.
- 13. Peasant house - Visszhang u. 15.
- 14. Peasant house - Kossuth u. 19.
- 15. Peasant house - Kossuth u. 20.
- 16. Peasant house - Kossuth u. 55.
- 17. Peasant house - Petőfi S. u. 1.
- 18. Peasant house - Csokonai u. 35.
- 19. Peasant house - Dózsa Gy. u. 10.



# TIHANY





Visszhang-domb

Attila-tomb

Arpád u.

Visszhang u.

Batthyány u.

Halász k.

Váralka u.

Klebelsberg Kuno u.

Kis-öböl

I. András tér

Kiss u.

Kossuth u.

Posta köz.

Petőfi S.

Csokona u.

Dozza Gy. u.

Major u.

Fürdőtelepi u.

ső-tó

Aranyház u.

Rendeskö u.

Aranyház u.

Balaton

Akaszto-domb

7 =

# NATIONAL TREASURES

The Tihany peninsula is unique in several aspects, not just in Hungary, but also in Europe. Its special geographical position, the uniqueness of its formation, the appearance of today's scenery, the geological and historical relics along with its rare plants and wildlife all enhance its status as one of our most beautiful and most valued treasures.



Natural historians and nature preservationists have been familiar with the treasures of the Tihany peninsula for a long time. The first nature preservation area in Hungary was developed here in 1952. The Landscape Protection Area of Tihany later expanded to the north and in 1997 became part of the then forming Balaton-Highland National Park. Its natural treasures were Europe-wide acknowledged by 2003 when the Council of Europe awarded the peninsula with the European Diploma of nature reserves. The rewarded reserves are revised every five years; previous winners were the Szénás

Hills Highly Protected Area and the Fossil Remnants of Ipolytarnóc Landscape Protection Area – the list of other European prize winners contains equally prestigious areas. Acting as warden for the area is the Directorate of the Balaton-Highland National Park.

The objective is twofold: to show and to protect. The contradiction can be resolved, the solution is with You. Please follow the restrictions described in this publication!



# EVOLUTION AND CLIMATE OF THE PENINSULA

The bedrock of the peninsula consists of layers of sand, clay, and sediments from the Pannon Sea. From this fossil-rich rock did the lake once wash away the remnants of *Congeria* shells; these remnants later became famous as 'goat nail' (pic.1). On top of the Pannonian sediments



are volcanic layers of varied thickness, forming most of the mass of the peninsula. Since the molten rock reached these water-soaked sediments before getting to the surface, the lava could not flow to the surface from the volcano of Tihany working roughly 7 million years before. The developing steam caused massive explosions which propelled dust, ashes and rocks of varied sizes into the air (this we call Surtsey-type volcanic activity). First stages of the eruption took place in great depths so along with pieces of basalt, grains of Silurian phyllite and Permian red sandstone shot out as well, together forming the brownish-grey basalt-tuff peculiar to the peninsula. Upon impact, the larger chunks of rocks (also called 'bombs') formed craters in the still soft surface (pic. 2).

This was followed by two other kinds of volcanic activity (Hawaiian and Stromboli type) so the volcanoes greatly contributed to the variety of the landscape. Rises running along the edge of the peninsula are actually remains of caldera brims; the craters, once centers of explosions, now form drainless basins in which the water surface of inner lakes sparkles. The basalt-tuff layers of diverse composition and granularity later shattered and tilted out of place due to crustal movements. Their richness of form was further enhanced by erosive forces and wind in particular. Geological excavations across the peninsula show their picturesque beauty, enchanting not just the experts of geology.



# TIHANY

The volcanic activities were later followed by post-volcanic thermal springs. Water seeping into the depths along tectonic rifts boiled from the heat of the slowly cooling magma and blended with volcanic gases (mostly carbon-dioxide and hydrogen sulfide). The aggressive gases thrusting upwards released carbonate and flint from the older rocks such as limestone and sandstone, encrusting on the surface by the sudden drop of pressure and temperature. This resulted in



a particular type of limestone called geyserite which is extremely varied in structure and composition, making up the famous geyser cones of the Tihany peninsula (pic. 3.). Over 150 of these cones must have been around on the peninsula originally; these days their number is around 60-80. They are mostly found in groups or forming wavy ridges running along geological rifts. Geyserite is more resistant than basalt-tuff, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that it can be found capping

the highest points of the peninsula such as the Csúcs Hill and the Nyereg Hill. It's also not by chance that the compound of the Benedictine Abbey of Tihany itself was built upon a block of geyserite. Through mining and erosion larger inner caves were revealed, such as the caves of Csúcs Hill or the Forrás cave next to the abbey.

Climate of the peninsula is largely influenced by south-European features (sub-Mediterranean is the term) which are complemented and equated by the lake's effect of moderating extremities. Temperatures rise slowly in the spring, diminishing the effect of late frosts. Summer is hot and dry; the dark hue of the rocks and the ground often make for a heat hardly bearable. Due to the sub-Mediterranean climate autumn mostly sets in bringing rains and passes late. A really cold and snowy winter comes only after Lake Balaton freezes over.





## THE SHORE OF THE LAKE BALATON AND THE BOZSAI BAY

The south-western shoreline of the peninsula lies in a near natural state, in particular the section from the part below Gurbicza to the harbour has remained intact. The shore preserves its natural state at Sajkod and in the Bozsai bay. (pic. 4.)

Bozsai bay is one of the last almost undisturbed reed bays of the Lake Balaton. White water-lilies (*Nymphaea alba*) bloom on islets within the reed. Hay-fields, meadows and the remains of fenlands accompany the bay on the shore, growing Orchids *laxiflora*, and (*Eriphorum angustifolium*) and Siberian iris (*Iris siberica*) along with a host of other protected plants.

The reeds offer nesting sites to many rare bird species, like the summer goose (*Anser anser*) and the brown meadow hawk (*Circus aeruginosus*). Of the mammals the numbers of the increasingly protected otter (*Lutra lutra*) are noteworthy. The undisturbed lakeside is host to kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) and otter families (*Lutra lutra*). In the winter white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) can be spotted here.



## APÁTI MOUNTAIN

This is the unit of the caldera rim closest to the Outer lake, on the eastern side the surface level drops via steep basalt-tufa cliffs to the lake. Rock formations carry the mark of the destruction caused by the wind. An unforgettable experience is offered by the view to inside the peninsula, the Outer lake, the Inner lake and the ancient village, and in the distant background lies Balatonfüred. On the North side indicating the site of the former Apáti settlement are the Apáti church ruins which was under reconstruction, but from last year you can visit it.

The Apáti mountain provides one of the most valuable habitats on the peninsula. On the top of the mountain a whole line of Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean plants grow on secondary meadows, among them the *Sternbergia colchiciflora* (pic. 5), the autumn ox-eye daisy (*Scilla autumnnails*), the *Convolvulus cantabricus*, and the *Valerianella pumila*. Here also there is the prickly lucerne (*Medicago rigidula*), several species of feather-grass (*Stipa* sp.) along with the dwarf iris (*Iris pumila*).



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Flowering on the eastern side of the cliff is the *Gagea bohemica*, the *Cotoneaster matrensis* and the *Coronilla emerus*. This southern climate also favours insects, large bodied species generally rare in Hungary can be found here such as the *Tibicina haematodes* (Pic. 6) and the *Cicada orni*.



6

This however does not conclude the list of distinguishing features of the Apáti mountain. The southern side retains the last of the once famous lavender plantations of the peninsula. (Pic. 7) 1924 lavenders were planted here and by the '40s the plantation took on a size of almost 100 acres. Lavender oil produced in the region was re-

nowned across the continent and its quality surpassed even that of the oils coming from French plantations. The area was put under dual utilization with the introduction of almond cultivation.



7

Regrettably, growing was discontinued in the '60s and vine plants replaced most of the lavender plantation. The remaining 20 acres fell to natural succession and the forest started to take over. In the mid-'90s the National Park took the initiative to press back the brushwood on areas deemed suitable (i.e. where stems of lavender survived in greater numbers). The old lavender fields are maintained by regularly clearing the area from brushwood and through grazing, so at the turn

of June and July visitors may feast their eyes on a lavender sea rolling over 10 acres. Some of the original vegetation has returned since cultivation was abandoned. A plant-life characteristic for sloping steppes thrives among the lavender stocks, forming together a unique habitat not found anywhere else, which is home to a number of precious plants and animals. Another – and likely also from previous cultivation remaining – plant of the area is the woolly foxglove (*Digitalis lanata*) (pic. 8) which is under increased protection.



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## SADDLE MOUNTAIN

The Nyereg-hegy is a narrow cliff ridge connecting the Peak mountain to the Apáti mountain, offering a wonderful view of the Balaton Uplands, towards the southern basin of Lake Balaton and the Bozsai bay in one direction and the inside on the peninsula in the other. This wedge shaped side is one of the most valuable geological formations on the peninsula. Post volcanic activity brought boiling water to the former surface. Lake hydroquartzite bearing plant residues and thinly layered silicic limestone were formed in the small and large warm water lakes. The shape of the capriciously creased limestone sheets is the result of former movement of water and the Earth's crust. (Pic. 9 a/b)



## PEAK MOUNTAIN

As a result of post volcanic action a whole row of geyser cones were formed on the peninsula, one such peak is the Peak mountain (Pic. 10). From the highest point on the peninsula (235 m), visible even today is the stack carved by the spring cone and the hot water bubbling up from the deep. The geyserite 'cap' above the basalt tufa resisted the forces destroying the mountain, the current interesting shape was thus formed. The cliffs rising like cones are made up of sheet layers of hydroquartzite, silicic limestone and mass geyzerite. Folklore has it that the spring cave on the western side was once used by the famous outlaw of the Bakony hills, Jóska Sobri.



## THE SARKAD FOREST

Most of the hills on the rim of the peninsula are covered in the forests, the most beautiful of these lies on the southwestern side and is called the Sarkad-forest. The characteristic main species of tree is the oak, containing some *Quercus pubescens*, flowering ash (*Fraxinus ornus*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and field elm (*Ulmus minor*). Some special oaks grow here like the Italian oak (*Quercus virgiliana*) along with the *Quercus virgiliana* x *pubescens*, being a natural hybrid with the *Quercus pubescens*, there is also a dry tolerant variety of the non-pedicle oak, the *Quercus polycarpa*. Beneath the rich canopy



of oaks there are many valuable soft stemmed plants such as the protected *Orchis purpurea* and the *Dictamnus albus*.

Marked members of the wildlife in the Sarkad forest are the longicorn beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo*) the stag beetle and the oak hawk-moth (*Marumba quercus*) (pic. 11). While spending the daytime underground, at night the smooth newt (*Triturus vulgaris*) and the spadefoot toad (*Pelobates fuscus*) (pic. 12) can be spotted at the bottom of mossy tree-trunks. Characteristic reptile for the forest is the aesculapian snake (*Elaphe longissima*), which can develop a length of up to two meters. The forest, consisting of trees of varying species and age, provides a diverse habitat for song-birds. Hoopoes (*Upupa epops*) and starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) greatly appreciate the tree holes left by black, green, and grey-headed woodpeckers (*Dryocopus martius*, *Picus viridis*, *Picus canus*).



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Sparrow hawks (*Accipiter nisus*) (pic. 13) hunt the depths of the forest with blazing speed and with much daring; in the night long-eared owls (*Asio otus*) (pic. 14) glide softly. After sundown hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) run around looking for walnuts and among the foliage flutters the Nathusius's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*), taking advantage of the food provided by the rich insect life.

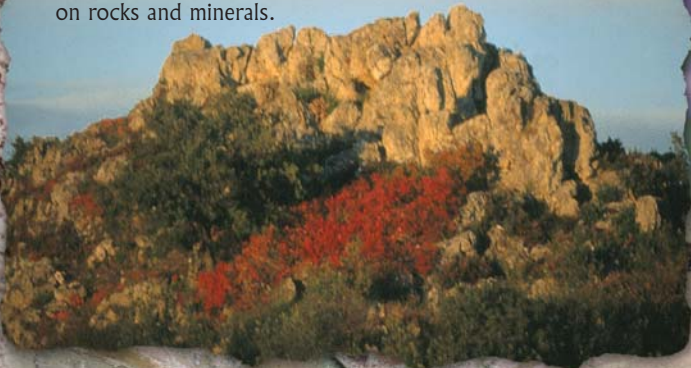


## THE GEYSER FIELD AND THE GOLDEN HOUSE

The geyser fields spreading between the Sarkad forest and Lake Inner feature rock formations risen in the Quaternary, some three million years before our time. This area had the most thermal springs during the post-volcanic actions that followed the basalt-volcanic stage. Largest of the hot spring cones formed here is the Goldhouse geyser



cone, named after the yellow lichen growing on it en masse (pic. 15). The marked nature trail hits many of the rock figures that have been cleared of brushes for display; some of them mimicking mushrooms and others with cave-like passages beneath them. Even on a continental scale, the post-volcanic formations of the area are outstanding both in their sheer number and their remarkable appearance – this was a deciding factor in the European Diploma being awarded to the peninsula. The top of the Hármashegyi cone offers a fabulous view of the Lake Inner and the old community while an old vault at the bottom of the Goldenhouse contains an exhibition on rocks and minerals.



## THE INNER LAKE

The Inner lake is situated directly under the village, it is almost perfectly round with the clear water surface. It lies 26 m above the level of the Lake Balaton in the sunken caldera following volcanic eruption. (pic. 16) Once it was famous for its rich flora and fauna. The deployment of herbivorous Asian fishes in the last few decades led to the total extinction of the original plant life; birds nestling there moved to Lake Outer. With the plants, their main source of nutrition, gone the imported fish population itself vanished as well, allowing for the vegetation to slowly recuperate. Lake Inner is a



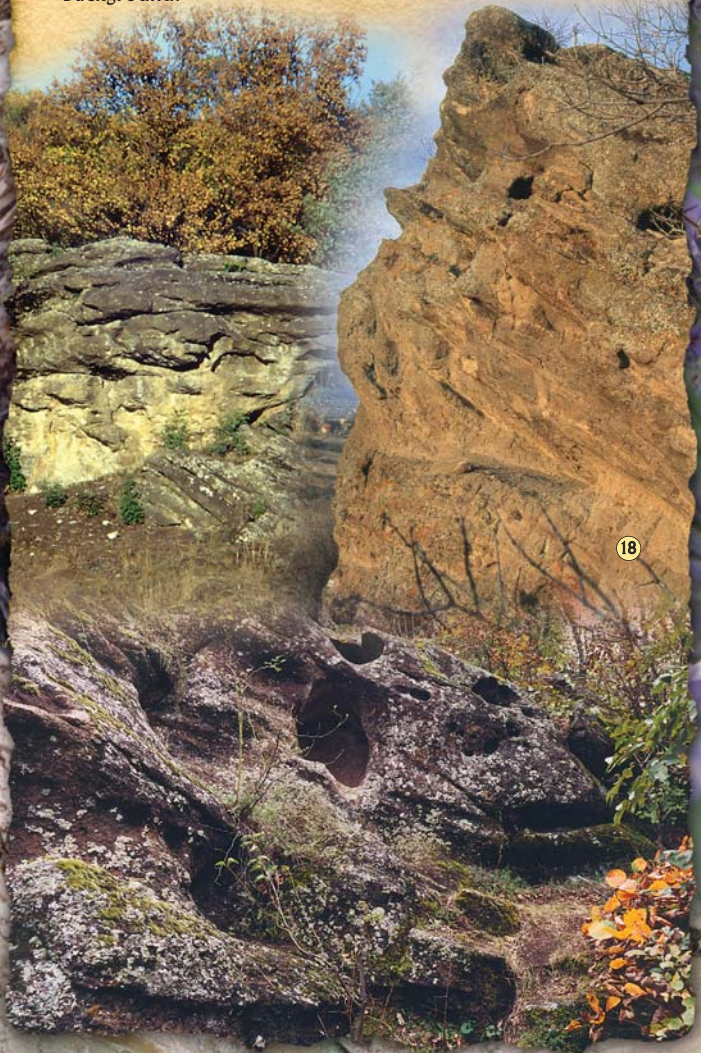
popular angling area these days.

The locals once herded geese on the shores of Lake Inner and just recently a smaller herd of grey cattle (pic. 17) was brought to the meadows of the south side of the lake. Settling animals here serves a number of goals. Protection of domestic animals is just as much of a mission of nature reserves as protection of wildlife. These ancient species no longer meet economical and efficiency requirements, yet their survival is not merely self-serving. These animals are results of centuries of adaptation – they survived and proved useful even under adverse circumstances. Grazed on poor quality pastures and without surplus feed, they could scrape their winter nutrition even from under the snow. Furthermore, they are also well suited for restoration of abandoned and weed-ridden pastures or sour-grassed moorlands. Standing at the western shores of the lake we get a glimpse back into the past: beyond a herd of Hungarian grey cattle the twin towers of the Benedictine Abbey reach out, mirrored by the lake in calm weather. The cattle treat the meadow fenced off for their use effectively; the grass is short but dense all year. So by 2003 it was time to bring back the other grass-dweller as well: the gopher. Their numbers have been increasing nicely ever since.



## LITTLE FOREST SUMMIT

This is the remnant of the caldera rim rising between the Outer and the Inner lakes in the central part of the peninsula. The basalt cliffs formed during volcanic activity have been dislodged from their original place by later land movement. Wind has demolished the softer rock, leaving the harder basalt tufa to withstand the destructive force. This explains the formation of the 'windswept cliffs' which can be seen here (Pic. 18). The summit of the mountain is covered by cliff grass and prairie grass sloping steppe, several species of oak bush forests grow round the sides. In the autumn the reddish colour of oak is very picturesque with the Outer lake in the background.



## THE OUTER LAKE

The Outer lake, once formed in the main crater of the peninsula's volcano is a heavily filled up shallow lake 116 m above sea level. During the early 1800s drainage canals were dug to carry the water away via the Aszófo-séd stream into the Lake Balaton. (pic. 19)



The drained area was utilised for hay-making. In 1976 management of the area was granted to the nature preservation authority of the time. This is when, by blocking off the drainage canal the restoration of the original condition of the lake began. During the two and half decades since then, the water flora has

totally resettled and fauna characteristic of wet habitats have also appeared. Insect life relying on water is diverse, several rare dragonflies have found suitable conditions for survival here. Of the large number of amphibians and reptiles living in



the lake, there is an outstanding abundance of swamp terrapin (*Emys orbicularis*) (pic. 20)

Birds brooding here for some time now are the greylag goose (*Anser anser*), the great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) (pic. 21) and the marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*). In the last few years extensive brooding colonies of great egrets (*Egretta alba*) and purple and grey herons

(*Ardea purpurea*, *Ardea cinerea*) have formed.





## ÓVÁR

This striking ridge marks the eastern side of the peninsula with its picturesque basalt tufa rock formations facing Lake Balaton. Along its summit is the most beautiful Iron Age earth fortification in the Balaton region. So-called pannon-grasslands lie close to the remains of this former earth fortification, its characteristic protected plants include the ant thistle (*Jurinea mollis*), the *Polygala maior* (pic. 22.), the *Adonis vernalis*, the *Cotoneaster tomentosus*, the *Pulsatilla grandis*, the *Centaurea sadleriana* and the *Aster amellus* (pic. 23) This is one of the only two habitats in Hungary where *Pomatias elegans* snail lives.

A series of caves carved into the 20 m high basalt tufa cliffs on the eastern side of the Óvár, are the so-called *Barátlakások* (Monk residences) (pic.24).

Russian monks are reputed to have lived here brought here from the Great Principality of Kiev by the wife of the Hungarian king I. Endre around 1050 A.D. Only three groups of cells are visible today, the rest were buried in 1952 by a rockfall. In 1984 archeological and geological excavations revealed several skeletons. The cliff face and the still existing cells were established in 1994. The only layer spring of the peninsula the *Orosz-kút* (Russian well) rising to the surface nearby was named after them. (A more common name used today is the Cyprian-spring.)



## THE LÓCZY NATURE TRAIL



The Lajos Lóczy nature trail, marked by a red cross, leads hikers to the most beautiful places and sights of the Tihany peninsula. The starting point is at the Apáti church ruins next to Sajkod leading on over the Apáti mountain, the Saddle mountain and Peak mountain into the Sarkad forest, and then via the Geyser field and the Golden House to the ancient settlement. From there the trail leads along the Little forest summit – Ancient fortification – Hermit's place route to the Tihany harbour.

The path can also be walked in sections; the individual stages and their connecting points are marked on the enclosed map.

A map of the Tihany peninsula detailing the Lóczy nature trail can be found in the central page of this booklet.

The natural treasures of the peninsula can be visited with the help of our qualified guides. For information on our guided tours and forest school programs and registration, please call 30/382-7243 or 30/491-0073. Throughout the tours and programs, associates of the National Park will present the history, wildlife, and natural as well as cultural treasures of the peninsula.

For further information on the Tihany peninsula please turn to the **Directorate of Lake Balaton National Park** (Csopak, Kossuth L. u. 16. T: 87/555-260, fax: 87/555-261, website: [www.bfnp.nemzetipark.gov.hu](http://www.bfnp.nemzetipark.gov.hu), e-mail: [bfnp@bfnp.kvvm.hu](mailto:bfnp@bfnp.kvvm.hu)), or the **associates of the Tihany Region** (Research House Tihany, Tihany, PO box 5., T.: 30/491-0073, e-mail: [bfnpTihany@t-email.hu](mailto:bfnpTihany@t-email.hu)).

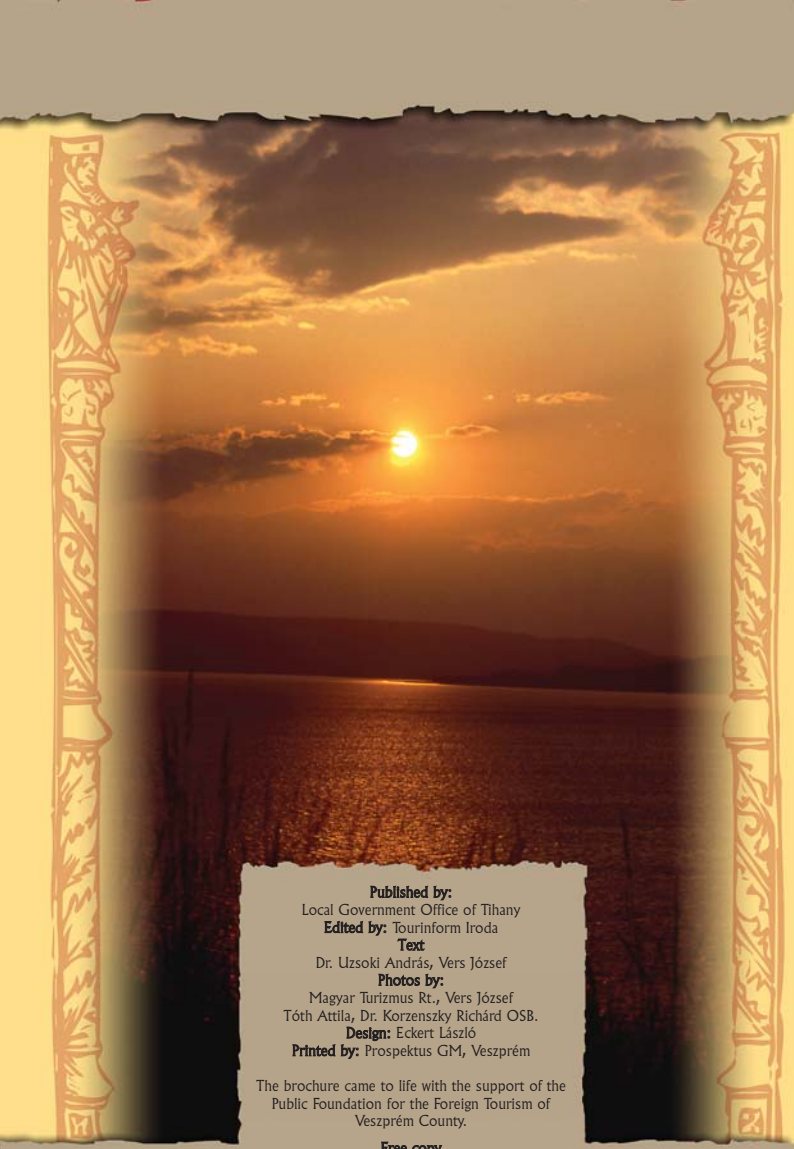
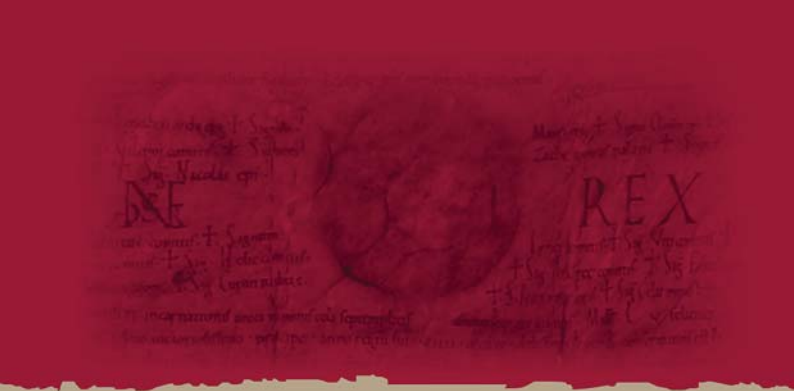
### **When you visiting the Nature Preservation Area please follow the following rules:**

- Cars are to be left in the village car park!
- Outside the villages please keep to the marked routes!
- Do not in any way cause harm to the natural values, do not pick flowers, do not gather stones or animals!
- Do not throw away rubbish: please take unwanted paper, waste and plastic bottles with you to the rubbish bins located in the village!

**If everyone sticks to the above they will also enjoy their return visit!**

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