



NYÍRSÉG
*a magical place
for tourists*



NYÍREGYHÁZA
TDM



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Nyíregyháza

THE TOWN WHERE ADVENTURES ARE BORN



There is a town in Hungary that developed from a small, drowsy settlement into a lively, colourful county seat with the help of diligence and effort, as well as through the hard work of the people who live there. This is a town that attracts visitors with its hospitality, endowments, ambient atmosphere of the town centre, along with its monuments and colourful cultural life. There are small houses here from the last century, together with middle-class buildings, churches, parks, statues, flowers and fountains and shady paths; all of them make Nyíregyháza a unique town in every season. People living here always made good use of the gifts of nature; the centuries-old trees of Sóstógyógyfürdő are witnesses of this development. The famous Zoo, spas, a vivid cultural life, festivals, youth programmes and a lot more are on offer to visitors. The town is continuously changing, growing, renewing, but there is something that is always the same: the enthusiasm, kindness and hospitality of the people who are awaiting the visitors.

Dr. Ferenc Kovács
Mayor





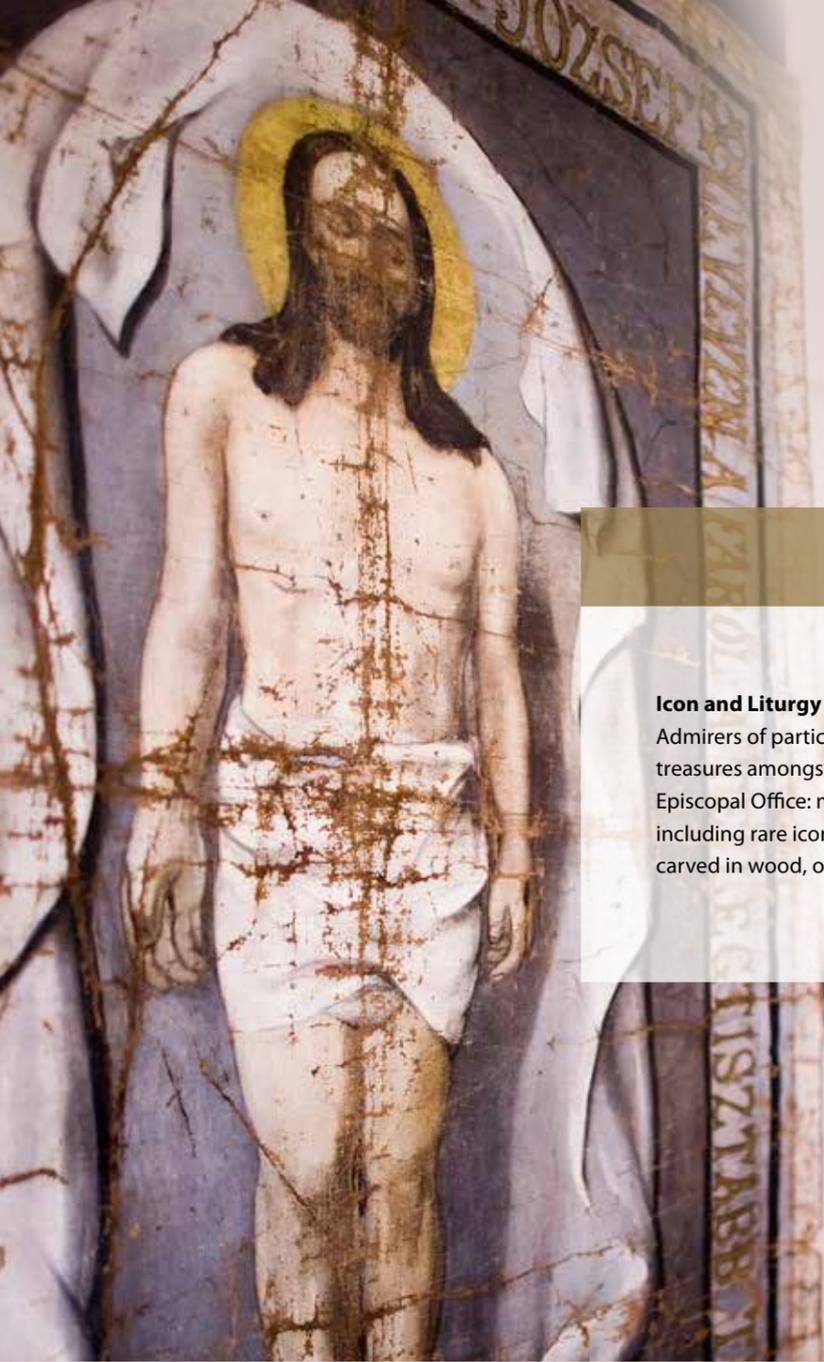
Museum - hiding gold treasures
 In the vault of the András Józsa Museum gold coins are kept which were found in the back garden of a house in Újfehértó. Most of the gold forints originate from the 16th and 17th century; they were made during the rule of kings Sigismund of Luxemburg, Matthias and Ferdinand I. The treasure is thought to have been hidden suddenly and it may have belonged to settler who had to flee, or a merchant. The findings weigh 1.3kg. In the 17th century country towns this amount of money would have bought a larger house.

In the footsteps of our ancestors



Nyíregyháza may not be in the limelight because of its history, monuments or sights; however, its exceptional richness is soon revealed to interested visitors. While strolling along the streets and parks of the town centre browsing local history publications and street names, visitors will find outstanding memories of bygone ages and people, as well as important relics of our history. The town began to really prosper in the middle of 18th century; prosperity spread and reached its peak during the second half of the 19th century. Architectural reminders of those productive centuries greet visitors along their walks through the town's streets and parks.





Icon and Liturgy

Admirers of particularly fine pieces of art will find unique treasures amongst the walls of the Greek Catholic Episcopal Office: memories of the Greek Catholic culture, including rare icons from 17th and 18th centuries, icons carved in wood, other liturgical objects and vestments.



The Mysterious Gold Ball

In 2001, during the renovation of the Lutheran Church, it became necessary to re-gild the gold ball on top of the church steeple. When it was dismantled, special treasures were found inside it. It contained documents from 1822, 1853 and 1883, inscribed by our ancestors, containing important information about the events of the town - famine, fire and details of the congregation, allowing rare insight into the history of a 19th century market town.



Cultural Recreation

Several festivals, outdoor programmes and cultural events await visitors from Spring until the Autumn months. During the Summer months outdoor theatrical performances and concerts in the town centre and in Sóstógyógyfürdő, church organ concerts and international festivals offer mental relaxation.



The town hosts the greatest free, Central-European music and **cultural festival, called VIDOR**. The series of programmes at the end of August give the lively town a special carnival atmosphere. Besides comedies played by participating theatre troupes and the latest Hungarian comedy movies, there are also outdoor concerts, art exhibitions, stand-up comedies and live statues to entertain the inhabitants of the town and the numerous visitors.





The Living Village
Those visiting the Sóstó Open-Air Museum can get acquainted with the village life of a vanished period. When looking around in the skansen, it is not only the buildings and exhibited objects that catch your attention, but the scent of the traditional delicacies baked in an oven, too, ready to be tasted. Furthermore, you can also participate in special, traditional village celebrations.





Happiness of children

HOLIDAY WITH THE FAMILY



The top Zoo

Several adventures await visitors in the most exciting zoo of the country. In the Green Pyramid visitors can see komodo dragons, orangutans and elephants, while admiring the exotic fauna from a rope bridge.

The wildlife of the Indian Ocean is brought to the fore in the Oceanarium. During the walk along 'Tarzan's Path', visitors can take a glance at the everyday life of giraffes, gorillas, a mini hippo and a lion family. Those who wish to get a very special adventure can wake up together with the animals if they stay at the zoo hotel.





The Adventure Park of Nyíregyháza
What could be more entertaining than parents and their offspring testing their skills and braveness together, in the canopy of the Sóstó forest, on the 100-stage ropes and zip wire course?



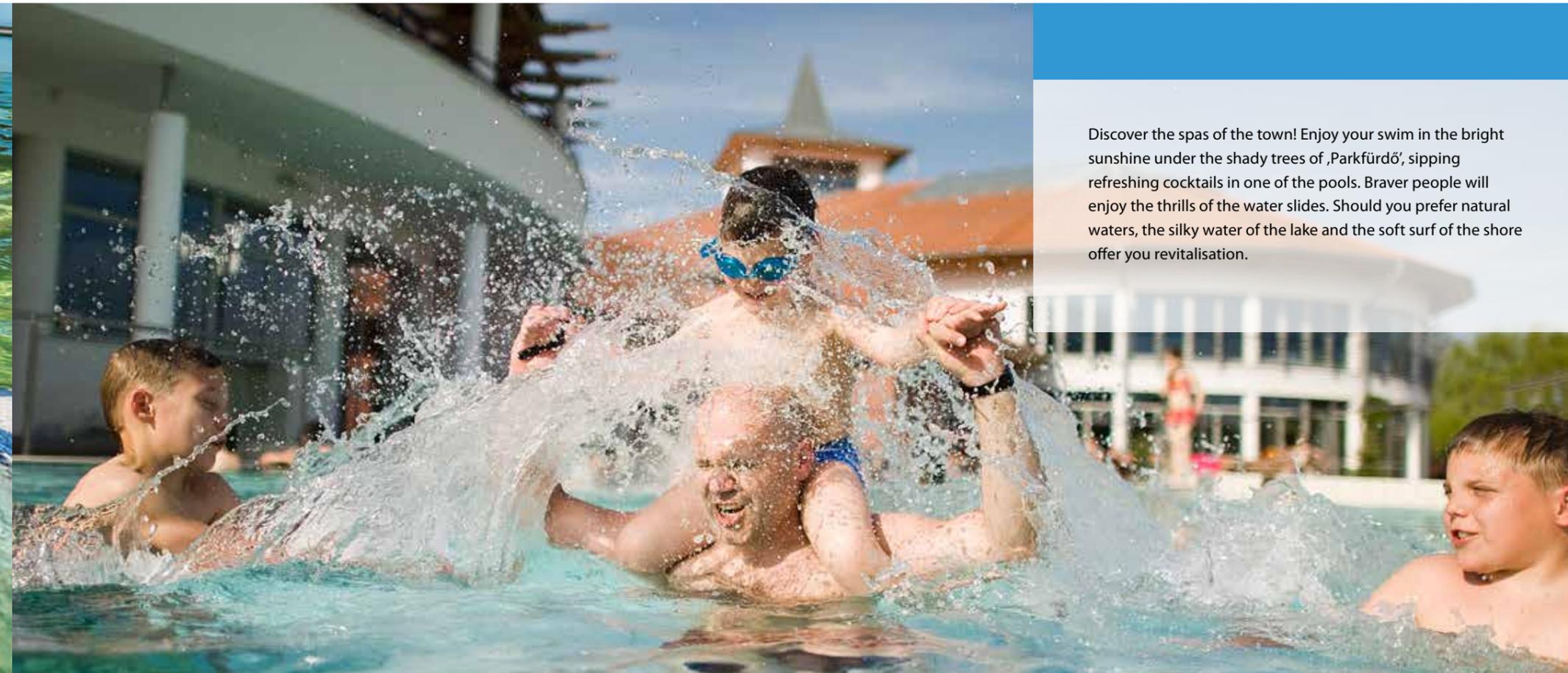


An Adventurous Garden

Children can explore the flora in a playful way at the botanical gardens, surrounded by the Sóstó forest. While parents are amazed by the water lilies and rhododendrons, the children are fascinated by the insectivorous (mimosa) plants. Afterwards, they can lose themselves in the leylandii labyrinth or enjoy the play garden.

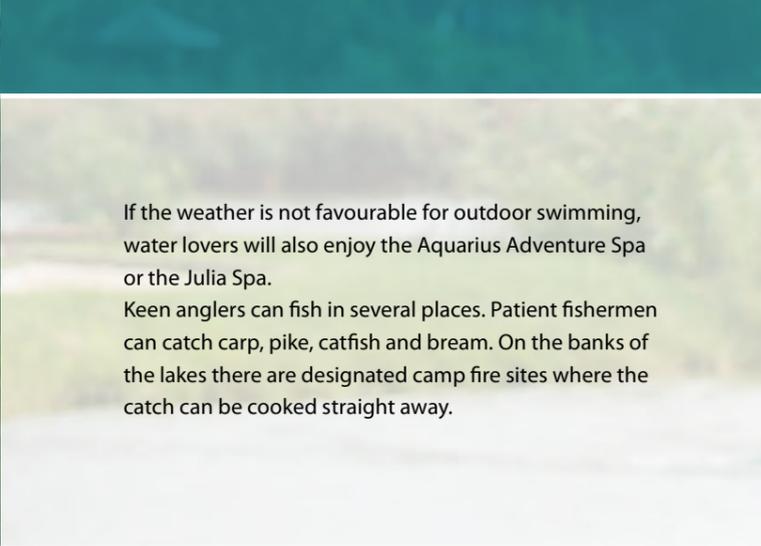
There are more places to discover after visiting all of the above places; the forest playground and nature paths await children and adults. If they get hungry after being out in the fresh forest air and their stomachs are rumbling, they can fry some bacon at designated barbecue places.





Discover the spas of the town! Enjoy your swim in the bright sunshine under the shady trees of 'Parkfürdő', sipping refreshing cocktails in one of the pools. Braver people will enjoy the thrills of the water slides. Should you prefer natural waters, the silky water of the lake and the soft surf of the shore offer you revitalisation.

Water adventures



If the weather is not favourable for outdoor swimming, water lovers will also enjoy the Aquarius Adventure Spa or the Julia Spa. Keen anglers can fish in several places. Patient fishermen can catch carp, pike, catfish and bream. On the banks of the lakes there are designated camp fire sites where the catch can be cooked straight away.





The Sóstó forest, the surroundings of the town, as well as the whole Nyírség region offer excellent possibilities for the enthusiasts of active rest. The area can be easily explored on foot, by bike or on horseback. Whilst rambling along the paths in the forests or riding a bike on one of the paved cycle routes, visitors can acquaint themselves with the most beautiful parts, sights and monuments of the town and the region.

Keeping horses has always been a great tradition. On the sandy hills of the Nyírség region visitors can enjoy the unique pleasure that connects rider and horse. Those who prefer comfort can explore the special world of the 'bush farms' by travelling on a horse-drawn cart.

Visitors can play golf at the course on the outskirts of town, while those, who wish to do something more extreme, can try parachuting, courtesy of the local club.





Winter dreams, winter joys



Although the summer programme is always busy with a mixture of outdoor activities, winters are not at all boring in the town and the region, either. The Sóstó lakes, which are well-known summer holiday destinations, become skating rinks in winter, populating the area with cheerful people. Many people indulge in this winter passion on the Bujtos lakes, too, or the town ice rink; on pleasant, cold winter weekends almost the whole town is out, enjoying ice skating. More and more typical winter programmes occur as Christmas approaches. On the 'bush' farms horse-drawn carts are exchanged for sleighs, in which jolly excursions can be taken. From the beginning of December the town is festively decorated, tempting visitors with the Christmas market, concerts and other programmes.

A good bite

There are several pubs and restaurants in the town offering local food, keeping the multi-coloured gastronomic traditions of the Nyírség. These include the Nyírség soup with dumplings, potato rosti, fried potato dough, grilled sweetcorn, honey apple and many more local specialities, which are all worth tasting.

The terraces of cafés and pâtisseries offer an excellent opportunity to cool down on a hot, summer day with a refreshing glass of lemonade or a special ice-cream sundae.



Who has not heard of the Hungarian specialty, 'pálinka', yet? The uniform opinion of the masters of pálinka distilleries is that high quality pálinka can only be made from ripe fruits of excellent quality. Well, these conditions are given in our region. Sour-cherry, plum and apple pálinka have the name of the given region, protected by trademarks, which are known all over the world. Besides the big distilleries there are several smaller ones that produce quality pálinka, too. The local people say: it is not only ability, but a must as well, on the native land of Krúdy, the writer.





The ancient seat of the Báthori family, **Nyírbátor** became an important witness to Hungarian history. The memories of the noble family are kept not only in the buildings, including the gothic Reformed and Minorita churches, the castle hiding the wax works and the historic path, but also the spa named after the dragon on the family's coat-of-arms.

Looking around

When visiting Nyíregyháza, it is worth making a short detour to enjoy the diversity of the region. It is easy to travel by car, coach, train or even bicycle, and enjoy the historical, cultural, gastronomic pleasures and natural beauties which await visitors.

Every year thousands of pilgrims visit the national holy place, **Máriapócs**, where the icon of the miraculous, 'Weeping Mary' is displayed. Pope John Paul II. also visited the church in 1991.





The name **Nagykálló-Harangod** is well known among folk dance lovers and traditionalists. There is a rowing lake in a valley embraced by forests; year after year this is the place where folk dancers meet as the guests of the TÉKA camp.



When being in **Érpatak village**, it is a must to visit the „Zindelyes” Pálinka distillery, which has won several awards. You can get acquainted with the secrets of distilling here. It is perhaps more exciting because you can taste almost 40 different kinds of pálinka specialities made from fruit.

If, after having so many programmes you still have some time left, it is worth visiting the Reformed Church in **Apagy**, which was built in gothic style in the 15th century.



NYÍREGYHÁZA
TDM

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