

„MATRICA” MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK SZÁZHALOMBATTA

The settlement is very rich in archaeological sites. Above the more than 100-year-old brick factory, a Bronze Age hillfort, an Iron Age rampart and settlement and 50 hectares of an Iron Age tumulus cemetery (Hallstatt culture, 7-6th century, BC) can be found on the loess plateau over the Danube.

The Museum bears the name of the Roman military camp and civil town „MATRICA”, which was a flourishing settlement for about 300 years. The Romans buried their dead in cemeteries along the roads leaving the camp.

The permanent exhibition of the museum supported by the Local Government of Százhalombatta has been receiving visitors since 1987. The regional museum grew out of a small local historical collection and has acquired European fame where, beside scientific research, serious popular scientific and museum pedagogic work is carried out. Walking around the exhibition, the history of 4000 years comes to life. The objects of everyday use, the grave-goods, the stones with inscriptions tell us about life, death and beliefs of the other world in various archaeological periods.



Archaeological Park

The first open-air prehistoric museum is being built in Százhalombatta where authentic reconstructions of houses, ovens and outbuildings from Bronze and Iron Age excavations can be seen. Parallel to this, the prehistoric environment is being replanted. On about



5 hectares within the area of the „hundred mounds”, which lent its name to the settlement, visitors can get an insight into prehistoric everyday life. What is forbidden in a museum, that is to touch the exhibits, is encouraged here. Anybody can try him/herself out at prehistoric skills: spin and weave, prepare jewellery or clay vessels, grind cereal grains or wattle fence.

Visitors can eat cakes baked from emmer grown nearby or taste food made according to prehistoric recipes. A special attraction is the burial chamber in an Iron Age tumulus reconstructed from the original timbers where a multimedia show presents the burial rites of the age.



AQUINCUM

The visible ruins of the Aquincum Civil Town represent the excavated one third of the central settlement. The limes road running from north to south was a typical element in the town's layout, the aquaeductus built along its western side was a similarly characteristic feature. Irregularities in the line of the city wall, reinforced by bastillons on its western side, may be attributed to the network of drainage ditches and some buildings that were probably erected before the construction of the wall. The city wall was interrupted by gates where it intersected with the main streets. The oval amphitheater, located outside the city wall to the north, was also a characteristic feature. Most of the exhibited site plans show the situation that was characteristic of the Aquincum Civil Town at the turn of the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Because the Civil Town has only been partially recovered, most data originate from its eastern section. In this area, the existence of insulae of varying sizes may be hypothesized. These were built along the eastern side of the aquaeductus and the limes road and date to the beginning of the 2nd century AD, before the settlement became a municipium. The town's forum was built at the crossing of the main streets that ran north to south and east to west. A forum quarters was formed to which the shrine of the Imperial cult, the basilica, the great public baths and a row of tabernae belonged.



In the south-eastern and northern sections of the Civil Town, somewhat away from the main street, the workshops of and the ornate houses of affluent citizens and city administrators were located. The town itself was surrounded by an industrial district. Beginning with the 3rd century AD, the east to west main street, which served as a link to the Danube, became increasingly important. It was at this time that the meat market (macellum) was also built in the proximity

of the forum. The long lots separated by narrow alleys were reminiscent of oriental urban settlements. Meanwhile habitation quarters and an inn with a bath wing were erected outside the city wall. Aside from sporadic reparations of the fortification system and of some buildings, the ancient Christian cella trichora seems to have been the only newly erected building in the Civil Town. Buildings that formed the central core of the Civil Town are represented in the ruin park situated around the museum.



Rome in Aquincum permanent exhibition at the Aquincum Museum from the 15th of September 2007 –

The newest permanent exhibition of the Aquincum museum is now open to the public in the recently re-built and restored 'electrical transformer house'. The exhibition hall holds the recently restored mosaics and wall paintings from the governor's palace excavations. The objects presented in the cases, including imported bronze, glass or ceramic vessels as well as the gold and silver jewelry, were all part of the daily life of the governor and the coterie surrounding him. The other unique aspect is that the world famous archaeological find, the Aquincum organ, can again be exhibited some 75 years after it was first brought to light.



A selection from the find material from the excavations in 2006 Temporary exhibition

The exhibition, organized since 1995, gives an insight into the results of archaeological excavations in the area of Budapest in 2006 concerning the prehistoric period, the era of the Roman occupation and the Migration Period.

VISEGRÁD

Visegrád is a small town on the right bank of the Danube at the picturesque Danube Bend, some fifty km north of Budapest. In the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries, for about a hundred years, it was the seat of the royal court in Hungary. Thus, it is best known for its medieval and Renaissance remains, the royal castles and palace. However, archaeological research



into Roman times also goes back more decades. The Roman frontier along the Danube, between Visegrád and Esztergom, had been the most fortified part of the Pannonian limes in the late Roman period. Archaeological sites comprising the limes here (two fortresses and eight watch towers) show a very varied picture with regards their archaeological-historical significance and their after-life in the Middle Ages. One of them is the fortress on the Sibrik Hill, which was reused as a county centre and fortification from the eleventh century onwards.

In the Middle Ages, Visegrád was one of the most important royal centres, temporary or for a period, permanent residence of the king. The royal forest area of the Pilis nearby was an important factor in its development, while the two major fortifications built in the thirteenth century contributed to the military importance of the site. The Upper Castle, built on one of the highest hills dominating the Danube Bend is one of the most spectacular fortifications in Central-Europe. The lower castle, a large thirteenth century *donjon* is a superb example of Late Medieval royal fortifications. From the early fourteenth century onwards, a royal palace also emerged at Visegrád, archaeological excavations carried out here from the 1930ies revealed significant parts of this building complex. Several periods of restorations and reconstructions transformed the archaeological site into a major museum complex. Rich archaeological material from the palace excavations, original and replica pieces of late Gothic and early Renaissance fountains and the reconstructed royal garden are the most important features to be seen in the palace complex. Very important archaeological finds from the nearby medieval urban settlement of Visegrád are also on display in the exhibition halls. The palace complex and the Upper castle were one of the first monuments which were reconstructed by computer aided techniques from the medieval heritage of Hungary.



EGER

Eger is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Hungary. The town is rich in historical monuments and famous for its wines and medicinal waters. Many Baroque monuments can be seen in the narrow streets of the inner city. (<http://www.eger.hu/Főoldal/Történelminevezetességek/tabid/1712/Default.aspx>)



World-famous wines are produced around the town, and a number of local wineries offer their products in traditional cellars carved into tuff-stone. (<http://egribor.lap.hu/>)

St. Stephen, the first king of Hungary, founded a bishopric in Eger sometime between 1001 and 1009 AD. The town's ecclesiastical importance led to the construction of a stone

fortress for its protection in 1248, built around a Romanesque cathedral. The episcopal seat, situated within the castle precinct, enjoyed its golden age during the fifteenth-century Renaissance, when the town was one of the country's most important cultural centres.

By the sixteenth century, the Ottoman invasion was in full swing after the fall of Buda in the 1540s. In 1552 the Ottomans turned their attention to one of the biggest obstacles to their advance, the fortress of Eger. The Hungarian defenders, numbering only two thousand, managed to withstand a five-week siege by a force forty times their size. This heroic show of defiance is considered to be



one of the most outstanding military events in Hungarian history, and was immortalized in Géza Gárdonyi's world-famous historical novel, *Az Egri Csillagok* (lit. "The Stars of Eger," though the English translation used the alternate title "Eclipse of the Crescent Moon"). The fortress of Eger, now a protected historical monument, is the site of the István Dobó Castle Museum. A permanent exhibition covers the history of the castle, while one of the original dungeons exhibits medieval forms of punishment. Carved stones from the

destroyed cathedral can be seen in the lapidarium, while the massive marble sarcophagus of István Dobó, the heroic captain of the fortress during the 1552 siege, can be found in the Hall of Heroes. The Picture Gallery, also hosted in the castle, has one of the finest art collections in Hungary with works by Dutch, Italian, Austrian, and Hungarian masters. Visitors are invited to walk through the underground fortification system of the fortress. (<http://www.egrivar.hu/>)



Detk

Detk is a small village south-west of Eger, at the foothills of the Mátra Mountains. As a result of the archaeological excavations carried out from 1998 to 2002, important data came to light about the history of the region spanning hundreds of millennia from the Palaeolithic to the Hungarian Conquest in the ninth century AD. Approximately 30 ha were excavated resulting in more than 1400 archaeological phenomena; mostly settlements and cemeteries were found, which had rich find material concerning several historical periods. The most beautiful objects are exhibited at the local museum. (<http://www.detk.hu/muzeum.htm>)

VESZPRÉM

LACZKÓ DEZSŐ MUSEUM

The two-storey Dezső Laczkó Museum, decorated with red sandstone, is in the shadow of huge trees at the edge of Erzsébet Park. The Museum awaits visitors with permanent and temporary exhibitions throughout the whole the year. The permanent exhibition has



been designed for those interested about the past of Veszprém and its surroundings. The exhibitions are based on more than 100 years of collecting activities. The predecessor of today's museum opened – as a result of the work of director Dezső Laczkó – in 1904. Back then mainly archaeological and natural scientific finds were displayed here. The cultural palace of the centre of Veszprém was constructed on the basis of István Medgyaszay's design. The Veszprém County Museum and Library, the first public library of the country – today a

goldmine for hundreds of researchers – as well as the databank and photo collection operated here. There are academic and educational lectures and events related to the exhibitions and collections, as well as museum pedagogical classes, which are important for the youth in order to get to know our county. Guided tours and the Museum Friends' Club await those interested. In the souvenir shop one can buy academic and popular-scientific publications related to the findings of the researchers, copies of works of art and folk art products.



TIHANY

Tihany-Óvár, the cca 1 km long and 400 m wide plateau at the north-eastern part of the Tihany peninsula, is a fortified settlement from the Late Bronze and Early and Late Iron Ages, known since the last century. It is surrounded by a 1100–1200 m long rampart from the Late Iron Age. The protruding plateau, dominating the shores of the lake, can be seen from far away. Due to the natural cleft, the oval territory is open to the east. Because of the steep hillside, there is no need for a rampart. The area between the steep hillside and western side of the plateau is covered with terraces. Tumuli from the Early Iron Age were found at the foot of the hill. They refer to the former south-west gate of the castle, near the present service road. At the northern part of the castle, there is a U shaped smaller area with an east-west direction, which is bordered by a rampart and a ditch at the southern part. This is from the 10th–11th centuries.



The site was excavated in 1999–2000. Post constructions (10 houses) and large pits were unearthed on an area of 1000 m². In 2006, another small part of the site was investigated. Prehistoric postholes, pits and an oven, as well as some graves from the 11th century were explored.

The earliest archaeological phenomenon excavated is a pit from the “tumulus culture” (final period of the Middle Bronze Age), at the bottom of which whole vases were found.

Most of the finds come from the Bronze Age (Urnfield culture) and from the early Hallstatt Period (HaC). The most interesting part of the finds is a house from the transitional period, HD3-La Tene A. The youngest level is from the La Tene D period.

