

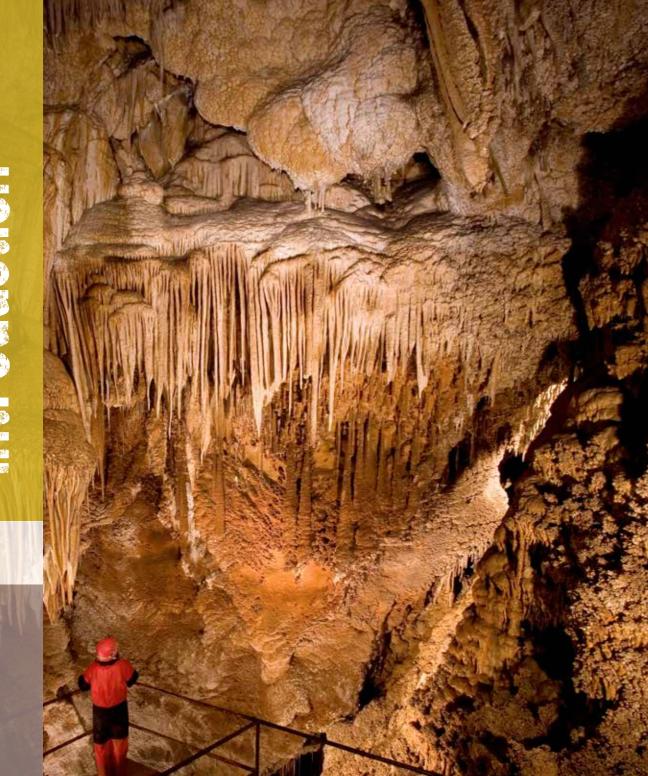






### UNDERGROUND NATURAL TREASURES

SHOW CAVES IN HUNGARY



Ancient and constantly developing dripstones, mysterious formations and marvellous underground lakes... Caves of Hungary open to the public offer such experiences and much, much more!

People have shown special interest in mysterious underground sites created by nature since ancient times. Long ago, these caverns provided not only shelter for our ancestors, but based on the findings and cave paintings it is also likely that they served as sacral places.

By visiting these caves you can get a hands-on experience trips in any seasons into the caves and explore their natural of these underground treasures, a world of variously formed treasures more and more. rocks, passages and cave halls with a special atmosphere. Underground "flower gardens" decorated with dripstones In our approximately 30 caves open for the public tourists and popcorn formations, underground rivers, spectacular can participate in a variety of programs from easy tours by passages created by the dissolving effects of water and walk to real caving adventures. glittering emerald lakes - these are just a few examples of the sights awaiting visitors. And then we haven't even Explore the underground miracles of Hungary! mentioned the living creatures of these seemingly lifeless halls. Although the majority of the animals that have adapted to the special circumstances are less visible to the naked eye, bats - shown as dangerous in legends, but quite harmless in real life - are frequent visitors of these caverns.

### Welcome to the world of caves!

### Hungary is a real paradise for cave fans

There are more than 4,000 caves registered in Hungary. Most of these can be found in the karst regions of Hungary, for example in the Aggtelek, Bükk, Buda, Pilis, Bakony and Mecsek Mountains.

Picturesque setting, special atmosphere and many different petrifactions. The underground world is wonderful but also fragile. Therefore, tourist caves operated by the national park directorates can only be visited with special guiding and

under controlled conditions. Hikers can go on a variety of

### Explore the miracles of the underground world!

### CAVES OPEN FOR THE PUBLIC

Caves are open for the public on the territories of five of our national parks out of ten. All of these are defined by **a special atmosphere and a world of a variety of forms.** Some caves await the visitor by beautiful dripstone formations, others by special forms and amazing cave lakes.

These cave showrooms can be visited in larger groups guided by a specialist, on built sidewalks equipped with railings, stairs and electric lighting. All of these caves can be visited in everyday clothes and some of them are also suitable for the physically disabled, too.

In the past few years, reconstructions were carried out in some of our show caves; therefore these caves and their surroundings await their visitors with new features and some of them even with new visitor centres.

### CAVES OPEN FOR ADVENTURE TOURISM

Would you prefer to leave the built sidewalks in order to explore a cave in its natural state? Recently, more and more opportunities have opened to do this. National park directorates offer **adventure programs** in many of our caves to discover the underground wonderland of Hungary.

On these adventure cave tours, you are guided by an expert in smaller groups of 5-10, exploring caves without major built sections and permanent electric lighting. Roaming these caves by crawling and climbing requires good physical skills and fitness, sometimes you may even need to wallow in water. The equipment (overalls, helmets and headlights) required for adventure cave tours is provided by the operator.

### 4 + 1 TIPS for beginners

### and professionals

**1. Eating:** you are not allowed to bring any food into the caves, it is recommended to eat 1-2 hours before the start of the tour.

2. Warm clothes: as the temperature is only about 10 °C even in summer in the caves, do not forget to take a warm sweater and jacket with you, especially if you go on a descending cave tour.

3. A change of clothing: for adventure cave tours it is recommended that you take some old warm clothes to be worn under the overall with you. Taking a change of clothes, a pair of wellingtons or a pair of old hiking boots is recommended for wet caves.

4. Lighting: you are recommended to have some kind of reserve lighting equipment with you (e.g. a bicycle helmet lamp).

+1 It is IMPORTANT to note that in case of adventure tours you have to register and schedule your participation in advance. In some cases, tours are bound to a minimal number of people and to an age limit for children, these may vary in every cave. We strongly recommend you to inquire about these details in advance, using the contact details provided.





The Aggtelek Karst region is one of the most important cave regions in Europe, where caverns of various forms and of various origin, decorated with thousands of formations, having a unique flora and fauna and archaeological monuments are hidden beneath the surface. Due to this unique diversity, the underground world of the Aggtelek Karst and its geographically linked Slovak karst counterpart were listed as an UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995.

### **BARADLA CAVE**

### AGGTELEK 48° 28' 18.18"; 20° 29' 43.27"

Baradla Cave is Hungary's best-known cave that has the longest research and visit history dating back to centuries. The 25 km long cave system is Hungary's second longest cave. A 5 km section of Baradla lies under the territory of Slovakia (Domica Cave). Thanks to its many entrances you may choose from a selection of tour opportunities. The entrance, situated at the bottom of a 50 m high, spectacular natural cliff near Aggtelek can be seen from a distance, it has been known by the humans of the Neolithic times.

> THE AGGTELEK TOUR: the labyrinth-like passages known since ancient times lie beneath walls that have witnessed a long history, where the torch soot of the ancient visitors gives a unique mystery to the huge halls.

VÖRÖS-TÓ MEDIUM TOUR: starts from the entrance of Vörös-tó (Red Lake) and leads along an underground river bed decorated with exceptional formations. This section showcases the biggest dripstone formation of the cave, the 18 m high "Observatory".

JÓSVAFŐ SHORT TOUR: the tour shows us "only" 700 m of this giant cave, but still provides a lot of attractions and things of interest. At the beginning of the tour, you can observe how the rock creased and stratificated, while in the second half of the tour venues become increasingly rich all the way to the Hall of the Giants, where the scene and the special acoustics are both fascinating.



AGGTELEK-JÓSVAFŐ LONG TOUR: those who are more interested in a natural tour of the Baradla without electric lighting and built sidewalks, can also choose the tour from Aggtelek to Jósvafő, a 7 km long journey leading all the way along the main passage. The light of the lamps barely illuminates the darkness of the gigantic corridors, with a different world opening up in front of us upon every turn.



**RETEK-ÁG SPECIAL TOUR:** if you are not afraid of wallowing through water every now and then, this adventure tour shows you the most beautiful side branch, the Retek-ág. This area shows you a very different view of the cave system, with a possibility to discover its formations very closely.

### **VASS IMRE CAVE**



The cave can be approached by a 3 km walk from Jósvafő through Tohonya Valley. The small but very beautiful cave's nearly 300 m long main branch is equipped with electric lighting, it can be visited wearing regular surface hiking clothing. One of the most spectacular formations of the cave is the Orange Fall, a large orange colour flowstone.

### **RÁKÓCZI CAVE**



This is a little gem of the Aggtelek Karst inside the Esztramos Hill's depths. Its walls are covered with stalagtites and stalagmites of different colours and shapes, draperies, popcorn formations, branching helictites (curved dripstones) and rare minerals like calcite carnations or gently rugged aragonite bushes. The bottom of the cave is filled with crystal clear water forming glittering emerald lakes, showing the karst water level.



### BÓDVARÁKÓ 48° 31' 14.53"; 20° 44' 56.75'

### **BÉKE CAVE**

### AGGTELEK 48° 27' 38.75"; 20° 32' 31.27"

During a part of the year, water is flowing in the cave's active brook passage decorated with dripstones, sometimes spanning the whole width of the passage. The water is swelled by more than 400 rimstone dams, creating many little pools along the streamway. This tour is considered to be difficult because of its length and the wet conditions, therefore a good physical fitness of the visitor is required.

### **KOSSUTH CAVE**



### JÓSVAFŐ 48° 29' 15.65"; 20° 33' 03.47"

Despite its relatively modest length, this cave promises one of the most adventurous cave tours in Hungary. Water is thumping amongst its smoothwashed walls of narrow and high fissures and sharp rock formations. In the wider sections the cave stream swells into a 50 m long lake – you can cross this area with the help of built-in wire ropes in adventurous but safe conditions.

### **METEOR CAVE**



### BÓDVASZILAS 48° 33' 10.87"; 20° 42' 25.45"

This typical sinkhole cave opens in Alsó-hegy and its passages gradually lead into the depth along some squeezes and pits. One of Hungary's largest cave halls can be found at the bottom of the cave, the Hall of the Titans with its stunning richness of enormous dripstone columns. This is the Aggtelek Karst tour that calls for the best physical fitness.

Cave tours of the Aggtelek Karst are organized by the Aggtelek National Park Directorate. Further information: TOURINFORM-Aggtelek Nature Conservation and Tourist Information Center Address: H-3759 Aggtelek, Baradla oldal 3. Phone/fax: 00 36 48 503 000 E-mail: aggtelek@tourinform.hu Website: www.anp.hu





The extended plateau of Bükk Mountains, built up from soluble sedimentary rock, enabled the formation of large and complicated cave systems. Within the territory of the Bükk National Park there are two show caves open for the public. A variety of adventure cave tour opportunities is also available at different levels, these tours are organized by the national park directorate after preliminary registration.

### **SZENT ISTVÁN CAVE**

### LILLAFÜRED 48° 05′ 58.89″; 20° 37′ 16.65″

This seasonally open spring cave has its entrance in the valley of Szinva, within the Lillafüred area of Miskolc near Palota Szálló hotel. It is the last section of a partially still unexplored larger system. Many smaller side branches and significant-sized passages connect to the main branch decorated with dripstones. This tourist route leads you along the most spectacular parts of the cave, with built concrete sidewalks and many stairs. The most beautiful formation of the cave is the Frozen Waterfall, a large flowstone formation spanning hundreds of square metres.

The clean air and the permanent temperature of 10°C in the inner sections made it possible to utilize one of the inner halls for therapeutic purposes. The cave-based treatment of respiratory diseases began in the Black Hall as the fourth such location in Hungary. Small and large horseshoe bat colonies settle in the cave during winter using the sections not disturbed by visitors.

### **GYURKÓ-LÁPA CAVE**

Its natural entrance is situated on the Kis-fennsík, in the side valley of Harica stream, in a steep and rocky hillside. The most important sight of the cave is the Big Hall following the entrance, as its ceiling is covered by snow white dripstone made by infiltration water. The cave is also an important winter hideaway for bats. It can be visited in regular clothing.

### KŐ-LYUK

### KIS-FENNSÍK 48° 07' 37.77"; 20° 36' 11.91"

The spectacular natural entrance of the archaeologically important Kő-lyuk is on the side of Kőlyuk-galya, in a protected rock shelter. Inside of the cave, in the Hall of Giants archaeologists have uncovered cave bear bones and a bear skull that was presumably placed there for cultic reasons.

### **ANNA CAVE**

### LILLAFÜRED 48° 06' 18.27"; 20° 37' 29.61"

Its entrance is near the waterfall, under the hanging gardens of Palota Szálló in Miskolc-Lillafüred. Its main peculiarity is its formation, as in Hungary syngenetic caves, or caves that developed alongside its bedrock are very rare. The freshwater limestone of the cave subsided from the water of the Szinva stream. The smaller and larger caverns of the cave were connected to each other in order to be able to show around the whole cave. The characteristics of freshwater limestone – different petrified plant remains, leaves, boughs, lime-coated moss cushions, branchy small travertine precipitates and spring limestone pellets – give the walls of the passages a beautiful texture.

### HILLEBRAND JENŐ CAVE



The cave can be found just a few meters from Kő-lyuk and is also significant because of its archaeological findings. One of its halls still bears the marks of the stilt hut of the Neolithic men, another had the skull and the bones of a cave bear.

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### KIS-FENNSÍK 48° 08' 08.54"; 20° 33' 03.10"





### LILLA CAVE

### KIS-FENNSÍK 48° 07′ 15.05″; 20° 36′ 33.23″

The most spectacular part of the cave is the Big Hall, rich in multi-coloured dripstones, where the most outstanding formation is a snow white group of dripstones called Gólem and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. They have also found the remains of several cave bears in the sediment deposit accumulated at the bottom of the cave.



### LÉTRÁS SINKHOLE CAVE

The biggest natural entrance of this typical sinkhole opens right next to the highway to Jávorkút. In the thick-bedded limestone a finely polished creek bed runs with a vast amount of gravelly silt. The cave is a scene of adventure tours providing lasting memories. You have the possibility to choose a short and easy tour or a tour requiring good physical condition, leading all the way to the lake at the end-point of the viable section.

### **KECSKE-LYUK**

### KIS-FENNSÍK 48° 07' 04.16"; 20° 38' 12.04"

Its big and inviting entrance can be found right next to the hiking trail, in the Forrás Valley, at the border of Miskolc-Diósgyőr. It has been open since the ancient times and served as a shelter for humans. This is proven by the linear pot fragments and tool remains from the Bükk culture found in the filling of the lobby. The cave is also the home of a large bat colony.



### **BOLHÁS SINKHOLE CAVE**



### NAGY-FENNSÍK 48° 06′ 08.70″; 20° 32′ 23.12″

The cave near Jávorkút is a member of the second largest sinkhole system of Bükk. Its waters emerge in the Garadna Spring. You can follow the path of the swallowing waters with the help of some built-in ladders, through the gradually descending shafts. The tour crosses a larger hall called The Ruins of Athens, then leads to a horizontal branch with terraces and meanders. As this might be the most difficult adventure cave tour of Bükk, there is no doubt that it requires a good physical condition and previous experiences with caves.

### **VÉNUSZ CAVE**



The cave is to be found on Kis-fennsík ("small plateau"). Here you can go through a long crawlway to the biggest hall rich in formations called Hall of the Astronauts. Due to its narrow crawlways this cave is recommended mainly for sporty and adventurous people of young age.

### ESZTÁZ-KŐ CAVE



The cave is situated near to Felsőtárkány and its most beautiful part is the Church Hall, where besides dripstones also flint bulbs in the bedrock can be seen. The cave is also reachable from the visitor centre of the national park in Felsőtárkány, as part of a cycling tour. Its upper part can also be visited in regular hiking clothes.

### NAGY-FENNSÍK 48° 06' 04.17"; 20° 34' 48.21"



### FELSŐTÁRKÁNY 48° 01' 23.12"; 20° 25' 28.96"

The cave tours are organized by the Bükk National Park Directorate. Further information: Address: H-3304 Eger, Sánc u. 6. Szent István Cave and Anna Cave Phone: 00 36 46 334 130, E-mail: titkarsag@bnpi.hu Adventure cave tours: Tel.: 00 36 46 533 432, E-mail: ferenczyg@bnpi.hu Website: www.bnpi.hu



Due to the geological structure of the Buda Hills, and especially of Rózsadomb, Budapest is often called the "Capital of Caves". Thermal waters springing from the depth have formed labyrinth-like caves rich in mineral fallouts within the mountain, with a total length exceeding 55 km as of today. This number, however, is increasing almost on a day-to-day basis, partly as a result of successful research by caver groups, and partly due to the caverns opened up by construction work.

### PÁL-VÖLGYI CAVE

### BUDAPEST 47° 31' 58.21"; 19° 00' 57.97

The entrance of the cave (1025 Budapest, Szépvölgyi út 162.) was the first one to be revealed among the caves of Rózsadomb in 1904 during stone mining activities. With its total length of 30 km, by today it is considered as the longest cave in Hungary following continuous research work and thanks to its links to neighbouring caves. Its fissure-like passages are structured by typical thermal solutional formations, characterized by wavy, hemispherical surfaces and spherical cavities. It stands out among the caves of Buda with its stalacticity, but some sections are also extraordinarily rich in diverse hydrothermal speleotherms, like precipitates resembling cauliflowers, or various calcite and barite crystals. Despite of being well developed, this cave promises a really adventurous visit, the route is diversified by steep stairs, narrow passages and sidewalks leading over great depths.

### **BUDA CASTLE CAVE**

The cave extends under the Castle Hill in the 1st district of the capital, and the entrance is to be found at Uri utca 9. The individual caverns are at 5–10 m depth, formed by an upward thermal spring within the freshwater limestone, and later artificially enlarged and linked. Some of them were most probably used as pantries, cellars or prison cells at the time of the Mongolian invasion. In its present form the connected system stretching from Dísz tér to Szentháromság tér was shaped during World War II, and was used both as a bomb-shelter and a hospital.

### MÁTYÁS-HEGYI CAVE

### SZEMLŐ-HEGYI CAVE

### 3i

BUDAPEST 47° 31′ 42.80″; 19° 01′ 32.49″

The cave (1025 Budapest, Pusztaszeri út 35.) is one of the most spectacular ones among the great cave systems of the capital. It was formed by the upspringing thermal waters, which have dissolved a zigzag of cave passages decorated by spherical cavities out of the rock. Similarly to other caves situated nearby, very diverse mineral fallouts are to be found in it, e.g. popcorn formations, calcite rafts, Christmas trees, various gypsum formations and needle-like aragonite crystals. In the entrance building visitors are welcomed by an interactive exhibition and a viewing room, while the park above it awaits them by a geological study trail and a playground.



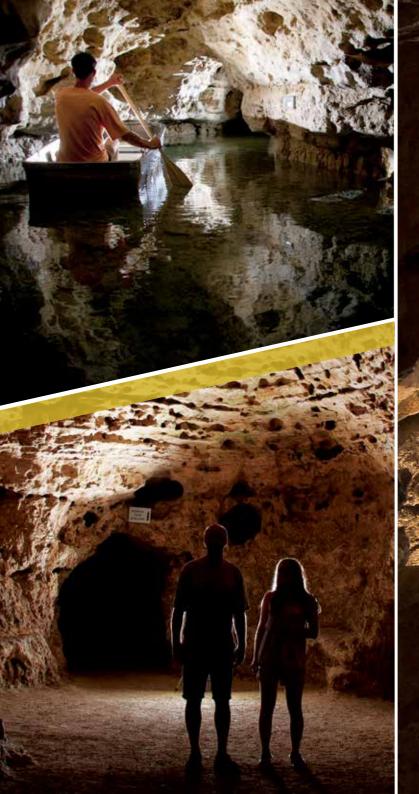


The cave with its entrance in the guarry at the Mátyás Hill is part of the Pál-völgyi cave system. It is practically free of formations, however, crawling through the holed cheese- or labyrinthlike passages may well pose a real challenge to visitors. A large part of the cave is completely dry, but the lake lying at its lowest point indicates the local karst water level. Several tour options are available depending mostly on physical skills, school classes may also request an "underground geology lesson".

### BUDAPEST 47° 30′ 00.49″; 19° 02′ 02.74″

### **BUDAPEST** 47° 32′ 01.32″; 19° 01′ 04.56″

The organiser of the cave tours around Budapest is the Duna-Ipoly National Park Further information: Address: H-1121 Budapest, Költő u. 21. Phone: 00 36 1 391 4610 E-mail: dinpi@dinpi.hu Nebsite: www.dinpi.hu



# The Bakony Hils and Balaton Uplands

Due to their special geological structure the Bakony Hills and the Balaton Uplands are particularly rich in spectacular geological treasures, which at numerous sites are interwoven with other natural or cultural heritage items. As a result, the Bakony-Balaton Geopark, partially on the same territory as the Balaton Uplands National Park, is also recognized since 2012 by the Global and European Geoparks Network supported by UNESCO. Several underground sights are to be found among the geotourism offers of the national park and the geopark.

### **TAPOLCA LAKE CAVE**

### **TAPOLCA** 46° 53′ 00.05″; 17° 26′ 36.18″

This is one of the most spectacular tourism targets of the Balaton Uplands National Park. The cave has been renovated recently, with more beautiful lights and view than ever, and a new visitor's centre opens in the summer of 2014. The lukewarm water springing in the cave ensures a constant 20 °C temperature throughout the smaller and bigger halls of the dry section. Visitors eager to take a romantic boat ride can paddle on the dimly lit, bluish underground lake in a metal boat, where spindle-shaped, rare minnow fish (Phoxinus phoxinus) swimming into the cave lake from the Malom Pond may also be spotted.



### **CSODABOGYÓS CAVE**

The cave is situated near Balatonederics, on the eastern rim of the Keszthelyi Mountains. Its name originates from the protected evergreen shrub species Butcher's Broom (Ruscus aculeatus) growing all around the entrance of the cave. With its giant fissure corridors, pits and halls it is exemplary of the caves of tectonic origin in Hungary. Its passages accessible by crawling, and its pits fitted with ladders provide real adventure. Its hall named Függőkert (hanging garden) fascinates visitors with its richness in formations; the long, slender soda straws are unmatched in Transdanubia's caves. Tours are organised by the Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate with two levels of difficulty depending on the enthusiasm and physical skills of visitors.

### LÓCZY CAVE

### BALATONFÜRED 46° 58' 08.46"; 17° 52' 24.93"

The cave, named after the world renown researcher of Lake Balaton, Mr Lajos Lóczy senior takes a noble place among the numerous cultural and natural sights of Balatonfüred. The cave is small but boasts an extraordinary wealth of formations; it was formed between the spectacular limestone beds layered with clay, where the hot springs from the deep have solved hall sized spherical niches. The cave is only open seasonally, and can be toured with a light walk. It is a wonderful, cooling option in the heat of the summer to be visited after bathing programmes.

### SZENTGÁL KŐLIK CAVE

This cave has its opening in the South of Bakony Hills, in the rocky side of the Mecsek Hill near to Szentgál village. Numerous significant archeological and paleontoligical findings have been found in this cave. The local showroom displays authentic copies of these and illustrates the close connection of the natural and cultural heritage treasures. The upper part, which is also interesting from the palaeontologist's point of view, can be reached with a lighter, shorter tour, while the end point of the cave may be approached through many ladders during a more challenging tour, demanding good physical condition.

The organiser of the cave tours in the Bakony Hills and the Balaton Uplands is the Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate. Further information: Address: H-8229 Csopak, Kossuth u. 16. Phone: 00 36 87 555 281 Csodabogyós Cave: 00 36 30 306 6050 Szentgál Kőlik Cave: 00 36 30 639 5554 E-mail: bfnp@bfnp.hu Website: www.bfnp.hu; www.geopark.hu; www.csodabogyos.hu; www.szentgali-kolik.hu



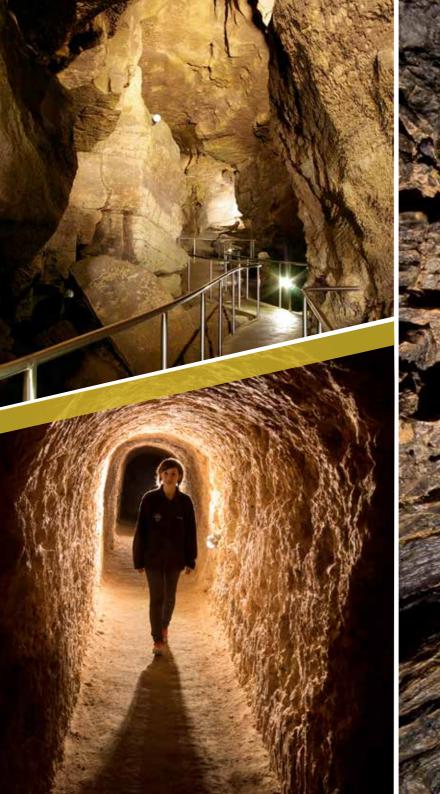
### BALATONEDERICS 46° 47′ 49.40″; 17° 21′ 52.47″

### SZENTGÁL 47° 06' 06.13"; 17° 44' 53.39'









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Although caves are not the most characteristic geological natural treasures of the Mecsek mountains emerging from the gentle hills of Southern Transdanubia, short but very interesting caverns can also be found here. The Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate offers cave tours suiting a variety of demands.

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### **ABALIGET CAVE**

### ABALIGET 46° 08' 03.69"; 18° 06' 42.26"

This is the longest system, also known for the longest time in the Mecsek mountains, and is a popular tour target with the boat lake in its foreground. The spring cave with a constant water flow is regularly visited since the 19th century. Most characteristic for the cave decorated here and there with dripstones are the meander passage-network and the wealth of formations shaped by the dissolving and eroding effects of water. The limestone beds of different type and colour provide an extraordinary sight. The cave is a significant resting place for bats, so, during the winter hundreds of horseshoe bats tolerating the disturbance can be observed. The life of bats can be studied more closely in the nearby Bat Museum.

### **TRAVERTINE CAVE AT TETTYE**

PÉCS 46° 05' 07.76"; 18° 14' 05.10"

This cave, known as one of the popular excursions sites of the town, can be found in Pécs, under the Tettye square. The smaller and bigger natural caverns formed in the freshwater limestone have been enlarged artificially during the centuries, further corridors were carved in the inside of the mountain creating a system of labyrinths. These underground caverns served as dwelling places as well, therefore several air shafts were also cut into the stone. Visitors can get acquainted with the geology, cultural history and local curiosities of Tettye by the help of an exhibition taking place in the cave. The cave is also accessible for the disabled.

### MÉSZÉGETŐ SPRING CAVE

The third longest cave of Mecsek mountains has its entrance on the western bank of the lake of Orfű. Walls of this spring cave consisting of corridors and smaller halls are decorated by solutional formations, its passages are structured by waterfalls and sumps. During the truly adventurous tour to the second sump lake visitors must tackle bottlenecks, and sometimes water raising up to the waist. Difficulties of this tour, recommended for the adventurous, however, shall pale by the experience remembered for a lifetime.

> The organiser of the cave tours around Mecsek mountains is the Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate. Further information: Address: H-7625 Pécs, Tettye tér 9. Phone: 00 36 72 517 200 E-mail: dunadrava@ddnp.kvvm.hu Website: www.ddnp.hu





ORFŰ 46° 08' 32.04", 18° 09' 06.48







For basic information, useful hints, maps, photographs and descriptions please visit our website. vww.nationalparks.hu

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Also accessible for the disabled

Important notice: preliminary registration is required for adventure tours! Please always request more information using the given contact details.











