



DR. SÁNDOR FAZEKAS Minister of Rural Development

Dear Reader,

The publication you hold in your hands fills a niche in many ways. Instead of dealing with the programme offerings of Hungarian National Parks it focuses on the feelings and the experiences which anyone can personally obtain by visiting one of the ten national parks in Hungary. In the last few years I had the chance to visit all Hungarian National Parks, where I have seen real natural marvels. Many people think that such marvels could only be seen if they travelled to places far, far away. Ten percent, an internationally significant percentage, of Hungary is designated as a protected area. In addition to national parks, this one tenth also includes multiple protected landscape areas and nature conservation areas, which offer unforgettable scenery and unique experiences.

While some people long for rest and quiet, others, on the other hand, are pursuing the delight of discovery, looking for adventures and challenges. The ten national parks of Hungary provide them just what they need: peace, recreation, adventure, diverse experiences or new flavours.

World Heritage sites – caves and the Hungarian Puszta – nature parks and geoparks, broad rivers, mountains with thick forest all come one after the other. This depicts the never ending beauty of Hungary; therefore when you plan your holiday I respectfully encourage you to take into consideration the exploration of Hungarian natural wonders. The miracle may be closer to you than you would have ever thought.

Dr. Sándor Fazekas







SILENCE AND TRANQUILLITY

"I got so used to the noise and buzz of the city that it is almost natural for me. Maybe this is the reason why I feel fascinated when I am surrounded by real nature. Its peacefulness relaxes me and calms me down; its quiet helps me to better listen to those who are really important for me."



We all need relaxation. In the course of our busy days, full of tasks to do, we often long for a place where we could take some rest. Some people hope to get this by visiting remote and famous holiday resorts. But those who are primarily looking for tranquillity and silence may find an ideal location much closer –national parks of Hungary await them as islands of peacefulness. Landscape and wildlife

get a distinguished attention in protected areas of the country; this includes the maintenance of nature in an undisturbed state. If someone visits a Hungarian national park, they can leave all the noise and stress of high society behind them for a few hours or days while enjoying complete physical and spiritual recreation in the caring silence of nature.









BEAUTY AND HEALTH

"Some time ago my boyfriend asked me what I'd like to get as a birthday present. 'Something beautiful'
– I told him. He smiled and within a few days he surprised me with a long weekend in the Õrség National
Park. My wish had come true: during these days we have seen many beautiful locations – even more than
I had dreamt of."



When we take a look at the landscape and wildlife of our national parks, we may feel as if nature had been working since ancient times on filling the souls of visitors with the magical feeling of unspoiled beauty. The extraordinarily wide range of values also contributes to this feeling: the lively terrain, the special underground treasures and the diversity of wildlife all induce the impression of plenty in visitors. Whether we talk about broad panoramas or just

a brilliant wild flower, one thing is common: their beauty secretly resides in the visitors' soul and acts as a reminder years later of the real treasures they have encountered when they visited a Hungarian national park. Furthermore, the beauty of spectacles is interconnected with the experience of health: the clean air, the trails inviting you to walk or the springs coming forth from the depths of the Earth all replenish the vitality of our bodies.







ADVENTURE AND CHALLENGE

"Earlier I had taken excursions with my parents, but as I grew older, these forest walks were not able to grasp my attention any more. Then once, a classmate of mine invited me with him to try caving. It was hard at the beginning but I started to really enjoy it after I got the hang of it. Since then I started to individually look for new challenges."



We have been trying to master nature for a long time. By now, we have succeeded considering multiple aspects, but an encounter with the natural wilderness is still a challenge. With no roads, vehicles and elevators we soon realize how comfortable the life is that we are used to – but we also gain a liberating experience if sometimes we rely on our own strength and inventiveness. Visitors of Hungarian National Parks can also obtain this experience by choosing from the

wide selection of active programme offerings. With their lively terrain and exciting underground world, these special surroundings may transform seemingly simple activities into an adventure, testing our physical strength, skilfulness or sense of orientation. But those looking for an "adrenalin rush" will not be disappointed either: adventure tours available in Hungarian National Parks are guaranteed to rise their heart rate.







DISCOVERY

"As for most school children today, the internet means most of the 'world' for mine. But since we started to visit places where they can have a personal encounter with nature, they got an inkling of real discovery. My son is now photoblogging about forest insects and the drawings of my daughter are full of flowers and birds."



One of the most humanly characteristics is the desire to discover and get to know the world. These days an enormous body of knowledge is available with no effort – however, sometimes we do not even know our immediate surroundings. "Treasure vaults" full of surprises await us almost at an arm's reach: Hungarian National Parks are rich in natural specialities and numerous cultural values. This is a world promising

the experience of discovery for visitors of all ages. Visitor centres, nature trails and other interpretive sites are created to make the encounter with nature an enjoyable experience for the inexperienced as well. The diversity of the microcosms of protected natural areas and the seasonal natural phenomena provide years' or even decades' worth of exploration options for the ageless believers of recreational learning.







FLAVOURS OF NATURE

"I like to enjoy the pleasures of natural flavours while touring in nature. The delicacies based on traditional recipes offered there are real pleasures for me. What is more, hospitality is not just a duty in these old villages – it really lives in the heart of locals."



Most of the food we eat nowadays – and an overwhelming majority of the personal articles around us – is mass produced. It is increasingly difficult to find locally produced, delicious food. This means that the food and drinks produced using traditionally grown ingredients and well-guarded recipes are now considered as special delicacies. The professionals of Hungarian National Parks have selected a list of rigorous conditions to qualify the

food produced in a naturally and environmentally sound manner. The National Park Product trademark does not only ensure the purity of the ingredients but also guarantees that we get the real, genuine taste of regional products, the best of what the Hungarian soil can offer. However, precious traditions are not only found in gastronomy, they are present in a variety of handicrafts trades which help to make a visit memorable by their valuable and useful products.



AGGTELEK NATIONAL PARK

A world of fascinating dripstone caves and hucul horses

The fascinating dripstone world of the Baradla Cave always amazes visitors. In the course of millions of years, nature, as a playful sculptor, has created this exceptional work of art, which fascinates visitors with its diverse shapes and immense size. The quiet of the depths seems to stay with us on the surface: gently sloping hayfields, flowery meadows, soft ridges of hills and peaceful villages inhabited by friendly people await those seeking relaxation. The biggest Hungarian stud of hucul horses, the ponies of the Carpathian Basin, roams freely within the area of the national park all year round.



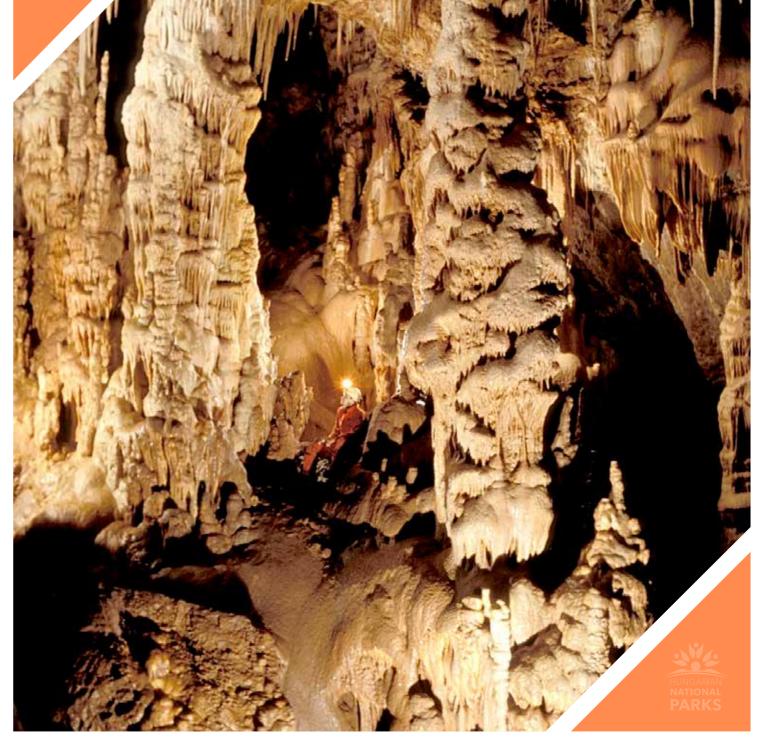




The most significant values of the national park, created in the area of the Aggtelek Karst, are the special surface formations and the underground caves of this landscape of limestones. There are 280 caves in the national park with a range of sizes; in 1995 they were recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage sites along with the caves of the Slovak Karst. Caves open to the public offer tours in a variety of lengths and difficulties – the range extends all the way from refreshing walks to adventure tours recalling cave expeditions.

The beautiful pasture situated next to Jósvafő provides entertaining relaxation with hucul horse-related activities: lunging and riding a horse, children's riding and pleasure driving, sledding in winter are all on offer for visitors. One of the biggest events of the region also revolves around the local stud: the Jósvafő Hucul Horse Race and International Farrier Competition is organized in every August. Families and groups of children are welcomed by plenty of events, eco-tours. handicrafts activities, camps and open air school programmes in Jósvafő and Szögliget.

In the Zemplén Protected Landscape Area, eastwards of the national park, the ruins of Boldogkő, Füzér and Regéc castle attract the lovers of active recreation in addition to the scenic landscape of beautiful mountains covered by thick forests. Lying at the footsteps of the hills, the Tokaj-Bodrogzug Protected Landscape Area is one of the most splendid water tour areas of Hungary, offering adventurous experiences between spring and autumn for those fond of gentle rivers guarding their natural values.





BALATON UPLANDS NATIONAL PARK

A natural experience at Lake Balaton

Our favourite holiday destination, the region of Lake Balaton is one of the most beautiful Hungarian landscapes. Its beauty is supplemented by the spectacular remains of volcanoes that once ruled the area, the attentively cultivated vineyards climbing along hillsides and of course by the unforgettable panorama of Lake Balaton, with its surface of constantly varying colours. A few minutes away from the summer buzz of the lakeside, visitors may find a special universe promising a diverse and exciting experience with its rich wildlife, well-guarded values and cultural offerings.







2,5-8 million years ago there was volcanic activity in the Balaton region. This era is recalled by the distinctive remnant hills of the Tapolca Basin, one of which, Badacsony Hill is the key element of the Balaton panorama. A breathtaking view opens from the top of these hills. The Tihany Peninsula is also a remnant of volcanic origin. with the Inner and Outer Lake formed within ancient craters and with plenty of hot springs.

The forces of nature left their marks on other areas of the landscape: the seas of stones in the Káli Basin, the Lake Cave of Tapolca or the Csodabogyós Cave of Balatoneredics are memorable experiences for adventure seekers and natural beauty enthusiasts. The Salföld

Manor, located in the Káli Basin at the heart of Balaton Uplands and home for numerous indigenous domestic animal species, offers a herbal garden and animal petting for visitors.

exceptionally rich avifauna and undisturbed aquatic environment. Diás Island – which is a characteristic scene of the novel Tüskevár (Thorn Castle) by the famous Hungarian writer, István Additional protected areas in the Fekete – is located here, with guided tours, boat tours, bird-watching and photo safaris all available for visitors. The biggest buffalo herd in Hungary can also be seen in the Kis-Balaton region at the Buffalo Reserve of Kápolnapuszta. The villages of Balaton Uplands are

amongst the most well preserved

traditional settlements in Hungary. Adventurous visitors may see many beautiful thatched cottages, multiple picturesque castle remains and ancient churches while roaming their streets. Kis-Balaton attracts visitors by its A visit should also include a tasting of the deservedly famous Balaton wines. which are as if they were made joyous and aromatic by the rays of sun dancing on the surface of the lake.

operational area of the Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate include the High Bakony Protected Landscape Area, in the heart of which. at Bakonybél, lies the most modern astronomical educational centre of Hungary and Central Europe, the renowned Pannon Observatory.





BUKK NATIONAL PARK Magnificent cliffs over beechwoods

The Hungarian national park at the highest altitude is made diverse by hillsides covered by almost endless beechwoods, series of cliffs offering magnificent view and the colourful, flowery meadows of the Bükk Plateau. The unforgettable experience is guaranteed not just by the romantic Lillafüred and the picturesque Szalajka Valley, but also by caves reaching to the depth, walking and cycling paths and countless nature trails.







The vast limestone block of the Bükk Mountains was shaped by natural forces for millions of years, creating various karst formations. The mountain is divided by deep ravines, with proud cliffs reaching high; the wavy surface of the plateau is decorated by sinkholes, depressions and dolines. Limestone pavements or karrenfelds (sometimes referred to as "devil's plough-lands") are special natural shapes in the Bükk Mountains, consisting of limestone surfaces divided by furrows, cavities and holes.

An extensive range of caves lie beneath the surface - almost quarter of the known caves in Hungary are located

here. Some caves offer extraordinary dripstone formations, while others have a cultural historic significance because of their archaeological findings. The harmonious co-existence of man and nature can also be observed in remnants from later ages: ramparts, remains of earthwork and stone castles at high grounds, ruins of monasteries at hillsides and valleys.

The silver bole, slender beach forests create an excursion place for those Area, where multimillion-vear-old longing for nature that remains cool in the summer. Small villages at the footprints preserve an extinct world. The footsteps of the hill or at the edge of the plateau offer a chance of quiet, peaceful relaxation, while ravines and steep

slopes tempt for sporty adventures. Those further interested in the wildlife and special formations of the national park should by no means omit the Western Gate Visitor Centre from their schedule.

The Bükk National Park Directorate also operates one of the most exciting heritage interpretation sites in Northern Hungary, the Ipolytarnóc Paleontological Site Nature Conservation remains of mammoth trees and fossilized recalling of the past is made even more interesting by a guided tour and a 4D





DUNA-DRÁVA NATIONAL PARK

An experience of the wilderness along animate rivers

The big rivers of South Transdanubia - Danube and Dráva - have been tireless in forming the surrounding landscape for thousands of years. While in the last few centuries man has also contributed to this endeavour, some areas close to the water are still covered by the ancient wilderness. The floodplain forests and marshy meadows along the rivers are populated by an exceptionally diverse wildlife with multiple rare plant and animal species. Situated close to the Hungarian border, this area is calmer than other national parks, making it a first class target for still observations and adventurous water, cycling and walking tours.







The deservedly most famous part of the national park is the Gemenc forest in the Sárköz area. This landscape is ruled by the Danube; at high water levels the river partially floods the forest. A long time ago the inhabitants of the region also contributed to these floods by creating semi-natural, narrow channels to provide water to the internal areas, helping the sustenance of the forest and local smallholders. The forest still thrives today: in addition to red deer and wild boar, its groves are also inhabited by rare bird species such as kingfishers,

osprevs and black storks.

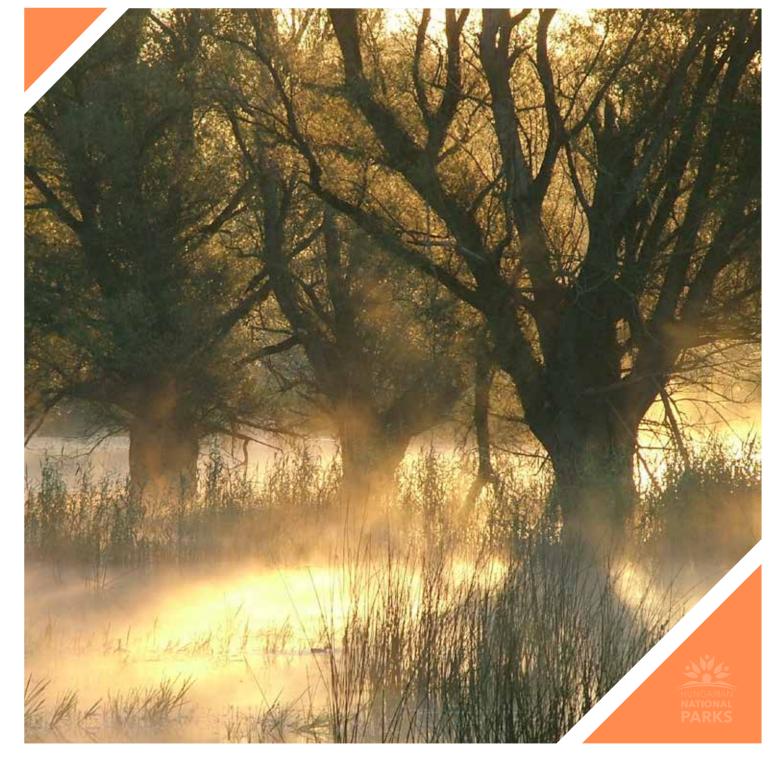
found in the area of Béda-Karapacsa, south of Gemenc, where black storks, little and great egrets and Eurasian spoonbills live undisturbed in the depths of floodplain forests. This landscape is a real paradise for ecotourism, providing an respect to the heroes who fell in the extraordinary experience for visitors old battle at Mohács, explore the observing or photographing birds.

A water tour on the Dráva also promises an unforgettable adventure. Our cleanest and most romantic river can be roamed by canoe during

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organized water tours. The riverside is A comparatively rich wildlife can be full of life, the birds living on sand and pebble-beds can be easily observed from the water.

It is worth to visit additional sights within the operational area of the Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate: we can pay a tribute of dripstone cave at Abaliget, participate in organized night tours enjoying the view of the starry sky at one of the least light-contaminated areas of Europe, the Zselic.





DUNA-IPOLY NATIONAL PARK The national park of the Danube Bend

This beautiful and long-time popular area of Hungary may also be called the landscape of encounters. This is where - after slowing down in the Little Plain (Kisalföld) area - the Danube meets the sheer rising cliffs of Börzsöny and Visegrád Mountains. This is where the mementos of medieval Hungarian kings' dynasties are located. This is where the buzzing life of the capital meets the quiet stillness of the forest-covered mountains. The variety of landscapes, cultural and natural values provides enriched recreational activities for a wide range of visitors.







The Pilis and Visegrád Mountains natural values at the new visitor centre have been popular tourist areas for a long time. The symbolic "cradle" of Hungarian tourism, Dobogókő is to be found at the heart of the mountain. The dense network of tourist routes satisfies both those looking for outdoors physical exercises and those looking for the sheer beauty of nature – the former may hike steep slopes and atop rising cliffs, the latter may enjoy shady creek valleys and lookouts offering magnificent panoramas.

be found north of the Danube, it is an equally romantic but less frequented area. It is recommended to start the more detailed exploration of local

at Királyrét. The bases of the slopes of the Börzsöny are at the romantic valley of River Ipoly, where everyday life is as peaceful and modest as the flow of the

The mountains reach the capital together with the Danube, they significantly contribute to Budapest being the metropolis richest in natural values in all of Europe. The special underground treasures of the Buda thermal karst, with the longest cave system in Hungary, as the world renowned panorama. A unique programme opportunity is a visit of the Sas Hill of Buda, where we can obtain a new perspective of

the underlying metropolis, while also learning about the special flora and fauna of the nature conservation area. Altogether, these natural programmes provide an unforgettable experience in getting to know the city.

In addition to the thematic heritage interpretation sites, multiple events assist the thorough interpretation of the natural heritage in the immediate and wider surroundings of the national park. The list of these events includes the Earth Day at the quarry of the Pál-The mountain chain of Börzsöny can the Pál-völgy Cave, are as attractive völgy Cave in April, the Green Festival of Dömös in September and the Wild Geese Cavalcade at Tata, held at the end of November with the "attendance" of tens of thousands of birds.





FERTŐ-HANSÁG NATIONAL PARK

Adventures in the empire of wild geese

A bit of steppe at the western border of the country - as if the area of Lake Fertő had been broken away, both in terms of space and time, from the towns and intensively cultivated agricultural areas in its broad surroundings. Water world lost in a mass of reeds, enclosed by a ring of villages with stork nests - this is what you can perceive of Lake Fertő as a superficial spectator. Although the magic of the scenery is already perceptible this way, real experiences await those who go canoeing to experience a labyrinth of reeds, taking a closer look at the millions of winged and scutellar inhabitants of the Lake.







Lake Fertő, with an area of half of Lake Balaton, is the westernmost member of Eurasian salty steppe lakes. A considerable part of its Hungarian side is a water habitat covered with reeds. The lake and its marshes, as well as the lakes of Fertőzug - mostly located in Austrian territory - are rich in an unrivalled abundance of species of water invertebrata, fish, amphibia and birds. Visitor centres and other places for spectators, canoe rides into the labyrinth of reeds of Lake Fertő, high-standard village quarters and the bicycle route surrounding the lake all contribute to an experience of relaxation near nature.

The Hanság area, east of Fertő, used to be an impenetrable marshland. It is not by accident that Istók Hany, an unsociable creature living in the marshlands and adapted to the water habitat, has become a symbolic figure of the area. His memory is preserved by the nature trail named after him. The wildlife of the marshlands can be best explored in the areas renewed by the reconstruction of the Nyirkai-Hany habitat, with particularly photos of birds.

Subduing or exploiting marshy areas deserved to be included in the UNESCO has been a concern for people living in the neighbourhood for centuries.

Their villages, mostly preserving their traditional image, have lived in harmony with the surrounding landscape to date. As it was done by major noble families settled here from the old times: the Széchenyi mansion at Nagycenk was linked by an avenue of linden trees with a place wherefrom all of Fertő could be viewed in clear weather. And the Esterházy family - inspired by Versailles - surrounded their splendid castle by great opportunities to observe and take a re-fancied landscape. For all these reasons, Fertő and its vicinity absolutely list of World Heritage sites as a cultural





HORTOBÁGY NATIONAL PARK Hungarian World Heritage, the Puszta

Puszta is a characteristic component of the Hungarian image. Although the traditional steppetype lifestyle linked with livestock keeping is already history in part, the particular "wildlife" of the Great Plain is fortunately not. The park, including the alkaline deserts and pasture lands of Hortobágy and Nagykunság, as well as some parts of the water world of Lake Tisza offers much more than the mirage-haunted "Puszta Romance": it offers an insight into the rich wildlife and traditional lifestyle of a region which is a real "Hungaricum".







The oldest and largest national park established in Hungary in 1973 is a classic cultural landscape: it bears the traces of human exploitation of centuries, resulting from the grazing activities of herdsmen communities living here. Traditional Hungarian livestock, such as grey cattle and racka sheep, are still pastured in great numbers in grassland areas, contributing to the preservation of the specificities of the Puszta landscape. Hortobágy is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage cultural landscape as "an outstanding example of the harmonious cooperation of man and nature based on traditional and sparing land use".

The symbolic centre of the wold of herdsmen is the Nine Holed Bridge,

eponym of bridge fairs popular for a long time. Together with the Csarda inn and the Shepherd Museum standing beside it, it is a customary target of quick visits to the Puszta; however, due to the existence of the visitor centre nearby, it is an excellent point of departure even for guests who wish to explore the land more deeply. In addition, the latter are awaited by a number of nature trails, guided tours, events and open-air school programmes in various areas of the national park. A variety of means can also be used for ranging over the land: besides traditional horse carts and the narrow-gauge railway of Hortobágy Great-Fishponds, people seeking more adventures can ride a horse or a bike

to explore the area. Unique adventures include Pusztasafari, in the course of which visitors can marvel at animal and bird species that used to live here before the appearance of man, re-introduced by nature protection.

In 2011, an approximately 10 thousand hectare area of the national park was designated as the third starlit sky park in Europe, intended to show the sight of the sky without light contamination by preserving the natural night time environment and the values of wildlife at night. The sight of the pitch-dark "dome" over the wide open plain, interspersed with twinkling stars can be a major experience in visiting the national park.





KISKUNSÁG NATIONAL PARK The landscape of magical dunes

If you see wind-blown sand dunes in a picture, you surely take it as part of a remote desert landscape. But you do not need to go that far to view some real sand dunes: in the centre of Hungary, at the Kiskunság sand ridge they have been built by the wind from ancient times. Besides them, the values of a number of other special landscapes and habitats are preserved by the national park, including floodplain forests, washed grasslands, saline lakes and steppes along River Tisza. The term "Puszta" means much more than a peculiar habitat, it also includes the last memories of a culture mostly vanished by today.







The characteristic plain landscape of the area between the Rivers Danube and Tisza is characterized by a multitude of diverse habitats. The nine landscape sections of the national park include the sand dunes already mentioned, some of which – those near Fülöpháza, for instance – ascend from sandy grasslands as small "deserts" without grass cover. Open woodlands are formed here by junipers tolerating drought, remote relatives of our garden evergreens.

There is an absolutely different flora abounding in floodplain forests along River Tisza or the White Lake at Szeged: a multitude of aquatic birds live some of

their life here in undisturbed peace. The spectacular migration of some of their species make a visit to the park a parade: those interested are awaited every November for "White Lake craning". for instance. In another environment at Bösztörpuszta, you can see the mating of bustards and be a celebrating guest. The landscape of oak forest steppes or alkaline deserts and lakes also provides an insight into the characteristic lifestyle in the Great Plain. At Bugac and its surroundings, as well as at some other locations of the park, local people evoke customs linked to livestock breeding on the plain, boasting their skills as virtuosic

animal tamers as well. Besides horses, there are other domestic animals of the Puszta to be observed at interpretation sites. And those interested in getting to know the traditional lifestyle more deeply, are awaited by isolated farms where they can perceive how close is the connection of people living in the plain to the soil meaning life.

Most probably it is best to "slow down" to be able to immerse in the peculiar and serene world of Kiskunság, meaning to roam around the land by leaving motor vehicles behind. Instead of that, riding a horse can be a good way of exploring the landscape.



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KÖRÖS-MAROS NATIONAL PARK

A landscape of plains and rivers

Our forefathers found marshlands and moorlands in most of the Great Plain, which were converted into lands suitable for cultivation by the persistent work of centuries of later inhabitants of these lands. After river regulation in the 19th century, the world of waters was mostly forced behind the flood plains of rivers protected by dams. These special patches of "wilderness" – located along and nearby rivers – are taken care of by the national park, providing conditions for a number of rare animal and plant species to subsist.







The national park, consisting of separate land units, intends to preserve bits and fragments of loess and alkaline steppes and water habitats of the ancient landscape of the plain.

The flood plain forests and grasslands of the Rivers Körös and Maros, the aquatic world of oxbows form one of the main groups of values. Inhabitants of quiet but alive waters include highly protected otters, permanently nesting black storks, ospreys, and black kites. Another special habitat is constituted by extensive alkaline steppes with a number of rare species in the realm of saline moorlands and oaklands, several of them represent the heritage of the last ice age. And the memory of traditional Puszta farming is preserved by the grey

cattle herds grazing there.

The rich bird fauna of the national park makes changes of seasons eventful. At the spring and autumn bird migration periods, thousands of waterside birds, wild geese and cranes swarm riversides. dazzling visitors to observe them. In addition, those curious about the life and ontogenesis of nesting species can have some insight, with rarities to be encountered in large numbers such as lanners, imperial eagles, red-footed falcons or spoonbills, not to mention bustards - the bird species depicted on the sign of the national park, presenting a unique mating dance as if they wanted visitors to take pleasure in their performance of rutting to find their mates. The largest European bird

capable to fly can be marvelled at the Réhely Visitor Centre of the national park.

The gentle landscape of the Great Plain makes it easy for those who would like to go by bike to see protected natural areas. Those who prefer an active approach can also have a water tour adventure of getting acquainted with the ancient water world. Tours are recommended to be started at Annaliget in Szarvas, the Körös Valley Visitor Centre of the national park, where people can prepare for site programmes with an interactive exhibition, a number of national park publications and the assistance of skilled staff.





ŐRSÉG NATIONAL PARK Natural landscape harmony

In our world dominated by machines and cities, there are more and more people trying to find ways of living more naturally. There are places where this desire can be considered as a substantial element of a traditional lifestyle. Such a place in Hungary is Őrség, where man has been living in harmony with nature for centuries. Therefore one of the main treasures of the national park is the cultural landscape itself, with the characteristic open structure settlement type and nature conscious farming methods. National park treasures also include wetland habitats along the River Rába and forest wildlife.







At the western borderland of the Pannonian region, the first Hungarian settlers built guards to protect the borders; this is where the name of the land "Őrség" comes from. The scenic hilly landscape with woods and groves was developed by people living here through farming activities on small land parcels and buildings integrated into the landscape, preserving the colourful variety of nature.

Traditionally, villages in the Őrség area consist of "open structures", that is, small groups of buildings scattered around. In the "heart" of this world.

Szalafő-Pityerszer, the Őrség Group of Popular Monuments can be found. The buildings of three homes preserved provide a suggestive example of the traditional lifestyle and cultural heritage of their occupants of old times. A highly successful event in late September is called the Őrség Pumpkin Festival, named after one of the characteristic horse, and paddling; the landscape of products of the region.

Natural habitats of the national park also await visitors with special treasures, including the section of River Rába until Körmend, which is one of the streams in Hungary to have been preserved in a

most natural state. A singular experience is provided by getting an insight into the fascinating world of butterflies; the best opportunity is to take part in the programme of the Őrség Butterfly Adventure.

It is allowed to roam around the national park on foot, by bike, riding a diverse terrain will also satisfy people who prefer physical challenges. And for more comfortable travellers, horsecart tours can be enticing, with horses of the Muraközi stud tended by the park.



NATIONAL PARKS IN HUNGARY



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