



Dedication

Being a Franciscan I often marvelled our founder, St. Francis of Assisi knowing how many places he visited. When I have come to visit these regions myself I could also experience the great distances he walked to follow Christ. And these journeys made him more and more like Jesus, as also his biographer describes: *Francis came down from the mountain bearing with him the image of the Crucified, depicted not on tablets of stone or on panels of wood carved by hand but engraved in the members of his body by the finger of the living God* (St. Bonaventure, *Legenda Maior*, 12.5).



Engraved in the members of his body... Christ was no longer a remote, distant person for him, nor was an emotion or idea merely, but an experience, the Reality, who determined his every step, movement, thoughts and emotions.

When a pilgrim sets sail today, he should not set smaller target for himself than this, further more he should give heed to the way Christ forms out, incise Himself into his body, his soul, his life along his way. He has reached his goal if this journey turns into an experience for that will define all his further movements.

What can help us during our journey? A holy sample chosen from the Bible asking: *Who are you, O Lord, and who am I?* Deep repentance, confession, Mass, fasting and thanksgiving, discovering the deep desires of our heart are essential. But also the beauty of nature, the helpfulness or the botheration of people, the experience of reliance and vulnerability, the good or bad weather, a nice gesture, a clear face, or even the encounter with the spiritual- and material poverty or- richness of the countryside may help.

All this should be part of our lives, and Christ is our master and our companion all long.

If we go as a pilgrim on a journey, let us take Him to ourselves, the wheat bread, the Eucharist, the one who has written His image into ourselves, eradicates the weeds from our heart if we walk with him for a lifetime.

Dr. Kálmán Peregrin OFM
Shrine Director



Pilgrimage network in Central Europa:

The Way of Mary (Mária Út)

The 20th century brought indefinable suffering to the people. Wars started from our region, from Central Europe. Also the Communism's and Nazism's genocides were the most devastating over here. Deep in our souls there are still fears, deep wounds of anger, prejudice, hatred, contempt, accusing each other even today. Despite of living free seemingly, our souls are not free. „We should finally be set free.”

In the tales of the Central European people, when the situation gets untenable or unsolvable, man sets off wandering. Sets sail to shake off that hinders or ties him, sets sail to discover new worlds, new people, new ideas. Sets sail to renew himself and by doing so adds his share fair to the renewal of the world. By having the dream of a pilgrimage connecting and encompassing Central Europe sometime in the early 2000's, we - whose hearts are filled with the Way of Mary - feel that we listened and responded to the impulse, to the encouragement of the Spirit.

“Prepare the way of the Lord!” As if the heavens were calling us.

Prepare the way of the Lord and prepare the way of the people. Prepare a great pilgrimage first of all for the people of Central Europe, so that by setting sail they can get deeply acquainted with each other, find each other, start to love each other and create community. Connect Mariazell and Csíksomlyó, Czestochowa and Medjugorje with each other and all the Mary's shrines in between into a network pilgrimage routes.

Prepare a pilgrimage route – connecting the Mary's shrines - for the European peoples living in peace with calmer history. A route that reveals all the available values so that the people of Europe find each other again, personal acquaintances and friendships could be built, to the end to have a breakthrough in the understanding and acceptance of each other.

Prepare a pilgrimage route encompassing and joining together seven countries so that the peoples of North and South America, Asians and Africans,



and people from the Far East come to Central Europe, to a Central Europe that had lived almost the entire twentieth century locked in behind bars, in spiritual handcuffs, behind mental barbed wire, but now it can breathe again and is standing in front of prosperity.

As if the world's events were accelerated. The individual has to face Babel-like confusion. All that surrounds him – is uncontrollable and despite all of his efforts he cannot readily adapt.

Because you may not have to adapt. Because you may not need to drift ... We shouldn't agonize over the social, political and economic problems of the often artificially accelerated world, for it is not in our power. What's in our power, is us. Our bodies, our minds, and our soul - well, it really is in our power. If we want to, we can control them. We are able to turn them towards the good, peace, justice and openness to others. At the same time our immediate family, circle of friends, our communities and work colleagues give us jobs so that they can find new ways. First we have to be spiritually reborn and then help those whom we can reach.

The Way of Mary, the pilgrimage is the power of the body, the spirit, and the soul, and an experience for a lifetime of we received it in order to take good use of it.

Let's go then: for a day or a weekend, or a month, or even for months, until we reach the goal. The goal, however far it seems, is ourselves.

If we have braced ourselves up our hearts will tell how far and where to go



for a new heart, new soul, new ideas, new impetus, and to all of this we obtain tremendous spiritual strength.

We build the road and invite the hundreds of thousands and millions who are searching themselves for pilgrimage. Central Europe awaits, receives and serves with open arms, open heart and sincere humanity.

It is because we have the greatest need to serve, to love. We were appointed to be of use for others with the Way of Mary, with the pilgrimage. With new approach, humility, disciplined and boldly, with confidence, true and caring we welcome and call our human brothers, true fellow men for the road of spiritual renewal.

Dr. Tamás Szabó
founding president of the Way of Mary Nonprofit Association



About Virgin Mary...

About the Hungarians' respect for Mary and about indulgences

After the resurrection of Christ in the early church particular attention was paid to the people who lived in close proximity to Jesus such as selected friends, apostles and of course the relatives, among them a priority Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary. Mary could stand particularly close to God, because He chose her out of all the women to bear his Son as a human in her womb, to carry and to give Him birth. God and Mary might have had a really deep and intimate relationship, which is reflected in Jesus' life and in his miracles. Mary was an important and active intercessor during the first miracle of Jesus, as she persuades Jesus to help the hosts at the wedding feast of Cana. Virgin Mary intercedes the same way for us with her son even today.

To us, Hungarians, the Mother of God Virgin Mary is especially dear and important, as King St. Stephen offered Hungary into her patronage in the hopelessness in succession.

In history, we can see how many countries or people have disappeared during the centuries, but we Hungarians, have been here for more than a thousand years and even after several difficult times we are still living in the Carpathian Basin. Most certainly it is also due to the intercession and the protection of our heavenly Mother.



There are places on Earth where the presence, the overflow of grace can be more intensively sensed, where miracles, apparitions, healings happen, and therefore people start to respect these places more and more. These places are called religious sites also known as places of pilgrimage or indulgence, it is a living tradition that people pilgrim to the shrines. We visit these holy places because there is always something to give thanks for, to pray for and there is always something to ask the Heaven.

It is as difficult to explain our relationship to the Virgin Mary as it is to articulate what our mother means to us. Us Hungarians, the children of Mary often go with stuttering words but even greater spiritual openness to the shrines of our heavenly Mother, the Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

The basic message of Christianity

Christianity's most concise creed is the commandment of love:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself."

(Cf. Mk 12.30 to 31). This command is not for its own sake, since its aim is not to somehow tame the world but the result of a conscious decision. With my inner convictions, my attitude, my good intentions I would like to bear witness in the world about something more that most of the people don't want to accept, want to ignore or don't even know about.

This inner conviction, my good intentions, my conscious love cannot feed on themselves but they need the source which is God. All our love, which manifests itself in the other person is rooted in God, is feeding from God, for He is the one who he has first loved us. He is the one who constantly declares his love to us from the beginning of creation. He created us to His own image; He gave us free will and invited us to work with Him on the great art of creation. When man turned away from Him, He didn't withdraw His love but promised the Savior.

This is our true joy: that God loves us so much and He wants good for us that He has sent His own son to us, who became man,



and taught us the good, the truth, the love, and He talked about the Father as our loving God. He brought something radically new - to reach the transcendent -with His life and teachings, unlike any other previously offered road or manmade method. He showed His love by accepting even death. He „descended into hell”, down to the depths of the underworld, „descended” following the lost, sinful man, snatched the righteous from the damnation and opened for all of us the possibility of Salvation. This infinite divine love feeds our lives, we draw strength from it to keep God's requests, commands. His love manifesting towards us shouldn't be kept for us but it should be given to our fellow men, our brothers and sisters.



Recommended equipment for wandering:

sleeping bag	medical kit
hiking shoes & open footwear	sunscreen cream
socks, underwear, swimwear	towel, laundry soap
hiking pants & trousers to change	glass, bottle
long-sleeved shirt, T-shirt	spoon, multi-function pocket knife
sweater, wind jacket	flashlight, headlamp
raincoat or poncho	documents, pilgrim passport
light-colored cap with neck guard	phone + charger
warm hat	hiking poles/ pilgrim walking stick
map, compass, GPS	

Classification of tracks

The difficulty levels of our hikes are categorized by markings having two parts. Each route has a letter, indicating the difficulty arising from the length and climb, and it has a Roman number referring to the difficulty of the terrain's surface, the hardship caused by the obstacles there.



Classification according to length and elevation

- A** easy 1-2 hour walk with a slight ascent
- B** 3-4 hour long, half-day excursion, with a little strenuous ascent, or shorter but more intense difference in height
- C** 5-7 hour long, full day hiking with greater inclines; or less heavy but steady climbs
- D** 8-11 hour long, full day of heavy, long way, or tiring hike with lots of inclines
- E** 12 hour long or even longer extremely long road, performance tour

Classification according to terrain surface and obstacles



walking terrain

easy hiking terrain

intermediate hiking terrain

difficult hiking terrain

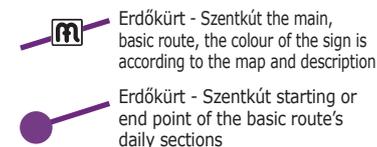
Usage of the booklet

The 50-kilometer pilgrimage, between Erdőkürt and Mátraverebély-Szentkút – on the new M80 section of the Way of Mary – is divided into 2 walking sections. The two sections also provide the main units of our publication. For the better perceptibility these chapters are marked with a gradually brightening shade of blue, with a colourband at the top of the page and it is numbered from 1 to 2.

The first section in 8, the second in 12 pages describes the information between the given two endpoints.

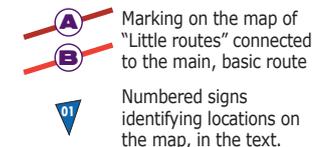
- The first four pages contain the description and data of the main route, the contour lines map helping to manage your strength and the overview map. Please note: if you walk the route from the other way the rate of the ascent and descent is swapped!
- The second 4 or 8 pages contain a novelty of this type of booklet, this information block on the so called „Little routes“. Each chapter describes such four to six shorter or somewhat longer routes that are marked with the letters of the alphabet in this booklet. The elaboration and the amount of information provided on these routes might offer entry for those interested in pilgrimage.
- On the last 2 pages you'll find photos and short profiles on a few from the many beautiful sights, values that await you during the pilgrimage.

Map symbols and signs



Erdőkürt - Szentkút the main, basic route, the colour of the sign is according to the map and description

Erdőkürt - Szentkút starting or end point of the basic route's daily sections



Marking on the map of „Little routes“ connected to the main, basic route

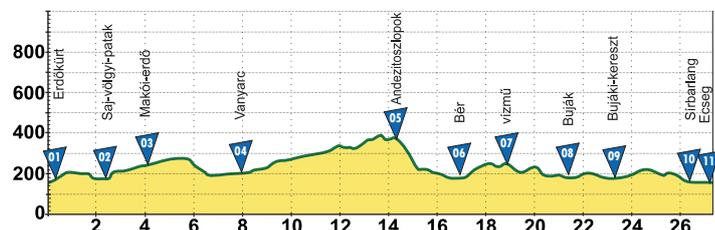
Numbered signs identifying locations on the map, in the text.

Novelties of the thematic booklet:

- the publication includes the descriptions of the routes in both directions, back forth
- you can easily find and identify locations on the map, on the contour lines map and in the text with the help of the numbered signs
- unlike to the previous brochures in this booklet you'll find the local attractions along the basic route as independent route descriptions
- attractions received a broader scope of presentation
- + 11 about the accommodations along the pilgrimage



Erdőkürt – Ecseg



This day, you'll find yourself in the very middle of the landscape of Nógrád. You'll walk in the region of fields, grazers and pastures creeping onto the top of beautiful hills. Sometimes you'll see forests too, such as the huge see of the andesite-taper next to Bér.

**From south to north:**

Starting towards the hills towering in front of us, following the sign next to the Lutheran church you'll leave Erdőkürt . You'll walk along agricultural land, but as you get higher on the hill the wonderful panorama of the Nógrád landscape unfolds before you. The marked path leads along a nice oak forest then you'll walk downhill a hawthorn hillside reaching Vanyarc . A long ascent is waiting for you; walking 100m of level uphill over 5 km brings you to the mountain towering above Bér. The way starts here among arable. Because of the absence of trees here tourist signs are relatively rare therefore pay good attention to the signs, markings. Again, here is the opportunity to admire the panoramic view. After 100 meters of ascent you'll reach the forest. The andesite-spill of Bér – has enormous geological value world wide – is located on the northern edge of the hilltop. Walking

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Vanyarc:

The settlement was first mentioned in 1286 in a written document. The village had to be rebuilt from nothing after the Turkish times, the lost population was replaced with Slovak settlers from Upper Hungary. Arable lands and wine growing areas were acquired by deforestation the harvested timber was used to build new houses in the village. Forest remained in abundance, in which the keeping of pigs on acorn flourished. The main source of subsistence of the population was the golden age of grape production until the wine pest epidemic in the 1880s. The majority of the population was evangelical, only a small number of Roman Catholics lived here. Even today the majority is evangetic, the Catholic church was built in 1994 in the village. An outstanding gastronomic cultural event of Vanyarc is the Haluska Festival held in September each year with cooking competition, folklore program, craft fair, and welcoming hospitality.



downhill you slowly reach the Geopark of Nógrád. (With a few minutes detour from the exhibition pavilion you reach the andesite spill.) From here you arrive soon to Bér that is situated in a valley similarly to other villages. We continue to Buják 3 km uphill. From Buják you have only 5 km left until Ecseg, the endpoint of the day. At the border of Buják you'll find a well-kept crucifix then you continue walking by the water company. The signs are to be found on sign poles along the fully open area.

„As we forgive those who trespass against us: and if we do not forgive perfectly, Lord, make us forgive perfectly, so that, for love of you, we may really forgive our enemies ... returning no one evil for evil”

(Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer by St. Francis of Assisi. 8)

By bike

We suggest an alternative, paved way with light traffic through the following settlements: Erdőkürt – Kallo – Vanyarc – Szirák – Kisbágyon – Szarvasgede – Csécsé – Ecseg.

Bér and Buják villages without through traffic, both can be reached with a longer detour the former through Szirák and the latter from Kisbágyon. It is not an impossible venture to bike along the pilgrimage intended for pedestrians with a suitable bicycle, under dry terrain conditions but there parts where the rocky slopes, the deep tire tracks might be dangerous. Elsewhere, because of the thorny vegetation it is easy to get a puncture.

 **Ecseg:**

It can be taken for granted based upon the findings on the border of the village that the settlement was populated even in the Stone Age. The settlement is mentioned in written documents first in the 13th century, the Helena castle next to the village was still standing in those days. After the Turkish times, Ecseg revived the wine produced in the area became nationally famous. The church was built in the 15th century, it reached its final baroque shape between 1780-92 after several reconstruction. Its original bell has been saved in the Hungarian National Museum since 1908, thanks to Pál Patay, the archaeologist.

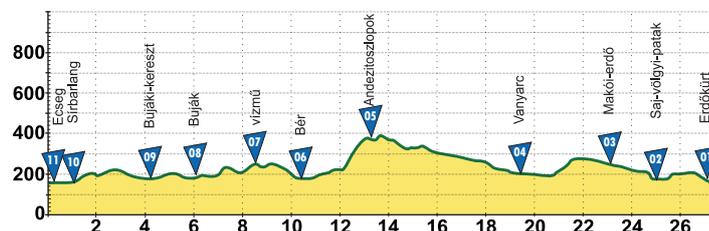
Spiritual hints for the journey

If you walk from the direction of Erdőkürt towards Szentkút then it's your first day. The questions of the first day and the hints to searching for the responses see on annex I.!

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Ecseg – Erdőkürt



From north to south:

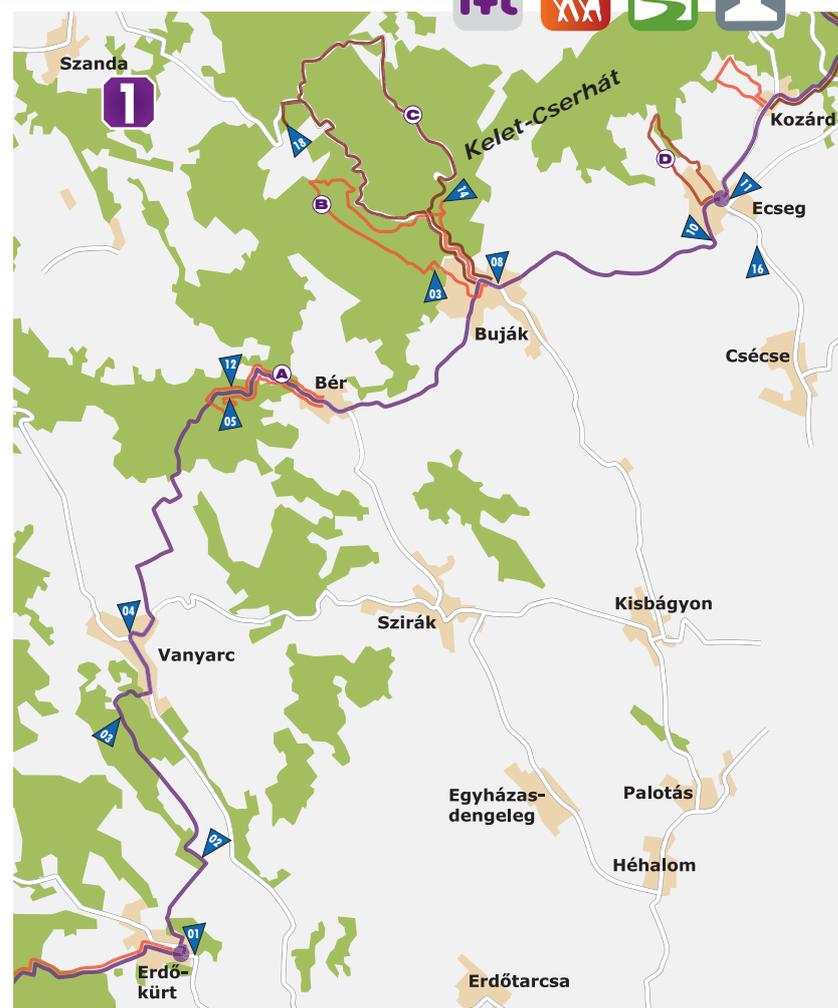
The way starts from the centre of Ecseg ¹¹ towards South, Southwest along the sign. At the end of the village there is the Kápolna-spring ¹⁰ (see detailed description). From the spring, in the open field, concrete road signposts help you to follow the signs, the mark-up. In the hilly terrain you'll soon glimpse Buják in the distance, and before reaching the village, you'll pass a well-kept crucifix ⁰⁹. The road leading from Buják ⁰⁸ starts rather steep thus allowing to have a great overview on the settlement and the Calvary standing on the hill next to the village. Easy terrain awaits you until Bér ⁰⁶ following on the signs. In the village there is Lutheran church and a restored water mill, but the real "unicum" peculiarity is waiting for you in the hillside when leaving the village. (See our separate description!) A short but serious ascent leads up to the Nagy-hegy ⁰⁵ followed by a long and light walk



downhill from the top to Vanyarc. On clear days, a beautiful panorama opens up to the landscape of Nógrád. From the centre of Vanyarc ⁰⁴ walk for a while along the main road leading to Kálló then turn right to the hillside. Stroll for a couple of kilometers in a beautiful oak forest then leaving the forest you walk along arable land. After descending to the stream at Saj-valley ⁰² you'll soon glimpse the church towers of Erdőkürt ⁰¹ and reach the final destination of the day.

Spiritual hints for the journey

If you walk from the direction of Szentkút towards Erdőkürt then it's your second day. The questions of the second day and the hints to searching for the responses see on annex II.!



Information block of the section

⁰¹ Erdőkürt	0:00	7:45						
⁰⁴ Vanyarc	2:30	5:30						
⁰⁶ Bér	5:15	2:45						
⁰⁸ Buják	6:15	1:45						
¹¹ Ecseg	7:45	0:00						

A Bér – andesite circle

The Nagy-hegy next to Bér in Nógrád county hides a natural treasure, that has no equal in Europe. To marvel at the curved, bent-shaped andesite columns, you must undertake a 2-hour stroll. The unique formation of rocks makes the round trip at Bér exciting in itself but the experience is enhanced by the panorama from the mountain roof and what you can find in the Geopark.



Centre of Bér 5,5 km 2 hours A-II

Volán Bus from Népliget

Start from the centre of Bér along the signs after 1,5 km follow the and signs towards the top of the hill. From the pavilion of the Nógrád Geopark you reach the top by following s+ and .

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

04 Bér, village museum

Further accommodation: -
Food, shopping: Bér
Places for drinking water: -

B Buják – Calvary – Castle Hill Circle



If you come to Buják in order to familiarize with the values and beauty of the area you have to visit the Calvary and the Castle Hill as well. A great hiking trail for this is the ecological educational path. The group of the Calvary was reconstructed in 1802, the St. Anne's chapel, standing next to it was built in 1820. Over the centuries much has changed, for example, the cross was replaced, pictures of the stations of the cross were placed into the wall of Calvary, but the privilege holding a full indulgentia has been kept since 1803. The first lines of defence of the castle were built after the „Passing of the Tatars” meaning Mongol invasion than because of the growth of the Turkish threat the outer ring was reinforced. Finally, the Turkish army blew it up. Today, only ruins remained.

Centre of Buják 10,5 km 3 hours C-III/IV

Volán Bus from Népliget

The hike starts from Hősök tere. Follow the sign you get to the Calvary. From here go along the sign until you reach sign. The path leads from here downhill along the and sign. In half an hour you reach the Buják-creek valley. Climb up the Castle Hill staying on the , from here there is only a 2 kilometers walk leading down, back to the village.

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

08 Buják, Glatz Oszkár Cultural Centre

Further accommodation: -
Food, shopping: Buják
Places for drinking water: -

C Buják – Sas-bérc (bicycle roundtrip)



This trip invites you on a cycling program visiting the Bavarian, romantic lookout tower at Sas-bérc (Eagle crag). The tower was built in „Fachwerk” style by Siegfried Pappenheim, a forest owner as a resting place during hunting around 1920. The building became uninhabited in the 1950s and in a couple of decades only ruins of the stone walls remained. The forestry restored it in its original form in 2001. The lookout tower can be visited during opening hours. A short distance of the roundtrip goes along unpaved roads, and there is 260 m elevation in the roundtrip. Multiple gears trekking bike are recommended.

Centre of Buják 16,7 km 2 hours B-I

It's recommended to approach by car because of the transportation of the bikes. Bicycle transportation is recommended for in-car approach. Alternatively go to the railway station at Jobbágyi 17 km from the centre of Buják, from here you can reach Buják on hilly, paved roads.

From the centre of Buják go along the sign in the direction of north-west. After 1.8 km the asphalt road splits into two branches, take the left side road uphill the mountain. After 4,5km you reach a delta crossroad, go left here. From here you quickly reach the tourist road with the sign you'll find the tower to the south. Go back from the tower the same way as you came from the delta crossroads and there turn left. 2.5 km you reach the paved junction here turn right and go down to the resort. To avoid the resort take a short section on dirt road to get back to where you started.

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

08 Buják, Glatz Oszkár Cultural Centre

Further accommodation: -
Food, shopping: Buják

D Ecseg – Ilonavár (castle ruin) circle

Two pages further you can read about the legend of the castle of Ecseg. Have we learnt from the example of the desperate mother? Are we able to put aside our greed in pursuit of false values? Are we blinded by the shining of gold? Or can we see that the real treasure is there with us every day? You receive the support, you only have to use it!



Centre of Ecseg 4,8 km 1,5 hours A/B-II

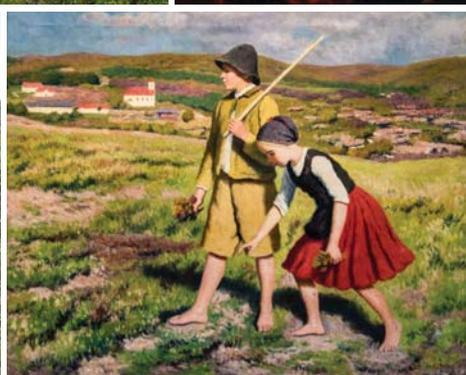
Volán Bus from Népliget

From the church in the centre of Ecseg along the sign . After 1 km carry on along parallel to the creek, do not follow the sign any longer. After 2,6 km cross the creek and go back to Ecseg.

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

12 Ecseg, parish church

Further accommodation: -
Food, shopping: Ecseg
Places for drinking water: -



The Buják region was inhabited from the Bronze Age, its castle was built after the Mongol invasion. It survived also the Turkish times, avoiding the complete devastation. From 1745, the Queen donated it into the possession of the Eszterházy family, for about 100 years. It became Hatvani-Deutch estate for a short period, then the Károlyi family bought it in 1884. The livelihood of the local residents was provided by the land, the forests. The writings commemorate the good wine made of the local grapes, charcoal made here and one more specialty: silkworm rearing as well. Oscar Glatz was a former teacher at the College of Fine Arts, Kossuth Prize winner painter, the main figure of the Post-Impressionism of Nagybánya. He has spent decades of his artist's work in Buják. Many of his paintings echo moments of the village's life. In the Cultural Centre named after him his paintings are displayed permanently.

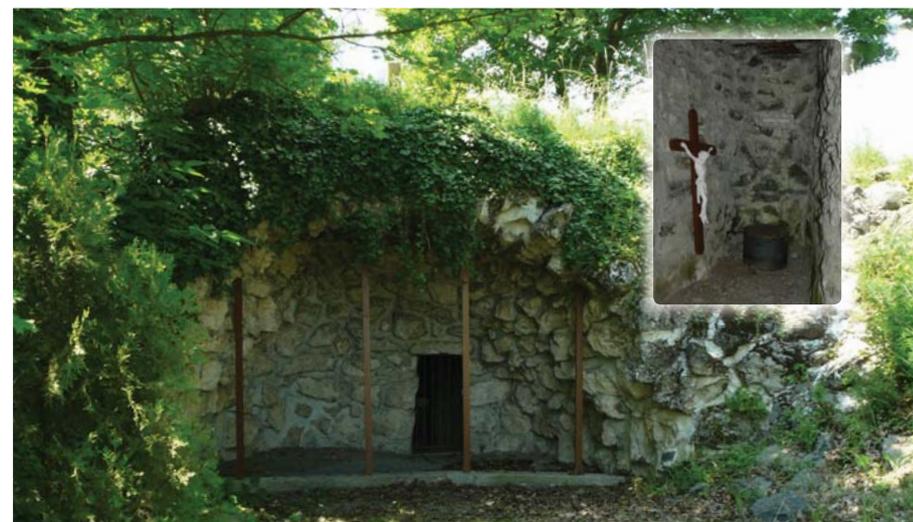
08 Buják

05 Bér, andesite formation



One of the most valuable geological specialties of Nógrád county is the andesite cap of the Nagy-hegy at Bér and its region. The curvy separated columns and poles on the side of the „cap” are very rare in the world. There is no other example in Europe of the formations of the andesite – reminding on basalt – columns that separated in columns and are even bent. Another unique vision is the wide stone sea, should be looked at only from the edge! The exhibition pavilion in the Nógrád Geopark helps you to get to know our values.

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10 Ecseg, Kápolna-spring

Unlike other Hungarian settlements the village was not destroyed even during the Turkish occupation and the liberation battles however the number of inhabitants decreased radically. 3 years before the final liberation from the Turks, in 1680, a small church was built above healing spring in the southern border of the village. The site was declared a Holy Well and it has become a famous place of pilgrimage. In 1772, the spring dried up, so people desired to cure and the pilgrims fell short.

The church was neglected, and in 1864 there was no trace of the church nor the spring. In the 1930s the remains of the church were excavated and the spring re-drilled and a vault, dome of stone was built over it. But again, it became prey of times and vicissitudes. At the end of the 20th century with ecclesiastical and municipal collaboration, the path of water freed again and its area was tidied up. The former Szentkút offers clean and fresh, cold again. Its curing effect is not clinically tested but according to traditions its miraculous healing powers are most effective for eye diseases.

The legend also said that the prayers asked standing in front of the Mary statue placed above the spring, came true; Mary helped the ones praying in front of her.

(The Legend of the castle of Ecseg)

Once a young widow with her small child got lost in the forest of Ecseg on Christmas Day while gathering twigs. The midnight bells reached them in the side of the castle hill. When the bell tolled the rock of the hillside opened leading to a cave filled with silver and gold treasures. While she was carrying out the gold in her tiny bag, the child was playing inside with the shiny stuff. However, the bell fell silent, the opening closed, the child remained inside trapped in the rock. She went back every midnight see if it re-opens to at least bring out the little corpse, but all for nothing. Next Christmas Eve, when the bell tolled the rock opened again, and her son was playing there with the gold. The widow did not care about the treasure, she quickly picked up her child and ran home. Ever since then many people have tried to trace the entrance to the cave, but the mountain didn't open to anyone.

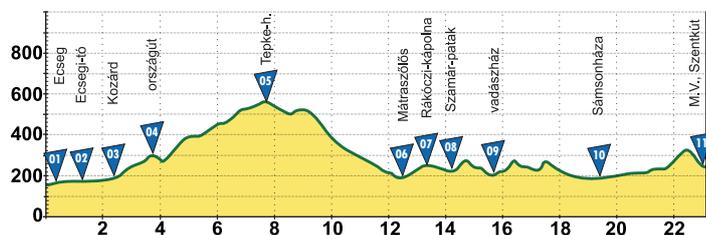
16 Ecseg, Mary memorial



19



Ecseg – Mátraverebély-Szentkút



The high grounds of Cserhát, the lookout on Mátra and Hollókő, the tiny villages in the valleys, but especially the atmosphere and the holiness of Szentkút that touches everyone imprint themselves into our souls on this day.

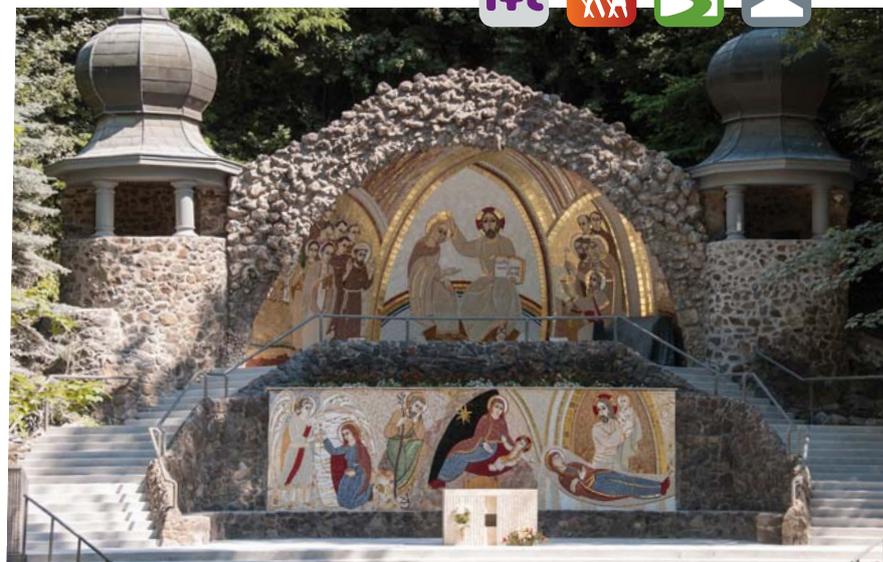


From south to north:

By following the sign you reach Kozárd in half an hour. Walk along the Palóc red sign from the village 6km uphill towards Tepke overlooking the Mátra. The National Blue Trail from the direction of Hollókő joins to your route. Along the way, you have 370 m height difference to overcome, but the panoramic view makes it up for you. You leave the ridge towards east, separate from the sign and descend to Mátraszőlős . You are 6 km from Sámsonháza, the route ripples in the side of the Cserhát. You can get a taste of the town's ethnological values in the Slovak country house of Sámsonháza . Leaving the village forget all your sorrows and prepare your heart for the arrival in the last hour of your journey. Walking uphill surrounded by mountains you do not feel tired, just get to the top, and suddenly there you are. In Szentkút everyone feels that he has arrived.

Kozárd

The tiny village is the Eco touristic target of Cserhát, it offers plenty of cultural and community programs for the visitors. Its name refers to the Khazar people from the times of the Settlement of the Magyars in Hungary. Its locally produced delicacies, the jams, cheeses of sheep and goat, meat produce of the grey cattle and mangalica are all good raw materials for the famous Palóc kitchen. It has become one of the sights of the village, in 2009, from 7-ton block of stone carved Statue of Mary, which is not the only one. If you walk along the village, you'll discover valuable works.



*"Let every spirit praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord because He is good;
all you who read this, bless the Lord.
All you creatures, bless the Lord."*

(Saint Francis of Assisi: Exhortation to the Praise of God 10-11)

By bike

The easy way for everybody is the route parallel to the main road 21 through Pásztó, Tar and Mátraverebély. However there is a more adventurous and more beautiful possibility that has 8km along non asphalt road and there are no signs between Zsunypuszta and Kisbárkány. Therefore - let's say - it is for your consideration. The route: Ecseg- Kozárd- Alsó- and Felsőtold – (bypass to Hollókő)- Zsunypuszta- Kis-, and Nagybárkány- Márkháza - Szentkút. Length 27km (relief road to Hollókő +5 km). GPS navigation is recommended.

Spiritual hints for the journey

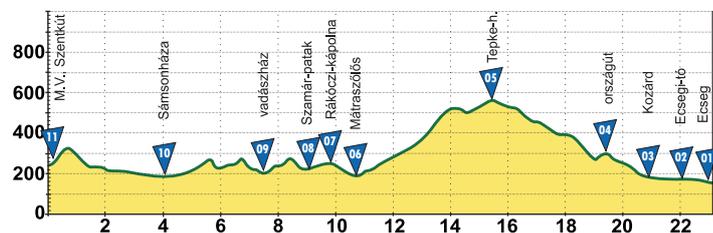
If you walk from the direction of Erdőkürt towards Szentkút then it's your second day. The questions of the second day and the hints to searching for the responses see on annex II.!

Mosaic of Szentkút

During the shrine's reconstruction in 2013-2014 the outdoor place for mass was reborn. The plans were created by the Jesuit Father, theologian and pastor Marko Rupnik internationally renowned for his stunning mosaics and paintings. His works are to be found at the significant locations of the Christian world: Lourdes, San Giovanni Rotondo, in Fatima, the Vatican's apostolic palace. The Szentkút mosaic image has two main parts: the wall behind the altar and the splendid golden, triple-aisle composition of the cave leaning above the altar area. The risen Christ crowns Mary in the centre of the winged altar-like work of art. In the right-hand mosaic image King St. Stephen's country dedication and the first large Hungarian Christian Saints are visible. In the left mosaic there are three figures: the shrine's guarding monk and founder of his order, Saint Francis of Assisi, Blessed Zoltán Meszlényi visiting the shrine and Blessed Sára Salkaházi visible. Franciscan Martyrs are shown behind both of the main figures. Mosaic wall behind the altar describes the events of the life of Virgin Mary. On the left side of the picture there is the Annunciation, in the middle Jesus' birth, on the right side the death and assumption of Mary. (More Szentkút descriptions, page 38)



Mátraverebély-Szentkút – Ecseg



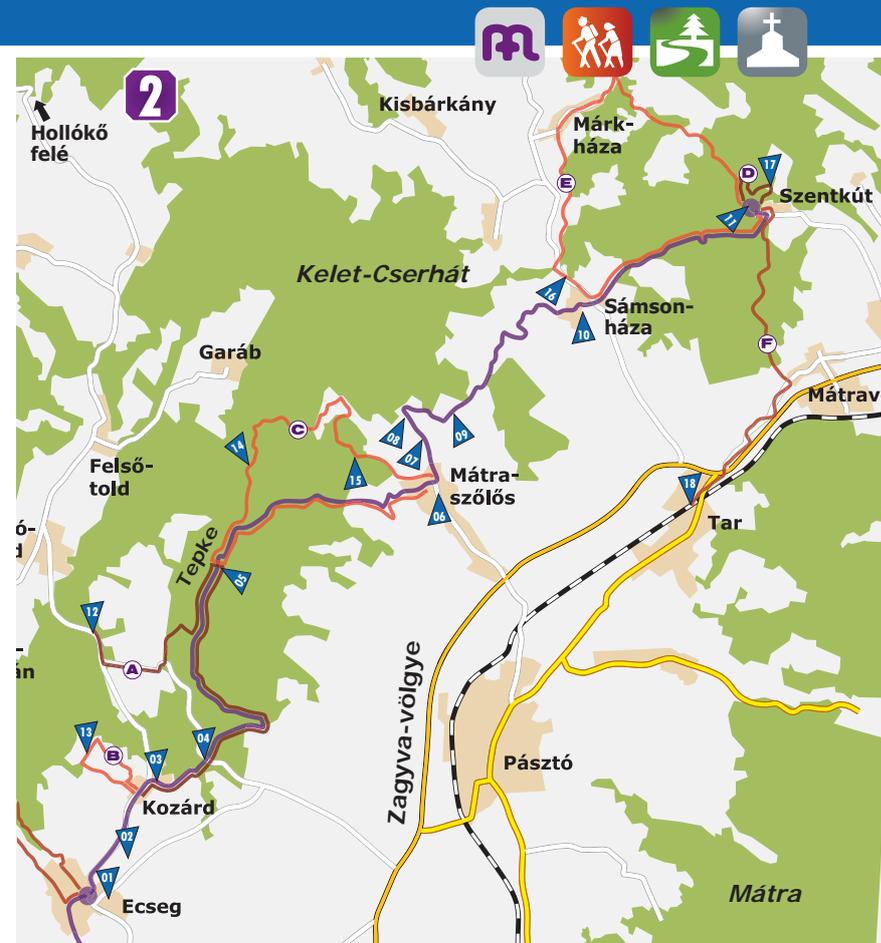
From north to south:

You leave the unique atmosphere of grace of Szentkút  behind and climb the hillside opposite the church following the  signal. Within an hour you'll reach Sámsonháza  where you get a taste of the town's ethnological values in the Slovak country house. 6 km long route ripples in the side of the Cserhát to Mátraszőlős . Before arriving at the village, stop for a few minutes at the hilltop, at the Rákóczi chapel ! From Mátraszőlős you depart towards the geographical climax of the day, the lookout tower of Tepke. The National Blue Trail joins the route in the saddle below the peak. The wonderful panoramic view over the Mátra and Cserhát make up for the tiresome climb. We set off down

Spiritual hints for the journey

If you walk from the direction of Szentkút towards Erdőkürt then it's your first day. The questions of the first day and the hints to searching for the responses see on annex I.!

the mountaintop, and says goodbye to the  sign towards Hollókő. Go further south following the mm sign. From the crossing of the motor-road  leading to Hollókő one more kilometer descending awaits you till Kozárd . The endpoint of your day, Ecseg , a small tourist resort situated in the Nógrádian hills with peaky church towers, is only a half hour's walk from Kozárd. Between the two villages the Way of Mary leads along paved road. To the left you can see the lake of Ecseg .



Information block of the section

 01 Ecseg	0:00	6:45	   
 03 Kozárd	1:00	5:45	    
 06 Mátraszőlős	4:30	2:15	  
 10 Sámsonháza	5:30	1:00	    
 11 Szentkút	6:45	0:00	    

A Kozárd – Tepke – Bableves csárda*

View on Cserhát and Mátra

One of the biggest attractions of the eastern half of Cserhát is the view unfolding before us from the tower on the Tepke mountain. From a height of 570 meters you have an overview on the valley of the Zagyva, on Mátra rising on the other side of the valley, on Hollókő to the west and on the hills of Nógrád to the south. For this view it's worth to give up your comfort and go hiking. Do we act similarly in our daily lives? If you need to would you give up your comfort for your set goals?

Centre of Kozárd 10,7 km 3 hours B-II

Regional Bus

Follow the blue sign from Kozárd to the outlook tower. There turned back to the sign and descend down the mountain, down to the Bableves csárda.

Walk along the main road to Kozárd (3 km)

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

03 Kozárd, Village House

12 Bableves csárda*

Further accommodation: Napfény Guest House, Vadvirág guest rooms

Food, shopping: Kozárdon

* Bableves csárda - Bean soup tavern

B Walk in Kozárd



It's worth spending at least one full day in Kozárd. Taste the excellent meals of the Palóc kitchen, the local goat cheese, the bacon of mangalica and the fine fruits. However do not be satisfied with sitting in the comfortable guest houses! Walk around the sights of the village, the bell tower, the glazed new chapel, the sculptures and the village house. During our 3 km walk you have an insight into the ways how and where the ingredients of the kitchen are produced, who and how they work in orchards, and with the animals. From the top of the hillside, from the renovated Anne's chapel you have a quite different view on the village.

Centre of Kozárd 3 km 1 hours A-II

Regional Bus

Start from the Village House. Walk uphill along the blue sign to the Chapel. After 300 meters the blue sign runs into the blue sign, walk along this downhill to Kozárd.

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

03 Kozárd, Village House

Further accommodation: Aranykorona Mansion és Csipke Guest House

Food, shopping: Kozárd

C Mátraszőlős – Tepke circle



The special geological formations of the Pending stone, the view from the Macska-hill, from the lookout tower of Tepke and the 750-year-old Catholic church of Mátraszőlős invites you on a 4 hour long round trip. The 400 m height difference does not promise easy success, but the trip is worth the trouble. You can apply the experience in your ordinary life: sometimes it is worth to choose the hard way, the freight may appear easy, if you know why and for whom you undertake the hardships.

Mátraszőlős 12 km 4 hours B-II

Regional Bus

Start from Mátraszőlős along the blue sign towards the direction of the Függekő and follow the sign until the saddle between Nagy-Kő-tető and Macska-hill. From there the sign shows the way until the Tepke mountain top. You turn back there and walk back to the starting point along the blue sign of the Way of Mary. With a little further tour you can walk to the Rákóczi chapel at 750 m, also following the blue sign.

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

11 Mátraverebély-Szentkút

Further accommodation: -
Food, shopping: Mátraszőlős



D Szentkút – hermit caves – springs

Wandering around Szentkút



The legend credit St. Ladislaus king with the appearance of the first spring in the valley, one of the rocks even the imprint of the horseshoe of the saint king's horse can be seen. The St. Ladislaus spring gives only intermittently water. Another exciting witness of the history of Szentkút is the hermit cave system of Nagymeszes mountain. The date of their creation is unknown but the living cabins and the chapel carved into the rock clearly show that conducted master hands lasted a perfect job. Its last resident was Jozafát Dobát who was a hermit on the mountain until his death in 1767.

Mátraverebély-Szentkút 1,9 km 45 minutes A-III

Regional Bus

Start from the shrine along the green sign to the hermit cabins. From there go up slightly to the route running along the ridge, then left downhill to the cross, and descend on the same way to the spring. In the valley return to the shrine.

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

Mátraverebély-Szentkút

Further accommodation: -

Food, shopping: -

Places for drinking water: Szentkúton



E Szentkút – Márkháza – Sámsonháza



It is said that you do well your pilgrimage if you realize along the way that you also are part of the nature. Everything is given to expose you to this realization along the way running around the easternmost block of Cserhát in 4 hours. Not only the beautiful valley of Szentkút creek, the way along Kis-Zagyva after Márkháza but also the sight of gigantic natural forces leaving their impact on the geological sections of Sámsonháza help you to appreciate nature. Finally the captivating beauty of road leading back to Szentkút embraced by mountains adds to this feeling. Arriving back to the shrine you'll drink the water of Szentkút a bit differently than before you started.

Mátraverebély-Szentkút 12,4 km 4 hours B-II

Regional Bus

From Szentkút to Márkháza along the purple sign of the Way of Mary, from the church further along the main street, after a bus stop to the left (Alkotmány street) and then continue along the Kis-Zagyva to Sámsonháza, from there back to Szentkút following the blue sign.

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

Mátraverebély-Szentkút

Food, shopping: -

Places for drinking water: in front of the catholic church of Márkháza, Mária-spring

F Tar – Szentkút

What could be more truthful approach of the holy place visited by pilgrims for 800 years than to make the journey on foot, and to experience the special atmosphere that you'll feel more and more each kilometre approaching to Szentkút. Starting from the train station of Tar, you can get a taste of the world of the great pilgrims for 2 hours.

train station of Tar 6,1 km 2 hours A-II

train, regional Bus

From the train station of Tar all the way along the purple sign of the Way of Mary to Szentkút.

by regional bus from Szentkút to Tar

Points welcoming pilgrims of the Way of Mary:

18 Tar, plébánia

04 Mátraverebély

11 Mátraverebély-Szentkút

Food, shopping: Tar

Places for drinking water: Mátraverebély, next to the catholic church, blue street tap

PALÓC ÚT

The village is a gem hidden in the green valley of Cserhát in the south gate of the Palóc Road. The tiny village is the Eco touristic target of Cserhát, it offers plenty of cultural and community programs for the visitors. It offers plenty of guest houses for the guests. Also the fans of gastronomy can enjoy the cuisine of the traditional Hungarian and Palóc kitchen as well as the locally produced delicacies.



16 Sámsonháza, Fejérvár, geological sections



It is an old Slovakian-speaking village at the eastern edge of the Cserhát, overlooking Mátra. It was named after the noble man in the 12th century who built the Fejérvár-castle. The castle was first mentioned in the certificates in 1409, but only as ruins. The Geopark located at the northern border of the village, by the stone mine next to the highway –has also several curiosity. The mountainside segmented by the mining certifies 5 million years, three submergences of sea and eruptions of volcano. The ecological educational path starting from here helps to get to know the geologic-historic events.



Hollókő, UNESCO World Heritage Site



To this day it retains its image developed in the 18th century, its Palóc folklore and the values of rural folk architecture. It's the only Hungarian village on the UNESCO World Heritage list. This village is a living example of rural life before the agricultural revolution of the 20th century. The most precious part of the village is the central area with 58 protected buildings, which preserves masterpieces of 17th century vernacular architecture. Its fortress was built on volcanic rock after the Mongol invasion. At the Turkish invasion it protected the surrounding villages for 8 years but the Ottomans captured the castle in 1552 for the next 150 years. It survived the castle destructing command of I. Leopold, in 1711 it was partially demolished. In 1970, they began to reconstruct it.



Situated at the western edge of Mátra, in the Zagyva valley is most known perhaps about its csevice springs. The sanctuary apse of the church – standing under the protection of St. Michael – was built during the reign of king Béla IV. During the later extensions the church was enriched with Gothic and Baroque style elements. It was restored in 1980, its 15th century frescoes became more beautiful and a historical exhibition was opened in its southern foreground. Next to the church hill the remains of the Manson of Lórin Tar are visible.



The twin-towered Baroque church that can be seen today was completed in 1763. The statue depicts Virgin Mary with baby Jesus at the right arm and the sceptre in her other hand. The history of its origin is unknown, but it is certain that it was one of the great treasures of the stone chapel built in 1705, predecessor of the current church.

The stone covering of the holy well was made in 1928, at its top the composition describes as the silent young shepherd boy gains healing from the Virgin Mother. The lateral reliefs portray the seven sacraments being served, and on each side the water from the holy well is running.



It became a shrine in the 13th century after the Virgin Mary holding the baby Jesus, appeared to a silent shepherd of Verebely and ordered him to dig in the ground, and to drink from the bursting water. The boy obeyed and regained his speaking ability. The place, however, was previously known for its great healings. Already in 1210 a church was built in the village of Mátaverebély because of the crowd of pilgrims who marched in procession to the spring in Szentkút Valley. The place of pilgrimage from the 1400s onwards was given the privilege of indulgence that were given to the biggest pilgrimage sites. The first stone chapel was built in Szentkút in 1705 later at its place the Baroque, two-towered church that can be seen even today was built in 1763. The church was honoured with the title Basilica Minor by Pope Paul VI in 1970. In the neighbourhood of Nagyboldogasszony Cathedral outdoor altar, and rows of benches suitable for placement of significant amount of people.

Open air masses, religious services are held here. The Holy Well is located in from of the altar, its miraculous water healed the silent boy. Behind shrine in the hillside, those hermits lived in caves carved out from the rock, who maintained and care for the shrine for centuries. A monastery was built next to the church, which was operated by the Franciscans as long as the regime hasn't chased them away, in 1950. By the grace of God the monastery was returned to the Franciscans in 1989. The renovation of the shrine could be started thanks to the blessed work of Father Aurél P. Tarcza. In 2006, Cardinal Péter Erdő, Primate at Nagyboldogasszony búcsú, within the framework of the solemn ceremony, he announced Szentkút as a National Religious site. The contemporary revival of Szentkút happened in 2013 and 2014, monumental construction projects are taking place in order to receive the increasingly greater number of pilgrims well organized.





The village is located in the hilly landscape of Ecskend, in South Nógrád. Its history dates back to the tenth century, even its name comes from the Kürt clan at the times of the Settlement of Magyars in Hungary. Like many other towns it had to be rebuilt from scratch after the Turkish times. In 1715 already 14, mostly Slovak families cultivated the land. At the beginning of the 20th century the landowners of the village were count Frederick Wilczek and the Baron Prónay brothers of Acsa. The Wilczek family had a stately mansion in Erdőkürt, but the building was hit by a bomb and ruined in 1944, by today no trace of it is left. The village has two churches, a Catholic and a Protestant. An interesting venue of Erdőkürt is the new nunnery.



Accommodation at Erdőkürt's local government

Accommodation for pilgrim groups is provided in the Sports Module at the Cultural Centre owned by the local government. The Sports Module has a kitchen but pilgrims can order meals from restaurants or from local women.



Address: 2176 Erdőkürt, Kossuth L. u. 51.
 E-mail: hivatal@erdokurt.hu, web: www.erdokurt.hu
 Telefon: +36-32-479-179
 GPS coordinates: 47.772867, 19.458197
 Open all year.





Family accommodation

Familiar building, with courtyard.

Capacity: 2 rooms for 10-12 people (bathroom, kitchen, dining room)
Address: 2688 Vanyarc, Veres P. út 54.
E-mail: vanyarc@vanyarc.hu
Web: www.vanyarc.hu
Telefon: +36-32-584-015
GPS Coord.: 47.82555, 19.45167
Price: 1500 HUF / person / night
Open: From May 1st till October 31



VANYARC

Tourist Accommodation

In the loft of the mayor's office.

Capacity: 28 people with extra bed (30 people)
Quatering: in 6 Rooms (3 x 4-bed, 2-bed 5, 1 6-bed)
Bathrooms: 2 (female / male), shower, sink and toilet.
Well-equipped kitchen for 30 people.
Community room, dayroom.

Address: 2688 Vanyarc,
Veres Pálné út 54.
E-mail: vanyarc@vanyarc.hu
Web: www.vanyarc.hu
Phone: +36-32-584-015
GPS coordinates:
47.825548, 19.451669
Price: 1500 HUF / person / night
Open all year.



Hotel Andesite – Virágospuszta

Popular accommodation in a hunting castle

The hunting lodge is located on the top of one of the hills surrounding the village, in a lovely park of 7,5 acres. It can accommodate 100 people with its services and comfort it gained tremendous popularity from the moment of its opening. Great Hungarian values are reflected in the House of Hungarians and the memorials of the park in the neighbourhood of the hunting castle.



Adr.: 3045 Bér, Virágospuszta
E-mail: info@andezithotel.hu
Web: www.andezithotel.hu
Phone: +36-30-921-3364
GPS koordináták:
47.87698, 19.501076

Price: 2500 HUF/person/night
You can choose from suite, apartment or individual wooden cottages.
Prices on the website.
Open all year.





Buják Sunday:

Folklore meeting, the first Sunday of June every year since 1983. In 2015 the village organized the all-day program already for the 32nd time. In the morning it starts with Holy Mass and in the afternoon folklore program awaits the visitors on the outdoor stage in front of the Oszkár Glatz Cultural Centre. Over the years, almost all of the area's traditional folk dance groups, folk song groups debuted however the appearance of foreign bands is also regular. Accompanying programs include arts and crafts activities, folk art fair, at the event also popular dishes typical to Buják can be tasted. In the evening street party closes the day.

Veronika Guest House

Pilgrim Accommodation and guest house

In addition to receiving pilgrims the house with its special atmosphere is suitable for spiritual retreats, forest schools, school trips, summer camps, or corporate team building venue, and is ideal for hikers as well. In the loft of a 9-bed and a 5-bed room (extra beds are available in both) and downstairs an 8-bed room awaits visitors.

About 20 people can sit around the large dining table in the dining room. Thinking about the pilgrim brothers, a washing machine is available in the bathroom. The Pilgrim Accommodation and guest house receives individual pilgrims even at a times of pilgrim groups however it is good to call a few hours before arrival.

Address: 3047 Buják, Deréksor 9.

E-mail: zarandok.veronika@gmail.com

Web: www.veronika-szallas.hu

Phone: +36-20-417-1402

GPS Coordinates: 47.88489, 19.54318

Prices: for pilgrims (independent of the number of guests), the price is 2000 HUF / night. For pilgrims tourist tax is included in the price of HUF 2,000. During the heating season 200HUF per person per night is added on top of the above rates.

Open all year.



Fecskefészek Guest House

Rural accommodation

The guest house offers accommodation for 12 people comfortably. This provides separated placement for a company, but also for 3 different families. The „old house” is built in authentic folk architecture, the „new house” is equipped modern equipment and functional facilities. All three apartments have bathroom, kitchen, garden furniture and sporting facilities. Children can play on a big area with a variety of toys. It provides self-catering but by prior arrangement it is possible to taste local dishes, to order breakfast, lunch and dinner of prepare meals together. Non-smoking accommodation.

Address: 3047 Buják, Ady Endre u. 6.

Phone: +36-30-554-0104

Web: www.pannonland2000.hu

GPS Coordinates:

47.88543, 19.53683

Prices: see website

Max nr. of guests: 4 adults and 2

children in one nest!

Open all year.



Varga Guest House

Rural guest house

The rural guest house has 2 rooms and it can accommodate 5 persons all together (+1 extra bed). Bedsheet and towel is provided for all guests. Well equipped kitchen, dining room, shower, WC, covered outdoor dayroom, huge courtyard and well cared garden belong to the house.

Address: 3047 Buják, Ady Endre u. 10.

E-mail: vnepiroska@gmail.com, web: www.bujakszallas.hu

Phone: +36-32-783-648, +36-30-202-0611

GPS Coordinates: 47.88375, 19.55084

Price:

Adult: 3000 HUF/person/night + tourist tax (200 HUF)

Child, under 12: 2700 HUF/person/night

Child under 3: free. During the heating season prices are raised.

Open all year.





"Kozárd is a gem situated on the northern branch of the Way of Mary. The chapel of Szepiótelen Fogantatás with wonderful altar pictures, new Mary Garden, 10 guest houses, excellent restaurant, 30 outdoor statues, national flag, identity memorial, flowered streets and squares, relaxing attractions!"

Aranykorona Mansion and Csipke Guest House

In the two beautiful Palóc houses, 25 meters from each other, there are eight bedrooms and 18 beds. The Aranykorona has on the ground floor, 3 bedrooms (one for disabled) and a kitchen, a large summer kitchen decorated with frescoes, dining room, wine cellar and bread oven, sunbathing terrace, 5 car parking spaces and flower gardens. Upstairs in 2 and 3 bed family apartments there are air-conditioned bedrooms, modern kitchen, two bathrooms, a dining room, satisfying all needs. In the Csipke guest house there are 3 bedrooms, kitchen- dining room, 2 toilets and a shower, parking in the garden, beautiful parks on the street. Kozárd stream flows in front of the houses and guests have to walk 20-30 m to reach the village centre. Suitable for holidays or business and conferences as well.

Adress:
Aranykorona
3053 Kozárd, Bem utca 2.
Csipkeház
3053 Kozárd, Petőfi u.1.



Vadvirág Restaurant

Vadvirág guest rooms

Four guest rooms, with bathrooms, fridge, air conditioning and comfortable pine furniture. It satisfies the needs of a 5-2-2-5 person middle sized group, or at least 2-3 families. The upstairs separated room offers sleeping bag placement for 15 people. In front of the rooms comfortable foreground, on the ground floor the European Quality Award winner Wildflower Restaurant is to be found.

Adress: 3053 Kozárd, Fő út 29.



Napfény Guest House, Palóc Flavours and Palóc Gallery

Favourite accommodations at Kozárd

There are three big rooms on the first floor and one on the ground floor with two nice bathrooms which is comfortable for 12-13 people. The big dining room is especially popular because of its glass walls letting the midday sunlight in. In front of the house there is parking place for 3 cars and lovely relaxing park. It is 20m from the village centre. The „House of Palóc Flavours „

opened in autumn in the neighbourhood of Napfény in 2014. One can taste here local jams, honey, bacon, sausages and cheeses. There are 2 guest rooms (one for disabled) with 2 and 4 beds, separate bathrooms. In the Palóc Gallery there are two x 2-bed room and a shared bathroom and a village museum operates.

Adress: 3053 Kozárd, Zrínyi köz 5.



Information valid for all accommodations at Kozárd :

Open all year.

Web: www.agroservice.hu

Reservation: +36-30-2104308 +36-20-3655758

hajas@kozard.hu

Guest house keys are available at the Wildflower Restaurant, its GPS coordinates: 47.914016, 19.618419. The rest of the houses are 40-50 meters from here.

The price for pilgrims:

3600 HUF / person / night, excluding the sleepingbag room in Vadvirág, which is 2800 HUF / person / night. Washing machine usage 3000HUF, washtub - sewage fee: 1000 HUF/ occasion.

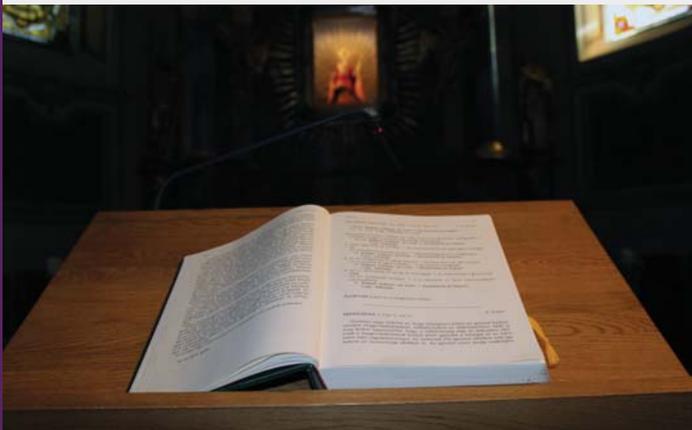
Each accommodation has free Internet / WiFi access.



Pilgrim House, Mátraverebély-Szentkút

The pilgrim house can provide accommodation for church groups on the first floor in a double room on the second floor in multi-bed rooms with shared bathrooms. The accommodation is suitable currently for pilgrims, spiritual retreaters or for church groups accepting modest circumstances. Registration: by filling in the form under Groupregistration menu on the webpage or by phone. The registration is valid only with feedback.

Adr.: 3077 Mátraverebély, Mátraverebély-Szentkút 14.
E-mail: szentkut@ofm.hu
Web: www.szentkut.hu
Phone: +36-32-471-559
GPS coordinates: 48.00012, 19.76214
Open from mid-May to mid-October.



For groups of pilgrims:

The basilica is open every day between 7 and 20 hours until the 15th of October, from mid-October to it is open from 7 to 18 hours. Groups of pilgrims are welcome every day. Prior registration is recommended for mass, confession or meals.

Groups of pilgrims, reservations, sales:

Phone: + 36-20-400-5878 E-mail: szentkutzallas@gmail.com

Lukáts Tanya (Farm)

Full comfort farmhouse

The Lukáts Tanya is one of the 6 watermills that had worked for 200 years in Ecseg, which was turned into a modern, all conveniences farmhouse. The water mill is located in a 2-acre plot, at the edge of the forest, stream bank, the last house of the village, on the bank of the Szuha creek, in the East-Cserhát Protected Landscape Area.

Adr.: 3053 Ecseg, Várszegi út 22.
 Web: lukats.hu/tanya
 Phone: +36-30-499-1820
 GPS Coords.: 47.90394, 19.59884
 Prices: 2 bedroom, 3&4 beds. 4000 HUF/person/night with sleeping bag For more than 4 people the whole house is 14,000 HUF/night with bedsheets for min. 2 days
 Opening hours: by arrangements 1-2 days before arrival.



SÁMSONHÁZA

Pálik Guest House

Rural accommodation



The cottage village, which is situated in the Cserhát in the valley of the Kis- Zagyva, in a quiet little village in an even quieter street, a fully renovated, traditional stone-built farmhouse furnished according to old traditions. There are two double and one triple rooms three extra beds are available upon request. The rooms are simple yet comfortable, practical, all the rooms are equipped with TV. Guests have access to a modern, fully equipped kitchen (stove, oven, microwave, refrigerator, dishes ...) dining room, bathroom and toilet. The house has a covered terrace with garden furniture and garden swing. The courtyard offers outdoor fireplace.

Adr.: 3074 Sámsonháza, Petőfi u. 29.
 E-mail: palikpalne@gmail.com
 Web: www.palikvendeghaz.gportal.hu
 Phone: +36-20-824-8916
 GPS Coordinates: 47.98678, 19.72395
 Prices: Accommodation: 2000 HUF/person/night
 IFA: 250 HUF/person/night (from age 18)
 Heating costs in winter: 3000 HUF / day
 Discounts: 3 under years it is free,
 between 3-14 years: 1500 HUF/person/night
 Open all year.



Newly built Mary gardens await the pilgrims at the following locations: Bér, Erdőkürt, Kozárd, Nógrádsáp, Pálosvörösmart, Sámsonháza, Vanyarc, Visonta.

The Mary gardens form and represent new attractions along the pilgrimage. They are far more than just rest stations: they are locations of spiritual recharge, contemplation, prayer sites, including group programs. In addition to the religious, cultural and gastronomic experiences, the newly built Mary Gardens of the small Nógrádien, Palcó and Slovak villages and also the hospitality of the locals assists the pilgrims' spiritual and physical strengthening along the way between the two shrines.

Visonta

Visonta village is located at the foot of the Mátra, the settlement is to be found along the Bene and Mátrai streams, a few hundred meters from the main road Nr. 3 and just 10 km from the city of Gyöngyös. It is easily accessible by car or by bus. The oldest historical building in Visonta is the catholic church in the centre of the village. It is first mentioned in a certificate dated 1323, it received its final shape at the end of the 1800s. The current interior of the church



was formed after 1959. The galleria hosts an organ of 9 pipes. The white walls are decorated with ornaments and seccos by István Takács.

Nógrádsáp

Nógrádsáp is situated in the south-western corner of the county, at the junction of the Cserhát and the hills of Gödöllő, in the valley of the Sápi-creek, with about thousand inhabitants. It was created by merging originally two different settlements in 1928, Lower- and Upper- Sáp under the name Nógrádsáp. The two towns were built together as part of the development, their residents mixed thought marriages and the church built in the 15th century, in late Gothic style was also in common use. The construction of the church (Virgin Mary church in honour of Mary) was at the end of the 15th century. Archaeologists found halved graves – because of the church's foundation, which means that it served as a burial place even before the 15th century.



Pálosvörösmart



Pálosvörösmart is the first mountain village at the foot of the junction of Mátra and Sárhegy. It lies in a beautiful setting, between Mátrafüred and Abasár settle-

ments. The grandchildren of Csobánka from the Aba clan founded a Pauline monastery here, in 1304. The church and the monastery of the Order had been built until 1334. The monastery was one of the biggest in Hungary at that time. In its heyday nearly a hundred Pauline Father and lay brothers lived at the monastery. The settlement's church was built in 1893, its patron saint is St. John the Baptist.

Piroska Vendégház

Szabóné Lovász Piroska
3261 Pálosvörösmart, Úttörő út 17.
+36 37 360 173; +36 30 627 0663
Price: 3000 HUF/person/night
half board: 5000 HUF/person/night

Mikola Vendégház

Mikola Ferencné
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WAYGIFTS



As we pitch upon the Great Plains, the mountains of Mátra, the hills of Cserhát during our trip, the same way we should look back upon the successes and failures of our lives. The pilgrimage increases the goodwill in us, in order to understand other people's way of thinking, culture and traditions. The pilgrimage unfolds the mercy in us to be able to accept everyone, with their differences, limitations and clumsiness. You can practice forgiveness, so that you look at everyone, day after day, as if he was a whole new person.

Have I been compassionate, understanding, sympathetic and receptive in my life so far?



Real peace and unity derives from practicing goodwill, compassion and forgiveness not only individually, alone, but also together with reciprocity.

Vajon keresem-e az igazi békét és törekszem-e az egységre?



The pilgrim is someone who quits the known, the comfort, the evident thus he becomes a bit of a stranger to the world. This is indicated in the origin of the word, too: the old Slavonic "sztrannyik" means odd, strange, foreign. The pilgrim gets distant from the earthly things, and so he a chance to belong to the pure in heart, about whom Jesus speaks in the Sermon on the Mount. Saint Francis of Assisi says that they are the ones who are „They are clean of heart who despise earthly things and always seek those of heaven, and who never cease to adore and contemplate the Lord God Living and True, with a pure heart and mind. „(Int 16). Being a pilgrim gives you the opportunity to become a man of prayer, to become pure in heart.



WAYGIFTS

DAY 1.

Have I reconciled with the created world,?



The journey goes along the border of the Great Plain and the Cserhát, that is the geographic edge of Upper Hungary. The endless plain opens up on one side, on the other side great mountains are towering: closest is the Szandavár characterized by its double towers and the Mátra. We move on the border of two worlds, just like in real life the border of the earth and the heavens. We have the ability, the desire within us to do the good, we can be generous, tolerant and forgiving - but the same way we are weak, we make mistakes, we hurt others for no reason.

"I've never seen more beautiful fruit tree,
then the Lord Jesus' cross, it blossoms with red
blood, it smells of the Holy Spirit smells"
(folk song of Bukovina)



Am I able to forgive? Am I reconciled with God, with myself, with the people and the creation? I can forgive everything to God that happened to me, point happened exactly to me? Can I accept myself the way as I am: with my talents and weaknesses? Have I reconciled with the created world, with the things that aren't working out the way I planned, with the things that annoy me?



Reconcile completely, as St. Francis of Assisi writes, „ what we do not fully forgive, Lord, make us fully forgive.” (Med.Ofat.8). The pilgrim looks to the heavens, and the „success” of his way can be measured only one way: whether he will be more reconciled, more patient and a more generous man at the end of the pilgrimage.



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I.

WAYGIFTS

DAY 2.

Am I able to give thanks, looking back on my life?
Am I used to give thanks?



This part of your journey is the highest, it leads to Tepke roof, from where there is a beautiful view on a clear day to Mátra, to Karancs on the north, to the thousand five hundred meters high peaks of the Gömör-Szepes ore mountain and to the north to the Great Palin. The created world is beautiful, it's good to give thanks for it.

"Look into the blue infinity,
Look at the little silver points:
No wonder you your soul is orphan
opening its wings towards them?"
(Reményik Sándor)



The good is not natural. There is someone who is good, who is himself the good, about him St. Francis of Assisi writes "Praise the Lord, for he is good; all who read this, bless the Lord! „ (BD 10-11). Szentkút is also the location of thanksgiving: for the Blessed Mother was with such spirit and Jesus grew up in this spirit. One of the most beautiful expression of it is the Magnificat, Mary's song of thanksgiving, which is a permanent part of the church's evening chants. "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant." (Lk 1.47 to 55)



So the pilgrim is somebody who is able to give thanks, one who can distinguish between good and bad, important and unimportant, who notices not only the wrong but the good, too - and this is why he is able to give thanks.



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II.

“Our Franciscan brothers trodden path for us in the storms of the twentieth century. We can reach to Christ by following them. This is such a way, to which we can measure ourselves, the aspirations of our lives.”

(fr. Kálmán Peregrin OFM)



Seven Franciscan monks testified their faith, and their humanity, they sacrificed their lives for Christ, for the persecuted and for the church between 1944 and 1954. The three of them became victims of Soviet and Yugoslavian troops, four of them became victims of the developing dictatorship. Their killers didn't realize that the blood of the martyrs will become seeds of the Church.

The mosaic of Szentkút presents for the first time the life

sacrifice of Franciscan martyrs facing beatification with their attributes: Next to the figure of P. Szaléz a stole received through a ladder, behind P. Bernát the barred prison windows, above the head of P. Zénó spikes and guns, next to P. Rafael Christ's robe, at the feet of P. Pelbárt a rooster. Over the head of P. Kristóf there is a whip, P. Krizosztom is depicted with wreath in the mosaic composition of the open-air altar.



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