



Walking tour at the Káli Basin



The most characteristic part of the Balaton Uplands was granted protection - perhaps at the last moment - when a protected landscape area in the Káli Basin was established in 1984 on an area of 9,111 hectare. Geological features of the area contribute to its outstanding natural values. Its geological structure is extraordinarily varied: we find Permian red sandstone mountains in the south, huge basalt mountains in the north, sandstone conglomerates in the west, limestone and dolomite in the east and in the middle of the basin. The basalt mountains stretch to the northern edge of the area in a broad plateau, to the valley of the Eger Creek. Several basalt cones emerge from the level of the basin (Hegyestű, Kis-Hegyestű, Lapos-Hegyestű, Kereki Hill etc.). In the middle of the basin, dolomite and limestone ridges cross-wetlands and surround the 15-hectare-large Kornyi Lake. The block fields near Salföld, Kővágóörs and Szentbékállá, where millstones were cut and carved for hundreds of years, are geological values famous throughout Europe. The most beautiful is the rocky ridge of Szentbékállá, which has survived almost intact until the present day. The forests on the mountaintops also show a great variety of plants. We find diverse forests in the area: from acidophilic oak-forests (e.g. at Küszöborra) and villous oaks mixed with sumac (Köves Hill) to the linden groves on basalt talus slopes (Balatonhenye Madár Forest), the forests of Turkey oaks which are extremely rich in plant life (Sátorma Hill), and beech forests mixed with bornbeam in the northern slopes (e.g. the valley of the Eger Creek). The many church towers of the seven villages, the wine cellars and the signs of a variety of agricultural work, vineyards, meadows and plough lands, constitute a special landscape in the Káli Basin. Since the Káli Basin became a protected area, local governments of the region have been able to preserve their old and historic buildings more effectively. The National Park Directorate has maintained pastures, mown fields, cut the vegetation around the ruins of old buildings, and cleaned several springs. Village tourism is increasing in the area. Reconstruction of the vineyards on the hills requires hard work, and restoring the reputation of the wines of the Káli Basin is yet to be accomplished, but what has been achieved so far in nature conservation and landscape protection is an encouraging star. Because of its beauty this area is very popular, and visited by a lot of tourists, who loves the nature, who loves the walking in the nature.

WALKING TOURS IN BAKONY FROM SZÉPALMA HOTEL



The hotel and convention centre Szépalma (Beautiful Apple) is situated in the heart of the tree-covered Bakony, the highest mountain range of Western Hungary. Tucked away in an idyllic countryside and blessed with a healthy highland climate (450 m above sea level) it is also the ideal venue for meetings as well as a place for relaxation and recovery for nature-loving people. The stud farm Szépalma was founded by the Family Eszterházy in the 17th century. The historical park with lovely trees, ponds and ornamental gardens invites you to take a walk. In the hotel there is a cosy lounge. In the restaurant the specialities of the local cuisine and international dishes are served.-if the weather is nice on the terrace or in the patio.

Services and amenities: 37 rooms, including 4 single rooms. 25 double rooms, 4 suites with bath and telephone, Most rooms are non smoking. Some specially equipped for handicapped. Lobby Bar: Drinks and desserts served throughout the day. All major international credit cards accepted. Sport facilities: badminton, cycling, cross-country, running, basketball, football, volleyball, table tennis, hiking. Sports equipment available for rent.

Excursion possibilities from the hotel:

1. Veszprém (30 minutes by bus)

Town of county rank on the border of the regions of the Bakony Mountains and the Balaton Highlands. County seats and archbishop's seat.



2. Balaton and Tihany (50 Minutes by bus)

The largest peninsula of Balaton, unique with its rich natural and historical values. Ferry boats transporting cars and busses too, from the southern edge of the peninsula. Tihany's most famous sight is the Abbey.



3. Hévíz and Keszthely (90 minutes by bus)

Hévíz, is the best known medicinal bath in Hungary. The thermal lake with a surface of 44.400 m it is the second largest in the world. The temperature of the water in summer 34 degrees Celsius in the winter 28 degrees Celsius and has a special curative effect on the different kinds of rheumatic, locomotor diseases, muscle and nervous system's disorders and gynaecological problems.

