Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison



One of the oldest Hungarian penitentiary institutions, the building was built in 1352 by King Louis I of Hungary for the monastery of the Hungarian Order of Saint Paul. After the defeat of the War of Independence in 1848-1849, Austrian criminal law came into force in Hungary, and the monastery building, which was empty at the time, was converted into a prison from 1858. Initially, female prisoners were held here, and the Sisters of Saint Vincent took care of their care and maintenance. In May 1949 the sisters were dismissed and the women were replaced by male prisoners. In the 1950s, Márianosztra was mainly used for political prisoners. From the late 1970s onwards, the institution underwent a spectacular development, with the construction of a factory, a boiler house, water and sewage systems, central heating and new prisoner workplaces.

Capacity: 550 people.

PROGRESSION
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The **Danube Bend** is the stretch of the Danube between Esztergom and Budapest. In this section the river flows between the Börzsöny and the Visegrád Mountains, and its course varies from west to east and north to south. The Danube Bend is one of Hungary's most important tourist areas, including the Danube settlements on both sides between Esztergom and Visegrád, and is also on the World Heritage Candidate List, with the sites of the medieval royal centre of Visegrád and the Esztergom Castle.

VISEGRÁD



Upper Castle

Visegrád Castle is one of the most significant monuments of the imperial castle architecture in Hungary, where every important architectural period from the 13th century to the end of the 15th century has left its mark. The Upper Castle is one of the monuments within Visegrád

whose 14th-15th century carved material is relatively complete, so the nearly 300 carved stone fragments and large quantities of finds that have come to light so far are an important contribution to the understanding of medieval and late medieval secular culture. Built after the First Mongol Invasion of Hungary, the castle, with its representative detailing, was from the early period a royal seat and later a place of custody for the crown. From the Anjou period until the end of the late Matthias period, it was continuously enlarged and rebuilt, before being destroyed during the siege of the Turkish Wars.

Solomon Tower

Solomon Tower, the residential tower of the Lower Castle, was built in the mid-13th century and was mistakenly named Solomon Tower after the 11th century king. The tower is almost unique in Hungarian architecture of the period.
The main entrance to the 13th century tower was from the first floor, from where a staircase built into the south wall led to the upper floor. The upstairs rooms were heated by columnar fireplaces. The four floors of the tower contained living quarters. On the sixth floor was a roof terrace with a walkway behind the encircling battlements. From here, there was access to an external wooden balcony corridor. A privy tower was attached to the west side of the residential tower.

Royal Palace – Visegrád

The Visegrád Royal Palace is a complex of buildings in Visegrád built between the 14th and 15th centuries. The Royal Palace was one of the largest and most magnificent complexes of buildings in medieval Hungary.
The palace was the predecessor of the town house of Charles I of Hungary, which he had built on the site of the present palace after the transfer of his seat to Visegrad in 1323.
Construction of the palace was begun by Charles' son Louis I of Hungary, but was not completed until his successors, Queen Mary and Sigismund of Luxembourg, in the early years of the 15th century.
The northeastern part of the complex was the centre of the palace, where a three-storey square building housed the royal and queenly apartments. The upper two floors housed the King and Queen's quarters, while the lower floor was for the staff.
This was the site of the famous Visegrád Royal Meeting in 1335.
Several rooms in the Royal Palace have been restored to the period of Matthias. The furniture and other objects were made on the basis of archaeological finds.
From the top of the hill, you can look out over the town and the Danube Bend and enjoy a breathtaking view you will never forget. And if you've been here before, you only have to walk out onto the terrace of the Upper Castle to be captivated again.

MÁRIANOSZTRA - Börzsöny (popular walking trail)



Only the Gothic sanctuary remains of the 14th century Paulist monastery and church. The church was rebuilt in Baroque style between 1719 and 1738, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary of the Hungarians. It’s a place of pilgrimage.

The Baroque ensemble of the former Pauline monastery and church on the hillside dominates the village. Passing through the ornate gateway into the enclosed courtyard, one of the finest works of the mature Hungarian Baroque, the church's distinctive two-towered façade, unfolds.
The walls of the octagonal sanctuary are supported by original Gothic buttresses. A two-storey block of rusticated plaster frames the fourcourt.
An interesting feature of the interior is that the nave is the same length as the sanctuary, according to medieval Pauline rule. Above the side chapels there is a gallery for the monks.

The relic of Saint Paul the Hermit can be seen behind the altar.

Saint Paul the Hermit was born to wealthy Egyptian parents, but lost his parents at the age of 16. His sister was married off, and his brother-in-law came after his fortune and his life. In 249 the Decius persecution of Christians flared up and, fearing his brother-in-law's denunciation, Paul fled into the wilderness. In the wilderness of Lower Thebes he found a cave with a hidden entrance and took refuge there. Near the cave, date palms grew and a spring of clear water sprang up. He made himself clothes from the leaves of the palm trees. An early Christian community formed around Paul. Long afterwards, a huge monastery was built in the Egyptian wilderness where tradition has it that St Paul the Hermit lived.

The Order of Saint Paul is a male hermit monastic order founded in Hungary, which is still in operation today. Official name: Order of Saint Paul the First Hermit. They are dressed in white.