



AROUND THE RIVER MUR



Interreg

Austria-Hungary

European Union – European Regional Development Fund

City Cooperation II





Letenye Behind the scenes

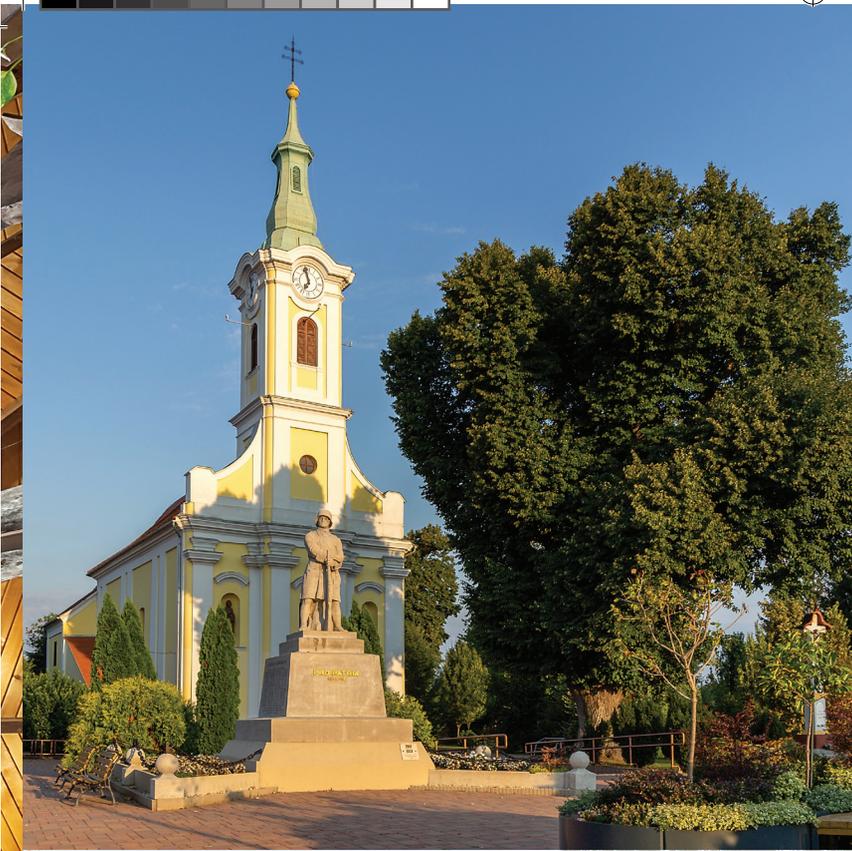
The municipality, with a population exceeding 4000 persons and a location along the river Mur, is the southwestern gate of Hungary. The atmosphere and the unique charm of the town are defined by the proximity of the Croatian, Slovenian and Austrian borders, the meeting of cultures, the diverse natural environment, the stream Béci crossing the municipality, the ridges situated nearby, but first and foremost the proximity of river Mur.

Letenye is a family-friendly and calm small town close to the nature, something way more than we expect at first sight. As we spend more and more time around local people and participate in more and more active adventures while being surrounded by the nature, the fascinating character is revealed minute by minute, step by step.

A plenty of adventures and challenges are available here: hiking, cycling, water adventures, fishing and hunting, a rich cultural offer is making the above more attractive to the visitors coming from every corner of the world throughout the year. In addition, the local traditions, the excellent wines, and the delicious, special meals awaken each sense and turn the days we spend here into an unforgettable experience.

Visit Letenye and look behind the scenes, we guarantee that you will not be disappointed.

www.letenye.hu



Step by step: from the inner town to the surrounding sights

The inner town itself is centered on the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Parish Church and the square with a beautiful garden next to it.

In the round-arched compartments of the fairly renovated external facade of the more than 250-years-old church, we can see the replicates of the old statues of Saint Peter and Saint Andrew, the originals are safeguarded in the nearby Andrassy Castle. The interior space is decorated by the high altar with angel statues, the two side altars, and the murals painted in the 1960s.

In front of the church, the World War I Monument commemorates the death of the fallen heroes from Béc, Letenye és Egyeduta – the three municipalities later merged as Letenye.



The Szapary-Andrassy Castle – located in a very close proximity, partially renovated and currently operating as a community center – is not only a piece of our architectural and historical heritage, but also worthy for attention because of the beautiful garden with ancient trees surrounding it. The baroque castle, built by the Szapary family sometimes during the 1700s, has been acquired by the Andrassy family by the means of a marriage around 1830, the latter family has reconstructed it by using classicist elements.

The interior space hosts the permanent exhibition Chapters from the history of Letenye, presenting the artefacts discovered by archeological explorations performed in the town and the surrounding area in a chronological order, from the Prehistoric Age, the Roman Age and the Middle Age to the Millennium. We can learn about the local characteristics of the history of the 19th century and the early 20th century thematically, we can gain an insight into the everyday life of the past and the local arts through the selections “Shepherd’s Life – Shepherd’s Art”, “What the Forest Has Given Us” and “The Woodcarving Workshop of Letenye and its Artists”. A room with an interior designed to represent the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries is a spectacular piece of the exhibition, a real travel through time.



The Monumental Column of Lajos Kossuth, one of the most significant characters of the 19th century history of Hungary, and the Library Pavilion, considered as an excellent piece of organic architecture, consisting of twelve angles, built by using only natural materials and finished in 1993, are both located in the garden of the castle.



A walk in the castle park

The castle park itself, with an area of approximately 5.6 hectares, is a fabled place for relaxation where everyone can enjoy spending time under the ancient trees to adore the diverse variety of species and forms, to read a book, to take a light walk, or to perform some kind of sports activity. Genuine rarities can also be found here: huge pedunculate oak trees, yew trees, bignonia trees, and a flora consisting of hundreds of deciduous and evergreen species. We can find the maidenhair tree, the oldest of the living tree species here, and the path of the visitors walking through the garden is decorated by a colorful selection of different shrubs. However, the most famous of these examples of beauty is the approximately 500-years-old giant plane tree at the beginning of the garden.

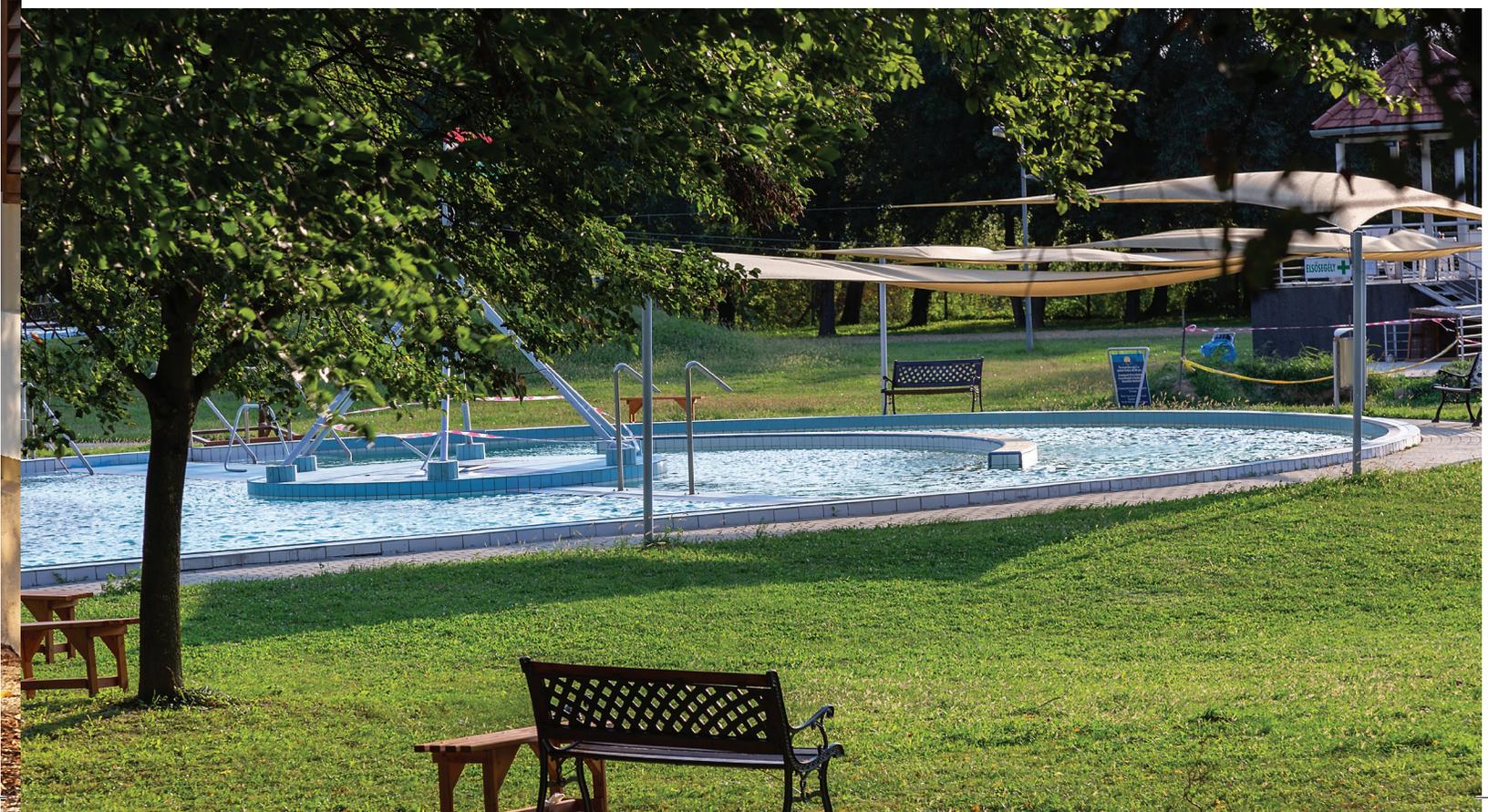


Living history – the 500-years-old plane tree

After seeing it once, we will no longer doubt why the castle park's plane tree, representing prestige and having the estimated age of 500 years, has been selected as the Tree of the Year of Hungary in 2010. As having a height of almost 20 meters, a trunk of more than 6 meters, and a crown with a diameter of 36 meters, there is nothing to compare the appearance. This tree is a keeper of centuries-old secrets, legends and tales, it catches the eyes from a distance by its amazing sizes and its tangling branches from a fantasy world, and of course it also attracts an army of curious tourists and photographers.

Water-related programmes

The spa and thermal bath of the town is located right next to the garden, therefore this whole green area provides an excellent place for relaxation, attracting visitors with many different opportunities of relaxation, sports and entertainment. Two hot water pools, a swimming pool, a children's pool and a learning pool are waiting for the visitors at the grassy area of three hectares of the spa. The thermal water, coming from the deep and having positive effects, contains magnesium hydrogen carbonate. In addition to the pools, the visitors seeking active relaxation are attracted by a camping site and sports fields.



SEARCHING FOR LOCAL TRADITIONS



The visitors of the traditional house called FÁMA House are welcomed by an atmosphere representing the rural life of the past century in each aspect, hosting the collection of local values of folklore and ethnography, and a part of the heritage of Master of Folk Art Mrs. Sándor Keszesi is also presented here.

In the house, there is an authentic so-called Room of Letenye, where we can see how the traditional costumes of Letenye look like. A kitchen showroom representing the atmosphere of the 1960s is also located here. The barn and the hutches are no longer building supporting the livestock; after a complete renovation, they host the exhibition areas, a dollhouse, and a craftsmen's workshop presenting a collection of old tools. The tools of folk agriculture that are almost unknown by today's people, the tools of storing cereal, the tools of winegrowing and the tools necessary for slaughtering pigs are presented by the shed. The special items and the charming rural atmosphere of the traditional house represent the true self of the town, as we can find the traditions, culture and gastronomy typical of the region here. In each part of the home, we can feel that local people still keep the traditions alive, and respect the experience and knowledge saved from the past.



Living in harmony with the nature

After leaving the area of the town, rich of green areas itself, we can find the untouched nature along the countless hiking trails around Letenye.

The great thing about Letenye is whatever direction we decide to take, we will surely find something special or exciting. The landscape is defined by the fast-flowing River Mur, rhapsodic and rich of natural values, providing an exciting and wild rafting route for persons into more extreme adventures.

Moreover, we can select from many hikes at the area of River Mur Protected Landscape Park, we can start the trip both individually and with professional guidance. The hikers can decide to explore the fabled dales, the rich hillside areas, and the charming villages both by foot and bicycle. In the empire of a diverse flora and fauna, we cannot only refresh the body, but we can also start an inner journey. The mind can be cleaned here easily, and while we explore more and more beautiful landscapes, we can encounter unique natural values.

We can see an amazing view from the surrounding heights. It is recommended to visit the Viewpoint of The Blessed Buzád, located at Mount Zajki, not only to see the nice view, but also for the special Makovecz style building itself. Another popular destination is Öreghegy, attracting visitors not only with a beautiful landscape, but also with wine experiences.



RECOMMENDATION FOR HIKING IN THE REGION

Arboretum of Budafapuszta - More than 200 species of trees and shrubs, a small lake and a viewpoint can be found in the arboretum, located at the area of 46 hectares around the Zichy Hunting Lodge. The scene of the garden is the most beautiful in the spring, when the flowers of azaleas and rhododendrons turn the garden into a wonderful world.

Kistolmács - Mainly known from the Lake of Kistolmács, a perfect destination for fishermen, and for visitors into bathing and water sports. The last stop of the forest railway is located a couple hundred meters from here, we can travel to Lenti from here while stopping at beautiful stops. Bicycles can be transported on the board of the trains.



Lenti - From the sights of the town surrounding the river Kerka, the thermal bath and the Saint George Energy Park attract the visitors seeking refreshment and healing, the ruins of the old castle and the permanent exhibition "Treasures of Gőcsej, the Forest and the Tree" at the last stop of the railway attract the persons interested in history, culture and traditions.

Ancient beech-grove of Vétyem

- We can sense the hug of the untouched nature with each of our sensory organs while walking in the forest next to Tormafölde; we are surrounded by silence interrupted by tweeting birds, odorous and fresh air, and amazingly diverse flora. In one of the oldest forest of Hungary, we can encounter with an amazingly rich wildlife. The sizes of the trees represent prestige, the higher ones reach even 40 meters. We can enjoy the beauty of the uninterrupted landscape both by foot or bicycle.



Events thorough the year

Throughout the year, the diverse community and cultural life of Letenye provides events not only to local people, but also to domestic and foreign visitors. From January to December, we can choose from many events, the most popular ones are the Saint Vincent's Day Cellar Visits, the Snowdrop Feast, the Séta Square Music Nights organized during the summer, the Days Around Mur, and the Fall Plane Tree Days.

www.letenye.hu





Wine and gastronomical adventures

Letenye is considered as an exceptional place from the point of view of the wine culture of southwestern Hungary, because a large area of vineyards with hundreds of years of tradition, and a series of the related wine cellars, are located at the edge of the town. Thanks to the climatic and geographical characteristics, and the experienced and dedicated local winegrowers of course, the wine-producing area, considered as a part of the Wine Path of Zala, is the home of high-quality, odorous and light white wines. Welschriesling, Müller-Thurgau, Cserzégi fűszeres and Pinot Gris are the most typical varieties dominating.

The thatched harrow cellar of the vineyard is also a preferred stop of hikers. It was built at the beginning of the 20th century to save values, to preserve the elements discovered at the mounts of Béc and Zajki properly, and to present them to the next generations. The building hosts events of wine tourism on a regular basis, and it is also a significant piece of local folklore architecture.

In this region, walks are generally started by visiting a cellar, and ended by discussions with a truly good and friendly atmosphere. Anyone who has ever tasted the aphrodisiacs of winegrowers, will not be eager to leave for sure. In addition, it is easy to engage in conversations with the hosts, who will not only talk about the secrets of growing wine, but they will also entertain the persons roaming around with local legends and nice tales.

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Of course, good wines are accompanied by good tastes in Letenye. The diverse gastronomical offer of the region and the local specialties are available in the restaurants of the town, or during the different events or wine tastings. Who would not be ready to taste dödölle, made from potato and flavored with roasted onions, or krumpliprósza, another meal based on potato? If you are nearby, try the home-made strudel, the maize polenta, and when it comes to meat dishes, the *sistergós* of Letenye.

What is the difference between krumpliprósza and tócsni, a similar meal prepared in other parts of Hungary?

Generally, we use grated potato, salt, flour, garlincs, pepper and eggs if we prepare tócsni, but we only add kefir and curdled milk to grated potato, salt and flour if we prepare krumpliprósza. And which one is the more delicious? It is difficult to tell, because both of them are fantastically delicate if we add sour cream, onions or cheese.





Accessibility

The most southern small town of Zala County, the southwestern gate of Hungary, the first Hungarian station of the East-West traffic route in relation to Croatia and Italy. Access by road: Highway 7, Motorway M7, train connection via Nagykanizsa.

Distance: 230 km from Budapest • 244 km from Vienna
118 km from Zagreb • 232 km from Ljubljana

Tourist information:

Tourinform office

8868 Letenye, Szabadság tér 4.
next to the Szapáry-Andrássy castle

Opening hours: Mo-Fri 8:00-16:00



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