

THINK HUNGARY, MORE THAN EXPECTED



# GÖDÖLLŐ AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Think **HUNGARY** 



Europe's first World Peace Gong



## TIME TRAVEL IN THE BAROQUE ERA

# GÖDÖLLŐ AND ENVIRONS

**Enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside, only half an hour away from the bustle of Budapest. The friendly town of Gödöllő offers royal pomp as well as folk traditions. Take a leisurely stroll and discover its parks, museums, historical buildings and monuments.**



Gödöllő is more than a small town just outside Budapest; it offers sights that are unique not only in Hungary, but in the whole of Europe. Visit Hungary's largest Baroque palace, the smallest statue of the Virgin Mary, the oldest stone theatre, the second most-significant agricultural machine collection in the world and Europe's first World Peace Gong. The permanent Art Nouveau exhibition and the National Boy Scout collection are remarkable.

Feast your eyes on the luxurious suites of the Royal Palace and its elegant gardens, the rich photography collection and fascinating interiors. Szent István University provides youthful energy, while the Máriabesnyő shrine inspires peaceful contemplation.

Gödöllő is a town of parks, gardens and orchards, as well as statues and monuments depicting not only its famous sons and saints, but also universal human values. The Monument of World Peace, the World Tree and

the Park of National Unity symbolise values reaching across borders.

Many events in the rich cultural life of Gödöllő mark important moments from history. The Antal Day Merriment and Baroque Days commemorate Antal Grassalkovich (the builder of the Baroque palace) and the visit of Queen Maria Therese respectively. Many festivals refer to the monarchy and Hungary's beloved Queen Elisabeth. The palace hosts the annual International Harp Festival and Liszt Festival, and opera lovers will delight in performances in the Baroque theatre.

The best way to discover Gödöllő is to take one of many thematic walks, whether you want to learn about Queen Elisabeth, the legendary Sisi or Boy Scout history. The green belt surrounding Gödöllő is rich in lakes and invites ramblers to discover hidden hamlets.

After a full day of exploring, recharge in one of the outstanding restaurants, patisseries and hotels Gödöllő has to offer. [http://turizmusgodollo.hu/en/godollo\\_info](http://turizmusgodollo.hu/en/godollo_info)

**Gödöllő Botanical Garden and Carplove Park »** Founded in 1902 and named after the Garden of Archduke Joseph, the “most Hungarian Habsburg,” who loved to build gardens, this was the most important botanical garden in Hungary prior to WWII. A beekeeping park, the only one in Europe, was also built next door. The 860 acres of the botanical garden is home to 147 conifer and gymnosperms species and 875 types of leafy trees and bushes, and open to the public all year round. Only a five-minute-drive from the Royal Palace of Gödöllő, the Botanical Garden is also reachable by train or bus and can be explored via convenient walking and cycling trails. The Gar-



Botanical Garden in Gödöllő

den is a popular venue for family, company and school events. Arbofeszt, the festival of the botanical Garden takes place in May every year and means a grand day out for the whole family. The Garden is a popular venue for family, company and school events. [www.parkerdo.hu](http://www.parkerdo.hu), [www.arbofeszt.hu](http://www.arbofeszt.hu)

**Farm Animal Gene Preservation Centre »** The Gene Preservation Centre is one of the oldest research institutes in

Hungary. As a special unit of the Centre, the Institute of Apiculture (bee-keeping) and the Apicultural Park was built next to the Gödöllő Botanical Garden in fabulous settings. The Apiculture Park is open year-round and is a special attraction in Gödöllő, not only for beekeepers. [www.genmegorzes.hu](http://www.genmegorzes.hu)

**Hotel Queen Elisabeth & Restaurant** » The Hotel Queen Elisabeth\*\*\* is located at the centre of Gödöllő, near the Royal Palace and only 25 minutes away from the downtown of Budapest. The Hotel has 62 modern, well-equipped, and comfortable rooms and can hold up to 130 person. We await our guests with quality service, a stylish restaurant, a unique ballroom, a

Hotel Queen Elisabeth, situated on the town square of Gödöllő is open to groups and individual guests.



complete conference facility, and with a helpful staff. Our Hotel also has an inside garden and an underground garage which can hold up to 20 cars. The Queen Elisabeth Restaurant & Café offers a wide range of Hungarian and international specialities, including low-calorie and vegetarian meals. In our coffee shop guests can enjoy a great variety of quality alcoholic and soft beverages, coffee creations and cakes. [www.ekhotel.hu](http://www.ekhotel.hu)

Gödöllő Botanical Garden is one of the most significant botanical parks in Hungary.





Royal Palace of Gödöllő

## FAVOURITE RESORT OF QUEEN SISSI

# THE ROYAL PALACE OF GÖDÖLLŐ

**The always lively Royal Palace at Gödöllő is a national treasure of Hungary, a symbol of diversity that fulfils cultural, diplomatic and tourist functions all in one.**

The building was commissioned by Antal Grassalkovich, one of the preeminent lords of 18th century Hungary and the Chancellor of Queen Maria Therese, launching a new style in Hungarian palace architecture. During the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy it was a favourite retreat of Queen Elisabeth, also known as Hungary's beloved Sissi. After WWII the palace was used as a Soviet barracks and later a home for the elderly, and the building steadily declined. You can follow the history of the palace in the permanent exhibition charting the Baroque period, the occupancy of the Royal family, and its history right up to the present day.

Looking at the astounding pace of recent renovations one would think that the Royal Palace of Gödöllő has been completely reborn. In fact only one half of the complex has been completed so far. As part of two European Union projects the central section of the grounds, the Elisabeth Terrace, the Horthy Bunker and the stables and riding school have been restored. These new developments now turn the visits of children into an interactive experience, as the Directors believe that only learning through experience leads to long-term knowledge.



During Hungary's 2011 EU presidency, the palace welcomed foreign delegations in its full splendour. The representative spaces, restored faithfully to their historical glory, passed the highest demands of protocol with flying colours and continue to serve as the spectacular setting for protocol events and company functions. The museum shops offer a wide selection of quality memorabilia related to the royal family and Gödöllő.

The Royal Palace of Gödöllő presents a rich cultural programme. There are five major weekends offering programmes for the whole family, and music fills the historic rooms throughout the year. The Rudolph wing invites visitors to a journey through time; stepping inside, one finds oneself among real curiosities year on year.

Discover the unique atmosphere of The Royal Palace of Gödöllő, one of the most attractive tourist destinations in all of Hungary. [www.royalpalacegodollo.com](http://www.royalpalacegodollo.com)

**Lázár Equestrian Park** » Situated only half an hour from Budapest in the heart of the picturesque Domonyvölgy in the Duna-Ipoly National Park, the Lázár Park is not only an equestrian centre, but a hub for rambling, an event venue and a popular destination with Hungarian and international nature lovers in a beautiful valley dotted with lakes. The Park is owned by Vilmos and Zoltán Lázár, 16 time Carriage Driving World Champions.

Visitors can learn about equestrian traditions during spectacular performances of carriage driving, horseback archery, the acrobatics of the horseherders and hussars. These dramatic equestrian shows evoke the period of Queen Elis-



Lázár Equestrian Park

abeth and the programme culminates in the breath-taking “puszta ötös,” where a rider stands on the back of two horses while being pulled by another three. Walking around the park, visitors can meet native Hungarian livestock breeds, like grey cattle, racka sheep, mangalica pigs and puli dogs.

After an exciting day in the fresh air, guests can have lunch or dinner in one of three taverns, decorated in



different folk styles, serving traditional home-style Hungarian dishes, accompanied by a classic five piece gypsy band. The Equestrian Park is not only an attractive tourist destination, but also a great venue for family celebrations, weddings, school trips, company events and team building exercises. The Lázár Team is always improving and developing new ways in which to host and entertain their guests every year. [www.lazarteam.hu](http://www.lazarteam.hu)

**Máriabesnyő** » The Nagyboldogasszony Basilica Minor makes this Shrine to the Virgin Mary truly special. Furthermore the Grassalkovich family crypt, the most beautiful

Baroque church and Virgin Mary Statue, located in the beautifully situated Máriabesnyő attract thousands of pilgrims every year.



Basilica in Máriabesnyő

Baroque sepulchre in Hungary, can be found here. The Mater Salvatoris House of Retreat and Conference Centre provides accommodation in a beautiful setting for those looking for a quiet retreat, and offers a wide selection of spiritual exercises for those looking for spiritual renewal. The restaurant offering home-style cooking is a particular favourite with guests. [www.matersalvatoris.hu](http://www.matersalvatoris.hu)

Equestrian Park is a mixture of Hungarian village feeling with a top quality riding park.

**Hungaroring** » Home of the Hungarian Grand Prix, Hungaroring has been receiving visitors from around the world for thirty years.

The racetrack at Mogyoród, half way between Budapest and Gödöllő, is one of Europe's most prestigious Formula 1 venues. The Hungarian Grand Prix held here in late July attracts motor sports enthusiasts from far and wide. Hungaroring doesn't just sleep the rest of the year either: the complex offers many attractions throughout the year. The 308 acres hold countless engine-revving delights for lovers of high speeds.

Hungary's most modern driving centre can be found near the Mansell corner, opposite the Silver Tribune. Here drivers can learn about both their own and their car's limitations, with expert instructors simulating accident scenarios with no danger to the driv-

er. Taking part in a course can not only save your life, but it's a lot of fun too.

The Hungaroring off-road centre is paradise for 4x4 drivers with a 20km system of forest roads and an off-road driving school with ten different elements. Beside 4x4 driving courses, many fun activities are available for lovers of extreme sports, like driving quads and earthmoving vehicles.

Hungaroring Motorcycle Academy teaches safe bike handling and driving techniques. A learning strip next to the F1 track as well as a dirt track make practice easy and fun. [www.hungaroring.hu](http://www.hungaroring.hu)

**Aquaréna** » Not only the biggest water park in Hungary, but in Central Europe, Aquaréna is located next to Hungaroring. Spread over 28 acres, the park has 21 slides, which make altogether 1.5km of slides above and below ground. Have an aquatic adven-



Aquaréna



ture in nine pools, including a Jacuzzi, a three-level diving pool, Kids' World and Lazy River.

On Saturday afternoons DJ Dominique & Friends are in charge of the pool party, and Sunday is Aqua Zumba in the main pool. A free shuttle bus from Budapest and afternoon discounts bring Aquaréna closer to everyone. [www.aquarena.hu](http://www.aquarena.hu)

**Gödöllő: only half an hour away from Budapest** » By train: From Budapest Keleti train station (M4 metro line).

By HÉV: H8, from Órs Vezér tere to Gödöllő Szabadság Square, every half an hour.

By bus: From Stadion bus station (M2 metro line, Stadionok station) to Gödöllő Szabadság Square, every half an hour.

By car: Motorway M3 (Andrássy Ave. – Városliget) or Route 3 (Keleti train station), about 20-30 minutes. From Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport Route 4, then M0-M31-Route 3, about 30 minutes.





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