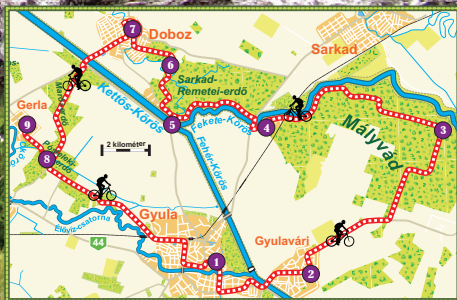


# Thematic Active Tourism Routes in Békés and Arad Counties



Mid-Békés Centre  
colourful facilities

Explore the Körös Valley!



Two countries, one goal, joint success!



Hungary-Romania  
Cross-Border Co-operation  
Programme 2007-2013

European Union  
European Regional Development Fund





The area of the Fekete-Körös and Mályvád in Békés County

## Békés County



## Arad County

The Zaránd Mountains  
in Arad County

## Greetings

It is a pleasure for us to provide You this publication of tourism that fills an information gap in Arad and Békés Counties. Such detailed informative brochure with such versatile facilities has not been issued in the local supply of active tourism. In the following pages, we gathered the most popular routes and trekking areas in cross-border relation and present them as offers to You.

This brochure could be prepared in the frames of the Hungary-Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programme, that supported our project entitled 'Organising Thematic Tourism Programmes in the Körös Valley' (HURO/0901/241/2.1.3 ActiveTours). Besides issuing 15.000 brochures altogether in Hungarian, Romanian and English languages, we could extend the supply of active tourism equipments with dragon boats, unbreakable canoes, bicycles, GPS tools and Nordic Walking sticks, which You can use here. Thanks to this project, boarding became possible with two additional ports for water tourists, one on the Élővíz-Canal, at the Bandika-tree, between Békéscsaba and Békés, and the other on the Kettős-Körös, between Békés and Köröstarcsa, where You can visit the nearby Bodoky Károly Water Management Museum that has exhibitions about the river regulation in the 19th century and the past of the flood-protection.

The landscapes of Békés - the rivers, forests, lowlands, where it is worth to visit the estates of the farmer count-families of the previous centuries, castles, mansions, botanical gardens or the thousand-year-old kurgans that are the first built remains - can be explored trekking by bicycles, or Nordic Walking sticks, navigating by GPS tools without getting lost. And if you are in the mood, within one trip you can get acquainted with the rich cultural treasures of the three Mid-Békés towns of Gyula, Békéscsaba and Békés.

Today the tourism values of the neighbouring Romania can also be reached easily, so we offer the trekking facilities in whole Arad County, let it say the wonderful mountains, the non-regulated rivers as natural values, or city sightseeing trips, cultural and gastronomy treasures. In this publication the tourist routes of the Codru Moma and Zaránd Mountains, the Fehér-Körös, the Maros and the city of Arad with its surrounding can be found with lots of important information.

This brochure has been prepared with our partners' help, the Körös-Valley Nature Park Association and the Arad Branch of the National Council for Romanian Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises, who, as well as the Mid-Békés Territorial Development Municipal Association, can provide further information regarding the project and the routes. Also please visit the sites [www.kozepbekesi.hu](http://www.kozepbekesi.hu) and [www.imm-arad.ro](http://www.imm-arad.ro) for more detailed descriptions of the routes.

On behalf of the whole project-partnership, Mid-Békés Territorial Development Municipal Association wishes You a pleasant stay in the Körös Valley, in Arad and Békés Counties!





### Route characteristics:

- ! More asphalt, less dirt road, waterway: rich vegetation in summer
- ! Transferring canoes at the flood-gates
- ! Difficulty: ■■■■■

### Route and sights:

40 km  
 5 hours ■■■■■

(Gyula) Castle of Gyula – Main square – Main road 44 (on the service road) – Veszé junction – Bank of the Élvíz canal – (Békéscsaba) Árpád sor – Town centre – Bank of the Élvíz canal – Main road 470 (on bicycle road) – (Békés) Petőfi square – Erzsébet park – Dánfok – Szanazug – Gyula

30 km  
 8 hours ■■■■■

Gyula (Kisököjárás) – Veszé junction – Békéscsaba – Bandika-tree – Békés (Erzsébet park)

- (1) Békéscsaba town centre – cultural sights; (2) Körös Valley Visitor Centre; (3) Bandika-tree, Cimborá-tree (4) Sikony dam guard house; (5) Békés town centre – cultural sights; (6) Erzsébet park; (7) Dánfok Tourism Centre, small-boat port; (8) Szanazug; (9) Tourists' centre in Kisököjárás; (10) Castle of Gyula; (11) Gyula town centre – cultural sights; (12) Castle park in Póstelek; (13) Junction at Veszé

# Mid-Békés Tours

The round-route encircling and presenting the three towns, Gyula, Békéscsaba and Békés in the middle of Békés County can be completed in whole year round. In summer, it is advised to discover the surroundings by canoe on the Élvíz-canal connecting the three towns.

During this trip, the cultural monuments, environmental heritage and natural and landscape values among the towns appear for the visitors.



Canoeists on the Élvíz canal

## Offers

~ Póstelek, which can be found between Gyula and Békéscsaba, invites the hikers to a pleasant natural atmosphere. The castle park of the former Széchenyi-Wenckheim property is well-maintained, hosting its visitors with tour-paths, sports courts, fire-places, rain-shelters, restaurants, and an event room.

~ Between Békés and Békéscsaba, where the main road 470 diverge from the Élvíz-canal, two white poplars – the Bandika-tree and the Cimborá-tree – can be found and each of them is hundreds of years-old. They were our farming ancestors' popular meeting points.

Either by canoe, or by bicycle, it is worth to stop at this point for a while.

~ Cultural sights: **Gyula:** Erkel Memorial House, Castle Bath, Castle of Gyula, Almásy-Wenckheim Castle **Békéscsaba:** Munkácsy Memorial House, Slovakian farmstead, Körös Valley Visitor Centre **Békés:** Mátyás Janttyik Museum, basketmaker shop, Calvinist church



Munkácsy Memorial House

Castle of Gyula



## Info

~ Ferenc Erkel, founder of the Hungarian opera, composer of the Hungarian national anthem, was born in Gyula. His house of birth introduces the artist's work, personal things, the former atmosphere in an interactive way. It is worth a visit! ([www.erkelemlekzhaz.eu](http://www.erkelemlekzhaz.eu))

~ Békés, the settlement that gave the name to the county, is the seat of basket-work. The winding courses of the Körös Rivers were surrounded by willow-trees, providing excellent raw material for basketry. There are still workshops, where this old craft can be tried, and versatile, unique products are on sale.

~ Mihály Munkácsy, the internationally famous painter spent most of his childhood in Békéscsaba. His talent of painting was revealed here, then he improved his skills in European cities. In Békéscsaba, the Memorial House and the Museum that were named of him, displays several of his works. ([www.munkacsyemlekzhaz.hu](http://www.munkacsyemlekzhaz.hu))

~ The Élvíz canal, that connects the three towns, was dug by public workers in 1777. It served as a transportation route for wood and as a water supply in the 18th and 19th centuries for the inhabitants of Békéscsaba. Later, it provided popular bathing resorts and today pleasant walkways and promenades surround it creating a green line among the Mid-Békés towns.

~ The Castle of Gyula from the 15th century is the only preserved lowland, gothic brick-castle.



Erkel Memorial House

The Catholic church in Békéscsaba



# Kettős-Körös Adventure



## Route characteristics:

- ! Unobstructed water route; dam is passable only in dry weather
- ! Difficulty: ■ ■ ■

(Landing from canoes is possible at the pier on the right bank at stream-kilometre 14) After visiting the exciting exhibition of the museum, the route continues to the naturally winding section of the river till Köröstarcsa. There in the food stall at the port your rations can be replenished and the main sights in the settlement with 2500 inhabitants can be visited – the Cultural Eco-Centre and

## Route and sights:

19 km  
5-6 hours ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Small boat port of Békés – Kettős-Körös River – Small boat port of Köröstarcsa

30 km  
3-4 hours ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Békés-Dánfok – Small boat port of Köröstarcsa (opportunity for crossing at the bridges of Mezőberény and Békés)

! Attention! No crossing at the water dam of Békés allowed.

● (1) Békés-Dánfok; (2) Monument of the rupture of the dam; (3) Hosszúfok – Bodoky Károly Water management Museum; (4) Petőfi Memorial Site; (5) Small boat port in Köröstarcsa, cultural sights

The romantic section of the Körös Rivers between Békés and Köröstarcsa invites nature-fans to an impressive environment. During the trip visitors get to learn about the past of the river regulation and flood protection in the Károly Bodoky Water Management Museum next to the dam guard house in Hosszúfok.



Canoeists on the River, Körös

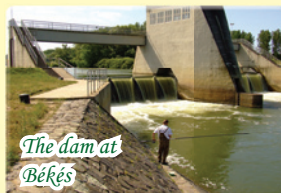
Rural House, the Calvinist church, the Weavers' House and horse riding yard. These sights can be visited by horse-drawn carriage from the port.

It is an attracting adventure in dry weather to take a whole round-trip, or after canoeing to Köröstarcsa to go back to Békés-Dánfok by bicycle on the right- and left-side of the dams along the River Kettős-Körös.

## Offers

~ Rowing in one boat! – Every year, the Municipality of the Town of Békés organises the two-day-trip on water from Sarkad to Köröstarcsa with 80-

100 canoeists. ([www.bekesvaros.hu](http://www.bekesvaros.hu))  
~ Thanks to the continuous developments, the Holiday Centre of Békés-Dánfok is an outstanding tourist base of the area. Beach, sporting, eating facilities, accommodation and cultural programmes provide good fun.  
~ It is worth to take a walk from the port of



The dam at Békés

Békés to the dam that divides the Kettős-Körös to downstream and upstream.

The flood of the controlled water of the upstream is an exceptional place for water birds and fish, while the downstream is a rarely disturbed green part for the animals.

~ The collection of the Bodoky Károly Water Management Museum displays the tremendous tasks and commitments old, priceless machines and equipments to the visitor.

Small-boat port in Békés

May-flies on the Körös



On the dam of the Kettős-Körös



## Info

~ Where the bridge of Mezőberény stands today, Sándor Petőfi, the great Hungarian poet, crossed the river by the former ferry operating in the area on 18th July 1849, to leave the Great Plain and head for his last wandering and join general Bem's Transylvanian troops. His last poem, titled 'Terrible Time' preserves the memory of the

days spent at his friend, Soma Orlai Petrich before this event. Petőfi's stay is commemorated on the left bridgehead.

~ The last flood on the River Körös took place on the 26th of July, 1980. Due to the extraordinary rainfalls, the water pouring down from the Bihar Mountains raised the water level of the river Black-Körös 9 meters within 36 hours and caused the rupture of the dams on the river Kettős-Körös in the area of Hosszúfok. In the 73-m-wide gap, 208 m<sup>3</sup> water flowed over agricultural and inhabited areas of 105 km<sup>2</sup>, sweeping away

the world of farmsteads there. A memorial column indicates the place of the rupture.

~ The deepest point of the bed of the River Kettős-Körös can be

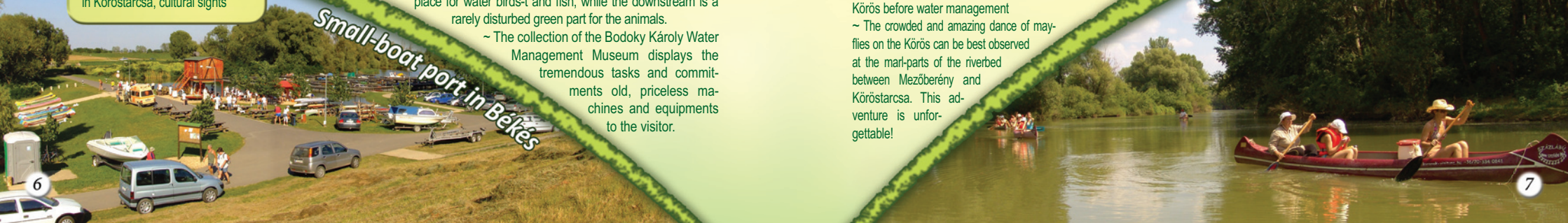


Károly Bodoky Water Management Museum

found nearby Hosszúfok, in the curve named 'Kis-Sózug'. This 10-metre-deep 'well' was once a popular feeding place of catfish but today their number has decreased. The last sandbank on the inner bow of the curve reminds us the view of the River Körös before water management

~ The crowded and amazing dance of may-flies on the Körös can be best observed at the marl-parts of the riverbed between Mezőberény and Köröstarcsa. This adventure is unforgettable!

On the romantic Kettős-Körös







# Rendezvous in Szanazug



## Route characteristics:

! Unobstructed waterway till the dam; earth dam fit for bicycle traffic (recommended only in dry weather); few asphalt roads; forest paths; ferry at Szanazug

! Difficulty: ■■■

## Route and sights:

 11 km | ■■■■■■■■■■  
1 hours

Békés-Dánfok – left side dam-top  
– bridge of Doboz – the top of the dam on the right side – Szanazug

 4 km | ■■■■■■■■■■  
2 hours

Szanazug – Sámson-fort (Sarkad-remete forest) – Szanazug

 11 km | ■■■■■■■■■■  
3 hours

Szanazug – Small-boat port at Békés Dánfok

● (1) Békés-Dánfok; (2) Szanazug; (3) Sámson-fort; (4) Wenckheim castle park

We can cycle to the confluence of the Rivers Black- and White-Körös From Békés-Dánfok, on top of the dam Kettős-Körös in the direction of Doboz, to Szanazug, where weekend and summer-houses, eating facilities, reserved beaches and a place for watersports provides opportunity for even longer rest.

In the neighbouring Sarkad-Remete forest, it is worth trekking along the study-path of Doboz-Szanazug and discovering the wooden tower, Sámson-fort. You can return even by canoe to the Kettős-Körös River from Szanazug to the small boat port to Békés-Dánfok.

The confluence in Szanazug



## Offers

~ The info signs of the study path telling the history and nature of the area and the Sámson-castle are not the only things worth exploring in the forest of Sarkad-Remete. In numerous places, the meanders once filled with waters of the Fekete-Körös wind in

the forest giving important habitats to wildlife. Silently and attentively we can notice several forest species or take photos.

~ If you have the opportunity you should go in Doboz and take a walk in the castle-park of the settlement which was the former centre of the Wenckheim estates. It is worth lingering under the oak, lime and sycamore and chestnut trees of the park surrounded by the abandoned meander of the Fekete-Körös.

~ Upwards, on the right dam of the Black-Körös, it is a good idea to go on a hike in Gyula-Városerdő, admiring the unregulated bends of the river.

On the preserved side the old trees of the Remete forest and the clearings of the game reserve, where grazing wild animals can be noticed with a pinch of luck, can keep us company.



A Körös dead-arm in the Remete forest



Canoeists towards Békés



Castle park in Doboz

## Info

~ There is a public swimming contest called "A Splash in Szanazug" which is organized every August in the section between Szanazug and the bridge of and Doboz. The full 4,5-kilometre-long distance is a great test of strength to which swimmers should train beforehand.

~ The Fehér-Körös from Gyulavári (7,5 km) and then the Kettős-Körös until Békés (12 km) is an artificial riverbed, which was established based on the plans of Károly Bodoky after the flood of 1855 sweeping away two-thirds of Gyula. The extent of this work is well-indicated by the fact that hundreds of diggers moved 5 million cubic meters of soil (cca.80 million barrows). In May 1857, even the emperor Francis Joseph and his wife visited the construction works of Gyula-Békés great canal "separat-



Körös-dam

ing" the Fehér-Körös River from the town of Gyula. The grandiose work was finished in 1858.

~ The name Szanazug refers to the village of Szanna which belonged to the castle-lordship of Gyula in the Árpád-era. There, people lived from fishing, hunting, bee-keeping and charcoal-burning. The oak forest in the neighbourhood is even mentioned in the deeds of 1075 regarding the settlement of Doboz as excellent pig-feeding places. The village of Szanna was destroyed during the Turkish conquest in 1596.

Sámson fort







### Route characteristics:

- ! Plain field (concrete 30 %, dirt road-dam 70%)  
– the full trip is advised in dry weather
- ! Difficulty: ■■■■■

### Route and sights:

56 km | 7 hours

Gyula (castle) – Gyulavári  
– Dam in Gyula – Gyula-Városerdő – Szanazug – Doboz – Marói forest – Póstelek – Gerla – Gyula

- (1) Gyula Castle; (2) Almásy-Wenckheim Castle; (3) Dam in Gyula; (4) Gyula-Városerdő; (5) Szanazug; (6) Wenckheim castle park; (7) Póstelek castlepark; (8) Castle of Gerla

### Offers

~ Starting from the Gyula Castle, the first stop is one of the most beautiful example of the respect of the memories of the castle-era is the Almásy-Wenckheim castle in Gyulavári. The well-looked after park is also attracting.

~ Coming back from Gyulavári, go ahead on the left-side dams of the Fehér-Körös and in pleasant natural environment to the traffic bridge, where turning to the right, you get to Gyula-Városerdő, a popular holiday resort by the Fekete-Körös. It is possible to have a bath in good weather on the sandy beach of the river here.

~ Crossing the bridge towards Sarkad, going on the right side of the dam of the river along the Remetei forest, the route leads us to Szanazug, the confluence of the Fekete and Fehér-Körös. This area similarly to Városerdő also offers beach and sports facilities.

~ The route continues on the asphalt road to Doboz, where the Calvinist church and the castle park of the Wenckheim counts with Neo-Roman

chapel and noblemen's crypt draw the travellers' attention in the most ancient settlement of Békés county. We can get to Póstelek from Doboz starting from the last bus-station before the traffic bridge upon the river Kettős-Körös crossing the Marói forest, where the remnants of the Széchenyi-Wenckheim castle reminds us of the times of the aristocrats. From there we can make a detour to the neighbouring Gerla where there is another Wenckheim castle ahead that is also in need of renovation. After returning to Póstelek you can set out to Gyula along the backwater of the Fehér-Körös on concrete and dirt roads. It goes through forests, gardens and meadows and leads back to the nice spa town.

# Finding the Wenckheims

This beautiful historical route leads to former properties of noble, landowner families after the Ottoman oppression in Hungary especially some estates of the counts Wenckheim in Gyula, Doboz and Póstelek and Gerla. During this trip it is worth to get acquainted with this extensive dynasty that gave so much to this area concerning the landscape and culture.



Castle of Póstelek in the 1920's



Dam in Gyula



### Info

~ The castle of Doboz, built as hunting castle formerly, got to the Wenckheims from the family of Almásy, who had it built. The counts Wenckheim made it a 1300 acres sample ranch to blossom, from which 400 acres (as the biggest in Europe) was watered. The iron-concrete roof-structure of the Neo-Roman church, built in the turn of the 19-20th century, is the technology used firstly in that age. The cupola of the family crypt, as well as in the church, was prepared from golden mosaic of Venice, providing an astonishing pomp to the inner area. In the castle park under local protection, the beautiful oak trees, lindens, white maple, ironwood, nettle tree, silver poplar and nationally registered ginkgo, Scotch and Australian pine trees can be found.

~ Less than the half of the more than 100 castles and mansions of Békés County remained intact. The other considerable landowner families beside the famous Wenckheim and Almásy families are the families of Bolza, Tisza, Bölöny, Telbisz, Beliczey, Kársz, Vásárhelyi, Rudnyánszky, Szlavy and Wekerle.

~ On the place of the Wenckheim castle in Gerla – based on data from the Archives – there was a Franciscan cloister in the 16th century. Upon Károly Wenckheim's request, based on Miklós Ybl's plans the baroque-style; U-shaped building with 37 rooms was built here.

~ The estate of Póstelek was given to Countess Krisztina Wenckheim as dowry by her parents and the youngest castle of the county was built here between 1906 and 1909. The neo-baroque castle with 72 rooms had its own power-generator, its walls were covered with plush tapestries from Paris and Vienna, there was fountain and a lake for boating in the castle park and 40.000 pieces of 600 species of rose decorated the garden.



Almásy-Wenckheim castle in Gyulavári

The castle of Gerla in the 1930's



Wenckheim tombs in the cemetery in Gerla

Capela Castelnuri in Doboz

The remnants of the Castle in Póstelek



# Csaba Round Trip



## Route characteristics:

- ! Plain field (asphalt 60 %, dirt-road, dam 40 %)
- ! Biking is advised in dry weather only
- ! The section between the Bandika-tree and the dam guard house of Sikony can only be completed on foot. A detour is recommended by bike.
- ! Difficulty: ■■■■

## Route and sights:

26 km 3 hours 25 km 6 hours

bike and walk ■■■■■■■■■■  
only walk ■■■■■■■■■■  
bike detour ■■■■■■■■■■

Békéscsaba – Bandika-tree, Cimborá-tree – Dam guard house of Sikony – Gerla – Póstelek castle park – Veszé junction – Békéscsaba

- (1) City centre – cultural sights;
- (2) Körös Valley Visitor Centre;
- (3) Bandika-tree; Cimborá-tree;
- (4) Dam guard house of Sikony;
- (5) Castle of Gerla; (6) Póstelek castle park; (7) Antal Széchenyi's tomb; (8) Veszé junction.

This roundtrip of study path significance offers numerous adventures and sights, information points and recreation sites. It intends to get Békéscsaba and its suburbs acquainted in the point of the active trekking adventure. The route, almost in its whole length, follows the Élvíz-canal crossing the town and the abandoned meander of Gerla.



Trekkers at the Bandika-tree

This "green line" itself is one of the most significant nature sites in the neighbourhood of the settlement but there are several cultural and other environmental values to be discovered nearby. It can be completed by bike and on foot as well, depending on choice and personal preferences. This route promises a half- or whole-day long programme which can be filled with various trekking experience according to our individual schedule.

## Offers

~ The town centre of Békéscsaba due to its considerable reconstructions, offers programme facilities not only as just the cultural centre, but it makes the county seat an outstanding tourism area with public sites and multifunctional centres of European standards.

~ The Round trip of Csaba follows the red tourist sign that leads to the tomb of the castle-owner, count Antal Széchenyi and it was built on a small hill a kilometre from the castle in the Nyilas forest part.

~ The route of the round trip is full of wild fruits and herbs and their tasting is an extraordinary adventure. The mulberry trees, the walnut, the elderberry, the hip, the sloe, the blackberry are well-known by most of the trekkers. The more experienced ones can find extraordinary medical plants and herbs from nettles to platinas.

~ Typical Hungarian wells can be found on the sites of former homesteads and the flowers of old gardens still blossom. It is worth to stop and remember this old world.



Munkácsy Mihály Museum



## Info

~ On the banks of the Élvíz-canal from Békéscsaba to the dam guard house in Sikony not only Bandika-tree and Cimborá-tree are the only hundred-year-old trees, but several age-old, decaying, more than 200 years old willow trees can be discovered on the



Urban section of the Élvíz-canal

floodplain and on the side of the dam. These must have been planted during the establishment of the dam-system of the canal in the 18th century. Some sections of the dam along the Élvíz-canal from Bandika-tree to the dam-guard house in Sikony are not easy to complete, but it is worth the persistence. As this is the farthest part of the route from the urban noises it keeps many tiny secrets of the nature from fox-holes to the fishing and hunting grey herons in the floodplain.

~ A The castle of Gerla and the surrounding estates belonged to the Wenckheim estates. Unfortunately, after World War II, this castle suffered a lot, almost completely deteriorated, but it still can be renovated. In

2010, it got a new owner on a municipal auction, and it has been waiting for better times since then 2-hectare park of the castle still preserves some beautiful trees like a 4-meter-wide old oak, which probably remembers its former owners, six of whom found their eternal rest in the cemetery of Gerla.

~ The environmental state of the Élvíz-canal has been improved in the last ten years. Its water, which served as a beach at many places in the 1960's, suffered severe sewage-pollution in the years of industrialization and the canal was called as the smelly-Körös. After the millennium, the situation improved and now it is characterized by the affluent wildlife and tourist values as well.

On an old farm-road

Under the trees of Póstelek

An info point on the round route



# Heritage of the Puszta



## Route characteristics:

- ! flat area (asphalt – 80%, dirt road – 20%)  
– complete trekking is advised in dry weather.
- ! difficulty: ■■■■■

## Route and sights:

I. 12 km | II. 17 km | III. 26 km  
 1 hours | 2 hours | 3 hours

I. Békéscsaba – mine lakes on dirt road (or asphalt road) – Szabadkígyós; II. Gyula – Szabadkígyós; III. Gyula – Homestead Museum – Kétegyháza – Szabadkígyós

5 km | 2 hours | ■■■■■  
Szabadkígyós – Great forest, Kígyósi-grasslands – Szabadkígyós

- (1) Körös Valley Visitor Centre;
- (2) Mine lakes of the brick factory;
- (3) Szabadkígyósi Wenckheim castle and park;
- (4) Kígyósi grasslands – Study path of the Great forest;
- (5) Gyula castle;
- (6) Homestead Museum;
- (7) Romanian country house;
- (8) Kurgans

The Landscape Protection Area of Szabadkígyós in the area of the settlements of Szabadkígyós, Gyula and Kétegyháza is an outstanding value of land. The most beautiful castle of the South Great Plain, a considerable grassland-area and the uniquely abundant system of the “watches of the Great Plain” or the kurgans, the hills of the Kuns can be found here. You can set out both from Békéscsaba and Gyula to explore the most southern areas of the Körös Valley, where two destinations are recommended: one is the Homestead Museum and the horse-riding school between Gyula and Kétegyháza and the other



*Kurgans in the grasslands*

is Szabadkígyós with the sights of the once most gorgeous Wenckheim-manor and the natural and culture-historical values of the Kígyós-grasslands.

## Offers

~ Szabadkígyós, this calm, friendly, settlement of 2800 inhabitants and its surrounding is a unique combination of experiences. The Ókígyós-farmstead in the Wenckheim manor, preserves several memories from the counts' times. The stunning castle was ordered by Frigyes Wenckheim and based on Miklós Ybl's plans. It was built between 1875-1879 in German Neo-renaissance style and it is the most imposing building complex in the Great Plain. The English garden encircling the castle is still unique today, currently there are 180 species of bushes and trees there, with old oaks, sycamores, horse-chestnuts, copper-beeches, white cypresses, yew-trees and ginkgo trees watching over. The Roman Catholic Chapel of Szabadkígyós on a romantic hill at the border of the settlement, the Wenckheim-crypt and memorial park also hold memories of the counts.

~ The unique bird- and plant-life of the remnants of the pristine grass plot of Kígyósi-grasslands in the border-area of the settlement is an outstanding natural value. The 5 km-long study path offers a pleasant trekking experience, but you can go further in the grasslands to discover the unique system of the kurgans, these ancestral burial places from the copper age.

~ The Homestead Museum displays the life and agriculture of the peasants living in the turn of the 20th century and in the first half.

Peculiarly, it was established from the donations of the peasants of Gyula and it houses ethnographic relics of more than 3 decades. Here you can experience a horse-drawn joyride in the grasslands, learn about the domestic animals of a former peasant farm and several other programmes await everyone all around the year.



*Grey cattle of Szabadkígyós*

*The grassland in blossom*

## Info

~ A The Kurgans, these strange burial hills were established typically in two waves: in the late Copper Age (3000-2600 B.C.) and between the 2nd and 4th centuries A.D. There are hundreds of them only in Békés County. Despite the folk stories there are no treasures sheltered in these hills; they are only burial places. As secondary use, churches were frequently built on top of them. In addition, these hills are habitats for several plant species that survived from the ice age.

~ By building of the Wenckheim castle of Szabadkígyós, the countess, Krisztina Wenckheim requested to have as many windows on the building as many days are in the year, as many doors as the number of the weeks of a year, and as many main entrances as many seasons are in a year. Beside the castle there were greenhouses with a 40-m-high tower and the crop was transported by small trains from the neighbouring gardens to the cellars under the building. On the ground floor there are suites of rooms fully covered with wood, a dining room, a small and a great saloon, a library, a smoking room and upstairs there were the rooms. The kitchen was built in the side-building connecting by a hanging corridor, and in that building the servants' and handmaids' quarters were built. The park was created from the original forest plants and from several extraordinary plants transferred from different places from Sebiş to the French Riviera. The garden-lake with its small bridges and the white cypress group in its bank provide romantic atmosphere to the park.

~ The Landscape Protection Area of Szabadkígyós extends 4779 hectares and it is part of the Körös-Maros National Park. The 90 nesting bird-species and the specific plants of water-habitats are parts of the unitary puszta-landscape, where the newly grazing grey cattle are also ancient inhabitants.



*Old sycamore tree in the castle park*

*Wenckheim castle in Szabadkígyós*





# Trekking without borders

## Route characteristics:

! Rapid-flowing waterway with riffles; asphalt road by bicycle (few sprinkled road and earth dam – latter is recommended only in dry weather); Walking trip on forest pathway, brook-bed.

! Difficulty: ■■■■■

## Route and sights:

144 km  
4 days ■■■■■

(RO)Târcaia – Ginta (37 km)  
– Tinca (19 km) – Zerind-  
Iermata Neagră (51 km)  
– (HU)Békés-Dánfok (37 km)

200 km  
4 days ■■■■■

(RO) Beiuș – Șoimi  
– Belfir – Tinca – Tau – Talpos  
– Tâmașda – Zerind – Iermata  
Neagră – (HU) Szanazug  
– Doboz – Békés-Dánfok

16 km  
5 hours ■■■■■

Poiana – cascadele Treimii  
– Poiana

● (1) Trinity cascades; (2) Drop-  
stone cave of Meziad (3) Finis;  
(4) Petrani stone (looking-out  
point); (5) Cloister ruins of San-  
nicolau de Beiuș (look-out point);  
(6) Nature History Museum  
of Tinca; (7) Körös dam (from  
Talpos); (8) Békés-Dánfok

This canoe and bicycle tour of 4-5 days – and a walking trip on day 0 –, starting from Romania and arriving to Hungary is organ-  
ised traditionally each year. The 150-km-long tour roams among  
the mountains offering unforgettable experience from the surround-

ings of the river-  
spring of the  
Fekete-Körös, in  
the rocky gorges,  
through the calm  
lowland-villages.  
Rowing on the  
quick-flowing  
upper sections  
that is full of ra-



pids and riffles is a real wild-water challenge and it is an uplifting  
feeling to follow the river by bicycle and have a rest on the Petrani  
stone ("Pontoskő") while admiring the landscape. The tiring but  
exciting route ends in Békés-Dánfok in a festive mood.

## Offers

~ The walking tour of Day 0 targets the springing area of  
the Fekete-Körös. After climbing in the bed of the main brook  
full of riffles, trunks and stones the route leads us to three  
fairy cataracts, called the Trinity cascades, fall down and the waterfall in the mid-  
dle comes from 80 m high in 3 steps.

~ It is worth to travel by bicycle  
and find some sights on the way. The  
dripstone cave in Meziad, the 'Györfly  
István Landscape- and Ethnography  
Home', the Nature Science Mu-  
seum in Tinca are all worth  
the detours.

~ From the  
small hills at the feet of the mountains, which can be  
climbed by bicycle as well, beautiful panoramic  
view of the landscape can be observed  
with the ridges of the Bihor and Codru  
Moma mountains in front of and  
behind us. Such look-outs are  
the Petrani stone and the  
hill of the cloister-ruins  
from the 13th centu-  
ry in Sannicolau  
de Beiuș.



Cross-dam at Vileacu de Beiuș

At Sânnicolau de Beiuș

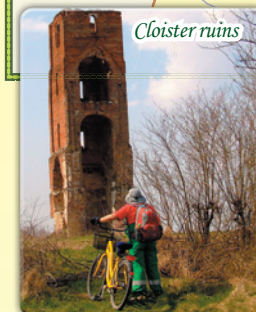
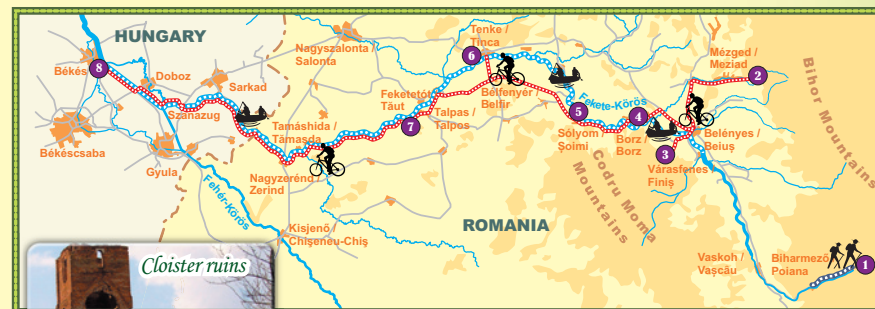


Arriving to Békés-Dánfok

## Offers

~ The gorge of the Crișul Negru breaking through at  
the feet of the Crișul Negru at Soimi and Borz is the one of  
the most beautiful routes in the Körös Valley. This 10-km-long  
section with reeves, riffles, sneakers, sharp and swirling bends, dividing branches of the bed  
makes the upstream of the river unforgettablely exciting. At low water level canoes must be drawn by  
hand which is a cooling adventure in hot summer.

~ The rich exhibition in the Nature Science Museum in the Calvinist vicarage of Tinca is the result of  
Kálmán Csák's persistent, on-site collection work of many decades. The thematically systemized collection introduces



Cloister ruins

the natural-scientific secrets of the Körös Valley from geology through Palaeontology  
to nature science.

~ The discovery of the triple fountain feeding the  
main brook of the Crișul Negru is connected to  
Gyula Czárán, who observed the natural  
miracles and trekking routes, built  
bridges, steps, ladders on them  
at his own costs between  
1880-1905. A round

route sets out from the waterfalls which he named  
as Trinity cascades and the trip is surrounded by  
some beautiful waterfalls.

~ Finis, that is some km away from  
Beiuș is famous not only for the  
Györfly István Landscape and  
Ethnographic Home but also  
for the 13th century ruins  
of Béla castle.

At the Trinity cascades

Breakthrough at Borz







# Trekking in Mályvád

## Route characteristics:

- ! Plain field (asphalt 60 %, dirt road – dam 40%) – its complete trekking is recommended in dry weather.
- ! Difficulty: ■■■■■

## Route and sights:

I. 38 km 4-10 hours II. 32 km 3-8 hours

I. Gyula castle – Gyulavári – Dénesmajor (dam of Ant) – Körös dam – Gyula-Városerdő – Gyula castle  
II. Gyula castle – Gyulavári – Mályvád – Körös dam – Gyula-Városerdő – Gyula castle

- (1) Gyula castle; (2) Almásy-Wenckheim castle; (3) Dam of Ant; (4) Mályvád (old-oakland of Bánarét); (5) Körös dam; (6) Gyula-Városerdő

Exploring the greatest continuous forest of Békés County and the romantic and unregulated bends of the Fekete-Körös that is the northern border of the county is a joyful trekking experience not only for nature-lovers. It is said that the almost 20 km long part on the left-side dam of the river is the most beautiful open-field route from which the landscape can be observed as if you would sit in a ringside seat in a theatre. The rich wildlife of the forest always shows one of its faces: once as a pompous fallow-deer, or elegant hoopoe hunting in the side of the dams. In clear weather, when the blue of the mountains of Bihar can be seen from East it is a fairytale scene.



*Mályvád from the birds' eye view*

## Offers

~ You can enter the forest area of Mályvád on the red sign indicated from the Gyula castle and 900 m from where the road from Gyulavári to Dénesmajor turns next to the dam of the Flood-protection Relief Reservoir of Mályvád. The forest path offers numerous experiences: rich wildlife, permanent birdsongs, secrets of the former river meanders are all respected treasures for hikers. 4.8 km from the passageway you can reach the red cross tourist sign crossing towards the old-oakland of Bánarét, that is only a 200-m-detour. North from the oakland you can walk to the closest dam of the Crișul Negru river and continue your way on it. The route of the red tourist sign goes parallel the dam further into the forest from the oakland, and later joins it at Sitka. We can go on towards Gyula-Városerdő from there.

~ If you would not like to go trekking in the forest and rather choose a more comfortable sightseeing trip you should go to Dénesmajor. The road crosses the settlement and turns left up to the asphalt-covered dam of the Relief Reservoir and goes 2 kms straight on until the protection dam of the Fekete-Körös. This section is called the 'dam of Ant' and it is surrounded by fish ponds where several fishing birds can be seen and with binoculars it can be more exciting. You can admire the river, forest and meadows for kilometres long while you get to the road of the Körös-dams, until you can get to Gyula-Városerdő where you can swim and relax.



*Towards the mountains*

*In the Sitka forest*



*Free beach at Gyula-Városerdő*



## Info

~ Beside the stock of nationally considerable fallow-deer, Mályvád is habitat to several animal and plant species typical to domestic plain-forests. The decaying trees of the old-oakland of Bánarét here nominated as the thousandth protected area because the remains of the former ancestral oak-forests of the Körös area represent considerable genetic values. The former Körös-meanders winding in the forest are also part of the heritage and their water-supply is important for creating the original micro-climate necessary for the forest.

~ The Fekete-Körös at the border of the forest of Mályvád from east and north is the most intact river section of the whole Hungarian water-system of the Körös-Berettyó. On a 20,5 km-long section from the border to the confluence in Szanazug there are more than twenty 90-degree-bends which provide a stunningly romantic picture. The sand-silts of the upper sections and the torn trees and bushes in the beds are excellent habitats for wildlife of the water. Even today in this "over-fished situation" enormous fishes are hidden in the depth of 7-8 m of this narrow river.

~ A watching trip in the dawn or in the evening has a high chance to reveal the life of the forest. It is not surprising to see a fox, fallow-deer or a raven croaking in deep voice.

~ Gyula-Városerdő is a popular holiday resort. The naturally silted shallow sandy beach is worth a bathing suit in the rucksack. In the summer season paddle boats and canoes can be borrowed here.

*Fallow-deer in Mályvád*



*Lepiota in Mályvád*

*Spring trip in Mályvád*





# Nature and History



## Route characteristics:

! traffic road and asphalt road on the complete route (bicycle road between Békés and Mezőberény)

! Difficulty: ■■■■■

## Route and sights:

I. 37 km | II. 37 km | III. 48 km  
4 hours | 4 hours | 5 hours

**Route I.** Békés (main square) – Mezőberény – Bélmegeyer (Fáspusztá) – Bélmegeyer-Békés traffic road – Békés (main square)

**Route II.** Békés (main square) – Tarhos – Kárász castle – Bélmegeyer (Fáspusztá) – Bélmegeyer-Békés traffic road – Békés (main square)

**Route III.** A great round route joins the two routes and reaches all the sights

**Route plus:** Vészto-Mágor Historic Memorial Site (5 km Northwest from Vészto)

● (1) Békés (main square) - cultural sights; (2) Medvefejes-lake /+ 2 km/; (3) Wenckheim castle in Fáspusztá /+9 km/; (4) Kárász castle /+5 km/; (5) Geese farm /+12 km/; (6) Wenckheim castle and Music Pavilion in Tarhos

It is worth to plan this route that reaches the southern border of the Sárrét areas for two days (especially if you want to visit Vészto as well), because there are so many attracting sights to explore. Further away from the towns in Mid-Békés the landscape becomes calmer and more peaceful; it may be strange that there are places where you hardly meet anyone. However, you will see the hidden secrets of the past and living nature, including protected natural areas, castles and castle parks, high standard rural catering and rich historic remains.



Guided tour at the Medvefejes-lake

## Offers

~ The Music Pavilion in 1953 and the Békés-Tarhos Music Days come to mind when in connection with Tarhos, a singing school was opened in the counts' castle by György Gulyas after World War II, in 1946. It founded national fame of the past and present music-history of in Tarhos. (The castle can be visited with the permit of the Mayor's Office of the Municipality of Békés)



The Music Pavilion in Tarhos

~ From the main road of Bélmegeyer you should turn to Fáspusztá (Lowland with trees), that, as a mosaic area of the Körös-Maros National Park, protects a forest steppe-like area of 664 hectares. A Wenckheim castle is standing at the end of the road (presently in private ownership, cannot be visited).

~ The Medvefejes lake in Mezőberény, as a special bird-reserve, is a place where several protected species migrate, gather, turn up occasionally, or breed. From the watch-tower, tourists can observe the life of such bird species, as the cooper, stilt, Kentish Plover and Little Ringed Plover.

~ Vészto-Mágor is an outstanding historical place in the Körös area, where remains of ancient settlements, a monastery from the Árpád-era and ruins of churches of later times had been excavated. The memorial site introduces the former world of Sárrét as well.

## Info

~ The Music Palace was built from an investment of 3,5 million Ft in 1952 and 1953 and was inaugurated in the presence of the Hungarian composer, Zoltán Kodály. The music education, however, was prohibited in 1954 and an institution of special needs was founded here. The Békés-Tarhos Music Days earned national fame to the settlement since 1976.

~ All of the saline lakes in Hungary, as well as the Medvefejes-lake in Mezőberény, belong to the protected areas ex lege, without special process of protection. The reason of protecting these lakes is due to the fact that the areas of formerly great water-covered places – as well as salty lakes – have considerably decreased.

~ The Kárász castle near the forest of Bélmegeyer – similarly to the one in Fáspusztá – was also built as a hunting castle. The Kárász family name is recorded by a street in the city of Szeged and one of the sons Imre moved back from the USA and renovated the castle and the surrounding of Fokköz before World War II. He established a special botanical garden and forests with special



Medvefejes lake in Mezőberény



The Geese farm



trees he brought from the USA. Not many survived from the original trees of the castle park, but some older ones and the oaktree-line beside the entrance road is still wonderful today. The renovated castle awaits his guests with 15 rooms, ballrooms and special meals.

~ The present Fáspusztá is mentioned even in 13th century documents, as a wood-covered area near the settlement Fás. The existing old oaks and wild pear trees of the original plant community reminds us the ancient forest steppes before the era of the Hungarian Conquest. This beautiful area is among the last saline oak lands in Hungary. Although its small extension the fact increases its value that, several protected plant and animal species live here and for some of them Fáspusztá is the most significant habitat all over the world. These species can rarely be seen but other rare animals like the tailed eagle and black stork can be observed all the time.

~ A The Geese farm near Tarhos was rewarded as an acknowledged place for rural tourism in 2010. There the goose-breeding, the dishes connected to geese and festive traditions revive.

The Vészto-Mágor Historic Memorial Site

Lowland with trees in Bélmegeyer

The Kárász castle



### Geocaching:

Based on GPS-coordinates, the searching of 'treasure boxes' hidden in nature offers exciting adventure and exploration in natural and built-up environment as well.

### Treasure hunting (Questing):

It is recommended for all who look for playful challenges to find the sights of a town, learn about its history or find the curiosities of a natural environment with witty tests.

### Nordic Walking:

It is the method of conscious walking with the help of special trekking sticks. It is an outdoor sport that gently moves every muscle group. It is recommended for those with a bit much weight, articular and circulatory diseases and the elderly.

### Dragon boats:

This sport type comes from Asia. The 11-meter-long boat decorated with a dragon's head and tail is rowed by 20 persons. The steersman is responsible for the direction, the drummer for the rhythm. It is an excellent way of team building and having fun.

## Tours in other ways...

The facilities introduced here do not really aim the persistent trekking feeling, rather the outdoor, easy, relaxing, or team-building adventures. Geocaching, Questing, Nordic Walking and dragon boat competition are definitely up-to-date active spare time activities.



### Offers

~ **GEOCACHING:** if you do not have your own navigating equipment, you can borrow GPS tools in Békéscsaba, Gyula and Békés for finding geocaches in the surrounding. The caches leading to different locations help to survey the landscape as if you would go on routes. From Internet sites (e.g. [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)) you can download useful information on a destination, which, reading on the spot are the most interesting. And geocaching is the most exciting when you hide caches yourself and upload the route and information about the area for others.

~ **QUESTING:** on the website of the Mid-Békés Centre ([www.kozepbekes.hu](http://www.kozepbekes.hu)) and in the Tour-

inform Offices of Gyula and Békéscsaba playful tests can be acquired, which, just like real treasure hunting maps, with clever, rhyming poems and simplified site plans challenge the traveller. The clues lead you towards the final solution and on the way more and more treasures get revealed and you also gain knowledge.



~ **NORDIC WALKING:** The walking method imitating the movement technique of the cross-country skiing is more and more popular in the whole world. Anybody who likes the easy movement with complete sports and trekking-feeling can do it on this plain or slightly hilly area. Its great advantage is that there is no need for definite places of routes for the training, as urban parks are just as good for this as natural areas outside the towns. For those who have not tried it it is worth to learn the special technique from a trainer and for this two special trekking sticks, that reminds us to ski poles, are needed. After making an appointment in advance it is possible to request Nordic Walking sticks for longer or shorter walks. If necessary, a trainer can be requested but joining teams is also possible.

~ **DRAGON BOAT:** This more and more popular water sport uniquely in the area awaits any teams of 20 people, but even two teams can match their powers and skills between spring and autumn. This unforgettable and cheerful experience is recommended to classes, bigger groups of friends and families can be requested at the Small-Boat Pier of Békés Town. For water teamsports, many competitions are held each year, for which the swollen regulated upstream water guarantees an excellent course.

~ **!** Please visit the website Mid-Békés Territorial Development Municipal Association for facilities and equipments: [www.kozepbekes.hu](http://www.kozepbekes.hu)







# Trips along the Mureş

One of the landmarks of the Arad county, the river Mureş invites you to embark on a journey and experience it's diverse beauty, whether you do it by canoe or by bike.

## Route characteristics:

! Preferably during the summer, but also in late spring and early autumn, if the level of the water is not too low for canoes and depending on the weather.

! Difficulty: ■ ■ ■ ■

## Route offers:

20 km  
5 hours 25 km  
3 hours

**Route I.** Arad – Bodrogul Vechi – Pecica – Bodrogul Vechi – Arad

101 km  
2 days ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**Route II.** Vladimirescu – Pecica – Periam – Igrisi – Cenad

along the river. During this route you go across the Dead Mureş, one of the most important affluents of the Mureş and you can visit an old fortress that dates from 1486.

~ **Route II.** This bike route starts in the Vladimirescu Forest and it takes 2 hours to reach Arad. From Arad to the Ceala Forest it takes 1 hour. From here to Pecica it takes 3 hours and to the Bezdin Monastery another half an hour. From here to the Natural Reservation Prundul Mare it



By canoe on the Mureş

## Description

~ **Route I.** This route starts in the Three Island area outside from Arad. During the canoe ride, you have the opportunity to get acquainted with the flora and fauna of the Mureş river and to find out more about the history of the communities found along this river in the Arad county. From Arad to Pecica there are around 20 km by canoe.

You can return to Arad by car or you have the option to return by bike on a 25 km long track mostly

only takes 15 minutes. Then another hour and a half to Periam and also an hour and a half to Igrisi. Cenad will be reached after another 2 hours and the Cenad Forest after another hour. Camping sites are available in all locations, but accommodation can only be found in Arad, Ceala Forest, Pecica, Bezdin Monastery and Cenad. You have the option of a meal in Arad, Ceala Forest, Pecica, Periam and Cenad. This route can be done as a whole, or in parts – it depends on the wishes of the tourist.



Monastery of Bezdin



Natural Reservation of waterlilies Bezdin



## Tourism attractions

- (1) City of Arad; (2) Monastery of Bodrog;
- (3) Islands – Pecica; (4) Monastery of Bezdin;
- (5) Natural Reservation of waterlilies Bezdin;
- (6) The Natural Reservation Prundul Mare;
- (7) The Mureş Floodplain Natural Reservation (Parcului Natural Lunca Mureşului);
- (8) Periam – Port (Igrisi); (9) Church St. Gerard;
- (10) Museum in Cenad

~ **Further sights along the Mureş:** Karstic complex of the Căprioara village (Căprioara); Castle Săvârşin with the Ethnographical Museum and the Dendrological Park (Săvârşin); Fortress Şoimoş (Lipova); Monastery Maria Radna (Lipova); Turkish Bazaar (Lipova); Monument of Păuliş (Păuliş)



The Dendrological Park in Săvârşin.



Castle of Săvârşin



RIVER MUREŞ





### Route characteristics:

- ! Accessible: all year round
- ! Difficulty: ■ ■ ■

### Route offers:

I. 120 km | II. 90 km  
2 days | 1 days

### Route I. („The Wine Route”)

– Lipova – Cladova – Barațca  
– Păuliș – Ghioroc – Cuvin  
– Covăsânt – Șiria – Gașca – Măscă  
– Măderat – Pâncota.

### Route II.

Arad – Șofronea – Curtici  
– Dorobanți – Macea – Sântana  
– Zimand – Arad

### Extra route:

Inner city of Arad 2 days  
(sights on opposite page”)

# Arad and surroundings

First documented in 1078, the baroque town of Arad and its surroundings is full of history waiting to be discovered whether by exploring its architecture, art or its various communities.



Town Hall of Arad

## Description

~ **Route I. („The Wine Route”)** One of the oldest areas with vineyards in Romania (historically documented at the beginning of the IXth Century), this vineyard is mainly concentrated between the area Miniș – Măderat on the western side of the Zărandului Mountains, comprising an area of 60 km in length and between 1 and 4 km wide. The Vineyard has two wine centers: Miniș to the south and Măderat to the north. This circuit starts in the town of Lipova, through Cladova and Barațca – all these settlements are found along the southern side of the Zărandului Mountains and along the river Mureș. Then you reach Păuliș, where you can stop at the wine cellar and do some wine tasting. The next settlement in the circuit is Ghioroc, where in the village of Miniș you can visit the Miniș Wine Cellars and indulge in another

wine tasting or you can visit the museums found in this area. Your next stop will be in Covăsânt, found at the foot of the Zărandului Mountains, this settlement being one of the most important access points to these mountains. Then comes the town of Șiria, a settlement that offers various touristic activities (trekking, sports activities, wine tasting). You go through the villages of Gașca and Măscă, in order to reach the town of Pâncota, an important vine and wine center. To this town belongs the village of Măderat, where you can find a wine area that contains two giant withe fir trees planted here in 1845.



Ruins of the fort in Șiria

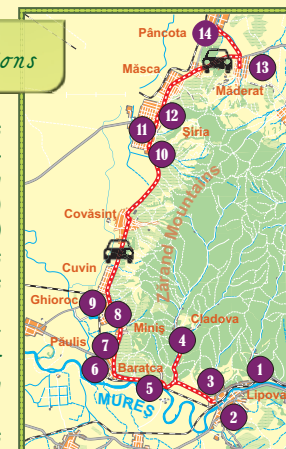
~ **Route II.** This route takes along the border with Hungary, giving you the possibility to visit several public hot baths – Dorobanți, Curtici and Șofronea – and also several towns with rich history. The highlight of this route is the Castle in Macea together with the Dendrological Park in Macea. The Dendrological Park spreads over 21,5 ha and is a research area for students. The Purgly Castle in Șofronea was built in 1889 and is found in the middle of a park and behind the castle a public bath can be found. It is worth to find the Visitor Centre of the Mureș-floodplain Nature Park in a green area of Arad. The building has accommodation of good quality and active and eco-tourism facilities in the nearby. Special programmes are provided for school groups, classes for changing of approach towards nature and environment. ([www.luncamuresului.ro](http://www.luncamuresului.ro))

## Tourism attractions

~ **Route I.** (1) Fortress Șoimoș (Lipova); (2) Turkish Bazaar (Lipova); (3) Monastery Maria Radna (Lipova); (4) Cladova; (5) Castle in Barațca (Barațca); (6) The Heroes Monument in Păuliș (Păuliș); (7) Wine Cellar in Păuliș (Păuliș); (8) Wine Cellar in Miniș, Museum for Vine and Wine (Miniș); (9) Apiculture Museum, Museum for Trams (Ghioroc); (10) Fortress Șiria (Șiria); (11) Museum Ioan Slavici & Emil Mantia (Șiria); (12) Wine cellars in Șiria (Șiria); (13) White firs; (14) Wine Center of Pâncota (Pâncota)

~ **Route II.** (1) Arad; (2) Castle Purgly, Thermal Baths Șofronea (Șofronea); (3) Curtici public baths (Curtici); (4) Dorobanți public baths (Dorobanți); (5) Castle in Macea and Dendrological Park (Macea); (6) Catholic Church in Sântana (Sântana)

~ **Extra route (Inner City of Arad):** Museum Complex Arad; Museum for church art and worship objects - Monastery Gai; Memorial Museum Vasile Goldiș Arad; Administrative Palace; Cultural Palace; Cenad Palace; Neumann Palace; Justice Palace; Finance Palace; Kelemen House; National Bank Palace; Szantay Palace; Bohuş Palace; Ardealul Hotel; Padlock House; the Catholic Parochy House in Aradul Nou; the Cannon Ball House; Old Theater; Arad Fortress; Old Custom House; Water Tower.



Green belt around the castle in Arad

Purgly castle

„Wine Route” of Miniș



# Tours around Moneasa



## Route characteristics:

! Marked mountain routes with medium level difficulties, also for beginners

! Difficulty: ■ ■ ■ ■

## Route offers:

I. 10 km | II. 12 km | III. 3 km  
3 hours | 4 hours | 1 hours

### Route I. (yellow strip marking)

Moneasa – Osoiului Hill  
– Dezna Fortress Ruins  
– Dezna

### Route II. (yellow point marking)

Moneasa – Gaudeamus Hut  
– Tinoasa Plateau  
– Megheşului Valley  
– Moneasa

### Route III. (blue strip marking)

Moneasa – Bats Cave

Moneasa and the routes setting out from here, said to be the pearl of the Apuseni Mountains, promise easy trekking experience for tourists of every age group. Who would like to see the variety of the seasons in Arad County, it is worth to visit this popular holiday resort that hosts its guests both in summer and winter.



Lake with water-lilies at the building of the old spa

## Description

~ **Route I.** Walk across Moneasa and exit the town at the football field and go up on the right side of the Moneasa Valley. Reaching the ridge, the route heads south following the ridge from where on the east you can see the entire Moneasa Valley (in which nests the Rănuşa village) and on the south you can see the Great Osoiu Peak. You go across this peak, descend into a saddle and enter a thick forest with an accentuated climb until you reach the Written Stone Peak (Vârful Piatra Scrisă), 470 m high. The route descends into a small saddle from where it climbs up to the Dezna Fortress ruins, situated into a poorly wooded area. From the fortress, the route descends to the modernized road, near the Dezna Inn.

~ **Route II.** Walk across Moneasa to the Post office where the marking goes up the stone road that goes along the Stony Creek (Pârâul Pietros). After the last house on the road, the marking takes you up in the forest, along some isolated dwellings. Leaving the road, you follow a path and exit on the right side of the Seci Valley. The path then goes in the forest, following the left side of a torrent. Then you reach a small clearing in which the path turns left along the torrent. After 5 minutes you go right, climbing directly a slope. After exiting the forest, the marking takes you in a valley filled with ferns and blackberry bushes.

After the valley, the marking goes up to the left in a small saddle and you shortly reach the Gaudeamus Hut (former Izoi, 703 m). From the road at the edge of the forest, behind the hut, you go right, go along another hut and reach the carstic plateau of Tinoasa. After a few minutes you go along the tracks of the burned lime furnaces and descend in the Răchitaru Valley. Then you walk along the Megheş Valley for around 6 km and enter Moneasa at the lake, behind the Moneasa Hotel.

~ **Route III.** Follow the main road that goes to Dezna. Then you follow a path to the left, between the houses, and at the first crossroad (behind the houses) you follow the path that goes right. The route slightly gains altitude, goes across some large valleys and reaches a group of rocks that marks the entrance to the cave. There is no need for special equipment to visit the cave, just a source of light and a helmet. The cave is 190 m long, has a 10 m difference of level and is 33 m wide. It can be easily visited.



## Tourism attractions

(1) Ruins of the fort in Dezna; (2) Piatra Scrisă Peak;

(3) Bats Cave; (4) Moneasa; (5) Gaudeamus Hut of the University of Arad (Gabana Gaudeamus); (6) Tinoasa Plateau; (7) Megheşului Valley (Valea Megheş) (You can get informed at the website [www.kozepbekes.hu](http://www.kozepbekes.hu) on further routes, sights and other attractions of the area.)

The „Blue Deer” guesthouse in Moneasa

The boating lake





# Zărand Mountains

Explore the Zărandului Mountains either on foot or by bike and you will embark on a journey through a beautiful natural scenery sprinkled with ruins of fortresses, old convents and churches, lakes, caves and welcoming settlements.

## Route characteristics:

- ! Accessible: all year round, suggested with guide
- ! Difficulty: ■■■■■

## Route offers:

I. 14 km | II. 15 km | III. 33 km  
5 hours | 5 hours | 2 hours

**Route I.** Ghioroc – Capra Peak – Gurgului Ridge – Convent Fereceu

**Route II.** Șoimoș – Șoimoșului Valley – Main Ridge – Băilor Valley – Căsoaia

**Route III.** Strănașa refuge – Moțești-Văsoaia hut (Văsoaia)

**Extra route:** Tauț lake (7 hours there and back)



Tourist lodge in the Zărand

## Description

~ **Route I.** (Marking: blue strip until under the Capra Peak, then red strip on the Main Ridge and the descent to the convent on blue point marking; level difference: cca. 340 m; accessible: all year round, suggested with guide)

The route begins in the center of Ghioroc heading up east on the Domnească Valley along the vacation homes found in this valley. Right beside a water source it goes up on the right side of the valley and reaches an agricultural road. It follows this road, across an open field from where you can see Ghioroc and the entire Arad Plain. Heading up, the marking leaves the road and follows a path into the forest. Follow the route and you go around the Capra Peak (468 m). Here the route intersects the blue triangle route and also at this point starts the main ridge of the Zărand Mountains which is marked with a red strip. From here on, you follow the red strip marking. The general heading is SSW-NNW. You will pass the Cioaca Zicători Peak (432m) and descend in a saddle. Then you pass on it's right side the Gurgului Peak (392 m), then the Chiciora Peak (488 m). Then you reach the southern side of the Fântâna Rece Peak (573 m) which you will pass on it's right side. On the western side of this peak is the Fereceu Convent. A path marked with blue point heads down to the convent.

~ **Route II.** (Marking: yellow triangle; level difference: cca. 300 m; accessible: all year round, suggested with guide.)

The route starts at the bridge over the Șoimoș River found on DN 7 (national road no. 7). Without crossing the bridge, you follow the road that goes up along the Șoimoșului Valley and goes through the Șoimoș village.

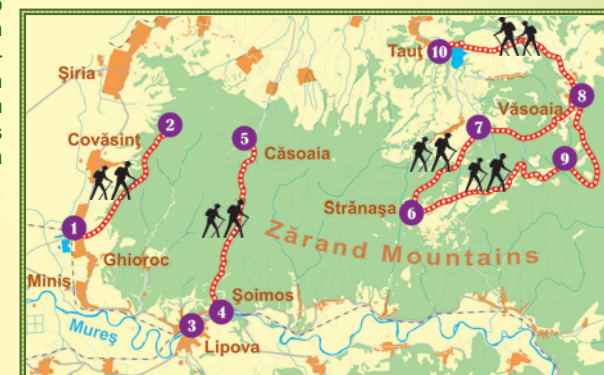
After around 3 km, the road leaves the village and follows a forest road leaving behind a small dam over the river. On the high side of the valley the road goes slightly up, so that at the crossroads at the end of the valley you go straight north abruptly, and reach the main ridge. Then you go left (for around 200 m), so that then you descend on the right on the line of a secondary ridge. Not long after, the trail descends on the left and reaches the spring of the Șoimașul stream. Reaching the valley, the trail follows the Șoimașul downstream and at the second junction it meets the blue strip marking which leads to Căsoaia. Before you reach the destination, the Highș stream coming from the right flows into the Șoimașului stream. Also, in this area you intersect the yellow strip and red triangle marking. All these markings go into the Căsoaia camping.

~ **Route III.** (Marking: red point; accessible: all year round, suggested with guide.)

This route is recommended to be done in 2 stages (2 days). The marking of the circuit starts at the Strănașa refuge that is situated at an altitude of 450 m. This refuge was originally a modest peasant house and has been transformed in a touristic objective. From the Strănașa refuge there are around 15 km on foot (5-6 hours) to the Moțești-Văsoaia hut. This hut is in the mountain hamlet of Văsoaia at 550 m altitude. After staying overnight, the circuit continues through the hamlet and the wonderful ridges and valleys. The remaining route has a length of around 18 km (5-6 hours). From the Strănașa refuge, you can walk routes to the Ivănița Peak – 707 m (5-6 hours there and back) or the Ragevița Peak – 556 m (7 – 8 hours there and back). At the same time, without the intent to visit any sight you can wander through the beautiful surroundings without getting lost because you are on a terrain that offers maximum visibility. From the Moțești hut, you can take walks through the hamlet that spreads on a



Convent Fereceu



large area, taking you up to one day to visit each of its corners. In case you are especially looking to visit a sight, you can visit the Tauț lake (7 hours there and back). The above mentioned routes can be done all year round. You only need a minimum of equipment.

## Tourism attractions

~ **Route I.** (1) Museum for Trams, Ghioroc Lake, Museum for Vine

and Wine (Ghioroc); (2) Convent Fereceu  
~ **Route II.** (3) Museum, Orthodox Church, - Turkish Bazar, Lipova Baths, Franciscan Monastery Maria Radna with the Cross Road (Lipova); (4) Ruins of the Șoimoș Fortress (Șoimoș); (5) Sculpture Camp in Căsoaia (Căsoaia)

~ **Route III.** (6) Strănașa refuge; (7) Moțești-Văsoaia hut; (8) Văsoaia; (9) Ragevița Peak; (10) Tauț lake (Taut)

Cloister of Maria Radna

Farmer's yard in the Zărand



# Găina Mountains



## Route characteristics:

- ! Accessible:  
all year round, suggested  
with guide
- ! Difficulty: ■■■■■

The routes lead to the highest point of Arad county, located in the southest region of the Bihor mountains. The mountains rising one after the other provide amazing scenery from this area.



Găina panorama

## Route offers

- I. 22 km  
7 hours
- II. 24 km  
7 hours

**Route I.** Hălmăgiu – Hălmăgel  
– Găina Ridge – Stone of Arad  
(1429 M) (Piatra Aradului)  
– Găina Peak (1486 M)

**Route II.** Hălmăgiu – Bănești  
– Cristești – Brusturi – Mermești  
– Bodești – Hălmăgiu

## Description

~ **Route I.** (Marking: blue strip; level difference: cca. 800 m; accessible: all year round, suggested with guide) The route marked with the blue strip leads from Hălmăgel through Sârbi up to the ridge. At Bănești several houses wait for its

On the Găina Peak



Avram Iancu  
memorial site on Găina Peak



turn without their tenants, or they are inhabited only in summers. In the gardens, however, old apple and pear trees still fruiting remind us about the past. After a short walk North-West from the Găina-peak, the Stone of Arad (1429 m) can be reached right at the junction of the three counties, Bihor, Alba and Arad; to South-East, the Găina peak of 1486 m, the highest point of Arad county can be found. North from the ridge the Bihor mountains, to the West the Codru Moma, to South-West the Zarand mountains provide a spectacular view. From Hălmăgel, along the Lunșoara brook, the Găina mountain can be reached even by car.

Great Bihor Peak from the Găina Ridge

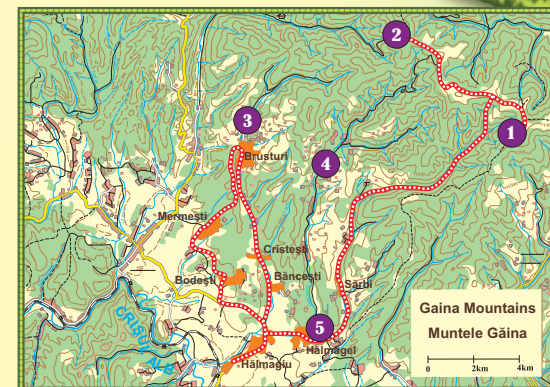


Thunder-torn tree

Old oakland

~ **Route II.** (Marking: yellow point; level difference: 500 m; accessible: all year round, suggested with guide.) This route leads through busy workers' villages. Houses and yards are well looked after, the inhabitants are in charge of agricultural work.

The road in the villages has good asphalt surface, so it is suitable for biking as well. People of the mountain villages are glad to meet the tourists. Its worth to take a roundabout way in an old forest with more centuries old beech trees North-West from Brusturi. It is really worth to take photos with some legendary matuselahs here.



Găina Mountains  
Muntele Găina

(1) Găina Peak (1486 M); (2) Stone of Arad (1429 M) (Piatra Aradului); (3) Old oakland (Brusturi); (4) Cascade; (5) Water mill (Hălmăgel)

~ Women's fair at the Găina Peak – for two centuries now, it attracts masses of people; it is organised on the weekend closest to 20th, July, St. Ilie, every year.

~ Last water mill in function in Hălmăgel – found in the center of the village. Using the water-power of the brook Hălmăgel, the original millstones still grind wheat and corn here with the help of the old wooden equipments. The chaffing and the granary are also operating in the mill.

~ In the Western side of the road between the settlements Lunșoara and Lucăcești a fairy waterfall makes the traveller stop and wonder at this natural attraction and the power of water resulted in numerous grooves in the rocks.



Water mill in Hălmăgel

Typical peasant dwelling among the hills





**BÉKÉSCSABA****ACCOMMODATION:**

Hotel Fiume\*\*\* +36-66/443-243  
www.hotelfiume.hu

Fenyves Wellness Hotel\*\*\*  
+36-66/456-126, +36-66/457-377  
www.fenyveshotel.hu

Brill Hotel\*\*\* +36-66/641-192;  
+36-20/805-20-20 www.brillhotel.hu,  
www.brillbisztro.hu; www.brillpizza.hu

Panoráma Wellness Hotel\*\* +36-66/  
547-770 www.panoramawellness.hu

Réti Pension +36-70/338-4967  
+36-66/459-306 www.retipanizio.hu

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www.almamaterhostel.hu

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+36-30/9586-499 www.csabigél.hu

Alíz Guest House +36-30/238-0701  
www.alizvendeghaz.hu

Békéscsabai Fatornyos Guest House  
+36-30/349-6500 +36-30/224-4017  
www.bekescsabai-szallas.hu

**RESTAURANTS:**

Brill Bistro +36-20/985-5526  
www.brillbisztro.hu  
www.brillhotel.hu, www.brillpizza.hu

Inn to the Hargita +36-66/  
435-419 www.hargitavendeglo.hu

Mókus Csárda +36-66/446-445  
+36-66/898-075 www.postelek.com

Kornélia Resturant +36-66/333-272  
www.korneliaetterem.com

Roy's Café Restaurant  
+36-66/524-690 www.roys.hu

**TOURINFORM OFFICE:**

Békéscsaba; +36-66/441-261  
www.turizmus.bekescsaba.hu

**RENT OF EQUIPMENTS:**

Körösök Natúrpark Közhazsnú  
Nonprofit Kft.; +36-66/445-885  
06-20/425-0925; info.kvne@gmail.com

Tourinform-Békéscsaba  
+36-66/441-261  
www.turizmus.bekescsaba.hu

Százlábú Egyesület, Róbert Zánócz  
+36-70/3340841 www.szazlabu.hu

**TOUR ORGANISERS:**

Körös Valley Nature Park Association  
+36-30/986-4514 www.kvte.hu

Csabai Bihargók Tourism Association  
+36-20/993-5643  
www.csabaibihargok.hu

Százlábú Egyesület, Róbert Zánócz  
+36-70/334-0841 www.szazlabu.hu

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

www.turizmus.bekescsaba.hu  
www.itthon.hu  
www.turizmus.bekesmegye.hu  
www.korosokvolgye.com

**GYULA****ACCOMMODATION:**

Aqua Hotel\*\*\*  
Tel./Fax: +36-66/463-146  
+36-66/468-138; www.aqua-hotel.hu

Corso Boutique Hotel\*\*\*\*  
+36-66/644-940, +36-66/644-924  
gyulahotelcorso.hu

Corvin Hotel\*\*\* Wellness Apartments  
+36-66/362-044  
corvinhotel@t-online.hu

Elizabeth Hotel\*\*\*\* superior  
+36-66/560-240 www.elizabeth-hotel.hu

Hunguest Hotel Erkel\*\*\*\*\*,  
+36-66/463-555, +36-66/561-190  
www.hotelerkel.hu

Tourism Association of Gyula  
+36-70/531-9744 www.gyula.info.hu

**TOURINFORM OFFICE:**

Gyulai Tourism Nonprofit Kft.  
and Tourinform Gyula  
+36-66/561-680, www.visitgyula.com

**RESTAURANTS:**

Park Restaurant +36-66/463-711  
www.parkhotelgyula.hu

Halászcásárda  
+36-66/466-303, +36-30/204-4608  
www.hotelhalaszcasarda.hu

Maestro Restaurant +36-66/560-120  
www.gyulamaestro.hu

Aranykereszt Restaurant  
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221-7477 gyulaipatriota@gmail.com

**RENT OF EQUIPMENTS:**

Bicycles - Gyulai Tourism  
Nonprofit Kft. and Tourinform  
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+36-66/561-680 www.visitgyula.com

Bicycles – Lipcsei Csaba  
+36-30/278-6657

Kayak, canoe, boat and paddle  
boat – Vári Sándor  
+36-30/670-0934

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Gyula Spa Kft.  
+36 66/561-350 www.varfurdo.hu

Gyula Castle Theatre +36-66/463-148  
www.gyulaivarszinhaz.hu

Museums of Gyula - Gyulai Cultural  
and Event organising Nonprofit Kft.  
(Castle museum, Erkel Memorial  
House Kohán Gallery, Dürer Room,  
Ladics-House)  
+36-66/463-544, +36-70/310-6722  
www.gyulaimuzeumok.hu

Mogyoróssy János Town Library  
+36-66/362-000, +36-66/561-691  
www.mjvk.hu

**BÉKÉS****ACCOMMODATION, F&B:**

Dánfok Holiday Resort, Békés-Dánfok  
+36-20/568-4649, +36-20/586-8280  
www.danfok.hu

Dübögő Hotel, Restaurant,  
Wedding House, and Pizzeria  
+36-66/510-410; +36-66/510-411  
www.dubogo.hu

Békés Megyei Tisza Kálmán  
Public Education Hostels:  
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20/293-1653; 100 persons: +36-66/416-  
735; +36-20/293-1653

Bagoly Guest House: +36-66/412-077  
www.bagolyvendeglo.hu

Nagyház Pince Wine Cellar: +36-30/  
608-0358 www.borozo.g-portal.hu

Kira Guest House: +36-66/412-  
149 asosgipsz@vipmail.hu

Current programmes, services:  
www.bekesikultura.hu  
www.bekes.hu, www.bekesvaros.hu

**RENT OF EQUIPMENTS:**

dragon boats, canoes, hang-gliding,  
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**SERVICES:**

beach, pálinka-tasting

sausage filling, visiting the Geese-  
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chaets and buildings  
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**TOUR ORGANISERS:**

Békés Kayak-Canoe Club  
Tibor Kálmán +36-20/805-7251

„Százlábú” Egyesület, Róbert Zánócz  
+36-70/334-0841, www.szazlabu.hu

Körös Region Trekking  
Association: +36-70/382-9917

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Municipality of Békés Town  
+36-66/411-011, www.bekesvaros.hu

Kecskeméti Gábor Cultural, Sport and  
Tourism Centre of Békés Town  
+36-66/411-142, www.bekesikultura.hu

Körös Small Boat Pier of Békés  
+36-20/272-7477, +36-20/271-9551  
braun.mihaly@danfok.hu

Dánfok Holiday Centre and  
Free Beach  
+36-66/411-142; +36-20/568-4649  
+36-20/586-8280, www.danfok.hu

Swimming Pool of Békés:  
+36-66/411-455; +36-20/400-2331  
www.uszoda.bekesvaros.hu

Püski Sándor Library of Békés  
Town: +36-66/411-171  
www.bekesikonyvtar.hu

Jantiyk Mátyás Museum of Békés  
Town, +36-66/411-943  
bekesmuzeum@bekesvaros.hu

**ARAD AND SURROUNDING****ACCOMMODATION:**

www.cazarearad.ro

**RESTAURANTS:**

in every hotel, pension. Further  
restaurants at homesite:  
www.restaurantearad.ro

**FEHÉR-KÖRÖS (Arad megye)****ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANTS:**

Hotel Central, Borosjenő  
+40-257/511-833

Körös Hotel (Hotel Criş)  
Kisjenő (Chişineu Criş)  
0040-257/350-349

**TOUR ORGANISER:**

Árpád Nagy, Arad +40-758/815-678

**PROGRAMME ORGANISERS:**

Trekkers of Zarand (Hoinarii  
Zarandului)  
www.hoinariizarandului.go.ro

Association Come with us!  
www.veniticunoi.ro.

**MAROS RIVER****ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANTS:**

Fata Neagră Pension, Zám (Zam)  
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Favorit Pension, Lippa (Lipova)  
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Pension Belvedere, Lippa (Lipova)  
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Hotel Rusco, Ópálos (Paulis) +40-  
257/ 388-411

Motel West, Őthalom (Vladimirescu)  
+40-257/515-500

Casa Verde Pension: +40-357/801-880

Maros Floodplain Nature Park  
Arad: +40-257/258-010

Komodo Pension – Pécska  
+40-357/428-279

Hotel Jackson, Nagylak  
+40- 257/206-227

Further: www.cazarearad.ro

**TOUR ORGANISING, GUIDING,  
EQUIPMENTS (BICYCLES, CANOES):**  
www.hoinariizarandului.go.ro

Maros Floodplain Nature Park  
+40-257/258-010 www.luncamuresului.ro

**MONEASA AND  
SURROUNDING****ACCOMMODATION:**

Park Hotel, Moneasa Hotel, Hotel  
Codru Moma, Camping Moneasa,  
Villa Club Castel, Villa Mayumi  
+40-257/253.678  
statiuneamoneasa@gmail.com

Other:  
www.statiuneamoneasa.com

**RESTAURANTS:** in every hotel,  
Dezna Inn

**TOURISM INFORMATION:**

Turism Infopont  
Moneasa

**ZARÁND MOUNTAINS****ACCOMMODATION:**

Pension La Nepoata lui Grec Lae,  
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(Şiria) +40-257/531-185

Pension Konak, Györök (Ghioroc)  
+40-371/072-117

Györök Camping (Ghioroc)  
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Pension Favorit in Lippa (Lipova)  
+40-746/033-13

Pension Belvedere, Lippa (Lipova)  
+40- 257/561-885

Tourism Centre, Kaszolya (Căsoaia)  
+40-742/057- .666

Tauţ-i Camping (Tauţ)  
+40-257/384-010

Moţeşti, Văsoaia Guesthouse and  
Strănaşa refuge  
+40-758/815-678

**RESTAURANTS:**

Tourism Centre, Kaszolya  
(Căsoaia)

Ana Maria Magdalena Restaurant,  
Lippa (Lipova)

Pension Konak, Györök (Ghioroc)

**RENTING OF TOOLS:**  
bicycles in the Camping of Ghioroc

**PROGRAMME ORGANISERS:**

Trekkers of Zarand (Hoinarii Zărandului)  
www.hoinariizarandului.go.ro

Association „Come with us!”  
www.veniticunoi.ro

**TOUR ORGANISER:** Árpád Nagy,  
Arad +40-257/284-530  
+40-758/815-678

**GENERAL INFORMATION  
AND CONNECTING  
ROUTES:**

For further routes please visit the  
site www.imm-arad.ro/activetours

**TOURIST INFORMATION:**

Infotour Arad: +40-257/270-277  
turism@primariaarad.ro

**INFORMATION OF  
PUBLIC INTEREST:**

112 (emergency number for police,  
fire service, ambulance)





Mid-Békés Territorial Development Municipal Association – 5600 Békéscsaba, Szent István square 7.  
Tel: 20/229-5055 – e-mail: [info@kozepbekes.hu](mailto:info@kozepbekes.hu) – web: [www.kozepbekes.hu](http://www.kozepbekes.hu)



Körös Valley Nature Park Association – 5600 Békéscsaba, Szent István square 7.  
Tel/fax: 66/445-885 – e-mail: [naturpark@globonet.hu](mailto:naturpark@globonet.hu) – web: [www.körösökvölgyekozpont.hu](http://www.körösökvölgyekozpont.hu)



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Tel/Fax: +40-257/253-757 – e-mail: [arimm@clicknet.ro](mailto:arimm@clicknet.ro), [contact@imm-arad.ro](mailto:contact@imm-arad.ro) – web: [www.imm-arad.ro](http://www.imm-arad.ro),

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