

Pilisszentiván



HOME OF THE PILIS FLAX



ON THE BOSOM OF THE PILIS AND THE BUDAI MOUNTAINS



Did you know that dolomite dust was formerly known as Reipsand, and was sold on the streets – as scouring powder? Contemporary scouring powders (Superdol, Extradol) are mostly made of dolomite dust, hence the “dol” posterior constituent.

Did you know that that the oldest one of the nine effigies was erected back in 1749? By clicking on the QR code, you can watch pictures and a video on the effigies.



Did you know that what was the purpose of the big iron wheel of the Miner Memorial? It was used to move the wire-cable in the mineshaft.

Did you know that the girth of the settlement's lake is exactly 1,000 metres? We have many runners, and for them, it's enough to count the laps. Also, annual school races are held around it.

Did you know that there is another lake on the other edge of the village? This is called Jági Lake, and it hides amongst the hills charmingly.

Did you know that the only place in the whole wide world where the wonderful, yellow-flowered Pilis flax (Pilisszentiván flax, dolomite flax, Scientific name: *Linum dolomiticum*) lives and in every May, blossoms is the Szénás Mountains, and it's one of the three areas in Hungary with a European Diploma?

Did you know that the old – now turned into a grave park – cemetery holds the remains of László Domonkos, who was the goalkeeper during the football tournament during the 1912 Summer Olympics, and didn't get a single goal during the consolation final, therefore was essential to achieve the repechage victory? According to contemporary memories, he was the first to fly through the air after the ball.

Did you know that Pilisszentiván is one of the greenest villages, its publicly owned lands hold one tree for each family (1,500-2,000 combined)?

Did you know that this is where the first German gentilitary nature trail was established in 2016?

Did you know that next to all of these, it's one of the safest villages according to public order data?

Did you know that Pilisszentiván is the first village with a foreign twin village: Marktkeugast (in Germany, close to the Czech border) in 1988, with a special permit?



PILISSZENTIVÁN



Pilisszentiván is a true ribbon village: with a length of 2,700 metres, it runs along the valley that is the official borderline between the Pilis and the Budai Mountains, and at the same time, it is the frontier of the reservoir area, for the creeks north of it flow towards the stretch of Danube above Dorog, while the ones on the south aim for the Óbuda Bay. It is also a somewhat isolated village, for it is partially out of direction of the traffic, and – apart from those who go to work from here – mostly known and used by those who go from Hűvösvölgy and Solymár towards Dorog and Esztergom. The things that first grab your attention are the lake on the right surrounded by a reed plot and shadowy trees and the sight of red fire engines, and only after this you will arrive amongst the houses, following the narrow bed of the Aranyhegyi Creek.

Maybe it's a little undeserved, but most through-passengers only gape at the spectacular mountains left and right: west-southwest, the Budai Mountains with their flat tops 4-500 metres high, covered with pine-groves and mostly only with barren rubble-stones, and a few kilometres east, the ranges of Pilis stretching into the distance, backed by the protruding peaks of the Visegrád Mountains.

After several passing-throughs, even I chose to stop last fall, and this spring I braved the mountains several times by taking shorter and longer hikes by foot and bike, as well. I identified the area with a map in my hand, and fell in love with it.

It is a tidy and cosy settlement that keeps track of its past neatly, whether it is of gentility or mining. The series of small memories affect the visitor together, and slowly, they form an image.

This short pamphlet aims to present the things that support everything mentioned above.

Tomi Balogh
hydrogeologist
adventure tour chief

Gentile village, German name Sankt Ivan bei Ofen: even today, Pilisszentiván is mostly still a "Swabian" village, as it was long established at the time of its foundation: it was formed in 1724, after the restoration following the Turkish Era by German families of Frank-land, and new German experts continued to arrive after the mining industry began to flourish in the middle of the 18th century, for there were only a handful of miners in Hungary despite the fact that it's been almost a century since Maria Theresa initiated a mining academy at Selmecbánya. The infrastructure of the settlement is great and developed constantly: the locals continuously realize and prepare new developments for the benefit of both the locals and the arriving hikers.

It is also a village of agglomeration; a significant portion of its citizens travel to Budapest daily to work, and get home only in the evening. Despite this, the rest of the family stays here and goes to the day-nursery, kindergarten, school and store. The population number is close to 4,500, which is a part of urban sprawl officially consisting of 81 settlements and almost 800 thousand capita, separated from the centre of the capitol city by 15 kilometres.



Approach

From the centre of Budapest, there are two roads to choose from, and none of these is longer than 20-23 kilometres:

Main Road No. 10 passes through Óbuda, and using this you can travel as far as Pilisvörösvár and turn left a little after, or take the turn towards Solymár, and approach it from below with a 30-35 minute car ride.

From Buda, or for those who arrive at Buda from abroad it is slightly faster to reach Hűvösvölgy, and after that, Pilisszentiván via Solymár.

From the north, Slovakia and the Danube the road leads here through Esztergom, Dorog and Piliscsaba, from the western half of the country and the highways you can reach Piliscsaba through Zsámbék and Tinnye, with a 4-kilometre ride afterwards.

Public transport

The comfortable red trains connecting the Nyugati Railway Terminal and Esztergom set off every half an hour-hour, and from both directions it's about a 40-minute trip to Pilisvörösvár, from where it takes a cosy 15-minute hike across the hill separating the two villages and the steps above the church to get to the centre. You can bring a bike via the train.

The situation is somewhat better via bus, for there is a ride from Árpád Bridge every half hour, and it gets to the centre of Pilisszentiván in 35 minutes.

Main Road No. 10 is not recommended for bikers – on asphalt, rather take the Hűvösvölgy – Solymár – Pilisszentiván path, where the first section is a bike path, and even Solymár has little back alleys which allow you to sneak almost to the borders of the villages in heavy traffic.



The History of Pilisszentiván

It is true for almost every settlement that only sparse findings are available on the people before the citizens who nested in the villages, practiced agriculture and created lasting buildings and writings, and any new artefact, whether it is a pottery shard, a brick or a grave, is another piece of the puzzle in knowing our ancestry.

There is only one certain knowledge of the distant past: it is undeniable that a wide variety of people travelled, traded and fought each other along the Danube, in the Dunazug Mountains and mostly in its valleys. The Romans positively visited this area, for this was the shortest route towards Aquincum from the fortress close to Tokod, even if they did not turn towards Pilisszentiván (for the beneficial geographical setting: wider valley and better visibility), but marched through contemporary Pilisvörösvár (Main Road No. 10).

The Carpathian Basin was inhabited in the period of the Hungarian conquest; after the Romans passed about 1700 years beforehand, the tribes of the Hun, Avar and other nations lived their peaceful and sometimes warring lives. This kept on going after their arrival, resulting in heavy cultural, religious and ethnic blending.

Documented continuity leading back from contemporary knowledge can only be dated from the beginning of the 18th century, when German Catholic families arrived here, and began settling, building and agriculture.

Five German families already arrived in 1723, and entered into settlement contract with the Vicar of the Augustean canon-regulars on 24th April, 1724. This document is in mint condition to this day.

The possible names and origins of the first families:

*Peter Paxian Lohr from Mayn, the district of Main
Heinrich Metzger...*

*... and his son Hans Metzger from Parthenstein, the district of Main
Lorentz Eisenkramer from Oberwissä, around Mainz
Heinrich Hessing from Lohr.*

The immigrants were German Catholics. In the beginning, they used the chapel of the manorial house, the building of a separate temple happened later on.

The German gentilitail nature trail of the village was established in 2016, and you can receive information and download a datasheet filled with interesting questions through the hyperlink of the QR code if you wish to hike it.



The most famous of the village's feudal lords was the Karátsonyi-family, who built a castle in the middle of the 19th century (see the photo during the village roam on Page 8), which stood up until the end of World War II.

Coal mining, which began in the Budai and Pilis Mountains at the beginning of the 19th century (see the page on mining) brought a great change. Mining and the adherent investments and professions: forging, carpentry, woodworking, commerce meant further jobs, the arrival of more professionals and, of course, elevated living standards, which aided not only the development of craftsmanship, but also stores and pubs.

The miners' housing complex, school, nursery and clinic built at the end of the 19th century brought further elevation of living standards, and meanwhile, the population doubled.



A great number of citizens moved to the village, the current resident population is estimated at 4,500. According to the census of 2001, only 10 to 15 per cent of the populous considered the German national language, ethnicity and cultural traditions important. (source: www.nepszamlalas2001.hu)



Mining

The brown coal found in the mountains also changed the life of Pilisszentiván. During the 19th century, mines opened constantly, and in the beginning, the produced coal was used to cater for the area's needs, but later on, it was used for industrialisation, and it was transported to factories, workshops and distributors via carriages, and after that, by train, and by ship on the Danube. In the beginning, mining meant new settlers, for locals were not keen on going down tunnels towards the mine-shaft 50-100 metres below ground. Professionals arrived mostly from Germany, Austria and around the mining towns of the Highlands, from developed mining areas.

The effects of one and a half century of mining are still palpable around the settlement of Pilisszentiván. A hike on the miner nature trail marked by signs and other memorials, like the old bridge (photo and description on the page of the 2nd village roam) or the Miner Monument (47°36'37.3"N 18°53'42.3"E 47.610357, 18.895092) is worthy of your time.



After millions of years, the ancient tropical meadows became peat, lignite, and through further carbonisation, brown coal, and later on, hard coal. In a geological sense, the brown coal mined in this area is young, it was formed at the beginning of the modern geological epoch, around 60 million years ago.



Dinke, bringing up coal from the Good Hope subshaft

Full Village Roam – Passable for Bikers and Dog Owners

(2-3 hour long activity, may go up to 5 hours given the options)



Arriving from Solymár, you will roll down next to the name-plate on a smooth slope, on your right, you will see red fire engines and behind them, the shimmering surface of the lake (bearing the local nickname *Slötyi*) surrounded by reeds and trees, a couple hundred metres of industrial area, followed by the former mining compound (colony), with the living quarters of the chief mining engineer rising above it (some of the locals refer to it as *Owl's Castle*) which – although in a somewhat dingy fashion – gives a perfect example of the contemporary (turn of the 19th-20th century) feeling and mood. After this, you have already reached the well-visible and urban centre (*Szabadság Road*) with rows of parking spaces on the right, where if you see available spaces, break.

After the grassy, shrubby, flowery ribbon, there is a larger building complex; that's where our stroll begins: the combined compound of the mayor's office and the school, and only a narrow space separates this from the bright yellow height of the Catholic church, home of the two treasured paintings of Masa Feszty from 1950.



There is a little access road between the church and the pilgrim accommodations of the Parish, leading to a cosy set of stairs: the hike upwards is well worth it, for the visage of the village and the surrounding mountains slowly unfold with each step.

Within a few minutes, you can reach the top of the lovely little hill, shadowed mostly by tall pine trees surrounding a stone cross, the Marlok Cross standing here for almost ninety years, built by the denominating family. Even the hill's name refers to the fact that even centuries ago it held a church and a cemetery; the results of smaller excavations support this. The tall pine-trees benefit from local protection by a continuous attempt to replace the ageing specimens.



This is not the only green spot during our village hike: the Kálvária Hill and the other one above the playground with the little caverns can be found in a similar environment.

The hill is surrounded by Templomhegy Street, which is not far from the border of Pilisszentiván and Pilisvörösvár (Klapka György and Határ Street), where the inhabitants of the different settlements live just across the street. The state of the steps suffered from the long years, they are will be renovated and given panoramic landing-spaces this year (fall: 27 m, 168 steps). This is the starting point of the bilingual gentilitical nature trail, very popular among schoolchildren.



Hike back to the main road, and continue the stroll on the inner road for about 200 metres. Here, you can find two sights, one of the special effigies of the village, the **Osztó Effigy**, which is more than a century old and about 20 metres from this, the **Miner Memorial** next to the main road, commemorating 120 years of local brown coal mining* (1850-1970).



Looking up at the hill above the memorial, over the road, and with the help of this little photo you can image the castle of the former feudal lords, the Karátsonyi family, with its gardens and hunting cabin. The castle and its surroundings were torn down after World War II, nowadays partially built-in, and some is a grassy hill. The archive photographs were provided by the Pilisszentiván Local History Public Association.



A creek swashes parallel to the main road: this is the Aranyhegyi Creek*, collecting its water from the rainfalls and springs of the mountains, and it reaches the Danube through Solymár, at Aquincum, just across the Népsziget on the bank of Pest.

**hydrogeological curiosity, that there is another significant creek on the mountainslopes east of Pilisszentiván called the Kenyérmezői, however, the former proceeds southeast, towards Óbuda, the other to northwest, and joins the Danube above Dorog. Despite the common headwaters, they meet 70 kilometres apart.*

The villagescape of Pilisszentiván has only a limited number of old buildings, the thoroughly renovated or newly built houses typify the settlement, but if you walk Szabadság Street of József Attila Street, there are a number of treasures to be found.

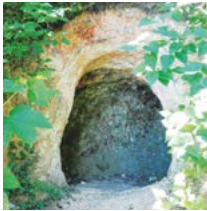


Bridges with wooden rails lead to the other bank of the creek, some are footbridges, but some can hold cars, as well.

Cross the car bridge after another 200 metre long hike you will see the green area on the other side with a fenced playground, basketball court, benches, parking strip, slide, and wooded hills in the background. You can use the fountains around here to fill your canteens.



You should spend some time here with rest and having a cave-seeking adventure.



Behind the playground, close to the slide you can spot tiny trails at the edge of the undergrowth. As I came to learn, these lead to a place that is the children's favourite: tiny cave niches cut into the side of the hill, carved by the miners maybe for rain protection or shelters for the poor into the sturdy, yet easily carvable limestone/dolomite.

There are other adventures to be had on the wooded hill if you choose to climb the little trails (pretty steep), and heading right, you can find a small inner walkway with a metal rail, which starts off from Attila József Street, and leads down to the foot of Kálvária Hill. It is not marked on any maps.

There are several smaller paths leading to the stations of Calvary and the little chapel. Following the ways behind the chapels, you can reach Sport Street and the football field, maintained by the numbersome Pilisszentiván Sport Association. (<https://www.facebook.com/PilisszentivanSE/>)

During winter, this is the location of the village's sledge hill on the left side, marked by a funny sign.



At the moment, the stroll was about 1,500 metres long, and took about 40-60 minutes, depending on speed and sightseeing. You can use the free Wi-Fi-service in the parking lot and its immediate 100-metre radius (*VILLANEGRA* password: *villanegra*).

Optional: from the parking space above the football field, you can take a hike in the wild. Of course, you can take this a different time by parking the car here, and taking a separate trip.

Walk to the Jági Lake

A short and enjoyable trip via a comfortable dirt road. About 1,200 metres to and fro, a half-hour detour, but if you like and thoroughly circle the lake, this can go up to an hour. In the meantime, the "Witch's Cauldron" mine is another little adventure within the protruding boulders of the Hárshegy Sandstone.



Groups and families may apply for a tour guide at the Directorate of the Duna-Ipoly National Park (advance reservation: pilisilen@dinpi.hu, +36 30/511-1802)

Optional for the tireless: extend the walk to the Jági Lake, should you choose to take the Jági nature trail. It is a less than four kilometre – an hour and a half – long stroll, and one of its points furthest from the village is Hársas Spring, currently having an archaeological site in its vicinity, with a planned small landing place in the near future.



People tend to slow down and gather waters coming down from the mountains. For one, it can be useful during summer droughts, and otherwise, it is a type of flood regulation. This is how the Jági (Hunters' Field) Lake was formed. You can follow the ascending shingly carriage road, or you can look out for the **red markers**, not to mention that the Jági nature trail marked with sigs is also a great option, but it's only the first part of a longer, 4,500 metres long ring road. You can find a landing place next to the little lake, with rich wildlife in and around it (frogs, newts, leeches, aquatic arthropods, turtles, fishes and birds).

Returning to the football field, you deserve a soda, a beer, a coffee, and there's no better place to get these is the Villa Negra with its patio next to the field.



You are at the turn of the trip, take Sport Street and walk back to Hársfa Street (the second road on the left), and after 400 metres, turn right to János Drapál Street. The street bears the name of the world-famous Hungarian motor racer who passed away at a tragically young age, and even a memorial stone honours him.

The other end of the street leads to the main road, and now you should stay on the right side: after a 500-metre walk, you arrive to the traditional house (86, Szabadság Street), and you can get a taste of the past of the citizens mainly of German nationality: clothes, furniture, tools.



Since there are no constant business hours, a checking in via telephone is recommended: (phone number: 06 26/367-146, or 06 70/946-0716)

The farthest end of the traditional house opens up to Attila József Street, and turning left, at the next intersection – with a slight break – you can continue the stroll down Bányász Street. It takes no more than 400 metres, 6 to 8 minutes to see the sign and entrance of the Pilis Flax Visitors' Centre on the left

If you are lucky, there will be schoolchildren playing and learning in the garden or the study hall, but if you would like to be a part of an open-air program, like natural science, thematic workshops in the woods or along the waterways, checking in is highly recommended via telephone or e-mail.



Click on the QR-code for contact information.



The Pilis Flax Visitors' Centre is like an exciting fairy tale house both inside and outside. The windows are covered with leaves, the all along the shelves and walls, all sorts of shed bird feathers, animal hairs, eggshells, antlers, bones, crops and all the creations made from these during the shops: cone-owl and such. The antechamber hold dozens of backpacks filled with all the equipment (magnifying glass, boxes, pincers and filters) that are most likely to be useful while examining nature.





Exiting the Pilis Flax Visitors' Centre, turn left, then right at the next corner (Dózsa Alley), and here you are, at the old cemetery. It has been years since this site had its last funeral: closed in 1975, and turned into a memorial park. Its hillside location and the mood of the trees surrounding the number of beautiful graves invites to a silent stroll. This is the final resting place of László Domonkos, the legendary goalkeeper (see the "Did you know that" lines on page 2).



You can use Dózsa Alley to get back to the car park. On the right side of the mayor's office (front) you can see a pleasant little confectionery, with a patio for good weather: the cakes are delicious, the coffee is excellent, the ice-cream tastes home-made, and the service is polite.

There is another suggestion for a village roam on page 26, which takes you to several mining memorials of the 19th and 20th century.



The wire-cableway of the Hungária coal mine above Pilisszentiván

The distance between the pillar on the ridge of the Templom Mountain and the one on the opposing hill is 458 metres, their height is 17 feet. The public road and the tobacco store under the track were protected by wood scaffolding from the occasionally falling coal. December 16th, 1930, taken by Dr. László Kiss, chief mine security advisor.

Nature Open Air Activities



Exquisite Geographic Situation

The villagers share a rare luxury: they can be picky when it comes to choosing a trip, for they can start off towards southwest, the Budai Mountains, or north by northeast, the Pilis. Both can be reached within half an hour either on foot or by bike.

Hikers are offered several nature trails: from the north (from Esztergom) comes the **red**, enters the village, then heads up to the Nagy-Szénás between the football field and the Kálvária Hill, via the valley under the Ördögszikla, only to finally amble downwards on the other side of the mountain towards Nagykovácsi and after that, Budaörs.



The **blue** arrives from Piliscsaba among the barren peaks, meets **with the red** at the Nagy-Szénás, and after a short joined stroll, turns towards Máriaremete (southeast) under the Zsíros Mountain.

Last, but not least there's the **yellow**, with its slightly urban streak: it enters Pilisvörösvár, visits the train station, through the ridge which separates yet connects the two settlements, descends into the centre, then via Jóreménység Street, falls into the Antal/Antónia Trench, and at its top/starting point, flirts with the blue for a few hundred metres before arriving down to Hidegkút.

The Wildlife of the Szénás'



What you may spot during the trips

Flora



pilis flax
photo: Sándor Bíró



greater pasque flower
photo: Sándor Bíró



round-headed rampion
photo: Sándor Bíró



seseli leucospermum
photo: Antal Halász



dianthus plumarius subsp. regis-stephani (King Stephen pink)
photo: Sándor Bíró

Thanks to the Directorate of the Duna-Ipoly National Park for the numerous beautiful photos.

Fauna



bush cricket • photo: Sándor Bíró



goldcrest • photo: Enikő Gál



red fox • photo: Bertalan Vajda



European green lizard • photo: Katalin Becsei



old world swallowtail
photo: Katalin Becsei



common toad
photo: Katalin Becsei

The Budai Mountains and the Pilis in the Dunazug

The geographical expression and region "Dunazug" is rarely used, and even then it is not clean-cut what it means to each individual. According to my definition, the Danube on the north, the Gerecse on the west, the Budai Mountains on the south, and on the east, the Pilis and the Visegrád Mountains behind it border and encompass the region. It is an area rich in natural water, mountains, forests and cosy basins, with dozens of villages a handful of bigger cities.



Before heading up to the mountain, a few important principles and suggestions:

There are no more dustbins around the hikers' resting areas, for the wind and the forest animals scattered all the garbage one by one, so it is asked from all of our visitors to take the garbage home in bags.

A significant part of the mountains behind the village is highly protected, entering is only allowed with a permit or an escort (surrounded by a fence).

Careless behaviour can easily cause severe accidents while hiking, even on a 400 metre high, yet rocky, muddy, icy and steep mountainside. Don't embark wearing city clothes, always keep a sweater, a map and water handy.

Estimate the distances before setting off, and only plan for as much as you can handle.

It is enjoyable to hike or jog with a dog, but even in the forest, you will need the little bags.

The **Mária Path** runs from Esztergom, and through Solymár it reaches Máriaremete, where it meets the **Hungarian Pilgrimage**, which reaches the same destination via Pilisszentiván, then continues towards the capital city.

Many choose to lodge at the pilgrim accommodations next to the Catholic Church (see Page 31).

Thanks for the always lively young scout team for the jolly photographs!

<https://hu-hu.facebook.com/944sztbcs/>



Trip to the Nagy-Szénás

(height: 550 m)

*11 km trip, ~300 metre fall, steep risings
estimated time: at least 3, but rather 4 hours*

Halfway between the centre and the popular lake nicknamed Slötyi starts the Jóreménység Street and with it, the **yellow trail**, on the western side of the triangular field.

After a few hundred metres, the road turns left, changing into a forest trail. At the end of the asphalt road, a riding hall allures horse-fans for a rest.

(By following the asphalt taking a right turn, you can see the little stone bridge made for coal transportation and after a 5-600 metre curl, find the yellow trail at the next bend.)

This corner holds one of the miners' plaques made based on the trapezoid scaffolding and an effigy, both commemorating the István Shaft close by.

After a few hundred metre long concrete stretch, the **yellow sign** takes a gentle right turn, then meets the **red** at the fence, and they saunter together for about 200 metres.



At the next intersection, follow the **red** to the right, northwest, and this will be the point of return via the **yellow** after visiting the mountains.

The Hosszú Trench in which you will advance for almost 3,000 metres begins with a slight climb, but after a while it comes to its senses and becomes steeper, and in the meantime, the trench itself changes: it narrows, making the trail that much thinner. This can become dangerous during icy winter times: the ice can remain for a long while in the north-northeast crossing, making it easy to slip between the arduous walls of the gully.

The first building of the rest-house was made in 1926, and the necessary materials were carried by the members of the Workers' Gymnastic Association on their backs. Later on, it received several additions, not to mention the restaurant opened within in 1934.

It became unattended in 1975, and four years later – it is said that the word came from above – the whole building was demolished. The memorial wall and stone seen today is a sad memento; however, several forest buildings suffered similar fates due to the reformation of tourism. But there is a silver lining, for several chalets are going to be renovated in the mountains.



The rest-house in its heyday / source: Pilisszentiván Local History Public Association

It's worth visiting the mountaintop from the ruin: only 3-400 metres **on the blue trail**, then return and keep on going, following the opposite direction of the **blue**.

The **blue** keeps a levelled trail for a while, then you will slowly begin to descend towards the gardens, vacation-houses of Nagykovácsi, and walk about 1,000 metres above them. In the meantime, you will see small signs and a bigger resting place at the top of the Zsíros Mountain. Soon after comes an intersection, and the **yellow sign** leads down into the Antal/Antónia Trench (what does the dual nomenclature refer to?), where – depending on the season and the rainfall – you can either proceed merrily or walk around fallen trees and get muddy to your ankles.

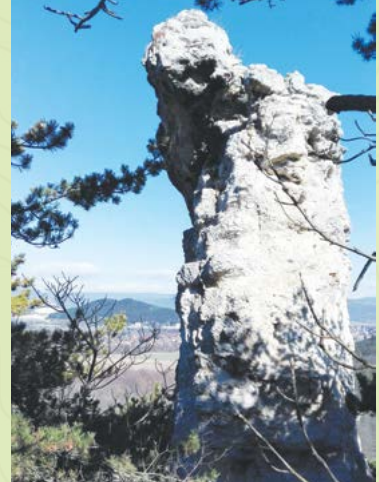


Option for the Way Back



At the bottom of the trench, our **yellow** sign meets the **red** yet again. Follow this combined stretch (200 m) and reaching the fence, turn right to the carriage road bearing the **red marker**. This is followed by a pleasant, approximately 2,000 metre long stroll: with mountains on the left, parkland fields and sparse forests alternating on the right. Take the left turn as you reach the big intersection, but you should look around beforehand. The fence marks the border of the heavily and the critically protected nature reservations, where you can only enter with a permit or a guide. Apart from wildlife conservation, the main reason for this restriction is the strong erosion of barren mountainsides: the combined effects of rain, wind snow, ice and sunlight morcellates the rocks, which goes down into the valley, taking the remaining soil, so the plants have less and less substrata.

By looking exactly southwest – especially during the winter months when there is no foliage – the strangely shaped boulder cube of the Ördög-torony emerges from behind the woods, and above it, the Iváni Mountain crenelated with smaller rocks.



Turn right, and in a few minutes you will end up on a clearing: benches, a fireplace (except if there's a heavy drought), shady trees, a space ideal for rest and a picnic, even if you wish to have a little cookout.

Bacon roasting, shashlik on a spit:

one onion apiece, potato, raw meat cut into little cubes, matchbox-sized bacon, salt, pepper, an optional smaller apple, all of this skewered onto a stick and thoroughly fried by slowly rotating it above a smouldering fire for about half an hour while talking, toasting.

You can look for seasonal treats in the woods – strawberry, blackberry, hawberry, blackthorn, or even rosehip.

Continuing the descending walk, you immediately arrive at Jági Lake, and from here, it's only 5-600 metres to the football field and the closest houses of the village. The starting point is a 20-25 minute walk on the main street from here.

Bicycle Tours

For bikers, the Pilis P+B Spot set up and made by the Pilis Parkwoods Private Limited Company next to the football field is an excellent starting point, providing comfortable parking and relaxing. (N47° 36' 43,66' E18° 53' 02,27')
pilisbike.hu/p-b-sportpalya-pilisszentivan




The map set up there suggests three tours, an easy, an intermediate and a longer one, with lots of slopes. Thorough observation is necessary to follow the paths, for the tours tend to shift from dust roads to asphalt.



A longer surf on the homepage pilisbike.hu is also recommended, for apart from Pilisszentiván, there are eight more settlements with P+B Spots (Pilisszántó, Pilisszentlászló, Nagykovácsi), and knowing this, you can assemble larger trips.

One thing is certainly contra-indicated, and more to this, forbidden: the protected areas around the Nagy-Szénás.

Should you wish to make a short circle around the village, there is a 5 kilometres long jogger- and biker path selected, which can start either from the sports field or from the parking lot  of the Slótyi.

My Old Favourite – About a Day Long – Bike Tour

(100 km), which stops at Pilisszentiván – at least for a coffee, a soda – there and back, as well.

Városmajor - Hűvösvölgy - Solymár - Pilisszentiván (15 km) - Pilisszántó (24 km) - Pilisszentlélek (35 km) - Tát (50 km) - Bajna (60 km) - Tinnye (75 km) - Piliscsaba (80 km) - Pilisszentiván (85 km) - Budapest (100 km).

Exciting Pilis Round

31-33 km, ~600 m fall

Pilisszentiván - Pilisszántó - Pilisszentkereszt - Csobánka - Pilisvörösvár - Pilisszentiván: twisting cycling through mountains and valleys. If you manage to get to the ridge from the bottom of Pilisszántó, you are a certified advanced cyclist.

Trips for Families with Kids

My experience is that compared to adults – who also fit into extremely different moulds –, children see everything differently. A pre-schooler or a primary schooler would find an anthill, a merry lake or a rabbit running by fascinating, contrary to a special place reached via hours of car drive.

Apart from the aforementioned playground opportunity and the trip to Jági Lake (Page 10), I would like to recommend the Pilis Flax Visitors Centre established in Pilisszentiván by the Directorate of the Duna-Ipoly National Park. (facebook.com/pilisilenlatogatokozpont)



The centre is made up of an unbelievably cosy garden and an excitingly furnished house with a garden in the centre of the village (17 Bányász Street). Its environmental instructor – *Katalin Becsei* – treats kids – both pre-school and school groups – not only by the means of her great professional knowledge, but with smiling affection.

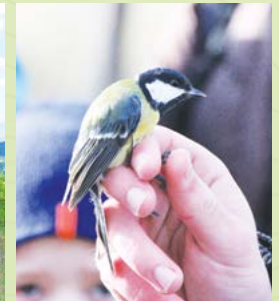
The homepage is worth a visit (click on the QR code) to check the diverse assortment of programs.



Constant programs: for example, World Water Day, the immeasurably popular trips organised to honour the Pilis flax blooming in May, and there are a great number of applicants for bird-banding and adventure-filled night trips in June – illuminated by fireflies.

Orderable programs: natural science classes, thematic professional guides, trips to the Jági Lake with researchers' knapsacks, but the tour guide can help you find joint classes in centre of interest.

The Visitors' Centre is at the brink of rejuvenation: it is going to await children with bigger spaces and more interest, hopefully from the spring of 2019.



Tour with Miners' Mood, Ending at the Slötyi Lake

(an easy, 3,000 metres long walk, 1-1,5 hours,
with lake-circling, about 5,000 metres in total)



The beginning of the pamphlet (Page 6) already visited the middle and western parts of Pilisszentiván/Sankt Ivan bei Ofen, now let's start off for east-southeast, and visit the former communal areas of the miners, then let's check where the mineshafts used to run along, and finally circle the lake's about 1,000 metre-long perimeter to freshen up.

Set off in the opposite direction from the building complex of the church, school and offices, and rather take a tiny inner service road, pass by the car bridge and cross the creek on little wood footbridge afterwards.



This way, you will walk right past the former living quarters of the chief mining engineer (an old card calls it directors' lodge another the senior officer's house); the old brick building stands out of its surroundings, with the unvarying build-ings of the former mining colony lining the posticous streets.

The Hungarian movie *Psyché* was shot here in 1980; its allegorically colourful, romantic and lovely visual style (directed by Gábor Bódy) was inspired by the romance of the same title by Sándor Weöres.

*"My foolish father called me Psyché,
It's the third in my line of first names.
In Amor's caress, always aflame,
For you can never separate
Your soul and your affection
High hopes of change I have within me,
A world of vanity's my burden,
I live my life gaudy and festive"*

Sándor Weöres: *Psyché*
(the book was published in 1972)



The houses were still standing, as we can see on this old photo showing the line of houses and a wedding held there.

(source: Pilisszentiván Local History Public Association)

You can see the triangular Szent Borbála Square on the opposite side of the street, with the little chapel dedicated to the patron saint of miners* standing on its farthest side. It is commemorated by the cast made into the asphalt, showing the former floor-plan. It is highly possible that the fate of the chapel was caused by the mining it protected: according to the records, during the thirties of the last century, the building sagged due to the tunnels running underground, and later on, collapsed.

(This is the starting point towards the peak of Nagy-Szénás and the ruins of the former chalet, description of Page 21.)

The square also holds the House of Generations fulfilling communal tasks, click on the QR code to choose from its programs immediately. There are other points of interests around the place, especially in its northwest corner: the Solstice Memorial Stone of 2012 with its two boulders – which can be turned around on top of each other – showing the patterns of ten stonemason novices. Plautus, which is, in the case of Pilisszentiván, the solstice, Saint Ivan's Day.



Nomen est omen, said Titus Maccius Plautus about 2200 years ago, and well, in the case of Pilisszentiván, the eve of the solstice and Saint Ivan's Day is an important relation. More info on the Solstice celebration of the village on Page 33.

The question still remains: why Iuan?

"If the church celebrates the birth of Saint John on this eve, why is this celebration dedicated to Saint Iuan? Because the name "Iuan" comes from the old Hungarian form Jouános, Iuanos, and the Slavic version of the name "John". Originally, it's a name with Hebrew-Greek-Latin origins, meaning God's mercy, God's merciful."

After roaming the square – the kids can ride the wooden “pit railway” –, let’s set off towards the mountains on Jóreménység Street. This street was used by the miners to get to the shafts and down into the mines before shifts.



A ten-minute walk later you will arrive at the cemetery, where they could reach a depth of 177 metres through the Erzsébet Shaft. Only a few steps away from the feretory, next to the cross, there is a beautiful miners’ gravestone, under which the Rodenburg family rests.

Miners’ Nature Trail

All around the village, you can see signs on the past and history of mining with exciting maps and information, their structure recalling of the trapezoid scaffoldings. You can see these from a distance, and contain loads of interesting tidbits with their pictures and texts. (Piliszentiván Local History Public Association)



We reached the point of our trip when we look for the memorial and sign of the Jóreménység (formerly known as László Rajk) subshaft (GPS: N 47.598133, E 18.898116); in order to do so, follow the road after the cemetery, turn right at the intersection, then left at the second, narrow road (100 metres), and after a few minutes you can find the stone and the sign at another curve. The subshaft used to go underground with a slight incline, and the extracted coal was brought up by minecarts running along narrow gauged rails.

Optional: you can locate the **yellow tourist sign** at the curve (heads towards Nagykovácsi from the village), and following that for a 5-600 metre stroll you will find yourself in the Antal/Antónia Trench hiding between the mountains: a rocky valley filled with luscious greenery, making it spectacular, yet narrow.



Return to the village using the same trail, pass the cemetery, and see the beautifully carved rails of the old bridge at the curve (built for the coal-transporting train), then head right at the first street on the twisting Erzsébet Row, and after 300 metres, arrive at a wide grassy area known as the Kuczmag Field (which holds many of the village’s open air events, see the QR code).



Walk through the square and by taking the small street on its opposite corner (Donát Bánki Street), get to the main road.

Turn right, and after 200 metres, the lake comes into sight in front of you, which can be circled comfortably in about 15 to 20 minutes. Soon after, the signs of an interesting nature trail appear on the walkway, introducing the wildlife of the lake and its surroundings. The Slötyi is good for fishing (however, you are not allowed to swim or skate), you can buy a day pass on site.



(Pilis Miners’ Fishing Association, phone: +36 70/223-2511)



Catering

Bakery

Jókenyér Bakery

4, Erzsébet Industrial Park
Phone: +36 20/620-2201



Bread crescent- and cone-baking party at the jokenyer.hu baking factory

"Our Children's Bakery was established with the purpose of teaching the basics of a healthy diet interactively for future generations. During the experience event, kids can learn the process that turns a grain of corn into freshly baked bread in a playful manner. The Children's Bakery is located in Pilisszentiván, on the upper story of the coffee shop of Jókenyér Bakery."

The Village's Confectionaries, Restaurants and Pubs

Schuck Sweetshop – next to the mayor's office, with a welcoming patio if the weather is good.
81, Szabadság Road
Phone: +36 30/301-7911



Csali Tavern – on the shore of Slötyi Lake, cosy meals on the patio overlooking the lake.
csalicarda.hu, info@csalicarda.hu
3, Tópart Street



Villa Negra – next to the football field Sport Square



Csillám Confectionary
2, Óvoda Street
Phone: +36 30/314-6577



Gyémánt Restaurant – the village centre
60, Szabadság Road
gyemant-etterem.hu
gyemantetterem@fibermail.hu
Phone: +36 20/254-1254



Mimó Restaurant – the brookside
14, Szabadság Road
mimoetterem.hu
mimoza.kavezo@t-online.hu
Phone: +36 20/574-8016



Schuck Beer Apothecary – next to the main road
171, Szabadság Road
Phone: +36 30/523-1880



Accommodations All Around the Village

Pilgrim Accommodations – in the building of the Catholic parish
89, Szabadság Road
Lodgings for groups no bigger than 20 people, must register in advance.
Phone: +36 20/376-7888



Rózsa Guesthouse
Cosy little boarding house in a calm environment, only a few minutes from the centre by foot.
673/1, Erzsébet Row, phone: +36 26/367-312



Riding-hall

Varga Stud Farm Riding-hall – next to the pilgrim trail
17, Jóreménység Street
Phone: +36 20/941-7076



Apothecary, Doctors' Offices

Health Centre, Health Visitor Services
1, Szent Borbála Square
Duty hours: +36 26/330-360



Lenvirág Apothecary

1, Jóreménység Road
Phone: +36 26/367-018
Business hours: Mon.-Fri.: 8.00-18.00, Sat.: 8.00-12.00



WellVet Veterinary Office

174, Szabadság Road
Phone: +36 70/386-3697
www.wellvet.hu

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Prospects of Pilisszentiván

As in recent years, Pilisszentiván welcomes tourist, athletes, pilgrims and families who love and respects natural beauties in the future, as well.

In order to do so, it contributes to the villagescape and active nature tourism with care and several developments:

- renewed roads and parking strips
- unified sign system and info spots to help orientation
- several recently planted – adopted – trees
- the Tündé kert, filled with the indigenous fruit trees of the Carpathian Basin will be ready soon
- an open-air stage is to be built for the summer on the hillside behind the church.
- the village's lake will rejuvenate: enriched with resting spots and an aquatic nature trail
- new opportunities at the Pilis Flax Visitors Centre, the restoration of the Jági nature trail

The symbol of Pilisszentiván is the pilis flax (see Page 18), its natural home along the magnificent sites of the nature trails of the Budai Mountains provides a unique sight: student groups and hikers arrive here all year from all over the country. The local visitors' centre of the Directorate of the Duna-Ipoly National Park and the Pilis Parkwoods Private Limited company are reliable partners in the joined development of tourism.

By means of constructed and natural abilities, all age groups and every type of nature enthusiasts, bikers, cross-country runners enjoy the time spent here, and give Pilisszentiván a good reputation.

Architectural design of the rejuvenated Visitors' Centre



Our Events

Rooster Festival

Every year, on 1st May the jolly Rooster Festival is being held. The rooster voted to be the prettiest receives a medal. The tastiest rooster-based meal also receives an award. You can look forward to a wide variety of entertaining rooster-centred events.



Solstice Festival

Celebrating the triumph of the Sun and the Light on 21st June, on the summer solstice. According to rural sources, it was an important celebration earlier on, yet after Christianity spread, we connect it to Saint Ivan's Day (eve).



The longest day has been celebrated in Pilisszentiván for about three decades. During this occasion, we roll the decorated sunwheel through the village, and honour the traditions in connection to the saint commemorated in our village's name for several days. At night, we watch the luminous dance of the fireflies, gaze at the starry night sky, light a bonfire, "heat up", dance and sing next to the merrily flickering flames. Join us, and be the part of this dashing celebration!

Carnival – Annual event during the weekend of Márton Day, every November.



Hársas-erdő

KÁROLYHEGYI DÜLŐ

DOROG

VASÚTÁLLOMÁS
Pilisvörösvár

PILISVÖRÖSVÁR

VASÚTÁLLOMÁS
Vörösvárbánya

SOLYMÁR

- Village border
- Railroad
- Main Road No. 10
- Bus stop
- Train station
- Car park
- Gas station
- ATM
- Automated Teller Machine
- Post office
- Playground
- Health Centre
- Apothecary
- Wi-Fi
- Pilis Flax Visitors' Centre
- P+B Pilis Bike P+B spot
- Bakery
- Archaeological digsite
- Mine trip
- Long village roam
- Tour to the Nagy-Szénás
- Optional:
- Jági nature trail
- Hungarian Pilgrimage

- Village runner- and bicycle round
- Length: 5 km
- Fall: 90 m



- 01 Kuczmag Field
- 02 Living quarters of the chief mining engineer
- 03 CBA Prima
- 04 Schuck Sweetshop
- 05 Csali Tavern
- 06 Villa Negra Pub
- 07 Csillám Confectionary
- 08 Gyémánt Restaurant
- 09 Mimó Restaurant
- 10 Schuck Beer Apothecary
- 11 Pilgrim Accommodations
- 12 Rózsa Guesthouse
- 13 Varga Stud Farm Riding-hall
- 14 WellVet Veterinary Office
- 15 Fishers' Lodge
- 16 Drapál Memorial

Visiting Rules



Cars are only allowed on public roads, and parking on the curbs and designated parking spaces.



Bikes are only allowed on public roads and designated trails.



The National Park is open to visitors, but only on the nature trails. Leaving the trails in critically protected reservations is not allowed.



Please throw the garbage into the designated bins, or collect in your backpack and return to your lodgings, for packages do not take up more space on the way back than at the beginning of the trip.



Please do not touch or disturb plants, animals and inanimate natural treasures, take photos instead, in which you can take pleasure peacefully.



Please abstain from loud noises, disturbing the tranquillity of the wildlife, and scaring away the shy inhabitants of the forest.



While in the area of the National Park, only pick wild fruits and mushrooms with the permission of the trustee and the assigned nature preservation authority.



Technical sports (gliding, bike-, car- and motorbike races) can only take place with the prior permission of the nature preservation authority.



Mass events (orienteering, performance tours) can only be organized with the prior permission of the trustee and the assigned nature preservation authority.



Only use the selected campsites to pitch and camp in the protected reservations.



Lighting fires are only allowed at selected fireplaces. Even a discarded cigarette butt can cause major harm. If prohibition of fire is decreed, kindling is forbidden, even at fireplaces!

Compiled by András Békeffy (DINPI)

IMPRINT

Pilisszentiván – Home of the Pilis Flax – On the Bosom of the Pilis and Budai Mountains

Publisher: Local Government of Pilisszentiván Municipality • 2084 Pilisszentiván, 85, Szabadság Road

Downloadable: www.pilisszentivan.hu • Published: December 2017.

Contributor: Tamás Balogh

Graphics design, typesetting, copy-editing: Zsuzsanna Veréb

Printing press: Schneider Press LLC.

ISBN: 978-615-00-0713-7

