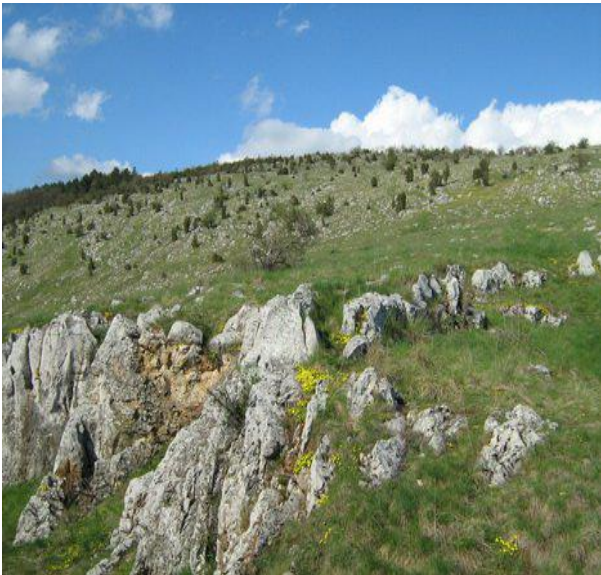


## AGGTELEK (88 km – 1h 40')



Concert in Baradla Cave



The dolomite surface



One of the nature shaped formations

It is the first Hungarian national park to be dedicated to the protection of abiotic values, superficial land formations and caves. The subterranean natural treasures, namely the caves of the Aggtelek Karst and the Slovak Karst were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1995. Currently more than 1200 caves are known in the karst.

225 million years ago the area of the Aggtelek Karst was covered with a warm sea. Sea animals with shells were abundant in it. Due to geological processes the deposited calcareous shells were formed to be the basic rock type of the karst. About three million years ago caves of the karst began to evolve. The Aggtelek Karst is well-known of its caves, although, the karst formations on the surface are also very variable. Swallets, dolinas, and blind valleys can be found on the karst plateaus and slopes. Streams have continuously formed valleys and canyons. Bizarre rock formations and several types of limestones remind visitors for the richness of inanimate nature.

One of the most endearing treasures of the National Park is the Baradla Cave, which is the biggest and the most magnificent cave in Hungary. Excavations in and around the cave have proved that it has been a shelter to man for more than 7 000 years. Recently some other unique caves have been opened to visitors.

**Activities:** Cave tours; Cave concerts; Guided 'eco-', zoological, and botanical tours in the national park area. Guided walks in Jósvalfő village to learn about the natural and cultural environment of the village.