

HOLLÓKŐ (86 km – 1h 32')



Hollókő, the most beautiful pearl in the gently rolling Palóc scenery, has been a World Heritage Site since 1987. The most precious part of the village is the central area with 58 protected buildings, which preserves masterpieces of 17th century vernacular architecture.

The area was the property of members of the Kacsis dynasty, who were descendants of the first ruling Hungarian Árpád royal house. After the Mongolian invasion (1241-42) King Béla IV ordered fortifications to be built to protect the people of the area against the plundering Mongolian warriors. The castle was captured by the Turks in 1552. During the Ottoman occupation of 150 years it was held by Turkish and Hungarian forces alternately, but neither side considered it important enough to fortify it. The Habsburg ruler Leopold I issued a decree in 1701, ordering the demolition of fortifications in Hungary. In 1711 the work of destruction reached Hollókő, but the castle was already in a rather dilapidated state, so it was not blown up. That is why the castle of Hollókő remains the most original 13th century fortification in Nógrád County. According to an ancient legend András Kacsics, ruler of the Pusztavárhegy stronghold, kidnapped a beautiful girl whose nurse happened to be a witch. In order to set the girl free, the witch nurse made a pact with the devil himself. On the devil's orders his sons took the form of ravens and stole the stones from the castle. The stones were used to build the castle of Hollókő on the site where it is now. Its reconstruction was finished in 1996.



The protected landscape of Hollókő includes a meadow used for raising young trees, which is a significant feature of the countryside, and the vineyard with its narrow plots. Since 1977 the center of the village, the gardens, the meadow around it and the castle hill have been part of the Hollóko Landscape Protection Area of 141 hectares.

Activities: Cultural weeks or days, festivals, museum, castle tournament, Old village, folkloric traditions

