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TIHANY





## Dear Guests,

On behalf of the Municipality and hospitable residents of Tihany, let me warmly welcome you to one of the most beautiful and most frequently visited settlements in the Upper Balaton Region. With its almost one thousand years of history, Tihany has always been proud of its traditions and values because wherever we go and look, each corner and street of this small settlement with 1,400 residents is penetrated by history.

Tihany is not only proud of its past. Owing to the developments and investments of the recent past as well as co-operation with the local residents, Tihany began to develop in a manner that will also determine its future. With the help of the Tihany Legend Project, born in the spirit of joint thinking with experts, local organisations and entrepreneurs, our public squares, parks and cycle paths and promenades have been reconstructed. Our achievements were recognised not only within the country but also abroad. In 2014, European Village Renewal Award went to Tihany, first among the Hungarian settlements and first among the members of the former social block. The village also won the Public Area Aware of Excellence, the Hild Award and, to our greatest pleasure, in 2016 Tihany also won the Hungary in Bloom environment improving competition, which gave us a right to test ourselves in the European contest this year.

Tihany loves challenges and also prepared for this task with a great deal of commitment and confidence. Our enthusiasm is unbroken. Tihany wishes to show its nicest face to the jury. We shall take all reasonable efforts to achieve that, involving not only the local institutions but also the residents and the entrepreneurs all working on presenting a nicely maintained, neat village to the members of the jury.

I hope that the time you spend with us will also prove that Tihany is truly a "Peninsula of Treasures".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tószoki".

**Imre Tószoki**  
mayor



# About Tihany in General

Tihany, the one-time fishing village, has become one of Hungary's most frequently visited tourist destinations by the end of the 20th century owing to its natural landscape, cultural and sacral heritage. It is part of the Central Transdanubia Region and is situated in one of the most dynamically developing regions of Hungary in a very fortunate spot, near major development axes. Apart from being part of the planning and statistical regions, the village is also part of Lake Balaton Outstanding Resort Area, which has a unique legal status.

Lake Balaton, i.e., the largest shallow lake of Central Europe, was created approximately 25,000 years ago. The Tihany Peninsula stretches into the lake, dividing it into two basins. The village has approximately 1,385 residents but during the tourist seasons it is flooded by thousands of visitors and tourists every day. The main source of income of the local residents is tourism, as they cannot pursue any industrial or large-scale agricultural activities amidst natural reserves and historic monuments. The Tihany Peninsula is unique not only in Hungary but also in Europe in a number of aspects. Its special geographic situation, geological and historic remains, rare plant and animal species turn it into one of Hungary's most beautiful and most protected treasures.

This is where Hungary's first nature reserve was founded in 1952. In 2003, the Council of Europe granted the Europe Diploma of Protected Natural Regions to the peninsula.

Southern European and sub-Mediterranean features, supplemented by the balancing effect of Lake Balaton against extreme weather conditions have an important role in the climate of the peninsula.



Tihany is one of Hungary's most beautiful sacral locations too, as its existence has a thousand ties to Christianity. The life and development of the village is still determined by the choice of King Andrew I when he chose Tihany as the burial site of his family and founded a Benedictine abbey in 1055. The Deed of Foundation of the abbey is one of the most important linguistic relics of the Hungarian language. Although the monastery converted into a fort during the Turkish wars was destroyed, it was reconstructed in Baroque style in the 18th century and has been standing on the Eastern peak of the peninsula as the ancient symbol of Tihany.

The residents of the village lived primarily from fishing, viticulture and viniculture for centuries. In the 19th century, viticulture was exposed to a major threat with the appearance of phylloxera, which destroyed the vines on the whole peninsula. The ancient occupation of fishing has been important in the lives of Tihany residents for centuries and was one of the most important sources of income in the ancient times. The sabrefish, caught in large quantities on the peninsula, was the main source of income and article in trade. Its significance is shown by the fact that it is also included in the coat of arms of Tihany and a statue was also erected to commemorate the fishermen.

This unique natural and cultural environment inspired a lot of poets and writers. Poet Gyula Illyés, writers László Németh and László Passuth and sculptor Miklós Borsos lived and worked in Tihany. There are still buzzing intellectual and cultural activities in the village. The exhibitions, concerts and lecture series organised in the Benedictine Abbey have created a true intellectual workshop on the peninsula. The events dedicated to local traditions attract thousands of occasional visitors and the open-air theatre in Tihany offers one of the most outstanding series of summer events in the country.





# Natural Environment

The values of the Tihany Peninsula have been known to experts researching and protecting nature for a long time. The first nature reserve of Hungary was established there in 1952. The Tihany Nature Reserve was later extended to the North, and its 1,658 hectare territory currently constitutes one of the units of the Upper Lake Balaton National Park. Its two increasingly protected parts are the Bozsai Bay and Külső-tó (External Lake). The landscape of the nature reserve is managed and eco tourism and environmental educational tasks are performed by the Upper Lake Balaton National Park Directorate. The Mediterranean landscape was shaped by volcanic forces millions of years ago. Three lakes have important roles in the beauty of the landscape of Tihany: Lake Balaton, Külső-tó (External Lake) and Belső-tó (Inner Lake). Belső-tó is situated directly below the village. Its shape is almost round and it has an open water surface. It is situated 26 metres higher than the surface of Lake Balaton. At one time it was famous for its rich flora and fauna, these days it is a popular fishing area. Külső-tó emerged from the main crater of the historic volcano of the peninsula. It is a heavily filled shallow lake at 116 metre height above sea level and is paradise to waterfowl. The thermal springs breaking to the surface during the follow-up volcanic activities formed more than a hundred geyser cones on the peninsula; the most beautiful is the Golden House, the white rocks of which are covered by golden lichen shining in the sunshine. Walkers and hikers can follow the Lóczy educational path to learn about the unprecedented natural attractions of the Tihany Peninsula.



## Flora

A long time in the past, the majority of the Tihany Peninsula might have been covered by moss and oak wood, while slightly fresher, originally hornbeam-oak forests may have developed on the Northern slopes. The first industrial-scale large lavender plantation of Hungary, stretching across the Tihany Peninsula, owes its existence to the sub-Mediterranean climate. By now the lavender has become the main symbol of the peninsula. In the middle of the 1920s, a famous herb expert of his times, Gyula Bittera, created the first lavender plantation from seeds directly imported from France. The plantation was a success because the aromatic oil content of the lavender harvested in Tihany was higher than that of the French lavender. Despite its small size, the old lavender plantation of Tihany is still a unique asset in the Hungarian landscape. These days, in addition to the old plantation, large lavender plantations exist opposite Külső tó. The plantation is maintained by Upper Lake Balaton National Park. Local entrepreneurs are also engaged in lavender growing. One of such plantations is situated beside the road leading to Tihany. The traditional land cultivation methods are still an important feature in the current Tihany landscape because viticulture, fruit growing, mowing and grazing are activities pursued on the peninsula for centuries. In terms of the size of territory, viticulture is the most extensive operation. The experts of Upper Balaton National Park created unique fruit collections at a few points of the peninsula over the last few years in the spirit of tradition and gene preservation. The purpose of the small orchards is not to produce in mass, but to collect the still existing indigenous types of the Upper Lake Balaton Region and to preserve them for the future generations.



## Fauna

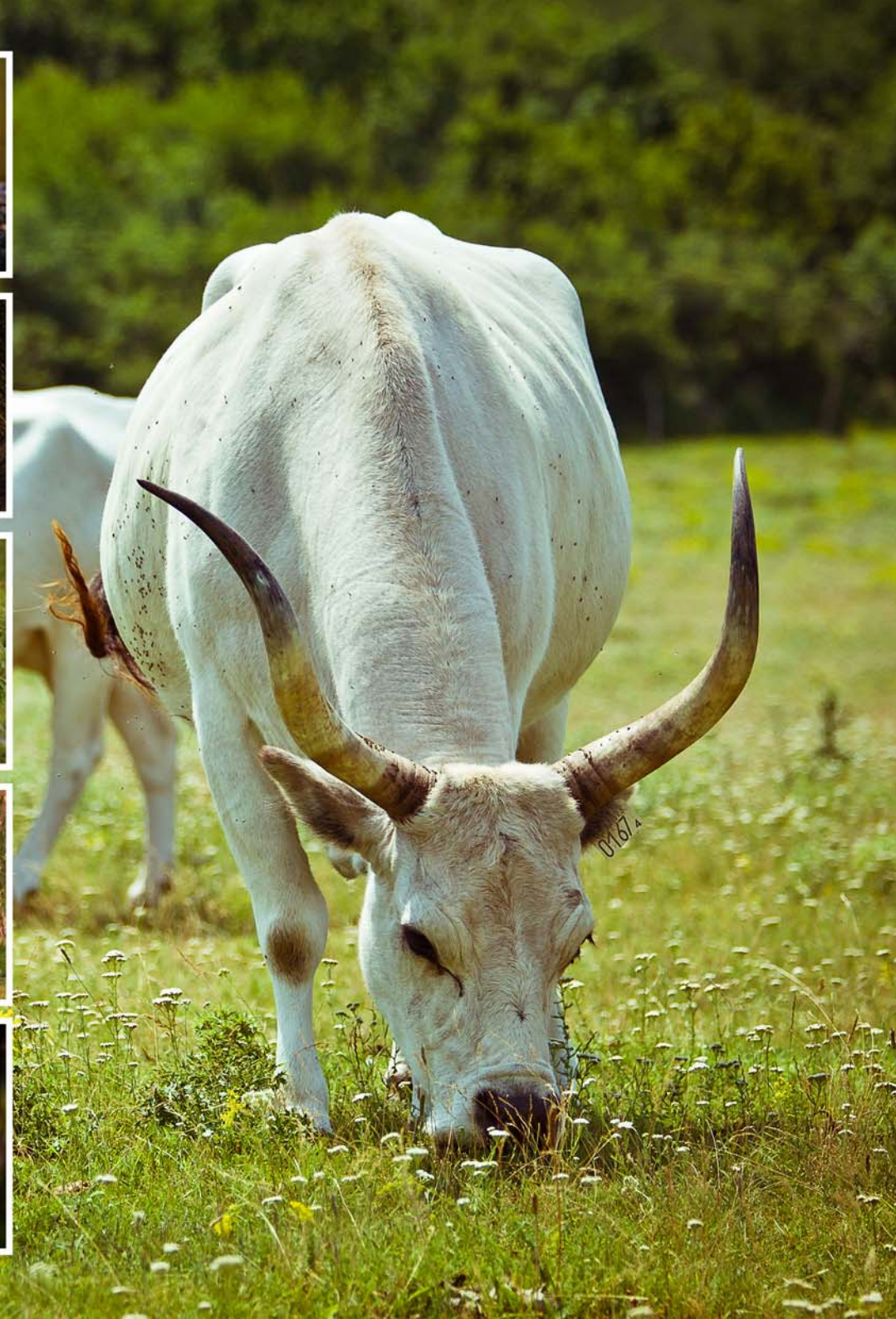
These days the Tihany Peninsula is a natural asset in Hungary that boasts with one of the most diversified structure of habitats and a very rich fauna related to it. The peninsula is in a fortunate situation that even though it is relatively small in size, there are four lakes on its territory and very close: Lake Balaton, Kűlső and Belső-tó and the currently Ráta-csáva (wet land) was also one of the wet habitats in the past.

The well-known open-water bird species is the black-headed gull, while the great crested grebe most often appears in the reed. At present, smaller or greater swimming group of mute swans are now inevitable parts of the view of the water in Lake Balaton.

The large waders, such as the great egret, the purple heron and grey heron represent extremely important nature preservation values.

The Tihany Peninsula also has a unique insect fauna. The wide range includes large running beetles, the morimus funereus, the stag beetle and cicada.

The grey cattle, grazing on the shore of Belső-tó, and the protected gophers, re-established in this area by Upper Balaton National Park a few years ago, are true tourist attractions.



## Landscape and Nature Preservation

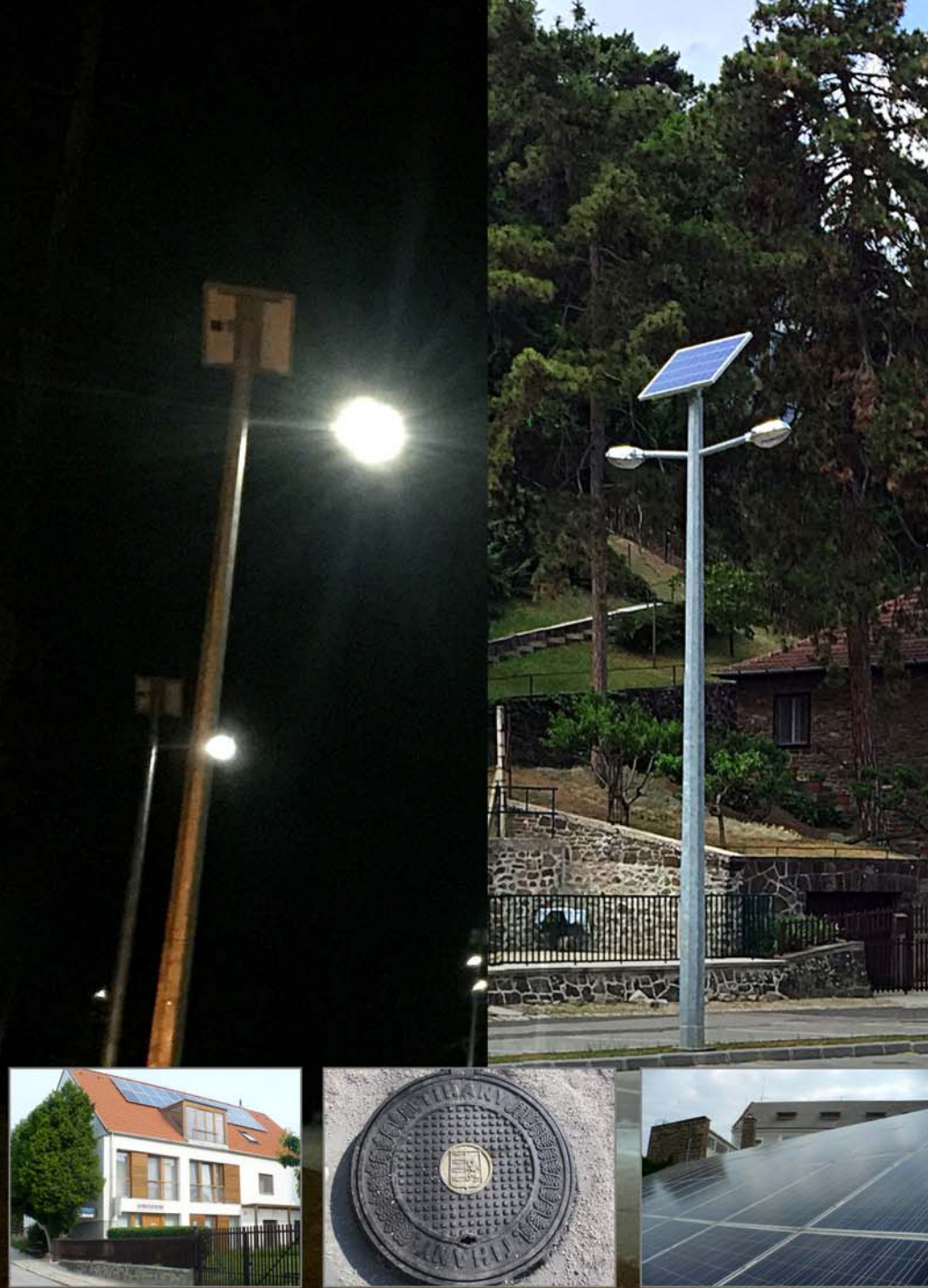
The unique and irreplaceable natural assets of the peninsula set an obligation for the Municipality of Tihany, the institutions operating in the village and the local residents to pay outstanding attention to their environment. Environmental protection and sustainability are absolute fundamental interests in every aspect because one of the greatest attractions of the village is its natural environment and the residents live on tourism. However, the traffic, which increases primarily in the summer, represents great challenges for the operators. The village is exposed to an increasing number of tourists each year. The parking demand, the high number of trade and service facilities bring in more and more urban features, and the infrastructure of the settlement can cope with the demands less and less. One of the objectives of the investment projects of the recent past was to implement reconstruction and function in housing projects which will create a uniform image for the settlement. They should help maintain its rural characteristics, adapting to the current demand, and new functions in an environment that satisfies European standards.

## Air

In the village the emission of air pollutants is determined by residential and institutional heating and transport. There is no industrial activity in Tihany that should be worth mentioning. The reduction in the dissemination of biological allergens, primarily that of rap beet, must definitely be mentioned, as it is extremely important in terms of public health. The concentration of air pollutants is significantly below the limit value in the case of each parameter. Traffic is intensive in the summer but it has not yet caused any major air pollution yet. In terms of transport, passenger car traffic is most closely related to tourism. The consequential pollution occurred primarily in the centre of the settlement. One of the objectives of the developments of the Tihany Legend Project was to convert former car parks into public areas, and ban cars from the centre of the village. Owing to these changes, dozens of parking spaces were terminated in the Old Village. Public car parks are constructed continuously on the administrative borders of the settlement. The future plans include transportation of visitors to the centre of the village with environmentally friendly vehicles, such as e.g., electric buses.







## Energy Consumption, Public Utilities

Of the energy carriers supplied through pipelines and cables, electricity and natural gas are available in the village. Electricity is still used for lighting and to satisfy the energy demand of various technologies. With complex utilisation, natural gas can satisfy the full range of thermal energy demand, replacing other energy carriers not supplied through pipes or cables but polluting the environment more heavily. Among the renewable energy sources, the natural conditions of the village are most suitable for solar energy utilisation. According to meteorological data, the number of sunny hours is higher (more than 2,000 hours) in the settlement, and therefore could be used for energy generation. As the renewable energy sources depend on the weather, they will not reduce any investment into energy supply through pipes or cables, but will influence only the annual consumption of traditional energy sources. The use of solar tiles on heritage protection sites is governed by local construction regulations.

There has been significant development in the past few years in the fields of energy efficiency and alternative energy generation with renewable energy source (solar panels): the primary school, the culture centre and the surgery are supplied most of the energy consumed by them with the solar panel system. All new investments are made with preference to solar energy: in the new car park, above the port, the energy for public lighting is provided by solar panels.

The Tihany community lives an independent life during the winter period from March to October, but especially in the summer months Tihany becomes a holiday resort, the number of residents increases and the environmental impacts generated by transit traffic and the holiday makers also rises. Due to the resort areas stricter environmental regulations apply to the settlement. In the Balaton holiday region, which offers primarily beach holidays, the protection of the water quality of the lake is essential, and therefore the regulation of the use of the lakeshore and the mitigation of any harmful impact from land is truly a "vital issue".

The significant reduction in water consumption and in the volume of generated waste despite a higher number of users (holiday homes and residential homes) in the settlement over the last ten years is a favourable environmental trend. Even in the past the village introduced a lot of environmental measures and has prepared a lot of proposals for the future.

A sewage network was established in the village to eliminate the greatest source of pollution. Connection to the sewage network is mandatory and there are plans to expand the network primarily in the holiday resort area.

## Waste Management

There is a selective waste collection system in the village operated through collection points, where containers are provided for the selective collection of paper, glass and plastic waste. As environmental awareness has grown among the residents, the utilisation of the waste collection points has increased since 2006. The selective waste collection system has been continuously expanding since 2006. In 2011, the Foundation for the Development of Tihany won 200 excellent quality compost containers in an EU project, which were offered to the interested parties free of charge. This act was very popular among the residents of Tihany. The environmental investments made by the local government improved the quality of life of the local residents and protected the environment. The local government invested into new waste collection and compression machines and a composting equipment.





## Water

The condition of Lake Balaton is extremely important both for the present and future of Tihany. The Balaton Limnology Institute of the Research Centre of Ecology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences examines the quality of water in Lake Balaton, its nutrition content and the composition of its alga community at multiple points of the lake each month throughout the year. In addition, the institute also runs limnology and hydro-biology tests with remote sensing to assess the ecological condition of the lake. Partly owing to the efforts of the institution, the composition of the alga communities in the water of Lake Balaton has returned to what it was at the beginning of the 20th century, when the harmful impacts on the lake were much smaller.



## Environmental Education

With regard to the protection of natural environment, the Upper Lake Balaton National Park has the greatest responsibility. As a good owner, the national park works intensively in road maintenance, supply of guided tours, environmental education and in increasing the environmental awareness of the younger generations. Each year they inform thousands of visitors of the importance of the protection of the natural treasures of the peninsula. The activities of the National Park were rewarded by the Europe Diploma granted to Tihany in 2003. Environmental education is a deliberate training and educational activity in Tihany. The local educational institutions, including Visszhang (Echo) Kindergarten and the Tihany Benedictine School run by the Abbey were awarded the Green Kindergarten and Eco School titles. During the activities of the institutions a lot of emphasis is put on making sure that the pupils studying there grow into adults who understand, love and care for their environment. But only the local government and the expert institutions work on protecting the environment in Tihany. The local residents and civil organisations organise waste collection activities with the involvement of the community each year and the competition for a Flowery Tihany is also organised. The purpose of the organisers of this competition is to encourage the local residents and the enterprises operating in Tihany to maintain their own environment. Climate awareness is also supported by the local government: the local construction regulations assure a high green surface ratio for each construction plot in the various construction zones. Alleys and woodland belts must be planted at points designated in the urban structural plan, to maintain a connection between the green areas of the village as a network.





# Built Environment

The Benedictine Abbey was established on the Tihany Peninsula more than 950 years ago. The church, as all old churches, was adjusted to the rising sun. During the centuries it was part of decay and revival on a number of times. The subterranean part of the church, i.e., the Royal Crypt, is one of the most valuable structures of the Middle Ages that still exists in Hungary. The abundantly decorated Baroque church is a reminder of the period of the revival after decay. The church is not only a monument of art history, it is also a truly sacral and intellectual centre.

The old village as a quasi "open-air museum" has preserved the traditional style of popular architecture, and therefore the core of the settlement is significant as a historical monument. The majority of the residential houses were built in the 19th century and have maintained their former layouts. The traditional culture of Tihany was very much alive until the 1950s.

A special local architectural style evolved in Tihany during the past centuries: unplastered walls built of basalt-tuff (plastered and limewashed only around the windows) and a thatch roof. The basalt-tuff, used as construction material, was applied without any lime and mud, mixed with crushed stones were used as mortar. The majority of the buildings had a smoky kitchen with an open chimney, and many roofs were decorated with a cross.

The houses of more affluent people were situated in the centre of the village, while poor people lived on the edge. The most prominent manors were constructed between the church and Visszhangdomb (Echo Hill). The servants' houses were erected by the manor at Belső tö. Of the numerous historical monument houses, these days the Farmer's House and the Fishing Gilt House on Pisky Promenade and the Potter House at the end of Batthyány Street have been restored and re-furnished according to their original and traditional styles and are open to visitors. The other protected houses are still inhabited or used for other tourist purposes.

The holiday home of Archduke Joseph, the block of buildings of the Institute of Limnology and the attractive building of Sports Hotel by the port reflect a character of a castle and form a complex stylistic unit, reminiscent of the 20s of the last century. Unfortunately, the latter has not yet been reconstructed.

Despite their "modern style", the villas that emerged on the hillside from the 30s and 40s still fit in the local architecture primarily because of their scale and stone walls.



# Historical monuments and protection

There are 72 buildings protected as historical monuments in Tihany. Apart from the sacral buildings and outbuildings, there are many buildings of popular architecture among the historical monuments. The evolved urban structure gives a unique image to the village.

In addition to the historical monuments, a number of buildings and blocks have preserved the characteristic features of the popular architecture of this region within the village and in the outskirts. They must be preserved and it is also important to ensure that no buildings departing from the existing scales and proportions are built in the future either. On properties that have been declared to be under protection, no structure or structural part or building complex could be erected, altered, extended, refurbished, reconstructed, modernised, demolished or their purpose cannot be altered unless it is approved by the local government.

The uniform image of the village was enhanced by using the same paving materials at different locations, designing a uniform set of furniture for the public areas and by using plants of the same style, reflecting the local character.





# Green Areas, Public Parks and Public Areas

The size of the green area managed by the local government is 27 hectares. This includes the areas maintained along the cycle paths running around the peninsula, the two public parks, Pisky Promenade and smaller green zones. Csokonai Grove is situated by the foot of the Abbey. At its entrance, visitors can peak into the Spring Cafe of Tihany and can have a rest at a small romantic Calvary. Pisky Promenade is decorated with flowery islands, attracting visitors for a pleasant walk or a fine lunch. Mádl Ferenc Square in the centre of the village has many functions but it is primarily a community square and a venue for events. Visitors may approach the port by train, boat or bus or car. The beach offers very pleasant recreation in the summer. It offers a playground, a children's bay for small children, and a beach ball course for adults. In addition to the main beach, there are also two open beaches offering recreation to the holiday makers.

## Cemetery

The village has one cemetery. The funeral parlour was constructed based on the design of Károly Kaszás, who won an Ybl Award for it. It is an important objective for Tihany to preserve the cemetery in its original condition in order to contribute to the historic values, structure and the full image of the village. Its valuable trees and graves, decorated with flowers, increase the ratio of green area in the village.



## Permanent Landscaping

The local government of Tihany allocates a sum within the local budget each year which is sufficient to satisfy the requirements and the plans. The Village Management is in charge of the green surfaces. In the summer, private contractors are also employed for park maintenance, thus contributing to the performance of the increased tasks.

## Annual Plants

Among the annual plants, preference is given to plants with a longer lifespan, resistant to drought, illnesses and pests, which can be planted in public areas. Where there are no plant beds, containers are used to keep plants for decoration. The geranium row along the main street of the village connecting it to Lake Balaton all the way down to the Ferry stop is a typical rural feature. The two grape arbours on Borsos Miklós Square are the reminders of a branch of agriculture with long traditions.





# Trees, Shrubs, Bushes

In order to compensate for the heat in the summer, more leafy trees must be planted. However, there are small areas with low building heights. Attention must be paid not to cover up the tourist attractions by trees, including e.g., the view to the Abbey from the main square.

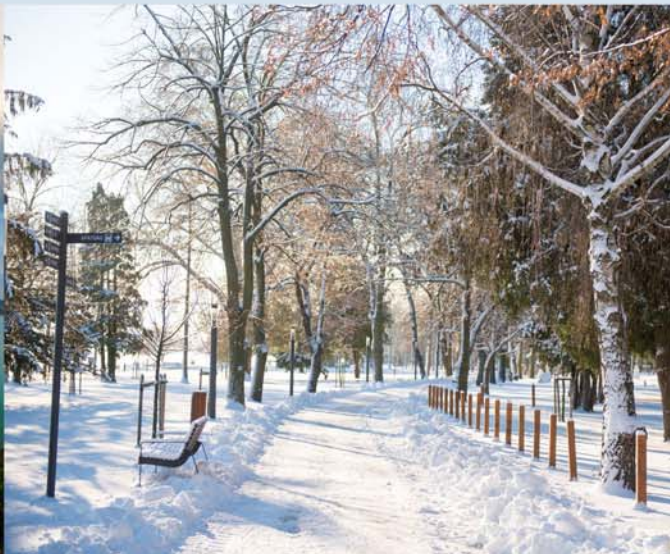
Therefore, almond trees were planted on the circular Borsos Miklós Square, paved with limestone. The early spring flowering of the almond trees followed by their loose foliage later add some more charm to the square. Almond trees are emblematic fruit trees in the Upper Lake Balaton Region. The slope above Garda well contains sub-Mediterranean and landscape forming components.

Decorative pear trees with a narrow foliage and oak trees were planted on Mádl Square. Hungarian oak trees decorate the Csokonai Grove section of Pisky Promenade, accompanied with a flower bed, where the lead flower is the rose. The rest of the promenade contains decorative pear trees. Mixed aromatic plant beds enhance the sub-Mediterranean atmosphere in Batthyány Street.

The plants in the woodland surrounding the Calvary are mixed, reflecting less the uniform image of oak trees, typical in this area. Most frequent species: maple (*Acer campestre*, *Acer platanoides*), elm (*Ulmus*), mahaleb cherry (*Cerasus mahaleb*), walnut trees (*Juglans regia*) and chestnut trees (*Aesculus hyppocastanum*), which are decorative plants preferring volcanic rocks, not indigenous in the area. In addition, there are a few large evergreen trees, including Oriental thuja (*Thuja orientalis*) and black pine (*Pinus nigra*). The shrubs consist mainly of elderflower (*Sambucus nigra*) and clematis (*Clematis vitalba*).

Plant protection: protection is required primarily against mites and plant lice as well as against moss that attack wild chestnuts and can shorten the life span of the chestnut trees. Protection is based on chemicals.

Perennial plants are used increasingly. Taking into account the environmental needs, preference is given to drought tolerant species, as Tihany does not have an irrigation system on all green areas. In the spirit of sustainability, the Village Management uses environmentally friendly procedures and applies chemicals responsibly. That is why they use organic manure and irrigation initially with 3% solution. Weeds are controlled with two methods: mechanical and manual weed killing and, where necessary, with chemicals.



# Agricultural Areas and Forests

The agricultural areas must be maintained in the long term in order to protect the character of the region, the local landscape and the natural assets, to protect the water quality of Lake Balaton and the Tihany lakes and to maintain the traditional agricultural operation that determines the history of this region. Due to the diversified conditions of production sites and productivity (water balance, base rock, erosion, production layer thickness), agricultural production in Tihany is versatile: there are meadows, pasture lands, vineyards and orchards, while the lower flat areas are dominated by ploughland. Apart from plant production, the produced goods are processed and stored locally too. Most of the land is of an average golden crown value, suitable for agricultural cultivation. Agriculture, which is an important factor in maintaining nature preservation values, plays an important role in Tihany. Due to the historic features of the village and the structure of the landscape, viticulture, which also determines the character of the village and is pursued on 8% of the land, is of major importance. In terms of animal farming, traditional grazing animals (Hungarian grey cattle, sheep) are dominant for nature preservation purposes. There is also an equestrian culture on the peninsula, which relies on tourism.

The forests have maintained their size for centuries but now take up only 10% of the total territory of the village, which makes them the largest type of area utilisation in Tihany after the areas removed from cultivation (holiday resorts, residential area, etc.). In line with the natural zones, forests have evolved on hilltops and on steeper hill slopes. There are a number of large patches of forests. Owing to the relatively high afforestation and nature preservation actions, there is a relatively large stock of wild game in the area. Shrubs are growing and spontaneous succession has started on certain areas left abandoned and not suitable for cultivation; some young new plants emerge at certain points.







# Tourism.

## Tihany, the Peninsula of Culture and Recreation

### The Benedictine Abbey, the intellectual center of Tihany

Thousands of visitors and tourists arrive in Tihany each year and therefore it is an outstanding task for the village to offer quality recreation options to the visiting tourists. The challenge is to do so while preserving the values of the landscape and built environment. The Benedictine Abbey is the centre of cultural and intellectual life, as it is visited by more than one hundred thousand visitors each year. The building of the abbey is a great attraction itself with its magnificent Baroque church, while the crypt is a true rarity. The importance of the abbey and the cultural activities organised by the resident Benedictine priests is undoubtable. Each year, high-quality organ concerts are organised for those interested in classical music but the recently re-opened permanent exhibition and temporary exhibitions as well as the exhibitions in the confectionery workshop Rege, also part of the abbey, are also considerable attractions in the cultural activities of the Upper Lake Balaton Region. The "Attic Evenings" programme series, held in the converted attic of the abbey, functions as an important intellectual workshop. The resident monks also take part in the life of the community of the village; they are engaged in teaching, growing herbs, as well as candle making.



# Tradition based

## local festivals

The local events, based primarily on the traditions of Tihany, are important elements of the life of the local community. The events are organised by Németh László House of Culture. There are a number of smaller and greater events each year. Of those the most important ones are based on local traditions. The two large events of the village are based on traditions: the Lavender Festival at the end of June revives the lavender traditions of Tihany, bearing also in mind the importance of education. Close to thirty thousand visitors attend the Festival each year, but the "Pick Your Own Lavender", organised by the Upper Balaton Region National Park, is also very popular.

The other important event is the Garda Festival, which intends to pay respect to the fishing history of the village. This event is held at the beginning or middle of November each year, attracting ten to fifteen thousand visitors to the peninsula in this month, which is otherwise dead for tourism. Apart from preserving traditions, the other objective of this event is to promote fish gastronomy.

Nonetheless, in Tihany the local traditions are not only preserved in events. The amateur art groups operating at the House of Culture also focus mainly on preserving traditions. The Tihany Choir of Women, Folklore Music Education, the Echo Citer Band, the Tihany Children's Dance Group and the Embroidery and Lace Workshop are important contributors to the cultural activities of the village.

The most important recreation option for the visitors arriving in the summer or keeping a holiday home in Tihany is the series of theatrical performance at the Tihany Summer Open-air Show. With more than ten thousand visitors a year, this programme series is one of the most frequently attended open-air theatrical event in the country. The programme includes child performance, light comedies and concerts.

The Tihany Market Place is a true place for the community, a meeting point in the village and is also one of the most popular farmers' market of the region. The other market, situated close to the centre of the village, is also a popular place.





# Active tourism

However, tourists visit Tihany not only for the events or cultural recreation. The village also offers various forms of active tourism.

Tourists can choose from a number of nature trails to be able to study the unique natural values of the peninsula. The hikes organised and guided by the Upper Balaton Region National Park are extremely popular. The Lavender House Visitor Centre, which presents the history of nature and the flora and fauna of the village, is also extremely popular.

Nevertheless, not only the hikes organised by the National Park are frequently attended. Many people love Nordic walking. Such trips are also organised regularly, as a result of which Tihany was also granted the title of Nordic Walking Friendly Settlement.

Fishing tourism is another major attraction of Tihany, similarly to other settlements around Lake Balaton. It is a popular spot because tourists can not only fish in Lake Balaton but can also use Belső-tó, which is a true fishermen's paradise. The local fishermen are organised in the Tihany Fishing Association.

Sailing is another sport that has a major role in the activities of the settlement. The Tihany Sailing Club provides a marine not only to sailing guests. Their sailing courses and talent support to young athletes are significant, shown very well by the fact that one of their students, the very young Mária Érdi, managed to qualify for the Rio Olympics. The expansion of the Tihany cycle path network in three phases was one of the key projects of the recent past. With the help of that development, the cycling tourism also picked up significantly in the area.

Equestrian tourism, co-ordinated by the local Equestrian Association, is another outstanding available in Tihany.



# Planning and Development: Thinking in Community

The spectacular development taking place in Tihany is the result of a long process, which began when tourism around Lake Balaton was declining during the decades after the systemic change. By the beginning of the new millennium, the number of guest nights dropped drastically, causing a major loss in revenue also to the local government of Tihany. The new local government elected in 2006 decided to run away from the problems into the future. They prepared a long-term development concept and defined the settlement they wished to live in 20 years' time. However, they did not only rely on their own ideas, they also involved local people in the planning process. In co-operation with the local residents, they tried to outline a future vision. They wished to learn about the opinion of each age group, and even asked school pupils to prepare drawings about the future of Tihany.

The work shared with the community reached a higher level when the local government established the "Future Workshop" with the help of experts, involving the local decision makers, representatives of institutions, civil organisations, representatives of the church, the National Park and local entrepreneurs. As everybody had their own idea about the way of development, the workshops were conducted with the involvement of mediators. What was important was to enable the Tihany residents to enjoy the benefits of development and to reflect their interests.

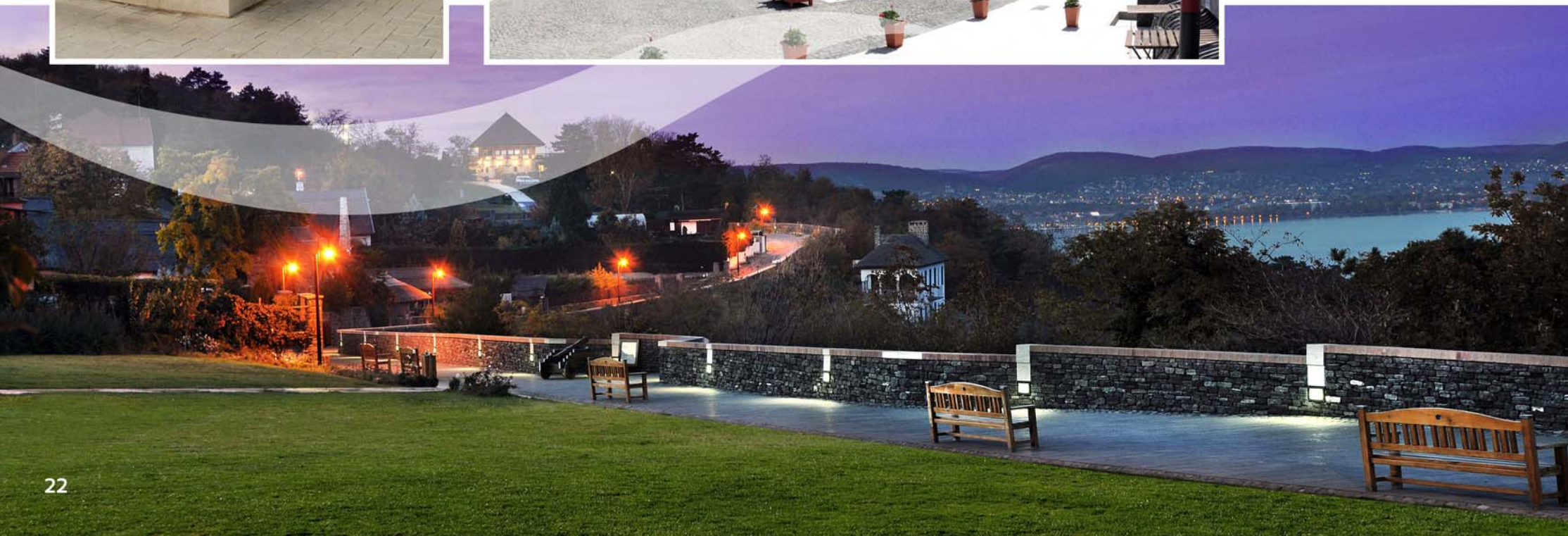






# The program of **renewal**

The Tihany Legend Project, which was one of the greatest developments of the previous decades, was mainly based on these joint thinking. The public areas reconstructed within the framework of the project were opened in May 2013. The project involved the streets of the Old Village, Pisky Promenade providing a view to Lake Balaton, Borsos Miklós Square, the construction of a new main square (Mádl Ferenc Square) and the Calvary. The project was implemented with support from the European Union, with co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund, as a major project. The residents soon began to use the reconstructed public areas and cafeterias and restaurants extended their tables outside in the open air. The streets were flooded by tourists, who could admire not only the natural and built assets but also the reconstructed public areas. With the major applications, the local government of Tihany intended to mobilise entrepreneurs and generate further changes and developments. The local government encouraged the residents of the reconstructed areas and the caterers operating there to join the developments and to also restore their own properties and develop their business. Thus on these areas some of the privately owned properties were also reconstructed and shops and restaurants introduced high-quality street furniture fully integrated into the surrounding area.



## Among Europe's best

The international jury also appreciated that common thinking when it granted the European Village Renewal Award to Tihany in 2014 together with the right of hosting the magnificent award presentation celebrated series, attended by more than 1,000 guests, in 2016. The power of the community was also shown there: Tihany prepared for hosting the guests and for a successful series of events with even more co-operation than before.

Their information above also shows that development in Tihany is determined by a lot of factors: historic and cultural heritage, natural environment and the interests of the local residents. These developments are required because in addition to the built assets of the 19th and 20th century, the 21st century must also make its own contribution. It is only feasible by focusing on the quality and the harmony of nature, the landscape and the built environment. Instead of quantitative development, quality development should be given preference, and in any quantity-based development it must not be forgotten that the capacity of the area to take on additional burden is limited.

The new cycle paths, which the local government also financed from funds raised from application, also served environmental objectives. On the cycle paths, the local residents can safely reach main road 71 and, with the help of the new cycle path, Tihany is attracting more and more cycling tourists. The cycle path development was implemented in three phases and, owing to the new paths, the peninsula can be cycled around.

One of the important gates to the settlement through water, the Port and its area, were also reconstructed, offering new walking paths in this frequently visited part of the village.





# Present and **Future Plans**

Even now there are a number of developments in progress in Tihany. The construction of a new modern complex sports hall will begin at the primary school later on this year.

The one-time abbey granary, which currently hosts the house of culture of the village, will be reconstructed with a new function according to the plans and will remain one of the most characteristic buildings of the village. If the project is implemented, a new tourist reception house will operate in it, yet it will also preserve its community square function and will contain an exhibition room. The local government will reconstruct a building, which has been abandoned for years and is currently in ruins for the offices of the house of culture, the village library and the local television, thus providing new and appropriate conditions for the operation of these institutions.

In addition to the projects currently in progress or already completed, a plan for the restoration and development of the ferry boat station is also being prepared.

Owing to the conceptional thinking and the plans developed in co-operation with the local residents, Tihany is building its future according to a long-term strategy. However, the development is not for selfish purposes: its objective is to preserve and improve one of the nicest points and protected values of the country and offering a better quality of life to the residents of Tihany.

