

## Szentendre

The winding roads, seven steeples, colourful houses, narrow back-alleys, Mediterranean atmosphere and two dozen museums make this town on the Danube **one of the most frequented tourist destinations** in Hungary.

The **Serbs** who **fled from the Turks** and settled here in the 16th and 17th centuries **built a number of churches**; of these, **four** still belong to the **Orthodox Church**: the rococo-style Blagovestenska Church (Fő square), Pozsarevacska Church (Kossuth Street 1), Preobrazsenszka Church (Bogdányi Street 42) and the main church with its ornamented gate, the Belgrade Cathedral, also called Saborna Cathedral (Alkotmány Street). The **Catholic Church** took over the Csiprovacska (Péter-Pál) Church (Dumtsa J. Street), and the **evangelists** use the Oповacska Church (Rákóczi Street 14). The icons, goldsmith's work and other treasures of the Serb Orthodox Ecclesiastical Art Museum (Pátriárka Street 5) complete the display of the Serb churches.

On the wall of the thirteenth-fourteenth century Roman Catholic Clergy-House Church on Castle Hill (Templom Square), we can find one of the oldest sun-dials in the country. **Everything here serves the tourists seeking nostalgia**: the shops, the restaurants, the name-plates, the monuments of Fő Square, the ornaments on the houses, the photo-themes and one of the most popular museums, **Kovács Margit Museum** (Vastagh György street 1), with its charming figures representing the goodness and beauty originating from the sources of humanity.

The most talented Hungarian family of artists of the 19th century was Károly Ferenczy (1862-1917) and his children. The works of the Gobelin weaver Noémi, the sculptor Béni, and the painter Valér and his wife can be seen in the **Ferenczy Museum** (Fő square 6).

Since the **establishment of the Association of Szentendre Painters** in 1928, collections of the life-works of the town's twentieth-century artists have been some of the most valuable exhibitions. These can be found in the **following museums**: the Ámos Imre-Anna Margit Museum (Bogdányi Street 12), the Barcsay Collection (Dumtsa J. Street 10), the Czóbel Museum (Templom Square 1), the Kerényi Museum (Ady Endre Street 5), the Kmetty János

Museum (Fő Square 21), the Vajda Lajos Memorial Museum (Hunyadi János Street 1), and the Boromisza Statue (Duna Promenade 4). In the once Serbian, eighteenth-century Merchant's house, the Szentendrei Gallery (Fő Square 2-5), and the Artists' Settlement (Bogdányi Street 51) we can see the temporary exhibitions of artists working in the town today.

**Szabó Marzipan Museum** (Dumtsa J. street 14) offers an ingenious presentation of its sweet ingredients, and the Dobos Confectionery Museum offers real "dobostorta" (chocolate cake with a hard caramel top).

In the **house of Folk Arts** (Rákóczi street 1), we can see the ethnography of Pest County. In the **Roman Stone Collection** (Dunakanyari Boulevard 1), there are ancient artefacts from the 1st-4th century town of Ulcisia Castra. The **Art Mill** (Bogdányi street 32) is a living workshop of contemporary arts: the exhibitions are enlivened by attractive programs.

The **Baby Museum** (Sas Street 18) is a great experience for children, the **National Wine Museum** (Bogdányi Street 10) for the lovers of good wine and the Ars Amandi Waxworks (Malom Street 4/A) for all age groups.

In the **Museum of Transport** (at the suburban railway station), the matchlessly rich collection of public transport vehicles attracts the tourists. Hungary's biggest ethnographic collection can be found in the **Open-air Ethnographic Museum** (Sztaravodai Street 1/ a, 3 km from the centre). Artefacts from all over the country are exhibited here: once the museum has been completed, we will be able to see examples of Hungarian folk architecture from 10 regions and 340 buildings. Presently, there are works from 7 regions, a Greek church and a Calvinist rock garden. The museum, open from April to October, holds folk craft exhibitions at the weekends and celebrates days significant in the Hungarian tradition.

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**SOURCE:** Hungarian Tourism Ltd, <http://www.hungary.com>