



SZERENCs

HUNGARY



SZERENC S THE GATE OF TOKAJ-HEGYALJA

Szerencs is located in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County in Hungary, only forty kilometres south of Miskolc, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a rich historical past and architectural values. It is a railway junction, easily accessible by road from M3 motorway from Miskolc by a four-lane expressway.

The Great Plain, the Szerencs Hills, the Eperjes-Tokaj Hills, the Hargadok Region is a memory of the beautiful natural landscape at the junction of Taktaköz and the built environment, its churches, the Rákóczi Castle with the garden, the railway station and the district court buildings radiate the history of the past, letting visitors know that they are in the land of Bocskai and the Rákóczi dynasties.

Szerencs is one of the significant settlements of the famous Tokaj Wine Region, whose wineries produce excellent nectars.

The Tokaj-Kassa-Kraków trade route was of strategic importance, where wine was delivered from Szerencs as well.







The inhabitants are proud of their industrial heritage, of which, unfortunately, the sugar industry is only a memory of the past. The name of Szerencs was combined with chocolate among lovers of sweets, as in 1923, just a hundred years ago this year, confectionery production began in the vicinity of the local sugar factory. Prior to World War II, Szerencsi was the country's largest chocolate factory, acquired in 1991 by the world's largest beverage and food company, Nestlé. The new owner significantly transformed production and es-

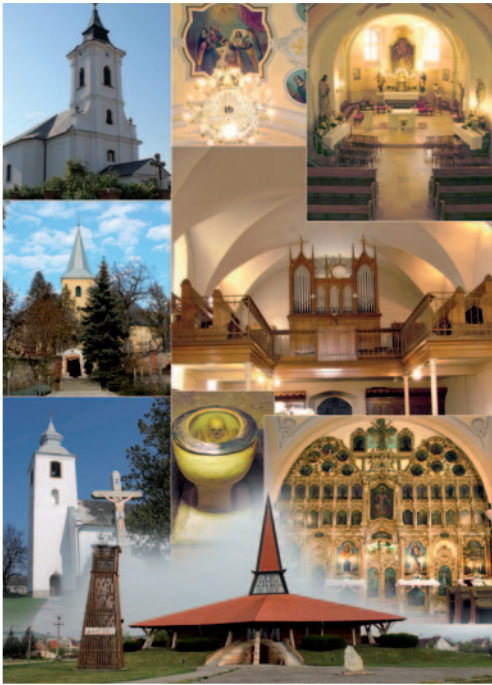
tablished a Central European regional coffee and cocoa powder manufacturing and filling plant, supplying products to nearly 30 countries. The tradition of chocolate production is preserved by the privately owned Bonbon Kft.





The Rákóczi Castle of Szerencs, built at the end of the 16th century, is the youngest castle of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. Its history is inseparable from the past of Szerencs, nowadays a castle hotel awaits its guests within the ancient walls and the home of culture: the Cultural Centre and Library and the Zemplén Museum operate here. The latter public collection plays an important role in collecting and processing the relics of confectionery, sugar and chocolate production. Its exlibris collection of 36 thousand pieces is significant, but the largest and best known is the collection of nearly one million postcards. In honour of 100 years of chocolate production in Szerencs, the exhibition titled “Sweet Years — One Hundred Years of Chocolate Manufacturing in Szerencs” presents relics, objects and products related to manufacturing.





One can find in Szerencs monuments, reliefs, sculptures, memorial plaques, and gravestones.

The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady was built between 1750 and 1764 in Baroque style with a tower above the main facade with a pediment. The building was consecrated in 1764. A new Roman Catholic church dedicated to St. Joseph the Worker was completed in 2003. The modern, triangular building evokes Prince Árpád's tent, while the surrounding earthwork is reminiscent of the earthwork of the Tanta castle.

The predecessor of the oldest building of Szerencs is the Calvinist church, built in the 13th century, originally in

Romanesque style, and István Bocskai was elected a prince of Hungary here in 1605. In the nave of the church there is a marble sarcophagus, and under the tomb there is a crypt with a sandstone urn containing the remains of Prince Sigismund Rákóczi.

In 1716, with the support of Julianna Rákóczi, a Greek Catholic Parochia was established in Szerencs and a church was built, with a six-storey iconostasis in the triumphal arch, richly decorated with Rococo and tasselled carvings. On the top of the roof above the sanctuary you can see a triple cross made with old blacksmithing.

The Aranka Roof on Árpád Hill is the highest point of Szerencs with 207 meters, which is an excursion destination. In the tourist centre adjacent to the recreation and play park, you can see chocolate statues, old timer motors, retro technical items, a collection of toys and ceramics.





With a wellness centre offering excellent facilities, a swimming pool, several playgrounds, there is a wide range of cultural, sporting and leisure activities. Not only wineries, but also candy shops, confectioneries, restaurants, small and large shops and supermarkets for shopping are adding to the offer.



SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

SSzerencs signed cooperation agreements with Malchin (1989) and Geisenheim (1990) in Germany, Rožňava (1991) in Slovakia, Hesperange in Luxembourg (1997), Nyáradszereda (2005) in Romania, Podgora in Croatia (2011) and Pułusk (2017) in Poland.

Sister city relationship also provides an opportunity for exchange visits for students, traditional groups and families, among other things, and

for the mutual presentation of cultural values. Economic cooperation has also been established between the settlements within the framework of the project supported by the European Commission of the European Union.



Pułtusk and Szerencs established contact in the summer of 2017. The delegation of the Polish city visited Szerencs on 13 and 14 July 2017, during which a Letter of Intent for Cooperation was signed by the leaders of the cities. In the same year, between 15-17 September, a delegation from Szerencs returned the visit at the Pułtusk City Days, where the delegation invited the leaders of Pułtusk to our municipality. The Polish delegation took part in the events organised on the occasion of our national holiday, and then the sister city agreement was signed in the framework of an extraordinary meeting of the representative body. Over the years, the Polish-Hungarian sister city relationship was further strengthened by getting to know each other's cultures and customs..



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