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Freedom! Szentes! I love it!

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Szentes has always been an integrating, many-sided, free town. Its free-spirited and broadminded thinking enabled the town to be the county seat of Csongrád County until the middle of the 20th century. The traditional architectural image of the town developed during this period just like the special milieu which was greatly influenced by the people who settled here with their different culture and past. Szentes located in the southern lowland region near the river Tisza is still the third most populous town of the county with its 30.000 inhabitants.



Freedom! Szentes! I love it!





Our natural resources

Szentes and its area is the greatest geothermic field in Hungary and the most frequent one in Europe. Its unique natural resource is the rich geothermic water supply. On the administrative territory of the town there are 32 geothermal wells in use. The temperature of the water is 85-90 centigrade. Here operates the second biggest geothermic energy – based heating system after Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

Thermal water ensures the heating of apartments, public institutions, glass houses and also supplies the thermal spa and swimming pools. The thermal waters of Szentes are alkaline hydrogen-carbonated waters, occasionally with a high level of fluoride-carbonate which is suitable for the treatment of joint disorders, rheumatism and chronic gynaecological diseases.

The River Kurca which runs through the town gives a unique feature to Szentes. Its well-kept shores and neat walkways are popular among the visitors. The Széchenyi Grove is the largest green area in Szentes, an important monument in terms of both botany and cultural history. Part of the grove

was turned into a botanical garden in 1953 and visitors find signed walkways among the Plane, Horse-chestnut and Ash species. Evergreen trees worth mentioning include the ancient Common Yew, the Swamp Cypress, as well as Black and Common Pine trees.





The Thermal Lake located near the town is the biggest thermal lake in Central Europe which is also a proof of the town's excellent geothermal conditions. The lake is a popular resort for bird observers as it has a very rich flora and fauna. It is an important resting and nesting place of the protected migratory bird species like the brown hawk, the great egret, the avocet etc. Based on regular observations there are 176 bird species in this area. The Thermal Lake belongs to the area of Cserebökény plain and within NATURA 2000 it is a Special Protection Area (SPA): „Cserebökényi puszta”.

Experts can admire the hidden places of the Tisza and Körös river flats, the untouched sodic plant communities of upper-Kurca, the flora and fauna of the gallery forests by the river banks and the living world of the lowland plains. The Cserebökény „puszta” is located in the outskirts of Szentes, which is a mosaic of the Körös-Maros National Park area of

competence. Its avifauna and lowland plain lawn are important natural attractive force. The most important values are the marsh plant communities, sodic lawns and the avifauna.

The Szentes micro region is a real angler's paradise. Enthusiasts may take advantage of the unique fish stock of the Tisza, Körös, Kórógy, Veker and Kurca rivers. In addition, a number of fish ponds are also available. The most frequent species of fish are carp, pike perch, catfish, sheat-fish and pike.

Besides fishing, hunting is also a popular recreation and it is supported by the incomparable natural endowment of Szentes and its area. Mainly roe deer, hare, fox, wild-boar, pheasant and wild-duck are hunted. The game stock of the micro region is extremely rich.

For the effort to protect its natural resources Szentes was awarded The Capital of



Biodiversity by the environmental and regional development organizations of the EU member states. In 2013 Szentes won second ranking on the Hungarian Landscape Competition. This recognition is granted to organizations that implemented outstanding program in the field of landscape and natural heritage preservation and development in accordance with awareness rising.





Protected treasures

The treasures of Szentes are being renewed in a way to be loyal to its building predecessors and a modern yet liveable European city's buildings and walls appear on the drawing board. The results of this work show the people of Szentes' community-building power, toughness and their love of life, as the evergreen palm tree symbolizes it in the town's coat of arm.

As we go along the Grove towards the centre of the town we can see the River Kurca and the floating fountains with their 9 meter high water-spout which help to improve the river's oxygen-supply. The two floodlit fountains give a spectacular sight at night. The Kurca was originally a living section of the River Körös

but the dam system built during the current regulations cut the natural water supply off. Later it was pushed between penstocks and this is when the oxbow was created that is unique in the country. The picturesque Kurca became the symbol of Szentes. In the city's coat of arms we can find references with the wavy reed mace. The shores' landscaped walkways are popular among the people of Szentes and the visitors. The wooden pedestrian bridge that spans the river stands on 24 oaken piles. The name of the bridge - Esperanto Bridge - commemorates the National Esperanto Peace Meeting held in Szentes in 1982.

The unique structure of the city is its squares opening into each other in the city centre. Walking across the recently renewed Kurca Bridge we reach the Elisabeth Square named

after Queen Elisabeth, the patron of Hungary. The square was originally called Holy Trinity Square because of the Holy Trinity Statue situated in the western part of the square. The centre of the square is decorated with the memorial of the heroes of the First World War. On the south side is the St Elisabeth Catholic Primary School with a balcony and fleche on the façade. On the west side of the square on the place of the former Police Office is the building of the Town Court which decorates the city centre in its old splendour.

St Anne Square is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Elisabeth Square. On the corner of the square one of the most significant buildings of the town, the Roman Catholic St Anne Church can be seen. The church acquired its present neo-classic form in the 19th century. Thanks to its unique acoustics the church is home of various organ concerts and other musical events.



Next to the church is Horváth Mihály Secondary Grammar School where many famous people (actors, musicians, humorists) started their career. Among them were Róbert Alföldi Jászai Mari - award winning actor, director, Sándor Gáspár Kossuth - award winning actor or the popular humorists Sándor Badár and András Szőke. On the other side of the School is the Rendezvous Well which is a popular meeting place of young lovers.

Kossuth Square which is the main square of the town is situated on the other side of Elisabeth Square. Its colours are modest to allow the historic buildings of the centre dominate. The contemporary street-lamps, benches, the colourful plants, trees and flowerbeds and the





three fountains lit at night give the square a harmonic view. The most beautiful public buildings of Szentes are situated around the former market place. The main building of the western part of Kossuth square is the commanding neo-renaissance building of the former County Hall, which is one of the town's most beautiful buildings. Above the main sill is the county's oval coat of arms can be seen with the sitting statues of Justice and Minerva the gods of law and crop on its two sides. The triangle of these statues forms a flagpole base composition similar to a tympanum. On the arches of the large windows there are allegoric female figures symbolising different trades; from the left to the right agriculture, home-industry, shipping, hunting, trade and fishing. As a result of the cooperation the former County Hall of Csongrád County became the grand palace of science, culture, past and the challenging future. Today the building houses the Archives, the Koszta József Museum and



a Conference and Cultural Centre for 500-members that satisfy all needs. There are balls, weddings held in the exclusive rooms, but it is also a place for conferences and meetings.

There is a bronze map sculpture with Braille on the main square which shows the famous buildings and sights of the square for blind and partially sighted people; it helps their orientation and to enjoy the sight of the amazing downtown for those who cannot experience it with their eyes.

The northern side of the Kossuth Square is dominated by the most significant monument building, the beautiful early neo-classic Calvinist Church. It has a 40 meter tower with a round balcony that was used for fire observation. The church is one of the biggest in Hungary; it has the longest nave in the Great Plain and inside decorated by the country's only original and still working Angster-organ. Besides religious events concerts and exhibitions are also held





in the church. Due to its exceptional acoustics the church is home of classical and pop music concert venues. Before the turn of the millennium the historic building deteriorated for many years, until the complete renovation with the exemplary collaboration of the city and the church has begun. The project included not only the reconstruction of the church, but the creation of the Calvinist Home for the Elderly, the authentic restoration of Kiss Bálint street, the old part of the city centre behind the church with contemporary atmosphere of street lamps, basalt blocks and brick cladding.

The town protects not only its ancestors' heritage but also creates new „treasures”. The St. Nicholas Square was renewed at the same time with the reconstruction of the dominant buildings in downtown, which included the formation of Nagy Ferenc Street to become a pedestrian street. The small square opposite Űze Film Theatre is decorated by the world-



wide acknowledged sculptor – physician, Dr. László Csíky's first full-figure bronze statue. The Dancing Szekler is 182 feet tall, making a special atmosphere of this public space. Passers-by have a liking for the character since the unveiling of the statue.

The most precious historic relic of the town the St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is the central element of St Nicolas Square. It was built by those Greek trader families in 1786 who immigrated to Hungary because of the warlike circumstances in their home country and many of them settled down in Szentes.

The small church with a valuable iconostasis was first built without a tower in a late Baroque style. At the beginning of the 1900's a wooden-framed bell tower was added to the church then in 1927 the present stone tower was erected.

The St. Nicholas Square and the pedestrian area's designed ceramics, street-lamps,



benches and other street furniture suit the milieu. The restaurant's terraces in summer, the lots of plants and flowers create a Mediterranean atmosphere in the small town of the southern Great Plains.

A few meters away from Kossuth Street at 4. Petőfi Street there is a house which the people of the town call „Stork House” because of the storks occupying the farthest chimney for many years. The house was built around 1840 and until 1952 the richest citizens of the town owned it. In 1968 it was declared as a protected building. In 2004 Szentés and one of its sister town Újszentés won a tender and from this money the house was restored to its original state. Its main task is to collect living handicraft traditions. We can look into the workshops of the certain crafts and with the help of experts we can try their tools and learn different techniques. Different exhibitions show the local handicraft's present and past for the visitors



and the house is also centre of the documents of those crafts that are dying out.

As we go along Kossuth Street we reach Luther Square where another protected treasure appears. The first artesian well in Szentés was drilled in 1885 in the present Kossuth Square.

More than a year later, the country's third artesian well was completed. Its ornated architecture was made of cannon cast in France by the Parisian Duronne company. One of its variant is a valued decoration of the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris. The multi-storey, five feet high structure, decorated with statues of limestone was later demolished from the main square. After its harsh fate in the second half of the 1990s, the honoured female figure sculptures group was saved just in time. The Fountain has been decorating a pleasant atmosphere square near the Protestant church, providing refreshment to passersby in the summer heat.



At the end of the main street of Szentes is the Synagogue that was restored in 1998 and it is the home of the Town Library. It was built in Romantic style based on the plans of Ignác Knábe, and after 40 years of neglect it became one of the most beautiful buildings of the town. The palace of culture - many people say. The former single-spaced, monumental building has now 5 storeys with different reading rooms, exhibition places, conference room etc. Downstairs there is a furnished memorial room for the visitors and members of the Jewish denomination which serves as a place of commemoration.

The garden is surrounded by the elements of the original wrought iron fence of the former synagogue. The unique bronze sculpture of the neat park is the Woman Reading; young and old are happy to sit on the bench beside her.





Culture, sport, leisure

Today Szentes is a flourishing town with bustling cultural and sport life where traditions are honoured and cherished but space is given to development well. The orderly parks, swimming pools and sport fields offer excellent facilities for relaxing to young and elderly, and the magical effects of the town's thermal spa, the silence of its museum and art gallery are all waiting to be discovered.

In 1996 the „National Sports Town” title was awarded to Szentes. The townspeople lead a very active life. They swim, run, and play

football or tennis regularly to keep their health.

The most significant sport in the town is water polo but the members of various dance clubs have also achieved outstanding results just like the sportsmen of Kyokushin Karate club who became multiple Hungarian Champions. The town raises Hungarian-, European and World Champions in other combat sports as well, and in many other sports it is the most important centre of the rising generation.

The local karate club placed the Shinto-gate on the square in front of the Sports Hall. The



special memorial was built for Sosai Masutatsu Oyama 10 dan Japanese karate master, creator of Kyokushin karate. The creation of the gate and is itself an enormous sport diplomatic success as this is the only memorial permitted by the world organization outside Japan.

The rare Olympic Oak decorates Szentes which was given to Márton Lőrincz; Olympic winner wrestler in 1936. As he could not plant the English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) in his home village in Transylvania (Romania), Lőrincz offered it to his adopted town, Szentes. The National Sports Town is very proud of the tree which is so huge that 3-4 people can hug it.

Besides the dr. Papp László Sports Hall people can spend their free time in the beautiful Széchenyi Grove, and in the Szentes Holiday Resort that is girdled with the channel Kurca. The resort serves not only active sportsmen but offers wide range of choices for active holiday makers. There are also cultural events





held not only for the people of Szentes but for the people of its area. Colourful sport events, life style camps, night-swimming, beauty contests, family days and Midsummer Night boating are waiting for the visitors.

The area opposite the grove is a meeting place for the young. Sport fields and a bike- and skate-park is open for the extreme sport lovers.

Those who like winter sports can visit the 600 m² covered ice-rink open from November until March. Visitors can also admire the special ice statues exhibited in the hall.

In this bustling town there are cultural events for almost every day. The civil organizations - together with the town institutions - make life more colourful with literary, classical music, theatrical and fine arts evenings. The former building of the County Hall is the home of Koszta József Museum. Its archaeological



collection is of national importance, just like the here exhibited life work of József Koszta who was a magical painter of the lowland life. The city's historical exhibition gives a graphic picture of the life of past centuries. The house has a beautiful inner courtyard where in summers outdoor theatre performances and concerts are held.

The most significant place of art is the Tokácsli Gallery where various and high-standard exhibitions are held. The exhibition hall was built specifically for this purpose, thus its lighting and location is excellent for interpreting artistic values. The gallery presents the works of local artist and of those who do not live here in Szentes each year.

The music life of Szentes has great past. This is due to the 40 members, adult music bands the Bárdos Lajos Mixed Choir, the Towns Brass Band and the Golden Peacock - awarded Pengető Zither Band. The „MUSIC-WORLD-



MUSIC” event series brings performances of European quality to the town which satisfy the local tastes too. The events contain classical music, folk or world music and jazz. The colourful musical programs and the quality of the performing stars guarantee to have a wonderful time which suits all needs. Besides Lajtha László Music School the St. Anne’s Roman Catholic Church and the Great Reformed Church in constant scene of classical music concerts.

Special exhibitions, collections are waiting for the visitors besides the several art schools and clubs. The House of Arts is placed in the „Stork-House” which was saved from the demolition. Its main task is to collect living handicraft traditions. The craftsmen working here preserve in many cases thousands of years of tradition alive. The beautifully restored former Synagogue that functions today as the town’s Library is one of the most defining place

of the town’s cultural events. Many people visit the exhibitions, forums, literary events, book launches, unconventional lessons, quizzes, film clubs, or even dominant individuals of the domestic cultural sector lecture evenings.

Besides the sunny photographic studio of Fridrich János Studio Atelier, the fireman or the post office history exhibition are real specialities. The private ethnographic collection of auntie Pirike, the civic house which was restored with historic preservation or the private wood carving collection exhibited at a private house for the memory of a beloved father or even the railway history exhibition created by self-diligence are all memento of a community that has high standard for itself and for the world as well.

Education that is closely linked to cultural life is also outstanding in Szentés. It can finally tell himself: let the young people go with good heart and looking forward to come back to the

town. The Studium Generale program for the gifted youth was launched in 2012 by the town and its successful companies. As a result of this unique cooperation a special program was created that increases the chance of further education. Students preparing for their graduation and entrance exam take part in the program under the professional guidance of the University of Szeged.





Festivals

The busy life of the town, its dynamic people and a large number of programs characterise the everyday life of Szentes. Beside festivals, there are traditional and exceptional programs, as well as sports events.

One of the most visited programs is the Winter Farewell Carnival, which is very popular among the people of Szentes, its micro region and the visitors since its first appearance in 2002. The program's permanent guests of honour are the Slovenian costumed and „Busos”, who during the two days long carnival make a great stir throughout the city with their dance to chase away winter. They serve hot wine and donuts and make people have fun. Besides the

street parade and bonfire visitors can watch the nursery and school productions made for the occasion, enjoy the music programs, concerts, local gastronomy and admire the craft stalls.

On the Handicraft Flavors Festival held traditionally on Easter Monday those who would like to spend their time with their families and friend after or instead of sprinkling can have a meaningful time. Besides the old, almost-forgotten culinary delicacies one can learn about bread and scone making, egg blowing, wood carving, matting or even the work of a blacksmith. On the bank of the picturesque river Kurca those interested have the opportunity to become involved in the work process, tasting and finally enriched with original, genuine recipes.





Each year on 30 April the Folk Crowd is held with lantern walk and street party. The event is also an attended regional cultural festival: music and dance programs welcome the visitors. The event attracting large crowds is followed by a Mayday on 1 May with a variety of colourful programs and quizzes.

The Fight for the Treasure is an adventure competition for secondary school students and their teachers. Competitors here fight not only with themselves but with adventures incredibly difficult to cope with. The bravest adventurers are faced with rain, cold, quizzes that require skills, barriers in dizzying heights, commando training, paint ball, puzzles and hard physical challenges etc.

The twin cities cultural meeting has a long tradition in Szentes held every second year. As an open-minded European town Szentes has good relations with a number of Hungarian and foreign settlements, allowing the cooperation between the citizens of all aspects of life. The links include



cultural, sport, religious and civic, scientific, health and social cooperation. In addition to the twin cities' official visits by their leaders it is more and more frequent that self-organized economic and trade relations come alive between friends, families and business partners. The town's outstanding twinning activities, its personal exchange programs, charity work and open European spirit were awarded with the European Diploma of the Council of Europe, the Flag of Honour and the European Plaque.

In summers, the charming courtyard of the former County Hall is filled with life: a series of outdoor summer theatre program taking place in its walls includes theatre, music and dance performances. At nights great popular artists, actors, musicians appear on the stage and dazzle the audience.

During the Poultry Festival small breweries from all over the country come here to take part in the friendly gastronomic and beer festival where poultry meals of Szentes can be tasted as well. The



four-day event offers numerous entertainment programs like cock cooking competition, beer king election, chicken wing-eating contest, carriage driving competition, fishing competition, poultry farm but of course there is a funfair too. The gastronomic specialties and beers are served to visitors during intimate country concerts, Sramli or just a rock & roll rhythms.

At the weekend of the Letcho Festival thousands of people visit, where they can look into the secrets of local ways of making letcho. The festival starts with the Friday-night bacon frying program but the real thrills are waiting for the visitors on Saturday, where they can taste letcho with dried fruit, mushrooms, meatballs, potato, egg, chilli, lentil or even red wine at hundreds of table. This is one of the most outstanding events, the greatest letcho Festival in Hungary, one of the 10 largest culinary festivals, with crowds of people many of them from abroad. At the Festival the traditional Hungarian lectho is cooked in more than 250 cauldrons.

Several time a year the attention of Combat Sport lovers is directed to Szentes as the town takes every opportunity to win the organizational right of a prestigious, international competition. Big names appeared in the ring like Big "Hangman" József, Kovács „Viper” Attila, Bettina Csábi, Victoria Miló, the K1 Hungarian Champion Dénes Rác and Tibor Nagy, and Károly Balzsay. In addition to boxing and other combat sports the local Oyama Dojo Sports Association organizes Hungary's most prestigious Kyokushin karate championships for decades with special fees. During the high-level events celebrities, Olympics and other public figures are taking place.

The „Walk-around Szentes” programs guide locals and visitors to locations in Szentes where you cannot get in on weekdays, or which you pass without noticing the inherent beauty. During the visits experts guide you around and show the secret sights.



Holiday Resort by the Kurca River

The exclusive environment of the Holiday resort that is surrounded by the Széchenyi Grove's shady trees offers different ways of recreation for the visitors. Its services satisfy passive and active holiday makers as well. Thermal pools, sauna and bubbling baths are waiting for those who like resting in calmness; for sportsmen swimming pools and slides are offered, and for the smallest ones there are two paddling pools with mini slide and babble. It is also possible to rent boats and water bicycles and take part in several additional programs. The holiday resort is the home of the various swimming competitions, water

polo matches and festivals for the different age groups. Intimate brick and wooden bungalows provide accommodation for the guests but it is also possible to camp in tents or caravans. The swimming pools services are also available in wintertime because some of the swimming pools are covered with a tent and the outdoor swimming pools are filled with hot thermal water which provides a really special experience especially in the snowfall.

If somebody sits on the bleachers of the swimming pool in Szentes can see not just the current water polo game but the final works



of the new 50-meter indoor swimming pool in the background. If a settlement delivers outstanding results in a sport, it is always gratifying when the infrastructure of that sport is improving on the spot. With the large-scale investment an old dream of the people of Szentes come true: the new pool construction triples the water surface of the resort, and besides the Hungarian and international teams' fitness camps and other major sporting events bathers can take pleasure in it as it is expected to have new spa facilities.

The soon to open Kurca Shore Adventure Park is located right next to Széchenyi Grove in a 26-acres of beautiful greenery, where numerous entertainment experience is waiting for visitors as early as 2 years of age. Each experience promises exciting entertainment. There will be a giant swing here, suspension bridge, Tyrolean rope slide, V-fly giving the experience of weightlessness,

special rock climbing and many other fun items. In one of the largest rope park of the country the bravest must go through an obstacle course consisting of 50 elements. For the children there will be a close - to - the - ground track in 1.5 meter height, where kids can enjoy the excitement caused by the barriers in complete safety. The lines for the entry-level visitors are 5 meters high, but after the advanced-level some part made for the professionals are more than 10 meters in height. Real adventurers have the opportunity to jump into the depths off the 12-meter-high giant rope swings, which gives the bravest an incomparable experience.

The thermal spa, based on the model of Turkish baths is supplied by the town's first 1735 m deep thermal well bored in 1957. The building was designed by Károly Dávid in 1962, who was the designer of the Sports Stadium of Budapest. The octagon-shape based pool hall



that is covered with a high cone shaped roof and decorated with ceramic tiles rises from the surrounding homes without ostentation. Its most impressive space is the indoor pool hall which is covered with Hódmezővásárhely majolica inside and glazed Zsolnay granite tiles outside. On the edge of the outdoor pool the Sunbathers statue of György Segesdi can be seen from 1963. In addition to the outdoor spa pool there are 5 other indoor pools for the visitors.

The temperature of the water under the dome is 35 °centigrade. The big swimming pool is surrounded by 4 smaller ones with different water temperature. The medicinal water contains alkaline hydrogen carbonate and fluoride and is suitable for the treatment of joint disorders, rheumatism and chronic gynaecological diseases. Besides relaxation and resting, the spa facilities serve primarily after surgery healing and rehabilitation



therapy. Apart from the different water- and electro therapy treatments there is a 12 -bed day sanatorium operated within the building. Here patients can take part in curative treatments, where the resting period is provided thus making the treatment more efficient and recovery time shorter.





Economy

The economic structure of Szentes and its area has changed in the 90's. The old big companies were turned into smaller economic associations and today the area is characterised mostly by the small- and medium enterprises. The agricultural production based on local facilities and old traditions is still outstanding. The Árpád Agricultural Ltd., the Pankota Agricultural Ltd., Terracoop Ltd. and Délkertész Ltd. are regionally known and acknowledged enterprises. There is also a research work within the frame of the Szentes agriculture. Its main profile is the maintenance breeding of the local vegetable varieties, production and marketing of new seeds, naturalization of new vegetables and academic research. After the

millennium, the strengthening of IT, food- and light electronics industry characterizes the town represented by Hungerit Ltd., Legrand Ltd. and MetalCom Ltd. The HK-Ceram Ltd. became the supplier of significant European constructions.

The city's decisive task is the development of local and regional economy, and the support and representation of the production of local products. Besides protecting the existing jobs it plays an important role in the city's activities to create new jobs and help to improve the quality of the overall economic environment. The aim of the economic development is to improve life quality through the growth of individual and collective incomes and to increase the regional role of Szentes.





Hungaricum of Szentes

Szentes is very rich in thermal water and the number of sunny hours is very high. Its thermal heat based horticulture is known as the country's largest area with glass houses and foil tents. 14 thermal wells heat the 23 hectare glass house surface and the 23 hectare heated foil tents. Together with the 40 hectare unheated foil tents and the 50 hectare free land different paprika types, tomato, cucumber, cabbage types and Chinese cabbage are grown. The taste of the here grown vegetables are unique. Their outstanding vitamin content is due to the special climate of the Southern Great Plain, the high number of sunny hours and the mineral content of its natural waters.

The eating habits in the area are very peculiar. According to this the gastronomy of Szentes has lot of unique elements. There are several foods here which are unknown in other towns such as the special Wheat Germ Pudding. Several vegetables and fruit types are connected to the town 8 out of these have won the honourable title of Hungaricum. These are: kohlrabi of Szentes, (ram-horned) paprika of Szentes, white paprika of Szentes, white cabbage of Szentes, earliest red radish of Szentes, bonnet pepper of Szentes, rose meddler of Szentes and the red cabbage of Szentes.



Black pottery is a speciality of the town. The different kind of special potteries made in the Great Plain are called in Szentes „choked in smoke” referring to its special way of production.

The beehive-shaped caldron for the firing of the pots is surrounded by soil cop. When the dishes glow red all openings of the furnace is closed, fire is sealed. As a result of the chemical reaction the surface reaches its final, distinctive black colour.





Exciting micro-region

There are plenty of natural attractions and programs to see outside Szentes in its micro region.

The River Tisza, Kurca, the wetlands, forests, fields, protected natural areas, the Blue Tour of the Great Plain provide opportunity for hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and active recreation and leisure activities. There are several monuments among the micro region's churches, castles, windmills and mills, traditional residential buildings their traditions and cultural life is very lively. There are many opportunities travel, visit and enjoy the relatively undisturbed natural areas. Among the programs of Derekegyház Village Days there is the Pancake Festival held each year in July where every year new records

are made; in addition to traditional pancakes special fillings, shapes and unconventional pancakes are waiting for the visitors with a sweet teeth. Another popular program is the decades old International Carriage Driving Competition in Fábiansebestyén which is also a season-opening round of the National Carriage Driving Championship. Since the early 1980s, the sporting event has grown and became international in 2006, becoming more and more popular among foreigners. The town's vernier horse breed has several decades long past.





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