



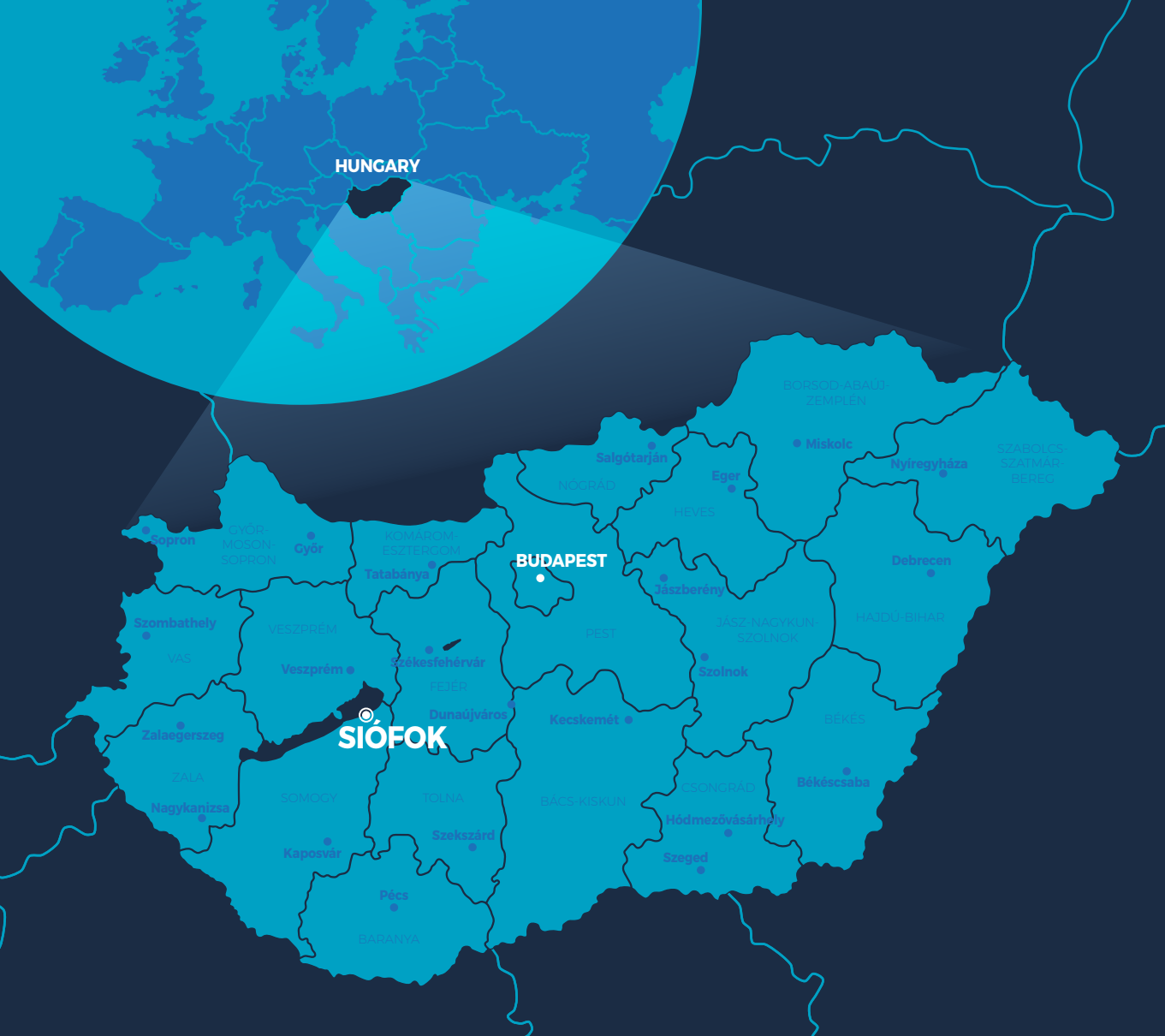
EN

SicSok

WHERE THE BALATON STARTS

**WELCOME TO
SIÓFOK!**





SIÓFOK, WHERE THE BALATON STARTS!

It is always nice to return to Siófok! Those who have been to Siófok know that no matter the weather, the memories made here will lead their hearts back to the capital of summer.

The town's main natural treasure is Lake Balaton that plays a key role in the everyday life of Siófok with its 17 km coastline.

During summer, the waterfront with its ice-cream parlours and cocktail bars fill up the whole city with a Mediterranean atmosphere. During the autumn-winter season, the town is packed with high-quality gastronomy festivals and family programmes all the way until the following summer. After all, this is where Lake Balaton starts!

Population: 25,708 people (1 Jan. 2019)

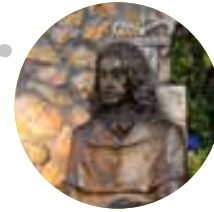
Area: 124.66 km²

HISTORY OF SIÓFOK



292
The Roman emperor, Galerius ordered to build a sluice on Lake Balaton

1137
Fuk was the name of the village. Siófok, as the name of the town is known since 1790



1705
Ferenc Rákóczi II, Prince of Transylvania, gave a seal to Fok that served as a model for the current coat of arms of Siófok

1863

Siófok got a railway station

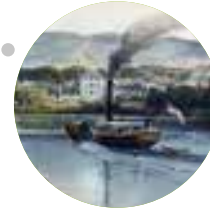


1861

The railway between Buda and Nagykanizsa was opened

1846

The steamship company of Lake Balaton was founded, people have been able to travel on Kisfaludy ship since then



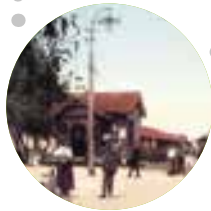
1736

The parish church was built in Baroque style



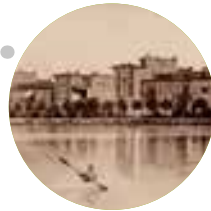
1878

The building of the „Hungarian Sea” bathhouse was completed



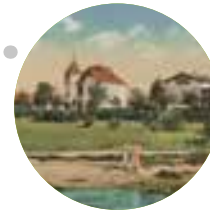
1893

Former Sió and Hullám Hotels were opened



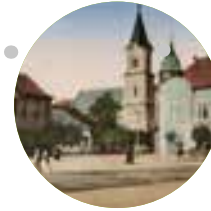
1893

Opening ceremony was held for the new bathing resort



1904

The rebuilt Roman Catholic Church was consecrated



1968

Siófok became a town, the local hospital was opened

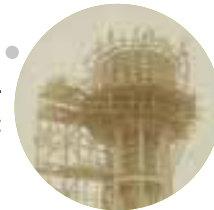


1950

Siófok was attached to Somogy County (earlier it belonged to Veszprém County)

1912

The Water Tower was built



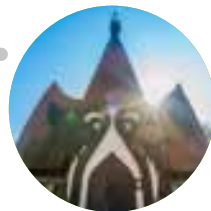
1976

The Cultural Centre was opened (today known as Imre Kálmán Cultural Centre)



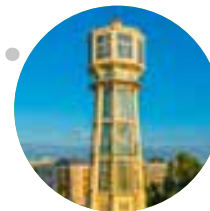
1990

Lutheran church constructed by the plans of Imre Makovecz was consecrated



2012

There is a revolving observation floor, a café and a Tourinform office in the renovated Water Tower



2018

Siófok has been a town for 50 years

Siófok

WHERE THE BALATON STARTS

HONORARY CITIZENS OF SIÓFOK



JÁNOS APÁTI
(1938-)
music teacher, composer,
musician; received honorary
citizen title in 2015



LEVENTE CSÁSZÁR
(1944-)
retired Calvinist pastor;
received honorary citizen
title in 2007



DR. ISTVÁN KOPÁR
(1925-2016)
nautical director;
received honorary citizen
title in 1996



DR. SÁNDOR FARKAS
(1939-)
chief surgeon;
received honorary citizen
title in 2018



DR. VILMOS OLÁH
(1927-2020)
chief surgeon;
received honorary
citizen title in 2014



IMRE TÍMÁR
(1929-2007)
conductor;
received honorary
citizen title in 1999



IMRE KÁLMÁN
(1882-1953)
operetta composer; received
posthumous honorary citizen
title in 1993



DR. JÁNOS KERSÁK
(1943-)
chief internist;
received honorary citizen
title in 2018



FERENC ZACHEMSKI
(1918-2017)
certified mechanical engineer;
received honorary citizen title
in 2011



ELEK CSISZÁR
(1932-2020)
painter;
received honorary
citizen title in 1998



FERENC KENEDY
(1912-1993)
teacher, local historian;
received honorary citizen
title in 1992



JÓZSEF MATYIKÓ SEBESTYÉN
(1951-2014)
local historian, ethnographer, poet
and writer; received posthumous
citizen title in 2016



VITÉZ FERENC HOLL
(1933-)
charter member of the Order
of the Valiant of 1956; received
honorary citizen title in 2011



ENDRE MUZSINSZKI NAGY
(1886-1975)
painter;
received posthumous
honorary citizen title in 1998



DR. FERENC ZÁKONYI
(1909-1991)
tourism specialist writer, local
historian; received honorary
citizen title in 1991



DR. FERENC VARGA
(1942-2013)
general director and chief physician;
received posthumous citizen
title in 2015



DR. JÁNOS WIRTH
(1931-)
Catholic priest;
received honorary citizen
title in 2007



DR. ANTAL VICZIÁN
(1916-2000)
general director and chief physician;
received honorary citizen
title in 1996



IMRE VARGA
(1923-2019)
sculptor;
received honorary
citizen title in 1985



HERITAGE BUILDINGS

The Water Tower is the symbol of Siófok. It was built in 1912 and after its renovation in 2012, a revolving observation floor and a café was opened on the top. The Tourinform office is placed on the ground floor.

On the way to the coast, elegant villas can be seen. Villa Jókai is located at the start of Batthyány Street. It received its name after writer Mór Jókai who spent his last summer here in 1903. Villa Krúdy is only a few steps from here, also named after a famous writer who was a regular guest here from 1914 to 1919. There is also Villa Thanhoffer near Jókai Park, which now functions as a guest house. It was built by professor doctor Lajos Thanhoffer in 1897.

If we go from the park towards the Rose Garden, we can see the buildings of former Sió and Hullám Hotels which were the first hotels opened in Siófok in 1893. They have served educational purposes for nearly 20 years now.

The latest wonder of our harbour is the statue on the jetty called the Angel of Peace inaugurated in 2012. The gold-plated angel holding a dove is the international symbol of peace, friendship and amity. The art piece was made by Pjotr Tyimofejevics Sztronszkij and it is a present to our city from Russian organisations.

The churches of the city will not disappoint the visitors either. The Lutheran church was built by the plans of Kossuth Prize winning architect Imre Makovecz in 1990. The modern Calvinist church on Kele Street was consecrated in 1994. Its designers were János Ripszám and György Pápay. The Roman Catholic church stands near the city's Main Square. It was built in 1903 and designed by Károly Csomai. The church is famous for its organ which is the biggest in the Balaton region. The first synagogue of Siófok was built in 1870 but was later demolished in the 1980s. The modern building of the synagogue was opened in 1986.





NATURAL TREASURES

The blue of the lake and the green of the park intertwines in a great harmony that feels close to every nature-lover.

We do not have to go far from the city centre if we would like to feel the peace of nature. Right in front of the railway station, the elegant Millennium Park welcomes the traveler.

Jókai Park and the Rose Garden beside the lake grant us a fabulous view all four seasons.

The Sió Canal crossing through the town can be explored by kayak or by bicycle on the route along the channel.

For longer hikes, the most ideal place is the Protected Area of Töreki with its 9 km long educational pathway.





TOURISM

Siófok is the most significant tourist centre of Lake Balaton with more than one million guest nights spent here annually. It has the biggest and most diverse supply of accommodation capacity around the lake.

Its primary attraction is the waterfront with its beaches, ships and all the water sport opportunities one can think of. During summer, there are countless great events and sights available for the visitors. The Water Tower, the Ferris-wheel, PLÁZS, the Upside Down House and the #hellosiofok selfie spot are all very popular attractions. The Tourist Information Office on the ground floor of the Water Tower is open all year round.

Beyond the summer season, bicycle tourism, Galerius Spa and various events determine tourism. The Easter Festival is a splendid family event, then in summer, there are many more exciting events like the Season Opening, the National Regatta, the New Orleans Jazz Festival or the Wine and Bread Festival. In autumn, the lovely gastronomy festivals like the Beer and Trotters Festival as well as the Fish or the Goose Festival take over the Main Square, while towards the colder season, we have the Town Day, the Christmas Market and the New Year's Eve Party to celebrate the end of the year.



CULTURE

The cultural life of Siófok is vivid and diverse; the town provides excellent performances for both guests and locals.

In summer, theatre performances and concerts take place on the open-air stage, called Színpart, while in the winter period, they are organised in Imre Kálmán Cultural Centre. There are several program opportunities in the local library as well.

We celebrate Imre Kálmán, the world-famous operetta composer, a native of Siófok every autumn during the Imre Kálmán Memorial Days. Today, his place of birth operates as a museum.

The music pavilion in Millenium Park also commemorates the art of Imre Kálmán. The sculpture made by Imre Varga depicts the composer. Here we can enjoy some of the best-known melodies of the composer.



EDUCATION

There are thousands of pupils studying in the four elementary schools, three secondary schools and the college of Siófok.

Perczel Mór Grammar School is famous for its German bilingual education, while Krúdy Gyula Vocational School offers high-standard training in catering industry professions, and in Baross Gábor Vocational School, there are mainly construction, mechanical and light industry trainings.

Dennis Gabor College (GDF) offers majors in the fields of economy, tourism and IT.





HEALTHCARE

The Hospital of Siófok is exactly as old as the city, so it celebrated the 50th anniversary of its operation in 2018.

The institution has a significant role in medical attendance in the region with its 327 beds, 8 in-patient departments, and 15 medical sections. The hospital provides medical care for both residents and local or foreign tourists temporarily staying here.

There are several private health centres operating in the city, some of which offer natural and ayurvedic treatments and therapies as well.



SPORTS

Siófok offers various sport opportunities all year round: you can use the renovated bicycle roads, or the 17 km long coastline for water sports; you can sail on Lake Balaton, kayak-canoe on Sió Canal. There is a skate park for the fans of extreme sports and many outdoor fitness parks as well.

The town's sports halls and football stadium are used by the professional teams of the town: the men's football team in the second division and the women's handball team in the first division and on the international field.





LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF SIÓFOK

The authority and the duties of the local government are given to the elected city council. The 12-member city council is headed by the town mayor whose work is supported by two deputy mayors. The executive of the bureau is the notary, who is nominated by the town mayor.

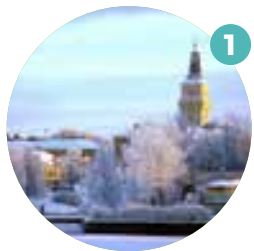
Members of the city council:

- Town mayor
- Two deputy mayors
- Committee of the city council
- Bureau of the local government
- Notary

5 committees support the operation of the city council:

- Committee of Tourism and Law Enforcement
- Committee of Human Resources
- Committee of Conflicting Interest and Ethnics
- Committee of Finance and Proprietary
- Committee of Urban Development and Environment Protection

SISTER CITIES OF SIÓFOK



1 Oulu (Finland), 1978.



2 Netanya (Israel), 1990.



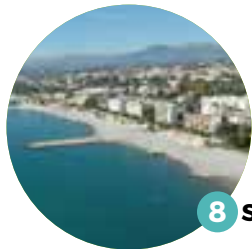
3 Gyergyószentmiklós
(Transylvania), 1990.



5 Waldheim (Germany), 1997.



6 Poreč (Croatia), 1998.



8 Saint Laurent-du-Var (France), 2002.



4 Walnut Creek
(California, USA), 1993.



7 Pärnu (Estonia), 2001.



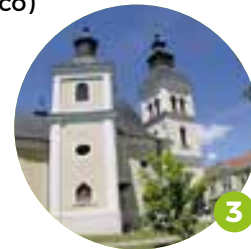
PARTNER CITIES OF SIÓFOK



1 Landsberg (Germany)



2 Puerto Vallarta
(Mexico)



3 Daruvár (Croatia)



Siófok

WHERE THE BALATON STARTS