

## Sopron

(Reference: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sopron>)



Sopron, only about 65km south of Vienna, is a popular destination for excursions and recreation because of its unusual townscape. Hardly any other Hungarian town has such well preserved medieval and Baroque buildings - there are 115 officially listed monuments and 240 protected buildings.

Sopron was an important center of trade before the Romans conquered Pannonia. In the 2nd C BC the Roman settlement Scarbantia was an important town with a capitol, forum and town walls; it became the see of a bishop in the 4th C. In 1277 the town received the royal charter; between 1297-1339 the walls were built which survived the Turkish period and can still be seen in part today. Following the destruction caused by the fire in 1676 the town was rebuilt in Baroque style. After the Trianon peace treaty in 1921 the citizens of Sopron voted to remain in Hungary. The Budapest Horthy government rewarded Sopron with the title "urbs fidelissima" ("most loyal town"). Sopron's industry dates back to the end of the 18th/beginning of the 19th C with a coal mine and sugar refinery; nowadays the main industries are light (carpet and clothing factories, wood processing).

All the buildings in the Old Town within the

confines of the medieval town wall, built on the Roman ruins, are listed historical monuments. The majority are from the early Middle Ages but display features from other periods, such as Romanesque windows, Gothic niches, Renaissance loggias and Baroque or Classical decoration.

(Source: <http://www.planetware.com/hungary/sopron-h-vs-sop.htm>)

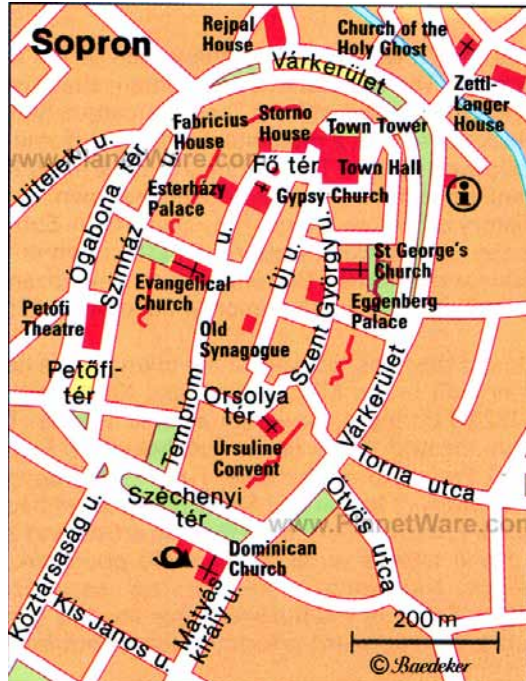
### Fabricius House

Behind the Baroque façade of the Fabricius House (near the General's House) is hidden a complex of houses from the 14/15th C, built on Roman foundations; part of the town wall is actually incorporated into the building. There is a striking oriel window two storeys high on the façade (18th C); the courtyard has two-story arcades and Tuscan columns (17th C). The reverse side of the town wall dates from the first half of the 14th C, its stone façade (visible from the town wall) has two pointed and two straight Gothic windows with tracery.

The Gothic cellar houses a Roman lapidarium, the upper floor has finds from Illyrian, Celtic and Roman culture together with exhibits from the period of the Magyar conquest. The interior of the entrance to the municipal Franz Liszt Museum dates from the 17th and 18th C. The exhibitions have separate entrances.

Adjacent to the Fabricius House is the Classical town hall built in 1830.

(Source: <http://www.planetware.com/sopron/fabricius-house-h-vs-fab.htm>)



In STORNO HOUSE there is a Baroque corner balcony, and the famous collecting dynasty established a museum, where many interesting antiques have found a home.

the GENERAL'S HOUSE was the residence of the mayor in the 17th century, and then the military commands set up their headquarters here.

For centuries, successive pharmacies have stood on the site of today's PHARMACY HOUSE and now the most beautiful furnishings from Sopron's most historical pharmacies can be seen collected together alongside numerous pharmacological written rarities.

the BENEDICTINE CHURCH was the scene of coronations and national assemblies in the 17th century; the church - popularly known as "Goat church" - has Gothic vaulting and Baroque furnishing.

the ancient center can be seen in the

SCARBANTIA FORUM archeological exhibition.

Statue remains and carvings are in the 61-meter-high FIRE TOWER which stands as a symbol of the town.

The HOLY TRINITY STATUE has been classed as an outstanding work of Hungarian Baroque sculpture from the 17th century.

the ORSOLYITA CHURCH is one of the past century's finest neo-Gothic constructions. The ROMAN CATHOLIC ECCLESIASTICAL COLLECTION OF SOPRON is housed in the oratory and it comprises carved wooden figures and goldsmiths' works (note the 18th century Fountain of the Virgin Mary outside).

Dating from the end of the 13th century, the MEDIEVAL "OLD" SYNAGOGUE has an exhibition of relics recalling the Sopron Jewry.



EGGENBERG HOUSE was built in the 17th century in late Renaissance style. Above the gate, one can discern the Brandenburg coat of arms, and in the arcaded courtyard the Hohenzollern coat of arms.

The reconstruction of the originally 14th century Gothic CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE left it in Baroque style.

Several of Sopron's numerous museums are located in Templom Street:

- MEDIEVAL CHAPTER HOUSE: important 13th century historical

building, richly decorated with statues and wall paintings, and unique in Hungary.

- **MINING MUSEUM:** housed in the former Esterházy mansion, working models present the development of mining, including works of fine art and applied art on the subject.



### **SOPRON - the capital of the Blue Frankish wine**

Probably the best city in Hungary. Sopron, a city of 53.000 inhabitants is located in Győr-Moson-Sopron county. Sopron is one of the cities with the most number of monuments in Hungary. It is located along the Austrian-Hungarian border at the foot of the Alps, 220 Kilometers away from Budapest, 60 Kilometers away from Vienna. There are a lot of attractions in this city: quiet little streets of the historical city center, unique buildings and monuments of the Middle Ages. The city of Sopron is said to be the most "loyal city" of Hungary (*Civitas Fidelissima*). After the Trianon treaty of 1920, when Hungary lost two-thirds of its territory, the citizens of Sopron were allowed to hold a referendum on whether to stay with "little" Hungary or join the former part of Hungary called the Burgenland that as that was given to Austria.

On December 14, 1922 the people cast their votes and the town stayed with Hungary. It was then the title *Civitas Fidelissima*, meaning the most loyal town was awarded to Sopron.

The downtown itself was built along

- **COLLECTION OF THE HISTORY OF FORESTRY, WOOD INDUSTRY AND LAND SURVEYING:** in the 17th century Esterházy mansion.
- **LUTHERAN MUSEUM:** the history of the Lutheran congregation in Sopron, set in the pastors' seminar

the bank of Ikva. The surrounding area is rich in sources, the most well known ones can be in Balf. The Fertő (Neusiedler) lake, the third biggest lake of Central Europe is lying north-east of Sopron.

Sopron is famous for its wines (Blue Frankish, Tramini, Green Veltelini).

Main Square, Benedictian (or Goat) Church (1280), Hungarian Parliament (Diet) has held its sessions in this church in 1553, 1622, 1625, 1635 and 1681:



Roman and medieval walls:



Fire Tower, Gate of Fidelity:

