

In the footsteps of Rippl-Rónai

The Memorial **Villa of Rippl-Rónai** (25), Kaposvár's most famous son, was built in 1868 in Baroque style on Roma Hill. He purchased the house on his return from Paris in 1902 and continued to live and work there until his death in 1927. It was bequeathed to his wife, Lazarine who lived there until she died in 1947. In 1978 the villa became a museum displaying the painter's works, personal artefacts and the original furniture.

The **Eastern Cemetery** can be reached via Mező Street. József Rippl-Rónai was laid to rest here in 1927. His tombstone was made by Dezső Lányi in 1936.

The square in the city centre – named after Rippl-Rónai – was landscaped in 1910. In 1950 a good friend of the painter, Ferenc Medgyessy, made the statue which adorns centre of the park (26).

Other recommended sights and significant places

Climbing up to the Várdomb (Castle Hill) on the eastern border of the city the ancient ruins of the **Szentjakab Benedictine Abbey** (27) can be seen. According to the Deeds of Foundation, Ottó Bailiff of Somogy founded a Benedictine monastery here. These early Roman and Gothic Style remains are protected as the oldest historic monuments in Kaposvár. After recon-



struction work was completed in 2000 the buildings were consecrated. Nowadays the complex hosts open-air theatre, music and exhibitions.

The **City Greens** (28) in the heart of Kaposvár are a five-hectare haven of peace and relaxation with a unique floating fountain adorning the lake at the centre of the park. Stroll around to admire the memorial column to local athletes who competed in the Olympic Games, the Tree of Life, the memorial to the martyrs of Arad, and the Malom Lake.

Trail of traditions

The **'Wild flowers Trail'** (29) starts in front of Kaposvár County Hall where the statue of "Erythronium /kakasmandiko" by János Horváth Béres was erected in 2000. This route is lined with the artist's carved wooden statues depicting the rare flowers of Zselic. Leave Kaposvár (look out for the Uránia Observatory on the right) and, after a few kilometres, you will arrive at **Kaposszerdahely**, where visitors can gain an insight into the craftsmanship of wood carving. The next village is **Szenna**, (30) home to an open-air ethnographic museum – Hungary's first Europe-Nostra prize winner in 1980. This collection of half-timbered homes from the area of Inner Somogy and Zselic as well as personal artefacts depict the life of Somogy peasants. The open air museum surrounds a Calvinist church, which with its painted panelled ceiling is unrivalled in this region.



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*Walks in the
city centre*



This walking tour includes all the important buildings in the city centre. The first stop is the Tourist Information Office “**Tourinform-Kaposvár**”, (1) where maps, leaflets and other general information are available.

At the heart of Kaposvár is **Kossuth Square**, (2) which was redeveloped in 2003. With its spectacular fountains and flowers it is one of the highlights of the city.

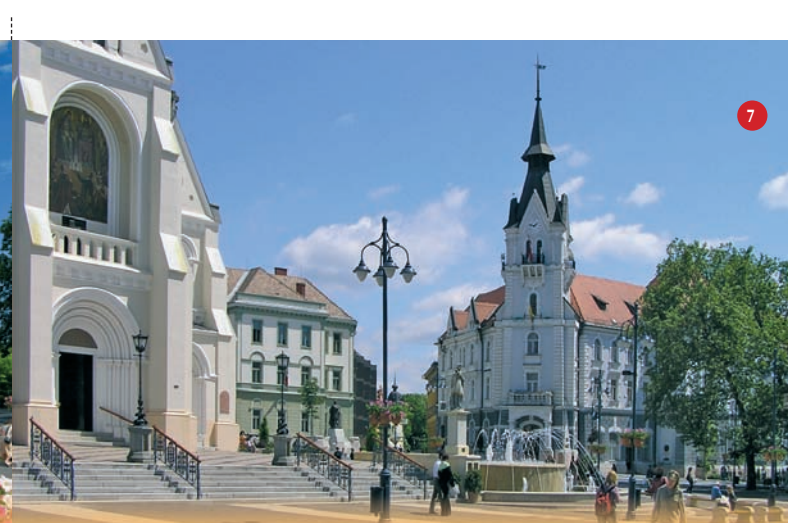
The Roman Catholic “**Nagyboldogasszony**” (3) (Church of Our Lady) was rebuilt in 1886 in New Roman Style. It was elevated to cathedral status in 1993 when Kaposvár became a bishop's seat. On the south side of the church is the St Stephen Well by Jenő Bory.

In front of the cathedral are two beautiful 18th Century figures – the Rococo-style ‘**Mária**’ and the **Baroque statue** (5) of the citizens’ patron saint, **St. John of Nepomuk**, (4) which is one of the oldest in the city.

The **Kapos Hotel** replaced the old Korona Hotel. At the turn of the 19th-20th Century Kaposvár was a vibrant cultural centre and amongst the hotel's guests were the actress Lujza Blaha and the poet Endre Ady. The Gipsy band, whose fame spread all over Europe, played here led by their bandleader József Barcza (Szimpliciusz).

In the square there is a **twinning memorial showing** the distance to and direction of Kaposvár's twin towns.

The former **Erzsébet Hotel** (6) was built in 1901 and its colourful tower is decorated with Zsolnay ceramic roof tiles.



The **Town Hall**, (7) a beautiful Neo-Renaissance building, was constructed between 1902 and 1903. It boasts ornate stone balustrades, glass windows, an impressive oak panelled Great Hall, a spectacular staircase and a tower 40 metres high. Since 2002 tiny bells under the balcony have chimed exactly five minutes before the clock strikes the hour. Note the memorial tablets adorning the outer walls.

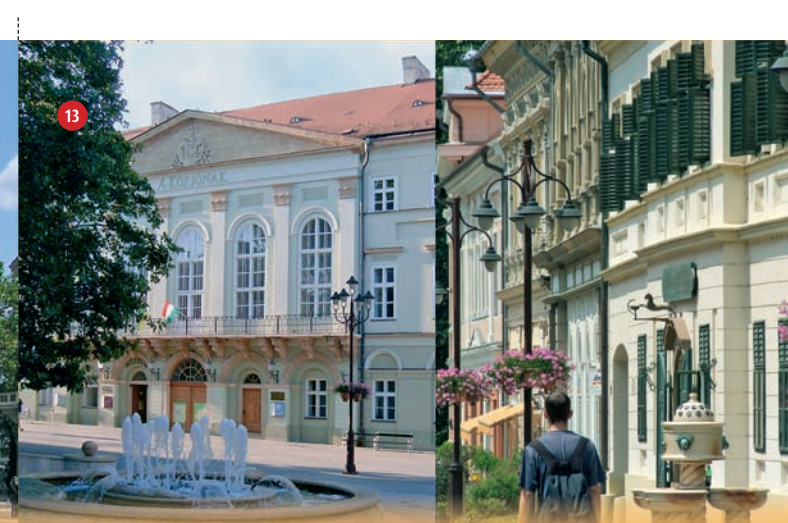
In 1911 the statue of **Lajos Kossuth** (8) – by the sculptor János Kopits – was erected in the square named after this famous politician. Two years later the cottage used as a **meteorological office was built** (9).

The Eclectic Style building behind the Kossuth statue was built in 1812. At the turn of the 19th -20th Century a second floor was added to house a secondary school.

To the north of the square you can make a detour to the Vaszary Memorial House. *

Main Street

Dorottya-house (10) A spectacular ball was held in this Baroque building in 1798, organised by the bailiff of the Esterhazys. At the front of the house is a bust of Mihály Csokonai Vitéz, a famous poet of the time. After attend-



ing the ball he was inspired to write the well known comic epic about the carnival and Dorottya.

The impressive furnishings of **Stühmer-café** date from 1928 and are protected items.

The beautiful Neo-Renaissance **Kemény-palace** was built in 1904. There used to be a music school on the first floor but, it has been the city's **Tourist information Office**, (the Tourinform Office) since 1992.

Europe Square (11) was redeveloped in 1998 and now features a fountain – typical of the city – and the statue “Sun wheel” by István Bors. Try touching Klára Weber's work “**Handstand**” (12) as it is supposed to bring good luck!

From Europe Square we can take a detour to the Berzsényi Park via Kossuth street. *

The **Rippl-Rónai Museum** (13) dating from 1832 is one of the most beautiful examples of Hungarian Classicist architecture. It served as the County Hall until 1983 and now houses the Directorate of Somogy County Museums and the Rippl-Rónai Museum.

In the middle of Main Street you can see **Rippl-Rónai's** statue by Ferenc Trischler, depicting the painter driving his donkey cart from his villa on the Róma hill to the city centre.



In 1875 at the age of 14, Kaposvár born Rippl-Rónai worked as a pharmacy assistant in the **Arany Oroszlán (Golden Lion) pharmacy** (15). After graduation he returned to Kaposvár as a qualified pharmacist. Long night duty gave Rippl-Rónai the opportunity to paint “Fiatal nő estélyi virágos ruhában” (“Young girl in a flowery ball gown”) which launched his career as an artist.

The **Zsolnay Well** (16) manufactured by the Zsolnay factory was sited in the centre of Main Street in 1987.

A short detour to the north of the Zsolnay Well will take you in the direction of the **Nagy Imre park**.***

Walking Street is bordered by a hotel and business premises built in 1910 in Art Nouveau Style. Now called “**Dorottya**” (17) after Mihály Csokonai Vitéz's comic epic, it was once The Turul Hotel and you can still see the statue of the “turul” bird on the corner of the building

Dózsa György Street

On your way from Walking Street to the Railway Station you will pass the **Gergely Csiky Theatre** (18). Completed in 1911, it is one of the most beautiful Art Nouveau buildings in the city and has been run with a permanent company since 1955. The theatre remains one of the most influential in Hungary.



*Zárda street (detour from the Kossuth Square to north)

This beautiful former nunnery built in the Romantic Style is now a **Catholic Grammar School** (19).

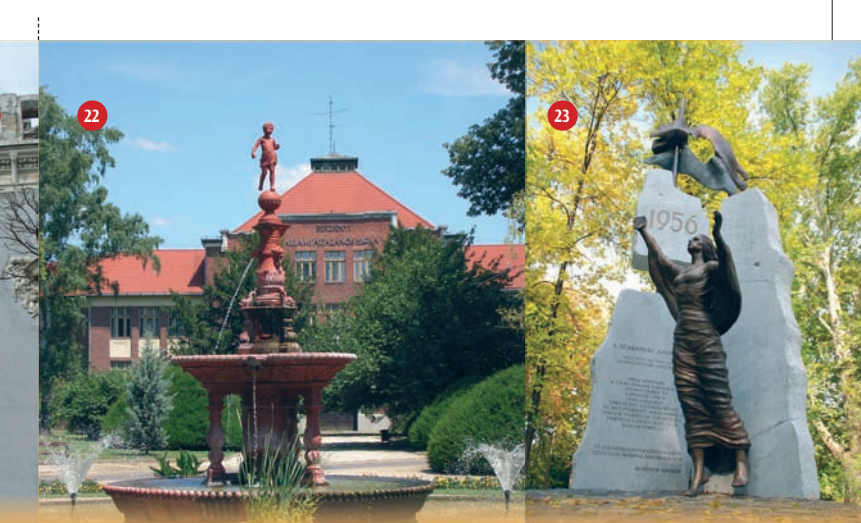
Look left into Kontrásky Street. Number 4 the “**Adam & Eva**” (20) house dates from 1912 and it is one of the most beautiful Art Nouveau buildings in Kaposvár.

The Classicist Style Number 9 Zárda Street is the birthplace of painter **János Vaszary** (21) (1867–1939). There is a bust of the artist opposite the house in front of the café named after him.

**Berzsényi park (detour to the north from Europe Square)

Kossuth Street is an avenue of horse chestnut trees. Head north and at number 21 you will see a music school named after the famous Hungarian pianist and composer “Ferenc Liszt” which opened here in 1954.

At number 23 you can see one of the most beautiful Calvinist churches in Hungary, which was built from fired red bricks in German Gothic style.



Following the route take a look at the Lutheran Church dating from 1929 with its onion dome and special ground plan of a Greek-cross.

On your right is **Berzsényi Park** (22). Its features include Katalin Gera's “The Angel of Freedom” (23), the statue of István Németh, one of the city's most important mayors and the bust of 19th poet Dániel Berzsényi. The memorial column of the 44th regiment commemorates past military glories. The Zsolnay Well was restored and sited in the centre of the park in 2001.

***Detour from the Zsolnay-well to north

Off Walking Street, passing under the archway, the statue of the Prime Minister, **Imre Nagy** (24) is revealed in the park named in honour of this martyr. The statue, by Iván Paulikovics, was erected in 1996 to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1956 revolution. In 1989 a memorial tablet was placed on the wall of his birthplace at number 77 Main Street.

A few metres from the statue, in the park in front of County Hall, a number of “kopjafa” (gravestone poles, commemorative public memorials) were erected to honour the memory of the fallen heroes of Don, Russia (World War II) and the victims of the 1956 revolution.

