

A WALK IN  THE MUSEUM



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Don't miss it!

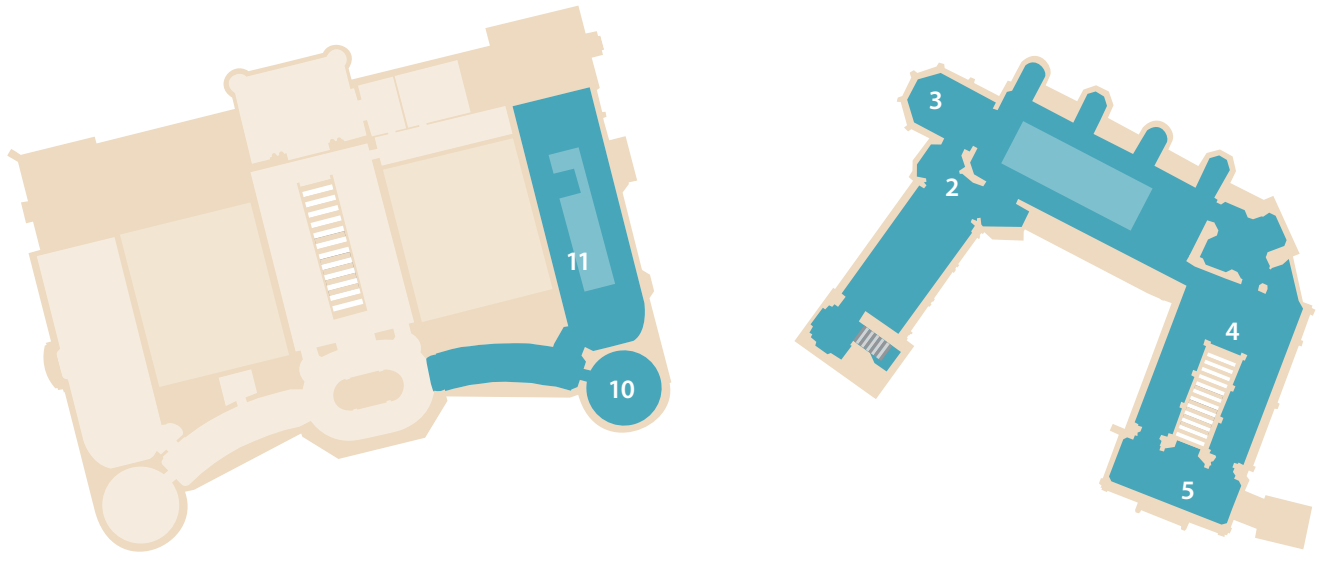
{ A walk in the exhibitions
of the Museum and Library of Hungarian Agriculture }



MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
OF HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURE
BUDAPEST | VAJDAHUNYAD CASTLE

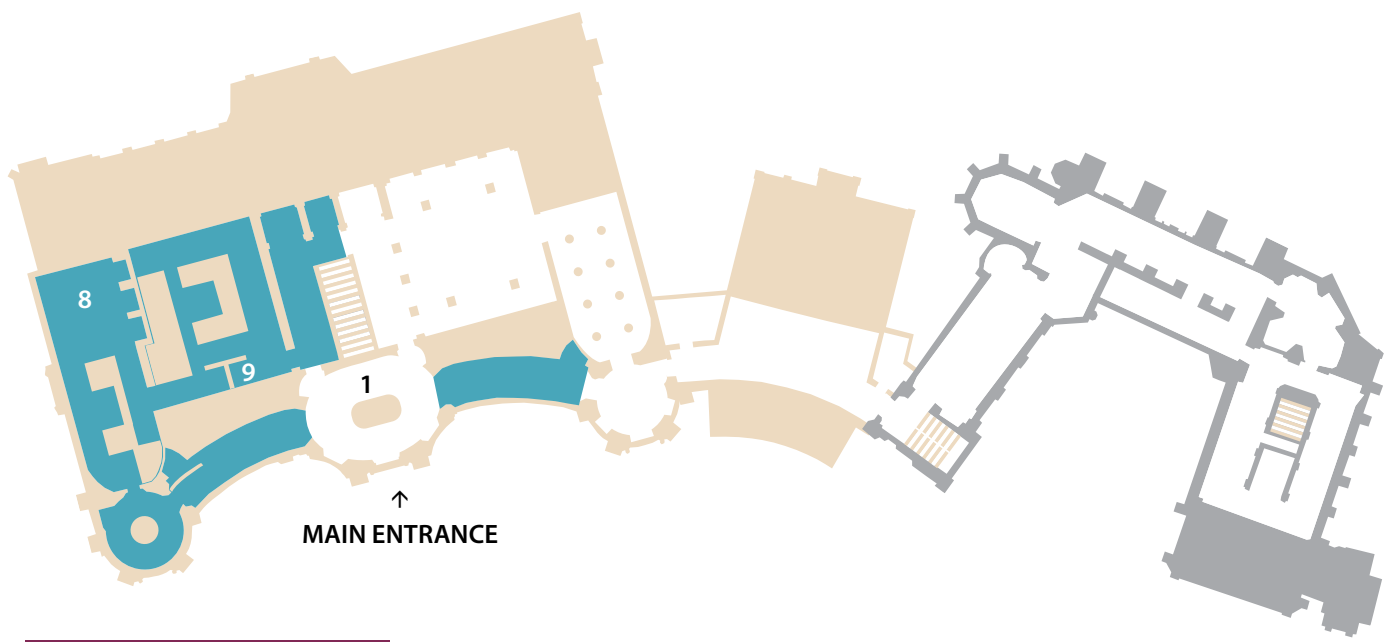
FIRST FLOOR | BAROQUE AND GOTHIC WINGS

No passageway between the two wings on the first floor



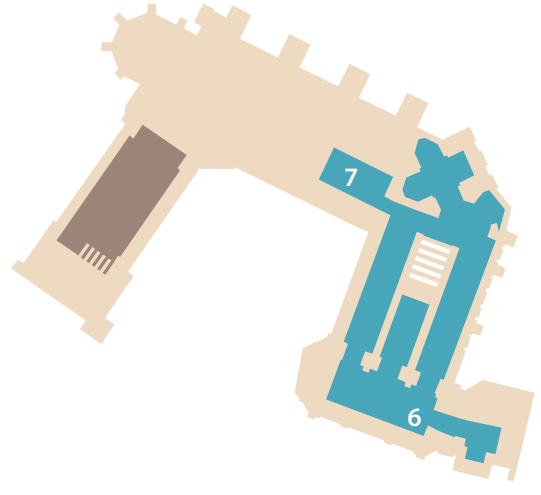
GROUND FLOOR | BAROQUE AND GOTHIC WINGS

Passageway between the two wings across the connecting section (near the coffee shop)



CELLAR | GOTHIC WING

Way down to the cellar's exhibition through the ground-floor exhibition space



INTRODUCTION

One of the most unique attractions of our capital city is the Historic Building Complex, erected for the 1896 Millennium Exhibition. The building complex, designed by Ignác Alpár, presents castles, palaces and ecclesiastical buildings according to the characteristic styles of various historical periods. The wooden framed temporary building that was donated to the Museum of Agriculture had become dangerously unstable by 1899 and had to be demolished. In 1900 Minister of Agriculture Ignác Darányi ordered the rebuilding of the complex, this time with durable materials. The building was finished and acquired its current form in 1907, and was renamed Vajdahunyad Castle by locals. The wars and revolutions of the 20th century caused significant damage to the building and its exhibitions, but Vajdahunyad Castle survived these troubles and 120 years after its erection remains the home of the Museum and the Library of Hungarian Agriculture.

Let's walk around the exhibitions together!

1ST STOP

Latin inscription

WHERE? *Main lobby, ground floor, above the main stairwell*

„Nihil melius,
Nihil homine libero dignius,
quam agricultura.”

Cicero

“Nothing is better, nothing is worthier
of a free man than farming.”

Cicero

2ND STOP

Great brown bear

WHERE? *Between the armoury room and trophy hall*

This capital brown bear, weighing 301 kgs, was donated by Count Géza Andrassy to the museum in 1907. He shot the beast at Betlér in Gömör County (now in Slovakia). Today this agile, speedy bear species only appears in high mountain ranges and thick forests. Bears are omnivores, but mainly consume plants, berries and forest fruits. In early winter they withdraw under pine trees or into caves to hibernate. In January females usually give birth to two or three cubs. Until the appearance of hunting rifles bear hunting was one of the toughest undertakings since bears could only be bagged with so-called cold weapons such as spears, long hunting knives or traps. This bear has been exhibited in the museum from the very beginning and therefore it has become one of its most popular exhibits, indeed the symbol of the museum.

3RD STOP

Hall with world record trophies with the only such trophy bagged by a woman

WHERE? *Hunting exhibiton, room of world record trophies*

One of the most valuable trophy collections in Europe is kept by the Museum and Library of Hungarian Agriculture. Apart from the five red deer, one roebuck, seven fallow deer and one wild boar world record trophies several gold medallist trophies complete the collection. Among the five world record red deer trophies one was bagged by a Swiss huntress in 1970 near Lenti in Zala County. So far this is the only world record trophy bagged by a woman.



4TH STOP

Sturgeon, the most valuable fish in the Danube

WHERE? *Fishing exhibition, sturgeon diorama*

The sturgeon was a characteristic fish of Hungary, requiring special fishing skills. The species once was a major part of the income of fishermen along the Danube and Tisza rivers. After the construction of the Iron Gate dam and the narrowing of the Danube's course sturgeon fishing had become a rarity in the Hungarian stretch of the river. In the 20th century larger sturgeons were only caught 28 times, while according to sources in 1554-55, within a year more than 160 specimens were caught. The average length of a sturgeon is 3-4 metres, but sometimes it can reach 9 metres and 1400 kilograms. The two specimens in the showcase were caught by fishermen at Paks in 1962 and 1964. The most recent catch in Hungary is from 1987.

5TH STOP

Rose window with wheel tracery

WHERE? *Same place, facing the stairs*

Reaching the top of the stairs we can admire an enormous rose window with stained glass, consisting of semicircular spokes of wheel tracery. The allegory of the rose window represents the apotheosis of the Holy Crown of Hungary, depicted in the upper field of the window above the national coat of arms. Along the frame of the wheel are the arms of the countries that once were part of the Kingdom of Hungary: Transylvania, Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia and the port of Fiume. An anecdote is also associated with the rose window; whether apocryphal or not, it adds to the already colourful history of the castle. The stained glass of the window was made by the famous glassmaker, Miksa Róth. His work was so highly esteemed and respected that according to the story during both world wars committed volunteers removed the glass pieces from the tracery one by one, numbered them, wrapped the pieces in newspaper and hid them in a safe place. Once the wars were over, the pieces were refitted in their original position.

6TH STOP

Horizontal press from 1776

WHERE? *Cellars of the Gothic wing, viticultural exhibition*

The horizontal press is a wooden contraption which was used to squeeze the juice out of the grapes during the harvest. The largest of these presses works on the principle of one-armed levers, with beams and screws. Its most important part is a 3-4 metre long horizontal beam, which gave the press its Hungarian name. One end of the beam is fixed, while to its other end a weighted spindle is attached, which made it possible for the beam to exert equal pressure along its length. The grape clusters are placed either in the hollowed tank of the press or into a separate vat. A wooden plank or tabletop covers this, onto which short, thick beams are placed. The pressure of the horizontal beam weighs on the smaller beams, and the juice from the grapes in the vat is squeezed out. The largest and oldest of the museum's horizontal presses is from 1776. It was collected in the Keszthely district, and was made of hard oak.



7TH STOP

Smallholder's cellar and room from the Balaton Uplands

WHERE? *In the same place, to the left of the stairs*

The cellar interior is furnished with tools used in a typical smallholder's vineyard, such as grape basket, grinder, vat and press, while the alcove next to it represents a small, simply furnished room used for resting.

8TH STOP

The plough of Francis II Rákóczi

WHERE? *Baroque wing, ground floor. Third room of the exhibition "The history of Hungarian agriculture from the beginning to 1945"*

The so-called Rákóczi plough originates from the Zboró manor in Sáros County (today in Slovakia) of Francis II Rákóczi (1676-1735). The huge, wooden beamed, narrow soled plough was certainly made in the manorial cartwright and blacksmith shop in the first decade of the 18th century. It is the earliest plough from the Carpathian Basin that has survived in its entirety, and was saved from destruction by a lucky chance. In a letter dated 15 December 1903 the steward of the Zboró estate offered the plough, which had also been shown at the Rákóczi exhibition in Kassa, to Árpád Balás, the then director of the Royal Hungarian Museum of Agriculture. The plough was received by the museum on 16 July 1904. Aladár Lukovits made some research into the history of the plough, with little success. He notified the museum about his results, claiming "I could not learn anything of substance, apart from the fact that it had been mouldering with some other farm implements in the attic of a granary since anybody could remember. When the Erdődy counts sold Zboró, most of the tools got lost, others were sold for scrap metal, while the plough was lying in a corner covered with straws and rubbish, and was found by the current tenants and it was due to their initiative that it was shown at the exhibition in Kassa."

9TH STOP

A Hungarian franchise: The Hangya shops

WHERE? *In the fourth room of the same exhibition*

Cooperatives had a major role in the capitalistic development of agriculture. Count Sándor Károlyi (his sitting statue can be seen in the courtyard) was the first to suggest the forming of cooperatives at the 1885 international farmers' conference held in Budapest. He and his political allies initiated the formation of credit and consumers' cooperatives in the poorer northeastern and southeastern parts of the country. These not only introduced modern farming knowledge to the villages but also elements of middle-class mentality and culture. The most influential of these alliances was the Consumers' and Marketing Cooperative of the Hungarian Farming Association, known popularly as the Hangya (Ant). Its aim was to supply smallholders with cheap but quality goods and enable them to sell their own products on favourable terms. Due to its successful business strategy the Hangya network soon covered the whole country. Our diorama presents a village Hangya shop from the 1910s-20s. These shops stocked nearly everything farmers needed. Our shop mostly concentrates on the selling of household products, drinks and sweets. Shops also had an other section where engines, hardware or fuel (eg petroleum) were sold. The Hangya was disbanded in 1949, but in the present day an increasing number of similar cooperatives are formed both for producers and consumers.

10TH STOP

The skeleton of Kincsem and a model of the Göd training stable

WHERE? *First floor of the Baroque wing, in the exhibition "Kincsem and Imperiál, famous Hungarian racehorses"*

The world-famous Hungarian wonder mare ran in 54 races and won all of them. This remains a world record to this day. The scale model to the left of the skeleton depicts the Göd training stable, where a lifelong friendship developed between Kincsem and the trainer's black and white cat. The cat spent most of the time in Kincsem's box, accompanied her to her daily training, and even had to be taken abroad with Kincsem as the horse became moody when her friend was not around.

11TH STOP

A woman's 9th century horse tack

WHERE? *In "The horse – National horse exhibition"*

The reconstruction of a horse tack made for a woman during the Magyar Conquest exemplifies the idea of "the more decorative, the more feminine". The ornamental horse tack formed an important part of female luxury. Such sets were given to women as their dowry by their families and they kept them during their marriage. After their death, the horse tack was buried with them.

Explore the unique towers of Vajdahunyad Castle

A walk around the 120-year-old Vajdahunyad Castle

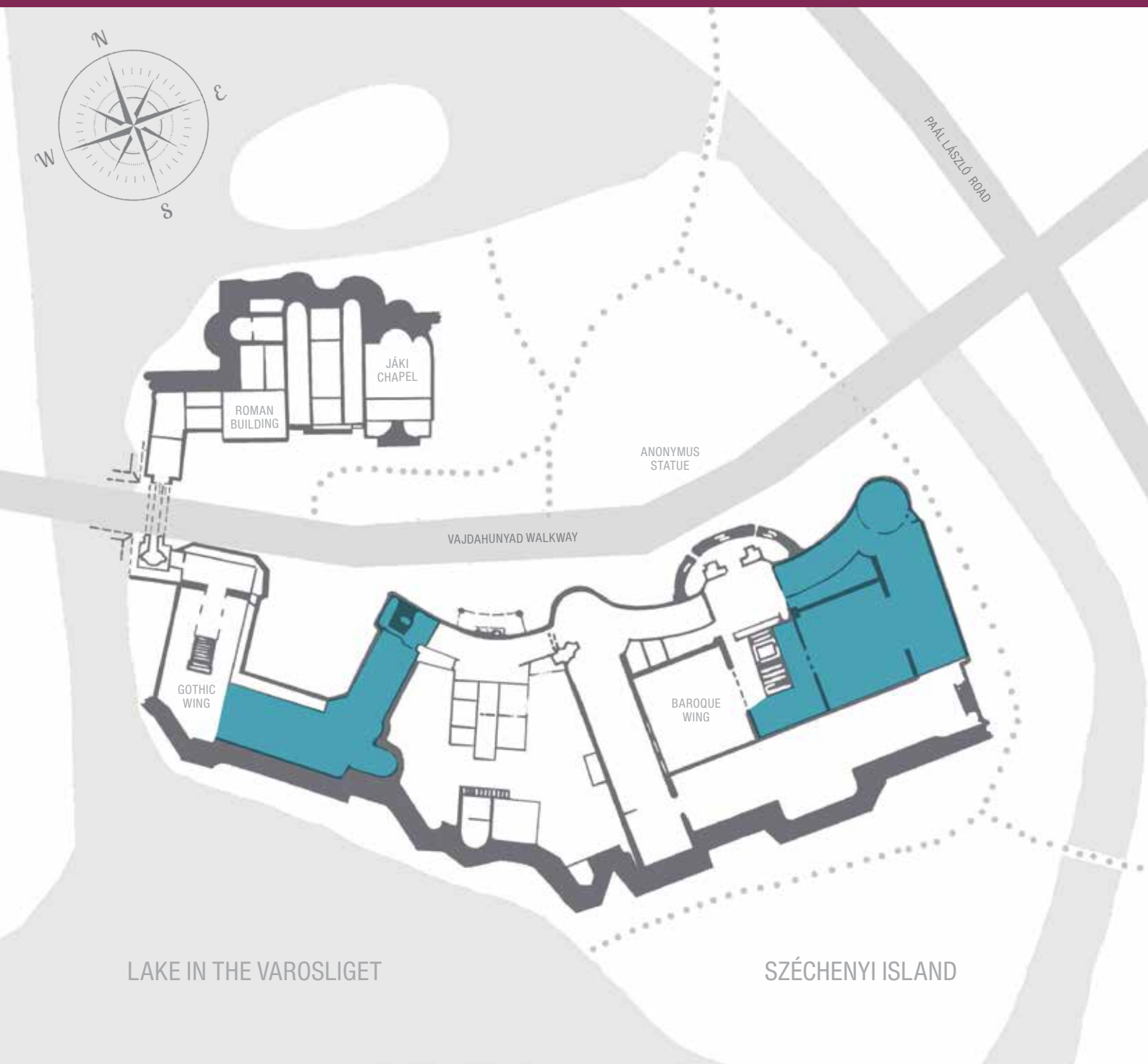


In 2015 two previously off limits parts of the building were opened for visitors in our Tower Tour programme. This makes it possible for visitors to gain access to spaces that so far had been reserved for the museum staff. Walking in the labyrinthine interiors or taking in the panorama is a unique experience.



More information: www.mmgm.hu

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OF HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURE IN SZÉCHENYI ISLAND



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BUDAPEST | VAJDAHUNYAD CASTLE