



IPOLYTARNÓC
FOSSIL REMAINS
ENVIRONMENTALLY PROTECTED AREA



IPOLYTARNÓC

One of Hungary's national heritage treasures, the fossil remains, an environmentally protected area, can be found in the northern corner of the Nógrád County, close to the Ipoly River.

Ipolytarnóc first received its fame and name from the area's fossilized tree measuring almost 100 metres in length and 8 metres in circumference. The world's most known pine tree type was carved out of the earth by the Borókás stream, which duly emerged from the concealed dormant hardened formation volcano. The locals named it, "Gyurtyánkő-lóczán", and tell captivating stories about its fossilization.

Scientific studies were first commenced in 1836, by Ferenc Kubinyi, during this time the area became a place of pilgrimage for those who took an interest to it.

Also named the Pompei of the pre-historic world, the area, which is 23-17 million years old, came under the authorisation and classification of the European Diploma and world heritage site. The area's formation of varied fossils is due in part to its geographical position, and furthermore the volcanic catastrophe, which destroyed this pre-historic territory, a natural cemetery on which it stands. The uniqueness of the site is also partially thanks to the special conservation surroundings, which have made it such a jewel in the crown. The volcanic catastrophe destroyed the pre-historic area of Ipolytarnóc, but at the same time gave us today the opportunity to gain an insight and reality into the fossils that surpassed the test of time over one hundred million years ago.

People visiting the area will be duly welcomed at the "Pre-historic pine tree reception building", which in itself is worth observing: its corridor walkway imitates the gigantic fossilized tree's internal cavity, the exhibition and projector rooms offer visitors a precise introduction to the history of global geology.

Marsh cypress trees, of approximately 7 million years which were saved from a nearby coal mine, can now be seen besides the reception building. They are of particular interest since they were all preserved in their own wood. Rest areas have been created around the building, and represent a learning trail network from which

it starts and ends. Your unique time travel experience starts here. The inscriptions on the milestones, found at the starting point by the reception building, and the joined open air rocky park accentuates the sense of time passing, which from our present stems back to the geological trails entrance, a time span of 24 million years of strata.

From shark's teeth concealed in the bed of pre-historic seas, to the remains of tropical rainforests, the journey venturing to the peak of towering volcanoes, the time travels experience's most popular journey is that of the geological learning trail.

From the entrance by the Borokas trench, the 800 metre long trail is a thoughtfully planned geological learning curve which leads us back history's past times.

Unique fossilized examples of flood areas drinking grounds, and shallows allow for visitors to capture moments from the earths ancient foreground.

For the almost 11 vertebral species of animals discovered, we have managed to classify over three thousand foot prints. Amongst mammals, mainly the pre-historic rhinoceros, with its circular shaped three hooved foot print was the most frequented. The pre-historic world, however had many predators, the biggest of which was the bear dog type, "Bestiopeda maxima". Apart from these, deer and roe types and other footprints of smaller predators and birds were fossilized in the mud.

Ipolytarnóc is home to one of the world's largest and extensive footprint findings.

Footprints also make way for a variety of plants. It was possible to recreate the once existing vegetation in this area from the more than 15 thousand leaf prints from the surrounding "Halimionetum Portula Coidis" (Portufa). Along such lines tropical and sub-tropical rain forests gave home to the animal world at that time. The many layered forest was dominated by ferns, palm trees, magnolia, laurel, and sycamore trees, not to mention the pre-historic pine trees which gave its landscape such a determining feature. Starting from the geological trail, leading the visitor to the reception building, these biological walks give the visitor a valuable insight into the areas wildlife, as well as providing relaxation in a tranquil environment. The forest trail stretching between 2 and 4 km provide rest areas, look out points, and are situated in the local coal mining area which furthermore inspire the visitor with the added component if history.

Please remember that the learning trail is situated in an environmentally protected area. It is prohibited to collect, take, touch plants and/or fossils!

OPENING TIMES

JANUARY CLOSED
FEBRUARY CLOSED
NOVEMBER CLOSED
DECEMBER CLOSED

MARCH – OCTOBER

MONDAY	CLOSED, BUT NATIONAL HOLIDAY	OPEN 09 ⁰⁰ - 16 ⁰⁰
TUESDAY	CLOSED, BUT NATIONAL HOLIDAY	OPEN 09 ⁰⁰ - 16 ⁰⁰
WEDNESDAY		OPEN 09 ⁰⁰ - 16 ⁰⁰
THURSDAY		OPEN 09 ⁰⁰ - 16 ⁰⁰
FRIDAY		OPEN 09 ⁰⁰ - 16 ⁰⁰
SATURDAY		OPEN 09 ⁰⁰ - 16 ⁰⁰
SUNDAY		OPEN 09 ⁰⁰ - 16 ⁰⁰

Tour starts: at every hour 30 minutes. The last tour will start at: 15:30. Larger groups (50 persons) prior booking is necessary. Site can be observed at other times apart from the above, with special authorisation.

*The issue was prepared with the European Union's joint financial help
Prepared in line with the national development plans regional operative programme.
For further information log on: www.nfu.hu; www.vati.hu; Info-line: 06-40-638-638.*

NEVZETI
FEJLESZTESI
TERV



Information for tourism: The responsible for the area: Administrative board for the Bükk National Park
– Eger. Postal address: Ipolytarnóci Fossil Remains Environmentally Protected area 3138 Ipolytarnóc,
Pf.: 1. Telephone/fax: 32-454-113 Email: itarnoc@gmail.com www.ipolytarnoc.kvvm.hu

