



The beehive rock at the Betyárbúlyó

Today the building is a protected monument and it is used as a house. The baroque statue of Saint John of Nepomuk at the crossing of Rákóczi and Széchenyi streets, made in the 1800s, is also a protected monument. The stone bridge, with segmental arched bridge span and one opening, over Laskó Stream on Szőláti road, at the northern edge of the village, was built in 1838, and it is a protected monument, too.

North of the village, there is the biggest surface water in the Bükkalja region: the Egerszalók Lake (Laskó Valley Lake) created on the dammed Laskó Stream. Its flora and fauna is of big natural value, and their protection is very important. Fish abound in the lake, which is a popular place for angling.

The main attraction of the village is the thermal spring bubbling up from from a depth of 410m south of the village. The 65-68 °C hot water has made Egerszalók a village of international significance. The water, running down the hillside, has built a calctuff hill. As a result the village is often called the "Hungarian Pamukkale", referring to the world-famous Turkish bath. The Egerszalók Spa and Wellness Bath, built in a natural setting, unrivalled in Europe, awaits visitors since 2007.



The rock cone at the Kőbojtár

Bükkalja Rock-way Information Point Eger, in the yard of the Fellner block

**bukkalja.info.hu**

Mayor's Office of Egerszalók, Sáfrány road 7.  
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in the Castle Museum of Eger. The construction works of the Roman Catholic Parish House at the foot of the church hill were started by József Bukovinszky master mason from Eger in 1831, using the building of the previous parish built in 1741. The previous inn of the chapter, the so-called "Pub-house" was built in the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century at the crossing of the main roads in the area, next to the bridge over the stream. Today



Informational sketch map

Photo: Holló Sándor, Klein Dávid

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*Egerszalók*





The Baroque Bell Tower of Szalók

Egerszalók is located 6 km west of Eger between the Mátra and Bükk Mountains, in the valley of Laskó Stream. The area has been populated since the Hungarian conquest; it was the ancient property of the gens of Szalók. The first written record about the village is from 1248 under the name „terra-Zolouk”. In the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the most part of Egerszólók became the property of the chapter of Eger. During the 1552 siege of Eger the village was demolished by the Turkish, but it was repopulated again, soon. After 1586 both the serfs of the chapter and of Belényi and Szalóki lower noble families had to pay a poll tax and a tithe on wine to the Turkish. Thus the village slowly became depopulated. In 1687, after the reconquest of Eger, the serfs of Szalók moved to Eger, already a free royal town, where they were free of taxes. However, according to an order of the king the castle soldiers chased the gathering serfs out and had them taken back to their landowners' lands. This way the village got back some of its inhabitants around 1694, but only for a decade, since it became depopulated again in the kuruc times (Anti-Habsburg rebellions). The chapter settled 35 German serf families to Szalók following his contract on settling issued on 4. June 1731. From the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian serfs moved here in large numbers, and the community of the village became bilingual first, and then Hungarian.



Uninhabited cave houses next to the village



Calcutuff hill at the thermal spring

The **Maklyán** (or Maklány) Castle near the village was probably built by the Maklyán family from Demjén in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1435 documents only mentioned a ruin and in 1509 only the place of the castle. The castle had been on a 214 meters high, round rock pyramid. The chapter of Eger had stones brought to his own construction sites from the stone mine next to the castle. South of the previous castle on Menyecske Hill, there are 4 beehive chambers in two rocky ridges. Close to the Maklyán castle there are some more nice examples of the rock values in the Bükkalja region: a **sheep-cote** carved into rhyolite tuff and the another rhyolite tuff cone called **Kőasszony** (or **Leánykő**), where a “**bújó**” (a small room in the rock) has been cut. South of this one, there is another lonely cone, without chambers, which is called **Kőbojtár** (stone shepherd boy) by the local people. In the southern part of the village, over the



The statue of Saint John of Nepomuk



World War I. memorial



The Egerszalók lake is a popular place for angling

lines of cellars next to the road leading to Demjén, also visible from the road, there is another “**bújó**” (called **Betyárbújó**) and higher a beehive chamber cut into the tuff block. In some parts of the village there are **cave houses** cut into the rhyolite tuff. In the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century these were mostly occupied by the poor. By the end of the 1980s they became unoccupied, but in some places people still use them as pantries or wine cellars. The connected cave houses of the Sáfrány street fit into the attractive formations of the tourist route leading to the thermal spring.

Egerszalók belongs to the historic wine region of Eger. Planting grapes already started after the Hungarian conquest. Since then several cellars, “cellar houses” have been cut into the hillsides surrounding the village, mostly in the back of gardens, “under the slopes”.

The medieval church of the village, named after Virgin Mary, was demolished in Turkish times. The construction of the present-day **Roman Catholic Church** (title: Our Lady of Mount Carmel), a protected monument, was started by Giovanni Battista Carlone in 1738. According to local legends centuries ago a blind girl regained sight in front of a picture of St. Mary in the place of the present-day church tower. Since then thousands of pilgrims visit the church every year. Because of the great number of visitors the previous building was enlarged with a wider nave in 1763. However, in the next year there still wasn't enough room for all the pilgrims in the church, and soon a small chapel was built under the separate tower, so on Our Lady of Mount Carmel's day the priest could say a mass outdoors. Bishop Eszterházy had the sacred picture of “Mary, the Miracle Maker” made in 1786, and today it is placed on the high altar of the church. Some of the damaged statues of the tower of the church, made around 1740, are exhibited or stored