



Cave houses on the slope of Várhegy

and beehive chambers cut into Rhyolite tuff. A huge cavern of several halls with columns has been cut into the Rhyolite tuff on the southwestern slope of Várhegy. It was used by local shepherds as a sheep-cote. North of the village there is a cave house called **Remetelak** (Hermitage). At the eastern edge of the village, on the western Rhyolite tuff slopes of **Kecskekő Hill** three beehive chambers have been found along with the remains of further three ones.

At the northern edge of Kács, above the gorge of Kis-szoros Valley, formed in Lower Trias and Eocene limestone, opens up the 5-6 meters wide, well-like **Zsendice Hole**. In the Bükk Mountains this is the deepest vertical cave formed in Eocene limestone.



Remains of the walls of the castle of Kács



Grove forest by Kácsi Stream

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

bukkalja.info.hu

Mayor's Office of Kács, Main str. 60.
Phone: 49/537-000 • www.kacs.hu



Map: Cartographia Kft.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Beehive rock – Kecskekő Hill | 4. Kács Spa (Kács-Tapolca) |
| 2. Zsendice Hole | 5. Cave houses under the |
| 3. Remetelak (Hermitage) | Castle of Kács |

Photo: Klein Dávid, Molnár Zoltán

Published by Kaptárkő Nature Protectional and Cultural Association, financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for Hungarian NGOs.

www.kaptarko.hu



Kács





The Roman Catholic Church of Kács



The Mária spring in the centre

The village of Kács is situated 44km east of Eger in the southern part of the Bükk Mountains, in the valley of Kácsi Stream. The first written record about the settlement is in King Béla IV's 1248 charter on the borders, under the name Kach. The village dates from the Árpád Age, but thanks to its favorable location the place was also used by the Hungarian conquerors. According to Anonymus, Árpád gave Ócsád (Ócsöd) chief a land to settle on, and later his son, Örsúr, built a castle at the head of the valley of Kácsi stream. Thus the first landowners of this area (the historic Borsod County) were Örsúr's descendants. Only some ruins are left from the castle probably built in the 12th century. It could have been a square living tower surrounded by a castle ditch and it was probably used from the second half of the 12th century until the beginning of the 14th century. The castle is within the borders of Tibolddaróc village, but

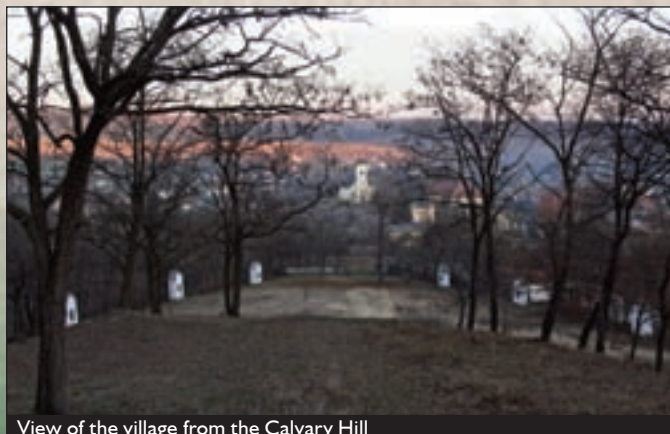


The building of the spa in the previous Benedictine Monastery

it is called **Castle of Kács**. The monastery of the village, probably built before the Mongol invasion in Hungary, is first mentioned in charters from 1248. Around 1317 the monastery became a Pauline property. The church of the abbey was destroyed in 1548, and the monastery was demolished by Gáspár Serédi and Zsigmond Balassa in 1549. The damage was worsened by the Turkish, who devastated the village, which became part of their land and was uninhabited for a short time. However, it was brought to life again at the end of the 1500s and it remained Catholic even in the days of Reformation.

The water of Kácsi Stream comes from several springs of different temperature. Thus, its water is warm making it the only Hungarian habitat of the snail *Theodoxus prevostianus*. This species is a relict from ten thousands years ago and only survived in warm springs. Kácsi Stream used to power 12 watermills (between Kács and Mezőnagymihály) used for grinding, processing hemp, generating electric power or as sawmills. One of these mills is preserved and can be seen with its original equipment. It was built in the 18th century and it was owned by succeeding generations of the Bodnár and Szalay miller families. It was renovated in 1986 using its original equipment together with some tools and furnishing from the mill of Nekézseny. Today the **watermill and hemp mill** are protected monuments. Next to the mill you can see the consecrated **Mária spring** (named after Saint Mary) which was used as a place of sacrifice in the Conquest Age.

The 14 cold and warm springs (14–24 °C) of Kács have been used since prehistoric ages. The abbey was also built next to them. The Benedictine monks erected a building where they produced medical water using the carbonated water of the springs and herbs. They used it for healing. In 1431 **Kács-Tapolca Spa** was established in the



View of the village from the Calvary Hill



Rock Hall at the edge of Kács

Baroque building of the previous Benedictine monastery. Bedchambers of the monks were converted into baths, and there is also a small pool of 4x4 meters (Turkish bath) using water from under the floor. Medical water was produced in a copper cauldron of about 500 liters, placed in a separate building. The spa does not operate today.

Among the sights of the village the **Roman Catholic Church** (Title: the Holy Trinity) from the 12th century is also worth a visit. It is a protected monument. It was given its present, Baroque form in the 18th century, but the Romantic style tower was built later, in the 19th century. The church is one of the three consecrated places of pilgrimage in the Bükk Mountains. The procession passes along the **Calvary hill** and next to its **Rock altar**.

The special values of nature and cultural history of Kács are the **rock halls, cave houses, cellars, "bújók"** (small rooms in the rock)



The Old ...



and the New Line of Cellars