



HERDERS' MUSEUM

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DRIVING IN

BEJÁRÁSI ÚTVONALAK ROUTES

- RÖVID ÚTVONAL: (40')
SHORT ROUTE: (40')
- HOSSZÚ ÚTVONAL (1,5-2h)
LONG ROUTE (1,5-2h)



HORTOBÁGY NATIONAL PARK

HERDERS' MUSEUM
„Destined by nature for herding”

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Photos: HNPI archive

Map: Rezső Hódi

Graphic: Geo-Gráf Ltd.

Responsible publisher: Gergely Arpád Medgyesi,
director of Hortobágy National Park Directorate
2023



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Világörökségi Helyszín



HORTOBÁGY
Ahol az ég a földet éri

Welcome to Hortobágy, Dear Visitor!

The Pásztor múzeum (Herders' Museum) exhibition is about knowledge. The knowledge of herders is exceptional because they know how to turn the inedible grass of the Puszta into delicious meat, simply using their livestock. That's why this ancient knowledge does not decay but continually adapts to our modern world and our changing needs. Therefore, the exhibition is not about the past but about our future - a more sustainable future.

We wish you lots of fun exploring all of these.

Visit the other interpretive sites and programs of the Hortobágy National Park.

Let's head to the pasture!

The pasture is turning green, the lark has started to sing. The herders can't wait to drive their livestock out to graze. The animals want to taste fresh grass themselves instead of hay. Start your journey, explore the world of the Hortobágy herders, get to know the grasses of their pastures, their livestock, dogs, tools and attire!

Continuity and change

As we arrive in the pasture, we meet four herders: two ones from the past, one is our contemporary, and one is from the future, asking us what the future herder will be like. On a large screen, you can get to know hundreds of herders from recent and present times through pictures and short introductory videos. You might even find someone from your own region. Look for familiar faces!

Seasons on the Puszta: opportunities and challenges

In the middle of the exhibition, there's a walk where you can learn about the annual cycle of the Puszta. What does spring, summer, autumn, and winter offer and what challenges do they pose for the herder and his livestock? During the walk, don't forget to look up as you might encounter stars, which herders used to read. Once you complete the circle, don't miss the screening room, where you can get a glimpse into the hidden everyday lives of herders in a 12-minute film. The film helps you think about what it means to be a herder, the wonders and beauty, the difficult tasks and challenges in their daily lives. Could you choose this profession as well? If you're interested in more details about the world of herders, watch the contents placed on the walls around you.

Fescue: the soul of Hortobágy!

Do you know the plants of the Puszta? Have you ever tasted the names the herders use for them? Listen to the short film and hear what the herders say about the fescue, the tiny grass of the pasture. Have you flown over the puszta in different seasons? Try to "jump" between seasons above the pasture with a drone's view. Some say all sheep look the same. Is it true? We don't think so, but try the face recognition game and see for yourself!

Barking and the sound of bells

The helpers of the herders are the herder dogs as well as the various iron and copper bells. Because the livestock needs to be herded, directed, or often just stopped, as it matters where it goes, how fast it moves, and what it eats. This is one of the major parts of herder knowledge. Or does he just lean on his staff and get bored? Check it out and try to herd the livestock on the pasture using a computer modelling game. Further, you find a short film where the herders themselves talk about the tricks of herding.

HERDERS' MUSEUM

„Destined by nature for herding“



You have to be here day and night

The herder's hut, next to the livestock stand, and the rubbing post in the middle of all this constitute the centre of the world, or at least one of the many centres... The livestock spends its midday rest and spend the night at the latter objects, whereas the herder sleeps and cooks in the hut. In the exhibited twin herder's huts you can see what has changed and what has remained in the material world of herders. As even today, the livestock must be watched and grazed, nothing has changed. You can also enter a small room in the corner where you can listen to the sounds of a full day on the pasture in ca. six minutes. Close your eyes and listen to the various sounds; there will be surprises!

Beauty or function?

The objects of the herders are beautiful, especially the decorated coat. Maybe it's because they are proud that they can turn grass into meat? Does this knowledge give them their identity, the basis of their pride. But what is practical, and what is just beauty on these objects? Listen to the short film to find out if these things are made today just as they used to be in the olden days? Think about it, why don't herders like it when others dress up as herders who are not herders themselves?

Heading home!

With the coat test and the winter pictures, we say goodbye to the world of herders. Just like in autumn when the herder accounts for his livestock, we summarize why it's so important for the world of herders to continue in the future: delicious, healthy meat, a rich ecosystem of the Puszta, and ancient yet still valid knowledge. These are the treasures they give us!

Family programme: with mind, heart, hand, and soul

The world of herders offers something interesting for the whole family. Adolescents have several challenges (water pulling, bell ringing, video games). The youngest can get closer to the everyday lives of the young herders following a story. Many objects used by herders are touchable in the exhibition. In the Herders' Museum, apart from objects, films, images, and reading materials, you can also activate bells, spinning tops, a bell composing game, a herding simulation game, an audio room that presents the day and night in the Puszta, and a film that offers insight into the hidden everyday lives of herders, making the experience even more exciting. Come and take a look into a world that once laid the foundation for our folktales and Bible stories.

The Pásztor múzeum offers more services within the building:



Information



Toilets



Luggage locker

