

# Family programmes and active leisure time in Győr

1. Bishop's Castle, Outlook Tower
2. City Hall
3. Radó Island
4. Water playground
5. Aranypart II
6. Püspökerdő
7. Achilles Park
8. Mobilis Interactive Exhibition Centre
9. Füles Bastille
10. Xantus János Zoo
- Riverside promenades

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City Hall and the “We love Győr” selfie point

## LOOKOUT SPOTS AND PROMENADES

Looking down from the air to the landscape below is always a great experience. The **Outlook Tower of the Bishop’s Castle** offers a uniquely beautiful sight of the downtown, the Radó Island and the confluence of the rivers. In good weather, one can even see the Abbey of Pannonhalma from the **City Hall Tower**. We could record the memory of our meeting Győr with a photo at the “**We love Győr**” selfie point.

Just like the downtown streets, the carefully built **riverside promenades** also entice into walking, offering a captivating view. Worthily of the City of Rivers, walkers with prams or children as well as dogwalkers and couples can get to the atmospheric banks of the Rába and the Mosoni branch of the Danube river within reach. One of the most enchanting routes, also popular among the locals, goes from Dunakapu Square, circumvents Chapter Hill (Káptalandomb), goes along the city walls to reach Bécsi kapu Square. From here, walking over the bridge, one can get to the **Radó Island**, embraced by the two branches of the Rába river

and having been the “Walking Square” of the town for almost two centuries.

## WATER ADVENTURE, ACTIVE RECREATION

On a hot summer day, it is worth going to the **water playground** in Bisinger Promenade, where children can control the flow of water with great excitement and splash and splatter under shady trees.

A little bit farther away from the downtown, the **Aranypart II beach** entices into active recreation at the backwater of the Mosoni branch of the Danube river. Besides the beach and swimming, the well-built walkways and jogging tracks also offer great opportunities, while children can unreservedly play at the vast playground.



Aranypart II beach

Only a stone’s throw away, on the other side of the water, lies the **Püspökerdő**, which, with its 250 hectares, is one of the largest contiguous green areas of Győr. Along the nine kilometres long pathway, visitors can find an educational hiking trail, clearings, outdoor fireplaces, a forest gym and a playground.

About 5 kilometres away from the downtown, next to the Gyirmót Landscape Protection Area, lies **Achilles**

**Park**, which offers true reloading opportunities on hot summer days. Its 4-hectare clear lake offers swimming, pedal boat, boat and kayak renting, sunbathing on its lawned lakeside as well as a football and a volleyball court.

## PLAYFUL DISCOVERIES

The Visitors’ Centre awaits children and playful adults with a **city discovery game**, an alternative and entertaining option to learn about the city. The game has rhymed tasks instructing players to get to the various stamp-collection places in the downtown. The Visitors’ Centre rewards players who return with all the stamps.

The **Mobilis Interactive Exhibition Centre** offers an adventure into the world of science and technology with truly memorable and spectacular experiment shows and future technologies.

## ADVENTURES WITH ANIMALS

The casemate of the **Füles Bastille** of the 16<sup>th</sup> century frontier castle in the downtown offers adventures with animals from the jungles of South America. Those who are brave enough can also hold some friendly species in their hands.

The **Xantus János Zoo**, a bit farther away from the city centre, hosts 1,400 animals of 140 species. Also rare in the wild, the Siberian tiger, the white lion and the albino kangaroo are the truly special ones of its inhabitants. With its many colourful programmes, the zoo can also be a whole-day recreation for both children and adults.

**Responsible publisher:**

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# Cultural and artistic treasures in Győr

1. Hungarian Spital
2. Zichy Palace
3. Iron Stock House
4. Apátúr House
5. Rozália House
6. Altabak House
7. Ott House
8. City Hall
9. Bishop's Courthouse, Borsos Miklós Permanent Exhibition
10. Kreszta House, Kovács Margit Permanent Exhibition
11. Esterházy Palace



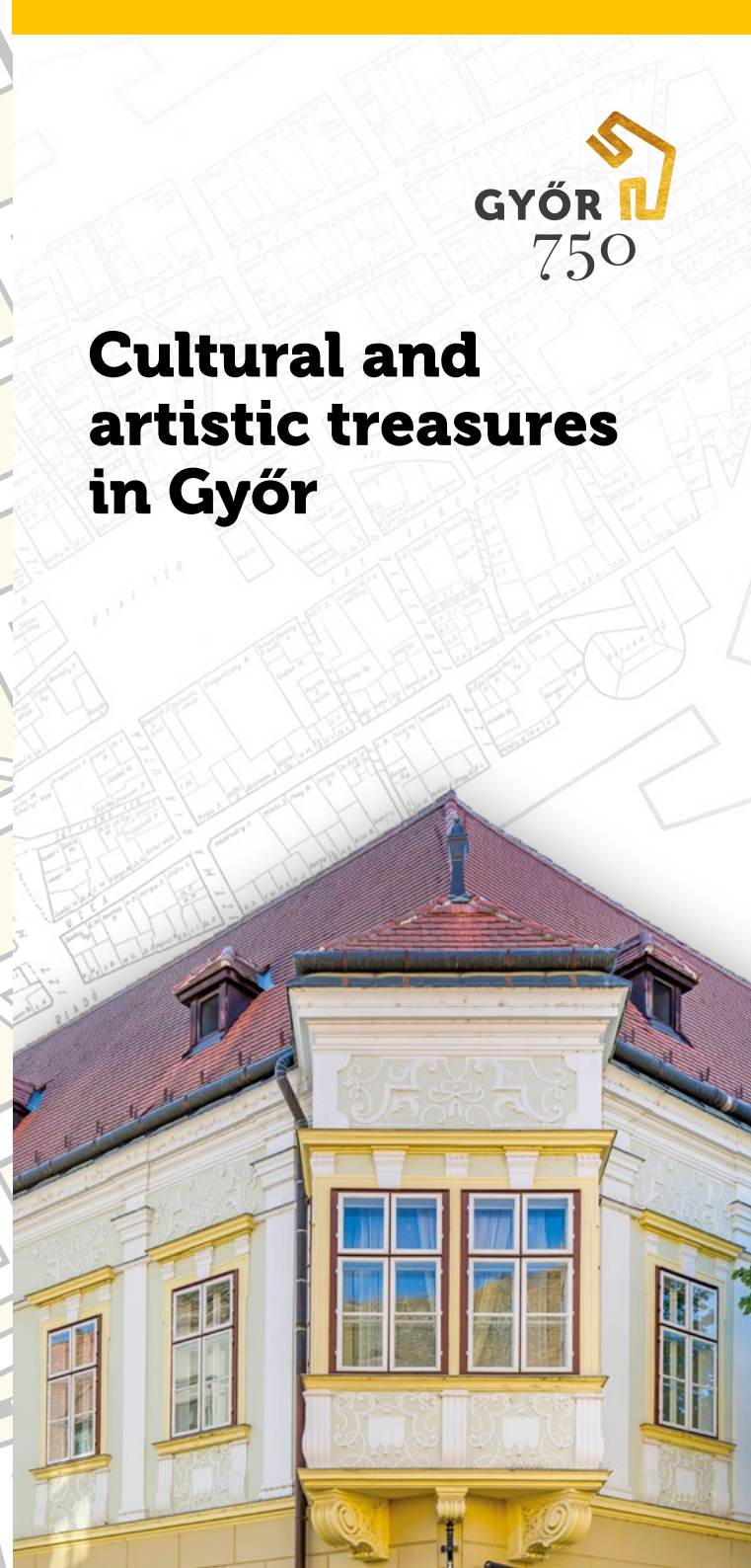
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Apátúr House

## GEMS OF ARCHITECTURE

In Hungary, Győr is commonly known as the gem box of baroque architecture, and indeed, most buildings in the downtown are historic monuments. Many of the colourful palaces, however, do not carry the style marks of the baroque, but the most different architectural characteristics of the following centuries. One can also find a renaissance court reminding of Italian cities hiding behind a baroque façade, as it is the case with the **Hungarian Spital** building in Nefelejcs Alley.

Győr is also often said to be the city of **corner balconies**, and with some poetic exaggeration, their number is estimated at hundreds. Actually, there are over three dozen of them in the downtown, and there are intersections where every building has one. The most special ones are the cylindrical ones of the **Zichy Palace** in Liszt Ferenc Street, or that of the **Iron Stock House** on Széchenyi Square which is multi-storey.

Non-corner buildings also often have closed balconies, being the central ornament of their façades, as it is the case with the **Apátúr House** (5 Széchenyi Square) or the **Rozália House** (21 Kazinczy Street).



Kreszta House

One of the oldest residential buildings of Győr, the **Altábak House** at 12 Bécsi kapu Square, has two ornamental corner balconies. The **Ott House** in its neighbourhood is something special because the second floor does not actually exist, the always-closed shutters only hide an attic space.

One of the most famous buildings of Győr is the **City Hall**, which stands in a busy node, the intersection of Szent István Road and Baross Gábor Road. The façade of this monumental neo-baroque palace of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century bears the coat of arms of Győr, donated by Maria Theresia.

## CREATIVE ARTS HERITAGE

The late-gothic historic building atop Chapter Hill (Káptalandomb), the **Bishop's Courthouse** exhibits the lifework of the sculptor **Borsos Miklós** (1906–1990). The **exhibition** comprehensively presents the artworks of the renowned master of modern Hungarian sculpture.

With its narrow and tall façade, green doors and window frames, the **Kreszta House** is a characteristic spot in the downtown. Restored in classicist style, the building exhibits the artworks of

the internationally renowned ceramic artist, **Kovács Margit** (1902–1977), who was born in Győr. The permanent **exhibition** presents her folklore-inspired sculptures, small sculptures, decorative objects and biblical compositions.

One of the most imposing buildings of the downtown, the **Esterházy Palace**, which got its present form in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, stands on the corner of Széchenyi Square and Király Street. The beautiful palace is the seat of the **Rómer Flóris Art and Historical Museum**. Among its walls we can get to know the history of Győr from the time of the Romans until the 1950s in this jubilee year exhibition in 2021 through the people's life and work who were connected to Győr.



Kovács Margit:  
Nativity Scene

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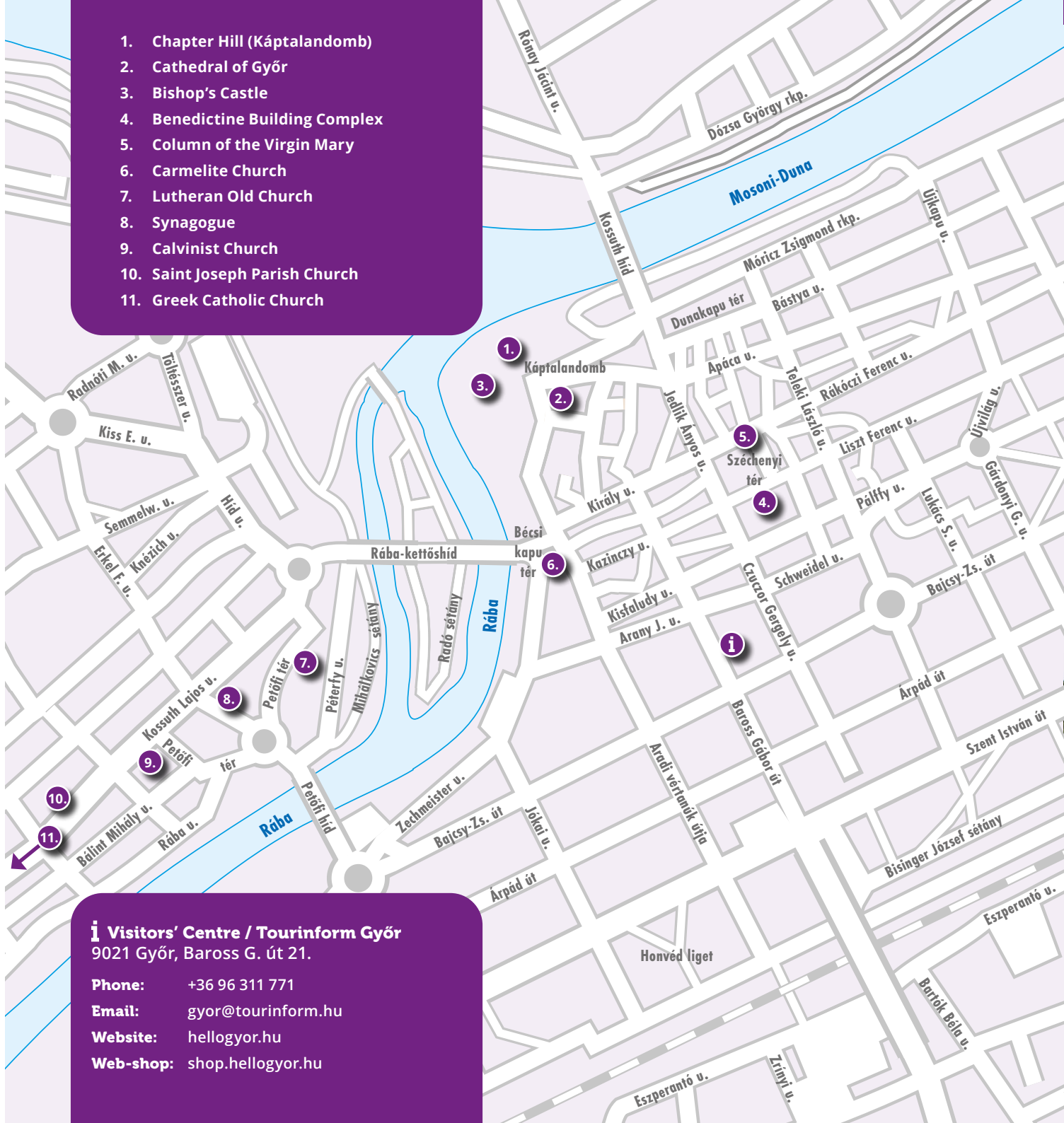


Five Churches' Street

## FIVE CHURCHES' STREET

In the part of Győr, called Újváros a single street has the churches of five different historic denominations. Leaving the double bridge over the Rába river and turning towards Kossuth Street, one might not even notice the **Lutheran Old Church**, which hides, without a tower, in a closed court. A few steps away, the **Synagogue**, serving today as a museum and a concert hall, with its semispherical domes and rose windows is the much more striking. One can notice from far away the high tower of the **Calvinist Church** neighbouring it and the **Saint Joseph Parish Church** built a bit farther on the opposite side of the street. The last one is the **Serbian Orthodox Church**, a place of worship for the local **Greek catholic** community, is special for its beautiful icon wall, the iconostasis, and its carved pews.

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## Sacral treasures of Győr



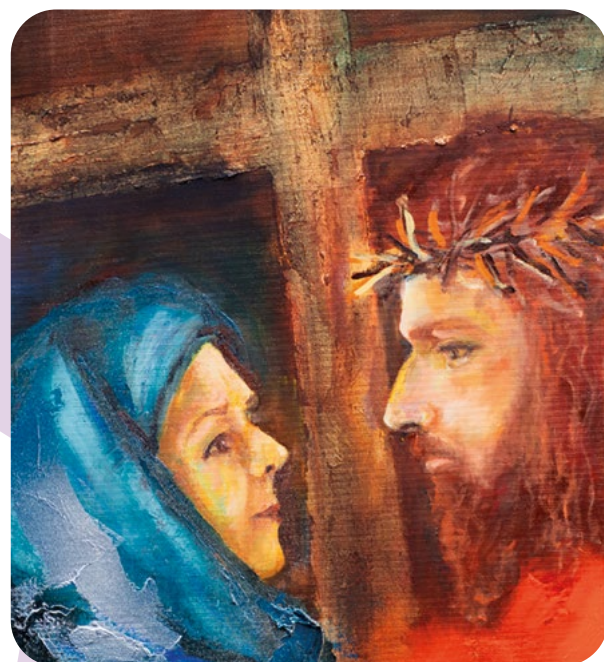




Herm of Saint Ladislaus

## CHAPTER HILL (KÁPTALANDOMB)

750 years ago, when Győr was granted its town privileges, the hill lying at the confluence of the Rába and the Mosoni branch of the Danube river had already been the city centre for many centuries. The Bishopric of Győr, which has existed since the age of the foundation of Hungary, keeps many sacral and cultural treasures. Having stood here since the 11<sup>th</sup> century and having got its final appearance in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the **Cathedral** of Győr keeps three important religious relics. The **Herm of Saint Ladislaus**, the greatest accomplishment of Hungarian goldsmithery, the **Weeping Madonna Painting**, which was rescued from Ireland in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the **marble sarcophagus of the Blessed Apor Vilmos**, a Hungarian bishop and



Station 4 of the Way of the Cross in Győr

martyr, who saved the lives of many in the end of the Second World War.

Since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the **Bishop's Castle** standing oppositely to the cathedral is an iconic building of Győr and has been the seat and residence of the sitting bishop. The first and second floors of the square-shaped, incomplete tower present the portraits and coats of arms of ecclesiastical dignitaries of Győr, and the halls of the palace give us an insight into the everyday lives of bishops of old. One of the most interesting items of this exhibition is the throne, which Pope John Paul II also sat on when he visited Győr in 1996.

Among the public artworks of the Chapter Hill, the bronze **statues of King Saint Ladislaus**, the **Blessed Apor Vilmos** and the **Christ of All** were made by the countrywide known local artist, Lebó Ferenc.

The reliefs and paintings of contemporary creative artists connected to Győr vivify the stations of the **Way of the Cross in Győr**, which starts at the Cathedral and returns to its starting point on the Káptalándomb while touching the Dunakapu, then the Széchenyi and Bécsi kapu Squares. The fourteen stations are on buildings along this route.

## SZÉCHENYI AND BÉCSI KAPU SQUARE

The building complex of the church, convent and secondary grammar school at Széchenyi Squire is a key member of the city's landscape. It was established by the Jesuits, who completed the **Church** consecrated to **Saint Ignatius of Loyola**, a rare example of early baroque architecture in Hungary, in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the major reconstruction projects in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, some parts of the original building are still visible.

The Jesuit convent and college in Győr is almost as old as the church. The pharmacy in it also



Church of Saint Ignatius of Loyola

opened in that period, and today, uniquely in the country, is a museum and a pharmacy at the same time. After the disbandment of the Jesuit order, the **Benedictine** order acquired the **building complex** in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and continued the tradition of high-quality ecclesiastical and secular education.

The monumental **Column of the Virgin Mary** standing opposite to the entrance of the church, was erected by the then bishop of Győr, thanking for the reconquering of Buda in 1686.

A masterpiece of baroque architecture is the **Carmelite Church**, the central building of Bécsi kapu Square. This church from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century has a unique structure, thanks to its oval layout and separate tower. The **Loretto Chapel**, opening from the corridor of confession, was built even earlier than the church itself and is a copy of the Holy House of Nazareth. The Chapel and the special **Black Virgin Mary Statue** in it are an important stop for pilgrims coming to Győr.



Carmelite Church



## Trade signs, statues, artisanal values of Győr

1. Iron Rooster Fountain
2. Ark of the Covenant Statue
3. Statue of Kisfaludy Károly
4. Statue of Jedlik Ányos and Czuczor Gergely
5. Pulzus Statue
6. Jedlik Fountain
7. Golden Ship trade sign
8. Thrush Nest trade sign
9. Iron Stock
10. The trade signs in the Dr. Kovács Pál Street
11. Blue-dyeing Workshop
12. Fruhmann House, Tile-stove Exhibition



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Iron Rooster Fountain

## STATUES

The important characters, episodes and legends in the history of Győr live on in outdoor artworks, contributing with their variety to the diversity of the downtown.

A well-known one of them is the **Iron Rooster Fountain** on Dunakapu Square, commemorating the liberation from Turkish rule. The **Ark of the Covenant Statue** at Gutenberg Square is one of the most beautiful ecclesiastical votive monuments of the baroque era in Hungary, its legend reminding people that one cannot hide from the law.

A former student of the Benedictine school in Győr, **Kisfaludy Károly** was one of the dominant figures of literary life in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, whose **statue** still ornates Bécsi kapu Square. **Jedlik Ányos**, the scientist and inventor, and his cousin, **Czuczor Gergely**, the poet and linguist, were two of the excellent teachers at the still renowned Benedictine secondary school, and their **statue** stand in front of one of the entrances to the school on Széchenyi Square.

One of the modern artworks is the lens-shaped **Pulzus Statue**, which turns in 360 degrees and is also one of the most popular selfie spots in the town. The **Jedlik Fountain** of Apáca Street, a masterpiece of Hefter László, a local contemporary artist, commemorates the invention of the soda bottle.

Besides these statues, the streets and squares offer many other artworks as well; it is, therefore, worth walking around with eyes open.

## TRADE SIGNS

Walking the streets in the downtown, not only the baroque façades but also the trade signs hanging on them are worth admiration. Given its artistic value, the perhaps best known one is the **Golden Ship** in the Jedlik Ányos Street, praising the craftsmanship of Schima Bandi, a renowned and awarded goldsmith master, who also made the **Thrush Nest** in the Liszt Ferenc Street. Both trade signs prompted grocery stores, just like the **Iron Stock** standing in front of 4 Széchenyi Square.

The trade sign tradition is still alive in the downtown, creating a special atmosphere in



Golden Ship trade sign



Trade sign in the Dr. Kovács Pál Street

the streets. It is well exemplified by the modern artisanal works hanging from the buildings in **Dr. Kovács Pál Street**, including the painted brass **trade signs** of Lebó Ferenc, a local sculptor.

## ARTISANAL VALUES

The artisanal crafts passed from fathers to sons represent values of applied arts. A prime example of this is the tradition of blue-dyeing, which is on the UNESCO list of intangible and cultural heritage and has been passed on in Győr by the descendants of Éhling Péter for five generations by now. Their beautiful artworks can be seen in the **Blue-dyeing Workshop** in the Dr. Kovács Pál Street.

The ceramic stoves built by **Fruhmenn** Antal and his son combine the artistic professionalism of stove-building and pottery. They left their former home and workshop in the Kiss János Street to the town museum, where the unique "The warmth of the home" **exhibition** takes place.

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