

MAJOR HUNGARIAN SPELEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

The origins of Hungarian speleological literature can be traced back to the 16th century, the first record of caves in Hungary dating from 1549. Hungary's speleological bibliography for the three centuries prior to 1830 comprises some 120 items in all.

The first independent speleological work, the description of the Aggtelek Cave with a survey and longitudinal section, was published in 1831 by Imre Vass. He was far ahead of his time and used a natural scientific approach to deduce conclusions which are still valid today. His survey is still the most accurate and detailed ever made of this cave.

After 1830, devoted to speleological subjects were published at an ever increasing rate, so that their number had increased by a further 780 items by the turn of the century. This trend did not decline and the bibliographic files for the year 1945 comprised more than 4,400 titles. Re-organised after the Second World War, speleological research has been given an unprecedented impetus so that recently the Hungarian speleological bibliography has been increasing by an annual average of 500 items.

From this wealth of bibliographic materials, the speleological periodicals and the recent publications of the Hungarian Speleological Society which are still obtainable at present have been listed here.

Periodicals:

Barlangkutató — Höhlenforschung (Speleology). In Hungarian and German languages, 27 parts issued in 17 volumes from 1913 to 1944.

Barlangvilág (World of Caves). 27 parts issued in 13 volumes from 1926 to 1943.

Karszt- és Barlangkutatói Tájékoztató (Information Bulletin on Karstology and Speleology). 1 to 12 parts issued annually, exclusively in Hungarian, from 1956 to 1974.

Karszt és Barlang (Karst and Cave 1 or 2 parts). issued annually since 1961, in Hungarian, with abstracts in German in earlier times, recently in English and Russian.

Karszt- és Barlangkutató (Évkönyv) (Karst Studies and Speleology, Yearbook). 1 part issued at 1–2 yearly intervals since 1959, a total of 7 issues up to the present, mainly in English and German.

Periodicals for sale:

Karszt és Barlang, from the 1962 volume onwards.

Karszt- és Barlangkutató (Yearbook), Volume II to VII.

Other publications:

Symposium on Karst-Morphogenesis. Papers. Budapest, 1973, 304 p.

Beszámoló a Nemzetközi Barlangtani Unió Barlangterápiái Szakbizottságának magyarországi (II). szimpóziumáról (Report on the Symposium (II) of the Commission on Speleotherapeutics of the International Speleological Union). Budapest, 1975, 168 p.

Baradla 150 Nemzetközi Konferencia 1975 (International Conference "Baradla 150", 1975). Budapest, 1975, 246 p. (in Hungarian and English).

Field-trip guide to the International Conference Baradla 150. Budapest, 1975, 45 p. (English).

Out of the above, the following items are still obtainable:

Symposium on Karst-Morphogenesis and International Conference "Baradla" 150.

The publications can be purchased at the *Hungarian Speleological Society (H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos tér 6–8)*. Upon written request, the Society is ready to send interested persons publications on exchange as well.

English translation revised by R.A. Halliwell.

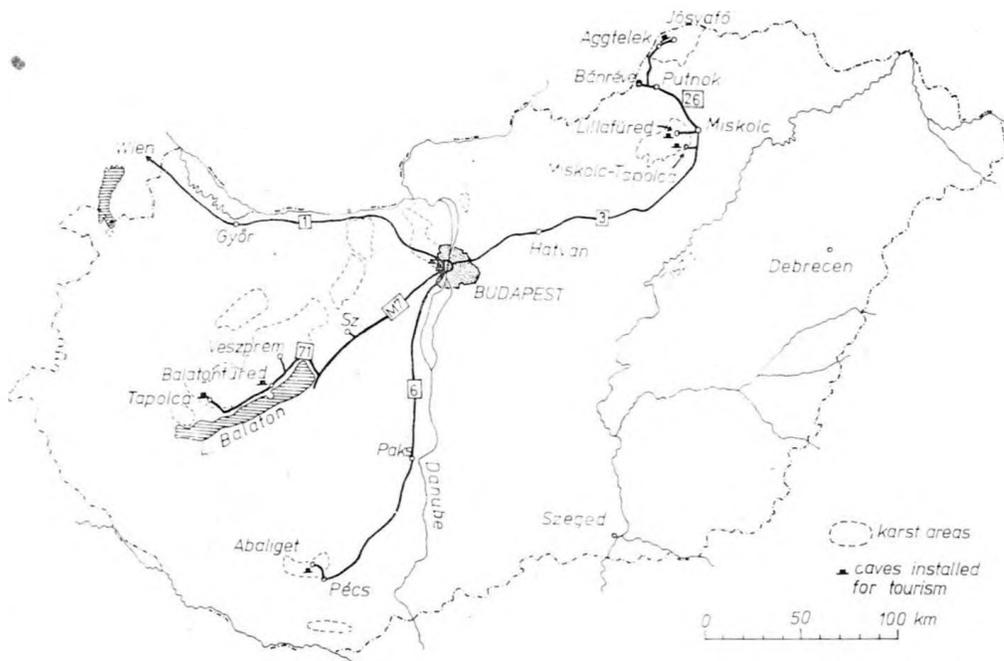
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TOURISM IN HUNGARIAN CAVES

Prehistoric man visited the Hungarian caves as early as many thousand years ago, as he there found protection against the vicissitudes of weather. Visits to caves, motivated by mere curiosity or by the longing of people for explorations, began in the first half of the 18th century. It was in the first place the strange underground realm of the Baradla Cave at Aggtelek that attracted hosts of visitors.

In the 19th century almost all Hungarian notabilities paid visits to the cave. Poets and writers referred in their works in superlatives to the scenic beauties they had seen there. Scores of famous foreign visitors did also come to see the Baradla, so for example, the British traveller R. Townson in 1793, who gave a detailed description of the cave in his book (*Travels in Hungary*, London, 1797).



Locations of the Hungarian caves installed for tourists and their accesses on road from Budapest

Beside the Baradla, several other caves were made accessible to the public in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Touristic facilities were further improved in the Baradla, too: in 1935 electric lighting was installed and hotels were built near its entrances. Because of difficulties in transport and communications, access to the cave was and still is uneasy. Notably, Aggtelek village lies at the Nation's northeastern frontier, far away from the capital, being out of reach of any railway line even today. So tourism to both the Baradla and other Hungarian caves could develop in a large scale only after Second World War.

At present, nine Hungarian caves are installed for and open to receiving tourists. Here they are: *Baradla Cave* (Aggtelek Karst Region, Jósvalő and Aggtelek villages)



István Cave (Stephen's Cave, Bükk Mountains, Lillafüred resort)

Forrás Cave (Spring Cave, also called Mésztafa Cave — Travertine Cave — or recently, Petőfi Cave; Lillafüred resort)

Miskolc-Tapolca's Cave-bath (Bükk Mountains)

Abaliget Cave (Mecsek Mountains, near Abaliget village)

Tapolca's Tavas Cave (Lake Cave at Tapolca, Balaton Highland)

Lóczy Cave (Balaton Highland, near Balatonfüred)

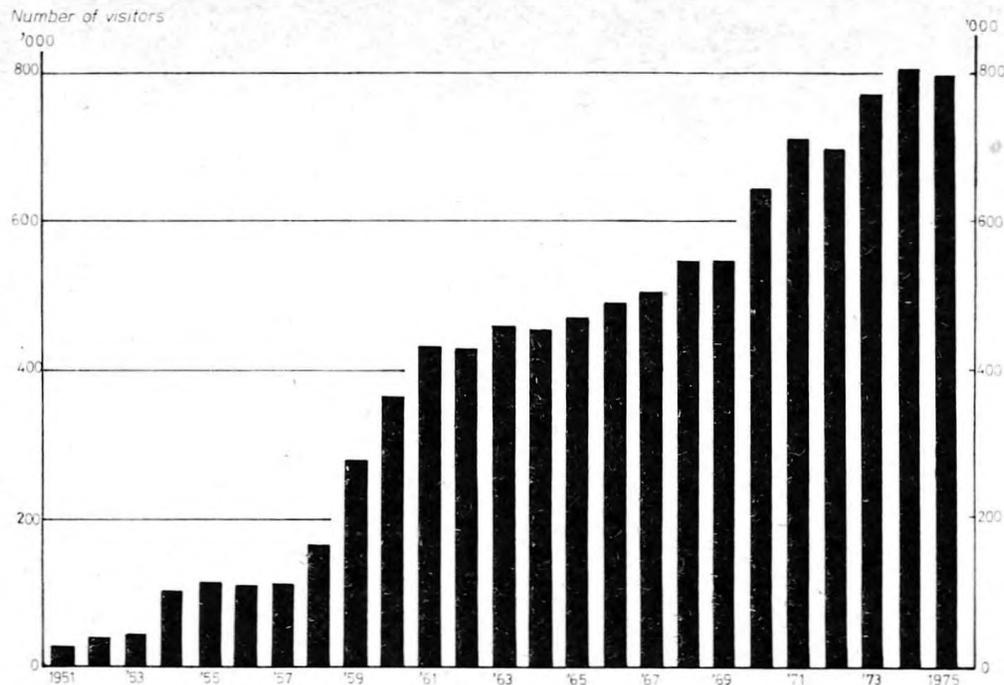
Pál-völgy Cave (Buda Mountains, Budapest)

Várbarlang (Castle Cave on Castle Hill, Budapest)

During the past 25 years (1951—1975) a total of more than ten million persons, nearly equalling the total of Hungary's population, visited those Hungarian caves installed for tourists. Let us quote a couple of figures to illustrate the visits paid to the most favourite caves:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Baradla Cave | 2,605,705 persons |
| Lillafüred Caves | 1,862,968 persons |
| Tapolca's Tavas Cave | 1,818,745 persons |
| Abaliget Cave | 705,793 persons |
| Other caves | 484,736 persons |
| Miskolc-Tapolca's Cave-bath | 2,663,684 persons |
| Total | 10,141,631 persons |

Boating in the Tapolca's Tavas Cave



Increase of tourism in Hungarian caves in the past 25 years

The Baradla is still the most popular of all, receiving more than 200,000 visitors a year. The cave has three main entrances, a natural entrance in Aggtelek village and two artificial ones near Jósvalfő village. The cave administration organizes short, medium-size and long trips for visitors. A long trip, from Aggtelek to Jósvalfő along the main passage of the cave, takes 5 hours. Visitors of the Aggtelek part of the cave can enjoy the pleasure of paddling in boats on the underground river. In the summer period, concerts are organized in one of the big cave chambers.

A very great number of people pay visits to the Tapolca Cave-bath near the city of Miskolc. Installed in a natural cave chamber, this bathing pool is fed by a hot spring yielding daily 8 to

15,000 m³ of water with a temperature of 31° C. The warm water containing iodine, bromine, potassium and radium-emanation is very good for curing circulatory trouble, blood-vessel disorder and different nervous complaints.

To conclude, let us mention Budapest, the capital of Hungary, often referred to as the City of Caves. Really, a labyrinth of caves extends over many kilometres beneath the Buda parts of the metropolitan area, sometimes just a few metres below residential houses. These caves, however, would be less spectacular to the public, being all the more instructive for speleologists and enthusiastic young cavers. The nicest cave in Buda, the Szemlő-hegy Cave, is now being installed for tourists, and is soon to be opened for the public.

Acknowledgements

The editorial board of *Karst and Cave* wish to thank *Prof. D.C. Ford* and his co-workers, *Mrs. M. Karolyi Bourque* and *Mrs. A. Pluhar*, McMaster University, Dept. of Geography, Hamilton, *Dr. A. C. Waltham*, Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham and *Mr. R. A. Halliwell*, Academic Office, The University of Hull, for their careful revision of the English translations of the papers.

Back cover photo: The bottom of Almási Shaft, Alsó-hegy Plateau, North East Hungary