



The Nagy-Bábaszék Hill and...



the beehive chambers in Furgál valley

under the sunken road cut into the Rhyolite tuff of Mangó Hill. There are 25 heavily eroded chambers in it. Together with the **Kiskúp** (Little Cone), which has 5 chambers, and their immediate surroundings, the area was declared a nature conservation area in 1960. From the top of the Nagy-kúp, you can have a nice view of **Csordás Valley**. In its little, eastern side valley, there is also a group of five beehive rocks. The first rock of the group is the most enormous one, with 16 big chambers in its cracked, fast-eroding sides.

At the northeastern slope of **Nagy-Bábaszék Hill** there is a strange shaped beehive rock with 12 chambers, which is also worth a visit. Also, if you come here between autumn and spring you can see another beehive rock on the opposite side of **Kő Valley**, in a side valley called **Köves-lápa**. It is a cracked outcropping rock on the southwestern slope of **Karud Hill**, consisting of two rocks, with 11 chambers.

Also near **Kő Valley**, east of its part called **Felső-szoros**, on the southern slope of **Szaszudka Hill**, there is another beehive rock, called **Kuldustaszító**. It is a low tuff shoulder with 6 chambers in its southeastern side.

West of the road leading to **Tard**, in the northern side of **Furgál valley** there is a line of five cone-shaped beehive rocks, which resemble five huge shark's fins hardened into stone. There are 32 chambers in these rocks.

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

bukkalja.info.hu

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Map: Cartographia Kft.

1. Cserép Castle – Ruins of the castle, chapel, well and grain storing pits
2. Beehive rock – Nagy-kúp (Big Cone), Kiskúp (Little Cone)
3. Beehive rock – Csordás valley
4. Beehive rock – Nagy-Bábaszék Hill
5. Beehive rock – Köves-lápa
6. Beehive rock – Kuldustaszító
7. Beehive rock – Furgál valley
8. Beehive rock – Seté valley (Dark valley)
9. Felső-szoros (Gorge)

Photo: **Baráz Csaba, Havasi Norbert, Klein Dávid**

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Cserépváralja





Roman Catholic Chapel in the castle

The village of Cserépváralfa is situated 25km east of Eger in the valley of Lator Stream. The first written record about the settlement is from 1214. The name of the village, meaning Foot of Cserép Castle, refers to the castle that used to stand here. According to local stories the castle was built in the place of an earthwork from the Avar Age. Since 2004 there have been excavations on this site led by archeologist Gábor András

Szörényi (Ottó Herman Museum – Miskolc). They dug several ditches and managed to find the places of the walls and the previous lines of wooden piles, which probably belonged to the very first castle built here. The oldest finds are from the Árpád age, the end of the 13th century. The stone castle was probably built in the second half of the 13th century by a member of the gens of Ákos. The first written record about the castle is from 1408. We can suppose that according to the customs of the 13th and early 14th century, the name of the castle refers either to its builder or its first owner (a lower nobleman called Cserép, who was the owner of the nearby Cserépfalu village, as well). From 1387 the castle was owned by Sigismund of Luxemburg, and later it became the property of the queen. Between 1458 and 1480 it belonged to the Rozgonyi family, and then to the Báthory family. From the 1552 siege of Eger it was used as a border fortress.



Remains of the walls of Cserép Castle



Old grain storing pits in the castle

Although Eger managed to withstand the siege, the surrounding little castles, including Cserépvár, were occupied several times by the Turkish, who could not keep them. Before the siege of the castle, the village of Cserépváralfa was totally demolished. After the fall of Eger in 1596 the guards of the castle fled, so the Turkish could occupy it without a battle. It was reconquered by the army of the Emperor in 1687 after a siege. The building was renovated in 1697 and in 1703 the kuruc (Anti-Habsburg rebels) kept György Telekessy, bishop of Eger imprisoned here. The castle was probably destroyed during the Rákóczi Rebellion. Today only some ruins of the walls can be seen. These are protected monuments. In the 18th century the area became the property of the L'Huilliere family, who used stones from the castle to build a mansion in the 1780s under the castle hill, and also a chapel in 1788. An interesting aspect of this mansion is, that



The well house from the Turkish age



The „cavehouse” museum

Mihály Munkácsy spent part of his childhood here. However, only ruins of the mansion can be seen today. The Roman Catholic Chapel, built in Louis Seize style, is not in use. Masses are held in the modern church of the village.

Next to the chapel there is a well house from the Turkish age, which is also a protected monument. Not much is known about the circumstances of its construction. The building belonged

to the mansion and it got its Romantic features during a renovation in 1860. The diameter of the well is more than a meter and its depth is more than 65 meters to the water surface. There are some tales that there is a tunnel over the water level, but it has not been proved. So, the house keeps its secrets and reminds us of old days.

Under the castle, on the slopes of Várhegy (Castle Hill) there are 12 pits carved into the Rhyolite tuff, which were once used for storing grain. These grain storing pits are the biggest ones in the whole country and for a long time they were thought to have been used for protecting people. However, archeologists proved that they were carved in the 16th century for storing the grain brought here from Tabd. These pits are also protected monuments.

Many of the houses in Cserépváralfa were still cave houses in the Rhyolite tuff at the beginning of the 20th century. Probably, it was due to both the natural features of the area and poverty, that local people converted their cellars into houses. The country house museum, which is situated in a cave house shows this unique way of life through the tools and furniture exhibited.

The modern Roman Catholic Church of the village (Title: Saint Joseph the Worker), built in Louis Seize style, is a rare architectural value. There are only two such churches in Hungary (the other one is in Hollóháza).

There are 20 beehive rocks around the village, scattered in 10 different places. Altogether there are 132 chambers in these rocks. Most of the rocks are cone-shaped, and some of them are really big. The most well-known of these rocks is the Nagykúp (its name means Big Cone), which is called Ördögtorony (Tower of the Devil) by older inhabitants. This 16,2m high tuff cone is on the steep southern slope



A room in the country house museum