

possibly even connected to the entrance of the cellar. 700 cellars have been found in the village, on an area of more than 23500 m².

Northeast of the village, on the Elő hill we can see a 4 m high watch-tower (hut), 6m in diameter, built of calcituff with an entrance and two windows. On the outside there is a way up to its top. It is a protected monument. According to local tradition this hut, called "Csúnya-munka" ("Bad Job") (or Turkish Tower), was a Turkish watch-tower used for watching the soldiers of Eger before the Turkish siege. The cellar south of the hilltop is also worth visiting because of its nice front built of rhyolite tuff.

In the Vizes valley, behind Verem-part, on the southern edge of the village, there is a beehive chamber in a smaller rhyolite tuff ridge. However, to the east from here, the two rocks facing the west in the water-worn gorge of Tar-gödör valley are more significant with altogether five beehive chambers. An important memory of using the rock for buildings is the quarry opened in the 18th century. It gave the rocks for the groundwork of the Minorite Church of Eger.

The original Roman Catholic Church (title: previously All Saints, today King Saint Stephen) was built by Prefect György Mandler, probably in 1742. In 1812 it was completed with a front tower and in the beginning of the 20th century it was widened with large side-aisles.

On the northern edge of the village the Ostoros stream is dammed to form a reservoir (Ostoros Lake) on 30 hectares. It is a popular place for angling and walking. Next to the lake there is a stemmed thermal well with 50°C hot water.



A line of cellars in the Szépasszony valley in Ostoros

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

bukkalja.info.hu

Mayor's Office of Novaj, Rákóczi road 3.
Phone: 36/356-085 • www.novaj.hu

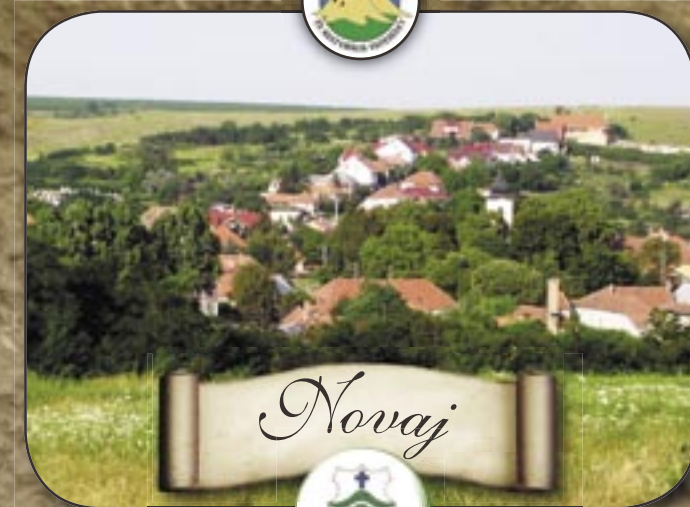
Mayor's Office of , Hősök tere (Heroes' square) 4.
Phone: 36/356-010 • www.ostoros.hu



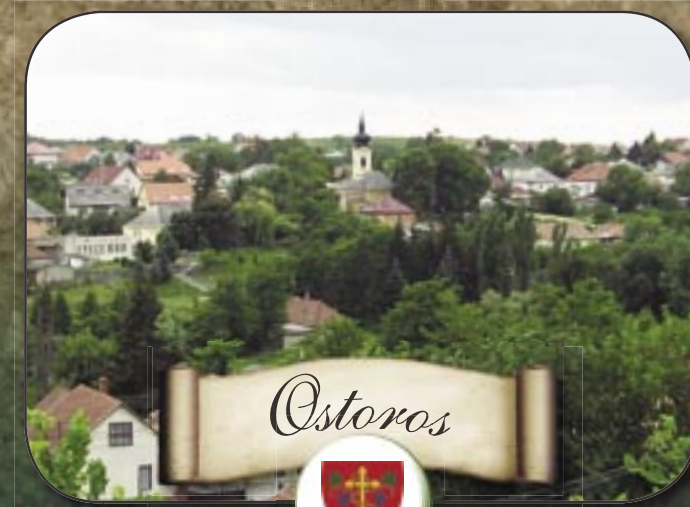
Informational sketch map

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Novaj



Ostoros

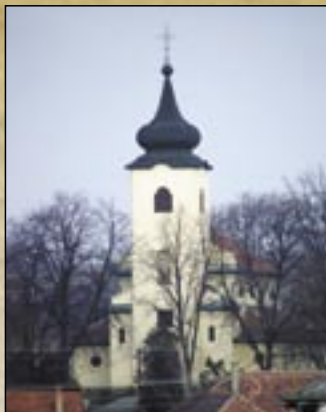




NOVAJ

Novaj is situated 9 km south-east of Eger, at the feet of the Bükk Mountains, between two hills in the valley of the Novaji stream. It was first mentioned in a charter in 1275 under the name Nouoy. It was the property of the episcopate of Eger. From 1430, until recently it belonged to the provostry of the Castle of Eger (small provostry). During the 1552 siege of Eger the Turkish burnt down the village, but it was soon repopulated again. In 1687, during the fight for the reconquest of Eger, it was demolished again. It was hardly rebuilt, when it was ruined by the labanc (loyalist Hungarian) soldiers again at the end of the Rákóczi Rebellion, and it was repopulated again only in 1772. Between 1698 and 1701 the Buttler family rented the village from the provostry. The **Turkish monument**, carved from stone, in the southern end of Fő Street is probably from these days. Until 1950 the village belonged to Borsod County.

The history of its church reflects the history of the village: its first church was probably built in 1288, and it was rebuilt after the Turkish demolition. In 1756 Mátyás Hubert landowner and provost of the castle of Eger renovated both the inside and outside and also built a new sacristy and oratorium. However, in the end of World War II., in 1944, the German blew it up. The new, detached



The Roman Catholic Church of Novaj



The Turkish Monument



Old serf's house



A line of cellars in Novaj

Roman Catholic Church (title: Our Lady of Hungary) was built in 1944, but it still has some furniture from the 18th century.

The quarry of the village is also important. It has been used since the 17th century. Already the Turkish used the high quality reddish brown hard dacite tuff, which is very good for carving; the Minaret of Eger was also built from these rocks. It has been used for centuries for groundworks, fences and stairs in Eger. In a valley, north of the village there are several typical wine cellars cut into rhyolite tuff, and the line of cellars next to the road towards Ostoros is also worth a visit.

3 km south-southeast of the village, southeast of a hill we can see the easily recognizable, although ploughed-down remains of a **settlement and earthwork from the early Bronze Age** (called Novaji-halom). The archaeological site has been known since the second half of the 19th century. In 1897 Gyula Bartalos found a 3,5 m thick prehistoric layer and he also mentions graves from the Age of the Hungarian Conquest. In 1981 Ágnes Somogyvári found many finds including the remains of a house.

Local tradition is promoted by the "Novaji Asszonykórus" (the choir of the women of Novaj) founded in 1971 with the help of research carried out about the palóc culture. The traditional costume of the choir is from the turn of the last century.



A wine-press house at the line of cellars of Novaj



OSTOROS

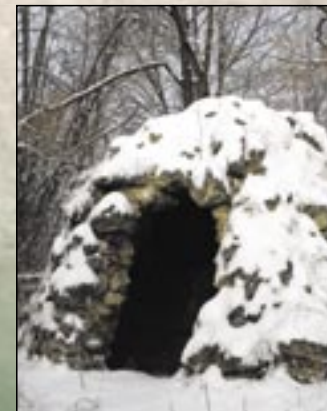
The village of Ostoros is situated 6 km south of Eger, in the Bükkalja region. It got its name from the stream of Ostoros, first mentioned by Anonymus under the name Ystoros. However, when the village was first referred to in a charter in 1330, it was already called Ostoros. The papal tithe register of 1332-37 mentions it as the property of the Bélháromkút abbey. During the 1552 siege of Eger the Turkish burnt down the whole village. Only 12 serfs remained here, who still lived in cellars in 1558. When the monastery of Bélapátfalva was deserted because of the Turkish threat, the village was attached to the Castle of Szarvaskő. It was still deserted in 1638, and was not fully repopulated before the end of the 17th century. When the seminary of Eger got all properties of the Bélháromkút abbey in 1700, ostoros was soon repopulated. Until 1945 it belonged to Borsod County, but now it is in Heves County. On 31. January 1925 the village was shaken by strong earthquake. Only 8 houses out of 406 were undamaged and 96 out of 120 cave houses were also damaged. There were and still there are **cave houses** in three parts of Ostoros: in Szépasszony Valley, in Csaba Vezér street and in Gárdonyi street (previous Verempart). In many cases these cave houses were cut next to a wine cellar



The Roman Catholic Church of Ostoros



The inside of a cellar in Ostoros



The "Csúnya-munka"