



The area of Gemenc, located in the Danube lowland in the Sárköz region, is considered both morphologically and genetically to be an organic part of the Hungarian Great Plain. The area is interwoven by the so-called “fok” system made up by partially natural and partially artificial canals. These are the waterways that were used for flooding the inner wetland areas which otherwise, in the absence of canals, would be inundated by water with huge destruction. The major succession stages of the floodland are indicated by willow bushes, willow-poplar and oak-ash-elm groves. A special plant is the endemic black hawthorn, its range spreading from Csepel-island to the lower-Danube. Summer snowflake, wild grape, Danubian squill and thin-spiked wood-sedge are also found here. Wildlife is famous for the protected kingfisher, the strictly protected white-tailed eagle, black stork and black kite. Game animals (red deer and wild boar) are common here, that is what makes Gemenc one of Hungary’s most important hunting region. This picturesque, wild landscape is open for tourism as well.

## Szekszárd - Bárányfok

### Exhibition „Life in the Floodplain”

The larch-wood building once owned by Duke Frederick, symbolising a hunting-lodge stands in the Gemenc floodplain besides the Danube. The house was used as an exhibition pavilion at the 1896 Budapest Millennial Expo, for displaying the Duke’s hunting trophies. Later the building had various other functions and locations until it was transported to Bárányfok in the 1980s. In its pleasant interior dioramas, old photographs and various pieces of equipment are used for telling the visitor about natural and cultural values of the Danubian floodplain region. Intimate scenes of traditional folk life, as well as hidden natural values are revealed, and vanishing professions and craftsmanship are revived there.

Open: 15th March – 31st October:

Tue-Sun 9.00-17.00. Outside the opening season, visitation is possible upon prior arrangement.

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### Bárányfok study trail

East of the city of Szekszárd, the walking trail leading the visitor near the Gemenc forestry railway station educates about the typical floodland and floodplain forest habitats, as well as the most important species of wildlife.

### Malomtelelő-lake study trail

This study trail and bird-watching tower is located along the Gemenc forestry railway line. It is possible here to observe waterbirds living in the strictly protected area, and the information boards provide information about the changes of the Danube riverbed, as well as forest and game management.

### Nyéki-Holt-Duna study trail

Being one of the most unique study trails of Gemenc, this one has its starting point at the Pörböly dyke-reeve house, and tells about wildlife, area management and rehabilitation work. The strictly protected Nyéki-Holt-Duna with its lush aquatic vegetation and reedbeds full of life is best viewed from the bird-watching tower.

### Szeremlei-Holt-Duna study trail

The trail educating about the wildlife of Pandúr-sziget and species making up the forest community is reached through a hydrological monument: the sluice of Ferenc-canal.

### Nature photography

Gemenc has become famous because of its exquisite wetland habitats and floodland areas. The concealed inner lakes and oxbows are frequented by wildlife; it is just a matter of silently waiting for a while until the visitor can see feeding black storks, great white egrets, wild boar feeding on water chestnut, or a group of red deer coming to cool down themselves in the water. Gemenc awaits both professional and amateur nature photographers!



### Wildlife experience

Gemenc – this intimate floodplain landscape – can be explored either individually, or by National Park guided tours and canoe-tours.

**Hiking** – The Gemenc area can be visited using the designated hiking routes and study trails. The South-Transdanubian section of the nationally acknowledged “Blue line” hiking route named after Pál Rockenbauer also crosses the area. For becoming better acquainted with the area, it is recommended to ask for a National Park guided tour.

**Hiking route “Life in the floodplain”** – The excursion is best started on the Bárányfok study trail where visitors can learn from National Park guides about vegetation and wildlife in the low and elevated floodplain areas. This can be followed by visiting the exhibition “Life in the floodplain” where the wildlife of Gemenc and traditional

floodplain canal management and cultivation are shown. As an option, the excursion can be finished with a ride on the forestry railway, making it possible to see game animals from the train on the way to the Danube rivershore.

**Canoeing in Gemenc** – Canoe tours are led on a spectacular, beautiful section of Sió river. When the water-tour ends, visitors can walk back to the starting point, and, on the way back, can take a look at the “Life in the Floodplain” exhibition in Bárányfok, telling about the wildlife of Gemenc.

**Rezéti-Holt-Duna, by canoe** – Visitors can paddle along the wonderful water world of the Rézéti side-branch of the Danube. A spectacular, undisturbed section of the side-branch is visited with the help of a National Park guide. Our guests get acquainted with the wildlife of the area, and it is even possible to see animals taking a bath in the river.

**Vén-Duna, by canoe** – Lasting for about half a day, the guided canoe-tour proceeds on the Vén-Duna side branch, and shows the visitors the secrets of wildlife.

Possibilities in the Gemenc area include canoe hiring, small boat cruising, riding the forestry railway or a horse-cart. The staff of Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate are available to our dear visitors for guided canoe-tours or hiking.

