KARCAG
The Nagykun Visitor Center is the reception and information center for guests arriving to the town. The idea of its attractive, interactive, spectacular exhibition was inspired by the adventurous settle-down of the Kuns. Entering the Karcag Kun gate we find ourselves in an enchanted world calling up the life of the proud people of Nagykunság from the 13th century until our days.

Opposite to the Nagykun Visitors Center, on the corner of the Dózsa György street and the Déryné street we find the Culture Palace, this two-story building built in eclectic style between 1925 and 1926. Originally the building functioned as cinema and theater hall, exhibition room, library and restaurant. Spandrel of the façade of the main entrance features sculptures of a Pegasus and an actor’s mask. The building has been the cultural center of the city up to this day.

Lajos Kossuth was highly respected in Karcag, hence the 400 meters long main square was named after him in 1892. The most imposing building of the square is the City Hall, built between 1910 and 1912 in the style of Art Nouveau, designed by Artúr Vida. Construction works were done by Karcag-based builder József Kása, under the guidance of architect József Vidákovits.

Opposite to the main entrance to the City Hall we find the monument of the heroes fallen during World War I. The equestrian statue portrays a soldier of the Jászkun hussar regiment established in 1745 and remained active until World War I. The sculptor is Gyula Gáldi.
The well restored following the first Artesian well built in 1893 stands in the middle of the Kossuth square, known as "Angyalos kút" (Angel well). Its current name is Viktória-well. The well was restored according to the original plans by sculptor Sándor Győrfi in 2001. The old cast iron lamp post evokes the memory of the electrification of the town in 1908.

On the other side of the square, in the pedestrian street we can see the full-body statue of Turkologist Gyula Németh, erected by its hometown in 1990.

Statue of Kossuth was inaugurated in 1907, in the presence of his son, Ferenc Kossuth. The statue was made by the renown sculptor of the time, János Horvay.

The World War II monument standing in the reformed churchyard erected by Sándor Győrfi in 1992 is one of the most beautiful monuments in the country. The two-figure composition of the Kun Pieta – the mother with dead soldier son in her fathom – on the hexagonal black granite pedestal preserving the names of the 555 victims of the war is an astonishing work. The six Tuscan columns standing in semicircle behind the statue and the broken ledge reminds us the horrible memory of the war.

Statue of Petőfi Work of sculptor Dezső Győry, it was inaugurated on August 20th, 1948.
The Nádor column
The oldest public statue of the town was erected in 1808-1809 near the reformed church by the Nagykun towns in the memory of the Palatine József visiting Karcag in 1805. It was pulled down several times, the current column was built by the Karcag City Protection Association in 1997.

The reformed church on the Kossuth Square
A tower was built to an existing church at this very location in 1633. The church and the tower were renovated between 1793 and 1797, according to the plans and under the guidance of Károly Rabl. The uniform three-bay late baroque and Louis-Seize style interior is beautiful. The church organ with its 1560 pipes was built in 1866. The wooden pulpit also built in Louis-Seize style is remarkable, as well. The Country flag erected in front of the reformed church in 1935 was renovated by Sándor Györfi sculptor in 1996, in the year of Mille-centenary.

The building of the Court was designed and built in 1891 by Budapest-based architect Sándor Fellner.

Another significant building located in the Kossuth Square is the former Bárány restaurant and guest house, built in eclectic style in 1825. It was originally built as a guest house, with a chariot parking place in its yard. At the time there was a marketplace in front of the building. Another floor was added to the building during the 1860's, where a hotel was established. From the year 1935 it was a boarding school, currently it is operated as a primary school.

The Saint George Greek Orthodox Church was built in baroque style between 1794 and 1798, according to the plans of Károly Rabl. The baroque and partly Louis-Seize style iconostasis toward the sanctuary was finished only in 1811. The pulpit was also built in the 18th century. The building oriented to the east is a hall church with three Czech hat vaults, semicircular sanctuary and a tower on the western façade.

The building of the church was possible due to the material sacrifice made by the Greek traders living in the neighborhood.
The two-story, large, middle-projection eclectic building is the **high-school**, which was built in two phases. The first building was on the spot of the “little quarter-house”, and it was first occupied in 1894. It was built according to the plans of Budapest-based architect Viktor Walch. In 1906 – due to the sacrifice of the maintainer of the facility, the reformed church -- a new section was added. Until 1948 it had functioned as a church school, then it was nationalized. As of the year 2008, the school was returned to the church. Educational system of the city operating since the 17th century has given many excellent scientists, artists and teachers to the world. Physician and pharmacist Gábor Kátai, ethnographer István Györeffy, classical philologist László Gaál and turkologist Gyula Németh continued their studies in the city of Karcag.

The Nagykun Reformed Primary School of Karcag, the **Bell School** was given an important place during the formation of the Kossuth Square. The first building of the school built by the Reformed church community of Karcag was a one-story building erected in 1813-14, then the second floor with the arcades and the asymmetrically located stairway were built in 1818. Small towers built on the corners of the school fence have a peculiar look. The bells in these towers signaled the start and end of classes. The relief portraying János Kálvin located near the entrance, made by Sándor Györeffy was inaugurated in 2005.

“Anyone, who wants to meet people with pure hearts, shall come to the Kunság, to Karcag and meet the Varró family”

(Csokonai Vitéz Mihály: Return from the Plains)

The poet Mihály Csokonai Vitéz Mihály wrote about his friendly relationship with the Varró family of Karcag also in the poem quoted above (Returning from the Plains). The Library, a kindergarten and also a street wear the name of Csokonai.

**Csokonai House and Cellar, Csokonai Hall**

The more than 200-year old building and cellar owned by the **Euro Kft.** can be visited following advance registration. They undertake catering services for groups and organization of events.

5300 Karcag, Varró u. 2.
Phone: 59/300-161, 06/20/429-8991
E-mail: eurokarcag@gmail.com
A relief portraying Mihály Kováts (1724-1779) hussar colonel is exhibited on the wall of the school bearing his name since 1992. The relief is the work of Lajos Györfi. The symbolic Mihály Kováts Memorial Gate is located in the intersection of Bocskai and Liliom streets, it is assumed that the house where the colonel had been born used to be here. As a soldier, he served in the famous Jászkun hussar regiment. During the Austrian-Prussian war, he first fought on the side of Maria Theresa, then on the side of the Prussian king Frederick. He fought in the battles as a leader of a free scout team, but before he could have been forced to exploit the population, fled to Poland and made contacts with the noble rebels.

He fought in the American war of independence, and together with Kazimierz Pulawski – following the model of the hussars – organized the light cavalry. He fell in a battle on May 11th of May 1779 at Charleston.

The detached, large classicist building of Győrffy István Nagykun Museum built in about 1830 is located under 4, Kálvin street. It represents not only the strong urbanization of Karcag apparent at that time already, but it is also a memento of the formation of the middle class. Construction of the building referring to welfare is obviously related to the property differences between the city dwellers formed as a result of the redemption, namely that the building was the property of nagykun captain Sándor Kálmán. The building was then inherited by Móric Bogdi Pap, who was the representative of Karcag in the parliament in 1848. After 1945 the building functioned as a hospital, and it has been a museum only since 1968. Underneath the building there is a brick-vaulted cellar.

István Györffy (1884-1939), ethnographer and academic born in Karcag, renowned researcher of the people’s life in Nagykunság. After his death, his grateful students founded the Györffy College. The red marble relief left to the museum entrance portraying him was created by Lajos Papi sculptor from Kisújszállás in 1974. The large statue portraying his sitting figure is the work of Sándor Györfi, and was inaugurated in 1984.

Sándor Szűcs (1903-1982) ethnographer, although was not born in Karcag, but – as friend of István Györffy – he became the researcher of Nagykünság and reorganizer – and director between 1952 and 1962 – of the museum of Karcag. The bronze relief portraying him – work of Sándor Györfy – is located right to the museum entrance.
The relief portraying the renowned turkologist born in Karcag, dr. István Mándoky Kongur (1944-1992) is located in the park behind the museum. The work of Sándor Györfi was inaugurated in 1993.

The pottery house was built in the second half of the 19th century in popular classicist style. The thatched building and its layout basically follows the example of the 18th-century wealthy “redemptus” citizens’ houses. The one-story dwelling house built of pise with porch; the longitudinal axis of the house is perpendicular to the street. The porch is open to the yard along the entire length of the house; the special features of which are the pise-covered wooden twin cylinder-shaped columns supporting and fragmenting the porch. Currently the building houses the exhibition of life work of potter Sándor Kántor, winner of the Kossuth Prize.

Based on the resolution of the Inspectorate of Cultural Heritage, the ‘Sipos’ Kövesdaráló (grinding mill) of Karcag located on the corner of the Kerekes István and Kisújszállási street 2:

“Protected and one of a kind in the country, belonging to the specific group of agricultural and industrial products.”

The building houses the mill history exhibition opened in 2008, introducing the historic documents and tools of the “city of sixty mills”. In the yard, there are a number of small manual machines used for grinding; this exhibition is also unique in the country.

Medical history and pharmacy exhibition

Original, more than a hundred years old furniture and the preserved pharmaceutical tools of the former Solcz Pharmacy can be visited in the building under 45 Széchenyi avenue. In 1995, the collection was extended with the medical history collection of the local hospital and the exhibition introducing the activity of physician and pharmacist Gábor Káta MD.

The cultural monument Morgó Inn is located under 1, Baross street. This house is one of the few popular classicist building remaining from the early stage of urbanization of Karcag. The Morgó Inn is a simple, rectangular whitewashed building. Its highly elevated porch is supported by a robust Dorian column placed on cubic footing. The reason for elevating the porch and the floor level is that underneath the building there is a brick-vaulted cellar worth visiting. Windows are covered with 18th-century cast iron bars mounted in the wall. If the gendarmes were approaching from both directions, there was still an escape route. Rumor said that the house was connected by an underground tunnel with the Ágota Inn in Karcag located in 10 to 12 km from the Morgó Inn. The town renovated the house in 2009.
The Roman Catholic Church is located on the corner of the Szent István avenue and the Püspökladányi street. Catholics started to move in to Karcag as of 1770. Their first church was built in 1772 in baroque style, on the spot of today’s hall of the chamber of industry. This church burned down during the great fire of 1834. By the year 1896, the condition of the building deteriorated, and it had to be wrecked down. Today’s Szent István Church was baptized in 1901. The building was planned by architect István Wind. The one-bay building with sanctuary closing with three side of the octagon was built in eclectic style. The pulpit, the altars and the high-quality decoration painting is bears gothic and romantic elements. The grotta renovated in 2011 and the bust portraying the vicar and teacher of religiion dr. Pál Orosz are located in the churchyard. The bust of King Szent István located near the church in the Püspökladányi street is the work of Lajos Györfi.

The post office built in 1935 and located next to the church is one of the “modern” public buildings of the town. The façade of the building is decorated by brick window sills, the changed method of masonry, the romantic, the shadow effect of the wide ledge and an excellent ceramic relief in the middle of the curved façade, portraying a stage-coach towed by horses. The postal services commenced in Karcag already in around 1780.

The Jewish Community was established in Karcag in 1854, and in a few decades they evolved into a large community. The synagogue located in the Kertész József street was inaugurated in 1899. By the millennium the significantly shrunk community renovated the church, which is now a historic monument.

The Calvary Hill is located on the Kun hill near Dózsa György street – formerly called Grape Hill. The 14 stations of the Calvary built in 1851 in simple, classicist style; the picture booths are placed in circular layout. On the top of the hill there are three large, simple wooden crosses, a belfry and the statue of Mary. The Calvary was renovated several times, last time in 1993. The hill is rather picturesque, it is a dominant element of the city view.
“For us let the golden grain Grow upon the fields of Kun” wrote Ferenc Kölcsey in our national pray and Anthem. The excellent grain with high gluten content cultivated in the Nagykunság was ground into flour in the dry mills of the town. Dutch-type windmills appeared in the 1840’s, but were replaced by steam mills in the same century. The windmill of Gál Ferenc - Gál Szabó László - Deák György preserved under 22 Vágóhíd street. It is today a historic monument, functions as a museum, the objects and memories exhibited there call up the profession of wind millers. The building of the windmill remained intact up to our day is a Dutch-type windmill with six stories, a rotating roof section and four wind vanes.

Opposite to the Wind mill there is the southern reception gate of the Hortobágy National Park, the Windmill Inn. It was built in 1997 for the purposes of tourism, in resemblance of the wealthy redemptus houses of Karcag. In front of the rear section of the building there is a porch with five openings, supported by solo columns. The building houses the exhibition introducing the plant and animal life of the protected areas. The guesthouse is the starting point of the bicycle tour called “Two wheels on Zádor’s land”; its yard functions as a resting place for tourist groups, they have the opportunity to bake trout, cook in cauldron or in the yard oven.

The Zádor Bridge can be approached via the old salt road heading to Debrecen, first on driveway, then on dirt road. The bridge is unique in the country, because this is the only bridge standing in the desert, with no water running thereunder. Before the regulation of the river Tisza, the region used to be full of creeks and watercourses, and several bridges spanned over them helping transport. The Nagykun District built a robust and strong stone bridge over the most significant Zádor creek in 1805-1809. Legend says that the lime used to glue to stones together was slaked with bird eggs collected from the huge reeds, so it became so strong. The Zádor bridge – similarly to the later Hortobágy bridge – was built with nine vaults, but the flood of 1830 swept away two of them from both ends of the bridge. After the regulation of the river Tisza, the waters here dried up, and after the construction of the Szolnok-Debrecen railway (1857) the traffic of the road also reduced. Today, the bridge is a historic monument.

The Zádor plain situated around the bridge is a protected natural area.

In the vicinity of the Zádor, the Zádor hill and the Lőzér hill are situated, farther the Ágota hill and several other Kun hills. There are tales and legends related to the Kun hills and inns. Typical spatial forms if the plains are the Kun hills, from which the oldest ones were formed in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Many of the artificially erected hills used to be living places for millennia, while others were burial sites, sentinel posts and border check points.

The red circle of the sun going down on the endless desert, the protected plant and animal life, the small white farms on the distance, the waving crane wells, flocks of sheep, the sound of the cowbell, the dog barking, the song of a bird flying up, the silence, the freedom give an incomparable experience.
The house of the cemetery keeper built in the 18th century is located in the Northern cemetery. The T-shaped stack house was partly dug into the earth. According to archeological excavations, this solution goes back to the Middle Age. Walls of the house are made of pise, its roof if covered with reed. The entrance in the middle is formed by the building section called gádor forming the stem of the T. In each wings of the T there is a small room, between them – in the axis of the gádor – an oven is located; Above the oven there used to be a wooden chimney. The former keeper house is currently in private ownership.

The Tag House is situated on the square at the corners of Madarasi street and Forrás street. The building built in the beginning of the 19th century belonged to the former poultry marketplace in the western part of the town. The building reminds a classicist mansion, from three sides it is bordered by a three-step high brick porch. The porch is supported by 3 or 4 simple Tuscan columns. In the beginning of the 1800’s the Tag House used to be the headquarters of the market administration. Now it serves the purposes of hospitality: as part of the City Spa and Camping, apartments have been established in them.

The Kátai Gábor Hospital is situated in the Kórház street. The first hospital was opened in 1946, and this institution was granted the new 9-story building built in 1968. The renovated hospital is the largest and most advanced facilities of the region.

The Memorial Site of the Arad Martyrs was built by the local government in 1999. Names of the executed heroes and soldiers of Karcag are carved in black granite, the 14 lindens planted around the memorial site calling up the memory of the fourteen martyrs.
On this square, the **Nagykun Millennium Memorial Site** – work of Sándor Györfi – is erected on the symbolic “Kun hill” covered with rocks and indigenous grass in the memory of first settlement of the Kuns.

The three-figure composition portrays the moment, when in Easter of 1239, Béla the IV receives the proud Kun leader, khan Kö-töny. The memorial statue is made up of two cast-bronze horsemen of three meters height with a 10 meters high spindled black granite column between them, and with a one and a half meter gold-plated bronze two-tailed lion – heraldic animal of the Kuns – guarding the town and the Kun desert.

**AKÁCLIGET SPA**

The thermal water gushing up from 1.497 m of the “Sóskút” is one of the most important natural treasures of Karcag.

Water of the spa open all year round contains a lot of minerals (Como. salt 7.011, 19 mg/l). Guests may cure themselves all year round in the spa I and Spa II basins enriched with adventure elements.

We offer to our guests – mainly families – an architecturally unique wellness and spa complex. Under a tent, in the pool section there is a swimming pool, a two-part thermal basin and a training pool. Additional services: jacuzzi, solarium, sauna, diving pool and gym.

Additional pools available during summer:
- Entertainment pool (sweep corridor, jacuzzi and water massage)
- Two-part pool for the children (each with a chute, 1-1 pool figure water supply, 1-1 game elements)
- Spa III pool (2 chutes)

In the same area with the spa, a camping is operated (two class II holiday houses, 4 guest double rooms, 10 wooden bungalows, places for caravans and tents).

**Contacts:**

5300 Karcag, Fürdő utca 3.
Phone: Spa: +36/59/312-353
Phone: Camping: +36/59/503-011
E-mail: kemping@nkvizkft.hu

Operated by: Nagykun Víz- és Csatornamű Kft.
5300 Karcag, Fürdő utca 3.

Website: [www.nkvizkft.hu](http://www.nkvizkft.hu)
Beyond the rails, Kisújszállási streets leads through the Kiskulcsos, today Kisföldek - Kertváros district. Here we can – in the middle of a nice park – the building complex of the Szentannai Sámuel Agricultural High School, Secondary and Boarding School. The former farmer school was founded in 1899, and 300 acres of lower quality land was provided for its purposes. The first soil improvement experiments were conducted here under the guidance of director Sámuel Szentannai. The museum is organized in the territory of the school park, in a renovated old service apartment. It presents to the visitor not only the history of the school, but also gives an insight to the professional peculiarities of the farmer life in the Kunság with the help of wool and horseshoe collection, as well as the mock-ups made by the former students of the school. The museum dedicates significant role to the introduction of the memory of the renowned agricultural researcher Sámuel Szentannai.

KARCAG KUN HORSE-RIDING CENTER
We kindly invite you to the Karcag Kun Horse-riding Center!

Program offering:
Horse-riding, riding courses
Horse and carriage trips
Wrangler show
Desert 5 show
Visiting the horse-riding center and the farmer yard
Park for indigenous animals

Contacts:
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Photo: Virág Szabó
The task of the Karcag State Plant Breeding Plant founded in 1947 was to improve the poor soil of the Plains (saline) to breed plants, to cultivate seeds. Over the decades, the Plant – as Research Institute of the Debrecen University of Agriculture, currently of the Center of Agricultural Sciences Deberecen University of Agricultural Sciences – gained international appreciation. The park surrounding the central building of the Research Institute “was qualified as an arboretum in 1985, and awaits its visitors on approximately 2.5 hectares. Our park forest featuring rare trees and shrubs and granting nice cooling in the summer heat can be walked around with a short and comfortable walk. Within the territory of the forest benches, stoves and a modern tennis court awaits the visitors. An information board introduces the rich fauna of the arboretum, whereas in front of unique trees and shrubs little boards give their Hungarian and Latin name and further information. The Hegyesbori Nagy hill (93,5 m) is located behind the building, with an orderly triangulation station on its top, on the side of which a brief description/map provides information about the origin of the Kun hills.”

Kun stone statues refer to the burial habits of the Kuns. The city raised the 9 stone statues in 1995, for the 250 anniversary of the redemption, our Kun ancestors and the former Nagykun District, along the main road 4, at the kilometer post 160, on the Kis-hegyesbőri hill. Each of the seven minor statues holds the escutcheon of a Nagykun settlement – the number of which 7, including the newly joined Berekfürdő.

Heading south from the Research Institute, we reach the Türi street junction from the right. This dirt road leads to the Kecskeri desert and Kecskeri lake, classified as area of natural protection in 1997, which preserved a tiny piece of the ancient water-world. The Bene farm houses the “Desert Fox” Nomad Traditional Association, its members bring back the great horse culture of the ancestors.