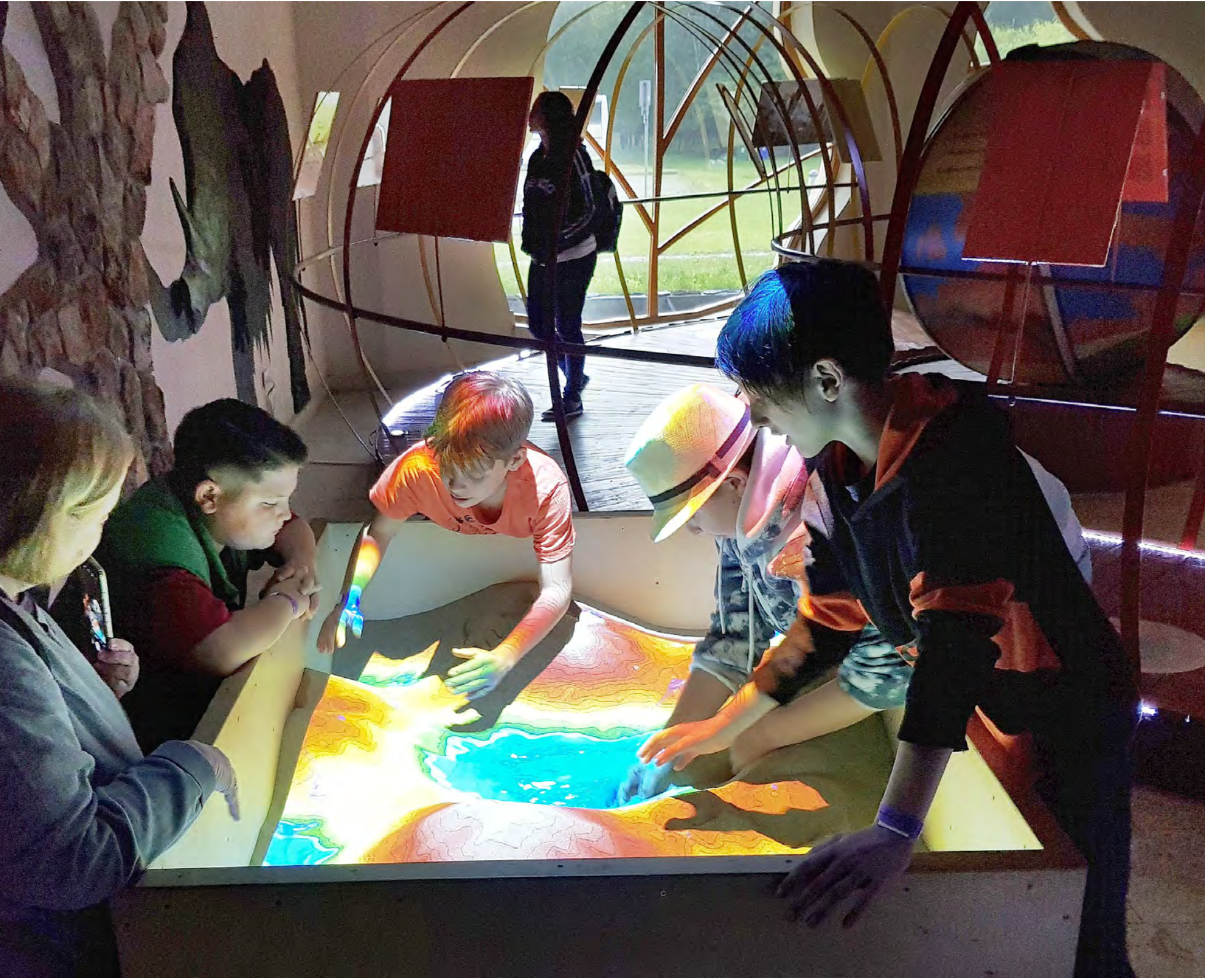


Ancient Pine Visitor Centre

A prehistoric gateway to the Miocene



The Ancient Pine Visitor Centre is a prehistoric Pompeii, located in the Ipolytarnóc Fossils Nature Reserve. It showcases unique fossils, including shark teeth, animal footprints and fossilised forests. An accessible geological trail lets the public explore these paleo habitats. High-tech interpretation and services prepare visitors to recognise and appreciate this significant geoheritage.



The Ancient Pine Visitor Centre is a **key hub for interpreting Ipolytarnóc’s paleontological, geological and cultural history**, a European Diploma-holding site. It preserves remains of a prehistoric ecosystem buried by a volcanic eruption 17 million years ago. Through digital tools, immersive exhibits and interactive storytelling, visitors **explore the Miocene era** and see fossils in their original setting. Features like a **4D cinema, VR and volcano shows** enhance the experience, while guided tours and hands-on activities engage visitors of all ages. Part of the **Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark** and managed by the Bükk National Park Directorate, the visitor centre plays a crucial role in site management and conservation. To protect fossilised remains, access is regulated through appointments, guided tours and designated pathways. Alternative trails and digital exhibits allow visitors to **explore sensitive areas** while preserving them. The centre also

supports **scientific research, citizen science** and environmental monitoring to prioritise heritage protection. Sustainability, accessibility and inclusivity guide the design and operation of the visitor centre. The building’s **architecture reflects the site’s prehistoric landscapes**, with features such as solar panels, geothermal heating, green roofs and rainwater collection to minimise environmental impact. Barrier-free pathways, hearing loops and wheelchair-accessible displays ensure the site is welcoming to all. The centre also supports local businesses and follows a zero-waste policy, **setting an example for sustainable tourism** in Hungary. The Ancient Pine Visitor Centre preserves and celebrates **Ipolytarnóc’s prehistoric wonders** through immersive heritage interpretation, community engagement, responsible site management and a focus on sustainability and accessibility. It is not just a place to learn about the past but a **living gateway into deep time**, where history, science and storytelling blend in a unique and unforgettable way.



KEY TALENT	UNESCO Global Geopark	A Interpreting heritage D Working with and for communities B Supporting site management C Promoting access, inclusion and sustainability
TYPE AND SIZE OF BUILDING	Repurpose structure New / Site specific Other	MEDIUM 500 - 1500 m²
YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT		2000-2019
AVERAGE ANNUAL VISITORS		MEDIUM 50 - 500 k
MANAGEMENT	Private / Public / Mix	PUBLIC

TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS VISITOR CENTRE



Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark

Spanning Hungary and Slovakia, Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark is the first transnational geopark. It showcases volcanic landscapes, fossils, and karst formations, reflecting 30 million years of geology. Rich in biodiversity and culture, it promotes geotourism, education, and sustainability.

TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS SITE

