

### Additional information

---

#### Physical features of the Site:

##### *Geology and geomorphology*

Altitude of the water level is 114 m over Baltic sea. Maximum length of the lake is 35 km, width is 15 km, minimum width is 7 km. The total length of its bank is 100 km of which 25 km can be found in Hungary. The lake bed is even, depth of water is 0.5-0.6 m along the bank and 1-2 m in open water. However, maximum depth does not exceed 1.6-1.8 m. Maximum width of reedbelt is 6 km and can be found on the Hungarian part of the Lake.

##### *Origin of the lake*

As a consequence of the geomorphological–geological characteristics of Carpathian Basin, basins of Lake Fertő and its neighbouring basin Hanság has been developed through continuous tectonic sinking of the crustal area during Tertiary and Quaternary Periods. Age of the lake is estimated at 20.000 years based on studies on fossils.

##### *Climate*

Climate of this area is rather complex due to several climate types in the region. In general it can be classified as wet continental. Yearly mean temperature is 10.6 oC on the wetland. Lake Fertő is the windiest region of the country. Total precipitation yearly varies between 650-550 mm. Evapo-transpiration is extremely high, 900 mm annually due to the winds.

---

#### Social and cultural values:

On the Ramsar site there are no inhabited settlements. Due to the varying water level of the Lake Fertő and the nearby Hanság the people inhabited the safer areas on higher ground. Legends tell about villages built in dryer periods later swallowed by the water. In the Hanság we know about remnant settlements left by its people, hardly a trace of these can be found today. But in the region of Lake Fertő such are not known, the basis of the legend are probably Roman-age findings originating from some earlier, longer dry period.

From the Roman age survived the stone-quarry of Fertőrákos where even in the first half of the 20th century the soft, easily workable Lajta limestone was mined. In the nearest vicinity of Fertőrákos there is another important Roman-age monument, the Mithras Sanctuary, which is a cultic place originating from the 3rd century.

Biggest part of the area was in the hands of two historic families – on the western part of the lake the estates of the Family Széchenyi, on the eastern part those of the Family Esterházy stretched. Both families built a castle practically on the edge of the marsh. The still standing castles are outstanding monuments of Hungary and besides significant cultural centres. Both contain a museum.

The surrounding settlements were inhabited by peasants of the lordships, partly by German and Croatian nationalities. The physiognomy of the villages – except of Fertőrákos and Balf, both mostly German speaking – was largely similar, the only survived fragment can be found in Fertőszéplak, in the form of a protected village museum.

### **Current recreation and tourism**

Annually an estimated number of 150.000 tourists visit mainly the cultural, historical sightings of the site and its closer surroundings. Tourists are only allowed to visit the buffer zones, their number is nearly 30.000 annually. Core areas may be visited only with the permission of the National Park.