**Ajka**

Ajka in a small town in Hungary, north-west of Lake Balaton. It is situated in the hills of Bakony, it has about 35,000 inhabitants.



It used to be a town with **mines** (The first picture shows the mine museum).

 

The settlement developed slowly during the first centuries. Prosperity came only in the 19th century when **coal resources** were found nearby. In the 1930s **bauxite resources** were found, too. In 1937 **the world’s first krypton factory** was built here.



There are many churches, statues and museums. The most famous is **the crystal museum next to the world-famous crystal works**.





Ajka was the birthplace and the hometown of some famous Hungarians like the writer István Fekete and the traveller Gábor Molnár.

In the middle of the town there is **a lake and an island** where István Fekete’s statue and some of his animal figures can be visited.





Ajka is famous for mining, you can visit **a mining and a palaeontolgy museum.**



When bauxite was found, they built **an alumina factory and an aluminum smelter**. To serve them they created the **power plant**. Thus in the seventies it became an industrial town.

It became a town in 1960.





Today Ajka is the unification of several villages and suburban areas.

The town is twinned to Rovaniemi (Finland), Unna (Germany), Weiz (Austria) and Cristuru Secuiesc (Romania).









**If you come to Hungary, you mustn’t miss Lake Balaton and Ajka!**

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