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## Discoveries: Reconstructing the Castle of Füzér, Hungary

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## Reconstructing the Castle of Füzér, Hungary

Until recently the Castle of Füzér was a dilapidated ruin romantically hovering over a steep rock in north-eastern Hungary on the Slovakian border. Now it has been completely rebuilt. Other castles are waiting in the pipeline to get the same treatment.



First mentioned in 1264, it was built on a steep 550-meter hill and would continue for centuries as an important eastern stronghold. By 1529, the royal insignia were kept and the castle was even more heavily fortified and fitted with a tower at the entrance gate. At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was burned down to prevent its being used by rebels and bands of robbers. After its destruction, the walls crumbled and the site was pillaged for its building material.

In 1910, the first plan to rebuild the castle was hatched, but nothing came out of it. In 1977 archaeological excavations were undertaken, which were later resumed in 1992. In 2012, planning permission was granted for the full reconstruction and, in 2016, the castle reopened for business with exhibitions on castles in Hungary, a lapidary, as well as exhibitions on minting, winegrowing and beer production, turning Füzér Castle into a showcase of Hungarian history.

Other castles are currently in the pipeline to be resurrected or are already in the process. According to 24HU huge sums are set aside to develop 40 sites. Hungary intends to spend huge sums on not only restoring, but actually reconstructing their medieval castles. Much of this has been inspired by a dedicated group of young scholars, who have specialized in creating 3-D

visuals of Hungarian castles, such as those pictured above and below (including an image of the lost chapel).



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