



# TOURISM IN HUNGARY

Introducing the country's greatest travelling destinations

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January 21, 2017

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## Did you know?

Tourism plays an important role in Hungary's economy. The contribution of tourism to Hungary's GDP is about 5.0%.

One reason for so many tourists coming to our country is the hospitality of the Hungarians. Besides, the Carpathian Basin is at a cross-roads for the traveller from north to south, from east to west.

*Hungary has various tourist attractions. Visitors can enjoy the wonderful sights of Budapest, relax on one of the numerous beaches of Lake Balaton, go and see the lovely Hungarian villages where traditions of folk art are preserved and treasured or visit some of the smaller but beautiful towns like Veszprém, Kőszeg, Eger or Szentendre. They can go for outings to the romantic 'Puszta', the Great Hungarian Plain, where they can see the famous Hungarian stud farms.*





Hungary has a lively cultural life. The most popular cultural events attended by a lot of tourists seem to be the open-air summer festivals held in different towns, such as the “Sziget”, “VOLT” and “Balaton Sound” Festivals. Apart from festivals, the Opera House, the concert halls, open-air theatres and museums are also visited by a lot of tourists who are genuinely interested in the cultural life of the country.



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
*THE SZIGET FESTIVAL (HUNGARIAN FOR "ISLAND") IS ONE OF THE LARGEST MUSIC AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS IN EUROPE. IT IS HELD EVERY AUGUST IN NORTHERN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, ON ÓBUDAI-SZIGET ("OLD BUDA ISLAND"), A LEAFY 108-HECTARE (266-ACRE) ISLAND ON THE DANUBE. MORE THAN 1,000 PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE EACH YEAR.*



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Today Budapest is a busy metropolis, which is extremely rich in historical and cultural monuments, works of art and natural beauties. Its population is about 2 million people.

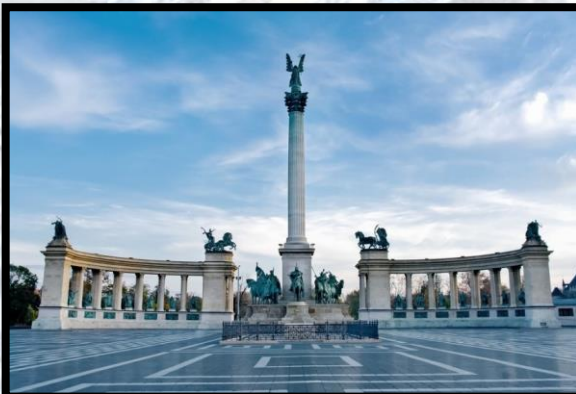
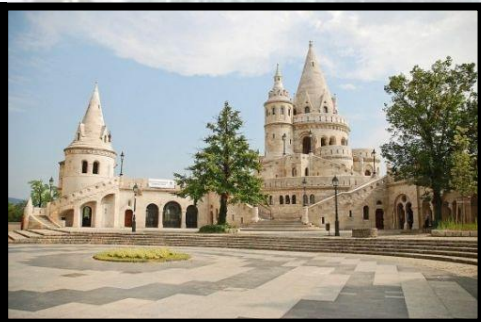
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If you visit Budapest, you should start the tour by going to Gellért-hill, because this is the best point from which to see the panorama of the city. The hill was named after a Venetian bishop, who came to Hungary in the eleventh century to convert the inhabitants to Christianity. There is also a fortress on the top of the hill called the Citadel, which was built in 1851.



After that, you should have a visit to the centre of Buda where you can find the Castle Hill. On its top the Royal Castle District was built. In the central square of the Royal Castle District, the Trinity Square, stands the famous Matthias Church. It is also called the Coronation Church and several kings of Hungary were buried here. The building is more than 700 years old.

Next to the church you can see the bronze statue of King Stephen I. and that of János Hunyadi. Behind the church the Fishermen's Bastion can be found, from which there is a magnificent view of the Danube with the Houses of Parliament on the opposite bank.



One of the best-known monuments in Pest is the one in Heroes' Square. It was erected in 1896 to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Hungary. On the tall column stands the figure of an angel bearing the ancient emblem of Hungary and its base is surrounded by bronze horsemen representing the Hungarian chieftains who led their tribes to this land.