

HUNGARY

Hungary is a unitary parliamentary republic in Central Europe. It covers an area of 93,030 square kilometres (35,920 sq mi) situated in the Carpathian Basin bordered by Slovakia to the north, Romania to the east, Serbia to the south, Croatia to the southwest, Slovenia to the west, Austria to the northwest and Ukraine to the northeast. With about 10 million inhabitants Hungary is a medium-sized member state of the European Union. The official language is Hungarian, which is the most widely spoken uralic language in the world.



Hungary is undoubtedly one of the world's most favourite tourist destinations. The Hungarian culture, music, art, architecture, spas, unique flora and fauna, national parks, cuisine and wine attract millions of visitors every year.

Despite its small size, Hungary has an abundance of natural attributes. In the 10 national parks there are wild river areas, rolling hills, expansive lakeside areas, mountain ridges covered with thick forests, endless plains and the unrivalled treasures of the limestone region.

The country boasts 8 sites which the UNESCO has recognized as being worthy of protection and conservation as part of the World Heritage. Four of them, the national parks of the Aggtelek karst with Central Europe's largest cave system, Lake Fertő, the wine region of Tokaj and the grass plain of the Hortobágy, are natural treasures.



BUDAPEST



Budapest with its more than a thousand-year history is one of Europe's youngest capitals as Pest, Buda and Obuda was joined in 1873. The life of the inhabitants was determined by the river Danube as it provided merchants free crossing and inhabitants shelter among surrounding hills. Budapest is rich in natural beauties and its architecture is world-famous.

Budapest is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. The neo-Gothic Parliament, the biggest building in Hungary with its 268 metres length, contains amongst other things the Hungarian Crown Jewels. In the Saint Stephen's Basilica the Holy Right Hand of the founder of Hungary, King Saint Stephen is on display. Castle Hill and the Castle District involves three churches, six museums, and hosts interesting buildings, streets and squares. The former Royal Palace is one of the symbols of Hungary – and has been the scene of battles and wars ever since the 13th century. In Pest undeniably the most important sight is Andrásy street. This Avenue is an elegant 2.5 kilometres (2 miles) long tree-lined street that covers the distance from Deák Ferenc square to the Heroes' square. Heroes' square is dominated by the Millenary Monument with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front. The Castle Hill, the River Danube embankments and the whole of Andrásy street have been officially recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Under the road runs continental Europe's oldest Underground railway, most of whose stations retain their original appearance. The Dohány Street Synagogue is the largest synagogue in Europe, and the second largest active synagogue in the world.



The culture of Budapest is reflected by the size and the variety of the city. Most Hungarian cultural movements first emerged in the city. Budapest is an important center for music, film, theatre, dance and visual art. The city glories in 223 museums and galleries, here are the



greatest examples among them: the Hungarian National Museum, the Hungarian National Gallery, the Museum of Fine Arts (where one can see the pictures of Hungarian painters, like Victor Vasarely, Mihály Munkácsy), the House of Terror (hosted in the building that was the venue of the Nazi Headquarters).



In Budapest there are forty theatres, seven concert halls and an opera house. The largest theatre facilities are the National Theatre, the Palace of Arts, known as MUPA and the building of the Budapest Opera.

Several annual festivals take place in Budapest, such as Sziget Festival, one of the largest outdoor music festivals in Europe, the Budapest Spring Festival presents concerts at several venues

across the city. Budapest Wine Festival and Budapest Pálinka Festival occur each May and gastronomy festivals focus on culinary pleasures. The city is home to several authentic Hungarian folk dance ensembles which range from small ensembles to professional troupes. Budapest is one of the few cities in the world where a high school for folk dance learning exists.



Budapest is home to over 35 higher education institutions, of which there is a large number of universities. Under the Bologna Process, many offered qualifications are recognised in countries across Europe. Medicine, dentistry, pharmaceuticals, veterinary programs, and engineering are among the most popular fields for foreigners to undertake in Budapest. Most universities in Budapest offer courses in English, as well as in other languages like German, French, and Dutch, aimed specifically at foreigners. Many students from other European countries spend one or two semesters in Budapest through the Erasmus Programme. The Budapest University of Technology and Economics is the most prestigious university in learning engineering in the country. It has a unique qualification program, where students can learn many type of engineering.

