



The Danube Bend & Western Transdanubia

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

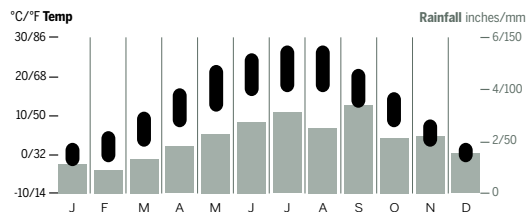
- ➔ Pauline-Carmelite Monastery of Sopronbanfalva (p182)
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Why Go?

The Danube Bend is a region of peaks and picturesque river towns to the north of Budapest. The name is quite literal: this is where hills on both banks force the river to turn sharply and flow southward. It is the most beautiful stretch of the Danube along its entire course, where several historical towns vie for visitors' attention. Szentendre has its roots in Serbian culture and became an important centre for art early in the 20th century. Round the bend is tiny Visegrád, Hungary's 'Camelot' in the 15th century and home to Renaissance-era palace ruins and a forbidding hilltop fortress. Esztergom, once the pope's 'eyes and ears' in Hungary, is now a sleepy town with the nation's biggest cathedral. The Danube meanders towards Western Transdanubia where you find Sopron, a historic city that's been around since the Roman Empire. South of Sopron are the beautiful, remote forests and villages of Őrség National Park.

When to Go

Vac



May A great time to visit Őrség National Park, with warm weather but few crowds.

Jun Balmy weather makes this the perfect time to explore before the summer crowds arrive.

Oct Get your fill of Hungary's best wines in Sopron after the grape harvest.



The Danube Bend & Western Transdanubia Highlights

- 1 Szentendre (p166)**
Strolling the cobbled backstreets, where life remains largely untouched by the town's tourist tumult.
- 2 Citadel (p171)** Climbing up Visegrád's medieval hilltop and enjoying the wonderful views of the Danube.
- 3 Pannonthalma Abbey (p183)** Exploring a 1000-year-old abbey, the architecturally splendid spiritual heart of Hungary, in a lofty hilltop location.