



Lake Balaton & Southern Transdanubia

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Gombás Kúria Mansion (p192)
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- ➔ Adele Boutique Hotel (p210)
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- ➔ Bacchus (p203)

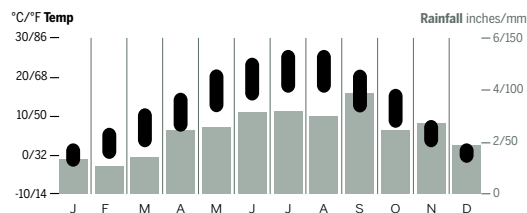
Why Go?

Extending roughly 80km like a skinny, lopsided paprika, at first glance Lake Balaton seems to simply be a happy, sunny expanse of opaque tourmaline-coloured water in which to play. But step beyond the beaches of Europe's biggest and shallowest body of water and you'll encounter vine-filled forested hills, a national park and a wild peninsula jutting out 4km, nearly cutting the lake in half. Oh, and did we mention Hungary's most famous porcelain producer and a hilltop fairy-tale fortress?

Then there's Southern Transdanubia, where whitewashed farmhouses with thatched roofs dominate a countryside that hasn't changed in centuries. Anchoring its centre is one of Hungary's most alluring cities, Pécs, where a Mediterranean feel permeates streets filled with relics of Hungary's Ottoman past and a head-spinning number of exceptional museums. Beyond, a clutch of medieval castles enchant and vineyard cellars beckon you to wine-taste your heart out.

When to Go

Pécs



Apr–May Lake Balaton resorts begin to open and Southern Transdanubia bursts with flowers.

Jul–Aug Hot and humid but guaranteed sunny days/balmy nights; high season around Lake Balaton.

Sep–Oct Fewer crowds around Lake Balaton and mild temps; may be the best time to visit.

Lake Balaton & Southern Transdanubia Highlights

- 1 Tihany** (p194)
Wandering the wild peninsula, poking around in the Abbey Church and sipping a home-brewed beer in Hungary's most picture-perfect lakeside village.
- 2 Balatonfüred** (p190)
Sailing, paddleboarding, swimming and cycling in the Lake Balaton capital, then hitting lakeside restaurants and bars by night.
- 3 Pécs** (p205)
Checking out the excellent museums, craft beer bars and coffee shops in this lively university town, plus marvelling at the greenish- and goldish-hued ceramics at the famous porcelain factory.

