



Hungary

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Borkonyha (p580)
- ➔ Macok Bistro & Wine Bar (p591)
- ➔ Zeller Bistro (p580)
- ➔ Barack & Szilva (p580)
- ➔ Nem Kacsá (p586)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Four Seasons Gresham Palace Hotel (p579)
- ➔ Hotel Senator Ház (p591)
- ➔ Shantee House (p577)
- ➔ Bohem Art Hotel (p579)
- ➔ Tiszavirág Hotel (p589)

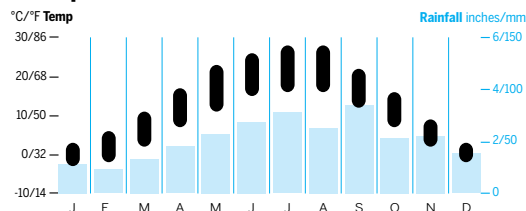
Why Go?

Stunning architecture, vital folk art, thermal spas and Europe's most exciting capital after dark: Hungary is just the place to kick off a European adventure. Lying virtually in the centre of the continent, this land of Franz Liszt and Béla Bartók, paprika-lashed dishes, superb wines and the romantic Danube River continues to enchant visitors. The allure of Budapest, once an imperial city, is immediate at first sight, and it also boasts the region's hottest nightlife.

Pécs, the warm heart of the south, and Eger, wine capital of the north, also have much to offer travellers, as does the Great Plain, where cowboys ride and cattle roam. And how about lazing in an open-air thermal spa while snow patches glisten around you? That's at Hévíz at the western edge of Lake Balaton, continental Europe's largest lake and Hungary's 'inland sea', which offers innumerable opportunities for rest and recreation.

When to Go

Budapest



May Spring is in full swing, meaning reliable weather, cool temperatures and flowers.

Jul–Aug Sunny but often hot; de-camp to the hills or Lake Balaton (book ahead).

Sep–Oct Blue skies, mild temperatures and grape-harvest festivals – a rewarding time to visit.



Hungary Highlights

- 1 Budapest** (p573) Losing yourself in Europe's best nightlife – the 'ruin pubs', wine bars and nightclubs of Hungary's capital.
- 2 Eger** (p590) Understanding the sobering history of Turkish attacks, and sampling the region's famed Bull's Blood wine.
- 3 Pécs** (p588) Absorbing the Mediterranean-like climate and historic architecture, including the iconic Mosque Church.
- 4 Lake Balaton** (p585) Taking a pleasure cruise across Central Europe's largest body of fresh water.
- 5 Hévíz** (p587) Easing your aching muscles year-round in the warm waters of this thermal lake.
- 6 Hortobágy National Park** (p590) Watching Hungarian cowboys' spectacular shows in this romantic region of the Great Plain.
- 7 Szentendre** (p583) Mill about with artists, freethinkers and day trippers at this too-cute-for-words town.

BUDAPEST

📍 / POP 1.7 MILLION

The beauty of Hungary's capital is both natural and man-made. Straddling a gentle curve in the Danube, the city is flanked by the Buda Hills on the west bank and the beginnings of the Great Plain to the east. Ar-

chitecturally, the city is a treasure trove of baroque, neoclassical, Eclectic and art nouveau buildings. The city is also blessed with an abundance of hot springs, and in recent years Budapest has taken on the role of the region's party town.