

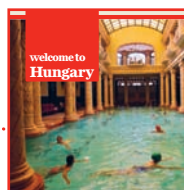
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PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
to help you put together your perfect trip

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Hot Water
Hungary is famous for its thermal waters, which are used for bathing and drinking. The most famous is the 'Füzesgyarmat' thermal water, which is used for bathing and drinking. The text 'Hot Water' is overlaid on the image.



Bird watching
Hungary is a great place for bird watching. The most famous is the 'Füzesgyarmat' thermal water, which is used for bathing and drinking. The text 'Bird watching' is overlaid on the image.

Itineraries



Itineraries
Hungary is a great place for bird watching. The most famous is the 'Füzesgyarmat' thermal water, which is used for bathing and drinking. The text 'Itineraries' is overlaid on the map.

regions at a glance

Transdanubia
The capital, Budapest, is located in the heart of Transdanubia. The text 'Transdanubia' is overlaid on the map.

Great Plains
The Great Plains are a vast, flat area of land. The text 'Great Plains' is overlaid on the map.

Carpathian Basin
The Carpathian Basin is a large, flat area of land. The text 'Carpathian Basin' is overlaid on the map.

North Hungary
North Hungary is a region of Hungary. The text 'North Hungary' is overlaid on the map.

South Hungary
South Hungary is a region of Hungary. The text 'South Hungary' is overlaid on the map.

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UNDERSTAND HUNGARY

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you
can make sense of what you see

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Hungary Today

Change of Guard
Hungary has a long history of being a crossroads between East and West. The text 'Change of Guard' is overlaid on the map.

Wine & the Republic of Hungary
Hungary is a great place for wine. The text 'Wine & the Republic of Hungary' is overlaid on the map.

Outdoor Activities
Hungary is a great place for outdoor activities. The text 'Outdoor Activities' is overlaid on the map.



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THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Steve Fallon,
Anna Kaminski, Caroline Sieg

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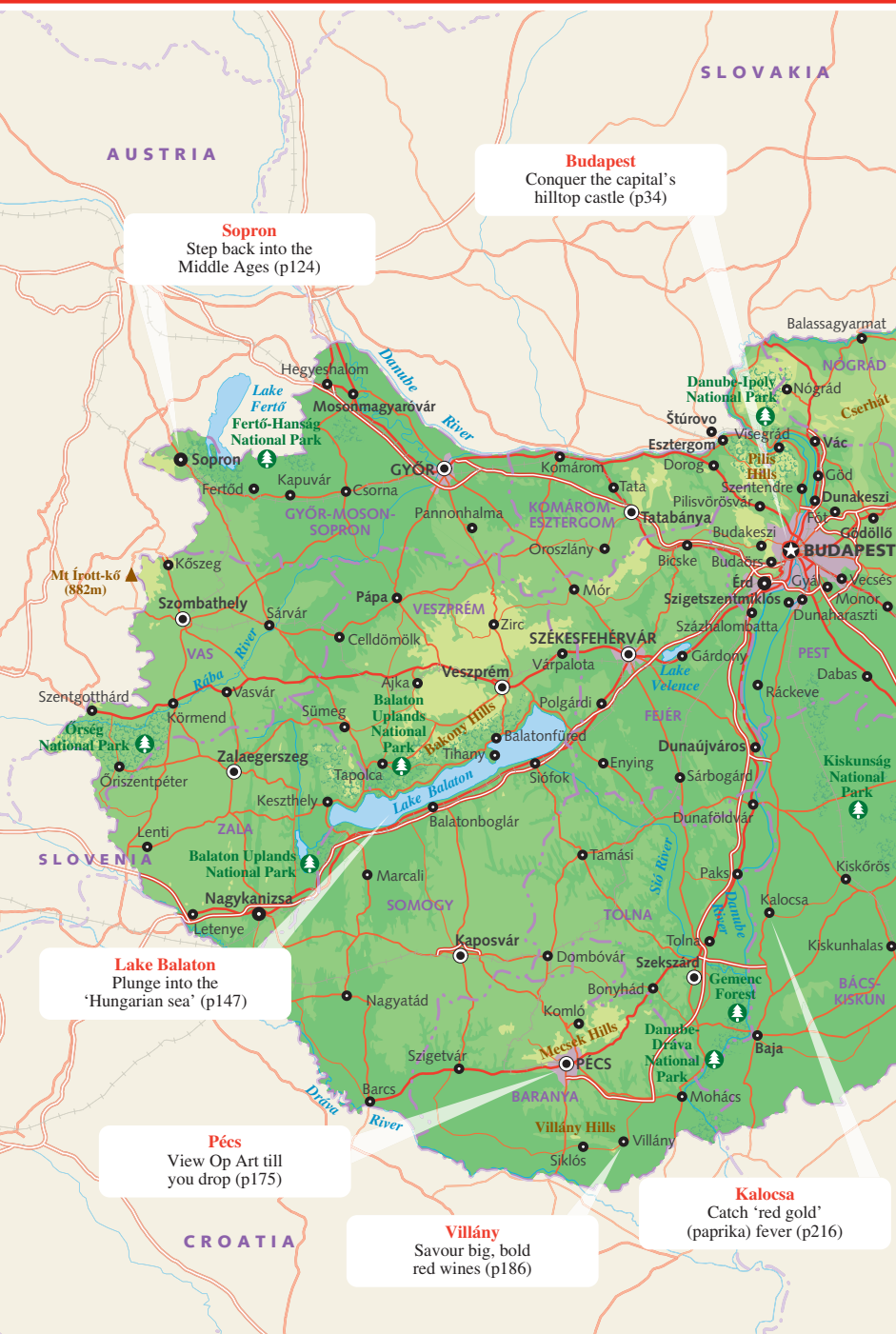
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Hungary



AUSTRIA

SLOVAKIA

Sopron
Step back into the
Middle Ages (p124)

Budapest
Conquer the capital's
hilltop castle (p34)

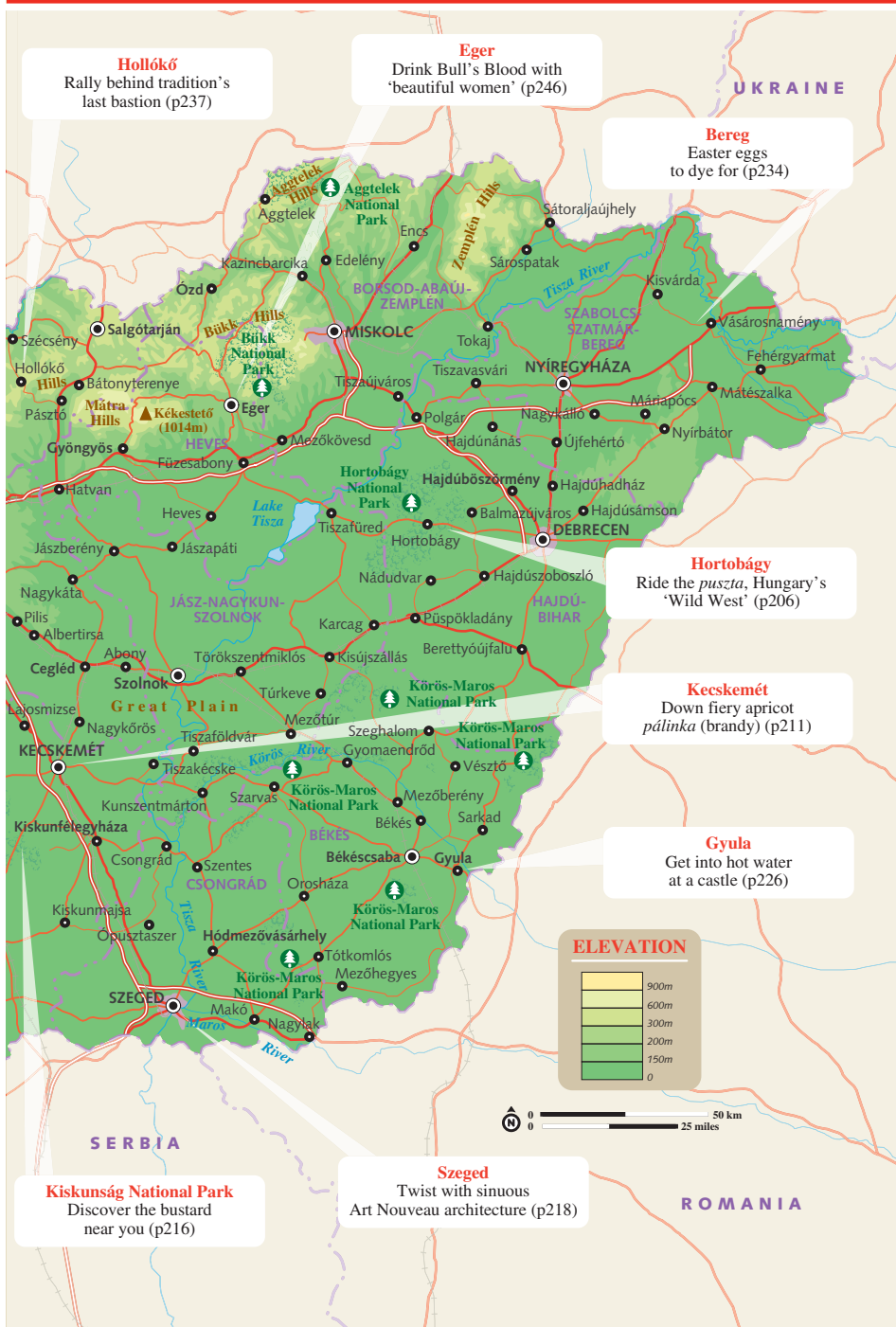
Lake Balaton
Plunge into the
'Hungarian sea' (p147)

Pécs
View Op Art till
you drop (p175)

Villány
Savour big, bold
red wines (p186)

Kalocsa
Catch 'red gold'
(paprika) fever (p216)

Top Experiences >





OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Steve Fallon

Coordinating Author, Danube Bend, Northern Uplands, The Great Plain & Northeast Hungary

Steve, who has worked on every edition of *Hungary*, first visited Magyarország in the early 1980s by chance – he'd stopped off on his way to Poland (then under martial law) to buy bananas for his friends' children. It was a brief visit but he immediately fell in love with thermal baths, Tokaj wine and *babbleves* (bean soup). Not able to survive on the occasional fleeting fix,

he moved to Budapest in 1992, where he could enjoy all three in abundance and in Magyarul (Hungarian). Now based in London, Steve returns to Hungary regularly for all these things and more: *pálinka* (fruit brandy), Art Nouveau, the haunting voice of Marta Sebestyén and the best nightlife in Central Europe.

Read more about Steve at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/stevefallon



Anna Kaminski

Budapest, Western Transdanubia Originally from the Soviet Union, Anna finds a lot to appreciate about Hungary, a country she first visited as a dental tourist many years ago and has been drawn back to since, time and again – from the familiar relics of Communism to the world's best poppy-seed strudel. This edition took her from the 'ruin pubs' of Budapest to the splendid churches, castles and remote villages of Western Transdanubia. Anna also wrote the Directory A–Z and Transport chapters.



Caroline Sieg

Lake Balaton & Southern Transdanubia Caroline Sieg is a half-Swiss, half-American freelance writer and editor focusing on travel, food and the outdoors. Born to a Swiss-French mother and a Polish father who emigrated to the US, she has spent most of her life moving back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean. Caroline's relationship with Hungary began when she visited Pécs in 1992 and fell in love with its charms and fantastic mosque. Subsequent trips to the region

yielded countless hikes in vineyard-covered hills, dips into Lake Balaton and a profound obsession with greasy, heart-attack-inducing *langos* (deep-fried dough with toppings).

Read more about Caroline at:
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itineraries

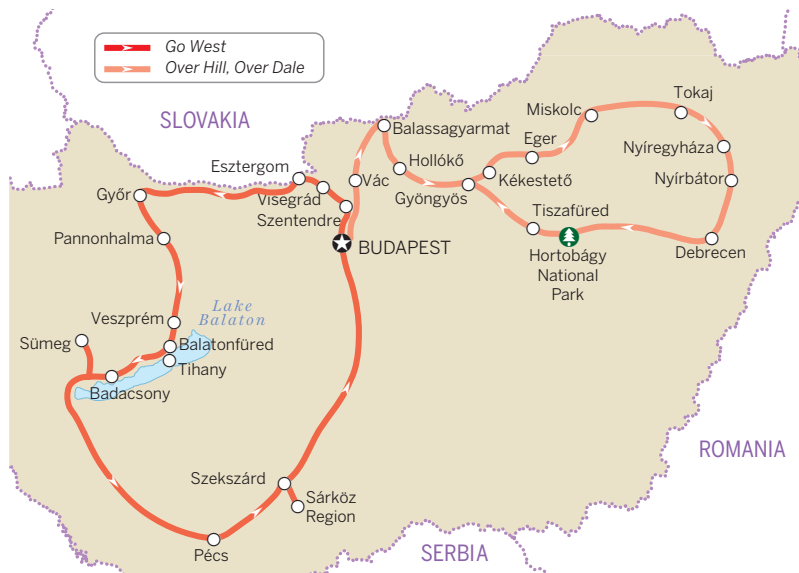
Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



Ten Days Essential Hungary

This itinerary offers you the best of Hungary and will give you a taste of the country's historical wealth and natural beauty.

From **Budapest**, make your way north to the towns of the Danube Bend – picture-postcard **Szentendre**, royal **Visegrád** and holy **Esztergom**. The road continues west along the Danube to **Sopron**, Hungary's finest medieval city. Travel south to Lake Balaton and recharge your batteries at lovely **Keszthely** and nearby **Hévíz**, which boasts its own thermal lake. **Pécs**, Hungary's 'Mediterranean' town, is south; from there carry on east to **Mohács**, the site of Hungary's famous defeat at the hands of the Ottomans in 1526. A car ferry will take you to the right bank of the Danube and the road eastward to **Szeged**, the university town that is forever young. **Kecskemét**, city of apricots and Art Nouveau, is to the north. Enough of the flatlands of the Great Plain? Head to the hills and delightful **Eger** but make a detour to **Mezőkövesd**, celebrated for its folk art. Head west for Budapest, stopping at **Gödöllő**, the summer retreat of Emperor Franz Joseph and his beloved consort Elisabeth.



One week Go West!

This 690km road trip of Hungary's west has something for everyone: castles, churches, palaces, thermal spas, rolling hills and Hungary's biggest lake. It's mostly an easy drive, and you should be able to do it comfortably in a week.

From **Budapest** head north through the Danube Bend region to the former artist colony of **Szentendre** and historical **Visegrád**, before arriving at **Esztergom**, Hungary's most sacred city. The road continues west along the Danube to **Győr**, an industrial city with a medieval core that's surprisingly rich in historical buildings and monuments. From here, head south to **Pannonhalma**, where the awesome abbey is on Unesco's World Heritage List, and on to **Veszprém**, the 'city of queens'. The scenic northern coast road of Lake Balaton is your next port of call, with its towns of **Balatonfüred**, **Tihany** and **Badacsony**. Make a quick detour to **Sümeg** and its dramatic castle before turning south again to **Pécs**, the jewel of the south. Return to the capital, but take time to sample the sublime red wines of **Szekszárd** and the folkloric **Sárköz** region along the way.

One week Over Hill, Over Dale

Hungary's 'northern uplands' are not dramatic. But they have a gentle beauty all of their own, and nestled within the hills are important historical towns and traditional villages. We've included part of the Great Plain too, so you'll really get the 'ups' and 'downs' of northern and eastern Hungary on this 650km trip.

From **Budapest** head north to **Vác**, an attractive town on the Danube Bend, and then on to **Balassagyarmat**, capital of the traditional Palóc region. Continue east and then south through the rolling Cserhát Hills to **Hollókő**, a 'museum town' of folk art. The road winds through the eastern Cserhát and the foothills of the Mátra Hills to **Gyöngyös**, where you'll start a challenging drive through the hills and past **Kékestető**, Hungary's highest point. Lovely **Eger** awaits you at the end of the road. It's then on to sprawling **Miskolc** and the traditionally sweet wines of **Tokaj** before a quick stop at **Nyíregyháza**. Head southwest for **Nyírbátor**, where connections with Dracula are too close for comfort, and then **Debrecen**, nicknamed the 'Calvinist Rome' and Hungary's second-largest city. For a taste of Hungary's Great Plain head west through **Hortobágy National Park** to **Tiszafüred** and back to Budapest.

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