

# HUNGARY

for you

## Bucket list

Eastern Hungary





# INTRODUCTION

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Hungary is an infinite source of miracles all year around, so no matter when you set out on a trip to discover the country, you will never tire of its ever-changing colours. So, if you feel like taking a closer look at our country's myriad natural and cultural gems, combined with the promise of a great experience, just follow the road – any road – to yet another beautiful place. Take a look around you, whether you're on a boat bobbing on the waves of Lake Balaton, standing on the breathtaking peaks of the Mecsek Mountains or in the middle of the vast expanse of the Great Plain of Hungary. Discover the intriguing tales behind every sight and landmark, the centuries-old cities and buildings, stories and places – we promise it will be the experience of a lifetime.



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# EASTERN HUN GARY



Visitors to the part of Hungary east of the River Danube will find endless plains and mountainous regions alike. The immaculate flatness of the Great Hungarian Plain around Hortobágy is interspersed with lanky sweep wells, while the Nine-Arched Bridge, the taverns and herds of Hungarian grey cattle will take visitors right back to the past. To the north lies Tokaj, Hungary's most famous wine region, or climb up Mount Kékestető to catch a bird's-eye view. But eastern Hungary is about much more than the sheer beauty of nature: the towns of Szeged, Debrecen and Nyíregyháza offer an array of surprises as well.





# EASTERN HUNGARY



Wine cellars of Hercegkút



## EASTERN HUNGARY

**EASTERN HUNGARY IS HOME TO THE WORLD-FAMOUS TOKAJ WINE AS WELL AS THE HORTOBÁGY NATIONAL PARK, WITH ITS PLAINS, WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE THAT IS AS UNIQUE AS IT IS DEAR TO US. THE TRUE SPA TOWN OF HAJDÚSZOBOSZLÓ BOASTS EUROPE'S LARGEST SPA COMPLEX, WHILE THE TOWN OF EGER ATTRACTS VISITORS WITH ITS DEEP AND INTRIGUING HISTORY.**

Hungary's second largest city, **Debrecen**, lies ever so peacefully near the country's eastern border. The typically scarce vehicle traffic in the city centre makes it a delightful experience to discover on foot. Within a short, pleasant stroll around, you can admire a famous triptych by famed Hungarian painter Mihály Munkácsy in the Déri Museum, enjoy the view from atop the Reformed Great Church and take in the unusual side of art at the contemporary MODEM centre. Bars and eateries line Piac utca and Hal köz, while recreation awaits at Nagyerdő park, with its zoo, Aquaticum Spa and the Agora Science Centre.

A renowned and popular spa destination only a stone's throw from Debrecen, the town of Hajdúszoboszló boasts the largest spa complex in Europe, with pools, saunas and water slides. Also close to hand is the Hortobágy National Park. The national park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcasing expert Hungarian horsemanship, the unique Hungarian grey cattle and rare birdlife. The boat tours on the **Lake Tisza Bird Reserve** offer visitors a sneak peek into the lives of egrets and cormorants. The Poroszló Ecocentre boasts Europe's largest freshwater aquarium, while around Lake Tisza runs a 70-kilometre cycle trail and whichever town you stop at, chances are you'll find a lakeside beach for some rest and relaxation.

Lying to the north, **Eger** is a town that is most definitely worth a visit. Eger Castle, of both historical and literary fame, overlooks a beautiful Baroque city centre. Remnants of the Ottoman occupation here include a minaret and Turkish baths, while medieval weaponry at the castle harks back to our heroic battles.

Linked to historic legend, Eger's renowned wine (Bikavér, which translates as "bull's blood") draws visitors to the cellars of the Valley of Beautiful Women.

Beyond Eger stretches the hiking country of the Mátra and Bükk uplands, with a dense and intricate network of hiking trails. From Nordic walking to cross-country skiing, a narrow-gauge railway and adventure parks – you name it, this region has it. Natural attractions include the Ilona Valley waterfall, the Galyatető lookout tower, the Kékestető peak and the hive stones of Bükkalja.

Beyond the Bükk mountains, pretty **Lillafüred**, near **Miskolc**, is well worth a visit for a ride on the local narrow-gauge railway, while you can enjoy some rowing on Lake Hámori. **Diósgyőr Castle** hosts concerts and military shows, while swimmers will enjoy the unique cave baths of **Miskolctapolca**.

Dotted with wine cellars and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Tokaj wine region's main claim to fame is, of course, its inimitable wines. Other attractions in the region include Zemplén Adventure Park, Nyíregyháza Zoo and the **stalactite caves of Aggtelek**. And while you are here, you can also explore the region's castles, built in the early 1700s, and tour the Upper Tisza by bike.

In south-east Hungary, the town of **Gyula** is an interesting and exciting destination, featuring an extensive spa in the premises of the 600-year-old Almásy Castle. Year-round, an interactive exhibition reveals the daily life of the aristocracy.

The sunny town of **Szeged** on the Tisza offers Art Nouveau architecture and vibrant galleries. Maybe the most iconic landmark of this charming place is the rather sizeable Votive Church, which doubles as a magnificent backdrop to the open-air theatrical and musical performances of the annual Szeged Open-air Festival.

The nearby town of **Makó** entices visitors with the Hagymatikum spa, designed by the iconic master of Hungarian organic architecture, Imre Makovecz, and the Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park, which offers a spectacular exhibition commemorating the Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin – and even some stargazing when the weather is right.



Lake Hámori in Lillafüred





# EGER REGION

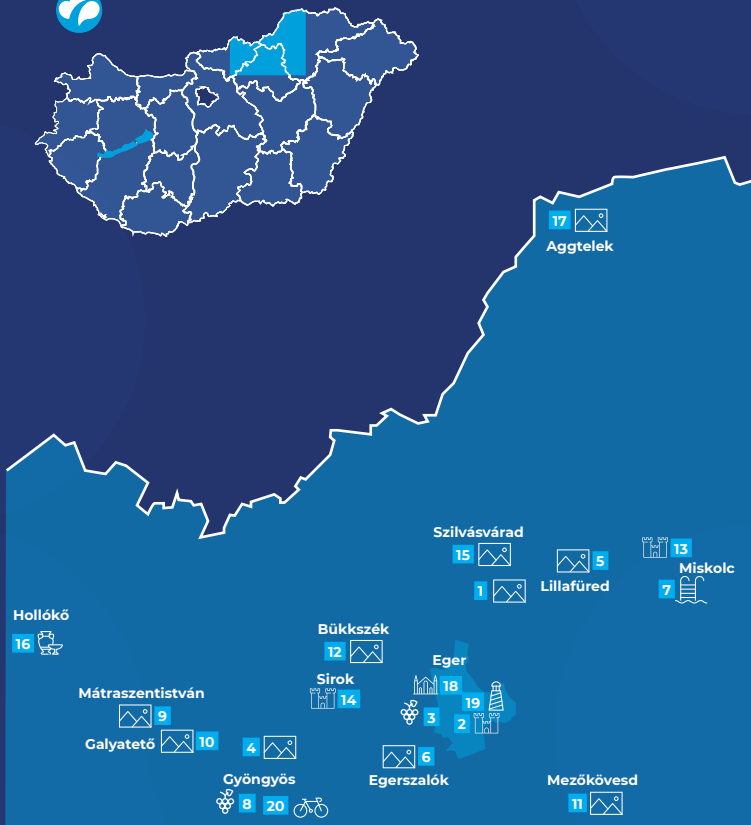


## EGER REGION

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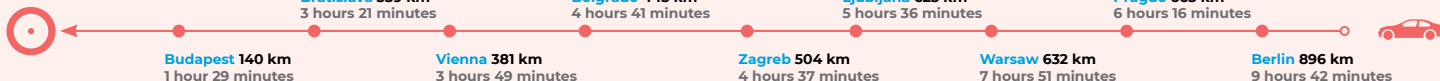
Ruling the landscape of the northern reaches of Hungary, the mountains of the Mátra and the Bükk are the country's the largest mountain range, where visitors will find fun activities regardless of their age or gender. From lovers of the great outdoors to urban explorers, extreme hikers, bath and spa enthusiasts – even wine aficionados... everyone will love it here! And if the hiking in these magnificent forests proves exhausting, the baths, spas and tours of the historical towns will give you plenty of opportunities to recover. Eger Castle, occupied by the Turks in the 16th century, and Diósgyőr Castle, overlooking the Szinva stream, are just two of the historical landmarks in this region that are well worth a visit, while those with a love of folklore can explore the Matyó folk art heritage.

The mountains of the Mátra are remnants of pre-historic volcanic activity, while the Bükk is a karst range bursting with beautiful caves. This region allows visitors to start the day with an extreme cave tour followed in the afternoon by bathing in the 400-year old, golden-domed Turkish bath and topping it off in the evening with culinary pleasures and wines from no fewer than three wine regions (Bükk, Eger and Mátra). It offers unparalleled opportunities for hiking and sightseeing tours to refresh your body and mind: visit the Valley of Beautiful Women, the birthplace of the famous Egri Bikavér wine, either by bike or the local narrow-gauge railway, to immerse yourself in the local wine culture.



1. Bükk National Park
2. Eger Castle
3. Eger, Szépasszonyvölgy
4. Kékestető & the Kékestető TV Tower
5. Lillafüred, waterfall
6. Egerszalók, bath & the travertine terraces
7. The Miskolctapolca Cave Bath
8. Gyöngyös, the Farkasmály wine cellar row
9. Mátrászentistván
10. Galyatető, Galya Lookout tower
11. Mezőkövesd, Matyó Museum
12. Bükkszék
13. Diósgyőr Castle
14. Sirok Castle
15. Szilvásszék
16. Hollókő
17. Aggtelek National Park
18. Eger Cathedral
19. Eger Minaret
20. Gyöngyös-Sástó, Adrenalin Park

## Eger







# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU ONLY HAVE A SINGLE DAY TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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## EGER, A BAROQUE TREASURE BOX

The key sights of **Eger** are a good point for starting your exploration of the north-eastern part of Hungary. As mighty as it is unique, **Eger Castle**, a historical landmark that has withstood centuries of turbulent history, is one of Hungary's best known sites, as well as featuring in many a legend. A visit to this castle and its maze of underground tunnels and dungeons lends an authentic medieval atmosphere, offering insights into the lives of knights of the time, as well as an assortment of exciting exhibitions at its museum. A pleasant stroll on the promenade along the castle wall will lead you to the emblematic building of the Ottoman era. The **Eger minaret**, the prayer tower called minare in Turkish, is the northernmost building of Ottoman architecture still standing today. Climb the 97 steep steps for a great view of the Baroque town below from the 40-metre tall minaret.

The second-largest religious building in Hungary, **Eger Cathedral** boasts a stunning interior. Its mighty dome and towers – typical of Classicist architecture – stand 20 storeys tall above the town.

Leaving the central area, a good walk will take you to **Szépasszonyvölgy** ("The Valley of Beautiful Women"), the best known part of the town's roughly 130-kilometre long wine cellar system. Luckily for us, the gastro and wine revolution has broken out here too: with Mediterranean-inspired terraces, colourful wine bars, the latest wine, gastronomic and interior design trends, jazz and swing, and quality hams and cheeses alongside the otherwise excellent traditional lard sandwich. A cheerful wine district, offering wines from small local wineries to well-known big brands.



Eger



EGERSZALÓK



MEZŐKÖVESD



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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### LEISURE IN LUXURY AROUND EGER

Leaving Eger, we reach **Egerszalók**, one of Europe's most unique thermal spas – you have to travel to Pamukkale in Turkey or even further, to the Yellowstone National Park in the USA to find something quite like this – where the misty natural terraces of the so-called **Salt Hill**, made of travertine limestone, offer a bath experience you won't forget. For a long time, it was a genuinely rustic and no-frills experience – but luxury is now the order of the day. The open-air pools have premium quality healing water, while the indoor ones offer a variety of indulgent experiences, including an open-air log sauna.



The “Matyó capital”, **Mezőkövesd**, will immerse you in the beautiful folk art of the unique Matyó people, with their secretive name. Theirs is certainly the most famous Hungarian embroidery pattern, which is listed as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. What used to be the Korona Hotel is now the Matyó Museum, with countless variations of the “Matyó rose” embroidery pattern, a wedding promenade, the mock-up of a traditional blue-dye shop and even a “surc” shop (where the “surc”, a traditional Matyó, apron-like male garment was made) on display.

Egerszalók, the travertine terraces



# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE THREE DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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## UNMISSABLE EXPERIENCES

After Eger, it's worth heading for the Mátra hills for a whole host of must-have experiences.

Getting to the ruins of Matra's most important building of its kind, **Sirok Castle**, is an adventure in itself, since it was built on the top of a steep volcanic peak. Renovated quite recently, the most prominent feature of the lower and upper forts is the counterweight-operated drawbridge, while the exhibition in the castle offers visitors insights into its bustling life in medieval times.

The nearby **Kékes** mountain is home to the famous Kékes TV Tower, the highest building in Hungary. Built in 1958, the golden age of Hungarian television, the tower was renovated and modernised in the 1980s. The roofed circular part of the tower houses a bar, while the open-air section serves as a lookout point – both offer spectacular views. Most hiking routes include the Kékes – and it also boasts Hungary's longest ski slope.

Hungary's second highest point, **Galyatető** is an ideal hiking destination for nature enthusiasts of any age. For the best panoramic experience head to the spectacular, recently renovated Galya lookout tower: the building in itself is something to behold, as is the sight from the top.

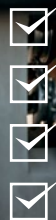
Halfway between Mátrafüred and Mátraháza, the **Oxygen Adrenalin Park** offers unforgettable adventures, including a zipline ride 30 metres above a quarry pit and a 20-metre controlled freefall experience along the pit wall. You don't have to be an adrenalin junky to enjoy this facility, however, since it offers fun for the whole family: the kids will enjoy a quadricycle, the chairlift and the electric jet ski just as much as the zorb water ball ride.

SIROK CASTLE

KÉKES

GALYATETŐ

OXYGEN ADRENALIN PARK



Sirok Castle





## THE FARKASMÁLY WINE CELLAR ROW

HOLLÓKŐ



# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE FOUR DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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## DISCOVER THE TRADITIONS OF THE REGION

Once an entertainment district in the town of Gyöngyös, the **wine cellar row of Farkasmály** has been experiencing a kind of renaissance. The oldest of the 25 uniquely connected cellars were carved into the limestone rock around 300 years ago. The cellars are topped with press houses boasting elaborate wooden porches, with the cellar keeper's home in the middle.

A mere stone's throw away from the Mátra lies the beautiful village of **Hollókő**, the largest live open-air museum in Hungary and the home of a handful of people keeping their traditions alive. Lying in the "Palóc Land" in the Cserhát region, Hollókő seems to have been unaffected by the 20th century's negative effects – no wonder this was the first Hungarian site and also the first village in the world to make the UNESCO World Heritage list. Immerse yourself in 19th century village life and do believe the locals don't only wear their old traditional folk clothes and eat their salted bread as a tourist attraction! After this living museum-village of folk traditions you may want to spend some time visiting the village's medieval but recently renovated, sturdy rock fortress or take a stroll along the beautiful stream, the hemp-moistening and folk bath ponds.





# EGER AND BORDER FORTRESS BATTLES

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Eger Castle was subjected to not one but two attacks in the late 16th century. The first is the more famous: in 1552, a small and desperately outnumbered but determined team of soldiers, led by Captain István Dobó, did the unthinkable and withstood the attack of the mighty Ottoman army. In 1596, less than half a century later, however, the Ottoman army returned and did not falter: this time the defenders (led by Pál Nyáry) were unable to hold out against the attackers. Most of the defenders surrendered, and the captain was handed to the attackers, leaving the castle under Ottoman control until 1687.





# WHAT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IN THE REGION

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## EGRI BIKAVÉR AND EGRI CSILLAG

The Eger wine region became world famous for its Hungarikum red wine **Egri Bikavér** (bull's blood of Eger) during the past century. **Egri Csillag** (the star of Eger) was created by local winemakers in 2010, and has been a great success. The former is a full-bodied red cuvée wine of blue grapes, that goes very well with typical Hungarian cuisine and game dishes. Egri Csillag is a refreshing white wine, also a cuvée, to accompany light summer lunches, dinners or picnics.

## PALÓC SOUP AND SMOKED TROUT

According to the legend, the greatest Palóc, Kálmán Mikszáth, was the first to ask for a dish that "combines all the flavours of Hungarian cuisine". Today, it is made from beef, lamb or pork with potatoes, French beans and other vegetables, with a little dill, vinegar and sour cream to create the 'typical' Hungarian taste. Szilvásvárád's special oven-smoked **trout** is one of the famous products of northern Hungary, another attraction apart from the natural treasures of the Szalajka Valley.





# THE OTTOMAN LEGACY IN EGER

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The 150-year Ottoman occupation has left its mark on Hungary. The cultures of the two peoples would inevitably shape each other – especially in times of peace. Wherever the Ottoman Turks appeared, they overzealously started construction first of religious buildings – the best preserved of which in Hungary is the Minaret in Eger – and baths. The most lavish of all Turkish baths – or hamams – in Hungary is the one in Eger, built by Pasha Arnaut, while the remnants of the hamam of Sultana Valide are just as spectacular.

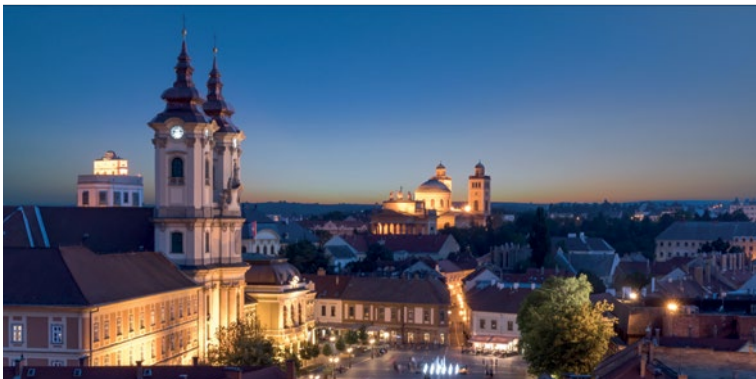
The Ottoman heritage however, goes beyond buildings. The Turks adored roses, and would grow them wherever they could, but coffee and tobacco were also introduced to Hungary by the Ottoman Empire. The Turks are responsible for the shift towards pork and pig lard in Hungarian cuisine: pork was the only food ingredient the Turks didn't touch, so it was always available for the locals. Hungary can also thank the Turks for ground paprika, pepper, tomato, eggplant and poppy seed. Some of the most typical Hungarian dishes – stuffed cabbage, tarhonya or egg barley, lecsó and lángos to name just a few – would not exist without Turkish influence. Even the Hungarian word for a cauldron – bogrács – is of Turkish origin. Who knows what the Hungarian words for boots (csizma), slippers (papucs or mamusz) and whip (korbács) would be if the Ottoman Army had decided to go around Hungary rather than through it.



Eger Minaret







# OUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS OF THE REGION

 @VISITHUNGARY



# TOKAJ REGION



Tarcas, St Theresa Chapel



## TOKAJ REGION

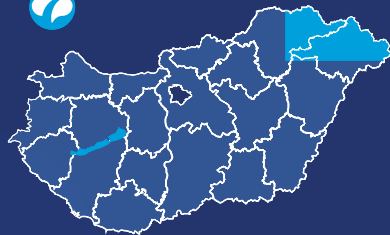
### DISCOVER THE TRADITIONS OF THE REGION

The regions of Tokaj, the Upper Tisza and Nyírség lie in the north-eastern part of Hungary, at the meeting point of three countries. This vivid and multi-faceted region offers sights and activities for the whole family.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the historic wine region of Tokaj-Hegyalja is the birthplace of the famous Tokaji Aszú wine. The roots of wine cultivation in the region go a millennium deep and the unique microclimate is excellent for growing wine – a fact demonstrated by the vast and intricate systems of wine cellars around here. Visitors can choose from a variety of premium-quality wine-tasting programmes and vineyard tours, and will enjoy the best dishes from modern new-wave cuisine.

Culture and history lovers will also find enjoyable places to visit in this region. The historic castles of the Zemplén, including the renovated castles of Füzér and Szerencs, and the famous Rákóczi Castle in Sárvíz, are ideal hiking destinations.

Would you rather go rowing? The Upper Tisza, the Bodrog and the Hernád offer excellent kayak and canoe trip options – the sandy banks, lush vegetation and villages flanking the rivers lend this region a kind of romantic atmosphere that is sure to enchant you. The region offers a lot of fun activities for the whole family, including an adventure park, a zoo and several opportunities for bathing. And you can treat yourself to some tasty indulgences too: the local game dishes are a must, as are the local (Gönci) peach variety and, of course, plums, as demonstrated by the so-called Plum Route of Pányola.



1. Bodrogkeresztúr, Acetánia Vinegar Museum
2. Mád, Aszúház (Aszú House)
3. Boldogkőváralja, Boldogkő Castle
4. Tokaj-Hegyalja, the Festival Pit
5. Füzér, Füzér Castle
6. Herceghút, Wine Cellar System
7. Hollóháza, Hollóháza Porcelain Museum
8. Füzérradvány, Károlyi Castle
9. Megyer-hegy Tarn
10. Nyíregyháza, Nyíregyháza Zoo
11. Sáropatak, Rákóczi Castle
12. Tokaj, World Heritage Wine Museum
13. Vizsoly, the Vizsoly Bible Visitor Centre
14. Sátoraljaújhely, Zemplén Adventure Park
15. Regéc, Regéc Castle
16. Máriapócs, National Shrine
17. Nyíregyháza, Adventure Park
18. Szerencs, Rákóczi Castle

## Tokaj







# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU ONLY HAVE A SINGLE DAY TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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Chances are, your first visit to the Tokaj wine region will include the town of **Tokaj**.

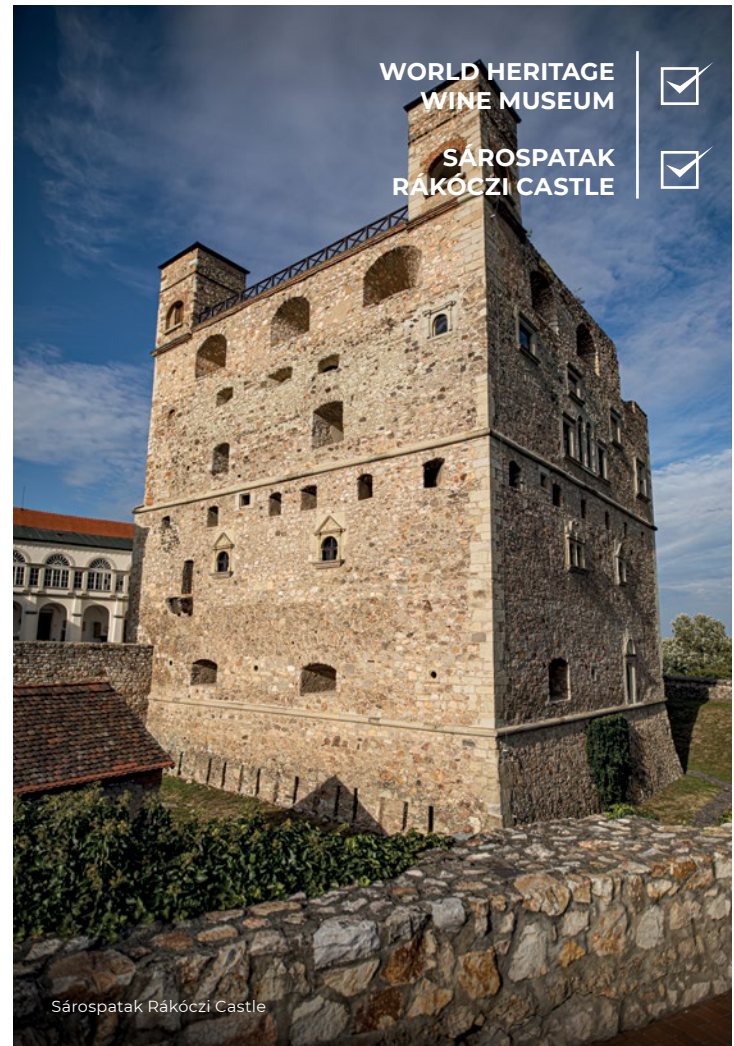
Renovated quite recently, this Baroque town with its churches, colourful houses and delightful town square is a perfect venue for a pleasant stroll. The fruit of extensive renovation efforts and a truly 21st century development project, the Cultural Quarter entices visitors with a modern theatre building, the old synagogue turned into a cultural centre and what was once a beer pub now converted into the **World Heritage Wine Museum**. These remarkable architectural feats achieve the ideal combination of traditional objects and cutting-edge digital solutions offering playful interactivity. Here you can take a virtual tour of the entire region on foot, by bike, by car or even aboard an air balloon. Your exploration will be aided by an aromatheque, a spice collection and a wine store.

From Tokaj, you should continue to the hills of Zemplén, which boast no fewer than four beautiful castle ruins (Füzér, Regéc, Szerencs and Boldogkőváralja) and the beautifully renovated **Sárospatak Rákóczi Castle**. The most spectacular building in the region and a place of considerable historical significance, the castle served as the venue for the last-ever Kuruc national assembly where, for the first time in Hungarian history, the emancipation of serfs was declared. The castle complex has been thoroughly renovated since the age of the ruling lord, but the monumental walls of the so-called Red Tower, the Lorántffy Loggia and the inner courtyard are just as beautiful as in the castle's heyday.

WORLD HERITAGE  
WINE MUSEUM



SÁROSPATAK  
RÁKÓCZI CASTLE



Sárospatak Rákóczi Castle



MECYER-HEGY TARN



HERCEGKÚT, WINE CELLAR ROW



ZEMPLÉN ADVENTURE PARK



Megyer-hegy Tarn



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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If you stay in Sárospatak overnight, you should definitely include a hike to one of Hungary's natural wonders, the nearby **Megyer-hegy Tarn**. This little lake is not a genuine tarn but, in fact, rainwater collected in an old stone quarry pit which, in its heyday, produced an annual average of 400 top-quality millstones that were in high demand even outside Hungary. The lake may get as deep as 6.5 metres at the foot of the towering cliff walls, which rise to 70 metres at their highest point. The path around the perimeter of the cliffs has spectacular views of the pit and the lake below.

A mere 3 kilometres from Sárospatak, you will find another attraction that is well worth a visit: the **wine cellar row of Hercegkút**. It is by no means a coincidence that the Hungarian winery villages are typically Swabian settlements – these keen winemakers of German ethnic origin are known for their rigorous tidiness, orderliness and diligence. Hercegkút is no exception: the wine cellars of Kombos-hegy and Kóporos form an orderly procession in four rows – the wine cellars under the roughly 200 houses go as deep as 10-40 metres. The Calvary hill and its surroundings are well worth a visit – and some fine wine tasting with a delicious Swabian dinner platter will be the perfect end to your visit here.

You won't have to travel far for the **Zemplén Adventure Park**, built on three terraces of the Magas Hill, home of the longest single-car sit-in chairlift in Hungary. But this is where you'll find the longest all-weather toboggan track and the longest and widest plastic surface ski slope. The most exciting attraction of the Park is the zipline called Sólyom (Falcon), which will take you on a one-kilometre ride, 100 metres high, at a top speed of 80 kilometres an hour.





# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE THREE DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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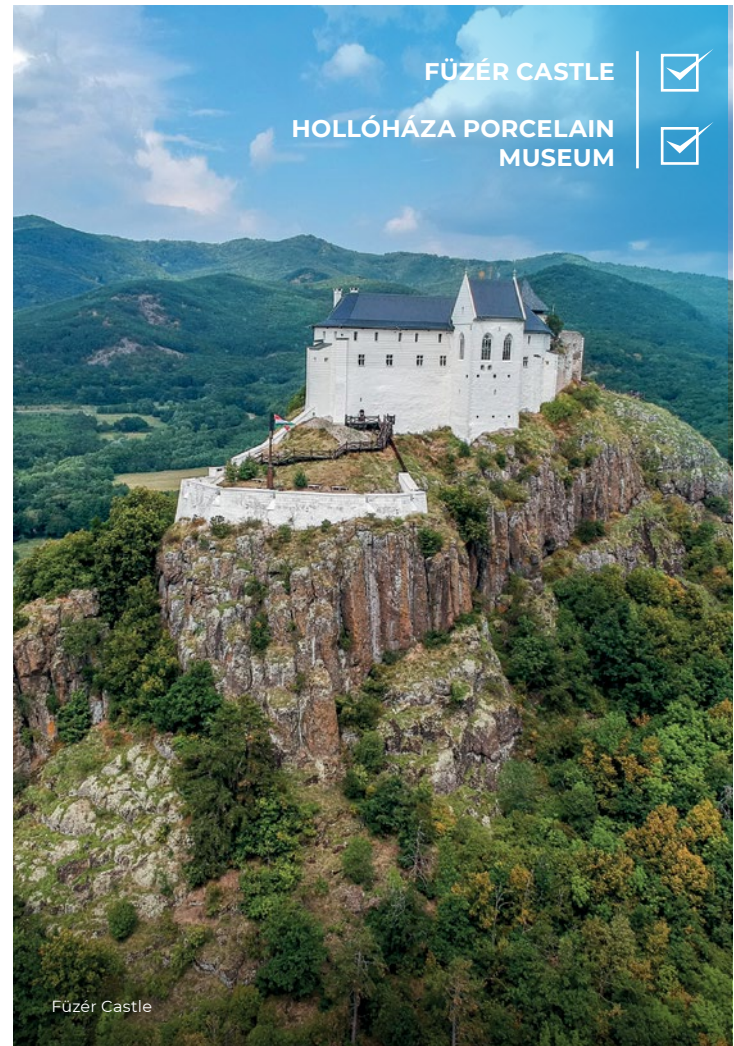
The northern slopes of the Zemplén offer a monumental castle, some industrial history and an aesthetic gem.

The spectacular Füzér Castle hill, a remnant of an ancient volcano, is crowned by **Füzér Castle**. Recently renovated, this historic landmark was beautiful even when it was in ruins. Now, with her white walls radiating in the sunlight, this majestic landmark dominates the surrounding landscape. The castle offers a breathtaking panorama of the lush green slopes of the Zemplén.

A quiet village, surrounded by woods and boasting a remarkable castle, Hollóháza is home to the **Hollóháza Porcelain Manufactory**, a brand with two centuries of history and also one of the largest porcelain factories in Hungary. The factory's permanent exhibition has a multitude of figurines and everyday household objects. You can take the guided tour of the factory, and even try your hand at porcelain painting.



Porcelain Museum, Hollóháza



Füzér Castle

MÁRIAPÓCS



NYÍREGYHÁZA  
ZOO



Máriapócs



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE FOUR DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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A mere 30 kilometres from Nyíregyháza lies **Máriapócs**, one of the most important pilgrimage sites of the Marian devotions. After the Ottoman period, locals attending church services in the tiny village of Pócs noticed that the Virgin Mary on an icon painted by the local priest's brother seemed to be weeping. This became such big news that the icon was ordered to be taken to Vienna where it is kept to this day, in St Stephen's Cathedral. Legend has it that the exact duplicate was also able to weep and carry out miracles, so this humble painting draws half a million visitors to the Baroque church every year, including Pope John Paul II himself, who held a service here.

**Nyíregyháza Zoo** is located in Sóstó, the dense tourist neighbourhood of Nyíregyháza, the capital of the Nyírség region. The 30-hectare oak forest is home to some 5,000 animals, several of which are the only examples of their species in Hungary. A day in this exotic place will take you on a zoological adventure around the world. A mountain tour up in the Andes, a walk on the bottom of the ocean, a trip to the heart of the jungle, a seal show, a savannah tour and shark feeding in the gigantic aquarium are just some of the exciting events on offer at this wonderful facility.



Nyíregyháza Zoo





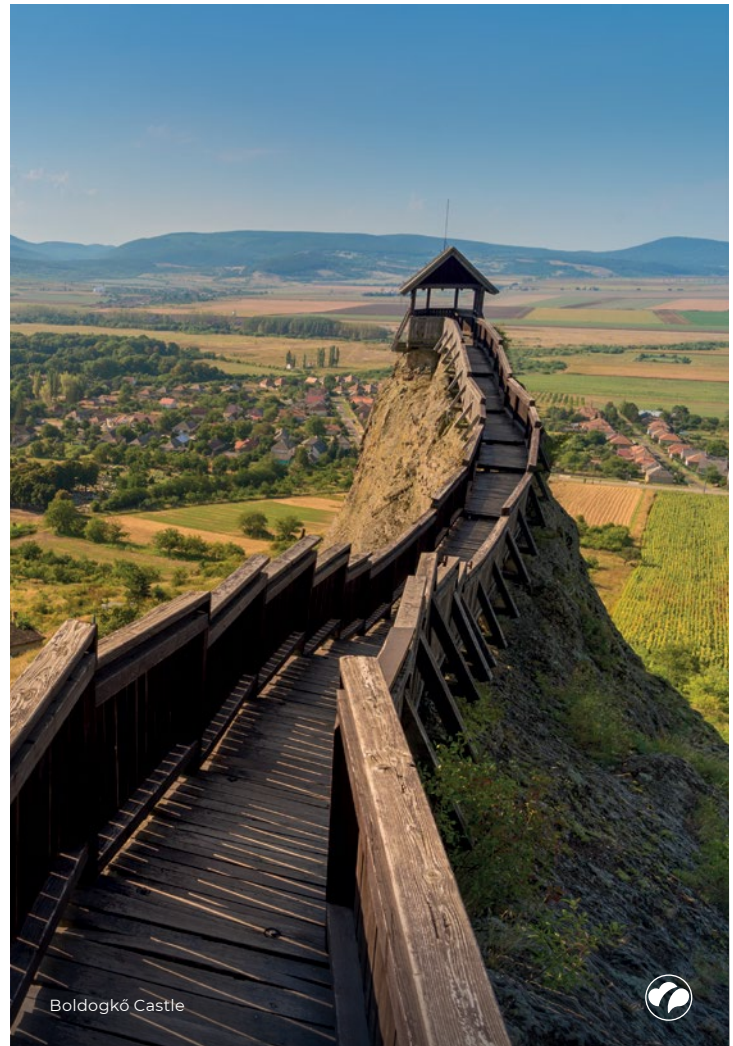
# THE CASTLES OF ZEMPLÉN

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The Zemplén hills offer time travel, with no fewer than five castles, in close proximity, taking you back to the Middle Ages.

These castles were typically built after the Mongol invasion in the 13th century. They used to be handed over from one noble family to another and in the early 18th century, they played a crucial role in the war of independence led by Prince of Transylvania Francis II Rákóczi. As a result, they were destroyed by the Habsburg Empire.

Füzér Castle takes pride to this day in the fact that the Holy Crown of Hungary was kept there for a year following the battle of Mohács in 1526, a key event in the history of Hungary. Rákóczi Castle in Sárospatak was the venue for the last national assembly in 1708, during the afore-mentioned war of independence, and saw the emancipation of Hungary's serfs. Szerencs Castle, originally built as a monastery but later transformed into a fortress, was not spared by the Habsburgs either: its towers were destroyed and the buildings used as a granary. Boldogkő Castle in Boldogkőváralja was of lesser military significance, which might be the reason it is mostly famous for a poem written there by the renowned 16th century Hungarian poet Bálint Balassi, entitled "For The Wine Drinkers" ("Borivóknak"). The castle has been recently renovated, and now includes an exciting visitor centre.





# TOKAJI ASZÚ

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Tokaji Aszú is among the most appreciated sweet dessert wines in the world. The production of dessert wines in Tokaj has been regulated since as early as the 16th century by specific manuals, which identified the vineyards that produced the best grapes for such wines. Tokaj is the world's oldest wine region to have written regulations regarding the origin of grapes and wines. These regulations were basically the first examples of what we call a systematic designation of origin today. The production of Aszú wines has long been strictly regulated to produce the highest possible quality. The name Aszú means a base wine enriched with individually picked "aszú" (semi-dry) grapes, during or upon fermentation. This causes a double fermentation, resulting in a unique richness and depth of aromas. The aszú grapes are picked for weeks individually (one picker can produce 12-18 kilograms of aszú grapes a day), and stored in tubs until the end of the harvest. The tubs have a hole on the bottom, so that juice, which is high in sugar – the so-called "essence" – squeezed out by the sheer weight of the grapes can be collected. The majority of the essence thus collected will be added back to the fermenting Aszú wine, while the remaining portion is bottled.

Not all vineyards produce grapes that are suitable for Aszú wines. The plot needs to have the right microclimate and a considerable natural source of water. The town of Tokaj is built at the confluence of the Tisza and Bodrog rivers, where the autumn air is always moist enough for the Aszú.

What does a proper Aszú require? A type of fungus called *Botrytis cinerea*, commonly known as "grey mould" is a key contributor to the Aszú grape. You need perfectly ripe and healthy grapes for the mould to form.



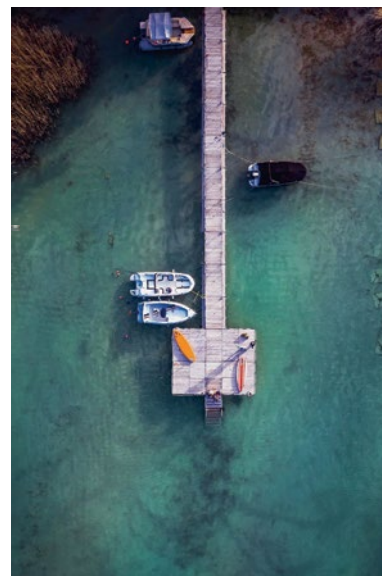




## OUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS OF THE REGION



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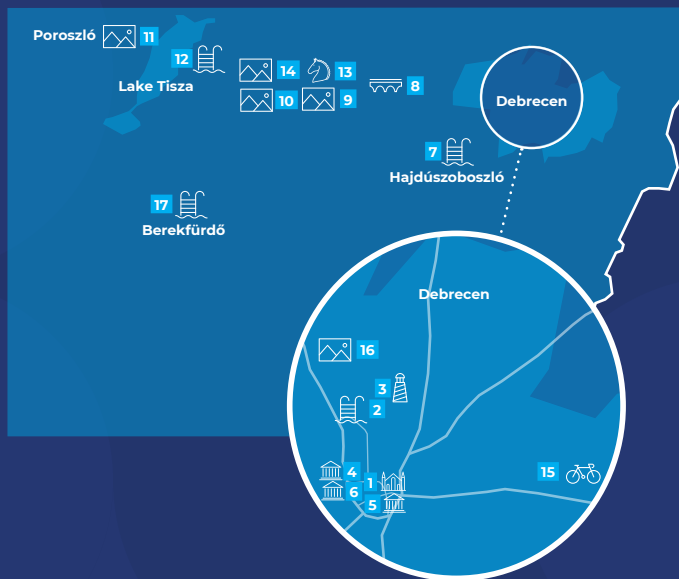
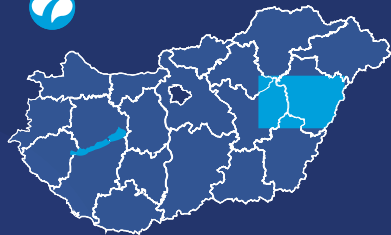


# DEBRECEN AND THE GREAT PLAIN



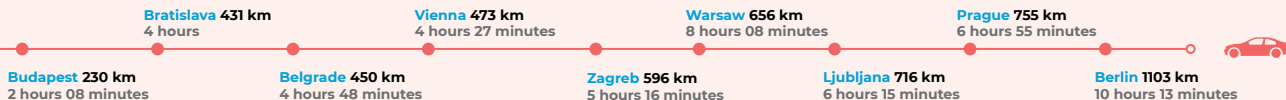
## DEBRECEN, HORTOBÁGY, HAJDÚSZOBOSZLÓ AND LAKE TISZA

Hungary's second most populous city of Debrecen offers a plethora of leisure and recreational as well as entertainment activities in the heart of eastern Hungary and the Great Hungarian Plain. The local university ensures a steady presence of a vibrant youth culture, but Debrecen has a lot to offer the whole family, especially those seeking more active kinds of fun and waterside leisure. Debrecen is a short drive from the famous Hungarian Pusztá of Hortobágy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site offering a close and in-depth look into the lifestyle of traditional herdsman. The nearby town of Hajdúszoboszló boasts health spas and resorts built over hot springs of unique thermal water. Surrounded by undisturbed nature, Lake Tisza is a haven of eco-tourism. Having seen all the attractions, you can choose from a wide variety of kayak and canoe tours on the lake, or bike tours in the surrounding area.



1. Debrecen, Reformed Great Church
2. Debrecen, Aquaticum Spa
3. Debrecen, City Park Water Tower
4. Debrecen, Déri Museum
5. Debrecen, Museum of the Reformed College of Debrecen
6. Debrecen, MODEM Modern and Contemporary Arts Centre
7. Hajdúszoboszló, Hungarospa Gyógyfürdő
8. Hortobágy, Nine-Arched Bridge
9. Hortobágy National Park
10. Hortobágy-Halastó, Öreg Lake Educational Trail
11. Poroszló, Lake Tisza Ecocentre
12. Beaches and boat riding around Lake Tisza
13. Hortobágy, Máta Stud Farm
14. Hortobágy, Puszta programme
15. Debrecen, Kerekerdő Adventure Park
16. Debrecen, City Park (Nagyerdő)
17. Berekfürdő, Spa and Open-Air Pools

## Debrecen







# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU ONLY HAVE A SINGLE DAY TO EXPLORE THE REGION

## START YOUR EXPLORATION OF THE TOWN CENTRE WITH THE MOST FAMOUS LANDMARKS!

An emblematic building and a symbol of Debrecen, the **Reformed Great Church** is the largest reformed church building in Hungary. While the interior of the church alone is well worth a visit, for the best experience take the elevator or the flight of old wooden stairs, and go up to the attic, where you will have the best view of the church spires and can enjoy the stunning sight of the city below from the panoramic balcony that stretches between the two spires.

**Déri Museum** goes beyond the usual historical exhibition found in a town, instead taking visitors on a kind of time travel under the mystic, starry sky. The archaeological exhibition offers an inside look at an actual, genuine mummy via a CT scanner, while samurai-related artefacts are on display in the Japanese collection. The famous triptych by renowned Hungarian painter Mihály Munkácsy is also on display here.

The museum of the **Reformed College of Debrecen** will lead you through the history of the city inside the centuries-old walls of this historic building. The roster of famous students of this College include prominent figures of Hungarian literature – the likes of Mihály Csokonai Vitéz, Ferenc Kazinczy, Mihály Fazekas, János Arany, Endre Ady, Zsigmond Móricz, Lőrinc Szabó and Imre Sarkadi – the elite of the nobility – like members of the Tisza family – and other historic figures, such as Miklós Horthy. The College hosted the National Assembly of Hungary not once but twice – it was the venue for the removal of the Habsburgs from office and the announcement of a state of war between Hungary and Nazi Germany. The College's ceremonial library is reminiscent of that of Trinity College Dublin, while the Csokonai memorial room has memorabilia of the famed poet on display, including his pipe and flutes.

Debrecen's **City Park Water Tower** is a genuine entertainment centre. The upper level serves as a lookout tower, offering a spectacular view of the city. Those with surplus energy can give rock climbing a try, while if you're the type who likes to just sit back with a cup of coffee or a drink, you'll enjoy the exciting interior of the café and bar. The place is also a venue for musical events, and an enigmatic evening activity called "light painting".

REFORMED GREAT CHURCH



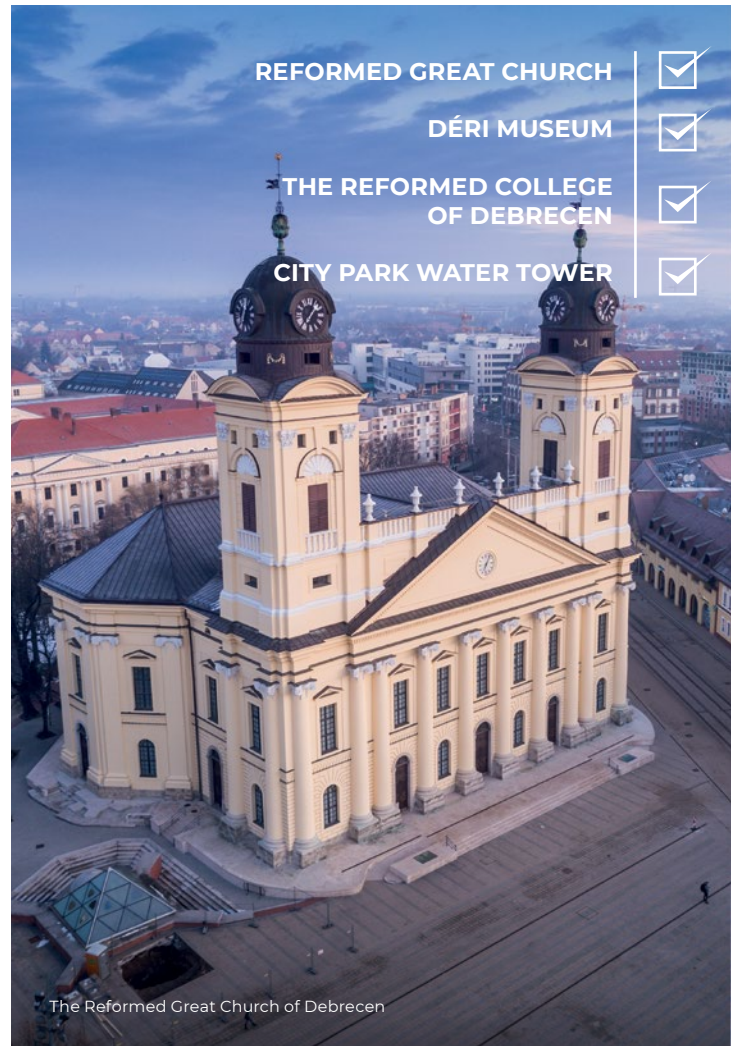
DÉRI MUSEUM



THE REFORMED COLLEGE  
OF DEBRECEN



CITY PARK WATER TOWER



The Reformed Great Church of Debrecen





MODEM MODERN AND  
CONTEMPORARY ARTS  
CENTRE

KEREKERDŐ ADVENTURE  
PARK

HAJDÚSZOBOSZLÓ  
THERMAL SPA



Hajdúszoboszló Thermal Spa



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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The **MODEM Modern and Contemporary Arts Centre** is the best Hungarian exhibition space and the country's most prominent organisation for modern and contemporary Hungarian and international visual arts. The Centre's permanent exhibition is considered one of the most important Hungarian collections, always complemented by a very current and very bold seasonal exhibition showcasing the works of the most on-trend and celebrated visual artists, from both Hungary and the rest of the world.



MODEM Modern and Contemporary Arts Centre

Visiting Debrecen with kids? Then your tour of the city must include a visit to **Kerekerdő Adventure Park**! The Park is as huge as it is fantastic – from stone-age pedal boats and a jungle train through obstacle courses, a haunted castle and talking trees, all the way to a puppet theatre and a cinema, fun and satisfaction for your kids are guaranteed.

A mere 20 kilometres from Debrecen, the **Hungarospa Hajdúszoboszló** is the largest spa and health resort complex in Europe, offering open-air and indoor pools, spas and leisure resorts. The pools offer just about everything, from a wave pool to a hot tub, kids' and adventure pools. The open-air pools, with their unique mineral hot spring water, are perfect for a good, old-school, laid-back and relaxing spa experience.



# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE THREE DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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The name **Hortobágy National Park** will bring to mind the flatland of endless horizons, herdsman with their cattle and the daredevil horsemen. Although the saline flatland suggests a monotonous, undisturbed landscape, in fact, the dry climate typical of the steppelands makes the puszta a really exciting habitat of many faces: groves here, wetlands and marshes there and fauna living their own, natural lives.

Water deposits left behind by the receding river Tisza were used to create a fishery a century ago, and later a narrow-gauge railway was built to transport the fish food there and the fish back. The Hortobágy Fishery Railway is the perfect means to explore the **Hortobágy-Halastó** (Fish Pond) region. You will enjoy the train ride pulled by the small engine called Sziktipró and you can also book a bird-watching tour, where you will be introduced to the history as well as the flora and fauna of the place.

The region's most prominent non-natural attraction is the **Lake Tisza Ecocentre**, which boasts Europe's largest freshwater aquarium and leads you through the flora and fauna of the Tisza Valley. Through the glass walls of the tunnel you can study the ancient sturgeons and belugas – and the complete underwater ecosystem – from up close.

You may want to follow up your visit to the Lake Tisza Ecocentre with a **boat tour** on Lake Tisza to see the exciting, yet romantic face of the lake. A stream in the lake... in the reeds... and in the lush floodplain forests... sand martins and their riverside nests... a winding and ever-narrowing river... a tunnel formed by the canopy of the riverside trees... this is an exciting and breathtaking place, wherever you go and whatever you do. You may also want to include a visit to one of the many lakeside beach resorts – basically, every lakeside town and village has one.

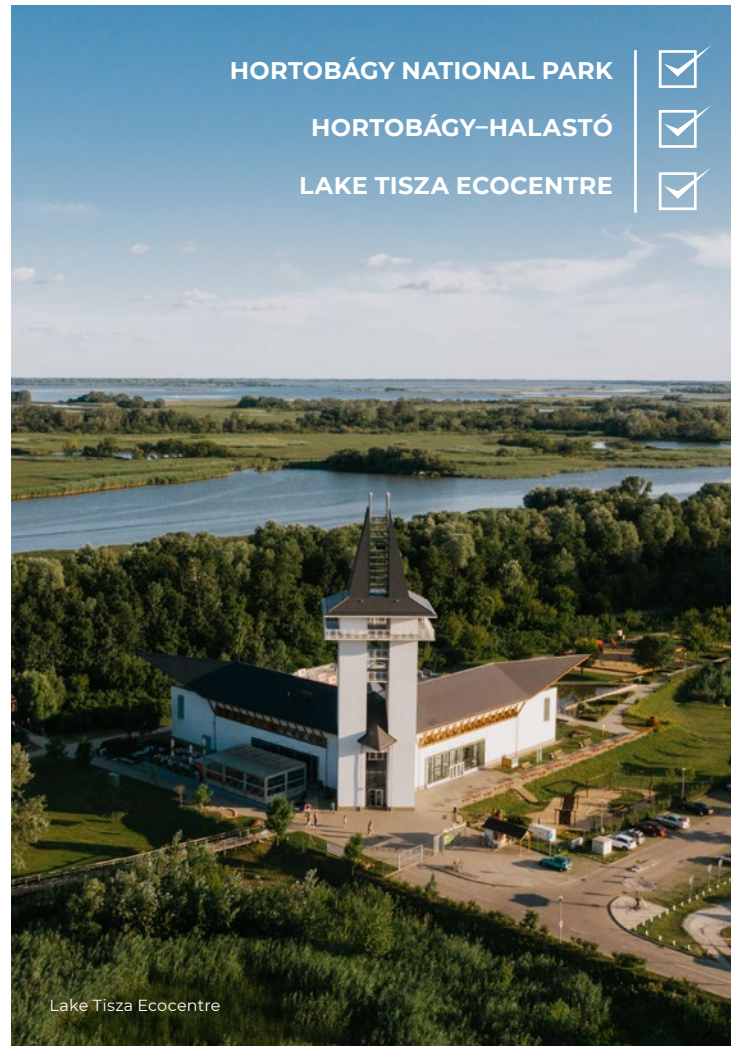
HORTOBÁGY NATIONAL PARK



HORTOBÁGY-HALASTÓ



LAKE TISZA ECOCENTRE



Lake Tisza Ecocentre

MÁTA STUD FARM  
PUSZTA PROGRAMME  
BEREKFÜRDŐ, SPA  
AND OPEN-AIR POOLS



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE FOUR DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

If you can spend a little more time in and around Hortobágy you should most definitely include a visit to the **Máta Stud Farm**. The story of this stud farm takes us back 300 years, to the times of the Napoleonic wars, when a beautiful Anglo-Norman stallion called Nonius, taken from the French as part of the spoils of war, was brought here. The farm exhibition walks you through the complete story, and introduces you to the traditional horse breeding culture of the region – you can even learn a lot about the intimate bond between man and horse. Currently under reconstruction, the exhibition is to reopen soon, in an all-new form!

And since you're visiting Hortobágy, you must explore the region's main claim to fame: the puszta. Cue in to the **Pusztá programme** to get a whiff of grass and flowers, watch the famous Hortobágy mirage, the peacefully grazing Hungarian grey cattle, the flocks of racka sheep, herds of water buffaloes wallowing peacefully about in the mud – and, of course, the rather impressive horse-riding shows.

You may also want to find time to visit the **Berekfürdő Spa and Open-Air Pools** – the second largest such facility in the region, where you can have a relaxing and extremely healthy dip in “the gold of the Kunság”: the local hot spring's mineral thermal water. The pool called “Egg” was the first one here and is definitely not to be missed.







# DEBRECEN CITY PARK (NAGYERDŐ)

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Covering an area of 1,092 hectares and boasting protected species of fauna and flora, the City Park is a superb recreational area. From sports to culture or plain relaxation – this place covers it all. If the weather is fair, visit the City Park Water Tower: an entertainment centre with a rock-climbing wall, a wine terrace, evening music concerts and even a light-painting show.

You may find the Békás pond interesting for its fauna – only to find yourself immersed in the beauty of the “mist theatre” – a colourful light projection over the mist above the fountain. Coming to Debrecen with kids? The City Park Culture Park has a zoo, an amusement park and a beautiful playground in the trees called the Five Acre Wood (in honour of Winnie-the-Pooh's “Hundred Acre Wood”). You may also want to spend some time in the three-storey Agora Science Centre, where you and the children can try interactive lab instruments.



Békás Pond, Debrecen

Boasting an enormous, 1,017-seat auditorium, the Nagyerdei Open-Air Theatre lies majestically among towering pines and oaks. It hosts musical and theatrical performances during the annual Open Air Festival.



Debrecen, City Park Water Tower





The starry sky over the Hortobágy



## THE UNMISSABLE HORTOBÁGY PLAINS

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A perfectly flat horizon, towering sweep wells and grazing cattle in the distance – a quick run-down of what to expect when you come on a cart tour of the puszta. The best you can do is just soak in all the sights and let the Przewalski's horses in the nature park and the masterful routines of the horsemen at the Máta Stud Farm amaze you.

The national park visitor centre has a multimedia exhibition about the natural history of the park, while the Shepherd Museum introduces you to the everyday life of the puszta shepherds around the late 19th and early 20th century.

Do you often stargaze and hunt for shooting stars at night? Look out for the stargazing stations of the Dark Sky Park in the Hortobágy, where, thanks to the scarce light pollution, you'll have an unforgettable experience admiring the sky.





# LEISURE ACTIVITIES AROUND LAKE TISZA

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**THE CHOICE OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES LAKE TISZA OFFERS GO BEYOND KAYAK AND CANOE TRIPS ON THE LAKE AND HIKES AROUND IT – IF YOU ARE INTO BIRDPWATCHING AND PHOTOGRAPHY FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WILL FIND SPECIES LIKE HERONS AND CORMORANTS AT THE LAKE TISZA BIRD RESERVE.**

## **Wildwater adventures**

Row boat, motorboat, kayak or canoe? Whichever you fancy, you can find the right one from the list of 15 guided tour options that let you discover beautiful floodplain forests, lagoons and inlets at any time from spring until autumn. You can even opt for a GPS-based tour if you prefer exploring the lake and have adventures on your own rather than following a guide.

Fancy going for a walk at the edge of the water? Then the Lake Tisza boardwalk and educational trail are just what you're looking for, allowing you to visit the local bird-watching towers.

## **Around Lake Tisza on two wheels**

Lake Tisza is a haven for cyclists. It boasts the country's longest and safest cycle route, some of which is part of the EuroVelo 11 international cycle route network. The 70-kilometre cycle route around the lake runs on the Tisza dyke, where cars can only enter with special permission, making it a highly safe route even for a family bike tour.

The 4-metre high dyke offers a great view of the lake and the enchanting little villages.







# WHAT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IN THE REGION

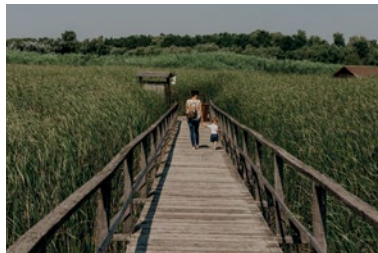
**Újfehértó sour cherry pálinka** is a traditional Hungarian, well-bodied fruit brandy, which is either transparent or has a reddish-pinkish hue if it was fermented with fruit flesh. Protected by a designation of origin (PDO) it displays fresh, citrusy notes in the aroma accompanied by floral side notes, not dissimilar to the finest pralines. Újfehértó sour cherry pálinka started out as a kind of medical essence – as a digestive, for example. The protected designation of origin means this liquor can only be made from 12 variants of sour cherry produced locally.

Home of the Újfehértó sour cherry pálinka, Szabolcs County had neither the geography nor the climate for quality wine production or grain cultivation. The soil is loose and sandy, and apple orchards proved to be ideal for holding it in place, so we can thank world-renowned Hungarian apple cultivation for it. The apples were also used to replace wine: the **Szabolcs apple pálinka**, also a protected designation of origin, was created here. Distilling the fruits of a specific selection of apple variants (mainly Jonathan) results in a liquor that displays a harmony of slight tartness, citrus notes and other fruits in the aroma, complemented with a gentle touch of spiciness. It is often fermented in barrels for an extra level of smoothness and just a hint of yellow in the hue.

Traditional Hungarian gulyás soup was designated a Hungarikum in 2017, and for a good reason: it is by far the most typical and well-known Hungarian dish in the world. A proper gulyás is prepared open-air, in a cauldron over an open fire. The ingredients and recipes vary greatly by region. In the Great Hungarian Plain (Álföldi) region, for example, the **“alföldi gulyás”** has diced or sliced vegetables – most typically carrots and kohlrabi – as well as soup noodles to complement the potatoes.

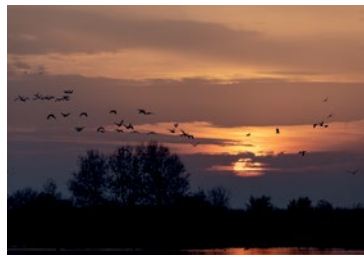
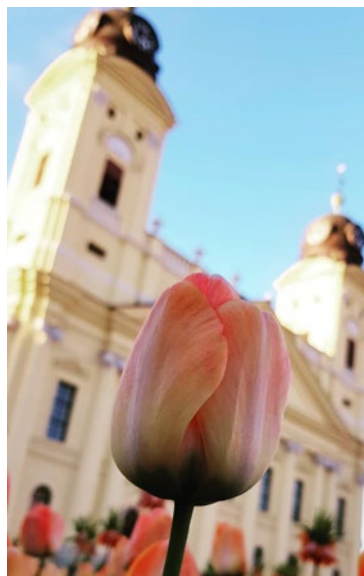
**Pig slaughters** have a traditionally evolved, “carved-in-stone” menu for the day: they open with sautéed onions in fried pig blood followed by the cabbage stew, then a rich soup, then the crackling and, in the evening, the liver and blood sausages. The liver sausages traditionally have rice and marjoram in the filling, although there are more obscure local variants – in Hajdúböszörmény, for example, they add sugar. The **Debrecener pork sausage** started out as a typical fair food. Today it is designated a Hungarikum, and is strictly made of either 100% beef or a combination of 30% beef and 70% pork (from large white or mangalitsa pigs). The meat must be finely sliced using a knife, with no mincing allowed. The seasoning mix is strictly specified (and usually kept secret), and the sausages are gently smoked. Many say the only real way of eating it is fried, crisp on the outside and silkily tender on the inside. Traditionally served with horseradish and wholegrain bread to soak up the juices.





## OUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS OF THE REGION

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# GYULA REGION



Gyula, Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Nádi Boldogasszony Plébánia)



## GYULA REGION

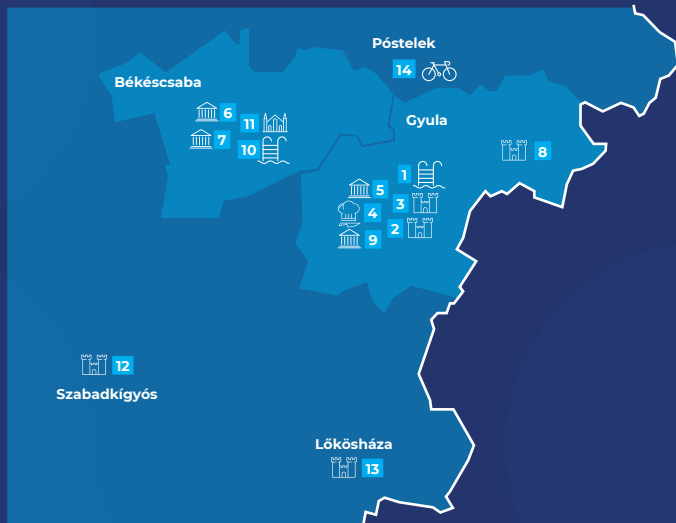
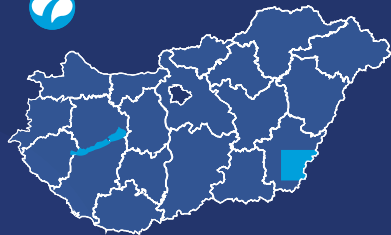
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The valley of the Körös rivers (the so-called "Triple Körös") is a unique, especially calm and peaceful region at the southern reaches of the Great Hungarian Plain, rich in both natural wonders and cultural heritage. What you see today is largely the result of the large-scale river channelling and engineering efforts of the 19th century, but the warm, sunny climate and high-quality soil have been features of the region since the Stone Age.

You may want to visit the prominent towns of the region and look around in their museums, country homes and churches, spend a relaxing day in one of the many spas, or join the local festivities, should you bump into any.

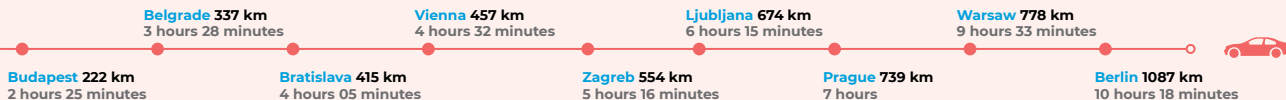
The prime destinations of this region may be the spas and health resorts built on the local hot springs, but the architectural treasures equally warrant a visit – the town and village streets have retained the unique and unmistakable atmosphere of the traditional Hungarian countryside.

The two largest towns in the region – Gyula and Békéscsaba – are a mere 17 kilometres apart, so regardless of which one you're staying in, you can reach the other in 20 minutes by car.



1. Gyula Castle Spa
2. Gyula, Almásy Castle
3. Gyula Castle
4. Gyula, Hundred-Year-Old Confectionery
5. Gyula, Ladics House
6. Békéscsaba, Mihály Munkácsy Museum
7. Békéscsaba, Munkácsy Memorial House
8. Gyulavár Castle
9. Gyula, World Clock
10. Békéscsaba, Árpád Spa and Pool Complex
11. Békéscsaba, Great Lutheran Church
12. Szabadkígyós, Wenckheim Castle
13. Lőkősháza, Vásárhelyi-Bréda Castle
14. Póstelek Leisure Park

## Gyula





# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU ONLY HAVE A SINGLE DAY TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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## THE LAND OF CASTLES AND STATELY HOMES

**Almásy Castle** was built after the Ottomans had been forced out of Hungary. The Baroque building has had a rather tumultuous history: after serving as the residence of the Almásy family it had various functions, from training and nurse schools to an infant care home. It was high time for this magnificent castle to regain its old splendour – after a thorough renovation, today it houses an exciting, interactive exhibition offering visitors an in-depth insight into the life of both the high nobility who used to reside in stately homes like this, as well as the regular staff who ran them: the butlers, stewards and chambermaids.

A short walk from the Almásy Castle lies **Gyula Castle**, central Europe's only remaining Gothic flatland brick fortress, and the Renaissance Castle Museum. Gyula Castle withstood the relentless attacks of the 30,000 strong Ottoman army, led by Suleyman II. Today, it serves as the perfect venue and backdrop for the annual Gyula Castle Theatre, a highly anticipated theatrical event every summer.

After all the culture and history, why not enjoy some well-deserved rest in the **Gyula Castle Spa**, one of Hungary's most beautiful health resorts? It is so close to the Castle that you may feel as though you have just popped out to the castle garden – in fact, the park is a protected nature reserve area, and the thermal water is amongst the finest you will find in Hungary.

And now that you have re-charged your body and soul in the castle and the spa, continue on to some sweet indulgences at the Hundred-Year-Old Confectionery. The building of the **Hundred-Year-Old Confectionery** is even older than the shop itself: built in the Louis XVI style, it is easily more than 200 years old, and even the confectionery itself, the second oldest such business in Hungary, is past its 150th birthday.

ALMÁSY CASTLE



GYULA CASTLE



GYULA CASTLE SPA



HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD  
CONFECTIONERY



Gyula Castle



WENCKHEIM CASTLE  
PÓSTELEK LEISURE PARK



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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### THE TREASURE CHEST OF THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAIN REGION

If you can spare one more day for this nook of Hungary, there are still a lot of destinations well worth visiting around here.

The town of Szabadkígyós has a (not so hidden) treasure – a fairy-tale castle, a true romantic treasure chest: **Wenckheim Castle**. The number of windows in the castle equals the number of days in a year, the number of rooms equals the number of weeks and the number of entrances equals the number of seasons. At the time it was built, this Neo-Renaissance castle, designed by renowned architect Miklós Ybl, was considered the most luxurious and most modern, gorgeously furnished castle in the whole country.

Halfway between Gyula and Békéscsaba, the **Póstelek Leisure Park** offers idyllic settings among copper beeches and age-old oaks. Take a hearty stroll along the old footpath around the park and the magnificent castle. Should you get peckish, you can use any of the open-air fire pits for a quick barbecue, while a superb tavern by the forest has the best local dishes on offer.

Szabadkígyós, Wenckheim Castle



# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE THREE DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

## THE MUNKÁCSY LEGACY

If you still have a day left in the region, why not spend it in the county's capital, Békéscsaba, and explore its many wonders and hidden treasures?


The **Mihály Munkácsy Museum** has been a genuine cultural hub: a venue for concerts featuring the greatest names in Hungarian music, including Bartók and Kodály, and readings of the works of such literary giants as Gyula Illyés, Lőrinc Szabó and Zsigmond Móricz.

Mihály Munkácsy, the legendary Hungarian painter, came to Békéscsaba as an orphan at the age of eight. He worked as a carpenter's apprentice and later as a portrait painter and an actor – later in his life, after success had found him in Paris, he came “home” for his honeymoon. On the 150th anniversary of his birthday, the building where he spent his early years was converted into the **Munkácsy Memorial House** and the interior of the house – where 21 of his paintings are on display – reflects the atmosphere of a typical, rural, middle-class home of the mid-19th century.

All the sights and places worth visiting in Békéscsaba are within easy walking distance, the most notable one being the mighty **Great Lutheran Church** that dominates the cityscape. The altar was brought from Pest on five carts, and took a whole month to assemble. The rather sizeable organ, combined with the great acoustics, make the church hall excellent for classical music concerts, which music lovers can enjoy on a regular basis.

Should all those sights and places prove exhausting, the **Árpád Spa and Pool Complex** is the perfect place to enjoy some well-deserved rest. Once a simple, concrete-lined open-air pool among the remaining trees of what was once Árpád Park, the complex today is a modern thermal spa and health resort, boasting five open-air pools and six indoor ones, a hot tub and a giant water slide, offering a modern urban poolside experience to the whole family, all year round.





LADICS HOUSE  
GYULAVÁR CASTLE



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE FOUR DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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A walk in the renovated, Classicist and Baroque town centre combined with a visit to the **Ladics House** will take you right back to the mid-19th century. Stubborn traditionalists, the Ladics family passed on their family traditions and with them, the intact interior – including the furniture, clothes and household items – of their stately home for five generations. The Baroque building has not served as an actual residence for 30 years but has been turned into an exciting exhibition space, where everything looks as if it were still a living home.

Although a little way off from the town centre, **Gyulavár Castle** is undoubtedly worth the walk. Once the residence of the Andrassy–Wenckheim family, the castle now houses a remarkable ethnography exhibition. This conversion was largely financed by the owner of the neighbouring organic dairy and einkorn wheat farm – the latter is brewed into a fantastic beer they are more than happy to let you taste. The name of the town – Gyula – is also a Hungarian male name, and visitors bearing this name will enjoy free admission to the museum – sadly, they still have to pay for the beer...

### GYULAI SAUSAGE AND CSABAI SAUSAGE... WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

BOTH OF THEM HAVE PAPRIKA IN THEM, BUT CSABAI IS ALWAYS HOT AND CONTAINS CARAWAY, WHILE GYULAI IS MADE WITH PEPPER INSTEAD.

ANOTHER DIFFERENCE IS THAT GYULAI SAUSAGES ALWAYS COME IN PAIRS, WHILE CSABAI COMES AS A SINGLE STICK AND IS SOMEWHAT THICKER "TO MAKE UP".





## LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

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This region offers a plethora of sporting activities, hiking, and ideas for short excursions. Fancy a kayak or canoe tour on the Körös or the Élővíz canal? Choose from a variety of solo and group tour options from spring until autumn.

Or are you a cyclist? If so, you will enjoy the cycle track between Békéscsaba and Gyula – and you can also take the cycle paths running along the embankments. The region also offers a multitude of horseback tours for more experienced riders, and lessons by professional trainers for the less experienced, and beginners.

Szanazug, this enchanting little place at the confluence of the Fekete-Körös and Fehér-Körös rivers, is a true haven of undisturbed ecology with taverns, tourist homes, camp sites, pedal boats on the river, a bowling alley and tennis courts and even a drive-in cinema – be prepared for a total immersion in the peaceful atmosphere of the Hungarian countryside.





## WHAT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IN THE REGION

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The most popular variety of pálinka is made from plum and the last 100 years have seen a boom in plum pálinka distilleries in and around the town of Békés. A true Békés plum pálinka is made with at least 50% locally sourced cherry plums (from within a 30-kilometre radius), using the so-called "kisüsti" ("small-pot") distillation technique. The result is a clear liquid with a pleasant, fruity taste and aromas that will delight all your senses. A so-called pálinka-tour, called the **Békési Plum Pálinka** Route, leads through the towns of Békés, Békéscsaba and Gyula, and offers you a taste of the local pálinka variations in all three places.

Hungary's geographical and climatic conditions are excellent for fruit farming, so no wonder Hungarian fruit is usually of great quality: ripe, juicy and rich in flavour. Most fruits have a favourite region and for the quince it's the Nagykunság. Quince produced at and around Mezőtúr is made into a spicy and mildly hot brandy, the so-called **Nagykunság Quince Pálinka**. Two varieties of quinces grow around here: the apple-shaped fruits display sweeter, somewhat "waxy" notes in their aroma, while the other, pear-shaped quinces have a more robust, citrusy taste.

You cannot possibly visit this region and leave without giving the **gyulai** and **csabai sausages** a try. Both sausage variants are delightful in taste – and both are designated Hungarikum. Gyulai sausages are a bit slimmer and come in pairs, while csabai sausages are thicker and come in single sticks. Both contain a lavish dose of paprika, giving them their typical dark red-to-brown colour, and both are smoked and dried over a hardwood fire, and best enjoyed in coin-thick slices.

Orosháza is also the home of a regal culinary treat: foie gras. Once affordable only to the highest of nobility, foie gras is soaked in milk, then fried in its own fat with onions and garlic – a host may be hard pressed to find a better welcome bite for their guests.

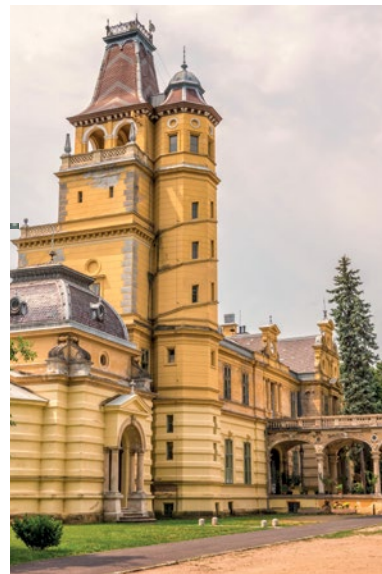






## OUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS OF THE REGION

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# SZEGED REGION



A view of Szeged



## IN AND AROUND SZEGED

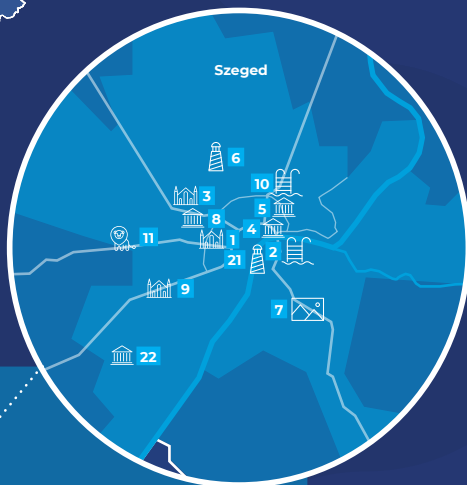
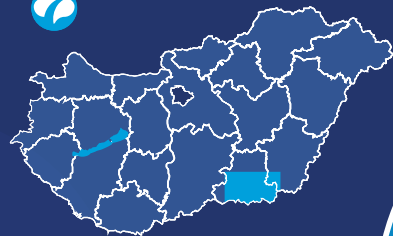
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The Great Hungarian Plain... bet your mind's eye sees fields and the ever-so-mystic mirages. In fact, the region of Szeged offers much, much more. It is a trove of historical and ethnographic treasures, and a land of adventures.

The region has been a bustling place since the Hungarian tribes set foot here, and soon became a prominent agricultural and trade hub. The 20th century saw the region emerge as a stronghold of Hungarian culture and education, in huge part thanks to the internationally renowned University of Szeged, which boasted the likes of the great Hungarian poets Attila József and Miklós Radnóti among its students.

The region offers indulgences for body and soul alike, with ample opportunity to get out of the rat race and just lay back and enjoy life for a few days. If it is, indeed, laid-back relaxation you are seeking then why not try the local spas, restaurants offering the best of local cuisine, or take your backpack for some casual hiking?

Let go and recharge your batteries in the southern Great Plain region, offering the whole family unforgettable experiences.



1. Szeged Votive Church Visitor Centre and the Pantheon
2. Napfényfürdő Aquapolis Szeged
3. Szeged, New Synagogue
4. Szeged, Fekete House
5. Szeged, Ferenc Móra Museum
6. Szeged, Szent István tér, Water Tower
7. Szeged, Botanical Garden
8. Szeged, Reök Palace
9. Szeged, Our Lady of the Snows Franciscan Church
10. Szeged, Anna Thermal Baths
11. Szeged Zoo
12. Makó, Hagymatikum
13. Makó, Hagymaház ("Onion House")
14. Treetop Boardwalk
15. Makó, Synagogue
16. Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park
17. Mórahalom, Saint Elizabeth Spa
18. Mezőhegyes, Stud Farm
19. Hódmezővásárhely, Emlékpont (Remembrance Spot) Museum
20. Hódmezővásárhely, János Tornyai Museum
21. Szeged, Dömötör Tower
22. Szeged, Franciscan Visitor Centre
23. Makó, Makovecz Tour
24. Makó, Maros Adventure Park
25. Hódmezővásárhely, Holocaust Museum

## Szeged



**Budapest** 175 km  
1 hour 41 minutes

**Belgrad** 221 km  
2 hours 07 minutes

**Bratislava** 369 km  
3 hours 20 minutes

**Vienna** 410 km  
3 hours 48 minutes

**Zagreb** 469 km  
4 hours 46 minutes

**Ljubljana** 627 km  
5 hours 30 minutes

**Prague** 692 km  
6 hours 15 minutes

**Warsaw** 869 km  
9 hours 42 minutes

**Berlin** 1041 km  
9 hours 33 minutes





# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU ONLY HAVE A SINGLE DAY TO EXPLORE THE REGION

## A WALK IN THE TOWN CENTRE

If you only have a single day to explore Szeged, head to the **Szeged Votive Church Visitor Centre**. Built to commemorate the ravages of the great flood of 1879, this magnificent church opened in 1930. The colourful stained glass windows were designed by the renowned Hungarian stained glass artist Miksa Róth. The lavish interior includes a real rarity: a mosaic of the Virgin Mary wearing "Szeged" style slippers and a szűr: the traditional fur overcoat worn by Hungarian shepherds. The western steeple of the church doubles as a lookout point.



Standing just outside the church the **Dömötör Tower** is the steeple section of the medieval St Demetrius church that used to occupy the land where the Votive Church now stands. The tower is the oldest surviving building in Szeged. Converted into a baptising chapel in 1931, the tower has a Baptism of Christ, a beautiful secco painted by renowned Hungarian artist Vilmos Aba-Novák. Include a **walk in the central area of Szeged** on your itinerary. Near the church, the Heroes' Gate has another Aba-Novák gem: the World War II-themed mural. Nearby Dugonics tér boasts a musical fountain, filling the air with pleasant tunes every summer. Studded with statues, Kárász utca takes you to Széchenyi tér flanked by the beautiful town hall with the local version of the Bridge of Sighs. On the corner of the square, you can get a taste of mineral water at the famous Anna fountain. Then head on down Tisza Lajos boulevard to a true masterpiece of Hungarian Art Nouveau, the fantastic Reök Palace.

SZEGED CATHEDRAL  
VISITOR CENTRE



DÖMÖTÖR TOWER

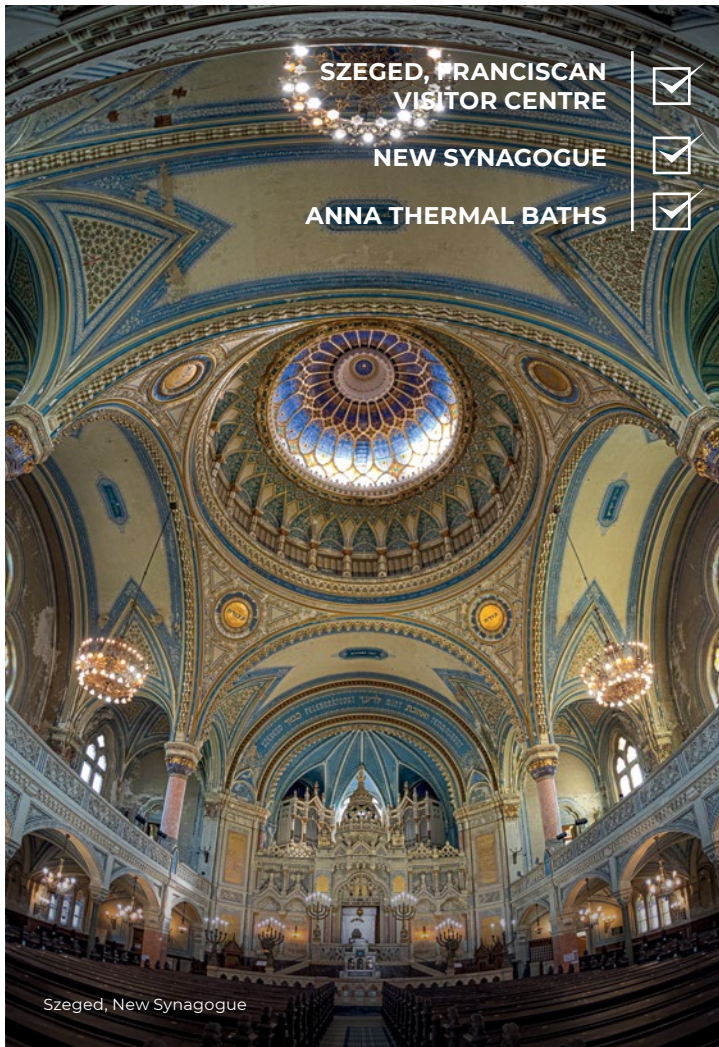


TOWN CENTRE



Szeged Cathedral





SZEGED, FRANCISCAN  
VISITOR CENTRE



NEW SYNAGOGUE



ANNA THERMAL BATHS



Szeged, New Synagogue



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

### EXPLORE THE ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES OF SZEGED!

If you have two days here, you should definitely include a visit to the **Franciscan Visitor Centre**. Built in the 15th century and remodelled several times, the church will amaze you with its Gothic ceiling work and Baroque altar. Notice the replica of King Matthias' monument above the side entrance. Try your hand at pottery, felting and even candle making at the workshops in the courtyard of the adjacent monastery.

The **New Synagogue** is one of Europe's finest Jewish temples, the second largest in Hungary. It was designed by Lipót Baumhorn, and built between 1900 and 1902. The stained-glass windows are the works of Manó Róth. The inner decoration of the dome represents the world: the 24 support columns stand for the 24 hours that make up a day, and the painted motifs depict our faith in God, the Earth and Heaven.

Enjoy an entire morning of tranquillity at the **Anna Thermal Baths**, built in the style of traditional Turkish baths. The Austrian designers created a lavishly decorated complex with elegant façades. Originally a bath house and opened in 1896, the facility was converted into a spa when thermal hot springs were found nearby in the early 20th century. The baths were most recently renovated in 2004, when the spa and wellness sections were placed in separate wings.



# BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE THREE DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

## IMMERSE YOURSELF IN CULTURE!

If you have three days to explore the region, you must include the **Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park** in your plans. Built on the spot where the first-ever national assembly of Hungary was held, the park boasts a truly magnificent painting: the Arrival of the Hungarians. Painted on a single sheet of canvas 120 metres (390 ft) in circumference, the panoramic painting was unveiled to the general public in 1894. The park offers other exciting attractions besides the painting (coined the Feszty Panorama): an open-air ethnography museum and a nomad park are also on display.

A short drive from Szeged, the town of Hódmezővásárhely has a **Holocaust Museum** in the vicinity of the synagogue. The museum pays homage to the Hungarian martyrs of 1944-1945 and those who helped them, partly through personal reminiscences of the survivors. The clock of the synagogue always shows 10 past 10 – the exact time the deportation of the town's 737 Jewish citizens started.



Feszty Panorama, National Heritage Park, Ópusztaszer

A brand new concept in Hungary, the **Emlékpont ("Remembrance Spot")** museum experience shows how the Communist dictatorship worked through the history of a specific town, what the 45 years of the Communist era looked and felt like in Hódmezővásárhely, what households looked like, and who were the people on both sides of the story we call the Socialist dictatorship in Hungary. The exhibition is spectacular, modern and often contains a touch of humour, as if you were watching a film.

ÓPUSZTASZER NATIONAL  
HERITAGE PARK



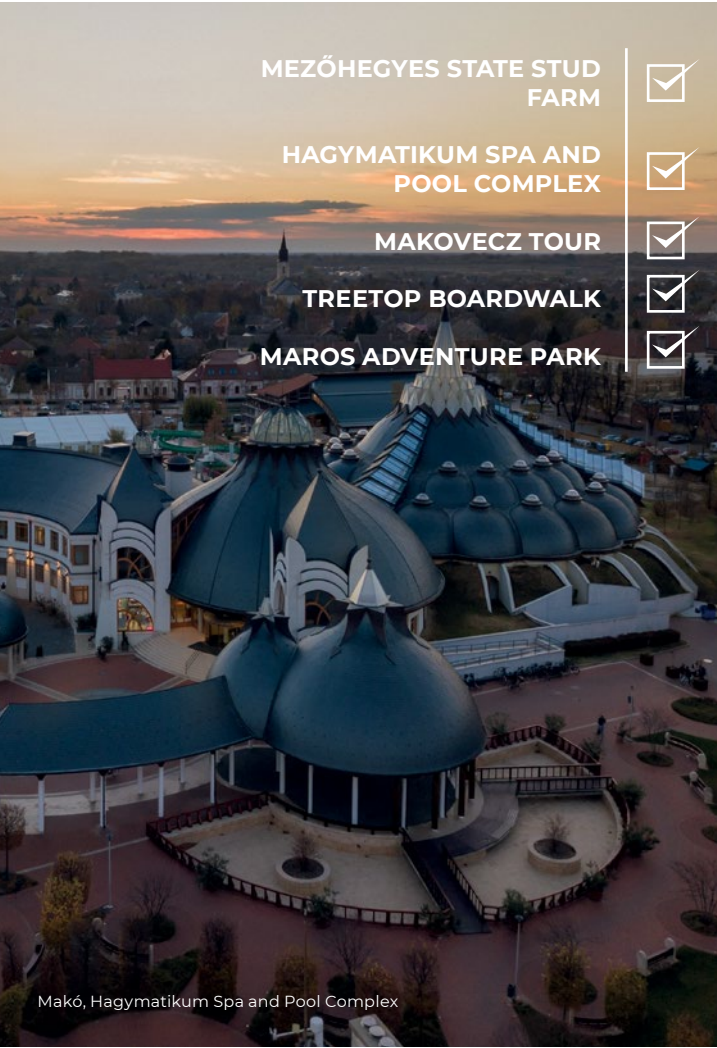
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM



EMLÉKPONT  
(REMEMBRANCE SPOT)



Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park



MEZŐHEGYES STATE STUD  
FARM

HAGYMATIKUM SPA AND  
POOL COMPLEX

MAKOVECZ TOUR

TREETOP BOARDWALK

MAROS ADVENTURE PARK



## BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE FOUR DAYS TO EXPLORE THE REGION

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A detour to the **Mezőhegyes State Stud Farm** is highly recommended. Here, you will find the only horse carriage museum in Hungary and the famous Nonius horses – you can even pop into the saddle or the carriage for a quick ride.



Treetop Boardwalk, Makó

The fantastic **Hagymatikum Spa and Pool Complex** in Makó is full of surprises. The exquisite complex offers various pools, mud wrap treatments and saunas – with no fewer than nine variations of those.

No other town in Hungary boasts as many buildings designed by renowned Hungarian organic architect Imre Makovecz as Makó. Get to know all 12 of them on the guided **Makovecz Tour**.

The **Treetop Boardwalk** gives visitors the unique opportunity to marvel at life in the foliage from up close. Running along the river Maros, the 190-metre boardwalk is dotted with information boards, explaining what you can see.

The **Maros Adventure Park** offers genuine adventure – it is the only place in Hungary to have a canopy line ride over a river.

Makó, Hagymatikum Spa and Pool Complex





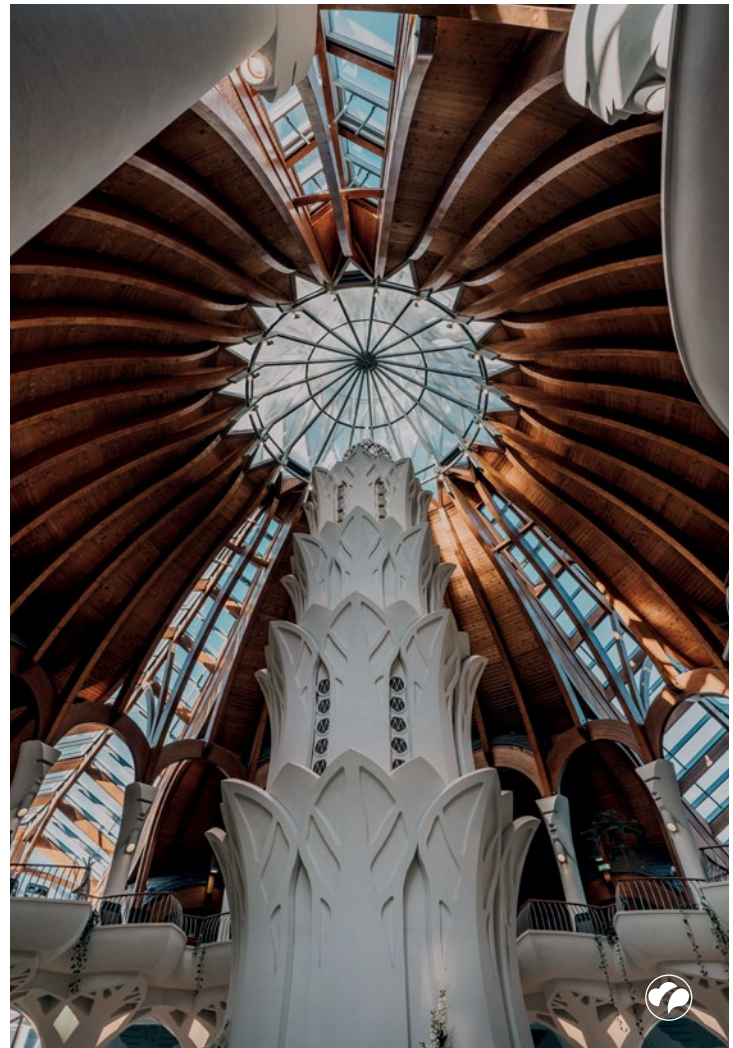
# THE MAKÓ HAGYMATIKUM

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The beautiful town of Makó lies a mere 6 kilometres away from the Romanian border. The most iconic building of this neat little town, the so-called Hagymatikum, is the work of award-winning Hungarian architect Imre Makovecz. One of the “seven wonders of Csongrád County”, the Hagymatikum is the destination of thousands of visitors from all around the world looking for high-quality relaxation. Think of it as a kind of bath and relaxation sanctuary, where you can choose from a wide range of services from the indulgent to the playful.



The Thermal Pool combines the health benefits of the local thermal water and the healing power of the Maros river mud. Visitors suffering from rheumatic and joint problems and arthritis will find this water to be wonderfully soothing.





## WHAT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IN THE REGION

The most typical wine of the Great Hungarian Plain is the **Kunsági Csereszegi Fűszeres**, born of the crossing of the Irsai Olivér and Red Traminer grapes. A definite hint of muscat and spiciness in the notes, with impulsive acidity – this wine is impossible to miss in and around Szeged.

Another typical Hungarian wine is **Kadarka** – this grape comes from Asia, and the wine made from it in the Great Plain is among the best known variants. Kadarka is typically lighter yet spicy and fruity – a decidedly elegant wine that complements an afternoon visit to a Mediterranean-style restaurant or bar terrace in Szeged.

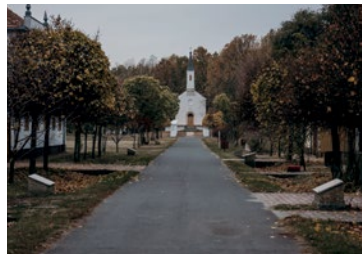
The **Fisherman's Soup à la Szeged** is made with carp and this hearty gem of Hungarian cuisine is an aromatic adventure. First, the stock is made with fish cuts, onions and quality paprika; this stock is then mashed, the sliced carp flesh is added and cooked over a slow fire.



The **chicken paprikash**, a very popular Hungarian dish today, started out as a simple everyday dish of peasants and shepherds. Chicken paprikash is the combination of basically every typical ingredient of the Hungarian cuisine including the spices: onion, garlic, paprika powder, ground pepper, Hungarian yellow pepper and sour cream.







# OUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS OF THE REGION

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**WANT TO SEE AND  
DISCOVER EVEN MORE?  
LOOK FOR THE OTHER BUCKET LISTS.**



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Dr Zoltán Guller, CEO

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HUNGARIAN  
TOURISM AGENCY

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1027 Budapest, Kacsá u. 15-23.  
1525 Budapest Pf.: 97  
+36 1 488 8700  
info@mtu.gov.hu

 [visithungary.com](http://visithungary.com)  
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