

Top attractions at

BALATON

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WINE DISTRICTS

- BADACSONY
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CULTURE:

- Keszthely** Festetics Castle, Helikon Palace Museum
- Balatonszárszó** Attila József Memorial House
- Szigliget** Szigliget Castle
- Tihany** Benedictine Abbey of Tihany
- Balatonszőlős** Reformed church from the Árpadian era
- Keszthely** Balaton Museum
- Balatonkenese** Balatonkenese Folk Centre
- Buzsák** Buzsák Folk Art Centre
- Balatonszentgyörgy** Csillagvár Museum
- Nagyvázsony** Kinizsi Castle
- Zalaszentő** Kotsy Watermill
- Örvényes** Örvényes Watermill
- Csopak** Plui Mill
- Sümeg** Sümeg Castle
- Somogyvár** St Ladislaus National Memorial Site
- Rezi** Ruins
- Veszprém** Veszprém Castle
- Balatonfüred** Tagore Promenade



ACTIVE RECREATION:

- Balatonboglár** Sphere Lookout
- Monoszló** Hegyestű
- Badacsony** Kisfaludy Lookout
- Balatonederics** Csodabogyós Cavern
- Eplény** Ski Resort Intersport Siaréna Eplény (winter), Adventure Mountain (summer)
- Balatonmagyaród** Kányavár Island
- Zamárdi** Kőhegy Lookout
- Köröshegy** Köröshegyi Lavender Farm
- Szentbékáll** Sea of Stones
- Balatonfüred** Lóczy Cavern
- Tihany** Őrtorony Lookout
- Tihany** Hermitage (cave cell)
- Balatonfenyves**
- Balatongyörök** Szépkilátó
- Szólád** Szólád loess Cellar row
- Fonyód** Castle Hill Lookout



FAMILY PROGRAM:

- Balatonföldvár** Balatonföldvár Visitor Centre of Shipping History
- Tapolca** Lake Cavern
- Veszprém** Veszprém Zoo
- Balatonfüred** Annagora Aquapark
- Balatonboglár** Balatonboglár Adventure Park, Bobsled track
- Balatonfenyves** Balatonfenyves Narrow-Gauge Railway
- Balatonfüred** Bodorka Aquarium
- Keszthely** Imre Festetics Zoo
- Badacsonyörs** Folly Arboretum
- Siófok** Galerius Pool Complex and Spa
- Zalakomár** Kápolnapusztja Buffalo Reserve
- Tihany** Lavender House Visitor Centre
- Salföld és Ábrahámhegy** Salföld Manor
- Cyenesdiás** Nature House Visitor Centre
- Zamárdi** Zamárdi Adventure Park
- Zalasabar** Zobor Adventure Park
- Keszthely** Georgikon Manor Museum
- Siófok** Water Tower
- Tapolca** Malom Lake



GASTRONOMY:

- Cyenesdiás** Cyenesdiás Market and Community Space
- Káptalanfő** Liliomkert Market
- Balatonlelle** Rádpusztá Gastro Adventure Manor
- Tihany** Tihany Market Place



THERMAL WATER AND BATH:

- Hévíz** Lake Hévíz
- Kehidakustány** Kehida Thermal Park, Family and Health Spa

Mingling shades of blue, green and turquoise, dotted with whitewashed sails in the distance, Balaton is Hungary's premier holiday destination, a natural treasure providing visitors with different but equally incredible experiences, no matter the season.

The largest lake in Central Europe awaits visitors year-round with unique natural and cultural attractions. You can enjoy excellent local gastronomy, first-class wines, shorelines with romantic reed-beds, and a wide range of outdoor activities. Lake Balaton is busiest in the summer, when the entire 235 km long shoreline is packed with families, couples, and friends on holiday. However, the lake offers plenty of pleasures in every season: whether your preference is sipping wine in the sunshine on the volcanic slopes of the north shore, making a splash by moonlight at a lively south-coast music festival, or exploring the region on two wheels or in a pair of sturdy boots, you won't be disappointed. In recent years, however, Balaton has been transitioning from a seasonal, summer-only to a year-round destination, with ever-improving infrastructure and tempting visitors with its many new attractions.

Its wide range of health tourism options represents a significant allure, thanks to the multiple varieties of medicinal waters in the Balaton region.

1

KESZTHELY

Festetics Castle, Helikon Palace Museum

The Festetics family began the construction of the glamorous Baroque-style castle in the 18th century, reaching its current size by the 1880s. Its huge and colourful garden is considered the most significant piece of garden architecture in Central Europe. The exhibition in the Helikon Palace Museum offers an opulent display of the Festetics family's luxurious lifestyle, along with its Baroque interior, and it houses the only intact baronial private library remaining in Hungary.



5

BALATONSZÁRSZÓ

Attila József Memorial House

The poet Attila József spent his last days in the Horváth Pension in Balatonszárszó, from where he left for his last walk in 1937. The building currently houses a permanent exhibition featuring the last period of the poet's life before his tragic death, also retrospectively commemorating his entire oeuvre. This out-of-the-ordinary exhibition displays material of the Petőfi Literary Museum, privately owned documents, letters, unpublished photos, and personal objects from the poet's heritage.



9

SIÓFOK

Water Tower

Built in 1912, this 45 m high tower has not been involved in the water supply since the 1970s. These days the building functions as a tourism and technology centre, also housing a café and an Oxygen Bar. By its centenary, the tower was fully renewed, and a panoramic lift takes the visitors to the upper levels where a breath-taking view opens up. Due to the slow rotation of the top part of the building, the view can even be enjoyed sitting down.



2

BALATONBOGLÁR

Sphere Lookout

Officially called Xantus János Lookout, the 15 m diameter aluminium structure sphere stands at 165 metres on Várdomb in Balatonboglár. This extraordinary building, also the symbol of Balatonboglár, provides a sweeping view of the monadnocks of the north shore, and even the hills of Somogy. It was originally designed for the Budapest International Fair in 1963, and was transferred to the Várdomb three years later. During the renovation in 2012, an adventure park was built next to it.



10

TIHANY

Benedictine Abbey of Tihany

The abbey, founded by (Saint) Andrew I almost a thousand years ago, is the well-known symbol of the Tihany Peninsula; its founding charter is the oldest Hungarian document preserved in its original form. The famous murals of its church were created by Lajos Deák-Ébner, Károly Lotz, and Bertalan Székely; the intricate wooden statues and altars are the works of Sebestyén Stuhlhoff. The founding king was buried in the undercroft; this is the only well-preserved royal burial site from the Árpadian era.



3

MONOSZLÓ

Hegyesű

A remnant crater of a volcano active eight million years ago, the monadnock between Zánka and Monoszló is one of the most unique geological sites of Hungary. Basalt mining exploited the northern slopes of the 337 m high hill, but it also exposed its internal structure and the lava frozen in a former volcanic chimney, solidified into pentagonal and hexagonal vertical basalt columns. At the foot of the hill, an outdoor stone park and a permanent exhibition showcase the volcanic activity.



7

SZIGLIGET

Szigliget Castle

To enjoy one of the most beautiful panoramas of Lake Balaton, you have to walk up a picturesque hill. The Turks never captured the 750-year-old fort; it was burned down by a lightning strike, and later destroyed by the Habsburgs. The castle was renovated by 2020, enriched with several interactive elements, exhibitions and indoor space. The everyday existence of a medieval castle comes to life at the exhibition, from the smithy to the armoury, and the Upper Castle offers a wonderful view of Lake Balaton and the monadnocks.



11

VESZPRÉM

Lake Cavern

The zoo's enormous grounds are home to various exotic and zoological rarities, such as the Siberian tiger, the mantled guereza, and the royal python. Exploring the zoo could take an entire day: the Chimpanzee World with its climbing walls and the African exhibit are popular among children, but the new bear park is worth a visit, too. The popular Dino Park welcomes small children, where they can learn about the long-lost world of dinosaurs in a playful manner.



4

HÉVÍZ

Lake Hévíz

The medicinal water of this unique thermal lake is well known far and wide. Due to its calcium, magnesium, sulphur, and mild radon content, the water has an extremely beneficial effect on rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases, among others. The water temperature is 33-35°C in summer, but it does not go below 24°C even in winter. Apart from bathing, visitors can enjoy massage and spa treatments, or relax in the sauna and the hot tub in the modern bath house built on the lake.



6

BADACSONY

Kisfaludy Sándor Lookout

The Kisfaludy Sándor Lookout, standing at 437 metres on the highest spot of the monadnock, is named after the cavalier poet of the Badacsony. The top level of the curious shaped 18-metre building offers a unique view of the Tapolca Basin and the Káli Basin's volcanic hills, and even the Tihany Peninsula can be visible in clear weather. A visitor can identify the monadnocks with the 360-degree panoramic view. The vineyards and the legendary Rózsakő (Rose Stone) are all worth a short stop along the way.



8

BALATONFÜRED

Tagore Promenade

Lake Balaton's best-known promenade is named after the Indian poet and Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, who was cured in the Cardiac Hospital. Many celebrities have followed his example to plant trees along the promenade where today statues and plaques relate the town's history and famous guests. Lake Balaton's "main street" is lined with restaurants, cafés, and ice cream parlours; the new Bodorka Visitor Centre, and the renovated Vitorlás Square with the statue of István Bujtor, have recently joined the list of sights.



12

TAPOLCA

Lake Cavern

The Lake Cavern is a shorter section of the several kilometre long cave system under the city, discovered during a well drilling in 1903. After exploring the Visitor Centre's interactive exhibition about the karst region, you can go boating on a 180-metre section of the crystal-clear subterranean water and take a short walk in the limestone caverns. When back on the surface, take a leisurely stroll to the nearby Mediterranean-style Lake Malom (Mill), home to the Tapolca Trout and Wine Festival.

