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# Unwind under the sun

ing exhibitions. Szeged is not only pleasing to the eye, as the whole area is justifiably famous for its culinary specialties such as Tisza River Fish Soup, or homegrown onions and peppers. The Hungarian delicacies prepared by the cozy restaurants and roadhouses, as well as the colorful gastronomic festivals will meet the challenge to satisfy those seeking culinary delights. Makó, Szeged and Mórahalom also await their visitors with popular spas and adventure baths, where all ages, from the youngest to the oldest, shall find the most suitable form of recreation. If you are looking for thrilling activities, you can embark on a romantic tour on land or water.

Take the routes of the Great Plain to see fringing mirages, meet the Hungarian traditions and the irresistible beauty of the flora and fauna of the region. Our booklet offers you an insight on the cultural life of the city of Szeged its surroundings, and also you shall discover the built and natural heritage, as well as the gastronomic treasures of the region.

# 5+1 unmissable experiences

#### TAKE A BIRD'S-EYE-VIEW OF SZEGED

If you undertake to walk up the 287 steps of the Szeged Dome, you will enjoy the sight of the bustling main street with its many cafés and restaurants, the Secessionist buildings fitted into the urban scenery as mosaic pieces, and the glamorous view of the curves of the Tisza river from the dome tower.



#### SIGHTSEEING BY BOAT

The city of Szeged has a long history of boating and building ships, also there are many boats, floating houses and dance clubs on the Tisza River are an integral part of the scenery. If you want to be closer to the water, enjoy a cozy boat cruise and admire the wildlife of the Tisza River and the estuary of the Maros River.





#### SPLASH IN THE WATER!

The Makó landmark is brimming with artworks of organic architecture. The architect, Imre Makovecz said himself that the bath he designed is a shrine raised to celebrate water and purity. Make a visit to Mórahalom too, where the bath welcomes those looking to dabble in some aquatic fun.



#### **ATTEND THE OPEN AIR THEATRE**

In a breathtaking setting offered by the opulent Cathedral, the famous Szeged outdoor Theatre awaits those thirsty for culture putting on stage contemporary and classic performances in the summertime. You shall choose from a number of performances, ranging from musicals to comedies.

#### FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HUNGARIANS' ANCESTORS.

Ópusztaszer was even mentioned in the stories relating the Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin. Discover the National Heritage Park, committed to preserving ancient Hungarian customs and traditions. You can learn about the adventurous life of our ancestors with the help of numerous monuments, traditional buildings, and the demonstration of traditional trades.



#### TASTE THE HUNGARIKUM FISH SOUP!

If there is an iconic meal symbolizing Szeged and the region, definitely Tisza river fish soup is it. Made with local ground paprika, four kinds of fish from the Tisza River, onions from Makó and locally produced peppers, this soup is sure to impress any day of the year.



# Take a dip in the temple of thermal water!

The Christian church-like onion form building greets visitors with white walls and towers from far. When stepping inside you will see the redoubtable tree of life that is also known from the Hungarian folk tales and the Hungarian pagan folk religion; it is also possible to swim around the mighty tree.



Designed by Makovecz Imre, the Hagymatikum spa offers dozens of services while visitors can relax in 9 saunas and 18 outdoor and indoor pools. The spa offers numerous medical services taking advantage from the healing effects of the Makó medicinal water and mud from the Maros River. The mud bath is unbeatable in relieving rheumatic pains and also known to reduce the symptoms of psoriasis.

# Recreation for the whole family: bathing and healing

The healing properties of medicinal waters of Hungary have been known for 2000 years. A significant part of Hungary's medicinal water sources are located in the Great Plain, and the spas are key tourist attractions. The waters containing special minerals strengthen the body's immune system, improve well-being, cure diseases, also serve recreational purposes and promote entertainment.

#### NAPFÉNYFÜRDŐ AQUAPOLIS OF SZEGED

The recreational spa offers heartwarming entertainmet even in the coldest months. The slide park winds a total of 1,000 meters, while the slide tower, which has the longest slide in Europe, offers a 360-degree panorama of Szeged. The spa offers a range of massage treatments, hot tubs and saunas, while in the wing reserved for medical treatments you will enjoy services such as rehabilitation, physiotherapy and rheumatology. The spa did not forget about the smallest ones, and offers for babies and their moms playhouses installed in the adventure pool.

#### **ST. ELIZABETH THERMAL SPA**

Mórahalom Spa offers many pampering services for their guests. The thermal pools having different water temperatures are effective in treating diseases of the knee and shoulder joints, while the sauna and wellness area guarantees maximum relaxation. The 3,000-square-meter adventure pool also offers a heavenly experience for those wishing to get entertained.





#### ANNA BATH

The bath building of Szeged, which has been wonderfully renovated a few years ago, serves as a thermal and wellness bath for relaxation, revitalization and regeneration. If you want to hide from the world, visit the small maze-like building and try its cozy pools! You shall enjoy Anna Bath's services in the daytime, nevertheless, evening bathing events are often organized. You shall also taste the medicinal water rich in minerals gushing from the Anna well in front of the building all year.

# Wandering in the city of sunlight

#### CULTURE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS ON EVERY STREET CORNER

The County Seat is one of the cultural centers of the country that has been attracting artists for many decades. The atmosphere of Szeged is dominated by a vibrant cultural life spearheaded by galleries, cozy cafés and bars filled with university students. Many world-renowned personalities have ties with the city, such as the famous poet Attila József or the creator of the Ford T-model, József Galamb, both studied in Szeged.



The current shape of the city of Szeged is largely determined by the great flood of 1879, which swept away almost the entire settlement of bygone days. Although the disaster caused stinging damages, it allowed the city to replenish its architectural reserves. The moderate décor of the city center is still intact and offers an eye-catching sight to this day. The building complex of Kárász utca and the connected Klauzál square were awarded the Europa Nostra Prize in 2004.



#### WOOSH PAST ON TWO WHEELS

The city's sleek structure and flat surface make it easy terrain to wander around. You can jump on a Segway or rent a bike to explore the stunning buildings and neat public spaces of the County Seat on the bank of the Tisza River.





# **BUCKET LIST**

### CATHEDRAL OF SZEGED

The dazzling neo-Romanesque Cathedral of Szeged is located in the city center and was raised by the inhabitants after the flood. The highest point of both towers is at 298.5 feet (91 meters) above the zero point of the Tisza River, and 265.7 feet (81 meters) from the pavement.

### DANCING CLOCK

Opposite the dome you will see the music clock that plays music twice a day at 12:15 PM and 5:45 PM. The clock work displays figures representing graduating students and their masters dancing to a local folk song and a graduation song.



#### PANTHEON

Pantheon features portraits of famous researchers and artists having ties to the city. Here starts the ramification of the fabulous Rerrich Béla Square that the Nobel Prize winner biochemist, first isolating vitamin C, Szent-Györgyi Albert also admired from the window of his office.



#### BLACK HOUSE

Once a casino and later an edition office, the building now houses unique exhibitions that provide an insight into the history of Szeged.

## FERENC MÓRA MUSEUM

The neoclassical museum awaits visitors with scientific, historical and fine art exhibitions.





## SZÉCHENYI SQUARE

Town Hall, built in the braid style, immediately attracts the eye, on the side of the building the Bridge of Sighs invigorate Franz Joseph's intended visit in 1883.

## **KÁRÁSZ STREET**

The main street of Szeged, the Kárász Street is a Mediterranean-style promenade where you shall find elegant shops and listed buildings, and after the long walk sit in a nice café and indulge yourself with a treat.

#### SAINT MARY OF THE SNOWS CHURCH

The nearly 500-year-old Franciscan Church in Szeged Alsóváros District, the second oldest church in Hungary, invites you on a historical journey.

# Art Nouveau in the Southern Great Plain

### SZEGED, THE BASTION OF ART NOUVEAU

Art Nouveau, also known as Secession in Vienna and Hungary, is one of the defining trends in applied arts and fine arts at the turn of the twentieth century that also had a great influence on Hungarian artists such as Lechner Ödön or Zsolnay Vilmos. The Hungarian ramification of Art Nouveau employed organic motifs and individual ornamentations based on Hungarian folk motifs. Szeged boasts outstanding examples of these creations, with nearly 50 condominiums, community spaces and statues built in this style in the city center. Joining a guided tour or using a smartphone application you will find these beautiful art works.

#### **RELIGION, CULTURE AND NATURE AT THE SAME PLACE**

One of Art Nouveau's outstanding buildings, New Synagogue and its soul-warming garden, are world-renowned wonders. The world's fourth largest synagogue regularly opens its doors to concerts and theater events.

### **CROWN JEWEL OF THE HUNGARIAN ART NOUVEAU**

The work of Magyar Ede, also known as the Hungarian Gaudí, contributed greatly to the Mediterranean atmosphere of Szeged. Several outstanding Art Nouveau buildings in the city bear the imprint of the short-lived architect, including the Reök Palace, which is a unique representative of the Hungarian Art Nouveau.



#### **ARTISTIC WATER TOWER**

Few water towers boast such a lavish façade as the Szent István tér water tower, which is under special industrial heritage protection since 2003. The building, which was handed over at the beginning of the 20th century, also has an unparalleled exhibition of soda-water and physics, surrounded by elegant Art Nouveau railings and building elements reminiscent of the Industrial Revolution.

#### SILHOUETTES OF MAIDENS GAZING AT SZEGED

Located on the corner of Kárász Street, the Ungár-Mayer Palace is one of the masterpieces of Hungarian Art Nouveau architecture. The outstanding talent of the architect, Magyar Ede, is most evidenced when observing the onion dome dominating the building, decorated with statues of maidens made of tin and bouquets of flowers, which still give a dreamlike impression to the building.

#### THE SPARKLING CASTLE

The light elegance of the robust Count's Palace, which overlooks three streets at the same time, captivates the observer in the blink of an eye. Oriental and Hungarian motifs mix on the façade, and the gold weaving through the mosaic ornament literally shines in the light of the rising sun.





# In the footsteps of Makovecz buildings

The vista of the border town of Makó is largely determined by the work of Hungary's Miklós Ybl and Kossuth Prize-winning architect, Imre Makovecz. The creator of organic architecture in Hungary forged closer links with the city in connection with the renovation work of the Onion House, and it is not a coincidece that some of his works resemble to onions, as this vegetable is the symbolic product of Makó.



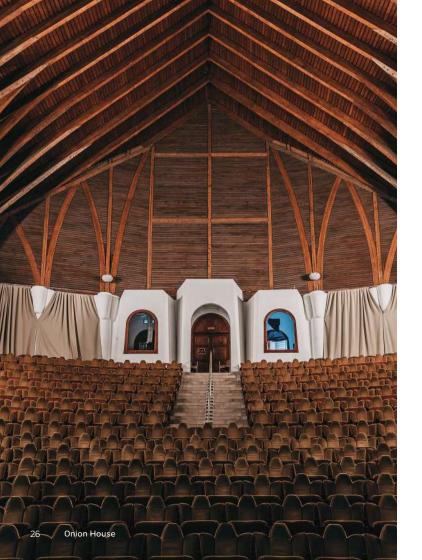


#### **ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE**

The followers of the organic architecture who started their career after the Second World War were convinced that the building must be organically connected to the site in its material and purpose. This special tandem of nature and creativity also inspired Hungarian architects, including Makovecz Imre, to whom we owe the design of dozens of unique buildings.

#### THE ONION DESIGN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

The Hagymatikum, the jewel of Makó is one of the seven wonders of Csongrád-Csanád County. The Hagymatikum is a real shrine for bathing and relaxation, offering dozens of entertainment services.





#### **OPEN AIR MUSIC**

One of the last masterpieces of Makovecz, the Onion Dome Music Pavilion hosts summer nights music concerts. The building is truly unique as it hosts a sound-absorbing bird in the pavilion, which serves to adjust the acoustics of the place. Whether you like light or classical music, you are sure to find a concert for your taste here.

## HEART OF MAKÓ

The Onion House, built on the site of the former Onion Hall, is the economic and cultural center of Makó city today. The astonishing part of the building, the two semi-glazed columns testify for the unmistakable style of Makovecz one shall recognize from afar. Inside the Onion House there is a 390-seat arena that serves as a venue for community events.

### **GROVE OF BUSES**

The central bus station, handed over in 2010, symbolizes a petrified grove. The locally cast columns display chunky tree trunks and light elements of the roof structure display tree branches.

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# Hungarikums on your plate

#### PAPRIKA OF SZEGED

Szeged and the region offer special culinary encounters serving several Hungarikums on your plate. The world-famous products of the region are red paprika, onion from Makó, local salami and fish soup from Szeged. Paprika dishes became nationaly recognized in the 1860s. The traditional recipes and their rethought versions have been aging the reputation of Hungarian gastronomy worldwide ever since.

### DUEL OF FISH SOUPS

Although it is difficult for the two adversaries to admit this, the fish soup from Szeged and Baja are both majestic and Hungarian. The main difference between them is that the Baja version of the fish soup is made from only one type of fish (mostly carp), served with fine dough, and the fish are not mashed.

### HUNGARIKUM IN RÖSZKE

The word paprika comes from the South Slavic region and has even been included into the English vocabulary over the centuries. The very instructive exhibition and guided tour of the Röszke Museum, located only 12 km from Szeged, presents the paprika from Szeged, which has become a Hungarikum and world-famous culinary specialty.



HINT: Take a glass of rosé from the Great Plain along with your fish soup.

# 5 gastro festivals worth visiting



#### SZEGED CHARCUTERIE AND PÁLINKA FESTIVAL

Szeged Meal and Pálinka Festival is organized every year during the city festival season, where the representatives of Hungarian artisans, the best producers of Pálinka brandy and treats are represented.

#### SZEGED DAY CELEBRATION SERIES

Szeged Wine Festival is the unmissable program of the Szeged Day Celebration Series, and when we talk about wine festival, it means sipping the best Hungarian wines and friendly conversations lasting into the night. During these festivities, the Klauzál Square is also transformed into a Gastro Court, where sensational snacks and drinks provide for a cheerful atmosphere.

#### HUNGARIKUM FESTIVAL

Hungarikum Festival in Szeged is a refreshing event organized by the city on the banks of the Tisza River, where a wide range of handicrafts and homemade specialties from primary producers are available. They offer quality goods that can only be linked to the Hungarian culture and gastronomy.

### INTERNATIONAL TISZA RIVER FISH FESTIVAL OF SZEGED

First weekend in September is about fish soup. At such times, the Mátyás Huszár quay and the bath in the New Szeged District are also filled with chefs competing for a higher grade of the Order of Merit. Cooks stir the best quality Tisza fish soup in the huge cauldron set up on the Water Bastion.

### **BORTÉR SZEGED**

The closing event of the rich festival season is held on Dóm Square in the second half of September. Beautiful wines are presented for tasting by over 100 winemakers, moreover, craft stalls, as well as Pálinka brandy and cheese vendors are brightening up the event.

# Stress relief in the open air

#### **CLOSE TO NATURE**

Mezőhegyes State Stud Farm

Close to our ancestors – The Mezőhegyes State Stud Farm is the cradle of Hungarian horse breeding. Few people know that the graceful black Nonius, a protected horse breed, was bred in the Mezőhegyes stud. You can explore the area on horseback or by "puszta bus".

Take a tour on water – If you want to hear the birds chirping and feel the cooling power of the water, you can take a day canoe tour to explore the wildlife of the area's rivers. You a free to explore both the Tisza and the Maros Rivers, but you can also stop by the river bank for a relaxing moment on the beach or just for fishing. **Dare to look in the eyes of the buffaloes!** – The area around the Lake Nagyszéksós on the border of Mórahalom is home to the first buffalo reserve in Hungary; so request a guided tour to see it all.

Makó Treetop Promenade and Adventure Park – The Treetop Promenade in Makó, handed over in 2013, presents the wildlife of the floodplain. The nearly 656 feet (200 meters) long installation is located in a bird-crossing area, but the attraction of the site is undoubtedly the modern adventure park and the canopy track that crosses the Maros River.

The bird observatory – White Lake is the largest saline lake in Hungary, which is integral part of the Kiskunság National Park. This is a highly protected area with an extremely rich bird population composed of 280 species. If you come around here in the fall, you may even observe the crane birds. It is worth visiting the Tisza Valley Memorial House in Szatymaz as well, where you shall learn about the local flora and fauna, moreover, you are free to try out the beautiful Seagull Educational Trail.



# KAYAKING WHERE THE OLYMPICS DO!

Szeged Olympic Center has been a prominent venue for European and World Canoeing Championships for many years. Several of our Olympic champions have prepared for their international competitions on the Maty stream.

TEFERIT



#### WILD ANIMAL PARK OF SZEGED

Largest zoo in Hungary is a must see venue, Szeged Game Park is known to host endangered species and animals that you can't see anywhere else in the country. The little ones can spend some fun times in the petting zoo.

# In the footsteps of history

#### HISTORY OF OUR RECENT PAST

The gleaming, modern building of the Memorial Point stands out from the eclectic world of the city of Hódmezővásárhely, displaying the statue of Lenin dangling his feet on its façade. The museum's exhibition relates the period of Hungary between 1945 and 1990 using cutting-edge, digital tools.

#### WALK OF NOBILITY IN DESZK

Szeged and its surroundings host many surprises indeed. The Gerliczy Castle in Deszk, built in the 19th century and now operating as a hospital, offers a refreshing walk in its park ornated with many statues. A similarly beautiful sight is the neo-Gothic church built following the generosity of Baron Gerliczy Ferenc.

#### HISTORY OF A THOUSAND YEARS

Visit the Park of Thousand Years in Mórahalom and take a tour of Hungary in just a few hours. You shall learn about the architectural symbols and historical monuments of Hungarian history thanks to a 1:25 scale models collection.



## WHERE THE CONQUEST ERA FINDS ITS REVIVAL

Ópusztaszer is located 28 km from Szeged and offers the elements of an unparalleled historical monument park, such as yurts, a herbal house and a monastery. The well organized theme park also offers horse riding demonstrations, and the braver ones can dabble in some archery. The monumental Feszty Panorama Painting, which tells the story of the conquest of the Hungarians, can also be seen on site.



# Our favourite photos of the region

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# **Nearby sights**

#### THE WINERY RAW OF HAJÓS

Largest cellar village in Hungary is only 25 km away from the city of Kalocsa. The cellar village composed of 24 cozy little streets hides more than a thousand cellars and fine wines.

#### **DOWNTOWN KALOCSA**

The construction of the first church in Kalocsa was ordered by King Stephen I. himself. The Cathedral of the Assumption was raised on the site of the former building in the heart of Kalocsa. Next to the Cathedral you shall see the ornate Baroque-style archbishop's palace, home to the Roman Catholic Archbishop.

#### **GYOPÁROS SPA**

Gyopárosfürdő, also known as the pearl of the Great Plain, is famous for its versatile spa. The healing waters of the lake located in Orosháza attracts many visitors in quest of relaxation and healing. Entertainment services are also available in the resort area, while pedal boating and rowing on Lake Gyopáros are also possible.

#### **CIFRA PALACE OF KECSKEMÉT**

Fairytale-like attraction of Kecskemét is indeed the Cifra Palace (Cifrapalota). The Art Nouveau-style building gives such a friendly impression that it even gave birth to a lovely children's say. PUBLISHED BY: Hungarian Tourism Agency,
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