

HUNGARY

Go out and be active



CONTENTS

REFRESHING LAKES, COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES	2
UNBRIDLED WATER ADVENTURES	4
DISCOVER THE RIVERS OF HUNGARY	5
COOL WATERS IN DEEP FORESTS	6
HEAD FOR THE BLUE TRAIL	8
TRAILS THAT TELL STORIES OF THE PAST	10
ON THE PATHS OF SAINTS	12
SPECIAL HIKING TRAILS	13
MUST-SEE LOOKOUTS	14
ON RIVER BANKS AND DEEP IN FORESTS ON TWO WHEELS	16
SPECIAL BIKE TOURS	18
BALATON BIKE	19
ADVENTURES ON HORSEBACK	20
ACTIVE MAP	22
FAMILY ACTIVITIES OUT IN NATURE	24
COUNTRYWIDE ANIMAL EXPERIENCES	26
NATIONAL PARKS	28
NIGHT SKY PARKS	32
ACTIVE RECREATION ALL OVER THE COUNTRY	34
UNIQUE LOCATIONS, UNUSUAL ACCOMMODATION	36
EXTREME ADVENTURES OUT ON THE TRAILS	37
EXTREME ADVENTURES IN THE AIR	38
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES	40
ACTIVE WINTER IN HUNGARY	42

INTRODUCTION

GO OUT AND BE ACTIVE

Hungary is home to slow rivers, shallow waters and gentle slopes. It is a paradise for hikers. Its many treasures and diverse ecosystems will enchant those who come out into nature from the rush of everyday life.

The more than 1,100-km-long route of the National Blue Trail, which crosses the northern landscapes of Hungary, is accompanied by impressive lookouts, castles that tell of the past and rapid streams. But you won't be disappointed if you deviate from this route either. The country's forests, fields and small villages offer you many wonders, but you will also have a great time on the banks of its rivers and lakes. Ride on the shores of Lake Balaton, paddle on the backwaters of the Tisza, or if you want a little excitement, try your hand at extreme water sports.

You can also collect unforgettable memories at Hungary's UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Discover the seemingly endless Hortobágy puszta night or day, explore the secrets of the earth among the amazing stalactites of the Aggtelek cave system, or go bird watching in the beautiful Fertő-Hanság National Park.



REFRESHING LAKES, COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES

HUNGARY'S SMALL LAKES

Festivals and other events make your holidays more colourful in Orfű and Bánk. Lake Szálkai and Lake Deseda are real fishing paradises, and the latter is also a great active tourist centre. The picturesque Lake Arlói, the emerald coloured Apcitarn and Lake Hubertlaki – called the Red Lake of the Bakony Mountains – are popular with hikers.

WATER RACES

If you love water sports you can test your skills in various competitions. The Blue Ribbon is a fun event to watch from both sailing boats and the shore. The National Regatta, hosted by the city of Siófok, is a great event for families too. But participating in the Balaton swim, the Open Water Tournament or the Row Across the Balaton is also an experience that will stay with you forever.



THE THOUSAND FACES OF THE BALATON

Whether from the north or the south, from the deck of a sailboat rocking on the water or from the heights of the slopes running north of the lake, Lake Balaton will show you something new from all angles. Get round the largest lake in Hungary on the cycle path running along the shore and choose from its beaches, both big and small. One of its special points is Kis-Balaton at the western end of the lake, which has a unique atmosphere. Located at the mouth of the Zala River, it is an important nature conservation area. The local Kis-Balaton Visitor Centre gives a complete picture of the area.



LAKE VELENCE: HOME TO SOME SPECIAL BIRDS

Everyone will find something to their liking at the multi-faceted Lake Velence, which is about half an hour from Budapest. One of the warmest lakes in Europe, it can reach 25-28 °C in summer, and its beaches are really tempting at this time of year. In addition to bathing, the lake also has a different face. The 420-hectare nature reserve in the lake's south-western bay is home to rare bird species. You can explore this special landscape on a boat trip departing from the port of Agárd. If you want some exercise, rent a bike, the 33-kilometer lakeside tour can be easily completed even with small children.



LAKE TISZA IS DOTTED WITH SMALL ISLANDS

Lake Tisza is a man-made reservoir, but nature has now conquered it and its surroundings. Discover the mysterious archipelago that breaks the open water surface, the wonderful abundance of water lilies and the rich ecosystem of the lake. The lake and its shores are also home to a bird sanctuary, so keep your eyes open and explore the unique world of water birds. You can get around the lake in a few hours by bike, it is worth visiting the largest freshwater aquarium in Central Europe in Poroszló, the fish ladder in Kisköre or the water study trails around the lake.



FERTŐ, A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The salty stagnant water, overgrown with reeds, is a unique natural treasure, home to rare plant and animal species, no wonder that it is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Explore the rich water world of the lake by boat or canoe, go bird watching or get on a bike and cycle along the waterfront. Botanical gardens welcome you in the Fertő-Hanság National Park, where you can see native animals: grey cattle, racka sheep and buffaloes.



Lake Forgó (Gemenc)

DISCOVER THE RIVERS OF HUNGARY



The rivers of the country attract people who want to be close to nature. The Danube, Europe's second longest river, crosses the country majestically for 417 kilometres. Its most important tributaries, the Ipoly and the Rába, and its branch, the Mosoni-Danube, promise special water activities. The Tisza, which Mór Jókai called the most Hungarian river, flows at an easy pace and its wide floodplain is accompanied by backwaters and oxbow lakes. Any real adventurers should add its tributaries – the Bodrog and the Sajó in the north and the Körös and Berettyó in the south – to their must-do lists.

DRIFT ON THE WATER

Rowing among water lilies, with the sound of chirping crickets in the background is a great way to explore. The atmosphere of water tours will enchant you right away. Drift down the River Tisza, go wild game watching in the floodplain forest of Gemenc or let the calm, enclosed milieu of Szigetköz enchant you.

On Hungary's bigger rivers, dragon boating is a popular water sport. The 20-oar, steerer-led boats teach people to work together as a team. Of course, you can also explore the rivers of Hungary by kayak or canoe. And you can even admire the Parliament and the Buda Castle at sunrise from an SUP board.

UNBRIDLED WATER ADVENTURES



Sailing – The sight of white sails flapping in the wind conjures up Lake Balaton, but there are also some sailing clubs around Lake Velence.



SUP – Rent a board, go paddling on the water at sunset and watch the sun paint the horizon orange. Fortunately, SUP board rental is available on most domestic lakes.



Water Skiing – There are cable water ski tracks in almost every corner of the country where both beginners and professionals can put their skis on. In some places, such as Lake Hejő near Miskolc or Kál in Heves County, you can also try racing behind a speedboat.



Wakeboarding – You can experience the dizzying freedom of speed by visiting Lake Lupa, Lake Omszki, Lake Balaton or Lake Velence, where wakeboarding has become a real cult.



Parasailing – Rise above the water, sit on a stream of air and admire a bird's eye view of your surroundings. Parasailing is also available now at Lake Tisza, on the Abádszalók beach.



Catamaran – High speed makes the catamaran really attractive. Discover a special form of sailing on Lake Balaton. You are guaranteed to have the experience of a lifetime.



Jet-ski – It is a heady feeling as the speedometer crawls up and the waves shoot you higher and higher above the water. Jet skis are available on the lakes around Budapest as well as on Lake Tisza.



Windsurfing – This fusion sport offers the experience of sailing and surfing at the same time, so adrenaline comes in double doses. After a short course, you can wind your way through the waves in the wonderful environment of Lake Balaton, Lake Velence or Lake Tisza.



Lake Tisza

THE DANUBE REGATTA

Sports and music are at the forefront of the Danube Regatta Festival. Students of Hungarian and foreign universities go head-to-head in rowing and dragon boat competitions. The aim of the traditional building event, which also offers concerts and talent shows, is to strengthen the cohesion of universities and to promote a healthy lifestyle and sports.

MAYFLY HATCHING

Mayfly hatching is one of Hungary's most special natural wonders. In June, thousands of mayflies undertake a courtship ritual on the surface of the Tisza before sunset on just a few exceptional days. The insects soon perish after the spectacular show.



COOL WATERS IN DEEP FORESTS

NATURAL WONDER IN THE SZALAJKA VALLEY: SZIKLA-FORRÁS (ROCK SPRING)

Ice-cold and crystal-clear spring water emerges from the cliff, reaches the surface through a cave that can be walked which is 3-4m long, then forms a wonderful pond.

FAIRYTALE LANDSCAPES IN THE KŐSZEG MOUNTAINS: SEVENFOLD SPRING

In an idyllic part of the Kőszeg Mountains, the Rótfalva valley, hikers are welcomed by a spring that will not only quench their thirst but will also bring them good luck. According to the locals, those who drink from the water of the seven springs will have one wish fulfilled. The seven outflows of the abundant spring, built in honour of the Millennium in 1896, bear the names of the seven Hungarian leaders.

WHERE TIMING IS MOST IMPORTANT: THE BÜKK GEYSERS

The four karst springs bursting on the limestone plateaus of the Bükk in the spring are a real tourist attraction. It is worth arriving after the snow melts so you can admire the jets of water crashing through the tiny cracks with tremendous force.

A RICH PAST: THE CIPRIÁN SPRING

The only visible spring in the area, from which hikers can safely drink, can be found in the eastern part of the Tihany Peninsula, on the Balaton side of Óvár, a stone's throw from the Monastic Dwellings.

The Tsitári spring, also known as Kutyika, is a famous pilgrimage site in the northern part of Nógrád county, between Drégelypalánk and Hont. Several records testify to miraculous healing stories, and it is believed that the Virgin Mary appeared here several times.

Local people claim that the water from the Holy Well of the Seven Chapels Grace Church in Vác, close to the Danube, is like medicine. Mátraverebély-Szentkút has welcomed pilgrims for 800 years now, but Máriakút in the depths of Pilis, close to Csobánka, also preserves the memory of miraculous stories.

HUNGARY'S MIRACULOUS SPRING WATERS

Ferde Waterfall, East Mecsek

SIX PLUS ONE MUST-SEE WATERFALLS

Lillafüred Waterfall – Lillafüred

The highest waterfall in Hungary, at 20 metres, is actually artificial. Of course, this does not detract from its value.

Ilona Valley Waterfall – Parád

The 10-metre waterfall in the Mátra is worth visiting after it has rained. It is the highest natural waterfall in the country.

Jegenye Valley Waterfall – Solymár

At a height of five metres, the largest waterfall in the Buda Hills is the most beautiful stop along the hiking trail that starts at Solymár Castle.

Ördögmalom Waterfall – Visegrád

The water always swirls in the basin under the one and a half metres high waterfall in the valley of the Apátkút stream in the Visegrád Mountains. Perhaps this is why the waterfall was named the Devil's Mill.

Ferde Waterfalls – Hosszúhetény

The stream trickling diagonally over rocks and forming small steps is a captivating sight. No wonder that the waterfall is known as the Fairy Stairs.

Roman Bath Waterfall – Bakonynána

The picturesque gorge valley was once a refuge for outlaws. Today the waterfall along with the nearby Savanyú Jóska Cave are popular destinations for hikers.

Fátyol (Veil) Waterfall – Sziklászvárad

The 17-metre-long waterfall, sweeping through 18 steps, offers an unforgettable sight. The stream is fed by the Szikla and the Szalajka springs.

ALONG THE BLUE TRAIL

Sóljarm-bérc

Irott-kő 71,2 km

Sárvár 72,5 km

Zirc 41,5 km

Nagyvázsony 22,6 km

Keszthely 27,3 km

Bodaik 58,9 km

56,3 km

45,3 km

17,2 km

48,9 km

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL BLUE TRAIL



TRAILS THAT TELL STORIES OF THE PAST

It is a unique adventure to learn about the rich history of a region and country by hiking along trails. Follow in the footsteps of the people of yore on thematic trails crossing Hungarian landscapes.



PALACE TRAIL IN NORTHERN HUNGARY

Wander the slopes of Northern Hungary, explore its landscapes and visit the four grandiose palaces in the area: the Lónyai Palace in Tuzsér, the L'Huillier-Coburg Palace in Edelény, the Károlyi Palace in Füzérradvány and the Fáy Palace in Fáy.



THE IRON CURTAIN TRAIL

On the border of East and West, following the former Iron Curtain, the EuroVelo 13 cycling tour is a piece of living history commemorating the Cold War era. Along the route, you can stop at a number of memorial sites, including a pan-European picnic site.



THE PATH OF MEDIEVAL CHURCHES

The landscape of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county, which is protected by rivers, is home to most of the country's medieval churches. A real network of church buildings with a separate bell tower has survived here. This area is covered by the path of medieval churches, which also extends into the territory of Ukraine and Romania.



THE PATH OF WONDER RABBIS

In addition to the Jewish memorials of Tokaj-Hegyalja, you can also learn about the life of rabbis and Jewish traditions on the pilgrimage route starting from the Rabbi House in Mád and covering ten settlements.



THE TRAIL OF NORTHERN CASTLES

The 21 magnificent castles and palaces of Northern Hungary preserve the memory of victories, defeats and conquests. Hikers can learn these stories on the Trail of Northern Castles. Hollókő, Eger, Diósgyőr and Füzér are just some of the castles on the route. These once busy fortifications, tell the story of the turbulent centuries of Hungarian history.



SEVEN SEAL CASTLE TOURS

The Seven Seal Castle Tour is a perfect family trip, which introduces the 7+1 castles of Veszprém county to hikers in a playful way. During the adventure, also visit the castles of Csesznek, Csobánc, Döbrönte, Nagyvázsony, Somló, Szigliget, Sümeg and Várpalota. It is worth seeing all of them.



SISSI'S PATH

Crossing several country borders, this route covers the life of Queen Elizabeth. The Hungarian section touches palaces, parks and towns that played an important role in Sissi's life. The most important Hungarian stop is, of course, the Royal Palace of Gödöllő.



ON THE PATHS OF SAINTS



Chapel of King St. Stephen, Badacsonytomaj

THE WAY OF MARY

The Hungarian section of the Central European way of Mary is a route connecting the shrines of Mary in Hungary, which includes Máriabesnyő, Márianosztra and Máriapócs. Explore these amazing landscapes on foot, on horseback or by bike, alone or as part of an organised tour.

VIA HISTORICA SANCTI MARTINI

The St. Martin's Historical Walk in Szombathely includes nine sites, such as Savaria tér as well as the Calvary and St. Martin churches. In front of the latter is St. Martin's fountain. Legend has it that Martin baptised his mother here.

THE WAY OF ST. JAMES

Two branches of the way of St. James pass through Hungary. One starts from Budapest, the other one from Tihany and they unite in Pannonhalma, from where pilgrims head towards the Romanesque St. James church in Lébény. It crosses the country border at Rajka, then in Wolfsthal it joins the Camino de Santiago, which winds across Europe.

HUNGARIAN PILGRIMAGE

The Hungarian Pilgrimage can be completed at any time, in 16-24 days, from the end of March to November. Including detours, the 600-kilometre-long route stretches from Esztergom to Máriagyűd, and it has plenty of exciting things to discover. Get your own pilgrimage passport and relax on the way at the pilgrimage accommodation shelters.

VIA MARGARITARUM

The Via Margaritarum, the Way of the Pearls, stretches between Mátraverebély-Szentkút and Mariazell in Austria. In addition to the full, 760-kilometre tour, the 180-kilometre section between Budapest and Mátraverebély-Szentkút is also valid independently. The route was named after a garland of 18 pearls, known as the Pearls of Life, which symbolise God, ourselves and the particular stages of our lives.

ST. ELIZABETH'S PILGRIMAGE

The 100-kilometre route connecting Sáropatak and Kosice (Kassa) consists of five sections. The pilgrimage, starting from the hometown of St. Elizabeth, is rich in both natural and sacred sights.



DON'T LEAVE YOUR DOG AT HOME

Hiking is one of the best forms of exercise for both owners and their dogs. Not only does it provide physical maintenance, it also fills your soul and strengthens the relationship between man and his best friend through shared experiences.

However, don't forget that you are a guest in nature. You should keep your dog on a leash to keep your canine friend and the environment safe and clean. During your trip, take care of your natural surroundings and its inhabitants. Don't damage the vegetation and don't allow your dog to disturb the wildlife.

Find out about the current rules and dog-friendly places at www.kutyabarathelyek.hu.



SPECIAL HIKING TRAILS

NORDIC WALKING

Nordic Walking, in which you use special sticks, is a sport that improves endurance and stamina, protects the joints and even relieves muscle tension. You can try it in many places on Hungary's hiking trails and on the winter cross-country ski tracks, from the Buda Hills to the Iron Curtain Cross-Country Ski Track in Sopron. You can even go on group outings.

DOG-FRIENDLY EXCURSION SPOTS

From the Őrség section of the South Transdanubian Blue Trail through the Cserhát to the Bükk Mountains, a number of hiking trails are recommended for those arriving with a four-legged family member. There are more and more dog-friendly sights and castles.

PERFORMANCE TOURS

If you do a performance tour you can indulge your passion for nature and hiking while thoroughly testing your physical performance. In addition to the best-known performance tours, such as the Gerecse 50, the Kinizsi 100, the Mátrabérc tour and the Butte Performance Tour, numerous shorter and longer distances welcome participants on hiking across Hungary.

HIKING SPOTS WITH ACCESSIBILITY

Travellers in wheelchairs or with pushchairs can enjoy the proximity to nature at more and more hiking destinations with accessibility. These include the Fényes study trail in Tata, the Béka study trail in Mátra and the Károly Guckler path in Hármashatárhegy.



MUST-SEE LOOKOUTS



SPHERICAL LOOKOUT
TOWER BALATONBOGLÁR

The Xantus János Spherical Lookout, which was designed for the 1958 World Exhibition in Brussels and was first exhibited at the Budapest International Fair in 1963, stands on the 165 metre-high Castle Hill, which is the highest point in the town. The spherical lookout tower can sway several metres in strong winds, but there's no need to worry that just because it's round it might roll down the hill.

ÍROTT-KŐ lookout tower – Kőszeg

Írott-kő, the highest point of the Kőszeg Mountains, is home to the split lookout tower. An interesting fact about this peak is that it is crossed by the country border. From the top of the lookout you can admire the natural treasures of both Hungary and Austria. It is also the starting point of the National Blue Trail.

Prédikálószték Lookout Tower – Dömös

The special feature of the lookout tower at the top of the Visegrád Mountains is that the panorama of the Danube Bend gradually unfolds before you from its three levels that widen towards the top.

Ranzinger Vince Lookout Tower – Tatabánya

At the top of Kő Hill in Tatabánya you have to climb 156 steps but you'll get a wonderful view. From the 30-metre high Ranzinger Lookout Tower, you can observe the surrounding towns, Tata, Tatabánya and Oroszlány.

Galya Lookout Tower – Galyatető

The lookout tower on Péter heggyese offers three bivouac accommodation sites for tired hikers. In fine weather, the Bükk, Cserhát and Börzsöny ranges can be seen from the top of the lookout, and in the evening the building is stunning when flooded in light.

Zengő Lookout Tower – Pécsvárad

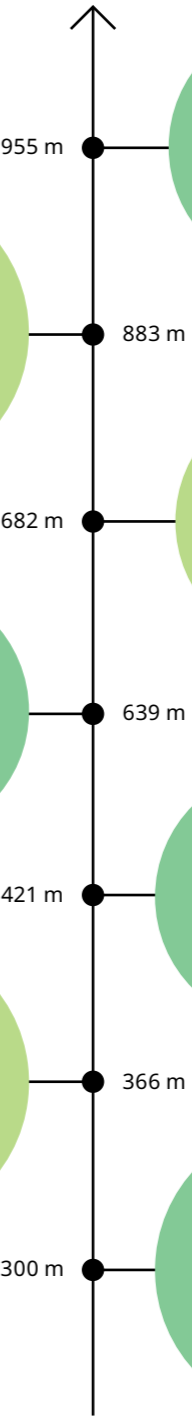
At the highest point of the Mecsek Mountains, the 22-metre lookout tower on Zengő stands out from among the tree tops. You can even see Badacsony from the seven-storey high stand formed from the geodetic measuring tower.

Prónay Lookout Tower – Alsópetény

The spruce Prónay lookout tower on Romhányi Hill can be reached from Romhány or Alsópetény on the National Blue Trail route. You can also look out over the Börzsöny and Mátra ranges from a height of 23 meters.

Megyer-hegy Lookout Tower – Sárospatak

The highest level of the Megyer Hill Lookout Tower rises above the tree canopy, and from a height of 18 metres you'll get a magnificent panoramic view of the Zemplén Mountains and the Eastern Carpathians. You'll also spot Bodrogekő and the Füzér Castle in the distance.





ON RIVER BANKS AND DEEP IN FORESTS ON TWO WHEELS

Being environmentally friendly and in tune with nature is important to a lot of people nowadays, and cycling is also becoming more and more popular. In Hungary, you can find experiences everywhere from lake shores to mountain routes.

E-BIKE

An e-bike is an electric-assisted version of a normal bicycle that offers a novel cycling experience. Routes specifically recommended for e-bike fans have been built in many parts of the country. In Budapest, you can take a romantic e-bike tour along the Danube, but you can also cycle to Szentendre. In the Balaton Uplands, themed tours show the sights of the area or the lesser-known treasures of Tihany, which are mostly hidden from tourists.



BICYCLE TOURS AROUND LAKES

1. The bike path running around **Lake Balaton** is the longest of our lake bike tours. As 220 kilometres long, it is primarily recommended for those planning a multi-day trip. The distance can be completed in two days at a strong pace, but it is not worth hurrying as there are beautiful sights on the northern and southern shores, from the Benedictine Abbey in Tihany to the Spherical Lookout Tower in Balatonboglár.
2. On the cycle path along **Lake Fertő**, it is worth keeping a close eye on the aquatic life and tasting the local specialties and classic Hungarian dishes.
3. The 65-kilometre cycle path around **Lake Tisza** is also interesting for those who want to admire its unspoilt nature and wildlife.
4. You can cycle around the **Lake Velence** circuit in three and a half hours so it's also suitable for people who don't consider themselves serious cyclists yet.



SPECIAL BIKE TOURS



Tihany

SPECTACULAR INTERNATIONAL ROUTES

The Hungarian sections of the EuroVelo routes crossing Europe also offer unparalleled experiences. EuroVelo 13, also known as the Iron Curtain Route, runs along the western border, with stops in wonderful cities such as Sopron and Kőszeg. The Hungarian section of the EuroVelo6 route, running to the Black Sea, goes along the Danube, where the Danube Bend is especially worth cycling along. The EuroVelo14, which connects Europe's lakes, will also cover Lake Balaton, Lake Velence and Lake Tisza in the future, while the Eastern European EuroVelo11 promises unparalleled views and wildlife primarily along the Tisza section.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BIKE PATH

The "Bicycle Route of the Year" competition was announced for the first time in 2020 and the section of the Által-ér valley cycle route between Tatabánya and Tata won first place. The 21-km road leads along the embankment of the stream, and the view of Gerecse adds a picturesque backdrop. In 2021, the title was awarded to the 6.5-kilometre section that crossed the Tisza which runs along the shores of Lake Tisza and connects Poroszló and Tiszafüred.

ADRENALINE RUSH IN THE MOUNTAINS

Mountain bikers can find many designated cycling trails and a few man-made trails in different parts of the country. In the Pilis Park Forest, you can try out the Pilis Bike route, covering almost 600 km, and the Börzsöny offers a mountain bike trail that is 65 km long. One of the most beautiful routes in Bükk leads between Felsőtárkány and Szarvaskő, but visitors can also choose from many spectacular routes in Zemplén and in the Karancs-Medves region. Downhill cyclists can practice on the road from Kékestető to Mátrafüred or in Sopron.

RECOMMENDED FOR COMPETITION

The most famous cycling race in Hungary is the Tour de Hongrie, which is held on different routes each year, focusing on different parts of the country (e.g. Northern or Western Hungary or Lake Balaton). But lakeside competitions are also organised around Lake Balaton, Lake Velence and Lake Tisza, and cyclists can join a mountain bike performance tour in Mátra.



BIKE AT LAKE BALATON ALL YEAR AROUND

A dream come true. Since the autumn of 2021 cyclists have had the opportunity to spend their free time throughout the year not only on the Lake Balaton Bike Circuit, but also in its more remote areas.

When it comes to cycling infrastructure, people usually think about a bike path. But this is different. At approximately 220km long, Balaton Bike Circuit serves as a starting point for the more than 600 km cycling road network, where signs will be placed by the end of September. From October, anyone can use the roads marked with the BalatonBike365 sign and get to their destination safely. The selection of the routes and the 49 thematic tours recommended for them is supported by www.balatonbike365.hu and the bb365 mobile application.

Most of the signposted cycle paths lead through fields, forests, hills and valleys. They connect 180 villages, as well as natural and man-made sights and cultural treasures. Visitors will find a wide range of services (about 2,800) provided at Lake Balaton, including bistros, lángos bars, ice cream parlours, rooms to let or four-star hotels. BalatonBike365 offers everything that is trendy or retro and offers options from half-day to multi-day activities.

Cyclists can choose based on their taste, plans, fitness level and who they want to cycle with, whether its family, friends or sport partners. The scenery will suit all of this. As the seasons change the landscape around Lake Balaton goes through the whole spectrum of colour, with the azure and emerald green waves of the water ever present.



Tihany



ADVENTURES ON HORSEBACK

The tranquillity and peace we feel in the magnificent company of horses is almost indescribable. Exploring the country's wilderness, forests and fields on horseback is an unparalleled experience. Unlike other countries, the whole of Hungary can be traversed on horseback. In addition, equestrian archery is booming thanks to events that revive ancient Hungarian culture.

HORSE RACING

The National Gallop, which has been held annually since 2009, pays homage to the traditions and history of Hungary. The aim of the equestrian competition is not only to preserve the traditions but also to build relations between Budapest and the rural settlements. The horse and the rider who win at the Heroes' Square Gallop receive the Golden Spur Award, and the local government that nominates them, can keep the National Gallop Travelling Sable for a year. In the multi-day event, the best participants of the regional gallop compete. You can also join exciting activities and taste masterpieces of Hungarian gastronomy.



HEAD TO HORTOBÁGY

Take a close look at the hair-raising show of Hungarian wranglers, called the "pusztaötös" (five-horse stunt), or admire the majestic animals grazing on the endless plane of Hortobágy, such as the Przewalski horses, the second largest band of wild horses in the world.

AMONG THE SAND DUNES OF BUGACPUZSTA

Bugacpuszta, which belongs to the Kiskunság National Park, offers you really special natural features: discover the settlements of the area in a horse-drawn carriage or visit the famous yellow stud in Bugac.

TRIBAL STORIES AND EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS

Tribal assembly was a characteristic tradition of equestrian nomadic peoples centuries ago. This is commemorated by the Kurultáj, the Hungarian Tribal Assembly, which was held in Bugacpuszta for the first time in 2007 as the largest traditional event in Hungary, and even the whole of Europe. Thousands of men and women dressed in Hun, Hungarian and Avar costumes re-enact scenes from the era of the Hungarian conquest on the hot sands of the Hungarian plain. Several nations are represented at the festival, where you are welcomed by horse shows, gastronomic delicacies and an awesome atmosphere.

A PICTURESQUE ENVIRONMENT IN DOMONYVÖLGY

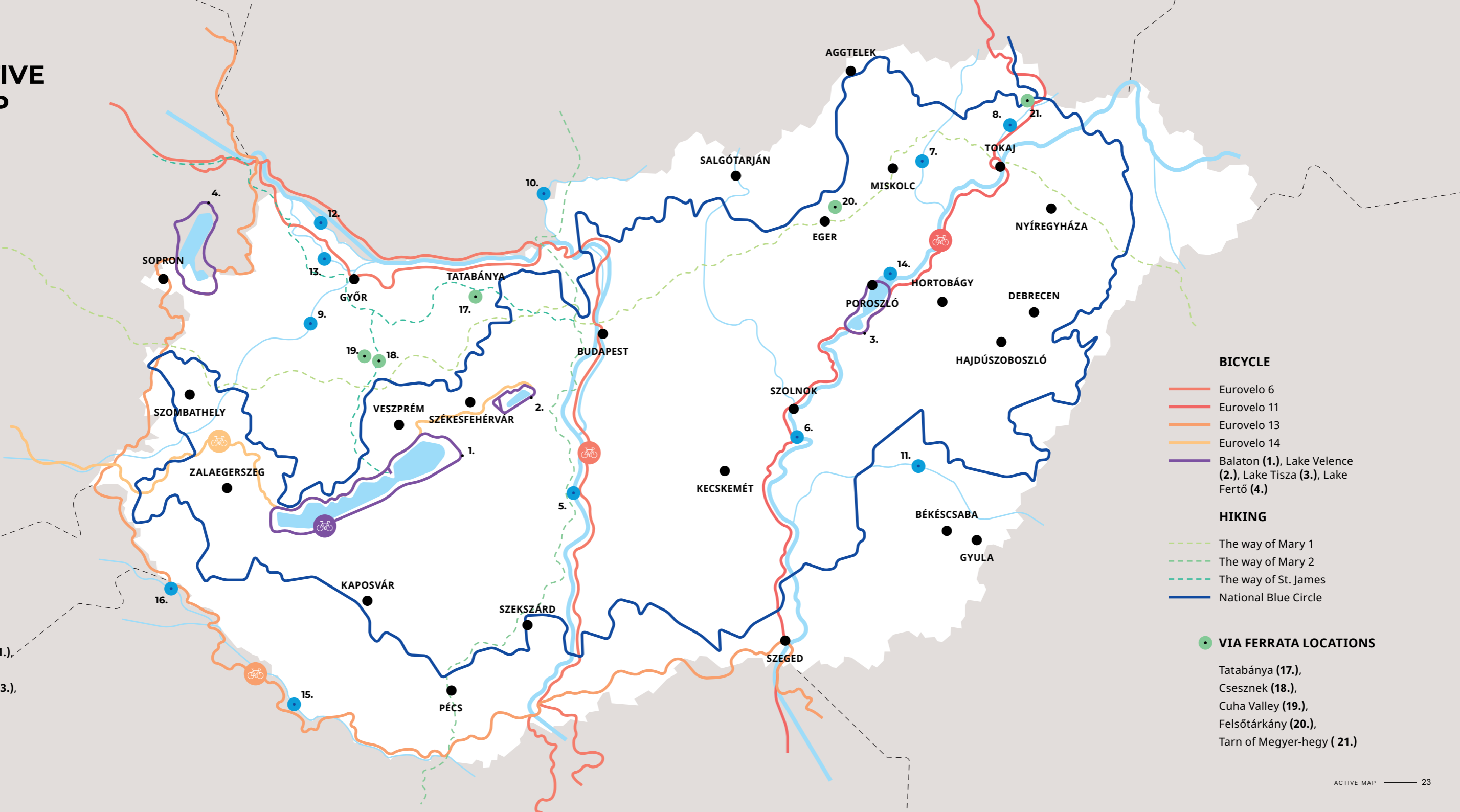
The equestrian park in Domonyvölgy is an ideal destination for the whole family with its colourful events. Take part in the traditional horse shows or ride a carriage in the woods. The little ones can also ride a pony. If you get hungry, home-cooked food is available in the park area. In addition to visiting the equestrian park, you can also go fishing, bathing, hiking or cycling in the area.

WORLD-FAMOUS HUNGARIAN SPECIES

The secret of the best Hungarian horse breeds, including the Muraközi, the Hucul, Nonius or the Lipizzan, lies in the outstanding gene pool, high-quality farmland and decades of competent work. Some Hungarian horses gained world fame over the previous centuries. Think of Kincsem, the race horse known across Europe as the "Hungarian miracle". Today, you can meet the noblest animals at the stud farms, where they do everything they can to promote horseback riding and to preserve equestrian traditions. Visit the Máta Stud in Hortobágy, the National Horse Estate and Educational Farm in Mezőhegyes, the National Horse Estate in Bábolna or the State Stud Farm in Szilvássvárad with its Lipizzan horses.



ACTIVE MAP





FAMILY ACTIVITIES OUT IN NATURE

FOREST SCHOOLS

Forest schools are places mainly for groups of children and in many cases they also provide accommodation. But their most important role is to host events for children that teach them about life in the forest. Accommodation, which is usually managed by forestry and national park directorates and built on the knowledge of forestry specialists, can be found in all major, mountainous and forested areas of Hungary.



The romance of the light railways and the interesting, instructive world of the forest and water study trails help us to enrich ourselves with unique experiences in just a few hours.

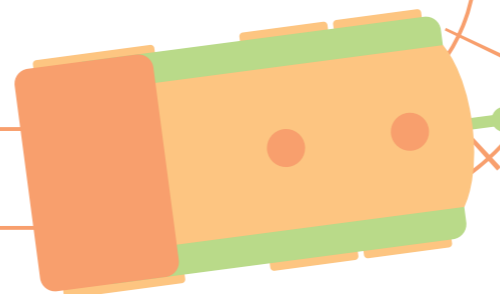
Zsuzsi, the oldest Hungarian Narrow Gauge Forest Railway from Debrecen, has been in service since 1882. The world's first narrow-gauge hybrid locomotive is operated on the Lillafüred light railway, which runs along specially lined, steep hillsides and waterfalls.

The Pálháza Forest Railway runs in the Zemplén Mountains, which are popular with hikers, while the Szilvászvárad Forest Railway offers views of the picturesque Szalajka Valley.

One of the Mátra Railway lines passes by vineyards, with a panorama of Kékestető, while the other follows the flow of the stream next to Gyöngyös.

The Börzsöny railway network takes its passengers to the heart of the wild. Whether you buy tickets for the Királyrét Forest Railway or the forest railway between Szob and Nagyborzsöny, you can find yourself in another world.

The museum railway has been operating in Nagycenk, near the Széchenyi Palace, since 1972, and Balatonfenyves is home to the train that retained its economic function for longer than any other. The most modern railway runs through the Vál Valley in Fejér County. It was handed over in 2016.



TRAVELLING WITH A DIFFERENCE

In Budapest, one of the special means of approaching the Buda Castle District is the Budavár Cable Car, which reveals the unique panorama of the Danube bank. The Cogwheel Railway takes passengers to the station of another unique form of transport: the Children's Railway. And the 1040-metre chairlift takes you from Zugliget to János Hill and provides you with a panoramic view of the forest and the city.

NATURE TRAILS

AN OUTDOOR BIOLOGY CLASS

Anyone who meets and observes the plants and animals along the country's study trails will also understand why it is important to preserve habitats and nature. Natural sights in the area can be discovered at the stops of the designated thematic hiking trails with the help of signs, informative boards and publications, and on e-study trails with the help of internet pages accessible via QR-codes. For example, you can use the Digital Wanderer application to learn more about the trails you have just completed.

TUNED TO THE LITTLE ONES

A number of study trails are especially focused on children: the Witch Fairytale Trail in Sopron is one of these, as is the Snail Tour study trail in Zalakaros, the Szendehely-Katalinpuszta study trail, the Fürkész study trail in Jósvalfő, the Béka study trail in Sástó, the Gyada study trail and the Hangya Dani study trail. Exploring the routes of the Kajla Circles is also a great activity for those who want to go hiking with children.

ON WATER, IN CAVES OR UNDER THE STARS

Especially interesting are the water study trails that can be reached by bridges, passages and often by water, such as the Jégmadár (Kingfisher) Water Study Trail near Szarvas or the Lake Tisza Water Promenade and Study Trail in Poroszló. In the Tapolca Lake Cave Visitor Centre, tourists can visit a cave that is unlike any other in Europe, and at the Pannon Observatory in Bakonybél they can learn about the mysteries of the night sky. But it is also worth visiting forest and mountain study trails, such as those welcoming hikers in Királyrét, Galyatető, the Szalajka Valley, Mogyoró Hill or the Katalinpuszta Excursion Centre.



NATIONWIDE ANIMAL EXPERIENCES

Zoos are not only places to see native and exotic animals. They also play an important role in environmental education and species conservation. Visit zoos, wildlife parks and petting zoos: From Miskolc to Győr, from Szeged to Veresegyház you can enjoy the wonders of nature in many cities, towns and villages.



THE LAKE TISZA ECO-CENTRE

In Poroszló, the Lake Tisza Eco Centre reveals the unique wildlife of the River Tisza and Lake Tisza.

This is where the largest freshwater aquarium system in Central Europe is. Going inside feels like walking into the depths of a lake. You can see domestic reptiles and amphibians and also go on a boat tour.



THE NYÍREGYHÁZA ZOO

The Nyíregyháza Zoo welcomes visitors in the Sóstó resort, 5 km from the city. Today, it is Hungary's largest zoo outside Budapest. You'll find animals grouped by continents. You can see a seal show, reef sharks, arctic animals and giraffes.



BŐSZÉNFA DEER FARM

The Bőszénfa Deer Farm started as the site of a research programme but it has grown into a special wildlife park. In the wooded area, where wild animals can live in their natural environment, you can see red deer, fallow deer and roe deer up close and even stroke them! Mouflons, wild boar, Hungarian grey cattle, water buffaloes and racka sheep also live here.



THE NAGYERDŐ CULTURE PARK IN DEBRECEN ZOO AND AMUSEMENT PARK

The Nagyerdő Cultural Park Zoo and Amusement Park in Debrecen is one of the oldest zoos in the country. Nearly 1,500 animals from five continents live in the Tropical House, the African Aviary, the Giraffe House, the Palm House Terrarium and other areas. This is the only place in Hungary where you can see the saddle-billed stork, the Australian coconut lorikeet and the golden eagle.



THE KÁPOLNAPUSZTA BUFFALO RESERVE

The Buffalo Reserve in Kápolnapuszta, not far from Lake Balaton, is home to the largest herd of buffalo in the country, and it plays an important role in preserving the species' gene pool. You can take binoculars to look at the grazing buffaloes and the ground squirrels running around among them.



THE KITTENBERGER KÁLMÁN PLANT AND WILDLIFE PARK IN VESZPRÉM

The Kittenberger Kálmán Plant and Wildlife Park in Veszprém is located 15 km from Lake Balaton and a few minutes from the centre of Veszprém. The zoo, which has recently been expanded with a park featuring models of prehistoric animals, also houses Hungary's largest safari park, where you can admire zebras, white rhinos, giraffes and you are separated from chimpanzees only by a glass wall.

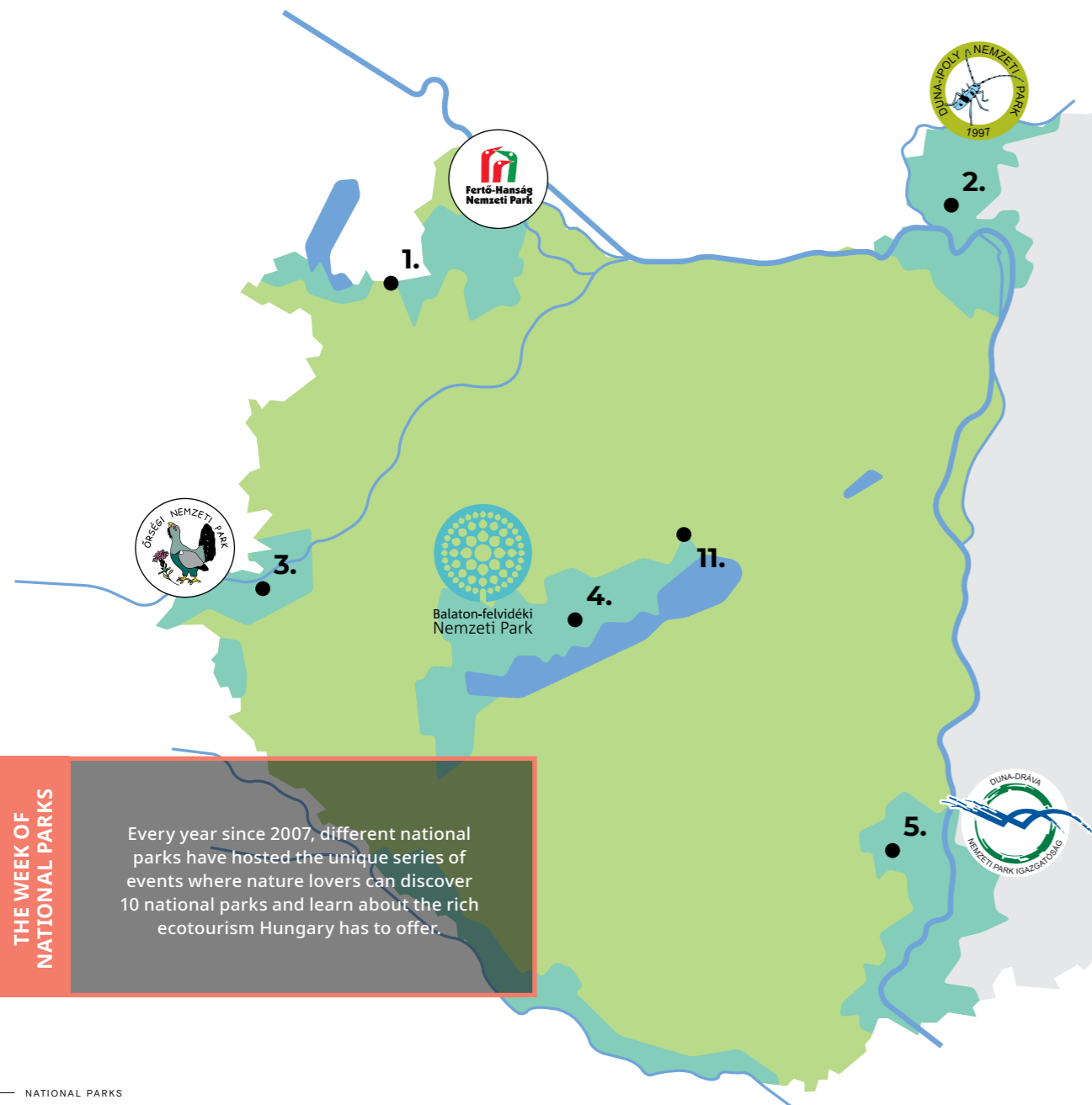


THE BEAR HOME IN VERESGYHÁZ

Bears live in caves, a lake and a wooded area at the Bear Home in Veresegyház. There is a playground and a miniature locomotive for children. Feeding the wolves is also an exciting thing to do.



NATIONAL PARKS



THE WEEK OF NATIONAL PARKS

Every year since 2007, different national parks have hosted the unique series of events where nature lovers can discover 10 national parks and learn about the rich ecotourism Hungary has to offer.

WESTERN HUNGARY

ON ROMANTIC WATERS IN THE FERTŐ-HANSÁG NATIONAL PARK (1.)

Lake Fertő is such a significant part of the region's ecosystem that the Ramsar Convention classifies it as an area of wild water of international importance. The saline plain, the Hanság marsh forests and the numerous active recreation opportunities include must-see destinations.

RICH WILDLIFE IN THE DANUBE-IPOLY NATIONAL PARK (2.)

The area is one of the richest national parks in the country. Be sure to visit the National Botanical Gardens in Vácrátót, the Budakeszi and the Alcsút Arboretums, the Martonvásár Palace Park, the Bird Song Study Trail in Velence or the Pálvölgyi Cave. It is also a good adventure to explore the natural areas the capital has to offer: Gellért Hill and Sas Hill, although within easy reach of the city centre, are still surrounded by nature.

THE PAST WELCOMES YOU IN THE ÓRSÉG NATIONAL PARK (3.)

On two wheels or on foot? One thing is sure: you can explore the country's youngest national park on many routes. Don't miss the centuries old houses of the Órség Folk Monument complex. You can even see rare Eurasian wild horses and European bison nearby. If you visit the National Park, don't miss the Jeli Arboretum as it is famous for its dazzling rhododendrons.

THE HILLY BALATON UPLANDS NATIONAL PARK (4.)

The region in the northern part of Lake Balaton is full of potential. Kis-Balaton, the location of the novels of Hungarian writer István Fekete, is a great destination to explore, whether by kayak or on foot. Visit the Kis-Balaton Visitor Centre and find out more about the area.

It is also worth conquering Badacsony, the Hegyestű lookout tower, the ridge of Szigliget Castle or the highest point of the Tihany Peninsula as their panoramas promise an experience of a lifetime. Lovers of plants should not miss the Zirc Arboretum in the centre of Zirc or the Folly Arboretum with its unique collection of cedars and cypresses, where the beautiful view of Lake Balaton is just a bonus.

IN FORESTS AND BY THE WATER IN THE DANUBE-DRAVA NATIONAL PARK (5.)

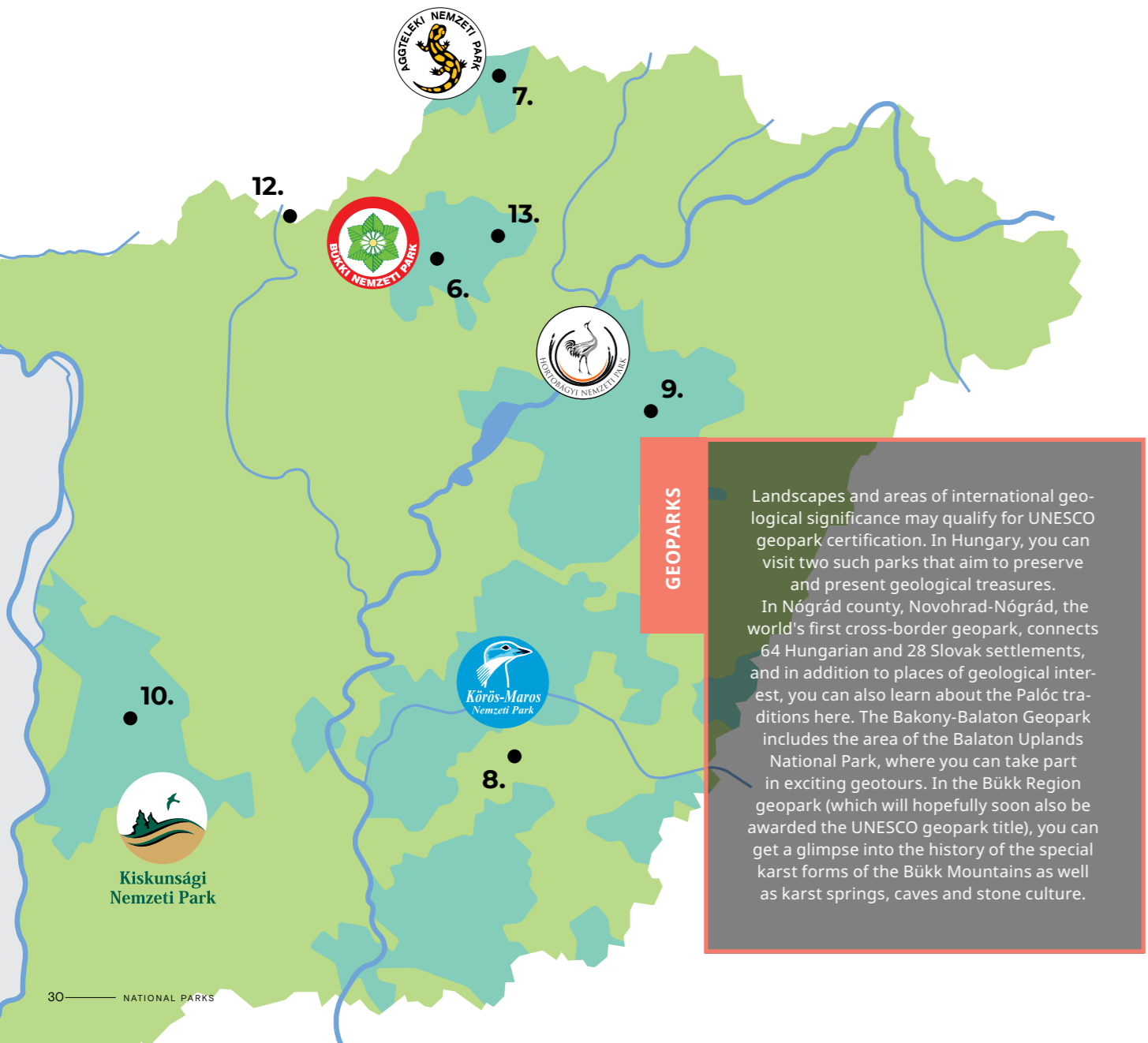
This unusual landscape holds natural treasures such as the ancient junipers in Barcs and the Gemenc Forest, which is the largest floodplain forest in Central Europe. You can explore the latter by boat or even by railway. The national park is also enriched by the mountains of the Mecsek, where hiking trails are plentiful. Visit the depths of the Abaliget stalactite cave or the waters of the lakes around Pécs, where you can indulge in your passion for water sports.

GEO PARKS

Bakony-Balaton (11.)



NATIONAL PARKS



GEOPARKS

Landscapes and areas of international geological significance may qualify for UNESCO geopark certification. In Hungary, you can visit two such parks that aim to preserve and present geological treasures.

In Nógrád county, Novohrad-Nógrád, the world's first cross-border geopark, connects 64 Hungarian and 28 Slovak settlements, and in addition to places of geological interest, you can also learn about the Palóc traditions here. The Bakony-Balaton Geopark includes the area of the Balaton Uplands National Park, where you can take part in exciting geotours. In the Bükk Region geopark (which will hopefully soon also be awarded the UNESCO geopark title), you can get a glimpse into the history of the special karst forms of the Bükk Mountains as well as karst springs, caves and stone culture.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN HUNGARY

FAIRYTALE LANDSCAPES IN THE BÜKK NATIONAL PARK (6.)

Even the most imaginative writer could not have dreamt up a more beautiful place than the Bükk National Park. Deep in the woods and next to trout lakes, the path leads to sights such as the Fátyol (Veil) Waterfall, Lillafüred and Szilvásvár. In the national park you can learn about the history of the world-famous Lipizzan horses and their stud, but the Diósgyőr castle and Hollókő also promise memorable adventures.

SECRETS FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH WELCOME YOU IN THE AGGTELEK NATIONAL PARK (7.)

This is the first national park in the country established specifically to protect geological treasures, the surface karst phenomena and the stalactite caves of the area. The 25-km-long Baradla-Domica cave system is the longest stream cave in the temperate zone. The flora and fauna of the area is also significant, and you should definitely visit the hucul stud in the park.

THE KÖRÖS-MAROS NATIONAL PARK IS A FLAT AND CRISSCROSSED BY RIVERS (8.)

The park covers the Körös floodplains and the region of slow rivers. Its two parts are the Körös region and the Békés-Csanád loess hill.

You can explore the waters of the Körös rivers or the Living Water Canal by kayak or canoe, but of course you can also discover the landscape by bike. Make sure you visit the Szarvas Arboretum, which is along one of the backwaters of the Hármas-Körös rivers. You should also visit Szanazug

at the confluence of the Black and White Körös Rivers, where, in addition to the romantic environment, you can enjoy a peaceful rural lifestyle.

GALLOPING WRANGLERS IN THE HORTOBÁGY NATIONAL PARK (9.)

The first national park in Hungary is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Thanks to its wildlife and folk traditions, it is one of the most wonderful landscapes in the country and an important place in the history of the Hungarian people. Admire the wrangler show at sunset, watch bluethroat birds on the Hortobágy fishpond, or take a ride in a 4x4 to watch cranes. The legendary Nine-Hole Bridge, located on the border of the village of Hortobágy along main road no. 33, is also an attraction that you should not miss.

IN THE WAKE OF TRADITIONS IN THE KISKUNSÁG NATIONAL PARK (10.)

The Kiskunság region is dotted with saline steppes, backwaters and sand dunes. Visit Bugacpuszta, then the old centre of Csongrád, known as the Fishing Village, where the thatched houses faithfully preserve a piece of the past. The image of the distant plain and the wrangler traditions are also defining parts of the special milieu of the Hungarian Great Plain. The Körös-torok in Csongrád – the most famous beach of the River Tisza – is also a must-see place in this region.

GEOPARKS

Nógrád - Novohrad (12.), Bükk Geopark (13.)



NIGHT SKY PARKS

PANNON OBSERVATORY

The Pannon Observatory in Bakonybél is the outstanding astronomical centre of Hungary, where in addition to an astronomical history exhibition, a modern digital planetarium and a 3D Mars cinema welcome visitors. From the telescope park, you can examine not only the night sky but also the Sun with a special device equipped with a Balmer hydrogen alpha filter.

AMONG THE STARS

THE ZSELIC STAR PARK

You can observe the stars perfectly in the Star Park of the Zselic Nature Reserve even without a telescope. In addition to stargazing, it is also worth roaming the forests of Somogy as this is one of the most diverse forested areas in Hungary. The local Pölöskei meadow is an ideal location for stargazing.

NIGHT SKY PARK IN HORTOBÁGY

Walking through the pristine Hortobágy wilderness, you can observe nearly two thousand stars without a telescope, while listening to the song of countless bird species. If you arrive at the Starry Park in late May or early June, you will be able to spot the Milky Way too.

NIGHT SKY PARK IN BÜKK

After Zselic and Hortobágy, the Bükk National Park has also earned the title of night sky park, which is awarded by the organisation called the International Dark Sky Association. You can get a fantastic view of the night sky from Barát-rét or Hereg-rét. The Bükk Observatory is to be found here and will soon be open to the general public.



ACTIVE RECREATION ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

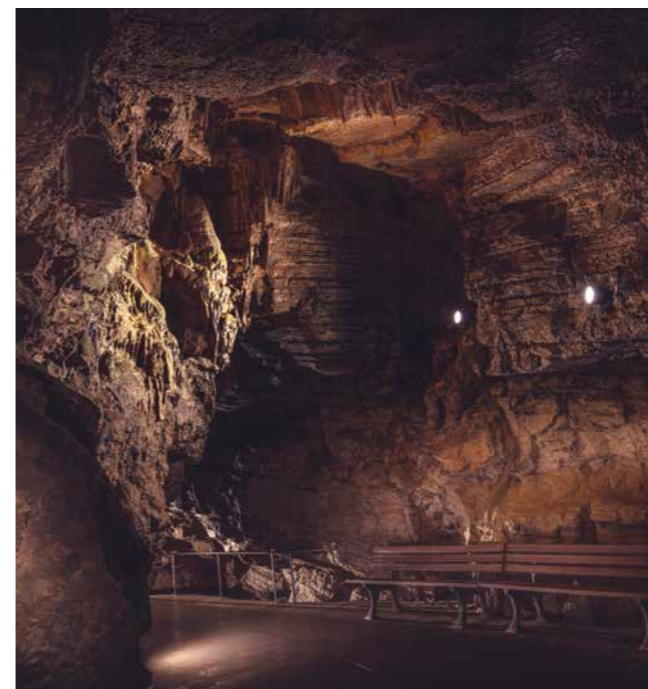
Lovers of fishing, golf and caves can choose from a wide range of Hungarian fishing waters and golf courses and they can get an insight into the secrets of the depths of the mountains.

MEDICINAL CAVES

There are several caves in Hungary that for decades have been known to have healing effects. The air of the following underground passages is most recommended for treating respiratory or rheumatic complaints.

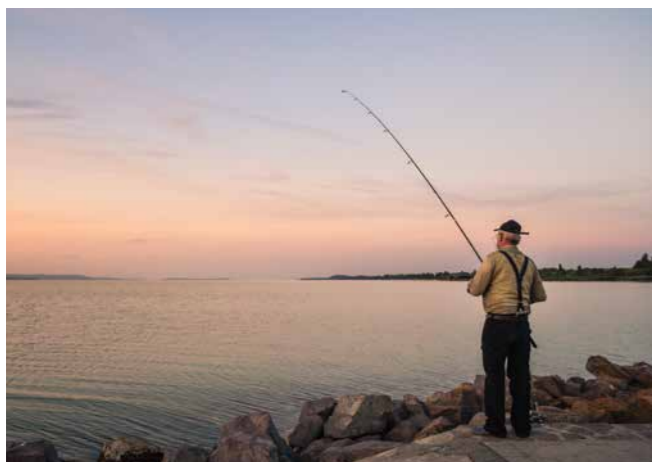
Béka Cave – Jósvalfő; Kórház Cave – Tapolca; Szemlő-hegy Cave – Budapest; St. Stephen's Cave – Miskolc-Lillafüred; Abaliget Cave – Abaliget

The Tapolca lake cave



ADVENTURES INSIDE THE MOUNTAINS

Many of Hungary's more than 3,700 registered caves are open to the general public. The Lóczy Cave in Balatonfüred or the Tettye calc tuff cave in Mecsek also offer exhibitions to those who are interested in caves. Next to the Abaliget Cave, there is a bat museum. In the Baradla Cave of the Aggtelek Karst, which is also included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, you can go on tours of various lengths and difficulties to learn about the mystical world of stalactites. These tours start from several points, including Aggtelek and Jósvalfő. For another cave in the karst region, the Meteor Cave, permits are required and only experienced cavers are allowed. Although the Csodabogyós Cave in Balatonederics and the Pálvölgyi-Mátyáshegy Cave System in Budapest can also be visited by amateurs, they have sections that are only recommended for experienced cavers. A real specialty is the Lake Cave in Tapolca, where you can even go boating on the lake inside the cave.



EXPERIENCES FOR ANGLERS

You can go fishing in almost all of our natural waters, and there are plenty of artificial fishing lakes for sport anglers, with fish species such as asp, sterlet, tench and brown trout. Hungarian anglers must take a fishing exam and can only fish with a state fishing ticket or a permit given for the body of water in question. Foreigners do not need the Hungarian fishing exam but they do need the last two documents. Children under the age of 14 can get a free fishing ticket and an area permit to fish under adult supervision. You should check the periodic regulations for the relevant water.

NATURE, MOVEMENT, ELEGANCE

In addition to being close to nature, golf offers an elegant milieu and a quality social experience. It is worth spending several days for perfect relaxation. There are courses and golf hotels to suit all needs as well as activities for non-golfing travellers. Open nature and rural romance are the main attractions of the Alcsútdoboz golf course. The Tata club is located on the former hunting estate of the count branch of the Esterházy family. The USP of the hotel in Zirc, in the heart of the Bakony, is the international standard course. But the courses in Zalacsány and Bükkfűrdő in the western part of the country are also worth a visit because the beauty of the landscape is captivating.





UNIQUE LOCATIONS, UNUSUAL ACCOMMODATION

Although the hotels cater to all the needs of travellers, some of them want more extreme experiences.

If you are adventurous, you can sleep on top of a tower, in the canopy of trees or in a modern version of the ancient Hungarian yurts, or even in a transparent bubble.

Galya-tető

WHERE TOURISTS ALSO LIVE THE LIFE OF THE VILLAGE

One of the best things about rural tourism is that you can get involved in village life. You can taste fresh farm food, oven-baked bread, fresh milk and eggs, homemade cheese and chemical-free fruits and vegetables. Children can observe farm animals and farm work up close, not to mention the clean air that they can enjoy.

From Őrség to Tokaj-Hegyalja and from Lake Balaton to the Mecsek Mountains villages welcome visitors with cosy cottages that preserve authentic peasant architecture and interior design. Quality village accommodation is marked with a sunflower trademark. One, two, three or four sunflowers can be used by the accommodation depending on its equipment, quality and services.

CAMPING – WITH A DIFFERENCE

Camping is a great experience for all ages, but there's a way to make it even more special. Glamping combines the near-nature experience of traditional camping with luxury. You can try many specialties from the specially equipped glamping tents to the traditional yurts of the ancient Hungarians, and even cottages built in the tree canopies. But you can sleep under the stars in a transparent bubble, in hippie accommodation converted from an old truck, or even in the tranquillity of cave dwellings with all mod cons.

AT NIGHT IN THE DEEP FOREST

From the windows of the distant forest accommodation, you can listen to the clattering wild animals and the rustle of the trees at night, or immerse yourself in the clear light of the stars. The tourist houses, which have been converted into cosy accommodation, are often located in areas inaccessible to vehicles but can be reached by hikers planning multi-day tours.

EXTREME ADVENTURES OUT ON THE TRAILS



In extreme sports, not only the body but also the soul has to step out of the comfort zone. Hungary also provides opportunities for those who are after an adrenaline rush. Although there are many extreme sports that can only be pursued safely after a long preparation, you can find many sports in different parts of Hungary that do not require any previous training.



Via Ferrata

VIA FERRATA

Via ferrata is a kind of transition between hiking and rock climbing. You have to go through artificial tracks where safety is provided by wire ropes, chains, railings – and, of course, mandatory protective equipment.

The tracks often take you to serious heights and hillsides that you would not be able to climb otherwise. This sport is not recommended for small children and people with a fear of heights. The difficulty of the tracks is usually marked from A to F. You can and should try this experience in the Cuha Valley, Csesznek, Felsőtárkány, Sárospatak and Tatabánya.



Sabri Józsa Adventure Park

ADVENTURE PARKS

From Budapest to Lake Balaton, from Hajdúszoboszló to the Lővérek in Sopron, more than 60 adventure parks welcome guests from little ones on a fun day out to adults coming for team-building.

You can adventure on rope tracks and suspension bridges stretched between the foliage of trees, test your skills on a climbing wall, or slide down a zipline (in complete safety, of course). In addition to the adventure parks, many places offer a forest bobsled for those who love speed.



EXTREME ADVENTURES IN THE AIR

Put yourself to the test with extreme sports that are available nationwide! Would you like to feel the adrenaline pumping through your body while doing a 200 kph free fall 4,000 meters above the Danube? Once you try skydiving or tandem jumping, you will surely never forget the experience.

It is also worth adding hang gliding and hot air ballooning to your bucket list as you can admire the endless plains of the Alföld or the blue Lake Balaton from a totally new perspective.



Sátoraljaújhely



Lake Velence

PARACHUTING

A 30-45-second fall that seems like a moment and eternity at the same time. The huge adrenaline rush then slowly subsides, but you can still look around from a height of thousands of metres before landing. From the sky, the farmlands of the Great Plain look like tiny chessboard squares, the traffic in Budapest is reminiscent of a diligent anthill, and Lake Balaton and Lake Velence also show a totally new face. Novice adventurers with spirit can “warm up” with tandem jumping as it does not require any training. If you want to experience the unparalleled feeling of freefall on your own, you can get on a plane after a few hours of training and then dive into the deep with a backpack.

HANG GLIDER

Sit back and hold on, as the hang glider accelerates like a shotgun and you can find yourself at an altitude of 500-600 metres in a matter of seconds. During the sightseeing flight, you can see the natural treasures of the country from a bird's eye view and at a pleasant speed: you can look down on the Délegyháza mine lakes, admire the mountain ranges of the Mátra, the sights of Budapest or visit the picturesque Danube Bend. Would you like to explore the most beautiful landscapes in the country on your own, as a pilot? Courses are on offer in Budakeszi, Tököl and Dáka, where qualified instructors introduce you to the secrets of hang gliding.

HOT AIR BALLOON

Even the sight of the hot air balloons popping up in the sky can amaze. Have you ever wondered how magical the panorama that unfolds in front of the passengers while standing in the basket might be? Explore the country from a bird's eye view, fly over cities, rapeseed fields or sunflower fields for an unforgettable experience.

EXTREME ZIPLINE

Cableways are a great alternative if you don't want to climb hundreds of metres but don't want to pass up on some extreme adventuring. Fix your carabiner, take a deep breath, bounce off the ground and enjoy sliding down a wire through the trees of the Mecsek Mountains or the Zamárdi Adventure Park.

There is a more extreme version of this: the zipline named “Sólyom” (Hawk) in Zemplén offers a experience like no other in Hungary, where you can slide down a wire over a distance of 1,036 metres between Szár-hegy and Magas-hegy at a speed of 80 kph. But if that's too exciting for you, you can also go down in a panoramic enclosed cabin.



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Enthusiastic hikers can explore the famous Hortobágy puszta on horseback, fans of extreme sports can check out the area around Lake Fertő from the water and the air, and if you go hiking in Northern Hungary you can wander through millions of years of geological miracles. Visit the country's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

TIME TRAVEL IN NORTHERN HUNGARY

The sight of the 20-million-year-old remains of the Ipolytarnóc prehistoric habitat is stunning in itself, but you can make the visit even more memorable with some invigorating activities. The nature reserve can be seen from a height of several metres, from the suspension bridges of the canopy walk, and petrified footprints fly you back in time on the Borókás-árok study trail.

WHERE NATURE PLAYS THE MAJOR ROLE

Of course, the main attraction is riding at the Mezőhegyes State Stud Farm, which is the cradle of Hungarian horse breeding. Jump into the saddle and explore the beautiful area of the riding school, where you can also admire the famous, ancient 36-metre sycamore tree. In the English park, you can walk in the shade of Japanese acacias and tall ashes or sit back on the shores of Lake Békás and wait for a fish to take your hook.

Hortobágy

BELOW AND ABOVE THE SURFACE

Head to the Aggtelek Karst and the Slovak Karst caves where you dive into a completely different world under the spell of walls covered with special, laced stalactite formations. On the surface, there are winding study trails and bike paths, and you can also learn the history of the country's largest hucul stud while riding in a carriage or on horseback.

WILD HORSES AND GREY CATTLE HERDS IN THE LAND OF OUTLAWS

Thanks to the steppe programmes of the Hortobágy National Park, anyone can become an outlaw for a few hours. Start the day with crane watching at dawn, admire the Nine-Hole Bridge on horseback, get on a carriage or bike and visit the endless plains, then get a ticket to the light railway, which has its terminal near the study trail starting at the fishpond.

ON LAND, ON WATER AND IN THE AIR AROUND LAKE FERTŐ

The picturesque countryside of the Fertő cultural landscape welcomes lovers of active recreation. Sailing and windsurfing is a real adrenaline rush, but you can also grab a paddle as fishing is always rocking among the reeds. Take a bike to the Széchenyi Palace in Fertőszéplak. If you want to reach heights higher than the Gloriett lookout tower in Fertőboz, you can also sign up for a pleasure flight in Fertőszentmiklós.

FALCONRY

On the wings of traditions: In 2012, the representative list of UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage was expanded to include the tradition of Hungarian falconry. It takes time and dedication to master this unique tradition, but if you want to watch a demonstration, you can do so at any time at the Földes Bird School.



ACTIVE WINTER IN HUNGARY

In Hungary, it is also worth going out in winter as many well-equipped ski, snowboard, cross-country skiing tracks and skating rinks are available for winter sport lovers.

ADVENTURES ON ICE



It is the easiest for skaters as the natural lakes in Hungary freeze when the weather is cold for a long time. Ice skating is allowed at designated locations. In addition, almost every major city has an ice rink or an ice hall. Many small rinks open – often free of charge – in the coldest winter months. Skating schools are common at these sites. One of the best known and the cosiest ice rinks in Budapest has a fabulous atmosphere, nestled between Heroes' Square and the Vajdahunyad Castle.

IF WE SKIED FOR LONGER...



The high-quality, well-maintained slopes of the Eplény Ski Area are among the longest in Hungary. In snow-free weather, snow cannons provide artificial snow on the 16 slopes. Beginners can enjoy quality ski lessons and renting facilities, and a ski repair service is also available. It is also one of the favourite terrains for snowboarders, and the floodlit downhill ride in the evening and the sun terrace are also very popular.

HEAD TO THE MÁTRA



The ski park in Mátraszentistván and the Kékes ski slope system offer special experiences for both skiers and snowboarders. At the almost 10-hectare ski park in Mátraszentistván, the little ones can attend a ski nursery and a school lift, while older and more advanced skiers can try bigger slopes. The slope system in Kékestető has a near-alpine atmosphere as it is the highest point in the country. From here you can even go on a snowmobile tour. Both slope systems provide you with fresh forest air and wonderful panoramas.

SKI RESORTS AROUND BUDAPEST



One of the two professional and popular ski slopes close to the capital is the Nagyvillám ski resort in Visegrád. It promises skiers an even more fantastic panorama than the one in Mátra as they will be able to admire the view of the Danube and the Visegrád Citadel. The wide and mellow slopes are especially popular with beginners, but you can also snowboard here and go sledding and bobsledding on a separate slope. Not far from Budapest you can find Hungary's oldest ski slope in Dobogókő, where steep and mellow sections alternate, and you can relax at the hilltop restaurant.

THE SPORTING TREASURES OF NORTHERN HUNGARY



In addition to the ski slopes of the Zemplén Adventure Park, the largest of its kind in the country, you can ski on the longest and widest artificial slope in the country all year round. Snowboarders also like to come here, and there is a skating facility at the chairlift station. On the complex slope system of the Bánkút ski club surrounded by hiking trails everyone from beginners to pros can find a slope to suit them. Cross-country skiers can also enjoy one of the best terrains in the country.

SKI RESORT ABOVE THE CAPITAL CITY



Normafa has a 100-year-old tradition of skiing. There are seven slopes here in total, and both experienced and novice skiers will find a slope that suits them. The black track of Nagy-Norma welcomes experienced skiers while the Kis-Norma is perfect for those who are just learning.



IMPRINT

Published by: Hungarian Tourism Agency,
Dr. Zoltán Guller CEO
1027 Budapest, Kacska utca 15-23.
Telephone: +36 1 488 8700

Designed and edited by: Mediator Group Kft.

Printed by: Mindenamiroda Kft.



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