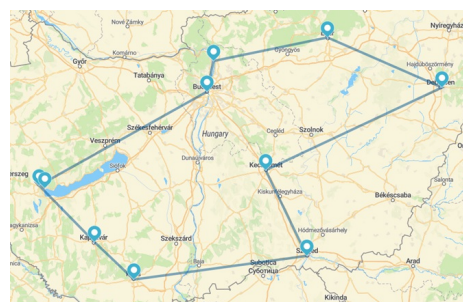




Hungary, 10 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Land of the Magyars

Although not known for certain, folk tales have it that the Magyar people (a term meaning "talkers") originally came from western Siberia, from where they migrated to the Ural Mountains region. At the beginning of the seventh century, the Magyars would launch their incursions towards the West, gradually occupying the territories of the current Hungary and Slovakia, until reaching France, to the west, and the Carpathian and Transylvania mountains, to the east. Their defeat in the year 955 against Otto I the Great, future Germanic emperor, put an end to their expansion and favoured their sedentary settlements in the plains of Hungary. In fact, the current Hungarians are heirs of the seven Magyar tribes that, as tradition would have it, colonised this land of great plains and gentle hills bathed by endless lakes and rivers, with the mighty Danube opposite. Our "Route through the land of Magyars" offers a fascinating journey that will see you in the footsteps of this people of excellent riders, and discover by car stunning landscapes, such as those around Lake Balaton and the "Great Hungarian Plain" (Alföld); a thousand thermal springs, such as those of the Hévíz Spa and the Aquaticum of Debrecen; and an extensive and valuable heritage, inherited from the rich and long history of a country with a strong culture, such as the Buda Castle, the Szeged Synagogue or the Ghazi Pasha Qasim Mosque in Pécs. Welcome to one of the most beautiful countries in the heart of Central Europe.



Departure date: Departures from August 2026 till July 2027

From: London

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - BUDAPEST - HÉVÍZ

Flight departure from the city of origin to Budapest. Arrival and rental car pick-up. We start the route by visiting Lake Balaton, the largest lake in Central Europe, and one of the largest freshwater lakes on the Old Continent. This Hungarian "inner sea", the main national tourist destination, offers some astounding figures: 79 kilometers in length and an area of 594 km². More modestly, its average depth is 3 meters. Take the M7 in a southwesterly direction and, after traveling for about 100 kilometers, you will reach the northeast shore of "the Balatón" in local speak. Continue along the south side of the lake, crossing first the town of Siófok and then leaving behind Lake Balaton, until you reach your destination: the spa town of Hévíz, located 200 kilometers away from the Magyar capital. This huge thermal complex is located both on the banks and on the waters of Lake Hévíz, near the western end of Lake Balaton. It is the largest thermal lake in the world open for bathing, with a total area of 47,500 m², whose water flow is so strong that the water of the lake is completely recycled every 72 hours. Its waters are beneficial for rheumatic patients and disorders of the locomotor system, among other benefits. In fact, the area is home to St. Andrews State Hospital for Rheumatology and Rehabilitation and a prosperous and growing health tourism industry, with Hévíz Spa leading the way. This enclave is ideal for relaxing, resting and recharging batteries. Feel free to try one of their exclusive and healthy recipes at their restaurant, such as their rabbit ragout made with tasty wild mushrooms and a hint of chili served with "rösti" (scrambled) vegetables.

Overnight stay in Hévíz.

● DAY 2 · HÉVÍZ - LAKE BALATON - HÉVÍZ

Take our advice: Spend the day enjoying the excellent thermal facilities of Lake Hévíz and the many attractions and entertainment offered by the city of the same name, an expanding tourist destination. Visit some of its monuments, such as the Town Hall building and the Egregy wineries and museum. Or explore a few of its churches, such as the Orthodox Heart of Jesus, the Catholic of the Holy Spirit, the Calvinist and a temple dating from the time of the Árpád Dynasty. Further back in time, you can also find important remains from the Roman age, when the hot springs of the lake began to be exploited, such as the Tomb of the Roman Soldier and a decaying garden. Do not miss the Farmer's Market, an intoxicating treat filled with aromas of delicious local products. Or simply wander through its streets and pedestrian areas, whilst you browse through its shops and enjoy a savoury snack at one of its many cafes and restaurants. Alternatively, you might want to take a trip to the nearby town of Keszthely, located just 5 kilometers south of Hévíz on the western shore of Lake Balaton, the so-called "beach" of Hungary. Its main tourist attractions are the Festetics palace, built in Baroque style in 1745, and the Balatón Museum, which houses different geological and archaeological exhibitions, and mainly deals with the history of Lake Balaton, which incidentally belongs to the Danube river basin.

Overnight stay in Hévíz.

● DAY 3 · HÉVÍZ - KAPOSVÁR - PÉCS

Departure to southern Hungary to the Mecsek mountains, where the city of Pécs is located, among the five largest in the Magyar country. Before reaching Pécs, we would encourage you to stop in the town of Kaposvár which, according to legend, was founded on seven hills like Rome itself. To reach Kaposvár, you must head over to Keszthely and from there continue on the M7 heading east, skirting the western coast of "the Balatón", then turn south. Overall, you will cover more than 90 kilometers between Hévíz and Kaposvár, driving through places of stunning natural beauty on your way. Inhabited since time immemorial thanks to its strategic location as a crossroads of roads and commercial routes, its main tourist attraction is the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption (Nagyboldogasszony-székesegyház, in Hungarian). Built between 1885 and 1886 on the Baroque Saint Donat Chapel, this neo-Romanesque cathedral ranks as one of the largest Christian temples in Hungary. It stands in the central and beautiful square Kossuth Tér, which is adorned with flowers, trees and fountains and surrounded by a mixture of old and new buildings. In addition to the cathedral, the Kossuth squares are home to the old city hall and its bell tower, the Municipal Chamber and several restaurants and cafés, where you can catch your breath after taking a leisurely stroll through this picturesque town. Other points of interest include the Csiky Gergely Theater, the Rippl-Rónai Museum, the Dorottya House of the 18th century, the Golden Lion Pharmacy of 1774 and the Vaszary Gallery. And if you happen to do this Route in the summertime, book your seat at the "International Chamber Music Festival of Kaposvár", the Kaposfest, which takes place during the month of August. Up to 14 concerts are held by world famous artists in the span of a week. On the outskirts of the city, just 5 kilometers southeast of the center of Kaposvár, you will find the ruins of the Benedictine Monastery of Kaposszentjakab (formerly known as Zselicszentjakab). This monastic complex dating from the 11th century combines Romanesque and Gothic styles, and was sadly destroyed during the wars against the Ottomans. Where you're ready, rejoin the route and head for Pécs, where you will spend the night. Take Highway 66 in a southeasterly direction and travel 60 kilometers away from the Kaposszentjakab Monastery. An interesting and advisable start to your visit to Pécs would be the Zsolnay district, built on the grounds of the famous ceramic factory of Vilmos Zsolnay, the most important ceramicist in the country. Not surprisingly, the city boasts numerous beautiful facades richly decorated with ceramic, and multicolored roofs. Whilst strolling through this remarkable neighborhood, you can visit the Zsolnay Museum, which includes the artist's mausoleum and the city Planetarium. More than anything, it's an ideal place to walk and stretch your legs as you hit the myriad shops where you can buy handicrafts, ceramics and jewelry inspired by the work of Zsolnay, as well as restaurants and its famous breweries. Along the street Kiláru Utca and surroundings you will find several pubs, where you can taste craft beer and excellent wines of the region.

Overnight stay in Pécs.

● DAY 4 · PÉCS

You have the entire day to thoroughly explore this wonderful Hungarian city. A town that houses a remarkable monumental heritage inherited from the many peoples that made of Pécs their home. An excellent starting point for your visit is Szécheny tér, the city's social heart. Flanked by several restaurants, and home to beautiful baroque buildings and statues of major figures of Hungarian history, it is dominated by the largest Muslim sanctuary in Central Europe: the Ghazi Pasha Qasim Mosque (Gázi Kászim passes dzsámija). This sanctuary, the most important in the city's Ottoman legacy, was built with the same stones of the Gothic church of Saint Berthold by Pasha Quasim "the Victorious". Although it is consecrated to the Christian cult, it was restored in 1940 respecting its Turkish style, which one can appreciate in the frescoes representing quotations from the Koran dating back to the 16th century. It is not the only notable Ottoman vestige, given that the Pasha Yakovali Hassan Mosque is located in the Kórház Tér square, a beautiful oriental sanctuary open to the public - when the Muslim cult is not celebrated. On the other hand, in Szent István Tér square stands the Romanesque Cathedral of Pécs or St. Peter's Basilica (Pécsi bazilika és székesegyház), built in the 11th century in the time of Orseolo Péter, the second king of Hungary. The traces of later periods percolate through its Gothic and Renaissance elements. Not to mention its imposing bronze door at which most stare in awe. While you're there, grab a bite at the Szent István Tér square, where you can choose between several establishments specialising in Hungarian food. Give their goulash a try - and don't forget a local sparkling wine to go with it. Delicious! Pécs, allegedly the Hungarian city with the most museums, surely deserves such distinction. (Note: If museums are high on your list, you should consider the "Museum Pass". Not included). Weary travellers will be glad to know that the city's diverse museum offer is mostly concentrated on Káptalan street. There, you can visit, among others, the house-studio of Victor Vasarely, born in the city and creator of pop-art; the Hungarian Gallery of Modern Art, which houses works by avant-garde Hungarian painters such as József Rippl-Rónai, Lajos Gulácsy and Moholy-Nagy; and the Tsondar Csontváry Museum, the best representative of the pictorial style called plein-air (in the neighboring street Janus Pannonius).

Overnight stay in Pécs.

● DAY 5 · PÉCS - SZEGED

There is not better place to discover the south-east of the country than Szeged, the third largest city in Hungary. From Pécs, it is a 200-kilometer drive east on highway 55 to Szeged. Located on the banks of the Tisza River, the main tributary of the Danube, it is a stone's throw away from the border with Serbia and Romania. In Magyar country, Szeged is known as the "City of the Sun" due to the long sun exposure it enjoys throughout the year, registering scarce annual rainfall. Further to its privileged climate, the main city attractions include its modernist-style synagogue, its cathedral and the Dömötör tower. The Szeged Synagogue (Szegedi zsinagóga) was built in 1907 following the design of the famous Hungarian-Jewish architect Lipót Baumhorn. Its vaulted ceiling is an outstanding example of how several architectural styles can be elegantly merged, in this case, Art Nouveau and historicist styles. It is also one of the highest religious temples in Hungary with 48.5 meters in height. No less impressive is the Cathedral of Our Lady of Hungary (Magyarok Nagyasszonya püspöki székesegyház), also known as votive church (Fogadalmi templom), a cathedral temple of Catholic worship built in neo-Romanesque style at the beginning of the twentieth century. In fact, its construction began in 1913, but could not be completed until 1930 due to the First World War. Its twin spiers, the dome set 54 meters above the ground, and the Bell of the Heroes, a 8,600-kilo structure, make this a must-visit. Opposite the cathedral stands the Dömötör Tower (Dömötör-torony), the oldest building in Szeged. Whilst its construction dates back to the eleventh century, it was not completed until two centuries later, spanning thus different styles including Romanesque and Gothic. The Cathedral Square offers nearly endless dining options. If you are after a local recipe, we recommend fish soup "a la Szeged", which includes carp, sturgeon and pike cooked with onions, sweet tomatoes and paprika.

Overnight stay in Szeged.

● DAY 6 · SZEGED - KECSKEMÉT - DEBRECEN

Halfway between Szeged and Budapest, the capital of Hungary, lies the city of Kecskemét, famously known as the "city of bells". Now, why is that so? Simply because in a small balcony, located on the main entrance of the beautiful modernist City Hall, bells of various sizes marvel locals and tourists with their playful chime. Upon the hour, the bells play several popular Hungarian melodies. Noon is the most special moment, since the bell tolling extends for 10 minutes of enchanting melodies. A real concert in the plaza Kossuth Tér. The city was founded with the arrival of Magyar tribes in the lands of the "Great Hungarian Plain" (Alföld), although the surroundings have been inhabited for at least 5,000 years. Unlike other Hungarian cities, Kecskemét was spared and left standing by the Ottomans during the conquest, which allowed the city to thrive even during the Turkish occupation. It is said that the Ottoman Sultan fell in love with its famous apricots, from which a brandy called "barackpálinka" is distilled; charming as the story is, it is more likely that the city was spared thanks to the important tributes paid by the city hall to the Pasha of Buda. Besides being the cradle of the "barackpálinka", this region became - and remains today - the top wine producer in the country during the twentieth century. As in the rest of Hungarian cities, Kecskemét boasts an important monumental religious heritage, encompassing diverse churches of various rites and cults. For example, you can visit the Church of San Nicholas in Kossuth Tér itself, called "the Old one" because it is the oldest temple in Kecskemét, dating back to the early 15th century; and Nagytemplom ("the Great"), built between 1774 and 1806 in the neoclassical style. Its façade portrays several reliefs in honour and remembrance of the local heroes of the Independence. Between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the Cifra Palace, the Otthon building, the Lutheran Church, the Reformed Calvinist College or the Minor Synagogue, the current Museum of Photography, with their beautiful Moorish ornaments, were also built in modernist style. Once you are ready, set off on Highway 4 eastbound and, after traveling about 185 kilometers, you will reach your next destination: Debrecen, the second largest city in Hungary, and the unofficial capital of the "Great Hungarian Plain". A great start to your visit would be the municipal park of Debrecen and its Nagyerdő (Great Forest). Stroll through its tree-lined paths, discover its fantastic Botanical Garden and improve your knowledge at the AGÓRA Science Center, an ideal place to enjoy with your family. At the edge of the Great Forest lies a thermal spring discovered in 1820, where the opulent Aquaticum Debrecen is located. In this spa, you can appreciate on yourself the healing properties of these healthy, caramel coloured waters, as they are tinted by the iodine they contain. Near this magnificent spa, you will surely spot several restaurants such as the "Régi Vigadó", which offers a tasty stew of catfish and roasted sweet duck. By the way, both dishes combine excellently with the "Pálinka", a Hungarian fruit brandy. Egészségedre (Cheers)!

Overnight stay in Debrecen.

DAY 7 · DEBRECEN AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

One of the most surprising things about Debrecen is its intimate communion with nature. Lush forests delimit its southern border whilst, just 40 kilometers to the west, emerges the Hortobágy National Park. This infinite "puszta" (plain) swept by the wind extends over an area of 810 km², and is home to dozens of species of birds, such as bustards, red-footed kestrels and cranes. But above all, it is the heart and soul of the region, a land brimming with legends and popular stories, home to the legendary Hungarian horsemen who led the flocks through the "puszta". In this protected area, the traditional stockrearing of Hungarian gray oxen, mangalica pigs, buffaloes and, of course, the famous Przewalski horses, is alive and definitely kicking. Despite having abandoned their pastoral life, the descendants of those horsemen pass on their equestrian skills from generation to generation, organising festivals and demonstrations. The "puszta" can be explored on horse carriages or in a safari bus, an unforgettable and perfect experience for the whole family. Do not miss the largest mill in Central Europe, dating from 1858, or the Hortobágyi Csárda, near the Bridge of the Nine Arches, to taste "gulyás", stew of veal, and "slambuc", a recipe based on of pasta, potatoes and pork fat, with traditional music in the background. You will feel like a true Hungarian horseman! The most recognisable icon of the city of Debrecen is the Nagytemplom (Great Church), with its characteristic yellow colour and emblematic twin bell towers. This Calvinist church, one of the largest in Hungary, features an elegant interior with white walls and an impressive, 200-year old organ. Worthy a visit is also the majestic Calvinist College, in neoclassical style, which also houses a museum that reviews the rich intellectual history, as well as a library with turquoise pillars. These two wonders of religious architecture lent Debrecen the nickname "Calvinist Rome". Also noteworthy are the Aranybika hotel and the City Hall building. On an artistic level, we should necessarily mention the Déri Museum, home to the greatest pictorial treasure of the city: Mihály Munkács's trilogy of paintings and the Passior of Christ. One of the reasons why this fantastic work appears so realistic is because the artist, to better reflect the suffering of Jesus, endured a simulated crucifixion! Time for dinner! Head over to the brand new historic centre, where you can savour one of the most typical dishes of Debrecen: a juicy double sausage made with Mangalica pork. A real treat!

Overnight stay in Debrecen.

DAY 8 · DEBRECEN - EGER - SZENTENDRE - BUDAPEST

On today's agenda, we have our trip back to Budapest, located about 300 kilometers west of Debrecen. On your return path, you should pay homage to the mythical Castle of Eger (Egri Vár), built in the 13th century to defend the city from the attacks of the Mongols, symbol of the Hungarian resistance to the Ottoman conqueror hordes. In 1552, less than 2,000 defenders, including men, women and children, faced an army of 80,000 soldiers for five weeks, and forced its withdrawal. In 1596, however, the Turks would finally seize the castle after a brief siege. Episodes like this turn Eger into a multiculturalism extravaganza that summarises the historical baggage of this country. Because its two main icons are the Ottoman minaret over 40 meters high, the one farthest north among those still standing, and the imposing cathedral or basilica, built between 1831 and 1837. Needless to say, you don't want to miss the "City under the city" (Város a város alatt), a network of underground wineries near the cathedral; the Lyceum (Eszterházy College), built between 1765 and 1785 and a superb example of the restrained Zopf style; and its famous "Valley of the beautiful women" (Szépasszony-völgy), a district of the south of Eger full of wineries and cellars, among other attractions. The next stop before reaching the Hungarian capital is Szentendre, one of the most artistic towns in the country. Located just 20 kilometers from Budapest, going up the Danube, Szentendre has been a historical refuge for painters and sculptors, for workshops and galleries which, after their conversion, make up the rich - up to 16 of them - museum scenario of the city. Begin your visit at its elegant central square, cobbled and built on a slope, dominated by the Cross of the Merchant since 1763. From there, wander through its picturesque streets dotted with shops, such as that of the Kovács family and its fabrics of an unforgettable deep blue, and enjoy attractions such as the Catholic Church of St John, the Orthodox Basilica of Belgrade (Baroque style), the cemetery located at the top of the village, and the boardwalk of Szentendre. After the visit, rejoin the Route to the capital of Hungary.

Once in Budapest, hit the Jewish quarter where endless dining and entertainment options await you.

Overnight stay in Budapest.

● DAY 9 · BUDAPEST

Free day in the Hungarian capital to visit the main attractions of one of the most spectacular cities in Europe. The most recognizable icon of the "Jewel of the Danube" is its spectacular and imposing Parliament building which, after those of Bucharest and Buenos Aires, is the third largest in the world. Built between 1884 and 1902 along the Danube River, it is located at the main entrance of the Kossuth Tér square. It follows a neo-gothic style and has 691 rooms. A must-visit without the slightest doubt. On the Buda bank of the Danube, you will find another of its great symbols: the Fishermen's Bastion (Halászbástya), a neo-Gothic and neo-Romanesque terrace construction dating back to the late 19th century. This magnificent fortress, nicknamed by the group of fishermen who defended this section of the walls during the Middle Ages, features seven towers that represent precisely the seven Magyar tribes that settled in the region in the year 896. At present, it is one of the exceptional viewpoints of the Hungarian capital, offering spectacular views of Pest any time of the day. Gellért Hill, rising up to 235 meters above the ground, is yet another excellent viewpoint from where you can contemplate the Danube in all its glory. "The Statue of Liberty" crowns this hill, a monument erected in memory of the Soviet conquest of Hungary during the Second World War. Rightly so, Budapest also has its share of World Heritage Sites of UNESCO, which are found in the two main streets of Budapest: Váci Utca and Andrásy Avenue. Váci Utca, located in Buda, runs parallel to the Danube where the retaining walls of the river were located, nowadays full of shops and restaurants. The ensemble of Andrásy Út, in Pest, includes the Opera, the Erzsébet Square and the Heroes' Square (Hősök tere), the latter presided over by the Millennium Memorial, a monument adorned with statues of the leaders of the seven Magyar founding tribes, among others. As you walk on the banks of the Danube, cross the Chain Bridge, one of the oldest - dates from 1849 - linking Buda with Pest. As for the excellent museum offerings of the Magyar capital, we recommend the Holocaust Memorial Centre, an overwhelming journey through the hardships of the Jewish community in Hungary from the first persecutions to the massacres in concentration camps during the Second World War.

Overnight stay in Budapest.

● DAY 10 · BUDAPEST - CITY OF ORIGIN

If, once in the Hungarian capital, you fancy some sightseeing, go to the Castle Hill of Buda Castle (Budai Vár), a late-Gothic fortress built during the 14th century, or walk along the emblematic Andrásy Avenue of Pest that connects Elizabeth Square with the City Park, where you can marvel at the magnificent and eclectic houses, its neo-Renaissance palaces and its beautiful facades. Both are recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ Return flight. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Heviz. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Heviz. |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Pecs. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Pecs. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Szeged. |
| ✓ Selected meal plan in Szeged. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Debrecen. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Debrecen. |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Budapest. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Budapest. | ✓ Rent-a-car. |
| ✓ Insolvency protection. | | |

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.

Destinations Visited

Budapest



Heviz



Keszthely



Kaposvár



Pecs



Szeged



Kecskemet



Debrecen



Eger



Szentendrei Sziget



Important remarks

- Driving in Hungary: 1. Wearing seat belts is mandatory for all passengers and car seats are compulsory for all children under the age of three. 2. Speed limits. 2.1 Urban centres up to 50 km/h. 2.2 Non-urban roads up to 90 km/h. 2.3 Motorways up to 120 km/h. 3. Traffic fines are paid on the spot and in the national currency. 4. A red warning triangle and a reflective yellow vest must always be carried in the car in the event of breakdown or accident. 5. Alcohol consumption. There is zero tolerance with alcohol behind the steering wheel in Hungary and, therefore, the maximum alcohol level permitted is 0.0 g/l. There are severe penalties for drink driving. 6. Parking. Most tourist cities have a free parking area. You can park on the right-hand side on two-way streets and on both sides on one-way streets. 7. Make sure that the rental car is fitted with a vignette (motorway sticker) if you'll be using the following toll motorways: M1, M3, M5 and M7.

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before

3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.

- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- The minimum age to rent a car in Hungary is twenty-one, although this may vary according to the category of the vehicle. The driver must have held a driving licence for at least one year.
- As it's in Eastern Europe, Hungary's climate is characterised by cold and dry winters. That's why we recommend taking suitable clothes. A lined coat, preferably waterproof, as well as gloves, scarf, hat and thermal underwear are essentials in your suitcase. It's a good idea to take waterproof and non-slip footwear, as snow and morning frosts are common. Have a hot drink every now and then while visiting the markets to warm up your body.