



MAGYAR MARVELS: TOUR OF HUNGARY

July 18—27, 2024

Itinerary Subject to Change

DAY 1 JULY 18

Depart on flight for Madrid.

DAY 2 JULY 19

Depart on flight for Budapest. Arrive and check in to **Mercure Budapest City Center Hotel**.

Welcome dinner at Pomo D'Oro.

DAY 3 JULY 20

Visit the beautiful Baroque Palace in Gödöllo, the former summer residence of Queen Elisabeth (Sisi) and Francis Joseph (Habsburg Emperor & Hungarian King 1867-1916). The interior visit of the **Gödöllo Palace** gives you a glimpse of times under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. You will become acquainted with the secrets of the private life, the hidden doors, rooms and lovers of the royal couple.

Lunch at organic farm in Szentendre.

Walk around the cobblestone narrow streets of **Szentendre**, a small baroque city built on medieval ruins, located at the gate of the Danube Bend. The town is considered to be the Artists' Village or the Painters' Town.

Evening at your leisure.



DAY 4

JULY 21

Explore **Lake Balaton** and its surroundings. Enjoy the view from the Tihany Abbey and walk along the famous promenade in Balatonfüred. Lake Balaton is a freshwater lake in the Transdanubian region of Hungary and the largest in Central Europe.



Lunch at Bistro Sparhelt.

Optional: Attend Formula One race on your own. Formula One is the highest class of international racing for open-wheel single-seater formula racing cars. The FIA Formula One World Championship has been one of the premier forms of racing around the world since its inaugural running in 1950.

Evening at your leisure.

DAY 5

JULY 22

Take Andrássy Avenue and drive to **Heroes' Square**. Walk around the **City Park** and see the famous Szechenyi Thermal Bath and a fairy tale castle, Vajdahunyad Vára.



Next we drive over to the Buda side and stop in the **Castle District**.

During a guided walk see all the attractions of the area like the former royal palace, old town hall, Matthias Church, Holy Trinity Column, Fishermen's Bastion and hidden alleys along the way.

Walk around the Jewish District to see the Great Synagogue and the Orthodox Synagogue, the ritual bath (Mikve) and the remains of the ghetto wall.



Visit **St. Stephen's Basilica**, a Roman Catholic basilica named in honor of Stephen, the first King of Hungary, whose right hand is housed in the reliquary. Since the renaming of the primatial see, it has been the co-cathedral of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Esztergom-Budapest. Today, it is the third largest church building in present-day Hungary. It is the largest church in Budapest and a World Heritage Site.

Hungarian cooking class for dinner.

DAY 6

JULY 23

Official welcome from city hall.

Lunch at Urban Betyar.

Visit the World Heritage Site **Hungarian Parliament** building, the "House of the Country," located on the Danube bank. Today it is the third largest parliament in the world built to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian state. Lavishly decorated both inside and outside, the Hungarian Parliament was inspired by the House of Parliament in London so the neo-Gothic style is dominant, but it also bears Renaissance and Baroque features.



Home-hosted dinners.

DAY 7

JULY 24

Travel to **Eger** one of Hungary's most famous towns, characterized by superior wines, natural healing water springs and noteworthy monuments. Eger is influenced by Christian and Turkish culture with Baroque and Classicist architecture. The town has a charming medieval atmosphere where a 1000 year old castle, 38 temple towers, and hills with vineyards providing a compelling backdrop. Eger is Hungary's historical wine region dating back nearly 1000 years.



Explore the legendary wine region of **Tokaj** in northeastern Hungary. It was declared one of the first appellations in the world (in 1737) and has been famous for its Tokaji Aszú for centuries. Its winemaking culture and traditions are honored by its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage since 2002. The last 30 years have brought a fresh energy to the region with exciting wines like Furmint and Harslevelu.



Check in to Mercure Debrecen.

Evening at your leisure.

DAY 8

JULY 25

Visit the nearly 75,000 hectare area of the World Heritage property “**Hortobágy National Park** –the Puszta”, located on the Great Hungarian Plain in the eastern part of Hungary. It is an outstanding example of a cultural landscape which preserves intact and visible evidence of its traditional pastoral use over more than two millennia and represents the harmonious interaction between people and nature. Enjoy a special Puszta horse show with a traditional lunch.



Evening at your leisure.

DAY 9

JULY 26

Return to Budapest.

Farewell Danube dinner cruise and folklore show.

DAY 10

JULY 27

Depart for DFW via London Heathrow.