



Consulate General of

HUNGARY



Celebrating
Hungary National Day

Mumbai - 23rd October, 2015

Foreword

Celebrating the Hungarian National Day

October 23rd commemorates the start of the Revolution of 1956, when the Hungarians rose up against the Soviet ruled communist regime. It also commemorates the 'Day of the Republic' as in 1989, after the fall of communism, Hungary was declared a Republic.

In 2014, Hungary established its first Consulate office in Mumbai and this would be the first celebration of the National Day in Mumbai after the commencement of the Mumbai office. Hungary has taken giant strides in both tourism and trade and recently the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Hungary, H.E. Dr. Laszlo Szabo was in India to forge alliances and exchange in trade between India and Hungary.

Last year, H.E. Dr. Norbert Revai-Bere started the Consulate of Hungary office in Mumbai and within a few months of opening the Consulate, Dr. Bere also took the onus of creating awareness of tourism to Hungary along with H.E. Szilveszter Bus, Former Ambassador of Hungary to India and currently the Deputy Secretary of State and together launched a website in collaboration with Mr. Subhash Motwani, Founder of Namaste Tourism. In this way, the first and only dedicated website for the Indian outbound Traveller to Hungary was initiated. The Namaste Hungary website offers holiday ideas to the discerning outbound traveller seeking unique experiences that Hungary has to offer.

The Consulate General of Hungary in Mumbai in collaboration with Namaste Tourism is glad to present this 16 page "Namaste Hungary" special print edition to further bring the Indo-Hungarian relations closer, for years to come.

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From left to right, 1. **Dr. Mahesh Kumar Singh** (Chief Research and Innovation Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary) 2. **Mr. Subhash Motwani** (Founder - Namaste Tourism) 3. **H.E. Dr. Norbert Revai-Bere** (Consul General of Hungary) and 4. **H.E. Dr. Laszlo Szabo** (Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary), respectively, during the October 2015 visit of the Trade Delegation from Hungary to India.



Consul General Speaks

~H.E. Dr. Norbert Revai-Bere



H.E. Dr. Norbert Revai-Bere is the Consul General of Hungary in India and here he shares his views on Trade, Tourism and Indo-Hungarian relations.

Why is 23rd October being celebrated as National Day in Hungary and what is its significance?

October 23rd is one of our National holidays in Hungary. Besides, August 20th is the Foundation of Hungarian Statehood with the Coronation of our first King, St. Stephanus in the year 1000 AD. March 15th commemorates Hungarian Civil Revolution and War of Independence in 1848.

October 23rd commemorates the Revolution of 1956, when Hungarians rose up against the Soviet ruled communist system. October 23rd marks the first day of the Revolution of 1956. Peaceful demonstrations were held on this day throughout Budapest, many organized by students, demanding free elections, freedom of the press, and withdrawal of the Soviet troops stationed in Hungary. The events later turned to a War of Independence. By November 4th, Soviet leaders sent in their tanks with reinforcement to bring a bloody end to the Hungarian Revolution. Thousands of people died and over 200,000 fled the country.

October 23rd, also commemorates the 'Day of the Republic', as in 1989, after the fall of communism, Hungary was declared a Republic on October 23rd.

How long has the Consulate General and Promotion Centre of Hungary been in Mumbai and what are the roles and responsibilities of the Consulate's office?

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban visited Mumbai during his official trip to India in 2013 and, recognising the economic, political and cultural importance of the city and the state of Maharashtra, decided to open Hungary's first ever Consulate General in Mumbai, with consular district that spreads over the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and the Union Territories of Pondicherry, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The new Consulate General of Hungary in Mumbai started its operation in 2014. The Hungarian Consulate General is the focal point of interaction in its jurisdiction for promoting economic, cultural and political relations between India and Hungary. Besides promoting bilateral economic and trade co-operation,





we also try to increase the visibility of Hungary in India and the knowledge of Indian people about Hungary with particular attention to our common heritage such as Amrita Sher-Gil and other eminent personalities. Many other sectors and fields of collaboration like education, academic exchange, film industry, and tourism have huge potential. It is our aim to identify and develop further our ever diversified relations in these and other areas. And of course, we do issue visas for Hungary and the Schengen-territory in Mumbai.

How has the role of your office in areas of trade promotion, tourism and cultural exchanges evolved?

As mentioned before, we have tasks in multiple sectors to develop relations and to identify potential partners from India and Hungary. We only started our operations about a year ago, however we have already achieved initial successes. To mention a few: the number of Indian tourist arrivals in Hungary has grown by almost 60% during the last one year and we see further potential in this regard. We have managed to reach out to the Bollywood film industry and at the moment a great Indian movie production is currently shooting in Hungary with the lead actors comprising of John Abraham and Sonakshi Sinha. We are looking forward to the premier of the film directed by Abhinay Deo and produced by Vipul Shah and hoping for more movies to come. We also managed to bring several Hungarian artists and musicians to Mumbai, and we shall bring many more in the coming years.

Is this your first stint in India in the official capacity? If not, then please share the experiences of your earlier visit and how different is it this time as compared to the earlier times?

I have spent three years in Delhi earlier, at our Embassy as Deputy Head of Mission. It was an exciting experience then and it is an exciting experience now, in Mumbai. India is changing rapidly but one thing seems permanent,

that India has millions and millions of faces, characters and surprises, and we never get bored to experience what this beautiful country offers us day by day.

How aware are the people of Hungary with regards to India in terms of trade and tourism opportunities and what is the overall perception of Indians and India as a whole in Hungary?

India was always in the hearts of Hungarian people. Hungarian intellectuals for centuries looked at India and were inspired by India and the Indian culture. It must have something to do with the Asian origin of the Hungarian people. With over 1000 years of European history, we still maintained a great understanding and openness towards Asian civilisations and the way of thinking by Asian people and a great curiosity for the wonders of this continent. India, however, is being recognized more and more in Hungary. We have religious and ethnic communities in Hungary with strong Indian backgrounds and many people with admiration and interest towards Indian cultural heritage such as Yoga, Ayurveda, Art, Music, Dance and others. On economic terms our co-operation is also evolving, with Hungarian companies entering India and with many more Indian companies and investments in Hungary, using our country as a Gateway to Europe.

How do you plan to create awareness of Hungary in India that goes beyond Hungarian Goulash and Folk?

Goulash, or as we call it: Gulyás is an important and unique feature of the Hungarian cuisine, which of course has much more to offer, blending Asian and European traditions. We are proud of our folk traditions as well as our achievements in Science and Modern Arts that contributed greatly to the world. However, we try to show both our traditions and new achievements which of course cannot be really separated as they are deeply interconnected on many levels. New innovations and start-ups

are also trying to find their way into the global presence including in India, and we are here to help them in their endeavours.

In which areas can India and Hungary exchange ideas and expertise and how does your office play a role in forging these alliances?

There are many areas and opportunities which are constantly identified by us and our partners. There are fields of course where our expertise can offer more or different things that might suit Indian requirements better, such as sustainable water management, renewables, agriculture and food productions, as well as scientific collaboration in many areas. We try to connect Indian and Hungarian companies, universities, Government organisations and personalities whose co-operation can mutually benefit both our nations.

What is the nature of delegations who have visited India and what has been their feedback?

There have been many delegations and there are many more to come from different sectors. Their overall feedback is very positive, seeing huge potential in India and in working with Indian partners. I think the secret for successful co-operation however is to find a trustworthy and capable Indian partner.

Compared to other European destinations, how is Hungary different in terms of value?

As it has been mentioned before, besides our millennium old European history, we have also proudly acknowledged our Asian origin, which creates a special and unique blend of hospitality with the spiciest food in our continent, and unparalleled musical and architectural heritage. I must also mention the natural beauty of our country having one of the largest lakes of Europe with historical vineyards having thousands of years of wine-making traditions and one of the greatest reservoirs of thermal water with centuries old bath culture developed over it. We still maintained

to a certain extent our nomadic traditions in the Great Plain of the East of Hungary where beautiful horses roam the fields freely. Prices in Hungary are still among the most competitive ones for accommodation and food and for shopping as well.

What does Hungary have to offer to the discerning traveller and what is the duration of stay you would recommend to suitably experience Hungary?

Hungary has a lot to offer, I would say that a life-time might not be sufficient to see everything. We like to say that once someone arrives in Hungary, they might find it difficult to leave: the Ottomans were here for 150 years, the Austrians for 200 years and even the Russians for almost half a century. I am just kidding of course, but the more time you spend in Hungary the more interesting adventures and experiences you may discover. A week, however, could be sufficient to explore our beautiful capital, Budapest and Lake Balaton, but then you can find many more amazing towns, villages, mountains and vineyards if you stay for another week. And so on...

What local experiences should a traveller to Hungary include to understand the lifestyle of the Hungarians?

Try our cuisine and wines, go to the marvellous historical baths and wander on the streets among the architectural miracles of our cities, go to the markets and enjoy your time in Hungary with Hungarians as much as you can.

Besides Budapest, what key locations should a traveller visit in Hungary?

Lake Balaton, the Bend of Danube with Visegrád and Szentendre, The Great Plain of the 'Pusztá' and all the beautiful cities and towns, like Szeged, Pecs, Debrecen, Győr and many others.

According to you, which are the famous icons of Hungary?

Having the highest ratio of Nobel-laureates per capita, there are many excellent





personalities: Scientists, Artists, Writers and Musicians. It is difficult to name only a few without mentioning all of them for which the space of this publication might not be sufficient. Those who are interested in Hungarian innovation may also look at the website: <http://hungarian-inventions.com/eng/indexregi.htm> for old and new inventions.

Are there any famous icons common to India and Hungary and how do you plan to use the same in enhancing relations between the two countries?

We have many eminent personalities in our history, whose work and life-time achievements became the common heritage of India and Hungary. However, the painter Amrita Sher-Gil, born to a Hungarian mother and an Indian father in Budapest, is undoubtedly one of the greatest icons of our nations. Her outstanding life and work represents a great common cultural heritage of our countries.

Which Bollywood films have been shot in Hungary, which are currently on the floors and which are those that are likely to be shot in the near future? Also, how will this help to boost tourism in Hungary?

There were a few movies shot in Hungary before with stars like Aishwarya Rai, Salman Khan and Ajay Devgan in 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam' for example and also with Amitabh Bachchan, while currently 'Force 2' is being shot in Budapest with John Abraham and Sonakshi Sinha. We are looking forward to many more in the coming years as it is the best way to raise awareness among the Indian public which will in turn obviously help to boost tourism to its new heights between India and Hungary.

Are there any typical Hungarian events or festivals?

Many, some with folk traditions, some with more modern background like the annual Sziget Music Festival in Budapest, which is the biggest of its kind in Europe. We have regular art

and theatre festivals in the capital and other cities, particularly the open-air theatres during the summer months. I must recommend though the Christmas Markets and Fairs in December with their unique ambience and atmosphere in every big city around the country.

Why is Hungary considered as one of the finest spa cum medical destinations in Continental Europe?

Hungary, after Iceland, has the second largest thermal water reservoirs in the world, with centuries old traditions of bath culture in beautiful historical buildings. It is a unique experience, particularly to visit the world's largest thermal lake in Hévíz with warm, healing water all year long. Swimming in warm water during winter with all the snow around is a lifetime experience and a must.

What aspect of your role as Consul General do you find most interesting and challenging?

Time Management - India has so much to offer and Mumbai in particular is so alive, with so many things happening all the time, so many interesting people to meet, it is difficult to find time for everything. Traffic, not to mention, sometimes makes it even more difficult though.

On a more personal front, what kind of hobbies and interests do you pursue and when?

I love to travel, explore new things, and meet new and interesting people. I like to read as well and paint, if I find the time. Swimming and running are also a favourite activity, as and when I can manage.

Which are your favourite holiday destinations in Hungary?

Besides my hometown Szeged, I love the Balaton Lake and its surroundings, particularly the Northern Shore.

Which is your favourite holiday destination in India and what has been your overall experience during this tenure?

I love all the places we have visited so far, however, the Himalayas and Darjeeling on one side and Kerala on the other end of the subcontinent was the most exciting experience till today. For long I wish to visit Hampi, I hope that one day I will make it there.

What is your message to our readers and how can they benefit by partnering with counterparts in Hungary in various fields?

Hungary has a lot to offer and it is still relatively unexplored for the Indian tourism sector. Our partners shall use this opportunity as Hungary is a new upcoming and exotic destination.

What are the opportunities of Hungary as a MICE (Meeting, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition) destination and have you seen a growth in MICE travel out of India?

MICE tourism and also Indian Weddings are choosing Hungary and Budapest in particular more often. We are seeing an increasing number of travellers in these sectors, with lots of further opportunities. Hungary offers great facilities and unrivalled unique experiences.

What is your opinion on Namaste Hungary (www.namastehungary.com) – a dedicated website generating awareness for the Indian outbound traveller to Hungary?

Namaste Hungary and our collaboration with Namaste Tourism were among the first initiatives since the opening of the Hungarian Consulate General in Mumbai and the 60% increase of the number of Indian travellers to Hungary in the last one year only is a clear proof of our successful co-operation.



Connect with the Consulate General of Hungary in India on Facebook using the QR code above.

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Budapest Through Pictures

The Parliament Building stands on the banks of one of the most famous rivers – The Danube (2860 km). It houses The Holy Crown of Hungary, which is also depicted in the Coat of Arms of Hungary.

The Parliament is the seat of the National Assembly of Hungary, one of the oldest Legislative Buildings in Europe, as well as one of the most popular tourist destination of Budapest. It lies in the Pest part of the city. The other part being Buda – thus combining to form the city of Budapest.

The construction of this iconic building commenced in 1896 to commemorate the 1000th Anniversary of the country and was completed in 1904. It is the largest building in Hungary and its architecture is in the form of Gothic Revival Style.

The Parliament



The Buda Castle

The Buda Castle, a historical castle and palace complex of the Hungarian Kings in Budapest was first completed in 1265. In the past, it has been called The Royal Palace or The Royal Castle.

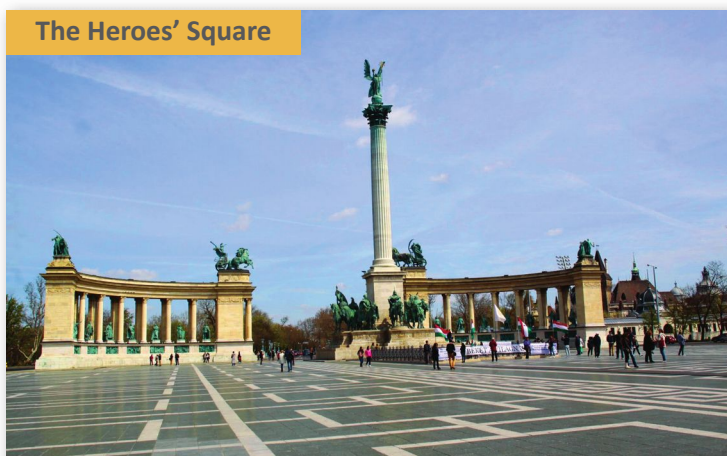
The Buda Castle was built on the southern tip of Castle Hill, bounded on the north by what is known as the Castle District, which is famous for its Medieval, Baroque and 19th-century houses, churches, and public

buildings. It is linked to Clark Adam Square and the Szechenyi Chain Bridge by the Castle Hill Funicular.

The castle which was declared a Heritage Site in 1987 is a part of the Budapest World Heritage Site.

The Heroes' Square is one of the most visited sites in Budapest along with The Parliament, The Buda Castle and The Great Synagogue. The Millennium Monument which dominates Heroes' Square was built as a mark for the Existence of Hungary as well as the Millennium of the Magyar Conquest. The building was started in 1896 but it was finally completed in 1929. The Andrássy Street which is the longest street in Budapest (2.5 km long) also runs into Heroes' Square. The area around Heroes' Square is one of the most prestigious addresses in Budapest.

The Heroes' Square

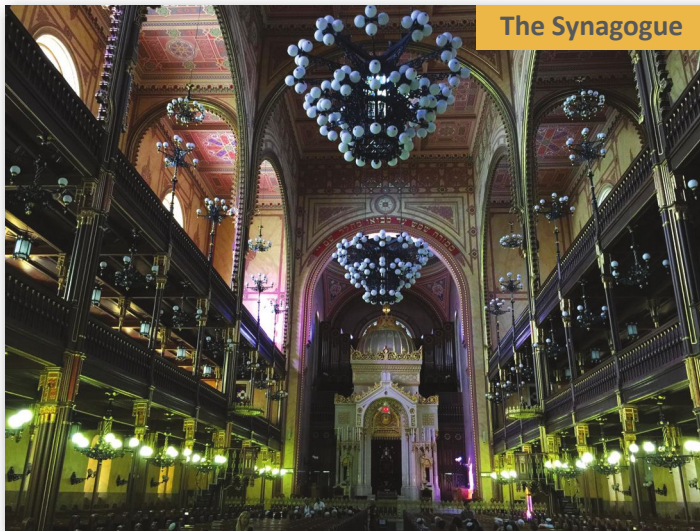


The Szechenyi Chain Bridge



The Szechenyi Chain Bridge is a suspension bridge that spans the River Danube between Buda and Pest, the western and eastern sides of Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Designed by the English engineer William Tierney Clark, it was the first permanent bridge across the Danube in Hungary and was opened in 1849. The bridge was opened in 1849, after the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, and thus became the first permanent bridge across the Danube in the Hungarian capital. At the time, its center span of 202 metres (663 ft) was one of the largest in the world. The lions at each of the abutments were carved in stone by the sculptor, Janos Marschalko.

The Synagogue

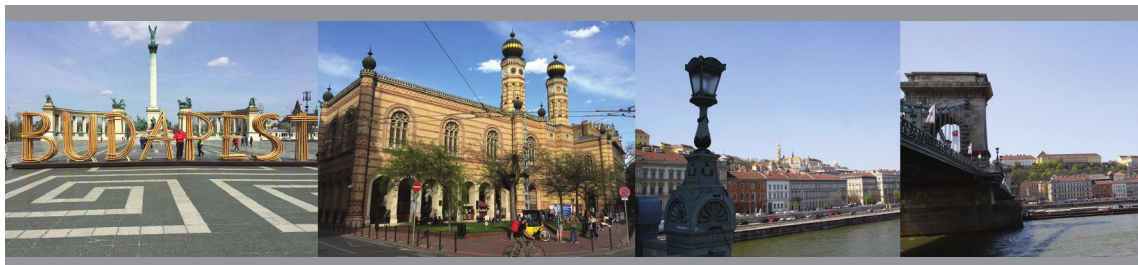


The Dohany Street Synagogue in Budapest has a unique place in Jewish history. This is the second largest Jewish house of worship in the World and the biggest Jewish house of worship in Europe.

The complex has many artefacts of Jewish Religion housed in a Museum including religious relics of the Pest Hevrah Kaddishah, rituals objects of the Sabbath as well as a Holocaust Room. The Synagogue was opened to the public on September 6, 1859 and can hold upto 3000 seated and 2000 standing worshippers.

The Founder of Zionism – Theodor Herzi (1860-1904) was born and raised in the house on which at present the Jewish Museum

stands. The Jewish Museum was constructed between 1930-1931.



Hungary Beyond Budapest

The Past and the Present

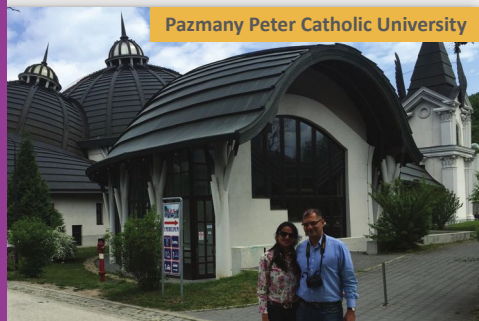
~ Subhash Motwani



The Szechenyi Chain Bridge



The Hungarian Parliament



Pazmany Peter Catholic University



Visegrad Castle

Hungary is well located in the heart of Central Europe and shares its borders with 7 countries connecting it with other Central European destinations such as Austria and Slovakia, the Eastern European countries of Ukraine and Romania and further South are Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia.

My first impressions of the capital city located on the legendary Danube was in November 2012 whilst doing one of the spectacular river cruises starting in Nuremberg, Germany and ending in Budapest - also known as the Paris of the East.

Budapest's recorded history begins with the Roman Town of Aquincum, founded around 89 AD on the site of an earlier Celtic settlement near what was to become Obuda and from 106 AD until the end of the 4th Century was the capital of Lower Pannonia. This area was occupied in the year 896 by the Magyars of Central Asia, the cultural and linguistic ancestors of today's ethnic Hungarians, who a century later founded the Kingdom of Hungary.

In 1361, Budapest became the Capital of Hungary. The Ottoman Empire's conquest of most of Hungary was in the 16th Century when Buda and Pest fell to the invaders in 1541. Whilst Buda remained the seat of a Turkish Pasha, Pest was recaptured in 1686 by the Habsburg Rulers from Austria.

Pest grew as a bustling commercial town during the 18th and 19th Century and by 1800, its population was larger than that of Buda and Obuda combined. Over the years, the population of Greater Budapest grew to over a million of which over 250,000 Jewish inhabitants died in the genocide committed during 1944 and early 1945. Despite this, Budapest today has the highest number of Jewish citizens per capita of any European city.

Three years later, I once again visited the most creative city of Europe, also known as the Pearl of the Danube to explore some of the interesting places that can be visited from Budapest as day trips. Budapest stands out as one of the most beautiful cities of Europe with the Danube cutting through Buda - the old part which is the hilly side of the city and Pest which is the downtown area, where you will find one of the largest Parliament Buildings in the world as well as the Royal Palace and also houses one of the most iconic hotels - the Four Seasons Gresham Palace.

This time we were keen to explore Central Hungary and the Danube Bend starting with Visegrad - which in Slavic means the "castle built on a mountain". The drive from Budapest to Visegrad is less than one hour away and en route we stopped briefly at Pazmany Peter Catholic University which is just about 10 minutes drive out of the city of Budapest, and it stands out for its amazing architecture.

The castle on top of the Visegrad Mountain was built between 1250 and 1258 and the ruins of the Royal Palace were discovered in 1934. We were well in time to see the Knights' tournament which is held at Visegrad - a medieval programme organised all year long in the open air

theatre of the Lower Castle. After a brief introduction of the history of the castle including a visit to the Solomon's Tower and exhibition room, the performance for about 45 minutes takes place next to the the tower. A King and Queen are selected from the guests and they are dressed in robes and crowned by the knights. The knights march in and show their targeting and fighting skills with medieval weapons, adding a dash of humour which makes it entertaining for all age groups. The guests too can try their hand at some of the weapons and we concluded this with a royal feast in the Renaissance restaurant at the base of the castle.

After Visegrad, we drove westwards along the Danube bend for about 25 minutes into Esztergom which in 972 was the settlement of the official seat of Geza, the uncrowned monarch. The highlight is a visit to the Basilica which is the largest church in Hungary which is 118 metres long and 40 metres wide. The dome roof itself is 100 metres high with inner diameter of 53.5 metres. The Basilica is built on Varhegy - the Castle Hill from where one can get a view of the village of Parkany in Slovakia across the Danube which incidentally is inhabited by a Hungarian ethnic minority.

The last city on the Danube Bend before we headed back to Budapest was the picturesque city of Szentendre, a centre for arts and museum as well as for religion and culture for the Serbs in Hungary. Szentendre is just 25 minutes from Budapest and is known for its wooden churches with the Roman Catholic parish church being the oldest historic monument as some parts date back to the 13th Century. The Church square is the highest point in the city.

The stand out experience of our trip to Szentendre was a visit to the Marzipan Museum. The museum has a colourful exhibit made entirely of Marzipan including the Parliament in Budapest, the Hungarian Royal Crown, a large collection of cartoon characters as well as live sized Michael Jackson made of Marzipan.

The next day it was time to explore the Southern Great Plain and the city that houses the oldest historical monument of the Plain - the Tower of St. Demetrius, in Szeged. It takes less than 2 hours 30 minutes to reach Szeged and can easily be done as a day trip. Although, I must admit that Szeged is a city that has much to offer as it is the border town between Hungary and Serbia as well as between Hungary and Romania. Do remember to carry your passport with your valid Schengen visa which will give you access to both Romania and Serbia and you can cover 3 countries in one day.

Szeged has some amazing architecture and the largest church called the Votive Church or the Szeged Cathedral was built to commemorate the Great Flood of 1879. Szeged has amazing value shopping, much cheaper than Budapest. As it is located on the bank of the Tisza river, those who enjoy sea food should not leave Szeged without trying the famous "Szeged" fish soup at the Fehertoi Fish Restaurant.

Szeged also hosts the best known gastronomic festival known as the Szeged International Tisza Fish Festival which is held on the first weekend of September each year. The festival also is in the Guinness Book of records for preparing a stew of 3500 litres with a team of 7000 persons serving the fish soup.

Szeged is also a city of churches and varied architecture, besides a well-known University town.

Selected King and Queen among the Guests



Inside the Basilica - Esztergom



Marzipan Museum, Szentendre



"Szeged" fish soup at the Fehertoi Fish Restaurant



Reok Palace, Art Nouveau Style, Szeged



The Famous Chimney Cakes

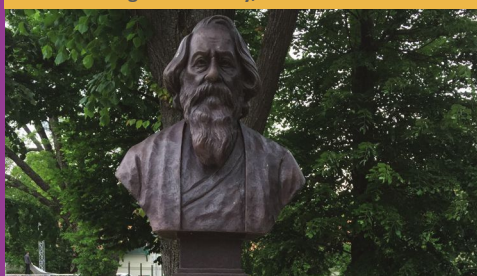
KÜRTÖSKALÁCS



Lake Balaton - The Hungarian Sea



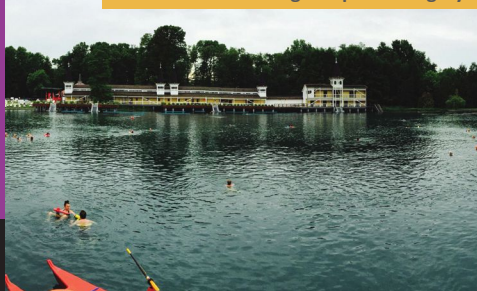
Tagore Walkway, Lake Balaton



Festetics Palace



Lake Heviz - The Largest Spa in Hungary



You will find the Serbian Orthodox Church which was built in 1778 in Baroque style. The Szeged Synagogue is the second largest in Hungary after the Dohany Street Synagogue in Budapest and the 4th largest in the world. Dom Square is the most beautiful square in Szeged. It is dominated by the Votive Church of Our Lady but there are other equally attractive elements surrounding it. On the western side you can see the Theological College of Szeged, in the south-western corner, there is the Bishop's Palace and in the southern and eastern sides Szeged University facilities and research centres are situated.

In the southern part of the building surrounding the square there is a musical clock. It was made in 1936 and you can see the 12 zodiac signs on it.

When in Hungary, you will find places to have the famous chimney cake or *Kürtőskalács* - a sweet, spiral-shaped pastry that originated in Transylvania.

A day trip offered me a glimpse of this wonderful city and I am sure to return again to Szeged to explore more of this lovely city.

Any trip to Hungary is incomplete without visiting Lake Balaton - the Hungarian Sea as the locals call it. Lake Balaton is a freshwater lake, the largest in Central Europe that extends 77 km in length and 14 km wide. The northern mountainous region of the lake is well known for its wines and the flat southern shore for its resort towns. We had the opportunity to visit Balatonfüred - which has an Indian connection as you will find the Tagore walkway named after Rabindranath Tagore who loved this region. Tagore visited here in 1926 not as a tourist but a patient of the Balatonfüred's State Heart Hospital. This charming all-season town is home to a wide range of adventure activities such as yachting and in winters one can do ice skating. It is also one of the top wine producing regions of Hungary.

Our next stop was at Tihany. Tihany comes from a Greek name which stands for "lucky man". The town is very picturesque and offers great vistas overlooking Lake Balaton. The stand out monument is the Tihany Abbey - the Founding Document of the Abbey dates back to 1055 and is the oldest written document containing words of the Hungarian language.

En route to Heviz, we briefly stopped at Keszthely - which has the largest settlement in the vicinity of Lake Balaton and was once a Roman Fortress. Here you will find a rich site for archaeological excavations and the Festetics Palace, a Baroque palace.

We ended our day having visited the Lake Balaton region at Heviz - the largest biological active, natural, peat-mud, thermal lake of volcanic origin in the world. The lake with curative effects is fed by springs with mineral water contents that makes this place the most well-known spa not only in Hungary but across Europe and spans over an area of over 47500 square metres. The average temperatures of water in summer is around 33°C and in winter it is around 28°C and the curative effect of Lake Heviz attracts visitors from across the world.

In 5 days, I got a glimpse of what this wonderful country has to offer and I will be returning some time soon to explore the Northern Hungary, Western and Mid Transdanubia regions as well as Southern Transdanubia region besides visiting one of my favourite cities in the world - Budapest.

Subhash Motwani, Founder Director of Namaste Tourism visited Hungary in May 2015 and he shares his first hand experience of exploring various cities and regions of Hungary as day trips from Budapest.

Hungary Fact Sheet

- Hungary is a landlocked country with Slovakia to the north, Romania to the east, Serbia to the south, Croatia to the south-west, Slovenia to the west, Austria to the north-west and Ukraine to the north-east.
- Capital of Hungary is Budapest which is the country's most popular tourist attraction. The official language is Hungarian and its currency is Hungarian Forint. Population of Hungary is around 10 million and the female to male ratio is higher.
- Hungary was a part of the Imperial territories ruled by the House of Habsburg which was one of the most important Royal Houses of Europe. It is believed that the first significant attempt to topple the rule of Habsburg was initiated in Hungary.
- Rubik's Cube, a 3-D combination puzzle was invented in 1974 by a Hungarian Professor of Architecture named Erno Rubik. It was originally called as Magic Cube.
- Hungary is known as the land of thermal waters.
- International tourism in Hungary grew by 17.5% in the first half of 2015 as per the data provided by the World Tourism Organization. It is the only Central European country to post growth on such a scale.
- www.friendlyhungary.com is an initiative of Hungarian Tourism Ltd. to show the country's special culture, history, nature, tradition, etc through photographs clicked by them and also by the tourists visiting Hungary.
- Hungarian fencer Aladar Gerevich, known as the greatest Olympic swordsman won gold in six Olympics.
- Hungary has the highest ratio of Nobel Prize winners per capita in the world.
- The first railway line in Hungary was built between Vac and Budapest.
- The banks of the river Danube and the Castle district in Budapest have been granted World Heritage status.
- The Dohany Street Synagogue is the largest in Europe and the second largest in the world and it contains 3000 seats.
- Heroes' Square is the most iconic city square in Budapest.
- Heviz has one of the most well known spas in Hungary. Together with the surrounding district it is a nature reserve.
- The Hortobagy National Park has a World Heritage status. The fish farm at the Hortobagy is one of the largest in the world.
- First Vedic church of the believers of the Krishna Consciousness in Hungary was founded in Somogyvamos. The Indian Cultural Centre is located at 38 High Street.
- Important Hungarian personalities include Michael Curtiz, Drew Barrymore, Paul Newman, Estee Lauder, Calvin Klein, Paul Simon, Nicolas Sarkozy, Leo Szilard, and many more.
- Inventions made in Hungary are Ballpoint Pen, Plasma TV, Electric Motor, Turbo Prop, Telephone Exchange, Transformers, Dynamo, etc.
- Amrita Sher-Gil is an eminent painter of her times, born to a Punjabi Sikh father and a Hungarian Jewish mother, who is also known as India's Frida Kahlo. She is considered to be the most important woman painter of 20th Century India.
- The Tagore promenade in Balatonfüred, Lake Balaton is named after Rabindranath Tagore, Nobel Prize winner and World renowned Indian poet.



Highlights of Hungary and Central Europe

The Spirit of Prague, Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest (10 Nights/11 Days)

3N Prague / 2N Vienna / 1N Bratislava / 4N Budapest

DAY 1: ARRIVE IN PRAGUE - Pickup at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Later do sightseeing in the city centre with a tour guide. **Overnight in Prague.**

DAY 2: PRAGUE SIGHTSEEING TOUR - After breakfast, meet with the tour guide at 1030 hrs at the entrance of the Hotel and do a full day sightseeing tour with lunch break. The tour finishes at 1830 hrs. (BL) **Overnight in Prague.**

DAY 3: CESKY KRUMLOV - After breakfast, meet with the tour guide at 1030 hrs at the entrance of the Hotel, and do a full day sightseeing tour in Cesky Krumlov with private minibus and driver. The travel time is approximately two and a half hour. The tour finishes at 2030 hrs. (B) **Overnight in Prague.**

DAY 4: PRAGUE TO VIENNA - After breakfast in Prague, travel with the private minibus to Vienna. Check in at the hotel. Sightseeing tour begins at 1330 hrs at the entrance of the hotel. A private guide will be with us. The sightseeing tour finishes at 1630 hrs. Shopping possibilities after 1630 hrs in the city centre of Vienna. (B) **Overnight in Vienna.**

DAY 5: VIENNA - After breakfast, you may go and check the Spanish horse schools morning exercise. Meet at the entrance of the hotel and see the show. The show starts at 1000 hrs and lasts until 1200 hrs. The show is near Heldenplatz. After that we will have a short lunch break in the centre. Meet the guide at 1330 hrs at the entrance of Schonbrunn Palace and visit the palace and its garden. Also visit the Museum and Castle Belvedere. (BL) **Overnight in Vienna.**

DAY 6: VIENNA TO BRATISLAVA - After breakfast, at 1030 hrs, travel from Vienna to Bratislava by private minibus. Do a half day sightseeing tour with private tour guide in Bratislava. Dinner in Bratislava as per discussion and free time program in the evening. (BD) **Overnight in Bratislava.**

DAY 7: BRATISLAVA TO BUDAPEST - After breakfast in Bratislava, travel to Budapest by private minibus. Depart from Bratislava at 1030 hrs. Arrive to Budapest at about 1300 hrs. Check in at the hotel. Lunch break in the city centre of Budapest. Do sightseeing tour by a private guide from 1400 hrs (Chain Bridge, Castle District, Matthias Church, Fishermen's Bastion.) The tour finishes at 1800 hrs or 1900 hrs in the evening. In the evening, dinner on a cruise boat on the river Danube, Budapest by night, with live Hungarian music and traditional food. (BLD) **Overnight in Budapest.**

DAY 8: BUDAPEST - After breakfast at the hotel, visit the beautiful building of Parliament. The tour starts at 1030 hrs, meeting point is the entrance of InterContinental Budapest. Lunch break. Sweet stop at Cafe New York, the city's most famous confectionery and coffee house. In the afternoon, we visit one of the architecturally most beautiful Opera House in the world. Visiting The Central Market Hall, which is one of the most visited tourist attractions of the city. It is placed in the city center just at the end of Vaci utca (Vaci street). It is the largest and oldest covered market of the city. We also visit the Heroes' Square and the City Park, called Varosliget and the world famous Andrássy street, which is part of UNESCO World Heritages. The program finishes at 1830 hrs approximately. (BL) **Overnight in Budapest.**

DAY 9: LAKE BALATON AND Tihany Region - After breakfast, travel to Balatonfured at 1030 hrs. Do a full day tour to the largest lake of Central Europe, the Balaton. Take a walk in Balatonfured, the oldest wellness-and health center of the North shore of the lake. (BL) **Overnight in Budapest.**

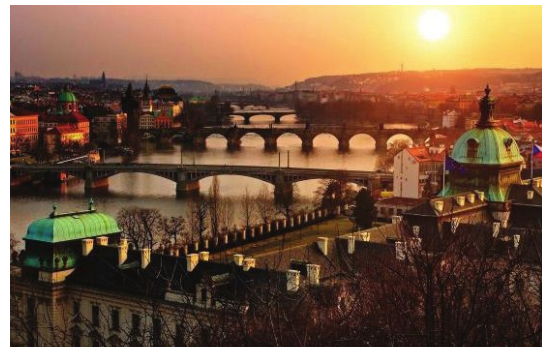
DAY 10: SZENTENDRE AND VISEGRAD - After breakfast, free time tour. Meet at 1400 hrs at the entrance of the hotel. Do a half day sightseeing tour to Szentendre, the town of artists by boat on the Danube River. After that, visit Visegrad, one of the oldest royal towns of Hungary and Esztergom also by boat on the river Danube. Arrive back to Budapest at about 1900 hrs to 2000 hrs. (B) **Overnight in Budapest.**

DAY 11: DEPARTURE DAY - After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your onward destination. (B)

COST: From EUR 2475 onwards per person on twin sharing basis.

EXCHANGE RATE: 1 EUR = 76 INR
(exchange rate as on the day of payment applicable)

VALIDITY: Till March 31, 2016
At times there may be special deals- enquire at the time of booking.



For inclusions, exclusions and terms & conditions you can use your mobile phone to scan the QR code given or visit www.namastehungary.com/packages. The mobile phone should have a QR code reader which can be downloaded for free from the internet. *Conditions apply.

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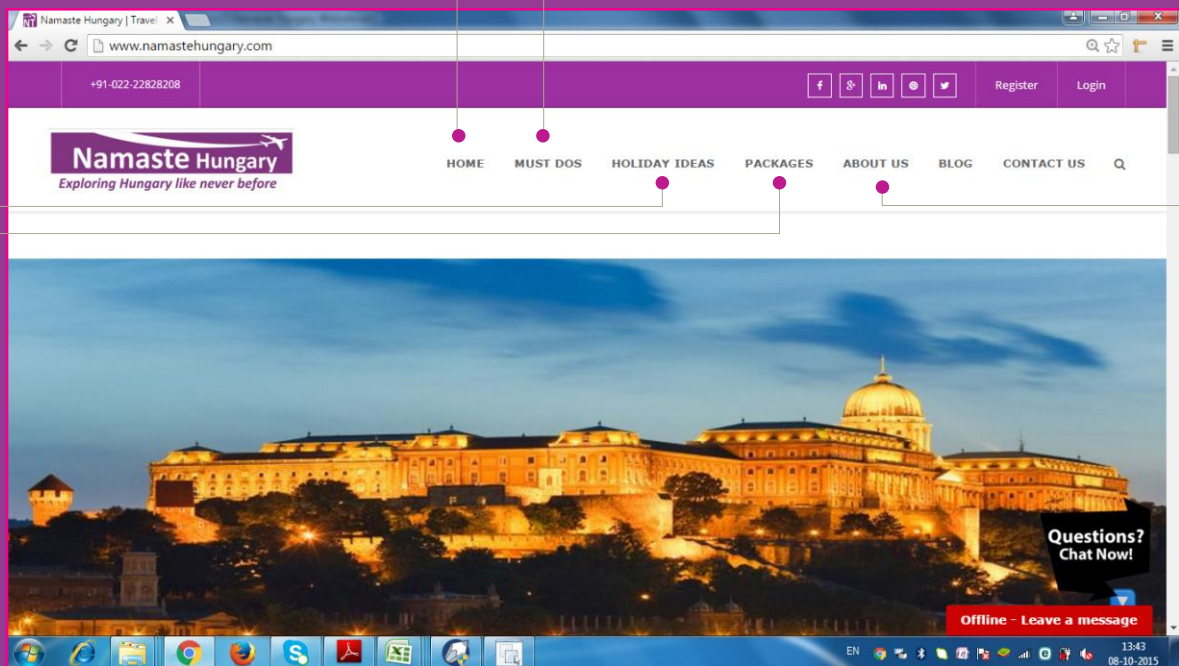
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Home

The home page gives you an overview about the website, Things to do in Hungary, Tip of the Month, Best Time to Travel and also shows the Hungary Time.

Must Dos

This section lists all the Must Do activities when visiting Hungary. It gives varied information on Adventure, Culture, Events & Festivals, History, Nature, etc.



Holiday Ideas

This section gives you different holiday ideas in Hungary. It also has a page "Why Hungary" which displays important Hungarian personalities, inventions and the Indo-Hungarian connection.

Packages

Here you will find standard packages with specific itinerary descriptions. Prices are displayed on per person basis. We also customize packages as per your request.

About Us

In this section you will find information about us, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Media.

Highlights of our website

- **User friendly & responsive website:** You can easily read and navigate across various devices such as laptops, mobile phones, tablets, etc. with minimum of resizing, scrolling or panning.
- **Chat:** The website has an interactive chat feature where you can directly chat with us during our office working hours or leave us a message when we are offline.
- **Clock:** You can see the Hungarian time corresponding to the present Indian Standard Time.
- **Email Newsletter:** You just need to enter your email-id to subscribe to our Newsletter.
- **Social Media:** The social media links on our website helps you to easily share information with your friends or relatives.
- Standard packages are displayed which can be directly booked with us. Or alternatively, if you wish to customise your travel, you can do so by contacting us.



Planning a holiday is as simple as saying

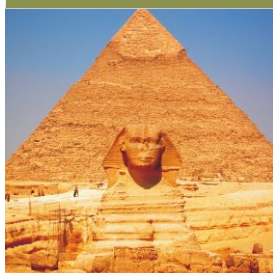
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Explore unique destinations like never before

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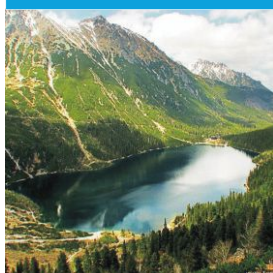
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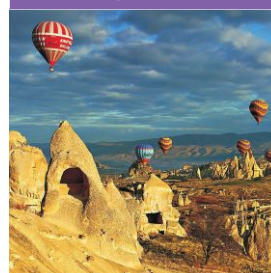
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