"Discovering the Beauty of my Homeland "

As a Hungarian, let me introduce my home for you. I will not only write about the famous sights, but also about places that less people know...yet! From the bustling capital city of Budapest to the rolling hills of the countryside, there is always something new and exciting to discover in Hungary.

One of the most fascinating aspects of Hungary is its history, which stretches back thousands of years. From the Roman Empire to the Ottoman occupation, Hungary has been shaped by a diverse array of cultures and influences. Another unique aspect of Hungary is its cuisine you may have heard about. Hungarian cuisine is renowned for its hearty dishes, rich flavours, and unique spices. Some of the most famous dishes include goulash, chimney cake, and Hungarian-style stuffed peppers.

Beyond the historical landmarks and tourist attractions, there are also some intriguing myths and legends associated with the city.

One of the most well-known myths is about the Buda Castle Hill and the Fisherman’s Bastion. According to legend, the Fisherman’s Bastion is protected by the Fisherman’s Guild, who are said to possess the power to control the waters of the Danube.

Another myth is about the famous thermal baths in Budapest, such as the Gellért Baths and the Rudas Baths. These baths are believed to have healing properties, and it is said that if you soak in the hot waters of the Rudas Baths on New Year’s Eve, you will be blessed with good health and good fortune in the coming year.

Finally, there is the legend of the “Turul” bird, a mythical bird that is said to bring good luck to the Hungarian people. The bird is depicted on the coat of arms of the city and can be seen on various monuments and buildings throughout Budapest.

Move a little away from the capital and head south, we arrive at Lake Balaton.

According to legend, the lake was formed when a giant girl wept tears of sadness. The tears filled the low-lying area and formed the lake. This legend is still remembered and celebrated in the region today.

If you're looking for a beautiful and relaxing vacation, Lake Balaton is the perfect destination. The northern side of the lake is particularly beautiful and boasts some of the most pristine and picturesque beaches in the region. In addition to the beaches, Lake Balaton is also famous for its vineyards, particularly those located in the Badacsony region. Some of the most famous vineyards in the area include Royal Tokaji, St. Andrea, and Hilltop.

Badacsony is also the place for crazy parties, especially in summer. Larger groups come to the mountain for several days. It's a popular venue for stag and hen parties, company team-builders, wine tours.

On a traditional Badacsony wine tour, you will arrive by ferry in the early hours of the morning. The aim is to visit (all) the wine cellars, drink at each one. Of course, the glory goes to the one who lasts the longest---on two legs.

We usually drive up to the highest point of the mountain first, and from there the hike starts down. I find it much more comfortable and the experience is great.

Meanwhile, we play games, like "truth or dare.

In the afternoon, when we got back to the village from the mountain, the party starts, which lasts as long as people keep dancing. We usually spend the night in camping. The next morning, we have breakfast together at the local buffet, tell stories, take a bath in the lake, and head home. We call it a perfect weekend.

My other favourite region is Villány, a famous vine region in Hungary that is known for producing rich and full-bodied red wines. This region has a unique microclimate that is ideal for growing grape varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah. The wineries here are known for their traditional approach to winemaking, and many of them still use old-fashioned methods and techniques to produce their wines. Wine festivals are organised here every season which the locals love, including me.

hungary's jewel box

Szentendre is a charming town located in Hungary, known for its rich cultural heritage and picturesque streets. It is situated along the Danube river and is home to a variety of museums, art galleries, and historic churches. The town has a unique Mediterranean atmosphere, with colourful buildings, cobblestone streets, and narrow alleys. Visitors can also explore the local artisan markets and enjoy traditional Hungarian cuisine. Additionally, Szentendre is a popular destination for day trips from Budapest, making it a convenient option for those looking to experience a little bit of Hungary's rural charm. Every time we arrive to this place we find something we did not see before. It’s a must-visit in my opinion.

Szeged is my all-time favourite Hungarian city. I had the privilege of attending university there and it holds a special place in my heart. The city has a rich cultural heritage, beautiful architecture and a thriving student life. This is the third-largest city in Hungary and is located in the southeast part of the country, near the Serbian border. The Tisza River runs through the city, providing a stunning backdrop for long walks and picnics in the parks. Is famous particularly for its local fish dishes, such as the famous "Fisherman's Soup".

This amazing place is home to the country's largest university, the University of Szeged, which was founded in 1872.

Maybe I feel this because I have a special connection to this city, but in my opinion people are different here than anywhere else in Hungary. They are just different, but only in a positive way. A little nicer. A little happier. A little more understanding. A little more direct. If you are here, take note. The city literally bustles all year round. There's a constant series of events, festivals that last for weeks (!), celebrations in winter and summer. The cultural life and the university bustle is somehow different, more sophisticated, more magical. I have nothing bad to say about this place. Although I come from another place, this city is also my home.

My favourite summer festival is Strand Festival, which means “beach festival” in English. It’s held on the sandy shore of our biggest lake, Balaton and I love its atmosphere.

It is similar to the other festivals, the music and the programmes are colourful, but the lake makes difference. There is nothing like when you sit on the lakeside at night, some rock band in the background, you just keep talking with your friends a little bit while the villages are sparkling on the other side of the lake. The festival is usually held on the State Foundation Day, 20 August, and ends with firework, marking the end of summer.

Az űrlap teteje