

Benjamin PAQUET – Discovering the Mountain Beauty of Eastern Hungary

During this month of May, I had the chance to discover some beautiful landscapes, mostly in the eastern part of Hungary, in the mountainous region. I immediately fell in love with these places, so I'd rather warn you now: there will be lots of photos I'm quite proud of in this blog post!

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit the fourth largest city in Hungary, called Miskolc. It's located in the northeast of the country, at the foot of the Bükk Mountains. It's an important industrial and cultural center. Historically known for its steel industry, Miskolc has managed to diversify its economy and highlight its natural and architectural heritage. The city is known for its old town, museums, and the cave baths of Miskolctapolca, a unique attraction in Europe.



From there, I went to the Bükk Mountains, more precisely to a village by Lake Hámori. I was lucky to visit the village of Lillafüred with beautiful weather. Let me tell you a bit about this village: it's famous for its natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere. It's especially known for the neo-Renaissance palace hotel (Palotaszálló), built in the early 20th century (you can see it in the photos). I really enjoyed the fact that you have to drive through the mountains to "discover" this peaceful place, which really surprised me. I kind of regret starting to travel around Hungary so late, because I'm sure there are many more hidden gems like this one.



Figure 1 - Palotaszálló Palace Hotel

After eating some local specialties such as goulash and the Hungarian fish soup, which I LOVED! (A personal tip: if you ever see “halászlé” on a restaurant menu, don’t hesitate, try it! It’s delicious!)

As I was saying, after spending some time by the lake and enjoying the scenery, I headed to a small village nearby called Bükkzentkereszt (don’t count on me to pronounce that...). There, I climbed a wooden observation tower to take in the view and enjoy the Bükk mountains.





A week later, I went back to Miskolc to keep exploring the places I had enjoyed so much the week before. This time, I went east of Miskolc to the Tokaj region, where one of Hungary's most famous specialties is produced: Tokaji, a sweet local wine that's very popular.



That day, I got the chance to taste this wine and also visit a medieval castle (totally unrelated, I know...), the Boldogkő Castle (with two acute accents on the “o”). It's a 13th-century castle located on a hill in the Bükk region, offering panoramic views and fascinating historical heritage.



Then, I climbed up a mountain to live an “experience” I never imagined I would. I crossed (well, I only made it halfway...) the longest suspension bridge in the world! It hangs 80 meters above the ground and connects two mountains. This tourist attraction opened almost a year ago, and I had the chance to go and experience one of the most nerve-racking moments of my life! (I wouldn’t say I’m afraid of heights, but let’s be honest, it’s quite unsettling to see dozens of meters below your feet!) This bridge is called the “Bridge of Unity of Sátoraljaújhely.” It’s 723 meters long and here’s a fun fact: there’s a glass section in the middle that you can actually walk on. I’ve attached a photo as proof... (Yes, I really did cross it!)





That's it for my adventure in the beautiful northeastern region of Hungary. If you ever get the chance, I really encourage you to visit. I promise you won't be disappointed!