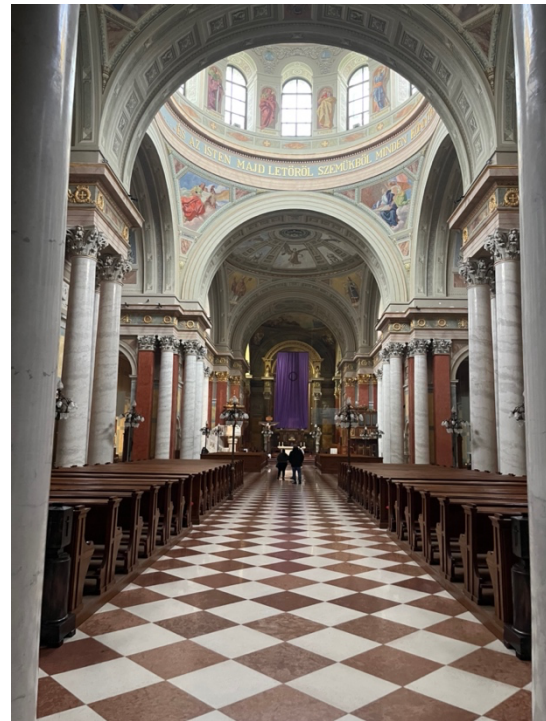


Hugo Levisse

Blog Post #2 – Budapest

## Headline: Castles, Cellars, and City Views: My Favorite Adventures So Far

One of the coolest things about studying abroad in Budapest is how easy and cheap it is to explore the rest of Hungary. With the five euro monthly “Hungary Pass,” I can hop on pretty much any train in the country without needing to buy individual tickets. So, when a friend and I had a free weekend, we decided to take advantage of it and head to Eger for the day.



Eger is a few hours northeast of Budapest and honestly feels like stepping into a storybook. It is known for its history, beautiful buildings, and also happens to be one of Hungary’s most famous wine regions. Our first stop was the castle, which has a pretty epic backstory. In 1552, a small group of Hungarian defenders managed to hold off the entire Ottoman army. Standing on the castle walls and looking out over the town’s red rooftops, it was wild to imagine that kind of history right where we were standing. After that we visited the Eger Basilica, one of the biggest churches in Hungary. The inside was peaceful and quiet, which made for a nice break from walking around all day.



Before heading back, we explored the Valley of the Beautiful Women. Yes, that is really what it is called. We got to taste local wines in these cozy little cellars carved into the hills. The Egri Bikavér, also known as Bull's Blood, was a favorite.



Not long after that trip, I got to see a completely different side of Hungary during a night cruise along the Danube in Budapest. I had already walked past the Parliament building and the Chain Bridge more times than I could count but seeing them lit up from the water was something else. The whole city looked like it was glowing, and the reflections on the river made it feel calm and dreamlike. It was one of those moments that reminded me how lucky I am to be here.

Getting to explore places like Eger and seeing Budapest from the river reminded me just how much Hungary has to offer, even beyond what you see on the surface. I am already thinking about where to go next.