



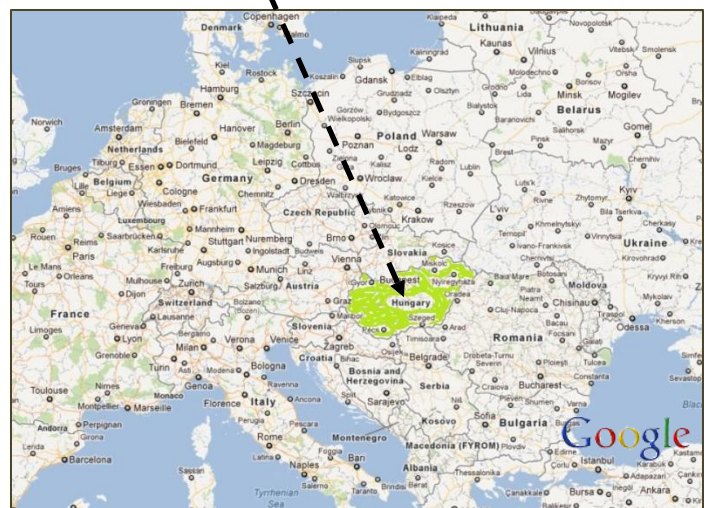
Trekking the Planet

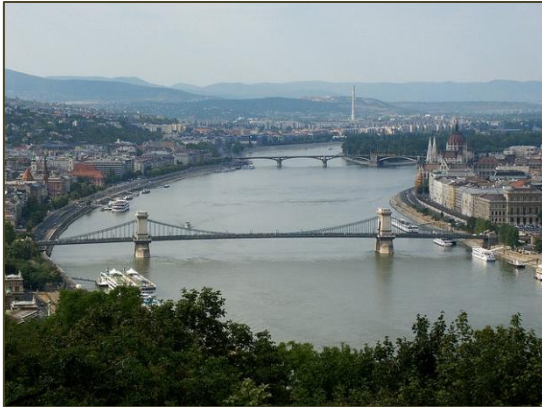
Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Budapest, Hungary, located at 47° N and 19° E.
- We have traveled approximately 33,304 miles (53,598 kilometers) from our starting point in California.





Budapest, along the Danube River
(source: [Flickr.com/R.MELERO](https://www.flickr.com/photos/R.MELERO/))



Hungarian goulash
(source: Recipehungariangoulash.com)

Did you know?

Hungarian inventions include the following:

- Rubik's Cube (Erno Rubik)
- Ballpoint Pen (László Bíró)
- Holography (Dennis Gabor)
- BASIC Programming Language (John Kemeny, with Thomas E. Kurtz)

People and Culture

- Hungary is one of the oldest countries in Europe. The first king was St. Stephen, who lived from 975 to 1038. The Kingdom of Hungary lasted for 946 years and was regarded as a cultural center.
- After World War I, Hungary lost over 70% of its territory. It was under communist rule after World War II and was the first country to open its borders to Western Europe in 1989.
- The capital and largest city is Budapest, located on the Danube River. It was once two cities (Buda and Pest) on either side of the river. About 1.7 million of the country's 10 million inhabitants live there.
- Goulash is a famous main dish. It is usually a beef dish cooked with onions, tomatoes, green pepper and paprika spice. Potatoes and noodles can also be added.



The Forint is the currency of Hungary. As of December 2011, 2,000 Forint equals about \$8.55 USD (source: Wikipedia.org)

Nature and Environment

- Being in Central Europe, Hungary borders many countries, including Slovakia, the Ukraine, Slovenia, Serbia, Romania, Croatia and Austria. It is a little smaller than the size of the U.S. state of Indiana.
- The Danube River is the main waterway and divides the country into two regions. Other major rivers include the Tisza and Dráva. Lake Hévíz is the largest thermal lake in the world.
- Hungary's terrain is mainly flat to rolling plains. There are some low mountains near the Slovakian border. The climate is temperate with warm summers and humid winters.
- About 18% of Hungary is forested. Animals found in the country include boar, fox, deer, herons and cranes.
- Hungary has 10 national parks, 145 nature preserves and 35 landscape protection areas.

The Baths

There are an estimated 1,300 natural underground thermal springs in Hungary. One-third of these are used as spas. People visit there for relaxation and relief of aches and pains. Budapest itself has 118 springs, with mineral water gushing at temperatures from 70°F (21°C) to (169°F) 76°C.



*Széchenyi Medicinal Bath in Budapest
(sources: Gowealthy.com,
Flickr.com/Razlan)*



*Danube River map and the river flowing
through Hungary
(sources: Flickr.com/Patrick_Down,
Prometheantimes.com)*

Our Plans

- We left Slovenia by train to travel to Budapest. We will spend a couple of days here visiting the city.
- Our travels will take us on Romania and Bulgaria. We are looking forward to learning more about these countries.
- We look forward to hearing what questions you have as we continue our visit in Eastern Europe.

Hungarian

This language is known as Magyar and is related to Finnish and Estonian. Many people believe that it is one of the hardest languages for English – speakers to learn. One reason is that it has 35 noun cases (according to whether it is subject, object, etc.). Learn some Hungarian below:

English	Hungarian	Pronounced
Hello	<i>Szervusz</i>	'Sair-boosh'
Yes	<i>Igen</i>	'Ee-gan'
No	<i>Nem</i>	'Nem'
One	<i>Egy</i>	'Edge'
Two	<i>Ketto</i>	'Cat-er'
Thanks	<i>Ko Szon om</i>	'Curse-a-nem'

sources: Bikfalvy.tripod.com
Budapest-discovery-guide.com

More Information

- <http://waterfire.fas.is/Hungary/index.php>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism_in_Hungary
- <http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/funfacts/budapest.htm>
- <http://www.nileguide.com/destination/budapest/overview/local-info>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary>
- <http://www.budapest-tourist-guide.com/hungarian-goulash.html>
- <http://lifestyle.iloveindia.com/lounge/facts-about-budapest-1731.html>

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