

# AN INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE

WITH ARTEMISSZIÓ FOUNDATION





# Welcome to Artemisszió Foundation

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The name of **Artemisszió Foundation** comes from the ancient Greek goddess, Artemis. Following Jean Pierre Vernan, for us

**"Artemis is the Goddess of boundaries, of uncivilized, uncultivated fields, of borders, of the woods and mountains beyond the city... Artemis is the lord of the stranger in us and of that in the city, of everything that we are not, but is still part of ourselves... Her role is to fuse the different into the social mind... The city-state of Athens takes in this Goddess. She is carrying the barbaric sign of strangeness, and her role will be to fuse the different into the similar."**

The various youth programs of the European Union are a great opportunity for our Foundation to put these ideas into practice. Stepping over personal, social and cultural boundaries... discovering and fusing the different and the familiar... understanding the different and coloring the similar... integrating new aspects and changing or reaffirming old ones... these are all part of the experience.

In the course of your intercultural project with Artemisszió, we will encourage and help you learn just as much about our cultures, our ideas, our places, our passions as about yourself, your cultures, your places and your own undiscovered passions and skills. Through intensive tutoring and animation, we do our best to help you integrate into the Budapest reality with an open mind. But of course it is not always easy... you will have to work hard to find your place... by making compromises, learning new ways of cooperation, or even giving up certain things. But most importantly of all, for a rich, wonderful and useful experience, you will need a sensitive, curious, (self-)critical and self-reflexive spirit.

This booklet is for your information and entertainment. We hope it will help you get tuned onto our wavelength and have a taste of what you can expect from yourself, from us, from Budapest and Hungary and from the different programs.

We would like to welcome you in Hungary in the name of the staff of Artemisszió Foundation as well as in the name of all the past participants who have contributed to or worked on this booklet!

**Artemisszió**

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# Contents

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Who We Are: Introducing Artemisszió	4
Working in Europe: The Leonardo da Vinci Program	8
The European Voluntary Service	14
Budapest: Vademecum to Survive in a European Capital	18
Hungary: A Country in the Heart of Europe	26
Curiosities of Hungary	35
The Artemisszió Office	40

# Who we are: introducing Artemisszió Foundation

## How it started...

Artemisszió was founded in 1998 in order to promote intercultural relations and the integration of disadvantaged social groups.



The goals of Artemisszió Foundation are:

- to promote cultural diversity by encouraging continuous dialogue and interaction between culturally, ethnically and socially diverse groups and to foster their mutual understanding,

- to support the social integration of socially and culturally disadvantaged groups,

- to strengthen international and especially European scientific and cultural relations.

## Our mission...

In a culturally ever more complex world, learning about cultures "other" than our own and acquiring the ability for dialogue are not only important tools for preventing conflicts but are also an essential means to self-knowledge, open-minded thinking and independence. Artemisszió considers it a vital task to offer the opportunity to the most diverse range of groups to take part in activities that contribute to the development of the above skills.

Artemisszió Foundation devotes special attention to creating equal opportunities for ethnically or socially disadvantaged groups. Our activities are aimed at encouraging the social integration of these groups (unemployed young people, the rural population, the Roma). In line with these aims, the Foundation has been using various means of approaching and involving in its activities the representatives of these groups as well as the organizations in contact with them.

## 1. Youth Programs

The Foundation joined the youth mobility programs of the European Union in 1998. Both the Leonardo da Vinci program and the European Voluntary Service aim at helping young people gain experience abroad. Artemisszió has been participating in the Leonardo da Vinci and the EVS programs as both a sending and host organization. In cooperation with Hungarian and foreign partner institutions, Artemisszió so far has been able to provide the possibility of voluntary work and professional placement to more than 200 Hungarian and foreign young people.

Artemisszió considers the integration of unemployed young people and those of low educational level into the labor market as an essential task. In order to help this process we provide training programs and organize professional placements that enable young people to find a job. Currently we are the coordinators of a long-term PHARE project helping young people establish their own enterprises through a complex program of training, development, accompaniment and project financing.

## 2. Adult Education

We offer our training courses to social workers, representatives of minority groups, teachers, and workers in the medical sector and local municipalities. The participants of our training courses are people who have daily exposure to culturally, ethnically and socially diverse groups at their workplaces. During our training courses participants learn about the sources of conflicts between different ethnic and cultural groups as well as the different ways to recognize, analyze and handle these conflicts.

The pedagogical work of Artemisszió also includes the development of training programs and the compilation of training materials. Keeping in mind the utility of international and cross-cultural experiences and the possibility of international network-building, this activity has been carried out within the framework of international programs. Our current training courses ("JUSTICE - international intercultural pedagogy training"; and "Intercultural communications against social exclusion") developed in various international schemes aim at reducing discrimination and prejudice within the school environment.

### **3. Cultural activities**

Our foundation has recently become involved in cultural activities that promote social solidarity, tolerance and sensitivity to cultural differences. These projects are diverse in character, yet all of them have strong connections to art, theatre and alternative pedagogy. The TWISFER project aims at revealing the role different forms of theater can play in the social integration of disadvantaged groups. The Culture Body-Body Culture project incorporates Roma oral traditions into theatre pieces that will be performed at an international festival in Graz.

Additionally, the Foundation organizes cultural evenings for the young Hungarian and foreign people in contact with the Foundation as well as for members of our partner institutions. These events serve as forums where participants can discuss their views, make friends and gain experiences. These evenings have included evenings featuring Italian and Portuguese culture, a discussion workshop about stereotypes, an evening about volunteering and an innovative drama night presenting the Master and Margharite by Bulgakov.

### **4. Research**

Artemisszió Foundation has been carrying out scientific research drawing on the methodological traditions of cultural anthropology. As a partner organization, we have participated in several international research projects whose main fields of research include: the coexistence of culturally, socially and ethnically diverse groups, the roots of upcoming conflicts among them and the potential solutions to these conflicts; the possibilities of the reintegration of socially disadvantaged groups into the labor market; urban intercultural relations. The experiences and findings of these research projects have been used in our activities and training courses. Currently, the Foundation is working in cooperation with French researchers in an urban research project that compares a district of Budapest and a quarter of Grenoble. The results of this research project will be presented at the exhibition "Urban images" hosted by the Museum of Ethnography of Budapest in November 2005.

### Our supporters so far...

Leonardo da Vinci Program, Socrates Program, Youth 2000-2006 Program, PHARE program (macro és micro projects), Culture 2000 Program, Apertus Public Foundation, "Balaton" Intergovernmental Program, European Science Foundation, Institute Francaise, Miniszterelnöki hivatal (KKT EU-Kommunikációs Főosztály), Nemzeti Civil Alapprogram, Nemzeti Kulturális Alapprogram, OFAJ (Office Franco-Allemand pour la Jeunesse), SOROS Foundation

### Our partners so far...

**Hungary:** XIII. Kerületi pedagógiai Szolgáltató Központ, Alapítvány az Emberi Jogok és a Béke Oktatásáért, Anthropolis Egyesület, Central European University, Civil Társadalom Fejlődéséért Alapítvány, Civitalis Egyesület, ELTE Bárczi Gusztáv Gyógypedagógiai Főiskolai Kar, ELTE Kulturális Antropológia Tanszék, ELTE Szociálpolitika és Szociális Munka tanszék, Feketesereg Ifjúsági Egyesület, HAND Szövetség, Hungarian Language School, Jászberényi Családsegítő és Gyermejkölési Szolgálat, Kapocs Ifjúsági Önségítő Szolgálat, Káva Kulturális Műhely, Maladype Találkozások Színháza, MTA Politikai Tudományok Intézete, Etnoregionális Kutatóközpont, Néprajzi Múzeum, Nonprofit Humán Szolgáltatók Országos Szövetsége, Nonprofit Információs és Oktató Központ Alapítvány, Nyitott Műhely, Pályakezdő Fiatalok Esély Alapítvány, Rés Egyesület, Rügyecskék Alapítvány, Sípos Orbán Szakképző Iskola és Kollégium, Terézvárosi Művelődési Közalapítvány, Vargabetű Klub-Műhely Egyesület, Védőszárny Handicap Spotkör, Yellow Zebra Bikes, Etc.

**Austria:** Uni-T (Graz), **Denmark:** Kebehavns Kommune, Uddannelses-og Ungdomsforvaltninge (Kebehavns), **France:** Association Calliope (Grenoble), CERAT - Centre de Recherche sur le politique, l'administration, la Ville et le Territoire, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble, Institut de Formation des Animateurs de Collectivités (Paris), Interechange (Paris), **Great-Britain:** Quality in Diversity Consultancy and Training (Leeds), **Italy:** Eurocentro (Jesi), CEP (Torino), Enaip Piemonte, GEA Agenzia di Sviluppo (Verbania), IFOA (Reggio Emilia), Link (Altamura), Provveditori Agli Studi di Verona (Verona), UNISER (Forli), XENA Centro Scambi e Dinamiche Interculturali (Padova), **Norway:** Karmoy skole-og kulturetat, Pedagogisk Senter (Karmoy), **Portugal:** Insituto Superior de Serviço Social (Lisbon), Rota Jovem (Cascais), **Romania:** Centru de Cercetari Regionale si Antropologice (Csikszereda), Institutul Intercultural (Temesvár), **Spain:** Barcelona Voluntaria (Barcelona), CAE (Manresa), CFIBS (San Vicens de Castellet), El Legado Andalusi (Granada), Fundació Aplicació (Callús), Nexes (Barcelona), PROA (Tarragona), **Sweden:** Arvidsjaur Kommun (Arvidsjaur)

# Working in Europe:

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## The Leonardo da Vinci Mobility Program

The "Leonardo da Vinci Program" is an action plan of the European Community for vocational training. Its aim is to **promote apprenticeship for young people** all over Europe.

Taking part in the program is free and is a really good opportunity to acquire new professional skills and, above all, to enhance your personal skills.

### Who can take part in a Leonardo mobility project?

Young people undergoing initial vocational training

University students

Recently graduated students or young people at the beginning of their professional careers..

### What is a Leonardo project?

Taking part in a Leonardo da Vinci project means that

you can **go abroad** for 3 to 12 months,

work as an intern at a **work placement** that fits your professional profile,

undergo a **training in the language** of your host country,

and most of all, experience **living in another culture**, another reality!

Source and more information:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/leonardo.html>

## The Leonardo hosting projects of Artemissszió

### What we offer...

#### Airport pick-up.

Accommodation in **apartments** where the participants are responsible for cooking their own food. Participants live in single or double rooms.

A **monthly pass** valid for all means of transportation within Budapest.

**Language course:** 80 classes of Hungarian or 60 classes of English and 20 classes of Hungarian.

**On-arrival training:** group building and conflict-solving skills, intercultural communications and learning.

Contacting and organisation of suitable **work placements** for participants.

Regular **evaluation meetings, tutoring and monitoring.**

Groups of possibly **mixed nationalities** (maximum 15 people at a time).

**Cultural programs:** for example, canoeing, bike tour, alternative sight-seeing tour, Budapest workshop, three-day trip to the countryside, cooking on open fire, trips and excursions, museums, parties, intercultural events, movies, discussion and club nights etc.

## The voice of a participant

The wonderful sight you can admire on your left while crossing Margaret bridge to Buda after sunset is just the beginning of what you can expect from such a big and beautiful city.

During the first month of my Leonardo project we took two language courses, one in English and one in Hungarian. The English course was very interesting because we improved our English vocabulary and it also gave us important knowledge about Hungarian culture and society. We could improve our language ability without special efforts. (Posso dirlo che ci siamo un sacco divertiti ai corsi?) The Hungarian course was really pleasant and it gave us the basic means to understand a little bit of the Hungarian language and to communicate with people through the essential courtesy forms.

Then, for two months we had an internship where we could practice what we studied and where we entered in daily contact with Hungarian people. I was "employed" by the Budapest History Museum, which had an archaeological excavation near the castle, on a Turkish bastion. I was there everyday for 5 hours, and I helped excavate and document a cemetery and draw some parts of medieval buildings. It was interesting and useful for my university career but the real discovery I made was the great affection the workers gave me even if we couldn't communicate very well (They didn't speak English).

During the time we didn't spend at the workplace, we visited museums, thermal baths, libraries, markets, pubs and the green areas of the town. We always found something interesting to do. We met a lot of young people, too. The people at the Foundation tried to support us from every point of view, they gave us interesting possibilities to integrate into Budapest life without being too intrusive.

Well, now the melancholy reached the top, it's time for me to go back to the Italian reality waiting for the next opportunity to cross that bridge.

Sonia Virgili (Italy)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemisszió in 2001

## The voice of a vocational tutor

Participants hosted by Artemisszió have been placed in work placements in the following fields: architecture, law, environmental protection, paper production, traditional handicraft, cultural production, non-profit work, trade, social work and socio-cultural animation, archeology, tourism, web-design, etc.

*Judit Verőci is a lawyer in Budapest. She works in a law office with four other lawyers, one of them Italian. She works with Italian companies that have business in Hungary. Her office is linked with an Italian law office. Mrs. Verőci has had three interns in the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci Program. Their main tasks were to compare Hungarian and Italian law, to go to the Tribunal as well as accompany the lawyer to customers and conferences. They also helped her correct Italian texts and legal documents.*

### Three questions of Judit Verőci:

#### **You have already had several interns, how has been your relationship with them?**

Very good. There have already been three Italian interns in this office, and it was very pleasant for all of us. It has been a very useful experience.

#### **Is it useful to have foreign interns in your office?**

Yes, it is. They are really useful in my office, surely! Although I think that it is sometimes quite difficult for the interns because while I have some Italian customers most of my work is done in Hungarian.

#### **Do you think that this kind of experience is useful for a young person? Could it be a good element in their personal curriculum?**

Yes, I do. You have the opportunity to get to know another reality, another way of working. Of course as a job experience it is a bit short, but it is absolutely very interesting as a life experience.

Elena Papadantonakis (Italy)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemisszió in 2003

## The Leonardo sending projects of Artemisszió in 2004-2005

### Balance 2 - for the integration of disadvantaged youth

This project is the continuation of our three previous projects. The necessity of the project BALANCE 2 is justified by the drastic transformations our society experiences. The negative consequence of these changes is that there is an increasing rift between those who can profit from the possibilities of the new economy and those who are definitely left behind. Our project wishes to address a public which risks to pass into the second category. This is why we continue to work with young unemployed people as a target group, especially with those coming from disadvantaged social groups or accumulating several types of disadvantages. They are young people who have either recently finished initial vocation training or have undertaken a re-qualification procedures after medium or long-term unemployment, in the professional fields of the catering industry, and traditional handicrafts.

The main objective of the project is to address the training needs of this target group, which we conceive mostly in terms of empowerment.

Partners: Eurocentro, XENA Centro Scambi e Dinamiche Interculturali, GEA Agenzia di Sviluppo, Uniser (Italy) and IDEUM (Sweden).

### Anthropology in action - perspectives of applying anthropology in community work

In the past few decades, anthropology has developed from a pure research science of distant and excluded communities to a vehicle of community development and social change "at home." Anthropologists have become involved in the lives of different communities as mediators, community organizers, teachers, animators, etc. However, in Hungary students of anthropology have no opportunities to get training in applied or action anthropology due to the lack of strong traditions and institutionalization. The "Anthropology in action" project seeks to promote the awareness of the possible applications of cultural anthropology among students of anthropology in Hungary.

Partners: El Legado Andalusi, Jovens Sense Limits (Spain), Rota Jovem (Portugal) and Reseau Hammam(Lyon).

# An Experience for Life:

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## The European Voluntary Service

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) is part of the **YOUTH program**, a European Union program that promotes the mobility as well as local activism of young people through project with a non-formal education dimension such as youth exchanges, voluntary service, youth initiatives and the training of youth workers.

### Who can take part in an EVS project?

Young people aged between 18 and 25. The participating countries are 30 European and 27 Euro-Med countries. Third countries can be in: South East Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Latin America.

### What is the EVS?

#### **A partnership**

Volunteer, sending organisation and host organisation are the key partners of an EVS project. The willingness of close co-operation between these three is crucial for a successful experience.

#### **A commitment**

The partners involved in an EVS project expect from each other that they dedicate time and energy to the successful implementation of the project

#### **A local project**

The host organisation is a non-profit organization with an EVS hosting project that within its area of intervention benefits the local community. . An EVS project normally lasts from 6 to 12 months.

#### **A win-win activity**

EVS projects are characterised by a good balance between service to the hosting local community and learning opportunities for the volunteer. The community and the volunteer equally gain from the project activities.

#### **An intercultural experience**

A reciprocal learning process, where everybody can gain from getting to know each other's culture. Moreover, it is also a challenge taking into account the fact that the volunteer will not only experience what is planned, but also the unpredictable.

Source and more information:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/sos/vh\\_evs\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/sos/vh_evs_en.html)

## The EVS hosting/coordinating projects of Artemisszió

### Artus

Artemisszió has been collaborating with Artus Theater in a hosting EVS project since 2003.

For Artus theatre the most important aspect in the EVS project has been to get contacts: the theatre would like to open towards Europe, involving new countries and foreign partners in its activities. Making contacts has been one of the main tasks of the volunteer. Artus regularly participates and organizes theater festivals. Assisting at the event enables the volunteer to get to know not only the performances and the philosophy of Artus, but also those of other Hungarian theatre companies. Every year in August Artus participates in Sziget Festival, which is among the biggest cultural events in Central Europe: the volunteer has been a precious help at organizing different activities of the "Theatre Tent." Of course, a helping hand has been needed in the everyday work of the theatre as well.

### Tibet - helping tradition into the future

In 2004 Artemisszió presented a new EVS hosting project in collaboration with Sambhala Tibet Center.

At the Tibet Center, the main tasks of the volunteer are planned to be the observation and editing of news regarding Tibet, help with the weekly radio program of the Tibet Center, in the organization of cultural events at the Center and regular office work.

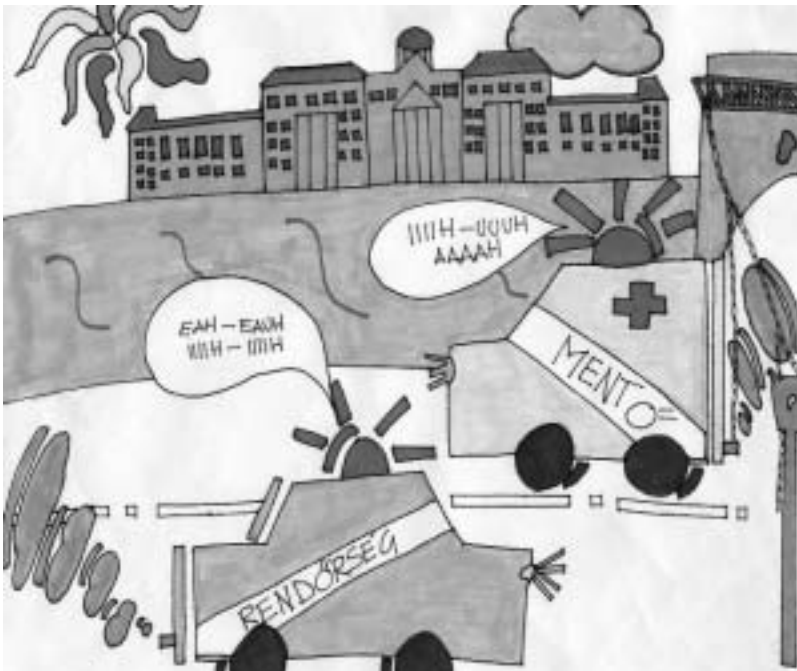
In both projects the volunteer works at Artemisszió as well. His or her tasks at Artemisszió are: i) Youth work: informing Hungarian youth about the possibilities offered by programs of the European Union and helping with the pre-departure preparation of beneficiaries of different projects run by the Foundation as well as animating incoming groups of foreign trainees. The volunteer will have the possibility to propose new activities (such as workshops, club-evenings or film projections about his/her country; new exchange projects, etc.) ii) Administration and help in the everyday functioning of the Foundation.

## An EVS experience in Budapest...

When I arrived in Budapest everything was so big and new. Everyday I left 2 hours before arriving at all the places and I wrote itineraries from my house to Artemisszió, from my house to Artus (my work place), from my house to Szimpla (you'll understand). I had to come back to my house from every part of the city to go in another place. It was not very comfortable!!!

I understood that something was different when I started to take the underground without looking at the map of the station. That was the turning point of a new awareness, I was a *BUDAPESTI*, a Budapest inhabitant. At the same moment, the people in the streets thought something about me, because almost everyday in the tram or in the bus somebody, especially old ladies, asked me for information and I tried to explain with my terrible Hungarian. I hope, at least, 10% of them got back home!!

In that beautiful city with historical monuments, big squares and museums I had my place, far from tourists' noise, where I liked to come back.



I told you I had become an inhabitant but it wasn't completely true. There is a very big number of things that nobody can understand except Hungarians.

Hungarian people have a very developed feeling for music. They put music everywhere also in the police cars and in the sirens of the ambulance cars. They use all the sounds possible (do you remember video games?), and in this way they can communicate with each other! Even after 6 months I couldn't understand what they were saying...

Another really particular thing is the use of toilet-paper. There is a strange virus which affects all of the men, no matter if they were born in Hungary or in another country ... all of them start loving a particular toilet-paper that you can find in Hungary, a very very grey and rough type. The girls who live with them try to pray and plead with them and later they also try to threaten them, but it's too late ... their mind sees only grey and you poor girls will never see an other kind of toilet paper even if it has the same price.

**All the other strange things you'll discover alone,  
I can not tell you about everything!**

**Good luck**

Maria Lia Ferraro (Italy)  
EVS volunteer  
at Artemissió in 2003

# Budapest: vademecum to survive in a European capital

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Probably by now you have become curious about Budapest, and Hungary, in general. We would like to satisfy your curiosity, with information that usually is not in the "official" guidebooks.

First of all some basic information. Hungary is not a very big country: it has about 10 million inhabitants. Nearly 2 million of them, 1/5 of the Hungarian population lives in Budapest. As a result, Budapest is not simply the capital of Hungary but it is the city that dominates the life of all of the country. However, besides Budapest there are a number of important and beautiful towns, along with a lot of small villages that are really interesting to visit and discover.

All of this means that if you want to know Hungary, staying in Budapest is a must but it is not enough. I will try to tell you something about Budapest, the city where I lived for some months and where I had a lot of fun. I can only describe one side of Budapest because my experience refers to a short period of the year. Yes! When I arrived in Budapest it was January and the city that I met was really different from the city in the spring. I'm very curious to know Budapest in the summer and that is a good reason for coming back.

## Budapest in numbers

Size: 525 Sq km  
Number of bridges: 8  
Number of districts: 23  
Population: 1,8 million  
Date of unification of Pest, Buda and Óbuda: 1873  
Number of islands: 6  
Highest point in Budapest: 529 m

We will spend most of the time talking about Budapest, where Artemisszió is based, but we will also give you some information about other towns. Budapest is very different from the other cities of Hungary. Not only for its size and population, but also the palaces, the streets, the architecture and life itself, and night-life especially, are very different.

It is very difficult not to be in love with this city, its elegant palaces, its huge boulevards, the lovely landscape that the Danube creates between the two parts of the city: Buda and Pest. In fact, most people fall in love with this city the first time they come here.

Budapest in January is not the same city that postcards show: there is no sun (or not very often), not so many people in the streets, and the dominant colors are white (the snow, and it snows so much!) and dark gray. When we arrived everything was covered by snow, while now close to our departure, Budapest is full of colors: blue sky, gardens with flowers, people outside everywhere, mums with the babies, children. Life seems to come out like mushrooms after the rain. In the spring it is very hard to stay inside: the sunny days invite you to walk the streets and to enjoy all the beautiful things that this capital offers you.

### A short tour in the heart of the city....

In Budapest there are many things to see and visit. I'm going to introduce to you just a short trip that you could take. It is the usual tour that I like to do and that I usually did with friends that came to visit me here. I invite you to discover the rest.

My little tour starts in **Ferencziek tere**. You can arrive there by taking the blue metro or the bus. (The buses 78, 7, 7A, 173, have a stop there).

In this square I like the **Klotild Palaces** a lot: they are two twin palaces on the two sides of the street. They were built at the same time as the original **Erzsébet hid**. They are almost mirror images of each other and in them there was, in the past, one of the most conservative cafés of the city. I think the Klotild Palaces are a good introduction of the next step of our tour: **Váci utca**.

**Váci utca** is the main walking and shopping street of the city. We are walking its northern part. The southern part is a simple pedestrian street, while the northern one is pedestrian as well as very commercial (here there are the most beautiful, and the most expensive shops of Budapest) and it is crowded by tourists. In the spring there are so many Italians that sometimes I forget to be in Hungary, and I feel as if I was walking in a street of an Italian city!

Váci utca is a very touristy street: it offers a lot to tourists but not many interesting things to the people of Budapest. That's why I can't consider Váci Utca the typical street of Budapest. Still, the street is very beautiful, the palaces are richly decorated and kept in a good way - this I can't say about most of the other palaces of the city.

Váci utca ends in a nice and elegant square: **Vörösmarty tér**. In the middle of the square there is a statue (covered during the winter) in memory of Vörösmarty (1800-1855) one of the major figures of romantic poetry in Hungary. In that square there is another big attraction: the confectioner **Gerbeaud** which has been there since 1870.

Going towards the **Danube** we arrive at the promenade, a pedestrian street parallel to the river with a good view of the **Buda hills and the Castle**. On the iron fence there is one of my favorite statues of Budapest: it is a statue of a young princess resting. It is also a good place for taking pictures.

Our trip can continue walking on the **promenade** (in that street there are several cafeterias where you can enjoy the landscape drinking a coffee) or you can enjoy the landscape from the tram no. 2, (the stop is on the left of the statue) going towards the **Parliament**, or to the **Erzsébet híd** and coming back to Vörösmarty tér.

My short tour ends in this square. It shows very few things about the city: it's up to you to discover the rest.

## Enjoy Budapest!

Nadia Stacchiotti (Italy)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemisszió in 2003

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## Quick impressions of Budapest - My favorite places in town

**My favorite bar**  
**Pótkulcs**  
**(Csengeri utca 65)**

Tucked in a dark street behind Nyugati western railway station, this bar is really difficult to find. You will be one of the (few) lucky ones to know the exact address and its name: *Pótkulcs* because there is no sign of it on the street or on the door. When you get to number 65, all you see is a sleepy doorman who seems pretty harmless. Pass the doors and you will get into a courtyard where customers chat over a cool beer.

Some time ago this downstairs bar and restaurant was managed by a Serbian family which had brought its cozy, somewhat posh-looking furniture with them. Eating there was like relaxing in their private dining room. Now the place has been taken over by an Irish man who has given it an informal and casual atmosphere. Drinks and small foods are served at a very decent price - you can get pork chops for 900 Forints and vegetarian dishes, too - and waiters are friendly and speak English. Good house or jazzy-rock music in the background, and sometimes live bands. Open from 5 p.m. till late, it is mostly attended by students who appreciate the pub-like atmosphere. The wooden tables and benches of the courtyard definitely smell of old ale, just like a Dublin hang-out.

**My favorite lunch place**  
**Kádár étkezde**  
**(Klauzál tér 9)**

A cemetery might seem a gloomy idea for a nice summer day but that one is one of the most beautiful parks in Budapest. Quiet, wonderfully green and clean, the place is often used by film directors. It is a huge place where the most famous and infamous heroes of Hungarian history are buried side to side. The pantheon to the workers' movement is a must. Enormous and once gleaming white, it is now dusty and disheveled. Grass and weeds slowly breaking up the paving stones, which gives it an air of dereliction. "They lived for the people and for communism" says the bold black lettering.

Strolling through the large avenues saved from the sun by enormous trees, you will find the red marble grave of Hungary's last communist premier, János Kádár, who died in 1989. Also resting in the park is József Antall first prime minister of a democratic Hungary (died in 1993).

The most pompous monument is the one dedicated to Lajos Kossuth - the hero of the 1848 revolution against the Habsburgs. It is a triumph of majesty and glory in limestone guarded by two crouching pumas.

Round the back of the Kerepesi cemetery, on Salgótarjáni út, is the entrance to the Jewish cemetery, which served wealthy families before the second world war. Some of the tombs are designed in a superb Art Nouveau style.

**My favorite place in the  
summer  
Kerepesi cemetery  
(Fiumei út 16)**

All you need to have a good time at Kádár Étkezde is a few cents in your pocket and a good appetite. Kádár is very cheap and gives you the kind of meal to recover after a 25 kilometers hike. Étkezde roughly means eatery in Hungarian and is only open at lunchtime. You will be served between 11.30 and 15.30. Here one usually shares the table with regulars: old pensioners from the neighborhood, students or trendy artists. Pictures from actors, opera singers and famous cabaret artists decorate the walls. You will even see a photograph of Marcello Mastroianni who was happy to discover this small joint during a film-shooting in Budapest.

On the red and white tablecloths, you will find a huge bottle of soda water. When paying your fare at the end of the meal - one usually pays the owner at the door - don't forget to say how many glasses of water you have drunk and how many slices of bread you have had. Dishes are dirt-cheap, between 1 and 2 euros. Specials are served on Fridays and Saturdays: the sholet for example, a Jewish tradition (Kádár is situated in the heart of the Jewish district), made of beans cooked for hours over the stove, sometimes served with goose, chicken or even... bacon. This shows that Hungarian Jewish cuisine does not really hold on to orthodoxy. Nor do Hungarian Jews; few of them follow the orthodox church of thought.

**Florence La Bruyère (France)  
Correspondent for  
"Libération" and the French radio  
2002**

## The dynamics of Budapest

I found myself many times at soups, because I would see the river in them, staring at trees, because I would see people, staring at people because I would see birds, flowers in children and trees in adults.

Everywhere ever-changing, that was how I felt in Hungary, the place where it snows the whole year. But what really stunned me were the bridges.

It's like a sudden moment of light, air, and the gaze of the whole, standing in the middle.

The bridges of Budapest are all different, but all close to the river, so that you can see the soup.

Either you stand in Buda or in Pest, for you to go from one side to the other, someday you have to take a bridge. From the cement plain to the green mountains. In between you become polluted with magic and this helps you to move further towards change.

Pedro Tomé (Portugal)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemisszió in 2003

## Impressions of Budapest...

This is something new, something special for you - You walk wriggling and crossing bridges - cut up and set up your mind on different vibes - it's a really good soup - scrap materials everywhere - sampling reality and recasting lives - The Kid with the moustache. CIAO

Marco D'Alessandro (Italy)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemisszió in 2003

## Budapest night life

What a surprise to find out the Budapest nightlife: lively, restless and amusing. In Budapest you can go out every night, being sure that there is something to do: **live music**, **theatrical performance**, **glamorous aperitif times**, **English-language movies** and so on.

Would you like to have an aperitif in a trendy café, by listening to some relaxing sound? Well, you should go to **Karma café** (*Liszt Ferenc tér*) and lie down into the lounge room, even also having a chat with your neighbor at the table, probably a foreigner, who has come there to eat a good exotic meal.

Once you are no longer hungry, you can decide to proceed in a lot of different ways to **live concerts**, **DJ-sets**, **ballrooms**. In particular, I have been struck by the great popularity of underground music. There are lots of clubs where you can listen to and dance dub, trip hop, drum and bass, but also jazz, nu-jazz and, of course, gypsy music.

And if you want to give your friends a surprise, accompany them to dance salsa to the **Kaméleon Club** (*Commercial Center Mammut*): they'll be astonished at finding out that the Caribbean sound succeeds in gathering a great deal of people every time!

Unfortunately, at the end of the night, when a little languor is beginning to make itself felt, you cannot have a good cappuccino e cornetto, according to the best Italian tradition. But you can always have a gyros at any of the non-stop **Turkish** buffets on Nagykörút!

Anyway, there are dozens of Turkish and Greek restaurant, open all night long, that are waiting for you, to offer some nourishing kebab and other typical foods, as cheap for your wallet as heavy for your breath.

Ugo Staffolani (Italy)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemisszió in 2003

## An (Under)ride in Budapest

### Szia!

Don't be shy, you can sit next to me, watching the waters of the Danube. Oh, sorry I cough so much. I'm old, sometimes tired and I've got this compulsive coughing from the tobacco and the Budapest nights. I don't stop, I slow down. My generation drags itself along the road with pride.

We are noisy, the Hungarians are more the quiet style. They get the tram number 4 in Blaha Lujza tér during the rush hour without shouting. Amazing!

But you want to know things about Budapest? Where I normally walk around? Everywhere.

On Saturday mornings I like to wake up early and go to Novák Piac. There I find parts of me spread on the sellers' tables, some curiosities, ancient cameras for collectors, old porno editions, broken toys, music instruments, second hand clothes... I bargain prices with the Gypsies, drink some Ászok to cure my head. People here are crude, rusty. They need oil to lubricate the connections of their bodies. **Just like me.**

My story: I come from the strength that moved the tanks in the Second World War. I'm stuffed with carton, that's my official uniform. But I'm a mutant; I keep changing myself. And because of my rude appearance, I will disappear in a few years. Some people say I'm a precious part of History. I'm maybe a resistant, as any other Hungarian.

I'm like the trains: machines that crawl along the landscape. Strong, permanent. I like to observe them coming, leaving, knowing the news that they bring from their destinies. From Déli Pályaudvar, they bring people from the south: Pécs, Sarajevo, Belgrade. From Nyugati I stare at the architecture of the station and the wild machines that pull the carriages. Vienna, Bratislava, Berlin, Prague. And at Keleti, I buy used books bearing the burned oil of one of the prettiest stations I've ever seen. A non-place, full of travelers. Transylvania, Győr, Miskolc...

After I go down to a Borzóz, drink some glasses of wine, watching the decadence of those who couldn't survive socialism. If I'm hungry, I just go through the neighborhood till Garay tér, but some vegetables or a kolbász. It's not a popular market, but it smells like one. There you can find everything you need... Or I just fill a plastic bottle with wine and I cross the White bridge to Tabán or to the Vérmező (Bloodgarden) and stay there, watching the spring's snow falling from the trees.

I feel deliciously poisoned going along the streets of this city. Sometimes I dance, but the old way, you know, from what remains in our memories. Just like me.

### Because I'm a Trabant.

Nelda Magalhaes (Portugal)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemisszió in 2003

# Hungary:

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## a country in the heart of Europe

Hungary, a country of 93 square kilometers, is a small but colorful and diverse country. It is a country of crossroads, situated between the East and the West, the South and the North. It has incorporated in its culture and in its residents' mentality the cultures and flavors of all the countries around it. It has always had many different ethnic, cultural and religious groups. In the nineteenth century only half of the population spoke Hungarian as their mother tongue!

### Hungary in numbers - useful and useless

Population: 10,174,442 inhabitants  
Population Density: 109.4 people/sqkm  
Life expectation at birth: 66 for men, 75 for women  
Distance from the Mediterranean sea: 400 km  
Length of the Danube: 2,860 km  
Length of the Danube in Hungary: 417 km  
Highest point: 1,024 m, the Kékes in the Mátra

Hungary has many different faces, and all of them are exciting to discover.

Budapest with its cultural wealth and metropolitan atmosphere is at one end of the spectrum and the small, traditional and sometimes very poor villages of the Northeast are at the other. There are many different variations and phases in between these two extremes such as university towns, industrial centers or recreational regions.

Hungary has contributed a lot to the cultural heritage of the world. Just to mention a few of the important figures from all walks of culture: Zoltán Kodály and Béla Bartók are two world famous composers, Imre Kertész received the Nobel Prize for literature in 2002, and István Szabó is the Oscar-winning director of the Hungarian movie industry with his film "Mephisto".

Getting around Hungary is very easy, you can take the train, long-distance bus or you can even hitch-hike. Very often, however, you will face difficulties of communication. Most people in Hungary do not speak foreign languages, or just very little. But all of them, as you will discover, try to help you out and communicate with you. Don't be afraid of using gestures, drawings or any other alternative means of communication.

One last observation: Hungarians seem to be cold at first contact. But if you make an effort, they will open up to you and reveal their unbounded warmth and hospitality!

## The Hungarian language

More than 10 million people live in Hungary and most of them (98,5, according to the 1990 census) speak Hungarian. That means, of course, that in Hungary the mother-tongue is Hungarian. Most of you who are reading these words could say that is well known, so you have to be ready to listen to people that speak in Hungarian and not in English. Of course, there are people that speak English, and there are also a lot of people that speak Italian (a lot of Hungarians study Italian at school or at the University) but they are not so easy to find, especially at the supermarket or at the post office. What I want to say is that here you can speak English but you should not expect that most of the people are able to do it. That is a good reason for learning some Hungarian. It is not a very difficult language. A Spanish girl told me that after ten months of Hungarian she is able to have a short conversation with a Hungarian.

The most interesting thing is that Magyar, as the Hungarians call their language, does not have many relatives in Europe. The Hungarian language belongs to the Finno-Ugrian family, which includes Finnish and Estonian. Hungarian is an agglutinate language, meaning that it relies heavily on suffixes and prefixes. The grammar is complex, yet there is no gender, a feature that most English speakers grapple with when learning other European languages.

The Hungarians do use the Roman alphabet however, and finally, a good piece of news: after learning simple rules you can easily read it.

Good morning	Jó reggelt! Jó napot! (during the day)
Good evening	Jó estét!
Hi (to one person)	Szia!
(to two, or more people)	Sziaztok!
How are you?	Hogy vagy?
Cheers (but don't do it with the beer)	Egészségedre!
Yes	Igen
No	Nem
What's your name?	Hogy hívnak?
What are you doing tonight?	Mit csinálsz ma este?
Where do you live?	Hol laksz?
What's your telephone number?	Mi a telefonszámod?

Claudio Giuliatti (Italy)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemissió in 2003

## Hungarian Food

To be honest, when I arrived in Budapest, I was a bit scared, but after a while I understood that this Country is rich in specialities. From starters to cakes, its variety is so huge that it satisfies all kinds of tastes.

Before starting with a short list of all the main specialities, you should know that the Hungarian cuisine has kept the old tradition of the shepherds, fishermen and hunters who lived here some centuries ago. Also it has the features of the Mediterranean cuisine thanks to the Italian marriage of the great Renaissance King Matthias. The Turkish rule has also left its signs on Hungarian cuisine, and later, during the Austro - Hungarian Empire, the French, German and even the English way to cook had been widespread.

Generation after generation the Hungarian chefs took possession of these influences, they elaborated on them, adding a bit of their personality and creativity. **So, finally...what flavors can you find here?**

First of all **paprika**: you can find it everywhere! Sweet or hot, it flavors several dishes, as in chicken with paprika (paprikás csirke).

**Dry onion**: with a light yellow color, it gives an appetizing aroma to several dishes like the calf, or fish stew or gulyás.

**Sour cream**: it gives a vellutato taste to another typical hungarian dish, the stuffed cabbage (töltött kápszta).

**Tomato and green pepper**: fundamental ingredients of the Hungarian "peperonata" (lecsó), and of other dishes such as the fish soup (halászlé) and gulyás in the pot (bogrács gulyás)

If you like meat you will not have any problems: you will find it cooked in several ways, each of them very mouth-watering.

You will have a very hard choice among cakes: but don't miss the famous **Dobos torta** - five layers of tin Spanish cake, full of delicious chocolate cream and covered with a golden brown icing.

I forgot to talk to you about **palacsinta**: it can be both salty and sweet. They are pancakes filled in several ways to satisfy all kinds of tastes. The most famous one is **Hortobágyi palacsinta**, filled with pork or chicken. Among the sweet ones the most famous is the **Gundel palacsinta** with rum, nut and chocolate.

I cannot miss talking about wines: among the red ones you have to taste the aromatic "**Bull's blood**" (Bikavér). Among the white ones you could choose between the huge variety of Tokaji.

Just one last piece of advice: remember that all the dishes are very generous!!! Finally, all I have to tell you is: **Buon appetito!**

Elena Papadantonakis (Italy)  
Leonardo participant  
at Artemisszióin 2003

## I have tried gulyás,

It turned out that the bread was not from home.  
 Pálinka and Unikum in shots,  
 the metro has been pushing me a lot.  
 My bed has been shrieking a lot,  
 but I did not care too much about that.  
 After a weekend in Vienna  
 I longed to return to this city.  
 The language was hard,  
 the life hard.  
 poor people here and there,  
 the dirt, drugs and everything else that  
 makes you sad.  
 The stress all the time,  
 and a big crowd on the night bus no.6.  
 At night,  
 to the party in a hat...  
 red or white?  
 Othwerwise: Dréher.  
 Wine, tea and dwarfs,  
 I found my place at my work place.  
 There was a lot to wash up,  
 very often we could only whisper.  
 But when I was reading the lovely letters  
 on the Internet,  
 I had the chance to judge Sweden bet-  
 ter,  
 A group of interesting people,  
 a great program that cheers you up.  
 The touch of a dead horse in my hands,  
 then the work was the best!  
 Sometimes we took a bath,  
 what is that swimming in the water?  
 Warm and pleasant,  
 the second Sunday of Advent the grass  
 was still green.  
 The buildings were big and beautiful,  
 it is a shame that they were not mine.  
 Life in Budapest was good,  
 I was sorry to leave.  
 One year older, after three months,  
 I am grateful for the experiences  
 But I understood - the map always in my  
 pocket, that  
 I am not a big city girl!

## Jag gulyásen smakat,

upptäckt att brödet inte är hembakat.  
 Pálinka och Unicum i huttar,  
 metron har bidragit med manga puttar.  
 Min säng knarrade mycké,  
 fast jag fattade tycke.  
 Efter en helg i Wien,  
 ville jag till sängen som var min.  
 Spræet var svart,  
 livet var hart.  
 Fattiga människor här a där,  
 smuts, drager och annat som tår.  
 Jämt var det stress,  
 i nattbussen 6 även press.  
 På natten,  
 på me partyhatten,  
 värös eller fehér,  
 annars blir det Dreher.  
 Skinn, tre och troll,  
 på jobbet jag fann min roll.  
 Det blev en hel del diska,  
 ibland var vi tvungna att viska.  
 Men da jag läste fina mail,  
 på Sverige fick lite pejl,  
 intressanta människor som hängde,  
 en bra spelning som svängde,  
 känslan i mina händer av död häst,  
 Det var da jobbet som var bäst!  
 Sa blev det nagra bad,  
 i vattnet simma jag vet inte vad.  
 Varmt och skönt,  
 andra advent var gräset grönt.  
 Husen var stora och fina,  
 synd att de inte var mina.  
 Livet i Budapest var bra,  
 jag var ledsen da jag behövde dra.  
 Ett år äldre, tre manader har gatt,  
 jag är tacksam för de erfarenheter jag  
 fatt.  
 Men jag har även insett med en karta  
 alltid i min ficka;  
 Jag är nog ingen storstadsflicka!

Camilla Lugnet (Sweden)  
 Leonardo participant  
 at Artemissió in 2003

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## About Hungarian history

One of Hungary's main features is its being between the East and the West. This border situation comes not only from its geographic position but it also reflects the history of this country. Summarizing the history of a nation in a few pages is not very easy so I will write about the main facts to help you better understand Hungary.

### The beginnings

The first record on the territory that is now Hungary is dated from 33-35 BC when the Romans conquered the land called **Pannonia** that became the border of the Roman Empire.

Aquincum was the capital of this region until 430 AC. It was at the Roman border against the barbaric attacks. Today you can visit the Roman ruins of Aquincum.  
(*To Aquincum: HÉV from Batthyány tér, Aquincum stop*)

Following the collapse of the 400-year-old Roman Empire, no single ethnic groups in the region succeed in occupying this area for an extended period, although for some time it was the center of the Hun and the Ostrogoth empires, which dealt major blows to the western Roman empire.

### The foundation of the Hungarian state

In the **spring of 895** the Hungarian army made preparations to conquer the Carpathian Basin, as their quarters between the Dnieper and the Dniester rivers had been attacked from the East by a neighboring nomadic people, the Pechenegs.

Those taking part in the conquest were organized into clans and the clans into tribes: the Hungarian tribal alliance consisted of seven tribes. By the year 900, these seven tribes had the entire Danube basin under their control, and they were pushing on towards Moravia and the Eastern Frankish empire.

In the 10th century the Hungarian princes, descendants of Árpád recognized that if they wanted to survive their people had to adjust themselves to the European norms. One precondition was conversion to the Christian faith. This approach to the west starts with the **Grand Prince Géza** (972-997) in true "pagan style", that is to say, by force and with the death of many. However the completion of the foundation of the state was left to his son Stephen, (**István** in Hungarian) who ruled from 997 as a grand prince and from 1000 until his death in 1038, as king.

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István lay the foundations of the Hungarian Catholic church. The development of a state administration and the establishment of counties organized on a territorial basis - which today represent important units in Hungarian local administration - were some of the fruits of his work.

Measured in historical terms, Hungarian society changed relatively rapidly from a semi-nomadic population engaged in agriculture to one engaged in both the cultivation of land and animal husbandry. Through much of the middle ages, the Hungarian kingdom was one of the most stable state formations in Europe. After the **Árpád dynasty** (896-1301), several dynasties followed that maintained their position "as primus inter pares". The reason for this relatively orderly succession lies primarily in the fact that the royal treasury remained as chief patron, it also had the final say on the disposal of the huge church wealth.

From 1222, the function of the Hungarian state was based on a written compromise, the so-called "**Golden Bull**" - between the sovereign and the nobility. This arrangement can be regarded as a kind of elementary "constitutional monarchy". The Golden Bull, in fact, was preceded only by the British Magna Carta of 1215, which served a similar purpose.

## The Turkish rule

The "idyllic" state of affairs was quickly brought to an end by the emergence of the Ottoman Turks, who appeared in the southeastern tip of the Balkans in the middle of the 14th century. The Turks moved on the offensive against the Balkan states regarded by the Hungarian King as vassal States. Their struggle was for hegemony in the Balkans, but in the middle of the 15th century it became a struggle for the very security of the Hungarian kingdom.

**King Matthias** changed state policy against the Turks. He realized that his country was incapable of conducting offensive operations against the Turks and instead he worked to strengthen the country's defense while, from the 1470s, he pursued all avenues to promote peace with the Turks. It was probably due to this change of approach that the Hungarian Kingdom

Matthias' kingdom (1458-1490) was a fertile period for culture. In a way, it can be compared to the Italian Renaissance. Under Matthias' patronage a lot of artists came to Budapest. The city of Florence was the example followed by King Matthias that introduced the Golden Forint when he the legal currency.

was able to stand for a good half century against the Ottoman Empire which, during the rule of **Selim I (1512-1520)** grew to become five times the size of Hungary.

In **1526** the Turks invaded Hungary and in **1541**, Suleiman I assumed the Hungarian royal seat in Buda. **The Country was split into three parts**: The southern part belonged to the Ottoman Empire (including Buda), The north-eastern part fell into the hands of the Habsburgs, The kingdom's eastern regions elected a sovereign, the Prince of Transylvania, from among the aristocrats and supported by Turks.

The Turks stayed in Hungary for 150 years. The effects of their rule were numerous: their invasion destroyed parts of Hungary, they introduced an estate utilization system less developed than the one it replaced. Their methods of conducting war were more devastating than those in western parts of Europe. From the cultural point of view, Turkish cuisine, horticulture and bath culture greatly enriched Hungarian culture.

The Turks were expelled in the last years of the 17th century by the emperor's armies. The Habsburg government immediately set out to abolish the feudal rights of the Hungarian nobility because they were alleged to have obstructed efforts at unification.

Hungary became a part of the big **Austrian kingdom** and Budapest was always second compared to Vienna.

## The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy

The 18th century was a period of peaceful development with a focus on agriculture but not of industry. The few efforts to build a manufacturing base collapsed quickly, and until 1872 the bulk of land with economic potential was ruled by an organization of guilds that set out to hamper development. In consequence, the country was compelled to import all high-quality industrial products.

## XIX century: the century of revolution

The XIX century was the period of revolution with the "**12 points**" written by the radicals of Pest. These 12 demands included the establishment of a national guard; the reunification of Hungary and Transylvania; the abolition of serfdom; equality in civil life, religion and law; a representative legislature; general and proportional taxation; freedom of the press; and the introduction of trial by jury.

The revolution of the 15th of March started on the stairs of the National Museum (*Múzeum körút 14-16*). After the reading of a poem by Sándor Petőfi, the crowd moved by a spirit of independence, wrote the famous "12 points" and they started the revolution. This revolution had a very bad end. In September 1848, after the crushing of the Vienna uprising, the emperor's troops crushed the Hungarian revolutionists.

With the defeat of the **War of Independence**, the achievements of 1848 towards rebuilding an independent nation were lost. Vienna suspended the constitution and governed Hungary by decree and with the assistance of foreign administrators. Kossuth and several other leaders of the revolution took refuge in Turkey, where they tried to keep alive the memory of struggle in various parts of Europe, and tried also to start the revolutionary flame alight again.

## The Two World Wars

As a consequence of Hungary's defeat in the First World War, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy collapsed and new states emerged to replace it. As an integral part of the same process two-thirds of historical Hungary passed by an international treaty to neighboring countries - to emerging Austria, Czechoslovakia, the Serbian - Croatian - Slovenian kingdom, as well as to the kingdom of Romania.

The **Treaty of Trianon**, the peace accord that was expected to settle Hungary's future, drew the new borders not so much on the basis of proclaimed ethnic principles but rather on the basis of military strategies of the victorious powers.

This new situation created several problems for Hungary. The country lost part of its lands, and it was deprived practically of all its raw material resources. Considering the circumstances, the Hungarian economy picked up relatively quickly as a result of international assistance.

The **Second World War** saw the invasion of the country by Germany and the persecution of Hungarian Jews and Gypsies. Hungarian citizens of Jewish and Gypsy origin were recruited into forced labor and regiments at the beginning of 1940. During the **Holocaust** about 440,000 - 465,000 Jews and Gypsies perished in forced labor service or were killed in German extermination camps. (You can visit the *Holocaust Museum and Documentation Center in Páva utca 39*).

The German occupation of Hungary ended in the beginning of 1945, to be replaced by what was in name an Allied takeover but was, in fact, a Soviet invasion.

## The Soviet regime

The Soviet Union and its subjects in East and Central European countries pinned the most noble of human aims atop their agenda: the creation of a society without material stratification and without oppression. In line with these goals, as a first step the regime managed to complete the nationalization of industry, agriculture and all private property. Many intellectuals were not satisfied with this situation and the Soviet regime was getting more and more isolated. Internally, the Soviet period was characterized by political terror: serious economic and supply deficiencies and immeasurable technical backwardness.

The fall of 1956, was characterized by new winds of independence. The 23rd of October the peaceful demonstration of sympathy for the crisis in Poland, ended up as an armed uprising.

In the early days of the Revolution, Imre Nagy and his circle had been returned to power. Quite soon Nagy realized that that revolution was not for the democratization of socialism but it was a real struggle for the independence of the country.

The 1st of November 1956, the new government of Nagy, complemented by representatives of the already reorganized parties, called upon the Soviet troops to pull out, declared Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact and the country's neutrality, and asked for assistance from the United Nations.

Four days later, the 4th of November, the Soviet troops attacked Budapest, dissolved the Nagy government and declared null the decisions of the past few days. After the 1956 revolution was put down, the triumphant regime which emerged with the help of the soviets, consolidated itself in a record time.

Despite the defeat of the Revolution of 1956, the grip of Communism on people's everyday life eased up. The leaders of the country realized that the people needed some personal freedom and room for individual initiative. From the 1960s the average standard of living was rising significantly year by year. To ensure this constant development, however, the state started to take out loans. By the end of the 1980's Communism was more a rhetoric than a reality in Hungary. Although at the elections people could still only vote for the candidates of one party, they were more and more allowed to have enterprises, travel abroad and buy foreign goods. In 1989 the Communist regime came to an end without a bloody revolution. After a series of negotiations between the newly formed democratic parties and the ruling Workers' Party, democratic elections were held in the country and the People's Republic of Hungary was transformed in the Republic of Hungary.

### Since 1990...

After the change of regimes a **democratic state system** was gradually introduced. One of the most important aspects of this process was the introduction of the multi-party system. In the economy, monopolized state ownership was terminated. The privatization of property started along with a re-compensation procedure. Those whose property was taken away by the Communist regime after the Second World War were compensated either with money, stocks or property. Today Hungary is still in a period of transformation.

In April 2003 the country voted for Hungary's membership in the **European Union**. With this decision a new phase is starting in the country's history. Hungary is officially the member of the EU as of 1st of May 2004.

Nadia Stacchiotti and Maurizio  
Cruciani (Italy)  
Leonardo participants  
at Artemiszióin 2003

# Curiosities of Hungary

## in alphabetical order

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A

National **Anthem** (*Himnusz* by Ferenc Kölcsey, 1823). This poem was written in the first half of the 19th century. It describes the history of Hungary with its dramatic events, the faith and hopes of the nation and the strength of the love for the mother country.

Traditionally, at New Year's Eve, people listen to the anthem on the radio or on TV and are standing while singing it.

B

**Bridges.** There are seven bridges connecting Buda to Pest. The oldest one is the *Széchenyi-lánchíd* (Chain Bridge). It was opened to the public in 1849. It connects Roosevelt Square to the tunnel under the Castle Hill. During the Second World War all the bridges of Budapest were destroyed. The youngest of the bridges is Lágymányosi híd which was opened to the public in 1996.

C

The **cockarde (kokárda)** is one of the most recognized symbols of Hungarian history. It is a rosette sewn of a red-white-green ribbon that the enthusiastic people pinned on their coats on the 15th of March 1848. That tradition survives until today. Every year on the 15th of March, many Hungarians wear the *kokárda* proudly.

D

**Diáksziget** (Student Island) used to be the name of *Sziget* Festival. It started in 1993 as a small European reproduction of the Woodstock festival. By today, it has become a huge cultural event with about 20 stages and tents of music, theater performances, a civil village and sports facilities. Every year at the beginning of August, a unique festival city is built on Óbudai island, one of the islands of the Danube in the middle of Budapest.

E

**Ethnicity.** There are 13 officially recognized national/ethnic minority groups in Hungary: Ukrainian, Slovenian, Slovakian, Serb, Rosin, Rumanian, Polish, Greek, German, Gypsy/Roma, Croatian, Bulgarian and Armenian. A unique institution in Hungary is the "minority government": members of these official minority groups are entitled to elect a separate government in their municipal districts which are to represent the cultural, social and political interests of that particular ethnic group.

**Fürdő** or “bath” culture is very rich in Budapest and the whole country. You can find many Roman and Turkish baths on both the Buda and the Pest side. One of the most popular baths, with a huge swimming pool, sauna, steam baths, cold water baths, massage. is *Széchenyi fürdő* in Városliget. Another example is *Király fürdő* on the Buda side, a small Turkish bath with a very familial atmosphere that is open men and women on separate days.

F

**Gypsy music** is played in many restaurants and entertainment places in Budapest. However, the music that most tourists know as ‘Gypsy’ is only one style practiced by the significant Roma community in Hungary. There are many different traditional and not so traditional Gypsy groups, including those with the traditional instruments of spoons and pots and the growing number of Roma rap and pop bands.

G

**Havana lakótelep** is among the numerous prefabricated apartment blocks in Budapest. In Hungary the construction of these huge neighborhoods of cement and concrete with dozens of rows of block buildings started in the 1970s. While at the time of their construction, many people saw these houses as manifestations of development and social and economic progress, by today many of them have become ghettos of poverty. One of the famous ones is *Havana lakótelep*.

H

**Interaction** with Hungarians is not always easy. They tend to be quite reserved and cold when meeting strangers. In stores, clerks might seem rude and indifferent. But this is just the surface. If you try to ask for directions in the street people will try their best even if they don’t speak English. And if you manage to get a little closer to Hungarians, they will open up for you very happily and you will discover the extremely friendly, warm and hospitable face of Hungarians.

I

**Jégbüfé.** This pastry and coffee shop at *Ferenciek tere* was established in 1952. At the time it was a typical example of a socialist café and pastry shop. One of its specialties is that it has remained unchanged ever since. The other is its fine selection of cakes, pastries, bakery products, ice-creams, coffee and cacao.

J

**Körút** is boulevard in Hungarian. There are two *körút*'s in Budapest. One of them is *kiskörút* or "small boulevard" and the other is the *Nagykörút* or "grand boulevard". Both of them are in the center of the city. *Nagykörút* connects Buda and Pest and the tram 4-6 runs all the way on its span.

K

**Lomtalanítás** could be translated as "getting rid of old garbage." Once a year Budapest residents can pile up on the streets all the old furniture and garbage that do not fit into the regular garbage cans during the year. On these days, before the garbage is taken away, the streets are completely covered with incredible old stuff and the piles are visited by many scavengers! At this time Budapest looks quite surrealistic and fantastic.

L

**Merlin theatre** is a theater in the downtown of Budapest. One of its priorities is hosting English-speaking theater companies. It features several English language plays and performances a month.

M

**National Holidays**  
**March 15** anniversary of the 1848 revolution  
**August 20** anniversary of St. István, the first King of Hungary  
**October 23** anniversary of the revolution of 1956  
**23th October** day of the 1956 Revolution

N

**Népköztársaság útja** During the Communist regime, many street names in Budapest were changed for ideological purposes. *Andrássy út*, one of the central and most important representative avenues of Budapest had several names until 1989. In 1820 it was opened as Blicklyaer street, in 1885 it became *Andrássy street*, in 1949 *Stalin street*, in 1956 - the street of Hungarian youth, then in the same year the street of the People's Republic and in 1990 it became *Andrássy street* again.

**Oktagon** is a square with an octagonal form, in the intersection of *Andrássy út* and *Nagykörút*. It can be considered one of the hearts of the city. The area close to the square is full of shops, pubs, bars and restaurants. It is a good point for starting the night.

O

**Pesti Est** is a free weekly paper with all the programs (music, theatre, sports, movies, classical music, and anything else you can imagine) that you can attend in Budapest. You can pick it up at any movie theater or café in Budapest.

P

**Quarters of Budapest** Budapest is divided into 23 official districts (these have both names and numbers). Within every district the different neighborhoods also have different names, and many people tend to identify themselves with these neighborhoods. There are a few traditional quarters of the city, which are distinct and somewhat separated areas with a uniquely homogeneous character. Among these are the Castle district, which has an ancient and romantic atmosphere, or the Old Jewish quarter in the 6th and 7th districts (this area has many synagogues, narrow streets and many signs of the once lively Jewish life here) or even Újpest, a mixture of its small-town past and modern present with many prefabricated blocks of buildings. Finally, Budapest is now developing a new entertainment quarter with theaters, pubs, clubs, restaurants and open air places around Oktogon, partly the Jewish district and Ráday utca.

**R** **Regions** There are 19 administrative territories or provinces in Hungary. These are mostly political units, but there are several very distinct regions of the country such as the lake Balaton and the region north of it (*Balaton-felvidék*, *Káli-medence*), or the *Mátra*, *Bükk* and *Zemplén* mountains in the Northeast of the country. Another very special area is *Őrség* and *Vend-vidék* in the Western part of the country, which are dotted with very small, closed and traditional villages and surrounded by the foot of the Alps. Finally, *Szigetköz*, a network of island on the Danube in the Northwest of the country is a natural reserve area and a very unique place for hiking and camping.

**The synagogue in Dohány utca** is the biggest synagogue in Europe. It was built between 1854 and 1859 by the architect Ludwig Förster. The building has three naves. The central nave is built with cast-iron in a single span. One of the buildings inside the synagogue was the birthplace of Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement. In the back garden you can admire the *Holocaust Memorial*, a big iron tree where each leaf carries the name of a Jewish person who died during the Second World War.

**T** **Tipping** In Hungarian restaurants the service charge is rarely included in prices. You are able to see this from your receipt. In addition to restaurants, tipping is common for hairdressers and barbers, newspaper salesmen, gas station workers, taxi drivers etc. If you are satisfied with the service, the usual rate is 10% of the total price.

**Underground** Budapest's underground is really well done, quick and easy to use. The Budapest public transportation is very efficient. You can travel all around the city without problems, and during the night there are the night buses marked with a number followed by "É" that stands for "éjszakai" or by night. There are three metro lines, each marked with a different color. The yellow one is the oldest metro built in continental Europe. The yellow metro is really nice, small and well cared for.

U

**Vásárcsarnok (Market hall)** Budapest has many different types of markets. There are open-air markets and closed ones, small and big, cheap and expensive. You can always get fresh vegetables and meat at any market. The most famous market hall is at *Fővám tér*, it is frequented by many tourists. Budapest residents prefer smaller, more familial, and definitely cheaper markets in the different neighborhoods.

V

**Winter** Winters are usually very long and cold in Hungary. A very hot and dry summer from June to August is followed by an Indian summer with much sunshine and a very mild weather, then comes the long and cold winter from November until around February. It usually snows in December and January. Then comes the most beautiful season of the year, spring, from early March until May.

W

**Yoghurt** is just one of the several types of milk products you can find in Hungary. There are also some other yoghurt-like products, some of them unique to Hungary. For example, *tejföl* is like sour cream, very thick and smooth, *kefir* is softer and more sour, *író* comes from the acid of the fermented milk, *túró* can be sweet and sour and is something like 'ricotta' or 'cottage cheese', *aludttej* or "sleeping milk" is very sour and a refreshing drink in the summer.

Y

**Zoo** Even if you don't like zoos in general, the one in Budapest is worth visiting for its interesting architecture in the Art Nouveau style. It's been recently renovated and as a result animals are kept in more humane conditions.

Z

# The Artemisszió Office

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