

5 Reasons to Cycle Hungary

Hungary is by far one of the most interesting and enjoyable destinations on earth. Visitors are intrigued by the country's unique combination of old world traditions and modern day trends. Sometimes referred to as the "land of the spas" Hungary is the perfect destination for luxury and relaxation. For the more active traveler, there are diverse and challenging landscapes perfect for outdoor adventures and just waiting to be discovered. One of the most exciting ways to experience Hungary is on bike. And while the reasons to do so are practically endless, here are five that top the list.

Budapest

One of Hungary's most popular destinations, Budapest is best known for all the lavish spas located there – a dozen to be exact. It's also home to nearly a hundred thermal springs. But Budapest offers a lot more than just relaxing massages. Ancient Roman ruins and architectural masterpieces abound, attracting visitors from across the globe.

Buda Castle, a World Heritage Site, provides a full range of activities such as museums, restaurants and shops. The famed Chain Bridge is nothing short of awe-inspiring when it is brilliantly lit up as the sun goes down. Tiny Margaret Island is home to the capital's most beautiful park. Ride over the bridge and take a break on the beach, or stay in one of the island's two hotels. One thing's for certain – you'll never forget your experience in Budapest.

Geography

Hungary has a very diverse geography, with rivers, lakes and seemingly endless rolling green countryside. The Danube River stretches the entire length of Hungary and is one of the country's most important bodies of water. It's also home to Lake Balatan, the largest lake in central Europe. If it's nature and recreation you seek, Hungary boasts 10 national parks, 35 landscape protection areas and 145 minor nature reserves. Additionally, the land in Hungary is exceptionally bountiful. An incredible 70% is suitable for agriculture. There couldn't be a more inviting and exhilarating place to cycle.

Lake Hévíz

A geological anomaly, Lake Hévíz is the largest thermal lake in Europe. It is the epitome of relaxation, surrounded by rolling hills, nature conservation, and blissful water lilies. The warm waters are replenished daily and are thought to have healing powers. The mud that lines the bottom of the lake is also thought to be medicinal. The region has been treasured since the end of the 4th century and is still a popular location for those seeking the healing powers of nature.

Cuisine

If the history and natural beauty of Hungary aren't enough, the delectable cuisine will certainly win you over. The secret lies in the spices and preparation, and the results are mouthwatering. Traditional dishes like goulash are delicious, hearty and can be found just about anywhere you dine. Paprika is native to Hungary and is featured in many local dishes to add spice. Desserts like fruit-filled strudels and Dobos Cake are also frequently served and enjoyed. The gastronomical experience is just another way to learn more about Hungary.

Gyor

Originally a Hungarian stronghold, this historic town is known as “the town of rivers” and is famous for its progressive industry and breathtaking architecture. Káptalan Hill is the core or “heart” of the city and is found at the convergence of three rivers: the Danube, the Rába and the Rábca. One of the most notable sites in Gyor is the Pannonhalma Abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the second largest territorial abbey in the world. It hosts an exquisite art collection and a library filled with national treasures. There is so much rich history here it’s almost impossible to experience it all in one visit.

Hungary, with its rich cultural history, breathtaking landscapes and plethora of relaxing spa treatments is one of the most beautiful places on earth to visit. Add to this the endless thrill of outdoor activities amidst the backdrop of nature at its best and you’ve got the perfect location for adventure travel. Cycling is just one of the many options, but certainly one of the very best ways to truly experience all of what Hungary has to offer.