

# Hungary

Hungary is a European Union country located in the south-eastern region of central Europe. It is bordered by Austria to the west, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania and Ukraine. It has a population of 9.5 million (The count was in 2023) and the official language of the country is Hungarian, which is spoken by about 13 million people.



❖ Hungary joined the European Union on 1 May 2004 and their currency is the Hungarian Forint and they are preparing if they adopt the Euro. Its capital is Budapest which is its most populous city with a population of 1.7 million people. Budapest is the

9th largest city in the European Union founded on 17 November 1873.

## History:

❖ Hungary's history spans thousands of years with important developments that have shaped its political, social and cultural identity. The region of Hungary was conquered by Celts and later Romans. The Hungarian kingdom was founded and Christianized by Stephen I (its first reign) in 1000 AD. The kingdom became a major power in central Europe and survived for many centuries. Furthermore, in the early 18th century,

Hungary became part of the Austrian Empire and during the 19th century the country fought for independence with the Hungarian Revolution. This event was an important moment in the history of the country

### Cultural Traditions:

- ❖ **St. John's Night:** the summer feast of St. John accompanied by a traditional celebration with bonfires and dances.
- ❖ **National clothes:** traditional Hungarian clothes are an important element of Hungarian culture. It includes embroidered shirts and embellished jerseys.

### Famous personalities:

- ❖ **Harry Houdini:** He was a Hungarian magician, escape artist and entertainer, as well as an opponent of spiritualism, film producer and actor. He is considered one of the most important and famous magicians of all time.

### Famous monuments and sites:

- ❖ **Buda Castle** is located in the city of Budapest and is one of the most impressive sights in the country. This castle is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and houses the Hungarian National Museum and the Buda Gallery.
- ❖ **The Bridge of Chains** connects the two banks of the Danube (Buda and Pest) and is an important historical and architectural monument.

- ❖ **The Pecs Palace** is an architectural jewel of the city of Pecs, interesting exhibits and monuments that combine ancient Roman heritage

### Traditional foods and drinks:

- ❖ **Gulyas:** perhaps the most famous Hungarian dish, it is a spicy
- ❖ **Hortobagyi palacsinta:** Hungarian pancakes filled with meat, usually beef, and paprika sauce.
- ❖ **Porkolt:** a type of braised meat similar to gulyas but thicker.
- ❖ **Tokaji:** Hungary's most famous wine, a sweet wine made from grapes affected by the beneficial botrytis mold. It is considered one of the best sweet wines in the world
- ❖ **Palinka:** Hungary's national alcoholic drink made from fruits such as pear, plum and cherry. It is quite strong and is usually consumed during celebrations.