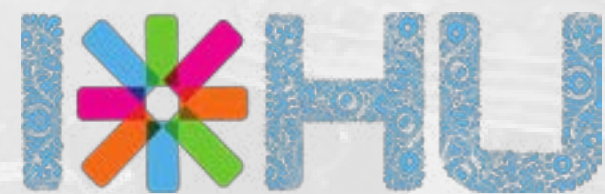


Guide to Hungary



Introduction

Are you hungry for Hungary? If your answer is yes then these few pages are highly recommended for you.

Exploring a foreign culture can be a fantastic experience. Whether you are going to study in Hungary or you are just interested in our culture and lifestyle this guide will be fun to read.



The goal of this guide is to introduce our country and our traditions. You are going to read about Hungarian people, cuisine, holidays and so on.

Have fun reading this little guide!



People

Describing the people of a country in the era of globalization can be really difficult as traditions are fading away, still we have our uniqueness in the heart of Europe.

Hungarian people are basically **friendly**, **polite** and usually **open-minded** as well. We are mostly outgoing and **funny**. Our humor is very outstanding and can be strange for a foreigner at first.

Most of us are extremely pessimistic and can **get angry easily** at the smallest problems, which comes with **various and long swearings** without using the same word twice.

Unfortunately, there are some Hungarians who are narrow-minded and can be rude sometimes.



HI, FRIEND!



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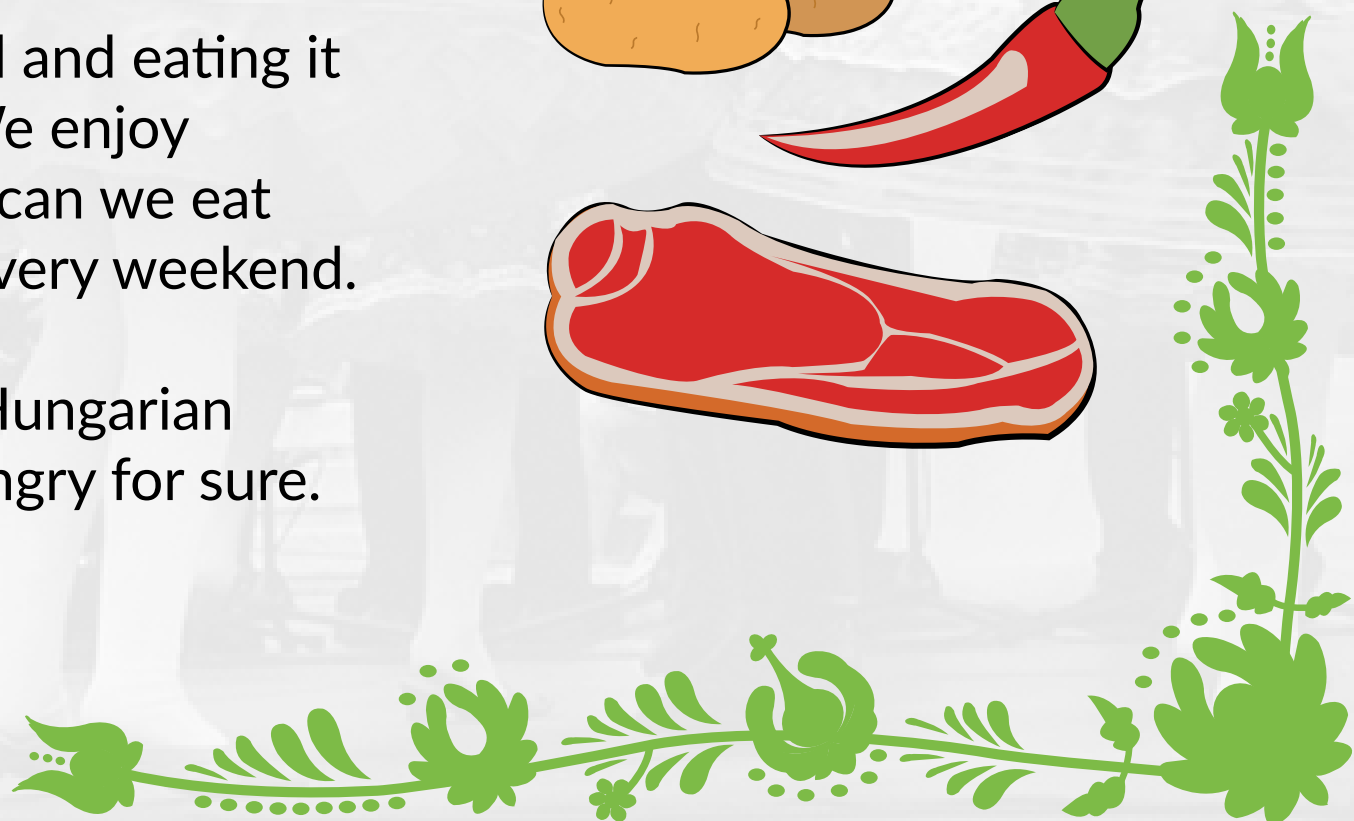
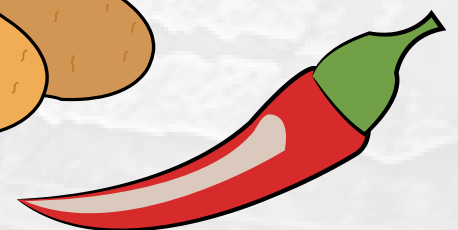
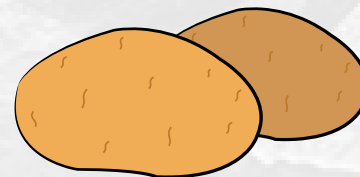
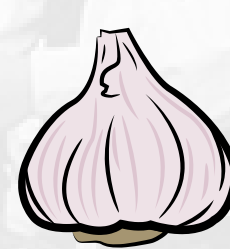
Cuisine

One of the most important elements of our culture is food. You may know some parts of Hungarian cuisine as it has a couple of meals known internationally.

Our cuisine is **very simple**, you don't need any special skills in the kitchen to make the meals. Most of the meals consist of basic ingredients such as **garlic, tomato, paprika, potato, meat (mostly pork), red wine and pasta.** People who are not used to our cuisine, say it is **greasy**. We admit that our traditional foods are not about health, but taste.

For Hungarians making food and eating it are both **social activities**. We enjoy cooking outdoors and if we can we eat together with our families every weekend.

When you are a guest at a Hungarian home, you will not leave hungry for sure.



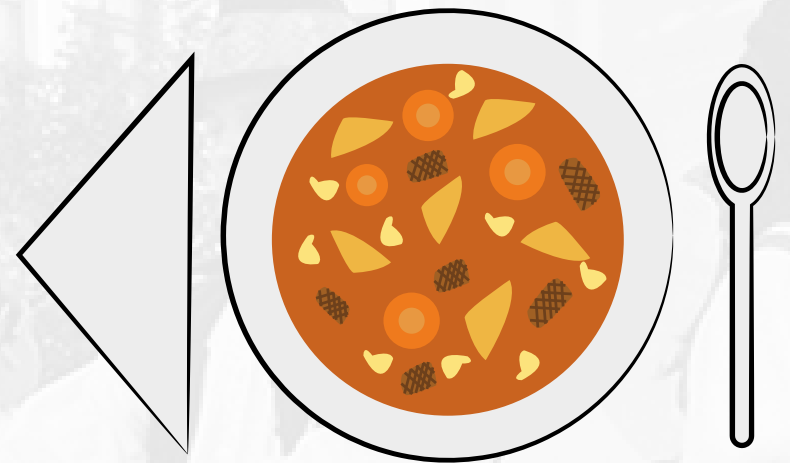
Meals to mention

Gulyás - Goulash

Goulash is the most unique traditional meal of Hungary known almost everywhere in the world. It became a national food in the 1790s and a representation of the Hungarian culture throughout the 1800s.

Goulash is a **soup made of pork, onion, garlic, carrot, potato, dumplings seasoned with paprika and cumin.**

Most of the times it is made outdoors **in a cast-iron pot** because the smoke gives it a special taste.



Lángos

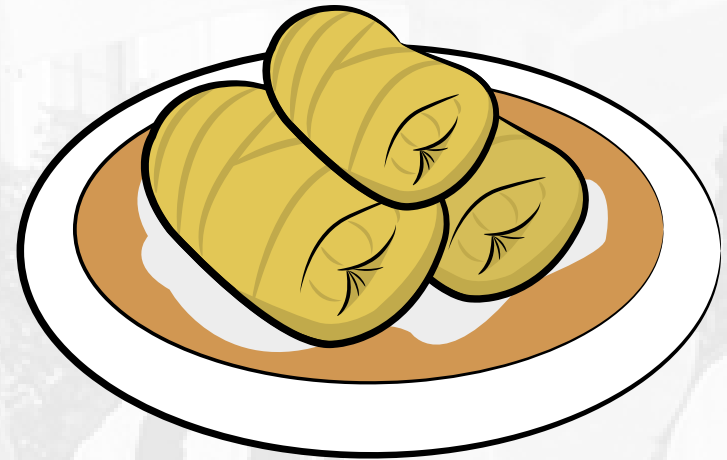
Lángos is a **deep-fried dough served with garlic, sour cream and cheese.** It is really popular and a must at every festival as it is the traditional street food of Hungary.



Töltött káposzta - Stuffed cabbage

There is no Hungarian holiday without serving a great amount of traditional stuffed cabbage. It is not exclusively a Hungarian dish as it can be found in other European countries, but it has tradition and uniqueness in our little country.

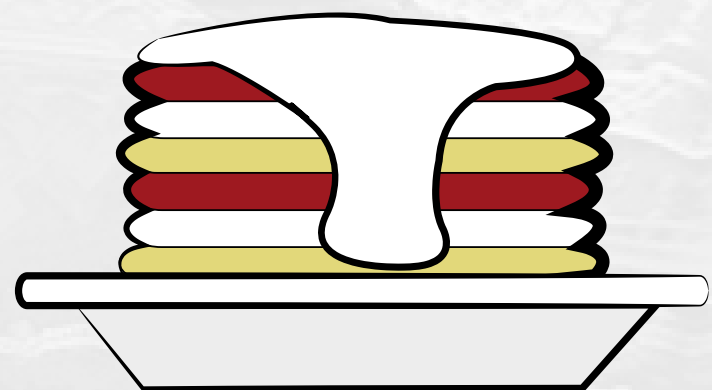
Stuffed Cabbage is, as its name shows, **cabbage leaves stuffed with a mixture of minced pork, rice, onion, garlic, salt, pepper and most importantly paprika**. It is served with **sour cream** on top.



Rakott krumpli

Rakott krumpli is the **easiest and quickest** Hungarian dish of all.

It is made by layering **sliced, preboiled potatoes, sausages, eggs** covered with **sour cream** on top in a skillet then it is cooked in the oven.



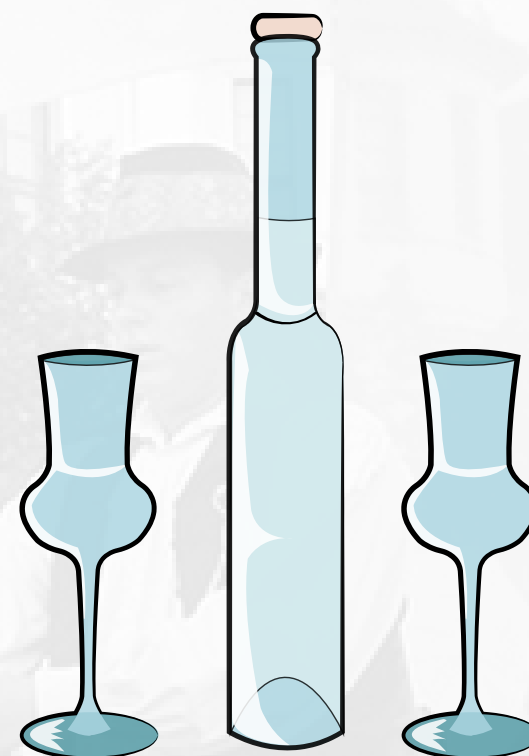
Drinks to mention

Pálinka

Pálinka is the **alcoholic drink** made only **from fruit** in Hungary. By law, no additional ingredients are acceptable, except pure water.

Really good pálinka is **smooth and fruity** and has an **alcohol content of around 40%**.

There are hundreds of **types** of Pálinka, using many different fruits such as **pear, peach, plum and so on**.



Unicum

Unicum is a special, **bitter, alcoholic liqueur** made **with herbs and spices** that are an **aid to digestion** and many other things.

It has also an **alcohol content of around 40%** and it is often drank as an **apéritif**.



Wines

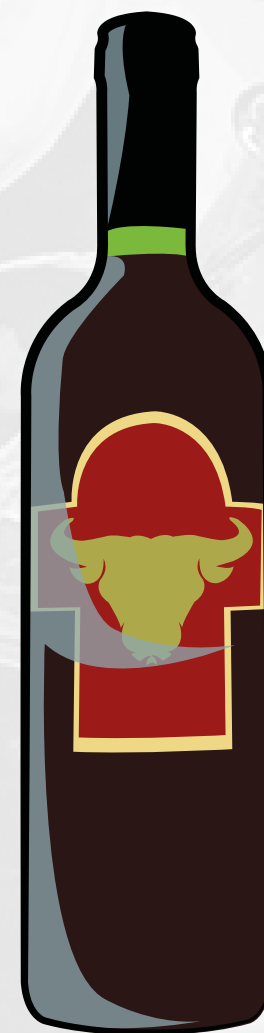
One of the most traditional activities in Hungary is making wine.

We are lucky that we have regions like Tokaj-Hegyalja, Villány and Eger for growing quality grapes which is the base of making **tasteful wines**.

The most famous wines are **Tokaji Aszú** and **Egri Bikavér** (Bull's Blood of Eger).

Tokaji Aszú is a dessert wine, also called the „king of wines, wine of kings”, and sure enough, the greatest kings and queens of Europe really did commission this unique drink back in History.

Egri Bikavér is a special type of red wine cuvée, made in the wine region of Eger. The name comes from the Turkish Ages, when according to the legend, castle defenders became stronger as they drank the red wine, and the Turkish soldiers thought the red liquid was bull's blood.



Drinks to mention



Traditions and holidays

Traditional wear, folk dance

The traditional Hungarian dress is the most exhilarating feature of our culture. The designs of these traditional costumes are unique comparing to other Eastern European countries.

The most important motive of the traditional dress is the **colourful embroidery representing the Hungarian culture**. **Flowers** and **leaves**, sometimes a bird or a **spiral ornament**, are the principal decorative themes of the traditional dress of Hungary. The most common **colours** are **red, blue, black and green**.

Hungarian **folk dance** is a mixture of **solo and couple dances**. It has **simple dance moves**, so it is easy to learn.



Holidays

Farsang

Farsang is a traditional **festival season** of Hungary **from January 6 to Ash Wednesday**.

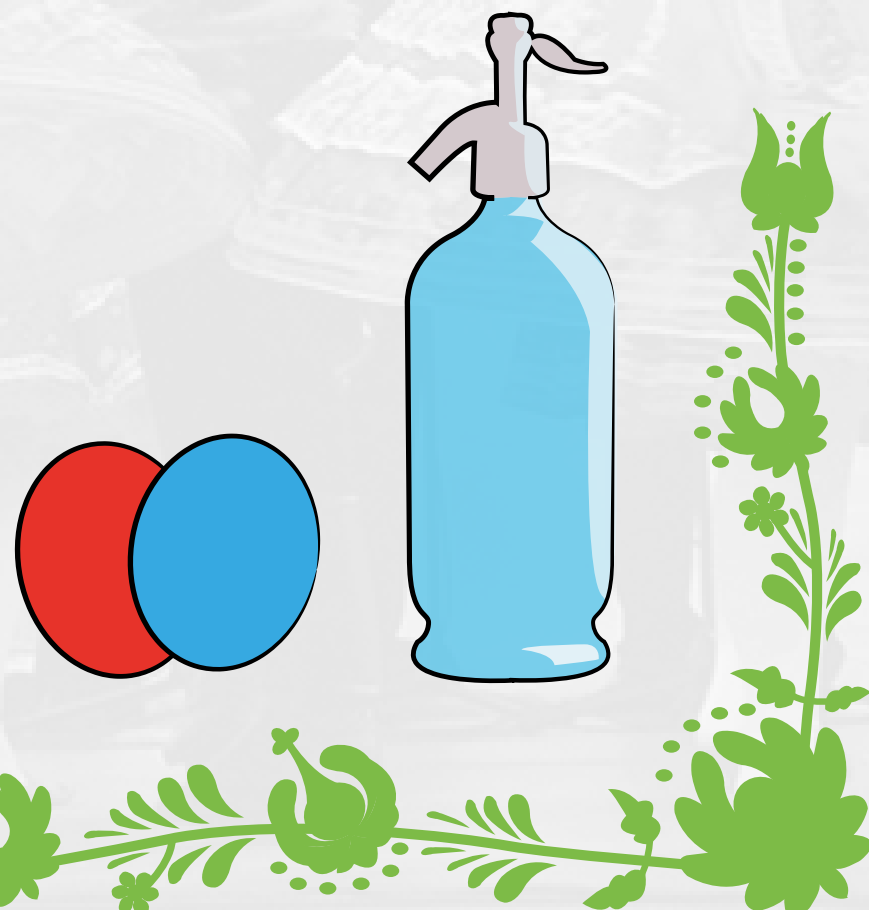
At that time people had **feasts** all over the cities **to scare away winter**, but nowadays this tradition only lives in kindergartens and elementary schools where children can wear any costumes they want.

The **highlight** of the festival is still the **Busójárás** (Busó-Walking) in Mohács. It is an annually held celebration which includes Busós (people wearing traditional masks), **folk music, masquerading, parades and dancing**. Busójárás lasts six days.



Easter

At Easter time Hungarian **men sprinkled water on women** symbolizing that they are flowers and **women gave painted eggs** for exchange. Nowadays perfume is used instead of water.



Traditions and holidays

March 15

March 15 is a national holiday when we **remember to the Hungarian Revolution of 1848 and the war of independence of 1849** wearing **cockades**, the Hungarian tricolor.

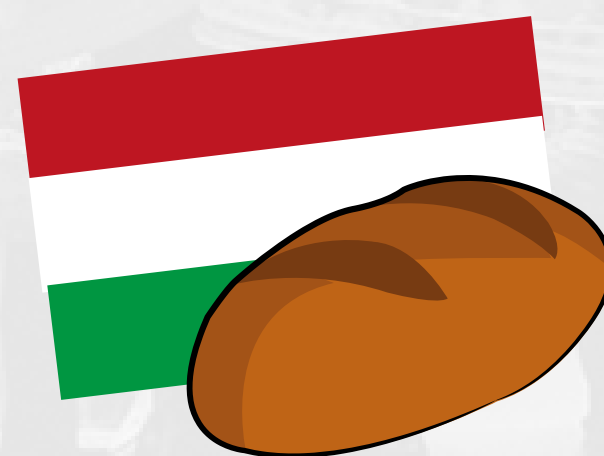
On **March 15 1848**, a group of Hungarian politicians and poets, like István Széchenyi, Lajos Kossuth and Sándor Petőfi started a **revolution against the Habsburgs** which was successful and Lajos Batthyányi created the first Hungarian Diet.

In the war of independence of 1848-49 Hungarian troops were defeated by the Russian army who came to help the weakened Habsburgs and Hungary remained part of the Habsburg Empire.

August 20

August 20 is the **celebration of Szent István, the first king of Hungary** and the **creation of the Hungarian Kingdom**. It is also the **holiday of bread-making**.

Traditions and holidays



A faded background image showing a group of people in traditional Hungarian folk costumes dancing in a city street. The dancers are wearing white shirts, dark vests, and patterned skirts. The street is lined with old buildings and a fire escape is visible on the left.

Thank you for reading!

If you want to learn more about Hungary
then come visit our little country!

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