

Second (electronic) Circular and General Information's

15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology

Organized by

the Hungarian Society for Microbiology,
the Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University,
the Hungarian Society for Immunology,
the Biotechnological Section of the Hungarian Biochemical Society,
the Hungarian Society for Infectology and Clinical Microbiology
and the Foundation of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology

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July 18-20, 2007

Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Science
(Pázmány Péter sétány 2., H-1117 Budapest, Hungary)

Dear Colleagues!

The organizers of the 15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology are pleased to provide information to help you extract maximum benefit from the event. About 300 participants from over 10 countries registered for this conference. Around 120 oral presentations and 100 posters are in the programme of the Congress.

The topics of the special and plenary lectures include:

- Yair Aharonowitz:** The B12 riboswitch-mediated control of metabolic processes in *Streptomyces*
- Rudolf Amann:** Gatekeepers of the biosphere: studying marine microorganisms with environmental genomics
- Sebastian G. B. Amyes:** Superbugs: the recent expansion of multi-antibiotic resistant bacteria
- Stanley A. Plotkin:** New and future vaccines
- Purnendu C. Vasavada:** Rapid methods and automation in microbiology: a quarter century developments - promise, prospects and challenges

We continue to work hard in the remaining time to satisfy your expectations as a speaker, poster presenter, Congress participant or visitor from wherever you come here and hope to make your stay in Hungary as interesting and enjoyable as possible. We are convinced that you will share a scientifically intriguing meeting at the Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University.

Welcome in Budapest!

For the Local Organizing Committee (Judith Deák, Levente Emódy, József Farkas, Attila Horváth, Levente Karaffa, Gábor Kovács, Anna Maráz, Yvette Mándi, Erzsébet Nagy, Károly Nagy, Tibor Pál, László Rókusz, Mária Takács)

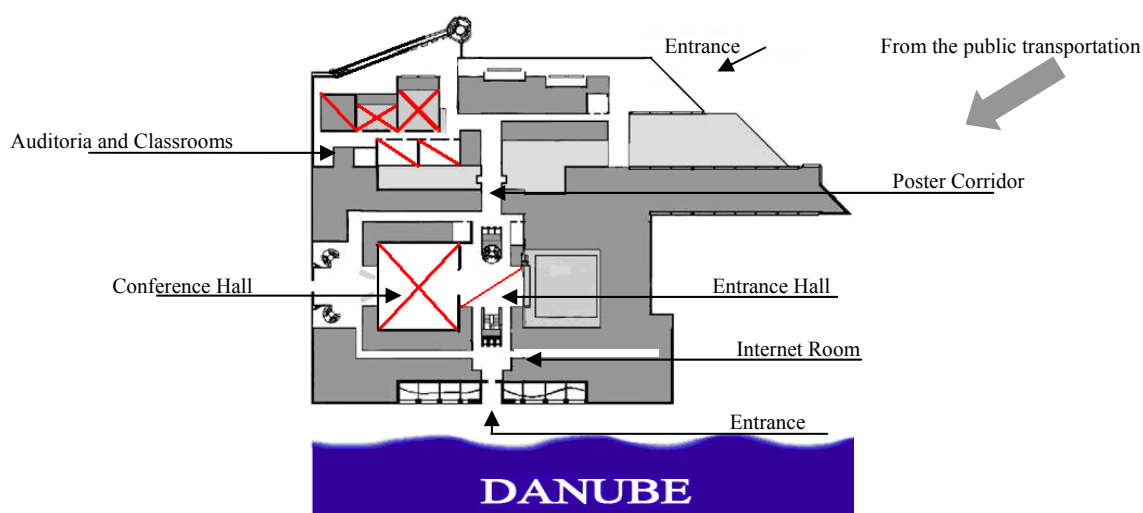


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General Information

Congress Venue

The Congress and the connected Exhibition is held at the Eötvös Loránd University Convention Centre (address: Budapest XI., Pázmány Péter sétány 1/A). Sessions will be held in the Conference Hall, auditoria and classrooms of the Faculty of Science, poster sessions will take place in the Poster Corridor connecting the Entrance Hall and the auditoria. The Congress site can be reached easily by public transport (e.g. trams No. 4 or 6 and/or bus No. 12) and it is fully accessible for disabled people. It is situated in a pleasant and scenic park on the Danube embankment, enriched by the pleasant atmosphere on the Buda side of the river.



Registration and Information Desk

The Registration Desk, where advance and on-site registrants may pick up their conference material is operating in the Entrance Hall of the Congress Venue. The representatives of Chemol Travel Ltd. (Incoming & Congress Department, Deák Ferenc utca 10, Budapest, H-1052 Hungary; phone: +36-1-266-7032; Fax: +36-1-266-7033; E-mail: incoming@chemoltravel.hu) will be at your service at the registration. They are in charge of the registration, hotel bookings, social events, and optional excursions. Tickets for social events and optional tours can be obtained at the Registration Desk. The desk will be opened as follows:

Tuesday,	July 17	18.30 - 20.30
Wednesday,	July 18.	7.00 - 17.00
Thursday,	July 19	8.00 - 15.00
Friday	July 20	8.00 - till the end of sessions.

The Programme of the 15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology with any last-minute changes will be available at the Registration Desk, and on the doors of the lecture halls.

Conference Badge

Participants will receive a badge upon registration. Admission to the Conference area and/or to the social activities is possible only with a valid badge. Badges must be worn throughout the conference and at social activities.

Certificate of Attendance

A Certificate of Attendance can be requested at the Registration Desk.

Technical Equipments and instructions for oral presentations

Equipments

“PowerPoint” on a PC running Windows XP with Office 2003 is available in the conference rooms, and at slide-check. You may connect your own computer to the projector if you prefer (please arrange in advance!). Standard audio-visual equipment will include a slide projector (50 by 50 mm slides) and an overhead projector too. Please indicate your special needs (e.g. dual projecting) in due time in advance by e-mail to the Congress Secretary (fotitkar@mmt.org.hu).

Presentation upload

Speakers are requested to test and hand over their CD or pen drive to the technician at registration, or latest an hour before the adequate session starts.

Presentation files can be loaded to the Congress presentation ftp page (ftp://ucc-server.elte.hu) in advance, from July 10.

In case of Windows XP, please open your **Windows Explorer**, and in the **Address line** type the address (ftp://ucc-server.elte.hu) - press **Enter**. In the appearing window type:

Username: eac

Password: eaEc3001

Press **Enter**. Then from the **My Documents** or **My Computer** folders you can directly copy (transfer) your file to the Congress presentation folders. The filename you apply should contain the number of the presentation (please refer to the programme).

The server can be reached by the Total Commander software too.

Presentation files

Optimum conditions of presentation files: Microsoft PowerPoint or PDF (in case you want to use other software, please bring it to the Congress). If you use animations, please embed them. If it is a special animation, please send the codec, and bring all the files to the Congress.

If you have a Macintosh computer, it can be plugged in having a conventional, 15 pin socket. If your computer does not have this connection, please bring appropriate converter with you.

At the session

Speakers and chairpersons should meet minimum 5 minutes before their relevant sessions to be briefed, to become acquainted with audio/visual aids etc. and resolve any problems. Please take your time to organise your presentation correctly!

Speakers (excepting invited and introductory lectures) will have 15 minutes, which include questions and discussion. The time limit will be as strictly enforced as possible.

Instructions for poster presentations

Posters will be displayed in the Poster Corridor for three full days. Please mount your poster as soon as possible, preferably on July 17 afternoon, but not later than July 18 noon. To install your posters please look up the number of your presentation in the Programme booklet and find your number on the provided boards. Help from our staff (if needed), as well as adhesive, pins to install your poster will be provided. During the Poster Session authors of posters are requested to be present at their posters at the time specified in the programme. This will give all participants the opportunity for questions and discussion. Poster displays however should be self-explanatory even in the absence of authors.

Posters should not exceed a size of 85 cm (width) x 120 cm (height) (standing A₀).

Best Poster Award

There will be an award for the 2 most outstanding student posters. The awards will be based on the quality of content of the contribution and on the quality of the presentation (layout etc.). Please find a poster competition form in your Congress Bag and drop it in the appropriate box at the Registration Desk not later than July 19, Thursday evening. The poster awards will be announced at the Farewell Drink on July 20, noon. The 2 winning poster presenters will get a traditional Hungarian speciality.

To compete in the awards a letter confirming student status must be sent to the Congress Secretariat (e-mail: fotitkar@mmt.org.hu)!

Congress Proceedings

The abstracts of the 15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology will be published in a Supplement issue of *Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica*.

Invited speakers, and speakers of introductory talks are welcome to publish their contributions in the form of review and/or research articles in Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica (<http://www.akademiai.com/content/119703/>)!

Language

The official language of the Congress is English.

Internet Facilities

Access to e-mail or other computer services will be available during the Congress. The internet room will be No. 0.117.

Meals and Banquet

Banquet (July 18)

The Banquet will take place on Wednesday on the Roof-terrace of the Congress Venue. A buffet dinner will be served while a band entertains participants. The 1st Dance Competition of Microbiologists will start at 9:30 p.m. Be prepared to win one of the three awards. Professional dancers will put us in the mood, and help to choose the best couples.

Farewell drink (July 20)

The Farewell drink will be served in the lobby of the Biology/Earth Sciences Building (address: Budapest XI., Pázmány Péter sétány 1/C), in front of the Biological and Geological Collection of the Faculty of Science, Eötvös L. University.

Coffee breaks

Coffee / cold drinks and small cakes will be available for the registered participants in the Coffee breaks throughout the Congress in the Entrance Hall.

Lunch

Lunch can be purchased on site at a buffet in the Congress venue. Alternatively, there are many restaurants in the vicinity of the Conference Center where lunches/sandwiches can be purchased. Some facilities within walking distance:

- **Infopark** Café & Canteen, Address: 1117, Infopark Building „I”. Typical office building canteen.
- **Zöld Pardon** Restaurant & Bar, Address: 1117, Goldmann György square, south side. Open air restaurant with simple international and Hungarian dishes.
- **Science Park** Café & Canteen, Address: 1117, Irinyi József u. 4-20. Typical office building canteen.



Sightseeing at Castle District and Organ Concert in the Matthias Church (Mátyás templom)

(Included in the Registration Fee and Accompanying Registration Fee)

Participants meet Wednesday, July 19 at 6 pm in front of Matthias Church where the sightseeing at Buda Castle District starts.

The Organ Concert in the Matthias Church will start at 7.30 pm. The programme will be available on the invitation card.

The Castle District is served by public transportation (bus No. 16 from Deák tér, and bus "Castle" from Moszkva tér).

Please do not forget to bring your invitation card (ticket) with you!

Notice and Communication Board

The Message Service is located at the Registration Desk.

Smoking

Smoking is NOT permitted inside the Congress Venue or at the venues for the social functions. Smokers are required to smoke outdoors in the designated area.

Emergencies, Medical Advice

In case of emergency or if you need medical help during Congress hours, please contact the Registration Desk. Outside the Congress time in case of emergency turn to the Reception at your Hotel or use the following numbers: Emergency centre 112, Ambulance 104, Fire brigade 105, Police 107.

Exhibition

A commercial exhibition related to microbial diagnostics, research and biotechnology will be organized during the meeting. A sponsorship programme ensures contributing organisations receive maximum exposure during the meeting. Exhibitors will have their stands in the Entrance Hall of the Congress Venue.

Sponsors and Exhibitors:

Main Sponsor: VWR International GmbH

APPLERA Magyarország Kft

Biocenter Kft

BioMarker Kft

Biomedica Hungária Kft

CMPMedica Információs Kft

IZINTA Kereskedelmi Kft

Labsystem Kft

Lambda-Med Kft

Sarstedt Kft

Sartorius-Membran Kft

Travel Information

Most European and North American international airlines serve Budapest by regular flights. Railway connections are excellent with all European countries. Those who come by car should notice that the Congress Venue and Hotels are easily accessible from the M1 and M7 motorways.

To participants arriving to Budapest by plane it is recommended to choose the „Airport Minibus” service to your hotel in the city. Tickets are available at the stand in the Arrivals Hall. To participants arriving to Hungary by international railway connections it is recommended to use taxis or public transport.

Public transportation in Budapest is extensive, and reliable. Tickets must be purchased at Metro stations, Hotels, Tobacco shops, etc. in advance and validated on board. Last busses and trams start from the final stops at 11 p.m. Weekly passes allowing free travel on all means of transportation within the city borders can be bought at all main metro stations.

The Congress Bag will provide information material on restaurants, bars, and cafes in Budapest, as well as popular events, which take place during your stay in Budapest. Addresses, telephone numbers, opening hours and the acceptance of credit cards are pointed out.

Power supply

230 V, AC 50 Hz. Round European-style two-pin plugs are used.

Currency, Exchange, Credit Cards

The official currency in Hungary is the Hungarian Forint. Exchange facilities are offered to participants at the airport, in hotels, at the exchange desk of the banks or at the registration desk at a daily indicated rate. American Express, Visa, Euro card, Master Card are accepted at the registration desk, in hotels, first class restaurants and city stores, but you should ask or look for the logo before ordering a service.

Banking hours: usually 8.00 to 16.00, Saturdays and Sundays closed.

There are teller machines (ATM) operating in the Congress building.

Taxis

We suggest that you use only taxis equipped with a taximeter, such as Tele5, Főtaxi, City Taxi, Buda Taxi, or Radio taxi. Beware of private cabs, especially those without a taximeter.

Climate and Clothing

The climate in July is very pleasant, for some people may be even hot. The average daytime temperature is around 22 C degrees. Daily maximum values will reach 28-34 C. Some wet weather protection might be useful, especially for those who plan to take part at congress tours.

Tipping

Tips in restaurants and for taxis – depending on the service – are in most cases optional but expected. Maximum rate is 10 %. There are some restaurants, where a service charge is calculated. In such cases tips shall not be expected.

Telephones

Most public phones in Budapest are on a digital network. Blue pay-phones take 10, 20, 50 and 100 Forint coins. There are more card phones. Phone-cards can be bought at hotels, post offices, and petrol and railway stations as well as at newsstands.

Note for drivers

Drivers should be aware that there is a zero tolerance of blood alcohol level while driving in Hungary.

There is plenty of open-air parking area in around the Congress venue, where the parking is free. Elsewhere in the city in the daytime (8.00-18.00) parking is not free; please check the automats for charges, and tickets.

Shopping hours

The usual shopping hours in Budapest are from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. In large shopping enters in and around the city until 9.00 pm. For further information please contact the Registration Desk.

Value Added Tax: VAT (in Hungarian ÁFA) is charged on most goods (except in duty-free shops), the rate is 20 %.

Disclaimer

The organizers cannot accept liability for injuries or losses of whatever nature incurred by participants and/or accompanying persons, nor for loss or damage to their luggage and/or personal belongings that may occur during the Congress.

Accommodation

You can check the locations at <http://www.webmap.hu/bp/>.

Hotel Novotel Centrum**** (Budapest VIII., Rákóczy street 43-45.)

This hotel is located in the centre of the city, only minutes from the cultural and commercial centres and the downtown shops and services of the capital. A protected Art Nouveau style hotel building with the latest Novotel standard.

The fastest way to reach the Congress Venue is to travel with tram No. 4 or No. 6. The tram stop is in a 2 min. walking distance from the Hotel. Take trams in the direction of Buda (south), and travel 6 stops to the Buda embankment of the Danube. With a 3 min. walking you reach the Congress entrance.

Hotel Mercure Budapest Duna*** (Budapest IX., Soroksári út 12.)

The hotel is situated very near to the city centre and to the Cogress venue. The Mercure Budapest Duna's traditional "Mercure" comfort and truly friendly atmosphere provides a very comfortable stay.

Direct access with tram No. 4 or No. 6 to the Congress Venue. Just one stop (ca. 6 min.), or walk through the Petőfi Bridge.

Hotel City Inn*** (Budapest VIII., Futó u. 55.)

Hotel City Inn is located in the 8th district of Budapest, which is currently undergoing massive property and infrastructural development. The hotel awaits guests in the heart of the city. The city center is just steps away.

Transport from the hotel to the Congress venue: 4 minutes walk to Ferenc körút, and there take tram No. 4 or No. 6 to Buda (south). Get off at the third stop, and walk to the Congress Venue (altogether ca. 10 min.).

Hotel Ventura*** (Budapest XI., Fehérvári street 179.)

It is a friendly hotel located on the Buda side, close to the M1 and M7 motorways and easy reach by public transportation both to downtown and to the Congress Venue.

Transport from the hotel to the Congress Venue: Take tram No. 47 and change to tram No. 6 at Móricz Zsigmond Square. Travel 2 stops to the Buda embankment of Danube river, and walk to the Congress Venue (ca. 20 min.)

Hotel Summer Hill Youth Hostel (Budapest XI., Ménesi út 5.)

Travellers Hostel Hill is centrally located in a quiet place on the Buda side. The hotel is just a few steps away from the town's best thermal bath, has air-conditioned rooms in pleasant and quiet surroundings overlooking the Danube and the Citadel.

Transport from the hotel to the Congress Venue: 5 minutes walk to Móricz Zsigmond Square then tram No. 6 to the Congress Venue (ca.10 min.).

Kármán Tódor Dormitory (Budapest XI., Irinyi J. utca 9-11.)

Student dormitory. Two bed rooms with lavatory basin. Shower, toilet and kitchen units on each floor. Breakfast not included in the price!

In 5 min. walking distance from the Congress Venue.

Social Programs

Hungarian dinner at Borkatakomba Restaurant



The outskirts of Budapest are famous for wine production, which is where we take the guests to experience a traditional Hungarian wine-cellar with its own restaurant. In the restaurant guests are greeted by the master of the house, who welcomes everybody with special fruit brandy (pálinka) and fresh salty scones. During dinner a spectacular folklore show with dancers accompanied by a famous gipsy band entertain guests.

Optional, price: 45.- € / person (incl. transfer)

Departure: 20 July

Sightseeing by boat (Rendezvous with Buda and Pest)



Story, music and splendid sights (Royal Palace, Parliament) on a Danube cruise with a short walk on Margaret Island, one of the most beautiful parks of the capital. In the 13th century King Béla IV. had a Dominican Monastery built on the island (its ruins can still be seen), where his daughter, Princess Margaret lived, hence today's name of the island.

Refreshments included. - No transfer provided to and from the pier.

Stop at Margaret Island only during day cruise.

Optional, price: day time: 16.- € /person; evening: 19.- € /person

Departure: Every day, afternoon or evening

Parliament Tour



Take the opportunity for a visit of the impressive House of Parliament. After a walk around Hungary's largest building, you will visit interior of the magnificent neo-gothic Parliament (home of the Hungarian crown) with a guided tour through the splendid boardrooms and impressive staircases.

Optional, price: 22.- € /person

Departure: Every day at 09:30

Historical City Tour of Budapest

On this three-hour coach tour you will discover the main attractions of the Hungarian capital.



The tour includes a visit to the Heroes' Square with the Millenary Monument, to the St. Stephen Cathedral, to the Opera House and the Parliament to enjoy their spectacular architecture from outside. Continuing on to Buda, you will visit the medieval Castle District, passing by the Fisherman's Bastion

and the old Matthias Church, followed by a ride to Gellért Hill, where you will enjoy the beautiful panorama of the city featured on the UNESCO list of World Heritage.

Optional, price: 26.- € /person

Departure: every day at 10:00; 11:00; 14:30

Jewish Budapest

We drive along the Danube bank to St. Stephens' Park (World War II victims Memorial) -



New street Synagogue, Leopold Town former Middle-Class Jewish district - Visit of the World's second largest Synagogue, at the Dohány street and The Jewish Museum (interior visit) - Jewish Garden - Tree of Life - Temple of the Heroes - Cake and soft drink in the Kosher Restaurant (possibility for lunch) - tour ends at the restaurant.

No tour during holidays and on special occasions.

Optional, price: 25.- € / person

Departure: 18, 20 July at 10:00

The Royal Tour



The tour includes a visit to the Gödöllő Mansion, the former summer residence of the Habsburg Royal Family in Hungary, which is the second largest chateau of the world! Visit to the recently renovated attractive building. Many of the rooms including Queen Sissi's apartment reflect to the atmosphere of those old days. While walking through the gardens of the castle guests can visit the royal stables and the riding school. Upon arrival a welcome cocktail, called "Sissi" will be served.

Optional, price: 45.- € /person

Departure: 18, 19, 20 July at 9:00

Puszta Excursion

Visit to the Great Plain, the "Puszta" in Eastern Hungary. Arriving at the Puszta, guests are greeted by herdsmen and offered by the famous Hungarian brandy, the "pálinka" and some tasty typical Hungarian snacks.



An impressive Horse Show will bring you close to the wild traditions of the famous Hungarian horsemen the "Csikós" and the "Betyár", while famous Hungarian horses and different exercises can also be seen.

You will also have the opportunity to ride a carriage and go for a short trip through the Puszta, where you can enjoy the beautiful flora and fauna of this unique area.

Visit to the stall of the Hungarian grey longhorn and the flock of spiral-horned Racka sheep is also part of the tour, while you may also test your skills at riding on horseback or on donkey's back.

Lunch will be served in a "Csárda", a typical Hungarian inn, where authentic Hungarian dishes, like gulyás soup and local wines can be tasted. Spirits will raise high by a large-scale folklore program, gypsy music and much more...

Optional, price: 75.- € /person

Departure: 18, 19 July at 9:00

Danube Bend Tour

In the morning guests will be taken to the unique artists' village of Szentendre (30 minutes from Budapest) with its cobbled stone squares, picturesque old streets and 18th century town houses. Further stop at Visegrád at the ruins of the Royal Castle. Situated at the Danube, lunch at a medieval style restaurant



famous for its tasty royal dishes. The last stop will be Esztergom the seat of the leader of the Hungarian Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Esztergom. The city lies next to the Danube. The first Hungarian king, Saint Stephen, the Founder of the State (1000-1038), was born in the castle built in this town in 972.

Optional, price: 65.- € /person

Departure: 18, 19, 20 July at 09:00

Lake Balaton & Herend Tour



Herend a world famous centre of porcelain - after a guided tour through the world's largest Porcelain Manufacture (founded 1826), coffee at the "PORCELANIUM" - possibility for shopping - afterwards we drive to the Peninsula Tihany the famous nature reserve at Lake Balaton (interior visit of the Abbey, founded 1051) - then lunch in a traditional Csárda (3-course menu with wine) - drive to the oldest Spa, Balatonfüred (Promenade) - Return to Budapest.

Optional, price: 75.- € /person

Departure: 21 July at 09:00

Excursion to the Baroque Town of Eger with Wine-Tasting (Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)

Eger is one of the oldest towns in Hungary with a rich historical past and numerous monuments. St. Stephen, the first Hungarian king, founded an Archbishopric here. The



fortress, which was constructed in the 13th century, played a great role in the fight against the Turks in the 16th century. Eger's surroundings also display some of the most famous vineyards in Europe, producing such world-renowned brands of wines as the "Leányka" and the Bull's Blood.

Wine-tasting and lunch in a local restaurant is also part of the program.

Optional, price: 75.- € /person

Departure: 19 July at 09:00

Szentendre Tour

(Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)



Half-day excursion to the most scenic part of Hungary. The tour includes a visit to Szentendre, the artists' town with its cobblestone squares and picturesque old streets and alleys. After a short guided tour of the town, you'll visit the Kovács Margit Ceramic Museum, a unique place that exhibits the works of a very special Hungarian artist, who created her own style by combining modern art forms with the traditions of Hungarian folk art.

There will be possibility for shopping in the many handicrafts' and souvenir shops, too, while you'll also taste a typical tasty Hungarian lunch in one of the atmospheric local restaurants of Szentendre.

Price: 45.- € /person

Departure: 20 July at 09:00

Pre- and Post Congress Tours

At an additional charge, tours are organized for all participants and accompanying persons. The tours may be cancelled if less than 15 persons have booked. In this case ticket holders will receive refund on site at the registration.

Wine Tour to Tokaj-Hegyalja, 2 days (20-22 July) (Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)



"The wine of Kings, the King of wines"- said Louis XV, the French king after tasting the world famous "Aszú" of Tokaj. Tokaj-Hegyalja is the most famous wine region of Hungary, home of the "aszú" wine, the essence made of selected noble rot grapes and also Szamorodni, which is unique both as a kind of aperitif and dessert wine. Addition to the tasty wines guests can enjoy the beautiful landscape, special nature and climate of the region.

This two-day excursion includes a visit to Sárospatak, the famous school town of Hungary and visits to the leading wine-cellar of the region where guests can get acquainted with the taste, history and production technology of the wines. Accommodation and dinner in a 3-star family pension. Traveling by air-conditioned coach.

Price: 300.- € /person including transfer, guidance, full board and accommodation

Lake Balaton

Spend a few relaxing days at the shore of the "Hungarian Sea". Only 100 kilometres from Budapest, Lake Balaton is one of the most precious natural treasures of Hungary. It is the largest fresh-water lake of Central Europe, its length is 77 kilometres and its width ranges from 4 to 14 kilometres. On the sunlit slopes running down towards the lake there has been grape and wine production going on for centuries. The beauty and the thousand appearances of Balaton captivate both the curious tourists and the natives. The region holds countless unique recreational facilities, secrets and experiences for the guests coming here. Hike in the shadowy woods of the gentle slopes of the hills among ancient castles and ruins of churches! Dip



into the summer, refresh your body and mind in its spas, admire the fabulous scenery of the "golden gate" from the board of a ship and relax while listening to the soft sounds of the waves licking your legs or dance with us at a harvest home where you can quench your thirst with excellent, full-bodied wines.

Accommodation at Hotel Panorama**** situated in the town of Siófok, the "capital" of the Southern part of the lake. One can find here various high-standard services including restaurants delivering a wide range of flavours, shopping centres, bars, and several clubs with pleasant music. The hotel lies in the holiday and hotel area of the city - called the "Aranypart" (meaning Golden coast), directly on the lakeside, giving the guests the opportunity both for resting and also for making a bustling holiday filled with entertainments of all kinds.

Double room: 105.- € /night incl. VAT and buffet breakfast

Single room: 85.- € /night incl. VAT and buffet breakfast