

Hungary

Facts and Statistics

Location: Central Europe, bordering Austria 366 km, Croatia 329 km, Romania 443 km, Serbia and Montenegro 151 km, Slovakia 677 km, Slovenia 102 km, Ukraine 103 km

Capital: Budapest

Climate: temperate; cold, cloudy, humid winters; warm summers

Population: 10,032,375 (July 2004 est.)

Ethnic Make-up: Hungarian 89.9%, Roma 4%, German 2.6%, Serb 2%, Slovak 0.8%, Romanian 0.7%

Religions: Roman Catholic 67.5%, Calvinist 20%, Lutheran 5%, atheist and other 7.5%

Government: parliamentary democracy

The Hungarian Language

The official language of Hungarian is spoken by 98% of the 10.3m population. Minority languages have become more prominent in recent years, and they include German, Croatian, Romani, Slovak, Romanian, Serbian and Slovene. Attempts are being made to protect these languages, as many members of the ethnic groups actually do not speak them.

Hungarian Society & Culture

Nation of Horsemen

- . The Ancient Hungarians lived in the Euro-Asian nomadic pastoral region, where the keeping and use of horses played an important role in their lives.
- . Therefore it is not surprising that the horse and horse riding has a central place in Hungarian History, leading to Hungarians being regarded as the nation of horsemen.
- . Invitations to foreigners for horseback riding are not uncommon.

Family in Hungary

- . The family is the centre of the social structure.
- . Generations of extended family often live together.
- . The grandparents play an important role in helping raise the grandchildren.
- . The family provides both emotional and financial support to its members.

Get Personal

- . Hungarians expect friends to share private and intimate details of their personal lives.
- . If you ever feel you are being asked personal questions, this is simply meant as part of the getting-to-know-you process.
- . Hungarians will even enjoy sharing details of their romantic life with you!