Hungary is situated in the center of Europe in the Carpathian Basin. Its land is mainly flat and fertile with moderate hills. The country is surrounded by big mountains which protect it from severe weather conditions. Still a population of about 10 million people and of course you can experience the wonders of four seasons. The capital city is the beautiful Budapest lying on the River Danube, Europe’s longest river. You can also find here Central Europe’s largest lake: Balaton and one of the largest resources of thermal water that can be explored on 70 % of the area of the country.

You might have heard about Hungary, but do you know where exactly it is? What is worth knowing about it? Why does this small country get relatively large media attention? If you have about five minutes to read this short passage you will have a fairly good idea why it is such a unique place.

But when and how did Hungarians get here? Our history goes back more than one a half thousand years. Historians have different theories about where Hungarians originate from, but all of them agree on the last 1000 years. It was around 896 when Hungarian tribes started to settle down in the Carpathian Basin and were shortly converted to Christianity in the kingdom of Stephen I who formed the state of Hungary. Since then the country has had many prominent kings and famous politicians who have succeeded in making Hungary a truly European country.

From the historical heritage it follows why the Hungarian language is so special, completely different from the languages of the neighbouring countries, but at the same time it is one of the 23 official languages of the European Union. Hungary has been a member state of the EU since 2004.

The Hungarian education system has long traditions, which is best represented by the number of Nobel prize winners and inventions that have made a great effect on the world. It is enough if you think of the following six great human ingenuities you must have heard of or used on a daily basis.

You can find out more about Hungary if you watch the new image video or another one titled Hungary - World of Potentials commissioned by Hungarian Ministries.
If you come to study in Hungary it is not just about learning, it is also about having wonderful experiences, getting to know the rich cultural life and making lots of friends. You will be in a lucky situation because there are so many wonderful places to visit and events to attend and the climate is just perfect for travelling. What is more Hungarians are famous for their hospitality and cuisine, so don’t miss the chance to taste the local specialties(*):

And if it is not enough don’t forget you will be in the middle of Europe ready to explore the surrounding countries as well.

Here are a few places we recommend you to visit: (*)

- **Archabbey of Pannonhalma**
- **Visegrád** castle, Bend of the River Danube
- **Eger** among many other historical towns
- **Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst**

- **Lake Balaton** – the largest lake in Central Europe
- **Budapest**, capital city with its full glory
- **Egerszalók** – the Hungarian Yellowstone

- **Pécs** - the 2010 European Cultural Capital with many follow-up programs in 2011
- **Hévíz** - a Unique hot water lake
- **Hortobágy** - The Heart of the Great Hungarian Plain
- **Szeged** Dom

You can find out more about Hungary at [www.gotohungary.co.uk](http://www.gotohungary.co.uk)

or if you visit us and experience it yourself.

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