



YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
Hungary



A YEAR IN HUNGARY

Hungary is famous for its hospitality, spectacular landscapes, gastronomy and much more. Thanks to our long history, our culture is very diverse and rich.

A country for the cultural adventurers...

Hungary has 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites including our beautiful capital city **Budapest**.

Some of the world-famous Hungarian inventions are the noiseless match (János Irinyi), **Rubik's cube** (Ernő Rubik), and the ballpoint pen (László Bíró). Until now, 13 Hungarians have received the **Nobel prize** including Albert Szent-Györgyi (for Vitamin C) and Imre Kertész (in Literature).

Currently, Hungary is ranked 8th in the world for total Olympic medal count with 491 medals. We own the second most **gold medals** per capita in the world.

We are an equestrian nation – **horseback riding** is an important part of Hungarian culture and traditions. So is the Hungarian **folk dance** that has many varieties.



For more information about an exchange year in Hungary, please contact your national YFU organization.



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A country for the water lovers...

Our beloved **Lake Balaton** is Central Europe's largest lake. You can also visit the **Danube Bend** or take a cruise on the river **Tisza**. According to estimates, there are approximately 1000 natural **spring water sources** in Hungary. Budapest is also called the **City of Spas/Baths**.

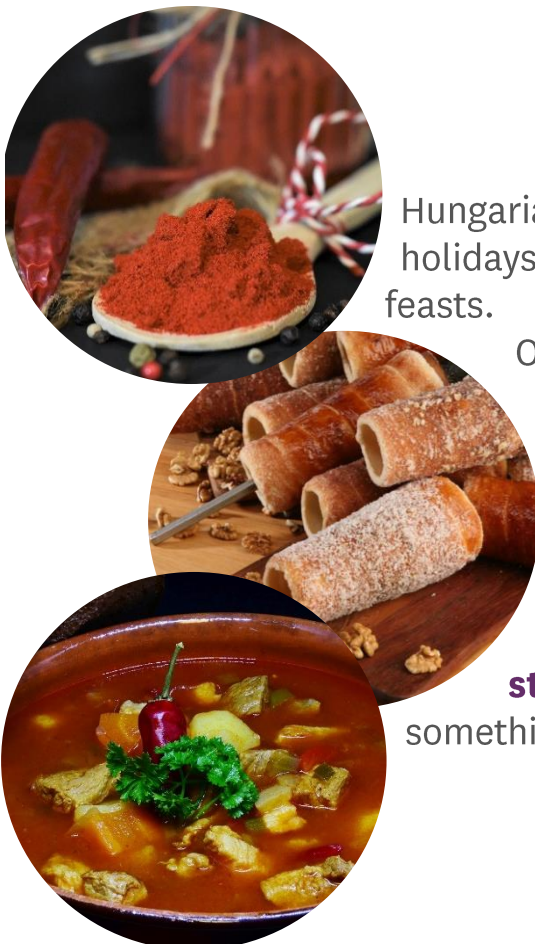
We are a nation of aquatics: we are proud of the achievements of our **kayak-canoe** and **rowing** teams, as well as our **swimmers** (Katinka Hosszú, Dániel Gyurta, László Cseh and many others). Our men's national **water polo** team won 3 Olympic games in a row (2000, 2004, 2008) and they have won 44 world medals (18 gold medals) in total, which makes them **the most successful champions** in the history of water polo.



A country for the culinary enthusiasts...

Hungarians like to **eat together** and like to **eat a lot**. Our holidays and family occasions are usually celebrated with great feasts.

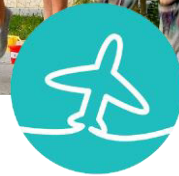
Our specialties include the well-known **gulyás** soup, the fried dough called **lángos** or the foreigners' favourite, the **kürtőskalács**. Hungary is a major producer of the world-famous **paprika** powder and it is an essential ingredient in our cuisine. If you have a sweet tooth, don't forget to try the **Dobos torta** or visit **Gerbeaud** Confectionary. Budapest is a city for **street food** lovers, and any visitor is sure to discover something new and amazing to eat.



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SPORT PROGRAM IN HUNGARY

A small country with many triumphs

We love sports and we take them seriously. Currently, Hungary is ranked 8th in the world for total Olympic medal count with 491 medals and has the second highest number of **gold medals per capita** in the world.

We are a nation of aquatics. We are very proud of our **kayak-canoe** and **rowing** teams, as well as our outstanding **swimmers** of the past and present (e.g. Alfréd Hajós, Krisztina Egerszegi, Katinka Hosszú, László Cseh). Our men's national **water polo** team won 3 Olympic games in a row (2000, 2004, 2008) and they have won 44 world medals (18 gold medals) in total, which makes Hungary the world's **most successful nation** in the history of water polo.

But we are not only talented in the water: we have many significant accomplishments in other sports, such as **handball, fencing, weight-lifting, tennis** etc.



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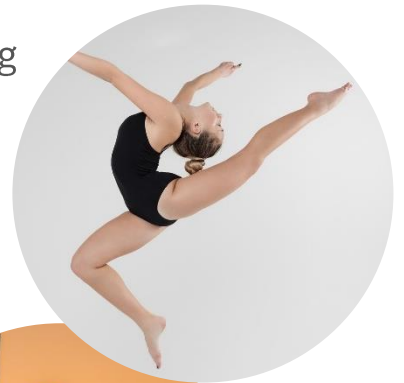
Horseback riding is an important part of Hungarian culture and traditions, and we have quite a history in **horse racing** too. Kincsem, our most famous race horse has the most wins of any unbeaten horse ever, having won 54 races from 54 starts.



The most popular sport in Hungary is **football**. Our legendary national team called the „Golden Team” dominated the sport in the 1950s, and they are particularly famous for the „**Match of the Century**” (England v Hungary, 1953). They are considered one of the best football teams ever. Although our glory has faded since then, Hungarians remain extremely passionate about football.

Sport as a pastime

Sports refresh both body and mind, and Hungarians love doing **sports for fun**. A great variety of sports and exercises can be learned during **physical education** classes, and there are countless opportunities to do sports as extracurriculars. In addition to the sports already mentioned, **athletics, basketball, volleyball, ice hockey, ballet, rhythmic gymnastics, dancing, table tennis** are all very popular. Don't worry if you cannot find your sport on the list. These are just a few examples, but many other sports are also available in our country.



Our sport program

The possibilities are almost endless: there is a **wide variety of sports** that you can choose from, and it is also up to you how seriously you want to pursue it. Based on your skills and prior experience, you can decide to do it for fun, as a hobby, or even **on a professional level**.

You will attend a **regular high school** like the other exchange students, but you will have additional **trainings** in a sport club **after classes**. The amount of trainings depends on the sport and the level, but we will surely find the opportunities that best suit your needs!

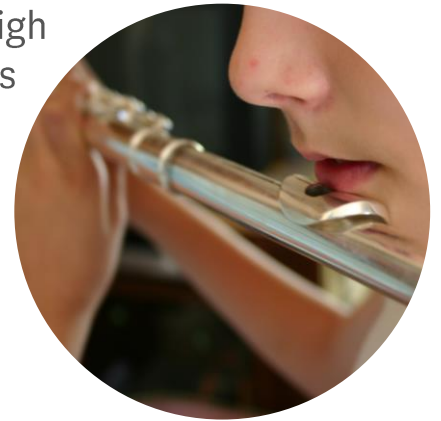


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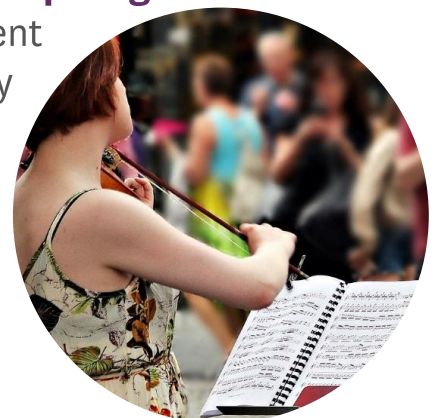
MUSIC PROGRAM IN HUNGARY

YFU Hungary offers an opportunity to study music on a high level in a **Professional Music High School**. These schools provide general education together with music education at an advanced level with subjects such as music theory, solfege, chamber music, music history, choir, orchestra etc.



Are you ready to take the stage?

According to the national curriculum, personal **instrumental/vocal lessons** are given to every student, while **theoretical classes** are taught in groups. This **wonderful and inspiring experience** teaches each student how the **Kodaly method** works by seeing and learning it in practice. For **hard-working** students, this can be a life-changing opportunity, as it is a chance to **start your career as a professional musician**.



In order to qualify for this special program, students must have studied music previously.
For more information, please contact your national YFU organization.



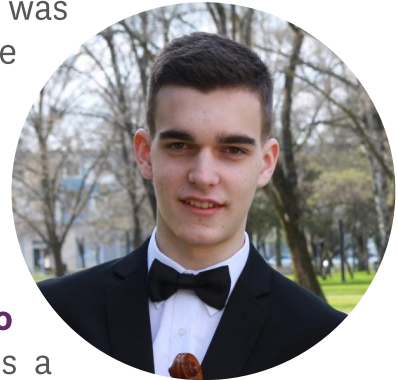
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„A wonderful and incredible adventure”

Going on exchange with the YFU music program in Hungary was one of the best decisions in my life. It didn't just lay the foundation of **my career as a violinist** but it was also a wonderful and incredible adventure. I recommend this



program to everyone who wants to **become a professional musician** but also to all **who wants to devote themselves to music for one year**. Budapest is a wonderful city for all students and musicians, a cultural metropolis on the banks of the Danube. You will meet nice people and get to know a new culture. And don't mind the language, if you are willing to learn Hungarian, it's absolutely possible and at the end of the year, you'll be proud to have a new super power.



Silvan (Switzerland), 2015-2016

„It was the perfect decision”



I chose to go to Hungary for the music program and for me, it was the perfect decision. The school provides an **excellent education** and it was a big part of my exchange. They helped me grow in singing, playing the clarinet and also the piano. I met amazing people who became my close friends. Thanks to my beautiful host family and the music program, now I have a second home in Hungary, where I have found people **who love**

music as much as I do. From the first steps on Hungarian land and during my whole exchange year, YFU Hungary was always by my side, watching my journey and always ready to help.

Lena (Germany), 2019-2020



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BILINGUAL PROGRAM IN HUNGARY

We offer a special opportunity to attend an **international private school** in the capital city, where students are placed in bilingual (English-Hungarian) classes. During this special exchange year, you can easily improve your language skills and meet many international students!

About the school

Students of the bilingual program attend the **Orchidea International School**, which is located in Budapest. In this school, most of the subjects are in English and students will participate in Hungarian as a foreign language courses too.



YFU Hungary is very proud

of this partnership with Orchidea, because we share the same values and work towards the same goals: to create a more inclusive and tolerant society, a better and more peaceful world. We completely agree with their philosophy: **„The diversity of people and cultures enriches each of us.”**

Orchidea focuses on student-centered education which motivates and inspires students to develop their capacity to the fullest. They provide a creative and encouraging environment that helps students become exemplary citizens of their country.

Photos by Orchidea International School.

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About the experience



„I chose the bilingual program to **practice and improve** my English skills. My family supported this idea and they were happy to see that I learned a lot and used the English language more. I really enjoyed the international school, because **I made friends from many nationalities**. The school also taught us Hungarian, but it was a bit difficult, sometimes we ended up speaking in English instead. It was **challenging**, but also **fun**. My host family was very nice and kind. We did many things together, e.g. cooking, playing board games, go walking, playing with cats and they also helped me **learn the Hungarian language**. During the program, I always had something fun to do. I even did things that I had never done before! It was very exciting to experience the **Hungarian culture**, and to travel abroad. I will never forget my bilingual exchange year, it was a **once in a lifetime opportunity!**”

Panalee (Thailand), 2019-2020

