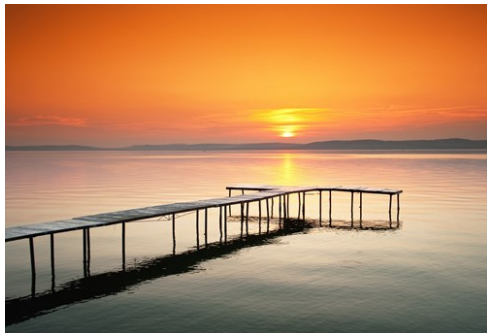




# Lake Balaton

Photo: ZGPhotography/Shutterstock.com



Botond Horvath/Shutterstock.com

Hungary has no marine coastline nowadays, but it does have the Hungarian Sea, otherwise known as Lake Balaton. The lake has been popular since the Magyar tribes first galloped into the Carpathian Basin in 896 and shows no signs of losing its appeal. A collection of resort towns and an interesting bicycle route ring the 77 kilometers long lake.

Hévíz-Balaton Airport is 20 kilometers from Keszthely at the southern end of the lake. From there, you can hire a car or take a bus and explore some of the resorts.



Florian Augustin/Shutterstock.com



ZGPhotography/Shutterstock.com

**QUIZ**  
*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

**TAKE THE QUIZ**

## Top 5



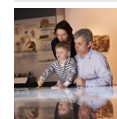
### Tapolca Cave Lake (Tavasba...

This is a romantic cave lake. Here visitors can row little boats along a par...



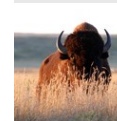
### Festetics Castle, Keszthely

The Festetics Castle was built by György Festetics in 1745 in Keszthely and ...



### Balaton Museum, Keszthely

The Balaton Museum concentrates on the lake and its flora and fauna. Here yo...



### Buffalo Reserve (Bivalyrez...

The Buffalo Reserve is located 30 kilometers south of Keszthely, and is home...



### Sailing on The 'Hungarian Sea'

For sailors without the necessary sailing skills or paperwork, courses are a...



## THE LAKE



*andras\_csontos/Shutterstock.com*

Lake Balaton offers a long shoreline dotted with family resorts on the southern side and welcoming vineyards to the north. With its green and silky water, the lake is Hungary's favorite summer retreat.

However, there is much more to do all year around than just lounge around at the lakeside. Each waterfront town has its own unique character, from the cultural center of Keszthely at the western tip to the elegant spa resort of Balatonfüred. Situated a little over 120 kilometers southwest of Budapest, Lake Balaton stretches out diagonally from the capital as a kind of lumpy oblong for 77 kilometers.

The most interesting statistic of the lake is its depth, or rather lack of it as the average depth is just 3.3 meters. Especially along the southeastern shore, you have to wade out a long, long way before the water comes up to your knees. For this reason, the lake is extremely popular with families with young children.

Lake Balaton also offers a surprising range of entertainment possibilities. While Siófok on the southern coast attracts the young, party-loving disco crowd, it also offers all around family fun as well. The north bank around Balatonfüred is a little more sedate and populated with artist

colonies, but it is also a perfect choice for families. The most family-friendly beach around the Lake is situated in Balatonfüred, the Eszterházy Strand. The craggy outcrops of Badacsony are covered with vineyards and the healing waters are good both for drinking (Kékkuti) and bathing (Hévíz).

The gastronomy around the Balaton has been improved in the region. Recently more and more restaurants have used local ingredients and new methods to prepare the dishes. The bistros and Fröccsterrace have been appearing in the small villages as in the 3 big towns as well, where you can taste beach food also, such as waterdog or Balcsi Bagel.

### Balatonboglár



Balatonboglár is situated on the south shore of Lake Balaton. This region is famous for its wine and champagne. The most dominant grape of the region is Olaszrizling, Chardonnay and Sárgamuskotály. In the end of the 20th century the red grapes appeared in the region and it has become more and more popular.

Visit the surroundings:

[www.balatonboglár.hu/Galeria/3d-panorama](http://www.balatonboglár.hu/Galeria/3d-panorama)

Photo: *pgaborphotos/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Balatonboglár, Erzsébet u. 11

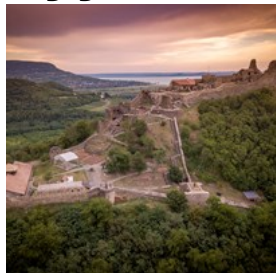
Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Balatonboglár

Phone: +36 85 550 333

Internet: [www.balatonboglár.hu](http://www.balatonboglár.hu)

Email: [balatonboglár@somogy.hu](mailto:balatonboglár@somogy.hu)

### Szigliget Castle



Castle of Szigliget is situated on the northern shore of Lake Balaton and open to the public throughout the year. The Castle was founded in 1260-1262 and is still standing proud with its rich history.

Tourist Information Center in Szigliget operates in summers.

All the information about it below:

Photo: tkarpati/Shutterstock.com

Address: Szigliget, Kossuth u. 17

Public Transport: It has a common railway station with Badacsonytördemic

Phone: +36 70 371 53 46

Email: szigliget@tourinform.hu

### Balatonalmádi



Balatonalmádi is located on the northern shore of Lake Balaton. In every summer the Weinfestival is organised in the city in front of the entrance of the Wesselényi beach, which lasts more than two weeks.

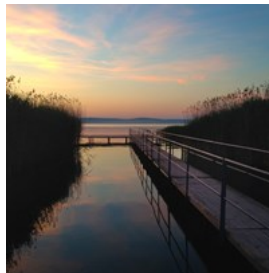
Photo: SueTot/Shutterstock.com

Address: Balatonalmádi, Városház tér 4

Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Balatonalmádi

Internet: www.balaton-almadi.hu

### Zamárdi



Zamárdi is located on the southern shore of Lake Balaton. It provides a wide range of programs for everyone. You can choose from outdoor cinema, a unique Military Park, Adventure Park and at the height of Summer, enjoy the Balaton Sound Festival.

Photo: Kokau Zsofia/Shutterstock.com

Address: Zamárdi, Kossuth Lajos u. 16

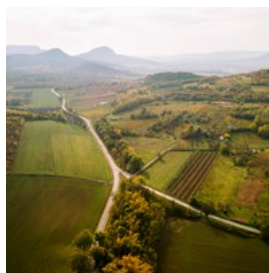
Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Zamárdi

Phone: +36 84 345 290

Internet: www.zamardi.hu

Email: zamardi@tourinform.hu

### Balaton Uplands National Park



The area of 56 997 hectares of the Balaton Uplands National Park mainly consists of these six landscape protection areas: Kis-Balaton, Keszthely Hills, Tapolca Basin, Káli Basin, Pécsely Basin and Tihany Peninsula.

Among its regions Kis-Balaton is also protected by the international Ramsar Convention, serving the protection of wetland habitats. Tihany Peninsula - as a recognition of its outstanding geological values and the work of nature conservation in that region - was awarded of European Diploma in 2003. The Natura 2000 areas, covering partly the National Park and going beyond its area ensure the possibility of the conservation of habitats, plant and animal species which are of European importance.

The initiative of Bakony-Balaton Geopark - the

area of which covers partly the National Park – sets the aim of interpreting the geological, natural and cultural values and awakening the consciousness of their social significance. The Bakony-Balaton Geopark became member of the European Geoparks Network and the Global Geoparks Network – assisted by UNESCO in 2012.

Photo: hbpro/Shutterstock.com

Address: Budapest, Raoul Wallenberg u. 6

Public Transport: Take a train from Budapest to Balaton Uplands

Phone: +36 87 555 260

Internet: www.bfnp.hu

Email: bfnp@bfnp.hu

## DO & SEE



pgaborphotos/Shutterstock.com

Lake Balaton is a real Hungarian treasure, offering a long shoreline dotted with family resorts on the southern side and welcoming vineyards to the north. With its green and silky water, the lake is Hungary's favorite summer retreat.

However, there is much more to do all year around than just lounge around at the lakeside. Each waterfront town has its own unique character, from the cultural center of Keszthely at the western tip to the elegant spa resort of Balatonfüred. Situated a little over 120 kilometers southwest of Budapest, Lake Balaton

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Lake Balaton also offers a surprising range of entertainment possibilities. While Siófok on the southern coast attracts the young, party-loving disco crowd, it also offers all around family fun at the annual Coca Cola Beach House. The north bank around Balatonfüred is a little more sedate and populated with artist colonies. The craggy outcrops of Badacsony are covered with vineyards and the healing waters are good both for drinking (Kékkuti) and bathing (Hévíz).

### Festetics Castle, Keszthely



The Festetics Castle was built by György Festetics in 1745 in Keszthely and it is one of the largest and most beautifully restored buildings in Hungary.

Each of the 101 rooms has its original furniture. It gives place for various events.

Example of baroque architecture, it is called Helikon Palace Museum, which is situated in the northwestern corner of Lake Balaton. It has been renovated recently, but during this time it is allowed to visit by the guests. The palace is a museum and also takes part in conference tourism.

An arboretum is located nearby and gives you an unforgettable experience with its collection of large chestnut, black pine trees, and thousands

of summer flowers and a fantastic fountain.

Photo: Istvan Csak/Shutterstock.com

Address: Keszthely, Kastély u. 1

Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Keszthely

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10.00-17.00

Phone: +36 83 314 194

Internet: [www.helikonkastely.hu/hu](http://www.helikonkastely.hu/hu)

Email: [kiallitas@helikonkastely.hu](mailto:kiallitas@helikonkastely.hu)

### Sphere Lookout in Balatonboglár



This Sphere Lookout is surrounded by a nature protection area, which is perfectly suitable for an environmentally-conscious picnic. You can find an adventure park and a bobsleigh run in the neighborhood.

Photo: Zoltan Katona/Shutterstock.com

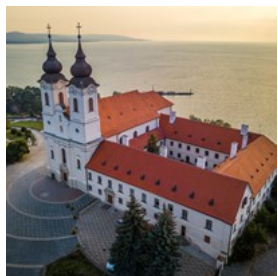
Address: Balatonboglár, Kilato utca 8

Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Balatonboglár

Phone: +36 30 282 9599

Internet: [www.balatonboglərbob.hu/kalandpark/gombkilato](http://www.balatonboglərbob.hu/kalandpark/gombkilato)

### Tihany Abbey



The Tihany Abbey is a Benedictine monastery established at Tihany in the Kingdom of Hungary in 1055. The Foundation Letter is a very important language memory of Hungary. Its patrons are the Virgin Mary and Saint Aignan of Orleans. The church itself was rebuilt in Baroque style in 1754 and still functions today. There are frequent organ concerts in the abbey church during the summer. The viewpoint next to this lovely church is one of the best in the area.

Photo: ZGPhotography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tihany, I. András tér 1

Public Transport: Take a bus from Balatonfüred to Tihany

Phone: +36 87 538 200

Internet:

[www.tihanyiapatsag.hu/Tihanyi\\_Bences\\_Apatsag.html](http://www.tihanyiapatsag.hu/Tihanyi_Bences_Apatsag.html)

Email: [titkarsag@tihanyiapatsag.hu](mailto:titkarsag@tihanyiapatsag.hu)

### Lavender House Visitor Center (Levendula-ház)



The Lavender House Visitor Center presents the Tihany Peninsula in a manner that provides special entertainment for young and old alike. We will introduce you to the once-raging volcano fires and the harmony of the landscape that was shaped as a result of it. We will show you the centuries-long co-existence of people and nature along with the emblematic culture that developed from it: lavender production.

Photo: skyfish/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tihany, Major u. 67

Public Transport: Take a bus from Balatonfüred to Tihany

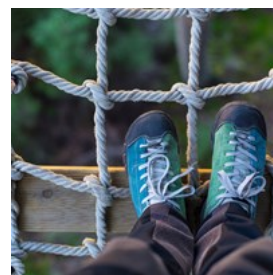
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 09.00-17.00

Phone: +36 87 538 033

Internet: [www.levendulahaz.eu](http://www.levendulahaz.eu)

Email: [levendulahaz@gmail.com](mailto:levendulahaz@gmail.com)

### Zamárdi Challenge Park (Rope Course)

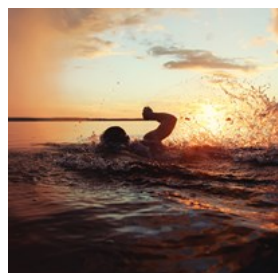


The varied range of obstacles suspended by ropes between old-growth trees of Zamárdi Kalandpark and the zipwire routes, spread over a 1 square mile area offer a sporty and exciting leisure opportunity for both children and adults. The most popular activities of the Challenge Park (Kalandpark) are the four zipwire courses.

Photo: giorgiomtb/Shutterstock.com

Address: Zamárdi, Siófoki út  
Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Zamárdi  
Phone: +36 20 449 6831  
Internet: [www.zamardikalandpark.hu](http://www.zamardikalandpark.hu)  
Email: [info@zamardikalandpark.hu](mailto:info@zamardikalandpark.hu)

### Swimming (Balaton-átúszás)

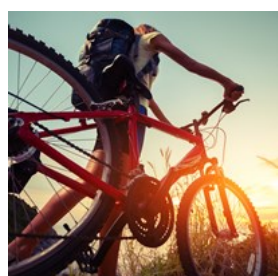


Balaton cross-swimming: This program is a tradition in Hungary. The Pek-Snack Lake Balaton cross swimming competition is planned to

take place every year on the last Saturday on July. The competition starting point is the Révfülöp port and the finishing point is the Platan beach in Balatonboglár. The distance is 5,200 meters.

Photo: LeonidKos/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Lake Balaton  
Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Révfülöp  
Internet: [www.balaton-atuszas.hu/eng/informaciok](http://www.balaton-atuszas.hu/eng/informaciok)  
Email: [balatonnevezes@futonet.hu](mailto:balatonnevezes@futonet.hu)

### Cycling around Lake Balaton (Balatonkör)



The bike road network around the Lake Balaton is more than 200 km long.

The stage is easy, only the East and the North shore is hilly, the other

side is flat. This bike tour is well recommend for every cyclist with average experience and perfect for families and seniors.

You can plan your trip on this website:  
[www.bikemap.net/hu/route/543314-balatonkor](http://www.bikemap.net/hu/route/543314-balatonkor)

Round the lake bike races are more and more popular in Hungary. You can find a lot of alternative cycling paths wait for the tourists, for

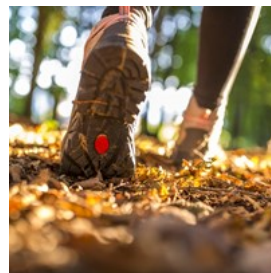
example in the west region.

The number of the bicycle-friendly bistros and restaurants is rising around the Balaton, where you can have a fresh beverage or take a nap under the trees in the afternoon. You have an opportunity to rent a bike in many settlements.

Photo: Dudarev Mikhail/Shutterstock.com

Address: Lake Balaton  
Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Balatonalmádi  
Internet: [www.balaton tourism.com/Cycling.html](http://www.balaton tourism.com/Cycling.html)

### Hiking to the Basalt Pillars of Szentgyörgy Hegy



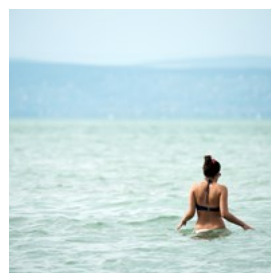
The Szent György-hegy is one of the most spectacular volcanic hill in Tapolca Basin. It has basalt stones, vineyards and vine cellars. The

Natur trail takes you to the 414 meter high summit along the probably most well-known and most wonderful sight of the hill, the "basalt organ pipes".

Distance: 4 km  
Difference in elevation: 200 m  
Length: 2 hours

Photo: Gajus/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Raposka  
Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Tapolca, then change to a Bus to Raposka

### Great beaches



The beaches around the Lake open from May to the end of September. Many of the beaches provide water sports activities, such as

kayaking, waterskiing, puddle boating or surfing.

All of the beaches around Balaton have to observe certain requirements to ensure the safety of the people. Therefore before each season the water quality and all of the facilities are carefully sampled and checked.

We have collected for you the greatest beaches around the lake:

North shore:

Balatonfüred Eszterházy beach

Balatonfüred Kisfaludy beach

Zánka: Erzsébet Tábor Zánka

Községi strand

Csopak strand

Vonyarcvashegy: Lidó Strand

Keszthely Helikon beach

Alsóörs Strand

Gyenesdiási Diási Játékstrandot

Balatongyöröki Községi Strandot

South Shore:

Siófok : Nagystrand

Balatonlelle Napfény beach (It includes experience baths)

Fonyód: Bélatelepi beach

Községi Strand (the longest sandy beach around the lake)

Balatonszemesen: Berzsenyi úti szabad strand

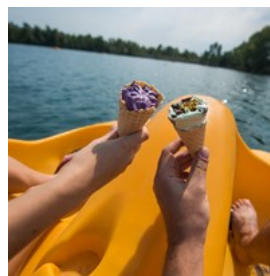
Balatonbogláron: Platán strand

Balatonberény: Községi Strand (the most bike-friendly beach in 2015)

Photo: Mikadun/Shutterstock.com

Address: Lake Balaton

## Pedaloos and Water Bikes

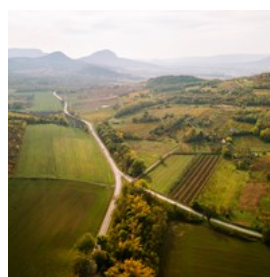


Almost every beach around the Lake Balaton has a pedalo or water bike rental operation. The prices depend on the type of the vehicles and the location of the beaches.

Photo: Mikhail Reshetnikov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Lake Balaton

## Balaton Uplands National Park



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Geoparks Network – assisted by UNESCO in 2012.

Photo: hbpro/Shutterstock.com

Address: Budapest, Raoul Wallenberg u. 6

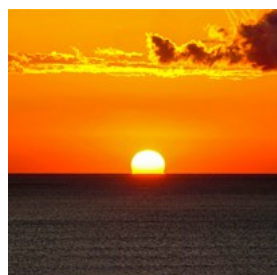
Public Transport: Take a train from Budapest to Balaton Uplands

Phone: +36 87 555 260

Internet: [www.bfnp.hu](http://www.bfnp.hu)

Email: [bfnp@bfnp.hu](mailto:bfnp@bfnp.hu)

### Plázs Siófok



Sunbathing and relaxing daytime and partying in the night: this is what Plázs Siófok offers. The renewed location offers a 2000 sqm sandy beach,

terrace with deckchairs, pool, street workout equipment or a beach library. Sport programs will also be held, and of course many concerts and parties await visitors until the end of August.

Photo: Andrey Bocharov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Siófok, Petőfi stny. 3

Phone: +36 30 600 7101

Internet: [www.plazssiofok.hu/hu](http://www.plazssiofok.hu/hu)

Email: [hello@siofokplazs.hu](mailto:hello@siofokplazs.hu)

## DINING



Krzysztof Basel/Shutterstock.com

Lake Balaton is a gourmet's heaven. The lake is surrounded with resorts devoted entirely to entertainment and leisure. Resorts such as

Balatonfüred, Keszthely and Siófok are crammed with restaurants, bars, cafés and nightclubs offering mostly sturdy, meaty Hungarian cuisine, although Italian restaurants are extremely popular also. The lake is home to 40 different kinds of fish and many of these make their way onto the table. The volcanic soil around Badacsony produces some of the best white grapes in the country and the wine makes a superb accompaniment to fish suppers.

### Régi Idők Udvara Skanzen and Restaurant



You should not miss this place, when you are near at hand. When you first enter to the restaurant you can feel yourself in the past. The mood and

the design transport you to an old time. It is a really cozy place, the personal is very friendly and nice. You have to try the home made craft beer, the wine from the region, and the meats from the oven. In the evenings you can enjoy the life music.

Photo: grafvision/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tihany, Batthyány u. 3

Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to

Balatonfüred, then change to a bus to Tihany

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 12.00-21.00

Phone: +36 70 413 0391

Internet: [www.tihanyinfo.com](http://www.tihanyinfo.com)

### Kistücsök



The owner of the restaurant always makes culinary "study trips" to the foreign countries to catch new inspirations.

During these gastronomic journey he makes conversations with the owners of the restaurants. The Kistücsök offers regional



and season dishes to the guests. If you are interested in wines, this is your place, because, it has a wine cellar with more than 300 various wine arts and it offers wine tasting programs as well.

Photo: NoirChocolate/Shutterstock.com

Address: Balatonszemes, Bajcsy Zs. u. 25

Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Balatonszemes

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11.00-23.00

Phone: +36 84 360 133

Internet: [www.kistucsok.hu](http://www.kistucsok.hu)

Email: [kistucsoketterem@t-online.hu](mailto:kistucsoketterem@t-online.hu)

### Kishableány



If you want to try the new wave gastronomy called beach food, which has been improved recently around the Lake Balaton, you are suggested to visit

this cosy place. It offers hamburgers, hot dogs, pizzas and sandwiches, such as Balcsi Bagel or Waterdog. You should not forget to taste the cakes and wines from the region.

Photo: Albert Gonzalez/Shutterstock.com

Address: Badacsonytomaj, Park u. 26

Phone: +36 70 388 9400

### Mala Garden Restaurant



Mala Garden Hotel's restaurant in Siófok offers an exotic atmosphere matching the hotel's design, where guests can marvel at the

magnificent view overlooking Lake Balaton all year round. The international cuisine and the menu is accordingly a composition of Far Eastern, Malay and Thai dishes and flavors, but devoted followers of healthy diets will not be left

disappointed either with the wide variety of salads and fish dishes that await them. For those after Hungarian flavors, a number of traditional recipes are revived.

Each room of Mala Garden Hotel\*\*\*\* Superior Siófok has been designed with minimalist and modern Balinese architecture in focus, combining harmony, design and luxury.

Photo: Ainis Jancauskas/Shutterstock.com

Address: Siófok, A, Petőfi stny. 15

Phone: +36 84 510 980

Internet: [www.malagarden.hu](http://www.malagarden.hu)

Email: [info@malagarden.hu](mailto:info@malagarden.hu)

### Csigaház Restaurant Balatonföldvár



Restaurant in the boat stop building of Balatonföldvár, offering traditional Hungarian dishes. The place also has many outdoor tables, for a pleasant atmosphere during the warm season.

Photo: Aniko Hobel/Shutterstock.com

Address: Balatonföldvár, Somogyi Béla u. 1

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 07.00-21.00; Sat-Sun 07.00-21.30

Phone: +36 30 591 9088

## CAFES



KITTIPAT BUARUNG/Shutterstock.com

The entire circumference of Lake Balaton is filled with resort towns, which makes for a plethora of bars, cafés and places to taste the delicious wines and life-enhancing mineral waters from the region.

### Kedves Cukrászda



Kedves is famed for having some of the best cakes in the region. These can be enjoyed in a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere accompanied

by a nice cup of coffee.

Photo: ffolas/Shutterstock.com

Address: Balatonfüred, Blaha Lujza u. 7

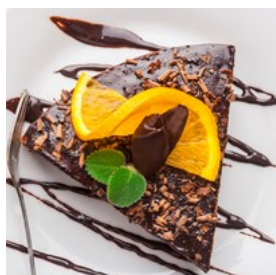
Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Balatonfüred

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 08.00-19.00; Fri-Sat 08.00-21.00

Phone: +36 20 471 2073

Email: azs@gmail.hu

### Carolina Cafe and Cocktail Bar



One of the coziest Cafés in Balatonfüred is the Carolina Cafe and Cocktail Bar, which is situated on the city's promenade near the

shores of Lake Balaton. All cakes are homemade

on the premises, and well worth sampling!

Photo: Aneta\_Gu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Balatonfüred, Zákonyi Ferenc u. 4

Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Balatonfüred

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 09.00-21.00; Fri-Sat 09.00-23.00

Phone: +36 87 583 098

Internet: [www.karolina.hu](http://www.karolina.hu)

Email: [info@karolina.hu](mailto:info@karolina.hu)

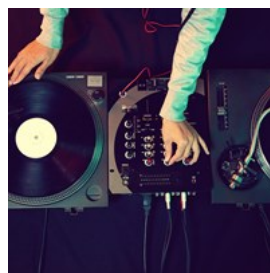
## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



bbernard/Shutterstock.com

Lake Balaton's bars have delightful terraces in the spring and summer overlooking the waterside and an excellent spot for sipping on local chardonnay and chilling out. The main Balaton destination for party-goers is Siófok. This resort is entirely given over to hedonism, especially in the warmer months, when ravers stay up until dawn, often rounding the night off in style with a dip in the lake. The resort of Balatonfüred, on the northern shore opposite is more sedate, however it too lets its hair down during the many wine festivals in the autumn.

### Columbus Club



One of the most popular disco on the north shore of the Lake Balaton. This pumping disco is situated only a few minutes walk from the lake.

Photo: Daxiao Productions/Shutterstock.com

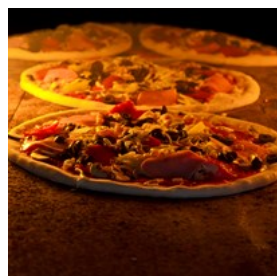
Address: Balatonfüred, Honvéd u. 3

Public Transport: Take a bus or train from Budapest to Balatonfüred

Phone: +36 70 63 66 707

Email: k.zsolt@exvision.hu

### Pub-Lik Bisztró



Restaurant and café in Balatonföldvár, where the kitchen is led by chef Sándor Csizmazia, who also worked in

181 in München.

Photo: Cristi Lucaci/Shutterstock.com

Address: Balatonföldvár, Motel stny. 2

Phone: +36 84 340 328

Internet: [www.pub-lik.hu](http://www.pub-lik.hu)

### Club Helka



Club Helka is the largest modern nightclub in the northern part of the country. Celebrity DJs, guest-friendly rates, drinks, huge parties, and fun without bounds are all but guaranteed.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: Balatonfüred, Széchenyi tér 8

Phone: +36 70 380 1173

Internet: [www.clubhelka.hu](http://www.clubhelka.hu)

Email: [info@clubhelka.hu](mailto:info@clubhelka.hu)

### Renegade Pub



Renegade Pub is one of the oldest and most legendary clubs in the country. Generations have been partying here, dancing on the tables to the biggest hits of the past. Open all days of the

week, with a party brewing each night after 7.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: Siófok, Petőfi stny. 3

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 19.00-07.00; Sun 19.00-00.00

Phone: +36 20 317 3304

Email: [renegadepub@renegadepub.hu](mailto:renegadepub@renegadepub.hu)

### Tesók



The number one choice for those looking for a fun night out in Siófok. The drinks are chilled, and the place often crowded with party-seekers.

Shisha is served.

Photo: Maksim Fesenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Siófok, Petőfi stny. 4/a

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 12.00-00.00

Phone: +36 20 317 3304

## SHOPPING



[Photographeeu/Shutterstock.com](http://Photographeeu/Shutterstock.com)

Lake Balaton is a holiday and relaxation destination with an abundance of hotels, restaurants and swimming pools but very few opportunities for shopping.

Keszthely's main street has a few supermarkets where you can pick up all the necessities and a lively market on Wednesdays and Saturdays where you can find everything from clothes to food and wine. Keszthely also has a Tesco

superstore if you forget anything from home. There are 11 Tescos around the Lake Balaton altogether. The only Mall around the Lake Balaton is situated in Siófok. There is a cinema inside as well. On Sundays all of the supermarkets are closed. Tihany has many shops selling souvenirs, not just tacky objects but hand-crafted goods such as embroidered tablecloths, carved wooden toys, ceramics and folk items.

If you prefer natural produces you have to visit one of the many cozy Farmer's Markets round the Lake, where you are able to buy tasty vegetables and fruits, dairy products, eggs, smoked meat, cheeses, honey and jams. The mood is always great at the markets. You can find Farmer's markets in Káptalantóti, Hévíz, Vászoly.

### Wine Region



Visitors can purchase home-made wine to bring back as gifts or souvenirs from one of the many wine cellars in the Badacsony Region. When the wine festival takes place in Balatonfüred, it is also possible to buy many excellent local wines at bargain prices.

Photo: AlenKadr/Shutterstock.com

### Sió Plaza



Sió Plaza is a big shopping mall situated in the center of Siófok. The building is within easy reach, because it's near the main square of the city and near the famous Water Tower. There are

also facilities such as the big underground parking lot with 190 parking spaces.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: Siófok, Fő tér 24

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 07.00-23.00

Phone: +36 84 950 345

Internet: [www.sioplaza.com/hu](http://www.sioplaza.com/hu)

Email: [info@sioplaza.com](mailto:info@sioplaza.com)

### Liliomkert Market



Liliomkert Market is a regular flea market set up near Balaton Lake since 2007. It takes place every Sunday of the year and offers food, flowers, books, antiques, clothes and a lot of handmade articles, too. If you Hungarian food and market atmosphere you shouldn't miss this one while visiting the region.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Káptalantóti, Petőfi u. 13

Opening hours: Sun 07.00-15.15

Phone: +36 30 266 0706

Internet: [www.liliomkert.lapunk.hu](http://www.liliomkert.lapunk.hu)

Email: [harmathyildiko@gmail.com](mailto:harmathyildiko@gmail.com)

### Tihanyi Levendula Manufaktura



Inspired products made of lavender are produced and sold at Tihany's Lavender Factory. The combined effect of favourable soil, water and climate make the natural setting wonderfully fit for harvesting the aromatic herb, which allows for high-quality goods to be produced locally.

Photo: AlexeiLogvinovich/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tihany, Batthyány u. 18

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10.00-18.00

Phone: +36 20 335 5485

Internet: [www.levendulamanufaktura.hu](http://www.levendulamanufaktura.hu)  
Email: [info@lewendulamanufaktura.hu](mailto:info@lewendulamanufaktura.hu)

### Balatonfüred City Market



This one is a typical Hungarian farmer's market selling all manner of goods imaginable. Although compact in size, it stocks a large amount of edibles: meat, fruit, flowers, honey, fish, and more - nearly every product is organic.

Photo: [Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com](http://Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com)  
Address: Balatonfüred, Malom köz 1  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 06.00-17.00; Sat 06.00-13.00  
Phone: +36 87 342 633

### TOURIST INFORMATION



[andras\\_csontos/Shutterstock.com](http://andras_csontos/Shutterstock.com)

The composite facilities and amenities of a thriving city can be found spread across the numerous settlements all around the lake shore. Health facilities, sports grounds, entertainment and even a dedicated airport are all near the lake, though one must not forget that it is 77 km long, so travelling from one end to the other can take a while, especially by public transport.

### Hévíz-Balaton Airport



Hévíz-Balaton Airport is situated at Sármellék, about 20 kilometers from Keszthely, at the south-western tip of Lake Balaton. Since May 2005,

FlyBalaton has been operating international flights to German, Danish, Swiss and UK destinations.

You can easily reach Lake Balaton by train from Budapest. Budapest Airport is located 16 kilometers south east of Budapest. Go to Déli or Kelenföld train stations to catch a train.

Taxis are available at the airport:

Taxi Hévíz  
+ 36 83 340 333  
[www.taxiheviz.com](http://www.taxiheviz.com)

Photo: Juan Garces  
Address: Sármellék, Repülőtér 1  
Phone: +36 83 200 304  
Internet: [www.hevizairport.com/en](http://www.hevizairport.com/en)  
Email: [info@hevizairport.com](mailto:info@hevizairport.com)

### Ferries



The best way to see the lake up close is the ferry. The ferries are run by the Balaton Shipping Co and operate on the

Sjófok-Balatonfüred-Tihany-Balatonföldvár route, and from Fonyód to the Badacsony. A journey takes approximately an hour and a half.

Photo: AVIcon

## Passport/Visa



Hungary can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea,

Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of Schengen countries can travel without a passport, but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.

Photo: TukTuk Design

## Best Time to Visit



The best time to visit Lake Balaton is during the summer, the hottest months are July and August, where the temperatures are around

25°.

Summer is a good time to visit not least because of the Balaton Sound, which takes place in the beginning of July - it's one of the largest and most colourful open-air electronic beach festivals in Europe. The festival is known for hosting the greatest artists and DJs in the world and also for its amazing after-movie, an experience you won't wanna miss out on!

Another important event in the summer (during the month of August) are the Balatonfüred Wine Weeks, one of the most prestigious and highest standard wine festivals of the Balaton region,

where you can try many different kinds of delicious local wines.

Photo: VectorA

## Taxi



You can order a taxi or minibus to get around Lake Balaton. Hévíz Taxi: +36 83 340 333  
[www.taxiheviz.com](http://www.taxiheviz.com)  
Keszthely Taxi: + 36 30 5

888 088

[www.taxikeszthely.hu](http://www.taxikeszthely.hu)

Balatonfüred Taxi:

+36 30 275 31 58

[www.furedtaxi.hu](http://www.furedtaxi.hu)

Siófok Taxi:

+ 36 30 9366 966

[www.siofoktaxi.hu/contact\\_eng.html](http://www.siofoktaxi.hu/contact_eng.html)

Photo: Taxi

## Pharmacy



You can find pharmacies in the area around Lake Balaton. Siófok: Korányi Patika Siófok, Korányi Sándor u. 14 Tel: +36 84 316 079 Régi

Gyógyszertár

Siófok, Fő u. 202

Tel.: +36 84 310 041

Balatonfüred:

Marina Gyógyszertár

Balatonfüred, Széchenyi István u. 55

+36 87 580 063

Aranycsillag Gyógyszertár  
Balatonfüred, Zsigmond u. 1  
+36 87 788 360

Keszthely:

Park Gyógyszertár  
Keszthely, Kossuth Lajos u. 64  
+36 83 313 149

Ezüstsirály Gyógyszertár  
Keszthely, Sopron u. 2  
+36 83 314 549

Photo: Gemma Garner

## Post



You can find post offices  
all around Lake Balaton.  
Post Office in  
Balatonfüred:  
Balatonfüred, Ady Endre  
u. 1 +36 87 343 801 Post

Office in Keszthely:  
Keszthely, Kossuth Lajos u. 48  
+36 83 312 070

Post Office Siófok:  
Siófok, Fő u. 186-188  
+36 84 312 125

Photo: Andy Fuchs  
Internet: [www.posta.hu](http://www.posta.hu)

## Telephone

Country code: +36



Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity

220 V, 50 Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

## Population

Keszthely: 22,000  
Siófok: 24,000  
Balatonfüred: 13,300

## Currency

Hungarian Forint (Ft or HUF) = 100 fillér

## Opening hours

Shops around Lake Balaton are normally open between 10.00 to 18.00 during the weeks and from 09.00 to 13.00 on Saturdays.  
Museum in Hungary are closed on Mondays. Most shops are closed on Sundays, though you may find a few smaller food stores and shops open.

## Newspapers

Népszabadság  
Magyar Hírlap  
HVG (Havi Világgazdaság)  
The Budapest Times

## Emergency numbers

European Emergency Line: 112  
Ambulance: 104  
Fire Brigade: 105  
Police: 107

## Tourist information

Balatonfüred Tourist Information:  
Kisfaludy utca 1, Balatonfüred, Lake Balaton  
+36 87 580 480  
[www.tourinform.hu/tourinform-balatonfured?folderID=76021](http://www.tourinform.hu/tourinform-balatonfured?folderID=76021)  
[balatonfured@tourinform.hu](mailto:balatonfured@tourinform.hu)







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Tervezett kastélypark

Festetics kastély

Marcipán múzeum

Tapolcai

Georgikon u

Beresényi Miklós u

Baba múzeum

Faludy Galéria

Erkel Ferenc u

Georgikon Majormúzeum

Vak Botyán u

Kossuth Lajos u

Mikus Galéria

Dózsa György u

Vaszary Kolos u

Vak Botyán u

Deák Ferenc u

Unterberger u

Tessedik Sámuel u

Balogh Ferenc

Vak Botyán u

Deák Ferenc u

Helikon u

Apát u

György bíró u

Vak Botyán u

Deák Ferenc u

Hunyadi u

Aszóti u

Rózsa u

Vak Botyán u

Kossuth u

Munkácsy M u

Boráros Vincs

Szent Miklós u

Berényi Miklós u

Szendrey J u

Mártírok útja

Csik Ferenc sétány

Damjanich u

Berényi Miklós u

Festetics u

Báthory u

Kazinczy u

Herman Ottó u

Berényi Miklós u

Festetics Kastélypark

Berényi D u

Balaton-part

Pethe Ferenc u

Berényi Miklós u

Festetics Kastélypark

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Ferenki út

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Eriz Géza sétány

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