

Hunting in Hungary

Written by Administrator

Friday, 27 July 2012 11:17 - Last Updated Friday, 10 August 2012 10:17

Hungary

Ours is a beautiful little country with versatile natural endowments, situated in the Carpathian Basin in the heart of Europe. This is the homeland that the wandering, hunting ancestors of Hungarians coming from Asia occupied more than 1000 years ago chasing the Miraculous Stag of Hungarian mythology. The newly settled Hungarians lived on by exploiting the extremely rich flora and fauna of the territory and remained a hunting nation up to the present day. Hungary's unique cultural heritage, historical cities, museums, natural hot-water resources and the wellness services of its spa hotels, its internationally acclaimed wines cultivated on the southern slopes of the country's several wine regions, the flavours of the traditional Hungarian cuisine, its high-standard tourist accommodations and services, bustling nightlife and heartfelt hospitality are features which jointly make Hungary one of the popular tourist destinations of the world.

Diversity

There are 29 legally huntable game species in Hungary. Owing to the rich diversity of its ecosystem excellent conditions are given in the country for unforgettable hunts for both small and big game living up to international standards, as well.

Quality

The 5 huntable big game species of Hungary establishes it in terms of both quality and quantity in the international elite of game management. The country is proud to hold several records on the world ranking list of the **CIC** /Conseil International de la Chasse/ International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation which is based on the most widespread trophy judgment system of the world. The tusker giving the current world record boar tusk was harvested in Hungary in 2003. 5 of the top 10 red deer and roe deer trophies – respectively –, were bagged in our country, as well as the bucks giving the last two fallow buck trophy records set in 1991 and 2002.

Professionalism

Hungary's hunting law that gives game preservation and game management a prominent position in the service of long-term planning and sustainable hunting, is one of the most modern pieces of hunting legislation in Europe today and guarantees that Hungary continues to keep and increase its good reputation in the field of hunting! In addition to the natural endowments of

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the country which are quite advantageous for game, our inland staff of well-trained professionals ensures the expert management of game populations and thus a firm foundation for hunting in the country.

Tradition, traditional customs

The game population of Hungary is part of our national heritage, a national treasure with its excellent genetic features and great economic and cultural significance. The century-old hunting customs that are associated with hunting, cherished and practiced by hunters up to the present day, the written and unwritten rules of hunters' ethics being actively observed, the application of traditional hunting methods and the ceremonies following the killing of game in honour of the harvested animal turn a hunt in Hungary into an extraordinary experience and a real journey back in time, making our country unique in the international hunting scene.

Accessibility

Located in the centre of Europe Hungary is one of the most easily accessible hunting destinations in the continent. Our country can be reached easily and quickly from all neighbouring countries of Europe either on the motorway, by plane or by train, or even on a pleasure boat on the Danube. Those who arrive by plane will land at the international airport of Budapest, the biggest of the five international airports of Hungary. Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport, formerly called Budapest Ferihegy International Airport and also known in cross-country air transport as Budapest Ferihegy (IATA: BUD, ICAO: LHBP) runs an air service not only to countries of Europe, but also of Asia, North America and the Near East. More than 52 airlines operate a regular service, with direct flights to over a 100 countries. Even the most remote spots of Hungary can be reached within a few hours from Budapest on the continuously expanding national motorway and public road network, or by train.

Geographical and natural features

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Hungary is situated in Central-Europe in the Carpathian Basin, sharing borders with Slovakia to the north, Ukraine to the north-east, Romania to the east, Serbia and Croatia to the south, Slovenia to the south-west and Austria to the west. Hungary has a rich and varied wildlife, which is not only true in terms of game species. 50 % of the country is flat. Its territory can be divided into 6 main areas according to their geographical features: the Great Plain, the Little Plain, the Transdanubian Mountains, the Transdanubian Hills, the Alpokalja ('feet of the Alps') and the North Hungarian Mountains. The Great Plain (or Great Alföld) is the most characteristic and the biggest low-lying flatland area of Hungary. The 400-700 metres high ranges of the Transdanubian Mountains stretch west to the Danube. The Transdanubian Hills represent an area of quite varied terrain enclosed in the Lake Balaton–River Zala–River Sió triangle. The elevation of the northern part of the country ranges between 500-1000 metres above sea level. The highest point of Hungary is the Kékes with 1014 metres. Absolute height difference in the country is small (936 m). The most important rivers of Hungary are the Danube and the Tisza. Lake Balaton is the biggest lake of the country and the biggest lake in Central-Europe, as well. Its water is warm enough for swimming from June to August. The forests, meadows and riversides of Hungary offer many attractions for hunters, bird-watchers, hikers and nature photographers alike. 21 % of the country is covered by forests, 11 % by grass and approximately half of terrain is used for agricultural production.

Climate and weather

The climate of the country is temperate continental affected by three different climatic influences: the Eastern European continental, the Western European oceanic and the Mediterranean. Differences between the four seasons are conspicuous. The coldest month is January and the warmest is July. The daily temperature fluctuation is relatively high. The mean annual temperature is around 12 °C, its maximum is around 38 °C and its minimum is around -10 °C. Spring begins in early April and is characterised by heavy rainfall. Summers are hot and dry. Winters are relatively short, moderately cold and generally dry with occasional days of bright sunshine. Two rainier (early summer and autumn) and two drier (mid-winter and early autumn) periods alternate. The annual precipitation is 415 mm and the number of sunlight hours is 2015. Yearly average wind-speed is 2.4 m/sec.

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The capital

Some fall in love with Budapest at the first sight, others take it into their hearts only after a thorough exploration of the city. Yet every visitor agrees that it is among the most beautiful places of the world.

This metropolis of 2 million people is split into two in the middle by the broad flow of the Danube, with the hilly Buda on the one shore and the flat Pest on the other. The panorama that the riverside affords gained World Heritage Status by the UNESCO. Those who have seen its night lights know why.

<http://travel.nytimes.com/2011/07/31/travel/36-hours-in-budapest.html?ref=travel>