

## Guided tours for ISTCP VIII. Participants

The prices include free pick-up service 30 minutes before the tour starts.

### BUDAPEST CITY TOUR

25,-Euro / person



Discover the sights in Budapest with our tour guide. Let us show you the main sights on both parts of the river in Budapest. Walk around the Castle District, enjoy the view from the Citadell, drive along the Andrásy Avenue until Heroes' Square passing by many sights in the city.

We start the tour from the **Chain Bridge**, pass by the Parliament and take the Margaret Bridge to drive over to the Buda side. We stop in the **Castle District** and during a short walk we show you the main attractions of the area. We walk to Matthias Church and to the Fishermen's Bastion (from where you can enjoy the beautiful panorama).

Next, we drive to the **Gellért Hill (Citadel)** and show you the most spectacular view of Budapest. We then take you over the Elisabeth Bridge to Pest and show you the famous **Central Market Hall** and the largest **Synagogue** of Europe, after which we drive to the City Park. We pass by Europe's largest thermal spa, the Budapest Zoo and the Amusement Park, and then stop at the **Heroes' Square** (with statues of the most famous Hungarian kings and dukes). We then take the Andrásy Avenue to downtown Pest, pass by the **Opera House** and the St Stephen's Basilica. During the tour we offer a brief overview of the last 1000 years of Hungarian history. The Tour ends in the city-centre.

**Duration: 3 hours / Days: daily 10.00 a.m. / 14.30**

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### PARLIAMENT TOUR

20,-Euro / person EU citizen  
24,-Euro / person non EU citizen



Visit the magnificent Houses of the Parliament and take some pictures of the richly decorated staircase and cupola room. Get to know the reason, why the cross on the top of the Hungarian crown is not straight.

The Hungarian Parliament is the 3rd largest Parliament building of the world. During this tour, you will have the chance to see first the very richly decorated **Staircase**, later on the **Cupola Room**, where the **Hungarian Crown Jewels** and the **Hungarian Holy Crown** can be found. After visiting the Session Room, the tour ends in front of the Parliament.

**Duration: 1 hour / Days: every day except Monday 13.00**

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## PANORAMA & BOAT RIDE

32,-Euro / person



Explore the area of Castle District, you have not seen during the city tour. Try the Castle Hill Funicular (Cable car). Take a pleasant boat tour and enjoy the sights along the “Blue Danube”.

We drive to the **Castle Hill** and discover the area of the Royal Palace. We show you the main attractions of the district: Castle Theatre, Palace of the Hungarian President, buildings of the National Library and the National Gallery. During the walking tour you can enjoy a breathtaking view of Budapest. A ride on the **Castle Hill Funicular** (opened in 1870) takes us to Adam Clark square, from where we walk over to the Pest side by taking the oldest suspension bridge of continental Europe, the **Chain Bridge**. After this spectacular walk we take a **Boat Ride** on the Danube (Duration 1 hour / soft drink incl.). The tour ends at the pier / city centre.

**Duration: 3 hours / Days: Wed., Thur., Fri., Sat. 14.30**

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## MAGIC HUNGARY – HALF DAY TOUR

54,-Euro / person



**A Magic combination: First explore the Gödöllő Palace, the former summer residence of Queen Elisabeth and Francis Joseph and then enjoy the carriage ride and a traditional horse show with breathtaking elements.**

Visit the beautiful **Baroque Palace** in **Gödöllő**! After only a 30-minute drive from Budapest we arrive to the former summer residence of Queen Elisabeth (Sissi) and Francis Joseph (Habsburg Emperor & Hungarian king 1867-1916). This interior visit and the tour through the gardens of the Chateau, gives you a glimpse of times under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. With the help of our guide you will become acquainted with the secrets of the private life, the hidden doors, bedrooms and lovers of the royal couple.

Next, we drive to a **traditional Farm** where you will be welcomed with a Hungarian “Pogácsa” and with the national welcome drink, pálinka. Horsemen will take us for a Carriage Ride through the area and will invite you to a traditional Horse Show. The tour ends in the city centre.

**Duration: 4,5 hour / Days: Tue., Fri., Sun. 09.00 a.m.**

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## SZENTENDRE NOSTALGIA – HALF DAY TOUR

40,-Euro / person



Let us show you Szentendre, the picturesque artist village in the Danube Bend. Walk along the cobble narrow streets and taste the Hungarian specialty, so called **Lángos** and the local appetizer, the **Rác Ürmös**. To have a memorable day we return to Budapest by boat (May – October).

We take you to the picturesque **Artist's Village**, called **Szentendre**. We wander around the baroque settlement, built on medieval ruins and walk along the narrow streets. We invite you for a **Lángos** (fried Hungarian flat bread) followed by the presentation of **Rác Ürmös**, a traditional handmade wine aperitif. Then you will have the **opportunity** to go **shopping** or to visit the Margit Kovács **Ceramic Museum** or the **Confectionery Museum** (marzipan figures).

During the summer (between 1st of May and 30th of September) we return to Budapest on the Danube **by boat**. The tour ends at the pier / city centre.

**Duration: 4,5 hours / Days: daily (except Mon. and Wed.) 14.00**

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## DANUBE BEND – FULL DAY TOUR

56,-Euro / person



Visit Esztergom, Visegrád and Szentendre, the 3 most beautiful cities in the Danube Bend. Enjoy the picturesque viewpoints in all settlements and get acquainted with the Hungarian history along the "Blue Danube". Have an unforgettable boat tour back to Budapest. (May – October)

**The Danube Bend – an excursion into Hungary's history.** This is an unforgettable tour along the "Blue Danube" with stops in Visegrád, Esztergom and Szentendre.

**Visegrád:** we walk close the 750 year-old stones of the **formal Royal Residence (entrance fee not included)**, learn about life in the middle ages and enjoy the fascinating panorama on the **Danube valley**.

**Esztergom:** the Northern gate of Budapest – the centre of the Catholic Church. We visit the **largest cathedral** of Hungary (also burial place of famous cardinals of Hungary, like Primate József Mindszenty). Afterwards, we glance across the river and enjoy the view over to Slovakia.

**Szentendre:** On the way back we stop in the **artist's village** of Szentendre. It is a small baroque city at the gate of the Danube Bend, at the meeting place of the river Danube and the Pilis Mountains, in a beautiful natural environment. We walk around the **baroque settlement, built on medieval ruins** and go up the narrow streets to the **panorama point** to see the Danube. We invite you for a **Lángos** (fried Hungarian flat bread) followed by the presentation of **Rác Ürmös**, a traditional handmade wine aperitif. We then simply enjoy the special atmosphere of this village. You can also take the opportunity to visit the museums (for example the world-famous Margit Kovács Ceramic Museum, the Confectionery Museum-with buildings and people made of marzipan), or you can choose to visit the shops of the village.

**During the summer** (between the 1st of May and the 30th of September) we return to Budapest on the Danube **by boat**. The tour ends at the pier / city centre.

**Duration: 8,5 hours Days: daily (except Mon.,Tue.) 10.00 a.m.**

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## PUSZTA TOUR – FULL DAY TOUR

70,-Euro / person



**Spend an unforgettable day in the Puszta! Visit the city of Kecskemét to see some nice examples for the Hungarian Art Nuevo. Enjoy the traditional horse show and the carriage ride in the Puszta and have a tasty three-course lunch accompanied by Hungarian gipsy music.**

At an hour's drive from Budapest, we stop in the city of **Kecskemét**. We walk around the beautiful downtown and visit the most important squares and buildings, like the Main Square with the famous City Hall, the Theatre and the churches (**guided walk**). From Kecskemét, we drive to a **traditional Hungarian farm**. After receiving the greetings of the horse(-herds)men, you can taste the famous Hungarian welcome drink, “Barack Pálinka” (Apricot Schnapps) and the “Pogácsa” (salty scone). Horsemen will then take you around and through the Puszta **by horse-carriage**. The program continues with a **traditional horse show**, which includes several breathtaking field performances. You are then invited for a **three-course lunch** including the famous Hungarian goulash soup, accompanied by Hungarian **gipsy music**. The programme offers the possibility to ride the horses. The tour ends in the city centre.

**Duration: 8 hours / Days: Mon., Thur., Sat. 09.00 a.m.**

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## LAKE BALATON & HEREND – FULL DAY TOUR

70,-Euro / person



**Visit the Herend Porcelain Manufactory and get to know porcelain making technology. Explore the Lake Balaton and its surroundings with us. Enjoy the view from the Tihany Abbey and walk along the famous promenade at Balatonfüred.**

We take you to **Herend** first, to the world's largest **Porcelain Manufactory** (founded 1826). Following a guided tour through the rooms we invite you for a coffee (possibility for shopping). Next, we drive to **Lake Balaton** (the largest fresh-water lake of Central Europe) and visit the abbey (founded 1055) on the **Tihany Peninsula**. Following a 3-course lunch in a „csárda” restaurant, we go to **Balatonfüred** (with the oldest spa in Hungary) and walk along the famous promenade. Finally, we return to Budapest, the tour ends in the city centre.

**Duration: 9-10 hours / Days: Friday 09.00**

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## EXCURSION TO PANNONHALMA, SOPRON AND FERTŐD 70,-Euro / person

We offer this excursion for the participants of EUCCO-CC, as a way of travelling to the conference venue in Sopron.



Sopron is situated near the western borders of Hungary, at the foot of the Alps, 60 km from Vienna and 220 km from Budapest. It is one of the oldest jewel boxes of the country. Sopron merges past and present in itself. It creates a bridge between Hungary and its western neighbors, opening a gate for foreign guests visiting Hungary, as it is symbolized by the coat of arms of the city.

The inhabitants of the city are famed for their hospitality and loyalty to their hometown. This is also symbolized by the 'Gate of Faith', which can be found on the southern side of the Firewatch Tower, the symbol of the city, and which was made in memory of the referendum of 1921.

The curative and refreshing air of the natural environment, the hiking routes of the wooded hillsides, the view towers, the mountain springs, and the proximity of Lake Fertő make Sopron one of the most beautiful and most pleasant holiday resorts of Hungary. The Löverek, the hilly area south of the city, is the most fascinating and most distinguished area of the city. It offers calm forests with spruces, oaks and chestnuts, lilies of the valley and cyclamens, hiking paths and lookout towers. Another attraction of the historic town of Sopron is the excellent wines of the region, so the city is becoming increasingly popular among those who would like to satisfy their thirst with noble wines.

**Esterháza** is a palace in Fertőd, Hungary, built by Prince Nikolaus Esterházy. Sometimes called the "Hungarian Versailles", it is Hungary's grandest Rococo edifice. Esterháza was not the primary or ancestral home of the Esterházy family; that was Schloss Esterházy, a palace nearby (40 kilometers (25 mi)), in Eisenstadt. Nikolaus Esterházy began his plans for a new palace not long after he became reigning prince in 1762 on the death of his brother Paul Anton.<sup>[1]</sup> Before this time, Nikolaus was accustomed to spending much of his time at a hunting lodge called Süttör, built in the same location around 1720 with a design by Anton Erhard Martinelli. The hunting lodge was the nucleus around which Esterháza was built.<sup>[1]</sup> The first architect to work on the project was Johann Ferdinand Mödlhammer, succeeded in 1765 by Melchior Hefele. While the palace is often compared to Versailles, which the Prince had visited in 1767, H. C. Robbins Landon claims that a more direct influence can be found in "Austrian prototypes, particularly Schönbrunn palace in Vienna."The palace cost the Prince the sum of 13 million gulden, a figure that Robbins Landon terms "astronomical".

Esterháza was first inhabited in 1766, but construction continued for many years. The opera house was completed in 1768 (the first performance was of Joseph Haydn's opera *Lo speziale*), the marionette theater in 1773. The fountain in front of the palace was not completed until 1784, at which point the Prince considered his project complete.<sup>[2]</sup> Nikolaus Esterházy died in 1790. Neither his son Anton, who inherited the Esterházy lands, nor any of his later successors had any interest in living in the isolated palace.

### Archabbey of Pannonhalma



Having been constructed in diverse styles over the course of many centuries, the buildings of the monastery preserve the messages of different ages, and yet still give the impression of an harmonious unity. The artifacts that can still be seen today obtain a unique radiance due to the fact that they are being used in accordance with their original function by a living monastic community. Though the monastery is open to the public, there are nevertheless places where only the members of the monastic community are allowed to enter. Here everything seeks to serve the purpose that the centuries-old Benedictine way of life may still be nurtured by silence and prayer. During our excursion we visit the Basilica and the Crypt, the porta speciosa and the cloisters, the library and the beautiful arboretum.

**Duration: 8 hours / day: 09.00 am 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2013.**

We offer this excursion for the participants of EUCCO-CC, as a way of travelling to the conference venue in Sopron.

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