

Holidays in our county

Public Holidays

In Hungary, people celebrate birthdays, name days, wedding anniversaries and mother's day. Unfortunately, we don't observe father's day. The biggest family occasion in our country is *birthday*. On this day, young people invite their friends, family and classmates to give them a big party.



Easter is really unique in Hungary.

On Easter Monday boys set out to call on their female friends and relatives and sprinkle them with perfume or

water. Girls, in return, treat them to home-made cakes or some drinks and present them with painted eggs. Children are also presented with either some chocolate eggs or a chocolate Easter bunny or an Easter Chick.

I think, ***Christmas*** is the greatest family festival for everybody. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. On the first and the second day of Xmas families have big meals and visit each other in the afternoons. On Christmas Evening the tree is decorated and children are given a lot of presents. Most families go to midnight service in church. On Christmas Day the family members gather round the table to take part in the traditional Hungarian Christmas lunch. Two things are essential parts of this meal: stuffed cabbage and poppy-seed cake.

We have many national public holidays.

On **March 15th** we commemorate the *Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence of 1848-49.*



May 1st is a spring holiday when maypoles are put up in gardens and people don't have to go to work.

August 20th is the day of King Stephen I. It's always happening with huge fireworks and music. On this day we commemorate the founding of our state.



On **October 23rd** we celebrate the *Declaration of the Hungarian Republic* and commemorate the *Revolution of 1956*.



Of course, we celebrate New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day, but it is the same as the other countries celebrate it.

Regional Holidays

We have many types of festivals and holidays all over the county. Firstly, we have to mention Békéscsaba, which is the county seat of Békés. Most of the programmes are organized there. The '*Csaba Sausage Festival*' has become one of Hungary's most prestigious gastronomic events. The true highlight of the festival is a sausage-making contest, where Hungarian celebrities also try their hand every year. Those people, who are interested in making sausages, can be part of groups, and they take part in a competition together.



Békéscsaba also hosts Hungary's most popular beer festival, '*Csaba Beer Festival and Csülökparádé*', a special cooking competition where different varieties of 'csülökpörkölt' (pig's trotters stew) are prepared, and where mouth-watering delicacies can be tasted.



Open-air events in Békéscsaba include the '*Lecsó Festival*' ('lecsó' is thick vegetable stew which includes peppers and tomato, onion, lard, salt, sugar and ground paprika as the basic ingredients) and '*Pálinka Festival*'.

These are the most popular ones. During these outdoor activities there are many famous singers, bands and concerts. Every summer, the courtyard of the Mayor's Office is the scene of the '*Town Hall Evenings*', a series of programmes featuring well-known artists. There are more and more people who like spending their time there, in that good atmosphere with their friends.

Another festival is held in a beautiful small town Szarvas, the so-called '*Plum Festival*'. This festival is always at the beginning of autumn. To tell the truth, this is our personal favourite one, because it has a really nice atmosphere.



As for our little town *Gyomaendrőd*, we have more and more programmes. The biggest one is the International '*Cottage Cheese Festival*'. This is a 3-day-long one, and most of the local people go there with their family and friends. The reason why it is so famous is that a lot of cheese makers and traders come here and people can choose the best ones. At the end of each the day there is always a big concert with a popular singer or band.



Our favourite holiday is the '*International Volkswagen "Beetle" Meeting*', which is supported by the *Liget Thermal Bath and Camping*. This Spa is located in a well-designed, nice surroundings, in the park Elisabeth. At the end of the festival, the organisers invite the participants for a concert and a midnight swimming. We always enjoy that, because it is a programme for the youth.



The older inhabitants can spend their free time with baking or cooking. We have a *Fish soup Cooking Competition in August*, which is a Hungarian specialty. This food is really tasty and spicy, because of the unique Hungarian paprika.

We hope everybody have a chance to visit our famous and nice programmes.

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