

THE DANUBE TENNIS EXPERIENCE

HUNGARY SLOVAKIA
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BONJOUR
TENNIS
FANTASIES



Welcome to
**The Danube Tennis
Experience**

MAY 14-21, 2027

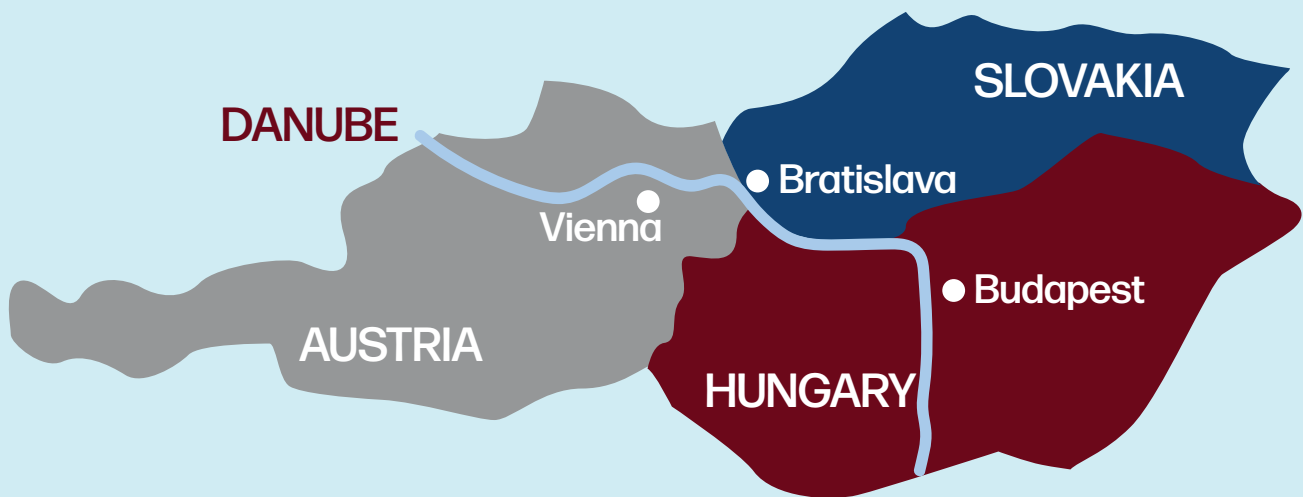




At Bonjour Tennis Fantasies, we design tennis trips for those who want more than just matches on the court. World-class tennis, extraordinary destinations, and every detail taken care of. Just show up, play, and enjoy.

Bonjour Tennis Fantasies invites you to explore

Budapest, Bratislava & Vienna



Starting on May 14th, our experience begins in Budapest, Hungary, where we'll spend four nights exploring one of Europe's most stunning capitals. From there, we journey to Bratislava, Slovakia, for three nights in one of Europe's most charming and authentic cities. And during our stay, a morning boat ride along the Danube takes us to Vienna, Austria, for a day to explore one of the world's most elegant cities.

DAY 1 Friday, May 14th

Budapest	Arrival in Budapest	Arrival at the airport of Budapest, Hungary, private transfers will be organized.
W Budapest	Lunch	Lunch available upon arrival at the hotel.
W Budapest	Check-in	Check-in W Budapest.
Tennis Club	Tennis	2 hour tennis session.
Budapest	Dinner	Dinner in Budapest.



DAY 2 Saturday , May 15th

Parktenisz	Tennis	3 hour tennis session.
Parktenisz	Lunch	Lunch at the tennis club for Tennis Players.
	Private visit	Private visit to the historic distillery of Hungary's most famous herbal liqueur, Unicum, followed by a stop at the Central Market Hall to taste and savor traditional Hungarian dishes.
Budapest	Group tour	Group tour offering an immersive introduction to Budapest's highlights, exploring key landmarks, its rich history, and the unique blend of Buda and Pest with insights from a knowledgeable local guide.
Budapest	Dinner	Dinner in Budapest.

DAY 3 Sunday, May 16th

Parktenisz	Tennis	3 hour tennis session.
Parktenisz	Lunch	Lunch at the tennis club for Tennis Players.
<i>BonVivant Club</i>	Private visit	A guided visit to the Hungarian State Opera House — admire its neo-Renaissance interiors and grand staircase, followed by a short live concert.
Budapest	Free time	Free afternoon in Budapest.
Budapest	Dinner cruise	Private dinner cruise on the Danube, offering views of the city's main landmarks, including the Parliament illuminated at night.



DAY 4 Monday, May 17th

Parktenisz	Tennis	3 hour tennis session.
Parktenisz	Lunch	Lunch at the tennis club for Tennis Players.
<i>BonVivant Club</i>	Cooking class	A hands-on cooking class in Budapest, guided by local chefs. Learn to prepare classic Hungarian dishes — goulash, chimney cake — and end with a shared meal together.
Szentendre	Excursion	Enjoy a half-day excursion to Szentendre, a charming riverside town on the Danube just north of Budapest. Cobblestone streets, colorful Baroque houses, local galleries and cafés. Return to Budapest by private bus in the early evening.
Budapest	Dinner	Dinner is on your own.

DAY 5 Tuesday, May 18th

Budapest	Check-out	Check-out and departure from Budapest.
Grand Hotel River Park	Check-in	Check-in Grand Hotel River Park Bratislava.
Bratislava	Private tour	A private walking tour through Bratislava's Old Town — cobblestone streets, elegant squares, and medieval and Baroque architecture.
Bratislava	Dinner	Dinner in Bratislava.



DAY 6 Wednesday, May 19th

Bratislava	<i>Optional tennis</i>	<i>Optional 3h of tennis in Bratislava, followed by lunch at the tennis club.</i>
Vienna	A day in Vienna	The program begins with a scenic catamaran transfer from Bratislava to Vienna, offering a relaxing journey along the Danube. Upon arrival, guests enjoy lunch at a traditional, renowned Austrian restaurant, followed by a guided tour of Vienna's main sights, exploring the city's elegant boulevards, historic landmarks, and rich imperial heritage.
Bratislava	Dinner	Dinner is on your own.

DAY 7 Thursday, May 20th

Tennis club **Tennis** 2h of tennis per group in Bratislava.

Tennis club **Lunch** Lunch for tennis players.

*BonVivant
Club*

Danube bike ride

A leisurely bike ride along the Danube in Bratislava, taking in waterfront views, riverside paths, and green spaces. With a stop for lunch on the banks of the river.

Devin Castle

Private tour

A short drive from Bratislava, the dramatic ruins of Devin Castle perch above the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers. One of Slovakia's most iconic historical sites, with sweeping panoramic views over three countries.

Little Carpathian

Wine Tasting

A visit to the Little Carpathian wine region, just outside Bratislava. Traditional wine cellars in the villages of Modra or Pezinok, with a guided tasting of local Slovak wines in an authentic setting.

Bratislava

Dinner

Dinner in Bratislava.



DAY 8 Friday, May 21st

Grand Hotel
River Park

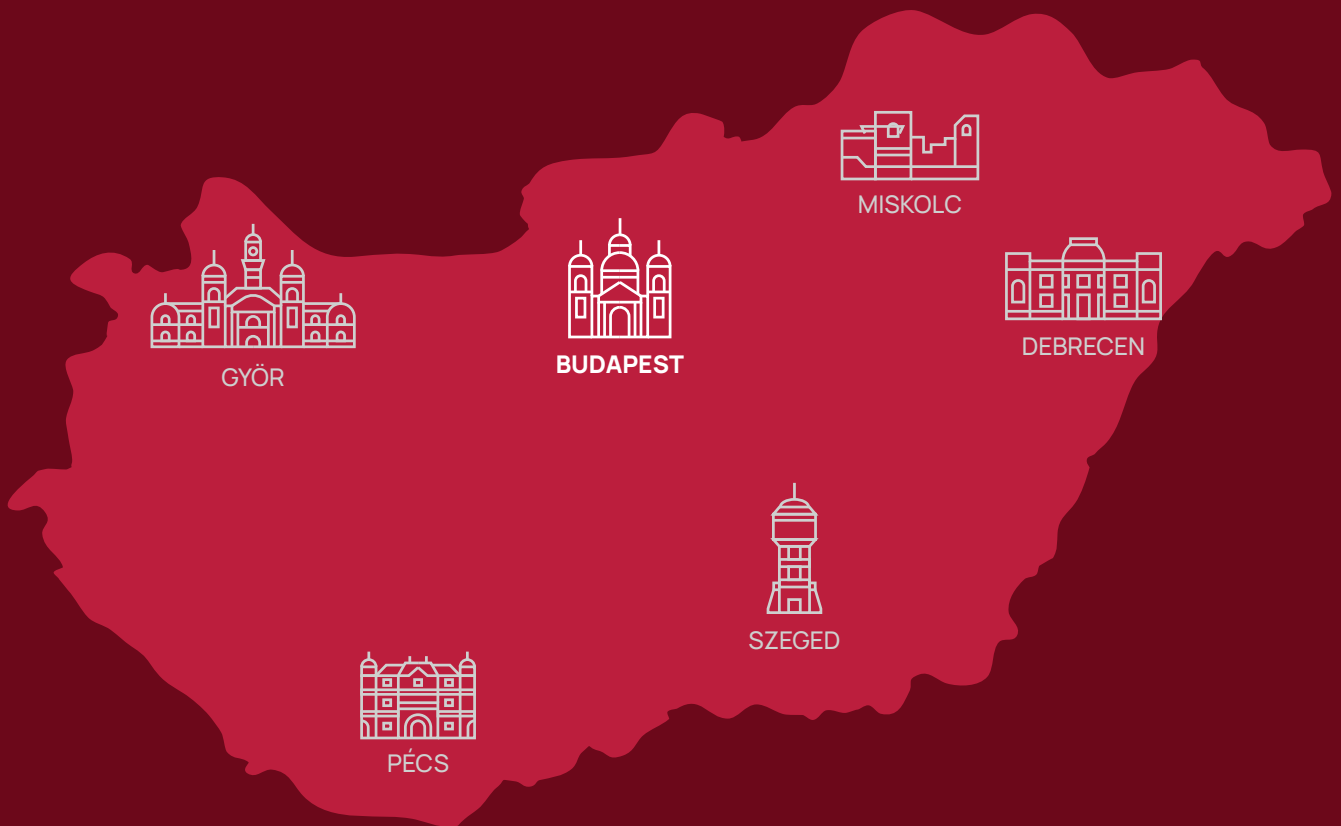
Breakfast at the hotel is followed by check-out before 12:00 pm. Private transfers will be organized to Vienna or Bratislava airports, while a shared bus transfer will be arranged in the morning to Budapest Airport.

Bon Vivant *Club*



Not everyone travels to play tennis. The Bon Vivant Club is our program for non-playing companions – a curated experience of cultural highlights, local gastronomy, and exclusive activities. While the players are on the court, Bon Vivants are discovering the destination their own way.

Hungary



Language: Hungarian

Currency: Hungarian Forint (HUF)

Capital: Budapest

Area: 93,028 km²

Population: 10 million

Hungary is one of Europe's best kept secrets. A country with a rich history, stunning architecture, and a culture that stays with you long after you leave.



Budapest

Budapest is one of Europe's most stunning capitals, split in two by the Danube River. Buda, hilly and historic, faces Pest, vibrant and cosmopolitan. Together they form a city that is grand without being overwhelming, historic without feeling frozen in time. The Parliament, the thermal baths, the bridges – Budapest has a way of surprising even the most seasoned traveler.



W Budapest

5-star hotel

A palace reimagined on Budapest's most iconic avenue

Originally built as a palace and home to Budapest's legendary ballet school, W Budapest has been boldly reimagined as one of the city's most design-forward luxury hotels. Located on Andrásy Avenue – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – directly across from the State Opera House, the hotel features 151 stylish rooms and suites, the signature Le Petit Beefbar restaurant, the AWAY® Spa, an indoor pool, and the iconic W Lounge.





Dining

Le Petit Beefbar – the hotel's signature restaurant, embraced by locals and visitors alike. The W Lounge for drinks and socializing.

Spa & Wellness

AWAY® Spa with full treatment menu, indoor pool, sauna, steam room, and FIT® fitness center.

Location

Andrássy Avenue 25 – steps from the State Opera House, St. Stephen's Basilica, and the city's best restaurants.



Rooms

151 stylish guest rooms and suites, each designed with bold interiors, city views, and luxurious bathrooms.

Budapest

Must-Sees





Hungarian Parliament Building

Standing on the banks of the Danube, the Hungarian Parliament is one of Europe's most breathtaking buildings – and one of the largest parliamentary buildings in the world. Built between 1885 and 1904 in neo-Gothic style, it took nearly 20 years to complete, using 40 million bricks, half a million precious stones, and 40 kilograms of gold.

Its central dome rises exactly 96 meters – a deliberate nod to the year 896, when the Hungarian people first settled the Carpathian Basin. With 691 rooms, 29 staircases, and a facade that glows magnificently when reflected in the Danube at night, it is impossible not to stop and stare.



Fisherman's Bastion

Perched on Castle Hill in the Buda district, Fisherman's Bastion is one of Budapest's most romantic and visually striking landmarks. Built between 1895 and 1902, its seven neo-Romanesque towers each represent one of the seven Hungarian tribes who founded the nation in 895. It was designed purely as a panoramic terrace to be enjoyed by the public. And what a terrace it is. From here, you have an uninterrupted view of the Danube, the Parliament, the Chain Bridge, and the entire Pest skyline. One of the best views in Europe.



Buda Castle

Dominating Budapest's skyline from atop Castle Hill, Buda Castle has stood over the city for more than 700 years. First built in the 13th century to defend against Mongol invasions, it was destroyed and rebuilt multiple times – by Hungarian kings, Ottoman rulers, Habsburgs, and Soviet bombardment. Today it houses the Hungarian National Gallery, the Budapest History Museum, and the National Library. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is as much a living chronicle of Hungarian history as it is a landmark.



Budapest by night, Buda Castle and Chain Bridge over the Danube.

Chain Bridge

Budapest's most iconic bridge has a story behind it. Count István Széchenyi missed his father's funeral because the Danube was too rough to cross. He resolved to build a permanent bridge – and the result, completed in 1849, was the first to connect Buda and Pest. Blown up by retreating German troops in 1945 and rebuilt exactly 100 years after its opening. At night, lit up against the Danube and Buda Castle, it is one of the most beautiful sights in Budapest.

St. Stephen's Basilica

Budapest's largest church took 54 years and three architects to build – partly because the dome collapsed in 1868, forcing construction to start almost from scratch. Completed in 1905, its dome rises exactly 96 meters, the same height as the Hungarian Parliament, symbolizing the equal importance of spiritual and civic power. Inside, it houses Hungary's most sacred relic: the mummified right hand of St. Stephen, the country's first king. Climb 364 steps to the top for a panoramic view of the entire city.





Great Market Hall

Budapest's largest and oldest indoor market, opened in 1897. Three floors, 10,000 square meters, and a roof covered in colorful Zsolnay tiles that make it look more like a cathedral than a market. On the ground floor, fresh produce, Hungarian paprika, salami, and Tokaji wine. On the upper level, food stalls serving lángos and goulash alongside souvenir shops. The best place in Budapest to taste Hungarian cuisine and take something home.

Hungarian State Opera House

One of the most beautiful opera houses in the world, built between 1875 and 1884 on Andrassy Avenue. Emperor Franz Joseph funded its construction with one condition – it could not be larger than the Vienna State Opera. Despite that constraint, the Budapest Opera House ranks third in Europe for acoustics.



Széchenyi Thermal Baths

The largest medicinal bath complex in Europe, opened in 1913 inside a stunning neo-Baroque palace in City Park. Budapest sits on more than 1,000 thermal springs – a geological fact the Romans discovered 2,000 years ago and the Ottomans expanded in the 16th century. Széchenyi has 15 indoor pools and 3 grand outdoor pools, fed by thermal springs at 77°C from nearly 1,200 meters underground.



VIZIPIPA
WATERPIPE
SHISHA

KONCERT

Ruin Bars



In the early 2000s, a group of young entrepreneurs saw something different in Budapest's abandoned buildings — charm. Located in the city's historic Jewish Quarter, these derelict spaces were transformed into bars, filled with mismatched furniture, graffiti, vintage bathtubs, and whatever else could be dragged in. The result became one of Budapest's most unique cultural exports. The original and most famous is Szimpla Kert, opened in 2004 on Kazinczy Street. Today, ruin bars are as much a part of Budapest as the Parliament or the thermal baths.

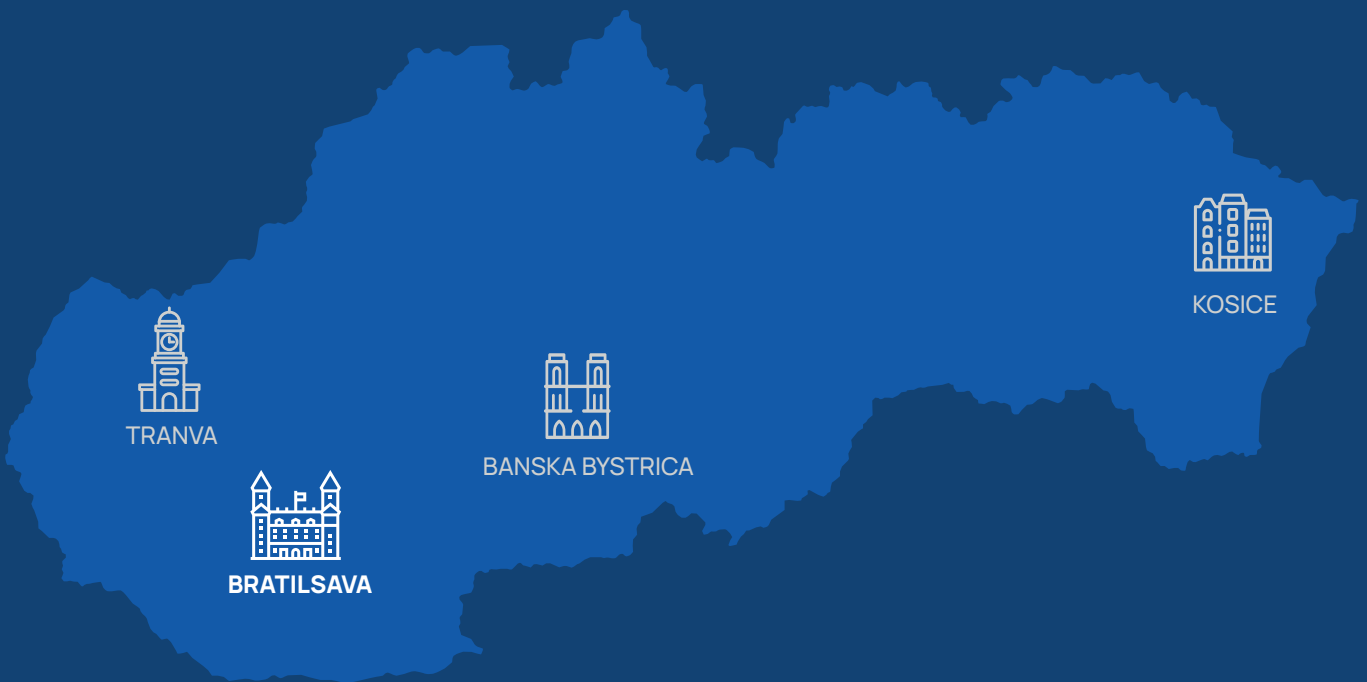
Hungarian Cuisine

Hungarian food is hearty, rich, and built around one ingredient above all else: paprika. Brought to Hungary during the Ottoman occupation, paprika went on to define the country's entire culinary identity. The must-try dishes: goulash, a thick beef and paprika soup that warms you from the inside out; chicken paprikash, a creamy stew served with egg dumplings; lángos, deep-fried dough topped with sour cream and cheese — Budapest's ultimate street food; and Dobos torte, a legendary layered chocolate and caramel cake. And don't leave without trying Tokaji wine, Hungary's golden dessert wine with over 500 years of history.



And don't miss the kürtőskalács — the chimney cake you'll smell before you see it. Originating in Transylvania, this spiral pastry rolled in sugar and cinnamon and baked over hot coals is now one of Budapest's most iconic street foods.

Slovakia



Language: Slovak

Currency: Euro (€)

Capital: Bratislava

Area: 49,035 km²

Population: 5.4 million

Slovakia is a small, landlocked country in the heart of Central Europe that most travelers overlook – and that’s exactly what makes it special. Slovakia joined the European Union in 2004, and only became an independent country in 1993, after the peaceful separation from Czechoslovakia known as the Velvet Divorce. Medieval castles, dramatic mountain landscapes, and a charm that feels genuinely undiscovered.





Bratislava

Bratislava sits on the banks of the Danube, just 35 miles from Vienna – and the proximity shows. This small, charming capital is the only one in the world that borders two different countries, Austria and Hungary. For nearly 300 years, from 1536 to 1830, Bratislava was the capital of the Kingdom of Hungary, and eleven kings and queens were crowned here. Mozart performed in the city when he was just six years old. Today, Bratislava is compact, walkable, and genuinely local.

Grand Hotel River Park

5-star hotel

Danube views and world-class wellness in the heart of Bratislava

Situated on the banks of the Danube in downtown Bratislava, the Grand Hotel River Park is the only Marriott Luxury Collection property in Slovakia and a multiple winner of Slovakia's Leading Hotel award. Its 231 rooms and suites all span at least 35 square meters, with views of either the Danube or Bratislava Castle. The ZION SPA LUXURY on the 11th floor offers 1,500 square meters of wellness facilities with panoramic river views. The RIVERBANK Restaurant and Lobby Lounge both open onto a terrace overlooking the Danube promenade. The Old Town is a 15-minute walk along the riverbank.





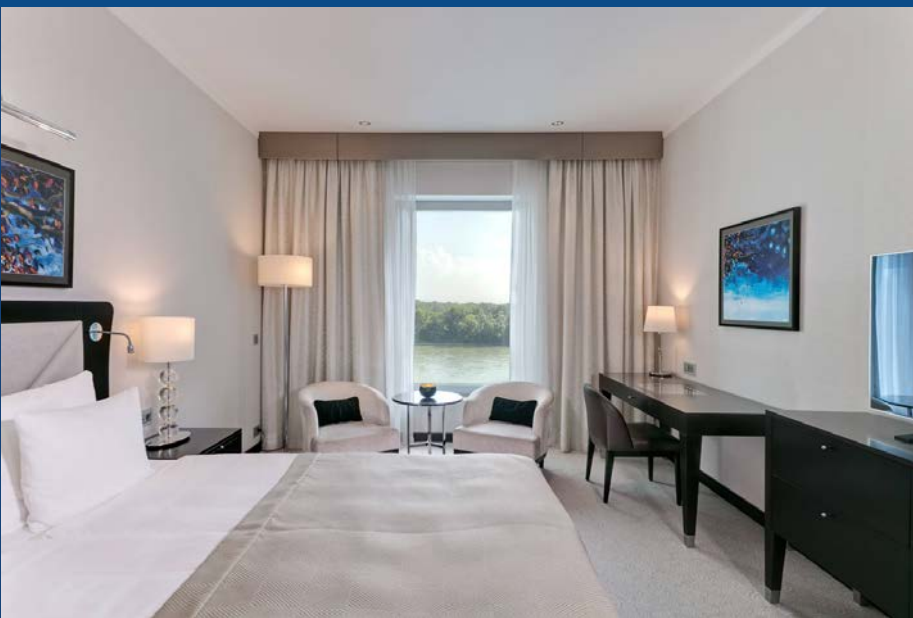
Dining

The RIVERBANK Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with an outdoor terrace overlooking the Danube promenade. The Lobby Lounge houses the largest wine cellar in Slovakia, ideal for cocktails, coffee or an evening glass of wine.

Spa & Wellness

ZION SPA LUXURY: Located on the 11th floor with panoramic river views, the spa offers 1,500 square meters of wellness facilities including an indoor pool, two jacuzzis, Finnish and steam saunas, and a full menu of wellness treatments and skin therapies.

Fitness: A fully equipped fitness center with 21 cardio machines, all with unobstructed views over the Danube.



Rooms

231 rooms and suites, each spanning at least 35 square meters with sweeping views of either the Danube River or Bratislava Castle.

Bratislava

Must-Sees





Bratislava Castle

Perched 85 meters above the Danube on a rocky hill at the heart of the city, Bratislava Castle has dominated the skyline for centuries. Its history stretches back to 907, though the hill itself was settled long before, by Celts, Romans, and Slavic princes. For over 200 years it housed the crown jewels of Hungary in its oldest tower. Destroyed by fire in 1811 when a careless soldier set the military barracks ablaze, it lay in ruins for over a century before being rebuilt. Today it houses the Slovak National Museum and offers panoramic views stretching all the way to Austria and Hungary.



Old Town

Bratislava's Old Town is one of Central Europe's most compact and atmospheric historic quarters. Cobblestone streets, pastel Baroque facades, hidden courtyards, and a riverside promenade — all within a few minutes' walk of each other. The Main Square has been the heart of the city since the Middle Ages, still lined with palaces, cafés, and the Old Town Hall dating back to the 13th century.

St. Martin's Cathedral

The largest and oldest church in Bratislava, consecrated in 1452 and built directly into the city's medieval defensive walls, its 85-meter tower once served as a military bastion. For 267 years, from 1563 to 1830, it was the coronation church of the Kingdom of Hungary. Eleven kings and eight queens were crowned here, including Maria Theresa. To this day, its spire is topped by a 300-kilogram gilded replica of the Hungarian royal crown.



St. Martin's Cathedral



Michael's Gate

Michael's Gate

Built around 1300, Michael's Gate is the only surviving city gate from Bratislava's original medieval fortifications – the other three were demolished in the 18th century. Its 51-meter tower houses a museum of medieval weapons and a sixth-floor balcony with panoramic views over the Old Town. Look up at the top and you'll find a statue of St. Michael slaying a dragon, added in 1758. And directly underneath the gate, a marker on the ground shows the distances from Bratislava to 29 other capitals around the world.

UFO Observation Deck

Perched 95 meters above the Danube on top of the New Bridge, the UFO is exactly what it looks like – a flying saucer hovering over the river. Built in 1972 during the Communist era, its futuristic design was radical for its time and remains one of Bratislava's most iconic silhouettes. From the open-air observation deck, you get a 360-degree panoramic view of the city, the castle, and on a clear day, views stretching all the way to Austria and Hungary – up to 100 kilometers away. Bar and restaurant on site. Worth every step.





Devín Castle

Ten kilometers west of Bratislava, perched 212 meters above the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers, Devín Castle is one of the most important archaeological sites in Central Europe. Settled since the Stone Age, fortified by Celts and Romans, and later a Great Moravian stronghold, it has been a border point between empires for over a thousand years. In 1809, Napoleon's retreating troops blew it up with explosives. The ruins that remain are striking — and the view over two rivers and three countries is unforgettable. During the Cold War, the castle sat directly on the Iron Curtain, heavily guarded to prevent citizens from escaping to the west.



Little Carpathians

Just north of Bratislava, the Little Carpathians stretch for nearly 100 kilometers along the western edge of Slovakia — a ridge of forested hills that has been producing wine since the time of the Celts and Romans. The south-facing slopes, warm summers and cool autumns create ideal conditions for white wines, particularly Welschriesling and Grüner Veltliner. The charming towns of Modra and Pezinok are the heart of the region, each with centuries-old cellars, local winemakers, and a pace of life that feels entirely removed from the city just half an hour away.



Parktenisz

Founded in 1908, Parktenisz is one of the oldest and most traditional tennis clubs in Budapest. Known for decades as "Blöke" – a nickname the entire city used – the club hosted legendary Davis Cup matches on its center court featuring József Asbóth, the 1947 French Open champion and the first Hungarian and first Eastern European player ever to win a Grand Slam singles title.

To this day, he remains the only Hungarian man to have won a Grand Slam. His talent was discovered by French legend Henri Cochet, and to travel to Wimbledon he needed a personal guarantee from the King of Sweden, because Hungary's Communist government refused to let him leave the country. Today Parktenisz offers 12 courts and welcomes players year-round. This is where we will spend our mornings on the court in Budapest.



The club sits alongside Feneketlen-tó – the "Bottomless Lake" – a peaceful urban park with terraces, greenery, and birdlife, one of the most charming spots in the Buda side of the city.



Szentendre

Just 20 kilometers north of Budapest, Szentendre is one of the most charming towns in Hungary, and also the most unusual. In the late 17th century, Serbian, Dalmatian and Greek settlers fleeing Ottoman occupation arrived and transformed what was a quiet medieval town into a vibrant cultural melting pot. Their influence is still visible everywhere: colorful Baroque houses, Serbian Orthodox churches, and a Mediterranean atmosphere that feels surprisingly un-Hungarian. Today Szentendre is known as an artists' colony, home to over 200 artists, 10 art museums and 6 galleries, all within a few cobblestone streets along the Danube.







Flag Ship Restaurant

One of the largest restaurants in Europe, housed inside a former Baroque monastery in the heart of Bratislava's SNP Square. With 450 seats across three floors and two outdoor terraces, the atmosphere is unlike anything else – dimly lit passages, wooden interiors, and ceilings that transport you back centuries. The menu focuses on traditional Slovak cuisine: bryndzové halušky, goulash, roast pork with sauerkraut and bread dumplings. And the beer? Brewed on site, in the monastery's own microbrewery. This is where we will share dinner with the group.

Slovak Cuisine

Slovak cuisine is hearty, honest, and built around a handful of ingredients that have sustained generations through long winters. Potatoes, sheep cheese, pork, sauerkraut and dumplings are the foundation of almost everything. The dish you absolutely have to try is bryndzové halušky – potato dumplings smothered in bryndza, a creamy sheep cheese unique to Slovakia, topped with crispy bacon. It is the national dish, and nothing else comes close. Also worth trying: kapustnica, a rich sauerkraut soup with smoked sausage; and lokše, thin potato flatbreads served with roasted duck.



Beer has been brewed in Bratislava since the Middle Ages, and the city takes it seriously. While large commercial brands like Zlatý Bažant dominate the market, the craft beer scene has exploded in recent years. Small breweries throughout the Old Town brew their own unfiltered lagers and pilsners on site – fresh, complex, and nothing like what you find in a bottle. The Flag Ship Restaurant brews its own beer in a monastery microbrewery on the premises. And if someone offers you a borovička – a juniper berry spirit unique to Slovakia – do not say no.

Austria



Language: German

Currency: Euro (€)

Capital: Vienna

Area: 83,879 km²

Population: 9.2 million

EU member since 1995

Austria sits at the heart of Europe, shaped by centuries of Habsburg rule and the grandeur of an empire that once stretched across the continent. Three quarters of its landscape is covered by the Alps – but it is Vienna, its magnificent capital on the Danube, that draws travelers from every corner of the world. A country of imperial palaces, world-class music, legendary coffee houses, and an elegance that feels effortless.

Vienna

Vienna was the capital of the Habsburg Empire – the political and cultural center of a realm that stretched from Spain to Hungary. That legacy is visible on every corner: imperial palaces, grand boulevards, Baroque churches, and world-class museums. Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Schubert, and Brahms all lived and worked here. The Vienna Philharmonic, the State Opera, and the Musikverein remain among the finest musical institutions in the world. Its historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. And yet Vienna never feels like a museum – it is one of the most livable, walkable, and vibrant cities in Europe, consistently ranked among the best cities in the world for quality of life.





Vienna

Must-Sees





Schönbrunn Palace

The summer residence of the Habsburg emperors for nearly two centuries, Schönbrunn is Austria's answer to Versailles — and some would say it surpasses it. Built in its current form under Empress Maria Theresa in the 1740s, the palace has 1,441 rooms, 40 of which are open to visitors. Mozart performed here for the imperial family at age six. Napoleon used it as his headquarters. Emperor Franz Joseph was born here, lived most of his life here, and died here in 1916. The gardens include the world's oldest zoo, founded in 1752, and the Gloriette — a hilltop colonnade with panoramic views over Vienna. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996.



Hofburg Palace

If Schönbrunn was the Habsburgs' summer home, the Hofburg was their power base. Built in the 13th century as a medieval fortress in the heart of Vienna, it grew over 600 years into one of the largest palace complexes in the world – 18 wings, 19 courtyards, and 2,600 rooms. For centuries it was the winter residence of the Habsburg emperors and the political center of an empire that stretched across much of Europe. Today it houses the Sisi Museum, the Imperial Apartments, the Spanish Riding School with its famous Lipizzan horses, the Austrian National Library, and the offices of the President of Austria. It is impossible to visit Vienna without walking through it.

The State Hall of the Austrian National Library is arguably the most beautiful room in Vienna. Built in the 1720s for Emperor Charles VI, the baroque hall stretches 80 meters long and 20 meters high, lined with over 200,000 books on carved wooden shelves and crowned by a stunning ceiling fresco. The collection includes manuscripts from the 14th century and the 1457 Mainz Psalter – the oldest printed book with colored ornamentation in the world. Prince Eugene of Savoy donated 15,000 volumes alone, a collection worth more than his own palace.



The Spanish Riding School



Austrian National Library

The Spanish Riding School was founded in 1565 and is the oldest classical riding school in the world. The white Lipizzan stallions perform in the baroque Winter Riding School inside the Hofburg – one of the most beautiful rooms in Vienna. The horses are born dark and only turn white between the ages of six and ten. It takes six to eight years of training before a stallion is ready to perform. A UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage since 2010.

Sisi Museum is dedicated to Empress Elisabeth – wife of Emperor Franz Joseph and one of the most fascinating figures in European history. Born in Bavaria, she arrived at court at 15, and spent the rest of her life rebelling against its suffocating rules. More than 300 personal objects tell her story: dresses, jewelry, travel accessories, her private fitness equipment, and her death mask. She was assassinated in Geneva in 1898. The museum is intimate, emotional, and unlike anything else in the Hofburg.



St. Stephen's Cathedral

The heart of Vienna for nearly 900 years. Built in 1147 and rebuilt in Gothic style from the 14th century, its 136-meter south tower dominates the city skyline. The roof is covered with 230,000 glazed tiles arranged in the pattern of the Habsburg double-headed eagle. Mozart was married here in 1782 and his funeral was held here in 1791. During WWII, a German captain ignored orders to destroy it. Climb 343 steps to the top for one of the best views in Vienna.





The Ringstrasse

In 1857, Emperor Franz Joseph ordered the demolition of Vienna's medieval city walls and in their place built one of the grandest boulevards in the world. The 5.3-kilometer Ringstrasse encircles the old city, lined with the State Opera, the Parliament, the Burgtheater, the Natural History Museum, the Art History Museum and the Hofburg — all built within a few decades. The best way to see it is on foot or by tram, at any hour of the day.



Belvedere Palace

Built between 1717 and 1723 as the summer residence of Prince Eugene of Savoy — one of the greatest military commanders in European history. Today it houses Austria's most important art museum, home to the world's largest collection of Gustav Klimt paintings. The centerpiece is *The Kiss* — painted in 1907 and covered in gold leaf, it is one of the most recognized paintings in the world. Nothing prepares you for seeing it in person.



The Golden U

Just steps from St. Stephen's Cathedral, three pedestrian streets form what Viennese call the "Golden U": Kohlmarkt, Graben and Kärntner Strasse. Kohlmarkt is Vienna's most exclusive shopping street. Walking toward the cathedral you reach the Graben, one of the most beautiful pedestrian streets in Europe, home to the iconic Plague Column. In 1679, the Great Plague devastated Vienna, with estimates suggesting up to 75,000 deaths. Emperor Leopold I fled the city and vowed to erect a monument if the epidemic ended. The column, completed in 1693, is one of the most ambitious Baroque sculptural works in Europe. Leopold himself is shown kneeling in prayer at its base.

Vienna State Opera

One of the greatest opera houses in the world, opened in 1869 as the first major building on the Ringstrasse. Gustav Mahler directed here from 1897 to 1907, transforming it into the artistic institution it is today. Largely destroyed by bombing in March 1945, it was meticulously rebuilt and reopened in 1955 with Beethoven's *Fidelio*. Today it produces 50 to 60 different operas per year. The Vienna Philharmonic recruits its members exclusively from the State Opera orchestra. You don't need to love opera to be moved by the building.



Naschmarkt

Vienna's most famous market, in operation since the 16th century. Over 1.5 kilometers of stalls stretching along the Wienzeile, with more than 130 vendors selling fresh produce, spices, cheeses, meats, olives, and street food from every corner of the world. On Saturdays, a flea market takes over the western end.



Canton
HOTEL

BAR DRINKS	

PASTRY	

PIZZA	

POOLS	

BREADS	





Viennese Coffee Houses

In Vienna, a coffee house is not a place to grab a quick cup and leave. It is a place, as UNESCO put it, "where time and space are consumed, but only the coffee is found on the bill." The tradition dates to 1683, when the first coffee house opened following the Turkish siege of the city. By 1900 there were over 600 in Vienna. Sigmund Freud, Gustav Klimt, and Stefan Zweig all had their regular tables. Coffee arrives on a silver tray with a glass of water. Waiters in tuxedos never rush you. The culture was declared UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011. Order a Melange, find a seat, and stay as long as you like.

Viennese Cuisine

Viennese cuisine is the product of an empire. For centuries, Vienna absorbed culinary influences from Hungary, Bohemia, Italy and the Balkans, blending them into a kitchen that is hearty, refined and deeply satisfying. The dish everyone must try is the Wiener Schnitzel, a thin veal cutlet breaded and fried to a perfect golden crisp, served with potato salad and a wedge of lemon. The recipe is said to have arrived from Milan in the 19th century and never left. Tafelspitz, slowly boiled beef served with horseradish and apple sauce, was Emperor Franz Joseph's favorite daily meal. Goulash, brought from Hungary, is on every menu.



For dessert: apple strudel, warm and flaky from the oven; Kaiserschmarrn, a shredded caramelized pancake served with plum compote; and of course the Sachertorte – two layers of chocolate cake with apricot jam, invented in 1832 by a 16-year-old apprentice named Franz Sacher. The best place to try it is Café Sacher, directly across from the State Opera. For the full traditional experience, go to Figlmüller – open since 1905, famous for a schnitzel so large it doesn't fit the plate. Or to Griechenbeisl, the oldest restaurant in Vienna, where Beethoven, Mozart and Mark Twain all had their table.



(+1) 513 489 9700

bonjourtennisfantasies.com

info@bonjourtennisfantasies.com

[@ bonjour.tennis.fantasies](https://www.instagram.com/bonjour.tennis.fantasies)