Debrecen Flower Festival 15-21 August 2007

Debrecen Jazz Days 6-9 September 2007

Information: H-4026 Debrecen, Hunyadi u. 1–3. Phone: +36 52 518 400 - Fax: +36 52 518 404 - E-mail: info@fonixinfo.hu - www.fonixinfo.hu
Debrecen is the second largest city in Hungary, the scientific and cultural centre of the eastern part of the country, the city of festivals. For long it has been the stronghold of Protestantism, which is why Debrecen is often called the “Calvinist Rome”. Thousands of visitors seeking a cure or recreation take advantage of its medicinal spa, and its colleges and universities have over 20,000 students. Its festivals - the Spring Festival, the Autumn Festival, the Flower Festival, the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition, the Military Band Festival, and the Jazz Festival to mention only the most significant ones - are attended by several hundred thousand people every year. The city has over 200,000 inhabitants. It lies in the northeastern part of the Hungarian Great Plain, 220 kilometres from Budapest. As for the precise geographical location of the city, it lies at latitude 47° 32’ 10” north and longitude 21° 38’ 40” east, i.e. at the same longitude as the Finnish town Turku and the Norwegian Hammerfest, the northernmost town in the world, and at the same distance from the Equator as Graz, Basel, Dijon and Seattle. Thanks to its sister cities and partnership links, Debrecen has made its name known on three continents.
The name of the town first appeared in a written document in the Várad Regestrum of 1235. Debrecen was only one of the many little villages in the region until the beginning of the 13th century. Owing to its landlords it had grown to be a major settlement in the period after the invasion of the Mongols, by the beginning of the 14th century. Saint Andrew’s Church was built in early Gothic style in 1311. The Parish Council was formed in 1332; in 1361 the settlement received the privilege of a market-town from Louis I (the Great), who granted the town the right to elect its own judges and that a citizen of Debrecen could not be brought before a court in another settlement; then in 1405 King Sigismund granted the town privileges that only Buda, the capital had previously enjoyed: the people of Debrecen were entitled to hold two national markets every year and were permitted to build a wall around the town.

The town was given further privileges in the 15th century (for example the number of national markets grew to four, it received tax and customs exemptions extending to the whole territory of the country), artisan guilds were founded and rich merchants appeared in the town. Yet, the historical changes afflicting Hungary in the 16th century did not spare Debrecen. After the country had been split, the town found itself at the border of the three separate parts of the country, paying taxes to both Vienna and the Turkish Porte. Multiple taxation and the aldermen’s policy of looking for compromise could not save the town from troops levying tribute. However, an unprecedented cultural development started in Debrecen after the Reformation – especially Calvinism – had gained ground. The new religion soon took root in the town. Education in the native language started with the foundation of the Calvinist Reformed College in 1538, based on the already existing humanist school. The College drew students from the surrounding area and even from more distant parts of the country. By the end of the 17th century, after the Turks had been chased out of the country, the Habsburgs’ influence increased. Leopold I raised Debrecen to the rank of Free Royal City in his charter of 11th April 1693. The appearance of the city underwent significant changes in the first half of the 19th century. The new building of the Reformed College was built between 1804 and 1816 (following Mihály Péchy’s designs). The Great Church was erected between 1807 and 1821, and later became the symbol of the city.

The city played an important part in the revolution of 1848-49. The Hungarian government transferred its seat from the endangered capital to Debrecen. The Parliament also held its session in the “stronghold of freedom”, in the Ora-
tory of the Reformed College and in the Great Church. The dethronement of the Habsburg dynasty was declared right here on 14th April 1849. After the war of independence ended in defeat, Emperor Francis Joseph visited the town of the ‘dethronement’ several times. By the time of his second visit in 1857, the railway had reached Debrecen. Factories were built, branches of banks and insurance companies opened at the end of the 19th century, in the age of the industrial boom. The 20th century found Debrecen in the forefront of the country again. The recovery of the economy brought about the acceleration of urbanisation and the population of the city almost doubled within 50 years. Debrecen had a modern telephone network at the beginning of the 20th century, electric street lighting had been installed by 1908 and trams replaced the city steam engine in 1911. In 1914 a state-run university was established on the base of the faculties of theology, law and arts of the Reformed College, and it continued to operate in the building of the College for a while. The research institutes of the medical university were established between the two world wars.

World War II was a hard time for Debrecen. It became an area of operations in 1944 as the frontline came close to the city. Whole quarters were razed to the ground in the bombing. The Déri Museum and the Reformed College were seriously damaged, and the eastern spire of the Great Church was burnt down. Moreover, one of the greatest tank battles of the war took place near the town. Despite the destruction, the town soon recovered: the Provisional National Assembly held its first session and the Provisional National Government was set up here in December 1944 – that was how Debrecen became the capital of the country for the second time. Faithful to the traditions, it was in the Oratory of the Reformed College that the National Assembly was in session, taking important decisions in connection with the holding of the armistice negotiations and the arrangement of the agrarian reform and the new army, to mention only the most important ones.

Fortunately, the industrialisation of the communist era did not destroy the traditions of the city and did not transform Debrecen into an industrial centre. Like everywhere in Hungary, parties were reorganised in Debrecen when political changes began at the end of the 1980’s. The first free municipal elections were held in 1990, and the city took control of its destiny again through the newly elected local government. Today, we are lucky to witness the city entering a new period of boom and prosperity.
The Great Reformed Church • Kossuth Square
The Great Reformed Church is the symbol of Debrecen. The first single-aisle church was probably built between 1291 and 1311 by local landlords. The church took its present form when – after having burnt down in a fire in 1802 – it was rebuilt following Mihály Péchy’s and József Thaler’s designs between 1819 and 1823. The organ of the Church is the work of Jakob Deutschmann, a craftsman in Vienna, and after several reconstructions it is at present the second largest mechanical organ in Hungary. The building is above all famed for its history. This was the place where Lajos Kossuth read the Declaration of Independence to the people on 14th April, 1849. The chair used by Kossuth has been a well-preserved relic of the Great Church ever since. If you are not averse to a little physical exercise, climb the western tower to get an unequalled view of the city. On your way upwards you can also see the Rákóczi Bell, which was also damaged in the fire of 1802; later, in 1873, it was recast and placed in the tower of the new church.
Opening Hours: Mon-Fr: 9am-4pm, Sat: 9am-1pm, Sun: 12am-4pm
Tel.: +36 52/412-694

The Calvinist Reformed College • Kálvin Square 16
The College was founded by professors and former students of the universities of Krakow and Wittenberg, in 1538. The main library of the College with its stock of 600,000 volumes is the largest collection of its kind owned by the Reformed Church in Hungary; some of its rarities are also unique in Europe. The Holy Bible can be read in more than 250 languages in the Bible Repository. The rooms of the Archives store 2,605 metres of volumes describing the past, the ecclesiastical life and the educational system of the Trans-Tisza region as well as the cultural life of Debrecen. The College is regarded as one of the oldest store places of Hungarian historical culture. Relics that had formerly been the everyday objects of the leading figures of Hungarian cultural and political life, such as Kazinczy’s rifle, Lajos Kossuth’s briefcase and Csokonai’s flute are preserved here. The Mineralogical Museum was mostly enriched by Pál Szőnyi’s collection consisting of 33,000 pieces, and its most famous exhibit is the meteorite that fell near Kaba in 1857. The Numismatic Repository already housed more than 6,000 medals in 1831. Permanent exhibitions: School History Exhibition, Ecclesiological Exhibition.
Opening Hours: Tues-Sat: 10am-4pm, Sun: 10am-1pm
Tel.: +36 52/516-857
Places of interest and sights

**Déri Museum • Déri Square 1**
Opening Hours: 10am-6pm daily except Mon
Tel.: +36 52/322-207, +36 52/417-577

**László Holló Commemorative Museum • Holló László Mall 20**
The painter’s former home has hosted the commemorative museum of László Holló (1887-1976) since 1978. Besides paintings made with sweeping movements and expressive colours in the spirit of the Alföld School, documents of his life can also be viewed here. The museum also hosts the exhibition of the surrealist paintings of Ernő Hrabéczy (1984-1953), another Debrecen artist.
Opening Hours: 10am-4pm daily except Mon • Tel.: +36 52/498-201

**Debrecen Literary Museum • Borsos József Square 1**
The Museum is a collector of materials representing the rich literary tradition of the town. It was based on the literary history collection of the Csokonai Circle and the City Museum. The collection of almost 50,000 objects, documents and works of art is a rich repository of the history of Hungarian literature from the age of Mihály Csokonai Vitéz to recent times. This can be viewed in the permanent exhibition “Debrecen and Hungarian Literature”.
Opening Hours: 10am-4pm daily except Mon • Tel.: +36 52/416-950

**Ferenc Medgyessy Commemorative Museum • Péterfia Street 28**
Ferenc Medgyessy was one of the most influential masters of the Hungarian plastic arts, who expressed the beauty of the Great Hungarian Plain with robust, realistic statues. The exhibition “Ferenc Medgyessy and His Life-work” opened on the 100th anniversary of the artist’s birth in the so-called Town Master’s House, built around 1810 in Classicist style.
Opening Hours: 10am-4pm daily, except Mon
Tel.: +36 52/413-572
Places of interest and sights

**The Small Reformed Church • Révész Square**
The church was built in 1600, and it too fell victim to the fire of 1727. The tower was originally topped with an onion dome, but this was damaged by high winds in 1907. It was repaired but blown off by a stronger blast later. The architects then gave a bastion-like shape to the tower and abandoned the idea of onion dome. Since then the church has also been called the “truncated church” (Csonkatemplom).

**St. Ann’s Cathedral • Szent Anna Street 15**
St. Ann’s Roman Catholic Cathedral was built between 1721 and 1746. In the recesses on the sides of the gates the statue of King St. Stephen on the left, and his son, Prince St. Emeric, on the right can be seen. The high altarpiece shows the patron saint of the church, Saint Ann, teaching Holy Mary. It is probably the work of Karl Rahl (1812-65), an Austrian painter, the master of Károly Lotz, Mór Than and Mihály Munkácsy. The oldest altarpiece portrays Saint Joseph of Calasanz, the founder of the Piarist order. The carvings of the side-altars and the Baroque sculptures are unquestionably from the 18th century. The frescoes on the ceiling showing the saints of the Árpád dynasty were painted in the great reconstruction of the 1830’s.

**Tímárház (Tanner’s House) • Nagy Gál István Street 6**
Timárház at No. 6 in Nagy Gál Street is a significant memorial to the history of manufacturing industries in Debrecen. The exhibitions mainly show the works of masters of traditional crafts from the region. We can learn about trades such as “szűrrátétes” (appliqué making for traditional Hungarian felt cloaks), dressmaking, embroidery, pottery, dyeing in blue and bone-lace making. The so-called visual workshops allow an insight into the practical tricks of the trade.
Opening Hours: Tues-Fr: 10am-5pm, Sat: 10am-2pm • Tel.: +36 52/321-260

**Debrecen University • Egyetem Square 1**
The building of the University was completed in 1933. The names of the most famous professors and students of the University and its legal predecessor, the Reformed College, have been engraved on the wall of the formal court. A monumental park in the French style, the most uniform park of the city, with a wonderful fountain and statues, can be found in front of the Neo-Baroque building.
Places of interest and sights

Csokonai Theatre • Kossuth Street 10
This outstanding work of Romantic Architecture was completed in 1865. The building is richly decorated with sculptures, calling forth the great figures of world and Hungarian theatrical life, and it is one of the main centres of cultural life in the city even today. The forefront is decorated with the statues of Melpomenae and Terphsikhorae.

Great Forest
The Great Forest, extending over 1,082 hectares was registered as the first area of preserved land in the country in the Book of Nature Reservation on October 17, 1937. The flora of the Great Forest includes 700-800 species. This magic environment hosts a number of entertaining events. Here you can find the Aquaticum Medicinal and Bathing Centre, an amusement park, a zoo, the University of Debrecen, the botanical garden of the University, the Csónakázótó (Rowing Lake) and Lake Békás among other attractions.

Great Forest Culture Park: Zoological and Botanical Garden
Ady Endre Street 1
About 1500 animals of 165 species from 5 continents can be seen in the first zoological and botanical garden in the country outside Budapest (opened in 1958). Rare exotic animals – like toucans, flamingos, ibises, gibbons, kangaroos and hippopotamuses – as well as domestic fauna and native domestic animals can be studied in a preserved area of 17 hectares within the Great Forest. The Great Forest Culture Park is the only place in Hungary to see the China leopard, golden eagle, black spider monkey, rainbow-coloured lori and six-banded armadillo.
Opening Hours: 9am-6pm daily
Tel.: +36 52/310-065, +36 52/413-515

Botanical Garden • Egyetem Square 1
Behind the University we find the Botanical Garden (1928) famous for its cactus collection, where 2500 of the 3000 known arbour species of the world can be seen. One of the glasshouse rarities of the tropical collection is a 100-year-old sago-palm, a close relation of pines. Orchids, banana trees and vanillas also bloom there.
Opening Hours: 8am-6pm daily
Tel.: +36 52/512-900 / extension 22421
Aquaticum Medicinal and Bathing Centre
Nagyerdei Park 1
Debrecen’s first bathing house was built in 1826. Great changes were introduced to the city’s bathing facilities when, in the 1930’s, 63°C thermal water was discovered on the outskirts of the city. In 1960 the baths were declared a medicinal spa. For those wanting to relax and unwind, the bathing complex in the Great Forest offers a 4-star wellness hotel, a thermal bath, outdoor swimming pools, a covered leisure pool, a wellness island, a Thai massage centre, and a restaurant offering Hungarian specialities. In addition to the numerous health services offered by the spa, there are 40 medicinal water based treatments for guests to take advantage of. The recently renovated medicinal baths include thermal baths of differing temperatures, steam cabins and open and covered thermal water pools. The medicinal spa is directly connected to the open air pools, as well as to the Mediterranean Pleasure Baths which opened in summer 2003, and which, with their special atmosphere and lush tropical vegetation create a genuine feeling of the southern seas. Guests are sure to enjoy themselves among the fun features, the wave pool, cave and Jacuzzi pools, the twisty channel, the children’s and baby pool, the climbing wall, adventure path, 11 different shaped slides and other enjoyable features.
Tel.: +36 52/514-100, Fax: +36 52/346-883
E-mail: kozpont@aquaticum.hu • www.aquaticum.hu
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Aquaticum Medicinal and Bathing Centre
- H-4032 Debrecen, Nagyerdei park 1.
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  kozpont@aquaticum.hu
  www.aquaticum.hu

Thermal Baths
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  Tel.: 52/514-189

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  Tel.: 52/514-179

Mediterranean Pleasure Baths
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  Tel.: 52/514-174
**Entertainment, conferences**

**Kölcsey Convention Centre • Hunyadi Street 1–3**
There is no larger or more modern conference centre in Eastern Hungary than the 13,000 square metre Kölcsey Centre. It is just as ideally suited for an academic or professional conference as for a cultural event. The internal space can be joined together or separated according to need, and the rooms meet the highest technical standards. The 750 seat Main Hall, the 8 Section Rooms, each seating 100, the elegant Ballroom, the Exhibition Area, the light Reception Hall and the corridors all provide an excellent environment for any lecture, ball, reception or exhibition. Everything is provided for a smooth and problem free conference – spacious rooms that can be subdivided, technical equipment to meet the demands of the 21st century, professional catering services, a restaurant, a cake shop and a bar. The Main Hall has already featured many world stars (Andras Schiff, Jan Garbarek, Chick Corea, Andrea Rost…) while the Exhibition Area has hosted several major exhibitions. The Ballroom is a great favourite for weddings. In the imposing Reception Hall and Foyer (a spacious internal area) there is also space for exhibitions and fairs. The building complex houses a 3 storey modern art gallery (MODEM), an 88 bed 4 star hotel that can accommodate 192 people and underground parking for 300 cars.
Tel.: +36 52/518-400 • e-mail: kolcseykozpont@fonixinfo.hu
www.kolcseykozpont.hu

**Főnix Hall • Kassai Avenue 28**
Debrecen’s largest public arena, with space for 8,000 to enjoy international competitive sports events as well as fairs and exhibitions at various times of the year and concerts and other events. On entering the arena the visitor walks straight into the sports hall. On all sides of the competition area there is retractable, telescopic seating (with mobile diagonally orientated seating sections in the corners). For a concert, the whole area becomes a spacious arena. The Főnix Hall has everything in the perfect place, from the administrative offices, the technical areas, the supply entrances, the storerooms, which can be subdivided according to need, to the changing rooms, the medical rooms, the electricity supply room and the weight room. Since the successful World Gymnastics Championship held in 2002 - the year the hall opened - the hall has hosted many other events, including ice hockey and hot air ballooning championships, tennis galas, and even ice skating shows. Numerous sports personalities and performing artists, including Szilveszter Csollány, Deep Purple, David Copperfield and Bryan Adams have entertained the public here.
Tel.: +36 52/505-324 • e-mail: info@fonixinfo.hu • www.fonixinfo.hu
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www.hotellycium.hu

WITH US YOU'RE RIGHT IN THE CENTRE
Ice Arena
Derék Street 33
The Debrecen Ice Centre opened its gates in May, 2004 and became one of the most modern ice halls in Hungary. The wooden-framed building constructed according to Finnish technology provides an almost 1700 m² ice surface of the highest quality for its visitors. The Ice Centre will be 3 years old in May 2007 and the organizers are going to celebrate the birthday with exciting events. The Ice Centre is open to the public almost all year and is ideal for everybody who loves ice sports. Many events can be visited such as ice hockey matches (in 4 age-groups) and ice skating galas as well as the short track student Olympic Games.
In 2005 the Ice Centre was part of one of the most significant international sports events in Debrecen: it was the training site during the Division I Ice Hockey World Championship held in the Főnix Arena. The covered ice hall with a spectators’ stand for 500 people mainly serves the leisure and sports activities of the residents of Debrecen and its surroundings.
Tel: +36 52/537-272 • E-mail: info@debrecenjegcsarnok.hu
www.debrecenjegcsarnok.hu

Debrecen Sports Swimming Pool
Zákány Street
The Debrecen Sports Swimming Pool is one of Hungary’s most modern sports facilities. A special feature is that its 50 metre competition pool can be adapted to a 33 or 25 metre pool with the help of a mobile wall. The complex also houses a teaching pool, a Finnish sauna and an outdoor thermal water pool. The pool is ideally suited for swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo competitions, as well as being the ideal location for training camps. The building was opened in 2006, and since then numerous major sports events have been held there: the Hungarian Water Polo Cup Final, the National Short Course Swimming Championship and the Volvo Cup Men’s International Water Polo Tournament. In December 2007 the pool will host the 11th Short Course European Swimming Championship.
Tel.: +36 52/506-676 • e-mail: info@sportuszoda.hu • www.sportuszoda.hu
Sports Developments in Debrecen

In the past few years the city has progressed a lot in the sphere of sport developments. The modern athletics stadium in a beautiful green belt is waiting for the people desiring to do sports. Furthermore, the largest sport stadium of the eastern region can be found here, it is the Főnix Hall, which gives home for several world competitions. In October of year 2006, the European standard Sport Swimming-Pool of Debrecen was inaugurated. In the area of the Sport Centre in Oláh Gábor Street, an electric lighting, FIFA qualified, 105x68 m size artificial grassy football field demanding every requirements will be handed over within a short time.

Debreceni Sportcentrum Kht.

Establishments being in the management of Debrecen Sport Centre Servicing Public Utility Co. offer wide range of sport programmes. The athletics stadium named after István Gyulai in 2001 and built for the World Youth Championships in Athletics of 2001 can be found in a wonderful environment. Our further establishments – mentioning the most important ones – are the followings: Hódos Imre Event Hall, Sportshall of Oláh Gábor Street, and Football Stadium. The completely renewed, enlarged and modernized Sport Hotel lying in the heart of ‘Nagyerdő’ also belongs to the Sport Centre. Establishments of the Sport Centre Public Utility Co. owing to their multifunctionality, they are suitable for organizing training camps, company programmes, sport and family days, and other programmes.

European Athletics U23 Championships

Debrecen has already arranged — in the organization of Debrecen Sport Centre Public Utility Co. — ten international competitions with great success till the end of 2006. More than 4000 sportsmen and sportswomen visited to Hungary, within it to Debrecen, and we hope that such a great number of people will visit to us again in the following years. The eleventh competition will be the continent championships of under 23 years old athletes on 12-15 July, 2007. The outstanding international athletic contest will be evidently worthy continuation of last years’ world competitions of Debrecen, and it will have positive effects on the progress of young athletes of ‘Hajdúság’.

Further information: www.u23debrecen2007.hu

11th LEN Short Course Swimming European Championships

As a great sport diplomatic success, Debrecen can make home for the Short Course Swimming European Championships of 2007. The decision of LEN, the continental federation, means that Hungary can be the host of the Sport’s continental summit events three times in chain within three years after the two events in Budapest, the Youth ECh in 2005 and the Adult ECh in 2006. Colleagues of Debrecen Sport Centre Public Utility Co. and Sport Swimming-Pool can prepare for a newer ‘water’ challenge after the Hungarian Water-Polo Cup Final coupled with the opening ceremony, the Short Course Swimming Hungarian Championships, and the International Water-Polo Tournament organized at the beginning of March 2007 and finished with Hungarian success.

Debreceni Sportcentrum Kht.

H–4032 Debrecen, Oláh Gábor u. 5.
Tel.: +36-52-514-400
Fax: +36-52-514-418
Website: www.dbsportcentrum.hu
E-mail: sportcentrum@axelero.hu

Sport Hotel***

H–4032 Debrecen, Oláh Gábor u. 5.
Tel.: +36-52-514-444
Fax: +36-52-514-445
Website: www.dbsporthotel.hu
E-mail: sporthotel@dbsportcentrum.hu

Further information:

www.u23debrecen2007.hu
MODEM
Baltazár Dezső tér 1.
The region’s largest art gallery is the MODEM Modern and Contemporary Arts Centre in Debrecen’s historical centre, in the recently renovated Baltazár Dezső Square, halfway between the Déri Museum and the Kölcsey Centre. The 4,650 square metre building, with its three storeys contains almost 3000 metres of exhibition space. On the second floor the building houses the country’s largest – more than 1300 square metres - connected display area. The MODEM contains numerous masterpieces of modern and contemporary art. In addition to the temporary exhibitions there are regular exhibitions by artists in residence and teaching events for museum professionals. The arts centre includes the ModemShop gift and bookshop, and the Művész Kávézó (Artists’ Coffee House) which regularly holds lectures on art history and philosophy, literary evenings and smaller concerts. The exhibitions are open every day except Monday, from 10.00 to 18.00; on Thursdays they are open from 14.00 to 22.00 between December 1st and April 1st, and from 16.00 to 24.00 during the rest of the year.
Tel.: +36 52/518-476 • e-mail: modem@modemart.hu
www.modemart.hu

Debrecen International Airport
Mikepércsi Avenue
Debrecen International Airport was the first - and at present the only - of Hungary’s regional airports to become a permanent customs and international airspace crossing point. The airport can accommodate and serve almost all aircraft operating in Europe. Since the airport is located right next to the city and the city centre can be reached by car in 6 minutes, it is quickly and easily accessible. For the travelling public there is free parking for 380 cars and 16 buses in front of the arrival and departure lounges. In 2006 the check-in area was enlarged to 3500 square metres and is equipped with a computerised check-in and baggage handling system, ensuring travellers enjoy a high level of service. As a result of this development the airport meets both European Union norms and international requirements. In 2006 charter flights took passengers to Greece, Tunisia, Turkey, Spain and Bulgaria, and tourists arrived in Debrecen’s hotels from Leipzig and Dresden. 2006 saw more than 40,000 travellers choosing Debrecen’s Airport, and in 2007 Egypt and Montenegro were added to the list of destinations.
Tel.: +36 52/518-800 • E-mail: office@airportdebrecen.hu
www.airportdebrecen.hu
Events in Debrecen 2007

Debrecen Marathon
15 April 2007, Kossuth Square
International running festival with a series of entertainment events.

St. Michael’s Day Spring Fair
5-6 May 2007, Bőszőrményi Street and its vicinity
The largest national flea-market in Hungary with up to 1,200 tradesmen and artisans offering their products and goods to the visitors.

Exhibition of Press Photos
22 May - 18 June 2007, Malompark Shopping Centre, Kőlcsey Centre
Apart from the capital city, this is the only place in the country where the Press Photo Exhibition is displayed. A few thousand entries from several hundred participants are submitted yearly to this nationwide competition. The exhibition comprises the prize-winning shots and a selection of other pictures chosen by the jury.

International Theatre Festival
28 May - 6 June 2007, Csokonai Theatre
The festival is a forum for the common features of the dramatic arts, the theatrical presentation of historical events, and the rich and varied forms and styles of our common theatrical roots with a Central European flavour.

Simonyi Days
1-4 June 2007, various locations around the city
The events associated with the name of Colonel Simonyi are meant to renew old civic values and traditions by attracting large crowds to the military, cultural, sport and art events in the city.

Debrecen Turkey Days
9-10 June 2007, Kossuth Square, downtown pedestrian zones
National culinary and cultural event with cooking competition, day-long flea market, turkey and piglet grilling, wine stall, beer tents, kid’s programmes as well as pop and classical music concerts.

Summer Theatre Nights in Debrecen
Date: 20 June - 15 July 2007
Venue: Inner Yard of the Ferenc Kölcsey Reformed Teacher Training College
Pleasant summer nights with open-air theatrical performances by famous theatre companies and popular artists.

Cívis Promenade
29 June - 22 July 2007, Kossuth Square
A varied market of vibrant and glittering bric-á-brac and unique pieces by local artisans with morning performances for children, and folklore shows, concerts and other musical programmes in the afternoon and evening.

European Athletics U23 Championships
12-15 July 2007, István Gyulai Athletics Stadium
(see advertisement)

EFOTT – Vekeri Lake Festival
24-29 July 2007, Vekeri Lake Youth Camp
Concerts, performances, sports programmes, parties in a cool, young style.

Debrecen Wine Carnival
3–5 August 2007, Great Forest, Békás Lake area
Wine tastings organised by selected wine producers and wineries from Mátraalja, Tokajhegyalja, Hajós-Baja, Csongrád, Badacsony and Villány-Siklós. Musical and folk-art performances on the nearby open-air stage.

Nights of Music in the Old City Hall
6–11 August 2007, Inner Yard of the Old City Hall
A free programme lasting one week between the Wine and the Flower Carnivals – mellow summer night concerts and performances by local artists entertain passers-by.

Debrecen Carnival of Flowers and Festival Week
15-21 August 2007, various locations around the city
Lively folklore events, open-air theatrical performances, concerts, art exhibitions and millions of flowers welcome visitors to Debrecen. In the evenings world famous performances en-
tertain the public on the stage set up in Kossuth Square just in front of the emblematic Great Church. This event has been organised on 20th August almost every year since 1966 in commemoration of King Stephen I, Founder of the Hungarian State, and also to celebrate the ‘new bread’ following the harvest. The event has built up an excellent international reputation. Year after year spectacular flower floats parade through the city together with Hungarian and foreign folk-dance groups, brass bands, majorette groups and standard-bearers. The procession arrives at the Stadium in the Great Forest where the marching groups and bands keep the audience entertained with spectacular displays. Besides the Flower Festival floats and the various recitals there is an open-air exhibition and market of folk artefacts, international folklore afternoons and shows and a market of flower art compositions to enchant and delight the visitors.

This year, as a novel accompaniment to the carnival is the International Cactus Exhibition and Fair, to be held in the Great Forest Park on 20th August.

**FARMER-EXPO International Agricultural and Food Industry Trade Fair**
29 August - 1 September 2007, University of Debrecen, Centre of Agricultural Sciences
Effective, wide ranging opportunities at the exhibition for participants and business partners involved in plant growing, animal breeding, game and silviculture and agricultural engineering as well as the food industry.

**Debrecen Jazz Days**
6-9 September 2007, Great Forest, Békás Pond area, Kölcsey Centre
One of the most renowned jazz events in Central Europe. Concerts by world-famous stars and local musicians representing the most diverse styles in jazz have attracted millions of people to the city since 1972.

**Great Forest Autumn Art Days**
14-28 September 2007, Debrecen University Conservatory - Liszt Hall
Children’s shows, music and literature evenings, concerts and other highlights.

**7th MOL Cup Hot Air Balloon Championship and Air show**
2-6 October 2007, Debrecen and its airspace
From 5-10 countries 40-60 hot air balloons and their crews compete to win; the competition will be even more prestigious if the organisers are successful in their bid to host the 2010 World Championship.

**Michaelmas Autumn Fair**
6-7 October 2007, Bőszörményi Street and its vicinity

**Debrecen Autumn Festival**
15-30 October 2007, Kölcsey Centre
At this joint artistic gathering the programmes are enriched by classical and pop music concerts, movie and theatrical performances, exhibitions and eurhythmic shows.

**Debrecen Literary Days**
14-17 November 2007, Vojtina Puppet Theatre
A festival of literature where the most varied ideas, works and literary figures with diverse literary approaches, world views and tastes appear at a single forum. Authors and their works are the focus of the event.

**European Short Course Swimming Championships**
13-16 December 2007, Debrecen Sports Swimming-Pool (see advertisement)

**Happy New Year, Debrecen! 2008**
30-31 December 2007, Kossuth Square
On the last day of the year large-scale concerts, a great street party and fireworks provide carefree and cheerful entertainment for the large number of visitors and locals in Kossuth Square.

*All programmes subject to change.*
Hajdú-Bihar county – “adventure, amusement, and relaxation”

Hajdú-Bihar County, the fourth largest county in Hungary, approached from Budapest either by car, on highways no. M3 and M35 and on route no. 4 and 33, or by train or aeroplane. The county of Hajdú-Bihar includes the southern sandy heaths of the Nyírség, known as the Hajdúság, in its north-eastern part; in the west and north-west lies the spectacular Hortobágy and the floodplain of the Borsod, while in the south there are the Berettyó and Kőrösi rivers. The county plays a significant role in the East-Hungarian region, and the county capital, Debrecen, has been and remains the cultural, economic and scientific centre of the Alföld and the Trans-Tisza region for centuries, a frequent destination for visitors as well.

The healing thermal mineral water
One of the most remarkable treasures of the county is the healing thermal mineral water. Thus, at a number of thermal (Balmazújváros, Hajdúdorog, Berettyóújfalu, Földes, Kaba, Polgár, Tiszacsege) and medicinal (Hajdúszoboszló, Debrecen, Hajdúböszörmény, Hajdúnánás, Püspökladány, Nádudvar) spas, visitors can enjoy a renewal of body and soul. As part of the growing health-tourism phenomenon, year by year more and more guests visit the county. The thermal spas, with 60–70 °C thermal water rich in minerals, offer an effective medical solution for those suffering from locomotion disorders, post-operative cicatrix, and infertility. The unique Aquaticum Medicinal and Bathing Centre in Debrecen, and the Aquapark of Hajdúszoboszló, the first water-slide centre in the county, offer an excellent time for all visitors. Everyone seeking refreshment, rest, and care can find something to their taste among the numerous all-inclusive wellness hotels.

The Puszta
In Hajdú-Bihar County lies the internationally renowned Hortobágy National Park, the oldest and largest in Hungary – a unique a natural treasure. The remarkable and unique flora and fauna, the rich folk traditions, and the special shepherd customs of the Hungarian puszta attract thousands of tourists each year. Riding, carriage driving, or touring over this vast territory offer an exquisite experience, while also introducing the indigenous animals and endemic plants of the plain. The Puszta welcomes all guests with a variety of horse races and equestrian shows, while the grazing herds of grey-oxen and “mangalica” pigs, or the flocks of racka-sheep often pasture in the passing shadow of the thousands of clamouring cranes on their autumn migration. Thus, this almost untouched and unique source of breathtaking natural beauty can offer unparalleled experiences for those visiting the Puszta. The Hortobágy National Park, the largest grazing plain in Europe, has become a World Heritage site. Besides Hortobágy, there are other outstanding natural phenomena such as the ancient Ohat oak thicket, the beautiful Güthi Forest, or the Erdőspuszta (forested heath) of Debrecen, and the Fancsika Lakes.
Historic sights
The 82 cities, towns, and villages welcome all guests with a number of unique and spectacular sights. Among these are the Calvary Hill of Polgár, the Gúthi Hunting Lodge, the ruins of the monastery in Herpály and the 13th century church in Nyíracsád, the oldest ecclesiastic building in the county. At the same time, the famous Reformed Great Church of Debrecen, and the nine-arched bridge of Hortobágy, the longest stone-built bridge in Europe are also part of the precious cultural heritage. Furthermore, the marvellous iconostas of the Greek Catholic church in Hajdúdorog, and the internationally renowned Munkácsy-trilogy in the Déri Museum are also part of this unparalleled heritage. The exceptional collections of the museums of the county offer an interesting insight into the life and history of this region, while a number of art collections, exhibitions and artistic workshops are also open to visitors. Entering the eastern Alföld region, the M3 Leisure and Archopark welcomes the visitors near Polgár: this 5 acre, multifunctional leisure and archaeological park introduces the traditional folk architecture of the region while also exhibiting the exceptional archaeological finds of the area. Besides the many leisure activities offered, the park is developing into a centre for conference tourism. Thus, this park is the obvious starting point for exploring the natural and historical treasures of Hajdú-Bihar County.

There are more than 200 nationally protected monuments. The slaughterhouse built over the river in Létavértes, the “Tubus” barns in Monostorpályi, the Bocskai Castle in Nagykereki, the Saint Agota bridge and the nine-arched bridge, with the Nagycsárda and the Shepherd’s Museum of Hortobágy also offer exceptional experiences. In Debrecen a number of monuments and buildings welcome visitors.

Folk Art
The folk art and handicrafts traditions of Hajdú-Bihar County are exceptionally rich and colourful, and the region places a major emphasis on the preservation of these centuries’ old traditions. As a result of this, several arts and crafts traditions still survive, such as the ancient black pottery of Nádudvar, or the gingerbread-making in Debrecen and Hajdúböszörmény. The famous white-embroidery of Nagy- and Kissárrét of Furta, and the craft of felt cloak embroidery in Debrecen, Derecske, and Nádudvar are nationally renowned. Plaiting became widespread during the 19th century in Hajdúnánás, and since then, the products of these craftsmen have been used extensively in the region. The craftsmen of Hajdúnánás made hats, carpet, and sacks out of the plaiting. Thanks to the saddlers of Hajdúböszörmény, this profession became an art, just like the processing and preparation of pony-skin. Drinking flasks covered with pony-skin, the unique, ornamental long whips, and other leather products are all sought after by visitors.
**Unique cuisine, traditional dishes**
Hajdú-Bihar county welcomes all its guests with unique and characteristic dishes. The tastes of the local cuisine are internationally well-known: the paired sausages of Debrecen are a common dish all around the world. These sausages, based on a traditional recipe, are lightly smoked, and then boiled, so they are delicious with mustard or horseradish, but on their own as well. These special dishes are also remarkable, because they are made of the meat of the animals of the Hortobágy. Goulash or chicken goulash tastes much better when it is made of Hungarian grey-ox or racka-sheep, as does the orja-soup of Hajdúság when made with mangalica pig and home-made shell-pasta. The restaurants of the region offer these local traditional dishes: the orja-soup, the goulash - made of beef, vegetables, and tomatoes -, for a savoury starter the pancake filled with meat, for a main course stuffed cabbage, various roasts, or turkey prepared in many different ways. You should not miss the unique “slambuc”, and the mutton stew, or goulash cooked in the open-air, in a cauldron.

**Events and festivals**
The county of Hajdú-Bihar welcomes visitors with a schedule of colourful and outstanding events all through the year. Besides the internationally famous cultural and sports events of Debrecen, the region offers many others as well: the Bridge Fair and the International Equestrian Days of Hortobágy, the Ligetalja Cultural Days, the Folk Music Festival in Nyíradony, the “Torzsás” (Stumpy) Days of Hajdúhadház, the Meeting of Bridesmen in Földes, the Bihar Days of Account, the Morotva Youth Days, and many more events in village and town festivals, spa balls, folk festivals, dance festivals, exhibitions, vintage parades, and the traditional feasts of the ‘heyduck’ towns. Furthermore, the county invites all visitors to the craftsmanship fairs, and to the horse races and shows, including the folk parades of traditional horsemen. Guests can also enjoy the specialities of the local cuisine in the Debrecen Turkey Festival, or in the Bihar Morzsóka Festival, and the Hajdúbagos Watermelon Festival, or the National Competition of Bio-Gastronomy. Every year more and more tourists visit the Hajdúszoboszló Biofood and Wine Festival, or the Debrecen Wine Festival.

**Leisure and Relaxation**
A number of splendid hotels, bed and breakfast accommodation, and friendly guesthouses offer their amenities to the visitors, while excellent restaurants and taverns welcome guests with unique and delicious dishes. At the same time, the internationally renowned thermal spas and aquaparks invite lovers of water activities, while those inspired by the beauty of nature can enjoy the peace of Ligetalja, the cosy villages of Erdőspusztá, or the unique flora and fauna of Hortobágy. The rivers of the region, the Tisza and the waterworld of Sárrét also invite fishing and hunting enthusiasts. Visit and fall in love with Hajdú-Bihar County, the home of unique tastes, remarkable natural treasures, marvellous sights, and thermal mineral water.
Useful information

Roads to Debrecen

Main roads
- from Budapest:
  - M3 motorway and Main Road 35
  - Main Road 33,
  - Main Road 4
- From Nyíregyháza Main Road 4
- From Miskolc Main Road 35
- From Szeged Main Road 47

Railroad
MÁV Railway Station
Debrecen, Petőfi tér 12.
Tel.: +36 52/346-777
Web: www.elvira.hu

InterCity ticket office, reservations:
+36 52/494-949
Ticket Office, information:
Rózsa utca 4, Tel.: +36 52/494-949

Coach
Information: Hajdú Volán
Debrecen, Külső Vásártér 12.
Tel.: +36 52/413-999
Web: www.menetrendek.hu

Airport
Airport Debrecen Kft.
Tel: +36 52/520-810
e-mail: office@airportdebrecen.hu
Web: www.airportdebrecen.hu

Public Transportation in Debrecen
Local bus service information:
Tel.: +36 52/413-333, +36 52/521-866
DKV Information (tram, trolley):
Tel.: +36 52/531-513

Parking
Street Parking 180 Ft. per hour
Underground parking 150 Ft. per hour
Inner city underground car parks:
Kölcey Centre, at the corner of Bethlen and Hatvan Streets
Halkőz Shopping Centre (Széchenyi Street)
Justice Centre (Széchenyi Street)
Parking for coaches in the city centre:
Behind the apartment blocks on Darabos, Hunyadi and Bethlen Streets, Hatvan Street, TESCO car park

Taxis
City Taxi
Debrecen, Lehel utca 14.
Tel.: +36 52/422-222, +36 52/555-555
+36 80/422-222

Főnix Taxi
Debrecen, Görgey utca 9.
Tel.: +36 52/444-444

Luggage Centre
Luggage can be stored in safety at the railway station
Hours: 06.00-22.00

Cinemas
Cinema City (Debrecen Plaza)
Debrecen, Péterfia utca 18.
Tel.: +36 52/456-111

Apolló Mozi
Debrecen, Miklós utca 1.
Tel.: +36 52/417-847

Pharmacies
Kígyó Patika
Debrecen, Széchenyi utca 1.
Tel.: +36 52/326-666, +36 52/413-546

Nap Patika
Hatvan u. 1.
Tel.: +36 52/413-115, +36 52/530-517

Rent-a-bike
Debrecen, Csapó u. 19.
Tel.: +35 52/456-220

Post Office
Debrecen 1.
Debrecen, Hatvan utca 5-9.
Tel.: +36 52/412-111

Internet Points
Go-go Internet Café
Debrecen, Kossuth utca 8.
Tel.: +36 52/536-724

Malompark Caffee-Net
Debrecen, Füredi út 27.
Tel.: +36 52/483-082

Debrecen Plaza
Debrecen, Péterfia utca 18.
Tel.: +36 52/503-701

Hospitals and Health Care
Kenézy Gyula Hospital
Debrecen, Bartók Béla út 2-26.
Tel.: +36 52/511-777

DEOE C Clinics
Debrecen, Nagyerdei körút 98.
Tel.: +36 52/411-600, +36 52/411-717

Outpatient Clinic
Debrecen, Nagyerdei körút 98.
Tel.: +36 52/404-040

Pharmacies
Kígyó Patika
Debrecen, Széchenyi utca 1.
Tel.: +36 52/326-666, +36 52/413-546

Nap Patika
Hatvan u. 1.
Tel.: +36 52/413-115, +36 52/530-517

Rent-a-bike
Debrecen, Csapó u. 19.
Tel.: +35 52/456-220

HELP LINES
Ambulance - Tel.: 104
National Ambulance Service Centre
Debrecen, Külső Vásártér utca 14.
Tel.: +36 52/414-333; Fax: +36 52/414-793

Fire Brigade - Tel.: 105
Debrecen Fire Station
Debrecen, Böszörményi út 45/46.
Tel.: +36 52/523-523; Fax: +36 52/523-514

Police - Tel.: 107
County Police Headquarters
Debrecen, Kossuth utca 20.
Tel.: +36 52/516-400

City Police Headquarters
Debrecen, Budai Észaiás utca 4.
Tel.: +36 52/416-115
Services offered by the Tourinform Office of Debrecen:

• Information about domestic tourism services  
  (accommodation, restaurants, historical sights, cultural events, leisure events and activities ...)  
• Sale of souvenirs, T-shirts, postcards, guide books, tourist brochures, the Hungarian and the Debrecen Tourism Card  
• Tickets for cultural events  
• Representative for the international ticket service network Ticketpro and Ticket Express  
• Sightseeing tours

Information:  
Debrecen, Piac u. 20. • Tel.: +36 52/412-250  
E-mail: tourinform@ph.debrecen.hu  
www.debrecen.hu
THE CITY BATHED IN SUNLIGHT