

Quilting Tour to HUNGARY

September 22 - October 01, 2010

Hosted by Magdi Csendes,
International Representative for Hungary's European Quilt Association

Meet with local quilt groups, see how the famous Hungarian Blueprints are made
Visit Hungary's wine region, fabric shopping and much more!



INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR:

ALL hotels
ALL breakfasts, 5 dinners & 2 lunches
ALL group tours and activities
ALL luggage handling at hotels
ALL land travel by private motorcoach
Transfer to Budapest Airport on October 01
Sightseeing cruise on the Danube ~ Tour of Budapest
Museums ~ Hungarian Folk Park ~ Abbey at Lake Balaton
Meet four local quilt groups for Show and Tell & exclusive quilt exhibits!
Shop for Hungarian Blue-Dye fabric, and more!
Hosted by Magdi Csendes & Escorted by a professional tour leader

Join us for this exciting QUILTING ADVENTURE!

Wed, Sep 22

Today you will board your flight for the overnight journey to Budapest. If you would like to arrive a day or two early, Traveling Together can help you arrange for early hotel nights. If you would like assistance with your air travel, please call Northwood Travel at 800-780-0571 or email them at info@NorthwoodTravel.com

Thu, Sep 23

You may arrange your flight to arrive Budapest at any time today and you will receive information on getting the hotel bus from **BUDAPEST FERIHEGY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** to our hotel. If you arrive early in the day, your tour escort will be on hand to help you get acquainted with this exciting city, making some suggestions on how to spend the afternoon in the immediate vicinity of our hotel. Just be sure to arrive in time for our **6:00PM WELCOME DINNER**, giving you the opportunity to meet everyone on the tour. Our home for the next four nights is the Danubius Hotel Astoria. The **4-STAR DANUBIUS HOTEL ASTORIA** is located in the heart of Budapest, built on the site of the medieval town walls. Opened in 1914, it was reconstructed and modernized several times, with the latest renovation being done in 2006. With its Empire-style interior décor, it is one of the most charming old-style hotels in the city and film producers and directors often take advantage of the perfect scenery for film shooting.

Fri, Sep 24

Our day begins with a **TOUR OF BUDAPEST**. The city is split down the center by the Danube River and is connected by a series of bridges. On the west side of the Danube is hilly Buda, dominated by Castle Hill. On the east side of the river is flat Pest, the heart of the city with the Great Market Hall, Parliament, and main boulevards and pedestrian shopping streets. The tour will give you a look at both sides of this large city, home to nearly two million people. Weekend shopping hours are limited, so you will have this afternoon to explore the many unique shops that Pest has to offer.



All Quilts pictured are from the Szekszárd Quilt Exhibition

Sat. Sep 25

The **HUNGARIAN PATCHWORK GUILD**, headquartered in Budapest, was founded in 1989 and has about 600 members, with approximately 2,000 more in local clubs. The Hungarian quilters participate actively in European quilt exhibitions and today you will begin to see examples of their wonderful handiwork! Ági Szomor is a member of the Budapest guild and is arranging a special morning for our group to meet with the local members at the **BUDAPEST TEXTILE MUSEUM**, where the history of the substantial Hungarian textile industry is traced and recorded. In 2008 we had a wonderful **SHOW AND TELL**, the local quilters had a small quilting project for us to work on, vendors were selling unique buttons and Hungarian embroidery designs, and we were treated to delicious refreshments! A **SIGHTSEEING CRUISE ON THE DANUBE** will complete the day!

Sun. Sep 26

Located north of the city on the Danube Bend, is **SZENTENDRE**, a postcard-pretty village with twisty Mediterranean streets and Austrian Baroque houses that has always been favored by artists as somewhere both to live and to work. This morning we'll visit the **FOLK MUSEUM**, Hungary's largest open-air museum. Located in Duna-Ipoly National Park, the museum features a large collection of Hungarian architecture from around the country. After time for lunch, we will meet the **SZENTENDRE QUILTERS**. Sofi Bihari and some of the local quilters will be our guides at the Folk Museum and the village, in addition to organizing the guild's **REGIONAL QUILT EXHIBITION** to coincide with our visit and we will be the first to view these amazing quilts!



Mon. Sep 27

MAGDI CSENDES is a member of the Board of the Hungarian Patchwork Guild and the international representative for Hungary in the European Quilt Association (EQA). She lives in Székesfehérvár, where she is also the leader of her local quilt guild. Magdi will be meeting us when we arrive today in **SZEKSZÁRD** and will be our host for the remainder of the tour. We will also be meeting **MAGDOLNA ACÉLOS**, president of the Szekszárd quilt guild. She and her guild members are arranging a **QUILT EXHIBITION**, just for us! Lunch today will be at a wonderful local restaurant in the town square, giving you a chance to taste special dishes of the region, followed by a **WALKING TOUR** of the city. Our hotel for the next two days is the charming **HOTEL ZODIACO**.

Founded in the early 11th-century, Szekszárd has a population of 36,000 people and is a famous wine-growing region that boasts 4500 wine cellars! We'll only have time to visit one, for dinner this evening. The Takler family has been working in viticulture and winemaking since the 18th century in Szekszárd. Located in a beautiful little village house on the slope of Decsi Hill, **TAKLER WINE CELLAR** is the perfect place for an evening that will include dinner and tasting the famous wines of this region.

Tue. Sep 28

Hungary is famous for their **BLUEPRINT FABRIC** and this morning we will visit a workshop that has been family-run since 1810. We will be only the second American group to visit (In 2008 we were the first!) and they are looking forward to showing us their age-old process of block printing on 100% cotton. In addition to having plenty of fabric for sale that day, there will be items made by local people from their fabric. Lunch will be at **ÉTTEREM HÁMORI**, a famous restaurant in **TOLNA**. This is where the residents eat lunch, in addition to students of the small local school. You will enjoy watching how well-behaved the students are, in addition to tasting the local cuisine. The locals and school children will enjoy looking at us, with outsiders being a rarity in this small community. Our first stop this afternoon is **BABAMŰZEUM**, sure to be a highlight of the tour! One woman has hand-made over 150 dolls, in addition to their period costumes and accessories, which represent over 200 years of Hungarian history. As an example, you will see the progression of wedding outfits, mourning clothes, and clothing worn in everyday life on the farms and in the villages. A special surprise is planned for one of our quilters! Next is a visit to **TAJHAZ**, a house with traditional Hungarian furniture, costumes and embroidery, with a chance for everyone to try traditional Hungarian cake.



Bolts of Blue Print Fabric

Wed. Sep 29

We depart Szekszárd this morning and make a stop at an **EMBROIDERY MUSEUM** in **SIÓGÁRD**, a village famous for its folk costumes and rich embroidery. The owners are a wonderful couple that will be dressed in costume and anxious to show us everything that the small museum and shop have to offer, including a chance to try on pieces of the traditional clothing

and purchase some of their beautiful handiwork. We continue on to **SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR**, one of the most ancient towns in Hungary. During the course of this tour you will have learned about Hungary's rich textile tradition, particularly in embroidery, cross-stitch, and sewing techniques. You will also have learned that although quilting is quite new to Hungary, these ladies are creating amazing works of art! This afternoon you will see more of their talent, as we take a short walk to the meeting place of the **MIDDLE-TRANS-DANUBIA QUILTERS**. As president of this guild, Magdi is anxious to show off their work!...and you'll want to be sure to pack a sample of your handiwork for the **SHOW AND TELL** they are arranging. Also invited to this event will be Margit Siposné Cseh and her group of quilters from Tatabánya. Margit is a fabric shop owner and will bring some of her self-painted fabrics to sell. To make this an event to remember, Magdi's quilters would like us to join in a **BLOCK EXCHANGE**. The squares that were exchanged in 2008 were used by Magdi's group to make quilts and auction them off, with the money having been donated to charity. If you would like to participate, you will only need to make one block measuring 12 ½" x 12 ½". When you sign up for the tour, please let us know if you plan to participate by noting it at the bottom of the registration form, so that Magdi and her quilters will know how many blocks they will need to make for the exchange. It's been another wonderful day in the world of quilting! The **NOVOTEL SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR** will be our home for two nights.

Thu, Sep 30

Today we'll drive to **TIHANY**, a village on the northern shore of Lake Balaton, where you will have time to explore the village, with its quaint old buildings, local crafts and Hungarian food offerings. Next will be a visit to the Baroque church and convent of the **BENEDICTINE ABBEY**, founded in 1055 by András I, a popular tourist attraction due to its historical and artistic significance. The interior was fully restored by 1996, after the church was returned to the Benedictine Abbey in 1994. The still functioning abbey is perfectly situated on top of the high part of town and has the best view of Lake Balaton, the largest shallow lake in Central Europe. At our farewell dinner tonight, it will be time to say goodbye to Magdi as we thank her for making our visit to Hungary a most memorable one!

Fri, Oct 01

This morning our coach will transfer us to the **BUDAPEST AIRPORT** for flights that depart 11am or later. After having received so much inspiration for new quilting projects, it's time to return home. Saying goodbye to the friends you have made on the tour will be difficult, so be sure to stay in contact with them for making plans to Travel Together on the next quilting adventure!

When we toured Hungary in 2008, several people stayed on in Budapest for an extra day and many others on the tour wished they had! After visiting the other cities, they would have liked to return for another chance to shop at the Great Market Hall. If you would like to take advantage of this **OPTIONAL NIGHT IN BUDAPEST**, we have reserved some rooms at the Danubius Astoria Hotel and our bus will drop you off after the airport stop. You can then arrange to take the hotel bus to the airport on the following day. This also gives you the option to check a second piece of luggage to hold all of those purchases!

BOOK EARLY...SPACE IS LIMITED!

Tour Price (Does not include RT air to Budapest):
\$ 2,599 per person, double occupancy
\$ 478 single supplement

Please note: In order to fully enjoy this trip and the walking tours offered you will need to be able to walk up to 5 city blocks at one time, and at a moderate pace. In addition to uphill climbs on some of the city streets (some being cobblestone) you will need to climb several flights of stairs.

Be sure to take a look at the photos from our 2008 Quilt Tour to Hungary at:
<http://www.travelingtogether.net/Traveling/PhotoGallery.htm>