



2013 Special Edition

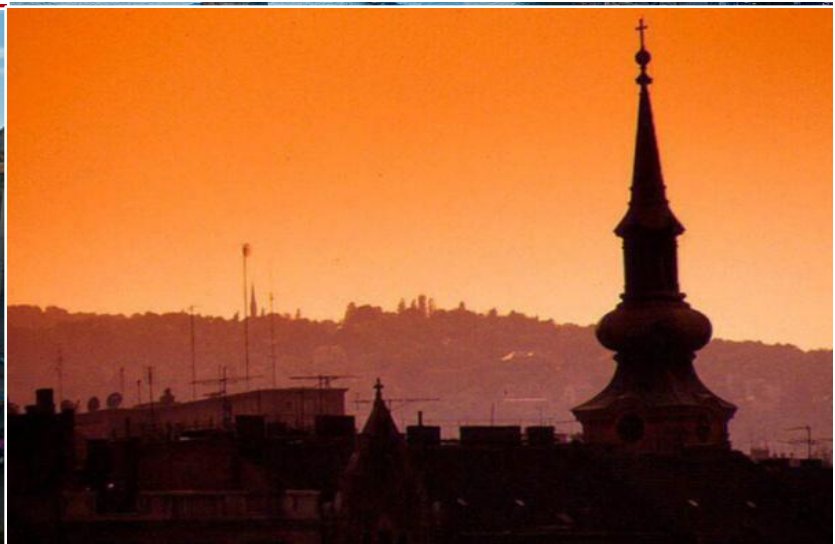
WACA World News



46th Annual General Assembly



Budapest 2013



Suhair Mahmoud
World Airlines Clubs Association
2013 Special Edition


Budapest

Two Amazing Cities in one!

Budapest..Two Amazing Cities in one!

The famed Danube River flows seamlessly through Hungary's capital, which claims a rich and varied history dating back almost 2,000 years. The city got its name as late as 1873, when three separate entities– Pest, Buda, and Obuda ("Old Buda") – merged. Pest is the commercial center of the city and flatter than its hilly counterpart across the river, Buda. There are shops and restaurants offering international and traditional Hungarian fare (think paprika-infused chicken and beef and succulent strudel for dessert) and many historic sites. Stroll down scenic Andrassy Avenue and visit the Hungarian State Opera House, a veritable jewel-box built in the neo-Renaissance and Baroque styles. Budapest is also known for its famous restorative thermal baths, havens for Hungarians and tourists alike. The very affordable Szechenyi Bath is located in the attractive City Park. Buda, on the other side of the Danube River, offers a breathtaking view of the stately Hungarian Parliament, built in the Gothic Revival style. Go there especially at night, when the city is glittering in the background.

46th Annual
General
Assembly
Hosted by the
Hungarian Club
Place: Budapest
Program A: 18 -
21st of Aug
Program B: 21-
23rd of Aug



46th Annual General Assembly
Hosted by the Hungarian Club
Place: Budapest
18th till 23rd of Aug



The AGA in Budapest this year!

Program A: 18th till 21st of Aug
Program B: 21st till 23rd of Aug



Facts about Budapest!

Fun fact for the superstitious:

Touching the pen held by the Statue of Anonymous makes you a better writer!



Impressive fact:

Budapest has been entitled the "Pearl of the Danube." To see why check out the view from the top of **Gellért Hill**.

Exciting fact:

The world's largest geothermic cave system can be found under Budapest. In addition, the largest underground lake of Europe, one of the largest in the world, has recently been discovered under **Gellért Hill**.



Fun Fact:

123 thermal springs can be found in Budapest pouring out over 80m liters of the thermal water every day.

Interesting Facts:

The largest spa complex of Europe, the Széchenyi Thermal Bath is located in Budapest. The city is famous for its bath culture dating back to the Romans times and later greatly influenced by the Turks.



Fun Fact:

Budapest used to be not two, but three cities before 1873: Buda, Pest, and Óbuda. These three settlements were united by the Habsburg rule.

Factual fact:

Several world heritage sights can be found in Budapest: the Castle District, Andrassy Avenue, Hero's Square and both banks of the River Danube between the Elizabeth and Margaret Bridge.



Useful Info about Budapest! - Part 1

Telephone:

Country Code: +36

Area Code: 1

Within Hungary: 06 + area code

Electricity:

230V/ 50Hz

Airport:

Budapest's airport, Liszt Ferenc International Airport, lies 16km south-east of the city. The airport minibus service is very convenient and has a fixed price for transport into the city. The cheapest way is to take bus 200 E from the airport to the Kobanya-Kispest underground railway station, which takes approx. 20 minutes.

Public Transportation:

Budapest has an underground railway, buses and trams. The Budapest card includes admission to over 60 museums and discounts for sightseeing, swimming, etc.

Budapest has three railway stations: Keleti, Nyugati and Deli, which are linked by the underground railway. The MAV railway company operates between the stations.

Taxi:

It is better to ask your hotel or restaurant to telephone for a taxi than to hail one on the street. Only use licensed cars with yellow registration plates.



Currency Exchange:

It is better to obtain Hungarian Forints upon arrival to Hungary than to exchange it with a bank at home, as local Hungarian banks work with better rates than their counterparts abroad. Exchanging foreign currency into Forints is therefore possible in banks, official currency exchange offices (these are affiliates of larger banks) and travel agencies.

It is important to know that all official currency exchange offices determine the exchange rate on their own accord.

They must fully inform you about their own rates, but not the real or the best exchange rate available - they build their costs into their very own rate.

The exchange rates must be visibly displayed at the place of exchange. Changing money at Budapest hotels is not advisable, as their rates are at least 10% lower than what is generally available.

Under no circumstances you should change money illegally in the street: beside the possible legal consequences, it is highly probable that you will be cheated in one of the hundred possible ways the street criminals can devise.

Most international credit cards are accepted in Budapest for shopping and currency withdrawals.



Useful Info about Budapest! - Part 1

Climate:

Hungary is located in the temperate climatic zone, on the border and under the influence of three big climatic regions: the Oceanic, the Continental and the Mediterranean.

The climate therefore is quite moody. On the hottest summer days there can be 33-38 Celsius degrees, while in the winter the temperature may even drop to -25,0 – 30,0.

Household Power (Voltage)

220/230 V

Most Important Rivers: Danube River (417 km), Tisza (597km)

Highest Peak: Kékestet (1,014 m)

Lowest Point: Gyálarét (78 m)

Largest Lake: Lake Balaton (591 km²) (the largest lake of Central Europe)

Water:

The tap water is safe to drink, Bottled water is sold with color coded labels: Pink – Non Carbonated (may have a mineral taste), Blue – Carbonated (Bubbly).



Money, Prices and Costs:

Hungary's official currency is the Hungarian Forint (HUF). There are a number of places which accept Euros too, but the exchange rate merchants tend to use is significantly lower than what one can get at a normal exchange office or a bank. The HUF coins' denominations are 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200, while the banknotes are HUF 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000 and 20000.

ATMs and credit and debit cards

In Hungary you will find a dense network of ATMs (cash machines) which will accept all major credit and debit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Plus, Maestro, Cirrus and others). The majority of shops and restaurants also accept cards.

Tips for visitors:

Cards which a shop or restaurant accepts are usually displayed in the window of the premises. If you don't see your card name there, ask before purchasing anything whether your card will be accepted.

Costs:

- 1 kilo loaf of bread: 200-300 Ft / 0.8-1.2 EUR
- 1 liter milk: 190-240 Ft / 0.7-1 EUR
- 1 bottle of beer: 200 Ft / 0.8 EUR
- 1 bottle of table wine: 500-3000 Ft / 2-12 EUR
- Eating in restaurant: 3500-5000 Ft / 14-20 EUR
- Eating in fast food restaurant : 1000-1500 Ft / 3-5 EUR
- 1 liter of petrol / gasoline (octane 95): 450 Ft / 1.5 EUR
- High-speed internet per month: 6-12000 Ft / 24 - 28 EUR per month
- Taxi: 250-300 Ft /km / 1-1.2 EUR
- Cinema ticket: 1500 Ft / 5 EUR
- Museum entry fee: 500-1200 Ft / 2-5 EUR
- Pool entry fee: 1500 - 3500 Ft / 5 - 12 EUR

History of Budapest! - Part 1



Traces have been found of settlements dating back as far as the Old Stone Age. People lived on both sides of the Danube, where Budapest now stands; in the second millennium BC Bronze Age urn sites have also been uncovered. In the 6th C. BC Scythians from the Black Sea region settled here, and there are signs of Celto-Illyrian tribes having been here in the 4th/3rd C BC.

A decisive factor in the town's development was the building of a Roman fort in what is now Óbuda. The Roman base of Aquincum, separated into civilian and military districts, was the capital of the province of Pannonia and flourished during the second half of the 2nd C BC.

In the 5th C A.D. the Huns swept across the country, and King Attila set up a great new kingdom in what is now Hungary. From the 6th to the 9th C the Avars settled where Budapest now stands. About 896 the Magyars led by Prince Árpád settled in the area of present-day Óbuda. Later on they migrated to the hills further west to take advantage of the greater protection they offered.

Around the year 1000 Stephen (István) I, King of Hungary, organized a feudal state on the Central European model and introduced Christianity. A few years' later merchants from central and Western Europe settled in Buda and Pest and helped both places to develop rapidly. In 1241-42 Mongols stormed the Danube towns of Buda and Pest. A few years later the construction of the Castle of Buda ordered by King Béla IV was completed. The royal court moved to Buda in 1347 again, when work was begun to expand the fortification into a palace in contemporary Gothic style. From then on Buda became a royal town, while Pest developed into a prosperous trading center. In the second half of the 15th C Matthias Corvinus extended the Royal Palace and Buda, together with Visegrád, became a center of Renaissance culture.

In 1526, after their victory at Mohács, the Turks took Buda and Pest. Under Sultan Süleyman I (the Magnificent) many churches were converted into mosques, fine bath-houses constructed and defensive works modernized. Buda became the seat of a Grand Vizier.

It was 1686 before Charles of Lorraine was able to reconquer Óbuda, Buda and Pest for the House of Habsburg. Various measures taken during the reign of Empress Maria Theresa led to a further economic upsurge in Buda and Pest, largely brought about by an influx of German-speaking settlers. In 1777 Buda was made a university town but lost this title to Pest a few years later. The left bank of the Danube soon became the intellectual and political center of the country. In 1848-49 there was a civil revolution led by liberal nobles.

History of Budapest! - Part 2

The Chain Bridge was opened in 1849, with the aim of helping Óbuda, Buda and Pest to merge more quickly. In 1867 Emperor Franz Joseph I and Empress Elisabeth ("Sissi") were crowned in Matthias Church. The Austro-Hungarian monarchy of the Danube came into being. In the history of Budapest the year 1872 stands out as a milestone, for it was then that the three separate settlements of Pest, Buda and Óbuda (literally "Old" Buda) were united into one city with a population of more than 150,000. Budapest officially became the capital city of Hungary, and underwent rapid growth in size and eminence. This was the city's golden age, and coincided with the Hungarian millennial celebrations in 1896 when the continental Europe's first Underground Railroad was opened. At the outbreak of the First World War many well-known industrial firms established themselves in the Budapest region.

As a result of the war Budapest suffered severe economic setbacks which continued in the years between the wars. Towards the end of the Second World War, in the autumn of 1944, Budapest became a front-line town and suffered severe damage, especially in the castle quarter where units of the German army were barricaded in.

From February 13th 1945 onwards Soviet troops controlled the whole of Budapest and thereafter it was ruled along strict Soviet lines. In the autumn of 1956 political turmoil and economic hardship fuelled popular uprisings which were savagely put down by Hungarian and Soviet forces of law and order. The inner city presented a picture of devastation.

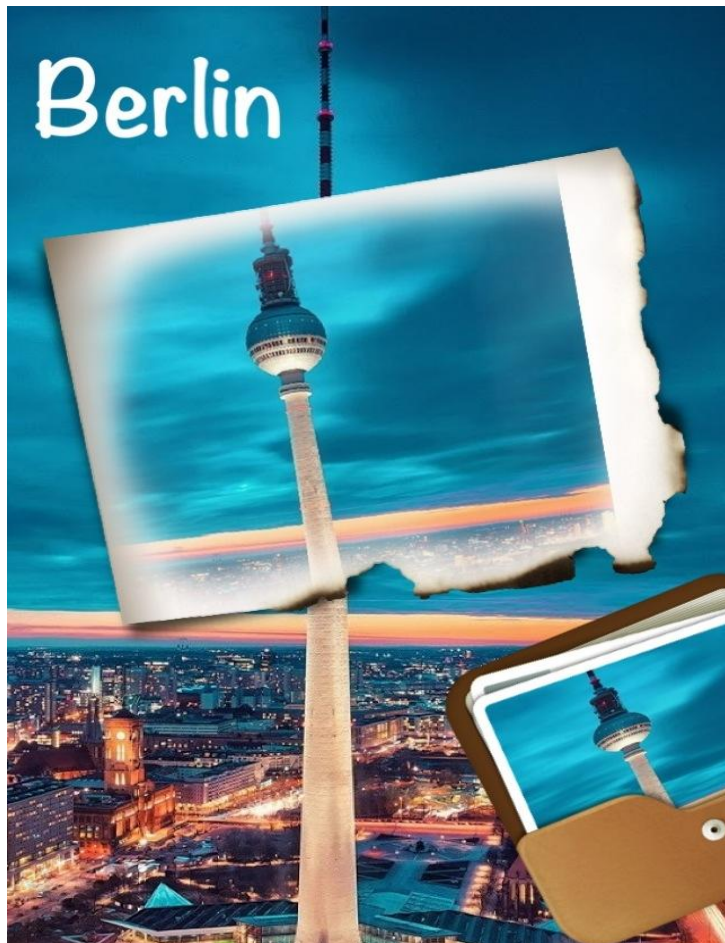
In the 1960s and 1970s much inner-city building and reconstruction took place, such as the opening to traffic of the Elisabeth Bridge, extension of the underground network, renovation of the old city center, especially the castle quarter, and the building of large luxury hotels both in the castle quarter and on the Pest bank of the Danube. What soon became known as "goulash communism" encouraged an upsurge in tourism, and visitors from Eastern and Western Europe as well as the US in particular visited the city in ever-increasing numbers.

In 1989 the events of 1956 could be viewed in a fresh light, and on June 16th hundreds of thousands paid homage to the former Prime Minister Imre Nagy who had been disgraced and executed 31 years previously. These political changes led to the Iron Curtain on the Hungaro-Austrian border being pulled down, and several thousand East Germans took advantage of the situation to flee to West Germany and other western countries.

Budapest, now home to two million inhabitants, would appear countless times on any list of superlatives. The Continent's first underground railway was built here. From here originated more pioneering Hollywood film makers than from any other European city. Budapest was the home of such world class inventors as KálmánKandó, the father of electric railways, and JánosIrninyi, one of the early developers of matches. Hungary's two most celebrated composers - BélaBartók and ZoltánKodály - lived in Budapest, and Nobel Prize-winning Hungarian author ImreKertész was born here.

Pre & Post Tours

Berlin



Pre AGA Package

Prague

An open Museum

14-18th of Aug



Prague

Post AGA Packag

Tuscany & Venice

23-27th of Aug



Berlin- The City of Contrasts!

Berlin

The City of Contrasts...!

Pre AGA Package 15th till 18th of Aug

Go to Berlin, without a doubt one of the most interesting and exciting cities in Europe and the world.

Berlin is a city of contrasts. Its diversity is reflected in the very districts that it comprises: from the most elegant ones in the west to the favorites among youth, artists, and the most eccentric Berliners in the eastern part of the city.

If you enjoy history, architecture, culture, nightlife or all together all at once, Berlin is a great place to visit. Berlin, which illustrated for long a long time the division of the world into two Cold War blocs, has developed into a modern day metropolis with a dynamic economic and cultural lifestyle. The city's location, in the heart of Europe, and its recovered role as the capital of Germany, guarantees major international spotlight. Because Berlin is a city devoted to art, with numerous and prestigious museums known worldwide, crossroad to intense intellectual debate and artistic creations, it attracts many visitors interested in culture.

The extensive transportation network makes moving around this vast metropolis easy. In addition to more traditional favorites such as the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, the Island Museum, and the remaining sections of the Berlin Wall, there are many other places of interest, such as the Potsdamer Platz with its modern skyscrapers, and the western part of the city with the Kurfürstendamm Boulevard and its beautiful surrounding streets.

In short, Berlin is a city full of history, interesting corners and a large number of cultural activities of all kinds.



Prague-The Best of Bohemia! - Part 1

Prague – A Pre AGA Tour from 14th till 18th of Aug

10 Must-See Attractions in Prague

Quoted from North America Region Newsletter

One of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, Prague has been the heart of the Czech Republic for well over a millennium. As such, the pre-eminent city has built up quite a stash of landmarks, monuments, cathedrals, museums and palaces, most of which fall under the auspices of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

With a population of about 1.2 million, Prague is wonderfully manageable, amenable to pedestrians and incredibly scenic. For culture, sophistication and nightlife, the Czech capital has inordinate appeal. So why wait then? Head to the cradle of Bohemia and put these ten attractions at the top of your Prague list.

Astronomical Clock:

One of the premier Old Town Square landmarks in Prague, the ornate and intricate Astronomical Clock is a marvel of medieval craftsmanship. A section of the creation dates back to the early 15th century and the clock contains enough animated figures, details and parts to keep you busy for quite some time.

The Lennon Wall:

A once bland but historic wall in Prague underwent a monumental transformation in the 1980s when John Lennon and his music became a paramount symbol of protest by young people against the hardline Communist regime in what was then Czechoslovakia. The wall has been a continual work in progress ever since.

Wenceslas Square:

A beautiful civic square in New Town and a nexus point of commerce and culture (and strip clubs), Wenceslas Square has been a de facto locale of peaceful demonstrations and violent protests for decades, from the Czech resistance of 1945 to the Velvet Revolution.



Prague-The Best of Bohemia! - Part 2

Vysehrad Castle:

A 10th century castle complex that looms on a lovely perch over the Vltava River, Vysehrad is a vital link to the past. The complex contains a fortress castle, cathedral and burial ground of some of the most influential figures in Czech history.

The Dancing House:

Frank Gehry has been so prolific in recent years that one wonders what the octogenarian architect eats. While the zany and graceful Dancing House in Prague was a collaborative effort, the Canadian's unmistakable trademark fluidity is all over it. Head to the rooftop restaurant for a brilliant view of the city.

The Mucha Museum:

Prague was once a hotbed of Art Nouveau and the design aesthetic is everywhere in the city, thanks in no small part to the late, great Czech artist Alphonse Maria Mucha. For a taste of pure Prague culture, visit the exquisite Mucha Museum.

Old New Synagogue:

Prague's Old New Synagogue has been active since 1270, a feat that makes it exceptional in Europe and indeed, the world. The genuine Gothic design is staid and austere but imparts a powerful impact. Remarkably, the synagogue made it through the Nazi occupation of Prague unscathed.

Petrin Hill:

Petrin Hill offers magnificent views of Prague and is several attractions in one. From the 14th century Hunger Wall to the Strahov Monastery, Stefanik Observatory and a memorial to the victims of the totalitarian Communist regime, Petrin is wonderful. One piece of advice: take the funicular railway to the top.

The National Museum:

The words "national museum" often implies a singular glance into the culture of a particular country. Well, with over 14 million Czech-centric items, the National Museum in Prague is no exception. In point of fact, the facility is one of the best in Europe and is impossible to miss from Wenceslas Square.

Prague Castle:

Just because Prague Castle ranks number one in physical magnitude by the Guinness Book of Records does not mean a lick. What does rather is the fact that the magnificent complex has roots as far back as 870. The castle has been a home to Holy Roman Emperors, kings, queens and Presidents. At least eighteen buildings, from palaces to churches, halls to towers, and eight gardens are contained within the complex borders.



Venice & Tuscany-The Beauty of Italy! - Part 1

Venice & Tuscany – A Post AGA Tour from 23rd till 27th of Aug

Venice

Art, History & Romance...All in one place

Stunning architecture. Mysterious passageways. And of course, the canals. Venice is one of the most alluring cities in the world—the type of place where, as a visitor, you'll welcome getting lost (as you inevitably will). Relax in Piazza San Marco, take a moonlit gondola ride or taste the original Bellini at Harry's Bar. Or just wander. No matter where you go, you'll find history, beauty and romance.

Venice is one of the most interesting and lovely places in the world as a small city, extremely concentrated, every corner, monument, Church or museum contains a piece of history, a tale, a way to say or a tradition, not to be counted all the news and events that daily the city offers to citizens and visitors.

This sanctuary on a lagoon is virtually the same as it was six hundred years ago, which adds to the fascinating character. Venice has decayed since its heyday and is heavily touristic (there are slightly more tourists than residents), but the romantic charm remains.

This place may not seem huge but it is. Venice is made of different boroughs. The most famous is the area comprising the 118 islands in the main districts that are called "Sestieri" and they are: Cannaregio, Castello, Dorsoduro, San Polo, Santa Croce and San Marco, where the main monuments and sights are located. Other main districts are Isola Della Giudecca and Lido di Venezia. Other important islands include Murano, Torcello, San Francesco del Deserto and Burano, but there are several.

The Most Serene Republic of Venice dates back to 827, when a Byzantine Duke moved its seat to what is now known as the Rialto, and for the following 970 years, prospered on trade and under the rule of a Roman-style Senate headed by the Doge. In 1797, the city was conquered by Napoleon, a blow from which it never recovered. The city was soon merged into Austria-Hungary, and then ping-ponged back and forth between Austria and a nascent Italy, but Venice is still a monument to the glory days of the Renaissance, and historical culture still throbs powerfully in the old Italians' veins.



Venice & Tuscany-The Beauty of Italy! - Part 2

Venice & Tuscany – A Post AGA Tour from 23rd till 27th of Aug Tuscany,

Like a fine wine, has been some time in the making...

From the Etruscans to the Romans to the Renaissance, Tuscany is possibly the greatest repository of art in the world, from extraordinary paintings and sculpture to frescoes and architectural masterpieces.

Visitors to Tuscany come for many reasons. Many come in search of fine art, others to explore the extraordinary countryside. Gourmets and wine buffs descend on Tuscany to enjoy the simple yet wonderful cuisine and wine. Walkers enjoy the mountain paths, cyclists the rolling hills, summer vacationers the sea coast and islands. Students come to learn the beautiful Italian language and culture.

The more you come to know the region, the more extraordinary Tuscany appears. Enjoy your visit!



Why Budapest?

Reasons to visit Budapest in 2013!

Thank goodness the world survived the end of the Mayan calendar, because 2013 is shaping up to be a great year to visit Budapest. The city that blends old world charm with a vibrant cultural and culinary scene offers plenty to discover in 2013. In case you need some inspiration, here are some reasons to add Budapest to your must-visit list in 2013.

- ***Historic Budapest Baths***

Open year-round, the historic thermal baths are one of Budapest's best features. Whether it's an original Turkish bathhouse (Rudas), a Neo-Baroque Palace (Széchenyi) or an Art Deco masterpiece (Gellért), there is nothing better than relaxing in the healing waters.

- ***Wine & Cuisine***

Wine lovers will be happy to know that Hungary produces award winning reds and whites in its 22 wine regions. Hip wine bars are popping up everywhere in the city offering the best local vintages by the glass. Putting Budapest on the foodie map is Hungary's delicious cuisine along with some great Michelin star and Bib Gourmand awarded restaurants and local gems serving classic Hungarian dishes with a twist.

- ***Budapest's Ruin Pubs***

The always-popular Ruin Pubs remain the most unique part of Budapest's entertainment scene. A must on every visitor's to-do list, these pubs, located in formerly abandoned buildings, have a great atmosphere any time of the day. A good place to start your ruin-pub-hopping is Szimpla Kert.

- ***Historic Buildings***

With over a thousand years of history, Budapest's architecture ranges from Roman ruins to Art Nouveau palaces. Noted for its beautiful late 19th and early 20th century Eclectic-style buildings, the city is full of sights to see. For architecture buffs, 'Budapest 100' is an annual event that offers a unique behind the scenes look at historic buildings built exactly 100 years ago in 1913.

- ***Local Fashion***

If you love unique style and want to avoid shopping malls, Budapest features several stores selling hip, homegrown fashion designed by young, up-and-coming artists. Inspired by Hungary's vibrant culture and rich folk art Budapest's fashion scene is better than ever. For a new take on traditional design check out Lokalwear, Printa, Matyodesign, Tisza or the Instant Hungary line.

- ***Budapest Markets***

Markets in Budapest are bustling with fresh, homegrown produce from local farmers. The famous Central Market Hall and the Farmer's Market at Szimpla Kert should be on every foodie's itinerary. One of the best ways to learn about the local culture is by taking a unique market tour.

"ART ENABLES US TO FIND
OURSELVES AND LOSE
OURSELVES AT THE SAME TIME."

THOMAS MERTON, NO MAN IS AN ISLAND



"ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST.
WHAT YOU PLANT NOW, YOU
WILL HARVEST LATER."

OG MANDINO



"Venice is like eating an entire box
of chocolate liqueurs in one go."

Truman. Capote





"IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT."

WALT DISNEY



"WE WILL EITHER
FIND A WAY, OR
MAKE ONE!"

HANNIBAL



"A realist, in Venice, would become
a romantic by mere faithfulness to
what he saw before him."

Arthur Symons

In our Next Edition 

Follow me to Bali!

Read more in our Next Edition about this beautiful Island that will be in WACA's Calendar this October.



The Sun & Fun in Zanzibar!

Moments from the 45th Annual General Assembly

AIM Regional Meeting & Dodo's Nest this May!

Still there is a chance to register for the AIM Regional Meeting Package with only 350USD.

*"Mauritius was made first,
Then heaven was copied from it"*

Mark Twain



Panama Canal Cruise!

Photos and reports to be published in our next Edition.



"He must be going economy!"

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