

02.03.2025. Sunday

The first day will be dedicated to traveling. The first meeting will take place with the host families. Polish students will join their host families.

03.03. 2025. Monday

We will visit **Memento Park**, which is a unique attraction in Budapest. The Statue Park, the Barrack Cinema, the Photo Exhibition, Stalin's Grandstand, and the Storage Showroom provide a comprehensive experience for our students. It is a thematic museum that reminds people of a dictatorship and its collapse. We will have a cold packed lunch from the school and a seminar where we will have the opportunity to deepen our knowledge of our heritage from the Soviet era.

04.03.2025 Tuesday

On Tuesday we will have a **Budapest tour** to get to know the city better. We will explore the post-Soviet face of the city: the buildings, the atmosphere, and the characteristics of our environment. The next stop will be the **Parliament**, which is a symbolic place of our democracy.

For example: Kossuth Square, one of the political centers during the socialist period, and the Parliament, which also played a central role during communism, are key locations. The history of the Parliament building, as well as the political changes during the socialist era and after the regime change. Interestingly, ideological symbols from that era can be found in front of Kossuth Square and the Parliament.

Váci Street, as the "superficial" entertainment district of socialist Budapest, and the history of the Belvárosi Market. Here, the state-run central shops from the communist era, the lifestyle presented by propaganda, and the differences from the actual reality can be discussed.

05.03.2025. Wednesday

This day is dedicated to visit **Visegrád**. The Visegrád Castle is one of Hungary's most iconic historical landmarks, offering stunning views of the Danube River and

surrounding landscapes. It was once the royal residence of Hungarian kings and has a rich history dating back to the 13th century. The castle complex includes a medieval fortress, a royal palace, and an impressive citadel, making it a fascinating destination for history enthusiasts. Visitors can explore the well-preserved ruins and learn about the castle's significance during the time of the Hungarian Renaissance.

The Visegrád Castle, as a symbol of Hungarian history and national identity, can be linked to Hungary's search for independence after the Soviet era. We can focus on how the perception of Hungarian history changed under communism and how national heritage was redefined after the decline of Soviet influence. Drawing comparisons between the medieval royal residences, such as Visegrád, and the Soviet ideology could make for an interesting theme. The project could explore the parallels between the authoritarian power of medieval kings and the totalitarian rule under the Soviets, focusing on central power, propaganda, and political control.

The surrounding landscape of Visegrád Castle could be explored in connection with the Soviet era's cultural and architectural impact. The students can investigate how Soviet rule shaped the cities, buildings, and cultural sites in Central Europe, leaving traces in the landscape and national heritage. They could raise questions about how the Soviet years shaped national identities in Central Europe and how these cultures reinterpreted their national monuments and sites, like Visegrád Castle, after the fall of the regime.

03.05. 2025. Thursday

On Wednesday, we will visit the museum, the **House of Terror**. The House of Terror is a museum dedicated to the victims of the Nazi and Soviet regimes in Hungary. It is located in a historic building that once served as the headquarters for the Arrow Cross Party and the Soviet Secret Police. The museum offers an emotional and powerful experience, with exhibits that showcase the dark history of political oppression and terror. Visitors can explore rooms that were used for interrogations and imprisonment during both the Nazi and Soviet occupations. The House of Terror serves as a reminder

of the importance of freedom and democracy and educates visitors about Hungary's painful past.

03.06. 2025. Friday

On the last day, the focus will be on creativity. Based on the experiences gained throughout the week, students will work on their own projects with the guidance of their teachers. These projects will allow students to express their thoughts and ideas about Central European identity and the Soviet heritage. They will have the opportunity to reflect on the historical sites they visited, such as the Visegrád Castle, and how these experiences shaped their understanding of the region's past. The students can explore themes like how the Soviet era influenced the cultural, political, and social landscape of Central Europe, and how this legacy continues to impact the modern-day. Teachers will be there to guide them, helping them develop their ideas and encouraging them to use their creativity.