

# Ambassadorial Chit-Chat

Spearheaded by the Budapest Tourism Agency, the Ambassador of Budapest Tourism project has just kicked off with the ambassadors now being out having fun and exploring, sitting in and eating out, soaking in baths, spreading the word and spilling the beans on what this city's all about. We caught one of them, Leila from the U.S during a sightseeing tour and had a great chat about dedication, the life of a Hungarian aristocrat and pogácsa...

**What do you think of the ambassador project?**

I've never heard about anything similar before. I'm pretty excited about the whole thing.

The agency has appointed six foreigners living in the capital to help promoting the city and as I think Budapest is way too underrated I'm grateful to be one of them.

**What do you expect from the project?**

I hope we'll reach quite a few people. For Americans, Budapest might 'be off the map', so to say. I think with our online blog, we can reach people who wouldn't otherwise hear about the city.

**What are your plans for your term as an ambassador?**

Beside building up the blog as a central base, I'm going to try to spread the word, network, give advice face to face. I already feel more outgoing since I was chosen and also a strong urge to help foreigners get around the city. When I see tourists looking lost, I always go and help them. I might not be wearing some sort of uniform outside but there's one inside that's called dedication...



**What advice would you give to a new arrival from your country?**

First, buy a metro pass, it'll set you free. If you want to get to know local culture, dive into the cuisine and for that the Great Market Hall is a perfect place. Don't expect free mayo or ketchup in McDonald's, in Hungary you have to pay for it. And when you queue up for divine smelling pogácsa at Princess Pékség, there's a line for the bigger breads and a different one for the pogácsa and other small things.

**Where's your fave summer hang-out?**

City Park for sun-tanning, the rooftop terrace of Lukács Bath for relaxing and Mumus – or in fact, any ruin pub – for fun.

**You've been to UNDERGUIDE's tour named Hungarian that explores the impacts of the USA on this city. Do you think your country had an effect on Budapest? In what ways?**

I'd have to say, it's the status symbols of pop culture, such as Harley Davidson, cowboys, fast food and oh my God, in the 90s, it was Dallas, the series.

**What was the most interesting / disappointing fact you learned about the city during the tour?**

The most interesting is that Clark Ádám is actually Adam Clark and so the magnificent Chain Bridge was designed by a Scot. Disappointing? Nothing really. Maybe only sad; the story of how Széchenyi ended his life is pretty depressing.

*Veronika Tarján*



Leila Estes, Her Excellency

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