The Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria and Slovakia are four countries that make up the heart of Europe. A shared history has naturally brought them together in the Central European region - centrope, which is incredibly varied and full of contrasts.

The beautiful natural environment in the region’s national parks is combined with a wealth of rivers, lakes and thermal springs, as well as vast, sun-kissed vineyards, orchards and fields of sunflowers. This natural environment allows for leisure activities and family outings.

As you walk through the centrope region, the common history of the old noble families who left behind magnificent mansions and castles - now used as unique cultural centres - oozes out with every step. Culture comes alive in all the region’s cities. Throughout the year you will find a wide range of cultural events, modern art and folk traditions.

Perhaps the region’s most typical feature is the “Central European flavour” that attracts and delights every visitor. The atmosphere of cellars filled with excellent wines, the aroma of cafes with their characteristic strudel, and traditional gastronomic specialities served in high-quality restaurants will leave you with unforgettable memories. When in Europe, discover centrope.

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The sun-kissed, undulating slopes stretching across the whole region are perfect for growing fine wines. Among these are the multi-award-winning wines from the Blue Hills around Velké Pavlovice (South Moravia, Czech Republic).
Large riverine forests and lakes blend seamlessly into sunny slopes covered with carefully cultivated vineyards and orchards. A number of national parks and protected areas – the Lake Neusiedl-Seewinkel (Austria) / Fertő-Hanság Nemzeti (Hungary) National Park; the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve and the White Carpathian Mountains, the Moravian Karst and the Danube floodplains – are a haven for waterfowl and home to endangered flora and fauna.
Villa Tugendhat in Brno (Czech Republic), the work of architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, is one of the most important examples of functionalist architecture and is inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

Not far from the centre of Bratislava, on a peninsula in the middle of the mighty Danube, is one of the newest European museums of modern art – Danubiana (Slovakia).

Alongside its famous Gothic and Baroque buildings, Art Nouveau (Secession) has a firm place in the architecture of Vienna. The work of prominent architects such as Adolf Loos, Otto Wagner and others active at the turn of the century helped mould the look of the city (Austria).

The Petőfi Theatre in Sopron is a superb example of Art Nouveau style, with folk motifs ornamenting the facade and interior of the building.
meet art and tradition, meet centrope.

Discover hidden secrets behind the walls of majestic cathedrals, monasteries and abbeys. Walking through the cities of Vienna, Bratislava, Brno and Győr, next to famous Gothic and Baroque buildings, you will be captivated by the works of prominent Art Nouveau (Secession/Jugendstil), functionalist and contemporary architects. Folk traditions and crafts play an important role and regularly come to life, especially during wine festivals, at harvest festivals and on religious holidays.

From the 16th to the middle of the 20th century Červený Kameň Castle (Slovakia) near Modra was owned by the Pálffys - one of the most important and wealthy families in Upper Hungary.

St. Catherine's Rotunda in Znojmo (South Moravia, Czech Republic).

Follow in the footsteps of knights and princes. Visit medieval castles and opulent palaces where the history of the old aristocratic Esterházy, Liechtenstein and Pálffy families comes alive.

The Esterházy Palace in Fertőd (Hungary), along with many other castles and country houses in Austria (Forchtenstein Castle, Lachenbach Palace in Burgenland), provides a unique insight into the once-opulent life at the court of the powerful princess Esterházy.

The Lednice-Valtice area (South Moravia, Czech Republic), the former residence of the Liechtenstein dynasty, has been listed by UNESCO since 1996. The area’s main landmarks are the Baroque palace in Valtice, Lednice Castle - in so-called Windsor Gothic style, and an extensive country park.
The Primate’s Palace in Bratislava (Slovakia), the original seat of the Archbishop of Esztergom, was built by Archbishop and Cardinal Jozef Batthyány, and is crowned with the cardinal’s coat of arms and a model of a cardinal’s hat.

In Všenory (South Moravia, Czech Republic) – A place of pilgrimage, featuring the Church of the Virgin Mary, a masterpiece by the architect Jan Blažej Santini which is known as the “Pearl of Moravia”.

The Benedictine Abbey in Melk (Austria) is listed by UNESCO and is renowned for its extensive collection of manuscripts preserved in the monastery library.

The technique of indigo printing from Burgenland (Austria).

PHOTO: © Burgenland Tourismus

Colourful costumes, ancient customs and forgotten crafts are part of everyday life in South Moravia and are regularly celebrated at various festivals. The best known are the Ride of the Kings in Vlčnov and the Strážnice Folklore Festival (South Moravia, Czech Republic).

In Western Slovakia, folk traditions and the wearing of richly embroidered costumes are associated mainly with wine festivals, harvest festivals and Easter (Vajnory, Slovakia).

Decorating Easter eggs is a popular folk tradition across the entire region. PHOTO: © Burgenland Tourismus
Lake Luszer in Lower Austria, with its dense forest panorama – find summer refreshment at the many lakes in the region, where you can spend time swimming, relaxing on the shore or taking part in a variety of water sports (Austria).

A relaxing massage at one of the famous local spas in Hungary.

Golfclub Lengenfeld (Austria) – golf lovers can combine the joys of a spa with golf on courses that boast beautiful views.

Badener Hof (Lower Austria) – sumptuous thermal spas, top hotels and pleasantly warm mineral springs can be found throughout the Centrope region. The Roman baths in Baden, Mosonmagyaróvár and Győr, Piešťany and Smrdáky in Slovakia, and Hodonín and Lednice spas in South Moravia are all famous.
The international Danube cycle path - EuroVelo 6 is around 365 km long. In the centrope region it meanders through Lower Austria and Vienna to Bratislava and then passes through Győr. It is among the most popular routes in Europe and the centrope region itself, and offers tourists a variety of interesting attractions en route. One of these is Donauinsel (Danube Island) in Vienna, Austria.

Golf lovers can vary their spa stay by visiting a nearby golf course. Thanks to favourable weather conditions you can play almost all year round. The region’s extensive water features are a paradise for windsurfers and boaters. You can also try kitesurfing or white water rafting on the Danube itself.

Beautiful scenery and a range of cultural sites create the ideal conditions for hiking and biking. Well-signposted cycling routes are suitable for family trips with children, but will also satisfy even the most demanding riders.

Come to the centrope region to escape the daily grind, relax and recharge. Immerse yourself in an oasis of world-famous thermal spas, hot mineral springs and mud baths and let your body enjoy the beneficial effects.

One of several perfectly signposted cycling routes will take you to the most beautiful places in the Moravian Karst (South Moravia, Czech Republic).

Proficient riders can take to the hills in the Göstlinger Alpen (Göstling Alps in Austria) or the Little Carpathians, from where there are magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

Beautiful cycling routes wind through the Győr-Moson-Sopron region in Hungary.

Pleasant relaxation for the whole family is offered by cycling routes in the Morava and Dyje river valleys (Bratislava Region, Trnava Region, South Moravia and Lower Austria).

One of the specialties of South Moravia is wine tourism by bicycle. Cycling routes zigzag between the vineyards, leading to wineries and wine cellars (Czech Republic).
Lake Neusiedl (Austria and Hungary) – A number of lakes provide ideal conditions for windsurfing, kitesurfing and sailing. PHOTO: Kerstin Reiger

The world-class artificial water channel on the Danube near Čunovo in Bratislava is a paradise for lovers of adrenaline water sports (Slovakia).

Kitesurfing on Lake Neusiedl (Austria). PHOTO: NTG Kudernatsch

Yachtclub Pastel (South Moravia, Czech Republic).

taste of europe.
taste of centrope.
In the **centrope** region you will find wines of many flavours and aromas - white, red, light and full-bodied, dry and semi-dry. Wine here is drunk at large festivals and feasts, and complemented by golden, oven-roast goose. Adding to the gastronomic attractions is the traditional winter pig-slaughter. By contrast, an urban atmosphere dominates when it comes to coffee and the wide variety of local delicacies offered by local confectioners. Certainly you will have heard of delicious apple strudel, but have you ever tasted Bratislava rolls? During Advent, Christmas markets attract the crowds with their specialities and unmistakable atmosphere. Come to the **centrope** region to experience some of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Europe.

The wine festival in Pezinok (Bratislava Region, Slovakia) - The wine festival is the biggest celebration of wine. In the **centrope** region wine is celebrated, blessed, and spoken and sung about – but most of all tasted. In late summer and early autumn, these celebrations come alive throughout the region.

The wide range of folk traditions has given rise to specific regional gastronomy. The culinary experience often starts with a visit to a small street lined with wine cellars.

The traditional treat for lovers of culinary specialities during the wine festival period is undoubtedly roast goose with potato pancakes (Slovakia).

The traditional wine cellar in Mikulov’s Solařík wine cellar - Nowhere does wine taste as good as in a local wine cellar (South Moravia, Czech Republic).

A wine festival in Modra (Bratislava Region, Slovakia) – The wine harvest is the time when local wine cellars open their doors and the local wine is tasted: both mature wine and the young, still-fermenting wine known as burčiak.

A spectacular view of Vienna from the nearby vineyards. Enjoy excellent wines from different parts of the **centrope** region - from Znojmo and Pálava, from around Pezinok and Modra, from the sunny slopes of Burgenland and Lower Austria, or the famous Kékfrankos (Blue Frankish) from around Sopron.

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Taste local culinary specialties and drink excellent wines from the cellars of traditional restaurants. In Austria such venues can be easily identified: they are known as Heuriger. PHOTO: © Burgenland Tourismus

Hungary’s excellent cuisine and traditional hospitality is renowned far beyond its borders. Apricots from bountiful orchards and gardens are used to make fruit dumplings (Lower Austria, Austria). In addition to apricots, there are plums and strawberries to try.

Sweet treats at local cafes and confectioners (Vienna, Austria).

Bratislava rolls (Bratislava, Slovakia).

Christmas decorations in the Győr-Moson-Sopron region (Hungary).

Christmas markets in Bratislava, Vienna, Brno and Sopron are a real draw. From all corners wafts the aroma of mulled wine and local specialties – traditional sauerkraut soup, potato pancakes, roasted chestnuts and roast pork meat.