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## WHERE TO STAY?

Hungary has more than a thousand mansions. Here, we introduce you to some of the country's historical buildings and hunting lodges near Budapest that have preserved their original functions and are open to the public as hotels or guesthouses.



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### } Artúr Görgey's Hunting Lodge *Vár Hotel, Visegrád*

The Vár Hotel is located 30 kilometres north of Budapest at the most beautiful part of the Danube Bend just below Visegrád Castle and next to the Solomon Tower on the banks of the river. The new owners of Artúr Görgey's former hunting lodge transformed the building into a hotel in 1999, which is also one of Visegrád's most famous listed buildings. Visegrád is an important city in Hungarian history, for it was a meeting place for kings and lords. Today, authors, artists and politicians come here to relax. But it was not only General Artúr Görgey, who was one of the Hungarian military leaders during the 1848-49 Revolution and Failed War of Independence, who had a hunting lodge here, so did Emperor Franz Joseph.



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majority of hunters are international, primarily arriving from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy, but Lebanese, American, Romanian and even South African hunters have also visited Hungarian forests. The reserve belonging to Zalaerdő Zrt. is especially popular among international hunters, the Gyulaj Hunting Ground has one of the best fallow-deer herds, and the Eger Forestry Company's forests are known primarily for their herds of wild boar and mouflon. The hunting reserve of Bakonyerdő Zrt. permits the culling of 4,500 big game animals annually, of which a thousand are trophy animals. For international guests, the Budapest Forestry Company is located closest to the capital.



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### } Kálmán Forster's Hunting Lodge *The Forster Hunting Lodge, Bugyi*

Kálmán Forster built this hunting lodge in the early 1890s in the town of Bugyi, 18 kilometres south of Budapest. (Many members of the Forster family made their mark in agriculture.) The lodge is surrounded by several hectares of old forest and includes a fishing pond with a functioning mill and wooden bridge. Close to the city but far from its bustle in natural surroundings, it awaits guests with its traditional Hungarian flavours served among period furniture. The hunter's tavern next to the hotel provides excellent game dishes. Guests should try the steamed wild boar leg with creamy gooseberry sauce or the grilled pheasant breast in a chateaufort sauce. The beehive oven is used to prepare princely foods, crispy roasts and pastas. The strudels are handmade, and the meat is cooked over wood chips on a steel plate, while open-air cauldrons are used to make various meat stews. Culinary programmes are organised for guests staying in the castle, such as oven days or wine dinners, but the lodge also offers forest tours to burn off the calories.

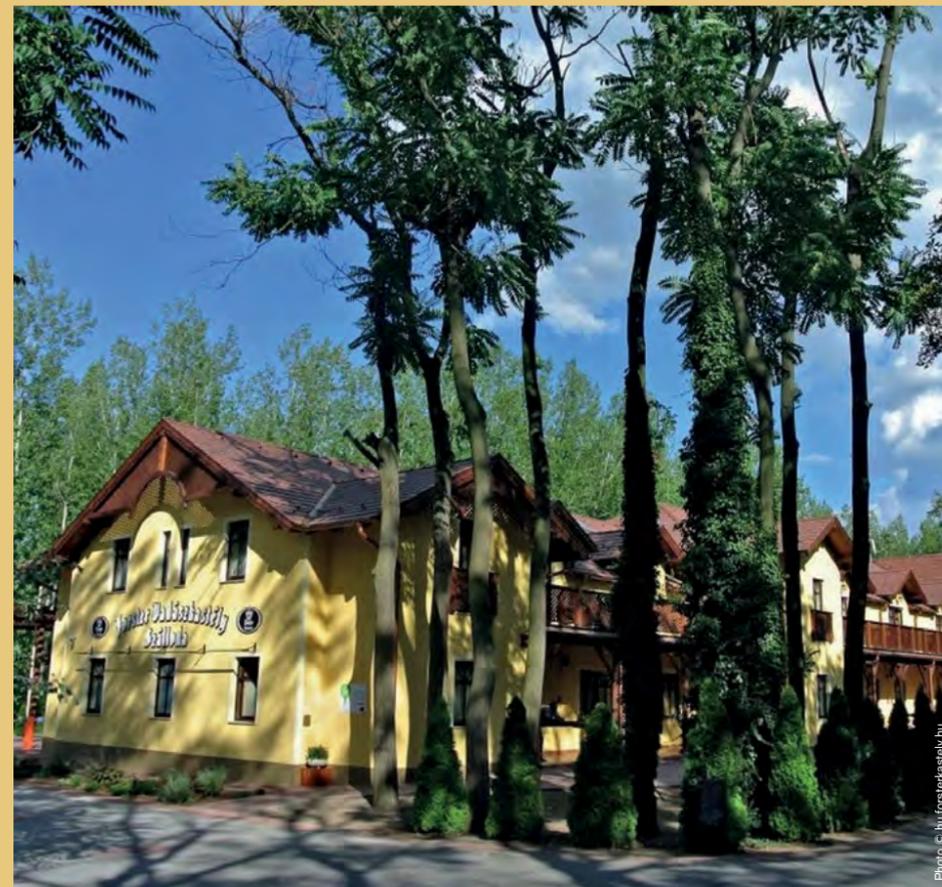
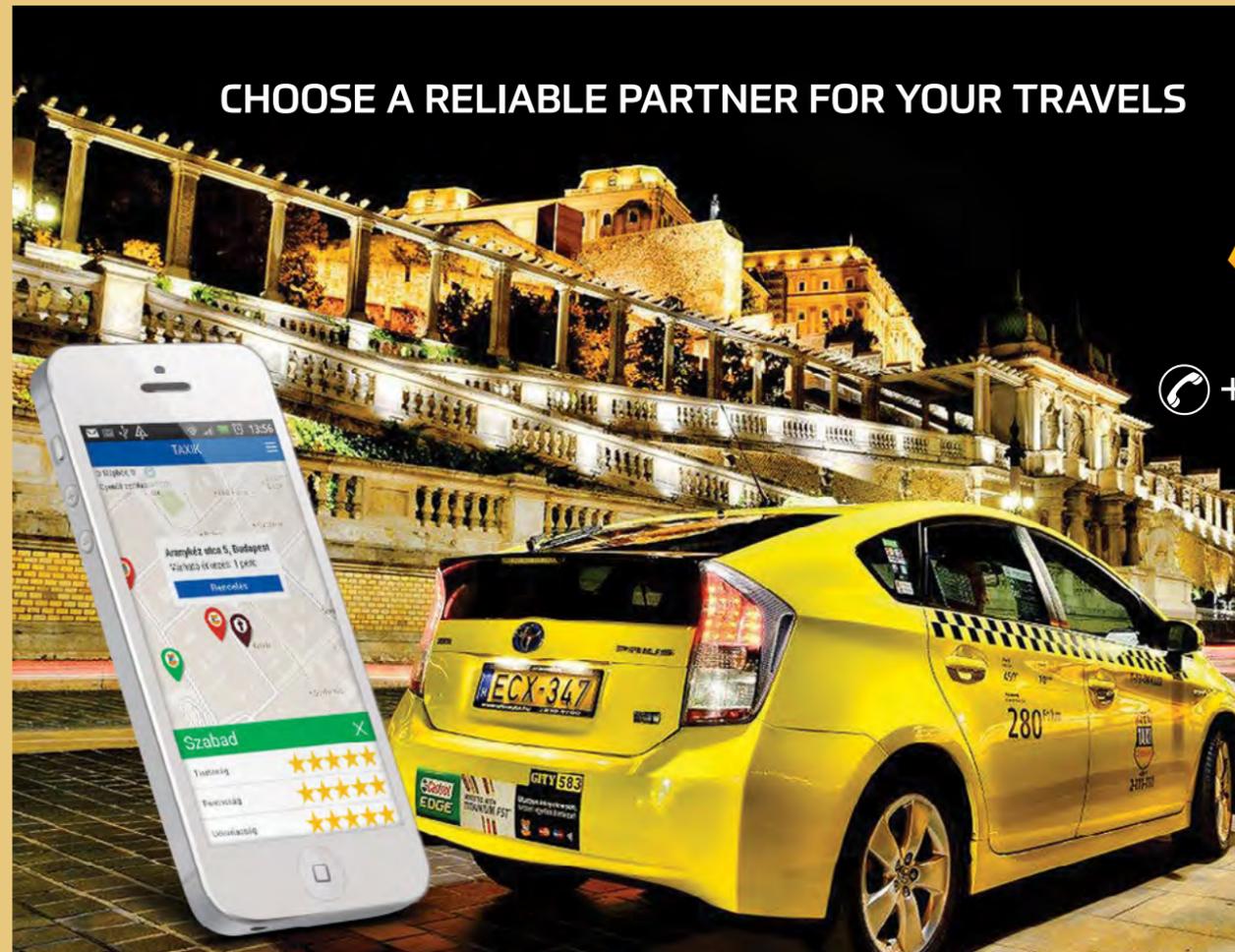


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