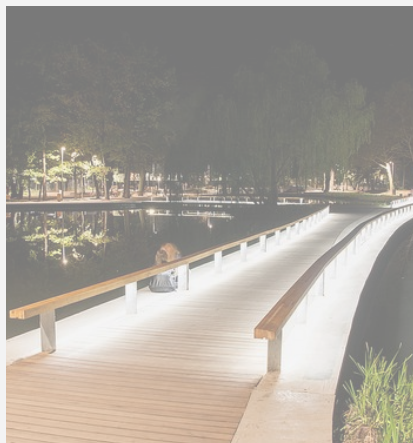
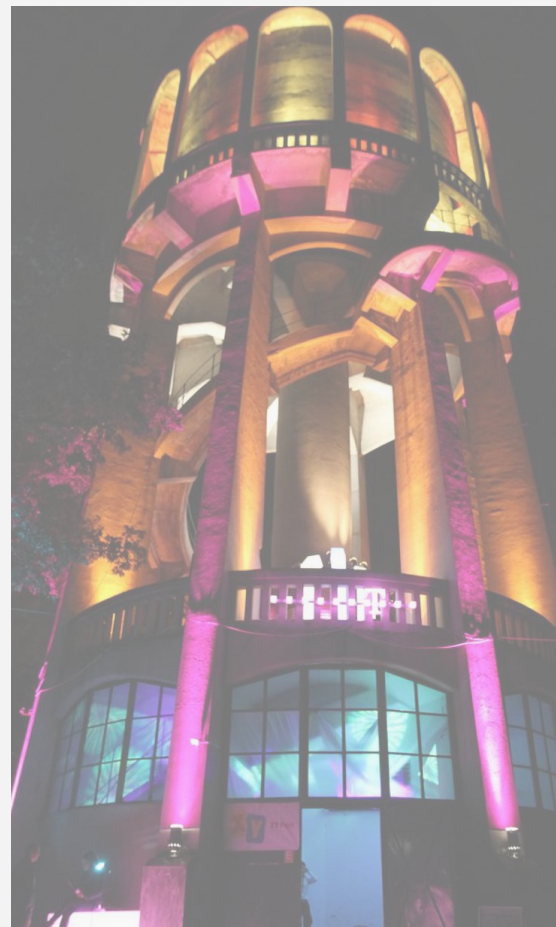


ESN Debrecen's SURVIVAL GUIDE



Greetings

Dear Exchange students!

ESN Debrecen prepared this SURVIVAL GUIDE in order to help you get oriented during the first few days/weeks of your stay in Debrecen. It contains information about the city, about the university and about the everyday life of university students. It aims to help you find the best ways of managing your stay here.

We, at ESN Debrecen hope that your stay in Debrecen will be amazing, full with memories and happy moments. Our events are designed to make sure you meet other students and you get to know Hungary a little bit. Members of ESN Debrecen work weekly to bring you well-organized events that help you relax during the sometimes stressful university life.

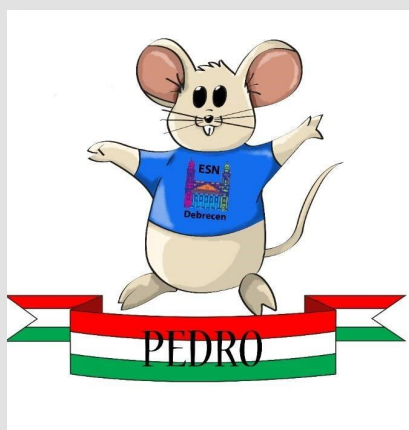
Some „chapters” of this guide are more essential than others, make sure to read public transport or housing, but others, like the parts on the university, catering or entertainment are not crucial, but they can make your life certainly easier.

Make sure to like the fanpage of ESN Debrecen and join the Facebook group of exchange student so you won't miss anything!

Have fun in Debrecen!

Hugs,

Pedro



About Debrecen

Debrecen [debretsen] is the second largest city in Hungary and the regional centre of Hajdú-Bihar county, also the cultural, educational and economic centre of Eastern-Hungary.

Debrecen was lying on important commercial intersections in the past that made the city become popular and a good market place. The city still holds two fairs in every year on the same days since medieval times. Debrecen is also known as the „calvinist Rome” due to its protestant past. Also, Debrecen was the capital of Hungary twice during history – during the revolution and war of independence against the Habsburgs in 1848–1849 and by the end of the World War II in 1944–1945. Debrecen, for most of its history has been a free city, its population was mostly of free citizens working in agriculture. In the 19th century is civilians built nicely decorated houses and villas, however many of the buildings, among with the train station, was destroyed during the World War II.

Nowadays, the city is well-known of its education and research, mostly implemented by its university, not only on a regional and national level, but also worldwide. Debrecen is a popular target for the tourists when visiting Hungary, thanks to the annual Flower Festival; mesmerizing architecture (city centre with the the Reformed Great Church or the University main building) and the Great Forest with its flora and thermal bath, just to mention some.



University of Debrecen

The history of Debrecen's higher education started in 1538 when the *Reformed College* – an institution providing education from elementary to academic level – was established. It was a very important institution, providing high standard education in the fields of arts, sciences and theology. The University of Debrecen is the legal successor of the Reformed College, which still operates today as theological university, secondary grammar schools, primary school and kindergarten, as well as library and museum.

The University of Debrecen (as it is today) is new and old at the same time. The university was “created” in 2000, when the universities and colleges were reunited in Debrecen, but originally there has been only one university in Debrecen. A law in 1912 decided on the establishment of a university in Debrecen, the *Royal Hungarian University of Debrecen*, which was first hosted in the building of the Reformed College. This building is still standing, it is situated behind the Great Reformed Church in the city centre.

However this building got too small for the university and the local government donated a huge area in the northern parts of the city to the University and the construction of the university campus begun. The first building (the main building of the medical school, the one in the “Klinikák” tram stop) was inaugurated in 1918 by the last king of Hungary, Charles, IV. The university's Main Building was finished in 1932. The five huge painted window plates of the building represent the origins of the university – the four starter faculties: theology, law, arts and medicine, as well as cities where the students could travel to study: *Zurich (Tigurum)*, *Geneve*, *Wittenberg* and *Utrecht*.



During the 20th century the university expanded and got divided into smaller institutions. In 2000, there were three universities in Debrecen: the Kossuth Lajos University, the Agricultural University of Debrecen and the Medical University of Debrecen. These universities were (re)joined under the name *University of Debrecen*. The faculties of Hajdúböszörmény and Nyíregyháza along with the Conservatory of Debrecen soon joined the university.

The University of Debrecen today offers the widest range of studies available in Hungary and is the oldest, continuously operating university in the country. The university is the biggest university in number of total students (~33,000 students), and also has the biggest number of international students in Hungarian higher education, with cca. 3500 full-time students in the English programs. It has 14 faculties, some of which provides a rather narrow field of education (like the medical school faculties) whereas others offer a great number of majors (like the Faculty of Science and Technology).

Each faculty has a gerendium (The gerundium was used by the students in the 16–17th century to prevent the spreading of fire), which are used in official ceremonies like graduation ceremonies (right image).

The logo (coat of arms) of the university consists of a mythical phoenix, which is one of the emblematic creatures associated with Debrecen and the chevron-shaped rafter image is traditionally used as a symbol of intellectual hotspots, like universities. Also, at the same time, it functions as a reference to the tympanum featured in the architecture of the main building of the university. (left image)



**UNIVERSITY of
DEBRECEN**



Campuses of the university

There are five university campuses in Debrecen, each of them named after their location. See the map for their location in the city.

The *Egyetem sqr. Campus* hosts the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Science and Technology as well as the Kossuth Dormitories, the Botanical Garden and the university's sport fields. The Faculty of Music is very close to this campus, it is just opposite the Main Building (a very tall building on Nagyerdei street).

The *Nagyerdei str. Campus* hosts the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy. Hospitals and buildings for the theoretical medicine can be found here with the buildings of the dental and pharmaceutical faculties. Some of the hospitals are even further on Móricz Zsigmond street in a separate campus, most often referred to as "Augusta". The Markusovszky Lajos dormitories can be found in this campus, hosting almost exclusively medical students. "Klinika University Club" can also be found in this campus.

The *Kassai str. Campus* used to be a military base which got renovated and extended with new buildings, hosting the individual Faculties of Law, Informatics and Public Health. A dormitory called "Campus Hotel", a bowling bar, sport fields, the university's event and conference centre called "Lovarda" are situated here.

The *Böszörményi str. Campus* gives home to Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences and Environmental Management, Arany János and Veres Péter Dormitories and sport grounds with "Kazánház University Club".

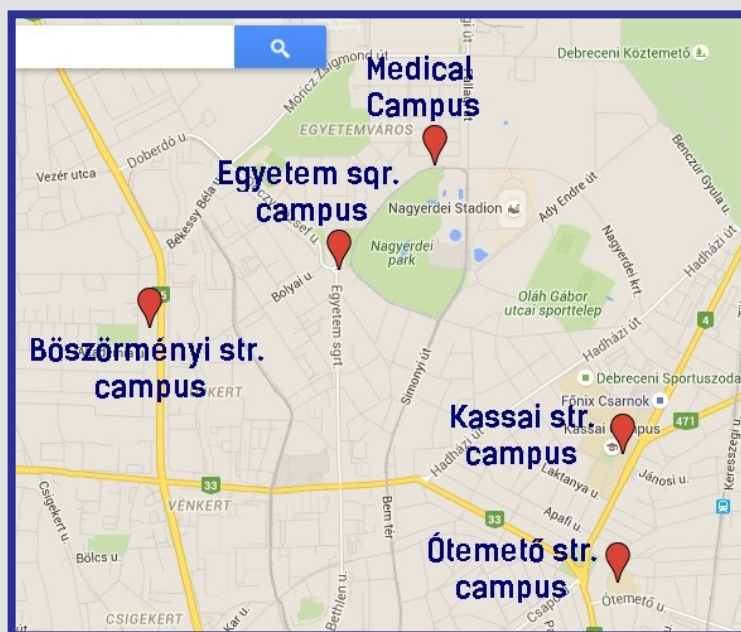
The *Ótemető str. Campus* is the home to the Faculty of Engineering and the Borsos J. Hostel.

The Faculty of Health is in Nyíregyháza and the Faculty of Child and Adult Education is in Hajdúböszörmény, both of them being in other towns and can be reached by buses or trains.

Some advice for public transportation between campuses:

- If you wish to travel from the Egyetem sqr. (Main Building) to the Böszörményi str., you can take bus 24 or 24Y at “Egyetem” bus stop and then get off at “Agrártudományi Centrum”.
- If your destination is the Kassai street campus and you are at Egyetem sqr, you shall take the bus 22 or 51E or 23Y and you have to get off at the „Főnix csarnok” or „Campus” bus stop. If you wish to get back to the Egyetem Square you can take 22 or 23Y from the „Főnix csarnok” bus stop. You can take the bus 51E from the „Campus” bus stop as well.
- If you want to go to the Faculty of Dentistry/Medicine/Pharmacy from the Kassai str., you may take the bus 22 and get off at the „Klinika” bus stop. When going back, please take the bus 24 and get off at „Főnix csarnok” bus stop.
- In case you would like to go to the Böszörményi str. from the Kassai str., you can still take 24 or 24Y at the „Főnix csarnok” bus stop. Please get off at „Agrártudományi Centrum”.
- The Faculty of Music is just a few meters ahead of the University’s park in front of the Main Building. You can reach it by walking through the park. The Faculty of Dentistry/Medicine/ Pharmacy is also in walking distance to the Main Building in Egyetem square.
- If you are at the Egyetem Square and wish to go to the Faculty of Engineering in the Ótemető street, please get on the bus 22 at „Egyetem” bus stop and get off at „Árpád tér” bus stop. After you may walk 2–3 streets to the building.

For more information you can go through the Public transport section on our website and don't be afraid to ask for help from the pedestrians when you're in doubt.



Public Transport

In Debrecen, you can easily reach any point of the town by using public transport. The local public transport company, DKV (Debreceni Közlekedési Vállalat) offers you various ways to reach your destination: you can use local buses, trolley buses and trams as well.



Do not forget to buy a ticket every time you use public transport, make sure to validate them when you board one of the vehicles. A ticket is valid for a single ride only, when changing buses you need a new ticket for the new route. You can purchase your ticket at several ticket offices such as opposite the railway station; bus station; post offices; in the basement of the Main Building; and there are several ticket machines in the stops of tram line 2. Violation fees can be high: 4000 HUF on the spot, 5000 HUF if paid in 15 days, 15000 HUF if paid in 60 days.

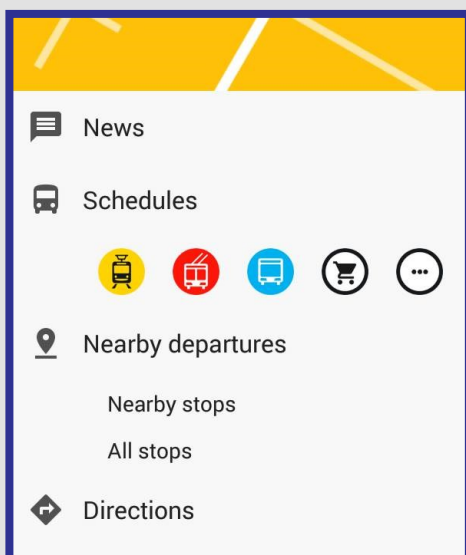
A *monthly pass* (bérlet in Hungarian) is likely to offer a better value than one-time tickets. The pass is valid for a calendar month and not a 30 days interval. *You can use the monthly pass until the 5th day of the next month.* Furthermore, you always have to be able to prove that you are a student so you have to write the number of your valid student certificate on the pass and also have to certify on you, otherwise you will be penalized. If you left your valid pass or student certificate at home you will be penalized but you can take your pass to the DKV office in Malompark and pay 400 HUF only. (The pass must be purchased no later than the day before the “violation”. You have 5 days to show it.)

Single ticket	350 HUF—from selling points
	450 HUF—from the driver
Monthly pass	4000 HUF

There are several rules that you must follow on the vehicles of Debrecen's public transport: **you cannot eat, drink, smoke, wear roller skates or have an ice cream.** Penalty is 3000 HUF if get caught, no excuses!



There is a quite useful application that you can download on your mobile: **Debreceni Menetrend.** With this app, you can always check the schedules of different public transports and the nearby stops, you can save your favourite routes and can also use a journey planner. It is available in English, too (change settings) and you can use it even offline! Another application is **transIT DKV.** Feel free to use any of them!



For further information, feel free to visit the [official web page of DKV](http://debrecen.esn.hu/local-transport-dkv) (change to English in the top right corner). Also, you can find more ticket prices here: <http://debrecen.esn.hu/local-transport-dkv>

Healthcare

All exchange student must have an EU insurance card. In Hungary it gives basic healthcare service for the holder i.e. emergency department admission and treatment and life-saving services (like surgeries).

As a citizen of the university, exchange students are entitled to basic healthcare services like other students. The general practitioner's and dentist's office for university students is located in the Kossuth Lajos Dormitory building III. and Veres Péter Dormitory, ground floor (more details on ESN website: <http://debrecen.esn.hu/health-care>)

If you need medical help do not hesitate to ask for help from your buddy or an ESN member! The doctors usually speak decent English, the administrative staff, however, sometimes does not.

Where to go when in need for a doctor?

1. General practitioner's office
2. Emergency department—when the GP's office is closed (the first hospital when entering from "Klinika" tram stop)
3. Kenézy City Hospital—Trauma & ER Department in case of accident

Call ambulance if needed – but only, if needed!

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

General emergency: 112

Police: 107

Ambulance: 104

Fire service: 105

24-hour English-language crime hotline: +36 1 438 8080

Housing

Debrecen is well-known for its great opportunities considering accommodation for students. Even if you choose to live in a dormitory, you can be sure of having a great place that is close to your campus. Of course, the quality changes with the price but do not worry, you can get a fair room without paying a fortune. Keep in mind that during your stay in Debrecen, you will have to pay the most for your accommodation so start calculating before your arrival!

A dormitory room costs approximately 800-1000 euros for the whole semester (5 months), and you have to pay the amount in advance. It may be convenient as you live very close to the university buildings, you are meet a lot of fellow students in the dorms, however, you have to share your room with two other students. About dormitories, contact your Erasmus coordinator!



You can also choose to rent a flat then you most probably will pay the same amount or perhaps less, if you share. If you decide to get a flat, we suggest you start searching in time because most of the flats are booked before the new semester begins. If you have any doubts, feel free to contact your Buddy, they will try their best to find you the best solution!

Also, please visit our web page about accommodation for further information:
<http://debrecen.esn.hu/accommodation>

Catering

As a student, you most probably will try to find the <http://www.dkv.hu/> restaurants and canteens that do not cost a fortune. Well, we have great news – there are plenty of them in Debrecen!

Since lunch is the greatest meal of the day in Hungary, you can always get warm dish at around noon in the canteen. And where can you find a canteen? Of course at the campus! They are known for good prices, enough amounts and fair taste. They are usually open between 11.30 and 14.00 every workday. Here is a link for all cafeterias

and restaurants on the university campuses: <https://unideb.hu/hu/node/1520>.



Of course there are many students who prefer eating out instead of visiting canteens. Fortunately, Debrecen has many great restaurants and food bars. If you do not know where to begin your discovering process, we suggest you start in the city centre because you will find lots of amazing places there. You can find many fast

food restaurants in Debrecen Pláza and Fórum, and also many smaller food bars in the heart of the town. Do not hesitate to find your favourite one!

Also, most of the restaurants have delivery so they help you making your life easier. You can google the restaurants, find their web page and you only have to spend a few minutes to figure out what you want to eat, order, and then wait until it arrives. Keep in mind that several restaurants cannot provide you card payment if you order for delivery! Most of the restaurants close at around 11 pm, only a few of them stay open longer. *TIP: many restaurants deliver "menus" during the week, check those offers out, too!*

Have you purchased your ESNcard yet? You can get discount in some restaurants with it so you'd better buy it as soon as possible. Here are the partners of ESNcard: <https://debrecen.esn.hu/partners>

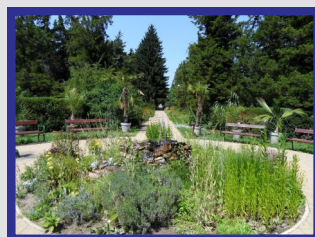
Entertainment, recreation and sports

There are plenty of opportunities in Debrecen to spend your valuable leisure time well both on campus and in town.

The **university's tennis courts, running tracks, football fields and gyms** are open to all students who wish to spend their free time actively. Students are also welcome to compete in the university's Athletic Club (DEAC). DEAC includes 22 departments such as tennis, fencing and sailing and futsal. Students may also join one-day caving or hiking trips to various parts of the country, skiing holidays in winter and rowing tours in the summer. The university's newly built Sports-court is also at your use.



The University of Debrecen also has a **Botanical Garden** where you can enjoy the Arboretum or the Palm House the whole year during a refreshing walk. It is very pleasant to spend spring afternoons there, there is even a small pond in the garden.

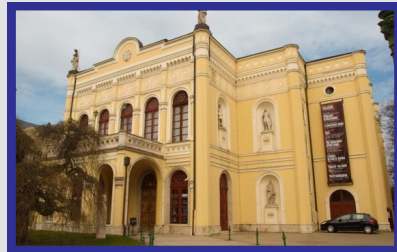


You can visit the famous **Déry Museum**, where the main attractions is the Christ-trilogy by Hungarian painter Mihály Munkácsy. Even the "smallest" of the three paintings is 4x6,5m, the three paintings together provide a spectacular experience – however we suggest to ask at the museum's reception before buying the tickets solely for these paintings.

The **MODEM centre for modern and contemporary arts**, that hosted The Real da Vinci exhibition in 2007, also invites you with its temporary exhibitions. It is important to know that all museums are closed on Mondays in Hungary.



The **Csokonai Theatre** and the **Vojtina Puppet Theatre** is counting on the theatre-going audience as well, mostly with plays in Hungarian, but ballet and opera performances are also available.



The city has two cinemas in the city centre: **CinemaCity** can be found in Debrecen Plaza and **Apollo Movie Theatre** is also easy to reach by trams (Szent-Anna utca tram stop). English speaking films are on show every day, check schedules for more information. Apollo often screens popular movies in English, however, changes its schedule weekly, so stay tuned not to miss anything.



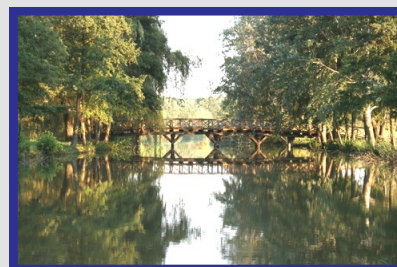
If you wish to spend your free time outside you must visit **Debrecen's Zoo and Amusement Park**, which is open the whole year or you can visit the Great Forest-park with its pond, usually referred to as "the Frog Lake/Békás-tó". The pond has spectacular fountains which gives a nice surrounding for jogging or cycling.



A 1,1 km long jogging track is also available around the **Stadium Nagyerdei**. The **Gábor Oláh street athletic stadium** also offers a lot for those who like to stay active

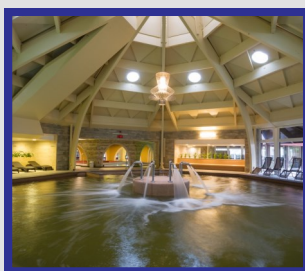


Lake Vekeri is waiting for the tourists near the city boundary, too, where they offer camping houses and a wild range of facilities from fishing, cycling tours, horse-riding to boating. It is accessible by bike or by bus

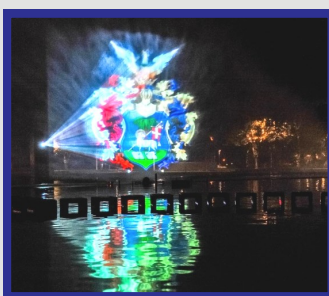


If you wish to refresh your body while having fun, you shall visit the “**Acquaticum Mediterranean Aquapark**”. Through its exuberant tropical plants and numerous attractions, including water-chutes, this extraordinary facility can conjure up a feeling of summer for every single day in the year. The **Thermal Bath**, on the other hand is a calmer place, where you can relax after long days. Students of the University of Debrecen get a special discount for this facility, don't forget to show your student certificate. The **Acquaticum Saunaworld** is open for the fans of the sauna culture, with pampering sauna programs every day. You can buy individual or combined tickets for these recreational facilities.

Debrecen also has excellent bars and cafes and the night life can be vivid also.



If you want to dance all night or just one to have a quiet talk with your friends you can find a place easily. From spring until late autumn, the fountain at the Stadium serves as a screen every night for short movies to show you Debrecen's cultural and nightlife – make sure to watch it at least once while you are in Debrecen. There are new movies available every now and then.



Popular places to visit: the Hall (parties under the Stadium every Wednesday); recently renovated Water Tower cafe and art gallery; Bakelit Music Café; Gara Confectionary, Mickeyz club; Klinika club (university parties on Thursdays); My Friends Club; Loft club...

Telecommunication

In European comparison, telecommunication (phone calls, texts, internet on your phone) in Hungary is, unfortunately, costly but you can find profitable offers if you spend a longer period in the country but it always requires loyalty time. Therefore, as Erasmus students, you will need to use prepaid SIM cards.

Telenor	2in1 S	2in1 M	2in1 L
Charge/month	1000 HUF	2500 HUF	3800 HUF
Inland talking frame	25 mins	50 min	100 min
Internet	1 GB	3 GB	6 GB
Minute charge	19HUF/min	19HUF/min	19HUF/min
SMS	19HUF/SMS	19HUF/SMS	19HUF/SMS

Telekom	Domino Surf package
Charge/month	735 HUF
Internet/month	150 MB
Talking charges	29 HUF (inland) 39 HUF (rest of the world)
SMS	29 HUF (inland) 39 HUF (rest of the world)

Vodafone	Tuti Net	Tuti Net 5 GB	Max L
Package fee for 30 days	1245 HUF	3559 HUF	3653 HUF
Free minutes/SMS	0	0	100 min/SMS
Minute charge with other 'Max-ies'	19 HUF	19 HUF	0 HUF
Available minutes or text messages inland	19mins/SMS	19mins/SMS	49 min/SMS
Internet	1 GB	5GB	1GB

ESN Debrecen events

During the semester ESN Debrecen will organize events to keep you entertained and to make sure you get to know Hungary and our culture. ESN Debrecen will also work on your integration to the local international and Hungarian communities. Here are a few event that ESN Debrecen will organize during the semester. Make sure to follow posts in the Facebook group of exchange students!

BUDAPEST TRIP

HUNGARIAN COOKING CLASS

TANDEM EVENING

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

WINE REGION TRIP

KARAOKE NIGHT

WELCOME/FAREWELL DINNER