You could say that Budapest is the ‘bull’s eye’ of European breaks! It’s certainly true that the capital sits in the middle of Hungary, and it plays a central role in the life of the country too. This is the hub of political, artistic and social energy. Most importantly, however, Budapest offers a plethora of attractions to rival those found anywhere in the Carpathian Basin – and, as such, it promises to be a real ‘hit’ with any holidaymaker!

Hungary’s position at the heart of Europe has made its capital one of the region’s most important cities. Such elevated status is reflected in the grandeur of its buildings, bridges and boulevards. Of course, the city has experienced a turbulent history and some castles, palaces and fabulous baths have been destroyed. Nevertheless, many still remain, and these have been supplemented with the modern structures – splendid concert halls, sleek bridges and state-of-the-art wellness centres – of a forward-looking nation embracing the new millennium.

There are impressive natural treasures too. The River Danube not only transports visitors but defines the landscape, and its Budapest section was deservedly declared a World Heritage Site. The hills and the flatlands meet in the region spreading away either side of the river, their flora and fauna preserved and maintained in two national parks and numerous natural protection areas. And there are plenty of outdoor activities for those with energy to burn – from cave climbing to parachuting, from a gentle riverside stroll to a testing jog through the hills.

History, nature, great food and wine, rejuvenating thermal baths, enthralling museums and galleries, top-quality music events, a vibrant nightlife – the city has so much to be experienced, visited and lived. Whether you’re here for a couple of days or – as we would decidedly recommend – for four or five, you’ll have lots to keep you occupied. There’s something happening 365 days a year – and 366 if you happen to visit during a leap year!

So aim for the bull’s eye, enjoy a hit holiday and create memories you’ll cherish forever.

Hungarian National Tourist Office
When you arrive in the centre of Budapest, you’ll be met by a stunning panorama. The River Danube flows through the city’s heart, spanned by elegant bridges connecting the Buda and Pest banks. The views will etch themselves on your memory, whether you enjoy them from the arcades of the Fishermen’s Bastion, the dome of the Basilica or leaning against the rails of Margaret Bridge.

And once you’ve surveyed the landscape, you can dive in and lose yourself among the buildings, town squares, streets and parks, enjoying the pulsating energy of the city’s past and present.

The area’s early history saw occupation by Romans, Huns and nomad Hungarians, and periods of royal construction followed by Mongolian destruction, before the formation of the three-part city – divided between Buda on Castle Hill, Pest on the flat east side, and Óbuda, the ancient Roman outpost.

The Hungarian capital is abundant in superlatives; its greatest treasure, however, is undoubtedly its unrivalled and world-renowned location. This section of the Danube was the first in the country to be awarded UNESCO World Heritage status, and you’ll never tire of the views or of the pleasing riverside strolls. There are romantic walks to take along Andrássy Boulevard too, which was also added to the UNESCO list in 2002. The boulevard boasts architectural gems including the Opera House, the Old Music Conservatory, the University of Applied Arts and Kodaly Circus (surrounded by statues), and culminates in the broad and imposing Heroes’ Square, with the towering Millennial Monument at its centre.
One of many great ways to explore Budapest is by tram. Tram line #2 affords the best view of the World Heritage panorama along the Danube; nevertheless, you can also travel along the Inner Ring Road encircling the downtown area between Margaret and Petőfi bridges, while gazing through the large windows of the modern tram cars.

Another prime attraction is Váci Street, lined with designer shops and high-end retail stores, and leading to the Market Hall—a extraordinary building stuffed with stalls selling food, drink and handmade gifts. The oldest metro line in Continental Europe runs beneath the entire length of Andrássy Boulevard, carrying passengers to stations at the neo-renaissance Opera House.

Serious palaces and ornate buildings

“Hungarian language of architecture is not of the past but of the future,” said Ödön Lechner (1845—1914), the most influential architect of the Hungarian Art Nouveau movement. The originality of Hungarian Art Nouveau came through its attempt to mould modern functionality into a distinct, decorative form incorporating the motifs and colours of folk art and design. You’ll find many examples of the style throughout the city, typically featuring colourful majolica inlays and arches. Look out in particular for the Museum of Applied Arts (on Üllői Road) and the Postal Savings Bank (in Hold Street).

Pest’s most conspicuous landmark is unarguably the neo-Gothic-style Parliament Building situated on the bank of the Danube. Some 1,000 workers took 17 years to construct this impressive edifice, which measures 268 metres (879.27ft) in length, 118 metres (387.14ft) in width and 96 metres (314.96ft) in height. Parliamentary business still takes place in this building, which also houses the Congressional Library and the Hungarian Crown Jewels.

The city’s largest church, the neo-Classical St Stephen’s Basilica, welcomes visitors with arching halls, a treasury and relic chapel, and a dramatic dome promising yet more breathtaking views.

The Octagon (an eight-sided city “square”), the “House of Terror” Museum and Heroes’ Square. Adjacent to the latter is the capital’s biggest green area, City Park, where you’ll find the curious Vajdahunyad Castle, built to commemorate the 1896 Millennial Celebration and Exhibition. City Park holds the protected site of the Széchenyi Baths, as well as the Budapest Zoological and Botanical Garden, the Great Circus, and the Amusement Park, with its 100-year-old carousel.
There are three city pearls of Europe – Venice on water, Florence on the plain and Buda on the hill,” wrote some medieval travellers whose opinion is supported today by countless visitors. It is worth spending a full day on the UNESCO-listed Castle Hill, which is divided between a royal section and the area traditionally inhabited by the city’s civilians. The architectural highlights of the civilian portion (to the north of Disz Square) are Matthias Church and the adjoining Fishermen’s Bastion. The Bastion reflected in the glass façade of the Hotel Hilton offers an unusual photo opportunity for those with an artistic eye. The side streets running away from Trinity Square (in front of the church) are dotted with Baroque-style buildings and mansions hiding Gothic ruins. You may want to take a rest in one of the many restaurants or cafés, or treat yourself to an ice cream or pastry at the opulent Ruszwurm Café. Sit for a spell at Kapisztrán Square and listen to the bells of the Magdalena Tower or climb aboard one of the cannons in front of the Museum of Military History. Those with a taste for an eerie underground experience can descend into the Labyrinth – a snaking system of caves and cellars stretching deep into the belly of the hill.

Walking from Dísz Square and passing in front of the Palace of the President of the Republic, you will arrive at the entrance to the former Royal Palace complex. This is also the upper station of the century-old Buda Castle Funicular (worth taking the ride!), which operates between here and the Chain Bridge in carrying passengers up and down the steep hill. The complex was once the home of royals and lords, but it now houses some rich museums (described later) and the nation’s largest library. Its courtyards are strewn with statues and fountains, and from the eastern terrace (in front of a realistic equestrian statue of Prince Eugene of Savoy, conqueror of the Turks) we can steal another magnificent view over the entire city. Margaret Island – lying in the middle of the Danube and forming one of the city’s most beautiful parks – is visible from here. You can reach it via Margaret Bridge, designed by the Frenchman Ernest Gouin.

Gellért Hill, inhabited in the 1st century BC by the Celtic Eraviscus tribe, was the meeting place for witches during the Middle Ages. In 1854 the Habsburgs built a citadel on top; the fort still looms over the city and is a popular tourist attraction. Visitors head for the Look-out Terrace to soak in the mesmerizing sight lying below. If you can, be sure to make a nocturnal visit for a glimpse of the city’s night-time illuminations.
• **STATUE PARK** – Gigantic monuments of the communist regime. Statues, removed from public domain, that represent socialist cultural politics.

• **STALIN’S TRIBUNE** – A balcony for communist leaders to greet crowds from in the shadow of the Boots. A proportional architectural and sculptural replica of the original grandstand and the statue that was pulled down in 1956.


• **MOVIE IN THE BARRACKS** – The Life of an Agent. Methods to hide bugs, house-searches, recruitment and networking.

A short bus ride from downtown Budapest will take the visitor to a unique museum – or, if you like – to a whole different world. By displaying mementoes of the communist era, this unparalleled theme park is a powerful reminder of the fall of tyranny. This stunning historical sight presents a collection of public statues and memorials that were removed from the streets of Budapest after the collapse of socialism in 1989-90. Providing a glimpse behind the iron curtain, the Park is one of the most spectacular sights of Budapest. The gigantic and symbolic pieces of art displayed in the Statue Park are powerful reminders of dictatorship. Facing the Statue Park is newly built “Stalin’s Tribune”, recalling the mythical longing for freedom.

**OPEN DAILY FROM 10 A.M. UNTIL DUSK.**

Budapest, 22nd district, corner of Balatoni út and Szabadkai utca.

www.mementopark.hu

**TRAVELLING INFORMATION**

Direct transfer from downtown (Deák tér, METRO N°1, N°2, N°3) to Memento Park every day, at 11 a.m. (in July and August also at 3 p.m.). The bus leaves from Deák Square from the bus stop distinguished by the Memento Park-timetable.

Alternative ways via public transport: > Bus N°47–49v from Deák tér > to Etele tér/square (terminus) > from Etele tér take the Volán bus, leaving from Volánbusz Station, gate N°7 toward Dósd (in every 20 minutes) > get off at the Memento Park - Szoborpark bus stop (15 minutes).
As you enter the Hercules Villa, you can imagine the past chatter of Romans reclining in their togas, the rustle of tunic-clad servants carrying refreshments, the trickling of wine being poured into goblets. This Roman building – erected in the 2nd century and resurrected in 1960 – is named after the impressive mosaic laid on its floor. Pictures of Heracles fighting the Nessos centaur, Dionysian images and a depiction of a tiger evoke the spirit of the time 2,000 years ago.

Hidden treasures of the outer districts

While the centre of Budapest receives most attention, the outer districts also offer countless treasures worth seeing. The remains of the ancient city of Aquincum unearthed in Óbuda are visible in the archaeological park and museum. The ruins of the military baths (at Flórián Square) and those of the civilian and military amphitheatres testify to the rich history of this Roman colonial seat. To the south of the downtown, contemporary buildings line each side of the Danube near the city’s youngest bridge, reflecting the development of a new area. The newly built National Theatre stands on the Pest side, together with the award-winning Palace of Arts, which is a must for lovers of culture. Further out, along the highway leading to Lake Balaton, Statue Park preserves the monuments and statues that adorned the city’s streets and squares during the Communist era (1950–1990).
Collectors and their collections

It is difficult to choose which of Budapest’s museums to visit — there are over 200 in total. If you have little time at your disposal, you should obviously head for the major ones. The Hungarian National Museum will acquaint you with the country’s history, while the Ethnographic Museum focuses upon folk art and country life. If you want to learn more about Budapest itself, try the Budapest History Museum, which protects and displays the medieval ruins of the royal palace. Lovers of fine art are welcome at the Hungarian National Gallery, which shows the works of domestic artists, whereas the works of international painters (including the leading collection of El Greco works outside the Prado) have found their home in the Museum of Fine Arts. Contemporary works of art are displayed at the Ludwig Museum in the Palace of Arts. Industrial masterpieces are held in the Museum of Applied Arts, and treasures of religious art are kept at the Basilica, at Matthias Church and in museums run by the various denominations. The document of Martin Luther’s will is kept in Budapest, and the world’s richest collection of Jewish art outside Israel can be found here too. We recommend the Museum of Military History to those with an interest in warfare, whereas pacifists might prefer to visit the Hungarian Museum of Catering. If you are led by the Muses even while sightseeing, visit the Memorial Exhibitions of Franz Liszt, Zoltán Kodály, and Béla Bartók, or the Museum of Music History. Connoisseurs of culture may wish to explore the Molnár C Pál Studio and Museum run by the artist’s descendants. Others could lose themselves among the 3,000 flags displayed at the Flag Museum. Something for the kids? Take them by the hand and head to the interactive world on offer at the House of the Future and the Palace of Wonders.
Few of the world’s capital cities can boast the natural treasures to be found in Budapest. **Gellért Hill**, towering above the city centre, has protected status; so too does **Sas Hill**, a haven of dolomite flora among some wealthy residential neighbourhoods. Two botanical gardens ([the Füvészkert](#) and the [Buda Arboretum](#)) are located in populated areas of the city, and urban development has resulted in the downtown encroaching upon the position of the [Zoological and Botanical Garden of Budapest](#), whose magnificently renovated 100-year-old Palm Garden is sure to provide a memorable experience for plant lovers. One natural treasure is visible from most points of the city – the range of the [Buda Hills](#), which embrace Buda’s districts from the north-east. The range’s highest point is at **János Hill** (525 metres or 1,722ft); a chairlift carries visitors to the Erzsébet look-out tower at its peak. The hills represent not only the “lungs” of the city but also the very heart of the city’s natural beauty.

**Incredible as it might seem, this city of two million inhabitants actually has an environmental protection area at its very heart. As such, peace, fresh air and curious wildlife are but a short walk from even the busiest of the city’s traffic hubs.**

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**Buda hills**

On the right: Erzsébet look-out tower
but, with their designated hiking paths, one of the cornerstones of the healthy lifestyle of its inhabitants.

The most valuable natural assets of the city are its caves. Of all European capitals, Monaco is the only other that can boast a dripstone cave; Budapest has not just one but several open to visitors. The Pálvölgy Cave leads into a world of stalagmites and stalactites, while the Szemlő Hill Cave reveals a chamber of aragonite formations. If you’d prefer to look beyond the established paths, you might consider a trip to Matthias Hill Cave, which can only be visited with a qualified and experienced climber.
The auditorium of the Opera House seats 1,200 people. It was designed in the Italian Renaissance style by Miklós Ybl. The three levels of the auditorium were decorated with 24-carat gold leaves, and the murals of the greatest Hungarian painters adorn the halls and foyers of the building.

The Baroque church on the Pest side of Elizabeth Bridge is a melting pot of artistic features contributed over its 1,000-year life. Romanesque and Gothic elements, Renaissance altars, a Turkish mihrab (prayer niche), and Classical, Art-Nouveau and contemporary artefacts can all be seen.

The underground hospital in Buda Castle

It feels slightly spooky to descend 20 metres underground and encounter rows of bed-bound patients. However, fortunately these are not real patients – rather they are waxwork exhibits in a reconstruction of the former secret military hospital that once occupied this place deep within Castle Hill. The bomb-proof hospital was established in the cave in 1939, and continued to operate (under strict secrecy) during the party-state era.

The top-ten must-see sights

1. The interior of the Opera House

2. Downtown Diocese Church

3. The underground hospital in Buda Castle

4. The Baroque church on the Pest side of Elizabeth Bridge

5. The interior of the Saint Stephen’s Basilica

6. The castle above the Danube

7. The Széchenyi Thermal Bath

8. The Széchenyi Chain Bridge

9. The Great Market Hall

10. The Andrássy Avenue

Visit hungary.com
3. New York Café

This was the most ornate of the 320 cafés that operated in the years preceding World War I, and it has remained so ever since. Gilded columns, reliefs and shining mirrors evoke the aesthetic of the early 1900s.

4. The Great Synagogue of Dohány Street

The largest synagogue in Europe built in the eastern, Moorish style seats 3,000 worshippers in its three wings. Musicians like Franz Liszt and Saint-Saëns have played its organ, which performs a leading role during the annual Jewish Festival.

5. The view from the Basilica

Built as the biggest church in the city, St Stephen’s Basilica affords a great view for visitors who choose to ascend its dome (either via the 302 stairs or by taking the lift). Circling the dome, on one side you can see Buda, while stretched before you on the other is a sea of Pest rooftops.

6. “Steamy” – the Railway History Park

Who didn’t dream of growing up to be a train driver when they were a child? You can live your dreams here. Take a peek inside the restaurant car of Agatha Christie’s Orient Express, sit on a hand-propelled flatcar, or play with an enormous electric train set that fills an entire room.

7. Rigó Jancsi and Dobos cakes

Regardless of which café you choose, the square-shaped chocolate cake named after Jancsi Rigó – a gypsy musician renowned for his epic love affair – and the caramel-covered creation bearing the name of its original creator, József C Dobos, are bound to be on the menu.
The domed Turkish Rudas Baths stand on the Buda side of Elizabeth Bridge; the baths were first constructed by Pasha Sokoli Mustapha in 1560, but almost 450 years later guests are still relaxing in its steam-filled halls. While until recently only men were admitted, the baths are now open to women as well.

Market halls have largely disappeared from the majority of Europe’s main cities. Fortunately, the market-hall tradition is alive and well in Budapest. The Great Market Hall is the biggest and most impressive of several that survive from the beginning of the 20th century.

The Parliament Building is worth visiting not only for the spectacular architecture, but for the Crown Jewels on display in its sizeable and opulent Dome Room. The Holy Crown, the sceptre, the orb and the sword are admired by thousands of visitors each year.
Attractons, museums:

Parliament (C/2)
V. Kossuth tér 1–3
Phone: +36-1-441-4415
www.parlament.hu
Guided tours: Every day, min.
5-person groups leaving every half
an hour (Mon–Fri 8:00am–6:00pm,
Sat 8:00am–4:00pm, Sun
8:00am–2:00pm)
www.zsido.hu
Sun—Thur 10:00am–6:00pm,
Fri 10:00am–3:00pm (November
1–March 1 Sun–Thur 10:00am–
3:00pm, Fri 10:00am–2:00pm)
Closed on Sat

Great Circus of Budapest (F/1)
XIV. Allatkerti körút 12/a
Phone: +36-1-344-6008
www.maciva.hu
E-mail: circus2@mail.datanet.hu

Amusement Park (F/1)
XIV. Allatkerti körút 14–16
Phone: +36-1-363-7091
April–September: 10:00am–
8:00pm, October–March only
Sat—Sun 10:00am–7:00pm

Hungarian State Opera House (D/3)
VI. Andrássy út 22
Phone: +36-1-331-2550
www.opera.hu; www.operavisit.hu
Guided tours: Mon–Sun 3:00pm
and 4:00pm
Information: +36-1-332-8197

Matthias Church (B/3)
I. Szentháromság tér
Phone: +36-1-355-5657
www.matyas-templom.hu
Mon–Fri 9:00am–5:00pm,
Sat 9:00am–12:00pm,
Sun 1:00pm–5:00pm

Fishermen’s Bastion (B/3)
I. Castle District (next to
Matthias Church)

Museum of Military History (A/3)
I. Kapisztrán tér 2–4
Phone: +36-1-325-1600
Tue–Sun 10:00am–6:00pm
(October 1–March 31
10:00am–4:00pm)

Buda Castle Labyrinth (A/3)
I. Úri utca 9
Phone: +36-1-212-0207
www.labirintus.com
Mon–Sun 9:30am–7:30pm

Buda Castle Funicular (B/4)
I. Clark Ádám tér–Buda Castle
Mon–Sun 7:30am–10:00pm
Closed on the Mon of every even
week of the month

Hungary National Museum (D/5)
VIII. Múzeum körút 14–16
Phone: +36-1-338-2122
www.mnm.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am–6:00pm

Downtown Diocese Church (C/4)
V. Március 15. tér 2
Phone: +36-1-318-3108
Open every day during service

Dohány Street Synagogue
and the Jewish Museum (D/4)
VII. Dohány utca 2
Phone: +36-1-342-8949

Palace of Arts
IX. Komor Marcell utca 1
Phone: +36-1-555-3001
www.mupa.hu
National Concert Hall, Ludwig
Museum and the National
Dance Theatre

Statue Park
XXII. Corner of Balatoni út
(Highway 70) – Szabadkai út
Phone: +36-1-424-7500
www.szoborpark.hu
From 10:00am till sundown

Hungarian Agricultural Museum (F/1)
XIV. Városliget, Vajdahunyadvár
(City Park, Vajdahunyad Castle)
Phone: +36-1-422-0765
www.mezogazdasagimuzeum.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am–5:00pm

Ethnographic Museum (C/2)
V. Kossuth tér 12
Phone: +36-1-473-2400
www.neprajz.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am–6:00pm

Meet in front of Gate 10
Free of charge for EU citizens

St Stephen’s Basilica (C/3)
V. Szent István tér
Phone: +36-1-317-2859
www.basilica.hu
Mon—Sun 9:00am–5:00pm
(during winter 10:00am–4:00pm)
(Closed to visitors due to weddings
on Sat from noon, and due to mass
on Sun till 1:00pm)
English tours: Mon—Sun 9:30am–
11:00am and 2:00pm–3:30pm

Downtown Diocese Church (C/4)
V. Március 15. tér 2
Phone: +36-1-318-3108
Open every day during service

Dohány Street Synagogue
and the Jewish Museum (D/4)
VII. Dohány utca 2
Phone: +36-1-342-8949

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Open daily, summer: 10 – 22
winter: 10 – 20

www.waxmuzeum.hu
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Budapest History Museum – Castle Museum (B/4)
I. Szent György tér 2
Phone: +36-1-487-8800
www.btm.hu
10:00am – 6:00pm (November 1–February 28: 10:00am – 4:00pm)
Closed on Tue
Hungarian National Gallery (B/4)
I. Szent György tér 2
Phone: +36-1-201-9082
www.mng.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am – 6:00pm
Museum of Fine Arts (F/1)
XIV. Dózsa György út 41
(Heroes’ Square)
Phone: +36-1-469-7100
www.szepmuveszet.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am – 5:30pm
Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art
IX. Komor Marcell utca 1
(Palace of Arts)
Phone: +36-1-555-3444
www.ludwigmuseum.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am – 8:00pm
(last Sat of each month 10:00am – 10:00pm)
Museum of Applied Arts (E/5)
IX. Üllői út 33–37
Phone: +36-1-456-5100
www.imm.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am – 6:00pm
House of Terror Museum (E/2)
VI. Andrássy út 60
Phone: +36-1-374-2600
www.terrorhaza.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am – 6:00pm
(last Sat of each month)
History of Railroad Transportation
XIV. Tatai út 95
Phone: +36-1-450-1497
www.mavnosztalgia.hu
March 15–30 10:00am – 3:00pm;
March 31–November 4 10:00am – 6:00pm;
November 6–December 16 10:00am – 3:00pm
Closed on Mon
Cave Hospital (A/3)
I. Lovas utca 4/c
Phone: +36 30/397-8303
www.szikkohoraz.hu
Guided visits only (by prior arrangement), every day except
Monday - from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
Budapest Zoological and Botanical Gardens (F/1)
XIV. Allatkerti krt 6-12
Franz Liszt Memorial Museum (D/3)
VI. Vörösmarty utca 35
Phone: +36-1-322-9804
www.lisztmuseum.hu
Mon–Fri 10:00am – 6:00pm,
Sat 9:00am – 5:00pm
Zoltán Kodály Memorial Museum and Archives (E/2)
VI. Andrássy út 89
Phone: +36-1-352-7106
Wed 10:00am–4:00pm, Thu–Sat
10:00am–6:00pm, Sun 10:00am–2:00pm
Béla Bartók Memorial House
II. Csáldán utca 29
Phone: +36-1-394-2100
www.bartokmuseum.hu
Tue–Sun 10:00am – 5:00pm
Renaissance Waxworks Museum
(C/4)
V. Váci utca 31/c
Phone: +36-1-266-8396
www.waxmuzeum.hu
October 1–February 28,
Mon–Sun 10:00am – 8:00pm;
March 1–September 30,
Mon–Sun 10:00am – 10:00pm
House of Future Centre (A/2)
II. Fény utca 20–22
Phone: +36-1-336-4000
www.jovohaza.hu
Mon–Sun 10:00am – 10:00pm
Erzsébet look-out tower
on János Hill
XII. János-hegy
The 23.5-metre tall, circular, terraced tower built in the Neo-Roman style offers a spectacular view. Take bus #158 from Moszkva tér (Metro 2) to the last stop, then take the chairlift. Chairlift operating hours: May 16–September 14 9:00am–5:00pm; September 15–May 15 9:30am–4:00pm.
Closed on the Mon of every odd week.
Pálvölgy Cave
II. Szépvölgyi út 162
Phone: +36-1-325-9505
www.dinpi.hu
Tue–Sun 10:15am – 4:00pm
The extent of the cave explored so far is 19 kilometres (11.8 miles), 500 metres of which is paved, lit and walkable. Tour length: 60 minutes. The temperature in the cave is 10 °C (50 °F) all year round. Only guided tours are allowed. Tours leave 15 minutes past the hour.
Szemlő Hill Cave
II. Pusztaszeri út 35
Phone: +36-1-323-6001
10:00am – 4:00pm
Closed on Tue
Tour length is 250 metres (273 yards), walkable on paved walkways and stairs. You can admire the rich pisolith deposits and calcium crystals covering the walls of the cave. The clean, dust-free air of the cave makes it conducive to the treatment of patients suffering from asthmatic and respiratory disorders. The estimated length of the tour is 40 minutes.
For further information visit:
www.hungary.com,
www.budapestinfo.hu, www.museum.hu
Budapest is unique as a world capital in boasting 123 medicinal springs under its territory, supplying 70 million litres of warm and hot therapeutic water rich in minerals and other elements. The water is used primarily in health spas and thermal baths, or as mineral drinking water sold in bottles or consumed straight from drinking fountains. The bathing traditions are as old as the city itself, and there were 14 operating during the Roman period in the area known as Aquincum. Of the baths that are open all year round, the Széchenyi Baths and Swimming Pools in City Park – Europe’s largest and perhaps most beautiful baths complex – has 15 pools and countless services.

Many baths use the water of the springs on the Buda side of the Danube, the best-known of which are the Gellért Baths. The central bubble pool in its Art-Nouveau complex is surrounded by columned arcades, making for an unforgettable experience for bathers and visitors alike. North of the Gellért, a series of baths can be found in a row, some of which were established during the Turkish occupation and others during the early Middle Ages: the Rudas, the Rác, the Király and the Lukács baths. Budapester patrons of the baths fall into two camps when it comes to these baths: some vouch for the Rudas, whereas others swear by the Lukács. Another favourite on the Pest side is the Dagály Health Spa sprawling in a sizeable park along the Danube.

During the summer season, the palette of baths is completed by the outdoor-only public-pool parks, the most popular of which is the Palatinus (or “the Pala” as it is fondly referred to in Budapest slang). Many also attend the Roman Baths (which, despite their misleading name, are outdoor pools), which are situated in a large park strewn with ancient trees.

In 1541 the Turks invaded Buda and occupied it for a period of 150 years. While they raided and destroyed, they also constructed – primarily djamis and bath houses, some of which survive today. The Rác Baths, now a therapeutic and wellness centre, were called kutchuk ilidjesi (“small baths”) in Turkish, whereas the Rudas Baths, found on the Buda side of Elizabeth Bridge, was called jesil direcli Ilidja (“green-columned baths”). Guests of the Rudas Baths still bathe under the baths’ original dome erected in 1560 by Pasha of Buda, Sokoli Mustapha.
Therapeutic waters

Medicinal water can be used in various ways. One can bathe in it or enjoy its benefits by drinking it. The water of the Lukács Baths was already being used for medicinal purposes during the medieval period (as well as for other purposes such as powering mills). In the baths’ marble drinking hall, you can drink the water from small glasses. If you sip it warm in the morning it is believed to relieve and prevent various stomach, kidney and gall-bladder problems.

Monument Baths in Budapest

St Gellért Health Spa and Pools (C/6)
XI. Kelenhegyi út 4
Phone: +36-1-466-6166, www.gellertfurdo.hu
Open: Mon–Sun 6:00am–7:00pm

Water content:
Calcium-magnesium-hydrogen carbonate and sulphate-chloride thermal water also containing sodium and a significant amount of fluoride ions.

Recommended for:
Degenerative diseases of the joints, vertebral disorders, intervertebral disc problems, neural disorders, high blood pressure, circulatory problems. In the inhalatorium: treatments for asthmatic and acute bronchial complaints.

Services:
Thermal pools, weight pools, carbonated tub baths, therapeutic massages, underwater jet massage, rejuvenating massage, hot-air and steam rooms, Finnish sauna, mud treatments, physical therapy.

St Lukács Health Spa and Pools (B/1)
II. Frankel Leo utca 25–29
Phone: +36-1-326-1695
www.lukacsfurdo.hu
Open: Mon–Sun 6:00am–7:00pm

Water content:
Calcium-magnesium-hydrogen carbonate and sulphate-chloride thermal water also containing sodium and a significant number of fluoride ions.

Recommended for:
Degenerative diseases of the joints, vertebral conditions, intervertebral disc cartilage conditions, neurological diseases and osteomalacia. As drinking treatment for: Acute gastritis, ulcers, enterocolitis, excess gastric acidity, kidney and urinary tract infections, certain types of kidney stones, acute inflammations of the respiratory tract, gall-bladder problems.

Services:
Thermal pools, weight pools, carbonated tub baths, therapeutic massages, underwater jet massage, rejuvenating massage, Finnish sauna, mud therapy.

Rudas Health Spa and Pools (C/5)
I. Döbrentei tér 9
Phone: +36-1-356-1322,
www.rudasfurdo.hu
Open: Mon–Fri 6:00am–6:00pm
Sat–Sun 6:00am–2:00pm

Water content:
Radioactive thermal water containing calcium-magnesium-hydrogen carbonate and sulphate with a significant number of fluoride ions.
Recommended for:
Degenerative diseases of the joints, vertebral disorders, intervertebral disc cartilage problems, neurological diseases and osteomalacia.

Drinking treatments:
2. The water of the Attila Spring: inflammations of the respiratory and digestive tracts, bladder, gall-bladder and liver problems.
3. The water of the Attila Spring: high blood pressure, rheumatic and arthritic diseases.

Services:
Thermal baths, tub baths, underwater jet massages, swimming pool, therapeutic massages, rejuvenating massages, hot-air and steam chambers.

Széchenyi Health Spa and Pools (F/1)
XIV. Állatkerti körút 11
Phone: +36-1-363-3210, www.szechenyifurdo.hu
Open: Mon–Sun 6:00am–10:00pm

Water content:
Calcium-magnesium-hydrogen carbonate and sulphate-chloride thermal water, also containing sodium and a significant amount of fluoride and metaboric acid.

Recommended for:
Degenerative diseases of the joints, acute and semi-acute inflammation of the joints, orthopaedic and post-surgical treatments.

As drinking treatment for: Acute gastritis, stomach ulcers, enterocolitis, acute inflammation of the kidneys and the urinary tract, certain types of kidney stones, acute respiratory-tract inflammations, amelioration of arthritic and metabolic problems, gall-bladder diseases.

Services:
Weight pools, carbonated tub baths, therapeutic massages, underwater jet massage, rejuvenating massage, Finnish sauna with a cold-water pool, mud therapy, physical therapy.

Király Health Spa (B/2)
II. Fő utca 84
Phone: +36-1-202-3688, www.kiralyfurdo.hu
Open: Women only on Mon, Wed, Fri 7:00am–6:00pm; men only on Tue, Thu, Sat 9:00am–8:00pm

Water content:
Calcium-magnesium-hydrogen carbonate and sulphate-chloride thermal water, also containing sodium and a significant number of fluoride ions.

Recommended for:
Degenerative diseases of the joints, vertebral diseases, acute and semi-acute inflammations of the joints, intervertebral cartilage problems, neurological disorders, osteomalacia.

Services:
Therapeutic massages, underwater jet massages, rejuvenating massages, foot massages, hot-air and steam rooms, pedicure, a 2-person Finnish sauna with tub baths.
Wellness

St Margaret, the daughter of King Bela IV, could never have imagined that some day people would jog, cycle and play sports on the island in the Danube that bears her name; Palatine Joseph, who converted the island into a park at the beginning of the 19th century, would be flabbergasted by the sight of the track suits and colourful helmets.

The traffic-free island is now a veritable hive of wellness, with a sports centre, a 5km (3-mile) race track and swimming pools.

“Wellness is basically a learning process whereby we can acquire the ability to make decisions leading to a higher quality of living. Thus, it is not comprised of one treatment but rather of a long process.”

There is a rich range of wellness activities available in Budapest. There are various kinds of massage on offer, such as acupuncture massage, cellulite massage, Shiatsu-, Thai-, and Yumeiho massages; there are complex therapies, such as Feldenkrais-, Kneipp-, Mayr-, Thalasso therapies; and there are treatments including acupressure, seaweed treatment, body wrapping, Cleopatra bath, aromatherapy and exfoliation.

In addition to the therapeutic hotels, each of the major hotels in Budapest (four- and five-star) has wellness facilities, fitness rooms, pools and sometimes courts for playing sports. Some smaller, family-run bed-and-breakfasts in the city also offer special wellness services.

You can feel fit and well through swimming or relaxing in a hot tub. In addition to these, some other wellness services are offered at most swimming pools and baths. At the majority of health spas, there are pools too with a controlled water temperature suitable for swimming. During the summer you might swim, bathe, relax and soak up the sun at open-air pool parks. The most popular public pool parks are the Palatinus on Margaret Island and the Roman Baths in Óbuda, both of which are situated in scenic, wooded areas.

The more athletic should head for one of two swimming-pool complexes – the Császár-Komjádi Swimming Pools or the Hajós Alfréd Sports Pools – where members of the Hungarian water-polo and swimming teams train.
Where everyone finds something to enjoy
Central Europe’s biggest indoor water theme park, conference and wellness hotel offers visitors to Budapest unforgettable experiences.

for businessmen
Stylish and comfortable hotel rooms with internet access, a 21st century Conference Centre accommodating up to 1000 participants, a cozy restaurant for business dinners, and a gentle touch after a busy day in the Oriental Spa, Wellness and Fitness Centre.

for families
Two and three roomed apartments provide a homely feeling. The Aquaworld has a special pool for kids, adventure elements, children’s slides, a playhouse and a children’s banquet room. In the hotel’s Beauty Farm while parents are being pampered, the little ones can play under adult supervision.

for sporty ones
Aquaworld’s adrenalin kicks include: the first wave surfing pool in Hungary, six slides at a height of 18 meters, 180 meter long mountain river, 21 pools, and uncountable other attractions. In the Hotel’s Fitness Centre you can find a gym, a fitness room, 4 squash courts and summer courts for tennis and volleyball.

for wellness lovers
Enter a world of boundless pampering: at the Beauty Farm treat yourself to one of our body care programs combining most varied massage treatments; dive into the oriental mandala pool, visit the sauna land at the Hotel with Hamam chamber, or at the Aquaworld with ice cave, Kneipp pool and much more.

Ramada Plaza – Aquaworld is FOR YOU!
www.aqua-world.hu
www.ramadaplaza.hu
Public Swimming Pools in Budapest

Dagály Pool Park
XIII. Népfürdő utca 36
Phone: +36-1-452-4500, www.dagalyfurdo.hu
Open: Swimming pools and therapeutic thermal pool Mon–Sun 6:00am–8:30pm; therapeutic medicinal massages and underwater jet massages Mon–Sun 6:00am –7:00pm
Water content: Calcium-magnesium-hydrogen carbonate and sulfate-chloride thermal water, which also contains sodium and a significant number of fluoride ions.
Recommended for: Degenerative diseases of the joints, acute and semi-acute inflammations of the joints, treatment of orthopaedic disorders and problems resulting from injuries.
Services: Children’s splash pool, sports pool, outdoor swimming pool, thermal and pleasure pool, sauna, football field, therapeutic massages, pleasure spa, wave pool.

Palatinus Pool Park
XIII. Margaret Island
Phone: +36-1-340-4505, www.palatinusstrand.hu
Open: Mon–Sun 9:00am–7:00pm
Water content: Low saline content, calcium-magnesium-hydrogen carbonate chloride thermal water.
Services: Pleasure pools, children’s splash pool, outdoor swimming pools, wave pool, thermal pool, sports fields, playground.

Római Pool Park
III. Rozgonyi Piroska utca 2
Phone: +36-1-388-9740, www.romaistrand.hu
Open: Mon–Sun 9:00am–7:00pm
Water content: Consistently low concentration of solvents, calcium-magnesium-hydrogen carbonate warm spring water.
Services: Family and individual slides, “Black Hole” slide, jet stream, fountains, geysers, rock garden with waterfall, bubble falls, miniature slides, climbing nets, Finnish sauna.

Therapeutic Hotels in Budapest:
www.danubiushotels.com:
Danubius Grand Hotel Margitsziget
Danubius Health Spa Resort Margitsziget
Danubius Health Spa Resort Helia
Danubius Hotel Gellért

www.aqua-world.hu

For further information please visit:
www.spasbudapest.com
“Your feet are always at hand,” goes the saying. In Budapest, that means you can get up into the Buda Hills in 30 minutes. If you have no time for a longer trip, take the chairlift at Zugliget and take it to the top of János Hill (527 metres, 1,729ft). The Erzsébet Look-out Tower, erected in 1910, is only a few minutes’ walk from the last stop, the terraces of which offer a magnificent view of the hills and the city.

You can hike your way down or take the Children’s Railway.

If you fancy a jog, consider the specially built shore-side track on Margaret Island, or one of the larger or the less-steep areas of the Buda Hills. If you’d prefer a plain old walk, you can choose from countless paths ranging from easy to difficult in the Buda Hills. Hiking trails and walking paths are marked with clear signs posted on trees and streets. For those who’d like to take a look beneath the surface, there are caves that are open and readily accessible to the public (and for which you don’t need special clothing). Alternatively, the more adventurous might arrange for a wild cave tour within the city.

The Budapest section of the Danube has served lovers of watersports, such as rowers, canoeists and kayakers, since the second half of the 19th century. Many an Olympic medallist or world champion has trained upon these waters. The largest watersports camp has been established at Római part (the “Roman Shore”) on the Buda side; those who seek a quieter section free from big boats would do better to choose the Soroksár side-stream which starts at Csepel Island.

Cyclists will be pleased to learn that a 160km (100-mile) cycle-lane system runs throughout the city, in addition to the numerous roads with lighter or reduced traffic that are also available to them. Moreover, a section of the EuroVelo international bike route established along the Danube also crosses Budapest. Don’t dismay if you didn’t bring a bicycle because there are numerous places to rent one; you can even book on a bicycle sightseeing tour.

Mountain bikers are well served by the routes in the Buda Hills (marked with bike signs). The nicest tracks can be found in the areas of the Hűvösvölgy-Glider Airport and the Hármashatár Hill-Csűcs Hill.

Many open-air and indoor skate parks are available for skateboarders in Budapest.
Hungarians are referred to as a horse-riding people, their nomadic ancestors having arrived in the Carpathian Basin 1,100 years ago on horseback. Budapest offers opportunities for riders of all abilities; for cross-country riding, however, you’ll need to visit horse farms and traditional terrain just beyond the city.

There are many other sports to enjoy too. You have a choice of some 50 tennis clubs, featuring indoor and outdoor courts in virtually every district of the city.

There is a nine-hole golf course in Budapest with a training center and a practice course. You can also find driving ranges in Adyliget, the 10th district, and on Hajógyári (“Shipyard”) Island. Indoor golfing (obviously more popular in the winter) is available to devotees of the sport at two places in the capital.

While motor racing is a popular spectator sport, you can also have a go yourself – on a smaller scale. Take to the track at one of several go-cart centres, and race against yourself or a group of friends.

The paintball craze has reached great heights in the past few years, and you’ll find facilities in Budapest.

Alternatively, you might speed down the summer bobsledding tracks. This is available for children and adults alike, and there are tracks on the edge of the city.

Indoor facilities allow you to indulge in sport whatever the weather. There are countless places to play squash, go bowling or take part in “coffee-house sports” such as pool or darts.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

Mellow Mood Group offers high quality accommodation ranging from hostels to 5 star hotels, ultra-modern conference facilities and a wide palette of travel services, sightseeing tours and transfers.

For our special offers and online booking visit www.mellowmood.hu
Address: H-1077 Budapest, Baross tér 15. | Phone: + 36 1 413 2062 | Fax: + 36 1 321 4851
E-mail: sales@mellowmood.hu
Fitness, wellness clubs, day spas

A1 Wellness – Material Center
XIII. Róbert Károly körút 54–58
Phone: +36-1-238-0764

A1 Obuda
II. Árpád fejedelm útja 26–28
Phone: +36-1-346-3030

A1 Eurocenter
III. Bécsi út 154, Phone: +36-1-437-4636
www.a1wellness.hu

Mandala day spa (D/1)
XIII. Budapest, Ipoly utca 8 (Kleopátra ház)
Phone: +36-1-801-2566
www.mandaladayspa.hu

Biovital Wellness Centre (A/2)
II. Lövôház utca 1–5
Phone: +36-1-315-2069
www.biovital.hu

Bike rental and city cycling tours

Komjádi Uszoda (B/1)
II. Árpád fejedelem útja 8
Phone: +36-1-212-0330, www.sulisi.hu

Budapest Bike (E/3)
VII. Wesselényi utca 18
Phone: +36-30-944-5533
www.budapestbike.hu

Bike Base (D/2)
VI. Podmaniczky utca 19
Phone: +36-1-369-5983 www.bikebase.hu

Bringóhintó (C/1)
1138 Budapest, Hajós Alfréd sétány 1
Phone: +36-1-329-2073
www.bringohinto.hu

Yellow Zebra (C/4)
V. Budapest, Sóly utca 2
(phone at Deák Ferenc tér)
Phone: +36-1-369-3843
www.yellowzebrabikes.com

WestEnd City Bike (D/2)
VI. Budapest, Váci út 1–3
Phone: +36-1-374-6573
www.westend.hu

Tennis

Roman Tennis Academy
III. Királyok utja 105
Phone: +36-1-240-8616

Mon–Fri 7:00am–10:00pm,
Sat–Sun 7:00am–9:00pm

Szépálygi Tennis Centre
II. Virág B. utca 39–41
Phone: +36-1-388-1591

Open: 7:00am–10:00pm

Városmajor Tennis Academy
XII. Városmajor utca 63–69
Phone: +36-1-202-5337
Mon–Fri 7:00am–10:00pm, Sat:
7:00am–7:00pm, Sun 8:00am–7:00pm

Squash

City Squash & Fitness (A/1)
II. Marczibányi tér 13
Phone: +36-1-336-0408
Mon–Fri 7:00am–midnight,
Sat–Sun 8:00am–10:00pm

Top Squash (A/2)
II. Lövôház utca 2–4 (Mammut I)
Phone: +36-1-345-8193
Mon–Fri 7:00am–11:00pm
Sat–Sun 9:00am–8:00pm

Horse riding

Petneházy Horse-Riding Centre
II. Feketefej utca 2
Phone: +36-1-397-1208

Favorit Stables
XVI. Mókus utca 23
Phone: +36-30-966-9992

Go-carting

Budaring Go-cart
XI. Budafoki út (at Floracoop flower market)
Phone: +36-1-247-4747
www.budaring.hu

Eurocenter Go-cart
III. Bécsi út 154
Phone: +36-1-347-4680
Mon–Thu 2:00pm–10:00pm, Sat 11:00
am–11:00pm, Sun: 11:00am–9:00pm

Westend Ice Terrace (D/2)
VI. Váci út 1–3, Phone: +36-30-549-9294

Ice Skating

Ice Skating Centre
IV. Homoktôvis utca 1
Phone: +36-1-364-2060
www.korikozpont.hu

Artificial Ice Skating Rink (F/1)
XIV. Olof Palme sétány 5
Phone: +36-1-364-0013
www.mujegyalya.hu

Westend Ice Terrace (D/2)
VI. Váci út 1–3, Phone: +36-30-549-9294

Golf

Highland Golf Club
XXII. Dózsa György út 99–103
Phone: +36-1-362-8020
www.highlandgolf.hu, www.hungolf.hu

Petneházy Golf Club
1029 Adyliget, Feketefej utca 6
Phone: +36-1-354-1720
www.golfcentrum.hu

Paintball
www.paintballpark.hu
www.extremepaintball.hu

Margaret Island

Hungría.com
You will need a very large ladle indeed to scoop from Budapest’s cultural soup. Among its highlights are the temporary and permanent exhibitions of the Museum of Fine Arts and the Hungarian National Gallery, the annual programmes of cultural events (such as the Spring Festival, the Budapest Fair, the Sziget Festival and the Festival of Arts and Crafts), and the concerts and other performances held at the Opera House and the Palace of Arts. And when you’ve partaken of food for the soul, you can fill your stomach with hearty helpings of the real stuff too. Don’t miss, for instance, the Buda Castle Sausage and Palinka Festival or the International Festival of Wine.

The cornerstones of classical music in Budapest are the Opera House, the Music Conservatory and the Palace of Arts. On the repertoire of the Opera House, you will find elite national and international productions of ballet and opera. The building housing the Music Conservatory (particularly the interior) is considered to be one of the leading examples of Hungarian Art Nouveau. The Béla Bartók National Concert Hall (which seats 1,700) has found a home in the Palace of Arts and ranks among the best concert halls in the world. The concert hall’s organ – whose quality is superb – boasts 6,712 pipes. The Palace of Arts also holds the National Dance Theatre and the Ludwig Museum. In the first half of the 20th century, Budapest was referred to as the capital of the operetta – a separate theatre was even built to cater purely for plays in this genre. By the end of the century, Budapest’s stages were regularly featuring international musical productions. You can spend a very pleasant evening taking in a musical at the Madách, Víg-, Thália or Magyar theatres.

**Gustav Mahler, Otto Klemperer, Ferenc Erkel, Giacomo Puccini, Béla Bartók, Lamberto Gardelli, János Ferencsik, Beniamino Gigli, Éva Marton are names from the history of the Budapest Opera House. They are a few among many who, at different periods, were directors at the venue, staged many productions, conducted the orchestra or performed on its stage. This Neo-Renaissance palace dating to 1884 has hosted all the musical greats, whether through performance of their music or by receiving them in person (from Monteverdi to Péter Eötvös).**
A Festival in Fever

Spring ushers in more than nice weather and blossoming trees. In the last two weeks of March, flags adorn the Hungarian capital. However, these are not raised in honour of a diplomat or a national holiday. Rather they indicate the opening of the Spring Festival, when the most celebrated Hungarian and foreign artists perform in Budapest to audiences who come from all over the world. This internationally renowned festival – which, since its inception in 1981, has spread to many other towns too – has something for everyone, including classical and contemporary concerts, stage productions, movie shows, outdoor programmes and other festival events.

There is always something cultural going on in Budapest – not only in the concert halls, theatres and sports halls, but on the streets themselves.

The summer months from June to August feature a plethora of events. Summer on the Chain Bridge (with a series of performances) takes place during this time, as well as the programmes of the Summer Festival on Margaret Island and at the Városmajor Open-Air Theatre, and the productions of the BudaFest Summer Opera and Ballet Festival.

The internationally renowned Sziget Festival takes place at the beginning of August on Shipyard Island, and includes over 1,000 pop and rock-music events. Around August 20th, you can participate in the Festival of Arts and Crafts, which showcases the various skills and trades of folk artists.

The national holiday is made memorable by the Air Show over the river and concludes with a half-hour-long fireworks display in the evening.

At the end of the month, you can join in with the programmes of the Summer Jewish Festival and try Hungarian wines during the Wine Festival held in Buda Castle. If you wish not only to taste wine but to see how it is made, you are recommended to take a trip to Budafok. Within the framework of the Budapest Autumn Festival, the autumn belongs to the contemporary arts.

The year concludes with the Christmas Market at Vörösmarty Square and New Year’s Eve celebrations (which open with a concert and feature a series of balls and galas, among them the elegant Opera Ball).
In addition to the main cultural events, which attract tens of thousands of people to watch, there are programmes throughout the year. Among these are smaller, local festivals in the districts of Ferencváros, Óbuda and Erzsébetváros. Fans of music and the performing arts can select from the usual season’s offerings at concert venues all over the city.

Budapest’s churches (of several denominations) also offer quality concerts, especially during the season of church celebrations.

Hungarian choral music is popular, and choirs perform in both churches and concert halls.

Other venues for music are clubs and pubs, which frequently advertise live jazz, blues, rock, pop and other music performed by renowned or lesser-known artists. And on leaving any of the places playing music on New Year’s Eve, you’ll be treated to the noise and “music” of night in the streets as well.
The most important theatres and concert halls in Budapest:

**Hungarian State Opera House (D/3)**
VI. Andrássy út 22
Phone: +36-1-353-0170, www.opera.hu
Box office: Mon–Sat 11:00am–beginning of show time (or 5:00pm if there is no performance); Sun and national holidays 4:00pm–show time. Before matinee performances, the box offices open at 10:00am.

**Budapest Operetta Theatre (D/3)**
VI. Nagymező utca 19
Phone: +36-1-312-4866, www.operettszinhaz.hu
Box office: Mon–Fri 10:00am–7:00pm, Sat–Sun 13.00–19.00
If there are no performances on holidays, the box office is closed!

**Music Conservatory (D/3)**
VI. Liszt Ferenc tér 8
Phone: +36-1-462-4679, www.zeneakademia.hu

**National Theater**
IX. Bajor Gizi park 1
Phone: +36-1-476-6800, www.nemzetiszinhaz.hu
Box office: weekdays 10:00am–6:00pm weekends and national holidays 2:00pm–6:00pm or the beginning of the performance.

**Palace of Arts**
IX. Komor Marcell utca 1
Phone: +36-1-555-3000, www.mupa.hu
Box office: Mon–Fri 1:00pm–6:00pm Sat–Sun 10:00am–6:00pm or until the end of the show on performance days.

**Folklore programme:**
www.hungariakoncert.hu

**Duna Palace (C/3)**
V. Zrinyi utca 5, Phone: +36-1-235-5500

**Thália Theatre (D/3)**
VI. Nagymező utca 22–24
Phone: +36-1-312-4230

**Madách Theatre (E/3)**
VII. Erzsébet körút 29–33
Phone: +36-1-478-2041, www.madachszinhaz.hu

**Comedy Theatre (C/3)**
XIII. Szent István körút 14
Phone: +36-1-329-2340, www.vigszinhaz.hu

**Merlin International Theatre (D/4)**
V. Gerlóczy utca 4
Phone: +36-1-317-9338, www.szinhaz.hu/merlin

**Redoute (C/4)**
V. Vigadó tér 2.
Phone: +36-1-354-3755, www.tabulas.hu/vigado
Main Events in Budapest

**March – Utazás (Travel Expo)**
Hungexpo Zrt.
X. Albertirsai út 10
Phone: +36-1-263-6523
www.utazas.hungexpo.hu

**March – Budapest Spring Festival**
Budapest Festival Centre
V. Szervita tér 5
Phone: +36-1-486-3300
www.btf.hu
For 27 years now the Budapest Spring Festival has been Hungary’s biggest cultural festival. In the last two weeks of March, around 200 events await Hungarian and foreign tourists in 50–60 venues in Budapest.

**June – Pannon Wine Congress**
Pannon Wine Guild
XIV. Állatkerti út 2
Phone: +36-1-468-4045
www.pannonbor.hu
This festival of top wines and top winemakers in City Park offers some marvels of Hungarian gastronomy and a real market atmosphere.

**2nd part of June – Danube Carnival**
BM Duna Artists Ensemble
XII. Németvölgyi út 41
Phone: +36-1-201-6613
www.dunaart.hu
This gathering organised around the city attracts top European and overseas artists from the worlds of classical and world music, as well as brass bands, contemporary dancers and the best performers of Hungarian folk dancing.

**2nd part of June – Budapest Horse-Riding June-Fest**
National Equestrian Marketing Association
Phone: +36-30-685-7812
www.nlmt.hu
Visitors are offered programmes on Shipyard Island over four days: the Celebration of Fire on the 22nd, the Open Historical Day on the 23rd, and an equestrian show on the 24th and 25th.

**July – August – Space, Film and Music Festival**
Visualpower Kft.
XI. Kelenföldi út 2
Phone: +36-1-204-1402
www.terfilmzene.hu
The Space, Film and Music Festival will be organised for the fourth time in Budapest. Visitors can watch films catering to all age groups free of charge; films are screened every day on a daylight giant LED wall from 4.30pm till 11.00pm.

**Beginning of August – Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix**
Hungaroring Sport Rt.
2146 Mogyoród, Pf 10
Phone: +36-28-444-444
www.hungaroring.hu

**Beginning of August – Sziget Festival**
Phone: +36-1-372-0650
www.sziget.hu
Shipyard Island on the Danube becomes a town within the city during this multicultural festival. Around 400,000 come to the Sziget (Island) Festival each year for concerts featuring global names, the cream of Hungarian bands and rising stars, as well as for theatre performances, films, exhibitions, classical music and sports programmes.

**End of August–beginning of September – Jewish Summer Festival**
Jewish Touristic and Cultural Centre
VII. Sip utca 12
Phone: +36-1-343-0420
www.jewishfestival.hu
A wide-ranging festival that focuses on Jewish culture. It features a week of books and films, exhibitions and gastronomy events, as well as those international “languages” of culture – music and dance.

**Beginning of September – September-Fest**
Hotelinfo Kft
1056 Budapest, Váci út 78–80
Above: Budapest Autumn Festival

September – Budapest Autumn Festival
Hungary's main cultural event in September features free guided tours of locations that are normally closed to the public, including buildings open to the public.

October – Budapest Autumn Festival
Budapest Festival Centre
V. Szervita tér 5
Phone: +36-1-486-3300
www.bof.hu
One of the major aims of the festival is to showcase Budapest's cultural standing in Europe, promoting the capital as a festival city and strengthening its image as an important European cultural centre.

End of October – Vienna– Budapest Supermarathon
Pest County Athletic Association
V. Steindl Imre utca 12
Phone: +36-1-312-8892
www.szupermarathon.hu

November – Budapest Art Fair
Partner’s 2000 Kft
I. Várkó utca 16
Phone: +36-1-370-3369
www.kunstdiles.hu
The Budapest Art Fair is the most prestigious parade of art dealers. Hungary’s first and only forum for presenting classical and contemporary art will be staged again in November at Art Hall (Műcsarnok) in Budapest.

End of November–Christmas – Budapest Christmas
Tourism Office of Budapest
V. Március 15 tér 7
Phone: +36-1-266-0479
www.budapestinfo.hu
The Budapest Christmas Fair in the heart of the city offers a special holiday atmosphere, including a fair with hand-made products and gifts, a giant Advent Calendar, exhibitions and other cultural and music programmes.

December 31 – New Year’s Eve Gala at the Opera House
VIP Arts Management Kft
1221 Budapest, Városház tér 11
Phone: +36-1-302-4290
www.viparts.hu
Prominent artists of the Hungarian State Opera House and foreign star guests perform in this gala concert staged in one of Europe’s most attractive buildings. The festive supper is prepared by chefs from the internationally renowned Gundel Restaurant, and is followed by a New Year Ball that lasts until dawn.

For further information please visit: www.hungary.com; www.budapestinfo.hu
Guests arriving in Budapest can choose from a vast choice of accommodation to suit any pocket, from five-star state-of-the-art hotels through family-owned bed-and-breakfasts to campsites. The most popular luxury hotels are situated in a row on either side of the Danube. The family-run bed-and-breakfasts, mostly found at the foot of the Buda Hills in a tranquil environment with clean air, are very popular. You’ll also find some in central areas more convenient for those tourists only visiting for a few days.

You can’t talk about Hungary without mentioning its masterful cuisine. Goulash, paprika chicken, pike-perch and the sweet Somlói Delight – not to mention countless other well-known dishes – are all there to tempt you during your stay. In many of the elegant restaurants offering traditional dishes, you will also be serenaded with live gypsy music. You can dine on delicious, freshly cooked Hungarian dishes (at very cheap prices) in smaller restaurants, eateries and diners.

As in any big world city, in Budapest you can find international cuisine alongside domestic fare. Choose from a broad selection of tastes, from Japanese sushi to Jewish falafel, from hot-and-sour soup to paella.

In the first half of the 20th century, Budapest was a city of cafés. The capital’s citizens – and in particular its writers, poets and Bohemians – spent much of their time in the cafés. Although this world has passed, many of the cafés fortunately remain, and there are even new additions built in the traditional style where you can experience the atmosphere of bygone times. If you’d like some pastries with your coffee, look out for one of the many classy patisseries.

Hungarian wines are at least as good as the Hungarian food, and you do not need to travel the country to taste the various products of the different wine regions — you can do so at the House of Hungarian Wines or the House of Historic Wines.

When the evening falls, the traffic in the Budapest streets also increases, as the pubs, bars, wineries and nightclubs come to life. The strains of jazz or blues will mingle with the noise of conversation. Budapest has developed its own areas with trendy “hang-outs”: Liszt Ferenc tér or Ráday utca. People looking to enjoy themselves or meet new people can head for the many dance clubs, but it is also worth visiting the dance houses playing Hungarian folk music.

The name “Gundel” not only refers to one of the city’s most opulent restaurants, but is also the moniker of its signature dessert, the Gundel Pancake. To make the pancake yourself, mix raisins soaked in rum, sliced candy orange peels, finely ground nuts, sugar and some cinnamon into warm cream and cook for a couple of minutes until it all turns into a spreadable puree. Allow it to cool slightly, add some more rum. Make 12 crêpes, add a line of filling to each, roll them up and keep them in a warm place. Serve flambéed.
Restaurants

László Ferenc Square

A38 Ship (D/6)
Petőfi Bridge, Buda side
Phone: +36-1-464-3946
www.a38.hu
Mon–Sun 11:00am–midnight

Alabárdos (A/3)
V. Országház utca 2
Phone: +36-1-356-0851
www.alabardos.hu
Mon–Fri 7:00pm–midnight,
Sat noon–midnight
Hungarian

Anonymous (F/1)
XIV. Kós Károly sétány 1
Phone: +36-1-363-5905
www.anonymuscatering.hu
Mon–Sun 11:00am–midnight
Hungarian, international

Arany Bárány (C/4)
V. Harmincad utca 4
Phone: +36-1-317-2703
www.aranybaranyetterem.hu
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian

AranySzárvas (C/5)
I. Szarvas tér 1
Phone: +36-1-375-6451
www.aranyszarvas.hu
Mon–Sun noon–11:00pm
Hungarian, game dishes

Bagolyvár (F/1)
XIV. Állatkerti út 2
Phone: +36-1-317-2706
www.logovar.hu
Mon–Sun noon–11:00pm
Hungarian

Belcanto (D/3)
VI. Dalszínház utca 8
Phone: +36-1-269-2786
www.belcanto.hu
Mon–Sun noon–3:00pm,
6:00pm–2:00am
Hungarian, international

Biarritz (C/2)
V. Kossuth tér 18
Phone: +36-1-311-4413
www.biarritz.hu
Mon–Fri 9:00am–midnight,
Sat–Sun 10:00am–midnight
International, Mediterranean

Budavári Fortuna (A/3)
I. Hess András tér 4
Phone: +36-1-375-6857
www.fortuna-restaurant.hu
Mon–Sun noon–4:00pm,
7:00pm–midnight
Hungarian

Busuló Juhász (B/5)
X. Kelenhegyi út 58
Phone: +36-1-209-1649
www.busulojuhasz.hu
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian, international

Cyrano (C/4)
V. Kristóf tér 7

Dionysos Taverna (C/5)
V. Széchenyi tér 2
Phone: +36-1-375-6451
www.dionysos.com
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian

Fausto’s Ristorante (D/3)
VII. Széchenyi tér 2
Phone: +36-1-877-6201
www.fausto.hu
Mon–Sun noon–3:00pm,
19.00–11:00pm
International, Italian

Fülemüle (E/4)
VIII. Körás utca 5
Phone: +36-1-269-2786
www.fulemule.hu
Sun–Thur noon–10:00pm,
Fri–Sat noon–11:00pm
Hungarian, Jewish

Gundel (F/1)
XIV. Állatkerti út 2
Phone: +36-1-468-4040
www.gundel.hu
Mon–Sun noon–4:00pm,
18.30–midnight
Hungarian, international

Kaltenberg (E/5)
IX. Kőfaragó utca 5
Phone: +36-1-209-1649
www.kaltenberg.hu
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-266-3096
www.cyrano-restaurant.com
Mon–Sun 11:00am–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-375-6451
www.gundel.hu
Mon–Sun noon–4:00pm,
18.30–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-209-1649
www.kaltenberg.hu
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-266-3096
www.cyrano-restaurant.com
Mon–Sun 11:00am–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-375-6451
www.gundel.hu
Mon–Sun noon–4:00pm,
18.30–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-209-1649
www.kaltenberg.hu
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-266-3096
www.cyrano-restaurant.com
Mon–Sun 11:00am–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-375-6451
www.gundel.hu
Mon–Sun noon–4:00pm,
18.30–midnight
Hungarian, international

Phone: +36-1-209-1649
www.kaltenberg.hu
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian, international
Kárpátia (D/4)
V. Ferenciek tere 7–8
Phone: +36-1-317-3596
www.karpatia.hu
Mon–Sun 11:00am–11:00pm
Hungarian

Kéhli
III. Mókus utca 22
Phone: +36-1-250-4241
www.kehli.hu
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian

Képíró (D/5)
V. Képíró utca 3
Phone: +36-1-266-0430
www.kepirorestaurant.com
Hungarian, international

Kispipa (E/4)
VII. Akácfa utca 38
Phone: +36-1-342-2587
www.kispipa.hu
Mon–Sun noon–1:00am
Hungarian, international

Márványmenyasszony (A/4)
I. Márvány utca 6
Phone: +36-1-487-3090
www.marvanymenyasszony.hu
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian, international

Mátyás Pince (C/4)
V. March 15 tér 7–8
Phone: +36-1-266-8008
www.matyaspince.hu
Mon–Sun 11:00am–1:00am
Hungarian, international

Múzeum Café and Restaurant (D/4)
VIII. Múzeum körút 12
Phone: +36-1-338-4221
www.muzeumkavehaz.hu
Mon–Sat noon–midnight
Hungarian, Mediterranean

Náncki Néni Vendéglője
II. Órdögárok utca 80
Phone: +36-1-397-2742
www.nancsineni.hu
Mon–Sun noon–11:00pm
Hungarian

Oroszlános Kút (C/4)
V. Vörösmarty tér 7–8
Phone: +36-1-429-9000
www.gerbeaud.hu
Mon–Sun noon–3:00pm,
18.00–10:00pm
Hungarian, international

Premier (E/2)
V. Andrassy út 101
Phone: +36-1-342-1768
www.premier-restaurant.hu
Mon–Sun 11:00am–11:00pm
International

Régi Sipos Halászkert
III. Lajos utca 46
Phone: +36-1-368-6480
+36-1-250-8082
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian, fish

Remiz
XII. Budakeszi út 5.
Phone: +36-1-275-1396
www.remiz.hu
Mon–Sun 9:00am–midnight
International

Rosenstein (F/4)
VIII. Mosonyi utca 3
Phone: +36-1-333-3492
www/rosenstein.hu
Mon–Sun noon–11:00pm
Hungarian, international

Robinson (F/1)
XIV. Városligeti tó
Phone: +36-1-422-0222
www.robinsonrestaurant.hu
Mon–Sun noon–4:00pm,
18.00–midnight
International

Spoon Cafe & Lounge (C/4)
V. Vigadó tér 3
Phone: +36-1-411-0933
www.spooncafe.hu
Mon–Sun 12:00 noon–midnight
International

Százéves (Hundred-year-old Restaurant)(C/4)
V. Pesti Barnabás utca 2
Phone: +36-1-318-3608
www.taverna.hu/szazeves
Mon–Sun noon–midnight
Hungarian, international

In Budapest, you can select from a plethora of trendy restaurants and eateries at Liszt Ferenc square (D/3), Ráday street (D/5) and Hajós street (D/3).

House of Royal Wines and Cellar Museum (B/4)
I. Szent György tér, West side
Phone: +36-1-267-1100
www.kiralyiborok.com
Open: 10:00 am-6.00 pm
You can find quality wines from 22 Hungarian historical wine regions in the 1400 sqm renaissance cellar system. Exhibitions presenting Hungarian vines and viticulture and the production of sparkling wine and brandy can be visited in the cellars.

Ragout soup
Wine cellar
Right: Café Pierrot
House of Historic Wines (F/1)
XIV. Hungarian Museum of Agriculture, Vajdahunyad vára
Phone: +36-1-422-0765
www.mezogazdasagimuzeum.hu
Open: Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 10:00am–5:00pm
This exhibition introducing the past and present of grape and wine production has received a home in the Gothic wing of the incredible Neo-Baroque-style building. The inside of an original winepress cellar moved here from Balaton is on display, as well as the interior of a pleasant wine cellar and a press from 1825.

Cafés, patisseries

Lukács (E/2)
VI. Andrássy út 70
Phone: +36-1-373-0407
www.lukacscukraszda.hu
Mon–Sun 9:00am–8:00pm
Lukács opened its doors to the public in Budapest in 1912.

Ruszwurm (B/3)
I. Szentháromság utca 7
Phone: +36-1-375-5284
www.ruszwurm.hu
Mon–Sun 10:00am–7:00pm
Pastry chef Ferenc Schwabl started operating from this address in the Castle District in 1827, and an opulent shop has served customers continuously ever since.

Szamos Confectioners (C/4)
V. Párisi utca 3
Phone: +36-1-317-3843
Mon–Sun 10:00am–7:00pm,
www.szamosmarcipan.hu
In downtown Pest, the first Szamos Marzipan shop opened in 1987 and has remained one of the most attractive little cafés of the area every since.

Gerbeaud Café and Confectioners (C/4)
V. Vörösmarty tér 7
Phone: +36-1-429-9000
www.gerbeaud.hu
Mon–Sun 9:00am–9:00pm
The legendary “Gerbeaud” in the heart of Budapest, at Vörösmarty tér, can boast of ranking among the richest and most renowned traditional cafés in Europe.

Hauer Confectioners (E/4)
VIII. Rákóczi út 47–49
Phone: +36-1-323-1476
www.hauercukraszda.hu
Mon–Sun 10:00am–9:00pm
The café was rebuilt through reference to old documents and photographs, with an interior evoking the elegant atmosphere of yesteryear.

New York Café (E/4)
VII. Erzsébet körút 9–11
Phone: +36-1-886-6167
www.newyorkpalace.hu
Mon–Sun 10:00am–midnight
The “most beautiful café in the world” was opened on October 23, 1894, by Sándor Steuer, a member of a famous “coffee” dynasty. The most magnificent part of this impressive building (which also contains a hotel) is the café on the ground floor, next to the windows of which 16 devil-like fauns (“El Ashmodai”, the ancient character of coffee and thinking) have been placed to hold the lamps.

Auguszt Cukrászda (D/4)
V. Kossuth Lajos utca 14-16
Phone: +36 - 1-337-6379
Mon–Sun 10:00am – 9:00pm
Auguszt is the place if you want the best cakes in town! Auguszt is a cozy place, a traditional family owned café, founded in 1870, known for its friendly atmosphere, the personal touch. The delicious cake they have is hand made, with care, exclusively for you. Taste the E-80 cake, which was created for the 80th birthday of the grandfather: Elemér Auguszt.

For further information please visit:
www.hungary.com,
www.budapestinfo.hu
A city’s shops reflect the culture of the country as a whole. In Budapest’s stores you’ll find well-known Hungarian products, or “hungarica,” such as Tokaji wine, the porcelain of Herend, Zsolnay majolica and salami from Szeged. Numerous shopping malls can be found in Budapest; nevertheless if you are seeking a more intimate setting for your shopping, head for the popular shopping areas and districts – the city centre of Pest (Váci, Petőfi Sándor, Kossuth Lajos streets and others around them). Hungarian products can be purchased here, such as high-quality folk-art items and embroidery, as well as renowned world brands from Nike to Estée Lauder. For “antique hunters” we recommend Falk Miksa utca and the section of the Szent István körút close to the Danube; the salon of the most renowned Hungarian fashion designer, Katti Zoób, can also be found here. If you wish to browse a flea market, take a trip to the outskirts of Pest where you’ll find the market referred to as the “ECseri” by Budapesters, or visit the market at Petőfi Csarnok in City Park at the weekend. Hungarian paprika and hot peppers (and their green versions), salami or cherry- and rum-filled chocolate bon-bons can be bought at any of the supermarkets, market halls or food markets. A visit to the latter is particularly atmospheric; note, however, that while it is acceptable (and expected) to bargain at flea markets, it is useless to try at the food markets or halls.

In recent decades, a “book district” has developed in the heart of Budapest, in the area of the National Museum. Half a dozen antique and used book shops stand in a row here, among them the Central Antique Bookshop. An enormous owl over the entrance of the building indicates that you are entering the halls of erudition and literature, where you can browse a selection that ranges from centuries-old rarities to the most recent bestsellers. And the books are not only in Hungarian!

Let me grab my credit card!
Shopping malls

**Westend City Center (D/2)**
VI. Váci út 1–3
Phone: +36-1-238-7777
www.westend.hu
Mon–Sat 10:00am–9:00pm
Sun 10:00am–6:00pm
Located at the Nyugati tér station of the M3 metro line.

**Mammut (A/2)**
II. Lövőház utca 2–6
Phone: +36-1-345-8020
www.mammut.hu
Mon–Sat 10:00am–9:00pm
Sun 10:00am–6:00pm
Located at the Moszkva tér station of the M2 metro line.

**Aréna Plaza**
VIII. Kerepesi út 9
Phone: +36 80 204-868
www.arenaplaza.hu
Mon–Sat 10:00am–9:00pm
Sun 10:00am–7:00pm
Located at the Keleti pályaudvar station of the M2 metro line.

Aréna Plaza is the largest shopping mall in Central Europe.

Market Halls

**Great Market Hall (D/5)**
 IX. Vámház körút 1–3
Phone: +36-1-217-6067
Mon 6:00am–5:00pm
Tues–Fri 6:00am–6:00pm
Sat 6:00am–2:00pm
Accessible from Kálvin tér by trams #47 and #49 (Fővám tér stop)

Market Halls

**Great Market Hall (D/5)**
IX. Vámház körút 1–3
Phone: +36-1-217-6067
Mon 6:00am–5:00pm
Tues–Fri 6:00am–6:00pm
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Market Halls

**Great Market Hall (D/5)**
IX. Vámház körút 1–3
Phone: +36-1-217-6067
Mon 6:00am–5:00pm
Tues–Fri 6:00am–6:00pm
Sat 6:00am–2:00pm
Accessible from Kálvin tér by trams #47 and #49 (Fővám tér stop)
**Folkart Centrum (D/5)**
V. Váci utca 58  
(at Sörház Street)  
Phone: +36-1-318-5840  
www.folkartcentrum.hu  
Mon–Sun 10:00am–7:00pm

**Millennium Antiques (D/5)**
V. Váci utca 67  
Phone: +36-1-318-1478  
www.millennium-antik.hu  
Zsolnay and Herend porcelain, chandeliers, table lamps, fireplaces, clocks.

Numerous antique stores welcome those interested, in Falk Miksa Street (C/2).

**Antique and Used Book Stores**

**Központi Antikvárium (Central Antique Bookstore, D/5)**
V. Múzeum körút 13–15  
Phone: +36-1-317-3514  
Mon–Fri 10:00am–6:30pm,  
Sat 10:00am–2:00pm  
Accessible by the M2 (Astoria station) and M3 (Kálvin tér station) metro lines.

**Múzeum Antikvárium (D/5)**
V. Múzeum körút 35  
Phone: +36-1-317-5023

**Antiquarium Hungaricum (D/5)**
V. Múzeum körút 29  
Phone: +36-1-317-5023  
Mon–Fri 10:00am–6:00pm,  
Sat 10:00am–2:00pm  
Accessible by trams #2, #4, and # 6 (Jászai Mari tér stop)

**Hungaricums**

**Herendi Brand Store (“Apponyi”) (C/4)**
V. József nádor tér 11  
Phone: +36-1-317-2622  
www.heroku.com  
Located at the Deák Ferenc tér metro station (junction of three metro lines)

**Hollóházi Brand Store (E/4)**
VII. Rákóczi út 32 (at Nyár utca)  
Phone: +36-1-413-1463  
www.hollohazi.hu  
Accessible via the M2 metro, buses #7, #73, #4, and tram #6 (Blaha Lujza tér stop)

**Zwack Unicum – Budapest Museum and Visitors’ Centre**
IX. Soroksári út 26  
(entrance from Dandár utca)  
Phone: +36-1-476-2383  
www.zwack.hu  
Accessible via tram #2 (Haller utca stop)

**Pick Brand Store (food store) (D/4)**
V. Városház utca 14  
Phone: +36-1-337-8139  
Mon–Fri 7:00am–7:00pm  
Accessible via the M3 metro (Ferenciek tere stop)

**Vass Shoes**
V. Haris köz 2.  
Phone: +36-1-318-2375  
www.vass-shoes.com,  
www.vass-cipo.hu
From dawn till dusk – almost 24 hours in Budapest

- **6.30 am** No lazing around! Get up early to give yourself a long day enjoying the city. Lucky that you went to bed early last night...
- **7.00 am** Head to the Gellért. Swim 20 lengths in the bubble pool or, if the weather is conducive, in the pool outside. Finish with a sweat in the sauna, a soak in the hot tub and a pampering massage. In your relaxed state, be careful not to fall asleep!
- **9.00 am** Seat yourself at a window table in the Central Café and prepare to watch the city pass outside. Enjoy an abundant breakfast while indulging in a spot of eavesdropping on the table next to you (if you can understand what’s being discussed).
- **10.00 am** Since the shops are already opening, walk southwards along Váci utca. Resist the tempting shop windows along the way and concentrate on reaching the Great Market Hall with its colourful stalls.
- **11.00 am** Take tram #2 (as a way of sightseeing) to Jászai Mari tér, and then a guided tour of the Kieselbach Gallery and the Auction House. Look around the antique shops of Falk Miksa utca near by – they’re at least as interesting as a museum visit.
- **12.30 pm** Take bus #15 over to Sas utca to have lunch at Mokka Café and Restaurant, followed by a nice cup of coffee.
- **14.00 pm** Time for a stroll on Andrássy út. Check out some global fashion and design brands in the shop windows of the section between Oktogon and Deák tér.
- **17.00 pm** Back to the hotel for a breather, some rejuvenation and a change of clothes.
- **19.00 pm** Dinner at Lou-Lou Restaurant.
- **20.30 pm** Head for Ship A38 on the Danube (best to take a taxi there). You’ll probably miss some of the 8:00pm programme, but you’ll definitely be in time to catch that starting at 9:00pm. Have a cocktail in the meantime.
- **22.00 pm** Delve into the thick of the nightlife of the city. Cross over to the Pest side to Liszt Ferenc tér, and enjoy a beer or two in one of the many café-bars.
- **23.30 pm** Still hanging in there? Trade the evening laze for some exercise. Look into the Holdudvar Dance Club and, if you are still with it, the Cha-cha-cha.
- **02.00 pm** Aaaaa-ah! It is definitely way past your usual bedtime. Take a cab and jump into your hotel bed.

The Danube and Budapest go together like a horse and carriage. You can cross the river in a small boat (operated by the public transportation company), but it is more pleasant to take a sightseeing cruise. From nowhere else is the city as beautiful as it is when seen from the river – particularly at night, when the lights of the illuminated buildings are reflected on the surface of the water.
SIGHTSEEING CRUISES ON THE DANUBE

Duna Corso
1-HOUR SIGHTSEEING CRUISE WITH GUIDING

29 March — 27 April, daily
11:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00

28 April — 28 September, daily
10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00,
16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:30, 21:30

29 September — 2 November, daily
11:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00

Prices:
- Adult: 2,990,- HUF/person
- Student: 2,490,- HUF/person
- Child (ages 6-15): 1,490,- HUF/person
- Children under 6 years of age free!

All cruises depart from Vigadó Square Ship Station.

Cruises with music and dance on board
Night-time cruise with live music, dinner choice and dance on board

3-27 April and 3 October — 2 November,
on Friday, Saturday and Sunday
1 May — 28 September, daily (except 20.08.)
8 November — 27 December, on Saturday*

Departure: 19:30  |  Arrival: 21:30

Prices:
- Adult (without dinner): 2,990,- HUF/person
- Adult (buffet dinner inc.): 5,990,- HUF/person
- Child (ages 6-15) (without dinner): 1,490,- HUF/person
- Child (ages 6-15) (buffet dinner inc.): 2,990,- HUF/person

All cruises depart from Vigadó Square Ship Station.
*The ship is leaving from the International Landing Stage.

Hydrofoil to the Danube Bend
Inland hydrofoil-liner

Budapest—Vác—Nagymaros—Esztergom
Budapest—Visegrád
3. May — 1. June (+1, 2. May and 12. May), Saturday and Sunday
6. June — 31. August, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
6—28. September, Saturday and Sunday

Esztergom—Visegrád—Budapest
5. July — 31. August, Saturday and Sunday

Discounts:
- 50%: Child (ages 2-14)
- 100%: Children under 2 years of age free,
in case they do not require separate seats.

All cruises depart from Vigadó Square Ship Station.

Excursion boat to the Danube Bend

Budapest—Vác—Visegrád—Esztergom
3. May — 1. June (+1, 2. May and 12. May), Friday, Saturday and Sunday
2. June — 31. August, daily
6—28. September, Saturday and Sunday

Budapest—Szentendre—Visegrád
5—27. April, Saturday and Sunday
1. May — 31. August, daily
6. September — 26 October, Friday*, Saturday and Sunday
* On Fridays only in September

Budapest—Szentendre (direct line)
5—27. April and 4—26. October, on Saturday and Sunday
1. May — 28. September, daily

Discounts:
- 25%: ISIC student card and senior card
- 50%: Child (ages 6-15)
- 100%: Children under 6 years of age free

All cruises depart from Vigadó Square Ship Station.
The landscape north of Budapest along the Danube was born of the marriage between the hills and the river. The attractions of the area are most easily accessible by following the winding but comfortable highway along what was formerly the Roman Limes, or on the railroad wedged between the river shore on the left and the rocky hillside, or perhaps along the partially built bike path. Nevertheless, if you wish to enjoy the best views of the landscape, the river and the small towns along the shore, hop aboard a cruise ship running from Budapest on the Szentendre or the Vác side stream of the Danube all the way to Esztergom. Leaving the highlands behind, you will see the plains embrace the 250—350m-tall (900–1,150ft) sand dunes of the Gödöllő Hills with their variegated terrain dotted with limestone heaps.

In the south-southeast corner of the region (about 100km from the capital), the traveller will stumble upon a landscape characterised by plains rich in fauna and flora. Besides the fields, pastures, farmlands, meadows, hills and valleys and saline-sediment lakes, all under environmental protection, one can explore the ever-shrinking world of farms and manors, and the history, life and culture of the typical country towns of the plains.

The 247-square-kilometre Csepel Island is ensconced in the Danube at the point where the river splits between two side streams, creating what once was called “Magna Insula” (the Great Island). At the time of the arrival of the Magyar tribes in the 10th century AD, this area was a royal residence, and subsequently the estate of the queen for centuries.

In the west-southwest parts of the region, German villages were built in the 18th century in place of the ones destroyed by the Turks. Descendants cherishing their heritage still preserve the values of the past, including the cultural heritage of the Germans here. The ranges of the Buda Hills situated outside the capital can be found here, as well as the Zsámbék and Nagykovácsi basins where once the Via Imperialis ran – the road connecting the royal seat of Esztergom with the coronation city of Székesfehérvár.

Medieval churches, ecclesiastical treasures, castles, museums and protected treasures of the natural environment can be seen here. After that, you might like to put on a helmet and overalls for a spot of cave exploring or take to the skies with some hang-gliding or to the water with some parasailing. You can try some motorcar racing here, or sit back as a spectator and watch the stars of Formula 1 at the Hungarian Grand Prix. Continue the speed theme by hurtling down water slides or the bobsledding track. You can cycle high and low through valleys and over mountains, or boat along the most picturesque portions of the Danube.
The picturesque Danube Bend and its mountains

It is unlikely that when the castle was first erected at Visegrád in the early medieval period the builders did so to take advantage of a spectacular view. Instead it was the 19th-century Romantics who first properly admired the scene, making it the subject of their writings and paintings. The Danube found a way for itself across this area among the inactive volcanoes, creating the Strait of Visegrád – or, as it is better known, the Danube Bend. The river here carves a double “S” shape and, when looked at together with the 800m hills, forms a beautiful picture as viewed from the terrace underneath the castle.

The most picturesque section of River Danube as it runs through Hungary is at the Danube Bend between Esztergom and Visegrád. It is not by accident that the Hungarians occupying the homeland set up their first principal seat here. Esztergom was the first capital of the Hungarian State and remained so for 250 years. The city has been the seat of the Archbishop of the Hungarian Roman Catholic Church for a millennium, and the largest cathedral in Hungary is situated here with its Renaissance-style Bakócz Chapel. We come across an invaluable collection of church relics in the basilica’s treasury. The reconstructed medieval royal palace stands on the top of the hill, and the Christian Museum is located in the archbishop’s residence at the foot of the hill. In order to explore the Danube Bend properly, you may want to drive there on the highway that winds alongside the river, or take a cruise in a leisure boat or a hydrofoil. Visegrád – one of the prettiest historical cities on the Danube – lies at the point where the narrow river valley opens up, and was once also the capital. The royal palace, famed across Europe, was built by Karoly Robert in the 14th century and rebuilt by King Matthias in the Renaissance style in the 15th century. It has now been renovated. The top of this high hill is crowned by the Fellegvár (Citadel), which was built in the 13th century. If you can struggle up to the terrace of this castle, you’ll be treated to a splendid view over the Danube Bend.

South of Visegrád, our way is led to the town of Szentendre by Szentendre Island, which is 31km long and 3–4km wide. Szentendre was fashioned into a little Mediterranean-style town by the Serbs fleeing here from the Turks; the Serbians have also built numerous churches in the three centuries since their settling here. Szentendre has been a religious and cultural centre for the Serbs in this country since the 17th century, and the most remarkable relics of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Hungary have been placed in the Serbian museum here. It is well worth spending at least a day strolling among the small Baroque and Copf houses, making your way through the narrow cobbled streets and along winding steps. You should also take a trip to the Open-air Ethnographic Museum (or village museum), situated on the city border, that introduces Hungarian folk architecture and culture.
The ancient Via Imperialis, the royal road connecting Esztergom with Székesfehérvár, leads across the Zsámbék Basin lying north-west of Budapest. The city with the same name is known nationally for the late Roman/early Gothic-style church ruins visible on its hilltop from miles around. The Lamp Museum also attracts many visitors with its unique collection illustrating the history of illumination from the very beginning to the period of gas lighting. The nearby hilltops are popular hiking destinations, and form part of the Buda Landscape Protection Area. Their shallow sides contain the streets of small towns which were once occupied by mostly German inhabitants. Budakeszi is virtually joined with Budapest, and the former’s Game Park is recommended to families with children. The Old Village of Erd, a town built near the Danube, is framed by the belts of the town centre and a rich residential neighbourhood. You can enjoy a great view from the top of the renovated tower of the old Turkish minaret. A 150-year-old mansion in the town centre houses the Hungarian Geological Museum, where you can “meet” world-famous explorers such as Sándor Körösi Csoma, the Tibet traveller, Pál Teleki, after whom a volcano in Africa was named, or the man who was elected King of Madagascar, Móric Benyovszky. Százhalombatta, on the right-hand shore of the Danube, was built on top of burial heaps dating to the Hallstatt period. A 2,700-year-old Iron-Age burial heap and houses from the Palaeolithic Age can be seen in the Archeological Park, and visitors can enjoy handicraft demonstrations offering a taste of those times.

Who has never dreamed of sitting in a time machine and travelling back a few centuries? At the archaeological park in Százhalombatta, near Budapest, you’ll almost believe you’re sitting clad in an animal skin in front of your hut or grinding corn into flour on your millstone. You can see the worlds of the Bronze and Iron ages – not through the glass of a museum display but at the very place where our ancestors lived, died and were buried under the “Hundred Heaps” (after which the town was named).
On the left shore of the Danube, during a trip to the Börzsöny Hills, we can see the tips of 15–20-million-year-old volcanoes. Among the cultural highlights of the area are the church in Nagybörzsöny (which dates to the early Árpád era), the Gothic church in Márianosztra (belonging to the St Paul order of monks), and one of the country’s most beautiful Hungarian Art Nouveau churches in Zebégény. Fans of romantic rides through the forest can choose from three different tourist railway lines in the Börzsöny. These “toy trains” travel from Kismaros to Kiralyret, from Kemence to Feketevölgy, and to Nagybörzsöny from the town of Szob.

What Esztergom is to the left shore, Vác is to the right. Although this town may be a few decades younger, and is a lower diocese, it is one of the most beautiful of the Baroque/Classicist Hungarian towns. Murals in the dome of the bishopric’s cathedral, which was built during the early Baroque-late Classicist period, were painted by the greatest Baroque artist in Central Europe, F. A. Maulbertsch. It is worth visiting the Museum of Church History in the provostry. “Memento Mori” is an exhibition that is one-of-a-kind in Europe and displays 200–300-year-old burial relics and naturally mummified corpses. The most special of the secular attractions is the Triumphal Arch erected in honour of Maria Theresa’s visit to the area. The queen herself lived in one of the country’s most beautiful Baroque castles in Gödöllő, although the building, which has survived a tempestuous history, is more intrinsically connected with Franz Joseph I’s wife Elizabeth (“Sisi”). The two-steepled church found in nearby Fót was designed in Romantic style by Miklós Ybl (architect of the Opera House), and a few kilometres from here the Botanical Gardens of Vácrátót welcomes visitors.

While her full name was Elizabeth Amalie Eugenie von Wittelsbach, during her life – and particularly following her tragic death – she came to be known as Sisi. The wife of Austrian Emperor and Hungarian King, Franz Joseph I, the beautiful Sisi spent six years in the castle of Gödöllő. The castle became one of her hide-outs. This part of her life is described in Romy Shneider’s legendary Sisi films.
The 247-square-kilometre Csepel Island once belonged to the estate of the ambitious Prince Eugene of Savoy, who also commissioned famous Austrian architect, Johann Lucas von Hildebrandt, to build his castle in Ráckeve. The best-known tourist site in the town, however, is its Gothic-style Pravoslav Church. A memorial museum dedicated to one of the most remarkable figures of 20th-century photography, André Kertész, can also be found in a small village, Szigetbecse, on this island.

The leading attractions of the area are the Ócsa Landscape Protection Area, which includes unique natural rarities and is part of the Duna-Ipoly National Park, and the plains of the Upper Kiskunság on the border of Apaj. The Basilica of Ócsa is one of the most significant monuments dating to Roman times. During Ócsa Music Days, many a remarkable concert is organised within the walls of the ancient ruins. The most important habitat of the endangered great bustard – the heaviest bird capable of flight – can be found near Apaj. The largest herd of grey cattle on the Plains graze here. The most famous Hungarian race horse, Kincsem, was raised in the Tápió Valley. His memory is preserved in a museum at the Tápiószele mansion of Ernő Blaskovits, who owned the horse.

The furthest point of the southeastern area of the Central Danube Region is found approximately 100 kilometres from Budapest. Cegléd, a quintessential country town on the Plains, will give you a taste of the life and culture of a Hungarian small town. The place is also referred to as the city of Lajos Kossuth, remembering the emblematic figure of the 1848–1849 Revolution against the Austrian monarchy.

The statue of the statesman in New York City was modelled on that which stands in the town square, originally made by Horvay János. The richest collection of Kossuth memorabilia can be found in the city’s museum. The Christian Reformed Great Church, built in Classicist style, is the largest of this denomination in Central Europe with its 60m-high dome. Another church of similar size originally built in the 15th century is situated in the other significant town of this region, Nagykőrös; you can hear the organ played during the frequent concerts that are hosted inside.

Saints, apostles, archangels with halos, goateed devils and cherubims with six wings welcome visitors to the Serbian Orthodox Church in Ráckeve. The 15th-century Gothic arches and walls enhance the effect of the candle-smoked, Byzantine-style 18th-century murals and are peculiarly contrasted by Mary's throne and the gold carvings of the wooden altar. One can smell the wax of the burning candles and virtually hear the resounding voice of a male choir in the Pravoslav liturgy.
Monuments

CEGLÉD (E/8)
Christian Reformed Great Church
2700 Cegléd, Iskola utca 1
Phone: +36 53/311-340

ÉRD (B/6)
Minaret
2030 Erd, Mecset utca

ESZTERGOM (B/4)
Diocese Palace
2500 Esztergom, Berényi Zsigmond utca 2
Phone: +36 33/313-878

Esztergom Basilica and Treasury
2500 Esztergom, Szent István tér 2
Phone: +36 33/402-354

Castle
2500 Esztergom, Szent István tér 1

Szent Tamás Hill Chapel and Stations of the Cross
2500 Esztergom, Szent Tamás hegy

GÖDÖLLŐ (D/5)
Gödöllő Royal Castle – Grassalkovich Castle
2100 Gödöllő, Királyi Kastély
Phone: +36 28/410-124

MÁRIANOSZTRA (B/4)
Church of the Lady of the Hungarians
2629 Márianosztra, Rákóczi tér 1
Phone: +36 27/370-315

NÖGRÁD (C/3)
Church of the Lady of the Hungarians
2629 Márianosztra, Rákóczi tér 1
Phone: +36 27/370-315

ÓCSA (C/7)
13th-century Monument Basilica
2364 Ócsa,
Preobázenszka Church
2000 Szentendre,
Bögánya utca 42

Dumtsa House
2000 Szentendre,
Péter Pál utca 6

Mátyás Ráby House
2000 Szentendre,
Rab Ráby tér 1

VÁC (C/4)
Church of the White Monks –
Uptown Roman Catholic Church
2600 Vác, Március 15. tér
Phone: +36 27/311-275

Seven Chapels
2600 Vác, Szentháromság tér 1

Stone Gate – Triumphal Arch
2600 Vác, Szentháromság tér 9

Bishop’s Palace
2600 Vác, Szentháromság tér

ZSÁMBÉK (A/6)
Church and Monastery
2072 Zsámbék,
Corvin János utca

Former Castle Fort
2072 Zsámbék, Zichy Miklós tér

Museums
Bánk (C/3)
Slovakian Ethnic House

Roman Catholic Chapel –
Former Convent of the Order
of the Merciful
2500 Vác, Március 15. tér

Roman Catholic Church –
Former Franciscan Church
2600 Vác, Géza király tér

Roman Catholic Church
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Roman Catholic Church
2600 Vác, Géza király tér

Cathedral
2600 Vác, Konstantin tér

Monument Area of the City Centre
2600 Vác, Március 15. tér

Synagogue
2600 Vác, Eötvös utca

Visegrád (B/4)
Lower Castle, Salamon Tower
2025 Visegrád
Phone: +36 26/398-233

Citadel
2025 Visegrád, Várhegy
Phone: +36 26/398-025

Round Fortress
2025 Visegrád, Fő utca 9–13

Royal Palace ruins,
King Matthias Museum
Phone: +36 26/398-026
2025 Visegrád, Fő utca 29

Cegléd (E/8)
Kossuth Museum
2700 Cegléd, Múzeum út 5.
Phone: +36 53/310-637

Drum Museum
2700 Cegléd, Szabadság tér 5.
Phone: +36 53/321-068

ÉRD (B/6)
Hungarian Geographical Museum
2030 Érd, Budai út 4.
Phone: +36 23/356-132

ESZTERGOM (B/4)
Esztergom Castle Museum
2500 Esztergom,
Szent István tér 1
Phone: +36 33/415-986

Treasury of the Archdiocese
2500 Esztergom,

ZSÁMBÉK (A/6)
Church and Monastery
2072 Zsámbék,
Corvin János utca

Former Castle Fort
2072 Zsámbék, Zichy Miklós tér

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Szent István tér 1
Phone: +36 33/415-986

Treasury of the Archdiocese
2500 Esztergom,
Szent István tér 1
Phone: +36 33/402-354

Christian Museum
2500 Esztergom, Mindszenty Herceguprimas tér 2
Phone: +36 33/413-880

Waxworks Museum of the Kings
2500 Esztergom, Szent István tér 1
Phone: +36 33/400-103

GÖDÖLLŐ (D/5)

Gödöllő Royal Palace – Grassalkovich Castle
2100 Gödöllő, Királyi Kastély
Phone: +36 28/410-124

Gödöllő Art Gallery
2100 Gödöllő, Szabadzs tér 8
Phone: +36 28/418-691

City Museum
2100 Gödöllő, Szabadzs tér 5
Phone: +36 28/422-003

KEMENCE (B/3)

Kemence Forest Museum Train
Kemence, Csarnavölgyi út 45
Phone: +36 20/388-5743

NAGYBÖRZSÖNY (B/3)

Water mill
2634 Nagybörzsöny, Hunyadi tér 10
Phone: +36 20/572-3771

NÓGRÁD (C/3)

Folklore house
2642 Nógrád, Sallai utca 26
Phone: +36 35/362-210

ÓCSA (C/7)

Ethnographic Collection
2364 Ócsa, Békési Panyik Andor utca 4–6
Phone: +36 30/948-9150

SZÁZHALOMBATTA (B/7)

Matrica Museum
2440 Százhalombatta, Gesztenyés utca 1–3
Phone: +36 23/354-591; +36 23/359-848

Archaeological Park
2440 Százhalombatta, István Király út
Phone: +36 23/354-591

Szentendre (C/5)

Szabó-Szamos Marzipan Museum
2000 Szentendre, Dumtsa Jenő utca 12
Phone: +36 26/310-545

Barcsay Collection
2000 Szentendre, Dumtsa Jenő utca 10

Czóbel Museum
2000 Szentendre, Templom tér 1
Phone: +36 26/312-721

Dobos Confection Museum
2000 Szentendre, Bogdányi utca 2
Phone: +36 26/311-660

Ferencz Museum
2000 Szentendre, Fő tér 6
Phone: +36 26/310-244

Margit Kovács Museum
2000 Szentendre, Vastagh György utca 1
Phone: +36 26/310-244

Arts Mill
2000 Szentendre, Bogdányi út 32
Phone: +36 26/301-701

House of Folk Arts
2000 Szentendre, Rákóczi utca 1
Phone: +36 26/310-244

Open Air Ethnographic Museum
2000 Szentendre, Szitaravodai út
Phone: +36 26/502-500

Serbian Orthodox Religious Art Collection
2000 Szentendre, Pátríárka utca 5
Phone: +36 26/312-399

SZOB (B/4)

Bőrzsöny Museum
2628 Szob, Szent László utca 14
Phone: +36 27/372-037

TÁPIÓSZELE (F/7)

Blaskovich Museum
2766 Tápiószele, Múzeum utca 13
Phone: +36 53/380-061

VILLAGE MUSEUM

2194 Tura, Rákóczi út 28
Phone: +36 28/467-885

VÁC (C/4)

Medieval Cellar
2600 Vác, Széchenyi utca 3–7
Phone: +36 27/500-750

Memento Mori – Grave Relics from the Church of the White Monks
2600 Vác, March 15 tér 19
Phone: +36 27/500-750

Hincz Collection
2600 Vác, Káptalan utca 16
Phone: +36 27/313-463

ZEBEGÉNY (B/4)

István Szönyi Memorial Museum
2627 Zebegény, Bartóky utca 7
Phone: +36 27/370-104

ZSÁMBEK (A/6)

Lamp Museum
2072 Zsámbék, Magyar utca 18

Museum of Military History
2072 Zsámbék, Szomori út, Old Missile Base
Wherever you drill in Hungary, it’s likely you’ll find medicinal water below the land surface. The therapeutic benefits of such water were already recognised by the medieval period. More recently, Aquasziget (Aqua Island) was established beside the Danube in Esztergom, the city that has earned its fame through its monuments. The pleasure spa – with pools measuring 1,500 square metres in total – also has a Wellness World and a Health Centre to guarantee guests total recreation and rejuvenation.

Staying in the Danube Bend, the city of Visegrád is next in line, boasting thermal water measuring 39°C in temperature; the water emerges from the hillside and feeds the pools built in the Lepence city district. Thermal Hotel Visegrád**** has also been built next to the baths. Lovers of wellness and fitness can enjoy the benefits of wellness services and clean air not only on the Danube shore but also at the Hotel Silvanus**** built on the mountain top in Visegrád.

Still on the right shore of the Danube, about 30 kilometres from Budapest, the Leányfalu Thermal Baths offer recreation and rest. On the left shore between Vác and Budapest, a wellness paradise has been established at the Pólus Palace Thermal Golf Club Hotel ***** in Göd, where, as the name indicates, visitors can devote themselves to golfing.

Those who wish to explore the central region can enjoy an extended rest at a wellness hotel in the “capital” of Csepel Island, Ráckeve, or try the medicinal water and pleasure spa of Aqualand. Don’t miss the newest attraction in the city of Cegléd, the Thermal Spa and Leisure Center. Its ten swimming pools, measuring 1,400 square metres (15,000ft²), provide the ideal location to spend some free time and enjoy therapeutic treatments and wellness programmes. The Best Western Hotel Aquarell**** guarantees that visitors arriving here will have a great time.
Cegléd Thermal Spa and Leisure Center of Cegléd
Address: H-2700 Cegléd, Fürdő út 27-29., Phone: 00 36 53 505 000, Reservation: 00 36 53 501 177
E-mail: info@cegleditermal.hu, Web: www.cegleditermal.hu

Aqua Center
Beautifully landscaped beach area, with a 17-water slide aqua park including Hungary’s first “pendulum slide”. It creates the atmosphere of medieval castles, which provides real LEISURE to the whole family.

Spa and beach-bath
10 medical and theme pools, complex medical services and attendances, revitalising wellness services and packages. HEALTH, healthy lifestyle not only for the sick.

A three-star apartment park and a camp site in a beautiful environment all year round. Active relaxing on the “island of tranquillity” with favourable holiday-packages all of the year, in the vicinity of the spa.

Cegléd Thermal Spa and Leisure Center of Cegléd
Address: H-2700 Cegléd, Fürdő út 27-29., Phone: 00 36 53 505 000, Reservation: 00 36 53 501 177
E-mail: info@cegleditermal.hu, Web: www.cegleditermal.hu
Aquasziget Esztergom (B/4)
2500 Esztergom, Táncsics Mihály utca 5
Phone: +36 33/511-100
Mon–Fri 10.00am–8.00pm, Sat: 9.00am–9.00pm,
Sun 9.00am–8.00pm
Of the ten pools at the Aquasziget Esztergom, the huge pleasure pool is located indoors, with geyser, jet streams, bubbles and a cave. Two slides can also be found in the indoor area, which are enhanced with special illuminations. Among the entertainment elements of the outdoor pool park are two giant slides with their respective plunge pools, a children’s pool with a castle and a slide, a pleasure pool with wave machine, a pool that can be used all year round and an outdoor relaxation pool.

Cegléd Thermal Spa and Leisure Center (E/8)
2700 Cegléd, Fürdő út 27–29
Phone: +36 53/505-000, www.cegleditermal.hu
Mon–Sun 9.00am–7.00pm
(If the pleasure spa is open only between May and September)
Seventy kilometres from Budapest, on the border of Cegléd, an atmospheric bathing paradise has been established. Visitors can take advantage of the pools, the health treatments and the therapeutic and rehabilitation services at the indoor thermal facility of the Cegléd Health Spa. The open-air section of the baths is open during the summer, with its outdoor pools, sports courts, and aqua park (where guests of all ages can enjoy an adrenaline rush hurtling down the 17 slides, including the unique swing slide).

Aquaréna (C/5)
2146 Mogyoród, Vízipark út 1
Phone: +36 28/541-100, www.aquarena.hu
From the end of May till the end of August: 9.00am–7.00pm
Aquaréna is situated in Mogyoród near the Hungaroring, and is spread over an area of 11.5 ha. In the pleasure park, you’ll find 21 slides (with a total length of 1.5km) that wind above and below ground. Among the nine pools are a pleasure pool, a hot tub, a three-level diving pool, and a slowly meandering river.

Aqualand Ráckeve (B/8)
2300 Ráckeve, Strand utca 1
Phone: +36 24/423-220, www.aqua-land.hu
Mon–Fri 6:00am–9:00pm, Sat 8:00am–1:00am,
Sun 6:00am–9:00pm
Forty-five kilometres from Budapest, at the Ráckeve HÉV (Area Commuters’ Train) terminal, a bath and slide park is situated which utilizes therapeutic waters emerging from a depth of 1,040 meters at a temperature of 52°C. The park has indoor and outdoor thermal and pleasure pools, sitting tubs, bubble pads, and slides, and offers various therapeutic treatments, restaurants and bars to its guests. Nighttime bathing is available on Saturdays.

The Lepence Poolpark is currently under renovation; for further information please contact the Szentendre Tourinform Office.

For further information, please visit: www.hungary.com
There’s no excuse for being lazy in the area around Budapest. Although there are no enormous mountains or raging mountain rivers to conquer, there are countless other opportunities for recreation on water, in air or on ground.

The best opportunities are offered by the 800–900-metre (2,800ft) mountains and the 600-metre hills, which are crossed with clearly marked hiking trails. If you want something more adventurous still, you may want to consider amateur cave-climbing or rock climbing at the Oszoly szikla near Csobánka. For mountain bikers, specially marked routes are indicated on maps of the Pilis, the Visegrád hills and the Börzsöny. There is no shortage of opportunity for cross-country biking either, primarily along the Danube or on the two major islands. On the Danube and its two side streams, you can test your rowing skills on the Soroksár and the Szentendre sections of the river. If you desire something faster, you can take a motor boat or a jet ski, or try waterskiing. The highlight for lovers of cars, motorbikes, go-carts and quads is the Formula 1 race track in Mogyoród, and the Hungarokart Centre and Xtreme Quad Park near the town.

Once you’ve tried water and land, take to the skies. There is the chance to soar in gliders and/or engine-powered planes at the airports of Budakeszi-Farkashegy, Budárs, Dunakeszi, Gödöllő and Esztergom. The conditions in the region are very conducive to gliding and hang-gliding, or even for hot-air ballooning. If you wish to participate, contact the local clubs or the Hungarian Aviation Association.

Have you brought your bike with you? Or did you rent one? Jump on and head to Szentendre Island. Cycling along the bank, you’ll first approach the city of Szentendre (after which the island was named). If you would rather put off pedalling for a bit later, you can take your bike aboard the Area Commuters’ Train (HÉV). You’ll reach the island via a ferry, and then at Szigetmonostor you can bike over to the east side, to Horany, then on all the way to Surány. Your only option is the highway from here to Tahitótfalu (you will need permission to proceed further), and then you can ride to Kisoroszi at the northern end of the island, where you can take a ferry again.
The range of fishing spots in this area is vast. There are the rivers – the Danube’s Szentendre and Ráckeve side streams and the Ipoly, which is one of the most romantic fishing waters. In addition to those, there are over 100 fishing lakes of differing sizes. Hunters will find deer, mouflon and wild boar in the gaming areas of the mountains, whereas the plains offer pheasant and rabbit, and there are wild duck and geese on the waters. If you are not looking for a kill but would rather just entertain yourself by watching nature, you’re best to get in the saddle and ride out into the fields on one of the trips organized by the countless horse farms and stables in the area. Beginners and even children may take part, naturally under the supervision of a trainer and only within the fenced areas.

Golfing fans are recommended the 18-hole golf course maintained by the Polus Palace Golf Club Hotel in Göd. Six-hole courses can be found in Monor and Diósd. Paintball – increasingly popular among the indoor sports and games – can be tried in Szentendre, Százhalombatta and Cegléd. A unique and exciting entertainment is offered at the winter-summer bobsleighing tracks in Visegrád and the Fun Extreme Canopy steel-wire track in the same town. Winter sport opportunities are limited in Hungary, but if the weather happens to be conducive, you can do some skiing and sledding as well.
Golf

Pólus Palace Golf Club (C/5)
2132 Göd, Kádár utca 49
Phone: +36 27/530-500
www.poluspalace.hu

Paplapos Golf & Academy (D/7)
2200, Monor Paplapos utca 6
Phone: +36 29/411-699
www.paplaposgolf.hu

Kincsem Golf Club (E/7)
2711 Tápiószentmárton, Söregi út
Phone/fax: +36 29/423-056
www.kincsemgolf.hu

For further information, please visit:
www.golfhungary.hu

Bobsleighing

Bobsleighing track (B/4)
2025 Visegrád, Nagyvillám
Phone: +36 29/423-056
www.kincsemlovaspark.hu

Sóskút Equestrian Club (B/6)
2038 Sóskút, Bajcsy Zs utca 61
Phone: +36 23/347-579
www.savassport.hu

Hotel Hegyesy Nyerges (D/7)
2200 Monor, Hegyesy tanya 57
Phone: +36 29/410-758
www.nyergeshotel.hu

Canopy

Fun Extreme Canopy (B/4)
2025 Visegrád, Fekete-hegy
Phone: +36 30/246-3381
www.canopy.hu

Available by prior arrangement only.

Paintballing

Paintball Eldorado (D/5)
2181 Iklad,
www.paintball-eldorado.hu

Action Soviet Paintball (C/5)
2000 Szentendre,
Dózsa György út 28—30
www.sovietpaintball.hu

Paintball Hungary (C/5)
2000 Szentendre,
www.paintballhungary.hu

Pannon Recreation (B/7)
2316 Tököl,
www.prcr.hu

Rózsakúti Hunting Lodge and Equestrian Farm (D/5)
2183 Galgamácsa, Megyerke farm
Phone: +36 28/579-510
www.galga.hu

Bodor Manor (C/4)
2021 Tahítótfalu
Phone: +36 26/585-020
www.bodormajor.hu

Stampok Holiday Park (B/4)
2023 Dunabogdány
Phone: +36 20/949-4348
www.stampokpark.hu

Apajpuszta (C/8)
2345 Apaj, Hajós Major
Phone: 06 26/311-411
www.apajpuszta.hu

Sarlóspuszta Club Hotel (D/8)
H-2375 Sarlóspuszta-
Tatárszentgyörgy
Phone: +36 29/370-118
www.sarlospuszta.hu

Horse riding

Kincsem Equestrian Park (E/7)
2711 Tápiószentmárton, Söregi út

Arboretum in Vácrátót

Visegrád, Bobsleighing track

Available by prior arrangement only.
For further information, please visit: www.equinfo.hu

Fishing
National Federation of Hungarian Anglers
www.mohosz.hu

Hunting
Hungarian National Hunting Association
1027 Budapest, Medve utca 34–40
Phone: +36-1-355-6180
www.omvk.hu

North Börzsöny Hunting Association (B/3)
2638 Kemence, Fő út 198
Phone: +36 30/924-2207
Email: eszakborzsonyvt@freemail.hu

Ipoly Forest Ltd (C/3)
2660 Balassagyarmat, Bajcsy utca 10
Phone: +36 35/300-769
Email: titkarsag@ipolyerdo.hu

Hunters Company, Börzsöny-Zrínyi (A/4)
2632 Letkés, Liliom Pusztá, Pf 16
Phone: +36 27/376-070
www.vadasztarsasag-borzsony.intemettudakozo.hu

Pilisi Park Forest Ltd (B/4)
2025 Visegrád, Mátyás király utca 4
Phone: +36 26/598-000
www.parkerdo.hu

Planes, parachuting, hot-air ballooning
Hungarian Aeronautical Association
1138 Budapest, Dagály utca 11/a
Email: aeroclub@aeroclub.hu

Ballooning
Email: phz@balloon.hu
www.balloon.hu

North Börzsöny Hunting Association (B/3)
2638 Kemence, Fő út 198
Phone: +36 30/924-2207
Email: eszakborzsonyvt@freemail.hu

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www.vadasztarsasag-borzsony.intemettudakozo.hu

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www.parkerdo.hu

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1138 Budapest, Dagály utca 11/a
Email: aeroclub@aeroclub.hu

Ballooning
Email: phz@balloon.hu
www.balloon.hu

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Email: eszakborzsonyvt@freemail.hu

Ipoly Forest Ltd (C/3)
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Phone: +36 35/300-769
Email: titkarsag@ipolyerdo.hu

Hunters Company, Börzsöny-Zrínyi (A/4)
2632 Letkés, Liliom Pusztá, Pf 16
Phone: +36 27/376-070
www.vadasztarsasag-borzsony.intemettudakozo.hu

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2025 Visegrád, Mátyás király utca 4
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www.balloon.hu

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Email: titkarsag@ipolyerdo.hu

Hunters Company, Börzsöny-Zrínyi (A/4)
2632 Letkés, Liliom Pusztá, Pf 16
Phone: +36 27/376-070
www.vadasztarsasag-borzsony.intemettudakozo.hu

Pilisi Park Forest Ltd (B/4)
2025 Visegrád, Mátyás király utca 4
Phone: +36 26/598-000
www.parkerdo.hu

Flightseeing Tours
1117 Budapest, Baranyai utca 25
Phone: +36 20/578-3299
www.flightseeingtours.hu

Hang-gliding
Email: sarkanyrepules@fw.hu
www.hang-gliding.ini.hu

Sirius Aviation Club (C/5)
2151 Fót, Bokor utca 68
Phone: +36 30/911-8275
www.sirius-se.hu

Gokart Sport (D/8)
2600 Vác, Derecske dőlő 10
Phone: +36 30/360-1015
Mon–Fri 12.00–22.00,
Sat–Sun 12.00–22.00

Adventure Park (C/5)
2146 Mogyoród, Hungaroring
Phone: +36 28/542-990,
www.adventurepark.hu

Hungarokart Centre (C/5)
2146 Mogyoród, Ipar utca 1
Phone: +36 28/540-140
www.hungarokart.hu

Xtreme Quad Park (C/5)
The Quad Park is situated
in Mogyoród,
1 minute from Hungaroring
(exit after the 18km sign)
Track info/programmes:
+36 20/9999-746

Motor boats, jet skiing, waterskiing
Universum Camping (C/7)
2330 Dunaharaszti, Alsónémedi út
Phone: +36 24/491-000
www.udulokozpont.hu
Hiking

Duna-Ipoly National Park
1021 Budapest, Hűvösvölgyi út 52
Phone: +36-1-391-4610
www.dinpi.hu
Most of the natural treasures of the region are overseen by the Duna-Ipoly National Park. For information regarding the protected areas, the study trails and the display areas, please visit their website.

European Diploma Holding
Szenas Hills (B/5)
2084 Pilisszentiván, Bányász utca 17
Phone/fax: +36 26/366-129
Email: szenasok@gmail.com
www.szenas.hu
Rare plant species (including the linen of Pilis, which can only be found here within Europe). Its value has been recognized with the European Diploma, awarded by the European Council in 1995.

Ócsa Country House (C/7)
2364 Ócsa, Andor utca 4–6
Phone: +36 30/948-9150
www.ocsa-tajhaz.hu
The Old Village is rich in sights, and falls within the Landscape Protection Area. It has kept its original settlement structure, old-style houses and folk traditions. You can take trips to the row of cellars with thatched roofs and to the study trails introducing the local marshland.

Budakeszi Wildlife Park (B/6)
Budakeszi, Szanatóriumi utca
Phone: +36 30/353-0901
www.vadaspark-budakeszi.hu

Hungarian Hikers Association
1065 Budapest, Bajcsy-Zs út 31
Phone: +36 1/311 2467
Email: mtszshir@enternet.hu
www.termszetjaro.hu

Arboretum in Vácrtót (C/5)
2163 Vácrtót, Alkotmány utca 2–4
Phone: +36 28/360-122
www.botkert.hu
The richest plant collection in Hungary.

Kemence can be found in the northern part of the Börzsöny. Operates: April 28–September 30, on weekends and public holidays

Királyrét Forest Train (B/4)
www.kisvasut-kiralyret.hu
One of the oldest of Hungary’s forest trains. It travels through the valley of Morgó Creek, which collects the waters from the largest basins of the Börzsöny, from the Danube Bend through the town of Szokolya to Királyrét. Operates: All year round

Nagybörzsöny Forest Mini Train (B/3)
www.kisvasut.hu
The Nagybörzsöny Mini Train is a mountain train running on unique tracks. The only top-switch train line in Hungary, it winds over eight kilometres from Nagybörzsöny to Nagyirtás. Operates on weekends and holidays between March 15 and November 5, July 15–August 31 Fri also.

Railways

Children’s Railway
www.gyermekvasut.hu
Runs between the Széchenyi Hill and the Hűvösvölgy on a 12-kilometre stretch through the Buda Hills. It is unique in that, with the exception of the driver, the train is operated entirely by children.

Kemence Forest Train (B/3)
www.kisvasut.hu
The Forest Museum Train

Cruises to the Danube Bend
www.mahartpassnave.hu

Useful links:
www.turistautak.hu
www.dobogokosi.hu

Tourist maps are available from:
Tourinform Offices, bookstores
Or you can order them online at:
www.cartographiaonline.hu
One festival follows another in the Danube Bend, particularly in the summer. Colourful programmes welcome fans of folk, classical, pop and jazz music. Wine connoisseurs are also welcome at the Regulus Wine Festival. The International Palace Games – medieval-themed tournaments, jousts and archery contests – are a favourite with families. Just a hop from Budapest, Szentendre offers theatre performances, and musical and dance productions during its Szentendre Summer series of events. On the left shore of the Danube, in Vác, the Secular Celebrations take place, with concerts, fairs and children’s programmes invigorating this Baroque city.

In the Royal Castle in Gödöllő, you can travel 250 years back in time during the Baroque Castle Days, in the renovated Baroque theatre. The organ concerts in the large Romantic-style church at nearby Fót are well worth catching, while you can see genuine folk art during the dynamic performances of the Galgahévízi Folk Ensemble in the Galga valley. The series of events called the Zsámbék Theatre and Art Base offers a unique experience because it uses an abandoned military base and early-medieval-church ruins as the locations for the performances.

Through the open gates of the church, the sounds of the organ and people’s voices are audible, as the procession leaves the building. We are on the border of Budapest, in Csömör – or, more accurately, we are standing around on the roadside, trying to avoid stepping on the bed of flowers covering the way. Flowers from gardens and meadows cover the main road of the small town, forming images of crowns, crosses and the Virgin Mary.

Music needs no interpretation
Programs

All year round
SZENTENDRE

PROGRAMS IN THE OUTDOOR MUSEUM OF ETHNOGRAPHY
Open Air Folk Museum, Szentendre
2000 Szentendre, Sztaravodi utca Pf 63
Phone: +36 26/502-500
Fax: +36 26/502-502
www.skanzen.hu

March–April
VÁC

VÁC SPRING FESTIVAL
Madách Imre Community Centre
2600 Vác, Dr Csányi L körút 63
Phone: +36 27/316-411
www.mimk.vac.hu

June–September
SZÁMBEK

ZSÁMBEK THEATRE AND ARTS BASE
Community Centre
Phone: +36 23/342-318
www.zsambekyarazinhaz.hu
Theatre performances, concerts, films and exhibitions at the church ruins and an abandoned military base.

June
CSOMÓR

CSOMÓR CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION
Catholic Church, streets
Phone: +36 28/445-491
www.gkrt.hu

June–September
VÁC

VÁC NYÁR
Madách Imre Community Centre
2600 Vác, Dr Csányi L körút 63
Phone: +36 27/316-411
www.mimk.vac.hu

July–August
ESZTERGOM

ESZTERGOM SUMMER FESTIVAL
Esztergomi Nyári Fesztivál Kht
2500 Esztergom, Széchenyi tér 1
Phone: +36 33/413-414
Email: info@arsregia.hu
www.esztergomprogram.hu
Colourful programmes all year round: Jazztergom
(jazz festival), Ister-Granum Folk Art Festival, Regulus wine festival, Viva la Musica (classical concerts), Blue Danube Party Time (popular music concert).

**July–August**

**SZENTENDRE**

**SZENTENDRE OPEN-AIR THEATRE AND SUMMER FESTIVAL**
New Cultural Centre of Szentendre
2000 Szentendre, Duna korzó 18
Tel/fax: +36 26/312-657
www.szentendre.hu
Each weekend the town’s streets, squares, courtyards, churches and cultural institutions host theatre performances, concerts, films, children’s and traditionalist programmes.

**Beginning of July**

**VISEGRÁD**

**VISEGRÁD INTERNATIONAL PALACE GAMES**
Pro Visegrád Kht
2025 Visegrád, Fő utca 81
Phone: +36 30/933-77-49
Fax: +36 26/398-163
www.palotajatekok.hu
Medieval market, traditional handicraft demonstrations in front of the royal palace on Fő utca. Children’s Medieval Playroom and handicraft programs in the park in front of the palace.

**Early July**

**GÖDÖLLŐ**

**PALACE CONCERTS — CHAMBER-MUSIC FESTIVAL**
Gödöllő Royal Palace
2100 Gödöllő, Grassalkovich Mansion
Phone: +36 28/410-124, +36 28/420-588
Fax: +36 28/422-077
www.kiralyikastely.hu
One of the summer’s most important classical-music events attracts Europe’s best musicians to Hungary.

**End of July**

**VÁC**

**VÁC SECULAR CELEBRATIONS**
Madách Imre Community Centre
2600 Vác, Dr Csányi L körút 63
Phone: +36 27/316-411
www.mimk.vac.hu

**Early August**

**GÖDÖLLŐ**

**BAROQUE PALACE DAYS**
Gödöllő Royal Palace
2100 Gödöllő, Grassalkovich Palace
Phone: +36 28/410-124, +36 28/420-588
Fax: +36 28/422-077
www.kiralyikastely.hu
Visitors are whisked back to the Baroque epoch and the time of Antal Grassalkovich, founder of the Royal Palace. There is a lively fair, riding displays, concerts, dance performances and other attractions.

**Middle of August**

**SZÁZHALOMBATTA, RÁCKEVE, TÖKÖL**

**SUMMERFEST INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL AND FOLK-ART FAIR**
Phone: +36 23/358-973, +36 20/9752-816
Web: www.summerfest.hu
Dancers from some 20 countries perform at this festival, dazzling audiences with the richness and beauty of their respective cultures. Stage shows are followed by outdoor theatrical performances, and programmes of handicraft and folk art.

**October–November**

**VÁC**

**AUTUMN ART WEEKS**
Madách Imre Community Centre
2600 Vác, Dr Csányi L körút 63
Phone: +36 27/316-411
www.mimk.vac.hu

**December**

**GÖDÖLLŐ**

**ADVENT PALACE DAYS**
Royal Palace of Gödöllő
2100 Gödöllő
Phone: +36 28/410-124, +36 28/420-588
Fax: +36 28/422-077
www.kiralyikastely.hu
Visitors are welcomed with various programmes and an applied-arts and folk-arts market running over two weekends in the build-up to Christmas.

**December–January**

**VÁC**

**WINTER HOLIDAYS**
Madách Imre Community Centre
2600 Vác, Dr Csányi L körút 63
Phone: +36 27/316-411
www.mimk.vac.hu
Budapest and its surrounding area is easily accessible from any part of Europe. As Hungary is part of the European Union – indeed, the Schengen Agreement means its borders have opened within the Union – EU citizens can arrive here as simply as if they were arriving home. Non-EU citizens are welcome visitors as well, although they may have to follow different entry requirements.

ACCOMMODATIONS
It is safest to arrange accommodation in advance, particularly in Budapest, and during the Spring Festival, the Formula 1 and the autumn congressional season. Even the hotels in the area surrounding the city may be fully booked, and perhaps, with the exception of a few private homes outside the city, only lower category hotels, family-run bed-and-breakfasts and country hotels may be available.

www.hungary.com
www.budapestinfo.hu
www.budapestwinterinvasion.com
www.budapesthotelbooking.com
www.budapest-hotel-guide.hu
www.budapesthotelreservation.hu
www.budapesthotels.com
www.budapesthotelstart.com
www.cometohungary.com
www.hotelhungary.hu
www.hotels.hu
www.hotels-hungary-bookings.com
www.hungarianhotels.net
www.hungarystartshere.com
www.ohb.hu
www.szallasinfo.hu
www.travelport.hu

CURRENCY EXCHANGE
Currency exchange is only legal at locations licensed by law; do not risk changing money at street-side kiosks as you may end up with counterfeit currency.

TRANSPORTATION
By car
Established highways enter Budapest from different directions, making the capital easily and quickly accessible. The 24-hour emergency number of the Hungarian Automobile Association is: +36-1-345-1755.

Public road emergency services: 188
Traffic information, constructions, detours, road-toll information is available in 13 different languages at: www.autopalya.hu
Route planning for car journeys:
www.utvonalterv.hu
Outside the capital – particularly in the suburbs – heavy traffic can be expected on weekdays during the morning and evening rush hours. (It is best to avoid these roads between the hours of 8:00am and 10:00am and 4:00pm and 8:00pm.)

By air
Budapest’s airports (terminals 1, 2A and B) are situated 30 minutes from the city centre and are easily accessed by train (terminal 1), public buses, airport shuttles or by taxi cabs.
www.bud.hu
+36-1-296-9696

Ferihegy 1 – discount airline flights
Ferihegy 2A
Ferihegy 2B

• Airport shuttle
The fixed fee to any location in the city is about EUR 10/person, or about EUR 17 round trip. The shuttle takes visitors from the airport to any specific address.

• Trains
A direct train line serves Ferihegy Terminal 1 to the downtown (Nyugati Railway Station). The travel time of the trains is usually half an hour to the city centre. Information: www.bud.hu; schedule: www.elvira.hu

• Taxis
Zone taxis transport passengers from the airport for EUR 14–19, depending on the location. +36-1-365 55 55
info@zonataxi.eu
www.zonataxi.eu

• Buses
Bus #200 transports passengers from both terminals of the airport to the beginning of metro line #3. This is the least expensive solution as only a few bus tickets are needed (the bus line can be used with different passes also). The ride to the centre usually takes approximately 70–80 minutes.
By train
Non-stop phone line for ticket orders
(MÁVDIREKT):
+36-40-49-49-49
From abroad: +36-1-371-9449
Schedules: www.elvira.hu
There are three major international train stations in
Budapest, each located near a metro station.
Many tourist destinations are located along train
lines running in most directions from the city
(information: www.elvira.hu; train lines are also
indicated on maps).
Local Area Commuters’ Trains (HEV) run from the
downtown to Szentendre, Gödöllő and Ráckeve.
information: www.bkv.hu/hev, 06-80-406-611.

Coach lines
Volán companies operate 48 lines between
Budapest and destinations abroad.
International services arrive at Népliget bus
station, which is located at metro line #3. Towns
around Budapest can be reached aboard coaches
departing from different bus terminals located in
various parts of the city.
Schedule: www.volan.hu
Online ticker orders: www.volanbusz.hu
Information about domestic and international
lines:
(+36-1) 382-0888
Népliget (+36-1) 219-8000
Stadionok (+36-1) 220-6227
Árpád hid (+36-1) 412-2597
Etele tér (+36-1) 382-4900
Széna tér (+36-1) 201-3688

By boat
During the shipping season, regularly scheduled
hydrofoil services travel along the Danube
between Budapest and Vienna and Budapest
and Bratislava. It is worth taking a daytime
or nighttime sightseeing cruise in Budapest.
Alternatively, you may want to go on an excursion
by boat outside the city.
Information:
• Mahart Passnave Kft
www.mahartpassnave.hu
ertekesites@mahartpassnave.hu
• Legenda Kft.
www.legenda.hu
info@legenda.hu
+36 1-317-2203

Transportation in Budapest
Budapest has a transportation system
comprising over 180 bus lines, 14 trolley-bus
lines, 29 tram lines, a cogwheel rail line, and
three metro lines. Public transport services
usually operate between 4:30am and 11:00pm.
You can have an overview of the system on the
board-maps located at the entrance of metro
stations. Information regarding the travelling
conditions and terms are also written in English
and German. Tickets can be purchased at metro
stations, at ticket vending machines, kiosks
and news stands. Tickets must be purchased
in advance and validated (stamped) at the
machines located on the vehicles (or at the
platform entrances, in the case of the metro) at
the beginning of your ride. Controllers dressed
in uniforms and wearing photo ID (badges) may
ask to check your ticket, so please save your
ticket until the end of your journey.

Tickets are usually valid for one ride only;
in the case of a transfer, a new ticket must be
used.
Ticket types:
• Standard ticket (1 ride without transfer)
• Daily pass
• Tourist ticket (3 days)
• Weekly pass (valid for 7 days, and not
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• Budapest Card for 48 or 72 hours
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Route planning: www.utvonalterv.hu

Free information line of the Budapest
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The card also covers a child under 14 years
travelling with the holder. The Budapest Card
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For further information and to order online,
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