

# *Budapest City Guide*



*Dear Distinguished Guest,*

*We would like to warmly welcome you to Budapest.*

*In this document you can find some useful information regarding your stay in our city.*

We wish you a pleasant and memorable time in the capital of Hungary.

*The Organizing Team*

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ARRIVAL IN BUDAPEST

The Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport is located approximately 25 km from the city centre.

For further information see: <https://www.bud.hu/en>

Call Center: +36 1 296 7000

## MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT

### Taxi

If you would like to go to town by taxi, either order one via phone or take one of the **Főtaxi's cars** waiting outside the airport. Főtaxi is the official taxi company of Liszt Ferenc International Airport. They have a stand at both terminals (2A and 2B). The company operates at a fixed tariff of 440 HUF/Km (1.15 EUR/Km) in addition to the one-off basic fee of 1100 HUF (2.85 EUR) and waiting fee. At the taxi stands you can find a map showing tariffs. The estimated travel time to the city center is 40 minutes, depending on traffic.

- **transfer fee: approx. HUF 12,000** (from the airport to the inner city)
- **for further information see:** <https://fotaxi.hu/en/>
- **phone: +36 1 222 2222**

### miniBUD

**MiniBUD** is the official airport shuttle service provider for Budapest Airport. It is a kind of collective taxi with a boarding capacity of max. 8 to 10 passengers. The mini buses handle transfers between the airport to the passenger's accommodation. The service is available 24/7. MiniBUD airport shuttle service desks can be found at both terminals. Tickets can be purchased at the arrival customs area or at the LRI Airport Passenger Service desk in the waiting area. You can pay by cash or credit card at the desks. You can order your minibus online too. The transfer from the airport to the major hotels takes approximately 1 hour depending on traffic.

- **transfer fee: approx. HUF 12,000** (from the airport to the inner city)
- **for further information see:** <https://www.minibud.hu/en>
- **Call Center: +36 1 550 0000**

## Public transport

If you want to use public transport, you have to take Bus No 100E Airport Express which operates between the airport and Astoria/Deák Ferenc square. The bus runs 24/7 at the fix price of 2.500 HUF. Tickets can be purchased directly from the bus driver (by cash or card) or at the Customer Service Points of BKK Centre for Budapest Transport at the airport's Terminals (by cash or card) or via the BudapestGO application.

Please note that tickets have to be validated (paper tickets have to be stamped or punched):

- prior to the start of travel on metro lines M1, M2, M3 and M4 upon entering the station,
- immediately after boarding on other vehicles inside the vehicle.

**For tickets and passes visit:** <https://bkk.hu/en/tickets-and-passes/>

**For general information visit:** <https://bkk.hu/en/visiting-budapest/booklet-practical-guide-to-budapest-public-transport/>

## Other Practical Information

Emergency number: 112 (fire brigade, medical assistance)

Electricity: The voltage in Hungary is 230V, 50 Hz.

Local time: Central European Summer Time Zone (CEST) – GMT +1:00

Country code: Hungary +36

Currency: The official currency of Hungary is the Hungarian Forint. For official daily exchange rates, please consult the website of the Magyar Nemzeti Bank (National Bank of Hungary): <https://www.mnb.hu/en/arfolyamok/>

Weather in Hungary: <https://met.hu/en/idojaras/>

Tap water: Hungarian water is regularly tested for quality and is safe to drink.

Smoking: Smoking is only allowed in the designated area of the official meeting spaces.

# TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Budapest, the capital of Hungary, was created from the unification of three cities: Pest, Buda and Óbuda in 1873. Budapest is a vibrant city renowned for its stunning architecture, rich history, and thermal baths.

The city is divided into two parts by the meandering Danube, iconically spanned by several stunning bridges. **Flatter Pest** is the country's political and business hub, fuller of life than its twin, called Buda, across the water. It gives home for the bulk of the city's restaurants, bars and cafés, alongside classy boutiques, and striking 19th-century mansions. Stroll tree lined Andrassy Avenue, stopping at the realistic House of Terror in the former secret police headquarters.

**Hilly Buda** falls on the western side of the river. Wander among the sights of its cobbled **Castle District** (perched atop Castle Hill) after a vertical ride on the funicular railway or a winding hillside walk, and have your breath taken away by views at the top.

Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue are listed in the World Heritage Sites since 1987.



## 1. THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

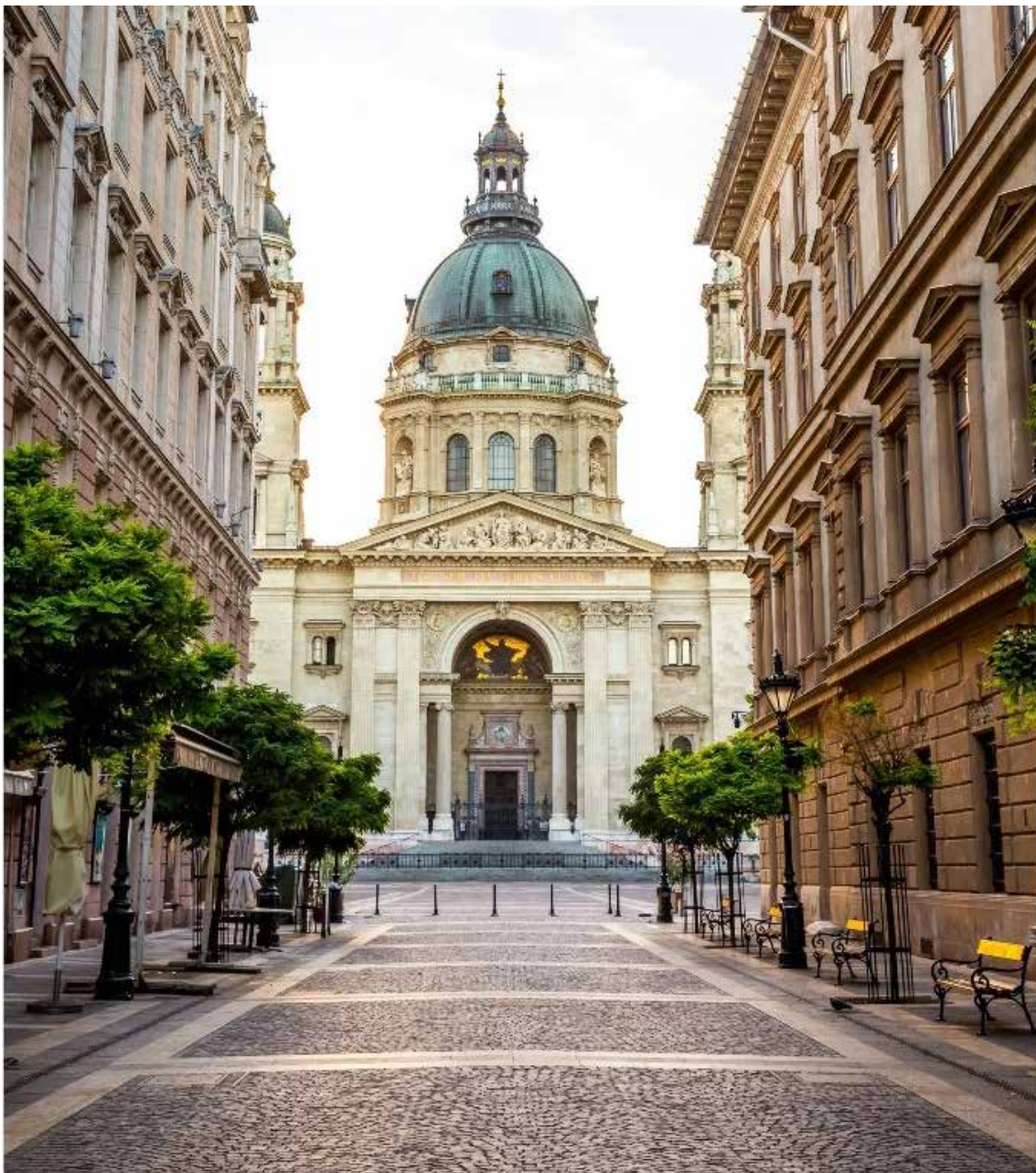
The Hungarian Parliament is located on the Pest side of Budapest, between the Margaret and Chain bridges. The construction of the neo-gothic building began in 1885, following the blueprints made by Imre Steindl, and was finished in 1904. The building of the Parliament serves as the permanent seat of the National Assembly. It has 691 rooms, and it is 268 meters long and the dome is 96 meters high. Since 2000, the Hungarian coronation symbols — the Holy Crown of Hungary, the sceptre, the orb and the sword — are displayed in the Parliament. Address: Kossuth Lajos square 1-3., H-1055 Budapest



## 2. ST. STEPHEN'S BASILICA

St. Stephen's Basilica is one of the most significant ecclesiastical buildings of Hungary as well as a major tourist attraction of the capital, also located on the Pest side. It serves as the main site of worship for St. Stephen. The Basilica is named after St. Stephen, the founder of the Kingdom of Hungary, whose incorruptible right hand, known as the Holy Right, is kept here as a relic. It is the largest church in Budapest, the dome of which can be seen from all parts of the city. The Classicist Basilica was built between 1851 and 1905. The dome of the building offers a breathtaking 360° view of Budapest.

Address: Szent István square 1., H-1051 Budapest



### 3. HEROES' SQUARE

This Pest-side-located spectacular ensemble of statues was erected in 1896 to commemorate the thousandth anniversary of the Hungarian Conquest of the Carpathian Basin. The lower pedestal is occupied by the ornate horseback statues of the seven Hungarian leaders who led the nation into the Carpathian Basin in 896 AD. The middle of the square is dominated by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Heroes' Square is part of the UNESCO World Heritage. On the left side of the square, the Museum of Fine Arts can be found, giving home for thousands of artworks from prehistory to the present and on the right side is the Art Hall, which is the home to temporary exhibitions in Budapest. Behind Heroes' Square is the City Park which has several entertainment and cultural facilities, such as: the Budapest Zoo, the Municipal Circus and the Vajdahunyad Castle.





## 4. THE BUDA CASTLE DISTRICT

The view of the Danube embankments and the Buda Castle District are also listed as part of the UNESCO World Heritage. In the castle district, visitors get a distinct feeling that they have travelled back in time, to a totally tally tranquil world, where the doorways of the Baroque residential homes hide historical Roman stones and beautifully carved statues from the time of knights. The former Royal Palace and its supply buildings are organic but separate parts of the Castle District.



## 5. MATTHIAS CHURCH

The church, which is more than 700 years old, is located in the Buda Castle District and is one of the 'must see' sights of Budapest. The records from 1247 first mention this church as the main church of Buda Castle. From 1247, since it was the main church of the Buda Castle. This early-gothic styled church had a colourful history. It has been rebuilt and expanded many times over the centuries and once, when the Turks invaded Hungary, this church was turned into a mosque. Later, between 1874 and 1896, Frigyes Schulek completely reconstructed the building in a neo-gothic style to give its current look.

Address: Szentháromság square 2., H-1014 Budapest



## 6. FISHERMAN'S BASTION

Located in the Buda Castle District, Fisherman's Bastion is one of Budapest's best-known landmarks, and is a favourite tourist destination. Built in the Romanesque Revival style, the Bastion's terraces offer a stunning view of Budapest. The Danube and the Parliament building can perhaps be seen at their finest from the vantage point of the Fisherman's Bastion.

The beautiful structure, prized by art historians, was built between 1895 and 1902 according to plans by architect Frigyes Schulek. Severely damaged during the Second World War, the structure was restored by Frigyes Schulek's son, János Schulek.





## 7. THE HOUSE OF MUSIC, HUNGARY

The House of Music, Hungary was built to welcome music lovers of all ages to fulfil their creativity and imagination within the world of music. This Pest-side-located building was designed by Sou Fujimoto who won several international awards for his excellent architectural work. Apart from the world-famous live music events, concerts and workshops, the House of Music, Hungary was also awarded as the World's Best Use of Music in Property Development at the American Music Cities Awards in 2020. The piece of Mr Fujimoto's art was addressed as the Best International Public Building and the Best European Public Building at the International Property Awards in 2019. The team's mission is to create an exquisite community and exclusive experiences for customers.

Address: Olof Palme promenade 3., H-1146 Budapest





## 8. HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA HOUSE

The Hungarian State Opera House is a neo-Renaissance opera house located in central Budapest, on Andrásy way. Originally known as the Hungarian Royal Opera House, it was designed by Miklós Ybl, a major figure of 19th-century Hungarian architecture. Construction began in 1875, funded by the city of Budapest and by Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria-Hungary, and the new house opened to the public on the 27 September 1884.

Address: Andrásy way 22., H-1061 Budapest



## 9. MONEY MUSEUM

The Hungarian Money Museum and Visitor Centre, established by the Magyar Nemzeti Bank, was created to help you find the way around the world of money. The exhibition space contains many experiences and adventures, all of which help the visitor to get to know new aspects of the circulation and use of money. The mission is to prove that anyone can understand how money works. The whole society can get richer, both literally and metaphorically by the Museum providing greater knowledge and deeper awareness.

Address: Krisztina boulevard 6., H-1122 Budapest





# BATHS

## 10. SZÉCHENYI THERMAL BATH

This Pest-side bath is one of the largest spa complexes in Europe. The bath's thermal water comes from a depth of 1250 meters and its temperature is approx. 77°C. The water in the thermal pools is reduced to 30-40°C with healing effect that can help in curing the disorders of joints of the hips and knees, chronic arthritis, rehabilitation after orthopaedic surgery and trauma – vertebral disease, chronic arthritis in inactive stages and neuralgic pain.

Address: Állatkerti boulevard 9-11., H-1146 Budapest



## 11. RUDAS THERMAL BATH

The bath was one of the first thermal baths of which centrepiece was built in the 16th century. The octagonal Turkish bath is used for therapeutic purposes and provides sauna facility since 1986. Not only bath treatments, but drinking therapy is also available in Rudas consuming the water of the springs Hungária, Attila and Juventus. Wellness enthusiasts can enjoy the traditional water massage, the Sky Terrace both during the day and at night.

Address: Döbrentei square 9., H-1013 Budapest





# SHOPPING

## 12. CENTRAL MARKET HALL

Visit the Central Market Hall at end of Liberty Bridge to combine shopping with Pest-side sightseeing. Most of the stalls on the ground floor offer popular souvenirs such as paprika and wine from Tokaj.

Address: Vámház boulevard 1-3., H-1093 Budapest



### 13. ANDRÁSSY AVENUE – LUXURY SHOPS

Andrássy Avenue, a part of the UNESCO World Heritage, is an iconic boulevard in Budapest dating back to 1872. It is one of Budapest's main shopping streets, with fine cafés, restaurants, and luxury boutiques. Most of the buildings which are located on the avenue, were built in the Eclectic and Neo-renaissance styles; probably, the most outstanding structure is the Opera House. One of the Avenue's greatest attractions is the Millennium Underground Railway, also known as metro line M1. This was the second underground railway to be built world-wide, and the first in the continent.





## 14. VÁCI STREET – VÖRÖSMARTY SQUARE

The centrally located Vörösmarty Square (Vörösmarty square) is unmissable since it is located in the inner city of Budapest (district V.), just for a moment walk from the Danube. The city's famous shopping street, Váci street starts here stretching all the way to the Central Market Hall at Fővám Square. The square hosts large-scale events liked very much both by locals and travellers visiting Budapest (for example Christmas Market, Easter & Spring Fair). Europe's first underground line (built in the late 19th century and commonly known as Kisföldalatti or metro line M1 in Hungary), connecting the downtown with the City Park/Heroes' Square (Városliget/Hősök square) has a station here, right in front of Café Gerbeaud, which is known for its delicious cakes and pastries since its establishment in 1870.



# RESTAURANTS

## 15. MARISCHKA RESTAURANT

Marischka is a loft-style restaurant near the Buda Castle District. The restaurant offers traditional Hungarian cuisine, sparkling cocktails and chic champagnes in a casual and cozy environment creating an inviting atmosphere ideal for a relaxed dining experience.

Address: Attila street 99., H-1012 Budapest





## 16. MEZZO MUSIC RESTAURANT

The restaurant offers the traditional grandma's kitchen as well as the modern European gastronomy. Their recipes and ingredients arrive from all over the world, scouting for exciting but still harmonic tastes. They guarantee to achieve results which are the combination of carefully selected and controlled quality ingredients, modern technology, and talented personnel.

They devote an excessive importance to their diverse wine selection – representing well-known vineries as well as small producers' specialities.

Address: Maros street 28., H-1122 Budapest



## 17. ROYAL GUARD AND RIDING HALL

The Royal Guard, authentically restored in the National Hauszmann Program, has opened its gates for visitors on 14 May 2021 in the heart of the Castle district. On the first floor of the reborn Royal Guard building a long needed exhibition is displayed. Over five hundred paintings, lithographs and archive photographs, mostly displayed for the first time, showcase the 260-year history of the Hungarian guards with several interesting objects. We can sample the tastes of the Hungarian history, with coffee or some refreshments, in the atmospheric halls of the Royal Guard Café. Stroll in the castle and rest for a while on the Royal Guard's stately balcony, with some sparkling wine and dessert.

Address: Hunyadi-courtyard, H-1014 Budapest





## 18. PÁRISI PASSAGE – CAFÉ & BRASSERIE

The Párisi Passage Café & Brasserie is located in the stunningly award-winning, magical building of the Párisi Udvar Hotel. The enchanting environment, reminiscent of the last century, immediately captivates everyone. The restaurant soon became a favourite place of the local public and is characterized by an endless, lively life. Recommended for those for whom high, uncompromising quality is as important as an effortless, relaxed dining experience. The head chef of the Párisi Passage - Lajos Lutz, a member of the Hungarian Bocuse d'Or Academy - has created something extraordinary. The menu is an exciting fusion of traditional Hungarian, French and international cuisine. Quality and, wherever possible, the use of local seasonal ingredients are key to our operation. Our dishes are accompanied by a wide and varied drinks menu and an impressive champagne selection.

Address: Ferenciek square 10., H-1053 Budapest

