

Conference Guide

Conference Venue

Conference Location: Continental Hotel Budapest

The Continental Hotel Budapest

The four star superior design hotel is located in Budapest's downtown offering 272 rooms - standard, executive, deluxe, suites- reflected by art deco features, perfect harmony and fine elegance combining a modern world of colours and forms. The hotel welcomes guests, providing business and tailor-made services with well-equipped conference rooms, Wellness and Fitness center, Massage, ARAZ Restaurant with terrace, Gallery Café & Corporate Lounge, underground private parking garage.



Address: Dohány u. 42-44, Budapest H-1074, Hungary

Tel: +36 1 815 1000

Fax: +36 1 815 1001

URL: <http://www.continentalhotelbudapest.com/>

History of Budapest

Budapest is the capital and the largest city of Hungary, the largest in East-Central Europe and one of the largest cities in the European Union. The name "Budapest" is the composition of the city names "Buda" and "Pest", since they were united (together with Obuda) to become a single city in 1873. One of the first occurrences of the combined name "Buda-Pest" was in 1831 in the book "Világ" ("World" / "Light"), written by Count István Széchenyi. The origins of the words "Buda" and "Pest" are obscure. According to chronicles from the Middle Ages the name "Buda" comes from the name of its founder, Bleda (Buda), the brother of the Hunnic ruler Attila. The theory that "Buda" was named after a person is also supported by modern scholars. An alternative explanation suggests that "Buda" derives from the Slavic word "voda" ("water"), a translation of the Latin name "Aquincum", which was the main Roman settlement in the region.



There are also several theories about the origin of the name "Pest". One of the theories claims that the word "Pest" comes from the Roman times, since there was a fortress "Contra-Aquincum" in this region which was referred to as "Pession" by Ptolemaios. According to another theory, "Pest" originates from the Slavic word for cave "peshchera" or from the word for oven "pech", in reference to a cave where fires burned or to a local limekiln. In the old-Hungarian language there was a similar word meaning oven/cave and the original old-German name of this region was also "Ofen". Later, the German "Ofen" referred to the Buda side.

How to get to Budapest

By Air:

Budapest Franz Liszt International Airport (IATA: BUD)

Budapest Liszt Ferenc Nemzetközi Repülőtér (pronounced "list-ferents"), formerly (and colloquially still) referred to as Ferihegy; is the country's largest airport, located about 16 km (10 miles) southeast of the city centre.

Airport Terminals: The airport has two terminals, 2A and 2B, being within a short walking distance from each other. The number 2 appearing in their names is due to the former Terminal 1 (originally opened in the 1950, reopened 2005). However, Terminal 1 closed recently. Terminal 2 (opened in 1985) is divided into Terminal 2A (gates 20-30), serving Schengen Area destinations, and Terminal 2B (gates 11-19) serving non-Schengen Area destinations.

Visa: Before you start planning your travel to Hungary you should visit the Ministry of foreign affairs web page to see if you need to get a visa. Hungary is a member of the Schengen Area, and applies the Schengen legislation in full. The entry formalities for Hungary vary according to the country of origin. All visitors entering Hungary must possess a valid passport, or a valid picture ID in some cases.

Citizens of the EU/EEA member states and of the following countries may travel to Hungary without a visa: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Macao, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Salvador, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela.

For more details: <http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/en>

Budapest Franz Liszt International Airport (IATA: BUD)

Tel.: +36 1 296 7000

URL: <http://www.bud.hu/english>

Luggage services

Tel.: +361 296-5449 in connection with flights to and from Terminal 1 or +36-1 296-5965 for Terminal 2

How to get from the Airport to the Hotel

By Train:

There is a train station called Ferihegy, from where suburban trains (called 'szemely') run twice an hour to Budapest-Nyugati station in the city centre, taking 25 minutes. Although the trains are suburban trains, they are operated by MAV and not included in the HEV network.

Public transport between Ferihegy train station and Terminals 2A/2B is provided by the local bus 200E, running every 8-15 minutes, and travel time approx 10 min. The bus stop towards the Airport is situated directly next to the train station, but you have to pass a pedestrian bridge with elevators not always working. (Within the bus, this stop is called "Ferihegy vasutallomas" - i.e. train station - in case you want to get off there.) Alternatively you can pre-order a taxi by phone to wait in the bus-stop, to get to the Airport faster or at night. Single bus tickets are available in airport terminals for HUF 350 at the newspaper vendors, or can be purchased from the driver for HUF 450.

Dedicated train tickets can be purchased from cashiers or vending machines next to the cashiers in the pedestrian underpass in Nyugati - press the button 'Ferihegy'; normally the machine can give change. At Ferihegy station there is a modern ticket vending machine at the platform towards Budapest. A single full-fare train ticket costs 370 HUF for this travel, but local public transport travel cards, called Budapest pass or Budapest travel card are also valid. These can be purchased at the post office on the mezzanine level of the airport. If entering the train without ticket, you will pay an additional fine of approx. 2500 HUF, unless no cashier or vending machine was available at the station.

Minibus service: If you travel alone, consider the Airport Minibus service, a shared taxi operation that collects passengers going in the same direction and will take you to or from anywhere in Budapest for HUF 3.200 per person or HUF 5.500 for a round trip. Join the queue at the airport and you will be on your way in 15 minutes.

For the trip back, call the centre at tel: +36-1 296-8555 at least 24 hours beforehand and Airport Minibus will pick you up.

By Bus:

Hungary's national bus network is operated by Volan Association. If you arrive to Budapest from another Hungarian city, bus is often the best option. For services, discounts, schedules and on-line booking possibilities: http://ujmenetrend.cdata.hu/uj_menetrend/en/index.php

International bus routes are operated by Eurolines. Most connections run two or three times a week; connections to/from Austria and Slovakia run daily. Contact: +36-1 318-2122

Orangeways offers cheap tickets to and from Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia.
Contact: +36-30 830-9696

Budapest's long distance bus stations are located outside the city centre, but are very well connected to the rest of the city. The main stations are:

- Nepliget Bus station (Nepliget autobuszallomas, metro 3, Nepliget station). Buses from abroad and most of Western Hungarian destinations arrive and depart here. It is a fairly modern station with reliable facilities. Do not forget to check-in if you travel abroad.
- Stadion Bus Station (Stadion autobuszallomas, formerly known as Nepstadion autobuszallomas, metro 2 Stadionok station). This is the biggest hub for Eastern Hungarian destinations, quite modern but somewhat dirty station built underground.
- Arpad Bridge Bus Station (Arpad hid autobuszallomas, metro 3 Arpad hid station). This is a smaller station for some Northern destinations and suburban traffic; use it to and from Szentendre, Esztergom or Visegrad.
- Etele ter Bus Station (Etele teri autobuszallomas, bus 7E, 173E). This is a newly built station next to Kelenfold Railway Station, at the future terminus of metro line 4.

By Taxi:

The only contracted taxi operator from Liszt Ferenc airport is FÖtaxi. Depending on your destination, the cost for a trip to Budapest will range from 5,000 to 10,000 HUF. (Taxis now universally cost 450 HUF base price and 280 HUF for every kilometer. The inner city is around 20 kilometers from Terminal 2.)

Taxi fare:

Private Airport Transfer prices 2013

- 1-2 persons: one way 22.00 € / car, round trip: 41.00 €
- 3-4 persons: one way 23.00 € / car, round trip: 43.00 €
- 5-6 persons: one way 30.00 € / minibus, round trip: 57.00 €
- 7-8 persons: one way 34.00 € / minibus, round trip: 66.00 €
- 9-12 persons: one way 58.00 € / minibus, round trip: 114.00 €

Prices are valid anywhere within the territory of Budapest. (Hotels, apartments and private addresses). Prices shown are per vehicle fee, not per person.

Contact information: info@bookinbudapest.com

By Car:

Rent a Car

- Budapest Airport car rental
- EconomyCarRentals
- AutoEurope.eu
- Europcar

By Metro:

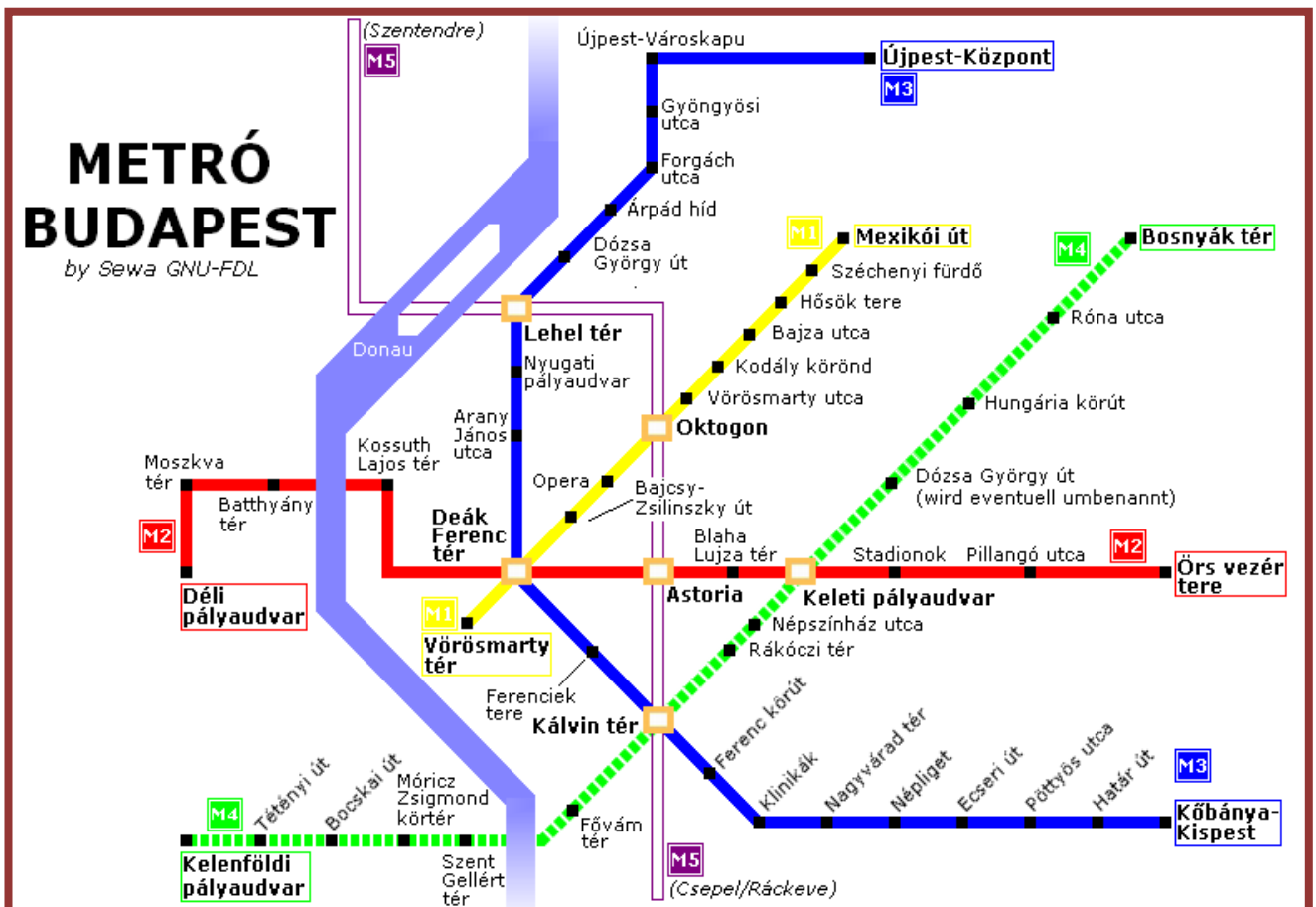
Trains connect Budapest with almost all countries in Central and Eastern Europe. All trains arrive at Budapest Keleti station, unless stated otherwise.

The main railway stations (palyaudvar) are Keleti palyaudvar (Eastern Railway Station), Deli palyaudvar (Southern Railway Station) and Nyugati palyaudvar (Western Railway Station). The stations are named for their geographic location in the city, not for the direction of the destinations served by each.

Most of international trains, as well as domestic trains to Miskolc, Eger, Győr and Szombathely leave from Keleti. Some trains to Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lake Balaton and south-western regions of Hungary leave from Deli. From Nyugati leaves domestic trains to Debrecen, Nyiregyhaza and Szeged.

The stations are well connected to each other and to the rest of the city. Keleti and Deli Railway Stations are located on Metro 2, Nyugati Railway Station is on Metro 3. A transfer should take less than 20 minutes during peak hours, slightly more on weekends and evenings.

Depending on where you are coming from, some outer stations can be useful to you; trains arriving from Vienna and Lake Balaton or other western locations stop at Kelenfold station, which is a good public transport hub for Southern Buda (All trains that depart or arrive to/from Budapest-Deli station, stop at Kelenfold too.) Kobanya-Kispest station is a good place to get to Eastern Budapest or to Ferihegy Airport.



PLACES TO VISIT

Built between 1885 and 1904 the Parliament building soon became the symbol of the Hungarian capital. Not just because its sheer size – nearly 18000 square meters - but because of its detailed decoration, inside splendor and eclectic diversity. It is the most expensive building ever built in Hungary. It has 691 rooms, 10 courtyards, 27 gates and 29 staircases. It also houses a public library with 500.000 volumes. The walls from outside are decorated by the statues of the most important historical figures of Hungary. The building is 268 meters long and 118 meters wide, it stretches along the Pest side of the Danube between the Chainbridge and Margaret Bridge.

Address: 1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos ter 1-3, Hungary

English translator: Daily at 10.00am, 12.00pm, 14.00pm

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 08:00am – 16:00pm

Saturday 08:00am – 16:00pm

Sunday 08:00am – 14:00pm

Phone: +36 1 441 4000

Fees: For tours the adult fee is 2,520.00 HUF = 8.55420 EUR

Students 1,260.00 HUF = 4.27710 EUR

URL: <http://www.budapest-parliament.com/visits.php>

Saint Stephen's Basilica

Saint Stephen's Basilica is the largest Roman Catholic Church in Budapest; it has the second highest ecclesiastical status in Hungary. The building was planned and built in 1851 by Jozsef Hild in classical style and continued by Miklos Ybl, who added a neo-renaissance taste to the original concepts. The inner layout and the completion of the building in 1905 is the work of Jozsef Krausz. Famous Hungarian painters and sculptors decorated the inner side, using 50 different types of marble. The statue of the basilica's patron saint by Alajos Strobl can be seen on the high altar. It is quite unique to have the statue of a human on the altar, but on special Papal permission the statue of our first king, who converted the Hungarians to Christianity is displayed here.

Address: 1051 Budapest, Szent Istvan ter

Opening hours: 9:00am-18:00pm

Fees: Free

Metro stop: Bajzsy Zsilinszky Ut (yellow metro)

URL: <http://www.bazilika.biz/index.php>



The Heroes' Square

The Heroes' square is one of the most visited sights of the Hungarian capital; it is situated in front of the City Park, at the end of the Andrássy Avenue, one of the most important streets of Budapest, a World Heritage site. The millennial monument was built in 1896 to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the arrival of Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin. The monument consists of two semi-circles on the top of which the symbols of War and Peace, Work and Welfare, Knowledge and Glory can be seen. The niches are decorated by the statues of kings, governors and famous characters of the Hungarian history. At the foot of each statue a small relief depicts the most important moment of the life of the personality. In the middle of Heroes' square stands a 36 meters high Corinthian column with the statue of Archangel Gabriel on the top, the symbol of the Roman Catholic religion. At the pedestal the equestrian statues commemorate Arpad and the seven chieftains of the Hungarian tribes, who settled their people in the present territory of Hungary. His descendants formed the Hungarian royal dynasty. The tomb of the Unknown Soldier can also be found in the square. At the two sides the representative buildings of the Museum of Fine Arts and the Art Gallery both worth a visit. Since the last couple of years, the two museums have been competing for the attention of visitors with high standard temporary exhibitions, such as Van Gogh, Rembrandt and the collections of Spanish and French paintings.

Address: 1146 Budapest, Hosok tere, Hungary

Phone: +36 1 322 4098

Metro stop: M1 metro line that stops at Heroes' Square

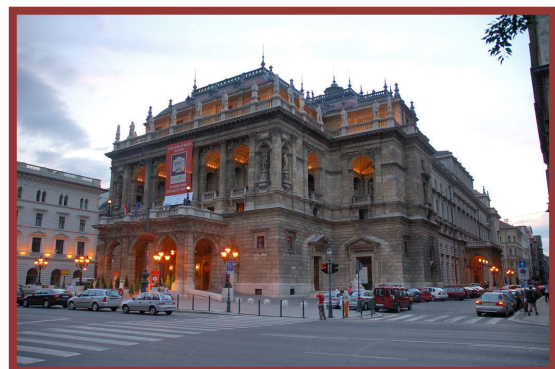
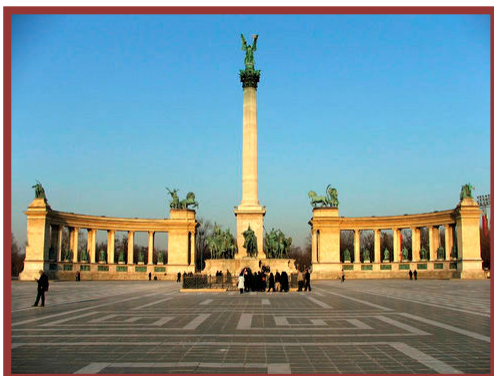
The Opera

The Opera House was opened in 1884 among great splendor in the presence of King Franz Joseph. The building was planned and constructed by Miklos Ybl, who won the tender among other famous contemporary architects. It was built in neo-renaissance style along the famous Andrássy Avenue. The facade is decorated with the statues of renowned composers and the Greek Goddesses of art. The statues of Erkel and Liszt by Alajos Strobl decorate the niches next to the main entrance. Ferenc Erkel was the first director of the Opera House and the founder of the Hungarian opera. The inner decoration was designed to reflect elegance and pomp. Thus the staircase is covered with marble, the walls are decorated by the frescoes of illustrious Hungarian painters, the horse-shoe shaped audience hall is fitted with red and gold and the chandelier from Mainz also contributes to the elegant atmosphere. The construction took 9 years to be completed, but when finished, the Opera house of Budapest was the most modern one in Europe.

Address: 1061 Budapest, Andrássy Way 22, Hungary

Phone: +36 1 814 7100

Tickets: <https://www.budapestopera-tickets.com/>



The Castle

After the Mongolian conquest in the 13th century, King Bela IV ordered fortresses from stone to be built. The fortress of Buda was also founded at that time. The castle reached its golden age during the rule of the renaissance king, Matthias. He had it enlarged and transformed to a palace. Later, during the Turkish occupation of Hungary, it was under Turkish rule for over 150 years. Not even the Habsburgs cared much about it, as the empire was ruled from Vienna. During the second world war it was badly damaged. The Palace was founded around 1247, but the royal seat was in Visegrad until the 15th century. It went under major reconstructions several times. Firstly, King Matthias converted the fortification to a palace, later Maria Theresa had it rebuilt and enlarged. In the 19th century the famous Hungarian architect Miklos Ybl got the commission to reconstruct it. From the original fittings unfortunately nothing was left. Today the buildings house the National Gallery, the National Library and the Historical Museum. From the panorama terrace there is a magnificent view of the Pest side.

Address: 1014 Budapest, Szent Gyorgy ter 2, Hungary

Phone: +36 20 439 7325

Opening hours: Monday-Friday: 09:00am-17:00pm

Saturday: 09:00am-12:00pm

Sunday 13:00pm-17:00pm

Getting to Castle District

The best way to get up the hill is to take the funicular (Siklo) from Clark Adam ter at the Buda end of the Chain Bridge. The track is almost 100 m long. Operating hours: 07:30am-22:00pm every day. The cable car runs constantly during peak time and at max 10-minute intervals during less busy periods.



The Matthias Church

The building of the Matthias church (aka Church of Our Lady) was started in 1255 in Gothic style. The north tower still preserves some parts of the original church. Under the reign of King Matthias it was enlarged and renewed. The king had both of his weddings here. His coat of arms with the black raven is still visible on the south tower. That's why the commonly used name of the church is Matthias Church. During six centuries it used to be the coronation church. The first king crowned here in 1308 was Charles Robert and the last one Charles IV of Habsburg in 1916. During the Turkish occupation it was converted to a mosque, and after the reconquest of Buda it was reconstructed in baroque style but it still preserves some of its oriental atmosphere. The final major rebuilding took place in 1895-1903 led by Frigyes Schulek. At that time the church received its present neo-gothic style and was lavishly decorated with frescoes by famous contemporary painters.

Address: Szentharomsag ter, Buda Castle

Opening hours: Monday-Friday: 09:00am-17:00pm

Saturday: 09:00am-12:00pm

Sunday 13:00pm-17:00pm

The Fishermen's Bastion

On the top of the old fortress walls, the Fishermen's bastion was only constructed between 1895-1902. It is named after the fishermen's guild because according to customs in the middle ages this guild was in charge of defending this part of the castle wall. As a matter of fact it has never had a defending function. The architect was Frigyes Schulek, who planned the building in neo-gothic style. The seven towers symbolize the seven chieftains, who conquered the land for the Hungarians. The Fishermen's bastion greatly contributes to the cityscape and offers a breathtaking panorama on the Pest side. In front of the Fishermen's bastion, the equestrian statue depicts the first king, St Stephen.

Address:

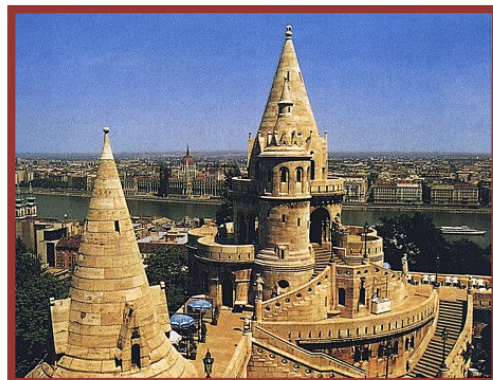
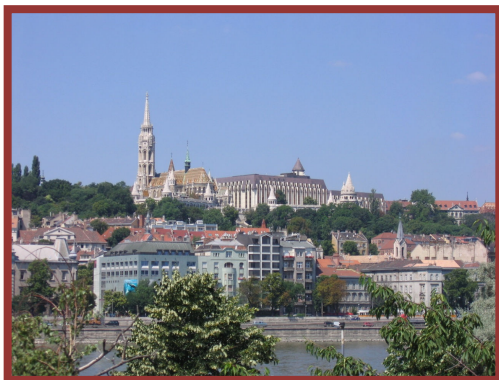
Opening hours: 24 hours daily

Fees: Admission to the upper-level lookout terrace

Adult: 600 HUF = 2.00 EUR, 10 % discount with Bp. Card,

Students between 6-14, pensioner from EU countries: 300 HUF = 1.00 EUR

Free for children under 6 years

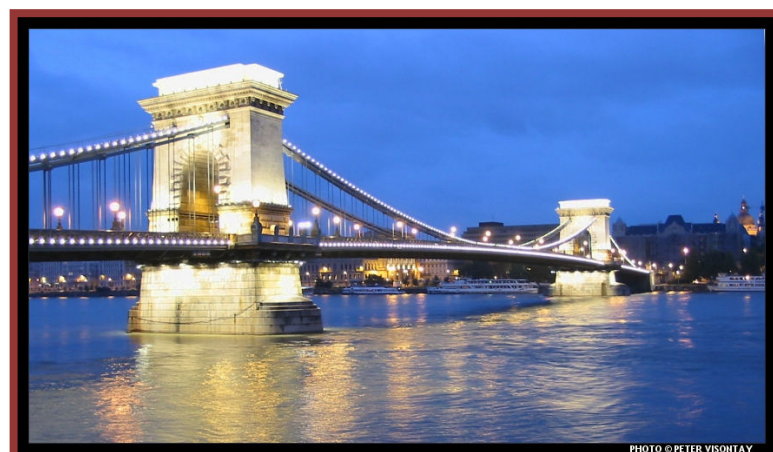


The Gellert Hill and the Citadel

The Gellert hill received its name after St. Gellert who came to Hungary as a missionary bishop upon the invitation of King St. Stephen I. around 1000 a.d. His task was helping the Hungarians convert to Christianity. Some pagan leaders who did not want to convert captured St. Gellert and rolled him down from the hill in a barrel. The St. Gellert monument and its fountain representing his martyrdom can be found on the Northeastern slope of the hill facing the Elisabeth Bridge. The fortress of the Citadel was built by the Habsburgs in 1851 to demonstrate their control over the Hungarians. The top of the Gellert Hill is a strategically point from where they had an overview of both Buda and Pest. Though it was equipped with 60 cannons, it was used as threat rather than a working fortification. After the reconciliation with the Habsburgs the Hungarians wanted to demolish the buildings, but after all it did not happen. In the mid 20th century it was converted to a tourist center. From the panorama terraces one can have a stunning view of the city.

Bridges

- Arpad Bridge (Arpad hid). A modern bridge linking to Northern Margaret Island. The longest bridge in Budapest at 973 meters. It was inaugurated in 1950 where already the Romans erected a bridge to connect Aquincum with another settlement on the Pest side.
- Margaret Bridge (Margit hid). Easily identified thanks to its distinctive shape: it makes an approximately 35 degree turn half way across, at the southern tip of Margaret Island. Trams 4 and 6 cross the Danube here. This bridge was built in 1901 and then destroyed during the war by an explosion. It was rebuilt in 1948. It is located at the north of the city center.
- Chain Bridge (Szechenyi lanchid). Completed in 1849, the oldest, arguably most beautiful and certainly the most photographed of Budapest's bridges, floodlit at night. It was the first permanent bridge across the Danube. At the time of its construction it was the second-largest suspension bridge throughout the world. Four stone lions taken their place at the edge of the bridge in 1852. They fortunately survived from the air raids of the World War II.
- Elisabeth Bridge (Erzsebet hid). Completed in 1903. Its original chain structure was destroyed in World War II, and was eventually substituted by a modern cable bridge opened in 1964. This bridge in liberty style was dedicated to the murdered Queen in 1898. It is the third newest bridge of the city.
- Liberty Bridge (Szabadsag hid). Elegant but simple, opened in 1896; it connects the Gellert Baths (Gellert furdo) in Buda with the Great Market Hall (Nagyvasarcsarnok) in Pest. Recently renovated. This bridge was rebuilt in Art nouveau style in the occasion of the Hungarian millenary festivities of 1989.



- Petöfi Bridge (Petöfi hid). For a long time the southernmost bridge, it links the inner ring road (Nagykorút) of Pest with Buda. It was built during the 30s, destroyed by an explosion in the World War II and then rebuilt in 1952.
- Lágymányosi Bridge (Lágymányosi hid). The newest bridge in Budapest, with modern architecture and a spectacular lighting system where mirrors reflect the beam of the upward facing floodlights. Built very next to a railway bridge on its southern side. It is now called Rakoczi Bridge; it was built between 1992 and 1995, initially destined to smoothen the augmented traffic flow during the 1996 expo that finally never took place in Budapest. It is the second newest bridge of Budapest as of 2013.

Museums

Museum of Fine Arts

The Museum of Fine Arts is a museum in Heroes' Square, Budapest, Hungary, facing the Palace of Art. It was built by the plans of Albert Schickedanz and Fulop Herzog in an eclectic-neoclassical style, between 1900 and 1906. The museum's collection is made up of international art (other than Hungarian), including all periods of European art, and comprises more than 100,000 pieces. The collection is made up of various older additions such as those from Buda Castle, the Esterhazy and Zichy estates, as well as donations from individual collectors. The Museum's collection is made up of six departments: Egyptian, Antique, Old sculpture gallery, Old painter gallery, Modern collection, Graphics collection. The institution celebrated its centenary in 2006. Contents: Ancient Egyptian art, Classical antiquities, Old master paintings (13th to 18th centuries), Old Sculpture, Drawings and prints, Art after 1800, Vasarely Museum

Address: 1146 Budapest, Dozsa György Way 41, Hungary

Opening Hours: Monday - Closed

Tuesday- Sunday 10:00 am – 18:00 pm

Phone: +36 1 469 7100

URL: <http://www.szepmuveszeti.hu/main>



Art Gallery / Mucsarnok

The Mucsarnok ("art hall") was founded in 1877, and moved to this building, designed by Albert Schickedanz, in 1896, which was built for the millennium celebrations. The Mucsarnok is a temporary exhibition venue, and now houses Hungary's largest exhibition place for contemporary art. The institution does not have its own collection, but covers developments in local and international art with a constantly changing series of interconnected exhibitions and events. "The three-bayed, semi-circular apse houses a roofed exhibition hall that allows in light through the roof.

Address: 1146 Budapest, Dozsa Gyorgy 37.

Transport: Millenniumi Underground – Hosok Tere (Heroes' Square) stop
Trolley bus: 75, 79 / Bus: 20, 30, 105

Phone: +36 1 460 7000

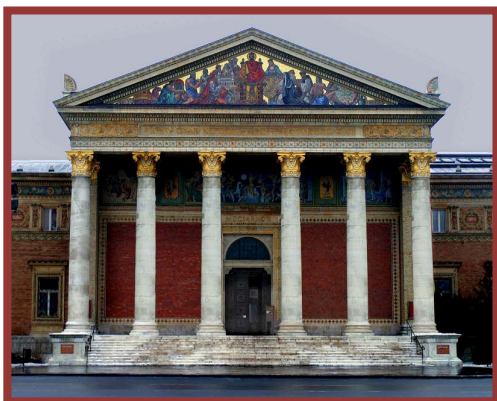
URL: <http://www.mucsarnok.hu/english/index.php>

Hungarian National Museum

The Hungarian National Museum (Hungarian: Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum) was founded in 1802 and is the national museum for the history, art and archaeology of Hungary, including areas not within Hungary's modern borders such as Transylvania; it is not to be confused with the collection of international art of the Hungarian National Gallery. The museum is in Budapest VIII in a purpose-built Neoclassical building from 1837-47 by the architect Mihály Pollack. The Hungarian National Museum traces its foundation to 1802 when Count Ferenc Szechenyi set up the National Szechenyi Library. This would then be followed a year later by the donating of a mineral collection by Szechenyi's wife. This led to the creation of the Hungarian National Museum as a general and natural history museum, and not only a library. In 1807 the Hungarian National Parliament passed legislation on the new institution and asked the nation to help donate to the museum.

Address: 1088 Budapest, Múzeum körút 14-16, Hungary

Phone: +36 1 338 2122



Memento Park

Memento Park is a unique attraction of Budapest, presenting the statues and other relics of the communist era with guided tours, gift shop, cinema, photo exhibition and many more.

Address: 1062 Budapest, Andrassy Way 60, Hungary

Phone: +36 1 374 2600

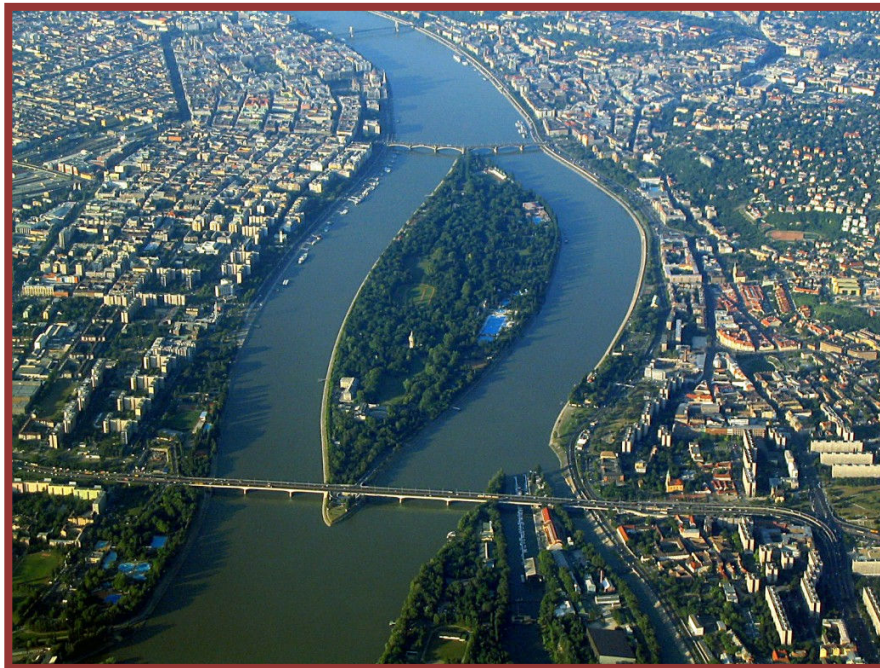
Opening Hours: Open EVERY day from 10:00 am to dusk

Tickets: HUF 1500 = 5.00 EUR, students: HUF 1000 = 3.40 EUR

URL: <http://www.mementopark.hu/>

Margitsziget

Margaret Island is a traffic free green spot in the middle of the downtown. It is a beloved place for leisure and recreation both for locals and foreigners. Many recreational facilities such as the athletics centre, the Hajos Alfred swimming pool and Palatinus open-air swimming pool are at the visitors' disposal. Walking along the island one can find several smaller fountains, statues and relics, 2-3 hours can be pleasantly spent in this green oasis. Bicycles and 4-wheelers can be rented too. The island can be best approached by tram nr. 4 or 6 from the direction of Margit-hid. You just have to walk to the island on the small bridge that connects the island to Margit-hid. One bus line: nr. 26 operates on the island, it departs from Nyugati Pályaudvar (Western railway station) and the Arpad-hid metro station.



Budapest Zoo

The second oldest zoo in Europe offers not only rare animal and plant species, but an architectural beauty, too. The zoo is one of the key attractions of the City Park, close to Heroes' Square where many places of interest can be found and can be reached by the yellow line of the underground.

Address: 1146 Budapest, Allatkerti kúrt 6-12, Hungary

Phone: +36 1 273 4900

Opening Hours: 9.00am - 16.00 every day, except: 24th December and 31st December when the zoo is open from 9.00am till 13.00pm.

URL: <http://www.zoobudapest.com/en>

Ice rink and boating lake

During winter time the biggest ice rink of the city operates here. In the summer pairs can enjoy paddling in the lake next to Vajdahunyad castle in the City Park. From the end of October, the small lake is converted into an ice rink and becomes a popular scene among young people and families. Music and all other ingredients eg. mulled wine is provided to create a pleasant atmosphere. Changing rooms, lockers and skate rental are at the visitor's disposal. At springtime the ice rink disappears, the basin is filled with water and a calm lake becomes part of the scenery of the City Park. With the Vajdahunyad castle in the background it is one of the most picturesque views in Budapest.

Open hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am – 13:00 pm and 16:00pm- 20:00 pm,

Saturday – Sunday: 10:00 am – 14:00 pm and 16:00 – 20:00 pm



The Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Arts

The Ludwig Museum, occupies the wing of the building closest to the Danube. The first floor is for temporary exhibitions, the second and third houses exhibitions drawn from the museum's collections. The building meets all the most modern expectations of museum technology, ensuring ideal climatic and light conditions for the art objects. Opening hours: The Palace of Arts is open every day from 10 am to 10 pm, and until the end of the respective performances. During opening hours, public areas can be visited freely, just like the Bela Bartok National Concert Hall, if there is no rehearsal or performance on.

The Budapest Flea Market

The main second-hand market of Budapest, the Ecseri Piac (Piac means Market) is an exciting, bustling place, a cavalcade of old and new, where every object on sale has its own story. The market's atmosphere and size can be compared to Portobello Road in London, or the Paris Flea Market. Besides the occasional sellers, most prestigious antique shop owners with shops in downtown Budapest also have little booths here. The market is located in the outskirts of Budapest and offers both high quality antiques and objects of smaller value for those seeking gifts. It is best to visit the Ecseri Market on a Saturday morning, because that's when the market is at its busiest. A very important aspect of shopping here is that you **MUST** bargain with the seller - it's all part of the show; accepting the price right away is not customary. You can go there even if it's raining, as nearly the whole area is covered.

Address: District 19, Budapest, Nagykorosi ut 156.

Take Metro line # 3 to Hatar ut, and from there take bus # 84E, 294E and 194 to the market.



The Gellert Bath Experience

Budapest has over 100 hot springs, from which cca. 40 million liters of warm thermal water gushes forth daily, as the geological fault between the Buda Hills and the Great Plain is directly beneath Budapest. Everyone recommends that you should visit a Budapest thermal bath - but how to really do it, which is the best one for a visitor to go to, what to take with you? Well, a bathing suit, shampoo or soap (for showering after the bath), towels, (hotel towels are perfect for this) and a pair of slippers is supposed to be your core gear. The most popular bath in Budapest is the Gellert, built in 1918 in Art Nouveau style together with the second oldest hotel in Budapest. The bath entrance is from Kelenhegyi út (you can't use the hotel entrance to access the bath unless you are staying at the hotel). Stepping into the ornate hall, you can immediately smell the sulphuric scent of the thermal water. The ticket offices have a price list in English and German on display, next to the counter. Your first decision to make is whether you'd like your own cabin for changing clothes, or you'll be fine with just a locker in the common dressing room. Getting a cabin is about EUR 2 extra per guest, but it's worth the money. After getting your ticket, go forward and turn to the right, where a double staircase takes you under the swimming pool of the bath - there are circular windows, through which you can see the people swimming. After changing into your bathing suit, head for the small thermal pool first. If you are lucky, there will be a free seat under one of the stone lion gargoyles, where you can get your neck and back massaged by the strong flow of thermal water.

Danube Cruises

There's more than one way to admire the beauty of the Danube River, the magnificent scenic divider and connector of Buda and Pest. Embark on a relaxing daytime sightseeing cruise that includes a stroll through Margaret Island, or add a romantic touch with an evening cruise that's accompanied by dinner and dancing beneath the stars. Several companies in Budapest offer sightseeing cruises, and most of them are head-set-guided in multiple languages. There are many options to choose from: one-hour sightseeing cruises cover all the attractions located on the banks of the Danube, two-hour cruises offer optional walk on Margaret Island, evening cruises are available with buffet-type dinner, and evening cruises with music and dance are also offered. Look for companies like Legenda, EURama or Mahart, see below.



DINNING IN BUDAPEST

Budapest is famous for its excellent food, as traditional Hungarian cuisine is among the best and richest in Europe. Traditional Hungarian restaurants offer tasty food, often accompanied by traditional Gipsy musicians, who come to your table to play Hungarian tunes directly into your ear. It is a common misconception that Hungarian food is all goulash (Gulyas) and spicy paprika meals, just as not everything that's Italian is pasta, and not everything that is Indian is spicy. Hungarian food has an unmistakable character, often rich with sour cream, onions, eggs, butter, fresh produce and wine. Vegetarian cuisine, however, is not the strength of Hungarian cooking, but there are a couple of characteristic vegetarian meals, such as fried cheese and fried mushrooms which are widely popular. These days every type of cuisine is available in Budapest, so there is a great selection of Italian, French, Chinese and even Mongolian restaurants in the city.

Bagolyvar Restaurant

The Bagolyvar Restaurant (the name means Owl's Nest) was opened by Karoly Gundel in the year 1913. Its cuisine features Hungarian homemade food. The building is a Transylvanian-style turreted cottage, right next to the Budapest Zoo. The concept is that all the good tastes in life are associated with women, so the Bagolyvar is one of the few restaurants in the world where only women work. The restaurant and its garden together can accommodate about 170 guests.

Cuisine: Hungarian

Cost: Moderate

Address: Allatkerti korut 2, Budapest Pest, City Park, District 14

Opening Hours: Monday - Sunday: 12:00pm -23:00 pm

Phone: +36-1 468-3110



Klassz

Klassz is a stylish restaurant serving Hungarian food and a choice selection of meals inspired by international cuisine. The menu changes quite regularly. Klassz offers up an excellent selection of wine, as the owner is a sommelier and wine merchant.

Note that outdoor tables are rather small.

Cuisine: Hungarian, International

Cost: Moderate

Good for: Dinner, Lunch, Outdoor Seating, Wine Selection

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday: 11:30 am to 23:00 pm,
Sunday: 11:30 am to 18:00 pm

Spoon Restaurant & Lounge

At the foot of Chain Bridge, just in front of the Buda Castle you can find on the Danube a specially designed, 75-metre-long boat restaurant, called Spoon, open the whole year. In winter we welcome our visitors in 3 different restaurants and, in addition, in summer two great, wonderful terraces are available as well. With 3 kitchens and 5 bars we offer our services almost for all age-groups on 1600 m². Our goal is to ensure that our visitors do not only enjoy gastronomic pleasures but the particular view in our restaurant as well. Our fusion cuisine tends to be fitting expectations of national trends through our Hungarian specialities, furthermore we also have a wide range of meals from the Far East as well.

Address: 1052 Budapest, Vigado ter 3. kikoto

Phone: +36 1 411 09 33; +361 411 09 34

Opening hours: 12.00p.m.00.00am every day



Andante Borpatika

Andante Borpatika is a stylish wine bar serving Hungarian wine and a choice selection of cold and hot meals (like goose liver pate, smoked salmon, goose breast, cold cuts, salamis, dry sausages and cheese). One of the owners is Zsolt Tiffan, a respected sommelier from the Villany wine region. No wonder that Andante offers up an excellent selection of Hungarian wine. Andante is one of the few wine bars located in Buda, at the foot of Castle Hill, right by Chain Bridge.

Address: Bem Rakpart 2, Budapest Buda, District 1

Phone: +36-1 457-080

Cuisine: Hungarian

Cost: Moderate

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday: 12:00 pm- 00:00 am, Saturday: 16:00pm pm - 00:00 am,
Sunday: closed

Babel

Babel is a cozy gourmet restaurant located in Budapest's famous Vaci Street. Named after the biblical tower, Babel's cuisine is inspired by the many tastes of the world. The kitchen serves up a fusion of flavors and offers creative takes on traditional Hungarian dishes. The wine list is extensive and a little expensive.

Address: Szarka utca 1, Budapest 1055 Pest, District 5

Phone: +36-1 338-2143

Cuisine: Hungarian, International

Good for: Dinner, Wine Selection

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 18:00pm – 00:00 am



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