



Welcome to Budapest

Budapest is the capital of Hungary. It became a single city by the unification of three cities: Pest, Buda and Óbuda in 1873. Being the largest city of Hungary, inhabited by more than 1.7 million inhabitants, it serves as the main political, cultural, commercial, industrial and transportation centre. The city with its 525 square kilometres is the 15th biggest European city.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0T3b32vhjxg>

History

The ancestor of the city was Aquincum; originally a Celtic settlement. Magyars (the so called Hungarian tribes) arrived to the territory in the 9th century. Although in the 13th century (1241-42) Mongols pilfered their first settlement, few centuries later, in the 15th century the re-built town became one of the centres of the Renaissance humanist culture. After the Battle of Mohács and the 150 years of Ottoman occupation, in the 18th and 19th centuries the region entered an age of prosperity and with the 1873 unification Budapest became a global city. It also became the second

capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a great power that broke apart in 1918. Budapest was the focal point of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, the Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919, the Battle of Budapest of 1945, and the Revolution of 1956.



See also:

<http://www.btm.hu/english/fooldal/front.htm>

Geography

The 525 km² area of Budapest lies in central Hungary, on the two sides of the river Danube surrounded by settlements of the agglomeration in Pest County. Entering the city from the North the Danube encircles three islands, Óbuda

Island, Margit Island and Csepel Island that is the largest one.



The Danube is only 230 m wide at its narrowest point in Budapest. The most visible difference between Pest and Buda is that Pest lies on the flat terrain of the Great Plain while Buda is rather hilly (the two famous hills are the Gellért Hill and Castle Hill from where the view is impressive). The highest point of Budapest is János hill, at 527 metres above sea level. A chair lift brings people up to the refreshing nature; walking in the environmentally protected forests is a beloved leisure activity. The lowest point is the line of the Danube which is 96 metres above sea level. On the territory of Budapest 118 natural springs



rise (most of them with warm water), which feed the world famous spas of the Capital. Budapest is rich in green areas (for example Margitsziget, Városliget, Sashegy, Jánoshegy). An extraordinary huge cave system extends under the Buda-hills, some of these are several kilometres long.

See also:

http://www.budpocketguide.com/TouristInfo/Geography_of_Bp.asp

Climate

The city has a temperate, continental climate. Generally, the weather is the best from May to September, when days are warm and pleasant and the nights are cool, although you can expect rare thunderstorms. The average daily temperature is around 15-18°C, and we hope sunny.

See also:

<http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/12843.html>

Top Tips of the Hungarian NFP

1.) Release your stress in the thermal baths and spas of Budapest

The thermal resources of Budapest are unique in the world. On the territory of the city 118 natural springs rise (most of them with warm water). Already the Celts and Romans used the warm springs of the Buda-hills.



According to memos during the Roman times there have been 14 baths in the city, while during the Turkish rule eight. The baths originating from the Turks are still operating. Today Budapest has 24 thermal baths, swimming pools and open-air pools, from which 10 are

thermal baths. Trust us, by the end of the day there is no better relaxing activity than going to one of the thermal pools. Széchenyi is for example open-air, and as it closes just at 10 pm you can watch the stars from the hot water that is really refreshing after a long day.

The most important thermal baths in Budapest are: Széchenyi, Gellért, Rudas, Lukács and Király thermal bath.

See also: [Baths of Budapest](#)

2.) Taste the excellent Hungarian wine at the International Wine Festival

The most well-known and popular wine festival of Hungary for 19 years takes place in the beautiful Buda Castle in the days before the conference! You can taste excellent wines of the well-known and even smaller, artisan cellars from many different wine regions, accompanied with folk and world music.

See also:

<http://www.borkulturakft.hu/index.php?page=hir&id=106&a=0&lang=en>



3.) Feel free to chill out in our “Ruin pubs”

In the last few years many ‘ruin pubs’ opened in the historic centre of the city (mainly in the 6th, 7th and 8th districts) that is a pub furnished with old-school furniture usually situated in a typically bourgeois, not renovated building from the 19th century, where you can eat, drink and enjoy the milieu.

See also:

<http://ruinpubs.com/index.php>

<http://corvinteto.hu/en>

http://www.szimpla.hu/index_en.htm

<http://www.koleves.com/container.php?lang=ENG>

<http://www.instant.co.hu/en/>



4.) Take a photo in the middle of the Margit Bridge

Don't miss to have all the tourist attractions on one photo. If you walk in the middle of the Margit Bridge you can catch the most famous memorials to one photo. But be careful! To reach the right exposition the best time to do so is in the early morning or late afternoon.



5.) Feel the spirit of the Austro-Hungarian Empire with Hungarian cuisine and snack

If you get hungry we kindly recommend you to try the Hungarian cuisine (for example in Fatál, Vörös Postakocsi or Aranyszarvas Restaurants), also for a snack it is worth to stop in a traditional coffee and pastry shop just like for

example the Gerbeaud Café or the Ruzswurm that summarises all the best tastes of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

See also:

<http://www.vorospk.com/>

<http://www.restaurant.hu/1264>

http://aranyszarvas.hu/eles/index_eng.php#autoload

6.) Take a ride on the oldest continental underground



Taking the Andrassy Avenue – an avenue that truly deserved the title of the world's heritage being surrounded by huge villas, hosting embassies of several countries of the world – you walk by the Hungarian National Opera House and can get to an amazing square, the Heroes'



Square that is neighboured by a huge recreational area, a park where youngsters and older can equally entertain. Several Museums and monuments (Millenary Monument, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Vajdahunyad Castle) are waiting for the interested visitors. You can also take the underground railway under the Andrassy Avenue that is one of our prides being the continental Europe's oldest underground railway.

7.) Check if the lions have a tongue on the Chain Bridge



Do the lions of the Chain Bridge have tongues? No one is sure about the answer. There is this urban legend

though that Marschalko János, the sculptor forgot to carve it out. Unfortunately a young boy had immediately, on the opening ceremony noticed the mistake that made our poor sculptor so distressed that he jumped off the bridge into the Danube.

8.) Go for a walk in the shopping streets

Walking out from the Gerbeaud Café, you face the biggest tourist shopping-attraction, Váci utca. If you digressed to the neighbouring streets you can find yourself in the middle of the new "Main Street", a renovation project funded by ERDF. Share your views on the project with us, we are very interested! There are also other projects around Kálvin tér and Ferenc körút. If you like the Hungarian tastes and want to bring home some memories then the best place for you is the huge market at the other end of Váci utca, the Vásárcsarnok where you can buy spices like paprika or some other specialities like wine, pálinka or sausage etc. on a friendly price.

9.) Get away from the metropolitan rush in the "Central park" of Budapest

If you want to relax in a green area don't hesitate visiting the Margit Island that is situated in the heart of the city between the bridges Margit and Árpád. If you approach it by walking next to the Danube you won't get disappointed by the gorgeous view. Besides relaxing in the parks or next to the water, you can also visit its open-air pubs, or if you are in a mood, do some sport joining the locals.





10.) How do you like the Hungarian combo of tastes?



Please don't leave the country without tasting the following food/beverages that feel all Hungarians with nostalgia:

Túrórudi – chocolate filled with cottage cheese

Lángos – scone with sour cream, garlic and cheese on it

Fröccs – wine&soda

Traubí Szóda – grape juice with bubbles

Pálinka – It is a very strong, alcoholic beverage made from all types of juicy fruits, usually consumed as a shot.

Basic dictionary

Jó reggelt – Good morning

Jó napot – Hello!:)

Jó estét – Good night

Viszlát – Good bye

Köszönöm – Thank you

Egészségedre – Cheers