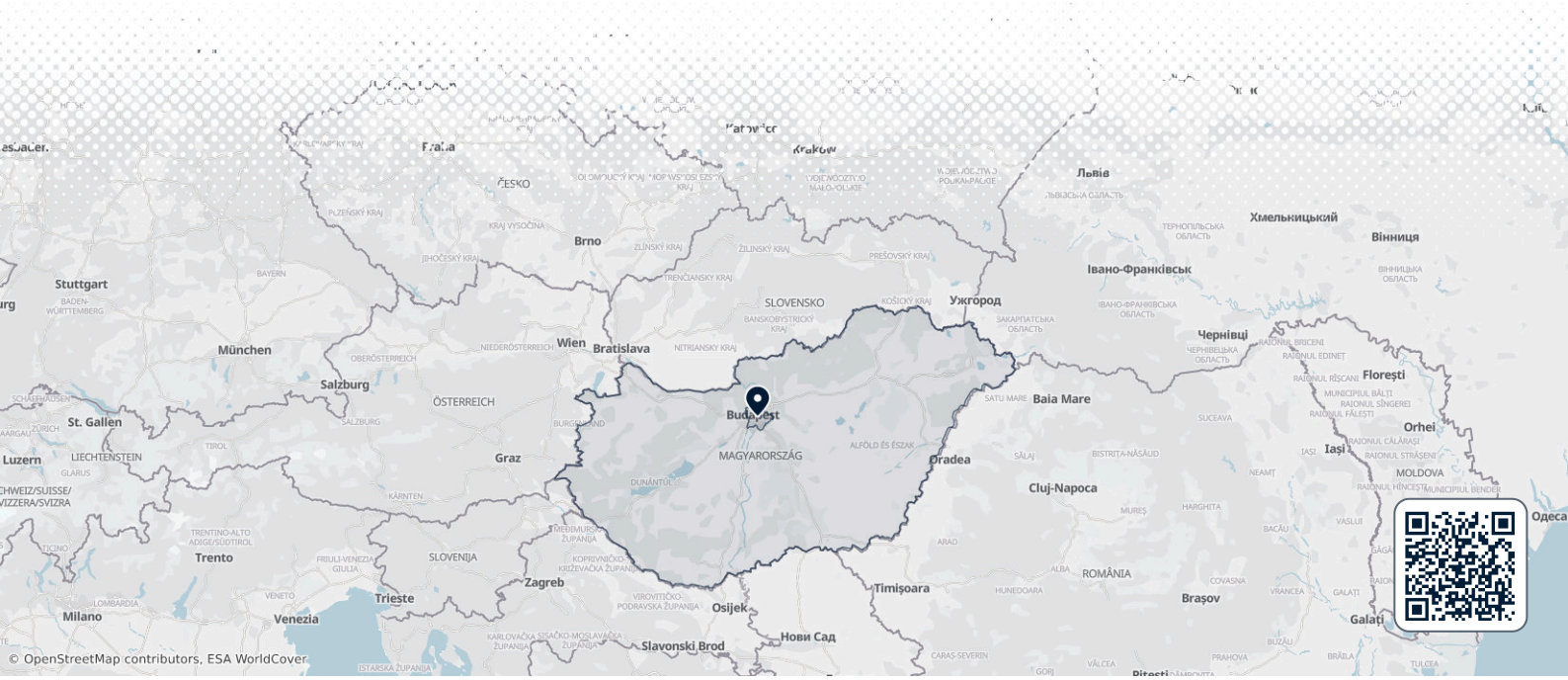


Budapest

Hungary

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Budapest sits on both banks of the Danube, where hilly Buda meets the flat boulevards of Pest. The two halves feel different but share one of Europe's most dramatic river settings, with castle ramparts, a neo-Gothic parliament, and grand 19th-century architecture all visible from the water. It suits travelers who want history, thermal baths, and nightlife without the crowds or prices of Western Europe's biggest capitals.

The city has been shaped by Romans, Ottomans, the Habsburgs, and a turbulent 20th century, and that layered past is easy to see: Roman ruins in Óbuda, Ottoman-era baths, Habsburg-era boulevards, and Communist-era monuments all sit within a short walk of each other. Escape artist *Harry Houdini* was born here in 1874, and composer *Franz Liszt* gave his name to the city's leading music academy.

When to visit

Spring (April–May) and autumn (September–October) bring mild days and thinner crowds, good for walking and outdoor bathing. Summer is hot and busy, with the riverside and Margaret Island packed for outdoor festivals. Winter is cold but atmospheric, with Christmas markets and steam rising off the outdoor thermal baths.

Sziget Festival, one of Europe's largest music festivals, takes over an island north of the centre for about a week in early August and draws hundreds of thousands of visitors — book accommodation well ahead if visiting then.

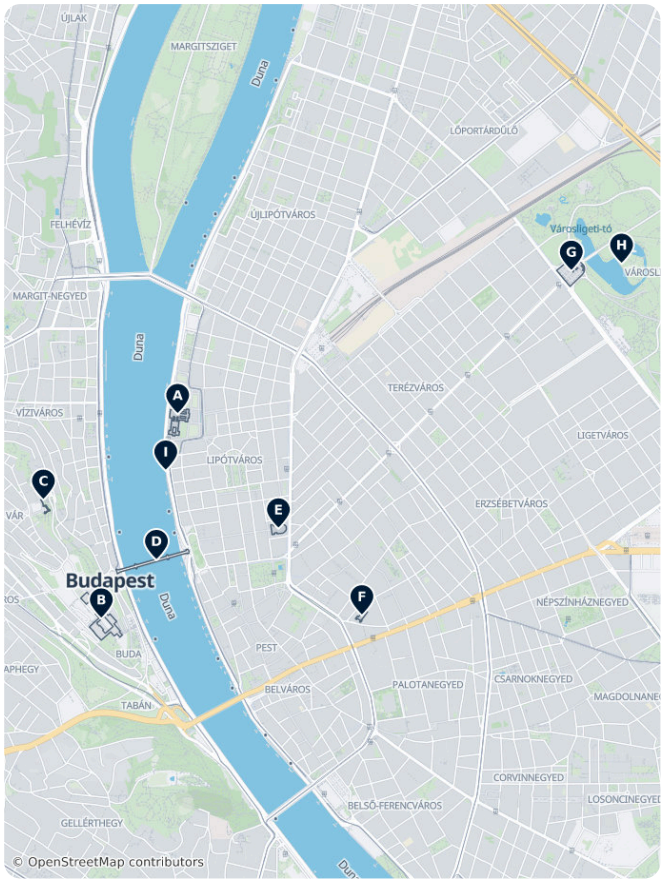
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 11° Feels like -3°	-4° / -13°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 14° Feels like 1°	-3° / -13°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 19° Feels like 7°	1° / -5°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 24° Feels like 14°	5° / -2°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 29°	11° / 5°	12 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 34°	15° / 10°	
July	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 36°	17° / 12°	
August	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 36°	17° / 12°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 31°	12° / 6°	Dry air
October	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 25° Feels like 14°	7° / 0°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	10° / 18° Feels like 6°	2° / -4°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -2°	-3° / -11°	Dry air

Best months: May, June, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

July and August bring the hottest, muggiest days, while spring and autumn offer the best mix of comfortable temperatures and fewer crowds.

Top sights



A Hungarian Parliament Building is Budapest's most photographed landmark, a vast neo-Gothic riverside building completed in 1904. Guided tours reach the domed central hall, where the Hungarian crown jewels are on permanent display.

Across the river, B Buda Castle crowns Castle Hill with courtyards, museums, and sweeping Danube views. A short walk away, C Fisherman's Bastion is a fairy-tale terrace of white turrets built purely for the view over Pest.

D Széchenyi Chain Bridge was Hungary's first permanent bridge across the Danube when it opened in 1849, and it still anchors the classic night photo of Buda and Pest lit up together.

E St. Stephen's Basilica is Budapest's largest church. By law, its dome matches the Parliament's height exactly; a climb or elevator ride leads to a panoramic terrace.

F Great Synagogue is the largest synagogue in Europe, built in a Moorish Revival style, with a moving Holocaust memorial garden in its courtyard.

G Heroes' Square and the fantastical, mismatched architecture of H Vajdahunyad Castle behind it mark the entrance to City Park, built for Hungary's 1896 millennial celebrations.

Along the river, I Shoes on the Danube is a simple but powerful memorial: rows of iron shoes recall the Jews shot into the Danube here in the winter of 1944–45.

Budapest – Plan Your Trip

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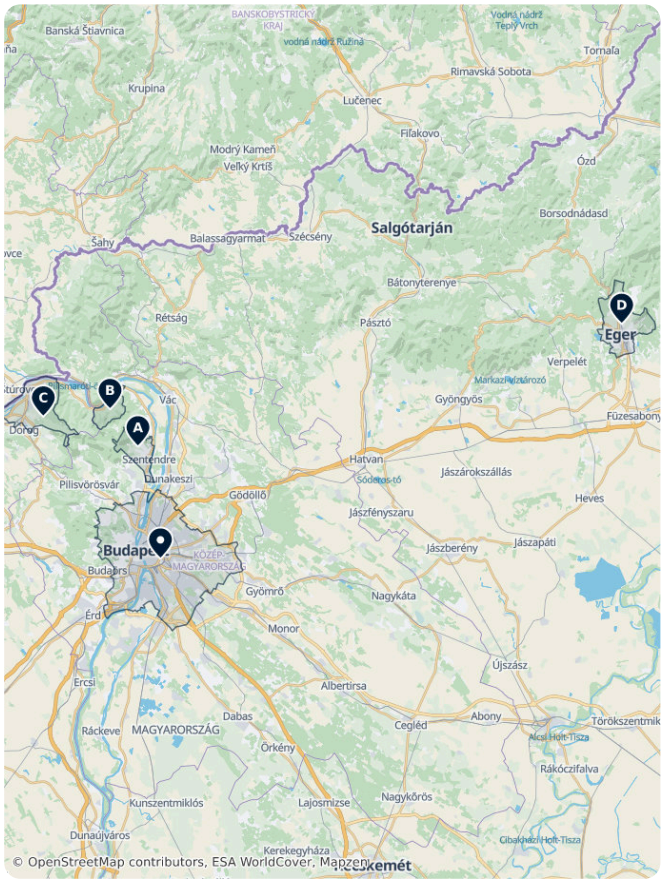
What to experience

- Soak in an outdoor thermal pool at Széchenyi Thermal Bath, ideally at dusk when steam rises off the water — a genuine local ritual, not just a tourist stop.
- Take an evening river cruise past the illuminated Parliament and Chain Bridge; the view from the water is Budapest's best.
- In winter, skate on the pond at Városligeti Műjégpálya in City Park, one of Europe's largest and oldest outdoor rinks.
- Spend an evening moving between the courtyard ruin bars of the Jewish Quarter, derelict buildings turned into bars filled with mismatched furniture and open-air seating.
- Browse the Christmas market at Vörösmarty Square in December, with mulled wine stalls and a small ice rink.

Day trips

The Danube Bend north of Budapest packs some of Hungary's prettiest riverside scenery and historic towns into a short trip; a wine town in the hills makes for a longer but rewarding day out.

- A Szentendre — about 40 minutes by HÉV suburban train from Batthyány tér. A cobbled artists' town with Serbian Orthodox churches and small museums; easy to combine with a riverside walk.
- B Visegrád — about 1–1.5 hours by bus or river ferry. A ruined hilltop citadel with the best panoramic view of the Danube Bend below.
- C Esztergom — about 1.5 hours by bus or train. Hungary's former royal capital, topped by the country's largest basilica, right on the border with Slovakia.
- D Eger — about 2 hours by train. A baroque wine town known for the robust red blend Egri Bikavér, with cellars to visit in the hills just outside town.



Getting there

- **By air**: Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport (BUD) is 16 km southeast of the centre. The 100E express bus runs directly to Deák Ferenc tér in about 30–40 minutes; a cheaper regular bus plus metro connection also works. Taxis and ride-hailing pickups wait outside both terminals.
- **By train**: Keleti, Nyugati, and Déli stations connect Budapest to Vienna (about 2.5 hours), Bratislava, Prague, and other central European cities on frequent international services.
- **By bus**: Népliget bus station is the main hub for long-distance coaches, including budget international lines to neighboring capitals.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: An extensive network of metro (4 lines), trams, and buses run by BKK covers the whole city; the M1 line under Andrássy Avenue is the oldest underground railway in continental Europe. Buy single tickets or a travel pass from machines or the BudapestGO app, which also lets you tap in with a phone on many vehicles — always validate a ticket, since inspectors fine riders without one. BKK journey planner
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Uber operates here through a partnership with local taxi company Főtaxi, with a fixed fare agreed before the ride; Bolt is another widely used app.
- **On foot / cycling**: The historic core on both riverbanks is compact and walkable. The MOL Bubi bike-share system and marked riverside paths make cycling practical outside rush hour.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The historic core on both banks is flat or gently sloped and easy to explore on foot; hop on a tram or the metro to cross quickly between Buda and Pest.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Riverside paths and the MOL Bubi bike-share system make cycling pleasant away from rush hour, though traffic and cobblestones in the historic core can be a challenge.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: No — parking is scarce and expensive, streets are narrow, and public transit covers the city well. A car only helps for day trips outside Budapest.
- **Parking**: The centre is divided into paid zones on weekdays; pay by app (BudapestGO or a district-specific app) or at a machine. Underground garages near Deák Ferenc tér and Vörösmarty tér are pricier but easier for a short stay.
- **Restrictions**: Castle Hill's historic centre is closed to private cars without a resident permit; leave the car below and walk up or take the funicular.

Food & drink

Look beyond gulyás for Budapest specialties: try lángos (fried dough topped with sour cream and cheese) from a street stall, chimney cake (kürtöskalács) from a bakery window, and goose liver dishes, since Hungary is one of the world's largest foie gras producers.

For a genuinely distinctive stop, have coffee under the gilded ceiling of New York Café, a lavish 1894 café that once hosted the city's writers and journalists. For everyday eating, head to Great Market Hall, where ground-floor stalls sell fresh produce and the upper floor has lángos and other quick Hungarian food, or to the courtyard bars of the Jewish Quarter for craft beer and street food.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Gulyás
Paprika-spiced beef soup served with bread — Hungary's national dish, quite different from the thick stew known abroad.

DINNER

Pörkölt
A rich paprika stew made with pork, beef, or chicken — the thick stew version that tourists sometimes call goulash.

Halászlé
A fiery, deep-red freshwater fish soup, especially associated with the Tisza and Danube regions.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Lángos
Deep-fried dough topped with sour cream and grated cheese — the definitive Hungarian street food.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Rétes
Strudel filled with sour cherry, poppy seed, or apple.

DRINKS

Tokaji Aszú
Hungary's famous amber sweet wine, made from botrytised grapes in the Tokaj region.

Egri Bikavér
Bull's Blood — Hungary's best-known red wine, a full-bodied blend from the hills around Eger.

Pálinka
Unaged Hungarian fruit brandy distilled from plums, apricots, or pears.

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Safety & health

Budapest is one of Europe's safer capitals for tourists, with violent crime rare. The main risks are petty: pickpockets on crowded trams and around Váci utca, and unmetered taxis that overcharge — book through an app or use a marked city taxi rather than hailing one that approaches you. Around Váci utca and Deák Ferenc tér, be wary of anyone inviting a solo traveler into a bar for a drink; some venues then present hugely inflated bills. Tap water is safe to drink throughout the city.

History

Budapest formed in 1873, when the towns of Buda, Óbuda, and Pest merged on opposite banks of the Danube. Buda's hilltop, now Buda Castle, was already a royal seat by the 13th century, rebuilt repeatedly after Mongol invasion, Ottoman occupation, and the sieges of the Second World War.

Pest grew fastest after the 1867 Compromise gave Hungary self-rule within the Habsburg empire, funding the grand boulevards, Hungarian Parliament Building, and the millennial celebrations of 1896 that produced Heroes' Square.

The 20th century was harsher: a fascist regime deported hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews in 1944, memorialized today at Shoes on the Danube, and a 1956 uprising against Soviet rule was crushed by tanks in the city's streets before four decades of Communist rule ended in 1989.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Hungary at a glance:

CURRENCY
HUF Ft

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Hungarian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Walks

Audio Guides by Tripomatic
Walk it with an audio guide
Available in 9 languages · **Plays when you arrive** · **Works offline**
Scan to get the app

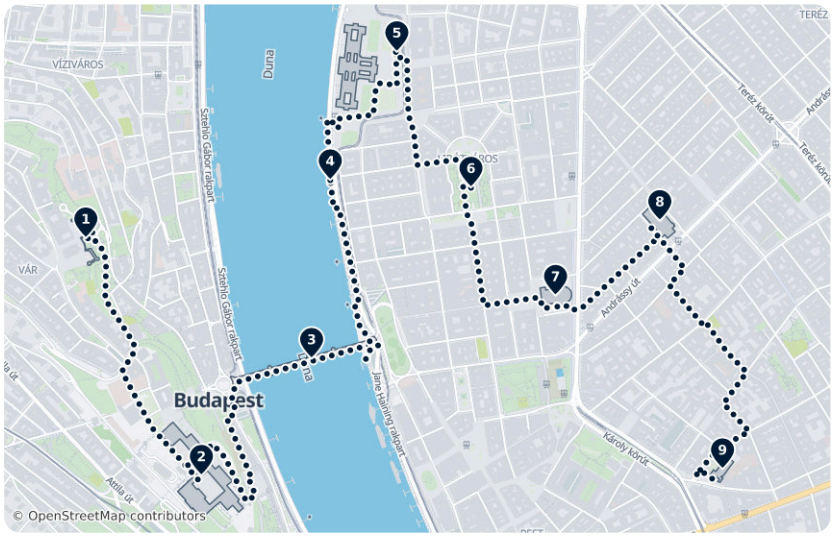
Best of Budapest

1h 56min · 6.4 km · 9 stops



1. Fisherman's Bastion
2. Buda Castle
3. Széchenyi Chain Bridge
4. Shoes on the Danube
5. Hungarian Parliament Building
6. Liberty Square
7. Saint Stephen's Basilica
8. Hungarian State Opera House
9. Great Synagogue

A first-time visitor's walk through Budapest's essential sights, from Castle Hill down to the Danube and across into Pest. You will stand at Fisherman's Bastion beside Matthias Church, see the Royal Palace, cross the Chain Bridge, pause at the Shoes on the Danube memorial, view the Parliament, cross Liberty Square, and visit St. Stephen's Basilica, the Opera House and, as a finale, the Great Synagogue. The walk starts at Fisherman's Bastion on Szentháromság tér, reached on bus 16 from Deák Ferenc tér, or on foot from Széll Kálmán tér metro station.



Budapest Essentials

Divided by the Danube, Budapest combines the medieval heights of Buda with the urban energy of Pest. This selection covers architectural milestones from the neo-Gothic Hungarian Parliament and Matthias Church to the Moorish Revival Great Synagogue. The city's thermal heritage is highlighted at the neo-baroque Széchenyi and Art Nouveau Gellért baths. Historic landmarks such as the Széchenyi Chain Bridge, the hilltop Citadella, and the poignant Shoes on the Danube memorial offer a comprehensive look at the city's imperial grandeur and complex 20th-century history.





A Hungarian Parliament Building

Neo-Gothic government building serving as the seat of the national legislature and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Kossuth Lajos tér 1-3, 1055 Budapest, Hungary
(47.50708, 19.04576)

parlament.hu, +3614414415



B Buda Castle

Historic royal palace complex featuring baroque and medieval architecture, housing museums and art galleries within a UNESCO World Heritage site.

1014 Budapest, Szent György tér, Hungary
(47.49583, 19.03955)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

budacastlebudapest.com, +3614583000



C Fisherman's Bastion

Neo-romanesque and neo-gothic lookout built in the early 20th century, featuring panoramic views of the Danube and surrounding cityscape.

1014 Budapest, Szentháromság tér, Hungary (47.50237, 19.03484)

Mo–Su	09:00–21:00

fishermansbastion.com, +3614583000



D Matthias Church

Historic neo-gothic Roman Catholic cathedral known for its architectural beauty and royal significance. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a major cultural and religious landmark.

Szentháromság tér 2, 1014 Budapest, Hungary (47.50203, 19.03428)

Mo–Sa	09:00–17:00
Su	13:00–17:00

matyas-templom.hu, +3614890716



E St. Stephen's Basilica

Neo-Renaissance Roman Catholic basilica known for its impressive architecture, historical significance, and as a venue for concerts and religious services.

Szent István tér 1, 1051 Budapest, Hungary (47.50079, 19.05396)

Mo–Fr	09:00–17:00
Sa	09:00–13:00
Su	13:00–17:00

bazilika.biz, +3612691849



F Széchenyi Chain Bridge

Historic suspension bridge connecting Buda and Pest across the Danube, notable for its architectural and cultural significance as Hungary's first permanent bridge over the river.

Budapest, Lánchíd, Hungary (47.49905, 19.04403)

muemlekem.hu/muemlek/show/17



G Széchenyi Thermal Bath

Historic neo-baroque thermal bath complex featuring extensive indoor and outdoor pools, medicinal baths, and spa facilities.

Állatkerti körút 9-11, 1146 Budapest (47.51840, 19.08225)

Mo–Th	07:00–20:00
Fr	07:00–22:00
Sa–Su	08:00–20:00

szechenyifurdo.hu, +36 1 363 3210



H Heroes' Square

Historic square featuring the Millennium Monument with statues of Hungarian tribal leaders and important historical figures. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a distinctive cobblestone surface and pedestrian-friendly design.

Hősök tere, 1146 Budapest, Hungary (47.51496, 19.07779)



I Central Market Hall

Historic indoor market hall featuring local Hungarian products, cuisine, and souvenirs in a notable Art Nouveau building from 1897.

Vámház körút 1-3, 1093 Budapest (47.48660, 19.05899)

Mo–Fr	06:00–18:00
Sa	06:00–16:00
Su	10:00–16:00

piaconline.hu/en/central-market-hall/, +36 1 366 3300



J Great Synagogue

Historic synagogue renowned for its Moorish Revival architecture, housing a Jewish museum and Holocaust memorial. It is the largest synagogue in Europe and a significant site of Jewish culture and history.

1074 Budapest, Dohány utca 2, Hungary (47.49601, 19.06075)

Mar-Oct Mo–Th	10:00–20:00
Mar-Oct Fr	10:00–16:30
Mar-Oct Sa–Su	10:00–20:00
Nov-Feb Mo–Th	10:00–16:00
Nov-Feb Fr	10:00–14:00
Nov-Feb Sa–Su	10:00–16:00

greatsynagogue.hu, +3614131515



K Shoes on the Danube

Holocaust memorial featuring sixty pairs of cast-iron shoes that honor the victims executed by the Arrow Cross Militia during World War II. It commemorates those who were forced to remove their footwear before being shot into the river in 1944 and 1945.

Budapest, Szechenyi rakpart, Hungary
(47.50397, 19.04479)



L Gellért Baths

Historic thermal bath complex featuring Art Nouveau architecture and therapeutic waters with indoor and outdoor pools and wellness services.

Kelenhegyi út 4, 1118 Budapest, Hungary
(47.48378, 19.05105)

Mo–Su	06:00–20:00

gellertfurdo.hu, +3614666166



M Citadella

The Citadella is the fortification located upon the top of Gellért Hill in Budapest, Hungary.

Budapest, Citadella sétány, 1118, Hungary
(47.48701, 19.04565)



N New York Café

Historic café housed in the 260-year-old New York Palota building, featuring eclectic and Italian Renaissance architecture and serving Hungarian cuisine.

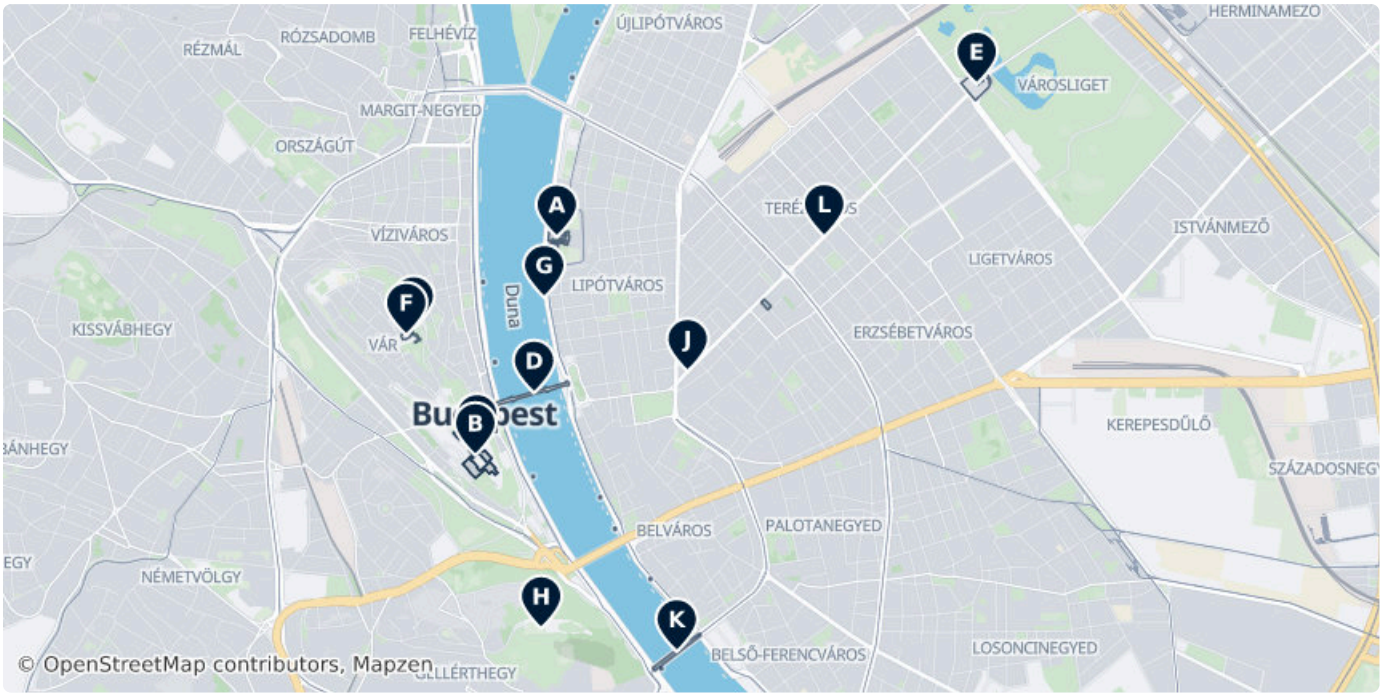
Budapest, Dohány utca, 1074, Hungary
(47.49865, 19.07051)

Mo–We	07:00–24:00
Th–Su	07:00–01:00

newyorkcafe.hu, +3618866167

Budapest Editor's Choice

Budapest's architectural landscape is defined by the Neo-Gothic Hungarian Parliament and the medieval royal complex of Buda Castle. This collection highlights the city's UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the panoramic Fisherman's Bastion and the Millennium Underground Railway, the oldest of its kind in continental Europe. It features iconic river crossings like the Széchenyi Chain Bridge and Art Nouveau Liberty Bridge, alongside the poignant Shoes on the Danube memorial and the grand monuments of Heroes' Square.





A Hungarian Parliament Building

Neo-Gothic government building serving as the seat of the national legislature and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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parlament.hu, +3614414415



B Buda Castle

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Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

budacastlebudapest.com, +3614583000



C Fisherman's Bastion

Neo-romanesque and neo-gothic lookout built in the early 20th century, featuring panoramic views of the Danube and surrounding cityscape.

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Mo–Su 09:00–21:00

fishermansbastion.com, +3614583000



D Széchenyi Chain Bridge

Historic suspension bridge connecting Buda and Pest across the Danube, notable for its architectural and cultural significance as Hungary's first permanent bridge over the river.

Budapest, Lánchíd, Hungary (47.49905, 19.04403)

muemlekem.hu/muemlek/show/17



E Heroes' Square

Historic square featuring the Millennium Monument with statues of Hungarian tribal leaders and important historical figures. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a distinctive cobblestone surface and pedestrian-friendly design.

Hősök tere, 1146 Budapest, Hungary (47.51496, 19.07779)



F Matthias Church

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Mo–Sa 09:00–17:00
Su 13:00–17:00

matyas-templom.hu, +3614890716



G Shoes on the Danube

Holocaust memorial featuring sixty pairs of cast-iron shoes that honor the victims executed by the Arrow Cross Militia during World War II. It commemorates those who were forced to remove their footwear before being shot into the river in 1944 and 1945.

Budapest, Szechenyi rakpart, Hungary (47.50397, 19.04479)



H Gellért Hill

Prominent hill featuring panoramic views, historic landmarks including a citadel and cave church, and natural surroundings.

Citadella sétány, Budapest 1118, Hungary (47.48692, 19.04456)



I Castle Hill

Historic hill featuring a castle complex, museums, churches, and panoramic viewpoints recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Castle District, Buda, District 1, Budapest, Hungary (47.49630, 19.03969)



J Andrássy Avenue

Historic avenue featuring neorenaissance architecture, luxury shopping, and cultural landmarks such as the Hungarian State Opera. It is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Andrássy út, 1061 Budapest, Hungary (47.50017, 19.05574)

andrassyelmenykozpont.hu, +36702417076



K Liberty Bridge

Historic Art Nouveau-style tram bridge spanning the Danube River, notable for its architectural features and scenic viewpoints.

Szabadság híd, Budapest 1056, Hungary (47.48573, 19.05491)



L Millennium Underground Railway

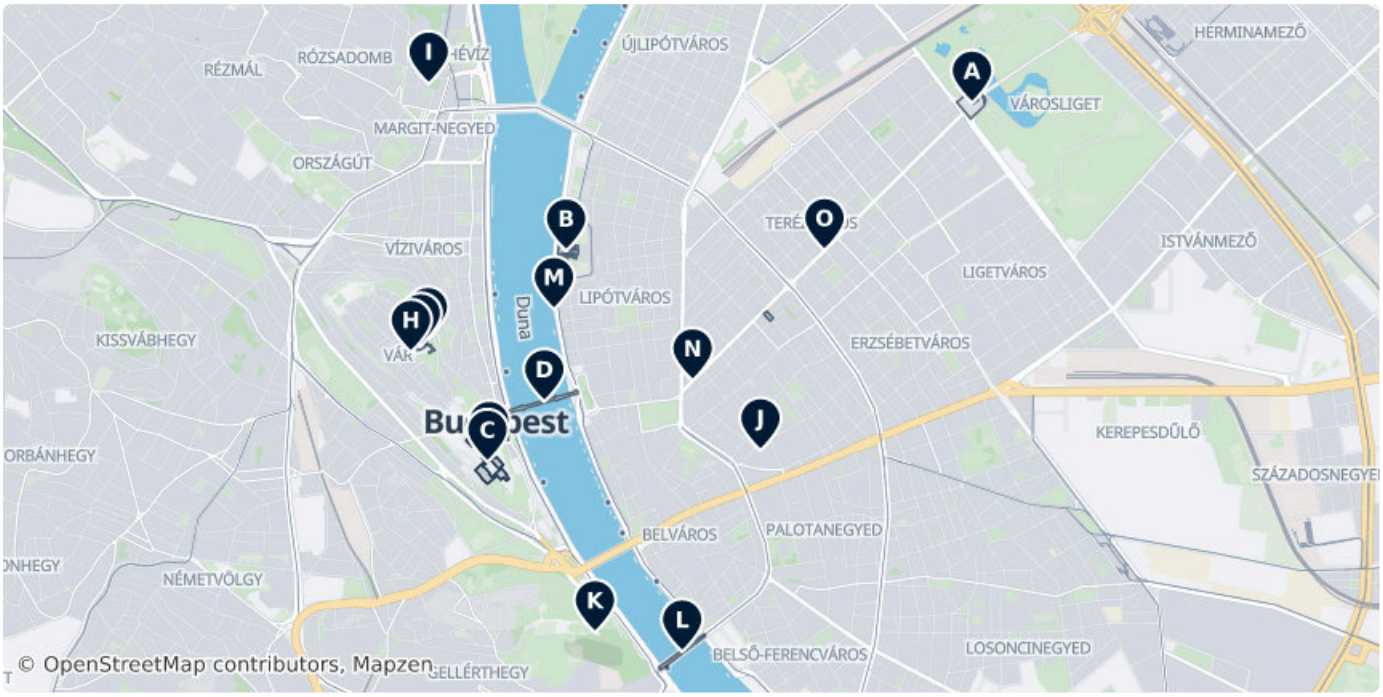
Line 1 is the oldest line of the Budapest Metro, it was built from 1894 to 1896.

Budapest, Deák tér, metro station (47.50711, 19.06615)

bkv.hu/en/museums/millenium_underground_museum

Heritage & Monuments

Budapest's architectural landscape spans centuries of history, from the medieval fortifications of Buda Castle and the Neo-Gothic Matthias Church on Castle Hill to the Neo-Renaissance grandeur of Andrássy Avenue. The city's heritage includes the 19th-century Millennium Underground Railway and the iconic Hungarian Parliament Building. Moving memorials like the Shoes on the Danube and the Memorial of the Hungarian Jewish Martyrs honor the city's 20th-century history, while structures like the Chain Bridge and Liberty Bridge connect the historic districts across the Danube.





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Mo–Sa	09:00–17:00
Su	13:00–17:00

matyas-templom.hu, +3614890716



H Holy Trinity Statue

This imposing column is the most prominent sight of the Trinity Square.

8 Szentháromság tér, Budapest 1014, Hungary
(47.50169, 19.03351)



I Tomb of Gülbaba

Gül Baba, also known as Jafer, was an Ottoman Bektashi dervish poet and companion of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent who took part in a...

Mecset u. 14, 1025 Budapest, Türbe tér, Hungary
(47.51597, 19.03492)

Tu–Su	10:00–18:00

gulbabaalapitvany.hu, + 36 1 4878800



J Memorial of the hungarian jewish martyrs

Hidden away at the backyard of the Great Dohanyi Synagogue, this park commemorates the hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews who lost...

1077 Budapest, Dohány utca 2, Hungary
(47.49645, 19.06109)

kozterkep.hu/3264/emanuel-emlekfa, +36 705 335 696



K Liberty Statue

Bronze war memorial erected in 1947 featuring a female figure holding a palm branch, symbolizing freedom and liberation. It stands on a hilltop offering panoramic views of the city.

1118 Budapest, Hungary (47.48674, 19.04803)

kozterkep.hu/~/168/Szabadsag_szobor_Budapest_1947.h...



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andrassyelmenykozpont.hu, +36702417076



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bkv.hu/en/museums/millenium_underground_museum

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