

# EUROBOWL XVI

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## BUDAPEST CITY GUIDE

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# WELCOME TO HUNGARY

Located in the heart of Central Europe, this country is packed with rich history, stunning landscapes, and a vibrant culture. With a mix of beautiful plains, hills, and lakes, Hungary is the perfect blend of natural beauty and urban charm. Its history dates back over a thousand years, with influences from Romans, Ottomans, and Austrians, making it a fascinating place to explore.

Although Hungary is small in size, it is big in character. From the charming villages to the world-famous spas, it is a country that knows how to balance old-world charm with modern flair. Hungary has a population of approximately 9.6 million people, making it a moderately populated country in Central Europe. The capital city, Budapest, is home to about 1.75 million people, making it by far the largest city in the country.

The currency is Hungarian Forint, and the official language is Hungarian, however most people speak English and German as a second language, especially in business and tourism.







# WELCOME TO BUDAPEST

Let us introduce Budapest – Hungary's capital and one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Split in two by the Danube River, this city has the best of both worlds: the elegant, old-world charm of Buda, with its castles and cobblestone streets, and the vibrant, buzzing energy of Pest, where bars, cafés, and nightlife pop up around every corner. The capital is known for its energetic atmosphere and stunning architecture, like the neo-Gothic Parliament building and the grand St. Stephen's Basilica. The city also boasts Roman ruins, Ottoman-era mosques, and Art Nouveau landmarks. It's a true blend of history, culture, and style, making it a delight to explore on foot.

Whether you're wandering through the grand boulevards, relaxing in the famous thermal baths, or checking out the lively ruin pubs, Budapest offers a perfect mix of history, culture, and modern life. With its charming streets, impressive landmarks, and warm hospitality, Hungary and Budapest are sure to leave you with unforgettable memories.





# SIGHTSEEING

## HOME OF THE THERMAL BATHS

Hungary is known for its natural thermal springs, and Budapest is often called the “City of Spas.” The country has more than 1,000 hot springs, many of which feed into historical bath-houses in Budapest. The most famous are the Gellért Baths and Széchenyi Baths – both offering a relaxing dip in beautiful, historic settings. If you wish to visit the same ones as the locals, opt for Dandár, Lukács or Király baths.







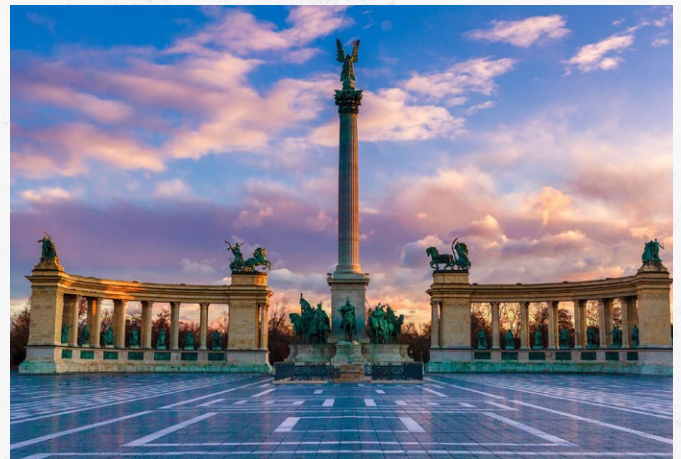
## A CITY SPLIT BY THE DANUBE

Budapest is actually two cities in one: Buda and Pest, divided by the Danube River. Buda is where you will find the Royal Castle, Fisherman's bastion, the Matthias Church and the scenic Gellért Hill with the Citadel on top of it, while Pest is the lively side, full of bars, ruin pubs and cafés. The most iconic sights on this side are the Parliament, The Saint Stephen's Basilica, and the largest synagogue in Europe at Dohány street. Andrassy Avenue and Heroes' square are both UNESCO World Heritage Sites, therefore a must-see.

For nature lovers Margaret Island and the City Park are the perfect places to visit. The two sides are connected by several beautiful bridges, including the famous Chain Bridge. Danube cruises are one of the best ways to explore Budapest and its stunning surroundings. It offers breathtaking views of the city's iconic landmarks from the water day and night, making it a must-do experience for visitors.

Ruin pub recommendation:

- Szimpla Kert
- For Sale Pub
- Pótkulcs
- Dürer Kert





# HUNGARIAN CUISINE

Hungary is famous for its flavorful food. Think “csirke paprikás”, “gulyás”, and “lángos” - comfort food at its finest, which you will find all over the country, from cozy villages to the bustling streets of Budapest. However, it offers far more than just the famous goulash or paprika-laden dishes. Our cuisine is a delightful mix of flavors, textures, and bold spices. While the hearty, traditional meals are often the first things that come to mind, Hungary’s food scene is rich with lesser-known but equally delicious regional specialties. And it doesn’t stop at food — Hungary’s wine, beer, and spirits culture is equally impressive, offering a variety of beverages that perfectly complement its culinary offerings. Here are a few lesser-known but equally mouthwatering dishes.



## **RAKOTT KRUMPLI – LAYERED POTATOES**

Think of it as Hungary’s version of potato gratin — rakott krumpli is a layered casserole made with potatoes, boiled eggs, sausage, and a rich, creamy sour cream mixture.

It is a simple yet satisfying dish that is popular for family gatherings and special occasions. Some even say it is the perfect hangover food!



## **HORTOBÁGYI PALACSINTA – SAVORY PANCAKES**

This is Hungary’s answer to crepes, but with a savory twist.

Hortobágyi palacsinta are thin pancakes stuffed with a filling made from ground meat (usually beef or chicken), onions, and a rich paprika sauce. The pancakes are rolled up and served with more paprika sauce and sour cream.



## **TÖLTÖTT KÁPOSZTA – STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS**

A winter staple, töltött káposzta consists of cabbage leaves stuffed with a mix of minced meat (usually pork or beef), rice, and spices.

It is hearty, flavorful, and often served with a dollop of sour cream on top. It’s the type of dish that brings warmth to your soul.



### **DOBOS TORTA – DOBOS CAKE**

This iconic Hungarian cake is a showstopper, both in taste and appearance. Dobos Torta is made of several layers of sponge cake, chocolate buttercream, and a caramelized sugar topping. The thin, crispy caramel layers on top give it a distinctive look and add a bit of crunch.

Created by Hungarian confectioner József Dobos in the late 1800s, it's perfect for special occasions and can be found in almost any café.



### **KÜRTŐSKALÁCS – CHIMNEY CAKE**

If you are strolling around Hungary's towns and villages, you will likely encounter the intoxicating aroma of kürtőskalács, or chimney cake. This is the ultimate street food dessert — a sweet, cylindrical pastry that's roasted on an open fire. The dough is rolled in sugar, which caramelizes as it cooks, giving it a crispy, golden-brown crust. You'll often find it coated with additional cinnamon, walnuts, or cocoa powder, making it an irresistible snack.

### **SOMLÓI GALUSKA**

If you crave a simple yet amazing dessert - layers of vanilla, chocolate and walnut sponge cake, chocolate sauce, and whipped cream, often with a dash of rum for that extra kick.

Somlói galuska is usually served as a layered dessert in individual cups, making it the perfect treat to end a hearty Hungarian meal. It's indulgent, satisfying, and utterly delicious.





# HUNGARIAN DRINKS

Hungary is just as serious about its beverages as it is about its food. Whether you're in the mood for wine, beer, or something a bit stronger, there's a drink for every occasion.



## HUNGARIAN WINES

Hungary has a rich winemaking tradition that spans centuries, and the diversity of Hungarian wines is truly impressive.

### TOKAJI

Hungary's world-famous wine is Tokaji Aszú, a sweet white wine made from grapes affected by noble rot (a fungus that concentrates sugars).

Known as "the wine of kings," Tokaji has a distinct honey, fruity flavor with a refreshing acidity. It is perfect with dessert or enjoyed on its own.

### EGRI BIKAVÉR – BULL'S BLOOD

Egri Bikavér is one of Hungary's most iconic red wines, traditionally a blend of several grape varieties like Kékfrankos, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot. It's a rich, full-bodied wine with flavors of dark fruit and spices — perfect for hearty meat dishes.

### FURMINT

This grape, mostly grown in the Tokaj region, produces wines that are crisp, mineral-driven, and refreshing. It's used for both dry and sweet wines, with the dry versions being a fantastic pairing for seafood and light dishes.

### KADARKA

Kadarka is a light-bodied red wine with flavors of red berries, herbs, and a subtle spiciness. It's a wine that pairs beautifully with Hungarian charcuterie or roasted meats.





## WINE REGIONS AND TOKAJ

Hungary has a long tradition of wine-making, and its Tokaji wine is one of the most famous dessert wines in the world. The region of Tokaj, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has been producing wine for centuries.

The Balaton wine region, located around the stunning Lake Balaton, is just a short day trip from Budapest and offers a delightful escape into Hungary's vibrant wine culture. This region is perfect for wine enthusiasts looking to explore scenic vineyards and enjoy refreshing wines, ideal for pairing with local fish dishes or fresh summer meals. If you're a wine lover, this is definitely a must-try!



# HUNGARY'S CULTURE & TRADITIONS

Hungarian culture is rich, diverse, and deeply rooted in its history. The Hungarian people take great pride in their folklore, music, and traditions. One of the most beloved aspects of Hungarian culture is its folk art, which can be seen in colorful embroidery, intricate pottery, and handcrafted items. Traditional dances, such as the energetic csárdás, are still a popular feature of festivals and celebrations.

Hungary is also known for its classical music heritage. Famous composers like Franz Liszt and Béla Bartók hail from Hungary, and their music can often be heard in Budapest's grand concert halls. The Hungarian language, one of the most unique in Europe, adds to the country's distinct identity. Though it might seem tricky at first, it's a beautiful and ancient language that reflects Hungary's long history and cultural richness.





# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Getting around in Budapest is super easy — thanks to the city's efficient public transport system. While the metros, and trams shut down after midnight (a common feature in most cities), Budapest doesn't leave you hanging.

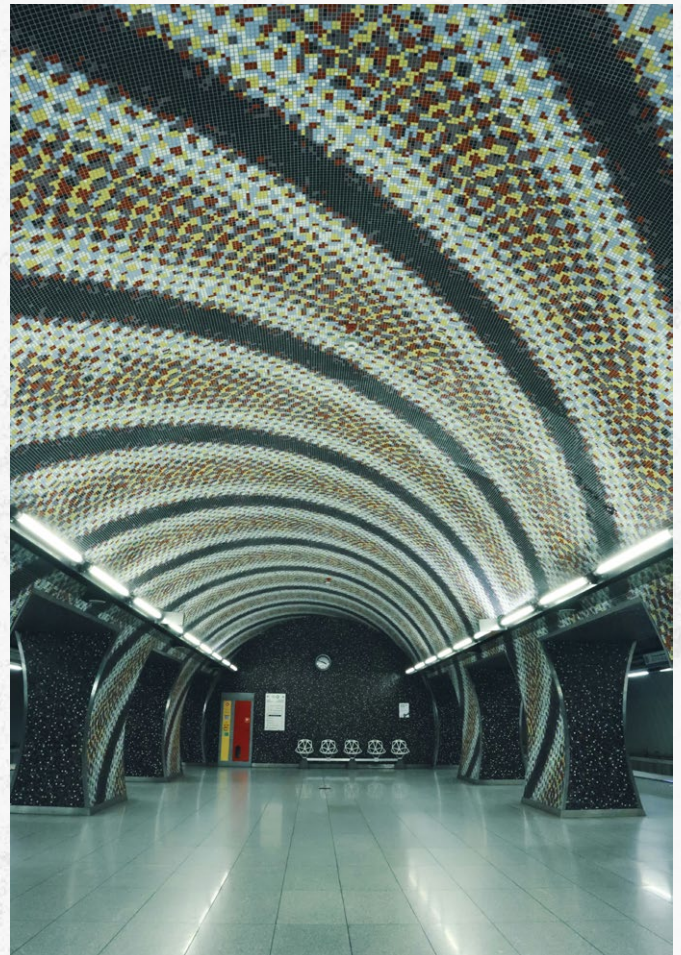
Night buses take over, operating from around 11:30 PM until 4:30 AM, providing service throughout the city and covering all areas, including spots where the regular day buses don't reach. Let's break down how you can hop on a bus, tram, or metro to get to all the best spots, including Budapest's airport and the venue, Hungexpo.



## METRO

Budapest's metro is the fastest form of travel. With four lines (M1, M2, M3, and M4), it covers a lot of ground and is especially useful for tourists. The M1 (yellow line) is the star here — it's the oldest line, running since 1896, and even has UNESCO World Heritage status. The M3 (blue line) is the longest, with a stop at Nyugati Railway Station. Metro M2 (red line) covers Déli Railway Station, while Metro M4 (green line) passes through Keleti Railway Station making the centre an easy access for visitors coming from surrounding countries.

**Pro Tip:** The metro is great for avoiding Budapest's notorious traffic jams. Wherever you are heading, the metro will get you there fast — and with a lot less stress!



## TRAMS

Trams in Budapest are kind of a big deal — and for good reason. With over 30 lines running through the city, they are reliable, cheap, and offer some seriously scenic views. If you are looking to see Budapest's famous landmarks while you travel, hop on Tram 2, which runs right along the Danube River. You'll pass the Hungarian Parliament, Buda Castle, and more, all while sitting in comfort. And if you are in a hurry, Tram 4 and Tram 6 are your best bets. They run frequently, day and night and cover major routes.







## TROLLEYBUSES

Budapest doesn't stop at just the usual metro and trams. There's also the trolleybus — an electric bus that's greener and quieter than its diesel counterparts. You'll find these on routes like Trolleybus 70 and Trolleybus 75, which are a good choice if you want to travel a little further out from the main city center.

## BUSES

For the occasions when the metro just won't do, Budapest's public transport got you covered. With over 200 bus routes, Budapest's buses will take you to the more remote parts of the city, like the beautiful Buda hills or less touristy spots. They're also handy for getting to places where the metro and trams can't reach.





## AIRPORT AND HUNGEXPO

The biggest centre where M1, M2 and M3 metro meets, and the airport bus (100E) terminates is Deák Ferenc Square. It is not only the heart of the city, from where every major sight is easily accessible, but also an important transport hub.

The 100E Airport Shuttle Bus is the most convenient and direct public transport option for travelers heading to and from Budapest Liszt Ferenc Airport (BUD). This dedicated airport bus operates between the airport and the city center with minimal stops, making it a fast and efficient choice for getting in and out of Budapest.

The bus runs approximately every 8 minutes during the day, early in the morning or late at night you can catch it every 10-15 minutes and throughout the night it runs every 20-30 minutes.

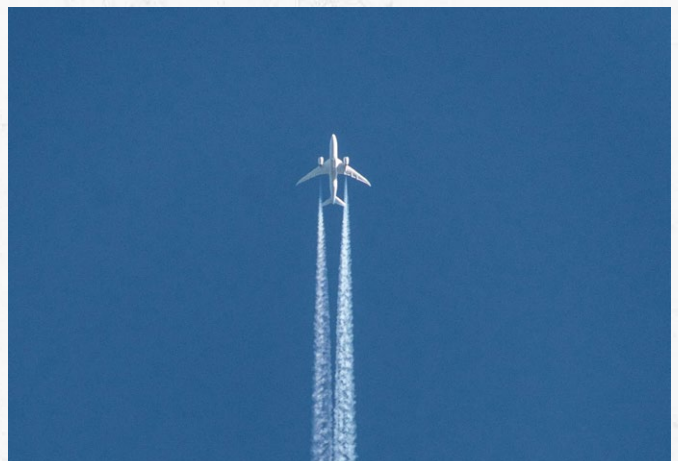


If you're heading to Hungexpo from Deák Ferenc Square, Metro M2 and bus 10 are your friends, as it takes you directly to Gate 2 at Hungexpo. If you don't mind a little walk, and you are coming from Blaha Lujza Square, hop on tram 37 or 37A until "Kőbánya felső vasútállomás" and after a 10-12 minute walk, you will reach the Hungexpo main entrance.



For this bus you will need a special airport ticket, which you can purchase in the airport shuttle bus stops, at the airport, and at Deák Ferenc Square for 2200 HUF (approximately 5,50 €). The 200E Bus offers another practical route to get from Liszt Ferenc Airport to the city, with a slight difference in how it connects to public transport. The 200E bus connects the airport to Kőbánya-Kispest Metro Station, where passengers can transfer to the M3 (blue line) metro, which provides direct access to central Budapest.

This makes the 200E bus a great option if you're looking to use the metro for your onward journey in Budapest. This runs every 20 minutes and operates 24/7 so no matter what time your flight arrives or departs, you'll be able to find a bus to get you where you need to go. For this one, you will not need the airport bus ticket, as it operates as a normal public transport bus. You will only have to purchase a single ticket for 450 HUF (approximately 1,10 €).





## TICKETS AND TRAVELCARDS

### SINGLE TICKET - 450 HUF ~ 1,10 €

Perfect if you're just going from point A to point B — no fuss, no hassle.

Pro tip: If you are changing between 2 metro lines without going up to ground level, you only need to use 1 ticket for one way!

### BLOCK OF 10 TICKETS - 4000 HUF ~ 10 €

This is great if you're going to be hopping on and off trams and metros all day. Plus, buying in bulk is always the smarter way to go — it's like a public transport subscription without the commitment.

### 100E AIRPORT SHUTTLE BUS - 2200 HUF ~ 5,50 €

The 100E airport shuttle bus is your best bet to get from the airport straight into the city. For 2200 HUF, this bus will take you directly to Deák Ferenc tér, saving you the hassle of taxis or expensive transfers. It's quick, easy, and the most reliable way to kick off (or end) your Budapest adventure.

### 24-HOUR TRAVELCARD - 2500 HUF ~ 6,20 €

If you've got a full day of sightseeing ahead and you don't want to worry about tickets every time you hop on a tram or metro, grab a 24-hour travelcard. For 2500 HUF, it gives you unlimited travel on all forms of public transport for 24 hours.

### 72-HOUR TRAVELCARD - 5500 HUF ~ 13,7 €

For 5500 HUF, it offers unlimited rides for three whole days — no limits, no worries.

Whether you're checking out Gellért Hill, hopping on a tram along the Danube, or riding the metro to see St. Stephen's Basilica, this card's got your back.



## BUDAPESTGO APP

If you're a fan of doing everything from your phone, download the BudapestGo app. It's super easy to use, and you can buy tickets directly from your phone. Plus, you can check real-time schedules and route info. It's basically like having your own personal public transport assistant in your pocket.



## TICKET MACHINES

If you're a bit old school or prefer a physical ticket, no worries! You'll find ticket machines at all major metro stations (except Metro M1, it's too old-school to bother with modern tech) and big transport hubs.

They're quick and easy to use — just follow the prompts and grab your ticket.

The most important tip of all: Validate your ticket! Before you hop on the metro, tram, or bus, make sure you validate your ticket at the little ticket machine or reader. It's the golden rule of Budapest public transport. If you don't validate it, you could be hit with a fine from the ticket inspectors — and trust us, those guys are sneaky!



# ACCOMODATION

When it comes to staying in Budapest, there's no shortage of great options, especially if you're looking for that perfect mix of comfort, quality, and a touch of luxury — all without breaking the bank. Here are some recommendations for 3\* and 4\* hotels and where to book them.

## **IBIS BUDAPEST CENTRUM**

A reliable, budget-friendly option, Ibis Budapest Centrum offers modern, comfortable rooms right in the heart of the city. Perfect for those who want a no-fuss stay, it's located near the Great Market Hall and Váci Street, making it easy to explore Budapest's central attractions.

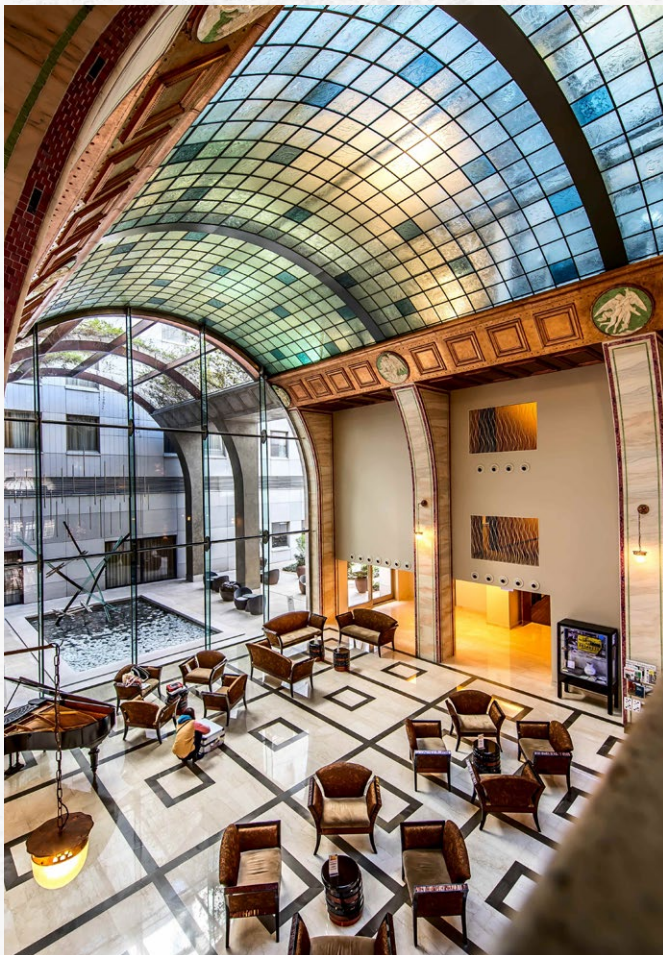
## **HOTEL MUSEUM BUDAPEST**

This charming hotel combines classic design with modern comfort. Hotel Museum Budapest is located just a short walk from Corvin Plaza and the Great Market Hall, making it an ideal spot for both history buffs and shopaholics. The warm atmosphere and spacious rooms offer a relaxed, welcoming experience.

## **THE THREE CORNERS HOTEL ART**

A modern, artistic hotel offering a blend of stylish interiors and excellent service. The Three Corners Hotel Art is located in a quieter area but still within walking distance of Budapest's main sights. Its contemporary design and affordable luxury make it a great base for exploring the city.





#### **CONTINENTAL HOTEL BUDAPEST**

Set in a beautiful, central location near Andrásy Avenue, Hotel Moments Budapest offers a blend of chic, modern rooms and top-tier service. Whether you're catching a show at the Opera House or strolling down the avenue, this hotel is a stylish and comfortable choice.

#### **HOTEL PARLAMENT**

Located just a stone's throw from the Hungarian Parliament Building, Hotel Parlament combines old-world charm with contemporary style. With spacious, elegant rooms, and a fantastic location near the Danube, it's a perfect choice for anyone looking for a blend of comfort and class in the heart of Budapest.

There are tons of platforms that make the process super easy. Whether you prefer using Booking.com, Expedia, Airbnb or direct hotel websites, you'll find great deals and discounts. Sometimes the Hungarian sites, like Szállás.hu have better deals than the international ones, so it is worth checking them out!



# PROGRAMME

Hungarians know how to enjoy life, and their way of spending time is a wonderful mix of celebrating rich cultural traditions, getting together with friends and family, and enjoying the arts.

From lively music events to centuries-old folk dances, and from vibrant festivals to world-class theatre performances, the Hungarian love for culture is felt at every turn. Here's a closer look at how Hungarians like to spend their time.





## MUSIC EVENTS: WHERE TRADITION MEETS MODERN VIBES

Hungary has a deep connection to music, whether it's the ancient folk songs of the countryside or the international beats of modern-day concerts. Music is part of everyday life, and it's common to find people gathering for all sorts of performances.

### CLASSICAL MUSIC

Hungary has produced some of the world's most renowned composers, such as Franz Liszt and Béla Bartók. Their legacy is honored through performances at iconic venues like the Hungarian State Opera and the Liszt Academy, where you can hear everything from opera to orchestral masterpieces. Hungarians often enjoy spending their evenings in these elegant settings, appreciating the country's rich musical history.

### FOLK MUSIC AND TÁNCHÁZ (DANCE HOUSE)

If you are in Hungary, don't miss out on the "táncház" tradition. This is not just a music event — it's a lively folk dance and music experience that brings together people of all ages.

Locals gather in community halls to dance to live folk bands playing traditional instruments like the violin and cymbal. It is not just about watching — everyone is encouraged to get up and join in the fun keeping the energy high and the spirits even higher.

### FESTIVALS

Hungarians love a good festival, and they have plenty! The Sziget Festival in Budapest is one of the largest and most popular music festivals in Europe, attracting crowds from all over the world. It's a week-long celebration of live music, art, and culture. Whether you're into rock, electronic, or indie, you'll find something to dance to. But the festival scene isn't just about big acts — there are smaller festivals like the Budapest Jazz Festival or the VeszprémFest, where music lovers can enjoy more intimate performances.





## THEATRE: A PASSION FOR PERFORMANCE

Hungarians have a deep love for theatre, and it's a big part of their cultural life. From grand operas to avant-garde performances, theatre in Hungary is both timeless and cutting-edge.

### BUDAPEST THEATRES

Budapest is a city where the stage comes alive with vibrant performances, offering a rich variety of theatrical experiences. From classic drama to contemporary plays and experimental performances, Budapest's theaters showcase the city's thriving cultural scene, making it a perfect destination for theater enthusiasts.

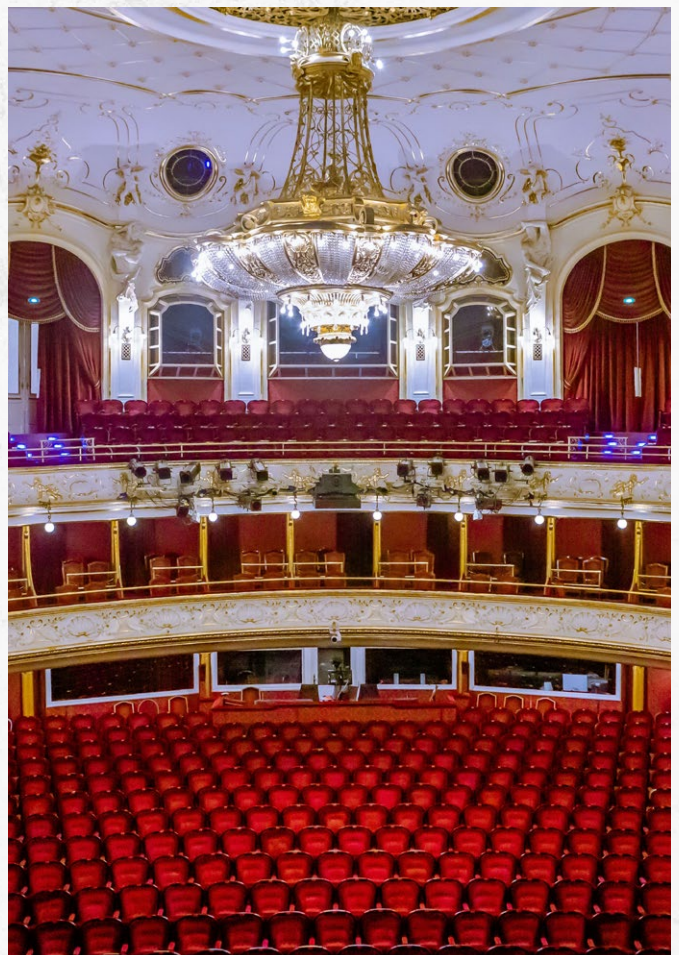
### THE BUDAPEST OPERETTA THEATRE

Operetta holds a special place in Hungarian hearts, and the Budapest Operetta Theatre showcases some of the best of Hungarian and international operettas. These performances combine the joy of music with a light-hearted storyline, often featuring lavish costumes and witty dialogues.

### THE HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA HOUSE

The Hungarian State Opera House is one of Budapest's most iconic buildings and a must-visit for any culture lover. Opened in 1884, this stunning Neo-Renaissance masterpiece hosts world-class opera and ballet performances. With its ornate interior, gold-leaf detailing, and grand chandelier, the opera house is not only a place for incredible music but also a feast for the eyes.

Whether you're attending a Verdi opera or a Tchaikovsky ballet, the Hungarian State Opera House is a true gem of Budapest's cultural scene.





## **IF YOU SPEND SOME EXTRA DAYS IN HUNGARY AND MAXED OUT BUDAPEST**

### **LAKE BALATON – THE HUNGARIAN SEA**

Often referred to as the “Hungarian Sea,” Lake Balaton is the largest freshwater lake in Central Europe, and it’s a popular summer destination for both locals and tourists. With its sparkling waters, rolling hills, and charming towns along its shores, Balaton offers opportunities for sailing, swimming, hiking, and wine tasting.

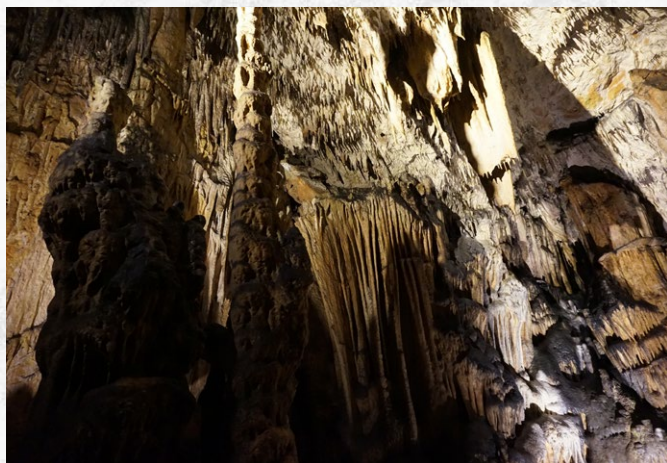
The most famous cities around the lake are Balatonakaratya, Balatonfüred, Tihany and Siófok, which can be easily accessed by train (departing from Déli Railway Station).

The region around Balaton is famous for its vineyards, and it’s one of the best places to sample Hungary’s excellent white wines, like the Olaszrizling, Kékfrankos and Chardonnay among many others.



### **THE BUDA HILLS & THE DANUBE BEND - NATURE'S PERFECT U-TURN**

The Buda Hills, just outside Budapest, offer a quick escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. Hiking trails provide panoramic views of the capital and its surroundings. Further along the Danube River, the Danube Bend is a picturesque area where the river loops around hills, creating beautiful views and quaint towns such as Visegrád and Esztergom.



### **THE CAVES OF AGGTELEK NATIONAL PARK - A ROCKY ROAD TO HIDDEN TREASURES**

For something a bit different, Hungary also boasts some incredible cave systems. The Aggtelek National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to one of Europe's most extensive cave systems. The limestone formations and underground beauty are a hidden gem for those who enjoy exploring the natural world.

### **SZENTENDRE - ART, ICE CREAM, AND THE DANUBE**

If you want a dose of art, cobbled streets, and some irresistible ice cream, take a short hop to Szentendre. Just 30 minutes by train from Budapest, this cute little town is nestled on the banks of the Danube River. Think colorful houses, narrow alleys, and a vibrant art scene. It's like stepping into a postcard.

If you're feeling artsy, pop into one of the many galleries or the Marzipan Museum (yes, it's a thing!). And if you're not into marzipan, just enjoy the gelato shops dotted around the town — your taste buds will thank you. Plus, it's a great spot for a stroll along the Danube, so pack some comfy shoes.







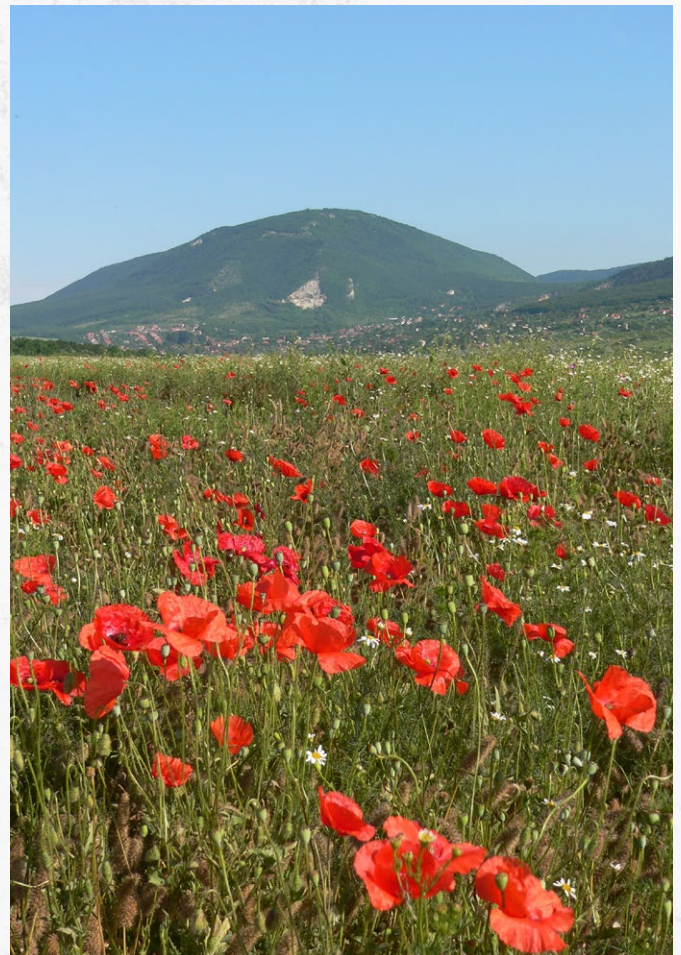
### **VISEGRÁD - ROYAL VIBES AND STUNNING VIEWS**

Visegrád is just about 45 minutes from Budapest, and it's like something out of a medieval fairy tale. Here, you will find the Visegrád Castle, perched high above the Danube Bend, with panoramic views that will make you feel like you are on top of the world.

If you are a history buff, you will enjoy learning about the 14th-century Hungarian kings who once called this place home. Bonus points if you visit the Royal Palace or try tubing down the river.

### **PILIS HILLS - HIKE TODAY, BRAG ABOUT IT TOMORROW**

If you are craving a little nature therapy, head to the Pilis Hills for some serious fresh air and a dose of green. Just 30 minutes from Budapest, it's the perfect spot to escape the city and dive into nature. Whether you are into hiking, cycling, or just want to breathe deeply and forget about the hustle, this place has it all. Plus, you will get sweeping views of the Danube Bend.





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