

PROMPT  
GUIDES



5 days



# 5-day Budapest City Guide

A preplanned step-by-step time line  
and city guide for Budapest.  
Follow it and get the best of the city.



# Other Destinations

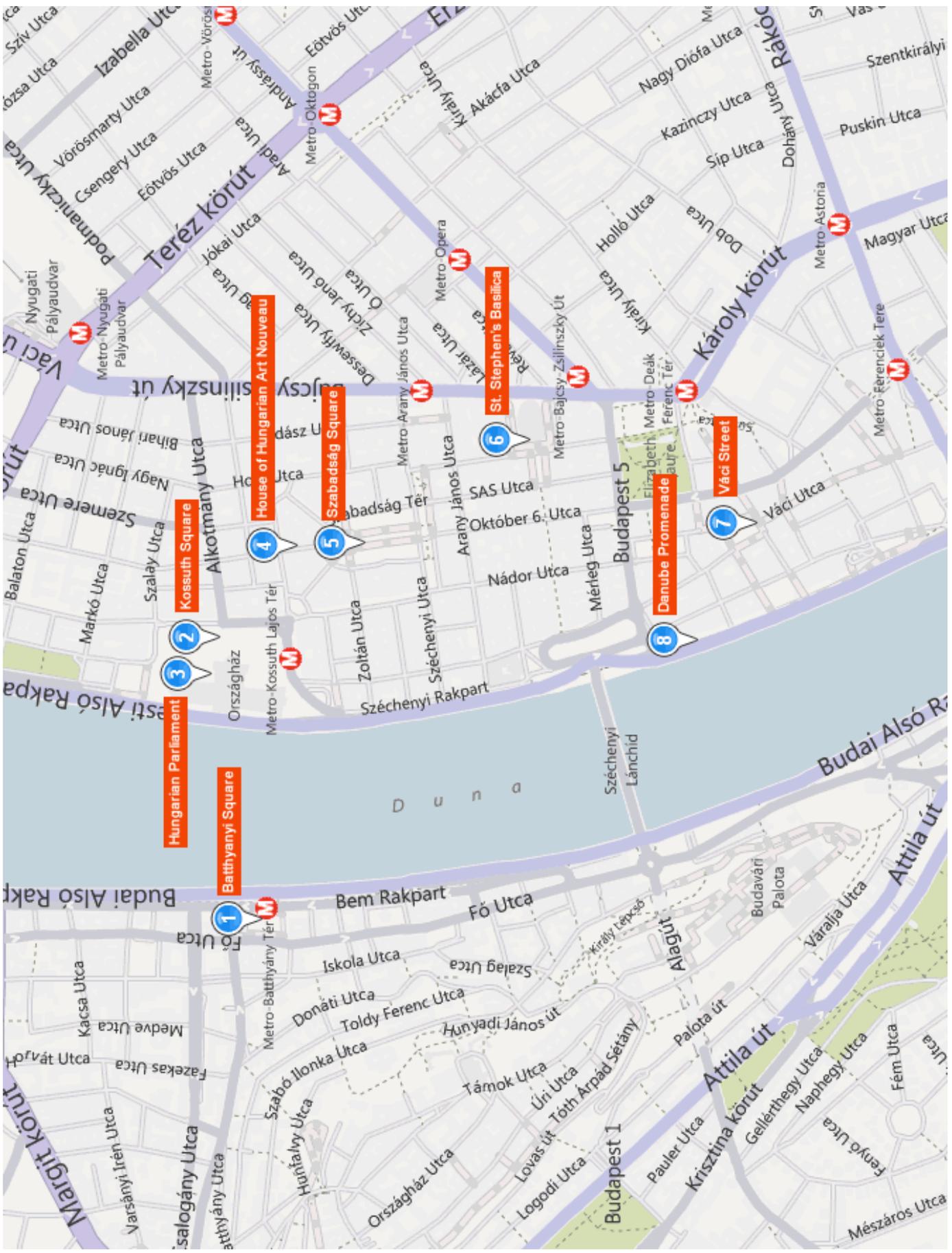
London, Barcelona, Paris, Boston, Athens, Amsterdam, Rome, Budapest ...and more

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# Overview of Day 1

	<b>LEAVE HOTEL</b>	<a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in Budapest &gt;</a>	
	Take Metro Line 2 (Red) to Batthyány tér station		
09:00-09:20	<b>Batthyány Square</b>	The best view of the Hungarian Parliament	Page 5
	Take Metro Line 2 (Red) from Batthyány tér station to Kossuth tér station (Direction: Örs Vezér tere) - 10'		
09:30-10:00	<b>Kossuth Square</b>	Historic square	Page 5
	Take a walk to Hungarian Parliament		
10:00-11:00	<b>Hungarian Parliament</b>	One of the most imposing parliament buildings in the world	Page 6
	Take a walk to the House of Hungarian Art Nouveau - 10'		
11:10-11:55	<b>House of Hungarian Art Nouveau</b>	Hidden treasure of Art Nouveau architecture	Page 6
	Take a walk to Szabadság Square - 5'		
12:00-12:30	<b>Szabadság Square</b>	Grand and spacious square	Page 7
	Take a walk to St. Stephen's Basilica - 15'		
12:45-13:55	<b>St. Stephen's Basilica</b>	Imposing neo-Renaissance church	Page 8
	<b>Lunch time</b> Take a walk to Váci Street		
15:30-16:40	<b>Váci Street</b>	Budapest's most upscale shopping street	Page 8
	Take a walk to Danube Promenade - 10'		
16:50-17:35	<b>Danube Promenade</b>	Stunning view over the Danube and Buda side of the city	Page 9
	<b>END OF DAY 1</b>		

Overview of Day 1



## Attraction Details

09:00-09:20

### Batthyány Square (Batthyány tér, Budapest)



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Batthyány Square is a charming town square directly opposite of Parliament on Buda side. It offers a great vista to the Parliament building
- The square was named after Count Lajos Batthyány, the prime minister during the 1848-49 Independence war. A statue paying tribute to him was erected here
- The square features a number of notable buildings
- St. Anna's Church built between 1740 and 1762 is a beautiful baroque Roman Catholic church
- The Hikisch House at No. 3 presents bas reliefs that depict the four seasons

- The historic Main Street (F utca) also crosses the square
- Another monument commemorates Ferenc Kölcsey who wrote the lyrics of the Hungarian anthem

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Enjoy the stunning view of the Hungarian Parliament

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- If you feel like having a snack try Nagyi palacsintazoja (Grannie's Pancake shop)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

09:30-10:00

### Kossuth Square (Kossuth Lajos tér, Budapest)



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Kossuth Square is the symbolic center of the Hungarian state
- It is surrounded by splendid buildings on all sides including the Hungarian Parliament. Other notable buildings are the Ministry of Agriculture and Museum of Ethnography
- The area was developed at the end of the 19th century after the unification of Buda and Pest gave way to large scale construction projects beyond the old city walls
- The monument in front of the Parliament commemorates the 1848-49 Revolution and Independence War against Austria. Another monument pays tribute to Ferenc II Rákóczi, leader of the 1703-11 independence war against the Habsburgs
- The square was also the starting point of the 1956 revolution against the Soviets when a peaceful demonstration turned violent

- The bullet holes and the Imre Nagy memorial are the reminders of these historical events
- The Museum of Ethnography housed in an impressive neo-classic building presents a large collection of local costumes, toys, furnishings, wedding costumes and more

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around the square and admire the enormous Parliament building and the impressive neo-classical Museum of Ethnography

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Leaving the square in southeast direction you get to the memorial of Imre Nagy, prime minister and leader of the 1956 revolt against the Soviet Union. The statue is placed on a bridge

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Attraction Details

10:00-11:00

**Hungarian Parliament** (1357 Budapest, Kossuth tér 1-3)

**Opening hours:** May 1 - Sept 30, Mon - Fri: 8am - 6pm, May 1 - Sept 30, Sat: 8am - 4pm, May 1 - Sept 30, Sun: 8am - 2pm, Oct 1 - Apr 30, Mon - Sat: 8am - 4pm, 1 Oct - 30 Apr, Sun: 8am - 2pm • **Admission:** 3400 HUF

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- The grandiose Hungarian Parliament is one of Budapest's defining landmarks
- When built, this imposing Neo-Gothic building was the largest Parliament in the world and the finest Neo-Gothic building of Europe
- The Palace of Westminster in London had much influence on its architect, Imre Steindl
- The building was opened for business in 1896 and represented Hungarian self-confidence of the early 20th century
- The building stretched 268 meters along the Danube; has over 12,5 miles of corridors; a 96-meter high central dome; and houses 691 rooms
- The Domed Hall is the spiritual center of the building; the supporting pillars feature the statues of 16 Hungarian kings
- The Hungarian Crown Jewels are held in the Domed Hall. The Holy Crown is the oldest crown in Europe dating back to 1000

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- The only way to see all the building's attractions is to join one of the organized guided tours that are available when Parliament is not in session
- To get your ticket, look for the sign with the text "For buying tickets!" and join the line. The guard will let you in and you can proceed to the ticket office

- The ticket office will issue a ticket valid for a guided tour of a given date and time
- Once you have your ticket you have to join the second line (it is marked with a sign with the text "With tickets!") a few minutes before the time indicated on your ticket
- The guided tour takes about 50 minutes

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- In order to avoid the long lines it is recommended to book your tickets in advance via email: [tourist.office@parlament.hu](mailto:tourist.office@parlament.hu)
- The visit is free for EU citizens. Do not forget your passport or ID in order to prove your citizenship
- English guided tours: daily at 10am, 12noon, 2pm
- Tours are also available in the following languages: German, Spanish, Italian, French

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

11:10-11:55

**House of Hungarian Art Nouveau** (1054 Budapest, Honvéd utca 3.)

**Opening hours:** Monday - Saturday: 10am - 5pm, Sundays: Closed • **Admission:** 1500 HUF

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- The House of Hungarian Art Nouveau is a museum dedicated to Secession style
- The multi-storey building the museum is housed in was built in 1903
- The rooms are furnished with contemporary furniture, decorative objects, paintings and instruments
- The museum gives an insight into the atmosphere of bourgeois life of Budapest in the happy peace times before World War I
- Temporary exhibitions frequently present Art Nouveau masters, works of today's artists and other related collections

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Admire the building from outside
- Take a tour in this art nouveau museum to see a unique collection of furniture, décor, paintings and other objects related to the Art Nouveau movement

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- Have a coffee break in the ground floor café furnished in Art Nouveau style

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



12:00-12:30

## Szabadság Square (Szabadság tér, Budapest)



### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Szabadság square is a grand and spacious square in central Budapest. It was laid out in 1886 at the site of the former Neugebäude (1789-1886), an evil repute fortress-like building
- Now grandious buildings surround the square such as the Hungarian National Bank and the former building of the Hungarian State Television
- The Art-Nouveau building of the National Bank was built in 1905 as the Budapest Headquarters of the Austro-Hungarian Bank
- The impressive building that dominates the west side of the square first housed the stock exchange. From 1955 till 2010 it gave home to the Hungarian Television
- Hungary's first prime minister, Lajos Batthyány, was executed in the Neugebäude on 6 Oct 1949. A memorial commemorates his death at the corner of Bathory utca and Hold utca
- The memorial in the middle of the square is the Memorial of the Russian Army paying thanks to the Soviet forces for liberating Hungary from the Nazis

- Another highlight is the interactive fountain. When the hidden vertical fountain nozzles are turned on they create an exciting water wall around the square shaped area

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around the square and admire the remarkable buildings: the Us Embass, the Art-nouveau National Bank and the former building of the Hungarian Television
- Do not miss the Memorial of the Russian Army

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Relax on a bench or have a coffee in the café in the center of the square
- On a hot summer day you should try the "Interactive Fountain"

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Attraction Details

12:45-13:55

**St. Stephen's Basilica** (1051 Budapest, Szent István tér 1.)

**Opening hours:** Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm, Saturdays: 9am - 1pm, Sundays: 1pm - 5pm • **Admission:** Free

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- St. Stephen's Basilica is a neo-Renaissance church in central Budapest. It is the second largest church in Hungary capable of holding 8500 people
- Its construction began in 1851; after the first two of its architects died, Jozsef Hild and Miklos Ybl, it was Jozsef Kauser who finished the church in 1905
- In 1868 the dome collapsed and the church had to be rebuilt almost from scratch
- According to legend, afraid of a repeated collapse of the dome Emperor Francis Joseph was looking upwards during the whole consecration ceremony
- The Holy Right of St. Stephen, the mummified right fist of Hungary's first king, is kept here in an ornate glass box in one of the chapels
- The great Hungarian soccer hero Ferenc Puskas, goal machine of the Magical Magyars and Real Madrid, was laid to rest here in 2006
- The basilica houses Hungary's largest bell. It is situated in the right tower and weighs 9 tons
- The Dome is 96 m (315 ft) high, the exact height of Parliament's dome

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Start your visit with the square in front of the church. It became a beautiful pedestrian area with cafés and benches to sit on

- Make sure to admire the building from all sides
- Enter the church and view the works of famous contemporary artists who decorated the interior
- Do not miss the marvelous frescoes, statues and mosaics
- Go to the small chapel left to the Main Altar to see the Holy Right of St Stephen
- For a splendid panoramic view of Budapest take the elevator that takes you up until halfway. From there you have to climb the stairs to the cupola. The admission fee is 500 HUF

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- You are expected not to disturb the service and be dressed modestly
- Several musical programs are organized in the church throughout the year. Take a look at the entrance at the program schedule and buy your tickets there
- Please note that the dome is only accessible from March to October weather permitting

[\*\*MORE Info and Photos >\*\*](#)

15:30-16:40

**Váci Street** (Váci utca, Budapest)**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Váci Street is a pedestrian street in the heart of Budapest spanning between Vörösmarty Square (city center) and the Great Market Hall (Fővám Square)
- It is one of Pest's oldest streets. Originally it led towards Vác, a town some 40 km (25 mi) from Budapest
- Soon it became popular with traders gathering around Vác Gate and wealthy citizens of Pest who came here to shop and enjoy a coffee
- The street now is famous for its buzzing atmosphere with cafés, restaurants, shops, department stores, night clubs and many souvenir shops
- The street is cut in half by an access road to Elisabeth Bridge; the southern part being much quieter than the northern part

- The department stores are dominated by brands such as Zara, Mango and H&M. Their selection is somewhat modest compared to those in Western Europe
- Tourists are the prime audience of the street; locals are less likely to come here

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Walk along the street and take in the atmosphere, the bustle and the stunning architecture of the street's buildings
- Do some shopping

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- A new exclusive shopping street (called Fashion street) was recently opened. It stretches from Vörösmarty square to Deák square

[\*\*MORE Info and Photos >\*\*](#)

16:50-17:35

## Danube Promenade



### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Danube Promenade (Dunakorzó) spans from Elizabeth Bridge to Chain Bridge on the Pest side banks of the Danube
- It was once lined with luxury hotels, restaurants and cafés overlooking the Danube and Buda castle
- After it was established in the 19th century, the area became immensely popular; there is an effort to recreate the pre-war ambiance
- Highlights: Elizabeth Bridge, Vigado Concert Hall, Little Princess, Roosevelt Square, Chain Bridge
- Elizabeth Bridge is named after Emperor Franz Joseph's wife. The original bridge, built in 1890s, was destroyed in WWII; a new one was built on the old pillars in the 1960s
- Little Princess is a cute small bronze statue sitting on the promenade's railings at Vigado Square; one of Budapest's newest attractions
- Vigado Concert Hall (1865) is the city's second largest concert hall. Such masters performed here as Liszt, Mahler, Wagner, Von Karajan, Brahms or Debussy

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk along the Danube from Elisabeth Bridge to Chain Bridge
- Enjoy the marvelous view of Buda Castle and the bridges
- Do not miss Vigadó Concert Hall and Little Princess on your way
- Relax in one of the numerous cafés along the promenade

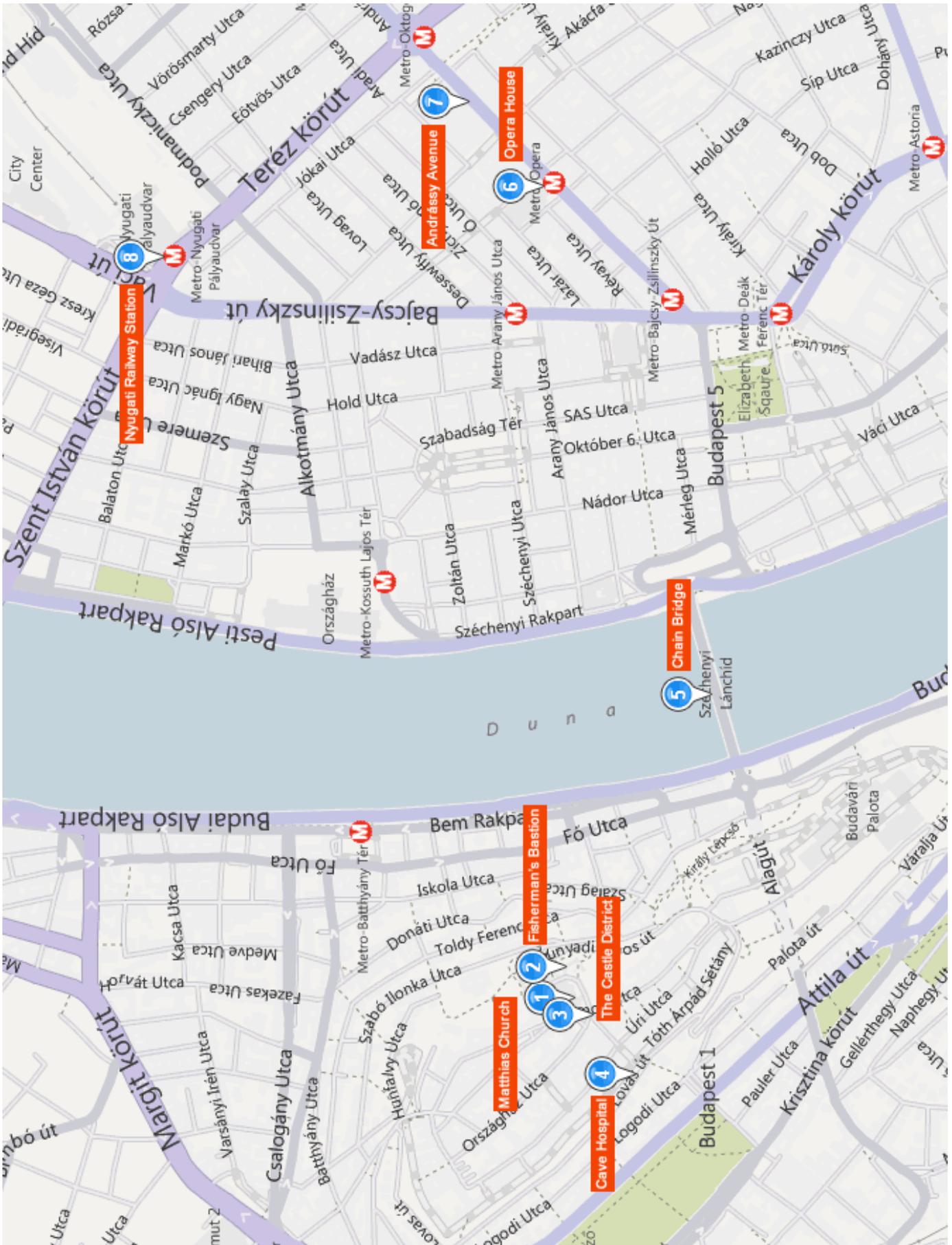
### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- If you continue along the river bank beyond the promenade you can get to the Parliament
- Take tram line 2 to travel along the Danube on Pest side for a beautiful view of the Danube, the Parliament, the Royal Castle and Palace and other great attractions
- If you fancy a boat trip on the mighty Danube the river cruises depart from Vigado square

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Overview of Day 2

	<p><b>LEAVE HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in Budapest &gt;</a></p> <p>Take Bus nr. 16 from Deák Ferenc tér stop to Szentháromság tér stop Take a walk to Matthias Church</p>	
09:30-10:00	<p><b>Matthias Church</b></p> <p>Take a walk to Fisherman's Bastion</p>	<p>Famous Budapest landmark</p> <p>Page 12</p>
10:00-10:30	<p><b>Fisherman's Bastion</b></p> <p>Take a walk around the Castle District</p>	<p>Fairytale like viewing terrace</p> <p>Page 12</p>
10:30-12:00	<p><b>The Castle District</b></p> <p>Take a walk to the Cave Hospital and Bunker</p>	<p>Breathtaking panorama</p> <p>Page 13</p>
12:00-13:00	<p><b>Cave Hospital and Bunker</b></p> <p>Take the funicular (Budavári Sikló) or take a walk down to Chain Bridge - 30'</p>	<p>Fascinating subterranean complex</p> <p>Page 13</p>
13:30-13:50	<p><b>Chain Bridge</b></p> <p><b>Lunch time</b> Take Metro Line 1 (Yellow) from Vörösmarty tér station to Opera station (Direction: Mexikói út)</p>	<p>One of the most beautiful bridges of Europe</p> <p>Page 14</p>
16:00-16:15	<p><b>Opera House</b></p> <p>Take a walk along Anrdássy Avenue</p>	<p>Architectural masterpiece</p> <p>Page 14</p>
16:15-16:45	<p><b>Andrássy Avenue</b></p> <p>Take a walk along Teréz körút or take tram nr 4 or 6 to Nyugati Railway station - 25'</p>	<p>UNESCO World Heritage Site</p> <p>Page 15</p>
17:10-17:30	<p><b>Nyugati Railway station</b></p>	<p>Iron lattice roof with same technology as the Eiffel Tower</p> <p>Page 15</p>
	<p><b>END OF DAY 2</b></p>	



## Attraction Details

09:30-10:00

### Matthias Church (1014 Budapest, Szentháromság tér 2.)

**Opening hours:** Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm, Saturdays: 9am - 12noon, Sundays: 1pm - 5pm • **Admission:** 750 HUF



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Matthias Church is located in the heart of the Castle District and dates back to 1051 when Hungary's first king, St. Stephen I, built a Romanesque church here
- In the 14th century it was transformed into a Gothic church; but it was King Matthias (1458-90) who greatly extended it in the 15th century, hence its name
- When the Turks ruled Buda (1541-1686), the temple was transferred into the city's main mosque
- According to legend, in the siege of 1686 a cannon ball hit one of the walls of the church and a hidden Madonna statue was revealed in front of the praying Turks. The Turks lost the city to the Habsburg forces on the same day
- After the Turks left an attempt to restore the church was made. It didn't regain its splendour until Budapest's architectural boom towards the end of the 19th century

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the building from the outside. Notice the unique color tiled roof
- Enter the church and discover its shady interiors
- Do not miss the highlights: Stained-Glass Windows, Altar, Rose windows, Mary Portal, Loreto Chapel and Baroque Madonna, Ecclesiastical Art Museum

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The entrance tickets have to be purchased from the ticket office opposite the visitor entrance of the church

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

10:00-10:30

### Fisherman's Bastion (1014 Budapest, Szentháromság tér)



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Fisherman's Bastion (Halaszbastya) is a fairytale like viewing terrace on the Castle Hill
- It offers stunning views of Budapest especially of the Danube and the Hungarian Parliament
- The bastion was built between 1895 and 1902 in neo-Gothic and neo-Romanesque style
- The seven towers represent the seven Hungarian leaders and their tribes that conquered the Carpathian Basin and settled down here in 896
- The Bastion got its name after the fishermen's guild that was responsible for defending this part of the city walls in the Middle Ages
- The bronze statue in front of the bastion shows St. Stephen I, Hungary's first king, on horse back. The base of the statue illustrates important episodes of the king's life

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the bastion from the small square that divides it from the Mathias church
- Enjoy the picturesque views of Parliament and the Danube from the lower deck that is accessible free of charge
- If you fancy having a coffee while enjoying the incredible view we recommend visiting the small terrace café on the upper deck

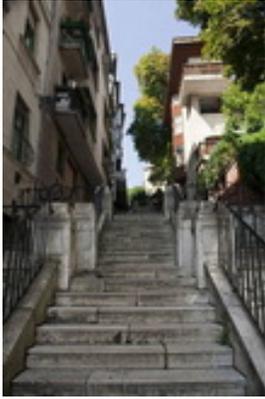
#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The lower deck and some parts of the upper one are accessible free of charge
- The entrance tickets that give access to the rest of the upper deck have to be purchased from the ticket office opposite the visitor entrance of Mathias church

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

10:30-12:00

## The Castle District



### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Buda Castle District dates back to the 13th century when King Bela IV built a castle here after the devastating Mongol attacks of 1242
- The medieval town of Buda grew around the castle; the town's real development started when the Royal Court moved here in the 15th century
- Under the rule of King Matthias (1458-90), Buda became one of Europe's most powerful cities
- The Turks occupied the castle in 1541 and ruled it until 1686 when the Habsburgs and their allies took it back; the siege devastated both the castle and the town
- After the Turks left and the Habsburgs moved in reconstructions began; the area became a government district; the current Baroque appearance was finalized by mid 18th c.
- World War II devastated the area once again; reconstructions recreated the Habsburg appearance

- The Royal Palace houses the Hungarian National Gallery and the Budapest History Museum. The building's grand design is the master work of local architects
- Another major site is Sandor Palace; the official residence of the Hungarian president
- The district is a Unesco World Heritage Site

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Wander the old cobbled streets of the castle surrounding the Trinity Square (Szentharomsag ter)
- Head to the imposing and multi-faceted Royal Palace. Make sure to admire it from all sides
- You will have an amazing view of the mighty Danube from the Eastern façade

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Be sure to wear comfy shoes
- The castle district is beautiful when illuminated at night

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

12:00-13:00

## Cave Hospital and Bunker (1012 Budapest, Lovas út 4/c)

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Sunday: 10am - 8pm, Mondays: Closed • **Admission:** 3000 HUF

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Cave Hospital is an underground complex beneath Buda Castle
- The place served as a military hospital in WWII and as a nuclear shelter during the Cold War
- Originally it used to be a wine cellar; later, in the Turkish times, it became a hiding place for treasures and women from the harem
- The complex occupies 2000 sq m (6,560 sq ft); it was designed for 300 patients and 40 doctors and nurses worked here in shifts
- In the last days of the WWII Budapest siege, more than 600 patients were squeezed in these windowless rooms filled with smell of blood, sweat and urine
- The museum opened in 2008; it contains the original medical instruments and close to 70 wax figures

- The guided tours are rich with anecdotes and stories that make visiting the museum a great experience

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- The museum can only be visited on guided tours, which depart on the hour
- Follow the guide who will lead you through the informative exhibition

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Please note that it is not allowed to take photos inside the museum

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



## Attraction Details

13:30-13:50



## Chain Bridge

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Chain Bridge was the first permanent bridge over the Danube connecting Buda and Pest and setting the unification of the two cities in motion
- Count Istvan Szechenyi came up with the idea of a permanent bridge after being stranded in Pest for weeks because of the hard winter of 1820
- Construction, financed by Szechenyi, begun in 1836 and finished during the Hungarian War of Independence against Austria in 1849. The first ones crossing the bridge were Hungarian soldiers
- Szechenyi collapsed mentally in 1848 and was unable to see his dream come true
- The Germans blew up the bridge in the siege of Budapest (1945); it was rebuilt in its original form by 1949, 100 years after its first opening
- The bridge takes its name after the huge chains that hold it up
- Two lions guard the bridge on both bridgeheads. According to the legend the sculptor jumped in the river after a boy pointed out on the official opening ceremony that the lions had no tongues

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the beautiful Adam Clark Square and the tunnel passing under the castle at the Buda side of the bridge
- Do not miss the two stone lion statues guarding both bridgeheads
- Walk along the marvelous bridge and enjoy the splendid view over the city
- On the Pest side admire the Roosevelt square with its imposing buildings such as the Hungarian Academy of Science and the Gresham palace

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The beautifully illuminated bridge and the surrounding scene is a highlight of any visit to Budapest

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

16:00-16:15



## Opera House (1061 Budapest, Andrásy út 22.)

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Hungarian State Opera House has the 3rd best quality of acoustics in Europe after La Scala (Milan) and Palais Garnier (Paris)
- It is considered to be the masterwork of Miklós Ybl, the leading 19th c. Hungarian architect. The Opera opened in 1884
- The neo-Renaissance exterior hides an opulent neo-Classical interior decorated with works of leading Hungarian artists of the time such as Gyula Benczúr and Bertalan Székely
- In front of the building you find the sculptures of Ferenc Erkel, composer of the Hungarian national anthem, and Ferenc Liszt, the best known Hungarian composer

- The auditorium holds 1261 seats

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the the neo-Renaissance exterior of the building
- If you like opera try to book your tickets for an evening performance

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- To see the rest of the building, you have to join a guided tour or attend an opera performance
- English guided tours take place daily at 3pm and 4 pm for 2800 HUF

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

16:15-16:45

## Andrássy Avenue (Andrássy út, Budapest)



### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Andrássy Avenue is an iconic boulevard in Budapest that connects the city center and the city park (Városliget)
- It is lined with spectacular Neo-renaissance mansions; it also features a number of fine cafés, restaurants and luxury boutiques
- Andrássy Avenue was built in 1872 to divert the heavy traffic of parallel Király street and connect the city center with the city park
- The palaces that line the boulevard were part of the plan. They were built by the leading contemporary architects
- The palaces were completed by 1884; aristocrats, bankers and historical families moved in
- The avenue takes its name after a former prime minister, Gyula Andrássy, who was one of the main supporters of the project

- The avenue was renamed 3 times highlighting the rapid political changes of the time: first it was renamed Stalin Avenue (1950-56); in the 1956 revolution it was named Avenue of Hungarian Youth; after 1956 it became People's Republic Avenue. The original name was restored in 1990

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a walk on this long, wide boulevard with fine cafés, restaurants, theatres, and luxury boutiques

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Take a coffee or a meal in one of the cafés, restaurants on Liszt Ferenc Square

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:10-17:30

## Nyugati Railway station (1067 Budapest, Teréz körút 55.)



### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Budapest Western Railway Station (Budapest Nyugati Pályaudvar) is one of 3 main railway stations of Budapest
- The station is housed in an imposing building designed by August de Serres and built by the Eiffel Company
- In its middle the building has an iron lattice roof, the same technology used to build the Eiffel Tower
- The station was opened on October 28, 1877
- Previously the end station of the first Hungarian railway line stood here; the line was opened in 1846 and connected Pest and Vác

- This earlier station was pulled down to make room for the Grand Boulevard (Nagykörút), a major infrastructural project of its time
- Right next to the station, you find one of Budapest's main shopping malls, Westend City Center

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the imposing building

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- If you want to do some shopping visit the WestEnd City Center shopping mall right next door

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



# Spice up your holiday

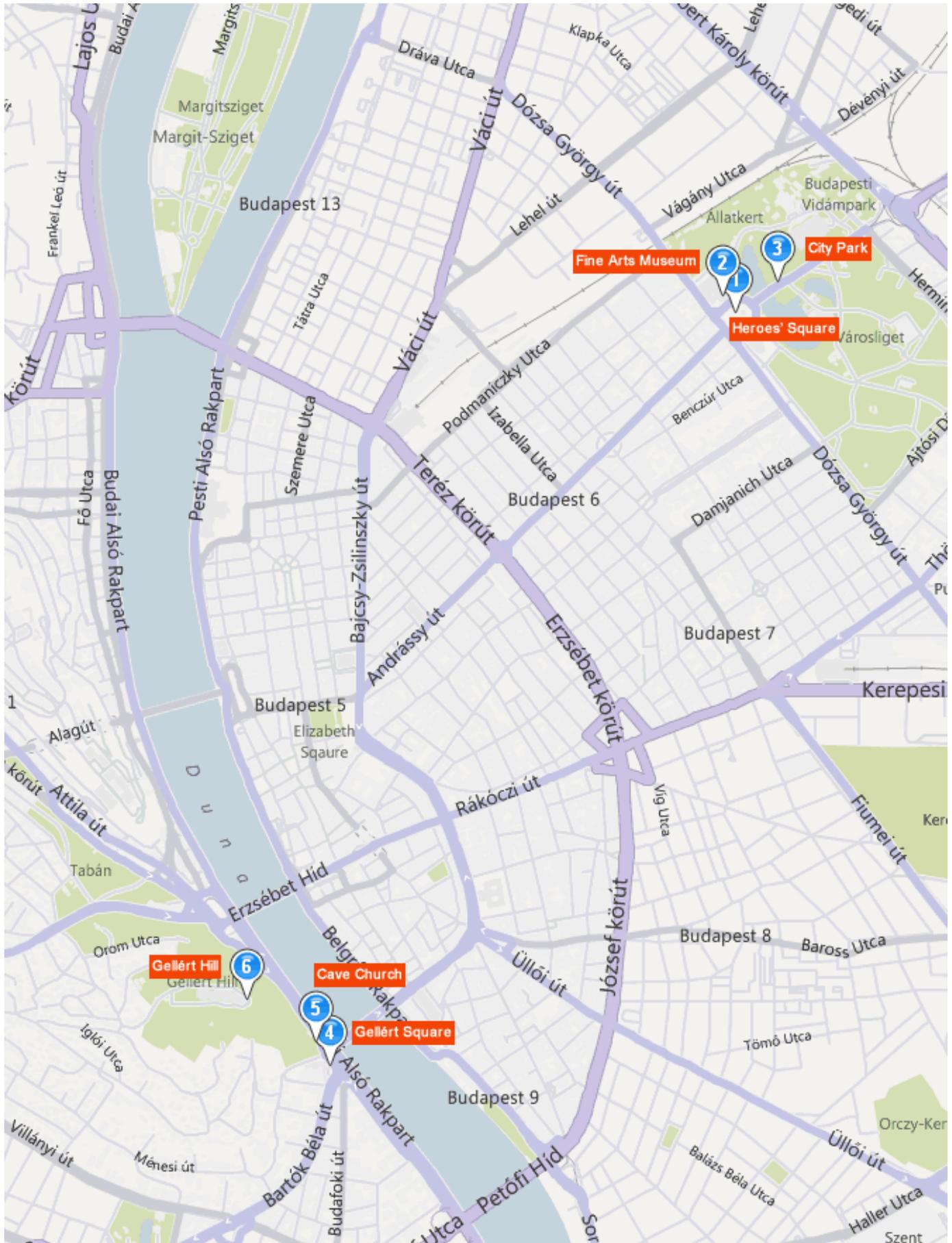
Turn your regular holiday into something extraordinary

See all fun activities in Budapest. [Click here >](#)

## Overview of Day 3

	<p><b>LEAVE HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in Budapest &gt;</a></p> <p>Take Metro Line 1 (Yellow) to Hősök tere station</p>	
09:00-09:30	<p><b>Heroes' Square</b> ————— Truly remarkable square design</p> <p>Take a walk to the Fine Arts Museum</p>	Page 19
09:30-11:00	<p><b>Fine Arts Museum</b> ————— Hungary's largest collection of international art</p> <p>Take a walk to City Park - 10'</p>	Page 19
11:10-12:00	<p><b>City Park</b> ————— An oasis of green</p> <p><b>Lunch time</b></p> <p>Take Metro Line 1 (Yellow) to Deák tér station Change to Tram nr 47 or 49 from Deák tér stop to Gellért tér stop</p>	Page 20
15:00-15:15	<p><b>Gellért Square</b> ————— Elegant square</p> <p>Take a walk to the Cave Church - 5'</p>	Page 20
15:20-15:50	<p><b>Cave Church</b> ————— Remarkable cave church</p> <p>Climb the Gellért Hill</p>	Page 20
15:50-17:20	<p><b>Gellért Hill</b> ————— Stunning view over the city</p>	Page 21
	<b>END OF DAY 3</b>	

Overview of Day 3



## Attraction Details

09:00-09:30

### Heroes' Square (H sök tere, Budapest)



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Heroes' Square (H sök tere) is a grandiose square at the end of Andrásy Avenue; the two forming a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2002
- The two imposing buildings on each side are the Museum of Fine Arts (left) and Hall of Art (right)
- The Millennium Memorial dominates the square comprising of a Corinthian column in the center and two semicircle colonnades in the background
- The construction of the memorial started in 1896 to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of Hungary's existence
- At the base of the central column, the mounted figures represent the 7 founding fathers of Hungary; at the top Archangel Gabriel holds St. Stephen's holy Crown
- Both colonnades feature 7 statues of important figures of Hungarian history, e.g. first king, St. Stephen, or Lajos Kossuth, leader of the independence war of 1848-49 against Austria

- The 4 statues on the top of the colonnades represent: War (left, inner edge), Peace (right, inner edge), Work and Welfare (left, outer edge), and Knowledge and Glory (right, outer edge)

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Wander around the impressive and huge square and admire the wonderful composition of the statues

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Return to the square in the evening when it is beautifully illuminated

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

09:30-11:00

### Fine Arts Museum (1146 Budapest, Dózsa György út 41.)

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Sunday: 10am - 5pm, Mondays: Closed • **Admission:** 1600 HUF

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Museum of Fine Arts (Szépművészeti Múzeum) is housed in an imposing neoclassical building built between 1900 and 1906
- It is Hungary's largest collection of international art comprising more than 100,000 pieces
- The collection displays a wide range of artistic eras and genres
- The majority of the collection was amassed by the Habsburgs who once ruled the country
- The museum features Raphael, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Goya and also a collection of ancient Egyptian and Greek art
- The museum is particularly strong in Spanish art with masterpieces of El Greco, Velázquez, Murillo, Ribera, Cano, Zurbarán and Goya

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Start your visit with the permanent exhibition
- Walk around and admire the impressive collection of art works
- If you have the time continue your visit with the temporary exhibition if there is any available

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The tickets to the temporary exhibition give access to the permanent one as well
- If you want to take photos inside the museum do not forget to buy a photo ticket. It costs 300 HUF
- An audio guide is available for 1000 HUF

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



## Attraction Details

11:10-12:00

**City Park** (Dózsa György út, Budapest)**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- City park (Városliget) is a landscape public park in Central Budapest. Városliget was among the first public parks in the world open to the whole public
- The area used to be a meadow and popular hunting area for noblemen. It was turned into a city park at the beginning of the 19th century
- It used to be the main venue of the 1896 Millenium Celebrations, Hungary's 1000th anniversary. Many attractions were built then such as Heroes' Square or Vajdahunyad Castle
- Other attractions include: the Zoo, Amusement Park, Budapest Circus, Széchenyi Bath, Városliget Pond (an ice rink in winter)
- The Városliget ice rink is the largest open air ice rink in Europe (currently it is under reconstruction)

- Vajdahunyad Castle is an architectural museum presenting the major building styles used in Hungary for Romanesque to Baroque. Part of the building is a replica of an existing castle in Vajdahunyad, Romania
- Vajdahunyad Castle was first built out of cardboard for the Millenium Celebrations. It was so popular that a permanent, stone building was erected

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Take your time and explore this green park
- Admire the beautiful architecture (baroque facade) of Vajdahunyad Castle and Széchenyi Bath

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- It is a must see for families with kids: Amusement Park, Zoo, Grand Circus

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

15:00-15:15

**Gellért Square** (Gellért tér, Budapest)**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Gellert Square is situated at the foot of Gellert Hill on the Danube bank on Buda side
- The square is dominated by Hotel Gellert, an elegant historic spa hotel
- The spa complex was built in 1918 in Art Nouveau style
- It has a marvelous indoor pool with Roman style marble columns and majolica tiles

- You can enjoy great views over the Danube, the Pest side, Szabadság Bridge and the Statue of Liberty on top of Gellért Hill

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- The entrance hall of Gellért Thermal Bath is well worth a look. The entrance is on the Gellert Hill side of the hotel

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

15:20-15:50

**Cave Church** (1114 Budapest, Szent Gellért rakpart 1.)

**Opening hours:** Monday - Saturday: 9:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Saturday: 6pm - 7.30pm, Sundays: Closed for visitors • **Admission:** Free

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Pauline monks built this remarkable church inside Gellért Hill after a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. The church was consecrated in 1926
- During World War II it functioned as a military hospital for the Nazi army
- In an attempt to curb the power of the Catholic Church the secret police raided the church in 1951. The prior was murdered; the monks were imprisoned
- After the raid the church was sealed. After the fall of communism the monks regained the temple and reopened it in 1989
- They continue to use it for religious functions

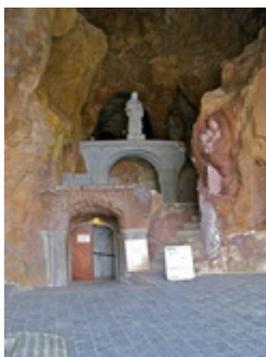
- The cave is also called St. Ivan's Cave after a hermit who had lived here and healed the sick with the area's thermal water. The same water supplies now the Gellért Bath

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Follow the short path from opposite the entrance to the Gellért Baths to get to the Cave Church
- Enter the cave and enjoy the unusual church interior

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



15:50-17:20

## Gellért Hill



### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Gellert Hill is a 140 m high dolomit hill above the Danube on the Buda side in Budapest
- It offers one of the most stunning views of the city with the Buda Castle, the Hungarian Parliament, Margaret Island and the Danube
- The hill takes its name after bishop Gellert who came from Italy around 1000 AD to help St. Stephen, Hungary's first king, to convert his people to Christianity
- Resisiting pagans killed him by rolling him down the hill in a barrel. A statue of him holding a cross on the slope facing Elisabeth Bridge commemorates his death
- The Citadel occupies the top of the hill. The Habsburgs built this fortress as a show of power after suppressing the 1848-49 independence war
- The Statue of Liberty in front of the Citadel is one of the few remaining Soviet monuments. It commemorates the liberation of Hungary from the Nazis

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Start climbing the hill from Gellert square
- Follow one of the many walking paths up the hill
- Enjoy the stunning view of the city that changes with each turn along the way
- Stop at the many viewing platforms and relax on the benches
- On the top of the hill take a look at the statue of liberty and walk around the citadel
- Walk down from the hill on the other side

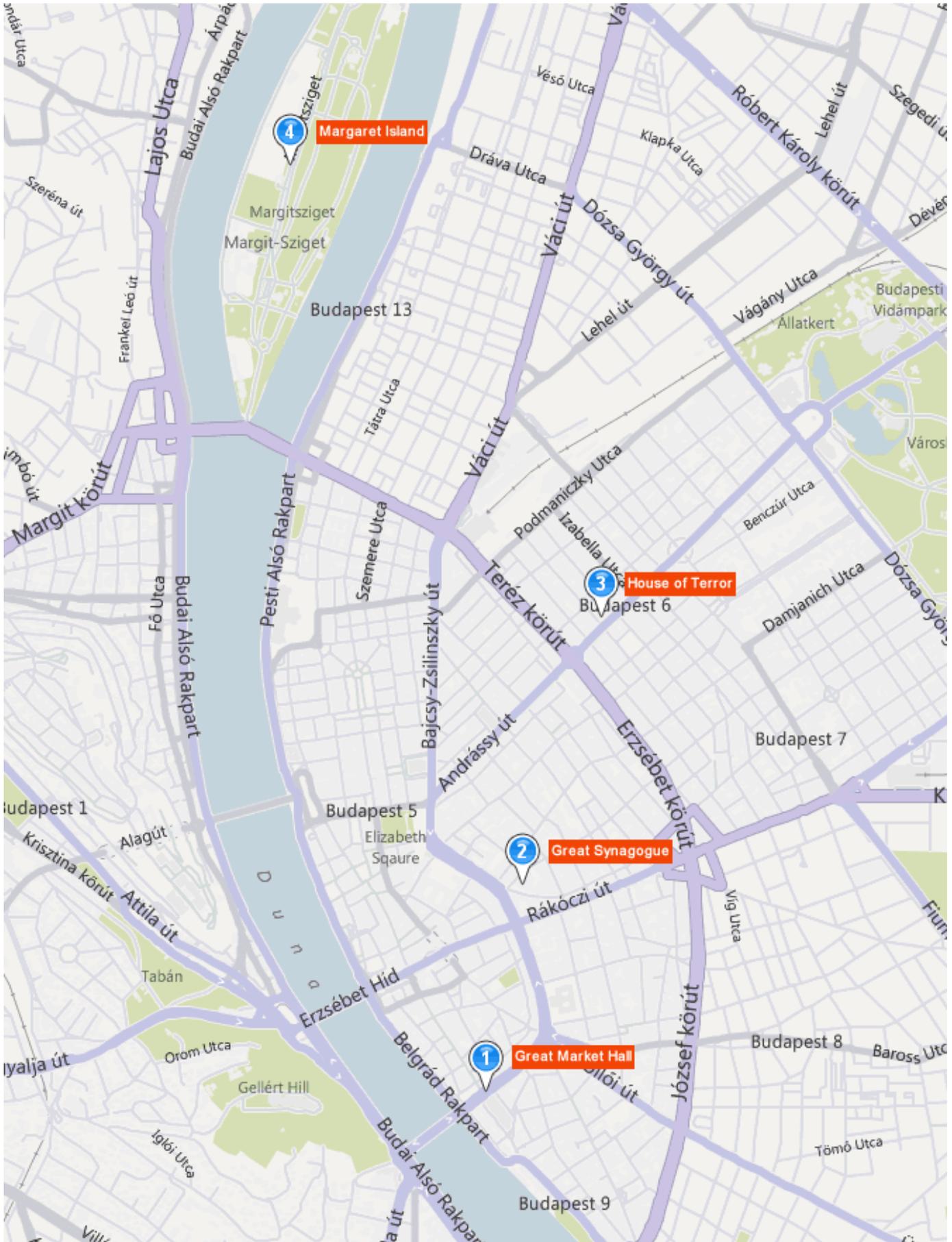
### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Wear comfortable shoes

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Overview of Day 4

	<p><b>LEAVE HOTEL</b> <a href="#">Tested and recommended hotels in Budapest &gt;</a></p> <p>Take Tram nr 47 or 49 to F vám tér stop</p>	
09:00-09:45	<p><b>Great Market Hall</b></p> <p>Take Tram nr 47 or 49 to Astoria stop (Direction: Deák tér) - 15'</p>	<p>Tasty Hungarian delicacies</p> <p>Page 24</p>
10:00-11:00	<p><b>Great Synagogue</b></p> <p>Take a walk to Deák tér metro station Take Metro Line 1 (Yellow) to Vörösmarty utca station - 30' in all</p>	<p>World's second largest synagogue</p> <p>Page 24</p>
11:30-12:50	<p><b>House of Terror</b></p> <p><b>Lunch time</b> Take a walk to Oktogon tram stop Take Tram nr 4 or 6 to Jászai Mari tér stop (Direction: Moszkva tér) Take a walk through Margaret Bridge to Margaret Island</p>	<p>Great historical exhibition</p> <p>Page 25</p>
15:00-17:00	<p><b>Margaret Island</b></p>	<p>Landscape park with various attractions</p> <p>Page 25</p>
	<p><b>END OF DAY 4</b></p>	



## Attraction Details

09:00-09:45

### Great Market Hall (1093 Budapest, Vámház körút 1-3)

**Opening hours:** Mondays: 6am - 5pm, Tuesday - Friday: 6am - 6pm, Saturdays: 6am - 3pm, Sundays: Closed



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- After the unification of Buda and Pest in 1873, the city began to expand rapidly
- The unorganized outdoor markets were insufficient in supplying the increasing number of inhabitants with fresh products
- The city council commissioned 5 covered market halls with modern lighting and refrigeration
- Construction of the Great Market Hall began in 1894 and finished in 1897; few days before the original handover day (in 1886) the roof burnt down and had to be rebuilt
- It was one of the most modern market halls of its time

- Originally vendors used an indoor channel system to bring in their products; it is no longer used
- The Hall was reconstructed between 1991-94 when beautiful Zsolnay tiles were installed on the roof

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a look at the nicely renovated building from the outside
- Stroll the market and shop for some tasty specialities

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

10:00-11:00

### Great Synagogue (1074 Budapest, Dohány utca 2.)

**Opening hours:** March 1 - October 31, Sun - Thurs: 10am - 5.30pm, March 1 - October 31, Fri: 10am - 3.30pm, November 1 - Februar 28, Sun - Thurs: 10am - 3.30pm, November 1 - Februar 28, Fri: 10am - 1.30pm, Saturdays: Closed • **Admission:** 2000 HUF

#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Great Synagogue of Budapest is the largest synagogue in Europe and the second largest in the world (after New York); it can hold 3000 people
- It was built between 1854 and 1859 in Moorish style but it also features a mix of Byzantine, Romantic and Gothic elements. It has a suitably lavish interior
- Its style and form, especially the onion domes of the twin towers, much influenced synagogues' design internationally
- The complex also includes the Hungarian Jewish Museum, a graveyard, and a Holocaust Monument, a metallic weeping willow with the names of those died in the Holocaust
- The Jewish Museum, opened in 1931, stands on the site of the birth house of Tivadar Herzl, father of modern Zionism and mastermind of the independent Jewish State
- In World War II, it was the center part of the Jewish ghetto. It suffered severe damages in the period, especially in the siege of Budapest

- During Communism the ruined building became a praying place for the remaining Jewish population. The synagogue was reconstructed between 1991 and 1998

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the impressive building form the outside
- Enter the synagogue and walk around enjoying the rich decoration

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The temple's acoustics make it a popular venue for concerts
- If you would like to learn more about the synagogue take the guided tour
- The seats on the groundfloor are for men, while the upper gallery has seats for women
- Men have to cover their heads with a kippa. It is available to borrow

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



11:30-12:50

## House of Terror (1062 Budapest, Andrásy út 60.)

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Sunday: 10am - 6pm, Mondays: Closed • **Admission:** 1800 HUF

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The House of Terror Museum is located at 60 Andrásy Avenue in a building both Communists and Fascists used as a place of interrogation, torture and killings
- The museum exhibits and tells the story of the terror and brutalities the Fascist and Communist dictatorial regimes committed in the 20th century
- From a Russian tank that greets you; to the pictures of victims and their jailors; film footages; and the trip to the cells and gallows make the visit a striking experience
- The building is also a memorial to the people who were detained, interrogated, tortured or killed here

- The museum was opened in 2002 in a highly politicized air

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around the informative exhibition
- The highlights include a Russian tank, genuine exhibits of the era including Hungarian Nazi Arrow Cross uniforms and the trip to the cells and gallows

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



15:00-17:00

## Margaret Island

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Margaret Island is a 2,5 km long island in the middle of the Danube in central Budapest
- Originally it was 3 separate islands that were connected in the 19th century to control the flow of the Danube
- In the middle ages the islands housed an important religious center. The island takes its name after St. Margaret, the daughter of King Bela IV, who lived here in the 13th century
- King Béla devoted his daughter to god to thank him for ridding his country of the invading Mongoles
- Today the island is covered with a landscape park, and it is a popular recreational area with running tracks, swimming pools and other sports facilities
- The Music Fountain and the octagonal Water tower are protected UNESCO sites

- Other highlights are: the Music well, 13th century ruins of St Margaret's abbey, the tiny zoo and a small Japanese Garden

### THINGS TO DO THERE

- Explore the island's attractions including romantic walkways, medieval ruins, a small zoo, a musical fountain, a water tower, the lido and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere

### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- For those who prefer not to walk but still want to explore, 4-seater pedal and motorized carts are available for rental
- If you fancy a snack or an ice cream you will find many kiosks

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



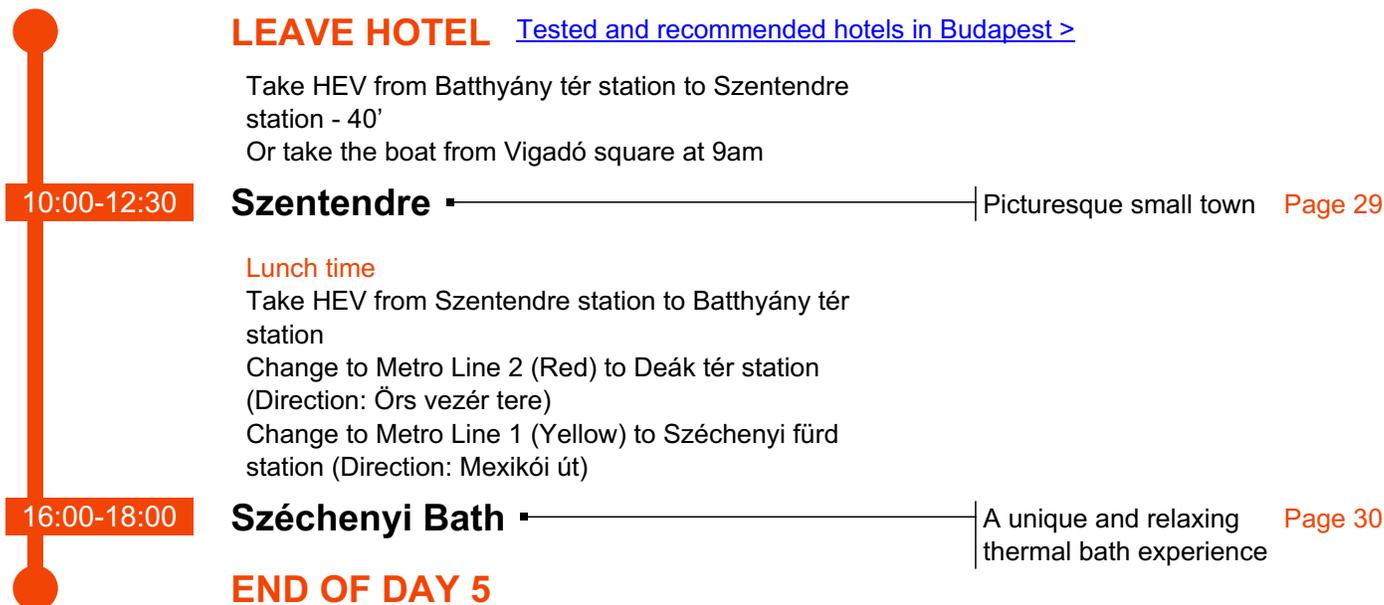


## Don't know which hotel to book?

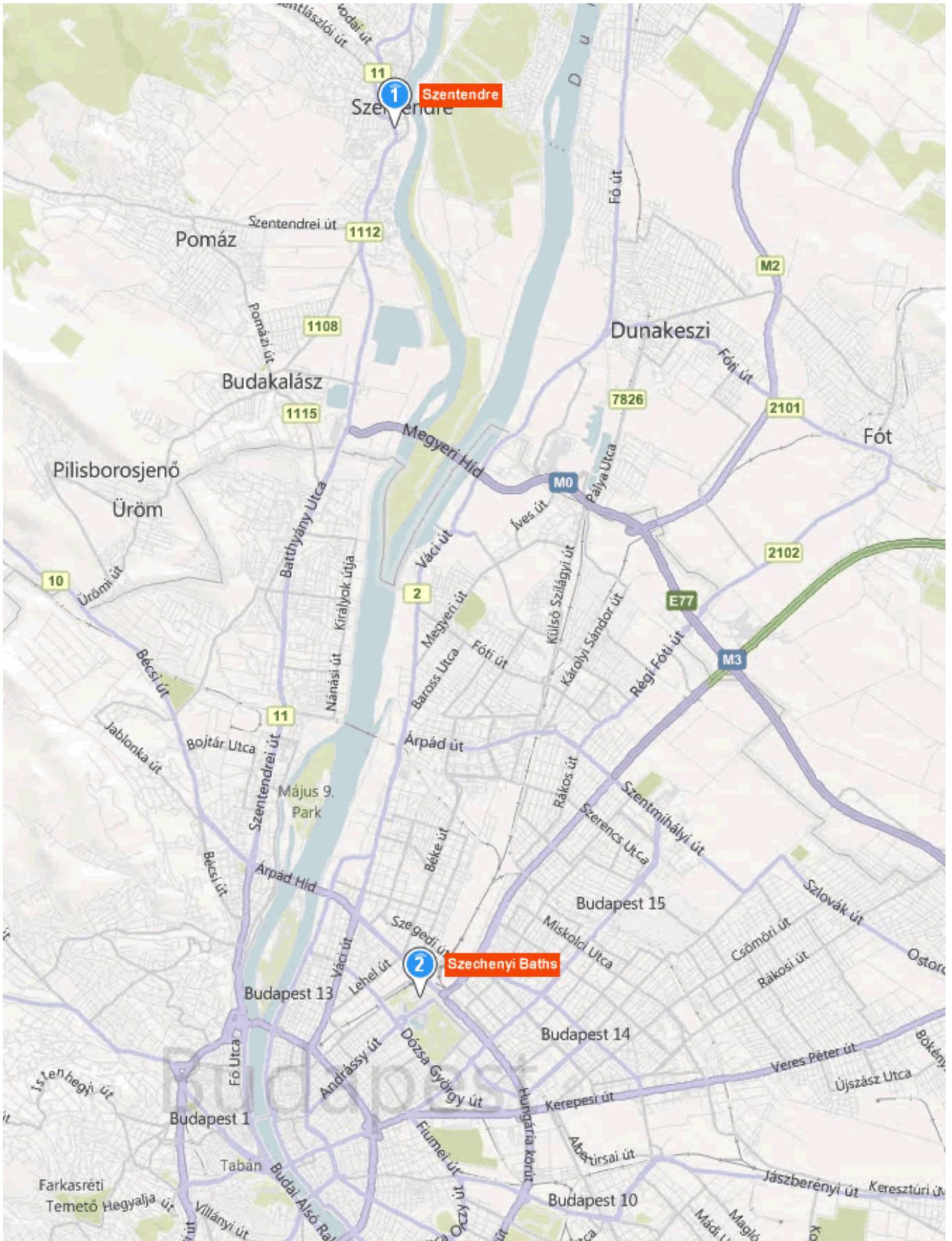
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## Overview of Day 5



Overview of Day 5



## Attraction Details

10:00-12:30

### Szentendre (2000 Szentendre)



#### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Szentendre is a small romantic riverside town 15 km from Budapest with picturesque cobbled streets, pastel-coloured houses and tall Orthodox churches
- Established by Serbs in the 17th-18th century, for long it was the center of the Hungarian Serb community
- Szentendre gives home to a 60 ha Open Air Ethnography Museum (Skanzen) that features how Hungarians lived between the 18th century and WWI
- Many cafés and restaurants with street side terraces offer an excellent place to relax and enjoy something tasty
- Many artists fall in love with the town's atmosphere and settled down here in the 20th c. The many museums and galleries well attest to this
- The Margit Kovacs Museum displays the works of one of Hungary's best ceramic artists
- The town also gives home to a Marzipan museum

#### THINGS TO DO THERE

- If you arrive by suburban railway (HÉV) walk along the Danube to the center. If you arrive by boat take a short walk to the center

- Start your at F Tér (Main square) that is the heart of the town
- For the best views of the town climb the hill to the church
- Stroll the fine boulevard along the river front with nice views of the town and Szentendre Island
- Relax in one of the many cafés and restaurants

#### TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Boat trip: May 1 - Aug 30 daily (except Mon): 9am from Vigado square boat station. The journey takes 90 min
- Do not miss the [Hungarian Open Air Museum](#) (Skanzen). It is open Apr 1 - Oct 30, Tue - Sun, 9am-5pm. Admission: 1400 HUF
- To get to the Skanzen take the bus from bay 7 of the bus station (near the suburban railway (HEV) station) to Tegez utca stop

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

## Attraction Details

16:00-18:00

**Széchenyi Bath** (1146 Budapest, Állatkerti krt. 11.)

Opening hours: Daily: 6am - 10pm • Admission: 2800 - 3750 HUF

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Széchenyi Bath and Spa is located in a stunning Neo-baroque building, an attraction on its own right
- It opened its gates in 1913 as the first permanent bath in Pest; a temporary bath in the same location dates back to 1881
- This is Europe's largest medicinal bath; the complex has 15 pools (both indoor and outdoor) and offers a full range of thermal water treatments
- Sauna, steam room and massage services are also available here
- Two thermal springs supply it with water; their temperature are 74 °C (165 °F) and 77 °C (171 °F)
- The bath is named after Count Istvan Szechenyi, the 'greatest Hungarian', mastermind and financier of the Chain Bridge

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Admire the stunning Neo-baroque exterior of the building
- Buy your ticket. You will be given what appears to be a watch. At the turn styles the attendant will activate your "watch". This is your electronic key for a secure locker to store your belongings



- Head to the changing rooms and after storing your clothes in the lockers (using your "watch") enter the bathing area
- Explore all of the indoor medicinal baths or head out the open air pools
- Do not miss the famous pool chess boards, where Hungarian men gather around to play
- Enjoy different types of saunas inside the complex along with various massages

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

- The bath is for both sexes
- If you forgot your towel or swimsuit they can be rented or bought in the spa
- On weekends and holidays the entrance fee is higher than on weekdays
- It is an unforgettable experience to bathe in the outside thermal pools in the cold winter

[\*\*MORE Info and Photos >\*\*](#)



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