History

Budapest is the capital and the largest city of Hungary and one of the largest cities in the European Union. It is the country's principal political, cultural, commercial, industrial, and transportation centre. The history of Budapest began with Aquincum, originally a Celtic settlement that became the Roman capital of Lower Pannonia. "Budapest" is the combination of the city names Buda and Pest, which were (together with Óbuda) united into a single city in 1873. The Romans constructed roads, amphitheaters, baths and houses with heated floors in this fortified military camp. The Roman city of Aquincum is the best-conserved of the Roman sites in Hungary. The archaeological site was turned into a museum with inside and open-air sections. In 1361 it became the capital of Hungary. The Ottomans pillaged Buda in 1526, besieged it in 1529, and finally occupied it in 1541. The Turkish occupation lasted for more than 140 years. The Turks constructed many fine bathing facilities within the cit. Some of the baths that the Turks erected during their occupation period are still in use 500 years later (Rudas Baths and Király Baths). In 1718 the entire Kingdom of Hungary was removed from Ottoman rule. During the 2nd World War most of the city was ruined or damaged, the bridges were all destroyed. Between 1942 and 1950 Budapest was rebuilt. In 1950 the number of inhabitants of the city has increased because the surrounding settlements were annexed to the capital. Following the liberation of Hungary from Nazi Germany by the Red Army, Soviet military occupation ensued, which ended only in 1991. It is hard to find relics characteristic to the era, because after the transition the monuments and symbols of the regime were carried away. The Soviets exerted significant influence on Hungarian political affairs. Budapest has 23 districts and almost 2 million inhabitants.

City of Water

The 525 square kilometres area of Budapest lies in Central Hungary surrounded by settlements of the agglomeration in Pest county. The capital extends 25 and 29 km in the north-south, east-west direction respectively. The Danube enters the city from the north; later it encircles two islands, Óbuda Island (Óbudai-sziget) and Margaret Island (Margit-sziget). The third island Csepel Island (Csepel-sziget) is the largest of the Budapest Danube islands, however only its northernmost tip is within city limits. The river that separates the two parts of the city is 230 m wide at its narrowest point in Budapest. Pest lies on the flat terrain of the Great Plain while Buda is rather hilly. The wide Danube was always fordable at this point because of a small number of islands in the middle of the river.

Budapest isn't called the 'City of Baths' for nothing. Hungary is a land of thermal springs, and Budapest remains the only capital city in the world that is rich in thermal waters with healing qualities. Budapest is also one of the few places where you can experience traditional Turkish baths dating back to 16th and 17th centuries. Although it may look like a Baroque palace, Széchenyi Baths (Széchenyi Fürdő) is the largest medicinal bath and one of the largest public baths in Europe. It is a great place to relax and enjoy the healing waters, or to take a few laps in the swimming pool. The Széchenyi is a favorite for both locals and tourists alike. The other baths are Rudas, Gellért, Király, Császár - Veli Bej and Lukács.
City of Islands

In the Middle Ages, Margaret Island (Margit-sziget) was called the Island of the Rabbits, simply because there were many rabbits there. The island received its current name after Saint Margaret (Szent Margit) (1242–1270), the daughter of King Béla IV, who lived in the Dominican convent on the island. The thermal water on Margaret Island is famous for its healing effects. The natural, thermal water running beneath the island was first brought to the surface in 1886. The octagonal water tower on Margaret Island built in Art Nouveau style in 1911, is becoming the newest must-see attraction in Budapest.

Buda - The hilly side - Gellért hill

Gellért Hill (Gellért-hegy) offers some of the best panoramic views of Budapest. The hill was named after bishop Gellért (Gerard), who was thrown to death from the hill by pagans in the fight against Christianity in 1046. His statue, which faces Elizabeth Bridge (Erzsébet hid) and holds a cross, can be seen from many parts of Pest. At the top of the hill is the Citadel (Citadella), a fortress built by the Habsburgs after defeating Hungary's War of Independence in 1849. It was a prime, strategic site for shelling both Buda and Pest in the event of a future rebellion. Budapest's Statue of Liberty (Szabadság szobor) stands on top of the hill, and she can be seen from all parts of the city. Liberty was erected during the Communist era, commemorating the liberation from Nazi rule. Since 1987, Gellért Hill has been listed as a world heritage site as part of "the Banks of the Danube" area. The famous Hotel Gellért and the Gellért Baths (Szent Gellért Fürdő) can be found in Gellért Square (Szent Gellért tér) at the foot of the hill.

As an outstanding personality József Gruber (1925-1972) is known as hydrodynamic researcher who achieved outstanding results in the hydrodynamic flow processes and machinery research. He was the rector of the Budapest University of Technology from 1961 to 1964. One of the largest water reservoir in Budapest inside Gellert Hill is named after him, Gruber reservoir.

The Cave Church (Sziklatemplom), located inside Gellért Hill, isn't your typical church with high ceilings and gilded interior. It has a unique setting inside a natural cave system formed by thermal springs. The cave, called Saint Ivan’s Cave (Szent Iván-barlang) after a hermit who lived there and healed people, belongs to the Hungarian Paulite order. With such a historic feel no one would think that the church and the adjacent monastery was built less than 100 years ago. The monastery was also built around this time. During World War II, the church served as a hospital and asylum. After WWII, the monks were arrested and their superior, father Ferenc Vezér, was sentenced to death by the new Communist regime. In 1951, the church entrance was completely sealed with a thick concrete wall. A part of the wall can still be seen by the entrance. The Cave Church reopened in 1991. In the little square in front of the cave there's a modern statue of St. Stephen holding a church. There are also beautiful panoramic views of Liberty Bridge (Szabadság hid).
Buda - Castle Hill - Royal Palace

Buda Castle (Budai vár) was built on the southern tip of Castle Hill, bounded on the north by what is known as the Castle District (Várnegyed), which is famous for its Medieval, Baroque, and 19th-century houses, churches, and public buildings. It is linked to Clark Ádám Square and the Széchenyi Chain Bridge (Lánchíd) by the Castle Hill Funicular (Budavári síkló). The first citizens arrived to Castle Hill in the 13th century after the Mongolian invasion, seeking protection in the hills of Buda. The first royal castle was built around this time. The first royal residence on the Castle Hill was built by King Béla IV of Hungary between 1247 and 1265. The golden age of Castle Hill was in the 15th century, following the marriage of King Matthias Corvinus and Beatrix of Naples in 1476. Many Italian artists and craftsmen accompanied the new queen, and Buda became an important European city. After the Turkish occupation, Buda was in ruins. During World War II, Buda was bombed to the ground and had to be rebuilt again. Buda Castle Hill is also home to a large interconnected cellar system that consists of natural caves created by thermal waters and man-made passageways. Inhabitants have used the caverns for centuries for storage and shelter. The earliest traces of human life found here are 500,000 years old. Part of the cellar system can be toured at the Buda Castle Labyrinth (Budavár Labirintus) and at the Hospital in the Rock Museum (Sziklakórház). Today, Buda Castle is home to the Hungarian National Gallery (Magyar Nemzeti Galéria), the Budapest History Museum (Magyar Történeti Múzeum) and the National Library. Other attractions include the Lion Courtyard, the Matthias Well, a bronze statue of King Matthias and the statue of the Turul Bird, the mythological bird of the Magyars (Hungarians).

Fishermen's Bastion (Halászbástya) is only 100 years old, and is a favorite lookout. In medieval times, the fish market was nearby and the bastion was built to commemorate the fishermen who protected this part of the city.

The historic Matthias Church (Mátyás-templom) is over 700 years old. The church was the scene of several coronations, including that of Charles IV in 1916, the last Habsburg king. During the Turkish conquest, soon after Buda was captured, the church became the city’s main mosque. After the Turkish occupation, Buda lay in ruins. In the 17th century, an attempt was made to restore the church in Baroque style. Towards the end of the 19th century, a major reconstruction took place, and the building was restored using many original parts and regained much of its former splendor. The roof is covered with the famous Zsolnay ceramic tiles, making the building even more beautiful.
Pest - Saint Stephen’s Basilica

St. Stephen’s Basilica (Szent István Bazilika) is the largest church in Budapest and can hold up to 8,500 people. Building commenced in 1851, and the inauguration ceremony took place in 1906 and was attended by Emperor Franz Joseph. During its construction, in 1868 the dome collapsed and rebuilding it had to start almost from scratch, which explains the delay in the Basilica's completion. Architect Jozsef Hild who drafted the original plans and supervised the construction died in 1867. Miklós Ybl, one of Europe's leading architects in the mid to late 19th century, who also designed the Opera House took over. When the dome collapsed in 1868, Ybl had to draft new plans. Unfortunately Ybl didn’t live to see the completion of the Basilica as he passed away in 1891, however work was finished according to his plans.

The dome is 96 meters high, the exact same height as the Budapest Parliament Building. In fact current building regulations stipulate that no other structure in Budapest can be taller than 96 meters. Having the same height as the Parliament also symbolizes the balance between church and state in Hungary.

The patron saint of the church is St. Stephen, the first king of Hungary. His mummified right hand (Szent Jobb) is kept in a glass case in the chapel to the left of the main altar. The beautiful interior is also noteworthy as it is decorated by famous artists of the era. The most valuable artwork is the mosaic based on Gyula Benczur’s oil painting depicting the allegories of the holy mass. Another beautiful work by Benczur is the painting in which St. Stephen holds up the crown and asks the Virgin Mary to become the patron of Hungary.

For beautiful, panoramic views of Budapest walk up the stairs (364 steps) or take the elevators up to the dome's observation deck.

Pest - Parliament

Budapest was united from three cities in 1873 and seven years later the Diet resolved to establish a new, representative Parliament Building, expressing the sovereignty of the nation. An international competition was held, and Imre Steindl emerged as the victor. Construction from the winning plan was started in 1885 and the building was inaugurated on the 1000th anniversary of the country in 1896, and completed in 1904. About 1,000 people were involved in construction, during which 40 million bricks, half a million precious stones and 40 kilograms of gold were used. Inside and outside, there are altogether 242 sculptures on the walls.
Pest - Walking on Váci street

On the Pest side of Szabadság bridge at Vámház körút is the Central Market Hall (officially called 'Központi Vásárcsarnok' in Hungarian), built at the end of the 19th century. This is the largest indoor market in Budapest. Among other things, on the ground floor you'll find a large selection of sausages, meats, cheeses, fruits and vegetables. On the second floor, there are food stands and plenty of vendors selling handicrafts, clothing, embroidery, chessboards and other souvenirs. The building also has some architectural significance. The metal roof structure is still the original, and the roof is covered with decorative Zsolnay tiles. There are four other markets like this in Budapest, which were all built in the same style (these are in Klauzál tér, Rákóczi tér, Hold utca and Hunyadi tér). An interesting fact is that all five buildings opened on the same day, on February 15th 1897.

Váci Street (Váci utca), located in the city center and designated as a pedestrian precinct, runs from Vörösmarty Square to Vámház körút. The northern part is the busy and fashionable shopping street everyone refers to as Váci Street, while the southern part is lined with restaurants and over-prized souvenir shops. While Váci Street is great for a stroll, unfortunately most of the restaurants are expensive and geared towards tourists and there is little in the way of quality souvenirs for sale.

Vörösmarty Square (Vörösmarty tér) is a popular square in the heart of Budapest, located at the northern end of Váci Street. It was named after the renowned Hungarian poet Mihály Vörösmarty, whose statue can be seen in the middle of the square. This is where the Millennium Underground begins and this is where every year the Christmas Market is held. The main attraction here is however the famous Gerbeaud Café, a tenant since 1870. The newest addition to the square is a high-tech, glass-covered mall/office building.

Continue on Deák Ferenc Street, also known as Fashion Street, for its many designer shops. This short street begins just left of Váci Street. Deák Ferenc Square (Deák Ferenc tér) is the only place where all three subway lines connect.

Nearby is placed the Budapest Wheel (or Sziget Eye). It offers fantastic views over Budapest day and night. Standing 65 meters tall, the wheel with its 42 cars is Europe's largest mobile Ferris wheel. It has a capacity of 332 people and at night it will light up the evening sky with over 10 000 colored lights.
Pest - On the Millenium Walking Way to City Park

The **Andrássy Avenue** (Andrássy út), recognized as a World Heritage Site, was built to connect the city center with City Park (Városliget). Construction began in 1872, and the avenue was inaugurated in 1885. Its Eclectic Neo-Renaissance palaces and houses were built by the most distinguished architects of the time. Aristocrats, bankers, landowners and noble families moved in. The iconic avenue was named after Prime Minister Gyula Andrássy, a key advocate of the project.

At the time of its completion in 1885, Andrássy Avenue was considered a masterpiece of city planning and even public transport was prohibited to preserve its character. This brought about the idea to build a railroad beneath it. The **Millennium Underground Railway** (Kisföldalatti), the first subway line in continental Europe, opened in 1896 and is still in use as the M1 or the yellow line. The line transported people from the city center to Városliget, the main venue of the Millennium celebrations. In recent years, Andrássy Avenue has become increasingly chic, attracting some of the world's leading designers. Not to mention, the many restaurants and cafés located along the avenue.

Like many other buildings in Budapest, the Millennium Underground Railway was commissioned to celebrate the Millennium in 1896. Trains ran along Andrássy Avenue from Gizella Square (today Vörösmarty Square) to the Zoo in City Park in a northeast-southwest direction. There were eleven stations, nine were underground and two were above the ground. The length of the line was 3.7 km (2.3 miles) at that time; trains started in every two minutes. It was able to carry as many as 35,000 people a day (today, about 100,000 people travel on it on a weekday). The history of the subway line can be seen at the Underground Museum at Deák Ferenc Square (Deák Ferenc tér). The entrance to the museum can be found in the underground passage leading to the station.

One of the stations of the Millenium Railway is the **Opera** (Opera). The opera house in Budapest stands as one of the most beautiful Neo-Renaissance buildings in Europe. When it was opened in 1884, the city shared the administrative duties of the Austro-Hungarian Empire with Vienna. In fact, Emperor Franz Joseph commissioned its design. Construction included the use of marble and frescos by some of the best artisans of that era. Designed by Miklós Ybl, one of Europe's leading architects in the mid to late 19th century, the Budapest Opera House quickly became one of the most prestigious musical institutions in Europe. Many important artists performed here, including Gustav Mahler, who was also the director for three seasons.

The Budapest Opera House is considered to be amongst the best opera houses in the world in terms of its acoustics, and has an auditorium that seats 1200 people. It is horseshoe-shaped and, according to measurements done by a group of international engineers, has the third best acoustics amongst similar European venues (after the Scala in Milan and the Paris Opera House). The statue of Ferenc Erkel stands in front of the Opera House. He was the composer of the Hungarian national anthem and the first music director of the Opera.
The intersection of Nagymező utca and Andrásy Avenue (a block north of the Budapest Opera) is nicknamed as Budapest's Broadway. Some exquisite theaters, as well as the Moulin Rouge nightclub, the Manó Mai House of Photography, the Ernst Gallery and some very good restaurants, are all located here. Theaters in Nagymező utca - Thália and Radnóti are both traditional theaters. Operett features musicals, and Mikroszkóp is famous for its stand-up comedy. The most famous Hungarian stand-up comedian, Géza Hofi (1936-2002), was the star here for years. His statue stands in front of the building.

Just before reaching the Oktogon (the intersection of Andrásy Avenue and the Grand Boulevard) there is Liszt Ferenc Square (Liszt Ferenc tér), a lively square with cafés and restaurants. This trendy place gets busy especially during the summer. The most famous tenant in the square is the Academy of Music.

Crossing the Oktogon and following the Andrassy Avenue, here we find the House of Terror Museum (Terror Háza). The Museum commemorates the victims of both the Communist and the Nazi regimes in Hungary. The building served as the former headquarter of the ultra-right (Nazi) party in 1940, and its basement was used as a prison. During Communism, the building was taken over by the State Security (Hungarian version of the KGB). Hundreds, or perhaps even thousands, were tortured in the House of Terror. The exhibition is well thought-out, from beginning to end. Some parts may not be clear for visitors, as they have more of a symbolic meaning for Hungarians.
Pest - Heroe’s Square

Laid out in 1896 to mark the thousandth anniversary of Hungary, Heroe’s Square (Hősök tere) is the largest and most impressive square of the city. Surrounded by two important buildings, Museum of Fine Arts (Szépművészeti Múzeum) on the left and Kunsthalle (Hall of Art) (Műcsarnok) on the right, Heroes’ Square is also a station of the Millennium Underground. The Millennium Monument in the middle of the square was erected to commemorate the 1000-year-old history of the Magyars. Archangel Gabriel stands on top of the center pillar, holding the holy crown and the double cross of Christianity. The seven chieftains who led the Magyar tribes to Hungary can be seen on the stand below. Statues of kings and other important historical figures stand on top of the colonnades on either side of the center pillar. When the monument was originally constructed, Hungary was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and thus the last five spaces for statues on the left of the colonnade were reserved for members of the ruling Habsburg dynasty. The Habsburg emperors were replaced with Hungarian freedom fighters when the monument was rebuilt after World War II.

Pest - City Park

Located behind the Heroes Square, City Park (Városliget) is the largest park in Budapest. The first trees and walkways were established here in 1751. In the first decades of the 19th century a park was created, which became the first public park in the world. In 1896 the Millennium Celebrations took place here, leaving many attractions behind. The Budapest Zoo (Fővárosi Állat és Növénykert), the Municipal Circus (Fővárosi Nagycirkusz), the legendary Gundel Restaurant and the famous Széchenyi Baths (Széchenyi Fürdő) are also located within City Park.

Vajdahunyad Castle (Vajdahunyad vár), a replica of a Transylvanian castle of that name, was built to show the various architectural styles found in Hungary, and has Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque parts. The castle is surrounded by an artificial lake that's used for boating in the summer and turns into an impressive ice skating rink in the winter, which is a local favorite. In the courtyard is the statue of Anonymus, the nameless medieval chronicler to King Béla. His work is the main source of information on Hungarian history through the Middle Ages, however the fact that there were four kings called Béla during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries makes it hard to identify him or the monarch. His face is hidden by a hood, making him anonymous, and yet portraying an interesting and important historical figure.

The castle is surrounded by an artificial lake that's used for boating in the summer and turns into an impressive ice skating rink in the winter, which is a local favorite. The history of the City Park Ice Rink (Városligeti Műjégpálya) goes back to the 19th century, when skating was considered a favorite winter pass time by the elite.
Joining Buda and Pest - Bridges

Seven bridges and two railway bridges join Buda and Pest, and six islands on the Danube are located within city limits. Every tourist visiting Budapest would like to cross the first stone bridge of the town, the renowned Chain Bridge (Lánchíd) at least once and most of them stand amazed in front of the Elizabeth Bridge (Erzsébet híd) or the mythical falcon-like birds of the Hungarians on the top of the Liberty Bridge (Szabadság híd). The favorite weekend picnic area of Budapest, the Margaret Island (Margit-sziget) can be reached through the second permanent bridge, the Margaret Bridge (Margit híd). Many are fascinated by 100 meters high pylon of the newest Northern bridge, the Megyeri Bridge (Megyeri híd) and the southern Rákóczi Bridge (Rákóczi híd).

Probably the most elegant bridge in Budapest was named in honor of Queen Elisabeth, wife of Emperor Franz Joseph. The Chain Bridge (Lánchíd) was the first to permanently connect Buda and Pest. There has been a pontoon bridge on the river since the Middle Ages enabling passage from spring to autumn. During winter, the river froze making crossing possible; however, there were times when the weather changed abruptly and people got stuck on one side. In 1820, this happened to Count István Széchenyi, when he had to wait a week to get to his father's funeral. This experience led him to decide that a permanent bridge had to be built. He became a major advocate of the project and founded a society to finance and build the bridge. At the time of its construction, Chain Bridge was considered to be one of the wonders of the world. Chief engineer Adam Clark, a master builder from Scotland, completed the span in 1849. Legend has it that he was so proud of his masterpiece he would challenge anyone to find any fault with his work. When it was discovered that the lions at either ends of the bridge didn't have tongues, he was so ashamed that he committed suicide. This of course is only an anecdote.

Pest - Danube promenade

The Danube Promenade (Dunakorzó) extends between the Elizabeth Bridge and the Chain Bridge in Pest along the banks of the Danube. This location was always popular for promenading, especially in the 19th century. Back then the Promenade was home to several famous hotels such as the Ritz, the Bristol and the Carlton. Their cafés, overlooking the Danube and the Buda Castle were immensely popular. These days a new row of luxury hotels attempts to recreate the pre-war ambiance.

The Romantic building of the Vigadó Concert Hall (Vigadó) was inaugurated in 1865. It is located on Vigadó tér, a small square next to the Marriott Hotel. The Vigadó hosted performances by Liszt, Mahler, Wagner and Von Karajan. The building was badly damaged during the war and it didn't reopen until 1980. Most Danube cruises depart from Vigadó tér. Don't overlook the statue of the Little Princess on the Promenade, sitting on the railings by the embankment; she is one of Budapest's newest attractions.

The Pest End of Chain Bridge (formerly known Roosevelt Square) was recently renamed to Széchenyi István tér as a tribute to the founder of Chain Bridge. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Art Nouveau-style Gresham Palace are located in the square. Instead of walking You can get the tramway number 2 along the promenade from Fővám tér to the terminal.
Some Other Chapters of the Culture

The National Theatre (Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum) is a showcase of Hungarian artists and stage directors. Traditional theatre classics, contemporary plays and adaptations from Hungarian literature are on the repertoire. The building is within the Millennium Quarter (Milleniumi Kulturális Központ), a new block between Petőfi and Lágymányosi bridges. Although it’s not centrally located, this area is becoming one of the new cultural centers of Budapest. Museums like the Ludwig Museum and the Palace of Arts (Művészetek Palotája) are also located here. The park surrounding the theatre building is full of statues portraying famous Hungarian actors.

The Museum of Applied Arts (Iparművészeti Múzeum) is housed in one of the most representative Hungarian Art Nouveau buildings. Traditional Hungarian design elements merged with Islamic and Hindu motifs along with some Western European Art Noveau influence characterize the building. The museum, designed by architect Ödön Lechner and built between 1893 and 1896, is richly decorated with terracotta tiles made by the famous Zsolnay factory.

The Hungarian National Museum (Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum) is the oldest public museum in Hungary. The museum's present building was built between 1837 and 1847, and it stands as a great example of Neo-Classicist architecture. Founded 200 years ago, the museum is dedicated to the history of Hungary and today it remains a symbol of Hungary's national identity.

Some Chapters of Jewish Heritage

The Great Synagogue in Dohány Street (also known as Dohány Street Synagogue) is the largest Synagogue in Europe and the second largest in the world, capable of accommodating 3 000 people. It was built between 1854 and 1859 in Moorish Revival or Neo-Moorish style, in the wake of Romanticism.

The Shoes on the Danube (near to the Parliament) is a memorial to the Budapest Jews who were shot by Arrow Cross militiamen between 1944 and 1945. The victims were lined up and shot into the Danube River. They had to take their shoes off, since shoes were valuable belongings at the time.
Historical Railway Stations

Budapest Keleti (eastern) railway station (Budapest Keleti pályaudvar) is the main international and inter-city railway terminal in Budapest, Hungary. The building was designed in eclectic style by Gyula Rochlitz and János Feketeházy and constructed between 1881 and 1884 as one of the most modern railway stations of Europe. Its name in 1891 originates not only for its position as the easternmost of the city's rail termini, but for its original role as a terminus of the lines from eastern Hungary including Transylvania and the Balkans.

In contrast, the Budapest Nyugati (western) railway station (Budapest Nyugati pályaudvar) used to serve lines toward Vienna and Paris. The Nyugati Railway Station is one of the oldest terminals in Budapest, stand alongside today’s Grand Boulevard. It was orgonally serviced by suburban railways. This impressive building, designed by the Gustave Eiffel Company, was opened in 1877.

Universities on the Bank of the Danube

The Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Budapesti Műszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem or in short Műegyetem), official abbreviation BME, is the most significant university of technology in Hungary and is considered the world's oldest institute of technology which has university rank and structure. It was the first institute in Europe to train engineers at university level, founded in 1782. The site is located in Buda on the right bank of the Danube.

Corvinus University of Budapest (Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem) defines itself as a research university oriented towards education. Year by year, the university is among the best institutions on various national and international rankings. It was listed in the top 50 in the Financial Times European Masters in Management rankings, and was the first Hungarian university mentioned among the best in the area of agriculture. The university is in an urban setting. The faculties operate in multiple buildings that stand in the city centre of Budapest. The university's main building, now part of the UNESCO Heritage Site is located in Pest on the left bank of the Danube, next to the Grand Market Hall and facing the Budapest University of Technology and Economics on the river's other bank. The main building was planned by Miklós Ybl as the Main Customs Office in Neo-Renaissance style.

Eötvös Loránd University (Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem or ELTE) is a Hungarian public research university based in Budapest. Founded in 1635. ELTE is one of the largest and the most prestigious public higher education institutions in Hungary. The Lágymányosi campus on the right bank of the Danube, next to BME is home to the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Informatics and the Faculty of Social Sciences.
Word Heritage Sites

Budapest is a scenic destination brimming with historical treasures. Many of the city’s attractions are recognized as World Heritage Sites. Castle Hill, the Royal Palace, Matthias Church and Fishermen’s Bastion were added to the list in 1987. The Banks of the Danube from Gellért Hill to Aquincum, together with Chain Bridge and the Parliament, was also acknowledged as a World Heritage Site in the same year. Ártert Avenue, Heroes’ Square and the Millennium Underground were included by UNESCO in 2002.

Some Chapters of the Nightlife

When nighttime rolls around, Budapest is transformed into a socialite’s heaven. There's no specific entertainment district, as the diverse nightlife is spread all through the city – choose from pubs, dance clubs, jazz bars, cocktail bars or casinos. The new wave of entertainment is represented by the many Ruin Pubs. Live music, charming retro décor, unique atmosphere and late opening hours make these places popular. Ruin Pubs ('rom kocsma' in Hungarian, literally: pub in a ruin) are located in formerly abandoned buildings in the city and are very popular hot spots. Most are open year-round, some are temporary outdoor pubs, open from May to September and some are located in the cellars of old houses. Szimpla Kert, the oldest Ruin Pub in Budapest, is a must. Szimpla is a good bet almost any night.

The beautifully restored Gozsdu Courtyard (Gozsdu Udvar), once the core of Budapest's Jewish quarter, is popular with locals. Packed with restaurants, pubs and bars, the place comes alive every evening. Gozsdu Courtyard was a row of buildings with a series of inner courtyards connecting Király utca and Dob utca, with apartments on the top floors, and small shops and workshops on the ground floor. Recent renovations converted the old passageway into a modern residential and entertainment complex with some great restaurants and pubs.

Public Transportation

Budapest is a "walking city" and there are plenty of walking tours that will allow you to see many of the city's attractions at once. Most of Budapest's city center and historic districts are suitable for walking. There are pedestrian precincts in downtown Pest and traffic is restricted on Castle Hill, so walking is probably the best way to get around. However, Budapest also has an excellent public transportation system. Glance skyward and you'll see that most of the city's streets are lined with cables, as Budapest has a vast system of streetcars (or trams) and trolley buses. Budapest also has a clean, fast, and efficient subway system (4 lines) (or metro as the locals call it). Outer suburbs are well served by HÉV trains (suburban railway). Getting around is easy.

Although walking is probably your best bet, streetcars 2, 4 and 6 as well as the three subway lines are also good options to get to most places in the city. The main junction of 3 subway lines meet at Deák Ferenc tér in the city center. If you ride streetcars 4 or 6 (running 0-24 h) from the first to the last stop in either direction, you will have taken the world's longest streetcar ride. A new passenger boat service is available in Budapest between Újpest and Millenniumi Városkőzpont. The route provides a beautiful commute for locals as well as a great way to get around and see the city from the Danube for visitors.

You can get more informations on website http://www.bkk.hu/en.
Gastro - Dictionary

During a visit to Budapest in 1993 British royal, Prince Philip, said to a tourist: “you can’t have been here that long - you haven’t got a pot belly.” It’s true Hungarians love eating and are known the world-over for their hearty meals, but traditional Hungarian food goes well beyond classic favourites like "goulash." While Hungarian cuisine has Austrian, Slavic and Turkish influences (among others) the foods that make up Hungarian gastronomy form a long list. During a visit to Hungary these are the types of traditional foods you must try. Jó étvágyat! Egészségedre!

Starters

Szalámi and smoked Hungarian sausage like Gyulai or Csabai.
Szalonna: thick smoked bacon, usually served with salt, fresh bread, paprika and tomato.
Hortobágyi palacsinta: often served as a starter but it’s a filling dish in itself, basically it's a meat-filled pancake smothered in a paprika and sour cream sauce.
Libamáj: goose liver like "foi gras."

Soups

Gulyásleves: a hearty soup with paprika, onion and beef cubes stewed with vegetables in a big cauldron.
Halászlé: a bright red, paprika-based fish soup made with carp, catfish, perch or pike.
Húsoleves: a chicken broth based soup, usually with carrots and angel hair noodles.
Gyümölcsleves: cold fruit soups are popular especially in summer, these include sour cherry soup served with cream, apricot or mixed fruit versions.

Mains

Marhapörkölt: a paprika and onion based slow-cooked beef stew served with nokedli (a Hungarian dumpling), tarhonya (egg barley) or turóscsusza (a curd-cheese pasta).
Csirkepaprikás: a tasty paprika and cream based chicken stew usually served with nokedli.
Harcas paprikás: similar to the chicken version, but with catfish instead.
Töltött káposzta: stuffed cabbage rolls filled with minced pork meat and served with sour cream added on top.
Lecsó: a summer dish, based on a tomato and paprika stew served with Viennese sausage, bacon and/or egg.
Rántott hús: crumbed chicken or veal, often served with a wedge of lemon and parsley potatoes.
Túróscsusza: while this curd-cheese pasta can be served as a side to marhapörkölt and harcsapaprikás, it can also be a meal in itself, served with bacon.
Tócsní: a Hungarian hashbrown.
Főzelék: this is a thick vegetable stew that comes in many versions including lentil, potato, spinach, pumpkin, green beans, or cabbage.
Cigánypecsenye: pan-fried or grilled slices of pork served with thick bacon slices on top.
Hagymás rostélyos: grilled meat (often steak) served with a mountain of deep-fried onion on top.
Töltött paprika: whole peppers filled with mince and rice in a tomato sauce.
Brassói aprópecsenye: cubes of pork, cooked with paprika, onion and garlic and served with cubes of potato.
Pacalpörkölt: a tripe stew.
Sweets

Vaníliás kifli/hó kifli: a crescent shaped, vanilla cookie dusted with sugar.
Gundel Palacsinta: pancakes filled with a walnut/rum mixture and smothered in a dark chocolate sauce.
Somlói galuska: a Hungarian trifle based on chunks of sponge cake covered in walnuts and rum with a chocolate sauce and plenty of cream on top.
Dobos torta: a layered cake with chocolate buttercream and a crisp caramelised top.
Rákóczi tűrós: a sweet-pastry topped with cottage cheese and apricot jam.
Rigó Jancsi: a chocolate sponge cake with chocolate cream.
Eszterházy torta: layered almond and cream cake.
Túrógombóc: sweet cheese dumplings served with sugar or stuffed with fruit like plums (szilvásgombóc).
Krémes: thick custard between layers of pastry.
Madaréj: like a Floating Island with whipped egg whites sitting in a vanilla custard-like sauce.
Beigli: a poppy seed or walnut roll, popular at Christmas and Easter.
Aranygaluska: balls of dough rolled in melted butter, sugar and crushed walnuts, assembled into layers and sprinkled with raisins, before being baked until golden brown. Served with vanilla custard.
Gesztenyepüré: chestnut purée served with cream.
Almás pite: a kind of apple pie served in squares.
Mákosguba: a bread-based poppy seed dessert, served with custard.
Flódi: a Hungarian Jewish cake with layers of walnuts, poppy seed and jams.
Császármorzsa: sweet crepe crumbs served with jam also known as "kaiserschmarrn."
Bukta: a baked cake served with jam, curd cheese or walnuts.

Street foods

Lángos: deep fried dough usually served with garlic, sour cream and grated cheese.
Töki pompó: also known as "kenyér lángos" a thick bread, topped with sour cream, bacon, cheese and onion.
Zsíros kenyér: bread covered in lard and served with sweet paprika and red onion slices.
Rétes: Hungarian strudel filled with fruit or curd cheese.
Kürtőskalács: a round cake dusted in flavours like walnuts, cinnamon or chocolate.

Drinks

Pálinka: a Hungarian fruit brandy in many different flavours like plum, apricot and honey.
Unicum: a herbal liqueur.
Tokaji aszú: a sweet, topaz-coloured wine known around the world simply as Tokay.
Egri Bikavér: Hungary’s most famous red wine, also known around the world as “Bull’s Blood of Eger”
Dreher, Soproni, Arany Ászok: these are famous Hungarian beer brands.
Frőcs: a summer drink usually where red or rosé wine is mixed with different quantities of soda water.
St. Hubertus: a herbal liqueur.