

Belváros

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Strolling up (or down) **Váci utca** (p84), the nerve centre of Budapest tourism, and taking in all that entails: unusual architecture, some fine shops, the odd eatery worth consideration and crowds of people.

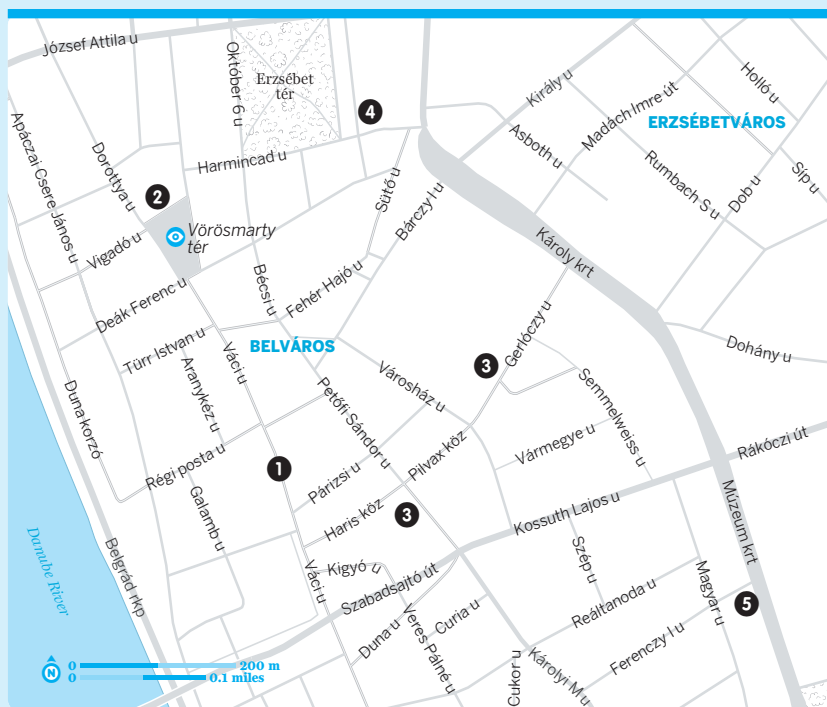
2 Savouring a cup of something warm and a

slice of something sweet at **Gerbeaud** (p87), Budapest's finest *cukrászda* (cake shop).

3 Taking in a play in English at the **Merlin Theatre** (p88) or – for the brave – in Hungarian at the **József Katona Theatre** (p88).

4 Welcoming in the new day and saying goodbye to the old one at **Gödör** (p88), Budapest's most central club.

5 Browsing through the antiquarian bookshops, such as **Központi Antikvárium** (p88), that line V Múzeum körút.



Explore: Belváros

Belváros ('Inner Town') is the very heart of Pest and contains the most valuable commercial real estate in the city. The area north of busy Ferenciek tere is full of flashy boutiques and well-frequented bars and restaurants; you'll usually hear more German, Italian, Spanish and English spoken here than Hungarian. The neighbourhood to the south was once rather studenty, quieter and much more local; now much of it is reserved for pedestrians, and there is no shortage of trendy shops and cafes along with the usual souvenir shops and boutiques.

Belváros contains four important 'centres': V Deák Ferenc tér is a busy square in the northeast corner, the only place where all three metro lines (M1/2/3) converge, also accessible by trams 47 and 49; touristy V Vörösmarty tér is on the M1 metro at the northern end of V Váci utca; V Ferenciek tere, on metro M3, divides the Inner Town at Szabad sajtó út; and V Egyetem tér (University Sq) is a five-minute walk south along V Károly Mihály utca from Ferenciek tere and 250m northwest of Kálvin tér on the M3 metro along leafy V Kecskeméti utca.

Local Life

➔ **Eating** A *disznótor* is a 'pig slaughter' in Hungarian, but is also where the animal is turned into sausages and other comestibles. Think 'feast' and that's what you'll find at the very local Belvárosi Disznótoros (p86).

➔ **Shopping** Souvenirs and that hat you've been coveting will be a lot cheaper if you head for lower Váci utca (p84), the bit of Budapest's main shopping street that runs south from Szabad sajtó út to Várház körút.

➔ **Museum** Visiting a museum devoted to literature when you don't speak the language might sound like a waste of time, but the palace housing the Petőfi Museum of Literature (p85) is well worth a look.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** V Ferenciek tere for 7 or 7E to Buda or points east in Pest; V Egyetem tér for 15 or 115 to IX Boráros tér and northern Pest.

➔ **Ferry** Vigadó tér pier for ferries to III Rómaifürdő and Csillaghegy in Óbuda and Szentendre.

➔ **Metro** M3 Ferenciek tere, M1 Vörösmarty tér, M1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér.

➔ **Tram** Little Ring Rd (Károly körút and Múzeum körút) for 47 or 49 from V Deák Ferenc tér to Liberty Bridge and points in south Buda; Belgrád rakpart for the 2 to V Szent István körút or south Pest.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

A lovely way to see the Belváros from a different angle altogether is to hop on one of the BKV passenger ferries (p204) that make some 14 stops along the Danube from IX Boráros tér in Pest to III Pünkösdfürdő in Óbuda. The most convenient stop here is V Vigadó tér. Simply take the ferry over to I Batthyány tér or carry on further afield.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bottega della Famiglia (p87)
- ➔ Kárpátia (p86)
- ➔ Gerlőczy (p86)
- ➔ Taverna Dionysos (p86)

For reviews, see p85 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Gerbeaud (p87)
- ➔ Csendes (p87)
- ➔ Columbus (p88)

For reviews, see p87 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Valeria Fazekas (p89)
- ➔ Holló Atelier (p90)
- ➔ Magma (p90)
- ➔ Rododendron (p90)
- ➔ Múzeum Antikvárium (p88)

For reviews, see p88 ➔