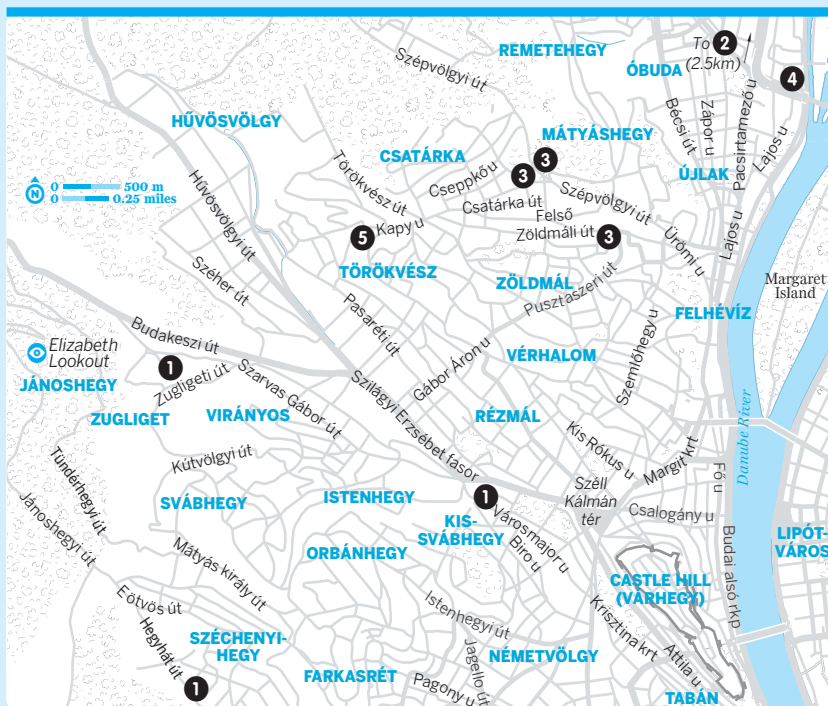


Óbuda & Buda Hills

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Touring the Buda Hills by three of the most unusual conveyances you're likely to encounter: the **Cog Railway** (p74) up, the unique **Children's Railway** (p74) through the hills, and the **Chairlift** (p74) down.
- 2 Walking backwards in time by strolling through Roman-era **Aquincum** (p73).
- 3 Exploring the world beneath you by visiting any of the Buda Hills' three caves: **Mátyáshegy** (p78), **Pálvölgy** (p78) or **Szemlőhegy** (p78).
- 4 Spacing out viewing the truly mind-blowing works of op art at the **Vasarely Museum** (p75).
- 5 Enjoying Bartók's music at the place where it was born: the **Béla Bartók Memorial House** (p78).



Lonely Planet's Top Tip

You can reach Óbuda and Aquincum by bus, or take tram 17 to Óbuda, but the fastest and easiest way is to hop on to the HÉV suburban train from Batthyány tér or Margit hid in Buda. Remember, though, that passes are valid only as far as the city limits and if you are carrying on north from Aquincum to, say, Szentendre (p147), you must buy an extension after the Békásmegyer stop. Tickets are *always* checked by a conductor on the HÉV.



Best Museums & Galleries

- Aquincum Museum (p73)
- Vasarely Museum (p75)
- Kiscell Museum & Municipal Picture Gallery (p75)
- Béla Bartók Memorial House (p78)

For reviews, see p73 ➡



Best for Taking the Plunge

- Lukács Baths (p76)
- Béke Boat Club (p78)
- Császár-Komjádi (p78)

For reviews, see p76 ➡



Best Places to Eat

- Kisbuda Gyöngye (p79)
- Fuji Japán (p81)
- Pastrami (p79)
- Náncsi Néni (p80)
- Földes Józsi Konyhája (p80)

For reviews, see p78 ➡

Explore: Óbuda & Buda Hills

Ó means 'ancient' in Hungarian – no prizes for guessing that Óbuda is the oldest part of Buda. The Romans established Aquincum, a military garrison and civilian town, north of here at the end of the 1st century AD (p172), and it became the seat of the Roman province Pannonia Inferior in AD 106. When the Magyars arrived, they named it Buda, which became Óbuda when the Royal Palace was built on Castle Hill and turned into the real centre.

Most visitors en route to Szentendre (p147) on the Danube Bend are put off by what they see of Óbuda from the highway or the HÉV suburban train. Prefabricated housing blocks seem to go on forever, and the Árpád Bridge flyover splits the heart of the old district – Flórián tér – in two. But behind all this are some of the most important Roman ruins in Hungary, plus museums and small, quiet neighbourhoods that recall fin-de-siècle Óbuda.

Contiguous with Óbuda to the west is the start of the Buda Hills (Budai-hegység), with 'peaks' exceeding 500m, a comprehensive system of trails and some unusual modes of public transport. The hills are the city's playground – a welcome respite from hot, dusty Pest in summer. But apart from the Béla Bartók Memorial House (p78), there are few sights here per se, though you might want to explore one of the hills' caves (p78).

Local Life

➤ **Sleeping** If you take your swimming seriously, stay at Hotel Császár (p160), where some of the rooms look onto the Olympic-size pools of the Császár-Komjádi.

➤ **Classical Music** One of the finest and most intimate spots to hear a concert is the Óbuda Society (p81).

➤ **Museum** An easy and very colourful introduction to Budapest's social history is the *Contemporary City History Collection* at the Kiscell Museum (p75).

Getting There & Away

➤ **Bus** Bus 86 links Fő utca in Buda with Flórián tér in Óbuda. Buses 34 and 106 go to Aquincum from Óbuda. Bus 291 links the Chairlift's lower terminus on Zugligeti út with Szilágyi Erzsébet fasor.

➤ **Trams** Trams 1 and 1A run along the Outer Ring Rd (eg Róbert Károl körút) from City Park in Pest to Flórián tér in Óbuda. Trams 59 and 61 run from Széll Kálmán tér to the Cog Railway's lower terminus. Tram 17 links II Margit körút with Bécsi út.

➤ **HÉV** Árpád híd stop serves Óbuda; the Aquincum stop is handy for the Roman ruins.