

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Begin your tour of the traditionally working-class districts of Józsefváros and Ferencváros in VIII Rákóczi tér, the only real square right on the Big Ring Rd and as good a place as any to get a feel for these areas. Rákóczi tér is the site of a busy market hall (*vásárcsarnok*), erected in 1897 and renovated in the early 1990s after a bad fire. It's open daily except Sunday but skip Monday when it's deadlier than the dodo bird.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Múzeum (p132)
- ➔ Rosenstein (p133)
- ➔ Építész Pince (p132)
- ➔ Fülemlüle (p133)

For reviews, see p132 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Café Csiga (p134)
- ➔ Adonis (p135)
- ➔ Cököxpön (p135)

For reviews, see p134 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Nagycsarnok (p136)
- ➔ Babaház (p137)
- ➔ Magyar Pálinka Ház (p137)

For reviews, see p136 ➔

Explore: Southern Pest

From Blaha Lujza tér, named after a leading 19th-century stage actress and sheltering one of the liveliest subways in the city (with hustlers, beggars, peasants selling their wares, musicians and, of course, pickpockets), the Big Ring Rd runs through district VIII, also known as Józsefváros (Joseph Town). The western side of Józsefváros transforms itself from a neighbourhood of lovely 19th-century town houses and villas around the Little Ring Rd to a large student quarter. East of the boulevard is the once rough-and-tumble district so poignantly described in the Pressburger brothers' *Homage to the Eighth District*, and where much of the fighting in October 1956 took place (p183). Today it's being developed at breakneck speed.

The neighbourhood south of Üllői út is Ferencváros (Francis Town), home to the city's most popular football team, Ferencvárosi Torna Club (FTC), and many of its tough, green-and-white-clad supporters. There is a tremendous amount of building going on in Ferencváros as well. One highlight of the district is pedestrianised IX Ráday utca, which leads south from V Kálvin tér and is full of cafes, clubs and restaurants where university students entertain themselves these days.

Local Life

➔ **Market** It might attract tourists by droves, but the Nagycsarnok (p136) is always a hive of activity and a great place for one-stop shopping.

➔ **Museum** The Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art (p131) is cutting edge, but don't expect (or try) to understand everything.

➔ **Classical Music** Some people think the Béla Bartók National Concert Hall at the Palace of Arts (p135) has the best acoustics in Budapest.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** The red M2 line runs along the northern border of Józsefváros while the blue M3 line serves points in Ferencváros. Key stops include Blaha Lujza tér and Keleti Pályaudvar on the M2, and Kálvin tér and Ferenc körút on the M3.

➔ **Tram** Both districts are served by trams 47 and 49, and further east by trams 4 and 6.