

Belváros

Neighbourhood Top Five

① Strolling up **Váci utca** (p83), the nerve centre of Budapest tourism, and taking in all that that entails: unusual architecture, some fine shops, and crowds of people.

② Savouring a cup of something warm and a slice of something sweet at **Gerbeaud** (p87), Buda-

pest's finest *cukrászda* (cake shop).

③ Climbing the grand staircase at **Pesti Vigadó** (p84), enjoying the views from the terrace and then watching a classical concert in its sumptuous hall.

④ Having a moonlit drink and surveying the city from

the roof of **Tip Top Bar** (p87).

⑤ Starting in Egyetem tér and spending a morning browsing the multitude of **independent boutiques** (p90) dotted all over the neighbourhood.



For more detail of this area, see Map p238 →

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 that make stops all along the Danube. Board at IX Boráros tér, from where the ferry crosses to the opposite bank and then returns to Pest; get back on dry land at V Petőfi tér, or stay on for stops up to Margaret Island and beyond.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Kárpátia (p86)
- ➔ Gerlőczy (p86)
- ➔ Halkakas (p86)
- ➔ Gepárd És Úrhajó (p86)

For reviews, see p84 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Gerbeaud (p87)
- ➔ Csendes Társ (p87)
- ➔ Csendes (p87)
- ➔ Centrál Kávéház (p87)

For reviews, see p87 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Bomo Art (p90)
- ➔ XD Design&Souvenir (p90)
- ➔ Holló Atelier (p90)
- ➔ Rózsavölgyi Csokoládé (p90)
- ➔ Rododendron (p91)

For reviews, see p90 ➔

Explore: Belváros

The 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's no shortage of trendy shops and cafes, along with the usual souvenir shops and boutiques.

The Belváros contains four important 'centres': V Deák Ferenc tér is a busy square in the northeast corner, where 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 Károlyi utca from Ferenciek tere and 250m northwest of Kálvin tér on the M3 and M4 metro along leafy V Kecskeméti utca.

Local Life

- ➔ **Lunch** Chow down with the locals at Belvárosi Disznótoros (p84) on huge portions of all kinds of sausages, meat and fish, eaten standing up at outside benches.
- ➔ **Hang-out** Take a moment to relax, read a book or let your kids have a run around at the neighbourhood's secret garden, Károlyi kert (p86).
- ➔ **Fröccs** Join the throngs of locals who start the night as the sun goes down drinking spritzers in Erzsébet tér, before tripping over to see who's on at Akvárium Klub (p90).

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** Petőfi tér pier for ferries to IX Boráros tér and Margaret Island.
- ➔ **Metro** M3 Ferenciek tere, M1 Vörösmarty tér, M1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér, M3/4 Kálvin 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 southern Pest.