

Óbuda & Buda Hills

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** (p77) up into the hills, the unique **Children's Railway** (p77) through them, and the **Chairlift** (p77) down.

2 Walking backwards in time by strolling through

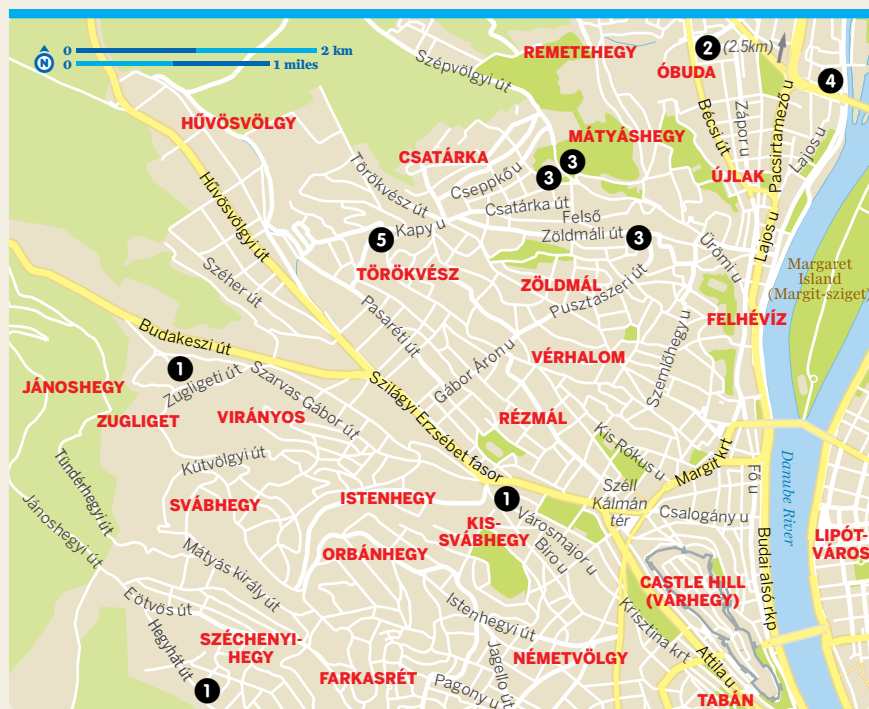
the fabulously upgraded Roman-era **Aquincum** (p74).

3 Exploring the world beneath you by visiting any or all of the Buda Hills' trio of caves: **Mátyáshegy** (p78), **Pálvölgy** (p78) or **Szeplőhegy** (p78).

4 Spacing out while viewing the truly mind-blowing

works of op art at the **Vasarely Museum** (p75).

5 Enjoying Bartók's music in the very place of its birth: the **Béla Bartók Memorial House** (p76).



For more detail of this area, see Map p233 and Map p234 ➔

Explore: Óbuda & Buda Hills

Ó means 'ancient' in Hungarian, so 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, and it became the seat of the Roman province of 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 on the Danube Bend are put off by what they see of Óbuda from the highway or the HÉV suburban train. But behind all the prefabricated housing blocks and the flyover 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 lung and playground – a welcome respite from hot, dusty Pest in summer. Apart from the Béla Bartók Memorial House, there are few sights here as such, though you might want to explore one of the hills' caves.

Local Life

- ➔ **Sleeping** If you take your morning swim seriously, stay at Hotel Császár (p167), where some of the rooms look onto the Olympic-size pools of the Császár-Komjádi swimming complex.
- ➔ **Classical Music** One of the most intimate spots to hear a concert is the Óbuda Society (p80) venue.
- ➔ **Museum** Visit Béla Bartók Memorial House (p76) for 'free' by attending one of the frequent concerts.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Bus 86 links XI Szent Gellért tér and other points in south Buda with III Flórián tér in Óbuda. Buses 34 and 106 go to Aquincum from III Szentlélek tér in Óbuda. Bus 291 links the Chairlift's lower terminus on XII Zugligeti út with II Szilágyi Erzsébet fasor and Nyugati train station.
- ➔ **Trams** Trams 1 and 1A run along the Outer Ring Rd (eg XIII Róbert Károl körút) from City Park in Pest to Árpád Bridge east of III Flórián tér in Óbuda. Trams 59 and 61 run from II Széll Kálmán tér to the Cog Railway's lower terminus. Tram 17 links II Margit körút with III Bécsi út.
- ➔ **HÉV** Árpád híd stop serves Óbuda; the Aquincum stop is handy for the Roman ruins.

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 the HÉV suburban train from Batthyány tér or Margit híd in Buda. Be aware that tickets are *always* checked by a conductor on the HÉV.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Kisbuda Gyöngye (p79)
- ➔ Fuji Japán (p80)
- ➔ Fióka (p79)
- ➔ Náncsi Néni (p79)

For reviews, see p76 ➔

Best Museums & Galleries

- ➔ Aquincum Museum (p74)
- ➔ Hungarian Museum of Trade & Tourism (p75)
- ➔ Vasarely Museum (p75)
- ➔ Béla Bartók Memorial House (p76)

For reviews, see p75 ➔

Best for Taking the Plunge

- ➔ Lukács Baths (p80)
- ➔ Veli Bej Baths (p80)
- ➔ Császár-Komjádi Pools (p80)

For reviews, see p80 ➔