

Parliament & Around

LIPÓTVÁROS | TERÉZVÁROS (WEST)

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Entering the hallowed halls of **Parliament** (p95), arguably the most iconic of all Budapest's buildings, and making your way to the Crown of St Stephen, symbol of the Hungarian nation for more than 1100 years.

2 Visiting the **Basilica of St Stephen** (p97) and

Hungary's most revered religious relic, the Holy Right (hand) of St Stephen.

3 Carousing in and around Nagymező utca, Budapest's own 'Broadway' and home to a plethora of wild and crazy clubs, including **Instant** (p104).

4 Ogling the sinuous curves and asymmetrical

forms of the **Royal Postal Savings Bank** (p98), one of Budapest's many incomparable Art Nouveau buildings.

5 Eating at one of the little eateries called *étkezdé*, such as **Kisharang** (p99), that serve Hungarian soul food.



For more detail of this area, see Map p244 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

One of our favourite places to while away part or all of a Saturday morning is along V Falk Miksa utca, which is lined with antique and curio shops. Start at the northern end with BÁV (p106) to get an idea of what your average householder might be getting rid of during spring cleaning and move south on to the various other shops, ending up at the largest of them all: Pintér Antik (p106).



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Borkonyha (p101)
- ➔ Pesti Disznó (p102)
- ➔ Da Mario (p100)
- ➔ Kispiaç (p100)
- ➔ Café Kör (p101)
- ➔ Mák (p101)

For reviews, see p99 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Instant (p104)
- ➔ DiVino Borbár (p103)
- ➔ Pótkulcs (p104)
- ➔ Club AlterEgo (p104)
- ➔ Morrison's 2 (p103)
- ➔ Teaház a Vörös Oroszlánhoz (p105)

For reviews, see p103 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ BÁV (p106)
- ➔ Bestsellers (p106)
- ➔ Memories of Hungary (p106)
- ➔ Pintér Antik (p106)

For reviews, see p106 ➔

Explore: Parliament & Around

North of the Belváros, the district called Lipótváros (Leopold Town) is full of offices, government ministries and 19th-century apartment blocks. It's an easy and fun neighbourhood to explore on foot, and its defining squares are V Széchenyi István tér (sometimes still called Roosevelt tér) facing the river; V Szabadság tér, with the only Soviet memorial left in the city; and V Kossuth Lajos tér, fronted by Parliament. Come to this neighbourhood for exceptional architecture, two of the city's most important sights (Parliament and the Basilica of St Stephen), some excellent restaurants and cafés and, especially around the Central European University, some very great bars.

The neighbourhood on either side of Teréz körút – Terézváros (Theresa Town) – which was named in honour of Maria Theresa and carries on from Szent István körút as the Big Ring Rd after Nyugati train station, is where to head after dark. More compact than Erzsébetváros and not quite as raucous (and perhaps more attractive for those reasons), Terézváros has no shortage of lively watering holes and raving clubs. Here you'll also find VI Nagymező utca, lined with theatres and music halls, and home to the city's largest and most active gay club.

Local Life

➔ **Entertainment** Everyone goes to the Hungarian State Opera House; dare to be different and take in a very glitzy production at the Budapest Operetta (p105).

➔ **Museum** The Ethnography Museum (p98) will take you on a colourful tour of the folk-art heritage and traditions across Hungary – without you even leaving Budapest.

➔ **Eating** If you want to try authentic Hungarian sausage and salami but don't feel up to eating at food stalls, head for the Pick Ház (p100) outlet near Parliament.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** V Szabadság tér for 15 to IX Boráros tér and northern Pest; V Deák Ferenc tér for 16 to Castle Hill and 105 to Buda.

➔ **Metro** M2 Kossuth Lajos tér, M3 Arany János utca and M1, M2 and M3 Deák Ferenc tér.

➔ **Tram** Antall József rakpart (formerly Pesti alsó rakpart) for 2 to V Szent István körút or south Pest; V Szent István körút for 4 or 6 to Buda or Big Ring Rd in Pest.