

Southern Pest

JÓZSEFVÁROS | FERENCVÁROS

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Taking a trip through the near and distant past by wandering the corridors of the **Hungarian National Museum** (p136), the nation's treasure trove of historical artefacts.
- 2 Strolling through the **Nagycsarnok** (p143), southern Pest's well-endowed Great Market.
- 3 Admiring the art and architecture of the Art Nouveau **Museum of Applied Arts** (p138).
- 4 Testing your problem-solving skills at the city's first escape game, **Parapark** (p144).
- 5 Paying your respects to the permanent residents of **Kerepesi Cemetery** (p137).



For more detail of this area, see Map p242 ➔

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. 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.

Both are ever-changing and developing areas of the city, with new shops, bars and restaurants popping up constantly. Some quarters feel less salubrious than other places in the city, but it's full of interesting and alternative spots – try Mikszáth Kálmán tér, Tüzoltó utca or Ráday utca.

Local Life

- ➔ **Market** It might attract tourists in droves, but the Nagycsarnok (p143) is always a hive of activity and a great place for one-stop shopping.
- ➔ **Museum** The cutting-edge Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art (p138) hosts excellent temporary exhibitions.
- ➔ **Classical Music** The Béla Bartók National Concert Hall (p142) at the Palace of Arts is reputed to have the best acoustics in Budapest.
- ➔ **Alfresco clubs** Two excellent venues here allow for some serious time with your hands in the (open) air.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** The red M2 line runs along the northern border of Józsefváros, while the blue M3 line serves points in Ferencváros. The green M4 line now handily connects Fővám tér with Keleti pályaudvar. Key stops include Blaha Lujza tér and Keleti pályaudvar on the M2, Corvin-negyed on the M3, Rákóczi tér on the M4, and Kálvin tér, where the M3 and M4 intersect.
- ➔ **Tram** Both districts are served by trams 47 and 49, and further east by trams 4 and 6.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Southern Pest is made up of two fascinating, traditionally working-class districts – Józsefváros and Ferencváros. A good way to tackle this vast area is to pick a major sight and then spend some time wandering in the nearby streets. Start with the Hungarian National Museum (p136) and then mosey round Gutenberg, Rákóczi and Mikszáth Kálmán térs, or head to the Museum of Applied Arts (p138) and then take in the streets that stretch out to the Danube.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Múzeum (p140)
- ➔ Rosenstein (p140)
- ➔ Épitész Pince (p139)
- ➔ Petrus (p141)

For reviews, see p139 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Élesztő (p141)
- ➔ Lumen (p141)
- ➔ Corvintető (p141)

For reviews, see p141 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Nagycsarnok (p143)
- ➔ Portéka (p143)
- ➔ Magyar Pálinka Ház (p143)

For reviews, see p143 ➔