



Budapest

📍 1 / POP 1.7 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Borkonyha (p128)
- ➔ Baraka (p123)
- ➔ Mandragóra (p116)
- ➔ Múzeum (p136)
- ➔ Klassz (p133)
- ➔ Rosenstein (p135)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Four Seasons Gresham Palace Hotel (p110)
- ➔ Pest-Buda Bistro & Hotel (p103)
- ➔ Gerlóczy (p108)
- ➔ Continental Hotel Budapest (p112)
- ➔ Brody House (p114)
- ➔ Bohem Art Hotel (p108)

Why Go?

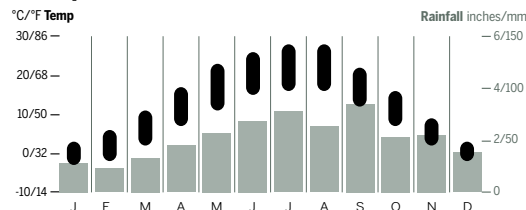
There's no other city in Hungary like Budapest; everything of importance either starts or ends here. But it is the beauty of Budapest that makes it stand apart. Straddling a gentle curve in the Danube, it is flanked by the Buda Hills to the west and what is the start of the Great Plain to the east. Architecturally, it is a gem, with enough baroque, neoclassical, Eclectic (a style popular in Hungary in the Romantic period, drawing from sources both indigenous and foreign) and art nouveau (Secessionist) to satisfy anyone.

Besides the heady mix of museums and shopping streets to keep you busy, in the warmer months outdoor clubs called *kertek* (literally 'gardens') and 'ruin pubs' heave with party-makers and there are numerous thermal baths in which to pamper yourself.

Like any capital city, Budapest does have a gritty side. But come spring (or summer, or a brisk autumn day, or dusk), cross the Danube on foot and see why unique, passionate, vibrant Budapest remains so unmissable.

When to Go

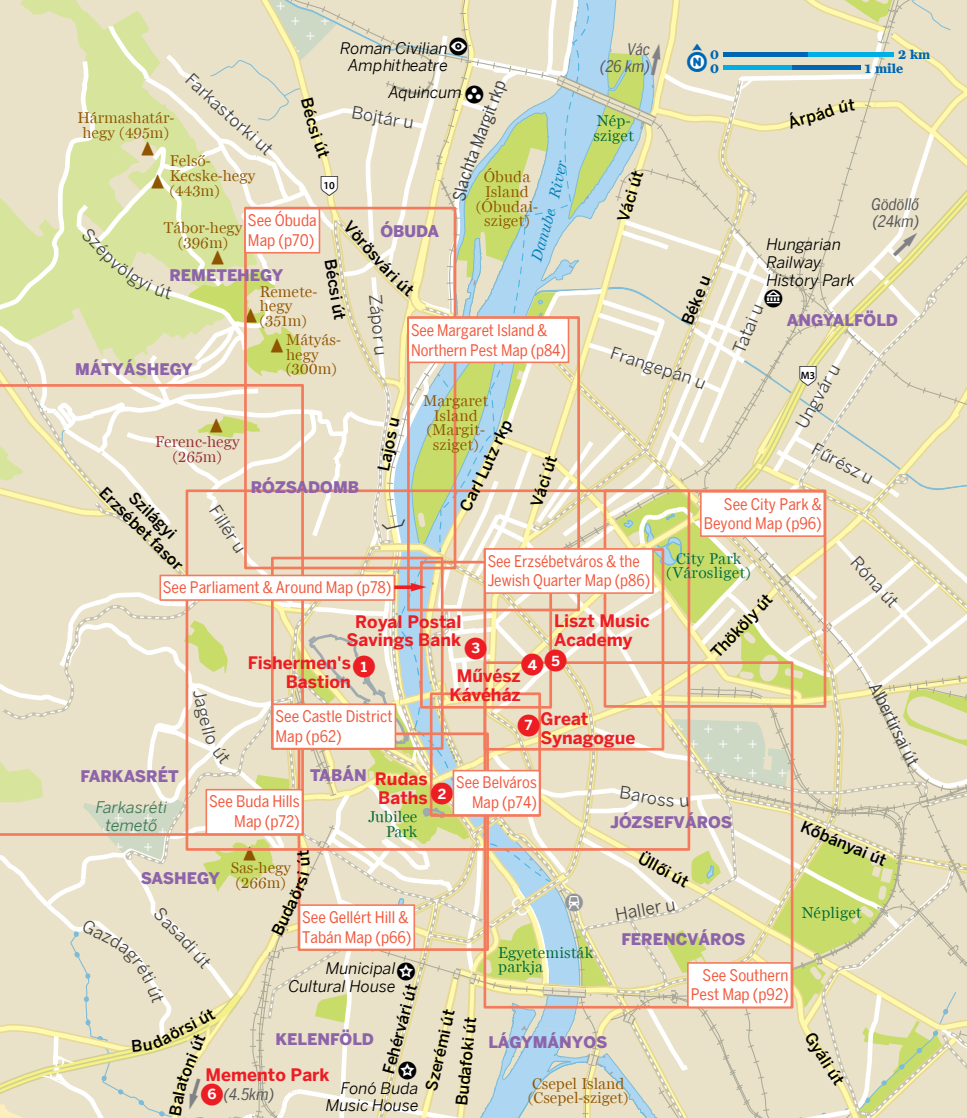
Budapest



Apr–Jun Though it can be pretty wet in May and early June, spring is just glorious in Budapest.

Jul–Aug Summer is warm, sunny and very festive, but the capital can get crowded and more expensive.

Sep–Oct Autumn is beautiful, particularly in the Buda Hills; it's cheaper; smaller crowds.



Budapest Highlights

- 1 Fishermen's Bastion** (p60) Taking in the views of the Danube and the rest of the city from atop Castle Hill.
- 2 Rudas Baths** (p99) Soaking the afternoon away in a thermal bath dating from the days of the Turkish occupation.
- 3 Royal Postal Savings Bank** (p77) Ogling the sinuous curves and asymmetrical

forms of the city's incomparable art nouveau architecture.

- 4 Művész Kávéház** (p146) Enjoying a slice of something sweet at a traditional cafe like this one in Pest.
- 5 Liszt Music Academy** (p85) Taking in an evening of music at this august concert hall.

- 6 Memento Park** (p52) Sizing up the monumental socialist mistakes on display at this well-manicured rubbish heap of history.
- 7 Great Synagogue** (p57) Exploring Budapest's Jewish culture with a visit to one of Judaism's most important houses of worship.