



Budapest & Hungary



Steve Fallon, Anna Kaminski

PLAN YOUR TRIP

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Welcome to Budapest & Hungary | 4 |
| Hungary Map..... | 6 |
| Budapest & Hungary's Top 15 | 8 |
| Need to Know | 16 |
| First Time Budapest & Hungary | 18 |
| If You Like..... | 20 |
| Month by Month..... | 23 |
| Itineraries | 26 |
| Travel with Children.... | 29 |
| Eat & Drink Like a Local..... | 31 |
| Thermal Baths & Spas.. | 35 |
| Regions at a Glance.... | 39 |

ON THE ROAD

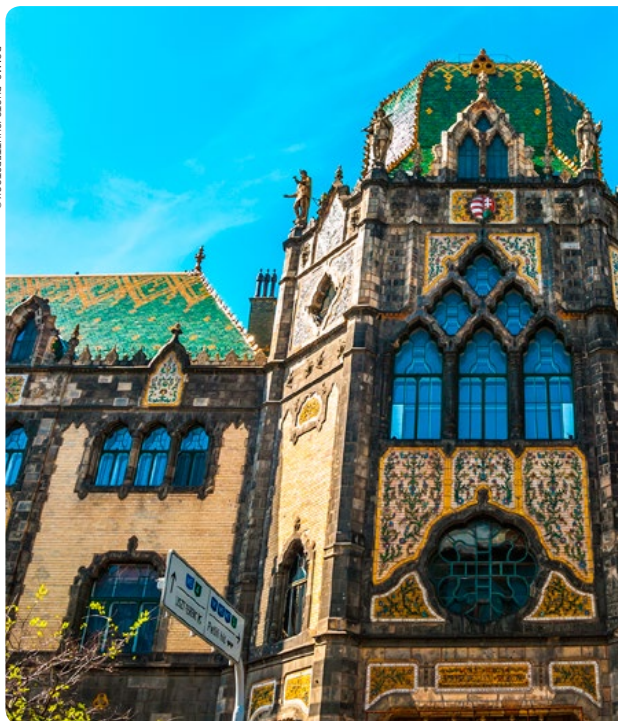
BUDAPEST..... 42

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Neighbourhoods at a Glance | 44 |
| Top Sights | 46 |
| Sights..... | 60 |
| Activities | 95 |
| Courses | 100 |
| Tours..... | 100 |
| Festivals & Events | 101 |
| Sleeping..... | 103 |
| Eating..... | 115 |
| Drinking & Nightlife..... | 137 |
| Entertainment..... | 148 |
| Shopping | 152 |
| Around Budapest | 162 |
| Gödöllő..... | 162 |

THE DANUBE BEND & WESTERN TRANSDANUBIA.. 163

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| The Danube Bend | 166 |
| Szentendre | 166 |
| Visegrád..... | 171 |
| Esztergom | 173 |
| Western Transdanubia.. | 178 |
| Sopron | 178 |
| Órség National Park | 186 |

ROMAS, PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



BIRDWATCHING P285

Contents

UNDERSTAND

LAKE BALATON & SOUTHERN TRANSDANUBIA...187

| | |
|--|------------|
| Lake Balaton Region .. | 190 |
| Balatonfüred | 190 |
| Tihany | 194 |
| Keszthely | 198 |
| Southern Transdanubia | 205 |
| Pécs | 205 |
| Mohács | 214 |

THE GREAT PLAIN.. 215

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Debrecen | 217 |
| Hortobágy National Park | 223 |
| Kecskemét | 225 |
| Kiskunság National Park | 231 |
| Szeged | 232 |

NORTHERN HUNGARY 240

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Hollókő | 242 |
| Eger | 244 |
| Tokaj | 252 |
| Bereg Region | 256 |
| Vásárosnamény | 256 |
| Tákos | 257 |
| Csroda | 258 |
| Tarpa | 258 |
| Szatmárcseke | 258 |

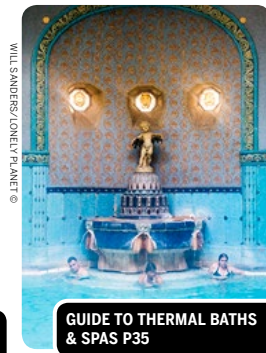
| | |
|---|------------|
| Budapest & Hungary Today | 260 |
| History | 262 |
| The Arts | 272 |
| Art Nouveau Architecture | 276 |
| The Wines of Hungary .. | 279 |
| The Hungarian People .. | 284 |
| Outdoor Activities | 287 |

SURVIVAL GUIDE

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Directory A–Z | 290 |
| Transport | 298 |
| Language | 305 |
| Index | 313 |
| Map Legend | 319 |



MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS
P89, BUDAPEST



GUIDE TO THERMAL BATHS
& SPAS P35

SPECIAL FEATURES

| | |
|--|------------|
| Eat & Drink Like a Local ... | 31 |
| Guide to Thermal Baths & Spas | 35 |
| Budapest's Markets .. | 106 |
| Budapest's Coffee Houses | 126 |

Itineraries



Budapest in Four Days

Spend most of the first day on **Castle Hill**, taking in the views, visiting a museum or two and perhaps having lunch at **Café Miró**. In the afternoon, ride the **Sikló** down to **Clark Ádám tér** and make your way to the **Gellért Baths**. In the evening, head to Liszt Ferenc tér for drinks and then to **Klassz** for dinner.

On the second day take a morning walking up **Andrassy út**, stopping off at the **House of Terror** and **Művész Kávéház**. Take the waters at the **Széchenyi Baths**, then have dinner at **Bagolyvár**.

On the third day, concentrate on the two icons of Hungarian nationhood and the places that house them: the Crown of St Stephen in **Parliament** and the saint-king's mortal remains in the **Basilica of St Stephen**. Have a cake break at **Gerbeaud** and catch a performance at the **Hungarian State Opera House**.

On day four visit the **Great Synagogue** and lunch at **Kádár**. In the afternoon, cross over to idyllic **Margaret Island**. On the other side of Margaret Bridge and up the hill is **Gül Baba's Tomb**, still a Muslim place of pilgrimage. Spend the rest of the afternoon at **Veli Bej Bath**, and go for dinner at nearby **Fióka**.



Top: Castle Hill Sikló
(funicular), Budapest
(p60)

Bottom: Hévíz Thermal
Lake (p203)



BOTTOM: HORNATH/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



Essential Hungary

This itinerary offers you the best of Hungary and will give you a taste of the country's historical wealth and natural beauty. It takes in all four corners of the land, from the Danube Bend and Sopron to Pécs, Szeged and Eger, plus the Bereg region, Hungary's last bastion of folk culture.

From **Budapest**, make your way north to the towns of the Danube Bend: picture-postcard **Szentendre**, royal **Visegrád** and holy **Esztergom**. The road continues west along the Danube past some stunning scenery to **Sopron**, Hungary's finest medieval city, replete with worthwhile museums and churches. Travel south to Lake Balaton and recharge your batteries at lovely **Keszthely** and nearby **Hévíz**, which boasts its own thermal lake where you can bathe year-round. **Pécs**, Hungary's 'Mediterranean' town, is south; it's a treasure trove of early Christian and Turkish sites.

From there carry on east to **Mohács**, the site of Hungary's famous defeat at the hands of the Ottomans in 1526. A car ferry will take you to the right bank of the Danube and the road eastward to **Szeged**, the university town that is forever young. Should you pass though in July or August, catch a performance at the Szeged Open-Air Festival. **Kecskemét**, city of apricots and art nouveau architecture, is to the north.

Had enough of the flatlands of the Great Plain? Head for the northeast and the **Bereg region**. This is the richest area for folk traditions left in Hungary and is well worth a detour off the beaten track. From there head southwest to delightful **Eger**, a much-loved city, celebrated for its Bull's Blood (the region's ruby-red wine), baroque architecture and dramatic hilltop castle (from where the good folk of Eger were able to repel the Turks, at least for a while).

Head west back to Budapest, stopping at **Gödöllő**, the summer retreat of Emperor Franz Joseph and his beloved consort Elizabeth, whose renovated private apartments are now open to the public.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Steve Fallon

Budapest neighbourhoods: Gellért Hill & Tabán, Parliament & Around, Erzsébetváros & the Jewish Quarter, Southern Pest; **Around Budapest:** The Great Plain; **Northern Hungary:** Plan and Understand chapters

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Steve graduated from Georgetown University with a BS in modern languages. After working for an American daily newspaper and earning an MA in journalism, his fascination with the 'new' Asia led him to

Hong Kong, for over a dozen years, working for a variety of media and running his own travel bookshop. Steve lived in Budapest for three years before moving to London in 1994. He has written or contributed to more than 100 Lonely Planet titles.



Anna Kaminski

Budapest neighbourhoods: Castle District, Margaret Island & Northern Pest, Óbuda & Buda Hills, Belváros, City Park & Beyond; **The Danube Bend & Western Transdanubia:** Lake Balaton & Southern Transdanubia; **Survival Guide chapters**

Soviet-born, Anna finds a lot to appreciate about Hungary, a country she first visited as a dental tourist in the early 2000s and has been drawn back to since – from the familiar relics of Communism to the world's best poppyseed strudel.

The latest research stint took her from the art galleries and palaces along the Danube and Lake Balaton's shores to Budapest's graveyards; she trawled the latter for her great-uncle who died during the Siege of Budapest.

Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CRN 554153

8th edition – Jul 2017

ISBN 978 1 78657 542 5

© Lonely Planet 2017 Photographs © as indicated 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com/ip.

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'