



Budapest

AREA CODE 361 / POP 1.74 MILLION

Includes »

Sights	34
Activities	54
Tours	56
Festivals & Events	57
Walking Tour	58
Sleeping	63
Eating	70
Drinking	77
Entertainment	79
Shopping	84
Around Budapest	91

Best Places to Eat

- » Onyx (p73)
- » Klassz (p74)
- » Mák Bistro (p74)
- » Gepárd És Úrhajó (p73)
- » Bistro 181 (p73)

Best Places to Stay

- » Four Seasons Gresham Palace Budapest (p66)
- » Brody House (p65)
- » Lánchíd 19 (p65)
- » Zara Boutique Hotel Budapest (p65)
- » Blue Danube Hostel (p65)

Why Go?

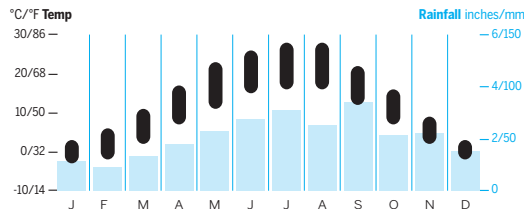
There's no other city in Hungary like Budapest – everything of importance starts or ends here. It is the beauty of Budapest that sets it apart. Straddling a gentle curve in the Danube, it is flanked by the Buda Hills on the west bank and the start of the Great Plain to the east. Architecturally it is a gem, with enough examples of baroque, neoclassical, Eclectic and Art Nouveau (Secessionist) to satisfy anyone.

Besides the heady mix of museums and shopping streets, outdoor entertainment areas called *kertek* (literally 'gardens') and 'ruin pubs' heave with party-makers in the warmer months, 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), when the city is at its loveliest, cross the Danube on foot and you will see why this passionate and vibrant city remains unmissable.

When To Go

Budapest



March Catch the Budapest Spring Festival (p57), the city's most important cultural fest

August Budapest welcomes racing fans at the Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix (p57)

December Wrap up the year in style at the New Year's Gala & Ball (p61)

7 Exploring Budapest's Jewish culture, from a visit to the **Great Synagogue** (p49) to the sombre **Holocaust Memorial** (p49)