



Budapest

AREA CODE ☎1 / POP 1.74 MILLION

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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?

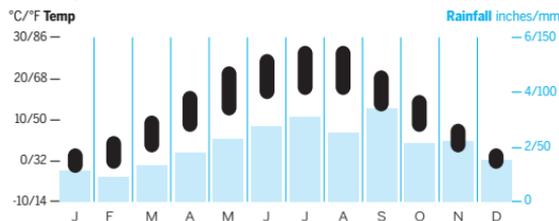
There's no other city in Hungary like Budapest – everything of importance starts or ends here. It is the beauty of Budapest that sets it apart. Straddling a gentle curve in the Danube, it is flanked by the Buda Hills on the west bank and the start of the Great Plain to the east. Architecturally it is 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

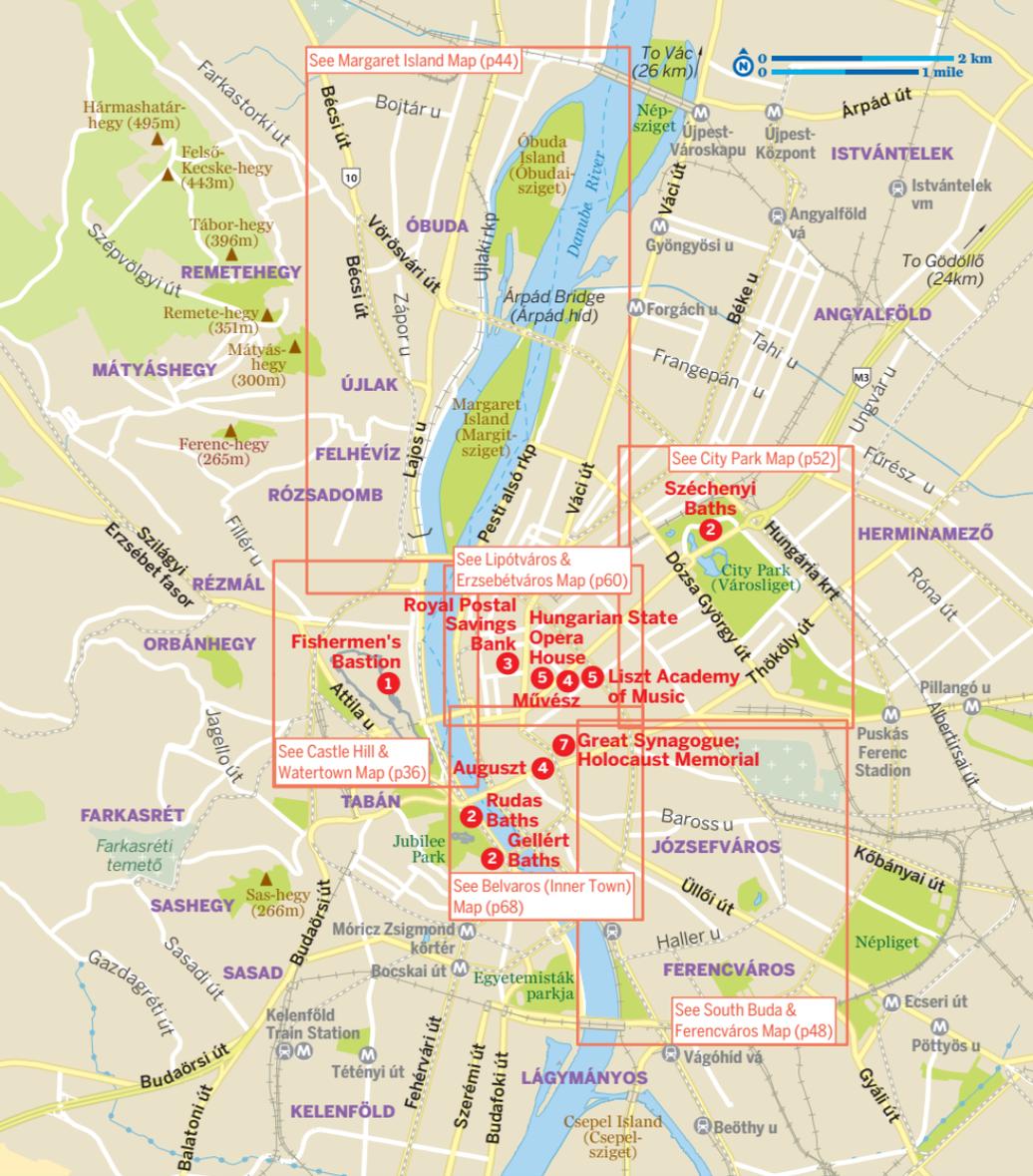
Budapest



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)



Budapest Highlights

- 1 Taking in the views of the Danube and the rest of the city from **Fishermen's Bastion** (p35) on Castle Hill
- 2 Soaking the afternoon away Turkish-style in a thermal **bath** (p55), either in **Gellért Baths'** (p55) Art Nouveau 'cathedral' or in the **park** (p54)
- 3 Oglng the sinuous curves and asymmetrical forms of

the city's incomparable Art Nouveau architecture, such as that of the **Royal Postal Savings Bank** (p52)

- 4 Enjoying a slice of something sweet at a traditional cafe like **Művész** (p78) or **Auguszt** (p78) in Pest
- 5 Taking in an evening of music at the **Hungarian State Opera House** (p82) or

the **Liszt Academy of Music** (p54)

- 6 Sizing up the monumental socialist mistakes on display at **Memento Park** (p92), a well-manufactured trash heap of history
- 7 Exploring Budapest's Jewish culture, from a visit to the **Great Synagogue** (p49) to the sombre **Holocaust Memorial** (p49)