

SIGHTSEEINGS IN BUDAPEST



Welcome to Budapest!

In this short paper we are trying to make a collection of the most beautiful sightseeings in Budapest and we hope that it will help you to discover the city.

Have a nice time in Budapest!

The organizers of the event

1. Chain Bridge



The 375 metres long bridge is the oldest one in the capital – older than Budapest itself as it was established only in 1872 with the union of Buda, Pest and Óbuda. Between the two towns – Buda and Pest – there used to be an interim turning-bridge, than a pontoon-bridge but these became unable to fulfill the needs of the capital. The construction of the Chain Bridge is bound to the name of István Széchenyi, who was a rich aristocrat of the period. The bridge was built between 1839 and 1849, its entrances are guarded by two lions made of stone. Later in World War II the Germans exploded it while assaulting Budapest, the traffic restarted only in November 1949. The Chain Bridge is the most beautiful bridge in Budapest; it creates a connection between the former city central around the castle and Pest. On the occasion of festivals the bridge is floodlighted, this time the stone pillars illuminate

like torches in the Budapest night.

2. Parliament



The baroque-plan, neo-gothic Parliament was built from 1885 to 1904, based on the planning of Imre Steindl. The enormous building is 268 metres long and 118 metres wide. It is divided for ten courts, it has 29 staircases and 27 entrances. At the outside the building is decorated by 88 statues; at the Danube side they represent Hungarian monarchs from the seven leaders to King V. Ferdinand, while at the square side princes of Transylvania, famous warlords and heroes can be seen. The main staircase is decorated by frescos from Károly Lotz. At the same place the bust of Imre Steindl is placed in a marble cassette. The main stairway drives to the cupola room on the second floor where the statues of great figures from the Hungarian history can be seen. This is the most ceremonious room of the country where high rank state

honors are distributed. Similarly fascinating room is the chamber, where the highest constitutional body assembles. Above the presidential platform the Arms of the Hungarian Republic can be seen surrounded by Zsigmond Vajda's frescos, which capture two famous moments of the Hungarian history. The congress hall, the presidential council's presence chamber, the delegation's room and the Parliament's library are also worth visiting, so as the treasures in each room. Europe's fifth biggest parliament's library is open for the public;

anybody can brows among the books to his liking. As the Hungarian parliament has only one chamber, only one of the assembly rooms is used. (Groups can visit it every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10, 11, 14 and 15 o'clock, and every month on the second and third Sunday at 11, 12 and 13 o'clock. Groups should be register at the guide by the Parliament. The entrance is free for EU members.

Transportation: Tram No. 2, 2A

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 08:00 – 18:00; Saturday: 08:00 – 16:00;

Sunday: 08:00 – 14:00

Entrance fee: for EU citizens the entrance is free

3. Fisherman's Bastion



The Fisherman's Bastion is one of the most famous points of the Buda Castle, which was set up by Frigyes Schulek in 1901-1902. Here used to stand the bastions of a former fishermen's guild in the Middle Ages. The Neoromanesque style bastion-line never had defending functions; it is more likely to be a piece of decoration which gives a nice frame for the Castle's building and serves as a staircase up to the Castle Area. On the occasion of festivals the white bastion is sparkling in the floodlight; its domed, lacy corridors make it look like a fairy-tale castle, which can be seen from the whole eastern side of the Danube. Both the Fisherman's Bastions itself and the superb panorama opening from here attract amateur photographers. In the evening when tourist groups have already moved to the pleasant restaurants teen-aged couples visit the Fisherman's Bastion to have their

first kisses in this magnificent place.

Transportation: Buda side, Castle bus, Bus No. 16 - Trinity Square (Szentháromság tér)

4. Citadella



The Citadella, the fortress on the top of the Gellért Hill, which was set up after the repressing of the war of independence of 1848-49, in 1854 by the Habsburgs. The Gellért Hill with the Castle Hill, the panorama of the two sides of the river Danube were pronounced to be part of the world heritage in 1987 by the UNESCO. The 220 meters long, with 12-16 meters high walls was built by Julius Jakob Haynau. Its speciality is that out of an ordinary fortress, it wasn't constructed to protect the town below, but on the contrary: the rule of the Citadella (the citadella is an Italian word, it means fortification, which is similar to a castle, built on high ground or defensible parts compassed around with walls on the highest point of the city) was to intimidate the people of Pest. The emplacements,

which turn towards the town, also certify these facts, but fortunately the guns were used only for firing salutes.

After the experiences of the siege of Buda castle in 1849, the court-martial of Vienna came to a decision that instead of the Buda castle which was behind the times, a well-defensible

system of fortress had to be built around Budapest - its aim was to put a check on the Hungarian people being disposed to revolutions. Its first fortification was established on the Gellért-Hill in 1850 (Ferenc József emperor authorised 200000 Forint to cover the costs). According to the plans, behind the battlements of the 220 meters long, 60 meters wide, 4 meters thick walls to defend the fortress, 60 modern guns could be located. Four years later, the Austrian army could march in the casemates whose guns looked darkly towards the Pest side of the Danube. The other parts of the fortress have never been built. With the accord of 1867, the military aim of the Citadella was lost, but the army left the fortress only in 1899. Its last use for military actions was to protect Budapest in 1944-45 during the Second World War against the Red Army, when the fortress served as anti-aircraft base for the Germans and Hungarians, in its casemates storages and injured-centre were created. During the battles, the defensive parts were damaged and those signs can be seen even today. From the 60s, the fortress has been given a tourism role that's why it was transformed: a hotel and a restaurant were opened there. Its main charm in great part due to the wonderful sight from its walls: the view of the extending city under the mountain is really impaired. The Liberty Statue is situated on the Eastern part of the Citadella. Now a restaurant and a hotel are running on the territory of the citadella, and a waxworks about the siege of 1944 can be seen in the casemates. The "Budapest anno" (means Budapest long ago) photo exhibition shows the pictures of Budapest in the 19th century (between 1850 and 1945), it can be visited without entrance fees.

5. Gellért Hill



Only few capitals in the world can pride itself on such a fantastic geological situation as Budapest. From the top of the hill situated in the centre the whole city can be observed. A broad staircase, which was partly damaged in World War II, drives up to the peak of the 250 metres tall hill from the river Danube. The reconstruction of the steps is planned to be performed together with the renovation of Elisabeth Bridge (Erzsébet-híd), anyway, it offers a pleasant trip for visitors up to the top. Right after the start tourists can find the statue of Bishop Gellért who – according to the legend – was thrown to the Danube by the pagans. At the top of the hill you can find the former fortress of Buda, the famous Citadel. It was set up by the government of Vienna in 1851 which wanted to take control over Hungarian rebels. Here used to stand the observatory of the University of Budapest between 1814 and

1849.

The 35 metres tall Freedom's Statue was erected in the southeastern corner of the Citadel in 1946-47. It is a perfect place for the memorial as it can be seen from almost every part of the city. At the top of the memorial the allegoric figure of freedom, a woman raises the palm branch of victory. Under the memorial a passage goes round, from where Budapest looks like a vital, ever-moving, buzzing map, like two sites of an enormous illustrated book.

Transportation: Bus No. 16, 86, 106 – Clark Ádám Square; Tram No. 17, 41 – Chain Bridge (Lánchíd); Bus No. 16, 105, Tram No. 2 – Roosevelt Square

6. The Buda Castle



The foundations of the old castle were laid by IV. Béla in 1255. The old fortress was replaced by a palace during the reign of King and Emperor Zsigmond (1387-1437) which was broadened by King Mátyás (1458-1490). During the 150-year Turkish occupation the palace fell into ruin then Hillebrandt reconstructed it in Baroque style during the reign of Mária Terézia (1740-1780). The new building could also not avoid its destiny; it was destroyed in the conflagration after the assault of 1849. The reconstruction made at the turn of the century hid totally the old walls which turned up again only later. The construction was finished in 1904 according to the plans of Miklós Ybl and Alajos Hauszmann. At the end of World War II German troops were pushed here and after the assault of Budapest the palace burnt totally down. At the present time three major museums and the Széchenyi István Library operates in it. Among the curiosities of the library the 32 pieces of Corvina, the Pray-codex, the Gestas of Anonymus and the

Szenci-Codex can be found here as well. The book stock of Kossuth, Deák and other leading figures of the Hungarian history are held in a separate collection.

Transportation: Buda side, from Moszkva Square Bus No. 15, Castle bus, Funicular lift, Bus No. 16, 105 from Deák Square to Clark Ádám Square then walking to the castle

7. The funicular lift



This 100 metres long lane opened in 1870. The concept behind its construction was to provide cheap transportation for state officials working in the Castle Area. At the beginning it worked by steam engine, but today's carts are driven by electricity. The two carts are connected by a strong steel cable which makes them moving in a way like a pendulum; every time one goes upwards the other goes down simultaneously.

Transportation: Bus No. 16, 86, 105 – Clark Ádám Square
Opening hours: 07:30 - 22:00

8. Matthias church



Matthias-Church is one of the most famous landmarks in Hungary. The construction of the Romanesque style church happened between 1255 and 1269, during the reign of IV. Béla. This was the place where the papal bull ordering the midday bell toll in memoriam of the victory on the Turkish army at Nándorfehérvár was announced. King Matthias (Mátyás) held his wedding ceremony here with his first and second wives, Katalin Podjebrad and Betrix. (The church was named after the king's wedding). The Turkish conquerors also held the building in great respect; Sultan Suleiman gave the thanksgiving ceremony here in 1541 after the occupation of Buda Castle. In the 15th century the church was reconstructed and since then several changes have been done as well. The inside of the church is decorated by frescos from Károly Lotz and Bertalan Székely. The church serves as a concert-hall in summer.

Transportation: Buda side, Castle bus, Bus No. 16 – Trinity Square (Szentháromság tér)

Opening hours: Monday - Friday:9:00 -17:00; Saturday: 9:00 - 12:00; Sunday: 13:00 - 17:00

Entrance fee: 450 -1100 HUF

9. The Great Synagogue in Dohány Street



The Moorish style temple of the Israelite community was built based on the planning of an Austrian architect, Lajos Förster in 1853. Next to the building the Israelite Museum and Library can be found, which were built in 1930-31. After the liberation the Temple of Heroes and the graveyard of the fascism's victims were placed here as well.

Transportation: Metro No. 2, Tram No. 47, 49 – Astoria;
Trolleybus – Károly körút

10. Váci street



It starts at Vörösmarty Square and after passing the Elisabeth Bridge (Erzsébet tér) it ends at Vámház Boulevard and the Freedom Bridge. That was the exact size of whole Pest in the Middle Ages. The inhabitants use the name Váci Street only for the attractive northern part which is always crammed with tourists. The most fashionable shopping street arose here at the end of the 18th century, and it evolved continuously till World War I. Shops often changed hands as the owners put up the rents constantly. In the 1970s the street suffered an unflattering modernization; each shop was equipped with uniform glass portal without considering its original style. However, the commercial upturn of the last decade created a “second Váci Street” mainly to entice tourist groups. Gateways, courts, staircases and crossroads are full with crammed vendors, who offer Hungarian specialties – so called Hungaricums – for pedestrians.

Secondly we would like to introduce you those sightseeings which are not that close to Budapest University of Technology and Economics but it worth to see them.

11. Heroes’ Square



The historical monument was erected for the 1000th anniversary of the state foundation. Here used to be the main entrance of the Millennium’s World Fair. The constructions of the impressive memorial lasted for several decades, between 1894 and 1929. The first figure to erect was the statue of Genius standing at the top of the huge column in 1901, surrounded by the equestrian statues of Árpád and the Seven Leaders on the plinth. Statues of Hungarian rulers and great persons decorate the semicircular monument while under these various events of their lives can be seen on relieves. In front of the main column the memorial of heroes and martyrs of the revolution was placed. The square is bordered by the Museum of Fine Arts and the Hall of Arts.

Transportation: M1 to Heroes’ Square (Hősök tere), Bus No.4

12. Margaret Island



Only few capitals in the world can pride itself on such a huge uninhabited island just in the middle of the crowded city as it is in Budapest. The two and a half kilometers long Margaret Island is one of the major cultural and sports centres of Budapest. Its history goes back to the Ancient Times. It is well known from manuscripts that one of the commanders of Aquincum also constructed his summer palace in the magnificent island. Later – about 800 years ago – the archbishop of Esztergom replaced his palace to the same area as well. For hundreds of years the island was inhabited by priests and nuns. The name of the island was constantly changing. First it was called the Island of Lords, then it changed for Island of Hares, later again it got the name of Island of the Girl. Its present name was given from the daughter of King IV. Béla, Margaret, who died in the convent of the island. The Turks used the ecclesiastical

buildings of the island for military purposes. In 1796 the island became the propriety of Palatine József, who raised a villa here and contributed to the development of the island. At this era the island was also called Palatinus Island. The most famous visitor of the island was János Arany, who frequently spent his holiday here with his family, and wrote the finest poems of his old-age period under the oaks of the island. Anyway, the island is not only an ideal field for walking and thinking of arts and history, but it offers various opportunities for sports.

Walking along we find the Palatinus beach, which was constructed in 1921. Its huge pool, the several smaller thermal pools and the wave-pool make it one of Budapest's largest beaches. In the fascinating ambience of the island more open-air theatres can be found, most significant of them is the one located next to the water tower. More major operas and dramas appear on its stage at summer time.

Transportation: Tram No. 4 & 6

13. City Park



Budapest's City Park is reputed to have been the world's first public park open to all. In 1808 the Emperor ordered a Hungarian "National Garden" to be laid out, including the planting of seven thousand trees.

Today's City Park contains amusement areas, sports grounds, foot and cycle paths, as well as the hundred-year old Széchenyi Thermal Baths (Pest's first), popular for swimming, relaxation and treatments.

There is also the Transport Museum, containing rare model locomotives, the

Petöfi Hall, home to rock concerts, and at weekends one of the city's most interesting flea markets, where goods on sale range from interesting old books and antique painted plates to valuable old toys. In summer there is boating on City Park Lake. In winter, it is transformed into Central Europe's largest artificial skating rink.

On the shore of City Park Lake stands Vajdahunyad Castle. The first version of this was a wooden edifice constructed for the 1896 Millennium celebrations to a mix of designs in order to show characteristic elements of architectural styles from different parts of Hungary. This giant "model" was so successful that after it was taken down it was rebuilt out of stone. It later became home to the Agricultural Museum, which also contains one of the world's largest trophy collections.

Budapest Zoo is a pleasant day out for all the family. It first opened in 1866 and has in the last decade undergone significant modernisation. Some of its buildings are particularly fine examples of Hungarian art nouveau. Five hundred types of animal and 4,000 different plants live within its 250 acres.

Spectacles and curios were already begin paraded in the City Park in the middle of the nineteenth century, and travelling circuses regularly set up their big top here. Budapest's own permanent circus settled here in 1891.

The adjacent Fun Fair is a real meeting of antique and state of the art technology. There are gentle rides on the Ferris wheels and, for the brave, there are fast, spinning, hair-raising rides on the roller-coasters. The hundred year-old merry go round, recently awarded the European Nostra Prize, and the two-thirds of a mile-long wooden framed switchback with nine peaks (now a listed monument) have a charming old-world atmosphere to them. There is an exhibition about the history of the Fun Fair in the departure building.

Source:

<http://www.budguide.eu/list-sight-budapest-hu>

http://www.utazzitthon.hu/budapest_varosliget.html