

HUNGARY

for you

Bucket list

Budapest and Greater Budapest





INTRODUCTION

Hungary is an infinite source of miracles all year around, so no matter when you set out on a trip to discover the country, you will never tire of its ever-changing colours. So, if you feel like taking a closer look at our country's myriad natural and cultural gems, combined with the promise of a great experience, just follow the road – any road – to yet another beautiful place. Take a look around you, whether you're on a boat bobbing on the waves of Lake Balaton, standing on the breathtaking peaks of the Mecsek Mountains or in the middle of the vast expanse of the Great Plain of Hungary. Discover the intriguing tales behind every sight and landmark, the centuries-old cities and buildings, stories and places – we promise it will be the experience of a lifetime.

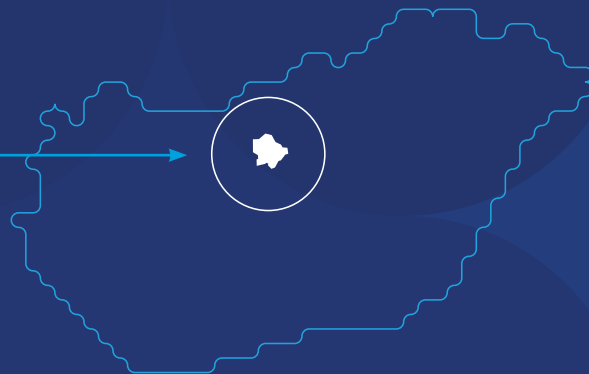


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BUDAPEST AND GREATER BUDAPEST

According to a popular song, Pest is worth a night. If that's true, the whole of the city and the surrounding towns are worth a whole week. Beyond the classic sights, many small marvels await you in Budapest and the Danube Bend. The church towers in Szentendre, the islands of the River Danube, the hiking trails around Visegrád and the legendary gardens of Pest and the Etyek wine region can only give you a glimpse of many wonders, but we will try to give you a taste of their hidden treasures. No matter in which season you visit the capital of Hungary and the surrounding area, you will always find something new to discover.





BUDAPEST AND GREATER BUDAPEST

Budapest is a wonderful city where tradition meets innovation, and history is combined with youthful and vibrant life to provide visitors with an experience they never forget. It is hard to find another city where you can bump into so many World Heritage Sites as you walk around it, and there aren't many places where you find unique thermal water spas still in operation within ancient walls built in medieval times.

Budapest is a colourful metropolis where life sweeps you off your feet and never lets you get bored. The scenic surroundings of the city, its natural and built heritage, spectacular buildings and world-renowned spas, its multi-faceted gastronomy, the flourishing culture of fashion and design, and the extremely rich cultural life all put their stamp on the unique and exciting character of Budapest. The lively atmosphere of the city stimulates all the senses, while its dynamism and diverse culture enchant visitors. The scenic view from the Danube Bend or the numerous hiking and cycling trails in the Pilis mountains, along with the rich historic and cultural life of the nearby towns, offer visitors an experience to savour and so many things to discover.



View at night, Chain Bridge, Budapest





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HŐSÖK TERE
(HEROES' SQUARE)

CITY PARK

FISHERMAN'S BASTION

MATTHIAS CHURCH



BUCKET LIST

IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE DAY IN BUDAPEST

VISIT THE WONDERS OF BUDAPEST.

WANT TO SEE AS MUCH OF BUDAPEST AS POSSIBLE, BUT DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME? WE'RE HERE TO HELP. ALTHOUGH A SINGLE DAY ONLY GIVES YOU A TASTE OF THE WONDERS OF BUDAPEST, EVEN THIS SHORT TIME IS ENOUGH TO ACQUIRE PLENTY OF EXPERIENCES AT ANY TIME OF YEAR.

Budapest shows its majestic side in the expansive squares where the country's long and varied history is recorded. Start your tour at the Parliament and Kossuth tér. The building is impressive in itself, inside and out, while it also serves as the venue for much-beloved traditional ceremonies, like the changing of the guard or performances by the military orchestra.

The next must-see spot is the expanse that is **Hősök tere (Heroes' Square)**, a tribute to the chieftains who settled the region that would later become Hungary. There are several museums in the immediate vicinity of the square, while the **City Park** is just a stone's throw away. When the weather is fine, City Park buzzes with life, with its lakes, benches and vast meadows making it an ideal place for outdoor games, walking dogs, family picnics or simply enjoying the sun.

Another box to tick if you only have time for a one-day tour is the **Castle District**, which is easily accessible by bus. The Castle is home to some of the most iconic locations in Budapest, such as the **Fisherman's Bastion** and **Matthias Church**, which both offer a magnificent view of the whole city.

Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest

If you still have a few hours left, head to the other side of the river to the city centre and visit the religious buildings that are an integral part of both the past and present of Budapest. The most important of these buildings are the monumental **Saint Stephen's Basilica**, with its tower that gives you a spectacular view of the whole town, and the **Dohány utca Synagogue**, which is the largest synagogue in Europe.



View from the panorama lookout point of Saint Stephen's Basilica

After a day spent absorbing everything Budapest has to offer, why not spend a quiet evening in one of the city's finest restaurants, where you can browse through the photos you've taken during the day over a delicious dinner. You will be surely planning your next visit and perhaps even a week-long stay in the city.



SAINT STEPHEN'S BASILICA

DOHÁNY UTCA SYNAGOGUE



Great Synagogue, Budapest



CHAIN BRIDGE

LIBERTY BRIDGE

TRAM LINE NO. 2



BUCKET LIST

IF YOU HAVE A WEEKEND IN BUDAPEST

PLENTY OF EXPERIENCES AWAIT YOU.

**DO YOU THINK ONE DAY IN BUDAPEST IS NOTHING LIKE
ENOUGH? WE AGREE, AND WE'LL SHOW YOU JUST
WHAT ELSE YOU CAN VISIT
AND EXPERIENCE IN A WEEKEND; THERE ARE SO MANY
FASCINATING SPOTS IN
THE CAPITAL OF HUNGARY.**

Budapest is well known for the fact that the two sides of the city are separated by the Danube, but not enough people get to marvel at the bridges that cross the river. Even those that have a functional rather than an aesthetic purpose still provide a beautiful view of the constantly shifting currents of the Danube. When it comes to talking about bridges in Budapest, the first one everyone thinks of is the **Chain Bridge** (Lánchíd), which had the most influential history (it was the first permanent crossing), while the **Liberty Bridge** (Szabadság híd) spans the river at a location that is among the spots most frequently visited by tourists. In the summer, it is sometimes even closed off to road traffic, so people can take over, have a picnic, drink beer or practice yoga here, or just generally enjoy hanging out in an out-of-the-ordinary place.

A great way to get to know the bridges is to take what may be Europe's most scenic tram route, **Tram Line No. 2**, which runs the length of the Danube and showcases the scenery of the city along the river. Alternatively, if you prefer a different perspective, you can also take a boat tour. There are sightseeing boats organised for tourists, but even the BKK, the public transport company of Budapest, operates a service with a standard schedule.

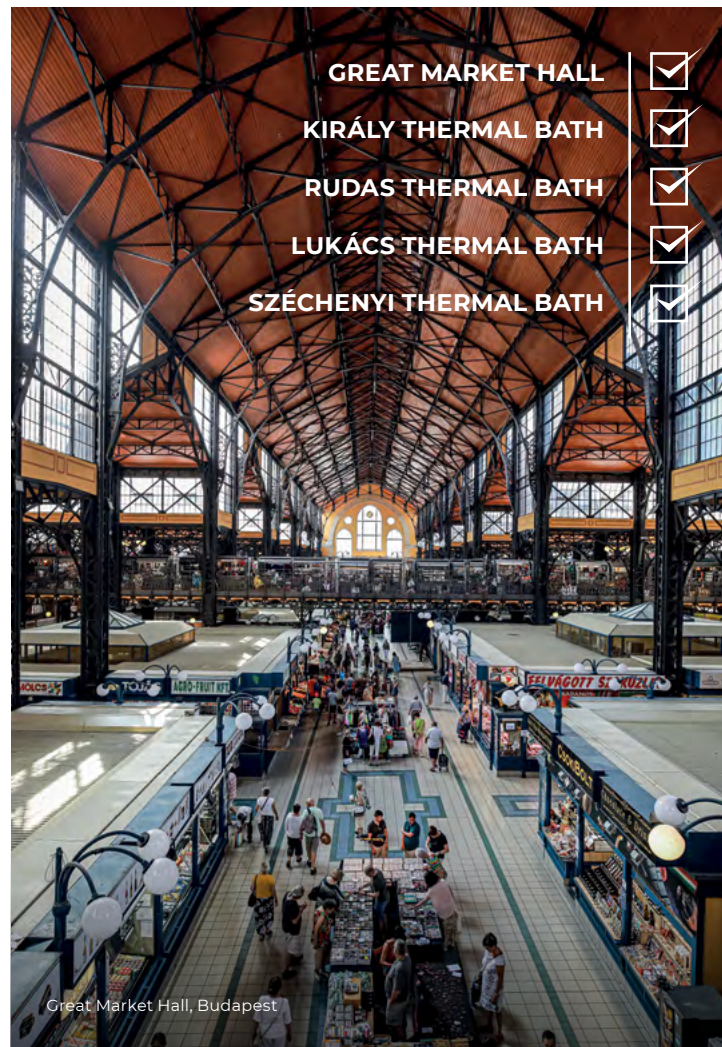
View of the Chain Bridge from the Buda Castle Tunnel, Budapest

If you're already at Liberty Bridge (Szabadság híd), you most definitely should visit Vásárcsarnok, Budapest's Great Market Hall, where Hungarian flavours meet the finest architectural solutions. Whether you are looking for vegetables or fruit, meat or perhaps handmade crafts and a souvenir, the **Great Market Hall** is the best place to go to. You can wander around for hours in the buzzing crowd, and then walk up the stairs in the hall and enjoy the view of the bustle below with a hot 'lángos', a deep-fried flat bread in your hand.

After a day full of excitement, all you need is a little peace and pampering, and there's no better place for that than one of Budapest's world-famous baths and spas. Hungary is the country of thermal waters, so Budapest must be the capital of spas.



Spas in Budapest range from the laid-back Turkish design of the **Király Thermal Bath**, through the eclectic beauty of the **Rudas Thermal Bath**, not to mention the **Lukács Thermal Bath**, which is renowned for its waters' miraculous healing powers, to the 'star' attraction, the **Széchenyi Thermal Bath**. All the baths are unique, and all of them offer a relaxing and pleasant outing for the whole family. Soak in hot or cold pools in a magnificent setting, enjoy the wellness services and have yourself pampered with a massage.



GREAT MARKET HALL
KIRÁLY THERMAL BATH
RUDAS THERMAL BATH
LUKÁCS THERMAL BATH
SZÉCHENYI THERMAL BATH





SZENTENDRE

ESZTERGOM

DANUBE BEND

THE ROYAL PALACE IN
VISEGRÁD

THE ROYAL PALACE IN
GÖDÖLLŐ



BUCKET LIST

IF YOU WANT TO DISCOVER PLACES AROUND BUDAPEST

DISCOVER THE TREASURES HIDDEN IN GREATER BUDAPEST.

More time gives you the opportunity to go farther, and even explore some of the other towns in the vicinity of the capital. **Szentendre** is just a short trip from the capital: just hop on the suburban train or a boat to get there. The narrow cobbled streets of the small town are teeming with mementos of Hungarian history, while the cafes and street musicians create a special atmosphere. This is also one of the best locations to go souvenir shopping. Don't forget to satisfy your sweet tooth with some locally made marzipan.

You can then continue your adventure and discover some other places close to Budapest, like **Esztergom**, the previous capital of the country, enjoy the beautiful views offered by the **Danube Bend** from the **Royal Palace in Visegrád**, or even visit the wildlife park in Budakeszi.

Gödöllő is a popular destination and no wonder: the town is filled with historical buildings that will easily fill a whole day of sightseeing. Of course, there is the fabulous Royal Palace built in a Baroque style, but you might also want to visit the local wildlife park.

The **Royal Palace in Gödöllő** is one the most beautiful palaces in Hungary, for its size alone, if nothing else. This is one of the biggest Baroque castles in the world. This was the **summer residence of Queen Elisabeth (Sissi)** during the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Sissi loved this place, and it is widely known that she was also beloved by Hungarians.

Saint John the Baptist's Catholic Parish Church, Szentendre



THE THOUSAND FACES OF BUDAPEST

Budapest is often called the Queen of the Danube and for good reason: there is no other place where you can see the beauty of the river in such splendour as here. It is clear that the River Danube is the most iconic element of the city, since it divides Buda and Pest, while the two towns are connected by emblematic bridges. Actually, the banks of the Danube are included on the UNESCO World Heritage list, and are described as "one of the world's outstanding urban landscapes".

The scenery from Gellért Hill, one of the highest points in the city, or from the fabled towers of the Fisherman's Bastion, often takes people's breath away with the stunning view of gold and marble, majolica-glazed earthenware and stained glass: there are luxurious buildings all over Budapest. Some of the best include the third largest Parliament building on Earth, grand palaces by the Danube and the Matthias Church, listed as a World Heritage Site. Visitors to Budapest are always swept away by the colourful mixture of Roman remains, Gothic buildings, eclecticism and modernism.

The rich and diverse cultural life of Budapest is also something worth mentioning: no matter where you look in the capital city of Hungary you see reminders of 1,000 years of Hungarian culture.

Even the underground has some treasures to offer: there are unique caves close to the centre of Budapest that possess special natural values. Szemlő-hegyi Cave is famous for its crystal formations and Pál-völgyi Cave for its beautiful stalactites, while there is also an underground world beneath the picturesque cobbled streets of Buda Castle; here lies the largest interconnected cellar system in Hungary, covering some ten kilometres (six miles).



The Chain Bridge and the Parliament Building, Budapest





FUN FOR THE KIDS

Budapest has a diverse range of fun programmes and activities on offer for adults, but even if you're travelling with children, there are plenty of entertainment options and programmes you can choose from, with adventures to be had and lifelong memories to be made, even for the youngest. Are you looking for fun or an entertaining learning experience? The city has it all.

The **Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden** located in City Park has a collection of animals on display to rival Noah's ark. This is the best place to see a giraffe, a lion, or even a wolverine up close.

A walk on **János Hill** is a great outdoor activity. Enjoy the beauty of nature in the summer, while in the winter this area is awesome for sledding and building a snowman. Take the Children's Railway to János Hill and see how school children can man and manage the trains. As an alternative, you can sit on the Chairlift, which will take you up to the top of the hill, and on your way up you can admire the spectacular view of the whole capital city.

The **Budapest Eye** at the centre of the city is an enormous Ferris wheel on Erzsébet tér that gives you a chance to study the details of the Budapest skyline. The three-revolutions-in-one ride will give you the chance to soak up all the sites.

The **Csopa Science Center** (sometimes referred to as the Palace of Wonders) is an enormous playhouse: more than 100 games and displays teach kids about science in an entertaining, interactive way. Nobody minds if the children touch the exhibits here. In fact, that's the whole point.

The **Tropicarium** offers you the experience of watching sea life as it is at the bottom of the ocean, while walking in perfect safety in the walk-through aquarium section, with six species of sharks and stingrays swimming majestically above your head.



Zugliget Chairlift, Budapest





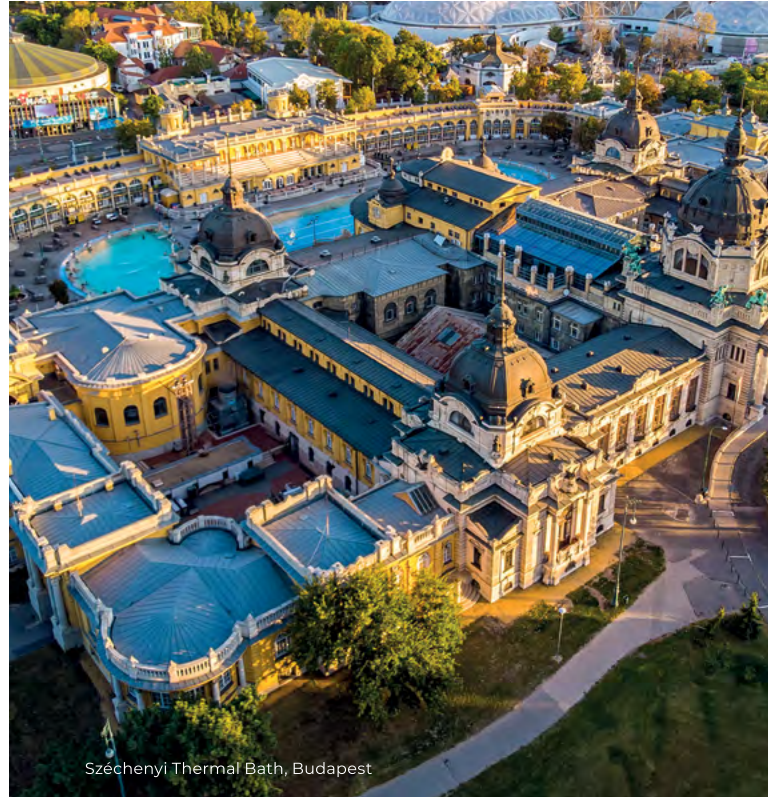
BUDAPEST, THE QUEEN OF SPAS

THERE IS NO OTHER CAPITAL CITY IN THE WORLD WHERE THERE ARE SO MANY THERMAL SPRINGS AS THERE ARE IN BUDAPEST. THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER FLOWING FROM THESE SPRINGS RANGES FROM TEPID TO 77°C. ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED VISITING THE NUMEROUS ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS AND WORLD HERITAGE LISTED ATTRACTIONS OF BUDAPEST, TAKE A DIP IN THE HEALING WATER IN ONE OF THE THERMAL BATHS.

The palatial Széchenyi Thermal Bath, hidden by the greenery of City Park, echoes the memories of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Altogether 21 pools, three of them open-air, await visitors. By day, older regulars play chess in the water, a famous iconic image of the city.

The Gellért Thermal Bath, located at the foot of Gellért Hill, is another iconic place in Budapest. Its Art Nouveau décor, turquoise Zsolnay porcelain tiling and stained-glass windows have witnessed famous bathers, ranging from Richard Nixon to Ryan Gosling. Another favourite is the Lukács Thermal Bath, a true medicinal pilgrimage site, with a multitude of memorial plaques offering thanks to the institution for the miraculous healing of its visitors. Following a complete renovation, the 16th-century Veli Bej Thermal Bath now shines in its original splendour, with mosaics evoking its Turkish heritage. The renovations of the Rudas Thermal Bath, built nearly half a millennium ago, have also preserved Ottoman traditions, while providing wonderful views from a hot tub on the rooftop.

The green oasis of Margaret Island houses the city's oldest open-air swimming pool, Palatinus, which has been in operation since 1919 and is now equipped with water slides and 14 pools. The recently built Aquaworld, with its design inspired by the Temples of Angkor Wat, invites families for an adventurous day out, with 15 pools, 11 slides and a vast area of water criss-crossed by bridges.



Széchenyi Thermal Bath, Budapest



FIVE RECENTLY RENOVATED MONUMENTS IN BUDAPEST

Vigadó of Buda

This eclectic building, built in 1900, originally to hold elegant balls and concerts, is now home to the Hungarian Heritage House and the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble.

H-1011 Budapest, Corvin tér 8; hagyományokhaza.hu

Old Town Hall of Buda

The 800 year-old building is a wonderful mixture of architectural Baroque elegance, medieval details and modern spaces mixed with ancient larch-tree beams.

H-1014 Budapest, Szentháromság utca 2

Tomb of Gül Baba

The tomb in Buda is a Muslim pilgrimage site, while the rose garden surrounding it is also a popular romantic meeting place for lovers. Since its renovation, the location has had its own exhibition hall, tea house and several conference rooms.

H-1023 Budapest, Mecset utca 14

Várkert Kiosk

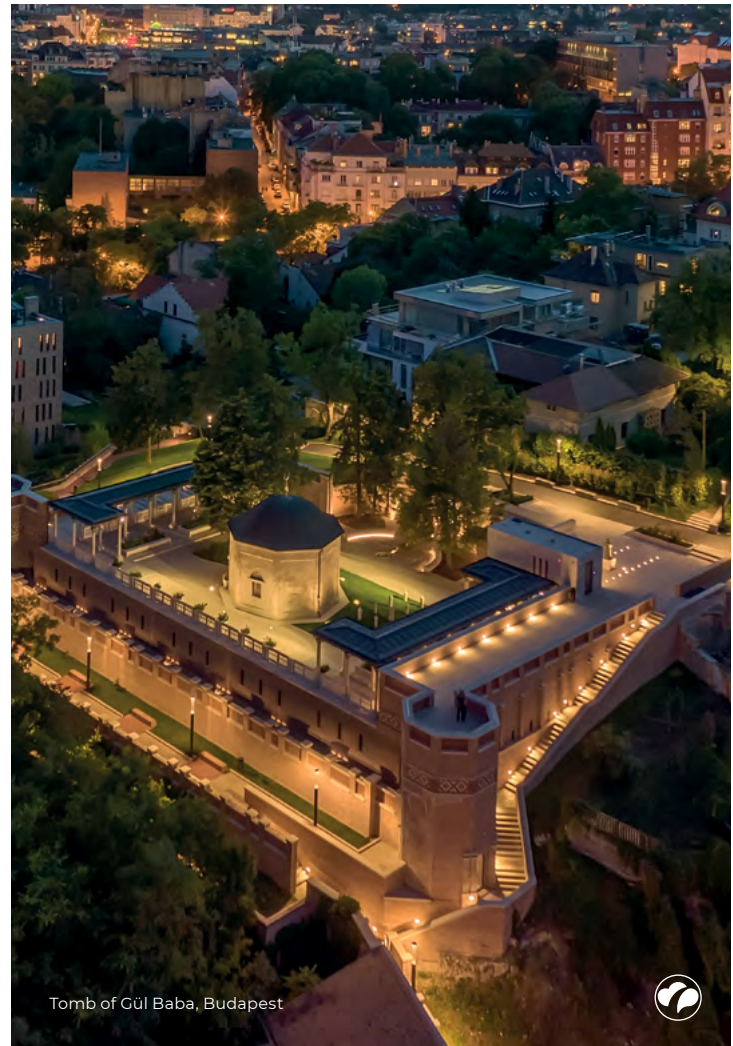
The Renaissance Revival building was designed by Miklós Ybl originally to serve as a pump house, but later it was also used as a cafe and a casino. Since being renovated, it has served as home to the Ybl Buda Creative House.

H-1013 Budapest, Ybl Miklós tér 9; budaikreativhaz.hu

Parisi Court

One of the most interesting buildings of downtown Budapest, the former Downtown Savings Bank – also known for its glass-roofed passage – has been restored to its original glory, with its eclectic style combining Moorish and Byzantine elements.

H-1052 Budapest, Ferenciek tere 10



Tomb of Gül Baba, Budapest





THE BEST PLACES TO WATCH THE SUNRISE AND THE SUNSET BY THE DANUBE

MAKE SURE YOU GET UP EARLY WHILE YOU'RE IN BUDAPEST, SINCE THE FACE OF THE CITY YOU'LL SEE IN THE GOLDEN RAYS OF THE MORNING SUN IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO THE ONE THAT SHINES IN THE DAYTIME SUNLIGHT. BUT OF COURSE, SUNSET ALSO BRINGS A WONDERFUL ATMOSPHERE INTO THIS BUSTLING CITY, SO TRY TO FIND A SPOT FROM WHERE YOU CAN TRULY ENJOY THE VIEW OFFERED BY THE EVENING HOURS.

One of the most surprising locations for the sunrise experience is the Philosophers' Garden on Gellért Hill. The garden itself is remarkably peaceful and also a regular staging post for the hikes and nature treks that set off from this area.

Alternatively, why not visit Margaret Island for the Budapest sunrise experience? A spot where the greenery is uninterrupted, and once the sun rises, you might as well enjoy another local experience and take a jog around the island or go for a swim at the popular Palatinus swimming complex.

A bit of a challenge, but one that is worth the effort, is heading off to one of Budapest's elevated spots before the sun comes up. Buda Castle or one of the various lookout points will show you just how wonderfully the city shines when bathing in the first rays of the sun.

However, watching the sun go down is just as beautiful. Of course, it is understandable if after a pleasant, but tiring day in Budapest you don't feel like getting up early, and you choose to experience the city at sunset. The banks of the Danube offer perhaps the most beautiful place for bathing in the setting rays of the sun. A perfect way to end your day in Budapest.

If you are willing to venture further down to the south, away from the river banks and into the city centre, you'll find benches where you can rest and admire the buildings of the National Theatre and the Palace of the Arts. This place is best known for its peacefulness, offering you undisturbed recreation away from the crowds and the bustling.



Perhaps tranquillity is not your cup of tea? Looking for some more excitement? Or enjoying a refreshing drink on a spring, summer, or autumn evening? Then there are few better places to enjoy the setting sun than one of the hangouts along the riverbank. Sit back and unwind at one of the bars at the foot of Chain Bridge! Sipping a drink and listening to pleasant background music will provide you with an unforgettable experience.

That said, the sun going down and spreading its different hues over the skyline can also be enjoyed from one of the city's rooftop bars. The open air, a cold lemonade or a cocktail and Budapest's beautiful buildings dappled by the changing colours of the sun's rays make for an animated work of art.



PARKS IN BUDAPEST

DISCOVER A GARDEN IN CENTRAL BUDAPEST.

WHILE BUDAPEST IS A BUSY METROPOLIS, IT'S ALSO HOME TO MANY PARKS, BOTANICAL GARDENS AND UNDISTURBED NATURAL AREAS WHERE YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE CALMER BEAUTIES OF THE CITY THAT MAKE IT SO LOVABLE AND LIVEABLE. DISCOVER SOME OF THE BEST LOCATIONS TO LEARN ABOUT LOCAL FLORA, EXPLORE THE WOODS OR HAVE A SPONTANEOUS PICNIC IN THE SUN.

The botanical garden called **Füvészkert** is home to some 8,000 plant species, some of them dating back to the age of the dinosaurs. You can learn about the plant life of any season all year round.

Buda Arboretum is a former vineyard, but today one of the richest reserves in the city. While it is a specially protected area, it's also a place where future gardeners, landscape designers and winemakers practise their craft. A large, vibrant location with plenty to see, and great fun for the entire family.

Although it is a bit farther out, **Soroksár Botanical Garden** is still just a half-hour ride from the city centre, and is worth the trip. The 60-hectare undisturbed area invites you on an adventure, when you might get to see rabbits, foxes, deer, or even turtles.

If you don't want to leave central Budapest but still want to relax under some trees, just like the people who live here, then there is plenty to choose from. The part of **Szabadság tér** located next to the Hungarian National Bank building, the **Szent István park** and playground on the bank of the Danube or **City Park** are just three of many such places. There are a number of places in the centre of Budapest where you can get close to nature while relaxing in the sun, enjoying a game of frisbee and having a picnic.



Erzsébet square, Budapest





FIVE CASTLES WITH GARDENS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Kiscell Museum

This was originally built as a monastery, but was renamed Schmidt Palace when it was bought and renovated by Miksa Schmidt, furniture manufacturer and collector.

H-1037 Budapest, Kiscelli utca 108; kiscellimuzeum.hu

Nagytétény Palace Museum

One of the most beautiful Baroque buildings in the country is the 18th century Száraz-Rudnyánszky Palace in Nagytétény, which is now home to the furniture collection of the Museum of Applied Arts.

H-1225 Budapest, Kastélypark utca 9–11; imm.hu

Károlyi Palace

The palace built in the centre of the city is one of the gemstones of Budapest's Classicist architecture, and the design as seen today was created during the time of György Károlyi. This is where you will find the Petőfi Literature Museum, while its former garden is a public park, Károlyi Garden.

H-1053 Budapest, Károlyi utca 16; pim.hu

Barabás Villa

The summer residence of the Hungarian painter, Miklós Barabás, in Városmajor is a truly romantic place to visit in the town. The Neo-classicist building is surrounded by a magnificent garden that regularly hosts weddings and various other events.

H-1122 Budapest, Városmajor utca 44; barabasvilla.hu

Vajdahunyad Castle

Built for the Millennium Exhibition to display how architectural styles have changed in Hungary over a thousand years, the castle is full of interesting details, from its Gothic gate all the way to its Baroque features.

H-1146 Budapest, City Park



Vajdahunyad Castle, Budapest





UNMISSABLE MARKETS IN BUDAPEST

Hungarians love markets, and people living in a bustling metropolis like Budapest are no exception. From early morning every weekend, several markets throughout the city serve shoppers who are looking for fresh vegetables or delectable cuts of meat for their weekend meals. Markets are also the place to get your cheese, honey and fruit syrup directly from the producers; this is the best guarantee that what you're buying is locally produced and supports family farms. More than that, markets are central venues of cultural interaction. You will see a lot of people just standing around at one of the kiosks sharing a drink or eating a 'lángos' (deep fried flat bread) and enjoying each other's company.

Nagycsarnok: the Great Market Hall

The Nagycsarnok's reputation precedes it. As well as being a traditional market, this is one of the most popular places in Budapest among people who are looking for souvenirs, since there is a stunning range on offer to help you to remember the unforgettable time you spent in the city. There is a wide range of local products, including spices, pickled vegetables and honey, which tourists can take home to share with friends and relatives as presents from their trip.

Fény street Market

A market that is a little bit older, but still enjoys undiminished popularity among customers. Located in Buda, it serves both those looking for everyday ingredients, and those willing to try out specialities and premium quality products. The range on offer is quite diverse, whether you are looking for traditional, special or even seasonal products or produce, such as fresh forest mushrooms.

Klauzál square Market Hall

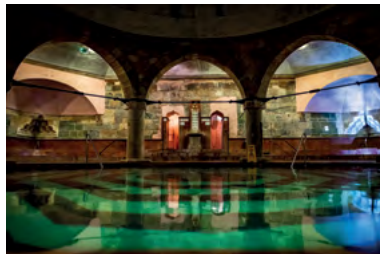
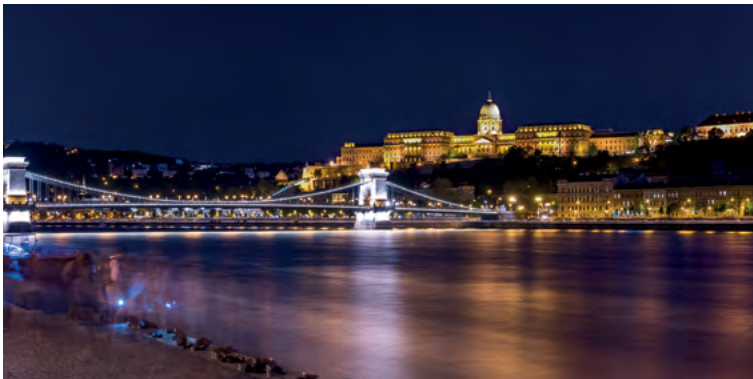
The historic indoor marketplace on Klauzál tér in Pest boasts bright and sun-flooded spaces, where a growing number of stalls and booths sell fresh fruit and vegetables, appetising dairy and meat products, an assortment of baked goods, and even 'lángos' specialities on the gallery level.

Szimpla Market

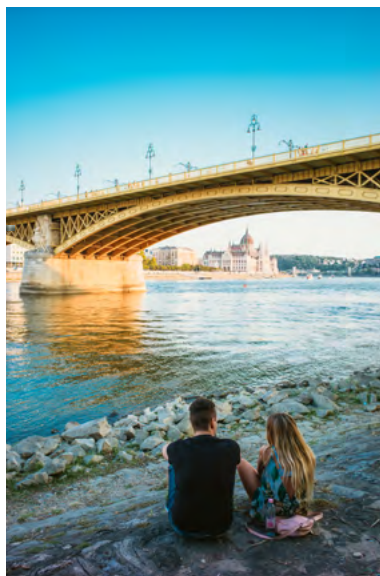
The Szimpla is an unusual market, rather than a traditional place to enjoy shopping. It is one of the oldest and most famous ruin pubs and filled with life at night, but on Sundays it becomes a venue for a small producers' market. Although the range of products and produce on offer is relatively limited, the quality of the goods is excellent and the unique and inimitable atmosphere is not to be missed. The Szimpla market mostly appeals to customers for its fun atmosphere.



Nagycsarnok (The Great Market Hall), Budapest



OUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS OF THE REGION



GREATER BUDAPEST



GREATER BUDAPEST AND THE DANUBE BEND

WHILE HUNGARY'S CAPITAL IS BRIMMING WITH ATTRACTIONS, YOU ONLY NEED TO TRAVEL NORTH FOR AN HOUR OR SO TO DISCOVER MEDIEVAL CASTLES, A MAGNIFICENT BASILICA AND A HUB OF COLOURFUL GALLERIES. THE JOURNEY ALONE, BEST TAKEN BY BOAT, MAKES A PARTICULARLY MEMORABLE DAY AS YOU CRUISE PAST THE SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE BANKS OF THE DANUBE.

Szentendre is a city of artists, whose galleries and museums hold fascinating collections and host frequent exhibitions. The Skanzen, the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum, lies just above the town and presents rural life, traditions and folklore in Hungary in life-size exhibits.

Visegrád had its heyday in the Middle Ages and its heritage is re-enacted at the annual Palace Games. It was here that King Matthias Corvinus had his Renaissance summer palace, its atmospheric remains dotting the panoramic landscape.

Esztergom is the seat of Hungarian Catholicism. The Esztergom Basilica is the largest religious building in Hungary and home to a rich trove of ecclesiastical treasures. The permanent art collection at the Christian Museum here is the finest outside Budapest.

Many tourists flock to Gödöllő to see the majestic royal palace, a coronation gift to the revered Habsburg Empress Elisabeth of Bavaria (Sissi to Hungarians) and Emperor Franz Joseph. Sissi spent many a happy retreat here, riding and strolling in the extensive landscaped grounds.



FIVE UNMISSABLE SIGHTS IN THE DANUBE BEND

The Royal Palace in Visegrád

The renovated royal palace, together with the famous Herkules Well, is one of the jewels of the town of Visegrád, which itself exudes history. Visit the nearby playground as well, which will take you to a land of stories and tales about King Matthias.

H-2025 Visegrád, Fő utca 23; dunakanyargo.hu/ajanlatok/kiralyi-palota

The Nagymaros main square and the Danube bank

They say Visegrád is most beautiful if admired from Nagymaros. But Nagymaros itself is also a beautiful town, with its huge horse-chestnut trees in the main square, the boat station, restaurants and market open on Saturdays.

H-2626 Nagymaros, Fő tér; nagymaros.hu

Saint Anna Church

According to sources and documents, the Round Church – as it is often called – is considered to be the predecessor of the Basilica, and its layout was a perfect circle. The silver miniature model of the building is also on display.

H-2500 Esztergom, Rudnay Sándor tér 1; dunakanyargo.hu/ajanlatok/szent-anna-templom

Triumphal Arch (Stone Gate)

Even the Danube Bend has a triumphal arch, generally known as the Stone Gate by locals. Bishop Migazzi had the structure built on the outskirts of the town of Vác in honour of a visit by Maria Theresa. There is no such other structure in Hungary.

H-2600 Vác, Köztársaság út 65; dunakanyargo.hu/ajanlatok/diadaliv

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption and Saint Adalbert

This is one of the most influential places in the history of Hungary, since it is presumed that King Stephen was crowned at the site of the largest ecclesiastical building in the country. The Treasury houses several objects that were used during the coronation ceremony.

H-2500 Esztergom, Szent István tér 1; dunakanyargo.hu/ajanlatok/esztergomibazilika



The Royal Palace in Visegrád



PRÉDIKÁLÓSZÉK



REMETE CAVE



RÁM GORGE



View – Danube Bend



BUCKET LIST

TEN HIKES IN THE DANUBE BEND YOU SHOULD INCLUDE
IN YOUR BUCKET LIST

FORESTS AND A VARIED TERRAIN AWAIT HIKERS AND CYCLISTS, ALONG WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS OF VISEGRÁD, AND THE PILIS AND BÖRZSÖNY HILLS. FAVOURITE HIKING PLACES INCLUDE THE RÁM GORGE, THE VADÁLLÓ STONES AND THE PROUD DOBOGÓKŐ. THOSE ON TWO WHEELS CAN RIDE THE COMPLETE ROUTE ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE DANUBE, INCLUDING THE QUEEN BEATRIX CYCLE PATH BETWEEN NAGYMAROS AND ZEBEGÉNY.

Prédikálószerék

Start out from Dömös and cut through the sea of rocks to get to the top. Don't forget to take some water with you and make sure you have comfortable hiking boots; you may even want to take a hiking stick.

H-2027 Dömös; dunakanyargo.hu/ajanlatok/predikaloszerek

Remete Cave

Although not an easily accessible destination, the astounding and startling view is worth the effort: the majestic Danube Bend against the background of mountains. At times, it even sounds as if angels were playing the harp.

Between Zebegény and Nagymaros;
dunakanyargo.hu/ajanlatok/remete-barlang

Rám Gorge

An almost mandatory item on the list, but only for experienced hikers. Rails, chains and ladders help you along the route. Don't forget to take a hat and something to drink.

H-2027 Dömös, Macskások-Nyilasok-dűlő;
parkerdo.hu/turizmus/latnivalok/ram-szakadek

Canoeing – Ipoly–Duna

People are just beginning to discover the beauty of canoeing on the River Ipoly, even though the route travels through some truly romantic places. There will not be any boats, and at the mouth of the river you'll find a sandy river bank. River Ipoly; ipolytours.hu

Cycling – Göd–Szob

Get on your bike and ride along one of the most beautiful cycling routes in the country. Enjoy the ride on a well-maintained road with stops, beaches and bike service shops.

Between Göd and Szob; dunakanyarkerekpar.hu

Strázsa Hill

This is where you will find the only cave in the county open to the public. While you are here, you may also want to visit the Kőkörcsin House, where you'll find an exhibition presenting the flora and fauna of the region. If you climb up to the lookout tower on the top of the Kis Strázsa Hill, you'll have a wonderful view of the surrounding area.

Strázsa Hill Educational Trail; dunaipoly.hu/hu/helyek/tanosvenyek/strasza-hegyi-tanosveny

Nagybörzsöny narrow-gauge railway

The train runs eight kilometres through the forest, on the only zig-zag route from Nagybörzsöny to Nagyirtás. If you feel like it, you can even try to use the handcars at the head station in Nagybörzsöny.

H-2634 Nagybörzsöny, Völgy utca 52; borzsonyikisvasutak.hu

Motorbike tour – Vác–Szentendre

It doesn't matter where you start from: just cross the Danube, and you can take part in many different biker fairs. Wherever you go between the two end points you'll be surrounded by the Danube, since you'll be riding on Szentendre Island.

Vác, Szentendre

Nagy-Hideg Hill

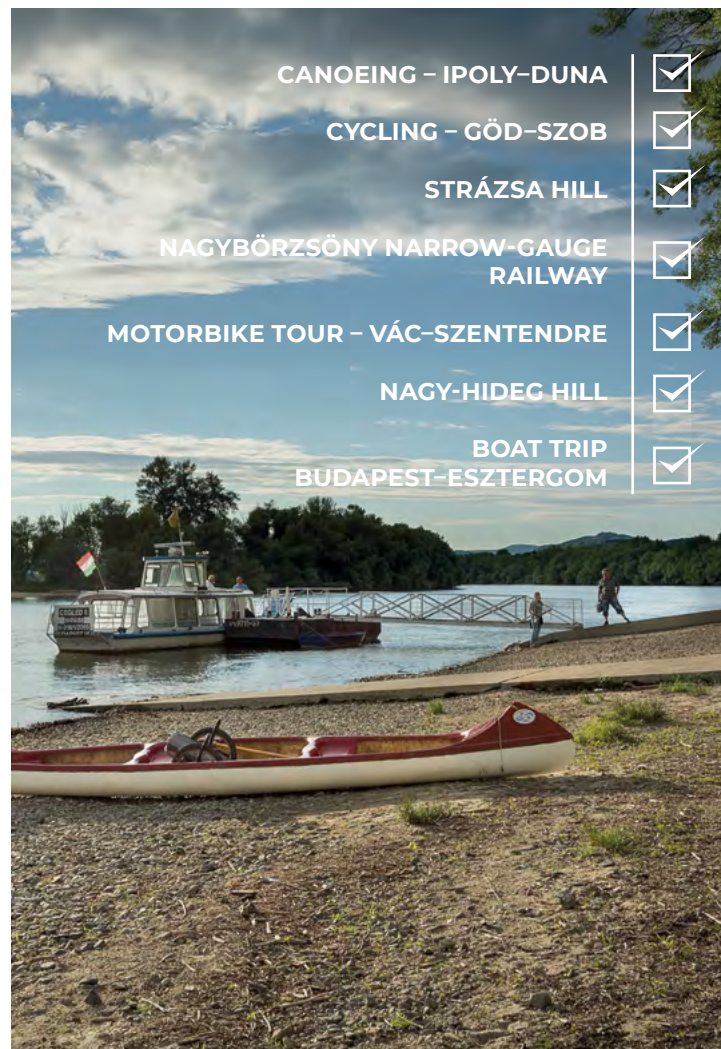
Our trip to Nagy-Hideg hill is accompanied by ferns and the sound of rumbling water, all the way up to the tourist house, where you can take a well-earned rest. This is your starting point if you want to reach the peak known as Csóványos, where a lookout tower has been built for tourists.

Börzsöny Mountains; dunakanyargo.hu/ajanlatok/nagy-hideg-hegy

Boat Trip – Budapest–Esztergom

Whether you want a shorter or a longer boat trip, you will find what you are looking for. A hydrofoil will fly you to your destination, or you if you want, you can enjoy the quiet swaying of a boat: all you have to do is check the timetables and off you go.

From Budapest to Esztergom; mahartpassnave.hu





CULTURAL SIGHTS IN GÖDÖLLŐ

The Royal Palace in Gödöllő

Antal Grassalkovich was one of the favourite noblemen of Maria Theresa. The magnificent Baroque palace and estate were built and established in 1745, and later became the summer residence of Franz Joseph and Queen Elisabeth. The exhibitions shown in the suites tell tales of the imposing history of the past. H-2100 Gödöllő, Grassalkovich-kastély, top. lot no. 5852; kiralyikastely.hu

Town Museum in Gödöllő

The beautifully renovated Hamvay Manor is today home to a cinema and a museum. You will find the national scouts collection here, and you can also get a glimpse of the history of the town and the legendary art colony of Gödöllő. H-2100 Gödöllő, Szabadság tér 5; godolloimuzeum.hu

Applied Art Workshop of Gödöllő

The Art Nouveau artist collective – renowned Europe-wide – carries on with the traditions of the art colony of Gödöllő. The GIM house is both where they work and where they hold art exhibitions. You should visit to see its delightful art garden.

H-2100 Gödöllő, Körösfői Kriesch Aladár utca 15–17; gimhaz.hu

Royal Waiting Hall

Sissi and Franz Joseph turned Gödöllő into a fashionable summer resort, travelling by rail when they visited the town. Their Royal Waiting Hall – originally built in a Renaissance Revival style – has been renovated based on the original plans drafted in 1882, and today houses exhibitions focusing on the royal family. H-2100 Gödöllő, Állomás tér 1–3

Szent István University

The university campus takes us to a whole different world and is home to a botanical garden as well as a museum specialising in agriculture. You may want to pop into the grand hall of the university, where you will find one of the most famous reliefs made by Amerigo Tot.

H-2100 Gödöllő, Páter Károly utca 1, szie.hu



The Royal Palace in Gödöllő





DISCOVER VÁC

Town centre, Március 15. tér

It is not by chance that this was chosen to be the main square of the town. Beautiful examples of Baroque architecture surround the space, and one of these is the building that today serves as the town hall. The statue of Saint Hedwig, the patron saint of the Danube Bend, stands tall among flowers, fountains and ruins.

H-2600 Vác, Március 15. tér; vac.hu

Danube Bank

The Danube Bank in Vác is a promenade that invites visitors for leisurely walks. A delightful place near the town centre, with a boat station and a ferry that takes you to Szentendre Island.

H-2600 Vác, Danube Bank

Cathedral

This is another building linked to Bishop Migazzi, the huge dome of which can be seen from far away. Built on a beautiful, spacious square, it lies right opposite the Bishop's Palace.

H-2600 Vác, Konstantin tér 11; vaci.szekesegyhaz.hu

Triumphal Arch

Even the Danube Bend has a triumphal arch, generally known as the Stone Gate by locals. It was built on the outskirts of the town of Vác at the time, in honour of a visit by Maria Theresa. There is no other structure like it in Hungary.

H-2600 Vác, Köztársaság út 65

Hétkápolna

The Hungarian name means Seven Chapels in English, so called because of the illustrated poles depicting the seven joys and sorrows of Mary lining the road that leads here. Under the cool shade of the massive ancient trees is where they hold the annual Patron Saint's Festival every September, where they not only perform the Roman Catholic liturgy, but the Greek Catholic liturgy as well.

H-2600 Vác, Derecske utca 2; hetkapolna.vaciegyhazmegye.hu

Tragor Ignác Museum

The memories of the dead are presented in a unique fashion as part of the museum's permanent exhibition called Memento Mori. It is an eerie tour underground, but if you are brave enough, you will go home having had a rare experience.

The stone cellar under the house at H-2600 Vác, Március 15. tér 19; muzeumvac.hu



Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Vác

Ligeti Lake

It is very rare for an artificial lake to radiate such calmness. If you need some peace and quiet, this is the place to go, and even more so if you have a fishing rod.

H-2600 Vác, Ligeti Lake

Naszály

From a distance, the wounded Naszály looks as if it has been bitten into. Experienced hikers should venture up to the top: the view and the beauty of the hill are well worth the effort.

H-2600 Vác, Naszály



WALKING AROUND SZENTENDRE

ArtMill

A vast space with a special atmosphere that was opened almost 20 years ago and exhibits modern fine art pieces. It is currently showing temporary exhibitions, which you can visit in Szentendre.

H-2000 Szentendre, Bogdányi utca 32; muzeumicentrum.hu/muveszetmalom

Skanzen (Open-Air Ethnographic Museum)

The exhibitions at the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum bring the life of the different parts of Hungary closer to visitors, who can study folk architecture, interior design and everyday artefacts here.

H-2000 Szentendre, Open-Air Ethnographic Museum; skanzen.hu

Ferenczy Museum

The museum has a rich collection of all types of fine art, be it contemporary paintings, graphics, plastic art in Szentendre, or even medal-making art.

H-2000 Szentendre, Kossuth Lajos utca 5; muzeumicentrum.hu/ferenczy-muzeum

Czóbel Museum

The recently renovated exhibition hall houses the paintings of the Hungarian painter we consider to be the most French artist. He was the first Hungarian painter after whom a museum was named in his lifetime.

H-2000 Szentendre, Templom tér 1; muzeumicentrum.hu/czobel-muzeum

Belgrád Cathedral

This is the last Serbian church in town that still holds regular masses. The church garden also houses the Museum of the Serbian Church, full of sensational icons and special items of church history.

H-2000 Szentendre, Alkotmány utca



Street in Szentendre





SIGHTS YOU MUST SEE IN ESZTERGOM

Esztergom Basilica

The largest ecclesiastical building in Hungary, which encapsulates the Bakócz Chapel built in the 16th century. It is a purely Classicist building, and later became the centre of the Hungarian Catholic church.

H-2500 Esztergom, Szent István tér 1; bazilika-esztergom.hu/hu

Esztergom Castle

The former royal seat is located in central Esztergom. Bálint Balassi was killed while protecting the castle. A Botticelli fresco was found here in 2007, but for the time being it can only be visited during the Night of Museums.

H-2500 Esztergom, Szent István tér 1; varmegom.hu

Saint Anna Parsonage

Locals also call it the Round Church. The layout is a perfect circle, and the silver miniature model of the building is also on display.

H-2500 Esztergom, Rudnay tér 9; szentanna.extra.hu/wp

Maria Valeria Bridge

They say Esztergom is most beautiful when viewed from Sturovo, but we had to wait 50 years before we could walk over to the other side of the river on a bridge to admire this beautiful view of the town. The bridge was called the Broken Bridge for a long time, and was renamed Maria Valeria in 2001.

H-2500 Esztergom

Christian Museum

This houses the largest ecclesiastical collection in Hungary. The exhibition assembled by Zsuzsanna Erdélyi, displaying artefacts of religious folk traditions, is particularly interesting.

H-2500 Esztergom, Mindszenty tér 2; keresztenymuzeum.hu

Esztergom mosque

It is not only the building that is worth visiting, but also the exhibition within that presents the history of the town during the Turkish era. The former prayer hall is often used for periodic exhibitions and various events.

H-2500 Esztergom, Berényi Zsigmond utca 18; esztergomidzsami.hu



Esztergom Basilica

Strázsa Hill

Since the site has always been used as a military shooting range, its natural values have been conserved untouched. The educational trail set up around the hill can be completed within an hour. Before you leave for the trail, you should visit the Kőköröcsin House.

H-2500 Esztergom, Kertváros; dunaipoly.hu/hu/helyek/bemutatohelyek/kokorcsin-haz-erdei-iskola



A DAY IN VISEGRÁD

Royal Palace

The feeling of the Renaissance is revived here in this newly renovated Palace, which also showcases the Herkules Well. No matter which season you choose to visit, the cour d'honneur and the chapel are always open, although opening hours are shorter from November to February.

H-2025 Visegrád, Fő utca 23–29; visegradmuzeum.hu

Citadel

The castle was the countryside home to Hungarian kings until the Ottoman occupation, and the coronation jewels were kept here for a long time. The Citadel is home to several interesting exhibitions, but remember that opening hours during the winter season are different from those in the summer.

parkerdo.hu/turizmus/latnivalok/visegrad-fellegvar

King Matthias Historical Playground

The historic atmosphere of Visegrád inspired young artists to design and create a wonderful playground in the town. It is one of the few that can be safely used by people living with disabilities and the visually impaired.

H-2025 Visegrád, Fő utca 4; visegradmuzeum.hu/park/jatszopark

Zsitvay lookout tower

If you want to see a magnificent panoramic view of the Danube Bend, this is the place to go to. Don't miss the spectacle from the Nagyvillám lookout tower, which is still called Zsitvay lookout tower by locals. The lookout tower is closed in hazardous weather conditions.

Visegrád, Feketehegy utca; parkerdo.hu/turizmus/latnivalok/zsitvay-kilato

Ski run

A ski run that is open all year round and can be used in any season. This is a particularly good place for families visiting with children. It is an excellent practice run, where snow cannons can be used to ensure there is enough snow, illuminated at night, and with free parking.

visegradsipalya.hu

Salamon Tower

The tower was at once a royal residence and a military fort, and is the most impressive medieval dwelling tower in Hungary. The first museum in Visegrád was established here, in this tower. There are no jousts during the winter season.

H-2025 Visegrád, Castle; visegradmuzeum.hu



Citadel, Visegrád

Palace House

A splendid building that blends into its surroundings with its medieval style. This is where the Advent fair and art workshops are held, and also where you can visit the Courtyard of Crafts and the House of Food from spring onwards.

H-2025 Visegrád, Duna-parti út 1; palotahaz.hu

Sibrik Hill

Once you reach the top of the hill, you will find the remains of a Roman-era camp. The historical importance and the relics of the place were discovered by archaeologists in 1970s.

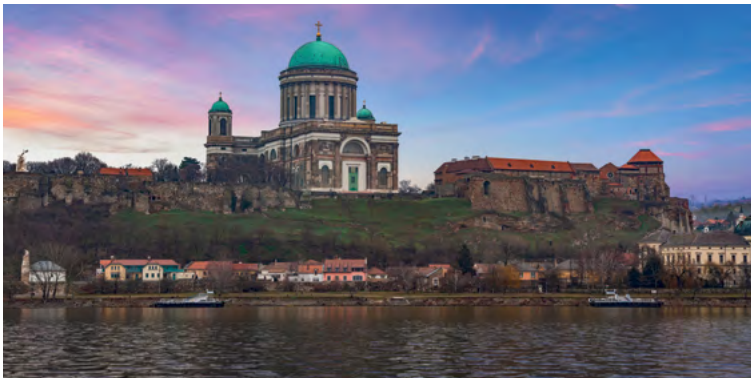
2025 Visegrád, Sibrik Hill



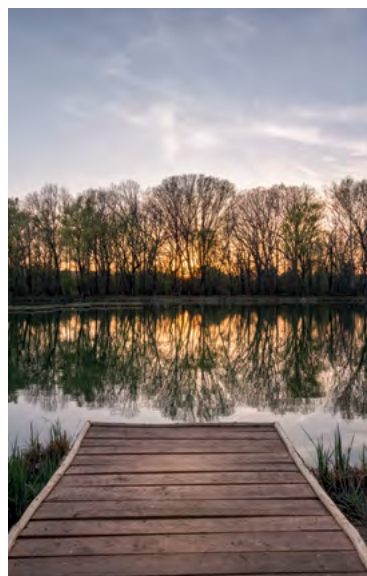
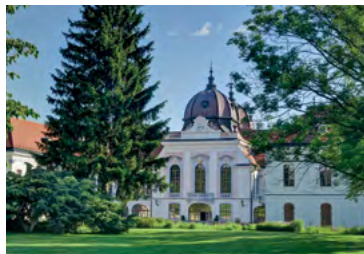
ETYEK

The renowned wineries and representatives of gastronomy in Etyek host seasonal picnics, where visitors can take walking tours and sample local delicacies. Etyek also contains the Korda Film Park and is surrounded by nature reserves.





OUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS OF THE REGION



WANT TO SEE AND DISCOVER EVEN MORE? LOOK FOR THE OTHER BUCKET LISTS.



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