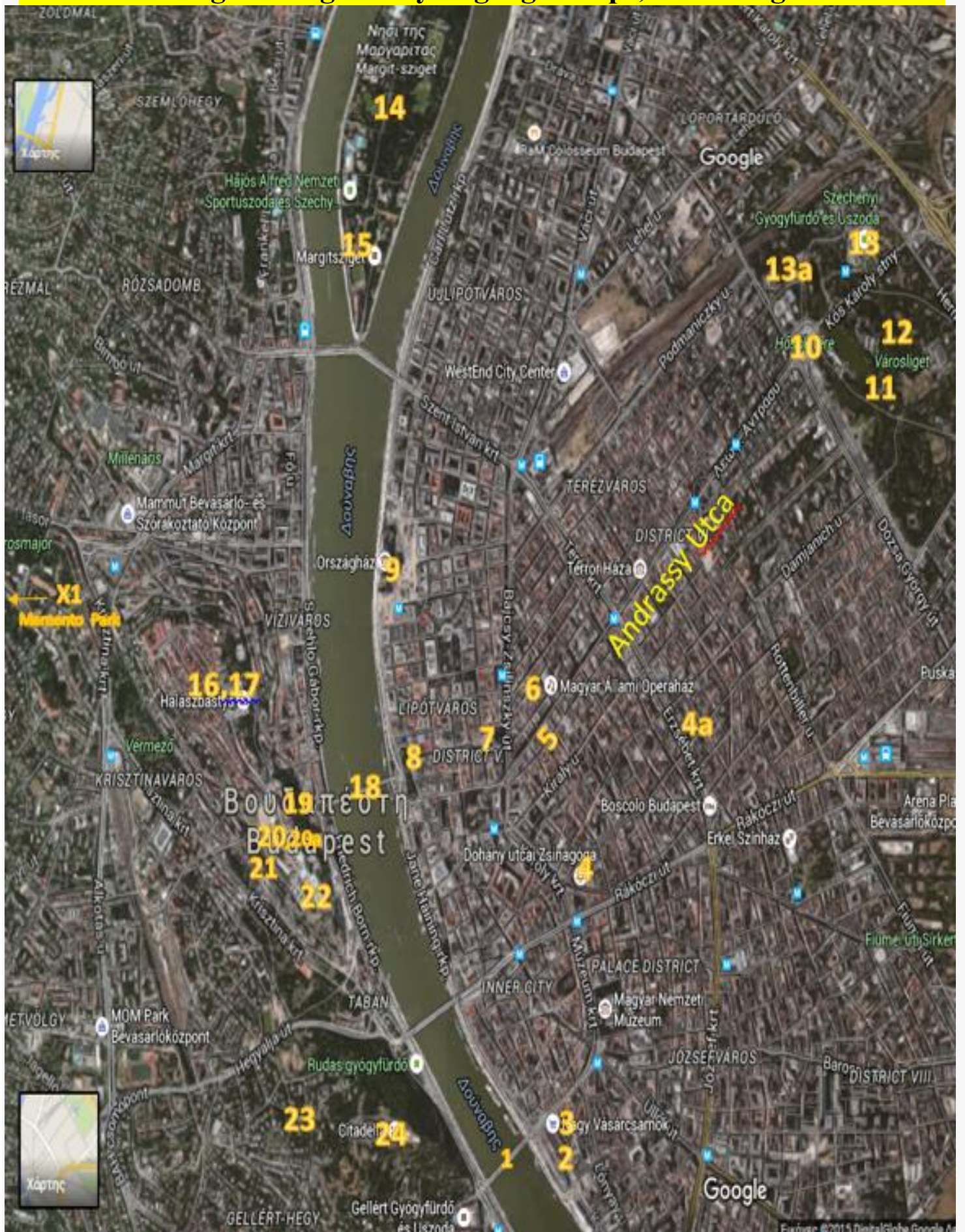


BUDAPEST-Sightseeing survey at google maps, according to listed s/n.





1. [Liberty Bridge \(Szabadsag hid\)](#)

Liberty Bridge (Szabadság híd, *is maybe the less attractive bridge in the city center*) is the one located at the southern end of city center, leading to Gellert Hill. The 333.6 m long bridge was built between 1894 and 1896. Its middle part was destroyed during World War II but it was rebuilt in 1945, and further restoration work was conducted to eliminate all war-related damage between 2007 and 2009. The bridge's main ornaments, four falcon-like bronze statues sitting on top of the bridge's four central masts (these are actually turuls, a mythological bird that represents power, strength and nobility in Hungary), were also restored. The bridge was originally named after the Emperor Franz Joseph, but it was renamed Liberty Bridge when the country was liberated from the Nazi occupation by the Soviet army at the end of World War II in 1945. The same year, the Liberation Monument was erected at the top of Gellert Hill. This imposing statue takes on the form of a woman holding a palm leaf above her head and can best be admired while crossing the bridge.



2. [Corvinus University of Budapest](#) (250m, 3min from Szabadsag hid)

In 1846, József Industrial School was opened gates for economics and trade for upper grade students. The immediate forerunner of the Corvinus University, the Faculty of Economics of the Royal Hungarian University, was established in 1920. The University admitting more than 14,000 students offers educational programmes in agricultural sciences, business administration, economics, and social sciences, and most these disciplines assure it a leading position in Hungarian higher education and is among the best institutions on various national and international rankings. It was listed in the top 50 in the Financial Times European Masters in Management rankings,^[2] and was the first Hungarian university mentioned among the best in the area of agriculture.



3. [Central Market Hall](#) (150m, 2min from Corvinus)

The Central or Great Market Hall in Budapest was originally constructed in 1897. It is located on the bank of the Danube in Fovam Square near the Liberty Bridge. The market building was designed by Samu Pecz and is the largest indoor market in the city. The building has a colorful orange brick façade and a brightly tiled roof which uses the same kind of tiles that you can see on the Matthias Church. The tiles were especially designed by Hungarian tile maker Zsolnay. Throughout Budapest there are five similarly built markets which all opened on the same day but the Central Market is the largest. During WWII the market building suffered damage but it has been fully restored. The market has a ground floor where fresh produce is sold including meats and cheeses. **On the second floor there are food stands and some of the best cheap eats in Budapest.**

Also on this floor you can pick up souvenirs like traditional crafts, embroidery items and handcrafts. Here you can buy souvenir packages of the famous Hungarian paprika and Tokaji. The market basement is where you'll find the fish mongers, an Asian store, supermarket and a small pharmacy. The market hosts International gastro days on the weekends when the food from other countries is highlighted. The market is open daily except for Sunday when it is closed. Central Market is part of the [Budapest City Walking Tour](#). If you enjoy walking or biking this will be a wonderful experience for you.



4. [Great Synagogue - Central Synagogue](#) (1200m, 15min from Central Market Hall)

After viewing the interior, I walked outside and under many arches on my way to view the "Tree of Life." It was through the arches that I noticed a tranquil area with lawn and old established trees.

I was inquisitive, so I left the crowd and wandered in for a look.

First, I should tell you about the Germans establishing a ghetto for the Jews in 1944, where tens of thousands of people were

crowded together in inhumane conditions. Many people found refuge in the Great Synagogue, but thousands died during the winter of 1944/45, either frozen to death, died of sickness or starvation, or as a result of the brutality received from the Nazis. Thousands of corpses were found on the streets, many were unidentifiable bodies.

Today, these unknown people are buried in the Synagogue's garden, which has become known as the Martyr's cemetery.



4a. [Corinthia Hotel Budapest](#) (2300m, 28min from Central Market Hall)

A historic luxury hotel at the Elizabeth Boulevard. Opened in 1896 as the Grand Hotel Royal, a hub for the elite of 19th century society, the hotel has undergone extensive modification throughout the 20th century, and has in the 21st century been restored and reopened as the Corinthia. The course of the Grand Boulevard (Nagykörút) was marked out during the 1870s together with Andrassy Avenue, Budapest's most impressive avenue. The road went through a thinly populated part of suburban Budapest, so its development was rather slow, and only a few buildings were constructed in the 1870s. The real development of the Grand Boulevard began once Andrassy Street was completed in 1884.



5. [Andrassy Utca](#) (650m, 8min from Corinthia Hotel)

Stroll Along Andrassy Avenue is must! Andrassy Avenue makes for an easy and beautiful walk on a nice day. The avenue stretches 2.5 kilometers from the Old City to Hero's Square. The street's beauty and unique nature has been recognized by UNESCO who declared the street and area extending up to City Park a world heritage site in 2002. The avenue, which has seen many name changes over the years, is named after a former prime minister of Hungary named Gyula Andrassy. The street was laid out in the 1870's to ease traffic congestion along parts of downtown Budapest and to serve as the City's signature street.

Locals generally agree that the district contains three distinct districts. The first extends from Baicsy-Zsillnsky Avenue to Oktogon Square. This area is comprised of a combination of high end shops, restaurants and apartment houses. This area also contains many impressive buildings including the State Opera House, the Old Academy of Music, the Old Art Hall and the Budapest School of Performing Arts.. The second portion runs from the pretty eight sided Oktogon Square to Kodaly Korond. There are also many nice old apartment houses and what appears to be public buildings including the former headquarters of the Nazi Army during World War 2 that now has been turned into a museum. The final section of the avenue runs from Kodaly Korond to Heroes Square and includes a number of stately mansions and villas. The Art School of Budapest and the stately Hotel Andrassy also occupy this area.

It took us about 45 minutes to make the walk stopping several times to take pictures.



6. [State Opera House](#) (750m, 10min from Andrassy Utca)

The Hungarian State Opera House is a richly-decorated building and is considered one of the architect's masterpieces on Andrassy Avenue. It was built in neo-Renaissance style, with elements of Baroque. On either side of the main entrance are niches with figures of two of Hungary's composers, Ferenc Erkel and Franz Liszt.

Liszt is the best known Hungarian composer and Erkel composed the Hungarian national anthem, and was the first music director of the Opera House and the founder of the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra. The Budapest Opera House is considered to be amongst the finest opera houses in the world.

Each year the season lasts from September to the end of June and, in addition to opera performances, the House is home to the Hungarian National Ballet and the Budapest Opera Ball, a society event dating back to 1886.

National Opera House is part of the [Budapest Hop-On Hop-Off Tour by Bus and Boat](#). **This tour is an extremely convenient way to get to know Budapest.**



7. ******* [St. Stephen's Basilica - Szt Istvan Bazilika](#) (800m,10min from State Opera House)

When looking from the Buda castle on the Pest side **there are only two tall buildings: The St. Stephen's Basilica and the Hungarian Parliament Building**. Both are exactly 96 m high and taller buildings are not allowed in Budapest.

The architectural style is Neo-Classical with an imposing dome and two large bell towers; The church is the third-largest church in Hungary and one of the two tallest buildings in Budapest and its construction was completed in 1906 having taken 50 years to build. The long construction period accounts for the eclectic style of the architecture . During construction the dome collapsed, and building had to start all over again. It is named after King Stephen who converted his pagan Hungarian nation to the catholic faith, thus establishing Hungary as an accepted kingdom in western Europe and drawing it out of the orthodox-byzantine-russian cultural orbit. The St. Stephen`s cathedral is stunningly beautiful - easily overlooked are the beautiful stained-glass windows in a hidden chapel. **The façade has two bell towers**, the south tower holds the largest bell in the country and the north tower holds another 5 bells. **It is possible to take a tour of the church, visit the church for free and visit the Treasury and tower for a fee. From the top of the tower, (which is open to visitors from April to October) there are spectacular views across the city. You can either climb the 364 stairs or take the elevator to the top.**



8. [Four Seasons Gresham Palace](#) (600m,7min from St. Stephen's Basilica)

This beautiful art Nouveau building facing Széchenyi Square and the famous chain bridge,with the stained glass and mosaic are amazing.This building has the most beautiful façade in Budapest. Not enough art nouveau decorations inside,but lovely place, worth visiting. An afternoon tea, coffee or hot chocolate in the lobby or Kolazs bar would be very nice and not expensive at all. This building has the most beautiful façade in Budapest. **Lovely place, worth visiting.**Gorgeous!



9. ******* [Parliament - Orszaghaz](#) (850m,10min from Four Seasons Gresham Palace)

The governing powers of Hungary are housed in **the third largest parliament building in the world**. A competition was held to find a suitable design for the building and it was won by Imre Steindl who completed the building in 1904. His design was inspired by the English House of Parliament. The building incorporates Gothic Revival elements and has turrets and towers but also has Renaissance and Baroque elements like the massive central dome. **The Hungarian parliament has a Lower and Upper House; the Lower House is in the northern wing and the Upper House in the southern wing. They are joined by the Dome Hall**. The northern wing also houses the Prime Minister's offices and the southern wing houses the offices of the President of the Hungarian Republic.Probably one of the most talked about buildings in Budapest!
The 112 year old neo-classical building has 691 rooms, 20km of stairs and reaches a height of 96 meters. The surface area of the building is 18,000m² and it is 268 meters long and 123 meters wide. There are 27 gates, 13 elevators and 29 staircases. The building interior is opulent and ornate; 40kg of gold were used in the decoration together with half a million ornamental stones. Within the building there are 152 statues. During the Soviet era a red star adorned the top of the dome but it was removed in 1990.You can get **the best photo ops of the Parliament Building by taking a river cruise or from across the river in Batthyany Square.****To see the Interior of Parliament House, you NEED TO JOIN A TOUR GROUP**
Admission prices and entry times are found on this link.<http://www.parlament.hu/angol/eng/tajekoztato.htm> Ticket can be bought in advance online.



10. [Heroes' Square - Hosok Tere](#) (3000m,40min from Parliament – Orszaghaz)

Hősök tere (Heroes Square) is one of the major squares in Budapest. It is significant for its iconic statue complex which features the Seven Chieftains of the Magyars and other important national leaders, plus the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It's an impressive sight to see (even under dull grey skies and rain which we experienced there).



11. [Városliget](#) (into the park,behind [Heroes' Square - Hosok Tere](#))(400m,5min from Hosok Tere)

Városliget (City Park) is a public park with its main entrance at Heroes' Square (Hősök tere), one of Hungary's World Heritage sites. The first mention of the name comes from 1241 in the archaic form, Ukurföld. In the 18th century the area was called Ochsenried in German. Around 1800 the official name was changed to Batthyány-erdő (Batthyány Forest) after its tenants, the Batthyány family. The first trees and planified walkways were established in 1751 and after the public park was created in the first decades of the 19th century the present-day name, Városliget was accepted and it became the first public park in the world. City Park was the main venue of the 1896 millennium celebrations of Hungary



12. [Vajdahunyad Castle - Vajdahunyad Vár](#) (70m,1min from Városliget)

A very interesting part of City Park, is where Vajdahunyad Castle is situated. It is **located on a small island,surrounded by a lake** (called the boating lake) that is an ideal place to rent pedal boats and it is not a historic one. **The park where this is located was designed in the English garden style.** The main entrance to the Castle is from Heroes' Square through the Bridge Gate. The gate has stone lions on either side of it. Since it is on an island, there is a mock drawbridge over a shallow moat. In the winter, the lake becomes an ice skating rink. The castle was created for the Millenial Exhibition 1896 in Budapest and fashioned after the Transylvanian castle and includes Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture. Each part of the building features one of these styles. The agricultural museum in the inside is one of a kind and **I strongly advise to take the special tour around the castle.** The original castle was made from cardboard and wood, but - as the site became very popular - **it was rebuilt in stone from 1904 to 1908.** In the interior courtyard, you find a sinister monument to an anonymus medieval historian who wrote the first history book on Hungary. You can **enter the courtyard all day and all night for FREE** - except for festivals.

FREE Photos in the Courts of the Castle (photo tickets are only needed inside the Castle, in the Museum)

ENTRANCE FEE FOR MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE

THE Museum in the Castle is closed on Mondays. •Tickets for Adults: HUF 1,100•Tickets for Children: HUF 550

•Photo Ticket to the Museum (inside the castle only): HUF 5000



13. [Szechenyi Baths - Szechenyi Furdo](#) (600m,7min from Vajdahunyad Castle)

My visit to the baths limited itself to the architectural aspects of the buildings. The imposing neo-baroque design is from Győző Czigler. The construction started in 1909 under architect Eugene Schmitterer.

It is a real architectural success with the five domes on the main building and the ocre yellow spa semi circular building. As expected water-related motives such as stylized water monsters, shells, fish, mermaids are an important part of the exterior and interior decorations. The spa is named after István Széchenyi who was a Hungarian politician, theorist and writer. Living in a rainy country makes that I developed some water phobia. Cold or warm, water is wet so that I avoid everything that as to make with water especially thermal baths even if the Széchenyi gyógyfürdő (spa) are the largest in Europe and hot water is coming from two very deep thermal artesian wells.

Furthermore I'm not so fond of "promiscuité" lack of privacy typical of spas so that when I have to go in the water I prefer the sea. Consequently I entered by the main entrance in the Czigler wing just to see the dome and its mosaics and the fountain of the Triton Centaur. From here I could also have a look at the open air pools.



13a. [Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden](#) (500m,6min from Szechenyi Baths)

The Zoo & Botanical Garden is a **must-see** attraction for tourists coming to our city with their kids. A place where everyone finds something entertaining. You can see around **1050 animal species** from the African savannah to the arctic area and **2000 plant species**.!Small sandy dessert area, tiny forest, seaside, lakes, rock cave provide real homes for the inhabitants of the zoo, who really look well taken care of. Extensive green patches, leafy groves, remarkable plants and flowers make the place a **refreshing asylum** within a bustling city. **Opening hours,prices and more info : <http://zoobudapest.com/en/>**



14. [Margitsziget - Margaret Island](#) (4300m,55min from [Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden](#))

During my 3rd visit to Budapest I decided to explore popular Margharet Island.

Margaret Island (Hungarian: Margit-sziget) is green resort in Danube between Buda and Pest. It is conected with mainland with two bridges: Margaret and Arpad that represent and island borders as well. It was known as Rabbit island. It is only 2,5 meters long. The island opened to the public in 1869. Its soon became a health resort.



15. [Music Fountain \(Margitszigeti szokokut\)](#) (1900m,22min from [Margaret Island](#))

Located on the famous island called Margaret Island, near a park,it is **one of the biggest attractions that the island** has.



16. ******* [Fisherman's Bastion - Halaszbastya](#) (3300m,45 min from [Music Fountain](#))

The Fisherman`s Bastion is a scenic viewing terrace with neo-medieval architecture, built between 1895 and 1902 above the Buda embankment. From here, visitors have the best possible view on the Danube, Parliament, the Margaret Island, and the Pest quarters of the city. It is named after the guild of fishermen, who were conscripted for the defense of this stretch of the city walls in medieval times. **To enter the bastion, you need to buy a ticket.** (*A combined ticket of Matthias Church and the Fishermen`s Bastion can be bought at the kiosk opposite the church*).



17. [Mathias Church - Mátyás Templom](#) (900m,12 min from [Fisherman's Bastion](#))

Next to St. Stephen`s Basilica, the Matthias Church - in the Buda part of the capital - is Budapests most famous church. The name was given in honour of King Matthias Corvinus, who was a famous defender of Hungary against Turkish invasions in the 15th century. His coat of arms-symbol - a raven - can be seen above a church gate.

At least three historic coronation ceremonies took place in this church: Karl I. of Anjou (1309), Franz Joseph I. (1867) and Karl IV (1916) were crowned here. The church dates back to the 13th century, but in each era, new architecture was added; the result is a mixture of romanic, gothic, renaissance, and baroque elements. Extensive neo-gothic-additions at the end of the 19th century concluded the building history.

Typical for the Matthias Church are extensive decorative interior paintings, often depicting historical or religious legends, the colourful tile roof, and the two towers of different height. It is possible to make a guided tour to the viewing platform of the tower, which is very worthwhile. Inquire for tickets and tour times at the kiosk opposite the church.**Free entrance**



18. [Chain Bridge -Szecheny Lanchid](#) (750m,12 min from [Mathias Church](#))

The **Chain Bridge is an iconic landmark of Budapest** and the most famous of the nine bridges that connect the Danube embankments of Buda and Pest. The Chain Bridge was the first permanent bridge crossing the Danube in Budapest.It was built after designs of Count Szecheniy between 1839-1849; the total length is 375 meter. Both ends of the bridge are decorated with lion sculptures. **During WWII the Germans completely destroyed the bridge** and following the war it was one of the first structures to be rebuilt and finally completed in 1949. **The bridge we see today is a faithful replica of the original.** This is one of finest in Budapest.Chain Bridge (Hungarian: Széchenyi lánchíd) is real architectural gem and one of fantastic viewpoint on Danube especially at night. On the Buda side of the bridge is Adam Clark Square where you can see the) sculpture by Miklos Borsos which marks the starting point of all roads in Budapest. The square is also a terminus for the Buda Hill Funicular. During the protests against Soviet rule in 1989 the bridge was the site of demonstrations; this added to the people's love of the bridge and made it a symbol of independence.If you are looking to appreciate the flavors of The Chain Bridge, you should consider [Budapest Danube River Dinner Cruise](#). It's one of the best options available.



19. [Budapest Castle Hill Funicular - Siklo](#) (190m3 min from Chain Bridge -Szecheny Lanchid)

To save your tired legs the Budapest transport company (BKV) runs a funicular service from Clark Adam Square on the Buda side of the Chain Bridge, to the top of Castle Hill, right next to the palace. It's probably the easiest and most obvious way to the Castle District **if you are heading over to it from the Pest side**, and that can be seen from the number of tourists using it. At the top of the funicular a man with a distinctive silver moustache loiters and waits to jump on small groups of people to offer them guided tours. He seemed persistent, but inoffensive, and was the only annoying character in the whole area.

The funicular runs from 7.30am to 10pm, and tickets can be bought at both ends of the track.

The Casle Hill funicular (skilo in Hungarian) dates back to 1870, making it the second oldest in Europe. The funicular's wooden cars run on two tracks, each carrying 24 passengers up the 51 m from the foot of the Chain Bridge to Buda Castle. The short trip lasts about 90 seconds and it offers really nice views of the city, not to mention that it saves the steep walk up Caslte Hill. **Tickets cost 900 forints (1800 for a round trip)** and can be bought at the foot of the funicular - there might be a bit of a line-up but wait time usually isn't so bad.



20. ******* [Buda Castle - Royal Palace](#) (700m,12 min from Chain Bridge -Szecheny Lanchid)

The former Royal Castle is located on the Buda Hill overlooking the Danube, the bridges and the Pest side of Budapest. It was first completed in 1265 but destroyed or damaged several times, during the the Turkish siege of 1529, the Austrian siege of 1686, the siege during the 1848/49 revolution and World War II, all causing major damage. The castle as it can be seen today reflects mainly the building efforts during the reign of Austrian empress Maria Theresia in the second half of the 18th century and the construction during the late 19th century. The interior was more or less gutted during communist rule as an unwanted reminder of "feudal" heritage.

Today, the castle contains the National Gallery, the National Library and the City Museum. Next to the castle is the Sandor Palace, home of the Hungarian president. Several statues can be found on the castle grounds, among them Prince Eugene and a mythical vulture-like bird near the northern castle entrance. You can walk up, or you can use **funicular for 3.5/person** for just 1min tour. *Πάρτε το μετρό νούμερο 2 και κατεβείτε μια στάση πριν το τέρμα. Από εκεί θα περάσετε την Πύλη της Βιέννης και θα κατηφορίσετε προς το κάστρο. Όλη η περιοχή με την εκκλησία του Αγίου Ματθία, τον προμαχώνα των ψαράδων, το άγαλμα του Βασιλιά Στέφανου, τα πρώην παλάτια και τωρινά μουσεία, τα σιντριβάνια, τα τείχη, την θέα, την ατμόσφαιρα, την ιστορία είναι μαγευτική και μοναδική.*



20a. [National Gallery](#)

This is the largest public collection of Hungarian fine arts. The museum is housed within the Royal Palace of Buda's buildings A, B, C and D and presents Hungarian art work from the medieval era and up to the 20th century. This is the best museum to see Hungarian art work but for international art the Budapest Museum of Fine Arts is a better choice. The museum's original collection included approximately 6,000 paintings, 2,100 sculptures, 3,100 medals, 11,000 drawings, 5,000 prints and it has since expanded. The art is arranged in chronological order so that you can trace the development of Hungarian art as you walk through the museum. Among **the sections of the museum are the Medieval and Renaissance Stone Carvings; Panel Painting and Wooden Sculptures from the Gothic Period; Late Gothic Winged Altarpieces; Late Renaissance and Baroque Art; 19th Century Art; 20th Century Art before 1944 and Mihaly Munkacsy and the Realism of the End of the Century.** The collection is presented on four floors. **Artists whose work is exhibited include Karoly Ferenczy, Jozsef Rippl-Ronai, Karoly Alexy, Tivadar Kosztkca Csontvary, Miklos Borsos, Janos Fadrusz, Pal Szinyei Merse, Beni Ferenczy, Maurice Ascalon and Ervin Marton.** The museum also features art by Hungarians who worked outside of the country like the work of Laszlo Paal and Mihaly Munkacsy. On the ground floor of Building C of the museum you can see the crypt of the Habsburg viceroys. There are audio guides available in several languages. At 2pm on Thursdays and 10am on Saturdays there are free English tours of the "Highlights of Hungarian Art".



21. [Matthias Fountain](#) [\(110m, 1min from Buda Castle\)](#)

This is one of those beautiful fountains that can be found in many European countries. The bigger than life statues are beautiful and very detailed. **Not to be missed.**

The fountain shows a hunting scene, set against a wall and framed by massive Corinthian columns.

At the top, in front of a niche, is the bronze figure of King Matthias, holding a crossbow in his hand and standing proudly near a slain deer. At his feet, in front of a small waterfall, are three large hunting dogs, his gamekeeper and his shield bearer. To the left, at the base of the columns, is the seated figure of Galeotto Marzio, the Italian court historian who first recorded the story of Ilonka. The historian, who is accompanied by a dog, holds a falcon on his wrist. On the other side is the story's protagonist, Szép Ilonka, who appears to be feeding a young deer.

Local folklore has it that anyone who throws coins in the fountain will be granted a safe return to Budapest.



22. [Torteneti Museum- History Museum](#) [\(180m, 3min from Matthias Fountain\)](#)

There are three branches to the Budapest History Museum each in a different location – the Roman Antiquities Museum (Aquincum Museum); the Fine Art Museum (Kiscelli Museum) and the Castle Museum. The museum was established in 1887 and the main branch (Castle Museum) moved to its present location in building E of Buda Castle in 1967. The museum exhibits both temporary exhibitions and its permanent collection. **The collection covers the history of the city from prehistory to the end of Soviet occupation.** Exhibition space is spread over three floors and there are six main sections in the museum. The *Budapest in the Modern Age* section is at present under construction but when it reopens you will be able to see artifacts from the 20th century including political posters. *The Gothic Sculptures from the Royal Palace of Buda* section displays the works found in the castle. The section on *Budapest in the Middle Ages* holds artifacts related to the city during that period. *The Medieval Royal Palace of the Buda Castle* takes visitors to the lower levels of the castle where restored sections of the 15th century medieval Royal Palace were once home to Hungarian kings. Within the castle you can see three halls with vaulted ceilings. One of the halls has a Renaissance red marble door frame which holds the seal of Queen Beatrice. Other rooms of interest in the castle are the 14th century Tower Chapel and the Royal Cellar. A section entitled *The Tapestry with the Hungarian-Angevin Coat-of-Arms* displays a tapestry which was one of several silks found buried in mud 10 meters down inside a well. The section on *Ancient Peoples and Antique Cultures* holds artifacts discovered in archaeological excavations. The latest addition to the museum is a Light and Shadow Exhibit which traces the last 1,000 years of Budapest history. The exhibition uses the finest artifacts from the museum and highlights them using state-of-the-art museum techniques. Visitors "walk through" the history of Budapest.

An interesting way of reaching the museum is to take the funicular from Chain Bridge.



23. [Gellert Hill - Gellert Hegy](#) [\(2600m, 33min from Torteneti Museum- History Museum\)](#)

The *Gellert hill* received its name after St. Gellért who came to Hungary as a missionary bishop upon the invitation of King St. Stephen I. around 1000 a.d. His task was helping the Hungarians convert to Christianity. Some pagan leaders who did not want to convert captured St. Gellért and rolled him down from the hill in a barrel. The St. *Gellért monument* and its fountain representing his martyrdom can be found on the Northeastern slope of the hill facing the Elisabeth bridge. The top of the Gellért Hill is a strategical point from where they had an overview of both Buda and Pest. Though it was equipped with 60 cannons, it was used as threat rather than a working fortification. After the reconciliation with the Habsburgs the Hungarians wanted to demolish the buildings, but after all it did not happen. In the mid 20th century it was converted to a tourist center. The statue was erected in 1947 after the second world war. The main figure is a woman, holding an olive branch, the symbol of peace in her hands. On both sides symbolic figures can be seen: the young man's victory over the dragon represents the defeat of fascism. **The Citadel can be reached by bus 27 from Móricz Zsigmond körtér.**

The fortress of the *Citadel* was built by the Habsburgs in 1851 to demonstrate their control over the Hungarians.

From the panorama terraces one can have a stunning view of the city. By a short walk one can reach the *Liberation Monument*.





24. Citadella-Ακρόπολη (950m,15min from Gellert Hill)

Citadel is the Hungarian word for a kind of fortress. The word *Citadella* is exclusively used by other languages to denote the Citadel located upon the top of the strategic Gellért Hill in Budapest, Hungary.

The fortress was built in 1851 by J. von Haynau, a commander of the Habsburg Monarchy, and designed by Emmanuel Zitta and Ferenc Kasselik, after the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. It occupies almost the entire 235 metres high plateau. The fortress is a U-shaped structure built about a central courtyard, being 220 metres long, 60 metres wide, and 4 metres tall. It had a complement of sixty cannons.

Actually built by Hungarian forced labourers, it was finished in 1854. In June 1854 Austrian troops settled in the citadel. After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 and the establishment of Austria–Hungary, the Hungarians demanded the destruction of the Citadel, but the garrison troops left only in 1897, when the main gate was symbolically damaged. It was not until late 1899 when the city took possession of the Citadel. A few months later, in 1900, the walls were demolished.

In the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, Soviet troops occupied the Citadella. Tanks fired down into the city during the assault that overthrew the Nagy-led Hungarian government. **From the top of the Citadel, there is a panoramic view over the city, the Danube and its eight bridges.** On the plateau and nearby are other points of interest like the [Liberty Statue](#), [Hotel Gellért](#), the [Gellért Baths](#) and the [Gellért Hill Cave](#).

Approximate total distance between first and last spot (sn 1-24) 28Km

Sightseeing away from the center of the city, but **MUST SEE!**



X1. ***** Memento Park-Statue Park, 12.2Km, about 25min away**

GIGANTIC STATUES AND GHOSTS OF COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP

THE **MEMENTO PARK** IS TRULY ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR AND IMPRESSIVE EXHIBITIONS IN HUNGARY. THIS UNIQUE THEME PARK PROVIDES A LAST GLIMPSE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN. IT IS A SPECTACULAR AND IMPRESSIVE HISTORICAL PRESENTATION, EVOKING THE YEARS WHEN SOCIALISM WAS A PART OF REAL LIFE.

IT IS A MUST-SEE IN BUDAPEST, WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS OF COMMUNISM AT ONE PLACE! NOTES IN THE VISITORS' BOOK CALL THE PARK "AMAZING, CREEPY AND SHOCKING".

The **Statue Park** is a collection of the communist monuments that were removed from the streets and squares of Budapest at the fall of the system. Among many others, displayed here are the statues of the soviet soldier that once stood on Gellért Hill, Lenin, Dimitrov, Ostapenko, Captain Steinmetz, Marx, Engels, Béla Kun and the Monument to the Hungarian Socialist Republic. *For more and detailed info of Memento Park, see http://www.budapestinfo.org/memento_park.html*

Open EVERY day from 10 am to dusk, TICKETS: HUF 1500, students: HUF 1000, Budapest XXII district (South Buda), corner of Balatoni u. - Szabadkai u. www.mementopark.hu

Direct bus transfer. Every day at 11 am, also at 3 pm in 16. July - 28. August from Deák tér, in the centre of Budapest (m1, m2, m3), departs from the stop bearing a "Memento Park" timetable. **Direct bus tickets: HUF 4500** (students: HUF 3500) **includes the return fare and admission to Memento Park.** Tickets can be purchased on the bus.

Daytrip suggestions



Janoshegy

14Km about 40min away,

The Janoshegy is **one of the most under rated attractions in Budapest**, and actually most of the tourists didn't even hear about it. It will take you around 40 minutes to get there from the center but it's worth every minute. You will enjoy a ski lift ride to a high mountain point, and watch an amazing view of the city and around it, a lot of nature as well. **DONT MISS IT**



Szentendre.

22km north of Budapest

If you have seen most of Budapest you may want to do a daytrip!

It's a picturesque small town on Danube Bend, which during the summer gets packed with hundreds of tourists. We easily reached it **by train in 40'** but you can also go there **by bus or boat**.

The area was populated since the Stone Age by Illyrians, then some Celtic tribes and then Romans had built a castle here and called the town *Ulcisia Castra*. Later Lombards, Avars, Serbs, Hungarians and Bulgarians arrived. Much of its history is connected with Serbs that used to have 8 Serbian Orthodox churches here. After the liberation from Ottoman Turks in 18th century immigrants from Greece, Serbia, Croatia, Slovakia and Germany came bringing in different cultures. Today Szentendre has about 25,000 inhabitants.

There is a special atmosphere in **Szentendre with nice cobblestone streets, baroque architecture, some great churches and numerous cute small museums** (most of them close on Monday). We went up to Templom ter for a view from above, we visited many churches (Blagovestenszka Orthodox church at Fo Ter and cathedral Beogradska Serbian Orthodox church that includes a museum were the most interesting) we even visit Mikro Art museum that houses microminiatures!



Useful info

The Danube - Duna. There have been many favourable comments here on **the bridges of Budapest and indeed the view from these bridges on the Buda castle or the Pest part of the town are beautiful** especially at night when all monuments are under light. But there would be no monumental bridges if there was not the wide river Danube, Duna in Hungarian. At **the "Chain Bridge" the width of the Danube is about 350 m. Upstream the river is even wider when passing the Parliament and reaches more than 450 m at the point of the Margit Island.** The average discharge of the river, flowing through Budapest, is 2.350 m³/sec. **The Danube is the longest river in the European Union, has its origin in the Black Forest (Germany) and ends up after 2.888 km in the Black Sea, flowing through—or forming a part of the borders of—ten countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine** and four capitals including Budapest, it is also the dividing line that separates Buda from Pest. It is because of the Danube, that the city has its **famous bridges, including the Chain Bridge and the Liberty Bridge**. In fact the people of Budapest thought so highly of their bridges that many were rebuilt after their destruction in WWII. It is also due to the Danube that there is Margaret Island, one of the capital's favourite places for picnics and music festivals. The Danube is an important transport route in the European Union. Since the opening of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, the river connects the Black Sea with the industrial centres of Western Europe and with the Port of Rotterdam.

Danube Cruise

Walk along the Danube River on the Pest side between the Chain and Liberty Bridges and you will see an enormous number of small to medium sized vessels offering short one to two hour cruises up and down the Danube.

So which one to choose? What is best?

There are literally countless options. Cruises with a free beer or champagne. With an included lunch or dinner. With

guaranteed seats. The majority of the cruises have pre recorded commentaries in either English, German or Hungarian. Many of them include some combination of two on the cruise.

The costs range considerably too. One and a half hour cruises from 1900 FOR to 7000 FOR. The latter includes a full lunch and one drink. **Be aware if you book it from where you stay the hotel often gets a kick back from the tour operator and you may be able to purchase it cheaper in person.**

My tips based on my limited three day experience and research is;

* Paying more does not necessarily get you a better cruise. **They basically cover the same area of the river** and most of the commentaries are pre recorded.

^ The best time to cruise is at twilight just as the lights of Budapest are coming on. Many of the buildings along the river are beautifully lit.

* **It can get cool on the river even when it is warm in town so dress appropriately.**

^ if in doubt go for the lowest price option. **My cruise which was good cost me just under \$ 8 USD or about 7 Euros.**

So enjoy seeing another

Budapest by Night

Among the main touristic assets of Budapest are the **illuminations** all the year. It has been written here that **Budapest is better at night than in daytime and it is true.**

The major illuminations are those on the Buda side of the Castle, the Fisherman Bastion and Matthias church, further to the north near the Batthyany Ter the St. Anna church.

On the Danube the monumental Chain bridge. On the Pest side the Parliament, St Stephen's basilica, Gresham Palace and to the south the Market just to mention the most important ones.

Best is the walk on the promenade Duna Korso along the Danube on the Pest side with the restaurant and hotel terraces and the views on the Buda hill.

***** BEWARE- Totally unsafe place (according tourists testimonies)**

Budapest may look safe but it is not at all. From the very first minute in Hungary they try to rip us off. They do it successfully, they are very good on this.

We visited thermal baths, they overcharged us and our towels also stolen!!!

We parked our camper van just outside of thermal baths - at 6 pm - busy with a lot of people outside and a lot of cars parked as well. When we came back, the side window of our van was broken and almost everything valuable stolen - GPS, Camera, Laptop, ski equipment and more.

The car alarm and siren was very powerful but seemed that no one gave any attention!

We visited police but we were unable to report it cause no one was talking English, so we just lost our time there!

Very bad experience!