**Budapest Sights or Things to Do**

Sample three day visit—Day 1 Tour Inner City of Pest, Visit Parliament, walk across Chain Bridge, Take funicular to Castle Hill

Day 2 Visit House of Terror, Stroll down Andrassy Blvd, visit Heroes Square, Take a thermal bath in Széchenyi Baths

Day 3

1. **Buda Castle Hill**--Elevated 168 meters (551 feet) above sea level, this striking area of Buda--the historic area of Buda--offers visitors the medieval Buda Castle, the Vienna Gate, the Magdalen Tower and a few museums.
2. **Fisherman’s Bastion**--the cobblestone streets of the Fisherman's Bastion on the Buda side, lead to-a series of seven neo-Gothic towers. They provide a breathtaking panorama of the Danube River, the Parliament building and the Pest side of Budapest. Take bus 16 or 16A to Castle Hill.
3. **St. Stephen’s Basilica**--The largest Catholic Church in Budapest, where the most important relic of the Hungarian Catholicism, the Holy Right of King St. Steven is kept. The panorama terrace offers a great view of the city if you are willing to climb the 142 steps to the top. It is one the Pest side.
4. **Heroes Square**--The monumental square at the end of Andrássy Avenue sums up the history of Hungary by displaying statues that honor Hungary’s heroes. The millennium memorial commemorates the 1000th anniversary of the arrival of the Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin. The Museum of Fine Arts and the Palace of Fine Arts are also located on this square. It is the entrance to the City Park. It is on the Pest side. To get there take Metro to Hosok tere (yellow line)
5. **Central Market Hall**--the Central Market Hall is like a large treasure trove of fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, fish and culinary delicacies. The spacious market at the Pest end of Liberty Bridge (Szabadság híd) however is famous for its architecture too. Built at the turn of the 19-20. Centuries, it was one of the **most modern indoor markets** not only in Budapest but in the whole world. It is on the Pest side.
6. **Hungarian Parliament--t**he monumental building of the Parliament is one of the biggest attractions of Budapest. It hosts the diet and the crown jewels. Guided tours are organized 4 times a day. It is on the Pest side.
7. **Gellert Hill and the Citadel**--For the best panorama of Budapest, Gellért Hill definitely worth a visit. The old fortress and the statue of Liberty can be seen from a great distance. They are an important part of the cityscape. It is on the Buda side. Take bus #27 to get to this location.
8. **Vaci Street and Danube Promenade**--The bustling walking areas of the downtown offer famous cafés, terraces, elegant shops, boutiques and theatres. There are great views of the Castle from the Danube Promenade. It is on the Pest side.
9. **Chain Bridge**--This was the first permanent bridge built across the Danube in Budapest. It was built between 1840 to 1849. It is 375m long and 16m wide. This bridge connected the towns of Buda and Pest and was a major reason the two towns became Budapest. In 1989, it was a site of protest for freedom and independence from communist rule. Today, the bridge is a symbol of Hungarian liberty.
10. **City Park**--The largest green area of Budapest conceals the **Castle of Vajdahunyad** ([www.mmgu.hu](http://www.mmgu.hu)) (a castle with 21 types of architecture, it was created for an exhibition), the **Széchenyi thermal bath** (one of the largest and most famous thermal baths in the world), the Zoo and the Amusement park. It is a beloved corner of the city for walking and relaxing. It is on the Pest side. Metro Széchenyi furdo (yellow line)
11. **House of Terror**—you need strong stomach to visit this museum. This is the former headquarters of the ÁVH secret police. This building is witness to some of the darkest days of 20th-century Hungary. Exhibits have English signs. Metro stop Okyogon (Yellow line). ([www.houseofterror.hu](http://www.houseofterror.hu))
12. **Dohány Synagogue** Built in 1859, this is the second-largest working synagogue in the world (the largest is in New York City), and the second-oldest large building of those still standing. The synagogue has a rich, but tragic history; it was one of many detention areas for Jews during the Holocaust. A Jewish museum next door traces the origins of Hungarian Judaism and features exhibits of ceremonial Judaica throughout the centuries. The museum periodically puts on excellent temporary exhibitions. The Holocaust Memorial and Heroes' Temple in the courtyard are well worth visiting.
13. **Opera House**--the Opera House has a fantastically ornate interior featuring frescoes by two of the best-known Hungarian artists of the day, Bertalan Székely and Károly Lotz. Guided tours given daily at 3pm and 4pm (these can be arranged in English) are the only way to see the interiors. Metro stop Opera (Yellow line). ([www.opera.hu](http://www.opera.hu))
14. **Have a desert in Gerbeaud Cafe**—famous for their handmade deserts. It opened in 1858 and has been a favorite of Budapest every since then. ([www.gerbeaud.hu/en](http://www.gerbeaud.hu/en))
15. **Eat in Karpatia restaurant**—the motto here is “the only king here is you”—great Hungarian food. A city land mark since 1877, you will experience traditional and contemporary Hungarian food, with a spirited gypsy band playing amidst historic walls. ([www.karpatia.hu/en/](http://www.karpatia.hu/en/))
16. **Shopping**--Just off exclusive **Váci Utca Boulevard** there are courtyards studded with boutiques and shops selling handmade leather gloves, intricate Halas lace and Herend porcelain. Pricey antique shops and galleries cluster along **Falk Miksa Utica** near the neo-Gothic Parliament and just steps from **Katti Zoób**, Hungary's leading design diva. Taste Hungary's finest wines at laid-back **Bortarsaság** near the Castle District.

**Getting Around Budapest**

Budapest has a good metro system. You can buy tickets from an automated machine in the metro stations—signs are in 3 languages (English, German & Hungarian). Do not try to figure out the exact fare, buy a 1 day or 3 day pass ticket—if you buy individual tickets they must be validated & often you will need several to get to your destination. Pass tickets do not need to be validated. Metro often shuts down about 1100 PM. A 4th line is being added and scheduled for completion in 2013, so there may be some disruptions during the construction.

**Day Trips form Budapest**