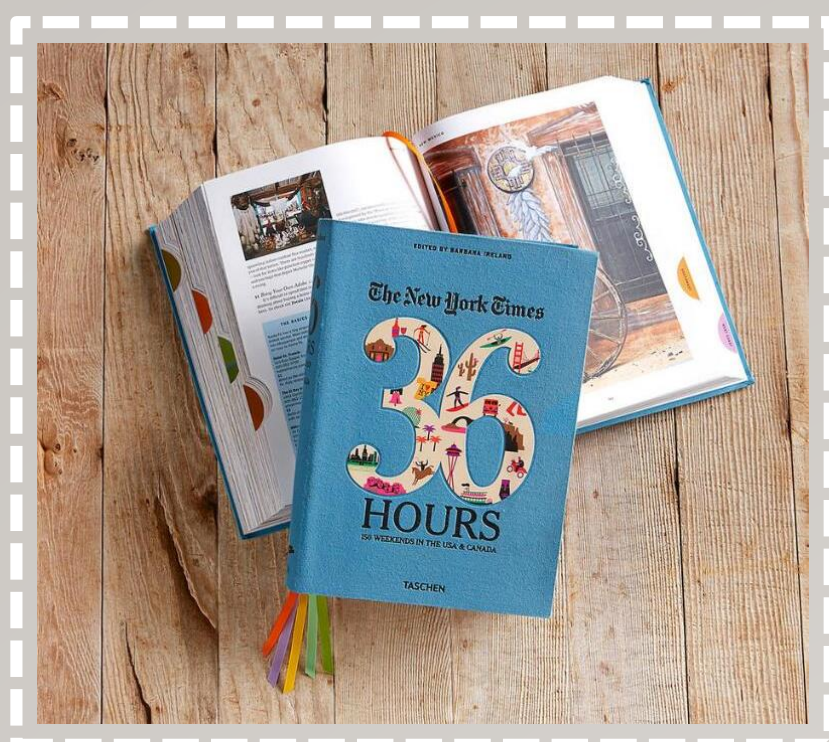


BUDAPEST



The New York Times released a set of articles called 36 hours.

Click [36 Hours in Budapest](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/29/travel/36-hours-in-budapest.html) to read what the NYT recommend you do if your are only there for a short time. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/29/travel/36-hours-in-budapest.html>)

THINGS TO SEE

- ❖ **Buda Castle** - you can't miss it as you walk along the Danube. You absolutely want to go up since it has the best view of Budapest. It's nice in the day but gets spectacular at sunset and nighttime, when the entire city gets lit up. A friend of ours took this photo from up there: <https://www.instagram.com/p/8Jw5L9Bg1y/> 😊
You can take a cablecar up from the Buda side of the Chain Bridge, but if you decide walk up, you get the view of the city at various levels.
There's also the so called **Castle District** up there. - It's a neighborhood still in the walled city. It's a bit quiet and very different from rest of Budapest. <https://welovebudapest.com/en/2015/03/20/discover-the-sights-of-budapests-castle-district/>
- ❖ **Chain Bridge** - Beautiful, iconic bridge of Budapest. Hard to understand how impressive it is until you see it up-close. Nice to walk across at night when it is lit up.
- ❖ **St Stephen's Basilica** - Beautiful church. You can climb to the top for a good view (Buda castle is better though)
- ❖ **Andrássy Avenue** - Budapest's own Champs-Élysées, connecting the city center (Erzsébet Square, next to Deák Square) to the Heroes' Square <https://welovebudapest.com/en/venue/andrassy-avenue-2/>
- ❖ **House of Terror**: Well-done museum on the history of Nazi then Soviet occupation in Hungary; located in the old Arrow Cross/Soviet Secret Police building in Budapest. It shows how twisted history can get in an interactive way.
- ❖ **Heroes' Square**: Monument depicting important historic figures of Hungary, close to the Széchenyi bath. <https://welovebudapest.com/en/venue/heroes-square-2/>
You can take a nice walk from the city center along the Andrássy út to arrive to Heroes' Square.
- ❖ **Central market hall** - Historic site of Budapest. Nice for a visit, however it's quite touristy. The main floor is still a functional market where you try some sausage, buy some spices (Hungarian paprika is great), etc. On the upper floor there is food and vendor stalls, but it's very touristy stuff (Budapest t-shirts, bags etc). In case you're interested in grabbing lunch at one of the more local markets, just let us know and we'll give you a recommendation.
- ❖ **Great Synagogue** - One of the oldest and the biggest surviving synagogue in Europe and second biggest synagogue of the world. A must-visit if you want to learn more about the history of the country. It has a moving Holocaust memorial in the back. <https://www.greatsynagogue.hu>

- ❖ **'Memorial to the victims of the German occupation'** - Extremely controversial memorial erected by Orbán government. Essentially whitewashes Hungarian government involvement in Holocaust. A counter-memorial has been built right next to it by protesters. This type of politics playing out in public is very typical for Europe, especially in the East.
- ❖ **'Shoes on the Danube'** - Moving holocaust memorial on the Danube river. During WWII, Hungarian Jews were lined up here, shot, and shoved into the river. The memorial shows just their shoes as a remembrance of where they stood.
- ❖ **Parliament** - Beautiful building right on the Danube. We recommend doing a tour of the building, as it's quite special. You can buy tickets online in advance very easily.
<http://latogatokozpont.parlament.hu/en>
- ❖ **Margaret island**: Wonderful spot to visit in the summer time. Entire island is essentially a park full of walking and biking trails along with the Palatinus bath. There's also plenty of small food and drink stands. If the weather is nice, it's great to spend some time biking around and stopping for drinks occasionally.
- ❖ **Liberty Statue** - Go here for one of the most impressive views of the entire city. It's located on the top of the Gellért Hill, which makes it a great stroll before/after visiting the Gellért Bath. You can capture some amazing photos from here, especially nice around sunset as you can see the city both at daytime and nighttime.
- ❖ **Memento Park** - small park 15-20 minutes driving outside the city but unique. After the fall of the communist government, this is where they preserved all their soviet-era statues. It's extremely cool if you like history. <http://www.mementopark.hu/>

COFFEE HOUSES AND PASTRY SHOPS

Hungary has a long tradition of cafés and confectionary due to the history with the turks as well as the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

Find some historic cafés here: <http://visitbudapest.travel/articles/cafe-culture-in-budapest/>

- ❖ **Gerbaud** - Iconic coffee house at Vörösmarty square, near to Deák Ferenc square. If you go to Széchenyi Bath, it is easy to get here by metro (underground) 1. That was the first underground built in Europe!! Looks quite stylish actually.
 - ❖ **Párizsi Nagyáruház** (on the Andrassy Avenue) - It's a book store, but if you go in, they have a neo-renaissance coffeehouse inside.
 - ❖ **Ruszwurm** – 200 years old confectionary in the Castle, you need to go there for a cake, icecream or coffee. Normally it is full, so you have to wait a bit to get a seat.
<http://www.ruszwurm.hu/en/>
 - ❖ **Szamos** – If you see a Szamos pastry shop anywhere, it's a safe bet too. They are always good. Famous for the marzipan, but all cakes and ice cream and coffee are just fine.
- If you go to a pastry shop Dobos cake is one of the most famous cake, because its pastry chef was the very first in the world who invented buttercream.

RESTAURANTS

- ❖ **Borkonyha** - Upscale bistro with modern Hungarian food and wine. Has a michelin star and is incredible. Prices are fairly reasonable (around 50USD for tasting menu), but reservation is absolutely required.
- ❖ **Polo Pub** - Perfect, unpretentious spot for rustic Hungarian food. It is a place for locals on the Buda side of the city. We would recommend to get the pig knuckle, it's amazing and one of Michael's favorite Hungarian dishes. 😊
- ❖ **Koleves** - Popular place for homemade Hungarian food. Great wine selection as. Little known fact -- Hungary has tons of vineyards. If it's nice, they have a garden in the back you can sit in. The kitchen is open till midnight, so, it's a good place for late dinner. Goose leg confit is incredible and the roast lamb is pretty fantastic also.
If you must wait for a table, the bar BRKLYN just down the street has great cocktails.
- ❖ **Maceszhuszár** - Hungarian-Jewish restaurant. Offers upscale, modern twists on more rustic dishes. Tasting menu is only \$35 per person.
- ❖ **Cirkus Cafe** - Great brunch in Budapest. Try the eggs benedict and they also make a great bloody Mary.
- ❖ **100 éves étterem** (100 year old restaurant) <http://www.100evesetterem.hu/> The oldest still operating restaurant in Budapest.

CASUAL EATING

- ❖ **Leves** - Hungary is famous for the variety of tasty/savory soups; there is practically no proper meal without soup, regardless of the weather. This is a great soup place near Central Market Hall, and developed by Laura's university mates. Good for an afternoon snack.
- ❖ **Kazinczy street** - Very hip street with lots of bars, restaurants, etc.
 - **Bors** - Sandwich shop, a pretty young and "hip." They're always blasting 90s hip hop while preparing sandwiches. No real sitting room.
 - **Street Food Caravan** - Tucked away area with about 10 permanent food trucks all in a courtyard on Kazinczy street. Great place to eat outdoors, have some beers and chill with local people.
 - **Fuego** - New place on Kazinczky street. They make wood-fired chicken. Simple, easy and good.
- ❖ **Little Melbourne Coffee Shop** - Great coffee shop if you need a pick me up.

BARS

- ❖ **Ruins Bars** - these are really popular. They're bars built into centuries old buildings (so, ruins bars) -- they're often a madhouse full of students and young adults -- but people like them. Szimpla Kert on Kazinczy Street is a popular one and in a good area.
- ❖ **Craft Beer Bar** - that's really the name... :D It's on Kazinczy, same place as Bors. It has a great selection of eastern European crafts.
- ❖ **Pharma Bar** - Great craft cocktail bar in a “hip” area of town. Specialty is palinka cocktails -- highly recommend.
- ❖ **Boats on the Water** - Get a drink on one at Sunset. You will not regret it. From there you can see it set behind Buda castle. Spoon cafe is an upscale spot, but, all the boats have the same view if you want something more casual.
- ❖ **Drink outdoors** - if it's nice, visit Margaret Island and just drink outdoors. It's beautiful and very relaxing. Or just sit along the river and chill. This is one of Laura's favourite spots in summer.
- ❖ **Pop up bar by Chain Bridge (summer only)** -In the Summer there is a great pop up bar at the base of the chain bridge on the north side. Amazing at night to sit, have drinks and stare at the lit up bridge. Really recommend it.
- ❖ **Gozsdu Sky Terrace** - Haven't been, but, told it has a great view of the city.
- ❖ **Pagony** - great outdoor drinking spot. It's actually an old Hungarian bath that has been converted into a pub. So, there are tables in old pools and such -- it's funny and unique. Take a look at a photo [here](#).
- ❖ **Király utca Pedestrian Walkway**- There is a pedestrian walkway right off 'Király utca' (it's a street). It's full of bars and restaurants -- very popular on Fridays and Saturdays. If you're looking for a messy party -- this is the spot.
- ❖ **BRKLYN** - Good craft cocktail bar

THERMAL BATHS

Budapest is known as the „City of Spas”. According to estimates, there are approximately 1000 natural spring water sources in Hungary, out of which around 120 are below Budapest.

Many of the thermal baths in Budapest date back to the 16th century, others were built around a century ago.

It is not just a tradition but a way of life; and a lot of fun jumping to and from each thermal pool at different temperatures, not to mention the steam rooms, saunas, and open-air pools. Each Thermal Bath is a bit different and we recommend the ones mentioned below.

- ❖ **Rudas** - This bath has a nice mix of modern thermal baths along with the original 16th century Turkish style stone baths (from the time Hungary was part of the Ottoman Empire). It's a unique combination. In addition, they have one bath on the roof of the place that is outdoors. It overlooks the city and is incredible at nighttime. If you go, make sure you ask for the FULL pass. It is a bit confusing, but there are two versions. A pass that only allows you into the old, 16th century baths and another that allows you everywhere.
Sometimes there is a wait to get into Rudas. The line may look very long but, it goes quickly and is worth it. The wait ensures it's not too overcrowded.
- ❖ **Lukács** - It's smaller bath, that opened in the 1880s. It is much quieter and predominately with locals. This is a good place to go if you want to avoid large crowds at the bath.
- ❖ **Széchenyi** - Housed in a neo-Baroque palace in Budapest's City Park, Széchenyi is Budapest's largest thermal bath complex. Built in 1913, this sprawling site is home to 15 indoor pools and three huge outdoor pools of varying temperatures. It's a bit touristy, but still a lot of fun. The entire building is built around this [huge outdoor pool in the center](#). You can relax, swim, and get drinks/food out there as well. Easy to spend a day jumping in/out of the indoor thermal baths, saunas, etc and laying by the pool outdoors.
- ❖ **Gellért** - Beautiful place. Opened in 1918, this Art Nouveau complex features indoor and outdoor baths fed by thermal springs from the nearby Gellért Hill. The entire bath is lined with beautiful tile mosaics. People like it to a bath built into a cathedral as a result. Great massage and other body therapy facilities. It's nicer looking than some of the others, but, the baths themselves are not as great.
- ❖ **Palatinus „Strand”** - Warning: This is not a bath in the traditional sense. It is really a waterpark with a bath area on the Margaret Island. A typical place to go to with kids in summer. 😊 It is a lot of fun. It has water slides, giant pools with fun features (ex. a 'spinning water' area where you are propelled in long looping circles), smaller pools with chess tables, and an indoor bath area.