

TRAVEL GUIDE BOOK

BUDAPEST

CITY OF BRIDGES AND SUSTAINABLE CHOICES

A Sustainable & Plant-Based Mini Travel Guide



Your Sustainable
Travel Guide

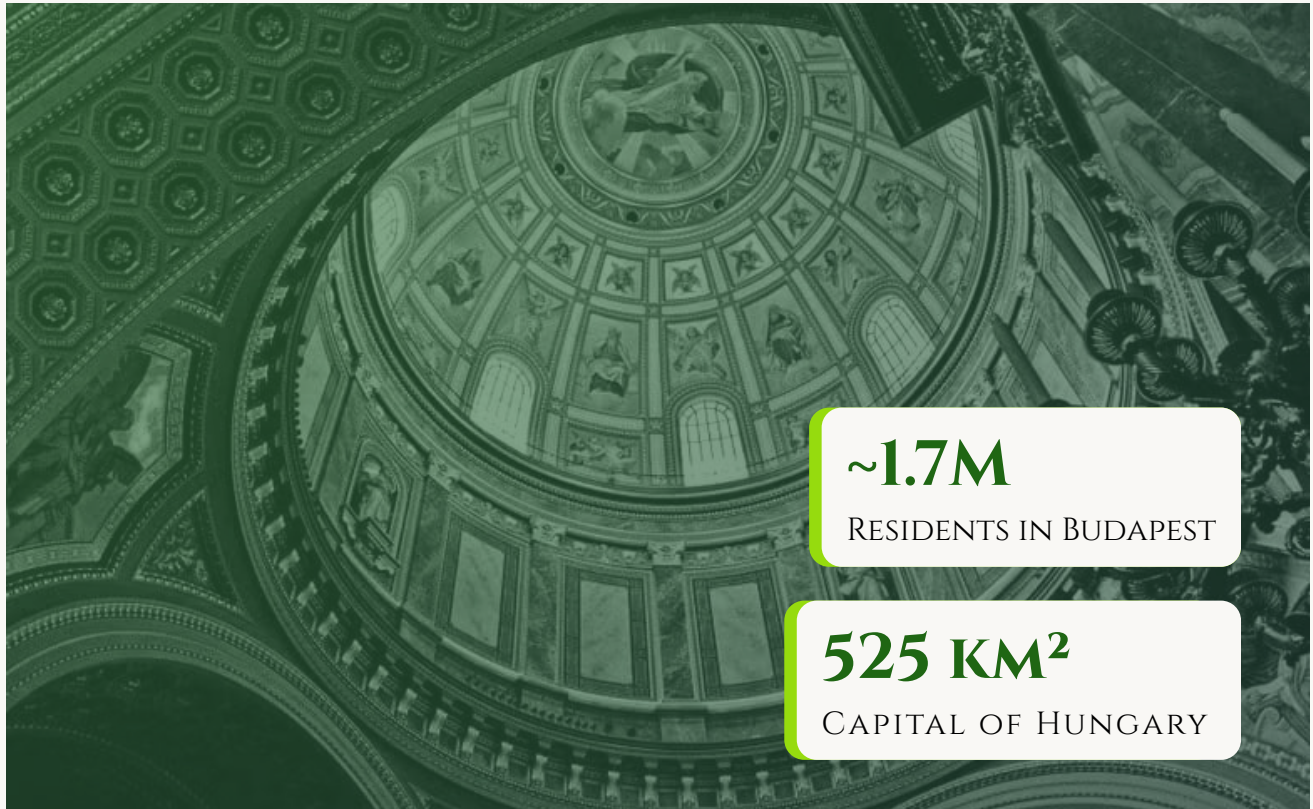


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Introduction & Overview



Budapest sits along both banks of the Danube, a city stitched together from three older towns – hilly, castle-crowned Buda, flat and grand Pest, and quiet Óbuda – that were formally unified in 1873. Long before that, the site was a Celtic settlement, then the Roman garrison town of Aquincum, and later a jewel of the Habsburg Empire, whose grand boulevards and thermal culture still shape the city today.

That layered history is part of what makes Budapest such a rewarding city to explore slowly, on foot, by bike, and by tram – which is exactly the pace this guide is built around: fewer taxis, more thermal baths, plant-based lángos, and bridges lit up at night.

Landmarks Awaiting You in Budapest

HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT (ORSZÁGHÁZ)

- Kossuth Lajos tér 1-3

One of Europe's largest legislative buildings, its Gothic Revival spires rise directly from the Danube's edge and are especially striking from a river-facing bench in Kossuth Square.

BEST AT SUNRISE OR SUNSET



BUDA CASTLE (BUDAVÁRI PALOTA)

- Castle District, Buda

Originally built in the 13th century, later rebuilt in Baroque style. Today it is home to the National Gallery and the Historical Museum.

BEST LATE AFTERNOON

Landmarks Awaiting You in Budapest

(Continued)

FISHERMAN'S BASTION (HALÁSZBÁSTYA)

- Szentháromság tér, Buda

Constructed in the late 19th century to mark Hungary's millennium. Named after the fishermen who defended this part of the city.

BEST AT EARLY MORNING



CHAIN BRIDGE (SZÉCHENYI LÁNCHÍD)

- Connecting Buda and Pest across the Danube.

Opened in 1849, the first permanent bridge in Budapest. A symbol of modernization and unification.

BEST AT EVENING

Landmarks Awaiting You in Budapest

(Continued)

SZÉCHENYI THERMAL BATHS

- Állatkerti körút 9–11, City Park

Constructed in the late 19th century to mark Hungary's millennium. Named after the fishermen who defended this part of the city.

BEST AT MORNING OR EVENING



HERO'S SQUARE (HŐSÖK TERE)

- City Park

Built in the late 19th century to celebrate the millennium of the Magyars' arrival in the Carpathian Basin. A monumental square with statues of leaders and kings.

BEST AT MORNING

Landmarks Awaiting You in Budapest

(Continued)

GELLÉRT HILL AND CITADEL

- Buda, Gellért Hill

Named after Bishop Gerard, killed in the 11th century. The Habsburgs built the Citadel after 1848.

BEST AT SUNSET



GREAT SYNAGOGUE

- Dohan Street

Built in 1859, the largest synagogue in Europe, designed by Ludwig Förster in Moorish style. Today it is also a memorial center dedicated to Holocaust victims.

OPENING HOURS:

Generally, 10:00-16:00, Sunday to Thursday; Friday until 14:00; closed on Saturday. From May to October, open until 20:00 (Friday until 16:00).

BEST AT WEEKDAY MORNINGS



FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The city is full of impressive buildings, but the real adventure begins when you explore it differently. Instead of relying on your favorite four-wheeler, rent a bike or use the well-developed public transport system. Every time you choose this option, you reduce your ecological footprint.

Sustainable Stays in Budapest

Budapest offers accommodation for every budget – from affordable hotels in the center to wellness options along the Danube to luxurious palaces that are landmarks in their own right. For eco-friendly stays, here are some highlights:

CASATI BUDAPEST HOTEL

- Paulay Ede u. 31, 1061 Budapest, Hungary

Boutique hotel with Green Hotel

Award

~€120 /NIGHT

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



IBIS STYLES BUDAPEST CITY

- Soroksári út 12, 1095 Budapest, Hungary

Affordable hotel with Green Key
certificate

~€70 /NIGHT

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



IMPORTANT NOTES

Casati is ideal for a boutique experience and couples. **Ibis Styles** offers an excellent breakfast and sustainability at a lower price. **Medos** is perfect for a central location and budget travelers. **Charles** is family-oriented, with apartments and a kitchen. **Meininger** combines hostel and hotel, great for groups and young travelers.



Your Sustainable
Travel Guide

Sustainable Stays in Budapest

(Continued)

HOTEL MEDOS

- Jókai tér 9, 1061 Budapest, Hungary

Energy-efficient hotel near Andrassy Avenue

~€55 /NIGHT

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



HOTEL CHARLES

- Hegyalja út 23, 1118 Budapest, Hungary

Family hotel with apartments and local cuisine.

~€60 /NIGHT

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

MEININGER BUDAPEST GREAT MARKET HALL

- Csarnok tér 2, 1093

Modern hostel/hotel concept

€25–70.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Your Sustainable
Travel Guide

Markt & Local Stories

Budapest's markets are not just places to shop – they tell stories of local producers and traditions:

GREAT MARKET HALL

– Vámház körút 1–3.

The largest and most famous,
opened in 1897.



SZIMPLA SUNDAY MARKET

– Kazinczy utca 14.

Local products in a ruin bar
atmosphere.



FÉNY STREET MARKET

– Lövház utca 12.

Fresh fruit and vegetables.

BELVÁROSI PIAC

– Hold utca 13.

Elegant experience.

💡 SMALLER GEMS:

Komjádi Market, Czakó Farmer's Market, Lehel Market Hall, Hunyadi Square Market, Klauzál Square Market.

Vegan Options in Budapest

-Tradition Meets Innovation

Budapest is the heart of Hungarian cuisine, famous for traditional dishes like gulyás (goulash), pörkölt (meat stew), and lángos (fried dough), which are all rich in paprika, slow-cooked flavours, and hearty portions. These dishes form an integral part of Hungary's cultural identity. A vibrant vegan scene has emerged in the city, reimagining classic dishes in a plant-based way. This shows that tradition and sustainability can coexist.

KOZMOSZ VEGAN RESTAURANT

📍 Hunyadi tér 11

Hearty paprika stews and traditional flavors, but made with legumes and vegetables.



VEGAN GARDEN

📍 Király utca 8-10

Street food vibe – try vegan lángos with cashew cheese or Hungarian-style veggie burgers.

LAS VEGAN'S

📍 Kazinczy utca 18

Fast food reinvented with a local twist, perfect for casual bites.



Vegan Options in Budapest

-Tradition Meets Innovation
(Continued)



TÖKMAG VEGAN STREET FOOD

📍 Hollán Ernő utca 5

Famous for creative vegan burgers inspired by Hungarian spices.

TAHINA BITE

📍 Wesselényi utca 2

Mediterranean flavors with a sustainable touch.



NASPOLYA NASSOLDA

📍 Káldy Gyula utca 7

Raw cakes and desserts that are both indulgent and eco-friendly.

Vegan Options in Budapest

-Tradition Meets Innovation
(Continued)

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Tradition preserved:**

The spices, cooking methods, and atmosphere remain authentically Hungarian.

- **Innovation added:**

Meat and dairy are replaced with beans, lentils, mushrooms, and cashew creams.

- **Sustainability impact:**

Choosing vegan versions reduces the carbon footprint and supports Budapest's eco-friendly identity.



ZERO WASTE SHOPS

Budapest has many zero waste stores offering local, organic, and packaging-free products – from bulk food to plastic-free cosmetics and household items. Shopping here is both practical and inspiring, showing how small steps like avoiding single-use plastic can impact ecology and community.

Vegan Options in Budapest

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Vegan Options in Budapest

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(Continued)

GREEN SPACES

Budapest is not only a city of bridges and history, but also a city of green oases that bring peace and balance to your travels.

● Margaret Island (Margitsziget)

-Between Margit Bridge and Árpád Bridge on the Danube.

An idyllic location for those who prefer to take to their feet or ride a bicycle. Highlights include the Japanese Garden. There are also medieval monastery ruins. And the musical fountain. The best way to explore the island is by bike, though beware of fast local cyclists.



● Kopaszi-gát Park

-Near Rákóczi Bridge, Buda side (Kopaszi-gát sétány, XI District)

A lakeside oasis with cafes, gardens, and lavender scents. Locals come here to relax, while visitors discover a calmer side of Budapest.



● City Park (Városliget) - Next to Hero's Square

Home to Széchenyi Baths, Vajdahunyad Castle, and wide lawns perfect for picnics. A central hub where culture and nature meet.

● Gellért Hill

- Buda side

Famous for panoramic views, but also covered in greenery and walking paths. A perfect spot to combine sightseeing with nature.



Cycling In Budapest

The international cycling route that passes through Budapest is the famous EuroVelo 6 – The Danube Cycleway, one of Europe’s longest and most diverse cycling routes. It runs along the Danube River, connecting Budapest with Vienna upstream and Belgrade downstream.

EUROVELO 6 – The Danube Cycleway

● Route overview:

EuroVelo 6 stretches about 3,600 km across 10 countries, from the Atlantic coast in France to the Black Sea in Romania.

● Budapest section:

The route enters Budapest along the Danube, offering panoramic views of the Hungarian Parliament, Chain Bridge, and Buda Castle.

● Southbound path:

From Budapest, the trail continues through Csepel Island, then follows the Ráckeve branch of the Danube toward Serbia, eventually reaching Belgrade.

● Northbound path:

Heading upstream, cyclists ride toward Vienna and Bratislava, passing through scenic river landscapes and historic towns.

● Difficulty:

Mostly flat, suitable for all levels of cyclists.

● Best time to ride:

From May to September, when the weather is warm.



Cycling In Budapest

(Continued)

Budapest has a well-developed cycling network connecting major attractions and green zones. The most popular route runs along the Danube – from Parliament, across the Chain Bridge, to Margaret Island.



Bike Rental

1

Register via app:

 [Click here to download MOL Bubi on Google Play](#) 

2

Unlock bikes:

Scan the QR code in the app

3

Pricing:

First 30 minutes free, then ~€0.08 ~30 HUF/MIN

4

Stations:

Over 170 docking stations across Budapest, available 24/7.

5

New option:

Since 2026, electric bikes are also available for easier rides to distant spots.



Public Transport In Budapest

TRAMS

- **Line 2** – Pest side, Danube views
- **Line 19** – Buda side
- **Lines 47 & 49** – to Gellért Hill

METRO

- **M-1** – to Heroes' Square
- **M-2** – Pest-Buda
- **M-3** – modern districts

BUSES

- **16** – to Buda Castle
- **105** – to St. Stephen's Basilica



Tickets can be purchased via the BudapestGO app or the Pay&GO system.



[Click here to download BudapestGO app](#)



GOOD TO KNOW

- ✓ Travelers 65 and over ride free with a valid ID or passport.
- ✓ For short stays, 24-hour or 72-hour travelcards are the most convenient.
- ✓ Buy tickets at metro stations, tram/bus stops, or via the BudapestGO app.
- ✓ For sightseeing, consider the Budapest Card, which combines transport and attraction entries.

Taxi in Budapest



BOLT APP



Use Bolt for rides within the city. Reliable, cashless, and easy to book.

 [Click here to download Bolt App](#) 

FŐTAXI – OFFICIAL AIRPORT PARTNER



At Budapest Airport, always choose Főtaxi from the official taxi stands. Cars are yellow and marked with the company logo. Fixed airport rates apply, payable in HUF or by card.

 [Click here to download Főtaxi](#) 

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR TAXIS

- ✓ Always make sure the taxi is yellow and has the company logo.
- ✓ Avoid unlicensed taxis near tourist areas.
- ✓ Prefer card or HUF cash payments.
- ✓ For airport transfers, only use the official Főtaxi line.
- ✓ In the city centre, Ferenciek tere is a safe and convenient spot to catch a taxi.

Currency & Payments in Budapest

OFFICIAL CURRENCY:

Hungary uses the Hungarian Forint (HUF). Euros are not accepted for everyday payments.

[Click here for more info](#)

CARD PAYMENTS:

Most places accept debit and credit cards (Visa, Mastercard). Paying by card or online is the easiest option.

CASH EXCHANGE:

If you need cash, avoid exchange offices on Váci Street (tourist area) – choose offices further away for better rates.

[Click here for Currency Exchange in Budapest](#)



Conclusion

Budapest offers something for everyone – from historic landmarks and cultural events to markets, restaurants, green corners, and modern attractions. It is a city where tradition and modern style intertwine, creating a unique atmosphere that captivates every traveler.

To preserve these beauties, we must also contribute – by choosing sustainable ways of travel and staying. That way, we enjoy longer, for ourselves and for those who come after us.

Wishing you many nice sustainable journeys and wonderful experiences! Safe travels! 🌍💚🌿



More sustainable city guides, straight from Emeli

Practical tips, vegan-friendly finds, and eco-conscious recommendations for exploring Europe with confidence.



@emelidozic



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