

*Day & Night Guide*

# BUDA PEST

*RUIN PUBS • GASTRO • LIFESTYLE*

bookline

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**bookline**  
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# PREFACE



**WELCOME TO BUDAPEST!**

Travelers understand that really getting to know a city in a short period of time is impossible. Visitors can only get a general impression of the culture, the spirit of the place and its people. In terms of planning an itinerary, blogs, websites, Facebook and TripAdvisor can offer practical help. Much better, however, are first-hand sources of information, such as friends and acquaintances that live in the city and can assemble lengthy emails with must-see neighborhoods, streets, pubs, restaurants and parks that would never be found in traditional guidebooks.

In this book, we maintain this kind of personal recommendation style, so that every reader can get reliable, insider information on one of the world's top travel destinations.

Budapest is an extraordinary city, a hip and fashionable destination that most tourists vow to return to and, as the large expat community attests, many visitors choose to never leave. "This classic masterpiece of a city gives off a different feeling than other European cities. There is so much to see, great food and easy navigation", says one reader. "The gorgeous residences and buildings are gracious and grand," writes CNN Travel about Budapest in one of its top lists. According to TripAdvisor, the world's most popular travel site, Budapest is wedged between Bangkok and Sydney as the 21st best travel destination. Pinterest also chose Budapest as its 30th "most pinned" place. Though useful, these kinds of recommendations usually concentrate on the sights rather than lifestyle, thereby overlooking the importance of

Budapest's gastronomy, entertainment, and culture.

In our book, you won't find the common list of museums, memorials and scenic spots featured over and over in the traditional guides. We want to acquaint you with hidden gems, such as the inner workings of Budapest's famous pub district. In the past few years, this historic part of the inner city has grown into one of Europe's biggest nightlife and entertainment districts. Over 150 establishments now do business in the historic ghetto. The milling crowd on Kazinczy utca starting on Thursday night turns into a veritable festival. The district is packed with options and each place is different, so we've gathered the top food, drink and cultural critics native to the area to give you a comprehensive review of the most important and interesting places. One is wallpapered with comic books, while another gives a 360° panorama of the city from its highest point. There's a place where you can drop in anytime for Serbian food and places to party to music spun by top DJs. Beyond the bars, restaurants and clubs, there is also an exciting and colorful lifestyle to explore.

Our guide also highlights how Buda and Pest are actually two different worlds and lifestyles. Pest is swarming, whirling and vibrating. Buda is slower, more comfortable and calmer. Taking this into account, we list our recommendations for the best places to eat breakfast, grab street food, check out Michelin starred restaurants, beer places, child-friendly places, and places with Budapest style in both Buda and Pest. We gathered Budapest's top trendsetting critics to write

subjective recommendations, and we selected only places we have personally tried out and like. “Day & Night Guide to Budapest” is a recommendation and guidebook, not a critical publication. Here you will find important information about everything, including comprehensive profiles, hours, internet availability, and website links.

To be sure, the Castle, Basilica and Heroes’ Square are all sites that shouldn’t be missed. But for us, the city is much more than buildings and statues. Budapest is its people, the language, gastronomy and lifestyle. Upon arriving in a new city, the most important thing to do is obtain information to plan an unforgettable itinerary, and we think that should include Budapest’s lesser-known, fascinating and unforgettable side.

Dive in and discover the city!

## AUTHORS

**DÁNIEL BART:** Beer blogger and Budapest's number one expert on specialty beers and breweries.

Top Places for Beer Lovers

**ALBERT GAZDA:** Writer and editor of Gawker Media site Cink.hu, Hungary's most popular news, opinion, and trend blog.

Top Places for Wine Lovers

**RENÁTÓ HORVÁTH and GERGŐ SALAMON:** The founders of Eastaste.net are at home here with the music of the Eastern European region, which they distribute it on the global market. #reklámzene #soundtrack

Top Party Places

**LAJOS JÁNOSSY:** Writer, literary critic and journalist in love with the city and the baths.

Top Baths

**ANDRÁS JÓKÚTI:** Hungary's leading food writer, restaurant critic and travel blogger. To follow his English-language video blog, visit: [wrff.tv](http://wrff.tv).

Top Hungarian Dishes, Top Places for Breakfast, Top Places for Street Food,

Top Restaurants

**ENI ROSTÁS:** Cultural critic, journalist and Hungarian literature and French pop music enthusiast.

Top Places to Bring the Kids, Top Outdoor Places

PÉTER SZÚCS: Editor-in-chief of InStyle, he has been working as a journalist and fashion critic for various glossy fashion magazines for over ten years.

Top Places for Budapest Style

GYÖRGY ÚJVÁRI-PINTÉR: Translator, cultural manager, music producer and resident expert on Budapest's gay scene.

Top Gay Parties

ILDIKÓ TŐKE: Marketing expert, public relations manager and top communications consultant for Budapest's hospitality industry, bars and clubs.

Top Centers of Culture

# GOOD TO KNOW



## **SMOKING**

As of January 2012, it is now against the law to smoke in pubs, bars, restaurants, clubs, work places and institutions. In most places, you can find a separate smoking section or simply stand five meters from the entrance on the street.

## **TIPPING TIPPING**

10 percent is standard for taxis, meals and drinks (with the exception of drinks ordered at the bar). Some restaurants automatically add a 10–12 percent service charge to the final bill, so always check to see if that is the case. In Hungary, tips are not left on the table following payment. Rather, the tip is included in the total amount you hand over to pay with a verbal indication of how much change you would like back. Saying “köszönöm” (thank you) will indicate that the transaction is complete and that no change is expected back. Note that it is customary to tip for some smaller services as well, such as giving the locker room attendant at the baths 100–200 forint for any assistance.

## **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Dial 104 for an ambulance; for police, 107; for the fire service, 105.

## **CONSULATES**

## PHARMACIES

The Hungarian word for pharmacy is patika or gyógyszertár, although you will see the German word apotheke in use as well. There are plenty of 24-hour pharmacies in the city, though few are in the center. The closest is Déli Gyógyszertár (1123 Budapest, Alkotás utca 1/b.), opposite Déli Station in Buda, and Teréz Patika (1067 Budapest, Teréz körút 41.), near the Oktogon metro station in Pest.

## HOLIDAYS

Hungarian public holidays are: January 1 (New Year's Day), March 15 (National Holiday), Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, May 1 (May Day), Whit Monday, August 20 (St. Stephen's Day), and October 23.

## ICONS

We've put together a guide book to help you discover Budapest. We've enhanced the guide book with icons to help you understand the information easier. To check their meaning, please see the icons listed below:



**PLACE TO EAT**



**PLACE TO DRINK**



**PLACE TO DANCE**