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VOLUME TWO

# BUDAPEST

**Vasvari Rentals**

# DISTRICT VIII

## The "other" Budapest

The mixing pot of Budapest. Home of Magyars, Roma, Jewish and Christians.

Take the M2 metro line to Keleti Station (1), exit the station and walk to the entrance of the Kerepesi Cemetery (2).

Wander the cemetery returning to the entrance.

Exit the cemetery and follow the walls until you reach the Jewish Cemetery (3). On the way you will pass the Red Star Train Cemetery (4) on your right.

After visiting the cemetery get on the 37/37A tram one stop back towards whence you came and on your left will be the Józsefváros Train Station (5).

Back on the 37/37A tram for two stops. Then walk to the Teleki Tér Shtiebelto. (6)

This street was lined with Yellow Star Houses. The one described (7) is across the street from the Cukraszda (8)

Walk to the beautiful Rákóczi Téri Market Hall (9). Maybe its lunch time. Eat in the market.

Then walk to the 4/6 Tram on Rákóczi út and take it one stop to Blaha Lujza ter (10) from which you can walk to the Antik-Bazár (11).

Return to Blaha Lujza tér (10) and walk the great ring road to the iconic New York Palace Café. (12)

# DISTRICT VIII

## The "other" Budapest

## ② Kerepesim Cemetery

## ③ Salgótarjáni utca Jewish Cemetery

**Attendant: Borbála Baros,**
**Phone: 314-1269**

6

Kerepesi Cemetery, opened in 1847, is one of the biggest National Pantheons in Europe and the biggest outdoor statue park with its area of about 56 hectares. It is sometimes referred to as the Père Lachaise of Budapest.

Numerous Hungarian notables (statesmen, writers, sculptors, architects, artists, composers, scientists, actors and actresses etc.) have been interred there, several of them in ornate tombs or mausoleums. This was encouraged by the decision of the municipal authorities to declare Kerepesi a 'ground of honour' in 1885. The first notable burial was that of Mihály Vörösmarty in 1855.

The cemetery was declared closed for burials in 1952.

The oldest Jewish cemetery in Pest. Massive family tombs of Jewish noble families and industrialists line the perimeter. There is also a section where Holocaust victims are buried.

Quite a few of the tombs are the work of leading architects of the day — such as Ignác Alpár, Sándor Fellner, Albert Körössy, Emil Vidor and Béla Lajta. Lajta, whose work prefigured art deco, also designed the entry way from the street and the massive Ceremonial Hall (now roofless), built around 1908.

The cemetery is densely overgrown and tragically neglected. The huge tombs are literally crumbling; collapsing and being swallowed by vines and other vegetation.

# DISTRICT VIII

The "other" Budapest

## ④ Red Star Train Graveyard (Istvantelek)

6

*This one is a tease. Its there and the map on the next page will show you where, but I have no idea how to get in without getting arrested.*

It was built in 1959, and used until the 1970's. The trains are housed in buildings just off the active railway. The buildings are falling apart as are the trains within. Many of the cars have been sitting in the same place for over 40 years, and several of them may have actually been used to transport Jews to Auschwitz during the Nazi occupation.

# DISTRICT VIII

## The "other" Budapest

6

### 5 Józsefváros Station House of Fate Center

This was the rail station that served as the deportation station during the Holocaust. Abandoned for many years it was recently renovated for use as a new Holocaust memorial; but not with out much controversy.

*Photo Top Left: House of Fate Entry*

*Photo Center: Raoul Wallenberg is present at the Jozsefvaros train station in Budapest where Jews who have been rounded-up for deportation, wait on the platform. Wallenberg stands on the right with his hands clasped behind his back. —US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Thomas Veres*

*Photo Bottom Left: Station prior to renovations*

### 6 Teleki Tér Shtiebelto, Teleki tér 22., Fsz. 6

The Oprah Winfrey Network made a documentary film titled BELIEF about the religions of the world. They shoot for one week in Teleki Tér Shtiebel.

This is not a Tourist Attraction. This is a house of Faith. Please contact them in advance. Tell them you are interested in visiting and after they have welcomed you; make a very generous contribution to their cause. INFO@TELEKITER.com

From their web page:

Teleki Tér is a unique synagogue in the Hungarian Jewish scene. It is the last remaining synagogue following the Hassidic/Sfard pray liturgy.

Many themes and facets of the original style remains. It has remained a "shtiebel" – a small prayer house favoured by the Chassidic community for its "hominess" over the more formal setup of the typical synagogues. The Synagogue was in operation throughout the communist era and had a few prominent personalities in Hungarian Jewish life, such as the late Jakab Gláser (1912 – 2006) and Tamás Raj (1940 – 2010).

Currently we meet for services on Shabbat mornings and on Jewish festivals. We organize community events on Jewish festivals, Rosh Hashana, Pesach, Shavuot, Chanuka & Purim.

Rabbi: Rabbi Sholom Hurwitz
President: Gábor Mayer
Chairman: András Mayer
Chazan: László Horovitz

# DISTRICT VIII

## The "other" Budapest

### ⑦ Yellow Star Houses

Wall Street Journal
By Margit Feher
Jun 21, 2014 5:54 pm CET

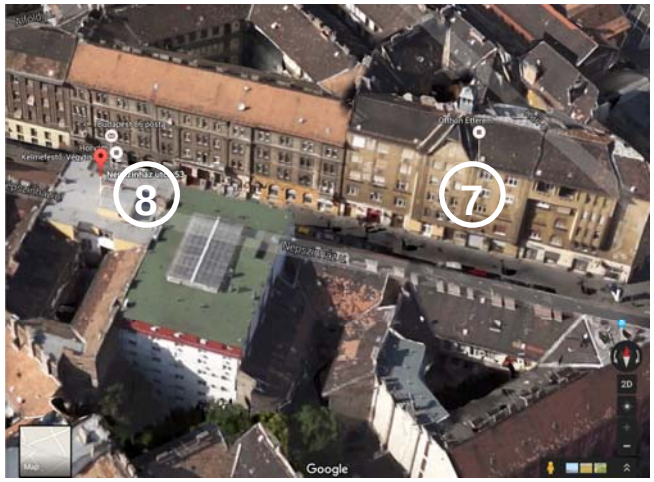
BUDAPEST–"We had the yellow star posted on the main entrance of the house, but none of our Christian neighbors moved out," says Tamas Marton, who was 14 when Budapest residents defined as Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary were forced 70 years ago today to move into so-called yellow-star houses to live.

When Nazi Germany occupied Hungary in March 1944, it immediately started organizing the deportation of the Jews. Budapest had a very large Jewish population, over 220,000 people or some 20% to 25% of the inhabitants.

The German Nazis decided it would be too complicated to create a ghetto. Instead, they dedicated some 2,000 buildings scattered around the city to become Yellow Star houses and obliged Jewish families–mostly women, children and the elderly since men had been on forced work since 1941–to move in there by June 21, 1944. Non-Jewish families in the meantime had to move elsewhere or put a sign on their doors, reading "No Jew lives here."

"We left everything in our apartment behind. We only took what we could in two small suitcases," said retired agent for artists Maria Rona, who was 10 years old when her family of five was expelled from their home.

One apartment was to house 15-20 people –one family per room. Yellow-star house inhabitants could only leave the house between 2 and 5 p.m. to run errands. At other times, they were locked in the house. They



TOP: Nepszinhaz utca 46, the house whose inhabitants wanted it to become a yellow-star house in 1944 (right facing).

BOTTOM: Courtyard of #46

# DISTRICT VIII

## The "other" Budapest

could only buy certain groceries at shops that sold to Jews.

The house where Mr. Marton lives to the present day, under the address Nepszinhaz utca 46, wasn't to become a yellow-star house since it wasn't Jewish-owned. But its inhabitants didn't want to leave so they requested that in a letter to the Budapest mayor and collected a large sum at the time–10,000 pengos–to grease the palms of the authorities.

"Our house was an island of peace in an ocean of unrest. The Christian neighbors even made sure when we were forcibly taken once from our homes for three days (as part of a public humiliation campaign) that nothing disappeared from the apartments. The neighboring yellow-star houses were looted," said Mr. Marton, an 84-year old retired engineer, the lone survivor of the era in the house with some 40 apartments. Mr. Marton's mother was taken to the Bergen-Belsen death camp after the house's concierge reported to the authorities her escape back home from a Hungarian camp in the countryside, and she died there.

Nowhere else in Nazi-occupied Europe were houses marked with yellow stars. Jews were to live in these for six months–until the Budapest ghetto was established. The forced relocation was intended by the Hungarian authorities as a preparatory stage toward mass deportation.

"This mass relocation hasn't been talked about in public for generations, not much documentation exists of these houses," said Gwen Jones, main researcher of the yellow-houses program at the Open Society Archives at the Central European University in Budapest. "This is a neglected chapter of Budapest's history," she added.

OSA didn't know how many of these houses still existed today when it launched the program a year ago to commemorate the 70th anniversary. The website www.yellowstarhouses.org offers an interactive map of the 1,600 houses still standing, supplemented with relevant decrees, chronology, and glossary.

The project's Facebook page currently has over 7,000 followers. People who lived in the yellow-star houses or their descendants started to network on social media. They have submitted some 230 stories, photographs, and documents to the site since the launch. The Facebook group A Holocaust es a csaladom–The Holocaust and My Family–, a voluntary, open group to share related family history publicly, launched soon after.

Menetrend–Timetable– publishes each day between May 15 and July 9 how many of

# DISTRICT VIII

## The "other" Budapest

### 8 Jezsek Cukrászda Népszínház u. 53

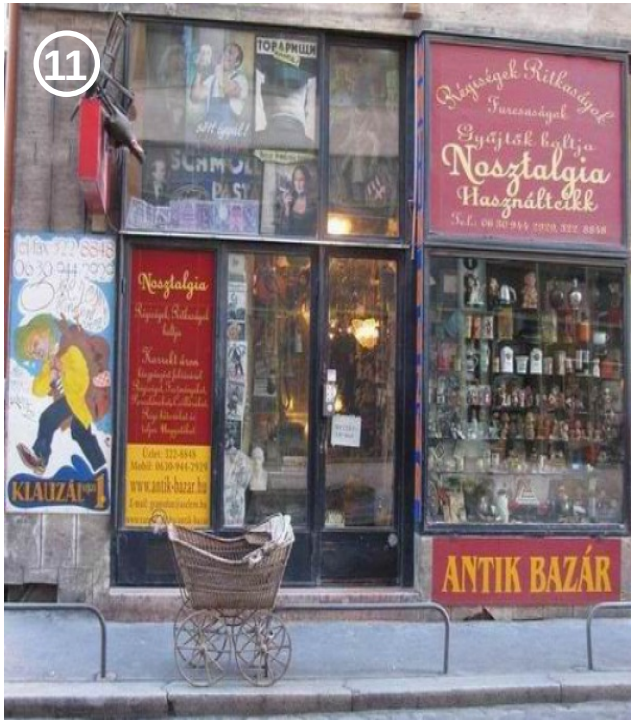
A Cukrászda is a place where you can get coffee and sweets, and as such could be called a café, but this would be misleading. The emphasis is not on coffee, that is just a side thing you can get. The emphasis is on the sweets, yet this place is not a confectioner, because it has the social aspects of a café; it is elegant, airy, and gives room for the people, particularly old people, to sit down and enjoy each others company for a half hour or so. It is not just a place you jump in to get some cakes; it is a place with a clientele of regulars. This is a small and simple example run by very nice people..

### 9 Rákóczi Téri Market

One of Budapest's great markets and a landmark and architectural gem since 1894.

# DISTRICT VIII

## The "other" Budapest




### 11 Antik-Bazár Klauzál u. 1

A quirky "antique" shop where you can purchase you Lenin Bust or, …. Its one of those places you have to see to believe if you are into archaic junk. When you walk down Rákóczi út look up the second street on your right.

### 12 The New York Palace Café

The Boscolo Budapest, Autograph Collection, formerly the New York Palace (Hungarian: New York-palota) is a luxury hotel on the Grand Boulevard of Budapest's Erzsébet körút part, under Erzsébet körút 9-11, in the 7th district of Budapest, Hungary. Built by the New York Life Insurance Company as a local head office, its Café in the ground floor named New York Café (Hungarian: New York Kávéház) was a longtime center for Hungarian literature and poetry, almost from its opening on October 23, 1894 to its closure in 2001, to reconstruct it into a luxury hotel, as it is now. The café was also reopened on May 5, 2006 in its original pomp.

# MUSIC & THEATER



Live Theater and Classical Music are still loved in the Hungarian culture so tickets sell out quickly. Purchase early.

Most theaters close in July and August to prepare tor the upcoming season, but the smaller music clubs run year round.

Tickets are generally inexpensive so purchase the best seats in the house and enjoy the performance away from the tourists and in the heart of the Hungarian culture.

## Budapest Operett Theater

A period theater full of gold leaf and jillyfraz. The local equivalent of a Broadway theater. Most shows have English subtitles. Buy one of the VIP Boxes so you get invited to the parlor for intermission. Good way to meet people.

## Hungarian State Opera

**OPERA HOUSE TOUR**

Opera visiting tours daily at 2 pm (only in English) 3 pm and 4 pm (languages listed below) for individual tourists, with optional mini concert, without pre-registration. The language of the tour is to be chosen at the starting point. For possible changes please check “News and Information” below.

English: daily
French: daily
Spanish: daily
German: daily

MINI CONCERT

The mini concert takes 5 minutes and includes 2 arias performed by one opera singer (recorded music) right after the tour.

PRICES

Tour: 2,990FT (+600FT to take photos)
Mini Concert: 690FT

**DRESS APPROPRIATELY!!**
**FOR ALL THE VENUES THE LOCAL AUDIENCE APPRECIATES THE TOURISTS DRESSING PROPERLY. MEN AT A MINIMUM A SPORTS COAT.**

# MUSIC & THEATER



## Franz Liszt Academy of Music

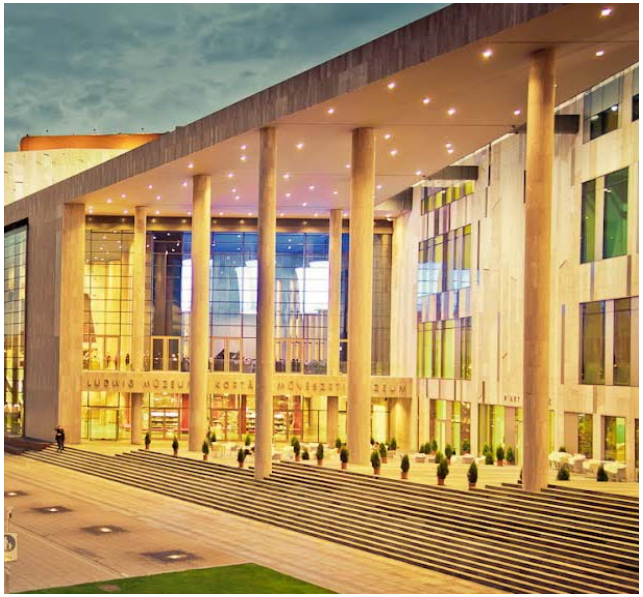
Probably the most famous music school in the Reigon.

Worth a tour to see the recent renovations.

The lavish 19th century Grand Hall features some of the worlds best musicians

## Palace of Arts

A modern performance venue featuring top names and performances.

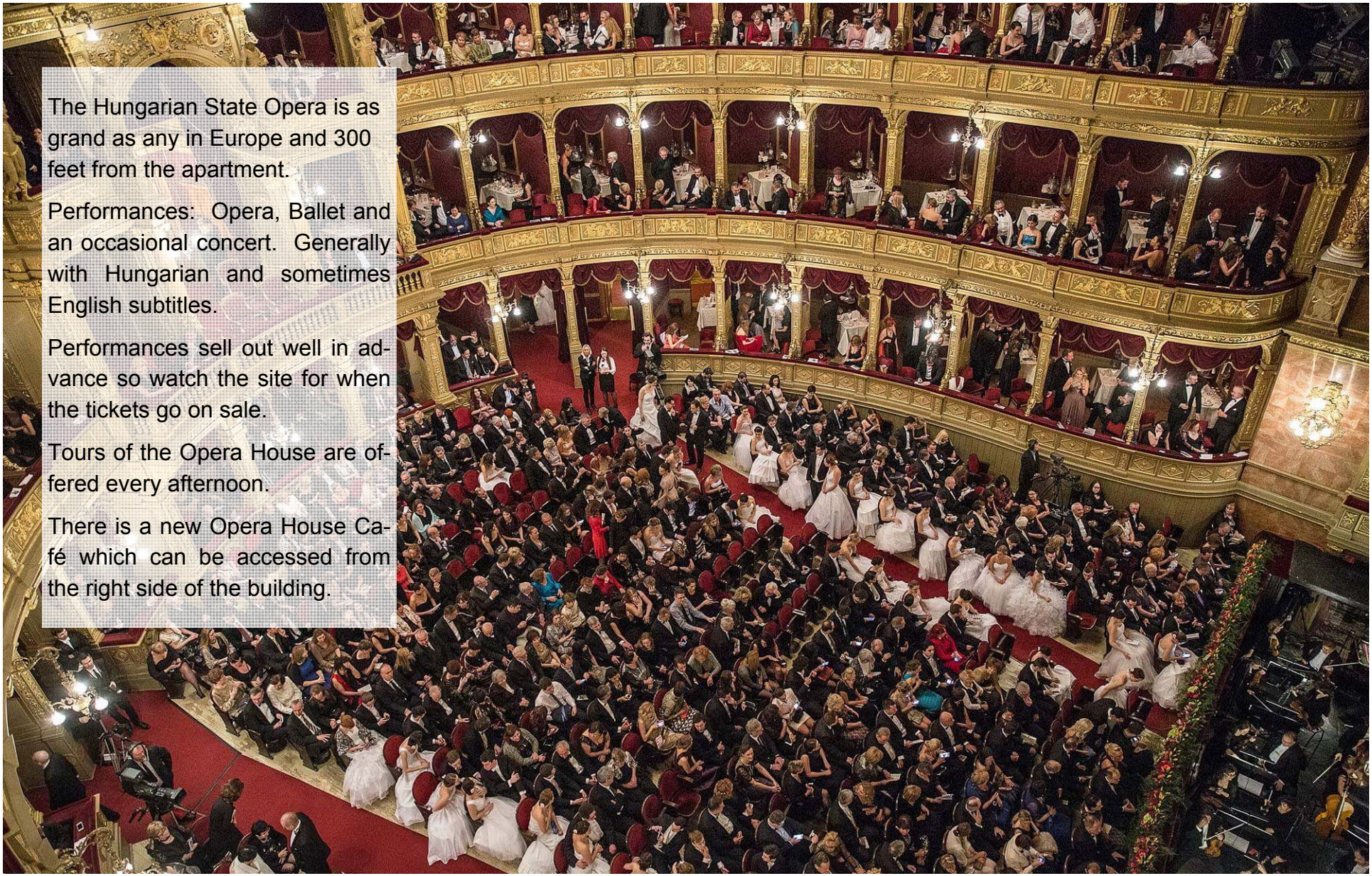


## Opus Jazz Club

The food and atmosphere is actually very, very good—the Music exceptional.

# Hungarian State Opera

7



The Hungarian State Opera is as grand as any in Europe and 300 feet from the apartment.

Performances: Opera, Ballet and an occasional concert. Generally with Hungarian and sometimes English subtitles.

Performances sell out well in advance so watch the site for when the tickets go on sale.

Tours of the Opera House are offered every afternoon.

There is a new Opera House Café which can be accessed from the right side of the building.

# BATH HOUSES



Thermal Baths have been a tradition in Budapest since the time of the Roman occupation. If you want to soak in Hungarian Culture, this is an enjoyable way to do it.

The Turks constructed a number during their occupation and two of those remain and are used to this day. Where else could you soak in a 16th Century *bath* house?

The most "accessible" for tourists is the Széchenyi Baths in the City Park at on the M1 Metro Line. If you are the least bit squeamish about locker rooms be sure and rent a private cabana. Shower shoes (flip flops) towels, caps (not required) can all be purchased from vendors just outside of the Széchenyi Bath House.

**Rudas Baths**

Built in the 16th century, it remains one of the oldest thermal baths in Budapest.

**Király Baths**

The Király Baths is one of Budapest's oldest. Built in the 16th century during the Turkish occupation of Hungary.

**Császár Baths - Veli Bej**

The beautifully restored Császár Baths houses was built in 1570 and originally named *Veli Bej.*

**Széchenyi Baths**

One of Europe's largest public baths, the Széchenyi Baths has 18 pools, 15 of which are spring-fed thermal pools.

**Gellért Baths**

Built between 1912 and 1918 in Art Nouveau style, this may be the most beautiful and elegant bath in Budapest.

# BUDAPEST EVENTS & DATES

## Christmas and New Years

# BUDAPEST EVENTS & DATES

February

## Opera Gala

February

## The Busójárás Festival

The Busójárás is an annual celebration of the Šokci (Croats) living in the town of Mohács, Held at the end of the Carnival season ("Farsang"), ending the day before Ash Wednesday. The celebration features Busós (people wearing traditional masks) and includes folk music, masquerading, parades and dancing. It starts on a Thursday, followed by the Kisfarsang (Little Farsang) carnival on Friday, with the biggest celebration, Farsang vasárnap (Farsang Sunday) on the seventh Sunday before Easter Sunday; the celebration then ends with Farsangtemetés (Burial of Farsang) on the following Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras). These traditional festivities have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the UNESCO in 2009.

# BUDAPEST EVENTS & DATES

March 15

**National Day**

Commemorates the Revolution of 1848

Late March or Early April

**The Budapest Spring Festival**

# BUDAPEST EVENTS & DATES

9

May

**May Day Air Show**

July

**Budapest Formula 1**

# BUDAPEST EVENTS & DATES

July

**Red Bull Air Race**

August

**Sziget Festival**

# BUDAPEST EVENTS & DATES

August / September

**Jewish Summer Festival**

September

**Budapest Wine Festival**

# BUDAPEST EVENTS & DATES

October

## Pig Slautering Festival

Hungary's most dynamically developing gastro-festival is the Pig Slaughtering Sausage Festival, taking place at the Hungarian Railway History Park held in October, on 10 acres of event space. At the Festival we are keeping100% the traditional ways of the contemporary tradition of pig slaughtering during the entire process: the processing butchers in their traditional costumes, using traditional tools to show how it happened hundreds of years ago. Within the walls of the Tájház the visitors may get acquainted with life of the former lowland. The atmosphere and the flavours of the region will be brought at the capital for three days.

During the daytime family programs, folklore shows, pig slaughtering and giant sausage fare will wait up for the visitors. From bear sausage until Spicy Csabai, 250 kinds of sausages could be purchased directly from the producers. A wild range of sausages, which is not available in stores! In addition, all sorts of pork delicacy, fried greaves, liver delicacy, cheese, spices, spirits, wines, beers and other backyard home goodies. The afternoon starts the fun! On 3 stages continuous music and folklore programs.

# BUDAPEST EVENTS & DATES

October 23

**Revolution of 1956**

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 or was a nationwide revolt against the government of the Hungarian People's Republic and its Soviet-imposed policies, lasting from 23 October until 10 November 1956. It was the first major threat to Soviet control since the USSR's forces drove out Nazi Germany from its territory at the end of World War II and broke into Central and Eastern Europe.

The revolt began as a student demonstration, which attracted thousands as they marched through central Budapest to the Parliament building, calling out on the streets using a van with loudspeakers via Radio Free Europe. A student delegation, entering the radio building to try to broadcast the students' demands, was detained. When the delegation's release was demanded by the demonstrators outside, they were fired upon by the State Security Police (ÁVH). One student died and was wrapped in a flag and held above the crowd. This was the start of the revolution. As the news spread, disorder and violence erupted throughout the capital.

The revolt spread quickly across Hungary and the government collapsed. Thousands organised into militias, battling the ÁVH and Soviet troops. Pro-Soviet communists and ÁVH members were often executed or imprisoned and former political prisoners were released and armed. Radical impromptu workers' councils wrested municipal control from the ruling Hungarian Working People's Party and demanded political changes. A new government formally disbanded the ÁVH, declared its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, and pledged to re-establish free elections. By the end of October, fighting had almost stopped and a sense of normality began to return.

**The Good**

**Celebrations across town.**

**State Run Museums Free Openings**

**The Bad**

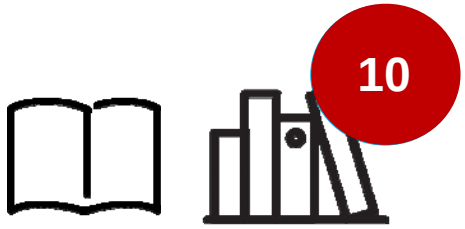
**Most Shops & many restaurants closed**

21

On 4 November, a large Soviet force invaded Budapest and other regions of the country. The Hungarian resistance continued until 10 November. Over 2,500 Hungarians and 700 Soviet troops were killed in the conflict, and 200,000 Hungarians fled as refugees. Mass arrests and denunciations continued for months thereafter. By January 1957, the new Soviet-installed government had suppressed all public opposition.

Public discussion about this revolution was suppressed in Hungary for more than 30 years. Since the thaw of the 1980s, it has been a subject of intense study and debate. At the inauguration of the Third Hungarian Republic in 1989, 23 October was

# BOOK RESOURCES




## BEST GUIDE BOOK

**Eyewitness Travel Guide: Budapest**. You can get it on Amazon.

## A LITTLE LIGHT READING

**Eclipse of the Cresent Moon** (in Hungary, it is a book that every kid reads) by Geza Gardonyi. It culminates in the first Turkish siege of Eger.

**Iron Curtain**: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944-1956 by Ann Applebaum. How this part of the world transitioned from post WW2 to communism and a bit beyond, read. Specifically Poland, Hungary and East Germany.

**Twelve days -** the Story of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The book is written by a journalist whose own family fled from Hungary by Victor Sebestyen

**The Forbidden Sky:** Inside the Hungarian Revolution by Endre Marton – Cold War Historical

**The Great Escape:** Nine Jews Who Fled Hitler and Changed the World by Kati Marton – WWII Historical

**Enemies of the People:** My Family's Journey to America by Kati Marton – Cold War Historical

**A History of Hungary** by Laszlo Kontler – General History.

**When Angels Fooled the World** by Charles Fenyvesi – WWII Historical

**Revolution 1989:** The Fall of the Soviet Empire by Victor Sebestyen (Hungarian) – Cold War Historical

**Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors** by Lonnie Johnson – Cold War Historical

**The Sword and the Crucible**. Count Boldizsar Batthyany

**Natural Philosophy in Sixteenth-century Hungary** by Dora Bobory - History

**Budapest: A Critical Guide** by Andras Torok, Andras Egyedi and Andras Felvideki – History

**Nobody Knows the Truffles I've Seen** by George Lang – WWII / Cold War Historical

**The Smell of Humans:** A Memoir of the Holocaust in Hungary by Ernö Szép – Holocaust

**The Budapest Protocol** by Adam LeBor – WWII Novel

**Budapest 1900:** A Historical Portrait of a City and Its Culture by John Lukacs – Golden Age Historical

**The Envoy:** The Epic Rescue of the Last Jews of Europe in the Desperate Closing Months of World War II by Alex Kershaw – Holocaust

**Kasztner's Train:** The True Story of an Unknown Hero of the Holocaust by Anna Porter –

**Ligeti, Kurtág, and Hungarian Music during the Cold War** (Music in the Twentieth Century) by Rachel Willson – Cold War Historic

**Ballad of the Whiskey Robber** by Julian Rubenstein - true story of a ice hockey goalie who decided to supplement his income by robbing banks and post offices around Budapest. Good insight into the early days of post communist Hungary and the fate of those Hungarians trapped in Transylvania, Romania after WW1.

**The Bridge at Andau** by James Michener - Great story for anyone interested in the 1956 Hungarian revolution.

**Sunflower and Life Is a Dream**, 10 stories "Focusing on the poor and dispossessed, these tales of love, food, death and sex are ironic and wise about the human condition and the futility of life, and display Gyula Krudy's wit and mastery of the form."

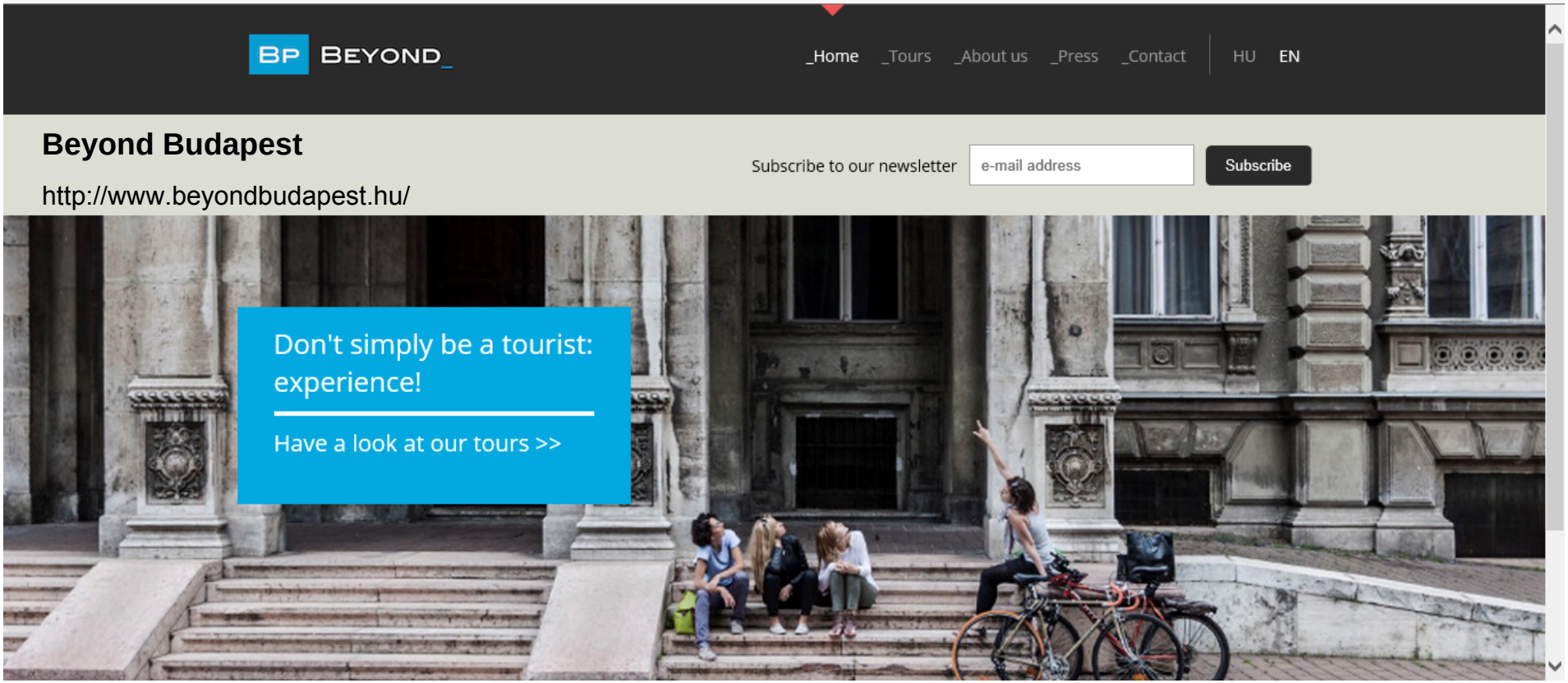
**My Happy Days in Hell** by Gyorgy Faludy From the back cover: "My Happy Days in Hell (1962) is Gyorgy Faludy's autobiography of his battle to survive tyranny and oppression.

**Between the Woods and the Water**, Patrick Leigh Fermor. A very interesting account of an English gentleman that walks across Europe just prior to WWII. This book covers his trek across Eastern Europe on his way to Istanbul.

# TOUR COMPANIES

# DRIVERS

# GUIDES




**Andrew ILLES—Private Guide**

**http://www.guideinbudapest.com/**

**+36 70 365 4577**

**László MÁRKUS—Private Driver**

**SilverWings Chauffeur Service**

**http://www.silverwings.hu/**

**+36 20 934 6346**

# OVERNIGHT TRIPS

**Eger**

About 2 hours by train for about $11 each way. Wine town with wineries and estates. Look at the Senator Has Hotel

**Tihany**

About 2 hours by train for about $11 each way. On lake Balaton. One of several towns on the lake, all good and all with their attraction.

12

## Pecs

3 hours south by train. Roman and later an Ottoman town. Great Architecture. Look at the Hotel Palatinus the grand old dame of the town; a bit worn but part of the charm.

## Gyor and the Archabbey of Pannonhalma

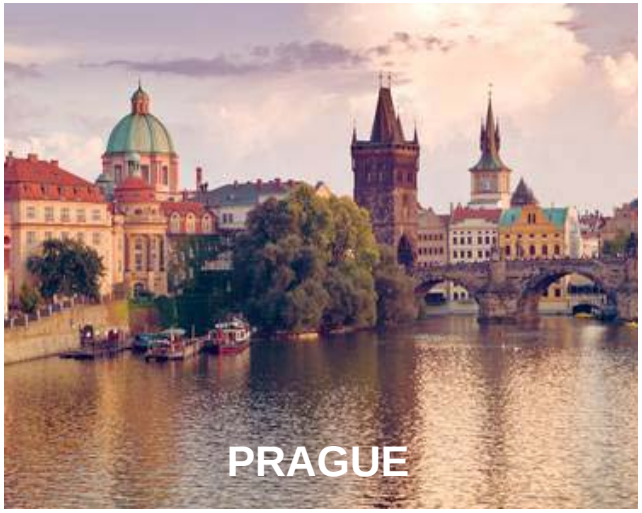
Halfway between Vienna and Budapest on the main train line. A perfect lay over for the night on the way to or from Vienna or an excellent day trip or overnight trip out of Budapest.

## Estergom, Visegrad & Szentendre The Danube Bend

A day tour on the Danube Bend by Train, Bus and Boat; or hire a guide for the day and spend less time traveling and more time seeing. A full 8 hours.

# THE IMPERIAL TOUR

## Prague

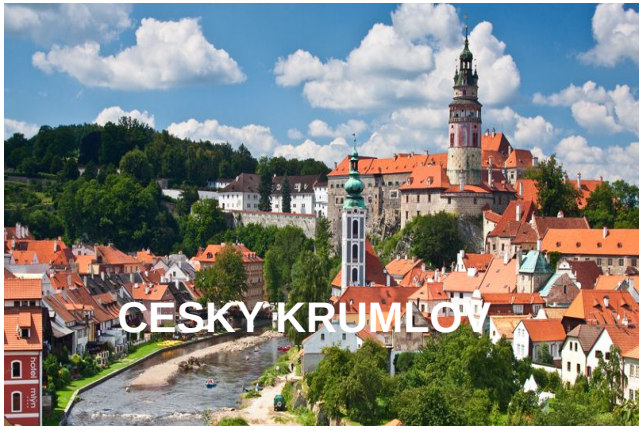


**Nights 1, 2, 3, 4 Prague**

One of the most popular destinations in Europe these days. The crowds attest to this, but it is beautiful.

The Hotel Ventana is among the best located 4/5 star hotel in town.

## Cesky Krumlov

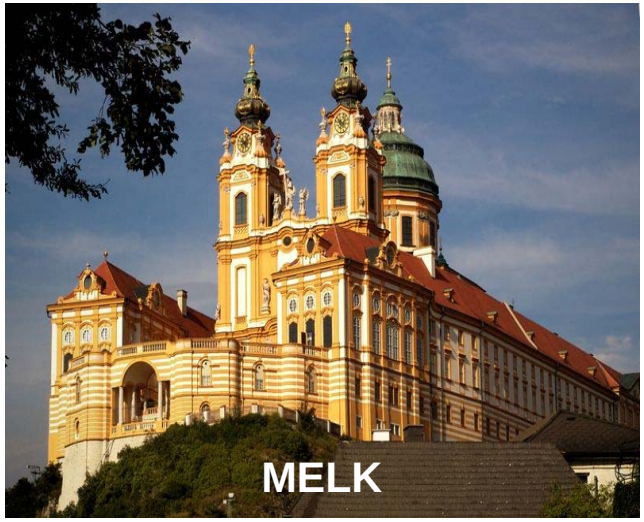



**Night 5 Cesky Krumlov**

A great baroque village complete with castle. Also very popular with the tourists but most come on day trips so they show up in the late morning and depart mid afternoon. To have time without crowds take Bean Shuttle down in the morning and spend the night, departing by Bean Shuttle to Vienna the next day.

Look at the Hotel Dvoark (3 star). It has a couple of rooms facing the castle which is pretty spectacular in the evening.

## Vienna—Melk




**Nights 6, 7, 8 Vienna / Melk**

A trip to Central Europe isn't complete without a stop in Vienna, the capital of the Hapsburg Empire.

Visit the Abbey at Melk and the towns of the Wachau Valley as day trip while in Vienna

## Gyor

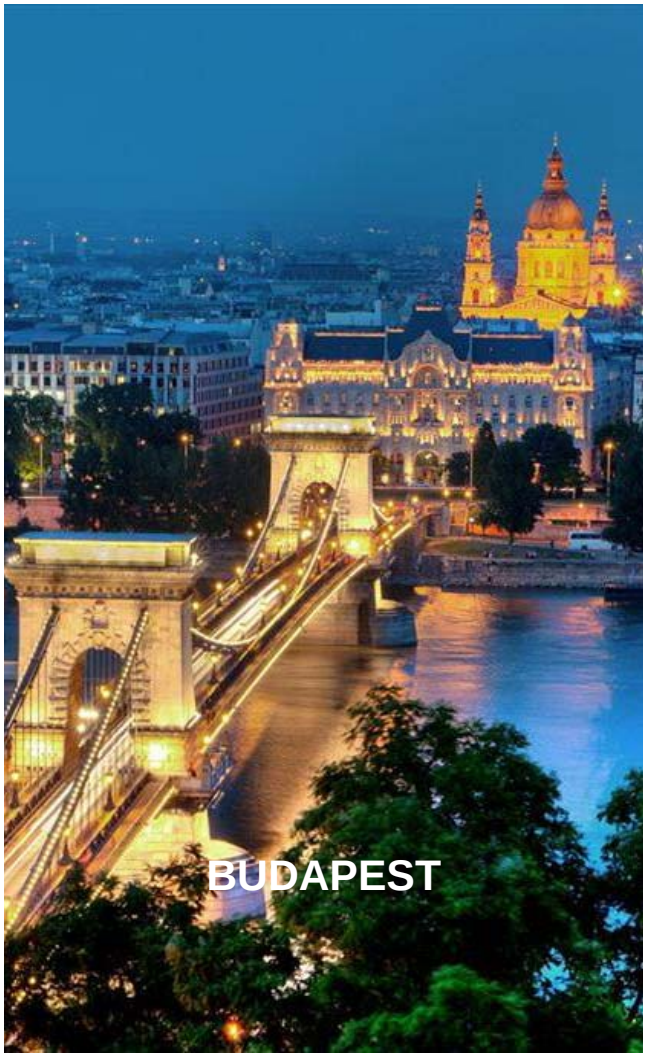
**Night 9 Gyor / Pannonhalma Archabbey**

Gyor is a Hungarian town on the rail line almost exactly halfway between Vienna and Budapest. Great stop for a night. Look at the hotel Klastrom (3 star). Its a converted convent in the center of town. The old Baroque town center has interesting architecture, shops and restaurants.

The hilltop archabbey and winery in the nearby in the town of Pannonhalma is worth

## Pannonhalma Archabbey

## Budapest




the effort to see as well (take a taxi).

**Nights 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Budapest**

# FURTHER AFIELD

## Romania, Bucharest, Transylvania

Tour Guide
**Daniel Gheorghita**
**Covinnus Travel**
office@covinnus.com

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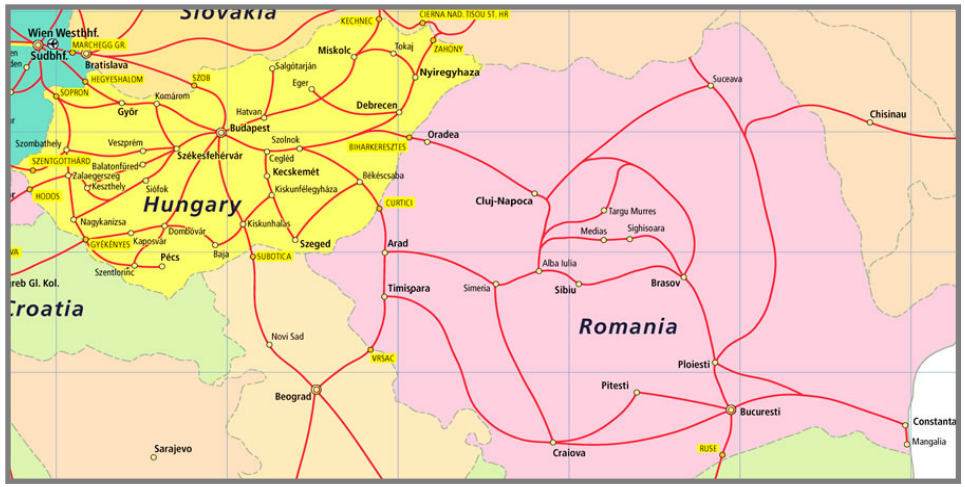


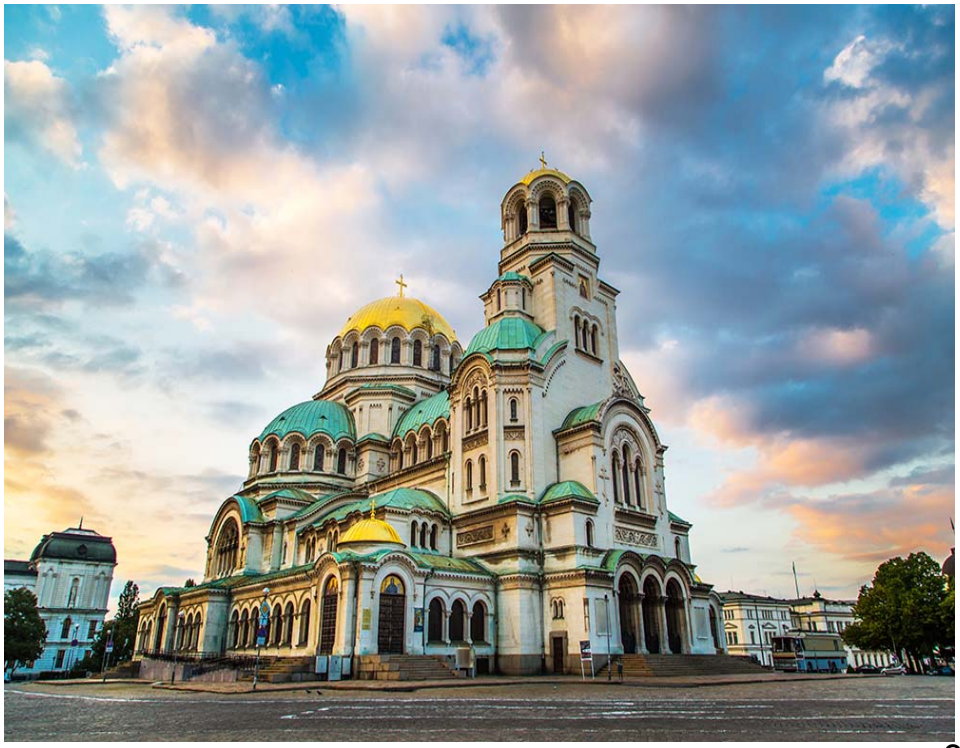
**BUDAPEST - BUCHAREST**

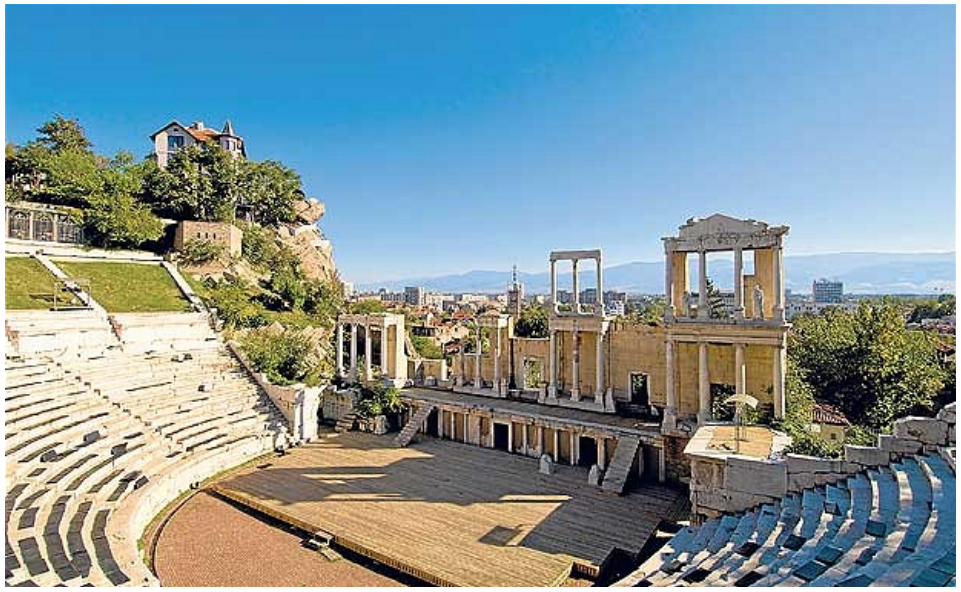
Non Stop
From $200 Round Trip
TAROM Airlines

# FURTHER AFIELD

## Bulgaria

Tour Guide
**Pavlina Docheva**
**Easy Bulgaria Travel**
vlina@easybulgariatravel.com





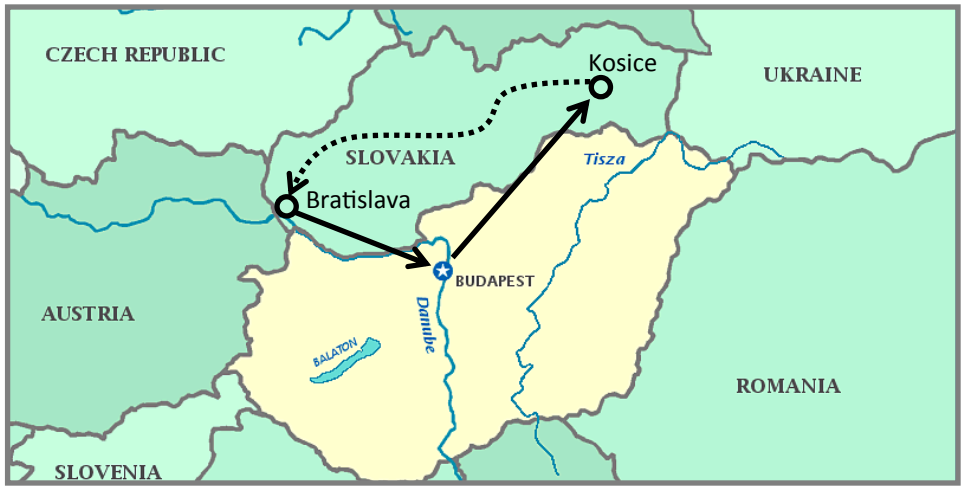
**BUDAPEST - SOFIA**

One Stop (Vienna)

# FURTHER AFIELD

## Slovakia

Tour Guide
**Hana Nemcekova**
slovak.tours@gmail.com
http://vasvarirentals.com/



# FURTHER AFIELD

## Ukrain
## Kyiv, Odessa, Lviv, Carpathian Mountains

Tour Guide
Iryna Kravchenko
Enquire for Contact Information

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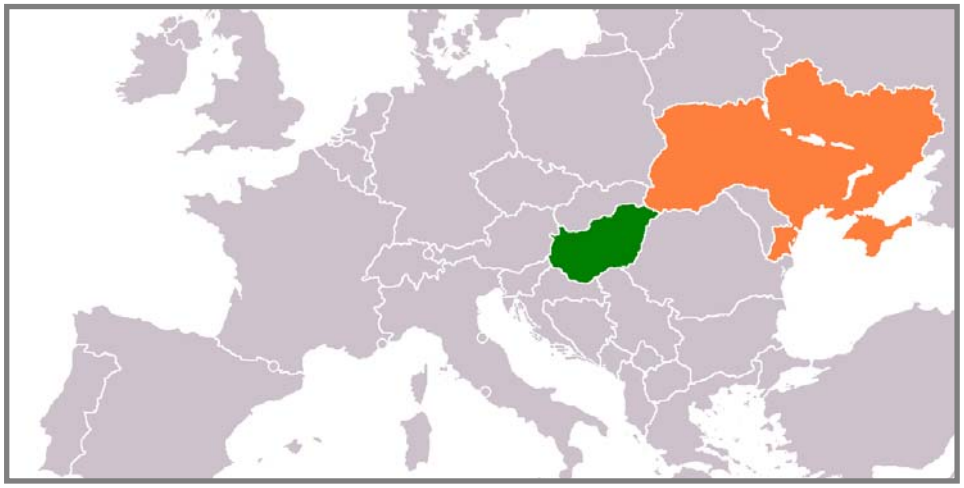

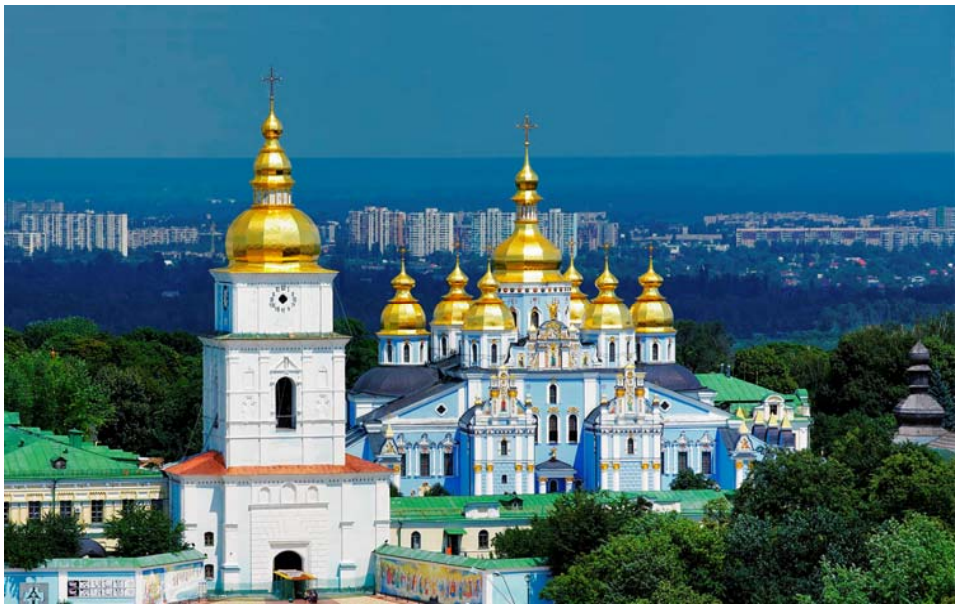

**BUDAPEST - KYIV**

Non Stop From $135 Round Trip WIZZ AIR

# FURTHER AFIELD

## NONSTOP FLIGHTS TO / FROM BUDAPEST

Most destinations can be purchased for $200 to $350 Round Trip Budapest is a major hub for WIZZ Air (Cities in Red) Most of WIZZ Air's flights start under $100

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**Austria**
Vienna

**Azerbaijan**
Baku

**Belarus**
Minsk

**Belgium**
Brussels

**Bulgaria**
Burgas

**Cyprus**
Lamaca

**Czech Republic**
Prague

**Denmark**
Billund

**Egypt**
Cairo

**Finland**
Helsinki

**France**
Paris
Lyon

**Georgia**
Kutaisi

**Germany**
Munich
Bonn
Frankfurt
Berlin
Hamburg
Dortmund
Stuttgart

**Greece**
Athens
Corfu
Thessaloniki
Zakinthos
Heraklion
Rhodes

**Ireland**
Dublin

**Israel**
Tel Aviv

**Italy**
Milan
Pisa
Rome
Bari
Naples
Alghero, Sardinia

**Latvia**
Riga

**Malta**
Malta

**Netherlands**
Amsterdam
Rotterdam
Eindhoven

**Norway**
Oslo
Gothenburg

**Poland**
Warsaw

**Portugal**
Lisbon

**Romania**
Bucharest
Târgu Mureș

**Russia**
Moscow

**Serbia**
Belgrade

**Spain**
Barcelona
Palma
Malaga
Madrid
Tenerife, Canary Islands

**Sweden**
Stockholm

**Switzerland**
Basel
Geneva
Zurich

**Turkey**
Istanbul

**Ukraine**
Kiev

**United Kingdom**
London
Birmingham
Manchester
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Liverpool

# AUCTION WINNERS

Thank you for supporting Public Education in Texas.
You have won 4 nights in Beautiful Budapest, Hungary.

Choose Either
**"The Pond" or "Paty's Place"**
For Availability, Please go to:
http://vasvarirentals.com/

Once you have selected your dates and apartment please contact me directly to make your reservations: james@VasvariRentals.com

To ensure I have everything in place for your arrival, I will need your dates and travel arrangements no less than 10 weeks prior to your trip. You will be greeted in Budapest by a Guide who will take you on an informative route to the Apartment. This brief tour is to help you get orientated so you can better utilize your time in Budapest.

The Apartment Manager will meet you at the apartment and show you the ins and outs of staying there & Present you with the rest of the Package.

**The Package Also Includes:**

Theater Tickets
Please select your venue and your show as soon as you can as most shows do sell out months in advance early. I will procure the best seats available at the time of your selection.

10 Metro Tickets
This to get you started.

20,000 Hungarian Forints
At the time of this writing this is the equivalent of about $70.00.

Return transfer
To the Airport or the Train Station. The Apartment Manager will assist in having a Taxi at the door step at the correct time and will provide you with enough Hungarian Forints to pay the driver.

IDEAS
Flights from the States general arrive in early to mid afternoon; four nights will give you three and a half full days to see Budapest. Departing flights to the States general leave between 5:30am and 7:00am.

Budapest pairs well with Prague and / or Vienna and a few smaller towns along the travel route. Depending on the itinerary this can be done in 9 to 16 days.

Or use the fact that Budapest is a very good discount airline hub and stretch the territory you cover to the familiar like Paris or the exotic like Kiev or Romania or the Black Sea Coast; all within a couple of hours and generally under $100 each way.



## Welcome to The Pond

*"I first saw Budapest in the summer of 1946. I came as a covert agent, a member of an American intelligence organization—there then being no CIA—which has since ceased to exist." With this sentence in A Short Course in the Secret War, foreign service officer James McCargar began to de-scribe his brief career as a case officer in Hungary. He had a secret second job with an espionage organization known to the few who knew of it at all as "The Pond."*

*Sadly, most of the Pond's 13-year history is lost. This obscurity was intentional. When the Pond was created in early 1942, the United States had very little experience with intelligence, and the notion of a spy agency which would be not only officially unacknowledged, but actually unknown, appealed to some people in Washington. These people were repelled by the larger-than-life publicity hound William Donovan and his "Oh So Social" intelligence agency. For a precedent they looked instead to foreign intelligence services such as the British MI-6, which they thought was more discreet and whose chief was never named in the press.*

*In accordance with this philosophy, the Pond spent most of its existence not as a government agency, but as a private sector organization, operating within real companies with names such as the Universal Service Corporation. This practice contributed substantially to obscurity and security. However, three successive government agencies found that having such an independent intelligence operation—and, worse yet, one run by a pugnacious, conspiratorial ideologue—was more trouble than it was worth, and the notion of having a truly secret intelligence organization never did catch on in the United States.*