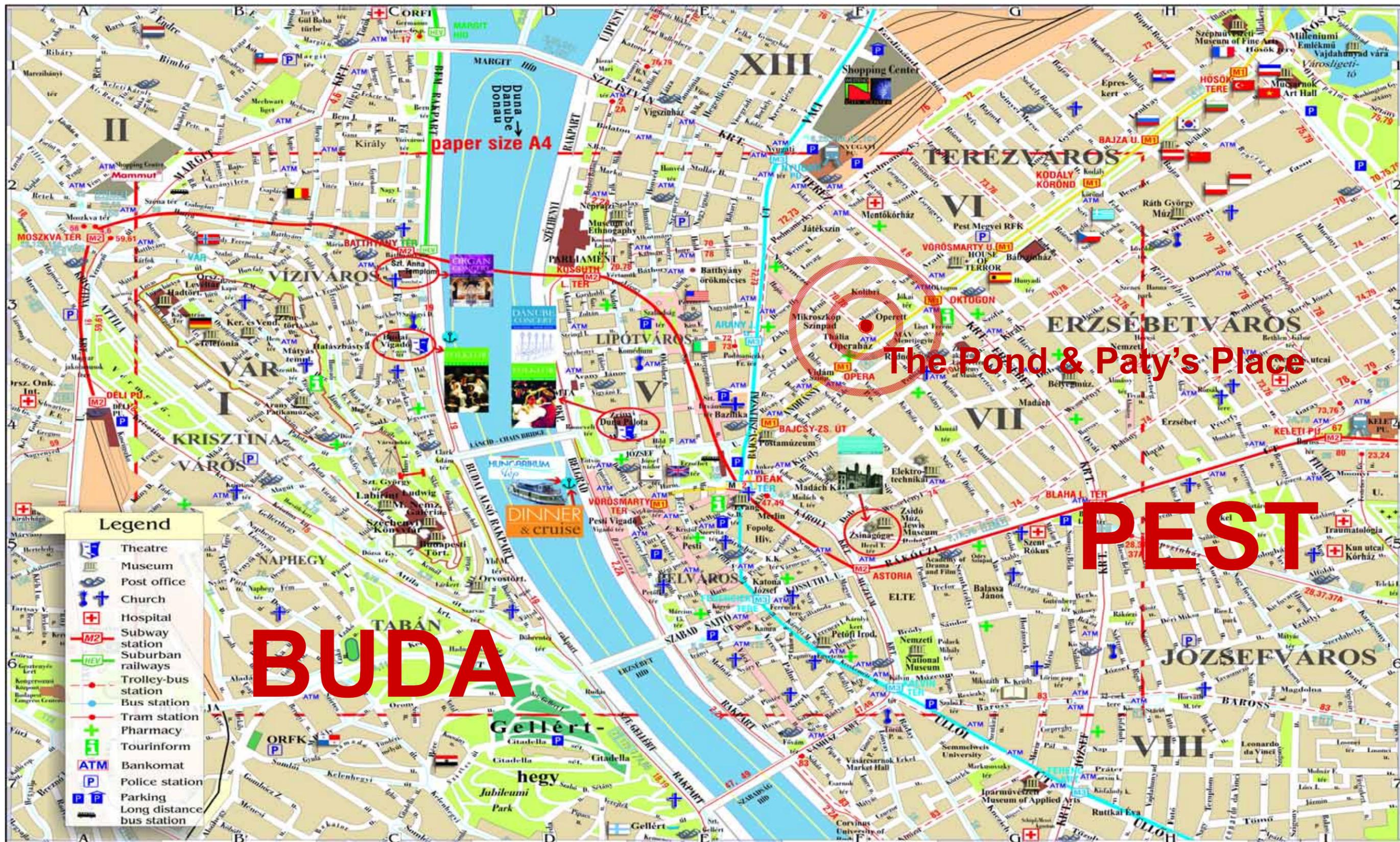




# The Pond & Paty's Place



paper size A4

The Pond & Paty's Place

BUDA

PEST

- Legend**
- Theatre
  - Museum
  - Post office
  - Church
  - Hospital
  - Subway station
  - Suburban railways
  - Trolley-bus station
  - Bus station
  - Tram station
  - Pharmacy
  - Tourinform
  - Bankomat
  - Police station
  - Parking
  - Long distance bus station

# *Welcome to Budapest*

**From the Airport** exit the arrival hall & go to the Fotaxi Kiosk situated outside the door and to the left. Tell the Kiosk attendant that you need a cab to this address (show them this):

**Budapest 1061  
Vasvári Pál utca 6**

The kiosk attendant will give you a slip of paper which you take to the first Fotaxi cab in the queue line. The trip will take something less than 45 minutes depending on the traffic. Keep the receipt as it is good for a discount on the return trip to the airport.

**From the Train Station** as your train arrives in the Budapest station call City Taxi at +36 1 211 1111 & request a taxi. The dispatcher will give you a car number and tell you where to meet the taxi outside of the train station.

At the Keleti Station, while facing the front wall exit the doors on the wall to your left to find the Taxi queue.

## *Arrival at The Pond*

You will be met at the apartment by a representative of the management company.

**The Pond** is behind the two windows immediately to the right of the center main entrance door to the Apartment Building. If the management representative is not on the street waiting for you then proceed into the apartment block through the center set of doors. The Apartment Building door access code is:

**66 “key symbol” 7XXX**

If it is after dark there is a light switch on the wall to your left as you enter the building. Enter & go down the passage until you see the stairs on your right. The apartment entrance door is at the bottom of the stairs. If the representative of the management company isn't outside to greet you please knock on the door.

To close the door the handle must be in the down position. To lock the door you must first pull the handle to the full up position, then insert the key & turn the key to lock it. Push the handle down & test the door to ensure it is properly locked. Please do not force the mechanism. If done properly no force or coercion is necessary.



The door is also fitted with a steel gate button on the wall to the left of the main door. This door has a lock at the top & at the bottom. The key is the unusual ice pick looking key. You may use the grate if you desire but only the top lock is necessary & only the top lock is operational. This grate was primarily intended to be used for minimal security when doors & windows were left open for ventilation in the summer. Since the apartment is air-conditioned its use is not essential.

To exit the apartment building push the

button on the wall to the left of the main door and the lock will release so that you can exit.

## *Arrival at Paty's Place*

**Paty's Place** is the door at the far right hand side of the building and the adjacent window. Paty's place has direct street access, disarm the alarm with the code you will be given and then only a key is needed to access the outer security grate and the inner wood doors.

# *The Pond & Paty's Place*

## *Food & Cooking*

**GROCERIES FOOD & WINE:** There is a Grocery store on Kiraly utca at the end of Vasvari Pal utca; opposite side of Kiraly utca. Grocery bags are not free so bring your own bags.

An excellent place to purchase wine is at Kadarka Borkostolo a wine bar at the corner of Vasvari Pal and Kiraly utca. The owners and the employees are friends of the Management Company and of the Owner of the apartments. They have been very good over the years with our guests.

**MICROWAVE OVEN:** Operation is somewhat intuitive. This is a combination Microwave, Convection, Standard Oven. The pure microwave controls are on the far right h& side, the various Convection, Grill & Combination settings are on the left h& side. The center button will extend out when pushed & is what is used to set timers, temperatures, etc.

**STOVE TOP / HOB:** This is an INDUCTION Hobb & will only work with the magnetic pots & pans provided. Food will heat very, very quickly so please watch it. Set the dial for the temperature desired.

**THE WATER:** In theory you can drink the tap water. If you prefer better tasting water the water sold in the bottles with pink labels and pink caps is generally not carbonated and not heavy with minerals.

## *Laundry*

**CLOTHES WASHER / DRYER:** Detailed instruction can be found inside the washer/dryer cabinet.

Please don't overload. The limit is about 2 pairs of trousers & two shirts. There is a pull out tray in the upper left h& side for laundry detergent. Note that it holds very little, so put in very little.

A load will take several hours to wash & dry. Once dry a buzzer can be heard but there is a temperature lock on the door & the door will not open until the clothes have cooled. You will hear a fairly loud unlocking noise when it is possible to access the clothes. This may take five minutes or more after the dry cycle is complete. Please do not attempt to force the door open.

**FULL SERVICE LAUNDRY:** There is also a full service Laundry located on Ó utca. To reach the laundry go to the Opera House & walk up the street that extends past the Opera on the right hand side. This is Hajos utca. Follow it one block to Ó utca & turn right. Look for the blue "LAUNDRY" sign on the left at Ó utca 24-26. The laundry service is in the courtyard of the building with the sign. Rates at the time this was written are 2,300 forint to wash & fold "one load". Excellent friendly service.

## *Air Conditioning & Heat*

Air Conditioning is located in the loft of The Pond and in the living area and bedroom area of Paty's Place. The air conditioning is operated by the remote controls located near by the units.

Electric panel heaters are located in several locations including the bathrooms. Adjust the slide controls on each one as needed.

## *Electrical*

Hungarian power is 220 volt, 50hz, this is significantly different than the U.S.. If you are from the U.S. most computer/cell phone power supplies will operate on this

current, but first ensure that they are compatible (generally written on the device) & that you bring an adapter to allow the U.S. plug to fit a European Shucko socket.

The electrical appliances provided in the apartment, including the hair dryer are matched to the power availability in the apartment. Please use what is provided & one at a time to help ensure you do not blow a fuse.

## *Television & Playstation 3*

There are two sets of channels. If you are watching channel 21 & you key in 21 on the remote control you will see the "other" channel 21. Keying the number in again returns you to the first. One set of channels is analog while the other is digital.

There is also a small collection of DVDs that can be played by means of the PlayStation3. There are separate remote controls for the PlayStation & the Television.

## *Internet Connection*

The individual from the management company that meets you will show you the password for the WiFi.

Do not get on transportation without a valid ticket or card.  
The fine if caught is very high.



# Budapest Metro

**TICKETS:** These MUST BE VALIDATED when entering the Metro Station, when boarding a Bus or boarding a Tram. Look for the red boxes near the door. Some are electric some are mechanically operated. Insert the ticket face up in the direction of the arrow. Single ticket: HUF 320 or HUF 2,800 for a book of ten. Each ticket is good for one bus or tram ride or one metro ride including one transfer.



**72 & 24 HOUR TRAVEL CARDS:** Travel cards do not require validation. When purchased the date & time will be printed in the boxes unless you ask for it not to be so you can start them at a later time. If you do it yourself it has to be done perfectly without erasure or the Card will not be valid. Present the card when entering Metro stations & present the card when requested to do so on the Trams & Busses.



**Purchase at the Metro Stations.** The nearest to the Apartments is the Opera Station. There is generally a window open on one side or the other of the track. If for some reason the window at the Opera stop is not open then one of the metro guards will generally offer to sell you a single ticket. Use that single ticket to get to the Deak Ferenc ter metro stop where there will be a window open. If all else fails walk to the Deak Ferenc ter stop.

# Restaurants & Services



- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>A. <b>Grocery Store</b></p> <p>B. <b>Pesti Vendéglő</b>; Paulay Ede utca 5; very nice typical Hungarian café with warm atmosphere; +36 1 266-3227</p> <p>C. <b>Bohémm Tanya</b>; Paulay Ede utca 6; campy little Hungarian restaurant with gypsy violinist (so-so food); +36 1 267-3504</p> <p>D. <b>VakVarjú Étterem</b>; Paulay Ede utca 7; the Hungarian equivalent of Chili's. A comfortable favorite with piano</p> | <p>E. <b>Callas Café</b>; Andrassy ut 20; perfect dinner after the Opera, Ballet or Operett. When making the reservation tell them you are coming from the show &amp; they will have your table ready.</p> <p>F. <b>Művész Kávéház</b>; Andrassy ut 29; This coffee house is a Budapest institution with 100 years in the same location - but the service isn't great; +36 1 343 3544</p> <p>G. <b>Paris Department Store</b>; Opulent Bookstore / Café /</p> | <p>music most evenings; +36 1 268-0888</p> <p>Wine Store; Andrassy ut 39; An absolute must not be missed .</p> <p>H. <b>Pizza Marzano Étterem</b>; Andrassy ut 41; Pizza if you must. Actually not bad</p> <p>I. <b>Menza Étterem</b>; Liszt Ferenc tér 2; one of many popular restaurants in Liszt Ferenc ter, highly rated; +36 1 413 1482</p> <p>J. <b>Balettcipő Étterem</b>; Hajós utca 14; highly rated Hungarian fare; +36 1 269 3114</p> | <p>K. <b>Café Vian Gozdsu</b>; located in the historic Gozdsu Courtyard Area; outstanding breakfast, good service &amp; very good food.</p> <p>L. <b>Fausto's Étterem</b>; Székely Mihály utca 2; possibly the best Italian in Budapest; +36-30-589-1813</p> <p>M. <b>Trófea Grill Étterem</b>; Király utca 30-32; really decent all you can eat buffet sort of place; excellent Hungarian food, good atmosphere &amp; service; +36-20-999-8797</p> <p>N. <b>Spinoza Kávéház-Étterem</b>; Dob utca 15, located at the</p> |
|---|---|--|---|

# 15 Minute Walks



Tram 4 & 6 connect Margaret Isl & Nyugati Train Station, New York

Tram 2 connects the Margaret Island Bridge & the Great Market Hall

Tram 47, 49 connects the Deak Ferenc Ter & the Great Market Hall

Tram Lines  
 M M M

Underground Metro Line Stops  
 X

Landmarks & Tourist Attractions - See List

1. Parliament Building, <20 min
2. Shoes on the Danube, <20 min
3. United States Embassy, <15 min
4. Glass House, Holocaust Jewish "Safe House", <15 min
5. Szent Istvan Basilica, <10 min
6. Szent Istvan ter, shopping & restaurants, <10 min
7. Chain Bridge, 15 min
8. Danube Embankment, 15 min, (<5 using the M1)
9. Vorosmarty ter, shopping & restaurants, <12 min (<8 using the M1 metro)
10. Vaci utca, shopping & restaurants, 15 min (<10 using the M1)
11. Dobb utca Synagogue, <15 min
12. Rumbach Synagogue, <10 min
13. Gozdsu Courtyard, shopping & restaurants, <10 min
14. Spinoza's Café & Klezmer performances, <10 min
15. Postal Museum, <5 min
16. Uj Theater, <5 min
17. Hungarian State Opera House, <5 min
18. Budapest Operett Theater, <5 min
19. Liszt Ferenc Academy, 5 min
20. Oktogon, major metro intersection <10 min (<5 using the M1)
21. House of Terror, <15 min (<10 using the M1)
22. Paris Department Store, book store, wine shop, café, <10 min
23. Vasvari Pal Synagogue, across the street from The Pond
24. Kiraly ut, a typical Budapest street with shops, cafés & restaurants.



# Antique Shops

## **FALK MIKSA utca ANTIQUE SHOPS** Prestige and BumBum.

The famous antique row of Budapest is in Falk Miksa utca, just steps away from the Parliament Building. Many of the antique shops and galleries are worth visiting. Don't miss the Kieselbach Gallery and the Virág Judit Gallery, where auctions are also held. For more antiquities check out Anni Domini, Moró, Wladis and the Dénes Gallery. For folk art visit Nagyházi and if you are interested in modern art visit Missionart,

The antique shops lining Falk Miksa utca can also be great for finding unique gifts and souvenirs. Here is a list of shops and galleries on and around Falk Miksa utca worth visiting:

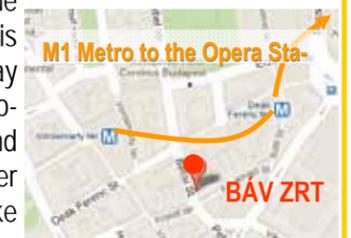
- Anni Domini (Falk Miksa utca 6)
- Art Deco Gallery (Markó utca 6)
- BÁV (Szent István körút 3)
- Biksady Gallery & Auctionhouse (Falk Miksa

- utca 24)
- Bujanovics Antiquities (Falk Miksa utca 18-20)
- BumBum (Falk Miksa utca 10)
- Darius Antiques (Falk Miksa utca 24-26)
- Dénes Gallery (Balassi utca 25)
- Goldbach Gallery (Falk Miksa utca 32)
- Haas Gallery (Falk Miksa utca 13)
- Kieselbach Gallery (Szent István körút 5)
- MissionArt Gallery (Falk Miksa utca 30)
- Montparnasse Galéria (Falk Miksa utca 10, entrance from Markó utca)

- Moró Gallery (Falk Miksa utca 13)
  - Nagyházi Gallery (Balaton utca 8)
  - Násfa Gallery (Falk Miksa utca 22)
  - Pintér Antiques (Falk Miksa utca 10)
  - Prestige Gallery (Falk Miksa utca 7)
  - Virág Judit Gallery (Falk Miksa utca 30)
  - Wladis Gallery (Falk Miksa utca 13)
- The antique row comes alive every spring and fall during Falk Art Forum, a festival celebrating antique and modern art. More than 50 galleries participate the event with special exhibitions

## **BÁV ZRT**

One of the larger and best known antique shops / antique auction houses is located half way between the Vorosmarty ter and Deak Ferenc ter metro stops. Take





# Dining with Entertainment

## Margitkert Restaurant

Your best option to dine in a Hungarian



restaurant where live Gypsy music can be heard with truly delicious Hungarian meals and wines. An institution since 1780. The list of customers includes Tony Curtis, Francois Mitterand, Olof Palme, Vaclav Havel, Willy Brandt, to mention but a few.

From the apartment go to the Oktogon and take the tram heading to the left (with your back to the direction of the apartment). When the tram crosses the Danube get off and walk a few hundred yards further up the same street. Or take a Taxi.

1023 Budapest, Margit utca 15.  
Tel: +36 1 326 0860 / +36 1 326 0862  
www.margitkert.hu  
info@margitkert.hu

## Sir Lancelot Medieval Restaurant

Not Hungarian except maybe in the amount



of sausage and meat you get served. Or possibly in some latent carryover of Belly Dancers from the Ottoman occupation. Yes, there are Belly Dancers, and occasional sword fight and some other ridiculous activities. I have to admit that we have been here (hmmmm, three times). A somewhat hedonistic atmosphere with good food, served on a large wood platter with only knives for utensils. Easy walk from the apartment.

1065 Budapest, Podmaniczky str. 14  
Tel: 00 36 1 302-4456  
[info@sirlancelot.hu](mailto:info@sirlancelot.hu)  
<http://www.sirlancelot.hu>

## Rezkakas Restaurant

An obvious option with Hungarian Gypsy music if you want to splurge a bit. Please note that the address of Rezkakas Restaurant has changed: in April 2012 Rezkakas moved from Veres Palne Street to Sas Street



very close to St Stephen's Basilica. The new Rezkakas defines itself as a bistro offering all the traditional Hungarian foods and some international dishes too. Gypsy music is on every evening.

We haven't been here since it moved, but we spent Christmas eve with them in their old location. Very, Very good. The new address is very near the Apartment. Take the M1 one stop towards the river and then walk over to the Basilica.

District V, Budapest, Sas u. 3.  
Tel.: +36 1 318-0038  
<http://www.rezkakasbistro.hu>

## Spinoza Haz

In the heart of Budapest at the Dobb utca exit of the Gozsdu Courtyard.



The art-deco cafe serves international and Hungarian meals at moderate prices. Live piano entertainment every evening and there is Klezmer Concert every Friday beginning at 7pm with traditional Hungarian Jewish food for 5,000ft/pp

If you have the time the Klezmer Concert is very much worth the effort. Make res-

ervations well in advance to ensure you get a seat.

District VII, Budapest, Dob u. 15.  
Tel/Fax: +36 (1) 413 7488  
[spinozahaz@spinozahaz.hu](mailto:spinozahaz@spinozahaz.hu)  
<http://www.spinozahaz.hu/>

## Callas Cafe

On Budapest's finest street, right next to the State



Opera and just a few short blocks from the Apartments. An ideal place for a cocktail before going to the theatre, or for supper after an opera performance.

In the evening, Callas is a particularly attractive supper venue, where guests are entertained with live salon music. The Blue Danube Concert and Salon Music Orchestra conjure up a pleasant atmosphere within the elegant surroundings with classical pieces. Our after the theater tradition.

District VI, Budapest, Andrassy út 20.  
Phone: +36-1/354-09-54 Email: [callascafe@gmail.com](mailto:callascafe@gmail.com)  
[www.callascafe.hu](http://www.callascafe.hu), [www.callasetterem.hu](http://www.callasetterem.hu)

# Five Days in Budapest

Our favorite tour guide in Budapest is Andrew ILLES. We have known him, personally used him and recommended him for over 10 years with never a negative comment. Most of our suggestions you can pursue on your own or gain some greater insight with Andrew's assistance.



## Arrival and Getting Situated

**Welcome:** If you are arriving from within Europe I would suggest that you have Andrew pick you up at the airport and give you a little introductory tour of Budapest as he delivers you to the apartment. This will get you orientated and ready to begin the adventure. For a tourist coming from the U.S. I would suggest you take Fotaxi (the airport contract taxi company) directly to the apartment, get cleaned up, relax a little and then set off on your own to explore. The Fotaxi kiosk is directly outside the Arrival Lobby. Fotaxi has developed a very user friendly and helpful system with a flat rate. Save the receipt for a discount on the return trip.

If you are arriving by train I encourage you to call Andrew Illes for a short orientation tour on the way to the Apartment or you call CITY TAXI when your train pulls into the station. They will tell you where to meet their taxi and the taxi number. The taxi stands at the train stations are full of unregulated taxis and if you choose one of those the fare could be quite expensive.

The first day is a great time to stay close to home and explore the lower end of Andrassy ut (street) or Kiraly utca (street) and maybe hop the M1 to the Vorosmarty tér stop dead center in the Tourist Zone. At the top of the stairs of the Vorosmarty tér metro station is the Café Gerbeaud one of Budapest's famous landmark coffee houses and an excellent confectioner; while about 100 feet away is the Danube embankment.

TIP: For your first half day use Individual metro tickets. They will cost 320 ft each.

**Evening:** After grocery shopping for your stay (there is a nice market at the corner of Kiraly and Vasvari Pal) and if the weather is permitting get a sidewalk table on Andrassy ut and dine and watch the people walk by until bed time. You might also enjoy unwinding at Kadarka Wine Bar a few hundred feet down the street from the Apartment.

**Pest at Your Door**



**Jewish Pest:** From the apartment first walk to the M1 Metro Stop in front of the Opera house and purchase your 72

hour Travel Card. Now walk to the Kiraly utca entrance to the Gozsdu Courtyard. Leave early and have breakfast at Café Vian in the courtyard, visit the shops and if it is Sunday there is an open air market.

After breakfast exit the courtyard onto Dobb utca and note the Spinoza Café at the exit from the courtyard. If you are in Budapest on a Friday evening the Dinner and Klezmer show at Spinoza's is a good choice. Upon exiting the courtyard are in the WWII Jewish Deportation Ghetto; move on to the Rumbach Street Synagogue and then the Great Synagogue.

**Shopping Time:** After touring the Great Synagogue continue on to the Great Market Hall (take the tram) for shopping and lunch. The restaurants on the second floor have excellent authentic Hungarian food.

Now walk up Vaci utca and try not to spend too much money on the way. This is where Communist Party Leaders from all over came to purchase goods not commonly available behind the Iron Curtain. Also the site of the first McDonald's behind the Iron Curtain.

If you haven't yet been to the Dan-

ube Embankment this might be a good opportunity to walk along the river and look over to Buda. Walk on to the base of the Chain Bridge and then go to the shoe memorial on the Danube embankment.

Now on to St Stephen's Basilica and the pedestrian area in front that leads down towards the river. For really good local crafts and high quality souvenirs; while standing at the front steps and while facing the Basilica look to the shops on your far right. There is also an interesting shop down on the pedestrian street towards the river that sells music related souvenirs that are unique and interesting. Return to the Apartment. Tired? Get on the M1 metro at the end of Andrassy and relax for one stop.

**Evening:** Budapest is about the music and you should really plan to spend one evening either at the Opera, Operett or one of the Church Concerts. Callas Café on Andrassy ut is an excellent place for dinner after a concert or a show. Call, make a reservation and ask them to hold the table as you will be coming from the theater. The Opera House is next door, the Operetta Theater is a block away and St. Stephen's is about 4 blocks. There are links to most of the major venues on this website and there is information on a number of restaurants in *THE GUIDE* pdf file also on this website.

**The Road to Buda and Back**



**Szabadsag tér:** After breakfast in the apartment take the M1 to Deak Ferenc tér then transfer to

the M2 to the Kossuth Lajos tér metro stop. Take the early morning Parliament Tour, see the U.S. Embassy (wave and smile) and see the Soviet War Memorial in front of the US Embassy as well as the life size statue of Ronald Reagan walking towards the Soviet War Memorial.

**Antique Stores:** Now move on to Falk Miksa utca to wander through the antique shops including the maze of underground display rooms in the old interconnected building basements. Look for lunch here or wait until you get to Buda.

**Buda:** From Falk Miksa utca go to the end of the Margaret Bridge and get on the Tram across the river. Get off on the other side of the river; there is an excellent antique shop next to the old world custom shoe shop across the street from the tram stop.

Now take about a 15 minute walk down to Batthyány tér. Here you will find places to eat, an interesting church and an interesting market as well as the local (HEV) train service to Szentendre.

Board the tram to take you to the Chain Bridge and the Funicular up to Buda. The closest tram stop is

about 100 yards before the bridge. Sit on the left so you can look across the river to the Parliament and Pest.

Up the funicular to the Buda Castle, Fisherman's Bastion, Gypsy Market and the other sights of Buda. One of the few means of transport for which your Travel Card will not work.

Do the whole Buda Castle District tour. Two things often missed are the bar in the Hilton for the view of the Parliament through the old abbey naïve and the Hospital in the Rock. There are also some interesting shops in the courtyard of the building across the street from the Hilton main entrance.

Take the stairs down from Buda and cross the Chain Bridge on foot. Walk to Vorosmarty tér and take the M1 metro back to the Opera and home.

**Evening:** There are a thousand great restaurants in Budapest, choose one. The apartment is central to many of the best.

Arrange for a night tour of Budapest with Andrew; Budapest is stunning in the evening when all lit up. Or ask Andrew to book you on one of the evening boat rides on the Danube to see the lights or visit one of Budapest's wonderfully unique Ruin Pubs.

### Choose a Day Trip



See the surrounds of Budapest. Either discover on your own or contact Andrew Illes for detailed guided tours.

**The Danube Bend (Full Day):** Take an all day tour to Esztergom, Visegrad and Szentendre. Visit the Cardinals' Cellar for wine tasting and take a short trip across the Danube to visit Sturovo in Slovakia. Entering Budapest on the Danube is a special event so be sure to take the boat from Szentendre back into Budapest as a way to end the trip. This is best done with the aid of a guide.

**Szentnedre (Half Day):** Don't want to spend a full day on the Danube Bend then from the apartment take the M1 to Vorosmarty tér and transfer to the M2 to Batthyány tér where you can purchase a ticket on HEV commuter train to Szentendre. Spend the morning in Szentendre and take the early afternoon taxi boat back to Budapest.

**Vac (Half Day):** This gem on the banks of the Danube has the charm of Szentendre but with mummies and fewer tourists. Thirty minutes by direct train from Budapest's Nyugati Railway Terminal. Even the train terminal is special; one of Eiffel's early creations before his famous tower.

**Royal Palace at Gödöllő (Half Day):** A vacation residence used by the Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and his family. A favorite of the Empress Elisabeth (Sisi). Excellent gardens in the spring and the fall. Take the M1 to Vorosmarty tér and transfer to the M2 to Örs Vezér tere. Transfer to the HEV commuter train to Gödöllő.

**Gyor and the Pannonhalma Archabbey (Full Day or Overnight):** Austria is famous for its abbey at Melk; the Austrians have nothing on this magnificent Archabbey and wine producer located about an hour and a half outside of Budapest on the Road to Vienna. Take the train to Gyor and then a taxi or tour bus to the Pannonhalma Archabbey. Spend the night at the Hotel Klastrom (a converted early 18th century Cloister)

**Lake Balaton & Tihany (Full Day):** The largest lake in Central Europe and a prime summer resort destinations. The 11th century Abbey at Tihany is worth the effort to see.

**Puszta Horse Shows (Full Day):** Where Hungarian "cowboys" put on spectacular riding shows on the great Hungarian Plains.

**Evening:** It's been a long day, and while the apartments have excellent kitchens how can you resist sitting in one of the cafés on Andrassy ut or Kiraly utca; wine, good foot, people watching at its best.



### Wrap Up Your Trip and Fill the Holes

**Andrassy ut, Part Two:** The Champs-Élysées of Budapest.

Tradeoff between the M1 and going on foot. View the grand buildings and mansions that line this monumental avenue.

**House of Terror:** Ignore the kitsch name, this is an outstanding museum showing the travesty of fascism in Hungary's history; from Nazi occupation to home grown fascism, through Soviet occupation. Plan on at least 2.5 hours.

**Hero's Square, City Park, Szechenyi Bathhouse, a simply amazing Zoo, Ice Skating (winter) and the Vajdahunyad Castle:** living remnants of the celebration of a millennium of Hungarian civilization in the Carpathian basin.

**New York Palace:** Now take the M1 back to the Oktogon and then the tram to the New York Palace for lunch (pretty decent hamburgers if you are just dying for a taste of the States) and complete 19th and early 20th century decadence. This is where the great minds of central Europe came together to discuss the events of the day and the plans for the future.

**Some of What You May Have Missed:**

- District VIII Architecture, Gypsies and Jews
  - Picnic on Margaret Island
  - Jewish Budapest from Buda to Pest and Beyond
  - Relics of WWII Budapest
  - Relics of Cold War Budapest
  - Sight Seeing Cruises on the Danube
  - Children's Railway
  - Folk Dancing Performances
  - Belly Dancers
  - Designers' Market in Erzsébet tér (Saturday and Sunday)
  - Artist Exhibition in Gozsdu Courtyard (Saturday)
  - ECSERI Flea Market
  - Railway Museum
- Evening:** Select one of the hundreds of fabulous restaurants that Budapest is famous for. After dinner and after the sun has set call City Taxi and have them take you to the top of Gellert Hill for the view of the city lights. There are few sights in life as beautiful. End your stay with a glass of wine at Kadarka's wine bar down the street from the apartments.

# Széchenyi Bath House



## Thermal Bathing 101

From the Frommer website:

Thermal bathing is a social activity deep within the Hungarian culture and each bath has its own set of rules, which can change without notice. Bathhouse employees tend to be unfriendly holdovers of the old system, and still have a civil service position since most baths are owned by the city. Most do not speak English, and have little patience. Many foreigners find a trip to the baths stressful or intimidating in the beginning, but plunge forth, it is a cultural experience and they are not pinpointing you for their woes. Try to spot a resident and follow their example of what to do. Explore once inside and you'll find you will feel comfortable and confident within minutes. The best advice is to try to enjoy the foreignness of the experience, because after all, this is the reason you are here.

## Visiting Széchenyi Baths

From: <http://visitbudapest.travel/activities/budapest-baths/szechenyi-baths/>

As Széchenyi is one of the largest public baths in Europe, there's more than one entrance. The grandiose main entrance beneath the baroque dome (facing City Park), leads to the indoor thermal

baths, the side entrance leads to the steam baths and the rear entrance (opposite the circus) leads to the outdoor pools. Although everything is interconnected and visitors will have access to all areas once inside, I would recommend using the rear entrance, from Állatkerti körút, as this is where the private changing cabins are located.

Ticket options may seem somewhat overwhelming at first but the only thing you have to decide is whether you would like to opt for a private changing cabin (ideal for couples, as two people can share one cabin) or for a locker. Upon paying the entrance fee you'll receive a plastic armband (it's called a 'proxy armband') that grants you access to your cabin or locker and all of the indoor and outdoor pools, saunas and steam baths. The armband opens and closes your cabin and/or locker by simply touching the lock with it.

Once you have donned your bathing suit (the Széchenyi is coed and swimsuits are mandatory) check out the outdoor pools first. The large, rectangular pool in the middle is the swimming pool (swim caps are required) with a water temperature of 27°C/84°F. At one end of the swimming pool is a warm pool with a lazy river and a large Jacuzzi in the center. The water temperature here is 30°C/90°F (34°

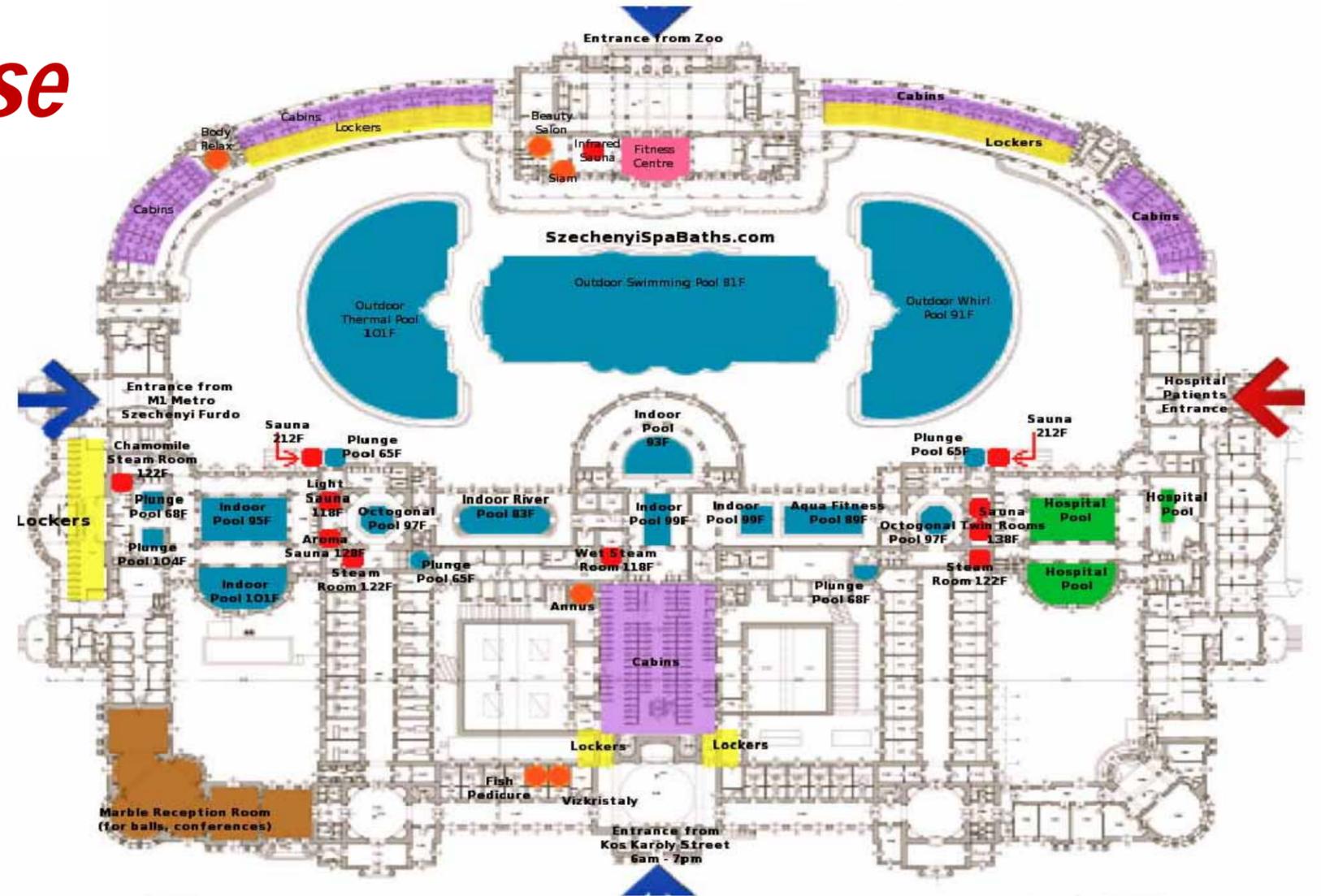
C/98°F in winter). At the other end of the swimming pool is another warm pool with steaming 38°C/106°F waters. This is, where no matter what time of year you visit, you will always find men playing chess in the steaming water.

After 20 minutes or so head inside and check out the 15 indoor pools, several steam baths and saunas. These are located in the Baroque wing, beneath the domes. A light smell of sulfur chloride permeates the rooms. The indoor pools vary in size and range in temperature from 40°C/110°F down to 20°C/70°F, should you be brave enough jump into the cold water at least once. There are numerous

steam baths and saunas located next to the pools. My favorite is the aroma sauna. Each pool, sauna and steam bath has a sign showing the temperature (some are as high as 70°C/170°F) and there are showers everywhere to cool down and refresh.

My recommendation would be to take two towels with you (towels are not provided, so bring your own or buy them in the lobby), leave one in the cabin or locker to use at the end and take the other one with you as it will come in handy when you go from pool to pool. If you visit in the summer, be sure to take some sunscreen with you. Bring flip-flops, towels and a bottle of water and make sure you drink

plenty of fluids. Visitors can also purchase basic swimsuits and bath towels in the lobby. There's a



**Admission:**  
 A day pass with a locker is HUF 3,400 during the week and HUF 3,550 on the weekends.  
 A day pass with a cabin is HUF 3,800 during the week and HUF 3,950 on the weekends.  
 A 30-minute aroma massage is HUF 4,000 and a refreshing 15-minute massage is HUF 3,000.

**Opening hours:**  
 Swimming pools - Mon-Sun: 6am to 10pm  
 Thermal pools - Monday-Sunday: 6 am to 7 pm



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